



## Pollinator News

Oct. 14, 2016

### **Brave and hardy souls lead our State and Local Beekeeping Associations and Clubs**

The Pollinator Stewardship Council has been writing about bee club organization in *Bee Culture* magazine all year. These “how to” guides are in response to struggling bee clubs mired in “the way it has always been done,” versus those club leaders who understand change is necessary. Similar to the growth of a hive, nonprofit beekeeping organizations must have leaders who understand the mission of the nonprofit, work with others to ensure success of the mission, strive for growth, plan for a dearth, welcome new life into the organization, and sometimes cope with a growing mission or the organization “swarms” in order to meet new needs. Board development is key to securing dedicated, caring individuals who will promote the mission, fulfill it, and protect it, and therefore protect the bee club. Board members must understand their obligations, duties, and role in guiding and protecting the nonprofit today to ensure the nonprofit has a tomorrow.

This series of articles addresses the gamut of how to start a nonprofit bee club to managing finances and grants. Pollinator Stewardship Council has offered support to those leaders across the US who want to serve their members. Brave and hardy souls lead our State and Local Beekeeping Associations and Clubs. They understand the needs of the association, and their members. Leaders who wish to “serve” understand the focus of the beekeeping association is the mission. Personal agendas will destroy a nonprofit faster than a Varroa mite crawling out of cell in a hive. The mission statement guides the objectives, program ideas and goals, and the strategic plan of every organization. The mission of the nonprofit is why individuals become Board members, volunteers, staff, and donors. Board members, volunteers, and staff must direct their work and efforts at promoting the mission, fulfilling the mission, and protecting the mission. Personal agendas in conflict with a mission are just a Varroa mite in need of squashing, fumigating, and having a leg chewed off. Across the Program Director’s more than twenty years of work within nonprofits, personal agendas, especially of Board members are the ruin of beekeeping groups. The series of articles includes concerns such as:

*How a bee club can be broken?*

*#1-Not understanding the bee club’s liabilities.*

*#2-Personal agendas in contradiction to the mission, and the needs of the membership.*

*#3-Individuals “hogging” the same leadership positions for ten or more consecutive years.*

*#4-Board members using the membership as a singular customer base to sell bees and bee equipment.*

*#5- Stealing club funds.*

*#6- Immediate family members serving on a Board at the same time. #6- Hiring immediate family members as an employee to work for the bee club.*

*#7- No one new wants to be a leader.*

*#8- The club leader is retiring, and he/she wants the club to fail or end with them as the final leader. #9- Leaders stating no one wants to volunteer.*

Links to other articles in the series are below. In serving a public or mutual benefit, nonprofits can do great work, led by great people who have come together to promote, fulfill, and protect the nonprofit beekeeping association for future beekeepers.

If you have questions about becoming a nonprofit call the Pollinator Stewardship Council at 832-727-9492 or email [info@pollinatorstewardship.org](mailto:info@pollinatorstewardship.org) or contact your State Nonprofit Council.

Read the articles at the following links:

**Developmental Stages of Nonprofit Bee Clubs** <http://www.beeculture.com/the-pollinator-stewardship-council-developmental-stages-of-nonprofit-bee-clubs/>

**How to be a professional bee club** <http://www.beeculture.com/pollinator-stewardship-council/how-to-be-a-pro-bee-club>

**How to Start a Nonprofit Bee Club-Part 1** <http://www.beeculture.com/how-to-start-a-nonprofit-bee-club-part-1/>

**How to start a nonprofit bee club- Part 2** <http://www.beeculture.com/how-to-start-a-nonprofit-bee-club-part-2/>

**Board member roles and responsibilities** <http://www.beeculture.com/pollinator-stewardship-council-2/>

**How to break a bee club** <http://www.beeculture.com/10-ways-to-fail-and-how-not-to/>

**Financial literacy for Beekeepers** <http://www.beeculture.com/financial-literacy-beekeepers/>

**Grant Management for Bee Clubs** <http://www.beeculture.com/the-pollinator-stewardship-council-2/>