



The

February 2010

BUZZWORD

Interactive newsletter for West Sound Beekeepers Association
Proudly serving bees, their keepers, and the public in Kitsap County, WA
(Editor's note: The interactive newsletter is under construction.)

Refreshments

16 February, 2010 Meeting
Drinks: George Purkett
Snacks: Joan Chissus
& Bob Rice

6 PM Tuesday February 16, 2010

Apprentice Level Beekeeping Classes Begin!

Also: Journeyman Final Exams...And...

Please Take Time To Renew Your Membership!

Meeting Schedule:

Steering Committee Meeting
7 PM Tuesday 02 March 2010

**Apprentice Beekeeping
Class**

6PM Tuesday 16 February
2010

Regular Meeting

7 PM Tuesday 16 February
2010

Journeyman Study Group

6 PM Tuesday 19 January
2010

Queen Rearing Group
Meets after the Steering
Committee

Meetings at Stedman's
Beekeeping Supplies in
Silverdale

Important Announcement:

In this edition please find a copy of the new proposed bylaws for the West Sound Beekeepers Association. These are the product of the Steering Committees' deliberation through many meetings and open discussions on the Yahoo site. The biggest change calls for the establishment of a board of trustees to help facilitate and administer the increasingly diverse undertakings of the association.

Here are the rules for changing the by-laws taken directly from the current by-laws: "Changes to these Bylaws may be amended at any meeting of WSBA of which the members shall be given at least ten days notice, by a 2/3 vote of the paid up members present and voting, and that the proposed amendment be read at the meeting of the club prior to said meeting and the notice of such proposed amendment shall have been included in the call for said meeting."

Therefore, we can expect to vote on the adoption of these proposed bylaws at the March 2010 Regular Meeting of the WSBA.

To view the current bylaws please visit the WSBA website www.westsoundbees.org or to peruse the contrasted content see the electronic version of this months newsletter, again at the association website.

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What's Not:

The Almond Trees Secret Weapon

<http://tinyurl.com/ybhj7w2>

Bees Recognize Human Faces

<http://tinyurl.com/y9keoba>

**Washington State Beekeepers
Association**

www.wasba.org

Minutes from the January 19, 2010 WSBA meeting

Third Tuesday of each month at Stedman's, Silverdale, WA. Starting time: 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by Peggy Dunbar

Jim Dunbar presided

Business:

There was a motion to approve last month's minutes. All in favor. No one opposed. Minutes approved.

No treasurers report for January.

Discussion of newsletter and purchase of software tabled for business meeting. Paul Lundy made a motion – received second – all approved.

Summary Notes:



- At 7:05 dues were collected.
- At 7:10 the president opened the meeting.

- There was a discussion of the state of members' bees. Some have been stung, others concerned about a January swarm, others concerned about alcohol smell in the hive and possible fermentation in the hive.

- Paul mentioned what bees and beekeepers should be doing this time of year:
 - This is the start of the rainy season (40-50 degrees) so there will be periodic flights.
 - In February the queen may begin laying
 - Lift hive to see how heavy it is. If you can lift it, feed dry sugar on newspaper – Put 5lbs of sugar on a piece of newspaper and spritz the edges with water - the bees will eat it. Plus it absorbs water.
 - May want to introduce ½ pollen pattie – check in 2 weeks, if ¾ is eaten, give the bees more.
 - Check in entrance, if blocked by dead bees, scoop them out with grass or wire.
 - Leave inspections till sunny days in Feb or even wait until March

- Paul recommended two books – Beekeepers Handbook by Diana Avitabile and Natural Beekeeping by Ross Conrad
- Barbara asked if you buy a package of bees, please bring back the box they were shipped in. She may have to charge a deposit or charge the beekeepers the cost for lost boxes.
- Remember to let Barbara know how many packages you want. They will be here the first or second week of April.
- Paul discussed that at the state level there is a 30% loss of bees for the commercial beekeepers. The down side is if the losses are too great, then beekeepers can't fulfill pollination contract. WSU trying to figure out what happened. Also curious what's happening with the hobbyists.
- Paul mentioned that when it comes to beekeeping it isn't about hard chemicals vs. soft chemicals or organic vs. not organic, but it comes down to paying attention to your hives and testing at WSU to see what's up.

- Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Steering Committee Meeting Minutes February 2, 2010

Officers and Legacy Members – all welcome

First Tuesday of each month at Stedman's, Silverdale, WA. Starting time 7:00 pm.

Present – Jim Dunbar, Peggy Dunbar, Paul Lundy, Basil Gunther, George Purkett, Jason Deal, and Dave Mackovjak

Business:

There was a motion to purchase new software for the new newsletter format. Jim seconded the motion, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Old minutes not read for approval.

Summary Notes:

- There was a detailed discussion of the new bylaws. Will be posted on Yahoo group and in the February newsletter. These will be brought to the March meeting for approval of the association members.
- There was a discussion of the budget for 2010.
- Paul mentioned the two surveys on the WA state beekeeper website (WASBA.org) from monkey surveys about beekeepers. Check it out.
- There was a state of the Apiary discussion which will be published in the newsletter.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Message From The President

It's that time! Dust off the smoker, find those hive tools, and wash those bee suits. That's right, 'bee season' is upon us and by now you should have peaked into the hives to discover how those honeybees have faired. If you haven't noticed the bees are out gathering pollen already! We aren't out of the woods yet, so consider some supplemental feeding of fondant and protein patties to get those critters geared for spring. West Sound Beekeepers apiary has apparently beaten the odds with minimal losses, and surprisingly the 'double deep' backup colonies have done quite well, earning their place in the apiary as full-on production hives.

One of our long time members, gracious enough to make a donation to the door prize 'bucket' reminded me that we've forgotten the traditional door prize drawings. So, beginning with the next meeting we start the drawings again – to be held after the training class and prior to the association meeting. Bee related donations are welcome, but not necessary (after all, it is in the budget).

We are close to realizing the legal status of non-profit, which will allow us to generate funds through sales at events and reduced entry fees for fairs and public events. Although it wasn't an absolute necessity, the new bylaws drafted (soon to be presented to the association) will be included as part of the package submitted to the state for non-profit. Thank you to the members instrumental in drafting and reviewing those laws.

Keeping it short this time around...

Jim Dunbar,
President, West Sound Beekeepers Association

Still interested in keeping honeybees?



Those of you who wish to continue being members of the West Sound Beekeepers Association and haven't yet paid your annual dues are hereby encouraged to pay now or at the upcoming meeting so we can get the roster straightened out and concentrate on more interesting projects. Thank-you!

Page 4

Yes! I want to be a member of West Sound Beekeepers' Association during 2010. I have enclosed a check payable to West Sound Beekeepers Association Check one: \$24 annual household membership dues \$34 Bee-ginner class fee (\$24 membership dues + \$10 study guide OPTIONAL)

NAME(S): _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Please return to: WSBA Treasurer: Lori Christie 14686 NW Seaview Dr. Seabeck, WA 98380

THE MOST COMMON MISTAKES AND OMISSIONS IN BEEKEEPING

by Predrag Cvetkovic (Trans. by Oliver Mihajlovic)

Visit the Serbian Internet Beekeeping Journal (in English) <http://www.pcela.co.yu/IndexE.htm>

We will take two kinds of mistakes into consideration – one in the approach and organization of beekeeping and other in beekeeping technology. By its intensity they both vary from small to very serious mistakes which can make small or serious damage to a bee colony. Every beekeeper approaches beekeeping according to his personality, his capabilities and expectations, while he chooses the technology according to his financial and other means, his knowledge and natural environment. There are no strict rules in beekeeping and the approach to it. Still, some natural laws of a bee colony development must be respected.

Therefore, this time we will not examine beekeeping technologies, but what mistakes and omissions should be avoided.

Mistakes in approach to beekeeping

It is much easier to learn how to approach a hive than how to approach beekeeping and its organization.

Lack of love towards bees, negligence and greed are probably the biggest mistakes in the approach to beekeeping. All others come from these:

- An insufficient knowledge about bees and beekeeping technology is frequent with our beekeepers. Also, many of them stick to some errors, proclaiming their method the best, and all others wrong. Beekeepers often do not even try to understand the laws of a bee colony's development. They often wrongly acquire other people's methods without any criteria. One must always have some minimum knowledge.
- Instead of first learning about basics of beekeeping and maintaining bee colonies, some beginners try to achieve great income with some complicated methods, unclear even to themselves.
- Carelessness and negligence are definitely not the characteristics of a good beekeeper.
- Paying attention to details and aesthetics while overlooking the essence is also a mistake.
- Lacking money or time or for other reasons beekeepers often do not do some important things. It is much more important that all jobs be done properly and on time, even not perfectly, than to do some jobs best possible and miss some others.
- The absence of any planning or too much planning with complicated methods does not generate good results.
- Beekeepers do not work hard enough on increasing production and selling honey and other bee products, swarms and queens. That makes production less economical and results in high and uncompetitive price. Although love should be the basic reason for beekeeping, it is recommended that every beekeeper, even those with few hives, should strive for economical beekeeping by increasing production and producing different products.
- Beekeepers are often not interested in serious work and investments in beekeeping. A strong bee colony consumes much food, but produces much more. Equally, one should invest more in his apiary to get more.

Mistakes in beekeeping technology

- Making colonies have minimum of food or not enough food for a normal activity is one of the most serious mistakes. Bees will never consume more food than necessary. The importance of

the amount of pollen in a hive is often underestimated. The absence of pollen is very bad for development of a colony especially in autumn or early spring.

- **Weak and old queens make a colony weak and unproductive, and can result in its disappearing, esp. in autumn, winter or early spring. A beekeeper will not make a big mistake if he makes a colony with new comb and in good honey flow conditions bring up its own queen, although better methods for rearing queens are known. However, a much greater mistake should be if one does it with weak colonies, with no food, and with old and dark comb. It is wrong to expect that queens brought up in such conditions would ever have good brood.**

- **Choosing some complicated method of rearing queens, like implanting larvae, does not always guarantee that queens will be good quality, since an omission in one phase only can completely ruin the whole procedure.**

- **Keeping a weak colony is uneconomical and the expenses of maintaining it are bigger than profit. However, swarms with young queens are not considered weak colonies.**

- **Beekeepers often make mistakes by feeding bees late in autumn and exhausting them.**

- **Bad comb is a common mistake in beekeeping. That is old, dark damaged or curved comb with many drone cells. Such comb will never make brood expand like on proper new comb. Besides, there is a constant risk of diseases, lice or wax moth.**

- **Mistakes with adding frames are also frequent. One extremity would be not to expand brood space, or not to do it on time, while the other would be to expand the brood excessively and slow down progress of a colony. This is especially the case with comb foundations. Beekeepers sometimes add foundations to weak colonies when there is no honey flow and when weather is cold. Some beekeepers even put them among frames with honey. When a colony is strong and during honey flow it is wrong to put foundation at the end of brood, since the queen will not have time to lay eggs there. New foundation should not be added to weak colonies if the previously added one is still not drawn.**

- **Insufficient number of supers is also a frequent mistake. Strong colonies are kept from producing more honey which is directly decreasing possible income.**

- **Colonies are not treated against diseases (especially Varroa) on time, so serious damage is made. On the other hand, colonies can be excessively and improperly treated, which contaminates wax and honey, weakens bees' immunity and make Varroa resistant to medication. It is a mistake not to monitor the performance and efficacy of a particular cure.**

- **Bad location for an apiary is a significant obstacle for successful beekeeping. Sometimes a beekeeper cannot choose, but it is a mistake to keep bees on locations with humid air, harsh wind, not enough sunlight, or where the bees would be disturbed. Besides, locations for an apiary should have rich honey flows.**

- **Mistakes with hive inspection are the most frequent since bees are disturbed when hives are opened too often and there is a danger of robbing when there is no honey flow. Handling frames carelessly is also frequent, especially with young beekeepers.**

- **It can be considered a mistake if a beekeeper does not have a certain number of accessory colonies and swarms which could be useful in many ways.**

- **Having old, damaged or nonstandard hives unsuitable for moving is considered to be a mistake.**

We cannot go on analysing mistakes and omissions in beekeeping technology, since we would have to examine all existing methods. Mistakes can be made with every step – when hives are moved, when queens are brought up, when colonies are divided, etc. Mistakes appear when it is not understood that beekeeping is a complex process with many causes and consequences that must be taken care of, and when the basic rules of life of a bee colony are not well-known.

By-laws of the West Sound Beekeepers Association

PROPOSED DRAFT TO INCLUDE TRUSTEES

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization shall be West Sound Beekeepers Association, herein WSBA. This Association is not for the profit of any individual member. It is reserved that this Association may be incorporated within the State of Washington and apply for its Internal Revenue Service designation as a charitable organization.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The purposes of WSBA are to assist its members, other members in the community interested in bees, and the public at large with a continuing education in the art and science of beekeeping. Specifically, to assist its members and others interested in bees with their beekeeping problems; to provide those interested in bees an opportunity to meet and discuss their problems; and to cooperate with the Washington State University Extension Service, other Universities, the Washington State Department of Agriculture, and the Washington State Beekeepers Association to disseminate the latest beekeeping information.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 1 - Membership in WSBA may be open to all persons interested in bees and beekeeping, upon payment of annual dues . Members are expected to be upstanding members of the community at large and to contribute to the Association. The membership year shall be from January 1 through December 31. New members joining after October 1 shall be considered paid up members for the following calendar year. The amount of the annual dues shall be established by the Board of Trustees. Dues include a fee for Associate Membership in the Washington State Beekeepers Association.

Section 2 - The State Entomologist; the Director of the Washington State Department of Agriculture; the Chief Apiary Inspector; and the County Agricultural Extension Agent may be ex-officio members and pay no dues and have no voting privileges.

Section 3 - Any member may be terminated from WSBA for inappropriate, unethical, or unattractive behavior by a two-thirds majority vote by the members of the Association after open discussion.

ARTICLE IV - CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

The business affairs of WSBA shall be conducted by the Board of Trustees and officers. No officer, Trustee or member of WSBA shall receive any remuneration for services rendered directly or indirectly in any capacity to the Association unless authorized after discussion by affirmative vote of a simple majority of all the members of the Association. Any conflict of interest shall be discussed and resolved in front of the membership of the Association.

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

Section 1 -The elected officers of WSBA shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer upon a majority vote of the Association members. Any two positions may be combined.

Section 2 - Officers shall serve for a (1) year period and may be elected to serve not more than three (3) successive terms in any one position, after which officers may be reelected after retirement of one year. There is no term limit for the position of treasurer. All officers shall be members of the Board of Trustees. Officers shall attend more than one half of all Board and regular Association meetings, or they may be removed by action of the Board.

ARTICLE VI - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1 - The President shall preside over all Association meetings and meetings of the Board of Trustees; call special meetings as deemed fit; perform all acts and duties required of an executive and presiding officer, including the appointment of any committees required for the proper function of the Association.

Section 2 - The Vice President shall assume the duties of the President in his/her absence, and assist the President as necessary.

Section 3 - The Secretary shall keep a permanent record of all official meetings of WSBA; report official Association activities to the membership; and perform other duties as requested by the Association.

Section 4 - The Treasurer shall receive and disburse all funds honestly and efficiently; maintain accurate records of the Association's checking account; keep complete and accurate account of all financial transactions after appropriate approval by the officers/Association and keep records of paid members. The Treasurer shall deliver complete books documenting all financial transactions to her/his successor in office.

ARTICLE VII – MEETINGS

Section 1 - Meetings of the general membership shall be held at an established place and time no less than quarterly. The Association shall invite the general public to these meetings, and it shall be the responsibility of the officers or their delegates to ensure appropriate notice to the public so that they may attend.

Section 2 - Every October there will be an Annual meeting in order to conduct the business of electing new officers, approving a budget as presented by the Board, making changes to the Bylaws if needed, and other business as deemed appropriate by the Board.

Section 3 - There is no need for a quorum at any regular or Annual meeting of the Association. Decisions will be made by a simple majority vote of members present at any meeting. There will be no proxies for those who are not present. Business will be conducted following Robert's Rules of Order.

ARTICLE VIII - FINANCES

Section 1 - An audit committee shall be selected by the Board of Trustees and shall perform an internal audit on an annual basis, prior to the Annual meeting. A report from the auditing committee shall be made to the membership at large during the Annual meeting.

Section 2 - No indebtedness shall be incurred by any officer, committee member or any other member of this Association on behalf of WSBA except as authorized by the Association or the Board of Trustees.

Section 3 - WSBA dues and monies in excess of immediate operating expenses shall be placed into an account to accumulate interest.

Section 4 - If WSBA ceases to exist at some future time, funds and assets of record shall be disbursed to Washington State University with the objective and intent that these funds and assets be used for the benefit of the art and science of beekeeping.

ARTICLE IX - COMMITTEES

Section 1 - The Board of Trustees shall appoint such committees, task forces and/or agents as may be necessary and proper for the conduct of the affairs of WSBA. Power to appoint and/or remove them may be delegated by the Board of Trustees to the President of this association.

Section 2 - The President shall elect to serve as, or shall appoint, a public information officer who will respond to inquiries from the public and will be available to the media to respond to any questions.

ARTICLE X - TRUSTEES

Section 1 - Number - The business affairs of this association shall be managed by a Board of Trustees (the "Board"), consisting of seven (7) to nine (9) members elected at the Annual Meeting. The officers, past president, and newsletter editor shall be voting members of the Board. The Board may elect honorary trustees for life who shall have full voting rights. Their presence or absence, however, shall not affect the constitution of a quorum.

Section 2 - Term - At each annual meeting, the members shall elect one of the trustees, who shall serve as trustee for a period of two years, or until their successors are elected, so that the term of office of one of the Board shall expire each year. The term of the immediate past president, who automatically becomes a member of the Board, shall be a period of one year.

Section 3 - Chairman and Secretary - The president of this association shall be the Chairman of the Board and the secretary of this association shall act as the Secretary of the Board.

Section 4 - Qualification - Only active members of the Association who are in good standing may be Trustees. Trustees shall attend more than half of the meetings of the Board and of the Association, or they may be removed by the Board. Vacancies of the Board may be filled for the remainder of the term by election by the remaining members of the Board.

Section 5 - Meetings - Regular meetings of the Board shall be held at such time and place as shall be determined by the president, no less than two (2) times a year. Special meetings of the Board may be held without notice to the association membership at such time and place as shall be determined by the Board.

The vice-president of this association shall call a meeting of the Board in case the president declines to do so and provided seven members of the Board have certified their wish for such a meeting. The vice-president shall then preside at that meeting only.

Section 5-A - Special Rules of Order – Electronic Meetings

RCW 24.03.090 (quorum requirements) is hereby adopted by reference.

The President may use e-mail as a “special meeting” to conduct Board business in lieu of an actual meeting of the members, PROVIDED;

- A. The members shall confirm receipt of e-mail notice of meeting within 2 days. Those who have not responded shall be contacted by the President by telephone by the 3rd day to alert them to incoming e-mail relating to Board business, and
- B. The President shall state the closing day for discussion and the vote day in the original message to members, and
- C. All discussion messages among members are sent simultaneously to all members, and
- D. At least 3 days are allowed for discussion among members by e-mail before voting, and
- E. A final day is allotted to voting on a question following the discussion period, and
- F. The tally of votes and final decision is announced by the President the day following the vote day and immediately conveyed to all members of the Board.
- G. Any member may, during the discussion period, request that the business under consideration be tabled until the next general meeting with a minimum total of 5 votes to make it so.

Section 6 - Quorum, Decisions and Rules - At any meeting of the Board a majority of the trustees shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, except that the presence or absence of honorary trustees shall not be taken into consideration when determining whether a quorum is present. Decisions will be made by a simple majority vote of members present at any meeting. There will be no proxies for those who are not present. Business will be conducted following Robert’s Rules of Order.

Section 7 - Duties - The Board shall have full power and authority over the affairs of this association, shall conduct all important business of this association, and shall oversee all expenditures. Each year the Board approves a budget, which it will present at the Annual meeting for approval by the membership. Expenditures approved in the budget do not need re-approval. The President may spend up to \$100.00 without prior Board approval.

Section 8 - Any Trustee may lay on the table any motion made on the floor of a membership meeting until such time as the Board can discuss the subject.

ARTICLE XI - AMENDMENTS

The by-laws may be altered, amended, added to or repealed by a two-thirds vote of the Trustees present at any regular meeting of the Board, provided a notice of such change or changes shall be sent by last known e-mail address to every trustee at least ten days in advance of such meeting.

The By-Laws adopted September 19, 1997, and amended on April 21, 2010 at the Annual meeting held at Silverdale, Washington.

How are these bylaws different from the old ones? See Page 22

Glimpse From The Past from the Nottinghamshire BKA

THE STRENGTH OF BEES Norristown Herald January 1883

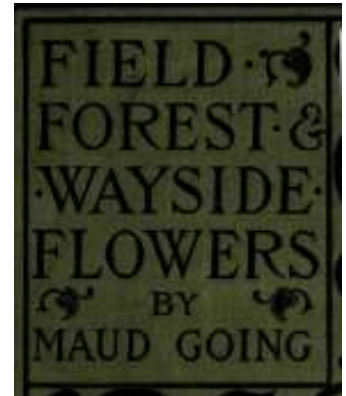
Mons. Pateau has discovered that while a horse can pull only six-sevenths of its weight, a bee can pull twenty times its weight. When some one discovers how to grow bees as large as horses, the latter will have to take a back seat. But it would be fatal to fool around the heels of such a bee. With its javelin it could pin a man against the side of the stable. Perhaps it would be better not to raise bees any larger than the present crop.

1899

Chapter I. Crocuses

*"As sweet desire of day before the day,
As dreams of love before the true love born,
From the outer edge of winter over-worn,
The ghost arisen of May before the May
Takes through dim air her unawakened
way".*

- Swinburne.



It seems, at first, an inconsistency that so many of the monastic communities of old should have owned and tended gardens. A garden: - the word suggests roses and honeysuckles, early peas and luscious strawberries, summer days passed amid fair surroundings, whatsoever is most opposite to the unbeautified life, meagre fare, and narrow cell of the ascetic.

Even if the gardens grew only bitter herbs for fast-day pottages the south wind wafted perfumes over them, the butterflies danced in them, and the birds sang in them joyous strains, likely to lead the listener's thoughts far away from sin, death, and judgment.

Only experience teaches what, it seems, the early fathers of the church well knew, that tending garden is at once a school and a test for all the great Christian virtues.

In hope one lays out hard-earned dollars for seeds, roots, tools, fertilizers, re-enforcements to the fence, and wages of a man to "spade up".

Faith in Nature and in the florist's integrity is sorely needed when, day after day, the beds show only a few sticks, upholding scraps of paper seed-bags, and marking the locations of hoped-for crops.

And charity towards that florist is severely tested when those

crops fail to appear for all the wooing of the south wind - and we begin to suspect him of foisting off superannuated seeds upon our guileless simplicity.

But the gardener might as well be charitable with a good grace, for he must be charitable whether or no.

The result of the sweat of his brow and the emptying of his pocketbook is shared with all creation. He is almoner to countless creatures which give him no gratitude.

The moles and slugs nibble his vegetables. The birds sample his fruit, and a host of bees, moths, beetles, and butterflies share his pleasure in his flowers.

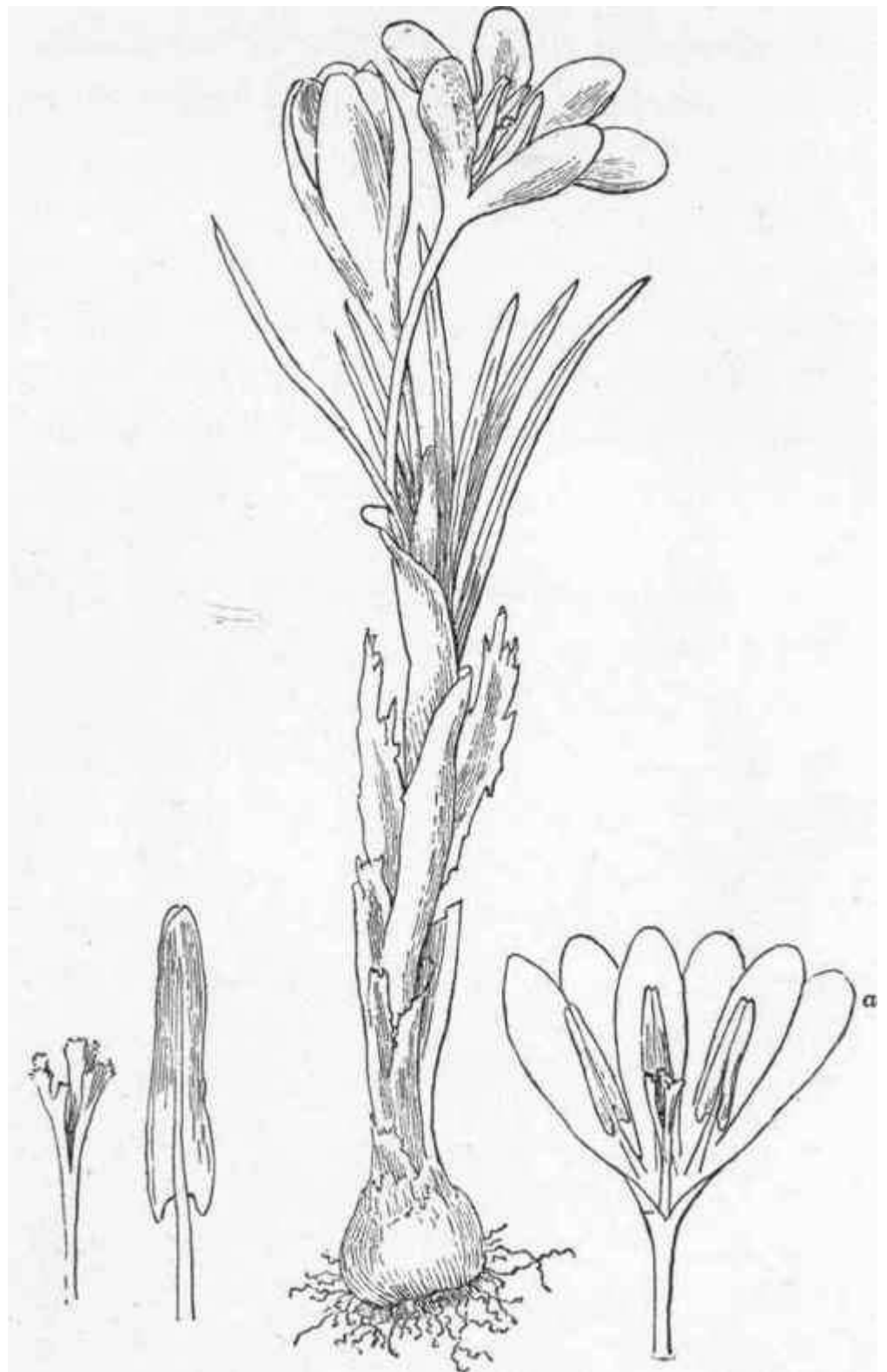
These insect visitors, however, are respectable wage-workers. It would be unjust to call them pensioners of the garden, for the flowers would be as ill off without them as they without the flowers, and next year's borders will be all the brighter and sweeter, thanks to this year's butterflies and bees.

The few glimpses of sunshine which this March day vouchsafes us have already tempted out an enterprising bee. Her contented droning comes from the cup of an equally enterprising yellow crocus (Fig. 1) - to her a pavilion of gold wherein is spread a feast of nectar fit for the gods.

Six yellow leaves, joined at their bases and separate above, form the dainty cup of the crocus-flower.

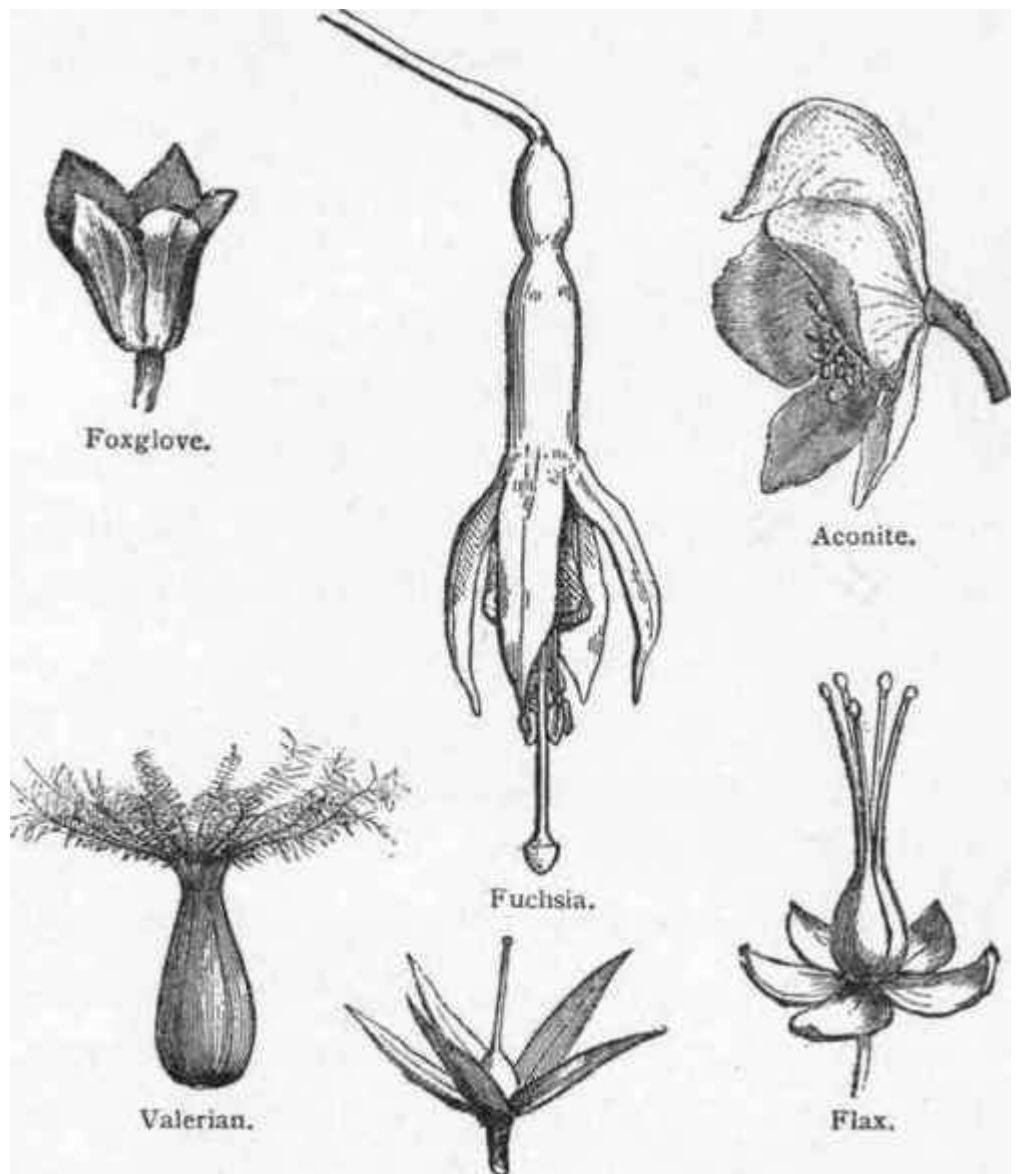
Three of these are generally somewhat larger than the rest, and in the bud they enfolded the smaller trio within them.

The larger and outer leaves are the "calyx" of the crocus-blossom and the inner and smaller ones are its "corolla." But the calyx now in question is exceptionally big and beautiful.



**Fig. 1. - Golden crocus (*Crocus aureus*).
(From Curtis' Botanical Magazine). a, the blossom split lengthwise; b,
one stamen ; c, the pistil.**

That of most flowers is a modest affair (Fig. 2a), composed of tiny green leaves, or sepals, which are quite eclipsed by the superior size and brilliancy of the petals or flower-leaves within them (Fig. 2b).



Loosestrife.

Fig. 2a. - Calyces of differing forms. (From the Vegetable World).

In this crocus, however, the sepals not only rival the petals, but outdo them in prettiness.

Within the flower's chalice are three stalks, each topped with a long, golden head. These are the stamens.

The long heads are powder-boxes, and the yellow dust which they contain has a power as wonderful as that of any fairy's wand.

At the very heart of the crocus is a column, tall and erect, surmounted by a fluted capital tipped with gold. This is the pistil. Its duty, in the floral division of labor, is to form, protect, and, in due time, distribute the young seed. In its lower part, at flowering time, we will find a number of tiny green bodies destined to become seeds, if all goes well.

This crocus has just unfolded, and the baby seeds within its pistil are not quickened yet. They may never live at all, but wither with the perishing flower, and thus die before they are really born. Life can be given to them only by the magic powder which the stamens contain.

In the older works on botany this powder is called "pollen," but the most recent books on the wonders of plant-life give it a name more ponderous and technical, but well worth remembering, because whoever invented it had in mind the relationship which binds together all plants, from the humblest to the highest.

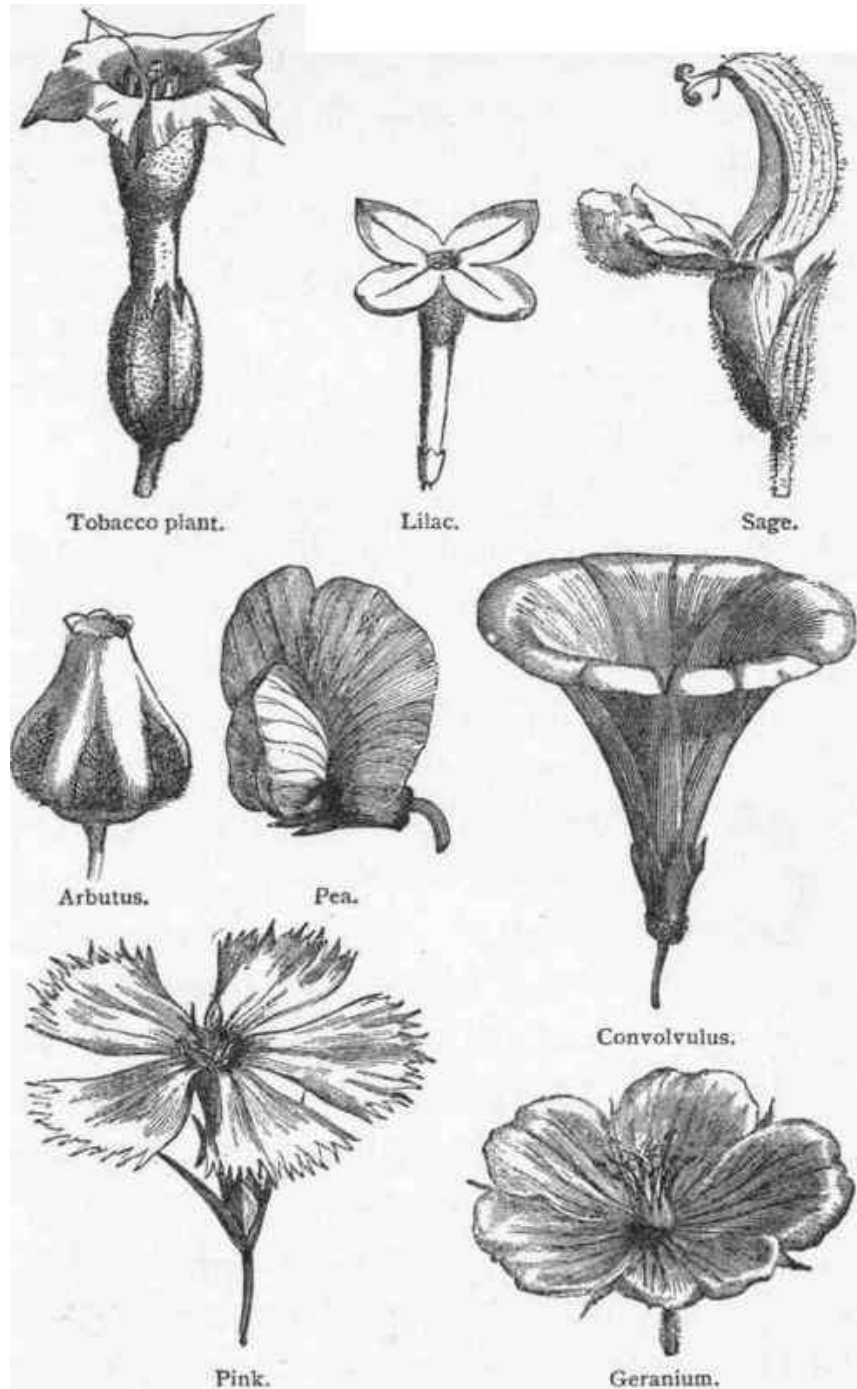


Fig. 2b. - Corollas of various forms. (From the Vegetable World).

So in the "up-to-date" writings on flower-lore these little grains - brown or golden - are called "microspores".

Each microspore is a simple cell, - a little bag, - generally lined with a delicate membrane, and always filled with a colorless jelly.

Under a powerful microscope the microspores of many flowers look as if they had been daintily carved, like the beads of a rosary.

On the surfaces of very many of them there are tiny holes, or slits, or little lids, which fall off readily (Fig. 3a) and expose the delicate lining membrane.

The boxes, or "anthers," which hold the microspores of the crocus split open as soon as the bud expands and shed their golden store. The bee, blundering about inside the flower, gets herself well sprinkled, and, when she flies off, with powdered body, to find and visit another courageous crocus, she will be almost certain to rub off a few yellow grains upon the tip of its pistil.

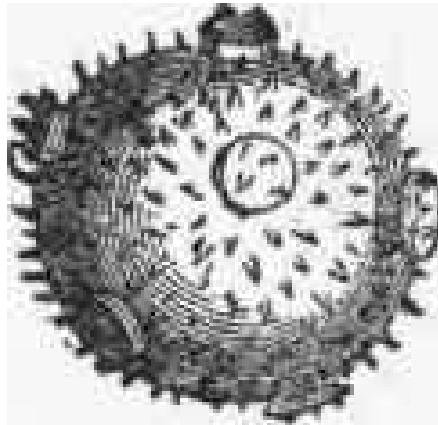


Fig. 3a. - A pollen-grain of the melon. (From the Vegetable World).

Crocuses. Part 2

This spot, - the stigmatic surface, - is the goal of the microspores. It is very various in its appearance in different flowers. Sometimes it is a little knob, sometimes a small point, sometimes, as in this crocus, it spreads into many rays like a star. In many flowers it is covered with short hairs, or with minute knobs, among which pollen-grains may be caught and held fast. In the orchids it is just a little surface of bare tissue. But, whatever is its outward semblance, Nature has prepared it to receive pollen by moistening it with a sugary fluid, so that any grains which touch it may adhere, and may germinate upon it.

Directly a speck of the life-giving dust settles down on the stigmatic surface it begins to do its appointed work there. In most instances the thin inner coat of the little bag swells up at one place into a hump, which thrusts itself through one of the holes in the outer case, or pushes off one of the lids, or, it may be, forces its way outward through a thin spot (Fig. 3b). The hump grows bigger, becoming a sac, and, at last, a tube, which, in some flowers, attains a length of several inches. This tube grows downward into the substance of the pistil, much as a strong rootlet burrows into rich light soil.

All is ready for its reception. The part of the pistil which it must penetrate is never filled with anything more substantial than a loose mass of large cells, called "conducting tissue," and, in some few species of blossom, it is empty. So in due time the end of the pollen-tube reaches one of the **baby** seeds in the pistil's base, and enters it by a minute orifice in the seed-coat.

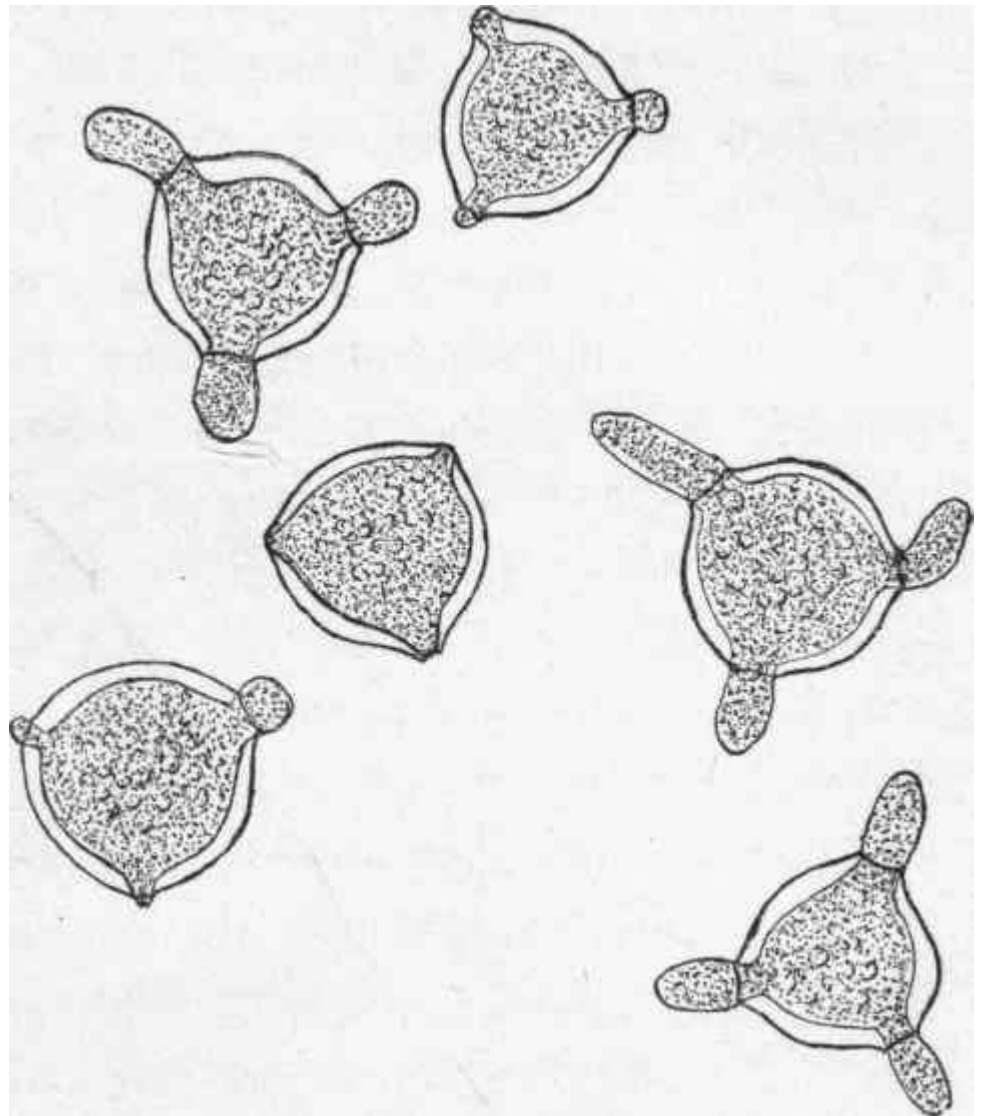


Fig. 3b. - Pollen-grains of the European hazel or filbert (*Corylus Avellana*) putting forth their pollen-tubes.

Inside the baby seed is another little globe or sac filled with colorless jelly - the "macrospore" or embryo-sac. The pollen-tube pushes its way downward till it touches and pierces this little globe. Then part of the drop of jelly which has filled the pollen-grain or microspore enters the macrospore and fuses with its jelly, and when this union takes place the purpose for which the blossom blew has been achieved. From the fusion of microspore and macrospore comes life, or rather the possibility of life, for from their united substance Nature begins to mould and build a tiny plant within the young seed.

The time which elapses between the first touch of the microspore upon the stigmatic surface and the quickening of the seed that is to be, varies greatly in flowers of different species. The pollen-tube of the crocus takes from one to three days in finding its way to the macrospore. But this is not because the crocus pistil is long, for in the great night-blooming cereus, which has a pistil nine inches in length, the pollen-tube penetrates to the macrospore in a few hours, while in some flowers, as in certain varieties of orchid, weeks elapse while the tube is descending a very short distance.

Each macrospore can be vitalized by the contents of one single tube, so but one microspore is necessary to the development of a seed.

But Nature provides the golden dust in lavish profusion. It has been estimated that twenty thousand grains are contained in one single stamen of a peony, and some stamens yield the vitalizing powder in even greater abundance.

This is because Nature must provide microspores enough to meet the needs of all the macrospores in all the flowers that blow, after an enormous amount of the precious powder has been wasted.

Some blows away, some is washed earthward by rain or dew, some is eaten by ants and other crawling intruders, much is gathered by the bees, to be made into "bee-bread," and many grains are dropped by flying insects, before the pistil of a sister blossom has been reached.

The use of pollen in the floral economy was suspected, - at least in the case of certain blossoms, - even in classic times. And the fact that the pollen-grain must give of its substance to the pistil before the seed can be vitalized has been known for two centuries. But only in recent times have Nature-students made a discovery which casts a flood of light upon the mysteries of the flowers, - and it is this: The macrospore in

most cases is vitalized not by the pollen of the flower in which it is formed, but by the pollen from some other flower of the same species.

And even those flowers which can make shift to get along with home-made pollen achieve better results with the imported article.

Thus the pistil of the crocus will form larger and stronger seeds if it can get pollen from a sister blossom, or, better still, from another crocus plant altogether. So the flowers wish to send the yellow powder about, from one to another, for their mutual benefit, and the bee behaves as if she had been taken into their confidence. She has flown out of our yellow crocus now, as dusty as a miller, and has gone droning into another one, which is growing on the opposite side of the garden walk. As she reaches down into the bottom of its chalice, for the sweets she hopes to find there, some grains of the pollen she has brought in with her will be rubbed off her velvet jacket onto the waiting pistil.

Crocus number two accepts this unintentional donation with pleasure, pays for it with a drop of nectar, and gives also a sprinkling of pollen from her own stamens. The bee, carrying the powdered gold which has just been bestowed upon her, flies off to make a call upon a third crocus, and when she departs she leaves some of her dusty load behind her, as a souvenir of her visit.

So each crocus "sets" its seed by aid of pollen brought from another flower.

Each flower has gratified its preference for yellow dust of foreign manufacture, and has received enough of the imported article for her dainty uses, and each has sent the pollen of her own making to the exact spot "where it will do the most good." The bee meantime has been entertained everywhere with pretty shows and luxurious fare, and she is another well-satisfied member of the mutual benefit society.

Crocuses. Part 3

Bees are by no means the only pollen-carriers employed by flowers.

A large number of blossoms entrust their fate, or rather the fate of their posterity, to the mercy of the wind. Others, which grow and blow in ponds or streams, confide their pollen

messages to the water. Flowers which conduct their affairs after these methods need be at no special pains to please the insects, whose services they neither ask nor need. So "wind-fertilized" and "water-fertilized" blossoms have not bright colors, nor fragrance, nor nectar. But, on the other hand, they must produce enormous quantities of pollen to ensure enough for Nature's needs, after a large proportion has been blown or washed away.

The wind-fertilized flowers of the poplar shed so much pollen that it may be seen, on breezy spring days, blowing from the branches in light clouds. And at one time in the summer the floating pollen of the eel-grass, and of some other pond weeds, is spread in sheets over the surface of still water. It has been shed by those aquatic flowers which blow at the surface of the water. There are other aquatic blossoms which expand beneath the surface. Their pollen grains are of much the same weight, bulk for bulk, as the surrounding water, so that they will neither float nor sink, but will remain poised at about the level of the flower they seek. And the individual pollen grains of such blossoms are often long and narrow in form, so that they cut their way through the water, as does a modern ocean greyhound.

Wind-fertilized flowers are adapted in various ways to their chosen assistants, the breezes. They have, for the most part, enormously developed stigmas, which project in the form of tails or brushes. The pollen of such flowers is light and dry, that it may blow easily, and the brush-like stigmas are covered with points or hairs which catch it as it flies past.

But the pollen grains which are to be entrusted to insect messengers are often sticky or roughened all over with little points, so that they catch on the hairy bodies of their winged porters, and cling.

The interdependence between flowers and their guests has lasted for so many generations, that certain insects have modified their chosen blossoms somewhat, and the flowers, in their turn, have modified their messengers. Thus there have come so be hereditary friendships in the outdoor world, so strong and so enduring that Delphinus, who gave the subject much study, has made a rough classification in which flowering plants are graded "according to the company they keep". His "first class" are adapted for the larger bees. They have diurnal flowers, with colors and scents attractive to man also. Flowers of the second class are the particular friends of the lesser bees, though they also show hospitality to many other

small insects. "These flowers," says Delphino, rather disparagingly, "have quite incomprehensible attractions for their visitors".

The third class comprises the big-fly flowers. These are often in dull shades of yellow and red, and exhale an odor disagreeable to man and to bees.

Another category of flowers are adapted for fertilization by smaller flies and lay wait for these foolish visitors with traps and snares, as does our familiar "Jack-in-the-Pulpit".

There are a few native plants which use carrion and dung-flies as their messengers. The carrion-flower of New England thickets is one of these. They have a putrid smell, often very strong, and dull-colored or greenish blossoms.

Delphino's sixth class includes those plants which seek to snare the fancy and secure the services of beetles. These have large diurnal blossoms with striking colors, very abundant pollen, and nectar so placed that it is within easy reach. Among these beetle-flowers is the magnolia.

Next come the butterfly-flowers, with bright corollas, and with their nectar concealed at the base of a tube so long and narrow that only their chosen guests can reach and sip it. And in the eighth class Delphino places those flowers which seek to please twilight and nocturnal moths.

Some plants have become so dependent on the ministrations of insects that they are no longer able to set seed by aid of their own pollen. It lies upon the pistil as powerless to awaken life as if it were mere roadside dust. Some of the orchids go even further in their repudiation of the pollen which they themselves have produced. The pistil seems poisoned by it, and withers at its touch.

Many flowers have special devices for securing pollen from other blossoms and for avoiding the use of their own.

In a number of species the stamens ripen, open, and shed their store, while the pistil is yet too young to make use of any pollen grains it may receive. Then when the pistil is old enough to commence business, and asks for gold, the surrounding stamens are a bankrupt community, with none left to give. But "all things come at last to one who knows how to wait." Pollen will be wafted to the pistil by a summer breeze, or carried to it

by a winged messenger - beetle, fly, wasp, moth, butterfly, humming-bird, or bee. But it will be pollen from another flower, and that is exactly what wise Mother Nature has been planning from the first.

So the insects which flit through our gardens are combining business with pleasure and doing important errands for the flowers. The flowers vie for their attentions with charming toilettes, and pay for their services with free lunches.

The iris, geranium, gladiolus, and salvia, which make their debut later in spring when there are many beauties in the field, must be gay if they would be observed. They must appear in costumes which "shout," as the French say.

But the crocus has not needed a bewilderingly splendid dress in order to secure attention, because she has scarcely a rival thus early in the season, and it is rather Hobson's choice with the bee.

Thus there is scarcely a single brilliant or conspicuous blossom among all the first begotten of the spring. The early wild flowers which we find in sheltered sunny hollows are white, or pale-yellow, or lilac, or delicate sea-shell pink. The spurred columbines, in their brilliant uniforms of red and gold, will not appear upon the rocks till May. They have but coward hearts, for all their martial colors, and dare not come out so long as Jack Frost and the North Wind prowl abroad.

But the Joans of Arc among the flowers, which lead summer's hosts and brave winter's last desperate onslaughts, look as tender and demure as Priscilla "the Mayflower of Plymouth".

Editor's note: If you, like me, enjoyed the first three chapters of [*Field, Forest, and Wayside Flowers*](#) then click on this link to see the rest of the book. As a special reward for your interest, here is the link to ChestofBooks.com where you can find thousands of books to read on-line for free on extremely diverse topics!

By-laws of the West Sound Beekeepers Association
PROPOSED DRAFT TO INCLUDE TRUSTEES

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization shall be West Sound Beekeepers Association, herein WSBA. This Association is not for the profit of any individual member ~~and does not need to be incorporated at this point in time~~. It is reserved that this Association may be incorporated within the State of Washington and apply for its Internal Revenue Service designation as a charitable organization.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The purposes of WSBA are to assist its members, other members in the community interested in bees, and the public at large with a continuing education in the art and science of beekeeping. Specifically, to assist its members and others interested in bees with their beekeeping problems; to provide those interested in bees an opportunity to meet and discuss their problems; and to cooperate with the Washington State University Extension Service, other Universities, the Washington State Department of Agriculture, and the Washington State Beekeepers Association to disseminate the latest beekeeping information.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 1 - Membership in WSBA may be open to all persons interested in bees and beekeeping, upon payment of annual dues ~~in the amount of \$24.00~~. Members are expected to be upstanding members of the community at large and to contribute to the Association. The membership year shall be from January 1 through December 31. New members joining after October 1 shall be considered paid up members for the following calendar year. The amount of the annual dues shall be established by the Association Board of Trustees. Dues ~~may include~~ a fee for Associate Membership in the Washington State Beekeepers Association.

Section 2 - The State Entomologist; the Director of the Washington State Department of Agriculture; the Chief Apiary Inspector; and the County Agricultural Extension Agent may be ex-officio members and pay no dues and have no voting privileges.

Section 3 - Any member may be terminated from WSBA for inappropriate, unethical, or unattractive behavior by a two-thirds majority vote by the members of the Association after open discussion.

ARTICLE IV - CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

The business affairs of WSBA shall be conducted by the ~~committee chairs~~ Board of Trustees and officers. ~~The Association may select a Board of Directors, but no such Board is required.~~ No officer, ~~director~~ Trustee or member of WSBA shall receive any remuneration for services rendered directly or indirectly in any capacity to the Association unless authorized after discussion by affirmative vote of a simple majority of all the members of the Association. Any conflict of interest shall be discussed and resolved in front of the membership of the Association.

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS AND DIRECTORSTRUSTEES

Section 1 - The elected officers of WSBA ~~may~~ shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer upon a majority vote of the Association members. Any two positions may be combined.

Section 12 - Officers shall serve for a ~~one~~ (1) year period and may be elected to serve not more than three (3) successive terms in any one position, after which officers may be reelected after retirement

of one year. There is no term limit for the position of treasurer. All officers shall be members of the Board of Trustees. Officers shall attend more than one half of all Board and regular Association meetings, or they may be removed by action of the Board.

ARTICLE VI - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1 - The President shall preside over all Association meetings and meetings of the Board of Trustees; call special meetings as deemed fit; perform all acts and duties required of an executive and presiding officer, including the appointment of any committees required for the proper function of the Association.

Section 2 - The Vice President shall assume the duties of the President in his/her absence, and assist the President as necessary.

Section 3 - The Secretary shall keep a permanent record of all official meetings of WSBA; report official Association activities to the membership; and perform other duties as requested by the Association.

Section 4 - The Treasurer shall receive and disburse all funds honestly and efficiently; maintain accurate records of the Association's checking account; keep complete and accurate account of all financial transactions after appropriate approval by the officers/Association and keep records of paid members. The Treasurer shall deliver complete books documenting all financial transactions to her/his successor in office.

ARTICLE VII – MEETINGS

Section 1 - Meetings of the general membership shall be held at an established place and time no less than quarterly; ~~no more than monthly.~~ ~~It is the intention of this~~ The Association to shall invite the general public to these meetings, and it shall be the responsibility of the officers or their delegates to ensure appropriate notice to the public so that they may attend.

Section 2 - Every ~~April-October~~ there will be an Annual meeting. ~~This Annual Meeting shall in order to~~ conduct the business of electing new officers, approving a budget as presented by the Board, and making ~~any~~ changes to the Bylaws if needed, and other business as deemed appropriate by the Board.

Section 3 - There is no need for a quorum at any regular or Annual meeting of the Association. Decisions will be made by a simple majority vote of members present at any meeting. There will be no proxies for those who are not present. Business will be conducted following Robert's Rules of Order.

ARTICLE VIII - FINANCES

Section 1 - An audit committee shall be selected by the ~~Association Board of Trustees~~ and shall perform an internal audit on an annual basis, prior to the Annual meeting. A report from the auditing committee shall be made to the membership at large during the Annual meeting.

Section 2 - No indebtedness shall be incurred by any officer, committee member or any other member of this Association on behalf of WSBA except as authorized by the Association or the Board of Trustees.

~~Authorization by the Association is evidenced by discussion and by an affirmative vote by a simple majority of the membership at large~~

Section 3 - WSBA dues and monies in excess of immediate operating expenses shall be placed into an account to accumulate interest.

Section 4 - If WSBA ceases to exist at some future time, funds and assets of record shall be disbursed to Washington State University with the objective and intent that these funds and assets be used for the benefit of the art and science of beekeeping.

ARTICLE IX - COMMITTEES

Section 1 - The ~~President or Board of Trustees~~ shall appoint such ~~standing~~ committees, task forces and/or agents as may be necessary and proper for the conduct of the affairs of WSBA. Power to appoint and/or remove them may be delegated by the Board of Trustees to the President of this association.

Section 42 - The President shall elect to serve as, or shall appoint, a public information officer who will respond to inquiries from the public and will be available to the media to respond to any questions.

ARTICLE X - TRUSTEES

Section 1 - Number - The business affairs of this association shall be managed by a Board of Trustees (the "Board"), consisting of seven (7) to nine (9) members elected at the Annual Meeting. The officers, past president, and newsletter editor shall be voting members of the Board. The Board may elect honorary trustees for life who shall have full voting rights. Their presence or absence, however, shall not affect the constitution of a quorum.

Section 2 - Term - At each annual meeting, the members shall elect one of the trustees, who shall serve as trustee for a period of two years, or until their successors are elected, so that the term of office of one of the Board shall expire each year. The term of the immediate past president, who automatically becomes a member of the Board, shall be a period of one year.

Section 3 - Chairman and Secretary - The president of this association shall be the Chairman of the Board and the secretary of this association shall act as the Secretary of the Board.

Section 4 - Qualification - Only active members of the Association who are in good standing may be Trustees. Trustees shall attend more than half of the meetings of the Board and of the Association, or they may be removed by the Board. Vacancies of the Board may be filled for the remainder of the term by election by the remaining members of the Board.

Section 5 - Meetings - Regular meetings of the Board shall be held at such time and place as shall be determined by the president, no less than two (2) times a year. Special meetings of the Board may be held without notice to the association membership at such time and place as shall be determined by the Board.

The vice-president of this association shall call a meeting of the Board in case the president declines to do so and provided seven members of the Board have certified their wish for such a meeting. The vice-president shall then preside at that meeting only.

Section 5-A - Special Rules of Order – Electronic Meetings

RCW 24.03.090 (quorum requirements) is hereby adopted by reference.

The President may use e-mail as a "special meeting" to conduct Board business in lieu of an actual meeting of the members, PROVIDED;

A. The members shall confirm receipt of e-mail notice of meeting within 2 days. Those who have not responded shall be contacted by the President by telephone by the 3rd day to alert them to incoming e-mail relating to Board business, and
B. The President shall state the closing day for discussion and the vote day in the original message to members, and
C. All discussion messages among members are sent simultaneously to all members, and
D. At least 3 days are allowed for discussion among members by e-mail before voting, and
E. A final day is allotted to voting on a question following the discussion period, and
F. The tally of votes and final decision is announced by the President the day following the vote day and immediately conveyed to all members of the Board.
G. Any member may, during the discussion period, request that the business under consideration be tabled until the next general meeting with a minimum total of 5 votes to make it so.

Section 6 - Quorum, Decisions and Rules - At any meeting of the Board a majority of the trustees shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, except that the presence or absence of honorary trustees shall not be taken into consideration when determining whether a quorum is present. Decisions will be made by a simple majority vote of members present at any meeting. There will be no proxies for those who are not present. Business will be conducted following Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 7 - Duties - The Board shall have full power and authority over the affairs of this association, shall conduct all important business of this association, and shall oversee all expenditures. Each year the Board approves a budget, which it will present at the Annual meeting for approval by the membership. Expenditures approved in the budget do not need re-approval. The President may spend up to \$100.00 without prior Board approval.

Section 8 - Any Trustee may lay on the table any motion made on the floor of a membership meeting until such time as the Board can discuss the subject.

ARTICLE XI - AMENDMENTS

The by-laws may be altered, amended, added to or repealed by a two-thirds vote of the Trustees present at any regular meeting of the Board, provided a notice of such change or changes shall be sent by last known e-mail address to every trustee at least ten days in advance of such meeting. ~~Placing in the mail shall constitute notice, sent to the last known address of the trustee.~~
~~Changes to these Bylaws may be amended at any meeting of WSBA of which the members shall be given at least ten days notice, by a 2/3 vote of the paid up members present and voting, and that the proposed amendment be read at the meeting of the club prior to said meeting and the notice of such proposed amendment shall have been included in the call for said meeting.~~

~~Approved Signed by Roy Barton, President, September 19, 1997~~

~~Bylaws were prepared by Roy Barton and Lynda H. McMaken, Attorney-at-Law, September/97, for approval by the Association members.~~

The By-Laws adopted September 19, 1997, and amended on April 21, 2010 at the Annual meeting held at Silverdale, Washington.

Editors Note: Anybody who's made it this far deserves something. So here it is:

Majority rule

His party was the Brotherhood of Brothers,
and there were more of them than of the others.

That is, they constituted that minority
which formed the greater part of the majority.

Within the party, he was of the faction
that was supported by the greater fraction.
And in each group, within each group, he sought
the group that could command the most support.

The final group had finally elected
a triumvirate whom they all respected.

Now of these three, two had the final word,
because the two could overrule the third.

One of these two was relatively weak,
so one alone stood at the final peak.

He was THE GREATER NUMBER of the pair
that formed the most part of the three that were
elected by the most of those whose boast
it was to represent the most of most
of most of most of the entire state-
or most of it at any rate.

He never gave himself a moment's slumber
but sought the welfare of the greatest number.

And the people, everywhere they went,
knew to their cost exactly what it meant
to be dictated to by the majority.

But that meant nothing –they were the minority.

-Piet Hein

