



The

February 2011

# BUZZWORD

West Sound Beekeepers Association <http://www.westsoundbees.org/>  
Proudly serving bees, their keepers, and the public in Kitsap County, WA  
(Editor's note: I'm working on the interactive newsletter!)

## Refreshments:



## February 18 6 PM Bee-ginner's Beekeeping Class

The honey bee and her products. Paul Lundy

## February 18 7 PM Regular Meeting

### Program:

George Purkett presents

## A Tale of Two Hives

## March 1 6 PM Bee-ginner's Beekeeping Class

a) Beekeeping equipment b) Making a start in beekeeping. T.J. Jorgenson

## Meeting Schedule: Journeyman Beekeeping Class

6PM Tuesday 15 Feb 2011  
6PM Tuesday 01 Mar 2011

**Regular Meeting**  
7PM Tuesday 15 Feb 2011

**Steering Committee  
Meeting**  
7 PM Tuesday 01 Mar 2011

**Queen Rearing Group  
Meets after the Steering  
Committee**

Meetings at Stedman's  
Beekeeping Supplies in  
Silverdale

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## Congratulations Warren Carlson!



**2011 Youth Beekeeping Grant Recipient**



**WSBA's Newest Beekeeper:  
Leland Deal (Jan 31, 2011)**

# WSBA Business Meeting Minutes February 1, 2011

Called to order 7:00 pm

Officers in attendance were: T.J. Jorgenson, President; David Mackovjak, Vice President; Kim Redmond, Treasurer; Christine Torres, Secretary.

Also attending were: Basil Gunther, George Purkett, Darren Gordon, Paul Lundy, Jason Deal and the Carlsons.

## Old Business:

- Kim Redmond gave preliminary treasurer's report. Checking account balance \$2,937.93 Savings account balance \$6,349.76 Total \$ 9317.69
- George Purkett will give the Feb. 15th presentation, " Curious George and the Two Hives: Package to July"
- Steering Committee & Officers will review supplemental budget proposals and discuss on line.
- Beginners' Class schedule finalized.

## New Business:

- Queen rearing group directed to present a written proposal for instrumental insemination tools, outlining long and short term goals/benefits and return on investment.
- Kim Redmond and Darren Gordon appointed to education committee.
- Student Grant awarded to Warren Carlson.
- Steering Committee directed to prioritize suggested goals for 2011 and e-mail top 3 or 4 choices to group for on-line discussion.
- Preliminary meeting calendar for 2011 presented ( will need editing)

Meeting Adjourned 8:35 pm

## January 2011 Treasurer's Report

January 2011 saw another increase in the WSBA cash on hand due to ten members who promptly renewed their memberships as well as two new members who joined and will be attending the classes that begin in February. (Money received for the Beginner Study Guides will be passed through to the Master Beekeepers Association and \$1 per paid member will be submitted to the Washington State Beekeepers Association to maintain our associate membership.)

Also - a big THANK YOU to Scott Ellerby and Brandy Williams for their generous donations to the scholarship and library funds.

Expenses for the month were held to the purchase of a used file cabinet for the Association's documents.

All details are as follows:

### Income for January 2011 was:

Library Fund Contribution ~ \$5  
Beginner Study Guides ~\$20  
Scholarship Fund Contribution ~ \$30  
2011 Dues ~ \$288  
Interest ~ \$.54

**TOTAL INCOME: \$343.54**

### Expenses for the month included:

Four-drawer file cabinet ~ \$50\*

**TOTAL EXPENSES: \$50.00**

\*Anticipate a use tax liability of approximately \$4.30 on the purchase of the file cabinet

**Checking account balance @ 1/31/2011 ~ \$2,937.93**

**Savings account balance @ 1/31/2011 ~ \$6,379.76**

**Total Cash on Hand @ 1/31/2011 ~ \$9,317.69**

**Undeposited Funds @ 1/31/2011 ~ \$ 24.00 (dues received but not deposited by 1/31/2011)**

**The WSBA Scholarship Fund value @ 1/31/2011 = \$708**

### DONATIONS

If you, or someone you know, would like to make a directed donation to the scholarship, libraries, or queen rearing funds, simply indicate the fund on the check and we'll make sure the money is allotted appropriately. General donations that support all aspects of the Association are also welcome!

Bee~happy,  
Kim Redmond  
Treasurer

## Message from the President:

Good February to my Fellow Members of West Sound Beekeepers!

Join me in welcoming all the new beekeepers that are joining the WSBA apprentice class this month! We as an organization have as part of our mission to "Build Better Beekeepers" and the "Bee-ginners" class is an excellent opportunity that we as an association have to fulfill that part of our mission! I would encourage all of our new members to stick around after the class on the third Tuesday for the regular meeting of WSBA where we have a variety of topics and presentations that will help further you along in your hobby. I have found that almost every time I meet with the club, I gain clarity on issues I am facing or inspired to pursue something new. WELCOME!

The steering committee is in the works of defining a list of goals to inform our decisions regarding any expansions of the clubs activities. These goals revolve around the central mission of the association, and as such, keep us on track with where we want to be. As an association, we recognize the need to provide a place for enrichment for both beginning as well as advanced beekeepers. As such, the list of goals that the association board is currently evaluating will focus the direction the association will take us through the year as an organization as well as reflect that basic principle. More to follow later...

On a totally unrelated note:

Living as about as far north in Kitsap County as one can, I find myself in the car more than I want. Finding virtually nothing of interest to me on commercial radio, I found podcasts are my best friend. A short search on my handy dandy portable multimedia device led me to a couple of beekeeping podcasts. We beekeepers have our own bloggers, forum experts and podcasters. The podcast I have enjoyed most is from UK Beekeeper Phil Chandler. His podcasts can be found at <http://biobees.libsyn.com/>. His website can be found at <http://www.biobees.com/>. Chandler primarily focuses on what he calls "Natural Beekeeping". I find his podcast an excellent source of information on subjects I have only a cursory knowledge of. Chandler is a strong advocate of Top Bar hives and all the varieties thereof. His podcast has also dealt with everything from in depth discussions about propolis to CCD. I thoroughly enjoy the perspective of a beekeeper with experiences outside the US and whose dedicated to developing management techniques that are akin to where I think my own interests lie. Listening to his podcasts lets me spend some time in the car considering alterations to my admittedly novice beekeeping techniques. That is probably one of the most enjoyable things about this pursuit. There is so much to learn and the opportunity to experiment is endless. I encourage any and all to investigate Chandler's podcast and website, along with any other beekeeping podcasts you can find. There is some great information out there that is as close as your computer.

TJ Jorgenson

## Obituary: Ken Bennett

It is with great sadness that I am reporting the death of one of our founding members, Kenneth Bennett. Ken passed away early today in Laguna Hills, California where he had resided after moving from Silverdale. Ken was a long time hobby beekeeper when he lived in Gig Harbor and a member of the Pierce County Beekeepers Assn. When he moved to Silverdale he was instrumental in getting the West Sound Beekeepers Association off the ground. He assisted myself, Mike Johnson and Bob Martello, teaching us about beekeeping and enjoyed mentoring others as well. Last year he was awarded Beekeeper of the year by the California Beekeepers Association.



Ken was hospitalized a couple of weeks ago and then moved to a rehabilitation facility. He was readmitted to the hospital yesterday and passed away about midnight from congestive heart failure and underlying causes.

Ken was a retired Northwest Airlines pilot. No services are planned. His urn will be taken to Minnesota in April by his wife Marilyn.

Roy Barton

(This is the only picture I have so far of Ken -ed.)

# WSBA Queen Rearing group Update February 2011



**Basil with his modified swarm box**

**Purpose:** The Queen Rearing group is to provide an opportunity for members of WSBA a venue to learn and explore the art of queen rearing and produce quality queens.

**2011 Goals** for the Queen Rearing group of West Sound Beekeeping Association (WSBA):

1. Explore and document different physical methods of queen rearing
2. Educate both the Queen Rearing group and the WSBA on queen rearing
3. Provide quality queens to the Queen Rearing group and WSBA
4. Investigate and conduct hygienic testing
5. Explore drone management methods
6. Invite at least two other local beekeeping associations to our meetings
7. Artificially inseminate a queen (stretch goal)

The Queen Rearing group held their second meeting of the 2011 year on Tuesday 2/1/2011. The Queen Rearing group meets on the first Tuesday of the month following the WSBA business meeting held at Stedmans. The business meeting starts at 7 PM at and the Queen Rearing meeting will start at approx 8 pm or after the business meeting ends.



During the meeting we reconfirmed the purpose and goals of the Queen Rearing group and then we discussed how the group can get involved with artificial insemination or more correctly instrumental insemination (II). The team is putting together a point paper that will be presented during March's business meeting. There is strong interest in one of our members attending a course at UC Davis in mid April – "Instrumental Insemination and Bee Breeding" workshop taught by Susan Cobey.

Also as quick recap of the training given at the last month's general meeting on "Over Wintering Bees":

Remember the acronym '**WINTERS**':

- **W**ipe out pest & diseases
- **I**nitiate protection against extreme climate conditions
- **N**ew queen
- **T**op Ventilation
- **E**xcluders and empty combs off
- **R**estrict Opening to keep out mice
- **S**ufficient Pollen & Honey

From now until we get a nectar flow you will want to:

- 1) Make sure colonies have enough honey  
If not FEED
- 2) Make sure colonies have pollen  
Provide pollen patty
- 3) Excess moisture to escape the colony  
Ventilate





**Lecture Schedule:** We outlined our Queen Rearing lecture schedule and the following lectures will be presented during our upcoming meetings:

- 1 Mar** – Cloake Board and grafting – David Mackovjak
- 5 Apr** – Drone Management – Jim Carlson
- 3 May** – Instrumental Insemination – George Purkett
- 7 Jun** – Hygienic Testing – Paul Lundy

**Hands-on-Demonstrations:** A tentative schedule of hands-on-demonstrations and skill events was also discussed and confirmed (dates subject to weather and hive strength)

- Friday, 8 Apr 11** – Cloaking setup demonstration, 6 pm Stedmans
- Sunday, 10 Apr 11** – Queen grafting demonstration, 1-3 pm Stedmans
- Tuesday, 19 Apr 11** – Queens handed out, 6-7 pm Stedmans

- Friday, 6 May 11** – Cloaking setup demonstration, 6 pm Stedmans
- Sunday, 8 May 11** – Queen grafting demonstration, 1-3 pm Stedmans
- Sunday, 17 May 11** – Instrumental Insemination demo, 1-3 pm Stedmans

- Friday, 10 Jun 11** – Cloaking setup demonstration, 6 pm Stedmans
- Sunday, 12 Jun 11** – Hygienic Testing & Queen grafting demo, 1-3 pm Stedmans
- Sunday, 19 Jun 11** – Instrumental Insemination demo, 1-3 pm Stedmans

The Queen Rearing group is open to all members who are interested in learning about the art of queen rearing or would just like to learn more about bee keeping. To be included in queen rearing correspondence please send me your name, phone number and email address.



Thanks and looking forward to seeing a great turnout at our next Queen Rearing meeting on 1 Mar when we will be discussing how to graft queen cells and discuss the Cloake Board method!! Come join all the fun!!

David Mackovjak  
Queen Rearing group leader  
[trimack@prodigy.net](mailto:trimack@prodigy.net)  
360-340-0381



Drone Bee Humor

**Keep Posting Those Beekeeping Flyers!**

Last month a flyer was sent out for people to post so people could easily join the association, take beginner beekeeping classes, or contact the association for any arcane reasons. This is still a good time of year to post these flyers. Beginner Beekeeping classes start in February. Better late than never! We'll help them catch up. This month the flyer will be sent as a separate pdf. Or find old newsletters at: <http://www.westsoundbees.org/newsletters.htm> Copy these flyers, slit for info stub removal and post in a public area.

# Beekeepers Concerns over the Use and Effects of the Insecticide Clothianidin

by TJ Jorgenson

In the July edition of *Bee Culture*, a Colorado beekeeper called into question the EPA scientific standing on the approval of the systemic neonicotinoid insecticide "Clothianidin". This article and a subsequent leaked memo detailing concern within the EPA about this insecticide has resulted in intense pressure by many beekeepers to have the EPA ban the use of this insecticide and to question the overall quality of the EPA's effectiveness when regulating compounds that threaten honeybee populations.

Clothianidin, manufactured by the Bayer Corporation, is sold under the name "Poncho" and is among a class of systemic insecticides referred to as "Neonicotinoids". These insecticides work by being applied to the seeds of a crop plant such as corn, canola, soy beans, etc... The insecticide is then incorporated into the tissues of the growing plant during and after germination, including pollen and nectar, rendering it poisonous to the nervous system of insects who then feed on those tissues. They are exceedingly potent compounds. The dosage of Clothianidin that is toxic to bees is only in a few parts per billion, or, as UK Beekeeper P.J. Chandler described it roughly the same proportion as a half teaspoon in an olympic sized swimming pool.

EPA studies conducted prior to Clothianidin's approval demonstrated this insecticide's destructive effect on queen laying, brood health and numbers and overall survivability of a colony. The EPA's own studies concluded that Clothianidin kills bees. These studies initially led investigators to recommend the following stern warning label for the compound:

**"This compound is toxic to honey bees. The persistence of residues and the expression of Clothianidin in nectar and pollen suggests the possibility of chronic toxic risk to honey bee larvae and the eventual stability of the hive."**

Concerns about this compound, and related neonicotinoids, are not unknown outside of the United States. Countries such as Germany, Italy, Slovenia and France have banned the use of Clothianidin. In the case of Germany, the ban is a direct result of the death of 2/3 of the colonies in the Baden-Wurtemberg region after contact with soil dust containing the insecticide. The bees all had toxic levels of Clothianidin found in their tissue. In the United States, a similar incident was reported to have happened across Indiana as a result of airborne dust being exposed to colonies during the planting of Clothianidin treated corn. Essentially, the soils that treated seeds were being planted in became toxic to honey bee colonies.

Nevertheless, the EPA moved forward to approve Clothianidin. As a pre-requisite for its conditional approval, the EPA requested a follow up study on effects on the lifecycle of honey bees. Eventually, Bayer submitted its own lifecycle study to the EPA, almost 2 years beyond the EPA's initial required deadline. The Bayer lifecycle study and the EPA's subsequent additional year long review was only made public after threats of lawsuits by the Natural Resources Defense Council. This lifecycle study was flawed in its most basic methodology. There were only four test colonies involved which were placed on a 2.5 square acre plot of Clothianidin treated canola. Surrounding the 2.5 acre test plot were thousands of acres of canola untreated with Clothianidin. Bayer predictably concluded that there was no negative impact on honey bee health as a result of exposure to this compound, despite the inability to control the bees foraging activity in nearby untreated canola. Furthermore, Theobald points out in his article in *Bee Culture* that corn covers almost 88 million acres in the US compared to the smaller production of canola which is approximately one million acres, rendering corn a much larger prospective source for contact for honey bees. EPA reviews officially resulted in the acceptance of this study as sufficient for the decision to conditionally approve Clothianidin for segments of US agriculture.

Bayer began the process recently to gain approval for Clothianidin to be used on cotton and mustard seed. After reading his published article in *Bee Culture* Magazine, an EPA employee leaked an internal memo to Tom Theobald. This memo indicates that scientists within the EPA's Environmental Fate and Effects Division, or EFED, found Bayer's lifecycle study insufficient for any additional approval. Due to the established evidence of the incredibly toxic and destructive effects of Clothianidin on bees and potentially other organisms, the EFED document also proposes additional studies be conducted. Officials at the EPA seem unable to reconcile the known destructive nature of this insecticide in regards to honey bees, with its seemingly lax and questionable standards when it comes to the approval process for pesticides.

The USDA June of 2010 CCD progress report states that there appears to be a synergistic effect between sub-lethal doses of Clothianidin and Nosema resulting in a fourfold increase in worker bee infection. Studies are also continuing to investigate the possible effects of sub-lethal doses of neonicotinoids on the honey bee's immune system rendering it susceptible to a variety of viruses. Considering the current thoughts regarding CCD being a combination of threats acting in concert with one another, a continued hard look at an insecticide so toxic to honey bees is crucial.

As a result of the leak of the EPA memo, along with the historic bee die offs associated with the compound, organizations such as The National Honey Bee Advisory Board, The American Beekeeping Federation and The American Honey Producers Association, among others, are petitioning the EPA to ban Clothianidin from the list of approved insecticides for US agricultural production. Clothianidin is a highly toxic compound to honey bees that is currently being linked to CCD, has a half life of up to two years, is easily misapplied, and has been banned in at least four other countries for its responsibility in large scale bee die offs. The highly questionable approval of such an insecticide is troubling when considering the implications for honeybees.

Resources:

Tom Theobald article in Bee Culture:

<http://www.beeeculture.com/storycms/index.cfm?cat=Story&recordID=714>

Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Mrm9Y6khk>

USDA CCD progress report: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/br/ccd/ccdprogressreport2010.pdf>

EPA's first study on Clothianidin: <http://www.epa.gov/opprd001/factsheets/clothianidin.pdf>

Leaked EPA internal Memo regarding EFED's reservations about Clothianidin:

[http://www.panna.org/sites/default/files/Memo\\_Nov2010\\_Clothianidin.pdf](http://www.panna.org/sites/default/files/Memo_Nov2010_Clothianidin.pdf)

Apinews article on the issue: <http://www.apinews.com/en/news/item/12820-uso: a-toxic-pesticide-clothianidin-is-danger-for-the-german-bees-but-it%C2%B4s-safe-in-other-parts-of-the-world>

The EPA's response to the issue: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/about/intheworks/honeybee.htm>

De Spiegels 2008 report on the German bee die offs:

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/0,1518,552556,00.html>

London Telegraph story:

[http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/comment/ambroseevans\\_pritchard/8306970/Einstein-was-right-honey-bee-collapse-threatens-global-food-security.html](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/comment/ambroseevans_pritchard/8306970/Einstein-was-right-honey-bee-collapse-threatens-global-food-security.html)

## Sign The Petition And Send A Message To The EPA

To sign the following petition, click on the link below or paste it into your web browser.

**To EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson:**

We call on you to immediately ban the use of neonicotinoid pesticides until and unless new independent scientific studies prove they are safe. The catastrophic demise of bee colonies could put our whole food chain in danger. If you act urgently with precaution now, we could save bees from extinction.

"This is about pesticides that Bayer is getting approved. Please read about it and sign the online petition. Our future is at stake.

The more people join this campaign, the more powerful our call will be. Please help spread the word - forward this link to friends and family, and post it on Facebook:

[http://www.avaaz.org/en/save\\_the\\_bees\\_usa/97.php?cl\\_tta\\_sign=c3afe6695e0b67f7afd5d0a9fbbf9902](http://www.avaaz.org/en/save_the_bees_usa/97.php?cl_tta_sign=c3afe6695e0b67f7afd5d0a9fbbf9902)

Thanks so much,

The Avaaz Team"

# L. L. Langstroth's BEE-KEEPER'S AXIOMS

**From the book *A Practical Treatise on the Hive and the Honey-Bee*, by L. L. Langstroth, 1853.  
Punctuated and emphasis as originally printed:**

There are a few first principles in bee-keeping which ought to be as familiar to the Apiarian as the letters of his alphabet:

1st. Bees gorged with honey never volunteer an attack.

2nd. Bees may always be made peaceable by inducing them to accept liquid sweets.

3rd. Bees, when frightened by smoke or by drumming on their hives, fill themselves with honey and lose all disposition to sting, unless they are hurt.

4th. Bees dislike any quick movements about their hives, especially any motion which jars their combs.

5th. Bees dislike the offensive odor of sweaty animals, and will not endure impure air from human lungs.

6th. The bee-keeper will ordinarily derive all his profits from stocks, strong and healthy, in early Spring.

7th. In districts where forage is abundant only for a short period, the largest yield of honey will be secured by a very moderate increase of stocks.

8th. A moderate increase of colonies in any one season, will, in the long run, prove to be the easiest, safest, and cheapest mode of managing bees.

9th. Queenless colonies, unless supplied with a queen, will inevitably dwindle away, or be destroyed by the bee-moth, or by robber-bees.

10th. The formation of new colonies should ordinarily be confined to the season when bees are accumulating honey ; and if this, or any other operation must be performed, when forage is scarce, the greatest precautions should be used to prevent robbing.

The essence of all profitable bee-keeping is contained in Oettl's Golden Rule : KEEP YOUR STOCKS STRONG. If you cannot succeed in doing this, the more money you invest in bees, the heavier your losses; while, if your stocks are strong, you will show that you are a bee-master, as well as a bee-keeper, and may safely calculate on generous returns from your industrious subjects.

4th. Bees dislike any quick movements about their hives,  
***especially*** any motion which jars their combs!





## Beginning Beekeeper Class Schedule:

1. **February 15: The honey bee and her products.** Paul Lundy
2. **March 1: a) Beekeeping equipment b) Making a start in beekeeping.** T.J. Jorgenson
3. **March 15: Swarming & queen rearing.** David Mackovjak
4. **April 5: Spring management and pollination.** Warren Carlson & George Purkett
5. **April 19: Summer management & honey production.**
6. **May 3: Diseases, pests & honey bee mites.** George Purkett
7. **May 17: Fall management & marketing.**
8. **June 7: Last Apprentice class & Exam.** Paul Lundy

## It's Past Time to Renew Your WSBA Membership for 2010!

Share your triumphs, your sorrows, your discoveries  
With people who actually know what you're talking about  
All together we know so much more than one  
By helping others we help ourselves  
Queen rearing workshops – Live demonstrations  
Help when you need it – Food – Friends - Fun  
Refreshments and door prizes at the meetings  
Hear strange stories and share your stranger one  
At \$2 a month, while actually helping the world  
What are you waiting for?

Yes! I want to be a member of West Sound Beekeepers' Association during 2011. I have enclosed a check payable to: West Sound Beekeepers Association (a registered non-profit association.)

Check one:

- \$24 annual household membership dues (one Membership covers the whole family)  
 \$34 Bee-ginner class fee (\$24 membership dues + \$10 study guide OPTIONAL)

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS (for newsletter): \_\_\_\_\_

I am including an additional donation to West Sound Beekeepers Association : Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Information is confidential and will not be shared or sold

Please return to:

Kim Redmond

WSBA Treasurer

P.O. Box 536

Chimicum, WA 98325

# U.S. Honey: A Taste for Every Preference by: Morgan Carlson



When bees have access to large areas of one kind of flower, they produce honey with a flavor and color typical of that particular plant. In order to be labeled as a named variety, a honey must be 80% from that source. Bees also make natural blends of honey from many different flowers in areas where no one flower predominates. Honey tastes are diverse – fruity and floral; herbal; spice; deep and earthy; and mild and overpowering. There exist as many flavors of honey as exists combinations of blossoms in bloom at the same time. The following is a sampling of some of the more popular, common honey varieties.

The regional honey in the southern states of Florida, Arizona, Texas, and California are famous for Orange Blossom. This is unique to their area because of the growing requirements of citrus. It is a light amber with a distinctive flavor and the scent of an orange blossom. Beekeepers learn predominant nectar sources of their region, and plan their harvest to keep specific flavors separate. For example, in the southern Appalachians, beekeepers remove the dark and strong flavored tulip poplar honey, just before the sourwood bloom, to keep the lighter sourwood separated.

Sourwood honey is almost water white and does not granulate readily. It has a characteristic faint sour aftertaste, it is a complex and esteemed taste.

Tupelo honey is produced in northwest Florida. It is heavy bodied and is usually light golden amber with a greenish cast and has a mild, distinctive taste. Tupelo honey granulates very slowly because of the high “levulose” content.

Alfalfa honey has a sweet mild flavor. The honey is near clear to a light amber color. Alfalfa is an important honey crop in the western states of Utah, Nevada, Idaho, and Oregon. Its delicate nature doesn’t overpower other flavors, making it a favorite choice for chefs for their baked foods and a fine table honey for tea lovers.

All honey is hygroscopic and attracts moisture to the bread or dessert – a very valuable trait in baking.[5] However, if you are making honey a key ingredient in your seasoning, you can consider a stronger honey like buckwheat which is good for grilling.

Buckwheat honey is dark and full-bodied. It is produced in Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin . It has a pungent flavor with molasses and malty tones and a lingering aftertaste. Blueberry honey is typically light amber in color and with a full, well-rounded flavor that is produced in New England and Michigan.

Sage honey, primarily produced in California, is light in color, heavy bodied and has a mild but delightful flavor. It is extremely slow to granulate, making it a favorite among honey packers for blending with other honeys to slow down granulation.

Paul Lundy, president of the Pacific Northwest Beekeepers Association says that in his area, Fireweed seems to be a favorite for its fragrant nature and yellow star thistle for its intense sweetness. Louis Matej of Tacoma, WA thinks that not too many places produce Fireweed like they do in WA.

Barbara Stedman has been selling honey at her bee supply store in Silverdale, WA for more than thirty-eight years. She has people request dark honey expecting a stronger flavor than the lighter colors. She thinks it is physiological because there are many honeys that have a strong flavor that are light in color. Honey is color graded into light, amber, and dark categories. As a general rule, light-color honey is milder in taste however, some of the most distinctively and strongly flavored varieties such as basswood, are very light, while very mild and pleasant honeys such as tulip poplar can be quite dark. Generally, the darker color the honey, the higher its mineral contents, the pH readings, and the aroma/flavor levels. Minerals such as potassium, chlorine, sulfur, iron, manganese, magnesium, and sodium have been found to be much higher in darker honeys.

Kim Redmond in Chemicum, WA. of Bee-I-O-I-O Honey Farm, has been holding *honey tastings*. After having sampled and shared honey from around the country, she found most people prefer honey from their own region. This has been proven many times at her honey tastings, formal and informal. In a blind tasting of 12 honey varieties, people originally from Florida prefer Tupelo honey. Her favorites are her own early wildflower and Alaska wildflower (She is originally from AK.) Wildflower is often used to describe honey from miscellaneous and undefined flower sources. She thinks there is a subconscious influence from the pollen in the areas we grew up or have spent much of our lives. Sales wise, sweet clover is easily the most popular choice. She attributes that to the fact that most grocery store honey is a blend of clover/sweet clover, because it is so widely available for bees to forage. Clovers contribute more to honey production in the United States than any other group of plants.[ It has a pleasing, mild taste. Depending on the location and type of clover source, clover honey varies in color from water white to light amber.



Not all honey tastes the same from the same type source. TJ Jorgenson president of the West Sound Beekeepers Assoc., noticed that his blackberry honey was a different color and taste than another beekeeper's honey whose hive was less than three miles away. Honey variety tastes can vary due to rain amount, nectar sources, sunlight, etc. which all affect what flowers, plants, trees, are in bloom for the bees to collect nectar and pollen.

Basil Gunther newsletter editor for the WSBA thinks honey from where you live is usually best! The National Honey Board offers a honey locator by state and floral source. Choices of honey varieties in cooking depend on personal taste. By trying different honeys, you can find the ones you enjoy most.

## Culture Corner:

**The Human BEEing - Tony Shea, 45:00**

A homage to 1950s B-Horror movies, *The Human BEEing* tells the terrifying tale of a greedy boss and a mad scientist who conspire to turn their office of typists into worker bees. Things are looking up for Danasco Typing Company owner Allen Danasco. By splicing together human and worker bee DNA, Allen's in-house mad scientist, Dr. Charles Metzenbeamer, has created "the worker of the future" - The Human BEEing. Dr. Metzenbeamer introduces The Human BEEing, cleverly disguised in a moustache and wig, into the office typing pool as the new employee, Mr. Hives. The disguise doesn't prevent the innocent typist, Stacey Van Meterson, from falling for the "interesting" Mr. Hives. But Stacey's jealous boyfriend at the company, the All-American Joe De Compana, doesn't take too kindly to his girl's wandering eyes. In a jealous rage, Joe confronts Mr. Hives and uncovers Allen and Dr. Metzenbeamer's more sinister plan for the typists. Will it be too late for Joe to stop Allen and Dr. Metzenbeamer? Will Joe prevail over evil? Will the face of humanity be permanently changed? To find out, you'll have to watch *The Human BEEing*.

Contact: Jim Coughlin 323.243.0865

[piefightfilmsmail@yahoo.com](mailto:piefightfilmsmail@yahoo.com)

Pie Fight Films is located in Los Angeles, CA

(Bee Movie Trivia: Do you see why Yellowjackets are such a problem?)





## DISEASES OF BEEKEEPERS Montgomeryshire BKA

It occurs to me that whilst we are bombarded with information and advice on diseases of bees (which is all very well and proper) there seems to be an alarming lack of knowledge concerning diseases of beekeepers and I consider it to be high time this deficiency was addressed. Now it is known that **BSE** in cattle may lead to **CJD** in humans, it behooves us to consider that such ailments may be and possibly may have already been transmitted to humanity via its livestock.

One of the most serious of bee diseases is, of course, **ACARINE** or **ISLE OF WIGHT DISEASE** and the corresponding ailment among beekeepers is **APIATHY** or **I'M ALRIGHT DISEASE**. The symptoms create an inability to take heed or warnings of impending danger, followed by a total failure to do anything about it when it arrives. It is almost inevitably followed by the human equivalent of **FOUL BROOD** - to wit, **FOUL MOOD** characterized by a tendency to plead being allergic to bee venom as a face-saving way of throwing in the towel.

Then there is **AMOEBA**, the beekeeping variety of which is **I'M EAGER**, a common affliction of novices who just can't wait to get stuck into beekeeping and make all sorts of errors such as buying different types of hive to find which type suits them best, only to discover that they are unable to transfer frames. This can lead to the illness opposed to **SACBROOD** which is **BLACK MOOD**, an ailment which can also be developed from the alternative to **NOSEMA** which in the beekeepers' case is spelt **NO SEE MA**, a variation of **CLOUDY WING VIRUS**, or, in this case **CLOUDY EYE VIRUS** - resulting in a complete inability to ever spot the queen.

**KASHMIR VIRUS** has its correlation in **CASH FEAR VIRUS** a dreadful condition of Association members when they see the Treasurer approaching with a list of overdue subscriptions in hand closely followed by the Raffle Secretary with that predatory look in his eye. In extreme cases it becomes as contagious as to affect the Treasurer too, resulting in palpitations when called upon to present and justify the accounts at the AGM. It's a horrible sight, only to be equaled at the same function by the rictus of **BEEKEEPERS' PARALYSIS VIRUS** which smites the entire membership when it reaches the item on the Agenda "Election of Officers".

Well I think that's enough to be getting on with, except to observe that knowing every one of us to have been hit by one or the other of these ills at one time or another and yet continue to keep bees, it can only be assumed that we are all afflicted with possibly the worst malaise of all - **APIMANIA**. This is a malady which can probably be diagnosed only by a bee-opsy and in any case it's doubtful that a cure exists.



### Stedman's Bee Supplies

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**Stedman's has  
All Kinds of  
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Honey,  
And a fine  
Gift Shop!**

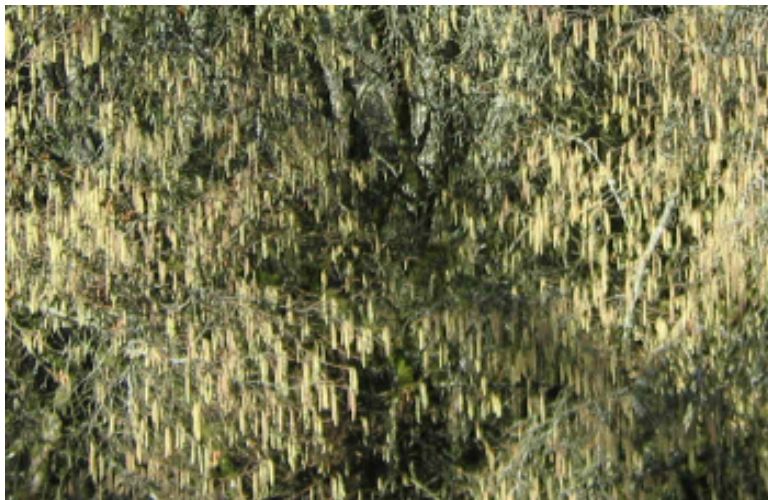
***Come on by!***



# BASICS IN NORTHWEST BEEKEEPING Inspired by Ron Bennett

In January and February you should disturb the bees as little as possible. They will be in a tight cluster and you should not break their cluster.

**Determine if hives need emergency feeding** of sugar candy or dry sugar by lifting or weighing hives. Dry sugar or sugar candy is best because the bees can access it with minimum time away from the cluster and consume it directly. With syrup feed they must go to the feeder (breaking cluster and risking chilling themselves) and syrup has to be further evaporated for consumption by the bees. Continue to check for moisture on the inside of the outer cover. If you notice condensation make sure you increase hive ventilation by placing some pebbles or a twig between the inner and outer covers.



**Watch the flight intensity on warm days to spot weak colonies. Also pay regular attention to the front of each hive looking for signs of disease. Deformed bees are a pointer to infestation by Varroa mites. Bees crawling on the ground without any deformations may be an indication of tracheal mite infestation.**

In February, if you have determined that treatment for mites with miticide strips is warranted, *then carefully follow the directions that come with the product.* You should start your treatments for Varroa mites by mid-February so that you have completed treatment BEFORE you put on your first honey super in March. Early supering will help gather the first honey flow of maple, and give your bees the space they need to help minimize swarming.

**Store your unused brood comb** in a cool dry place and protect from mice. Drawn comb is one of your most important assets. It takes your bees a lot of honey and pollen to generate a frame of wax. *Check periodically for Wax Moth infestation!* Now is the time to build frames and hive bodies.

**Pay dues to your local bee association! *The Association needs your support and we all benefit!***

**Order Package Bees.** Packages are usually available in the first or second week of April, so you need to have your equipment ready and your packages ordered in time. In case of failing or poor queens one of the best management tools we beekeepers have is requeening, so, if deemed necessary, plan and order queens for April 2nd delivery.

**Keep your yard clean!** Remove winter deadouts and salvage what you can. As you clean and store the equipment, think about why they died and act accordingly.



**Keep entrances clear of dead bees.** Dennis Heeney recommends taking a log piece of firm wire with a crook at the end and pulling debris from way back on the bottom board as well. Keep hives tilted slightly forward so water will run out, not in.

**Order pollen supplement now** so you'll have it when you need it next month!

Paul Hosticka once said "We can also stand under the filberts and listen to the buzz or happily watch as the girls boil out for a cleansing flight on a sunny afternoon. Be sure to smile, the sunshine is good for your teeth!"

**(pictures of Hazelnut catkins and Witch hazel blossoms Feb 10)**

**from *The EKE*:**

There was this beekeeper from hell Wanted lots of honey to sell. Used his frames which were sealed And to better his yield Extracted the brood frames as well!	A beekeeper living in Notts. Put his heather honey in pots. When he tied on the lid His slack ribbons all slid. He could not tie pots up in knots	For winning show classes in wax You will need clean blocks without cracks. Dirt only diminishes Producing fine finishes Which means you can never relax.
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**Combating bee diseases**

**1800 AD**  
**1850 AD**  
**1900 AD**  
**1950 AD**  
**2000 AD**  
**2050 AD?**

**Here, use this root.**  
**That root is heathen – use a prayer**  
**That prayer is superstition – use this potion**  
**That potion is taboo – try this remedy**  
**That remedy is ineffective – try this miticide**  
**That miticide has produced resistant mites – here, use this root**



**HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!**

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 **Yes! I want to be a member of West Sound Beekeepers' Association during 2011. I have enclosed a check payable to: West Sound Beekeepers Association (a registered non-profit association.)**

**Check one:**

- \$24 annual household membership dues (one Membership covers the whole family)**  
 **\$34 Bee-ginner class fee (\$24 membership dues + \$10 study guide OPTIONAL)**

**NAME(S):** \_\_\_\_\_

**MAILING ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL ADDRESS (for newsletter):** \_\_\_\_\_

**I am including an additional donation to West Sound Beekeepers Association : Amount \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Information is confidential and will not be shared or sold

**Please return to:**  
**Kim Redmond**  
**WSBA Treasurer**  
**P.O. Box 536**  
**Chimicum, WA 98325**