

# Buzzword



**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

<i>New Beekeeping Season</i>	1
<i>Propolis Prevents Cavities</i>	2
<i>Basics In Beekeeping</i>	2
<i>Minutes of Last Meeting</i>	2
<i>Mentor Program</i>	3

**Next Meeting**

April 15, 2003

**Election of Officers**

Facilitated by Tricia Sullivan

7:00 p.m. Stedman's in Silverdale

**OFFICERS & COMMITTEES**

- President:  
Paul Hosticka 360-297-3614
- Vice President:  
Kevin Wirth 253-851-4664
- Secretary:  
Tricia Sullivan 360-779-1210
- Treasurer:  
George Purkett 360-895-9116
- Educational Materials:  
Barbara Stedman 360-692-9453
- Librarian:  
Roy & Vickie Barton 360-613-0175
- Newsletter Editor:  
Stephen Augustine 360-779-1210

## A New Beekeeping Season

### Message from the President

April must have been the inspiration for the "Dr. Jeckyl and Mr. Hyde" story. One day can be as sweet as weather gets, warm and sunny, plentiful blossoms, green greener than green, bees on the wing and colonies gaining weight with that coveted spring honey. The next day is as miserable as weather can get, cold drizzle, dark and gloomy, blossoms molding and getting blown down with bees and beekeepers cooped up and getting surly. What is a body to do? Revel in the great days and bear the awful ones. As much as

we wish for better, summer does not come to these parts until July and that is a long time yet.

By now your medication program should be done, the colonies should have been reversed or arranged with an empty frame in the top for the queen to expand into and supers can go on the big ones. It is a good time to equalize all the colonies, with brood going from the strong to the weak. We now shift into swarm season and all the challenges that go with it. There are many strategies for swarm control

including splitting, re-queening, reversing and "Demaree" manipulation and they all work, but for us the big uncontrollable is the weather. Two weeks of lousy weather around now and the girls will find no better way to fill their time than to start building queen cells. Once that has started it is not easy to change their little minds and you might as well split the colony using the frames with cells to build nucs. I believe we in the Northwest have the worst swarm control conditions of anywhere in

(contd. on page 3)

## Propolis Rinse Helps Prevent Cavities

By Jennifer Thomas, February 2002, ABJ

Propolis is sticky, glue-like material that bees make from the resin of trees and plants and their own secretions. Researchers say propolis halts an enzyme in *Streptococcus mutans*, a microorganism found in the mouths of humans and animals that is the main culprit behind tooth decay.

Bees use propolis to seal holes in their hives and to embalm predators, including wasps, that have invaded their homes. Propolis keeps the dead insects from decomposing in the hive and

causing further problems.

This ability to keep organisms from decomposing is what first sparked the researchers' interest in the potential propolis might have as an antiseptic, or antibacterial, agent. Antiseptics reduce the virulence of bacteria or kill enough of it so the human immune system can get rid of it, says Dr. Michel Hyun Koo, a dentist at the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York.

In a laboratory test, rats that were given a mouthwash

containing propolis twice a day had 60 percent fewer cavities than rats given a mouthwash that didn't contain propolis, Koo says. Rats get cavities the same way humans do, he adds. Koo and his colleagues have been gathering propolis from beehives in Brazil to use in their laboratory experiments.

"The potential is enormous," Koo says. "So far, we haven't found any other agent that is as effective as this natural product."

Propolis will not, however, (Continued on page 4)



Get well  
wishes go  
out to:

Al Stedman who is going into his fourth surgery later this month. We hope for a successful surgery and a speedy recovery.

If you know of a member who has been ill let us know at 779-1210 or 297-3614

'Tis a wonderful thing,  
to sweeten the world,  
which is in a jam and  
needs preserving

~ Thornton Burgess,  
naturalist and renowned  
author of *Mother West Wind*  
"How" Stories and other  
children's books, in an early  
20th century letter to Ida  
Putnam, who opened the  
Green Brian Jam Kitchen in  
1903 in East Sandwich, MA.

## Apimondia 2003

XXXVIII Congress  
Ljubljana, Slovenia  
August 24 - 29

*Beekeeping, A Way of  
Life*

For further information  
visit:  
[www.Apimondia2003.com](http://www.Apimondia2003.com)

## BASICS IN NORTHWEST BEEKEEPING

Adapted from Ron Bennett (<http://members.aol.com/beetools/>)

Spring is here and your bees are bringing in pollen (the first sign of a healthy hive - they wouldn't be collecting pollen unless they were raising new bees). But the weather can change on them and they can starve out in just a few days time! So, watch your hives' store and don't let the colony's stores get below about 15 lbs. If necessary feed hives with a 1 to 1 sugar syrup.

The first week in April is the time that bee packages are arriving at the local suppliers, so you should get ready to install package bees that you might have ordered.

Re-queen any failing queens with queens you ordered in February, or contact your

supplier and get any queens you might need now. You can use any extra queens to make two-queen colonies out of your stronger colonies, to be split later for increase or to hold for re-queening other colonies later. If you find one of your colonies much stronger than some others, exchange the position of overly strong colonies with weaker ones, to give weaker hives more field bees and stronger hives less tendency to swarm.

In two-story colonies where the queen is laying in the upper box reverse the hive bodies. This will most likely be all of your hives that wintered over in two boxes. The bees move up to the top box, leaving the lower one empty. The queen will not move down to lay in the

former brood box by herself (bees always tend to work up, not down) so by swapping the boxes, the bees will have room to raise new bees without crowding out and swarming. Give single-story colonies that are getting full of bees a second story.

It's spring blossom time, particularly big-leaf maple. Put a queen excluder on the colonies with bees and brood in both stores and add a super of drawn comb for possible honey flow. Don't give foundation at this time, wait about a month until there are enough bees in your colonies and there is a steady honey flow on. Keep on the lookout for American or European foulbrood and noseema and

*(Continued on page 4)*

### Minutes of the Previous Meeting, March 18th, 2003

#### Treasurer's Report:

- \* George Purkett gave the treasurer's report with a correction to the Feb report. Our bank balance as of March 18 was \$4551.42. So far we have 55 paid members for 2003.

#### Announcements:

- \* Call Barbara Stedman if you'd like to purchase packages of bees delivered in April.
- \* Copies of Jim Willmann's packet from the Simon Fraser Univ. course available from Paul.
- \* Copies of the WA state hive registration forms and the WSBA membership list are available from Paul.
- \* Please give names of nominees for officers' seats to Tricia. Elections will be in April. So far nominees are: Treasurer -- Susan Hosticka, Vice President -- David Myrhe, George Purkett and Stephen Augustine.

#### New Business:

- \* In Chris Williams' absence, there was no report from the "auction fund" committee.
- \* Chris on Vashon Island would like one colony to visit his orchard for pollination. Paul has the contact information if you are willing.
- \* The Bainbridge in Bloom Garden Tour wants an "educational booth" about bees/honey on July 12 and 13. Paul has the contact info if you are willing.
- \* The Western Apicultural Society is meeting at Simon Fraser Univ. from August 12-16.

#### Program:

Paul Hosticka gave a program on formic acid treatments.

## ...A NEW BEEKEEPING SEASON (contd. from page 1)

the country so do the best you can and accept the fact that a few are going to heed the call to be fruitful and multiply. Just try to catch them before they move into your neighbors attic.

For those starting new packages remember to keep feed of 1 to 1 syrup on them at all times. It will take around 25 pounds of sugar made into about five gallons of syrup to get two deeps or three westerns of foundation drawn. The bees will not draw comb unless they need cells for either brood or storage so keep pushing them to get that comb drawn early. They do not have the size to depend on field workers to bring in sufficient nectar even if the weather is good. Drawn comb is a beekeepers most valuable asset.

April is also election month for our association. Our by-laws have term limits of three years for officers and for president and treasurer those terms are up. I believe that change of officers is good for any organization. New ideas and new direction keep an organization vibrant. We need people willing to make the relatively small commitment of time and effort to keep the association going. No special skills are required, as I have so clearly demonstrated, and I know that many of you could do a fine job. The president runs the meetings, keeps up with minimal correspondence, is liaison with other organizations and gets last crack at the refreshment table. The treasurer keeps the books (checking account) keeps the membership roster current and gets first crack at the refreshment table. It ain't all that hard! For your efforts you get the gratitude of the membership and the satisfaction that you volunteered to help where help was needed. Most important you get to do it the way you think it should be done for your turn. All surely more precious than silver, more precious than gold. So talk to our secretary Tricia Sullivan and throw your hat in the ring, we're looking for a few good people to lead us into a bright beekeeping future and you know in your heart that you can and should do it. The best way I know to get elected is to not show up so I'll see you Tuesday. - **Paul**



Visit Our Association's Website  
<http://www.WestSoundBees.org>

Provide feedback to the Webmaster at [webmaster@westsoundbees.org](mailto:webmaster@westsoundbees.org)  
 on what you'd like to see on the website.

## BEE MENTOR PROGRAM

WSBA has an established mentor program. Following are the people who have signed up as volunteers to assist new beekeepers with advice and on site assistance. They will also respond to most calls for swarm capture. Please don't hesitate to call them.

### South Kitsap:

George Purkett, (360)895-9116, [purkettg@nwinet.com](mailto:purkettg@nwinet.com)

### Central Kitsap:

Mike Johnson, (360)830-0295, [mj@hurricane.net](mailto:mj@hurricane.net)  
 Roy Barton, (360)613-0175, [honeyhill@tscnet.com](mailto:honeyhill@tscnet.com)

### North Kitsap:

Paul Hosticka, (360)297-3614, [phos@tscnet.com](mailto:phos@tscnet.com)  
 Paul Lundy, (360)297-6743, [lundyknox@att.net](mailto:lundyknox@att.net)

### Bainbridge Island:

Jim Willmann, (206)842-5991, [jwillm4622@aol.com](mailto:jwillm4622@aol.com)

### Poulsbo and environs:

Stephen Augustine, (360)779-1210, [stephen@lalgudi.net](mailto:stephen@lalgudi.net)

If you would like to be added to the mentor list please contact Paul Hosticka at (360)297-3614

### Refreshment Schedule

**Apr:** Tricia Sullivan, Chris Williams  
**May:** Joe Grubbs & Pamela Tarver  
**Jun:** William Biehl, Joseph Higdon  
**Jul:** -open-  
**Aug:** Summer Picnic  
**Sep:** Mike Hoey, Betty & Walter Schicker

If you are unable to fulfill your commitment to provide refreshments for a meeting please notify Barbara Stedman by giving her a call at 360-692-9453 before the meeting date.

### Complete Single Deep Hives With Bees

A few single deep hives with newly installed packages will be available at Stedman's Bee Supplies

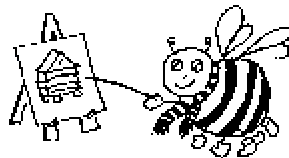
Call Al at 692-9453  
 For more availability and pricing.

### Editor's Note:

Articles of interest to beekeepers and announcements of interest to Association members are welcomed and encouraged.

Submit articles and announcements to Stephen Augustine:

Email: [stephen@lalgudi.net](mailto:stephen@lalgudi.net)  
 Mail: 401 B Liberty St NW  
 Poulsbo, WA 98370



## ...PROPOLIS RINSE (CONTD. FROM PAGE 1)

replace fluoride, he adds. "The idea would be to use both," Koo says, noting that the two fight cavities in entirely different ways.

Fluoride helps replenish enamel that's been lost to decay. Researchers believe propolis works by inhibiting an enzyme, called *glucosyltransferase*, in *Streptococcus mutans*, which is key to the buildup of plaque on teeth. The enzyme aids the formation of plaque by creating molecules, called glucans, which become the building blocks of plaque. The structure of the biofilm enables bacteria to collect on it and latch onto teeth, Koo says. Cavities form when bacteria metabolize sugar, producing lactic acid that eats away at the enamel.

"If you knock out the enzyme, you prevent dental plaque formation," Koo says. "If you prevent dental plaque formation, you prevent cavities." But before a propolis mouthwash is ready for market, more research has to be done, he adds.

Propolis is highly complex and contains more than 40 compounds. The amount of each compound varies with the type of bee, and even from hive to hive, he says. The challenge for researchers is to isolate the active ingredients that combat *Streptococcus mutans*. The University of Rochester and the State University of Campinas in Brazil have applied for a patent on two compounds in propolis that Koo believes are largely

responsible for preventing cavities. He would not reveal the precise names of the compounds.

Propolis has been used by humans for thousands of years. Egyptians used it in the mummification process, and today, lotions and creams touting the power of propolis to heal cuts are popular in Europe and Japan. Propolis also is used as a food additive, and some studies say propolis is an antioxidant. Dr. Martin Taubman, a dentist and professor of oral biology at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine and head of immunology at the Forsyth Institute in Boston, says, propolis looks promising. "Apparently, it's effective," he says.



## ...BASICS IN BEEKEEPING (CONTD. FROM PAGE 2)

treat before it is time for honey supers. Look through your hives and stored equipment and remove poor comb and replace with good drawn comb. If some of your hive boxes are a little worse for wear, transfer bees from damaged hive boxes into new or reconditioned ones. You can then clean up the old boxes and

repair any damage and have boxes available when needed. Check your stored combs for possible wax moth infestation - moths never sleep.

Make sure your dues are paid to your local beekeeping club (hear that - send a check for \$24 to treasurer George

Purkett or bring it to the meeting!).

In a few weeks, your hives will be booming with new young bees and the bees will start to get into the swarming mode. We will talk next issue about some of the methods to minimize swarming.



**West Sound Beekeepers Association**  
**10982 NE Tulin Rd**  
**Kingston, WA 98346**  
<http://www.westsoundbees.org>

**Next Meeting —**  
**Election of New Officers**  
 Tuesday, April 15  
 7 p.m. at Stedman's