

Buzzword



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Next Meeting

Tuesday, August 17, 2004, 6:00 p.m.

Summer Picnic

Hominda residence
Gig Harbor

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Basil Gunther	360-297-5075
<u>Vice President:</u>	
George Purkett	360-895-9116
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Tricia Sullivan	360-779-1210
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Joe Grubbs	360-871-5308
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Barbara Stedman	360-692-9453
<u>Librarian:</u>	
Roy & Vickie Barton	360-613-0175
<u>Newsletter Editor:</u>	
Stephen Augustine	360-779-1210

The Wonders of Beekeeping

Message from the President

Hello Everyone! First, I hope you are all having a good summer!

The blackberry season was a little disappointing for us, but it did provide incentive to find new nectar sources for "the kids". We've moved our hives a few times, anywhere from 5 to over 100 miles and I am amazed at the strange collection of things we beekeepers have to haul around with us! You know, so I'll spare you the long list of essentials.

I guess my favorite part of all this

moving of bees is finding myself often in the good company of other beekeepers. So many of you have helped us in our quest to live our beekeeping vision. Thank-you! As president, I am always trying to think of ways to improve the association and one of the first and easiest things that comes to mind is maybe something as simple as wearing our name tags at the meetings.

We went to southern Oregon to visit friends and family and rekindled the interest of a former beekeeper. He's in

(Continued on page 3)

Summer Picnic

Tuesday, August 17, 6:00p.m., Hominda Residence, Gig Harbor

Following are notes and directions from Jerry pertaining to the WSBA potluck summer picnic at his home on Tuesday.

We live on the bay and have a dock with a couple of canoes and a small dinghy-sail boat. People are welcome to use them and if the weather is nice, and the tide is in anyone is welcome to go swimming or bring inner tubes or air mattresses. Many of my neighbors swim in the bay. For those daring enough to go swimming we have an outdoor shower (warm water) to rinse off the salt. I do require anyone taking out a canoe to wear a life vest. If people want to bring their power boat that is OK also, they can tie up to our dock.

It would help if people brought outdoor chairs

(folding) though I have enough for ten people. I have a barbecue with plenty of gas, but I do not have any eating utensils or paper plates. I have plenty of coolers with ice for refreshments people bring. There is no smoking in our home and I will place ashtrays outside. Smokers please use the ashtrays for your cigarette butts, thank you. I have a small dog, just one year old, very playful, still learning social skills, she is also very friendly with a ferocious bark at times. She is not allowed to leave our home so please shut any gates you pass through, thanks.



My address is 7828 Ray Nash Drive NW, Gig Harbor, 98335 and my home is located in Rosedale. Here are some instructions to get to my home from Bremerton. Take the first Gig

(Continued on page 4)

WASBA Fall Conference

The Washington State Beekeepers fall conference will be held October 14-16 at the Doubletree Hotel in Spokane, WA.

Contact Collette Lehinger at 509-924-1001 for further details or check out next month's *Buzzword* for the full program.

PREPARING FOR FALL

Adapted from Ron Bennett and supplemented by Stephen Augustine

August is the month to wrap up your honey crop and prepare for next year. You should remove your honey supers. Honey that the bees produce now is honey they will winter over with. But, don't tempt robber bees by exposing honey. Once robbing starts, it is very difficult to stop and can cause the death of several of your hives!

Pay close attention to colony health and take remedial measures as necessary. Remember, if you do not have an infestation it may be best to leave well alone and not use various treatments as a matter of rote.

To determine whether you should treat for varroa mites or not you should assess the mite load in your colonies. There are several ways of doing this. You can count the number of mites in a sample of about 300 bees using either a sugar shake, ether roll or alcohol wash. If this gives you a count of under five mites the hive might not require treatment.

Another way to monitor mite loads is to obtain a 24-hour mite count with a sticky board and two strips of either Apistan or Checkmite. If the 24-hour count is under about 25 mites the hive might not require treatment.

If you have to treat you may consider using a formic acid

treatment (40ml, five times at 5-7 day intervals). If you are treating with mite strips you will have to have the strips in by the end of August to be able to complete the 42-48 day treatment cycle before winter sets in.

Note that with a formic acid treatment you are simultaneously treating for tracheal mites as well.

Keep on the lookout for American Foulbrood and check your stored comb for possible wax moth infestation. And remember, if you are going to use medications - follow the directions and do not treat for more than the recommended time.



"I think it safest to base our assumption, that bee culture, in some respects is a hazardous business, even amongst the most thorough and careful."

- A.I. Root, 1882

Wanted: Apistan-Resistant Mites

Dear Beekeepers,

The Apiculture Lab at Michigan State University is looking for Apistan (fluralinate) resistant varroa mites. We are conducting research to understand the mechanisms of Apistan resistance. So far we have identified 4 mutations that might be associated with resistance but we need to survey more mites to see if this correlation holds for mite samples from other places.

Our previous publications on this subject are at:

<http://cyberbee.msu.edu/huangpub/2002JAR.pdf>

<http://cyberbee.msu.edu/huangpub/2003IBMB.pdf>

If your lab or apiary has mites that are known to be resistant to Apistan, or if you know beekeepers who are having trouble controlling mites using Apistan, we would appreciate receiving some mite samples (about 50 mites in 95% ethyl alcohol). We will pay for the postage. Please respond to this request by email to bees@msu.edu.

Best regards,

Zachary Huang, Associate Professor
Department of Entomology, Michigan State University
Tel: 517-353-8136, Fax: 517-353-4354
Email: bees@msu.edu, Website: <http://www.msu.edu/~bees>

Bees at Summer Camp

WSBA member Jerry Hominda notes that he is more than happy to take any beekeepers with him to the mountain, where he currently has his bees, to observe or work with him in his hives.

...Message From the President (contd. from page 1)

his sixties and although he thinks honeybees have the worst of all stings, you should have seen his face when recalling sticking his bare hand into a swarm cluster just to experience the wonder of it all. An ageless expression equally at home on his face or that of a seven year old! Just being there to see his face was one of those things that in beekeeping is as good as it gets. I know most of you have that keen sense of appreciation for those little joys of life that really are the best of all things. Like opening a hive expecting nothing and finding a fully capped super. Or marveling at the size of Mount Rainer while hauling a load of hives to the fireweed. Or seeing meteor trails across the Milky Way while smoking some mean Russian bees at midnight and screening hive entrances. Or taking your

beesuit off after a long, hot afternoon. Or a cup of iced coffee with your good friend after that big move. How about all those things in one day and a night? You know it!

I really wonder what all this sappy talk sounds like. I just returned from moving a dozen hives from the Olympics to the Cascades with our good friend Ryan. I am tired and have had a great time and my enjoyment has been multiplied by all the beekeepers I know. Your advice, experience, and tall tales are packed in my beehive along with the other tools of the trade.

Pack your beehive with beekeepers, wear your nametags, and I'll see you at the picnic!
- Basil

Minutes of the Last Meeting July 20, 2004 at Stedman's Bee Supplies

President Basil Gunther presided.

Treasurer's Report:

- * Joe Grubbs presented a treasurer's report. We have a total of \$4979.81 in checking and savings. We have 66 paid members for the year.

Announcements:

- * Register by August 8th for the Formic Acid Workshop to be held at Stedman's on Aug 14th.
- * Please return any library materials that you have checked out so others can use them as well.

Old Business:

- * A committee of folks volunteered to work on policies and procedures for funding members' on-going education. Committee members are: Paul Lundy (chair), Roy Barton, Stephen Augustine, Rusty King and David Myhre.
- * Jay Miller (chair) put out a call for new members to join the Program Committee. Alan Twidt and Jerry Hominda agreed to be on the committee with Jay.

New Business:

- * The Annual WSBA Picnic will be held on August 17th at 6 p.m. in Rosedale at Jerry Hominda's house. It will be a potluck. Directions will be included in the August newsletter.

Program:

- * George Purkett presented a hands-on program on his paraffin dipping tank for treatment of American Foulbrood.

Submitted by: Tricia Sullivan, Secretary, August 13, 2004

Refreshment Schedule

Aug: Summer Picnic
Sep: -open-
Oct: -open-
Nov: -open-
Dec: Holiday Dinner

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.

Formic Acid Workshop

Stedman's Bee Supplies
August 14th, 2004
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

A three-hour course on:

- * Safe and effective ways to work with formic acid.
- * Testing for resistance and treatment efficacy.
- * Various methods of treatments.
- * When to treat, missing the cue and re-infestation.
- * Status of formic acid use in the USA.
- * Effect of screen bottom boards on fumigation and evaporation treatments.
- * How to eliminate negative aspects for which formic acid is blamed.
- * Safe use and handling of liquid formic acid.

Presented by Bill Ruzicka of MiteGone from Canada

Call Basil Gunther at 360-297-5075 or Barbara Stedman at 360-692-9453 for more information

AFB, Now What?

A play by George Purkett

...One Saturday in June

H: Dad. Dad! What can I do?

S: Would anybody like to play Barbies with me?

H: Dad. What can I do? Can I watch TV?

Dad: Mite bee a good day to go outside.

S: ...and play croquet!!!

H: YEA. I'm first. S was first last time... No, Mom was first last time.

S: We can play 3 games starting 1 game each. And then we can watch a movie, jump on the trampoline, ride bicycles, have friends over and then play on the computers, , ,...

Dad: I need to check the bees while the weather is good and before it gets dark.

...Later, after the third croquet game

Dad: Let's go look at the bees. It won't take but a few minutes. I may not even open the hives if they look good.

...A few minutes later at the hives

Dad: Just smell how the hives smell of sweet ripening nectar. The Blackberries are early this year. The girls look very busy.

S: Dad, why does this hive stink? And it doesn't have as much activity as the rest of the hives. You haven't put supers on it to give them enough room.

H: They must be in the hive with nothing to do but sit and fart.

Dad: I don't think bees can sit or fart.

And it does not have supers because it did not expand like the rest and need supers. Very disappointing after a strong early spring.

H: Open up the stinkers so we can look.

S: Maybe they are sick.

H: It could be disease. I better get a bee book if we are going to be bee doctors.

Dad while looking at a frame: This brood frame is covered with bees and looks OK.

S: Even I know to shake off all of the bees to see the whole frame dad.

Dad shaking off the bees: Oh! Now I see the laying pattern looks very spotty and some of the cappings have holes but no baby bees crawling out. It has a greasy appearance; not normal looking at all.

H: The book says to poke a matchstick into the brood cells and pull it out.

Dad: OK. This one has a big white larva. This one too. Yu ck. A brown stringy goo.

S&H: Oh...Bad news.

H: The book says you have a tell-tale sign of American Foulbrood disease. See if you can see hard mummified lumps on the bottom of the cells. They would be black and may have the dried tongue sticking up.

Dad: I can't see anything in the cells.

They are all black.

S: Turn around so the sun is behind you. Tilt the frame toward you and look down and into the cells when the sun is shining in the cells.

H: See any Dad?

Dad: Now I see one. And another...they are all over. How did you know how to look?

S: Easy, it was in the script. And why do you call me S rather than by my real name?

Dad: It's to save space when printing this Story 'Sienna'.

H: You have confirmed AFB. The book says it usually comes from contaminated equipment introduced by the beekeeper dad. Didn't you bring home a hive during the winter?

Dad: Yes, I placed it out for a possible swarm trap this spring.

S: Looks like you should have disinfected it as though it was diseased Dad. Now you have spread the disease.

H: Says here, if not treated, 8 of your 10 hives will show signs of disease this fall from robbing this one out.

S: What about the other 2? Why are only 8 affected?

Mom walking up: I can answer that. Bees will bring the disease into all of the hives but some hives are able to keep it cleaned up or at least contained if they are not stressed.

S: Dad, you need to go to the bee association meetings and pay more attention to care for your bees rather than practicing the bee dances.

Dad: Who wants Ice Cream?

Children running for the House: I do...I do...I do!!!

Dad: Well, we have AFB.

Now What!?



...Summer Picnic (contd. from page 1)

Harbor-Kopachuck State Park exit off Highway 16. At the end of the off ramp at the stop sign at Wollochet Drive turn left go over the overpass over Highway 16. At the first traffic light, directly after you cross over the overpass, turn left. You will come to a four-way stop, continue through the four-way stop and proceed down the hill (Simpson). You will come to another four-way stop (Simpson and Rosedale streets) there you turn left on Rosedale. Continue up the hill on Rosedale and pass straight through the next four-way stop. From this four-way stop you will travel approximately 5 miles on Rosedale, it will wind down a hill west towards the bay. You will pass a fire station on your left and turn left on Ray Nash Drive (the third

marked street on the left) approximately 1/4 mile after the fire station. Ray Nash Drive follows the shoreline of the lagoon and we're the fifth house on the right side. The address 7828 is on the garage, the house is chocolate brown and I will find a balloon to attach to the mail box which also has the address.

For parking, my driveway will hold about five to seven cars, parking along the shoulder on the side of the street where the homes are is fine. Our home is next to a lot being developed, parking on the shoulder in front of that lot is OK. If anyone gets lost they can call my home (253)858-6372.



Bee Diversity Cools The Hive

Julia C. Jones, Mary R. Myerscough, Sonia Graham, and Benjamin P. Oldroyd
CNN Science and Space, June 25, 2004

Here's the buzz: Honeybees may all look alike, but it's their diversity that helps make them more efficient as a group. Bees like to keep the temperature in their nests at a warmish 90-97 degrees, and do so by clustering together to add heat or by fanning their wings to cool things off.

Now, scientists in Australia have found that nests that include bees from several different fathers -- resulting in genetic diversity -- make this process smoother and more efficient. The discovery by Julia C. Jones and colleagues at the University of Sydney is reported in Thursday's issue of the journal *Science*.

The researchers studied normal

beehives in which the queen is fertilized by several males and compared them with other hives where they used artificial insemination to make sure only one



male mated with the queen. As it turned out, bees from different fathers tended to start fanning at different temperatures. That means that in the normal hives, as the temperature rose, more and more bees would stop other jobs and begin

fanning to cool things down. Conversely, as temperatures declined, some would stop fanning and go back to other jobs while others kept fanning until it got cooler. The result was a relatively even temperature, on average. But in one-father hives, most workers tended to start and stop fanning at the same time, resulting in a roller-coaster temperature compared with the normal hives.

Multiple mating of the female honeybee probably developed for other reasons, the researchers say, but as a secondary result it leads to more efficient task allocation in cooling and warming the hive, allowing workers to respond to change without overreacting.



Honey Show at the Western Washington State Fair

September 10 - September 26, 2004

A request from Louis Matej, VP of the Pierce County Beekeepers

Dear West Sound Beekeepers ,

You probably think it's a little early to think about anything to do with the Puyallup Fair (Western Washington State Fair), but I assure you it's not early at all. In fact, the Pierce County Beekeepers only have one general meeting and our picnic left to get over 120 volunteers needed to provide adequate coverage for the fair. Every year we struggle getting volunteers and every year we get way too few exhibits for our Honey Show.

You might say that the Puyallup (Western Washington) Fair is in Puyallup and it should be totally up to the Pierce County Beekeepers to run and staff the fair. As you probably know, the Western Washington State Fair Honey Show and Exhibit represents ALL the beekeepers associations and ALL the beekeepers from all Western Washington. Yet because it is in Puyallup,

the Pierce County Beekeepers carry over 90% of the load to put it on. During the 2.5 weeks of the fair, thousands upon thousands of people visit our booth. When people come to our booth from all over, we provide them with information about all beekeeping associations in the state. You might even have some members in your association who have found their way to you from our booth.

Unfortunately we only get three or four people from other associations. We would appreciate more active participation from other associations in Western Washington. We are also in desperate need of more exhibits entered in our honey show for judging.

I call upon you, the West Sound Beekeepers, at every meeting from now until September, to please spread interest in either volunteering or entering your honey for the honey show at the Puyallup Fair and to indicate

...Volunteering at the Western Washington Fair (contd. from pg 5)

the great importance it has on advertising, membership, quality of products, and education for our beekeeping industry.

The *Agriculture Premium* list has already been published by the fair for anyone interested in entering exhibits. Please call me at (253) 845-1771 to for a free copy of the list. Or if you give me your name and address, I will send you a copy of the Division IX (honey show) section of the premium list.

I have made a few changes to the rules which make it easier to enter items.

1. I've extended the time of exhibit entry from one day to two days to allow more time to enter exhibits: Wed and Thursday (Sept 8th and 9th). Judging will occur on Thursday evening. Ribbons will be awarded on Friday

morning.

2. Instead of having an Association Exhibit category, I changed it to an Individual Education or Beekeeping art Exhibit category. This will allow more individual participation.
3. Also, for pollen exhibits, I'm allowing both the queenline jars and the 4 oz jars (note: for honey it's still ONLY the queenline jars). All this is stated in the Premium List.

Remember that to volunteer is a very fun, educational and exciting experience. Each person volunteering four hours to the booth will receive a free ticket to the fair (\$10 value), couples volunteering will receive 2 tickets (\$20 value) and each couple or carload will receive a free parking ticket (\$6 value). In addition, each entry made to the fair will receive an additional

free ticket and parking ticket.

We have 3 four hour shifts - 10:00a.m. to 2:00p.m., 2:00p.m. to 6:00/6:30p.m. and 6:00/6:30p.m. to 10:00/11:00p.m. each day for 17 days (September 10 through September 26).

If you are interested in volunteering contact me (preferably after 5 p.m.) or leave a message at: (253)921-5612. Please leave me the day and time that you would like to volunteer, your address so I can send you tickets and your telephone number.

Thank you very much for your assistance.

Louis A. Matej
Coordinator: Division IX, Honey Show, Western Wash. St. Fair
VP-Pierce County Beekeepers



West Sound Beekeepers Association
3763 NW Anderson Hill Road
Silverdale, WA 98383
<http://www.WestSoundBees.org>

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 17
Summer Picnic
6 p.m. at Hominda Residence in Gig Harbor