

# Buzzword



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**Next Meeting**

Tuesday,  
 December 16, 2003  
 6:00 p.m.  
**Christmas  
 Dinner Meeting**  
 At Mitzel's in Poulsbo

**OFFICERS & COMMITTEES**

- President:  
 Bob Martello 360-830-5456  
Vice President:  
 Stephen Augustine 360-779-1210  
Secretary:  
 Tricia Sullivan 360-779-1210  
Treasurer:  
 Susan Hosticka 360-297-3614
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 Barbara Stedman 360-692-9453  
Librarian:  
 Roy & Vickie Barton 360-613-0175  
Newsletter Editor:  
 Stephen Augustine 360-779-1210

## Apistan Resistance Confirmed in Poulsbo

By Stephen Augustine

Mite resistance to fluvalinate, the active ingredient in Apistan, has been confirmed in Poulsbo. Three years ago, in the spring of 2000, one of our then two hives showed a 24-hour mite drop of over 400 mites with a Coumaphos strip right after a full treatment with Apistan. At that time we concluded that it was likely due to fluvalinate resistance but withheld coming to that conclusion due to being a new beekeeper.

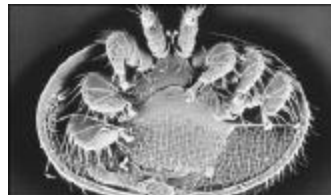
In early September of this year sugar shakes, on samples of about 200 bees, from all five of our hives gave me the following results:

1. Home mated queen of New World Carniolan from Heitkam's

2. (Annabelle) - 21 mites
3. Old World Carniolan/Russian Queen from Taber's (Lana) - 25 mites
4. New World Carniolan queen from Hosticka (Isabella) - 45 mites
5. Instrumentally Inseminated Russian Queen from Glenn Apiaries (Anna) - 10 mites
6. Home mated queen of New World Carniolan stock from Heitkam's (Cleopatra) - 37 mites

fireweed in July and returned in early September and all five hives were very strong and populous at the time that the mite counts were taken.

With the counts being this high I decided to treat all five hives with Apistan. I put in three strips of Apistan in each of the five hives in mid-September. During September I also carried out three treatments of formic acid.



**Varroa Destructor**

With the exception of Annabelle all hives went to the mountains for the

During the entire treatment period I noticed that there were many deformed bees in front of the hives and many crawlers in the grass. After returning from two weeks of vacation in early November I pulled the strips from all the hives but noticed that there were still many

*(Continued on page 3)*

**WSBA Holiday Dinner and Auction**

*Share good food and good friends, with a good dose of laughter thrown in....don't forget to bring an auction item (and feel free to bring more than one thing!)*

**Date: Tuesday, December 16      Social: 6 PM, Dinner: 7 PM**  
**Mitzel's Restaurant, Hwy 305 @ Poulsbo**

If you have not responded but would still like to come, please do so. Mitzel's has let us know that they will be able to accommodate extra people for most dinner choices.

## Your Input Needed

What topics would you like to see in the Buzzword Newsletter? Suggestions and requests are welcome.

Send email to [vp@westsoundbees.org](mailto:vp@westsoundbees.org) or give the editor a call at 360-779-1210

"The bee is enclosed, and shines preserved, in a tear of the sisters of Phaeton, so that it seems enshrined in its own nectar. It has obtained a worthy reward for its great toils; we may suppose that the bee itself would have desired such a death."

- Marcus Valerius Martial  
Epigrams (bk. IV, ep. 32)

## TOP BAR HIVES

Adapted from <http://www.gsu.edu/~biojdsx/main.htm>

### 1. What is a top bar hive (tbh)?

A TBH is a movable comb hive. Narrow bars, normally of wood, rest across a container (usually a long box or trough), which forms the cavity containing the bees' nest. Bees build comb from the bars which are wide enough to give proper spacing between combs. A bar with its attached comb and adhering bees can be removed from the hive and examined. Each comb is built naturally by the bees, suspended from its top-bar. (i.e., none of the combs is enclosed in a complete frame.) No full sheets of comb-foundation are used.

### 2. What is a top bar (tb)?

Top bars are the "slats" to which comb is attached. Placed side by side across the hive cavity/container, they form a roof for the hive. Bars may be made from a variety of materials. They can be cut from scrap or purchased lumber, may be made from tree branches or bamboo of appropriate size. The bars may be of any suitable length to reach across the hive, but it is critical that they be of appropriate width (or diameter) to provide proper spacing of combs for the species or strain of bees involved. An outer lid or covering is provided over the bars, for additional protection from the elements.

### 3. What are the advantages of beekeeping in tbh's?

There are many in my opinion. Some of them might be: a) the hives are inexpensive and can be made by recycling scrap lumber or fashioning the hives from existing materials such as bamboo, reeds, clay, etc., b) there are no supers to lift, frames to nail together, sheets of foundation to put in frames, no extractor and supers with sticky combs to store, c) bees are disturbed less as the hives are worked, d) more beeswax is harvested since the combs are removed from the hive, e) the honey is "comb honey" and if it is pressed or squeezed from the virgin combs, it has a superior flavor...or so I believe :) f) TBH hives allow the beekeeper to keep and observe bees in more natural conditions than standard hives with their straight edges. Not to mention that a well built TBH is much more attractive than a square, white, Langstroth hive.

Some websites on top-bar hives:

<http://www.gsu.edu/~biojdsx/main.htm>

<http://www.beesource.com/eob/alhive/index.htm>

<http://outdoorplace.org/beekeeping/kenya.htm>



Walter and his friendly bees

## Minutes of the Last Meeting November 18, 2003, 7-8:30 p.m.

### Treasurer's Report:

- \* Susan Hosticka gave the treasurer's report. Our bank balance in checking and savings together as of October 31 was \$4193.17

### Old/New Business:

- \* Christmas Dinner party will be at Mitzel's again this year on December 16th. Please bring an auction item. Appetizers and desserts will be paid for by the Association. Folks will buy their own entrees and drinks. Please RSVP to Stephen by December 9<sup>th</sup>.

### Program:

Paul Hosticka gave a report on the Washington/Oregon joint Associations meeting in November in Hood River.

Submitted by Tricia Sullivan, Secretary

## THE CHEMISTRY OF INSECTS

BY JIM MCCORMICK, BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

They lay in dozens, littering the snow.  
In each melted depression a terrible,  
perfect engine stopped. The child  
ran to them with her questions  
about carnage and its causes—why indeed?

The man filled his hand with their corpses,  
saying, *They flew in the winter sun  
and it stranded them, setting too fast.  
They tried to get back to the hive,  
and couldn't rise from the snow.*

He talked on about the honey, the queen,  
and her daughters waiting for spring.  
But she knew bravado when she heard it,  
that he doesn't keep bees for the honey,  
that the hives are largely for wonder,

the shiver in learning to hold still  
when one lands on you heavy with forage;  
to watch her rest, recollect her bearings,  
lift on unlikely wings, drop  
to the entrance and vanish inside.

They turned away to find something  
to carry them in, a right-sized jar  
to protect the sodden wings,  
taking their time choosing amid  
the everyday stuff on the shelves.

We, who are jaded by knowledge,  
ready to be unsurprised, have guessed  
that his hand opened to the tingle  
moving over the heat of his fingers,  
and would have missed the resurrection.

She gathered some in a ramekin—  
precaution against the unlikely sting;  
and he became the privileged witness,  
seeing doubt dissolve in discovery  
as true as the chemistry of insects,  
when her own hands warmed the bowl.

November 05, 2002



### ...APISTAN RESISTANCE IN POULSBO (CONTD. FROM PAGE 1)

deformed bees out on the front entrances.

In Annabelle's hive the bees had dwindled to about six frames in just one deep. I reduced Annabelle to a single deep and found that the empty deep had brood in all stages that was abandoned due to the rapid decline in the hive population, a very sad sight to see. A 24-hour check with one Coumaphos strip in the midst of the remaining five frames of bees gave a mite count in the hundreds. Mite counts with a single strip of Coumaphos in the other four hives gave results of several hundred each for Lana and Cleopatra and about 100 each for Isabella and Anna.

Taken together this is conclusive and overwhelming proof of fluvalinate resistance. In colonies that do not exhibit fluvalinate resistance the normal mite kill is close to 98%, hence by the end of two brood cycles worth of Apistan treatment a very small number of mites should be left.

So where do we go from here? I'm hoping that the colonies survive until February when I will be forced to treat with Coumaphos or lose the colonies altogether - keeping in mind that even Coumaphos will be defeated by the mites in the next few years.

As for the rest of us - monitoring and rotation of treatments is crucial. Use everything at your disposal - miticides, formic acid, sugar esters, sugar dusting, drone brood trapping. However, ensure that you monitor hive mite loads frequently. Perform a sugar shake or ether roll before a chemical treatment and after a chemical treatment. If you treat with Apistan put in a strip of Coumaphos after the end of the treatment and get a 24 hour mite count on a sticky board.

The ultimate solution, however, will be biological and not chemical. We should aim to have bees that will deal with the menace by themselves. The Russian queens are showing some promise to deal with the mites as is the Suppressed Mite Reproduction (SMR) line of queens. Instrumentally inseminated pure SMR queens and SMR hybrid queens can be ordered from Glenn Apiaries (760)728-3731 or queenb95@aol.com



### Refreshment Schedule

**Dec:** Christmas Party @  
Mitzel's

**Jan:** -open-

**Feb:** -open-

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.

### What is it about those yellowjackets?

It's December 9th, it's freezing cold and all the bees are huddled inside. Yet, I still see yellow jackets going in and out of the hives. How do they do it? How do the yellowjackets resist the cold, the wet and the plain nasty conditions that keep us and the bees in cluster?

If any of you have any answers it would sure be worth knowing.

<http://www.qeced.net/gensci/nyt/Ecology.htm#19990817>

### 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

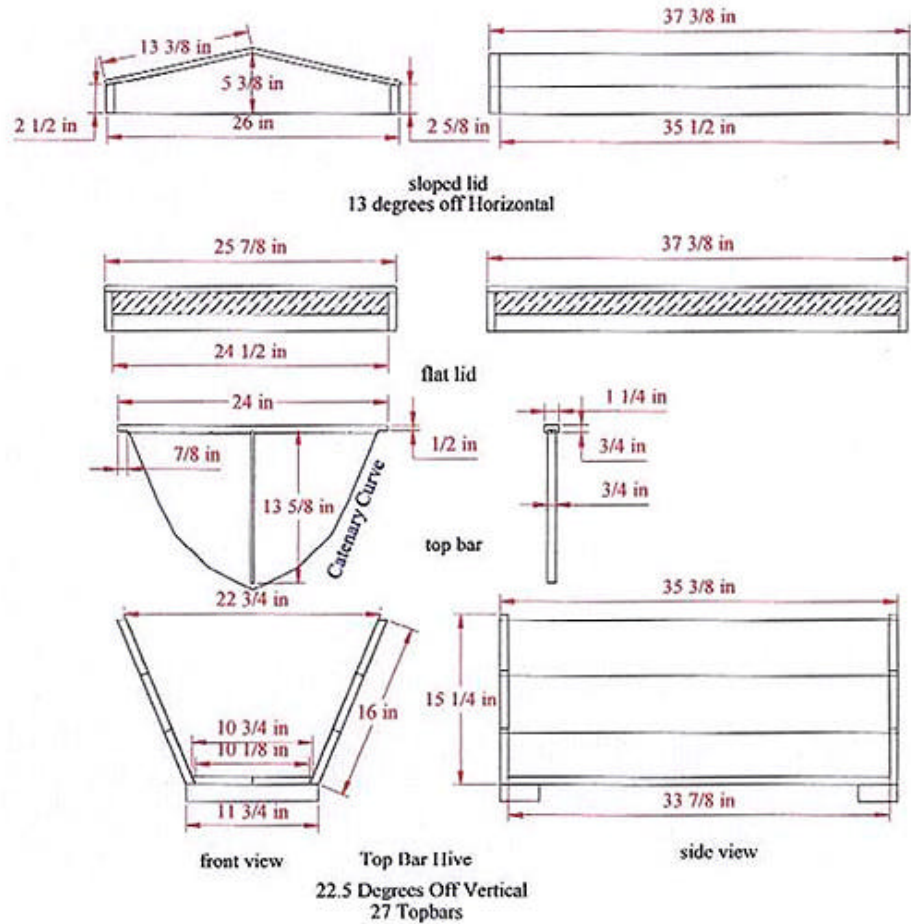
## Traditional (Kenya) Style Top-Bar Hive

Design by Dennis Murrell, Wyoming  
usbwrangler@juno.com

This is the plan for my tbh. The sides consist of three 1"x6"s. The bottom consist of two 1"x6"s. It is sloped 22.5 degrees off vertical and can hold 26 topbars, which are 1-1/4"s wide by 24"s long and a follower board or 27 topbars. The sides, bottom, and ends are cut to size and then glued together before assembly. Materials needed are:

Qty	Item
7	1"x 6"x 6'
3	2"x 4" studs
3	1"x 4"x 6'
1	26"x 36" plywood
1	23"x 36"x 1" insulation

I'm still toying with the idea of a sloped cover rather than a flat one as planned and haven't built the follower board. I have about \$36 invested which is about 1/3 the cost of an equivalent conventional hive. Paint will have to wait for warmer weather.



**West Sound Beekeepers Association**  
2233 Cantu Lane NW  
Seabeck, WA 98380  
<http://www.WestSoundBees.org>

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