

BUZZWORD

WEST SOUND BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

<http://www.westsoundbees.org>.

Proudly serving bees, their keepers, and the public in Kitsap County, WA and beyond!

DECEMBER 2012

WHAT'S INSIDE

Upcoming Bee-Related Events	1
President's Message	2
Treasurer's Report	2
Queen-Rearing Group Update	3
What New Bkeepers Should Know...	5
WSBA 2012 Christmas Party	9
December Recipes	10
Thoughts from the Treasurer	11
Advertising	11
Membership Form(s)	12



2011 WSBA Christmas Party

UPCOMING BEE-RELATED EVENTS

DECEMBER 2012

West Sound Beekeepers Association Business Meeting

Date: **Monday, 12/10/2012**

Time: 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Location: Stedman's Bee Supplies
3763 NW Anderson Hill Road
Silverdale, WA

Topic: 2013 Agenda/Schedule/Classes/Outreach Program(s)

West Sound Beekeepers Association General Membership Meeting

Date: **Tuesday, 12/18/2012**

Time: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Location: Silverdale Community Center – Evergreen Room
9729 Silverdale Way NW
Silverdale, WA

Topic: **2012 Christmas Party!**

JANUARY 2013

American Beekeeping Federation

Date: **January 8 – 12, 2013**

Location: Hershey Lodge
Hershey, Pennsylvania

Topic: 2013 North American Beekeeping Conference and Tradeshow

West Sound Beekeepers Association General Membership Meeting

Date: **Tuesday, 01/15/2013**

Time: 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Location: Stedman's Bee Supplies
3763 NW Anderson Hill Road
Silverdale, WA



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello from the new president! I'm excited to see what's in store for us. As 2012 draws to a close our teachers are busily planning next year's classes. It's going to be an exciting year! Whether you are a beginner or an experienced beekeeper you'll have a chance to grow your skills and knowledge. We'll be continuing our outreach efforts too, especially at the Kitsap County Fair. All volunteers are welcome to join in the fun so you'll have chances to connect and teach as well as learn.

If you didn't get to the November meeting you missed a great presentation. Our 2012 scholarship recipient Elijah Hutsell presented "This Year in Beekeeping". His poise and presentation skills were impressive. The audience nodded as he recounted his adventures with ordering his first package, catching his first swarm, and heading into his first winter. I hope we have a chance to hear from him again about his second year in beekeeping!

Our next general meeting is the Christmas party, which often shapes up to be the best potluck of the season. Hope to see you all there!



Brandy Williams
WSBA President

TREASURER'S REPORT

Money Market Balance: \$4502.33

- This includes transfer in of \$2900 per board directive to bring the reserve fund up to a minimum of \$4500.00

- + .36 in interest

Savings Balance: \$3886.13

- This includes .16 interest

Checking Balance: \$ \$603.51

- This includes deposits for dues + Donations in the amount of \$373.00

- Transfer to MM/Reserve of \$2900.00

- 4 outstanding checks in the amount of \$417.62

Current Membership: 143

New Members: 5

Paid for 2013: 15



QUEEN-REARING GROUP UPDATE

West Sound Beekeepers Association

David Mackovjak, Queen-Rearing Chairman

Dec 2012



The sport of bee-bearding (*if one can call it a sport*) was invented in Russia in the 1830's, when competitors attracted bees to their faces with the help of one strategically placed queen bee. Over the years, adventure seekers have extended it to include their entire body in an attempt to attract as many bees as they can - Pretty Bee-ierd isn't it? I thought this would be a great hands-on demonstration for next year!!

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.

2012 Goals for the Queen-Rearing group of West Sound Beekeepers 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. Provide a Queen-Rearing course for Kitsap County Beekeepers**
- 5. Instrumentally inseminate a queen**
- 6. Develop a Queen-Rearing training program**

We are beginning to work on next year's schedule and it looks like 2013 will be a great year for the Queen-Rearing group. Mark your calendar with the following tentative schedule:

QUEEN-REARING UPDATE (continued)

WSBA Courses: The following courses are put on by the Queen-Rearing Group. These are great courses and provide the knowledge and practical experience to help improve your understanding on beekeeping and Queen-Rearing.

Sat, 29 Jun 13 – Beekeeping in the PACNW

Sat & Sun, 27-28 Jul 13 – 2 Day Queen-Rearing Course in the PACNW

Lecture Schedule: Queen-Rearing lecture schedule and the following lectures will be presented during our upcoming meetings. The intent is to provide a lecture the first part of the meeting (1 hr)

5 Mar (Tue) -- 8 pm, Kick off/Planning meeting

12 May (Sun) -- 1 pm, Cloake Board & grafting – David Mackovjak

4 Jun (Tue) -- 8 pm, Instrumental Insemination – George Purkett

9 Jun (Sun) -- 1 pm, Equipment building - George Purkett

7 Jul (Sun) -- 1 pm, Splits & Nucs – Jason Deal (?)

4 Aug (Sun) -- 1 pm, Hygienic testing – Paul Lundy (?)

3 Sept (Tue) -- 8 pm, Queen-Rearing 2012 wrap up



Hands-on-Demonstrations: A tentative schedule of hands-on-demonstrations and skill sets (dates subject to weather and hive strength)

Sunday, 12 May 13 – Grafting

Tue, 21 Jun 13 – Bank queen cells, 6 pm Stedman's

Sunday, 9 Jun 13 – Equipment building & Queen grafting demo, 2-4 pm Stedman's

Tue, 18 Jun 13 – Bank queen cells, 6 pm Stedman's

Sunday, 7 Jul 13 – Splits & nucs & Queen grafting demo, 2-4 pm Stedman's

Tue, 16 Jul 13 – Bank queen cells, 6 pm Stedman's

Sunday, 12 Aug 13 – Hygienic Testing & Queen grafting demo, 2-4 pm Stedman's

Tue, 14 Aug 13 – Bank queen cells, 6 pm Stedman's



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.

David Mackovjak
Queen-Rearing Chairman
trimack@prodigy.net
360-340-0381



WHAT NEW BKEEPERS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT OLD BEEKEEPERS

By: James E. Tew

We really do mean to be helpful

Jumbled thoughts

I know what I want to say, but my thoughts are tumbling over each other. Let me start like this, *'When is one an old beekeeper with vast experience or when is one an old beekeeper who lives in the past too much?'* For instance, consider five-gallon pails. An experienced beekeeper could say, *'Yeah, I certainly remember those old 60# tins we used to put honey in. Remember those small, painful wire handles? Remember how the solder joint could break on those handles and drop a 60# can of honey on your foot? But having straight sides, they sure stacked nicely.'* Or an old beekeeper could say, *'I remember those 60# honey tins, but I think these plastic five-gallon buckets are much better. Better handles and much easier to clean and pour honey from.'* When is information from an experienced beekeeper really helping a new beekeeper and when is just a walk down memory lane?

Why these thoughts at all?

I'm having these thoughts because everything changes and during the past two decades, things have really changed in beekeeping. Mites, small hive beetles and Africanized honey bees have amalgamated to completely restructure beekeeping. So much has changed in management, equipment, bee stocks, honey production and pollination services as to make many established recommendations uncertain. For instance, right now, I should be writing an article for beekeepers describing what they should be doing for spring management. Roy Hendrickson¹ discussed Spring management in an excellent recent article and I did a piece entitled, *'A fresh look at the principles of spring management of bee colonies'*, in April, 2007. In September of this year, Larry Connor² when referring to the 1960s beekeeping hauntingly said, *'...That was a time before tracheal mites, Varroa mites, small hive beetles, CCD, neonicotinoids, and African bees...'* Good grief! That's pretty much what I said just a few sentences ago. We seemingly are stepping all over ourselves trying to advise new beekeepers when I sense that old beekeepers need help as well.

Today, the penalty for mistakes is much greater.

As a beekeeper trained in the '70s, I commonly made mistakes but the effects of my errors were rarely severe. Accidentally killing a queen was paramount to a bad day, but queens were readily available and not very costly. Not true for today's new beekeeper. Colonies still died during the Winter, but only a few and so what – you could readily make up the difference by picking up swarms the next Spring. Not true for today's new beekeeper. Mature colonies were hardy and could reach large populations with little to no intervention by the meddling beekeeper. Splits were easier to make. Today's colonies are more delicate, more fragile. I don't know why. Good colonies can suddenly fail. It seems to me that the new beekeeper is more stressed to get things right more quickly and without errors. Increasingly, I have become huffy about new beekeepers trying to implement all of the old management recommendations – plus all the new ones.

WHAT NEW BKEEPERS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT OLD BEEKEEPERS (continued)

Reversing brood chambers, frequent requeening, mite treatments, pollen substitutes, feeding medications, tearing down swarm cells.... It's a conundrum. The new beekeeper needs to learn to manage bees, but the new beekeeper is punished for making mistakes. *(Just so you know, today's experienced beekeepers are also penalized mightily for making mistakes.)*

But I'm ahead of myself – Today, getting bees is much more difficult

All of my penalty comments above assume the new beekeeper was even able to acquire bees. While I am not a fossil beekeeper, I have paid less than \$2.00 for a new queen. Today's new beekeeper can easily pay ten times that low price for a queen – if any are even available. Package bee producers were everywhere. The U.S. Postal System readily shipped them to me. Or, I could buy established colonies or splits. They were advertised in farm papers, bee club newsletters, or by word-of-mouth. Now, a swarm call is a rare thing. Bees are difficult to get. Today's new beekeeper must make careful plans to order packages and arrange to get them, probably through a club or through a bulk order. Heaven forbid that anything go wrong with the package installation process. Oh, your package queen died? Hope you can find another one because the package producer is probably not sending extras the way they once did. So here we are again....making errors in installing packages today has greater penalties than it did a few decades ago.

When computers and computer systems were young, I could contact my 'university IT people' and they would come troubleshoot my 8088 chip, dual floppy drive computer. Invariably they had to reset some of my dip switches or some such. Does anyone think that I have that kind of support today? Only catastrophic issues are addressed (for pay) but for software or general hardware questions – go on-line and search for answers. Today, I am on my own if my computer system hiccups. Years ago, honey bee queens were *kinda* guaranteed by the producer. Something went wrong – call them up. This past season, I had about 20% of the queens in my packages die. A couple were dead in the cage before I even released the package. It was not my fault, but I got no free queen replacements. That guaranteed queen thing has nearly passed. I ended up with several six-pound packages when I had to combine queenless three-pound packages with queen-right packages. Let the new beekeeper beware.

Don't try this at home – yet.

For this reason and several others, I accidentally worked out a procedure that I am planning to try again next Spring. This is not a recommendation for you and may never be one. Of the three-pound packages I had, I took two for a novel release procedure. I released one of the packages in the typical way, but I also opened the second package and released about two pounds of the bees in with the first unit. I used the remaining queen and the last pound of bees to establish a nucleus colony. So I essentially had a five-pound package and a one-pound package.

*As I expected, the five-pound unit developed quickly. If queen problems arose, I had one (somewhat) in reserve. No problems arose. As the season progressed, I equalized the colonies and currently all is well with the two colonies. The question you should be asking and it's a question I cannot yet answer, **'Did I have more bees because I used this process?'** I don't yet know, ergo the reason why this is not a recommendation. If I try it again, I will give you an update. Stand by.*

WHAT NEW BKEEPERS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT OLD BEEKEEPERS (continued)

Beekeeping information technology then and now.

The old system of information dispersal is still alive and somewhat well. Bee education classes are still offered, scores of bee books are available and it seems there is a bee meeting somewhere nearly every night. Interested people talking, looking at pictures, and people reading – all about bees – that hasn't changed, but other things have changed. There was a time when I was confident that I knew more about bees than most people in the room but not anymore. The new beekeeper can go to the web for literally anything concerning beekeeping (or anything else). I simply cannot read the thousands of bee-related web pages. But here's the new responsibility for the new beekeeper – not all web-based information is accurate. For instance, it is not a viable procedure to move a colony having laying workers a few yards away, shake the bees from the colony and replace the hive on the original stand. The idea is that the laying workers will not be able to find their way home, but that is not true. Laying workers can find their way home very well. Yet, if you Google the descriptor '*shaking bees for laying worker control*' many hits are presented that give instructions for this process. Let the new beekeeper beware.

Bee industry compartmentalization

The beekeeping industry has always been an assemblage of subgroups that came together on bee meeting days. Hobby beekeepers, sideline beekeepers, commercial beekeepers, equipment vendors, regulatory people and university/USDA bee professors were some of the typical sub-groups that comprised the audience. Today's new beekeeper will still be exposed to a segmented industry, but different segments than from a few decades ago. Hobby and sideline beekeepers seem to have been combined. Commercial beekeepers are now rare at most meetings. In many states, it is common to have no commercial beekeepers at all present in the sessions. Their numbers are smaller and they have become so specialized as to nearly be in a different industry than the new beekeeper.

Hobby beekeepers – new and old

Several years ago, when Colony Collapse Disorder was in its most recent infancy, I was in a meeting with an Ohio legislative representative when, in reference to hobby beekeepers, he abruptly said, '*Don't ever use the term, hobby beekeeper, again.*' He continued that either you are beekeeper or you are not. No government funding agency is going to fund hobbies. I was completely stunned. This one individual had abruptly made a term commonly found in hundreds of bee books obsolete. My very first reaction was to think that the '*hobby*' term simply could not die but after considering the thought for a few minutes and seeing the opinioned firmness of the representative, I realized that, in Ohio at least, I had probably just witnessed the death of a time-honored term.

WHAT NEW BKEEPERS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT OLD BEEKEEPERS (continued)

Since that time, I have been in attendance at two state meetings far removed from Ohio where the presenting speaker admonished the group to delete the hobby word. Whether or not that Ohio meeting actually started something or not, today's new hobby beekeeper is just a beekeeper. The term 'sideline' beekeeper was always a forced fit. So today, within the bee industry, there are essentially beekeepers and commercial beekeepers. Now I sense that the population of beekeepers has been loosely divided into pre-*Varroa* (old) and post-*Varroa* beekeepers (new). However, even if this is a designation, as old beekeepers pass, the post- group will take over.

Academic beekeepers

Bee professors past were as much a beekeeper as they were a scientist. They commonly attended bee meetings even if they were not speakers on the program. Dr. Walter Rothenbuhler and Basil Furgala are examples of scientists from this era. USDA scientists were governmentally funded and not encumbered with the obligation to get funded grants. They were encouraged to work on problems that had immediate and direct effects on the industry. B.F. Detroy was a USDA beekeeping engineer who worked on projects like developing steam-heated uncapping knives, insulating beehives and pollen traps designs. For many legitimate reasons, academic beekeeping today is nearly completely removed from the practical bee industry. Rarely are these individuals at bee meetings other than as speakers – if you can even get them to speak. The studies they implement are specialized and conclusions drawn are complicated. In eras past, academic beekeepers were simply doing their jobs when working with the bee industry. Today's academic beekeeper is stressed to get outside funding and to succeed inside the scientific community. That internal success can have little to do with the day-to-day life of the typical beekeeper. This is not a good or bad thing, but it is a different thing from way beekeeping was way back when.

Still jumbled

My thoughts are still muddled, but I know what I was feeling as I stood before the group at a county bee meeting last week. It was a modern group made up of new and old beekeepers (the new grouping). Those of us in the old group have paternal feelings and want to help these new people at every turn. Even this magazine recently had articles on how to nurture new beekeepers. That sounds like current recommendations for helping bee colonies. We have the best intentions but our aid programs frequently harm our colonies more than they help.

True, old beekeepers can help with the mechanics of beekeeping, but today's bright-eyed, eager new beekeeper never knew bees without mites, CCD, poor queens, and imported honey. They don't expect bee professors to grace their meetings. Instead, they will keep bees in town more often than the countryside and when they need information, they will search the web, or blog and twitter. In a pinch, they will use old-fashioned email. When requesting information, they will rarely use a land-line phone and will never, never write an actual letter. (Well, almost never, but we still get handwritten letters – daily in fact, but far fewer than five, and certainly 10 years ago – Ed.)

WHAT NEW BKEEPERS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT OLD BEEKEEPERS (continued)

Finally, my thought

Due to mites, insecticides, African bees, beetles, bee diseases and imported honey, we are **ALL** new beekeepers. Old beekeepers know more about the mechanics and fundamentals of beekeeping but the new group knows more about today's way of communicating and implementing modern beekeeping principles. They're not living in the past. To survive and thrive in this changing bee world, old beekeepers probably need new beekeepers as much as the new needs the old. We are all in the same boat and it's a very new boat.

Dr. James E. Tew, State Specialist, Beekeeping, The Ohio State University, Wooster, OH 44691; 330.263.3684; Tew.1@osu.edu; <http://beelab.osu.edu/>

Editors note: When I contacted Dr. Tew to request permission to reprint this article I was very pleasantly surprised by his fast response. Also, his humor reminds me of one of our members. "...I can't recall exactly what I said, but I hope it helps your publication." (In his defense, this article is from December 2009 edition of Bee Culture Magazine!)



WSBA 2012 CHRISTMAS PARTY

(Reprint from the November 2012 Buzzword)

This year the WSBA Christmas party will be held in the Evergreen Room of the Silverdale Community Center located at 9729 Silverdale Way NW, Silverdale, WA.

Last year the party was held at the same building but in the 300 square foot Cedar Room. This year we'll have a 3,003 square foot room with a stage and kitchen facility – all at an hourly rate that is less than last year's!

The party starts at 6:00 pm and is a family-friendly potluck format so bring the family and your favorite holiday fare and join us! This year's events include the 2012 Best Honey competition, presentations and a lively auction. Be sure to bring a sample of your honey to enter in the competition and any items you'd like to donate to the auction. Proceeds from the auction go directly to the Association. DON'T MISS IT!



Paul Lundy provides auctioneer services and humor at the 2011 Christmas party!





DECEMBER RECIPES



HONEY-RICOTTA PUFFS

from the National Honey Board



1/3 cup - honey
2 cups - part-skim ricotta cheese
20 - strawberries, diced in small cubes

2 sheets - puff pastry dough, thawed
2 tsp - vanilla extract

Unfold one puff pastry sheet on a lightly floured surface and roll out to 1/16-inch thickness. Cut pastry into 8 equal squares. Transfer pastry squares to parchment-lined baking sheet. Pierce pastry squares with a fork and brush evenly with 4 teaspoons of honey. Chill pastry in refrigerator for 10 minutes. Repeat process with second puff pastry sheet.

Preheat oven to 400 degrees Fahrenheit. Bake first set of pastry squares for approximately 15 minutes or until golden. Let cool and place second batch in the oven, repeating the baking process.

Divide 4 teaspoons of honey evenly among the center of 8 dessert plates. Place 1 pastry puff on top of the honey on each plate. In a small bowl, combine ricotta cheese with vanilla. Spoon ¼ cup ricotta cheese mixture and diced strawberries on top of each pastry square. Drizzle with remaining 4 teaspoons of honey and top with second pastry square. Serve immediately.

*You can make the puffs in your favorite shapes by using cookie cutters and getting creative!

Holiday Honey Caramels

from the National Honey Board

1 cup - butter (no substitutions)
2 cups - whipping cream
1 teaspoon - vanilla extract

2 cups - honey
1 cup - brown sugar

Line bottom and sides of 9-inch square pan with plastic wrap; set aside. Melt butter in medium-sized heavy saucepan over medium-high heat. Add honey, cream and brown sugar; mix well. Cook over medium-high heat until mixture comes to boil, stirring frequently. Reduce heat to medium and continue boiling, stirring frequently, until candy thermometer registers 250°F to 255°F, about 45 minutes.

Remove from heat and stir in vanilla; pour into prepared pan. Let cool completely in refrigerator before cutting into individual caramels with very sharp knife. Roll in chopped nuts or coconut, if desired, and wrap each individually in clear plastic wrap. Store, tightly wrapped in refrigerator up to 1 month.

Caramels will be soft at room temperature and firm if kept chilled.



THOUGHTS FROM THE TREASURER

Thank you for being part of the West Sound Beekeepers Association.
Time goes by so fast it is hard to believe that it is already time to renew your membership for 2013.

Please take a moment and either drop your check for \$24 into the mail to:

Frank Wilson
Treasurer WSBA
9330 Misery Point Rd. NW
Seabeck, WA 98380

Or....bring your check to our next meeting.

As you know there are a lot of benefits to being part of WSBA:

Newsletters

Education

Local knowledge shared

Classes

Mentoring

Queen rearing group

Advanced beekeeping class

Queen rearing classes

Guest speakers

Use of club extractor

2013 will be a great year for beekeeping, thank you for being part of WSBA.

Sincerely,

Frank Wilson

2013 Treasurer

PS If you know of someone who might like to join WSBA or who might be thinking of starting to keep bees please send them our way.



ADVERTISEMENTS



Your bees called...they want you to stop at Stedman's!



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM
(And there's an extra to share with a friend!!)

Now is a great time to send in your 2013 dues. Member dues support the Association's goals of promoting better understanding and appreciation for honey bees and beekeeping by providing community awareness of the positive effects of beekeeping.

Being a paid member of West Sound Beekeepers Association also puts the Association's extensive library at your disposal, allows you the use of the Association's extractor, gives you the opportunity to have input on the direction the Association takes, makes you eligible to be an officer of the Association and puts you in touch with a lot of fun beekeepers! For only \$24 every member of your household becomes a member - what a great deal!

To join or renew your membership simply fill out the following form and bring it, along with your payment, to the next monthly meeting. Or you can mail the form with your payment to the WSBA Treasurer (address below.)

****PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO WSBA****

NAME: _____
MAILING ADDRESS: _____
PHONE & EMAIL: _____

Mail this form along with your check to: Frank Wilson, WSBA Treasurer
9330 Misery Point Rd NW
Seabeck, WA 98380

Now is a great time to send in your 2013 dues. Member dues support the Association's goals of promoting better understanding and appreciation for honey bees and beekeeping by providing community awareness of the positive effects of beekeeping.

Being a paid member of West Sound Beekeepers Association also puts the Association's extensive library at your disposal, allows you the use of the Association's extractor, gives you the opportunity to have input on the direction the Association takes, makes you eligible to be an officer of the Association and puts you in touch with a lot of fun beekeepers! For only \$24 every member of your household becomes a member - what a great deal!

To join or renew your membership simply fill out the following form and bring it, along with your payment, to the next monthly meeting. Or you can mail the form with your payment to the WSBA Treasurer (address below.)

****PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO WSBA****

NAME: _____
MAILING ADDRESS: _____
PHONE & EMAIL: _____

Mail this form along with your check to: Frank Wilson, WSBA Treasurer
9330 Misery Point Rd NW
Seabeck, WA 98380