

# Buzzword



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**Next Meeting**

February 18, 2003

**Master Beekeepers' Course Review**

by Dennis Heeney & Jim Willmann

**Spring Management**

By Roy Barton

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

**Waiting for Godot, er, Spring**

Message from the President

February is a month consumed by the proverbial battle between hope and experience.

We will no doubt soon get a few warm sunny days and with them our hopes will soar. Buds swelling, a few early nectar sources such as heather and bulb blossoms and plenty of pollen from alders and various other early bloomers make for easy picking. The girls will pour out and fill the air with a welcome buzz and the sight of pollen going in the entrance in great abundance gives a winter-weary

beekeeper joy and assurance that all is well and that a new season is underway. The wise will take advantage of these days to do an early inspection and evaluation of colony conditions.

Spring management should be started by mid-month and we all should have a strategy of how we intend to deal with the many issues involved in maintaining healthy colonies. Alas we too will no doubt get a few weeks of absolutely miserable weather and experience will harshly remind the winter-weary

beekeeper that we haven't yet seen the end of it. Cold and rain will drive bees and beekeepers back into their respective shelters, there to suffer and wait. Hope springs eternal only to be dashed on the hard rocks of experience, it has ever been so. My advice is to heed the words of the old blues song and "Get It While You Can". Beekeeping has never been easy but in recent years with the introduction of mites the challenges are greater than ever. Success demands an evolving knowledge and a willingness to learn and apply new strategies. Rote (contd. on page 3)

**SUGAR ESTERS APPROVED FOR VARROA CONTROL**

By Steve Sheppard (shepp@mail.wsu.edu) Feb. 2003 WSU Apicultural Notes

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approved labeling of the sugar ester, sucrose octanoate, for use on honey bees to control *Varroa* mites. We have been working with this material for several years to develop suitable application methods and efficacy data. The approval by EPA now opens the door for sale and distribution by interested suppliers. This comes not a moment too soon - as reports from Florida indicate the discovery of mites resistant to both Apistan and Coumaphos. Sucrose octanoate is now being

tested on these resistant mites in Florida. Although more labor intensive to use than plastic strips - sucrose octanoate has the advantage of being quite safe to work with and exempt from tolerance. More details on our testing in the next Apicultural Notes .

AVA Chemical Ventures, L. L.C. ("AVA") has received EPA registration for the active ingredient Sucrose Octanoate Esters, a biochemical insecticide/ miticide manufactured from sugar and vegetable oil-derived fatty acids. Sugar

ester insecticides kill rapidly, either by rapid suffocation or by removing the insects' protective coating, causing them to desiccate; do not harm major beneficial insects; and break down in the environment to their constituent sugars and fatty acids.

The EPA registration includes an exemption from tolerance for all food crops. Labels have been approved for foliar spray on outdoor plants; varroa mite control on honey bees; and sciarid fly control on mushrooms.



**Elections/Nominations**

Elections are coming up in April for:

- \* President
- \* Vice President
- \* Treasurer
- \* Secretary

If you would like to nominate someone, including yourself, please submit nominations to Secretary, Tricia Sullivan, phone 360-779-1210 or email: secretary@westsoundbees.org

"A true bee lover is someone who when going into a hive, doesn't think about getting stung."  
  
**- Dewey Caron**  
 Dept. Entomology Univ. of Delaware

**WANTED**

**Small-Scale Extractor**

4-Frame or similar in good condition



Contact:  
**Glenn Rogers**  
253-265-8053

**THRESHOLD LEVELS FOR VARROA TREATMENT IN WASHINGTON STATE**

By Jamie Strange and Steve Sheppard, WSU

**W**e established a research apiary of 56 colonies near Pullman, WA in April 1999 and equalized bee and mite populations. Seven treatments were tested for the control of Varroa destructor. Sampling data for mite level evaluation was developed using two techniques easily employed by beekeepers; sticky boards and ether rolls. These data allowed for the development of treatment threshold mite levels or the population of mites in a colony of bees that indicates chemical treatment. By using the threshold data, beekeepers can avoid unnecessary chemical applications resulting from prophylactic chemical treatment. We recommend the following as treatment thresholds (chemical treatment is needed if mite numbers exceed those given)

for application of miticides to control V. destructor. For the 200-bee ether roll, the April 15th threshold is 3, the August 15th threshold is 14 and the September 30th threshold is 4. For the 48-hour sticky board, the April threshold is 24, the August threshold is 46 and the September threshold was not determined.

Whereas in southern climates, treatment is recommended for summer, the optimum treatment timing in Washington State is in the fall. When miticide is applied in the fall, mite control was equal to treating twice a year (spring and fall).

By implementing an integrated system of sampling, "soft" chemical application, and traditional miticide use, beekeepers should be able to manage mites below threshold levels and avoid further problems with miticide resistance.

In addition to threshold data, we determined that treatment once a year for mite control is sufficient in Washington State, but the timing of the application is important.

**Mite Treatment Thresholds By Method and Date**

	SAMPLING PERIOD		
	Apr. 15th	Aug. 15 <sup>th</sup>	Sep. 30th
<b>200-Bee Ether Roll</b>	3	14	4
<b>48-Hour Sticky Board</b>	24	46	Not determined

**Minutes of the January 21st Meeting:**

- \* Treasurer's Report: \$3842.95 balance.
- \* A couple of members will be attending the Simon Fraser University course in February.
- \* Lots of new additions to the library. See Roy Barton to check them out.
- \* \$964 was raised at the auction. A committee will come back with suggestions on what to do with the proceeds. Chris Williams will chair the committee.
- \* Beginner Beekeeping Class will be held at Stedman's in March. Paul and Roy will teach. Make reservations with Barbara Stedman.
- \* Nominations for club officers are coming up. Elections will be held at the April meeting.

Submitted by Tricia Sullivan, Secretary

**HONEY GRAPEFRUIT DELIGHT**

The Recipe Corner

- 2 pink or red grapefruit**
- 4 tablespoons honey, divided**
- 1 cup plain nonfat yoghurt**
- 1/4 teaspoon grated grapefruit peel**
- 1/4 teaspoon almond extract**
- 3 tablespoons toasted sliced almonds**

Peel and slice grapefruit into 1/2-inch thick rounds. Gently toss grapefruit rounds and 2 tablespoons honey; refrigerate until ready to serve. Combine yoghurt, remaining 2 tablespoons honey, grapefruit peel and almond extract in small bowl; mix well. Spoon grapefruit into individual dishes. Top with yoghurt sauce; sprinkle with almonds.

## ...WAITING FOR SPRING (contd. from page 1)

application of chemical treatments will not result in long term success but at the same time these are useful tools that at times are necessary. Improved queen genetics that will result in natural resistance are certainly the long term goal and we are making good progress but we are not there yet. So what is a beekeeper to do? That is no easy question and I cannot give a simple all encompassing answer. We need to learn from research, try new strategies, share our successes and failures and keep moving forward. It is all part of the joy and the frustration of this craft we love.

Once upon a time most states had taxpayer-supported apiary inspectors that beekeepers could call on to come and have a look and give helpful advice. Those days are gone but the need remains. I think that as an association this is an area where we can provide real service to our members. We can work out the details but perhaps a small fee paid by the association and another small matching fee paid by the beekeeper could defray the costs of selected qualified volunteer inspectors and at the same time relieve any sense of freeloading on the part of members. I see it as a part of our mentor program and a service willingly offered and open to any member wishing to use it. Also I think that members could learn a lot by visiting the apiaries of each other and our mentors and we can encourage this with official and casual field days. I personally welcome any member to come and help any time, and I know that all our other mentors feel the same. We don't have all the answers but we can help and are happy to do so.

So poke your head out of the cave once in a while, and if the weather is promising get out there and tend to business and if not crawl back in and study up on how in the world we can make life better for the dear girls. It's about all we can do. See you Tuesday.

- Paul



## 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

### Central Kitsap:

Mike Johnson, (360)830-0295, mlj@hurricane.net  
Roy Barton, (360)613-0175, honeyhill@tscnet.com

### North Kitsap:

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

### Bainbridge Island:

Jim Willmann, (206)842-5991, jwillm4622@aol.com

### Poulsbo and environs:

Stephen Augustine, (360)779-1210, saugusti@krl.org

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

### Praise for our Mentor Program

"Thanks for the newsletter each month. I cannot attend the meetings and your articles are a great help to me as last year was my first. George Purkett has also been a great help this last year as a mentor. I cannot tell you how many times I called him with what must have seemed like the dumbest questions but he got me through the year and I ended up with about 30lbs of honey from one hive. The mentor program has been a great help to me."

- Glenn Rogers, WSBA Member

### Refreshment Schedule

**Feb:** Roy Barton

**Mar:** Betty & Walter Schicker

**Apr:** -open-

**May:** Joe Grubbs & Pamela Tarver

**Jun:** -open-

**Jul:** -open-

**Aug:** Summer Picnic

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.

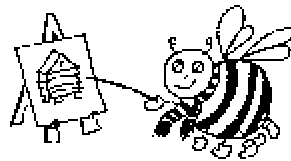
### Beginners' Beekeeping Class

**Sunday March 9, 2003**

Stedman's Bee Supplies  
Silverdale

Cost is \$30 and includes lunch & class materials  
Taught by Paul Hosticka and Roy Barton

Call Barbara Stedman  
at 692-9453  
For reservations



### 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: saugusti@krl.org  
Mail: 401 B Liberty St NW  
Poulsbo, WA 98370

## SPRING MANAGEMENT

The basic principle of Spring Management is to ensure that your colonies are healthy, strong and free of diseases/pests as they ramp up for spring and summer. If you are treating any of your hives you should try to get your treatments in as early as the weather permits in order to have them completed by the arrival of the spring honey flow. This is also the time to start reversing brood boxes to keep giving the queen more room to lay as she moves up in the hive. Consider requeening poor or failing hives. The last part of March and all of April are the normal periods for spring requeening.

In regards to treatments for diseases and pests an IPM approach is recommended. After sampling or careful observation if the colony exhibits signs of the disease or problem then use an appropriate treatment. Prophylactic use of the various treatments generally selects for resistance in the pest or disease rather than helping the bees. Here are some the treatments that you might use.

Sugar Syrup for Stimulative Feeding	1:1 by volume of sugar and water - two gallons, or more if the colony is light on stores. Feed when it's warm enough for the bees to start flying.
Fumidil-B for Nosema	One teaspoon of Fumidil-B dissolved per gallon of sugar syrup, one gallon of medicated syrup per affected colony. Do not treat prophylactically. Start feeding when the bees start flying.
Terramycin for AFB	Mix one teaspoon of Terramycin with two tablespoons of powdered sugar. Spread this amount on the ends of the frames, and repeat every 3 to 5 days until three treatments are given to each affected hive. As a general rule do not treat prophylactically.
Grease Patty for TM	Keep grease patties (vegetable oil or shortening and powdered sugar) above the brood nest continuously to reduce the incidence of Tracheal Mites.
Menthol for TM	One 7x7 inch (1/3 <sup>rd</sup> cup) menthol packet on top of brood nest. Remove the packet after 4-6 weeks. Menthol works best when the temperatures are above 70 deg F.
Formic Acid for TM	Soak absorbent pad with 30ml of 65% formic acid and place on top bars. Three treatments at intervals of five to seven days. Remove used pads each time. Daytime temp should be above 50F.
Formic Acid for Varroa	Soak absorbent pad with 40ml of 65% formic acid and place on top bars. Five to six treatments at intervals of five to seven days. Remove used pads each time. Daytime temp should be above 50F.
Apistan Strips for Varroa (start in February)	1 Apistan strip per every 5 frames covered by bees hung between the frames of the colony cluster (usually 2 to 4 strips are needed per colony). Apistan should NOT remain in the colony longer than 42 to 56 days (6 to 8 weeks). Treat with Apistan if the hive(s) cross the mite treatment threshold.



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

**Next Meeting —**  
**Master Bkpr. Course Review + Spring Mgmt.**  
 Tuesday, February 18  
 7 p.m. at Stedman's