

BUZZWORD

WEST SOUND BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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

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

FEBRUARY 2013

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BEE-MINE

UPCOMING EVENTS

3rd Annual WSU Small Farms Expo – WSU Kitsap Extension

Date: **Saturday, 02/09/2013**
Time: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Location: Olympic College Campus, Bremerton
Topic: "Gaining Ground" (See our West Sound Beekeepers Association table!)

Beginning Beekeeping - Class #1

Date: **Tuesday, 02/19/2013**
Time: 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Location: Stedman's Bee Supplies
3763 NW Anderson Hill Road
Silverdale, WA
Topic: The Honey Bee and Her Products

West Sound Beekeepers Association General Membership Meeting

Date: **Tuesday, 02/19/2013**
Time: 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Location: Stedman's Bee Supplies
3763 NW Anderson Hill Road
Silverdale, WA
Topic: Farmer – Beekeeper Forum

Beginning Beekeeping - Class #2

Date: **Saturday, 02/23/2013**
Time: 12 Noon until...
Location: Stedman's Bee Supplies
3763 NW Anderson Hill Road
Silverdale, WA
Topic: Beekeeping Equipment

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

February 2013

Are you ready for spring? How many packages do you plan to order, and have you got your order in? Oh, and did you renew your membership in the West Sound Beekeepers Association? Come to the February meeting and our hard-working treasurer Frank Wilson will be happy to sign you up!

While you are renewing your membership, it is a good time to consider joining the Washington State Beekeepers Association. While our own club manages our relationship with the county, the state association represents the interests of beekeepers on the state level. Also, the state association funds academic research (for example projects from Dr. Steve Shepard's department at WSU) which directly benefit every one of us in helping us manage our hives. It's \$20 for individuals, \$50 commercial, and you can pay through check or PayPal. Here's the link: <http://www.wasba.org>.

It's also time to register our hives with the Washington State Department of Agriculture! Do take a moment to fill out the paperwork. It's \$5 for 1-5 hives, \$10 for 6-25, and \$25 for 26-100, due by April 1. The State investigates pesticide poisonings, and since we have had pesticide kills in our county, it's worth taking the moment and the fiver to get 'er done. Here's the state web site: <http://agr.wa.gov/plantsinsects/Apiary/>

Remember our Bee-ginner Beekeeping class begins this month! Tues. Feb. 19, 6 pm at Stedman's (get there early!)



Brandy Williams
WSBA President

TREASURER'S REPORT

February 2013

Paid Members	55
New Members	16
Checking Account:	\$2059.78
Savings Account:	\$3886.46
Reserve Account:	\$4502.71



Frank Wilson
WSBA Treasurer

JANUARY MEETING RECAP

~Brandy Williams

At our regular meeting Tuesday January 15 members shared strategies for dealing with winter challenges, including dwindling hive food stores, moisture, and temperature. Dave Mackovjak reminded us that the cluster eats toward the top, so feeding dry sugar at the top of the box can help a hive make it through winter.

Charles Schaefer and Ted Gill brought their demonstration hives to display. Charles sets up an information booth at the Bainbridge Island Farmers Market every Saturday in the regular season. He shared some of his strategies for preparing for outreach. Ted Gill (and I) took his top bar demo hive to a number of events last summer. Ted also shared his techniques for closing up a top bar hive after inspection.



(Photos courtesy of Brandy Williams)



Buzznote: The topic for our regular meeting this month is a Farmer - Beekeeper forum. Every year club members and Stedman's receive requests from farmers to place hives on their property. If you are a farmer who keeps bees, a beekeeper who partners with a farmer, or a beekeeper interested in an outyard we would love your input! This should be a lively and informative discussion, don't miss it. ~Brandy



CHARLES SHAFER PRESENTS HONEY BEES

(An Interview with a Bee Enthusiast)

Editor: Having missed the January 2013 WSBA General Membership meeting, I gathered bits and pieces about the presentations from those who were lucky enough to attend. I was particularly intrigued with photos and snippets of information I received about Charles Shafer's presentation so I asked him if he could/would turn it into an article for the newsletter. Here's what he had to say:

I am at the Winslow farmer's market every Saturday mid-April to mid-October (give or take.) I bring books, hive products, an observation hive or two, a complete Langstroth setup, hornet nest, bumblebee nest(both void of critters), propolis collector, fume board, queen excluder, bee escape, capped frame of honey, centrifuge extractor, mason bee hive (one of Darren's masterpieces-less the bees), smoker, empty bee package, top, frame feeders. No kitchen sink, but also included is the magic 8 ball to provide answers and comic diversion. After the first week, I have the loading and unloading down to a blindfolded science.

Every week is a new experience. Some market regulars, but also many tourists, from everywhere in the world. I strive to strike a similar spark that Paul Lundy so wonderfully did in the beginner bee class. I do it in chopped-up fragments as people pass through. I enjoy it so much I should go to confession afterwards.

The farmers, who bring their incredible produce, flower and crafts, amaze me with their passion and dedication. It's like they set up and take down a small city every Saturday.

(I think a field trip to the Winslow Farmers' Market is in order this year – this I gotta see! ~Ed.)



(Photos courtesy of Brandy Williams)



VANISHING OF THE BEES UPDATE

~Brandy Williams

Have you seen the film "Vanishing of the Bees"? This 2009 film chronicles the discovery of Colony Collapse Disorder, a phenomenon affecting commercial beekeepers that place their colonies in an orchard and return to find their hives empty of workers with just the queen and attendants left.

Have you wondered what has happened since the film was made? Don Aman of Central Washington Beekeepers Association asked himself that question. To answer it, he organized the "Vanishing Conference" on Saturday Oct. 13. Speakers included David Mendes and David Hackenberg and Tom Theobald, commercial beekeepers who appeared in the film.

David Mendes made the point that beekeepers are not just concerned about Colony Collapse Disorder but about colony health in general. He sees a marked increase in winter hive loss, queens who are not surviving, and a general failure to thrive, even with adequate forage.

David Hackenberg has been keeping bees since 1966. As systemic pesticides began to be used extensively in commodity crops, Hackenburg saw new behavior, including queens stopping laying in the middle of the summer, and swarming out of the hives in December hanging outside the box. Initially he chalked the behaviors up to mite-based viruses, until the major kill in California in the winter of 2005-2006.

Hackenburg worries about the future of beekeeping. "To keep the bees going we have to do things we never did in the past," he said. He is investigating feeding protein as a way to sustain colony health. "All across the country beekeepers have gone from bees depending on what they get from the field to depending on us to feed them," he said. "They are the barometer of the environment and they are telling us that something's wrong with the environment."

When Hackenberg first encountered CCD he called Maryann Frazier, Penn State entomologist and researcher. The Penn State team has conducted numerous studies since that time. Frazier listed Penn State's concerns stemming from this research. Honey bees are exposed to multiple pesticides, systemic pesticides, and fungicides. Toxins found in hives are diverse and often present in large quantities. Inert ingredients in these products are not regulated and the impact of these on bees is also not known. There is no regulation of combinations of pesticides, and similar pesticides may combine for an additive effect; one chemical may increase the activity of another.

In the past five years Penn State has detected 171 pesticides in honeybee samples. Bees are being exposed in multiple ways. Farmers use pesticides on pollinated crops to control pathogens and pests; bees don't pollinate corn but they do come in contact with it, and encounter pesticides not tested for use with bees; they also come into contact with pesticides in water.

Sub-lethal effects are harder to detect than poison kills. Pesticides affect larval development, adult longevity, immune function, and memory and learning. Pesticide incidents are under-reported as beekeepers do not wish to turn in farmers with whom they have long term relationships.

Penn State found that among neonicotinoids, some are more toxic than others. Imidacloprid is very toxic, only 280 ppb (parts per billion) are toxic to bees. Imidacloprid is not just a commercial agriculture product, it is present in pet pest treatments, and homeowners use the product in home orchards. Penn State research suggests that this product remains present in the environment for several years after a single treatment.

VANISHING OF THE BEES UPDATE (continued)

Penn State has suggestions for growers, beekeepers, and the public:

- ☞ Growers: "The dose makes the poison", so dilute the pesticides. Avoid applying pesticides to blooming plants, if necessary, and apply when bees are not foraging, at night.
- ☞ Beekeepers: Allow colonies to recover after pollination. Provide continuous protein feeding.
- ☞ Public: Establish pollinator conservation areas. Encourage homeowners to reduce pesticide use and to plant for pollinators.

Beekeeper Tom Theobald had the last word. Like David Mendes and David Hackenburg, Theobald has been keeping bees for decades. Theobald said that in many parts of the country beekeepers nurse bees to health and then send them out into an environment that is hostile to life. He wonders what exposure to systemic pesticides is doing to people. Obviously we're concerned about the bees," he said, "but what about human health?"

The Center for Pollinator Research (CPR) information is available at www.ento.psu.edu/pollinators.

Editor's Note: Please watch the Buzzword in the coming months for dates and times to see Vanishing of the Bees in your area. Our goal is for WSBA to host at least one screening – most likely in Silverdale – sometime in late spring or early summer. This is an important film that will help beekeepers respond to the ever-present question from the public, "What's happening to the honey bees?"



NEW ADDITIONS TO THE WSBA LIBRARY

CITY OF BEES

By Laila Hodell, 1 disc (dvd) , 30 minutes

Review (from amazon.com)

Subtitled A Children's Guide to Bees, this delightful program takes a kid-friendly look at the amazing world of the honeybee. Narrated by a beekeeper and several young children (sometimes in a Q&A format), and punctuated by songs and rhymes, City of Bees is a sublime film, bringing a sense of wonder to the intricate details of the insects life and featuring in-flight shots simulating the bees journey as it makes its rounds from flower to flower. Kids and adults alike are sure to be charmed by City of Bees, which features DVD extras including a lesson plan and a photo gallery. **Highly recommended. Editors Choice.** --Video Librarian, Sept/Oct 2006

Product Description

Explore the secret, complex world of honeybees from a child's point of view. Six-year-old Oliver and his young friends join a beekeeper as he cares for his beehives over the course of a year. The children study everything from how a queen bee rules the hive, the various jobs each bee performs, how bees pollinate and how bees can fly at amazing speeds. With colorful imagery, learning activities, and remarkable up-close video, viewers of all ages will be enchanted and informed about the remarkable world that is the City of Bees.

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE WSBA LIBRARY (continued)

NOVA: BEES – TALES FROM THE HIVE

Directed by Wolfgang Thaler & Herbert Habersack, 1 disc (dvd), 54 minutes

Review (from amazon.com)

Amazingly up-close footage filmed with specially developed macro lenses brings you the most intimate and most spectacular- portrayal of a working bee colony ever filmed. It's not frightening- it's fascinating. See things you never imagined. Hear things only bees hear. Discover new found facts about the strange and complex life of bees. Have you ever seen the high-speed mid-air "wedding flight" of a drone and his queen? Do you know how the colony defends itself against honey-loving bears? Did you know it takes nectar from 10 million flowers to create a single liter of honey? No wonder they're called worker bees! Bees: Tales from the Hive exposes a bee colony's secret world- detailing such rarely-seen events as the life-or-death battle between a pair of rival queens, a bee eater's attack on the hive, and a scout bee's mysterious dance that shares special "nectar directions" with the rest of the hive. Special DVD features include: a link to the NOVA Web site; scene selections; and closed captions.

SILENCE OF THE BEES

Murray F. Abraham, 1 disc (dvd), 118 minutes

(With bonus film, Parrots in the Land of Oz)

A Peabody Award-winning film

Review

While not as detailed and scientific as the sister film, Vanishing of the Bees, this IS an informative film that introduces the viewer to some of the issues threatening pollinators. Presenting David Hackenberg, the beekeeper widely credited with sounding the alarm about disappearing honey bees.



BEGINNER CLASSES START FEBRUARY 19TH!

Tues, Feb 19: 6PM Honeybee and her Products	Sat, Feb 23; 12 noon Beekeeping Equip	Tues, Mar 19; 6PM Making a start in Beekeeping	Sat, Mar 23, 12 noon Spring Management	Tues, Apr 16; 6 PM Diseases and Pests	Sat, Apr 13, 12 noon Package bee demo	Sat, Apr 20, 12 noon Honeybee mites	Tues, May 21 6PM Swarming	Sat, May 25 12 noon Summer Management & honey	Tues, June 18 6PM Fall Management	Sat, June 22 12 noon Pollination, Queen rearing and Marketing
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Calling all Beekeepers! Interested in expanding your knowledge and helping other beginners at the same time?

Sign up to help present during the beginner classes. This goes a long way to gaining Journeyman level points and is fun, fun, fun! Let me know which section you would like by clicking on the link here: <http://www.doodle.com/qvud29sx6rryz7ii>



QUEEN-REARING GROUP UPDATE



Interesting Facts About Bees

- It takes 12 bees their entire lifetime to make just one teaspoon of honey.
- Honey bees visit 2 million flowers to make one pound of honey
- Field bees visit 50 to 100 flowers during each trip.
- Honey bees fly 12 and 15 miles per hour.
- Honey bees flap their wings 12,000 times per minute.
- Honey is essentially dehydrated nectar from flowers. Bees eat honey and pollen from flowers. They ferment the pollen first and mix it with honey in order to be able to digest it.
- One honey bee hive visits about 225,000 flowers per day.
- A strong hive may contain up to 60,000 honey bees.
- All the worker bees are female. The drones or male bees have only one job and that is to mate with the queen. The drone mates one time then he dies.
- The queen bee can mate with up to 45 drones. But the average number is 13.
- The queen goes on a mating flight several days after she emerges. Once a queen bee is mated, she keeps the drone's sperm alive inside her for the rest of her life. She never mates again.
- A queen bee lays up to 2000 eggs a day (an average of one every 45 seconds) and may lay a million eggs in her entire lifetime.
- The queen bee decides to lay a fertilized egg which will be a worker bee or new queen or an unfertilized egg which will develop into a drone.

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.



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



WINTER PREPARATIONS PART II

~ David Mackovjak, VP
Feb 2013

I wanted to give you an update on one of the club hives I started dry sugar feeding 30 days ago. This weekend it was fairly warm, 48 deg; so I thought it would be a perfect opportunity to check on the hives. Over the last several weeks, I noticed this hive in particular was bringing out to the entrance a lot of chewed up pieces of newspaper. I was amazed to find out that the bees had consumed all the dry sugar I had fed them a month before! Wow!!



It is recommended that everyone check their hives and verify they have enough feed to make it through the rest of the winter. You can lift the hive from the back and take a quick peek inside. If you have any questions on dry sugar feeding check out last month's Buzzword or Google "Dry Sugar Feeding."

Now that it is February, I would also recommend you consider feeding pollen patties to ensure the nurse bees have the necessary pollen to feed the new larva. Your queens will start laying in order to build up the colony for the Spring nectar flows. Recall it takes 21 days from egg to new bee and several more weeks before they are ready to forage... That puts us to the middle of March. You can make your own pollen patty or stop by Stedman's.



WINTER PREPARATIONS PART II (continued)

Lastly, you want to check the health of your hives. I discovered that two of my hives had signs of Nosema based on the yellowish brown excrement stains noticed on top bars of frames and outside walls of hive. Nosema is a disease of the digestive tract in honey bees. It effects adult bees only and is highly infectious. The disease occurs primarily in late winter and early spring. Nosema is troublesome in temperate areas and especially during long periods of bad weather where bees are confined to the hive and are unable to leave on cleansing flights thereby more spores accumulate in the rectum. The disease is less readily spread in warm climates with mild winters. Nosema has negative effects on the bee colony. It increases the mortality of adult bees and the death of some colonies during winter, reduces honey yields, further causing poor population build up because the bees are unable to produce enough royal jelly to feed the brood. If a queen becomes infected, her ovaries degenerate and her egg laying capacity is reduced due to atrophy of the eggs. The severity of infection varies among colonies. In slight infection, losses are small, but in severe infection the colony will dwindle and ultimately die out.

Treat with the antibiotic Fumagilin (Fumidil-B) once in autumn and once in early spring as a preventive measure and for control of nosema. Feeding Fumidil-B in sugar syrup to overwintering bees can reduce the incidence of nosema infection during the following spring. Mix Fumidil with sugar syrup (2 parts sugar to 1 part water) and feed the medication in the formulation of 1½ level teaspoons (75-100 mg) of Fumidil in 4½ liters of sugar syrup for each colony. The medicated syrup is given in upturned jars with pinholes pierced in the tops. The antibiotic Fumidil-B kills the active stages of nosema, but not the spores. Tip: Always follow label directions when medicating beehives.

The complete article can be found at –

http://www.countryrubes.com/images/NOSEMA_KH_ARTICLE.pdf



Yellowish brown, watery splashes on the wall
Of the hive is indicative of Nosema.

Good luck and bee vigilant!!

David Mackovjak

VP, WSBA

360-340-0381



Buzznote: February is a good time for beekeepers to make a quick check of their hives on a warm day and feed them dry sugar if they are running low on stores. Also, adding dry wood shavings to the attic of the hive will help absorb some of the excess moisture.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

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