Buzzword January 2005

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Next Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2005

Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Stedman's Bee Supplies Silverdale

Planning Committee

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OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

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WHAT IS HAPPENING AT THE NEXT MEETING?

For the next meeting the Program Committee has made arrangements for two guest speakers to give a presentation on the topic of bee stings. They are experts in the field of allergies and reactions that take place after someone comes in contact with something that effects their immune system. They will be discussing the risks of being stung and the necessary precautions that should be taken to avoid negative health effects if anaphylactic shock occurs.

EDITORS CORNER:

By Jerry Hominda

Just a brief message from the editor.

Since I took the task and challenge to write, edit, and publish the West Sound Beekeepers Association newsletter I have been very busy. My wife and I were back east for the holidays and we have been playing catch up in the month of January.

I have feverishly been trying to get my computer up to speed for writing the newsletter and it is not being very accommodating or I should say the newer software does not like my computer. (Murphy's law-if it can go wrong and make things more difficult for Jerry-it will). So I was forced to write my first letter with old softwareit's not pretty, but it will do.

I must give thanks to Stephen Augustine, the last newsletter editor, for his recommendations and suggestions to help me get up to speed. Furthermore I need to thank Joe Grubbs, the treasurer; he has been a large help also.

I encourage and invite any member that thinks they have something of interest they would like me to include in a newsletter to share their topic with me. I always read my e-mails and you can leave messages on my phone. I am always looking for photos to take that I will soon be including in the newsletter.

My primary goal for my first newsletter was to make dead line so all members could get it before the next meeting. I think I will make it, unfortunately it will not have all the topics I had planned on including, but they will be included in newsletters to come.

Please be patient with me and I thank all the members for letting me be their editor.

Ηi,

Here is The Message From The President:

Hello and a happy New Year to everyone!

First I would like to welcome and thank those who enthusiastically volunteered to fill the recent gaping holes in our association's basic structure: Jerry Hominda, our new Newsletter Editor; Chanetta Ludwig, Acting Secretary; and George Purkett, our new Webmaster. It's

good to know that not only do we have people dedicated to beekeeping, but people dedicated to our association as well!

I think our association is one of the best, certainly one of the most unique, and our continued efforts will benefit, in some way, all bees and beekeepers during these potentially troubled times.

And a farewell to those who's faces won't be gracing our meetings from now on, particularly the late Ed Rusher. Also our former Secretary Tricia Sulivan and, of course, our former Newsletter Editor/Webmaster, Stephen Augustine. They will be missed.

I hope the year 2005 will be a great year for all of us and I'll see you at the meeting!

President: Basil Gunther

CRISTMAS PARTY-LAST MEETING FOR 2004

The last meeting of the year for 2004 was a very successful Christmas-dinner party-auction-honey taste off and not to forget a special social gathering with quality bee people.

The food (in my non-bias opinion) was delicious and I did not go away hungry. The service was also very good, the servers always kept food and refreshments on the tables and they were very polite.

Although the auction generated some money for the association, in my estimation some of the items being auctioned off really drew some

interest from the buyers. My problem was I did not bring enough money to compete with the high rollers. Especially when the string of honeybee lights came up for bid, I could detect it was turning into a vicious bidding war and I had to drop out. Next auction I will be better prepared. Thanks to the individuals who contributed the items for the auction.

The honey taste-off was very intense. There were approximately a dozen honey samples to be tasted for the competition and what a variety. Of course each sample was given a number and I observed

many expert honey connoisseur's identifying the various types of honey. I believe there were fireweed, blackberry, huckleberry, and some others, but they did cover the complete spectrum-from

light to very dark. I believe the winner was the fireweed, but I am not sure who the beekeeper was. You will have to attend the meeting to find out who the winner was

Bee manager's note: By Jerry A. Hominda-goldenbee@juno.com

This is the hardest time of the year for bees. It is cold and short days. There is no food outside of the hive and if the hive is not strong the workers will not wander very far to find food (honey). I went into the fall with 200 hives and I have lost approximately 20 hives. My losses were primarily from hives that were too weak and unable to generate enough BTU'S to survive. I did loose a few strong hives (7frames +) to starvation. Several beekeepers I know and myself fed the bee's more feed at the end of the year then we have in the past 25 years.

I visited a bee yard of approximately 35 very strong hives and about 5 hives were without feed. I gave them frames of honey I was saving just for that reason.

This is the most critical time of the year when the bees are vulnerable to disease, parasites, starvation, and just dwindling down. It is very important to make sure the bees have enough food and the hives are protected from the elements.

My hives are all placed on pallets off the ground, I tip them at a fair angle so the rain runs off before seeping in the living quarters, and I block the entrances-leaving only about an inch opening.

There are many things to be considered every season when managing bees. It seems that just about the time you become satisfied with some managing technique something changes so the technique is no longer effective. For example, beekeepers have been blaming the Varroa Mite for high bee mortality, but it may have been the result of the Kashmir virus.

Mother Nature is very dynamic-it is always changing so our managing skills must also be dynamic. Net working among beekeepers from all over is very important. I received a phone call from a fellow beekeeper in California preparing to pollinate the Almonds. He asked me how I treated for mites and I told him with formic acid. He said I was very lucky, they treated more than 5000 hives with chemical (Apistan or Coumaphos) and the mites were resistant. They were finding high numbers when checking mite drops. Well time will tell if I am so lucky-my biggest fear is starvation.

MY HIVE LIFTER

Something I would like to share with the members at the West Sound Beekeepers Association. A good friend of mine who has been a beekeeper for over 40 years and is very creative and a successful beekeeper. Recently he had a letter published in the American Bee Journal-November 2004 Issue. The letter with graphics was about a hive lifter he designed, built, tested and uses for moving his beehives. My friend, Rudy Steele, who is a member of the Pierce County Bee Association, is about 84 years old. A couple of years ago he decided he was not

going to physically handle his hives without some help. Knowing that it is sometimes difficult to get help from other people and because beekeepers have an independence about them he decided to create a tool that could aid in the moving of his hives.

If anyone were interested in getting more information about Rudy Steele and his hive mover I would be more than happy to provide it. Rudy lives in Buckley, WA.

By Jerry A. Hominda