

Buzzword



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Next Meeting

Tuesday, June 15, 2004,
7:00 p.m.

Discussion Session

WSBA Direction and Future

At Stedman's in Silverdale

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Message from the President

Here we are in June and it seems the earliest flowering of the blackberries ever! But what do I know? Before I kept bees I thought the blackberries bloomed in early summer. Now I know better. When driving in Bremerton on May 19 I nearly committed an illegal traffic maneuver when I spied a blackberry bush blooming like there was no tomorrow!

My eyesight isn't as good as it used to be, but thanks to the bees I see the world with greater detail: parades of overlapping flowering/nectar events colored by the ever dependably undependable weather. Each and every day turns out to be unique and full of mystery, promise, hope, doubt, sadness, you name it!

With all these variables, one thing you can count on is for those bees to keep you on your toes! If the best laid plans of mice and men aren't updated frequently, you might find your honey bucket empty. You know what they say: learn your lessons and make new mistakes.

I wanted to warn everyone, especially beginners to watch out for American Foulbrood, and in particular to pay attention if you have recently acquired some of that used beekeeping woodenware hidden behind sheds and barns all over the country. Take the time to make sure that "new" equipment isn't tainted. We have lots of people in the Association with experience who can help those who don't.

(Continued on page 4)

Minutes of the Last Meeting

May 18, 2004, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Stedman's Bee Supplies, Silverdale

Treasurer's Report:

- * Joe Grubbs presented a treasurer's report. We have 62 paid members as of May 18th. We have \$2498.43 in the checking account, \$2769.77 in the savings account and \$238 in cash.

Announcements:

- * The Washington State Bee Association Conference will be held October 14-16 in Spokane.
- * The WSU Field Day and June Picnic will be held June 4th & 5th in Pullman.

Old/New Business:

- * The topic of contributing \$1, per member, to the WA State Beekeepers Association was discussed. This would make each of us associate members. Paul Lundy presented the benefits of membership. We agreed to contribute the \$1 per member.
- * Paul Lundy presented the new WASBA survey describing how it would help us and how it would support WSU research. He encouraged all members to fill out the survey. He also mentioned that Bob Smith is our WASBA representative (area 2).
- * One of the members has 50 queens for \$10.50 each and 50 lb bags of sugar for 15¢ a pound. Contact Al Stedman for more information.
- * A motion was made to send Chanetta Ludwig to an apitherapy convention in Connecticut in July. The costs are \$250 for airfare, \$350 for registration, and \$320 for lodging. The motion was tabled for further discussion at the June meeting.
- * Door prize drawing: Joe Higdon won a mini observation hive.

Program:

- * Beth Meyers from the Pt. Orchard Brew Club gave an interesting program on mead making and had several different meads available for tasting.

Another good reason
to come to WSBA
meetings -

Door Prizes!

Congratulations to Joe Higdon on winning an observation hive —the third in our series of door prizes.

There's a door prize every month but you have to attend to win.

"Hope is the only bee
that makes honey
without flowers."

- Robert Green Ingersoll

WASBA Survey

The Washington State Beekeepers Association is conducting a survey.

Our feedback will help guide the programs they sponsor to help Washington State beekeepers. If you have not received a survey in the mail you can fill out the survey easily and quickly online at www.easywrite.net/bees

BASICS IN NORTHWEST BEEKEEPING

Adapted from Ron Bennett (<http://members.aol.com/beetools/>)

Check on each colony every 10 days and treat as in May. A frame-by-frame examination is not necessary. In fact do not disturb the bees more than you have to. Check for queen rightness, adequate space, food stores, and any signs of disease.

Give colonies supers with foundation, but only to those colonies that are working in the supers. As long as there is nectar coming in, the bees will draw the foundation into comb. Place new supers directly over the queen excluder (if you are using one). The blackberry flow lasts from about the middle of June to the middle of July so do not add supers after early to mid-July unless you are taking your colonies to the mountains for a fall crop of fireweed. Remove and extract the supers containing well ripened and capped honey and give the single story colonies getting full of bees a second story.

If you plan on requeening

order queens for July delivery. Requeening is a good management tool for poor or failing colonies. Losing a queen now or having a failing queen now will dramatically affect a fall honey crop (if you take your bees to the mountains). You might need queens to make June nucs even if you do not plan to expand the number of hives you have. Having nucs on hand will allow you to successfully requeen colonies late into the year. So, have new strong queens on hand to make your nucs. When buying queens make sure to ask for queens bred for hygienic behavior.

Keep on the lookout for American Foulbrood. You can spot it by piercing sunken capped brood with a tooth pick and looking for "stringy" filling in place of brood. A second method is to hold the comb by the top bar at an almost flat angle, with the sun to your back, look for dark or black scale on the bottom of cells in the brood area. Colonies infected with foulbrood

should either be destroyed or you can attempt to save the bees. If it's a very small outbreak it may be possible to remove the affected frames and treat with Terramycin or shake all the bees out onto new equipment. Experience, however, shows that attempting to save the colony is more often than not a losing battle. If treating with Terramycin do not treat with supers on that you intend to extract for honey. In the event of a full-blown outbreak the recommended action is to destroy the colony and burn the equipment. To keep tracheal mites under control keep grease patties on all colonies throughout the season and replenish them at the 10-day intervals. Check your stored comb for possible wax moth infestation - like rust, wax moths never seem to sleep.

Make plans for your county and state fair entries and send in your registrations for fall conferences and state association meetings.



For discussion at this month's meeting...

There was a motion made and tabled at the May meeting that WSBA would send Chanetta Ludwig to the American Apitherapy Society's convention in Connecticut. The convention is from July 29 - August 2nd and offers a Level 1 course providing instruction in the best utilization of honeybee products to promote good health and to treat diseases. Taught by well-known apitherapists the course covers the use and composition of bee venom, royal jelly, pollen, honey, and propolis. Bee venom therapy training will be included and the course concludes with an understanding of indications for apitherapy use, procedures for safety and treatment techniques.

The associated costs are: \$350 for registration, \$320 for room, and \$350 for airfare. The motions will be considered at the June meeting.

Report from the WSU Field Day & Picnic

By Stephen Augustine

We had a good series of workshops and beekeeper chat time at the recent WSU/WASBA Field Day and Picnic held June 4-5 on the WSU campus in beautiful Pullman, eastern Washington.

Workshops included observing queen mating flight, honeybee biology, queen grafting and rearing, making nucs, charting age-based worker tasks, and more. It was also a good chance to get to meet the WSU Bee lab researchers and tour the bee lab facilities at WSU.



WSBA members, (L-R) Stephen Augustine, Tricia Sullivan, Susan Hosticka, Paul Hosticka, Paul Lundy, & Lisa Knox pose with WSU researchers and staff - Jamie Strange, Dr. Marina Meixner, Debbie Delaney, Sally Hasher, and Carina Stillman

Washington State Beekeepers Association Fall Conference, October 14-16, 2004, Spokane WA

Hosted by Inland Empire Beekeepers Association, the event will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel in downtown Spokane. The event will kick off with a wine tasting event and will include speakers like:

- * Frank Merickel: Entomologist and Curator of the Entomology Museum at Univ. of Idaho;
- * Dr. Thomas Rinderer: ARS/USDA Baton Rouge, LA;
- * Gary Reuter: Apiary Technical Assistant at University of Minnesota;
- * Dr. Nick Calderone and Dr. Jeff Pettis: Cornell University, Ithaca NY; and,
- * Dr. Steve Sheppard – WSU, Pullman WA.

To register contact Collette Lehinger at 509-924-1001 or visit the Inland Empire Beekeepers website at <http://www.inlandbeemail.com> for more information.

Refreshment Schedule

Jun: Betty & Walter Schicker, Joe Higdon
Jul: George Purkett, Mike Hoey
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.

Marking the Queen

The queen is best handled with bare hands (no she won't sting you) in the bathroom with the light on and the stool covered so she does not accidentally take a swim.

One method is to pick the queen up by the wings then hold her gently by the legs. Another method is to hold her pressed down on to the comb so that she's immobile.

Suggested thorax marking materials include: Whiteout, Testers model paint, or a professional marking kit from bee suppliers. Some materials are too toxic to use on queens. The three listed above are OK if care is taken to keep it on top of thorax.

The international five color codes: years ending in 0 or 5 are blue, 1 or 6 are white, 2 or 7 are yellow, 3 or 8 are red, 4 or 9 are green. Following this code informs you how old the queen is. If you order your queens marked, these are the colors of those marks.

...Message From the President (contd. from pg 1)

Everyone who has experienced AFB will agree it is a real pain in the ...neck and a sad sight for any beekeeper.

I have read more than once that you should check your hives every ten days this time of year. Last year that's what I did and on more than one occasion arrived in time to see the swarm departing. I have tried to run down swarms here and elsewhere and have been spotted running through town in pursuit of something in the sky no one else could see, but now I check every nine days!

Speaking of swarms, after nearly setting a record last year for highest number of swarms per hive, I set out this spring to capture on videotape, footage of swarms and related beekeeper activities to use as part of a program on trapping swarms I am working on for a future presentation. I set up bait hives, bought swarm lures, made swarm traps, etc. Those bees.... here it is halfway through June and no sign of swarms except in the "bad

girls" hive. They've got some eggs in queen cups and I expect a little swarm action but I am trying out an experiment in swarm control that will hopefully result in a two queen colony and no swarming.

I call them the "bad girls", in case you were wondering, because they have a history of thriving on trouble. A mere package this spring they lost their queen and developed laying workers. Their neighbor hive was also a package. I shook everybody out but the frame with the neighbor's queen and set up the neighbor's box where the laying worker's was and everybody from both hives were one big happy family by bedtime. But the family was soon corrupt and robbing a nearby division very aggressively so they are now miles away in a rehabilitation yard and doing nicely.

The June meeting promises to be interesting. After over a year of speculation on the use of our treasury funds to further our cause, a worthy motion has been made and its

consideration will extend into the June meeting (see Minutes from the last meeting). I have no doubt there will be lively discussion that no one will want to miss. The final outcome will define, in part, who we are as an organization.

Another important topic will be deciding which day will best suit members for the Formic Acid Seminar by Bill Ruzicka and hosted by our association. The choice is between Saturday August 14 or Monday August 16. We also have to set the time for this four hour plus break seminar. When I found out it was four hours it sounded a bit lengthy, but after speaking to Bill I realized the hours will fly by because he is such an interesting and knowledgeable speaker. Formic acid is one of our shining stars in our arsenal in the ongoing battle of the mites and this seminar will help prepare us to maximize the effectiveness while minimizing the risks of this valuable, economical and efficient mite control method.

-Basil



West Sound Beekeepers Association
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Silverdale, WA 98383
<http://www.WestSoundBees.org>

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