



West Sound Beekeepers Association
www.westsoundbees.org

Volume 9, Issue 6



BUZZWORD

June 2006

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday – May 19, 2006
7:00 P.M.

Stedman's Bee Supplies
Silverdale

x **Refreshment Schedule**
June – Mark Follet
July – Bob Salem
August – Annual Picnic

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

	Page
Meeting date and contacts	1
Editor's Corner	2
Presidents message	2
Minutes Last Meeting	4
Summertime Apiary	6
Bee Laboratory Contacts	6
Bee Manager's Note	6

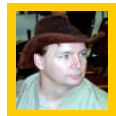
Program Committee

Jay Miller **253-857-6417**
?????Need 2 Volunteers?????

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

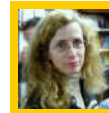
President

Basil Gunther (360) 297-5075



Vice President

George Purkett (360) 895-9116



Secretary

Judy Gunther (360) 297-5075



Treasurer

Dennis Heney

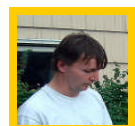
Educational Materials

Barbara Stedman (360) 692-9453



Librarian

Roy & Vickie Barton (360) 613-0175



Webmaster

George Purkett (360) 895-9116

Newsletter Editor

Jerry A. Hominda (253) 858-6372
E-mail: goldenbee@juno.com



EDITOR'S CORNER:

By Jerry Hominda

I am open for any topics, information, and idea sharing from any members. If you have a thought you would like to include in the newsletter you can e-mail me or send it by postal mail. I would be more than happy to include it.

I look forward to hearing from anyone in the future.

My e-mail address is: goldenbee@juno.com and my mailing address is:
7828 Ray Nash Gig Harbor, WA 98338

Crooked things may be as stiff and
unflexible as straight: and men may be as
positive in error as in truth.

John Locke 1632-1704: *An Essay Concerning
Human Understanding* (1690)

Message From President Basil:

Hello Everybody!

June is upon us and the blackberry nectar is flowing! Colonies are piled high with supers, almost as high as our expectations. Even bees that are going to be in trouble later are looking good! Perhaps in the midst of this abundance and prosperity I can slip in a thought or two about lazy beekeepers.

I know a guy that 'kinda' keeps bees in Big Valley near Poulsbo. He started out by helping an older beekeeper and eventually took over the half dozen colonies in a really great honey producing locality. I encouraged him to attend our meetings but he was always 'too busy'. I think he was doing alright at first. He extracted honey and put Checkmite+ strips in. A few months later I heard he was 'really busy' and decided to let the people who live on the property take over. Since they had never kept bees I offered to help them get started. I looked in on them in early winter and took out the forgotten Checkmite+ strips, removed empty supers, a dead out, and

straightened out the precariously leaning rotten boxes. I thought the survivors would be ok and in fact looked pretty good. I was committed to helping the new people through their first beekeeping season. Well, the next time I talked to the original guy I found he was mad at me for going through 'his' hives. "How'd you like it if I just came by and went through your hives?" he asked. So I explained how everybody was under the impression he was out of beekeeping and I was trying to assist in the transition.

I didn't hear anything more until about a month ago when someone told me the bees had died but a big swarm had moved in, and that the original guy claimed it was all part of his plan of letting 'nature take it's course'. He had discovered a fine new 'easy' way of keeping bees, and is expecting to harvest a 'free' crop of honey. Shortly after that, I ran into him and after exchanging pleasantries the talk naturally got to beekeeping . I told him I had heard he had become a lazy and irresponsible beekeeper and I thought that his apiary was a potential way station for American Foulbrood and that his operation was unfair to the innocent beekeepers for miles around and I thought he should shut it down properly if he wasn't going to keep it up at least a little bit. I didn't say it quite like that, but that was the gist of it.

I don't think he was pleased, because the conversation ended pretty quickly.

The good news is I think his boxes will rot and fall apart in the next three years.

I have to cringe when I think of all the people who's path out of beekeeping includes abandoning their bees and equipment and 'letting nature take it's course'.

Worse yet, I have to confess I did the very same thing with my first bee hive, abandoning it in an orchard when I became 'too busy', figuring, in my ignorance, that it would benefit the orchard. Thankfully, after the bees had vanished, 'some guy with a stick' came by and knocked over the boxes. I eventually went back and cleaned up my mess and swore never to be a 'Lazy' beekeeper again. (But wait, I

can hear some of you thinking, why aren't all your boxes painted?
There's a good reason for that...I'll tell you later...)

So my message this month is that if you do decide to get out of
beekeeping, don't do it the 'easy' way because that makes it harder
on the rest of us. Beekeeping is hard enough without having to deal
with the consequences of 'Lazy' beekeeping!

See you at the meeting-Basil

**Minutes From the
May 16, 2006, Meeting
Held 7-9 PM at Stedman's Bee Supply**

Submitted By: Secretary Judy Gunther
Basil Gunther, President, presided at the meeting.

New Business

- Paul Lundy talked a bit about the Grant Program for teenagers. No applications so far. He also brought a huge pile of burlap coffee bags for smokers, free for the taking. (Thank-you Paul!)
- Roy Barton informed us with details on a precedent setting, pending legal case in eastern Washington concerning a judge disallowing a right-to-farm defense to one of the state's largest beekeepers in a highly agriculturally oriented area. Roy brought copies of the Capitol Press article for those interested in this alarming case, which could be a setback for beekeepers everywhere.

Discussion:

- Al Stedman disclosed a new "secret" treatment for beestings: half an onion on the sting (don't eat it).
- Duane Kinney Jr. recommended tobacco (He seems a little young to be recommending tobacco...).

- Duane Kinney Sr. said half of his packages absconded. Al thought there was some chemical on the new hives the bees didn't like but graciously offered credit for the packages.
- David Heid was given lots of suggestions on how to deal with his latest swarm. He now has three colonies which is two more than he actually wants. Basil suggested we use club funds to roast a pig for the August picnic and hold it at the Stedman's. More discussion on this topic during the June meeting. Paul Lundy emailed after the meeting about the possibility of using one of Kitsap County's many parks.
- George claims he always gets small swarms. On Mother's day he was filmed capturing one. (Will fame go to his head?) He also invited everyone to checkout our new club apiary behind Al's buildings!
- George said people who want their bees to go to Jerry's summer fireweed site need to contact him to coordinate the effort. It's supposed to be worth going for the view of Mount Saint Helens alone!

Door Prize Winner:

- George Purkett won the door prize: a pound of rhyzo-coated clover seed.!!! Congratulations!!!

Oh! ever thus, from childhood's hour,
I've seen my fondest hopes decay;
I never loved a tree or flower,
But 'twas the first to fade away.
I never nursed a dear gazelle,
To glad me with its soft black eye,
But when it came to know me well,
And love me, it was sure to die!

Thomas Moore 1779-1852: *Lalla Rookh* (1817)
'*The Fire-Worshippers*'; cf. **Disillusion 10,**
Value 13

Summertime Club Mountain Apiary

Just a reminder if any member is interested in having their colonies moved to the mountains for the late fireweed honey flow they need to contact George Purkett or Jerry Hominda so arrangements can be made. Notification should take place no later than the week of the bee meeting.

George Purkett email vp@westsoundbees.org phone (360) 895-9116

Bee Laboratory Contacts

- The Africanized (AHB) has arrived-So Where Do We Go From Here? This was article III written in the "Bee Culture" June 2006. The article was about the AHB in the USA-it's history and a map was displayed created by the USDA-ARS that showed where AHB are known to be existing. The map can be found at <http://www.ars.usda.gov//Research/docs.htm?docid=11059&page=6>
- The articles about AHB warn beekeepers to be cautious where they purchase queens or packages-they may be tainted with the AHB genes.
- The only way to determine if a beekeeper is raising AHB is to send a sample of bees to the bee laboratory to be identified by microscope.
- **Mite Control Treatment Options:** Current proven *Varroa* mite treatment options include using tolerant stock, drone brood removal, Apilife Var (a thymol product), Apistan (fluvalinate), Checkmite+ (coumophos), Sucrocide (soapy water/sugar), and Mite-Away II (Formic Acid Pads). Just released is Apiguard (a thymol product). Still on the blackboard are 2-Heptanone, oxalic acid, and fungal controls. Current proven tracheal mite treatment options include tolerant stock, menthol crystals, and MiteAway II (Bee Culture; March 2006; Volume 134; Number 3: Page-37).

Bee Manager's Note:

By Jerry Hominda

Well here it is almost summer-and we have worked our hives hard and well, but they-some of them do not seem to be working like the rest of

them. Bees are not bringing in pollen, or they are not building up (increasing population) like the rest of our hives, we can not find brood or eggs, seems to be several superseding queen cells or several uncapped swarm cells. We see eggs in cells but there are many eggs to a cell and none of them are attached to the bottom of the cell they are attached to the walls of the cell. Well all of these are real scenarios-why?

We thought we did a great job controlling the swarming only because we never saw our colonies swarm, but did we?

What do we look for? We bought packages and they all came with Italian queens-beautiful full yellow ladies and we find hives with black queens-guess what-your hive either had a virgin (and it killed the queen in the cage) or it superseded with a hybrid queen (but that does not mean it is a poor queen).

There is almost an absolute guarantee that your hive that carried over from last year-if it was strong-will swarm unless you split the heck out of it.

What is wrong with swarming? Nothing it helps Darwin's theory of survival of the fittest, but it can leave a beekeeper with a virgin that never gets fertilized, or a queen that is only fertilized with a couple of drones so she is used up early, or a hive with a drone laying worker. Of course a laying worker will take the place of a virgin that never gets fertilized .

Now that the beekeeper has a few more elements to be looking for what should be done if these scenarios are real situations.

??Have fun working bees??