



Buzzword



West Sound Beekeepers Association www.westsoundbees.org Volume X Issue VIII June 2007

Editor –Basil Gunther 360 297 5075

June 2007 Meeting

Tuesday – June 19, 2007

7:00P.M.

Stedman's Bee Supplies

Silverdale, WA

Next meeting July 17, 2007

Program

6 PM Bee—ginner Class

7 PM Program/Meeting

Queen Marking

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**Our President for 2007 (standing)!!
George Purkett**

President /Webmaster George Purkett



360 895 0116

Vice President/Librarian

Roy Barton



360 613 0175

Secretary

Judy Gunther



360 297 5075

Treasurer

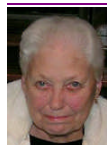
Dennis Heeney



206 842 5545

Educational Materials

Barbara Stedman



360 692 9453

Education Chair

Paul Lundy



360 297 6743

Queen Rearing Group Leader

Maya Bewig



360-379-5564

This Meeting's Refreshments:

Drinks: Basil Gunther

Snacks: Roy Barton

Minutes from the May 15th 2007 meeting:

VP Roy Barton presided at the meeting.

Minutes for the April meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Although the trusty Treasurer was overlooked in all the excitement, he still managed to report:

Checking: \$ 2190.18

Savings: \$ 3052.79

Members: 47 paid memberships

Old Business:

George Purkett was enthusiastically elected President.

.President George's quotation, "As I remember it, Somebody pointed to me and said 'Take Him'... 'I second'... 'I move to close'... 'All in favor'... 'IIIIII'....and Roy had a big smile on his face. Total duration was mere seconds and I was now President."

More beekeepers are needed to help inspect maintain the Apiary. No experience necessary –Call George.

One hive is reputed to be in a "natural" (uncared for) State...

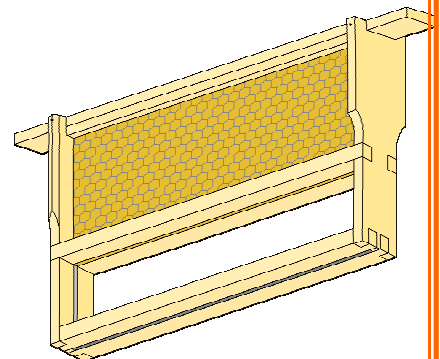
apiary work and history.

New Business:

- **A motion was passed approving the purchase of three more deeps with frames and foundation, and a smoker, for the Association Apiary**

At the Meeting:

- **Peter Ludwig showed us his homemade screened bottom board with removable insert.**
- **Basil Gunther talked about drones, drone foundation, and Steele & Brodie Drone frames where the open space below the normal foundation gets filled with drone cells which can be quickly cut out, after capping, for Varroa control while keeping the bees happily raising drones (so they think), keeping the same frames in the same hives for less possibility of disease transmission, lowering the number of drone cells in worker comb, and reducing drone numbers and honey consumption!**
- **Bob Martello talked about pollination in Wenatchee on apples and cherries, about the pesticide theory for CCD, synthetic nicotine (which causes disorientation in termites) sprayed on crops (field crops in CA and FL) may be responsible. He also sold queens during the break. He'll soon be off to Africa to teach!**



Pesticides and herbicides were discussed. The insecticide "Sevin" comes in pollen size granules bees bring home, store, and die from later!

It was recalled that Ken Bennett performed an experiment to determine if the herbicide Round Up was hazardous to bees. He started by spraying a colony with diluted, then concentrated Round up, using up the whole container. Not only were the bees unharmed but Ken claimed it gave them a "boost"!

Dennis Heeney brought a DVD for us to watch on queen rearing using the Mann Lake queen rearing device. The Association DVD player donated by Jerry Hominda is missing so we were unable to watch it.

Also missing or misplaced is the Association President's Gavel and gavel box. George will have to resort to some ersatz device!

Roy mentioned this years package bees are keeping the screened bottom boards surprisingly clean.

Roy cited the Randy Oliver articles in American Bee Journal lately helping to add credence to the powdered sugar dusting method of varroa control. The mites find powdered sugar slippery stuff and fall out through the screened bottom board. If done properly, about 1/3 of phoretic mites (the ones not in cells, but on the bees) are knocked off!

Paul Lundy: "The goals, so far, for the queen breeding group is just that; raising local queens using WSU stock. Our progress has gotten us a commitment from WSU to donate 5 nucs from the WSU queen breeding program for our use. We still need to come up with a detailed plan that would include equipment needed, supplies like sugar & meds, and who would help run the breeding program. Peter Ludwig & I have been talking about granting opportunities but appear to have hit some dead ends. We'll keep working it."



Door Prize Winner:
Jeremy Mullins won a frame gripper!

[Respectively submitted by Judy Jennings](#)

Message from the President

**Thank you to all who voted for me following this year's hard fought association presidential campaign. To those who nearly edged me out, I hope your enthusiasm builds this year to give us strong candidates in the debates next year. Having said that, I have taken up poetry. The following is my first poem and is a tribute to the past presidents of our association.
Correction!**

**It pained my wife to read such dribble,
She crumpled the lot and penned this quibble:**

Our first president was Roy Barton
Who said, "Who wants to take part in
An organization devoted to the keeping of bees?"
The crowd sighed a collective, "We!"
And so the WSBA came about.
Next presided Bob Martello
An energetic fellow
If the bees would only follow his example,
Honey would always be ample
And sales would increase without doubt.
Paul Hostika was next
By his meticulous nature we were vexed
When he displayed his equipment
It looked like a brand new shipment!
But in fact it had come by a several-year route.
Basil Gunther has just stepped down.
He takes his produce to town.
He likes the fine details
And is enthusiastic on the re-tell
On the gardening end he packs a lot of clout.
Kiva

As with all newly elected presidents, we start off by tackling our addenda and squirming out of our promises made. However, since I have neither, it may be easier...or perhaps harder.

As I am one and you are many, I am asking you, no pleading with you, to contribute ideas for the association for the coming year. Let me know what we are doing right, wrong, or shouldn't be doing at all. What do we need to change to double our membership in the next year? I will be contacting you if I do not hear from you. I want YOUR suggestions.

It would be remiss to not talk about bees. I have a pollen trap on one of my hives and the bees are bringing in orange pollen almost exclusively. I have 2 hives that seem to be a little behind the others in population and activity. Hope to inspect them this afternoon. . I haven't had a swarm yet (that I know of) nor have I been called to capture one. In capturing a swarm, please be safe, It's not worth breaking an arm or a leg.

You will not want to miss the June meeting. We will have several members open and inspect and let you compare the different methods. Please bring your veil. If

drones, workers, other beekeepers, etc. And if conditions permit, making a nuc would be a very timely demonstration. Perhaps we can learn a bit of the practical at the hive.

See you at the meeting.

George (All hail the president!)

What do you know about QUEENS

George Imirie August 2000

I just always assumed that beekeepers knew "all about Queens" until I got heavily involved reading the questions, answers, comments, and advice given on the Internet Bee-L. Then, I started to pay more attention to questions and answers of Maryland and other beekeepers, and to my surprise and alarm, I learned that most people are seriously lacking much needed knowledge about the queen bee. With that in mind, I want to tell you much about the queen bee that obviously has confused many people.



How many remember one of my favorite words: ANTHROPOMORPHIC? It means ascribing human characteristics to non-human things, like bees. Unlike humans, bees, including the queen bee, have very little, if any, ability to learn anything. They are "born" with all the information that they will ever have to know, and never require any boss, teacher, instruction, condemnation or praise. If you understand that a worker bee can build comb without instruction, fly-out to forage for either pollen, nectar, or water as needed without instruction, raise a new queen when needed without instruction, and gather nectar in May to make honey for winter feed when they will be dead by July, then you might have a better chance of understanding the many things that are so important about a queen bee. This can only make you a BETTER BEEKEEPER and enable you to partake in the REAL JOYS OF BEEKEEPING as I have known for 68 years. WHERE DO QUEENS COME FROM: A queen lays a fertilized egg that would normally become a worker bee. When that egg is 3 days old, it hatches into a larva. During the four and half day uncapped larval period, the larva is fed 100's of times each day a rich food of royal jelly, a secretion manufactured in the hypopharyngeal glands of young worker bees. This specialized larval diet fully develops the female reproductive organs, making the body larger including the wings, and develops the queen's ability to manufacture and disperse the queen PHEROMONE, or queen substance which is that odor that identifies her as the queen as well as exercising control over her progeny. To paraphrase all of that, let's just say that: When a normal worker bee larva is fed a total diet of royal jelly, this transforms the regular underdeveloped female worker bee into a fully developed female that can mate and then reproduce bees. ANY worker bee larva can become a queen bee if fed the royal jelly diet for its entire 4+ day uncapped larval period.

DOES A QUEEN HAVE LEADERSHIP OR RULE OVER HER COLONY? No! (surprise?) A queen bee is much like the queen of England: She reigns but does NOT rule. The English parliament makes decisions and rules. In a bee colony, it is the worker bees that make decisions and control the queen by how much and how often they feed the queen. For example, when a colony is crowded for brood space or nectar space and decides to swarm, the workers stop feeding the queen so she ceases egg laying and reduces weight so she can fly, but the worker bees literally have to force her away from the hive to the initial swarm congregating location. If she joins the swarm, scout bees go out to find a new permanent home and off they disappear.

WHAT DOES A QUEEN DO? Up until about 20 years ago, we knew little more than the queen was an egg laying machine capable of laying 2000 eggs per day one at a time or about one egg every 43 seconds during the peak of the brood year, generally May. She lays various quantities of eggs almost every day for about 10 months of the year, but rests from about Thanksgiving until mid January. It has been estimated that she might lay 200,000 eggs each year. By the way, she only breeds basically one day of her life, usually when she is about 6 days old; and she breeds with about a dozen or more different drones who deposit about 4-5 million sperm in her spermatheca gland where she keeps them alive for her entire life and releases one sperm to fertilize an egg as she lays it which will result in a worker bee. This is pretty interesting "stuff", but not as interesting as the researcher's findings during the past 20 years about the queen PHEROMONE, or queen substance. A queen bee has the ability to produce a scent or an odor that acts as a glue to bind perhaps 40,000-50,000 bees together as one functioning working unit rather than splitting up by swarming. Further, the pheromone suppresses the sexually immature worker bees from laying eggs, as well as suppressing the natural worker bee aggression to other bees to a feeling of cohesion with the queen, and finally, the pheromone is a stabilizing influence within a swarm that provides the worker bees the justification for swarming. It is thought by some that the function of the queen PHEROMONE is more important than the laying ability of a queen because of swarm prevention. Unfortunately, it has been proven that the ability of a queen to produce this pheromone is at its height on her mating flight and diminishes a little

each day for the rest of her life. Hence, a real young queen can prevent swarming better than a 1 year old queen, and much better than a two year old queen. This is one of the reasons why present day commercial beekeepers, highly dependent on honey production, requeen annually and rarely let a queen live a second season.

WHAT IS THE LIFESPAN OF A QUEEN? THE USEFUL SPAN? There has been reports of queens living as much as 5 years, and many cases of queens lasting 3 years. If one is not upset by swarming, keeping a queen for 2 years is not unusual. However, if you are desirous of high honey production, your colony has to have a high population and not given to swarming, and both of these requirements need the services of a very young queen, only a few months old. **WHY HAVE A MARKED QUEEN?** Unlike humans, dogs, or cats, queen bees are more like robins, rabbits, or bass fish in that "they all look alike" unless they are of different races. After 68 years of beekeeping, I still don't know whether to think of a beekeeper who tells me that he knows his unmarked queen is 3 years old and still going strong, is a genius or a liar. Several times in my life, for requeening, I have purchased 50 queens from two different queen breeders, and as I examined them, I could not tell one from any other - they were all pretty much identical. If one of my colonies

swarms, I want to know it. If one supersedes the queen, I want to know it. If one group of colonies all headed by queens from one breeder produces more honey or becomes infected with some disease more than some other group of colonies with queens from a different breeder, I want to know that. I want each of queens to have a "social security" number, so I have nothing but MARKED QUEENS and every good beekeeper should do likewise. Not only is a marked queen much easier to locate in a colony, but the color of her mark tells you her age, or the breeder who produced her. When I catch a wild swarm, I mark the queen SILVER (light GRAY) so I know she is not a known "pedigreed" queen, and I use her in a comb building hive or in an observation hive at my honey sales booth or school demonstrations. I mark my own queens, but you can buy marked queens by paying just \$1 more. When I constantly hear people say they "can't find their queen", or people say they lost their honey crop because the bees swarmed, I wonder how important that \$1 must be to them. Even worse, when most queens cost about \$10-\$12, I just don't understand why anyone would take a chance on losing a several hundred dollar honey crop rather than pay \$10-\$12 for a new, young queen. MARK YOUR QUEENS!

WHAT IS A SUPERSEDURE QUEEN? WHAT HAPPENED TO HER MOTHER? WHY?

Maybe the "average life span" of a human is about 75 years, and the average life span of a queen bee is perhaps 3-4 years, but some humans never see 50 or even 20, and some queen bees never reach 2 or even 1. Hence, just because you bought a new queen last April, why are you so surprised to find a NEW Unmarked queen in your colony this April. Where did she come from? Is she any good? Will she still be there next April? Queens die primarily from any of several reasons: accidentally injured or crushed by the beekeeper, disease, poorly bred and not doing an adequate laying job so the workers initiate supersedure, or lost on her mating flight. When a colony has become successful enough to be overly populated and short of space, they "look forward" to swarming and plan ahead to leave a WELL NURTURED virgin queen behind to take over the parent colony; therefore, building large swarm cells and STUFFING ROYAL JELLY into these cells as soon as an EGG is laid in one. The egg hatches 3 days later into a larva and this new larva enjoys "feasting" on an abundant supply of royal jelly for the next 4.5 days until the cell is capped and even has enough royal jelly to continue feasting for another day in the newly capped cell before it commences its pupal life and emerges about 7 days later as a virgin queen. The prenatal history of a supersedure queen is not well orchestrated nor planned ahead. When a colony suddenly finds itself queenLESS, regardless of the reason, the worker bees so badly want a queen mother that they RUSH against time to develop a queen who will restore colony morale. Hence, they select a worker egg or even a 2 day old larva on the face of a brood comb, build a wax cup around that egg or larva, deposit royal jelly in the cell and "hope." It is obvious that this underdeveloped larva does not get the full ration of royal jelly that occurs in a swarm cell, and hence the resulting queen may be inferior. Note that I did not say "is" inferior, but I said "may be" inferior. So you have a supersedure queen - is she any good? It will take you the best part of a year to find out, which may mean the loss of honey production, pollination, or enjoyment for that year. Although almost EVERY bee researcher, honey bee scientist, and commercial honey producers requeen EVERY year, there are still the "old timers", the hobbyist, and the beeHAVERS who still think requeening every two years is adequate and/or that by not having marked queens and hence allowing colonies to requeen themselves is OK, even possibly getting inferior superseded queens. Well, suit yourself, but I don't start a vacation drive to the beach with smooth tires, old crankcase oil, short of freon in my air conditioning, and a torn wiper blade. Dr. Basil Furgala, the very famous

bee researcher from Univ. of Minnesota wrote: Having old queens in colonies during the fall and winter too often brings about:

1. A supersedure in the fall, too late for the virgin queen to be mated, resulting in a drone layer.
2. A failing old queen in the late winter or early spring resulting in a void in egg laying occurring when accelerated brood production is a necessity for proper development of the colony.
3. The death of the old queen during winter, leaving the colony queenless.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE IN RACES? Since the genetic differences of each race is determined by the breeding of the queen bee, each race has certain good points as well as negative points,

and YOU should choose your race based in the most important good points and the least important bad points based on YOUR ABILITY in beekeeping. The only races that I will mention are Carniolan, Caucasian, Italian which are the only three that are "somewhat pure" in the U. S. today. All the other well known names are MAN PRODUCED hybrids that can NOT reproduce themselves, such as Buckfast, Midnite, Starline, and the new Russian and all of these can only be replaced by buying a new queen from a queen breeder who produces that hybrid. In general, all hybrids get nasty and more nasty if they allowed to reproduce on-their-own. Of course, one can not define the good or the bad qualities of Aunt Eva's bees, Uncle Tom's bees, or anyone else who allows their bees to reproduce themselves resulting in sort of a League of Nations bee, because nobody knows who were the many Daddies and Granddaddies's over recent years. Just some of the more important good points to be considered are: gentleness, disease resistance, honey production, wintering ability, comb building, etc. Some of the important bad points to be considered are: excessive swarming, robbing, excessive use of propolis, poor wax cappings, and disease proneness. The Carniolan is noted for its unusual gentleness, wintering ability, and maybe disease resistance; but it is also known to have a high propensity to swarm. The Caucasian is known to be gentle, good wintering ability; but is also well known for an over abundant use of propolis which makes hive management difficult and is subject to Nosema disease more than most other bees. The Italian is mostly known as a "pretty" 3 striped yellow bee, moderately gentle, good honey production, good comb builder; but is also known as "the King of Robber Bees" and over production of brood resulting in heavy use of honey stores. One should never select a race because "George said it was the best" or because "most of the local club members use the xyz race" or because "queen breeder Joe Jones impressed me". Far better is you reading the myriad number of good and bad points of bees written by bee scientists and researchers, and select the race based upon what is most important to you and fits in with your ability to manage your bees properly.

Recipe Corner: Indonesian Satay Spare Ribs serves 4

For a tasty, summertime, barbeque treat with an exotic twist:

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| 1. Mix in a bowl:
3 cloves garlic
2 shallots, minced
1 tsp ground cumin
1 tsp ground coriander
½ tsp ground tumeric
½ tsp chili powder | 2. Stir in:
2 tbsp ketjap manis
1 tbsp chili paste
1 tbsp honey
2 tbsp peanut butter
1 tbsp vegetable oil
1 tbsp water | 3. Marinate 2 lbs pork
spare ribs 6 or more
hours | 4. Barbeque or broil
for 20-25 minutes,
turning every 5
minutes until crisp and
browned |
|--|--|---|---|

Ketjap manis is Indonesian soy sauce, not ketchup-mayonnaise! It is thicker and sweeter than normal soy sauce. But if you can't find it, take 2 teaspoons each of soy sauce, water, and brown sugar and mix in ½ teaspoon dark molasses, add a pinch of ground coriander and a pinch of fresh ground black pepper and squeeze some juice from some fresh ginger through your garlic press. Heat this mixture until it boils and the sugar dissolves. I usually use a metal measuring cup on the stove, but a cup in the microwave would do as well.

Sambal Olek is the authentic chili paste to use, but use whatever's available. Garnish with fresh cilantro and you've got some exciting finger food!

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Still Interested In Honeybees?

If you are still interested in keeping and learning about honeybees, or just enjoy being a part of our organization (West Sound Beekeepers Association-WSBA), we would love to reinstate your membership. Just fill out the form below and mail your membership dues to our treasurer and you will continue to receive the BUZZWORD via the US MAIL or via E-Mail (your choice).

We are cutting back on our US POSTAL mailing of the BUZZWORD to people who are NOT current 2007 members in order to better manage our Postage budget. This will be the last newsletter mailed to individuals who we have not heard from.

This year promises to be pretty exciting. Some things to look forward to enjoying are:

- **The Association Apiary will be celebrating its first birthday!**
- **We are forming a Queen Rearing Group of interested members and plan to participate in WSU's Queen Breeding and Research Program. The group will be able to supply members with affordable, regionally adapted, quality queens and queencells, not to mention the development of cultural methods to give us the option of not getting our queens from areas completely different from ours.**
- **More effort spent on getting interesting speakers and presentations.**
- **Ongoing beekeeping classes for beginning beekeepers.**
- **The best summer picnic ever!**
- **The comradery and support you have come to expect from the Association.**

- **The entire resources and knowledge of the many members and Association Library.**

Not to mention our ongoing efforts to promote beekeeping awareness to the world at large to make it a fitter place for people and bees!

Your active membership supports these and other worthy activities, so sign up today!

Any Questions? You can call me (Basil Gunther, Editor) at 360-297-5075

Hope to hear from you soon,

Basil



I want to be a member of the West Sound Beekeepers' Association (WSBA) during 2007. I have enclosed a check for \$24, payable to West Sound Beekeepers Association, to cover my January 1 through December 31, 2007 dues. (*household members are included in membership*)

Please Print..

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

I would prefer to receive the **email** **OR** **US Postal mail** version of the newsletter **(circle preference)**

Please return to:Dennis Heeney, WSBA Treasurer, 5350 Welfare Av, Bainbridge Island, WA 9

