

The

March-April 2012

BUZZWORD

West Sound Beekeepers Association <http://www.westsoundbees.org/>
Proudly serving bees, their keepers, and the public in Kitsap County, WA

Refreshments



Meeting Schedule:

Bee-ginner Beekeeping
Tuesday, April 17, 2012
6-6:45 PM

Regular Meeting follows:
7 PM

Bee-ginner Beekeeping:
Saturday April 21, 2012
12 Noon

Meetings at Stedman's
Beekeeping Supplies in
Silverdale

Tuesday, April 17
6 PM Beeginning Beekeeping Class
Diseases and pests

7 PM Regular Meeting
Program: honeybee Anatomy
Presented by Paul Lundy

Saturday, March 24
12 Noon Beeginning Beekeeping Class
Honey bee mites

What's inside:

Presidents Message.....	2
NW Beekeeping Basics.....	3
Gloveless.....	5
Locating the Apiary.....	6
Making Splits.....	8
Forever a Beeginner.....	9
Queen Rearing Group Update.....	10
American Foulbrood Factsheet.....	12
Sampling Honey.....	14

WSBA LOGO CONTEST

Get out the pencils and paints and help design the much needed logo for WSBA

<http://tinyurl.com/88fxrr>

Message from the President:

Page 2

Fellow Beekeepers, how are your bees doing? Are you already feeding syrup? Are your colonies healthy? Are they coming into spring with sufficient stores? Are your queens laying? Please, jump on board our WSBA yahoo group and ask any questions you may have or provide answers to those seeking information! The biggest resource our association has is the depth of experience that can aid you in a multitude of ways. Contact George Purkett to gain access to the yahoo group if you don't already have it.

This past Saturday, after the beginner's class, we had a number of people spend some time down in the club apiary working to prepare us for Spring. They emptied out the shed and did some minor repairs, organized club equipment, cleared blackberry bushes, and got things ready for the arrival of the club's colonies in the coming weeks. Thanks to all those who came and lent your time and energy! Many hands make light work. Plus, it's another chance to chat about bees! If you missed it, there will be another opportunity to volunteer in the apiary. We will be organizing a painting party for the shed in the next two months. So keep your ears open for the announcement!

Throughout the year, WSBA is asked to participate in a number of public events where we can help inform the public about beekeeping. These are great times where you have the opportunity to share with people what you have experienced and learned and pass on your enjoyment of beekeeping to others. These are great times for new beekeepers, as you are fresh to the craft and are able to convey what it is like as a newcomer! For those seeking journeyman certification, these are great chances to earn those coveted public service points you need. So, please contact our secretary Brandy and get signed up as a volunteer! Lastly, package day at Stedman's is rapidly approaching. Traditionally, WSBA members have volunteered their time helping out by answering beekeeping questions, performing demonstrations, and generally assisting in whatever way we can. It's another great time and a chance to talk bees and represent WSBA to people who may or may not know what we do! So, please consider showing up and staying for a while to help out.

Happy Spring!
TJ

2012 WSBA FUND-RAISING CALENDAR

A 2012 Fundraising WSBA Calendar is now available!

Calendar includes:

- ~ Recipes for honey bees and their keepers
- ~ Seasonal tips and thoughts from WSBA members
- ~ Photos
- ~ Areas for your monthly beekeeper notes
- ~ Schedule of WSBA's 2012 meetings and events

Each calendar is only \$10 with half of every sale donated to West Sound Beekeepers Association.



Email your order to biz@kimredmond.com and you'll be able to pick up your 2012 calendar at the next WSBA business or general membership meeting.



NorthWest Beekeeping Basics – April (Page 3)

Now starts the most exciting period of the beekeeping year. Your bees should have been started, inspected and fed, and should be in a dramatic growth mode. The queen (bless her little heart) is laying over 1,000 eggs a day.

Here in the Pacific Northwest, there is about a three week period from the end of April into May where the nectar flow drops to almost zero. This is a very critical situation for your bees. They have been stimulated to build up a huge population to take advantage of the main nectar flow at end of May and are committed to raising and feeding a lot of young bees. Without feed sources around, your bees, which look big and strong and hard working, can actually starve out in the first three weeks in May. So, watch your bees carefully and don't let colony stores get below 15 lbs. If the colony starts to get light, FEED!!! Use a light syrup (1:1 sugar to water by volume).

April is also the time when those beginning with packages get to start having fun. So far it has been getting equipment together, reading and learning the craft, and maybe taking a course. The sunny location has been selected and now all is ready. Putting three pounds of unrelated bees and a queen into a box of foundation and watching them organize themselves into a cohesive, productive unit is one of the great marvels and joys of beekeeping. Make sure they have constant feed and possibly an antibiotic (traditional) at the start. After a week go in and take a look. Don't worry too much about disturbing them. It will be fine. You should see some drawn comb, eggs, and young larvae. Keep the feed on and add a second box after 6 or 7 frames are drawn out. Spend time watching them at the entrance and learn their habits. Gain confidence by going in and examining the colony every week or so. There will be no new bees for the first three weeks so expect to see some dwindling, but after that the population will explode. Make sure you give them room to grow. Keep feeding; they will let you know when they don't need it by stopping taking it. By the end of the first year you will know all you need to know about the subject. But as Ken Bennett, an old time beekeeper and a founding member of our Association says: "in beekeeping, it's what you learn after you know it all that makes the difference"!

Now is also swarm season when you hope that your neighbor beekeeper is not as good a beekeeper as you are and you can catch swarms from their hives while your good management practice keeps your hives from swarming. Swarm control is probably one of the least successful areas of beekeeping. Swarming is the natural way for bees to ensure the survival of their species, and like all teenagers, the instinct to reproduce is very difficult to control. One of the best ways to minimize swarming is by requeening your hives. A swarm is a portion of your bees leaving with the old queen, and this tends to be with queens in their second year. So by requeening with a new young queen, you not only assure yourself of a strong queen, you cut down on the chance of her swarming.

A second technique is to reverse your hive boxes. The bees will start the swarm process when the queen starts to run out of perceived space in which to lay. Since she tends to only move upward, she does not use the space available below the brood cluster. By reversing the boxes, you force the bees to reorganize their stores and therefore create new space for the queen to lay in. Another method is to remove queen cells as they appear. But this rarely works since it's next to impossible to find all the queen cells and usually the bees have committed to swarming no matter what and just build more cells. Additionally the constant intrusion into the hive will stress the colony greatly. The simple act of adding supers can also make the colony feel they have plenty of room. Give supers with foundation, but only to those colonies that are working in the supers. Place directly over the queen excluder, if you are using one.

With swarming in mind, examine your colonies about every 9 days(on the 10th day a queen could emerge from a cell started right about the time of your last visit. Then it's Sayonara! Adios! Farewell! Sometimes the bees leave *before* the queen emerges!) To inspect: Set off the supers; tilt up the second story, give a puff of smoke, and look for queen cells along the bottom of the brood comb. If you find only eggs or larvae in the queen cells and the hive is crowded with bees, remove all the cells -- top and bottom. Put the hive body containing mostly worker bees or larvae on the bottom board, and the other containing mostly sealed brood on top. Next put on the queen excluder and add supers to provide 10 to 15 empty full depth comb, or their equivalent in the supers. Place the empty comb directly on the excluder.

If you find sealed or ripe queen cells, or possibly hatched ones, divide the colony. Set the top body, usually with most of queen cells, onto a bottom board and cover with a lid. Put this hive on a separate stand. Remove all queen cells from the lower body; put on the excluder and add supers to provide 10 to 15 empty full depth combs, or their equivalent, above the excluder. Several hours later, look for the queen in the divide. If you find a virgin queen (no eggs laid), let her remain, but if you find the old queen pick her up and let her run into the entrance of the colony on the old stand. Let the queen cells hatch in the divide. If you find no attempt to rear queens, and the hive is full of bees, examine the supers and add more to provide 10 to 15 empty full depth combs, or their equivalent, above the excluder.

Think about adding a screen bottom for better ventilation, if you're not already using one, for better ventilation and mite control that doesn't cost any money after installation. Some beekeepers use a additional 3/4-1" hole in the upper box as a entrance and to provide additional ventilation. Bees seem to love these!

Keep on the lookout for American foulbrood and take remedial action as necessary. If it's a very small outbreak it may be possible to remove the affected frames and treat with Terramycin. If treating with Terramycin do not treat with supers on that you intend to extract for honey. Some strains of AFB are terramycin-resistant and the stronger and more residual antibiotic Tylosin can be used. In the event of a full-blown outbreak the recommended action is to destroy the colony and burn the equipment. Non-traditional methods of combating AFB without antibiotics include "Shook Swarming" where all the bees are shaken into clean equipment without drawn comb, just foundation. Equipment except for the comb itself (which should still be destroyed) can be reclaimed by sterilization using an autoclave, gamma irradiation, or a hot paraffin dip. Also baking, scorching, repainting and bleach are helpful techniques for reclaiming equipment

If you have been fortunate and the honey flow has been good, add new supers under supers with capped honey. Remove and extract the supers containing well-ripened honey.



Big Leaf Maple can provide a surplus honey crop in April if conditions are favorable.

It looks like decent beekeeping weather has finally arrived. I want to encourage you all to take the opportunity to open up your hives and look at your bees...before they swarm into the neighbor's trees.

I wanted to make a couple of suggestions...see if they work for you.

First suggestion is to try opening up you bees gloveless. Make sure your hands are clean and not smelling of grease, gasoline, or some other offensive smell. Make sure your smoker is producing white smoke. Puff smoke on your hands to make them smell of smoke and to make sure you are not blowing flames out the end of your smoker. Then puff smoke into the entrances of the hive and under the lid. Wait a minute before opening.

Take off any top feeders and remove the inner cover slowly. Now when you move your hands over the top of the exposed bees, move them slowly. Speed up your movement. The bees may start to take offense if you move too fast by bumping into your moving hand. Let them train you of how fast you can move. If the wind comes up they can get a little agitated, so puff a bit of smoke at them to calm them. Work gently to get a frame loose with your hive tool and the lift it out with your bare hands. It may take you several attempts before you can accomplish these steps gloveless but you will become much more in tune with your hive and become a better beekeeper much faster than if you are always wearing armored gloves that easily crush and agitate bees.

Another suggestion is to purchase a 10 pack of Benadryl quick dissolve strips and keep a couple in your wallet, purse, or pocket (about \$7). After you start going gloveless, you will eventually forget your veil and eventually, you or someone with you will get stung in a sensitive area. I use a Benedryl strip if I get stung in the lip, eye, neck...somewhere where swelling in not a fun think. To use them, you just put the strip under your tongue and it dissolves in seconds. This will keep the swelling to a minimum and eliminate any later itching due to the swelling. It seems Jason is always around me when I need these strips. Maybe we should keep a package of these on hand at the association apiary for others when Jason is performing.

I hope these suggestions help you out.



April flowers bring May...Swarms?



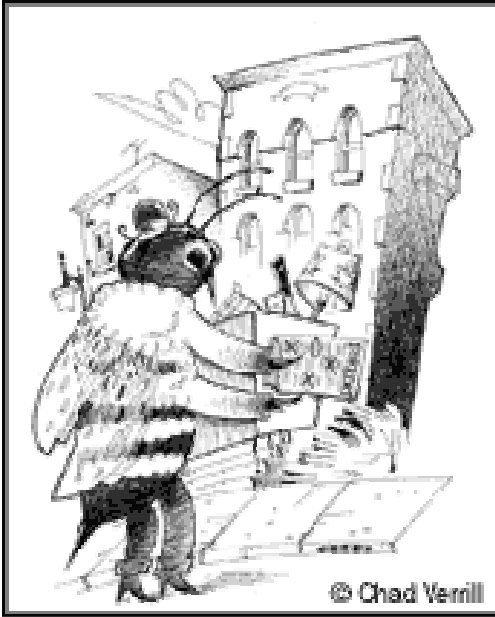
Stedman's Bee Supplies

**3763 NW Anderson Hill Rd
Silverdale, WA 98383**

(360) 692-9453

**Stedman's has
All Kinds of Beekeeping equipment,
Package Bees,
Honey,
And a fine
Gift Shop!**

Come on by!



The site where honeybee colonies are located is called either an apiary or bee yard. You should plan the location of the apiary before obtaining colonies. An ideal location should include as many of the following as possible for maximum performance by your colonies.

Essential elements of apiary location include:

- Abundant sources of nectar and pollen located within a mile of the apiary. A variety of plants will increase the availability of nectar and pollen year-round. Bees need pollen for brood rearing and surplus honey made from nectar for successful overwintering.
- A good source of clean water should be available within a quarter of a mile. If clean fresh water is not available, a container of water can be provided. Be sure to include a landing support surface to allow the bees to stand on without drowning. Wood blocks, cork blocks, rocks, gravel or burlap cloth can be used in the container to provide dry support.
- Good air circulation with no stagnant air pockets. A location with a gentle slope is suitable, but avoid placing colonies in low areas with poor air circulation.
- Good water drainage in an area above flood level. Flooding quickly kills colonies and can literally float them away.
- Provide morning sun and afternoon shade for colonies, if possible. Eastern entrance exposure for morning sun is great. Be careful not to place colonies in locations that are shaded most of the time. Total sun exposure would be better for colonies than total shade.
- Protection from direct winds, especially in winter. Trees or shrubs are good windbreaks.
- Orient multiple colonies in a "U" or "S" shape rather than in a straight line. When colonies are placed in a straight line, bees tend to drift to colonies at the ends of the line, which weakens colonies in the middle.
- Ready access – The apiary must be easy to get to with a vehicle. Bee colonies are heavy. You do not want to carry heavy equipment up hills, through mud holes or across drainage ditches. Avoid locked gates unless you have a key. The apiary should be near a hard-surface road. It will be necessary to visit your apiary in all kinds of weather. Although the apiary should be near a road, it is best if it is not easily seen from the road, especially if the road is open to the public. Vandalism and theft may occur.
- Good neighbor beekeeping – keep your neighbors happy. A present of a jar of honey may help. Reduce interactions between your bees and your neighbors as well as with pets or livestock. Locate your bee yard where human interactions are minimal. Don't locate your bees where humans can walk into the bees' flight path to and from the hive. Fences of wood or shrubbery can be used to direct flight up and away. Provide water sources closer than a neighbor's water source. Some people are frightened of bees and no amount of education will allay their fears. If you are planning to keep bees in your backyard, and your local authority has a set of by-laws, read them to determine if there may be legal conflicts.

Making Splits

By Roy Thurber, "*Sadder But Wiser*" March 1980 American Bee Journal

It infuriates some people when someone gently suggests maybe there is a better way to do something. Other beekeepers will accept suggestions and advice from their peers, but climb the walls when some ignorant, mouthy hobbyist presumes to try to tell them how to keep bees. Oh brother, they sharpen their hive tools and are out, I hope only figuratively, for blood!

This time, I, a hobbyist, am going to really put my foot in it. I may get in trouble when I say, "Many commercial beekeepers and most hobbyists don't know how to make splits." At the very least, I think this statement may bring some screaming and hollering.

Some beekeepers examine a colony and when they find it has maybe eight or ten frames of brood, they take half the brood and half the bees and put them in another hive. Then, after seeing there are eggs in both hives, they let the bees raise their own queen in the hive that didn't have a queen. At a higher level of expertise, the person making a split would make sure each half of the split has about half the honey and half the pollen and usually he will move the splits to another yard. He also restricts the entrances for a while, so the splits, demoralized by being split and moved, don't get robbed out. Going one farther up in expertise, the person making the splits or supervising, will make the split quite late in the day and will immediately screen the entrance. He will move the splits so one side of the split doesn't end up with all of the field force and the other half none. He also may provide a breeder-raised queen to the queenless half to save honey production time.

You may ask, "What's wrong with that? The book says to do it that way and that's the way people have been doing it for years." I will agree with you –that's what the books say and that's the way people have been doing it for years, but I believe it's dead wrong!

An article in the April, 1977 *ABJ* entitled "Short Season Management of Package Bees" mentioned that a colony of 10,000 bees had 2000 flyers; a colony of 20,000 bees had 5000 flyers; a colony of 30,000 bees had 10,000 flyers; etc. using those figures, you immediately can see why a 50-50 split is wrong. Say you had a hive of 40,000 bees and you split it. Instead of 20,000 flyers you now have two hives of 20,000 bees, each of which has only 5000 flyers. Each hive has barely enough flyers to sustain itself. So make your splits with one frame of eggs, one frame of just emerging brood and adhering bees, two pollen frames and about 75 per cent of the honey. Then shake young nurse bees from an open larvae frame into the split, too. Of course you would be advised to add a queen to the split also at this time to avoid lost production while a new queen is being reared.

Let's look at what happens. The parent colony has not been hurt. It has all the field force, so in just a very few days in can bring in enough pollen and nectar to sustain itself. The split has the stores to make up for no field force and can survive until it develops one. Of course, it not only has no field force, but also may not have enough guards. So, for the first week, I'd completely plug the entrance and provide ventilation by putting a No. 16 box nail under the lid. In a week you add a frame of capped brood. Very soon you will have a colony of 20,000 bees. Adding another frame of capped brood a week later will put the split on the road to production. But, do be careful and feed the splits if they need it because there is no use in not capitalizing on all your good work.

If this article has changed your thinking, go try a few splits made this way. Then, you can decide if you are *sadder but wiser*.

Kim Redmond

Every year one of the most fun and exciting beekeeping events for me is installing a new package of bees. Even if I don't need a package I'll buy one just for the thrill.

I still remember my first installation. Jeez, was I ever nervous! I'm surprised I didn't hyperventilate and keel over! I read the installation instructions over and over and then did five or six practice drills. I even had Larry set up just outside the apiary with the instructions so I could yell out "What's next?" in case I panicked and forgot a step.

I recall driving home from Stedman's with my bee suit still more on than off. It's about a 45 minute drive and I spent most of it looking in the rearview mirror because I had 20,000 +/- honey bees riding in the back of my Explorer. I didn't know they didn't have any interest in stinging me – but they didn't.

I also didn't know that bees poop. In all the studying and classes and research, nobody thought to mention that. Why *would* they mention it? It should be a matter of common sense. I was sorely lacking that particular common sense and, when I arrived home, I didn't notice the inside of my vehicle was covered with little brown streaks (oh, come on – from the bees!)

It was a cold and drizzly day when I installed my first two packages of bees. There is always concern about "hiving" the bees if it's too cold versus leaving them in the package too long (remember: they've been in there since a day or two before they made the long ride from California in the back of a big truck.) In our area, more often than not, we end up installing our packages in the typical less-than-ideal weather of the PNW – we have no choice. Or do we?

Being concerned for their comfort and for my investment, (having calculated their value at approximately \$.008 each), I had a stroke of genius and decided to install the bees in my tiny little greenhouse. I won't bore you with the details other than to say that it was a one-time event and my greenhouse still has little brown streaks in it to this day.

It makes me wonder if honey bees can sense a beeginning beekeeper. (I'll always be a beeginner.) Can they smell the fear and excitement? I bet they can and DO roll their eyes.

Bee Sex Refresher Course submitted by David Heid

 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O6s2HfSHHsQ>



West Sound Beekeeping Association (WSBA) Queen Rearing group



Paul Lundy showing how to properly introduce a new queen

On Tue, 7 Mar following the WSBA business meeting, the Queen Rearing group kicked off the first meeting of the season. We had a great showing of 15 members who held set the course for the upcoming year. We discussed the purpose and goals. The purpose is the same as last year however the goals have been updated to raise the "bar" for the group by teaching a two day course in July on Queen rearing and instrumentally inseminating a queen. Additionally, it was discussed about developing a queen rearing qualification program for the club. We are going to have a very active queen rearing program this year; the following is provided as the outcome from the meeting:

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.

2012 Goals for the Queen Rearing group of West Sound Beekeeping Association (WSBA):

- 1. Explore and document different physical methods of queen rearing**
- 2. Educate both the Queen Rearing group and the WSBA on queen rearing**
- 3. Provide quality queens to the Queen Rearing group and WSBA**
- 4. Provide a Queen rearing course for Kitsap County Beekeepers**
- 5. Instrumentally inseminate a queen**
- 6. Develop a queen rearing training program**

Last Fall, WSBA purchased instrumental insemination equipment. This equipment purchase was voted on and approved with the following stipulation for the queen rearing program:

- 1) The queen rearing group will train at least 5 personnel on the techniques of using the equipment to instrumental insemination queens for the next three years.
- 2) The queen rearing group will generate at least \$500/year for the next three years to offset the costs of the queen rearing equipment.

Lecture Schedule: Queen Rearing lecture schedule and the following lectures will be presented during our upcoming meetings. The intent is to provide a lecture the first part of the meeting (30-45 min)

7 Mar (Tue) -- 8 pm, Kick off/Planning mtg
6 May (Sun) -- 1 pm, Cloake Board setup and grafting – David Mackovjak
5 Jun (Tue) -- 8 pm, Instrumental Insemination – George Purkett
10 Jun (Sun) -- 1 pm, Equipment building - TBD
8 Jul (Sun) -- 1 pm, Splits & Nucs - TBD
5 Aug (Sun) -- 1 pm, Hygienic testing – Paul Lundy
4 Sept (Tue) -- 8 pm, Queen Rearing 2012 wrap up



Hands-on-Demonstrations: A tentative schedule of hands-on-demonstrations and skill sets (dates subject to weather and hive strength)

Thurs, **3 May 12** – Cloaking setup demonstration, 6 pm Stedmans
 Sunday, **6 May 12** – Queen grafting demonstration, 2-4 pm Stedmans
 Tue, **15 May 12** – Bank queen cells, 6 pm Stedmans

Thurs, **7 Jun 12** – Cloaking setup demonstration, 6 pm Stedmans
 Sunday, **10 Jun 12** – Equipment building & Queen grafting demo, 2-4 pm Stedmans
 Tue, **19 Jun 12** – Bank queen cells, 6 pm Stedmans

Thurs, **5 July 12** – Cloaking setup demonstration, 6 pm Stedmans
 Sunday, **8 Jul 12** – Splits & nucs & Queen grafting demo, 2-4 pm Stedmans
 Sat & Sun, **14-15 Jul 12** – 2 Day Queen Rearing Course
 Tue, **17 Jul 12** – Bank queen cells, 6 pm Stedmans
 Sunday, **22 Jul 12** – MannLake non grafting method.

Thurs, **2 Aug 12** – Cloaking setup demonstration, 6 pm Stedmans
 Sunday, **5 Aug 12** – Hygienic Testing & Queen grafting demo, 2-4 pm Stedmans
 Tue, **14 Aug 12** – Bank queen cells, 6 pm Stedmans
 Sat, **18 Aug 12** – Instrumental Insemination demo, Stedmans



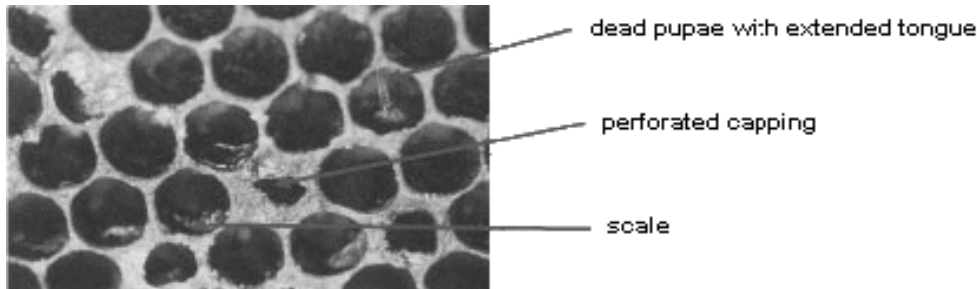
The Queen Rearing group is open to all members who are interested in learning about the art of queen rearing or would just like to learn more about bee keeping. To be included in queen rearing correspondence please send me your name, phone number and email address.

David Mackovjak
 Queen Rearing Chairman
trimack@prodigy.net
 360-340-0381

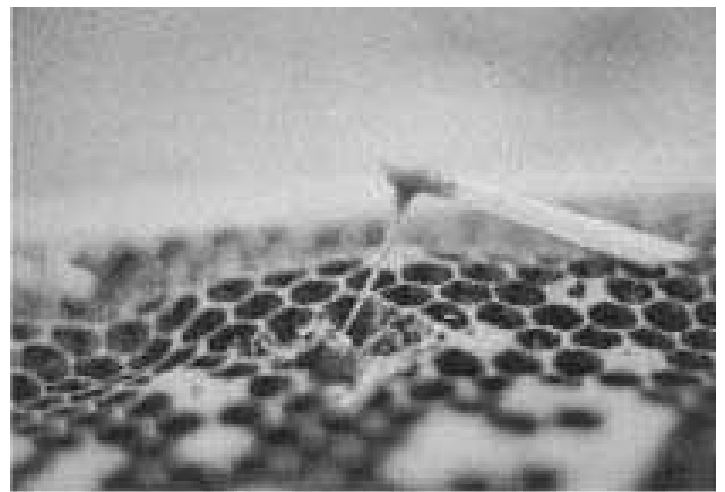
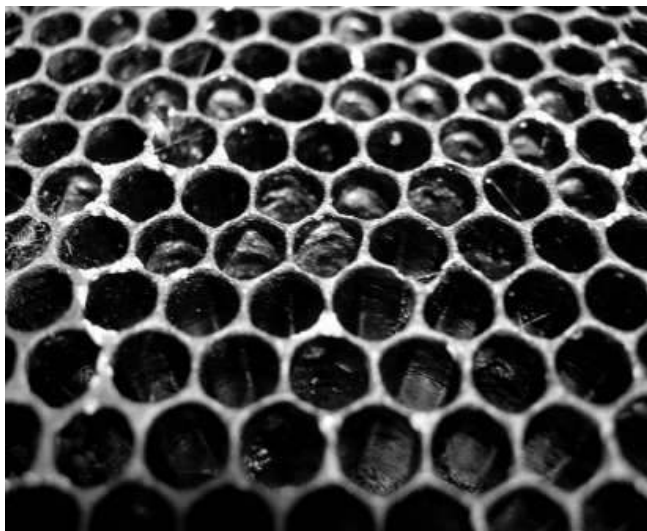
American Foulbrood (AFB)

Field Diagnosis:

- AFB is caused by *Paenibacillus larvae*, a spore-forming bacterium.
- Colony is weak and shows less than normal bee flight. Dead bees on the bottom board.
- Capped brood is unevenly distributed with puncture holes in the cell cappings.



- Colonies with heavy infestation often display irritable behaviour.
- AFB has a distinct "foul" odour.
- With a toothpick or Q-tip, puncture cap and remove content of brood cell. The larval remains may be light brown and sunk to the bottom side of the cell. If the mass is ropy while being withdrawn from the cell, it is a strong indication of AFB disease.
- Place toothpick or Q-tip in plastic wrap and mail to qualified laboratory, such as USDA ARS Beltsville, Maryland, for laboratory confirmation.
- Over time, the larval remains will dry and harden into a dark brown leathery scale on the bottom side of

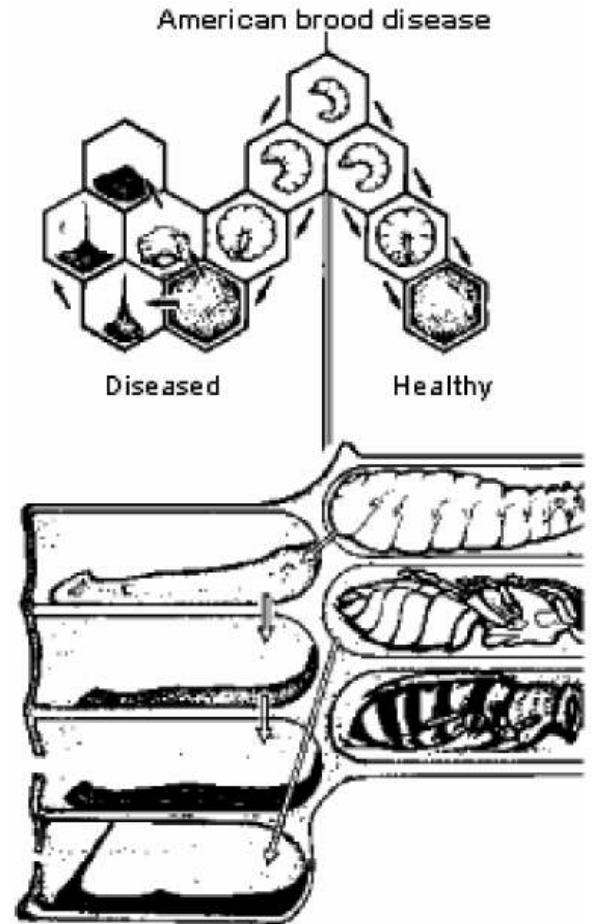


the cell. One scale contains millions of spores that remain viable for decades.

- Under normal circumstances, bees will not remove infected brood and scales.
- AFB scales can be readily detected in the field by holding the brood frame at an angle of approximately 15 degrees with light coming from behind the observer.

Control Strategy

- **Inspect brood and brood frames regularly. Learn to recognize the symptoms of AFB and other brood diseases.**
- **Remove frames with scale or diseased brood, and burn.**
- **Take a sample from suspect brood cells and send to a lab for analysis.**
- **Adopt the "Brood Frame Replacement strategy". Replace 20% of all brood frames each year so that after a few years, no brood frame in any colony is older than 5 years.**
- **Reduce the exchange of hive equipment between hives and apiaries.**
- **Do not leave used hive equipment exposed to foraging bees.**
- **Use hygienic management practices, including clean clothing, hive tools, and gloves.**
- **When visiting an apiary, inspect colonies suspected with disease last.**
- **Consider "Shook Swarming" the bees onto fresh foundation in uncontaminated equipment.**
- **Using antibiotics:**
 - **Only use antibiotics approved and registered for use.**
 - **Only apply antibiotics when disease has been found (i.e. no longer apply antibiotics for preventative reasons)**
 - **Apply CORRECT dosage according to label instructions**
 - **DO NOT use extender patties**



THOUGHTS ON SELLING/SAMPLING HONEY...

Kim Redmond

1. If you are fortunate enough to have a surplus of honey to sell, you will almost ALWAYS have more customers than honey.
2. If you want to offer sample tastes of your honey, use something small. A wooden or plastic coffee stir stick (cut in half) works well. I once used regular drinking straws cut in half and watched a woman suck up an entire 2-ounce jar of "sampling" honey as if it were a milkshake!
3. If you have two different flavors you are offering samples of, people will want to turn their sticks around and use the other end. In the interest of keeping your honey clean and pure, encourage them NOT to do that. (Okay, forbid it!)
4. Offering samples of honey can be an extremely messy adventure. I suggest keeping a pump bottle of hand sanitizer on hand. You can control the majority of the mess if YOU dip the sampling stick in the honey and hand it to people. You can also avoid having people dig into it like they were operating a steam shovel. The goal here is a "taste" not a meal. If you want to sell your honey it's good to leave people wanting more.
5. Use the smallest sample containers available. The containers will get sticky by the end of your sampling event so, the smaller the container, the easier the clean up.
6. Know your own honey well! Close your eyes and take a small taste of your honey. Can you taste blackberries? (If so, lucky you!) Is it fruity? Spicy? Floral? Is your honey light or heavy? Thick or thin? Does it taste like molasses? Is there a foretaste? Does it leave an aftertaste? Does it have a tinge of bitter? Do you know what your bees foraged on to make that golden liquid?
7. It's important to have even a general knowledge of what honey is. People will ask – and some will insist it is "bee barf." So study up on how honey is made.
8. Also, understand what makes some honey crystallize quickly while others take much longer and some rarely if ever.
9. Remember to tell people that crystallized honey is NOT honey gone bad. Know the best way to re-liquefy honey.
10. Did you know that a honey bee will make just 1/12 of a teaspoon of honey in her lifetime?
O ← about like this. This is a truly amazing fact that people are interested in – use it freely!

On a side note...

On Saturday April 21, 2012, I will have a bee booth (table) set up at Wild Birds Unlimited in Gardiner, WA <http://gardiner.wbu.com/> for their Earth Day Festival. If you would like a chance to offer samples of honey and chat with the public about honey bees, I have room for one or two people to join me. (This a great way to fulfill public service hours towards your Journeyman Beekeeping status if you are so inclined.) If you are interested in attending please contact me at biz@kimredmond.com. I'll be there from 9 - 4 so there is an opportunity to come up for a couple hours – which means you could trade off with others. By the way, this is a free and fun annual event that features many local artists, farmers, vendors and musicians. Also, Northwest Raptor and Wildlife Center <http://www.nwraptorcenter.com/> will have live birds of prey there (and it's always fun to watch them eyeing up the bees in my observation hive!) - Kim

Rewards of Beekeeping

It feels good to share your beekeeping knowledge with others.

April 16 2012
Soren, TJ and Basil
Presented to grades 1-3
Suquamish Elementary



Don't Forget To Renew Your Membership!

Membership Renewal Form: http://westsoundbees.org/wsba_membership_form_2012.pdf

Yes! I want to be a member of West Sound Beekeepers' Association during 2012.

I have enclosed a check payable to West Sound Beekeepers Association or hand delivering cash.
Check all boxes that apply:

- \$24 annual Bee household membership dues (New member)
- \$24 annual Bee household membership dues (Renewal)
- \$34 Bee-ginner class fee (\$24 membership dues + \$10 for OPTIONAL study guide)
- \$_____ Donation to Library Fund \$_____ Donation to Scholarship Fund

NAME(S): _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Please return to:
Selena Clements, WSBA Treasurer
3268 Chase Rd Port Orchard, WA 98366