



# Buzzword



West Sound Beekeepers Association [www.westsoundbees.org](http://www.westsoundbees.org)

Volume X Issue VI

May 2007

Editor –Basil Gunther 360 297 5075

## May 2007 Meeting

Tuesday – May 15, 2007

7:00P.M.

Stedman's Bee Supplies

Silverdale, WA

Next meeting June 19, 2007

## Program

**6 PM** Bee—ginner Class

**7 PM** Program/Meeting

**Officer Elections**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

	Page#
Minutes	2
Professional Queen Introduction	3
Making splits	5
American Foulbrood	6
Recipe Corner	8
Membership Coupon	8



**Question presented at the April meeting.  
Who is going to be president this year??**

## President

?????????

## Vice President/Librarian

Roy Barton



360 613 0175

## Secretary

Judy Gunther



360 297 5075

## Treasurer

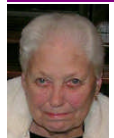
Dennis Heeney



206 842 5545

## Educational Materials

Barbara Stedman



360 692 9453

## Webmaster

George Purkett



360 895 0116

## Education Chair

Paul Lundy



360 297 6743

## Queen Rearing Group Leader

Maya Bewig



360-379-5564

# Minutes from the April 17<sup>th</sup> 2007 meeting:

*Submitted by Judy Jennings*

**Basil Gunther presided at the meeting.**

**Treasurer's Report:**

Dennis Heeney was last seen in Ireland and unable to report this month.

## **Old Business:**

**Basil made a motion which was 2nded and passed by member vote to cancel last years Audit since not enough material was present to audit. Our new treasurer Dennis Heeney will have his books audited next winter (if he returns from Europe, that is).**

**For the record: the motion was 2nded and passed at the March meeting to authorize funds to replace the 5 club apiary colonies with packages.**

## **New Business:**

**Officer Election Results:**

**President: Nobody YET!**

**Vice President: Roy Barton**

**Secretary: Judy Gunther**

**Treasurer: Dennis Heeney**



**Congratulations and heart felt thanks to those who give their time to keep the Association running!**

**Jerry Hominda has sugar available at good prices through the Stedmans. Jerry also has used equipment for sale as he has cut back on the numbers of colonies he keeps. 253-858-6372 or goldenbee@juno.com**

**George has added new links on the website:**

<http://www.cedarglenbees.com> ...source of queens in Stanwood WA.

<http://groups.ucanr.org/WAS/> ...Western Apicultural Society

<http://caspianapiaries.com> ...Bee stimulation product and it's effects.

**added an entry for Stedman Bee Supply on the link page**

**George's thoughts on the apiary:**

**Need a smoker.**

**How about an extractor?**

**Also need to encourage Paul to use apiary for beginners...**

**Also need to offer Association hives for Maya for possible queen rearing experimentation...maybe a queen rearing presentation could be worked into a presentation topic later in the year.**

**More topics discussed were:**

**CCD, Cell phones as the cause were dismissed as bad science.**

**Ants, Cinnamon, Swarms, package bees,**

**Watering bees with burlap strips**

**Ivy as a nectar source, Bumblebee and Yellowjacket queens and various other interesting topics.**

### **Door Prize Winner:**

**Don Stevens won a Western Super with frames and foundation! Provided by the Stedmans and paid for by the Association. Way to go Don!**

## **Professional Queen Introduction**

*By Roy Thurber Gleanings in bee culture magazine mid-1980's*

**From casual conversation I gather most beekeepers do not requeen on a regular basis, yet it has been pretty well demonstrated that good queens do not cost – they pay. The question then comes to mind –why don't they? Well, there are two reasons: First of all labor costs so much that the cost of the queen is only a small portion of the requeening expense. Second, acceptance is shockingly low.**

**Before proposing a specific method, let us talk generalities. First of all, anyone who has not read Dr. T. S. K. Johansson's Queen Introduction which was serialized in eight parts in the American Bee Journal starting with March 1971, is missing a lot of good information and extremely logical conclusions. One conclusion he made and many others will I trust, agree with was that of all the methods of requeening the safest but not the quickest or simplest way was to introduce the queen to a nucleus and then when accepted and laying, combine the nucleus with a hive requiring requeening after killing off the queen to be replaced. Actually if you will only consider the situation, it makes sense that the establishment of a nucleus and then combining is the safest way to requeen. Consider a young, healthy laying queen is put in a cage with some attendants and dropped off at the post office. The cage is shaken, tossed, and dropped from the time it is mailed to the time it is received by the purchaser. Just to make the new queen's retention of her reproductive power even more chancy, she may be nearly cooked, possibly dehydrated, and in early spring or late fall nearly frozen. To me it is a wonder any breeder raised queen ever turns out well.**

**When this new queen is introduced to a colony directly, again consider the situation. You kill the old queen because she is not as prolific as you desire or the bees raised from her eggs are bad tempered, etc. Realize while you did not like the old queen, the bees may have been entirely satisfied with her. Then they look at the new queen – she is so out of shape she is not about to suddenly lay a couple thousand eggs, yet the colony's old queen probably would have or she would have long since been superceded. Even if your new queen were able to lay heavily enough to satisfy the colony, how about the days it took the bees to eat her out of her cage? Bees are pessimists. Would you bet that some bee did not say, "Hey, that stupid queen in the cage –how did she ever get in there and for sure she will**

never get out, so while we have time let us make some queens." Well, you check, generally there are some queen cells started. Let's go on. So the bees do not start queen cells while they are eating the new queen out of the cage. She is liberated and accepted and tries to lay some eggs. At this time she is still far from recovered from the shipment, so again I will bet at least one bee would say to herself, "That is our new mother? You are putting me on. She can not lay enough eggs to be worth feeding." So again supercedure. How often are new queens superceded? I really do not know. I heard a very reputable researcher say not less than 20 percent, yet I have seen one case where only one out of three was accepted, present, and laying in the hive a month after introduction. Is it any wonder many are soured by the expense in queen cost and labor in requeening and have accordingly given up on the idea? Can anything be done? Why sure -try a modification of the *Spring Requeening Sure-Fire Method* written up in *Gleanings*, Volume 98 December 1970, page 728, which goes like this:

First get a hive body with a  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch ventilator-steam exit-entrance hole drilled up by the hand grip and a piece of 6mm polyethelene sheeting about 20 X 24 inches and a roll of masking tape. Put nine frames of drawn comb in thehive body andif you have the stores available, set in the center two frames of pollen and two frames of honey. Then go to the hive to be requeened and remove two frames of capped brood, the older the better, with attendant nurses on the comb, but not the old queen. Place these two frames between the honey and pollen frames. Take the frames, now excess, in the hive body which will soon be the nuc, and place them in the one and ten positions in the hive body from which you took thebrood. Then again checking to see you do not have the old queen, select a frame of nurses and shake them into the nuc. When that is finished, place the polyethylene sheeting over the old hive and place the nuc on top the sheeting; place your new queen between the frames in the conventional manner, and that is it.



What happens now is entirely predictable. The field force bees, inadvertently placed in the nuc, fly out the hole and in at the landing platform. This leaves only the nurses and about-to-emerge brood in the nuc and since the nurses have no preconceived idea of how often the new queen should lay, they will be tolerant of her slow resumption of egg laying capability. The nuc should grow well and fast because the polyethylene, while it does make a physical barrier separating the two colonies, dtill transmits heat

from the lower colony to the nuc which speeds up development. A week later cut queen cells that are in the nuc and remove the sheeting, and substitute a piece of newspaper. Usually the young upper queen survives the fight between the two queens, but if you want to be sure, go locate and kill the old queen or capture her and put her in a cage without attendants in a queen bank.

When you decide to try this system, start with marked queens. If you find her in a few weeks, obviously your introduction was successful. If you find her in a month, you know she was accepted and her egg production satisfied the bees. If you find her in the fall, your swarm control technique was successful. Incidentally, a respect for money would indicate you should check for queen cells in the nuc when you take out the queen cage at the end of eight days, and you should check the lower colony in six to eight days if you killed off the old colony's queen.

## 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*.

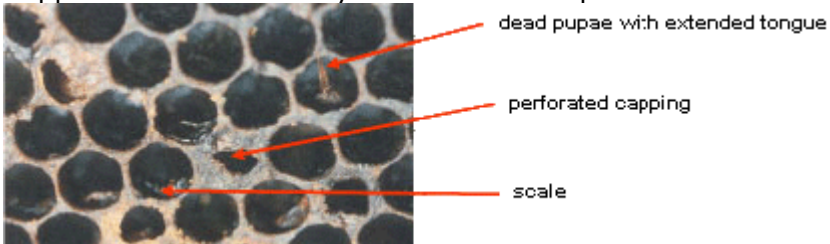


## American Foulbrood (AFB)

*From Ministry Agriculture and Lands Government of British Columbia Apiculture Factsheet #200 liberally edited and supplemented.*

### 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.

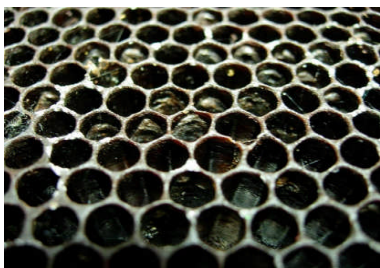


- Colonies with heavy infestation often display irritable behaviour.
- AFB has a distinct "foul" odor.
- 



With a toothpick or nail, 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.

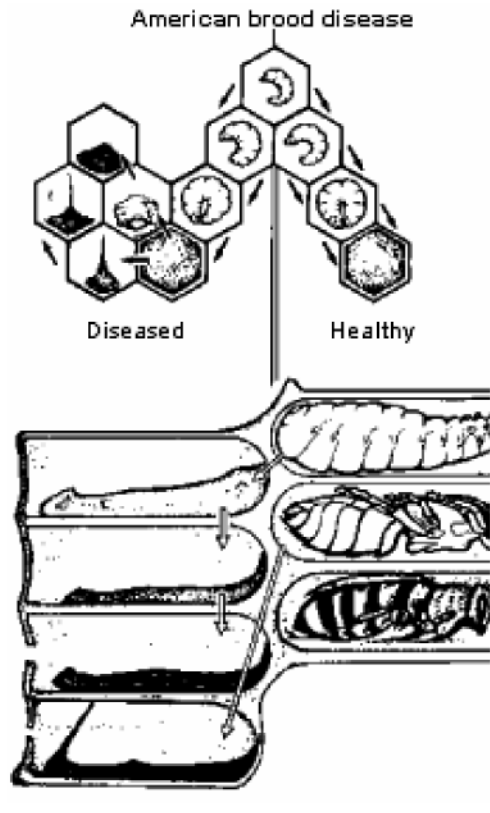
- Place toothpick in plastic wrap and mail to a qualified laboratory for confirmation.
- Over time, the larval remains will dry and harden into a dark brown leathery scale on the bottom side of the cell. One scale contains millions of spores that remain viable for decades.
- Under normal circumstances, 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.



*View of a brood frame with open brood held at approx. 15 - 20 degree angle. Note the dark scales in each cell. Capped brood of infected frame would be unevenly distributed (shotgun appearance) and cappings punctured by adult bees.*

## 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**. Sterilize boxes with flame or paraffin dip.
- Consider "Shook Swarming" the bees onto fresh foundation in uncontaminated equipment.
- Take a sample from suspect brood cells and send to the 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.
- Using antibiotics:
  - **Only use antibiotics approved and registered for use in beehives**
  - **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



A dead larva killed by AFB usually forms a "false tongue", with tongue pointing upward.

The dead larva then dehydrates and soon will become a "scale" which is completely dried, difficult for bees to remove, and contains millions of spores which remain infective for decades

## Recipe Corner:

### A recipe for "Well-Bred Queens"

*The Reverend Brother Adam, June, 1931*

**A stock suitable for raising cells by this method must cover no less than twenty combs.**

**First and foremost the bees must be in a condition to elaborate royal jelly in abundance. This they are only able to do during a light honey flow; or when no nectar is available feeding of diluted honey in liberal quantities, approximately three or four pints of day, is resorted to. If feeding is required it must commence five days prior to the time a colony is expected to start cell building. The object is to turn all the colonies energy to the building of queen cells. This is achieved by making it queenless and entirely brood less. The two brood chambers containing the whole colony are removed from the hive and one empty brood box placed in position on the floorboard instead. The queen is now first found and caged, then nine combs containing honey and pollen, but no brood or eggs whatever, are placed in the empty brood chamber and one comb of eggs of the breeding queen. All the bees on the combs of brood are then shaken or brushed back into the hive. The bees deprived of queen and brood commence building queen cells within a few hours and in five days hence the cells will be sealed. As soon as the cells are completed the queen and brood, which meanwhile were placed on top of a strong stock, are now returned. A queen excluder must of course be placed between the brood chamber containing the fertile queen and the newly sealed cells. On the eleventh day from the time the cells were commenced the virgin queens are due to hatch. The supreme advantage of this method of raising cells consists in that the royal larvae receive a superabundance of chyle from the very moment the eggs hatch. Queen cells built under the supercedure impulse in a queenright colony, above an excluder, are very often indifferently cared for.**

=====

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 98110



**Next Meeting:**

**Tuesday, June 19, 7PM,**

**At Stedman's**

**Bee-ginners Class 6PM**

**Beekeeping Gadgets**

**Bring your favorite to talk about**

**Refreshments**

**Drinks: Jeremy Mullins**

**Snacks: Paul Lundy**