

Buzzword



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Next Meeting

November 19th,
2002

**The Aerodynamics
of Bee Flight**

Michael Dillon from the Zoology Department of the University of Washington will present on this intriguing topic.

7:00 p.m. at Stedman's

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Wings of Eagles or Ball and Chain

Message from the President

November, the light has gone, the long wet is upon us with its attending trials for bee and beekeeper. The bees will survive on their stored labors of summer and fall together with the timely care of the beekeeper. The beekeepers will survive on their memories of summers glory and the hope that they will live to see another warm, sunny, spring day full of blossoms, and bees on the wing, and with a pot of honey on the dinner table for their share. It is a long road ahead, we are just started. I have a leak in my left boot and my sock is already wet, I'm feeling grumpy, we have six months to go.

These days I have been toiling at the annual

tasks of cleaning and storing away equipment. Scraping boxes, repairing frames, cleaning excluders and escapes, rendering wax. Making order of chaos. Repetitive mind numbing work that even for a feeble minded person like myself leaves a few unused brain cells with which to ponder the bigger picture. Why am I doing this? Do these colonies of bees give me the wings of eagles, allowing me to soar to the heights of ecstasy and view the beauty of the natural world? Or are they a ball and chain, condemning me to a life of toil for little reward? The answer of course is the former....most of the time.

Jim Willmann

brought up a very valid question at our last meeting

while discussing fall management when he asked "where does it all end ?" We sometimes get consumed by the mundane details of medication and management. Where are we going anyway? We pour resources and time into the dear girls and what do we get back? All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. Why are we doing this? Beside the obvious answer that we can't help ourselves I believe that each of us knows deep in our souls that we do it because it gives us profound pleasure. It's fun for the feeble minded, so take the course that seems best to you and keep up the good work.

This month the much coveted "President's (contd. on page 3)

AT THE LAST MEETING (OCTOBER 15, 2002)

Treasurer's Report:

* George Purkett gave the treasurer's report. Our bank balance as of October 14 was \$3314.99. We have 68 paid members as of today.

Announcements:

- * Last call for the Fall Conference at Sun Mountain Lodge in Winthrop from October 24th -26th. Registration forms are available from Paul.
- * Peninsula Fruit Club Show is October 26th in Silverdale. Anyone may sell honey, contact Rusty King.

New Business:

- * Holiday Dinner Party -- Nancy Fortner agreed to make arrangements for the dinner venue. We need a space for around 60 people. Nancy will see if Mitzel's would be available again this year.
- * Catherine Mathewson has a barrel hand-truck to give away. Contact her if you're interested.
- * A suggestion was made to have a future program on "record keeping."
- * Joe Grubbs will help with refreshments at the November meeting.
- * Tip from the Fortners: put lavender essential oil on a bee sting to ease the pain.

Program:

- * David Myhre led a discussion on what folks actually did for fall hive management of their hives.

Submitted by: Tricia Sullivan, Secretary, November 13, 2002

Visit
www.WestSoundBees.org

“The future lies in the committed, amateur beekeeper, who will no longer tolerate chemical treatment, and who must lead the way in the brave new world of ‘stewardship’ of honey bees through genetic selection for tolerance to pests and diseases.”

—Tom Glenn of
Glenn Apiaries
2002 EAS Conference

FOR SALE

12 oz capacity jars with plastic lids included.
2.75 diameter x 4.75 high
Mason jar lids will also work

\$2.00 per case of 12
Contact: Al or Barbara

**Stedman's Bee
Supplies
360-692-9453**

BASICS IN NORTHWEST BEEKEEPING

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

Winter is the time to care for your hives and equipment and make plans for next year. One of the most important things you can do is attend your state beekeeping meeting and learn first hand what is going on in beekeeping. The steps you continue to take now will determine how your bees will start next year - either strong and healthy or weak and in poor health.

Winter poses some serious problems for bees. The cold weather limits their activity and all efforts are focused on keeping warm. To keep warm, they need to eat, and to eat they must move away from the warmth of the cluster. Eating honey and the cold also cause condensation within the hive body and can wet and cool the bee even further.

You should ensure that your hives are adequately ventilated. Moisture collecting in the hive is the winter killer in our area. One simple way to provide increased ventilation is to put some small pieces of wood or

pebbles between the inner cover and the outer telescoping cover so that the outer cover is raised slightly. Alternatively you could provide top entrances for your hives by either drilling a 1/2-3/4 inch hole in the top box or by notching the inner cover.

But in any case, provide rain-tight covers and raise hives onto stands, off the ground. Tilting the hives forward by placing a piece of wood along the back underside of the bottom boards will allow any moisture that accumulates to run out the front entrance. The hives should be exposed to the sun and protected from winds, and the location should be well drained and not subject to flooding. Protect the bees and comb from mice. Raising the hives off the ground, and reducing the front entrance (or better yet using only a top hole or slot in the inner cover edge) will help keep mice out of your hives.

With all the above said, disturb the bees as little as possible and only open a hive when absolutely necessary and

only on days warm enough for the bees to be flying. Work quickly and carefully so as not to break the cluster or chill the bees.

Check the yard occasionally for molestation by vandals (critters, human and otherwise.) Skunks in particular destroy a hive in just a few nights by scratching at the front and gobbling up bees that run out to find out what the problem is. Screening the entrance area or carpet tack strips will discourage skunks. A roll of chicken wire laid in the front of the hive helps as well.

Store comb in a cool dry place and protect it from wax moths and mice. Your bees put a lot of energy and their lives into making that comb and by reusing good comb you give your bees a head start next year. Prepare and repair your equipment and make plans for next year. This is the time to build new boxes and frames and not wait until you have a swarm and nothing to put it into next spring.



IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM THE LIBRARIAN

If you have borrowed materials from the WSBA library please return them in a timely manner.

Library materials may be checked out during the regular meeting times or by arrangement with Roy or Vickie Barton. Normally all library materials can be checked out for one-month periods and members are requested to respect this policy.

Delinquency will result in the offender being stung repeatedly by Vickie Bee and the robbing of all your honey.



HONEY PUMPKIN PIE The Recipe Corner

1 can (16 ounces) solid pack pumpkin
1 cup evaporated low-fat milk
3/4 cup honey
3 eggs, slightly beaten
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
1/2 teaspoon rum extract
Pastry for single 9-inch pie crust

Combine all ingredients (except pastry, of course) in a large bowl; beat until well blended. Pour into pastry-lined 9-inch pie plate. Bake at 400 deg F for 45 minutes or until knife inserted near the center comes out clean.

...WINGS OF EAGLES (contd. from page 1)

Star for the Forehead" goes to Deanie Willmann for her generous contribution of a hand stitched baby quilt to the research fund auction at the state convention in Winthrop. I am sure that many hours of labor went into the lovely quilt with bees as its theme. Sue Olsen, who with husband Eric, run over eight thousand colonies took the prize after heated bidding. It brought the highest price for any single item at \$200 and no doubt a bargain at that. The auction overall yielded over \$1500 so congratulations to all and special thanks to Deanie. Maybe someday continuing research at WSU will find an answer to Jim's question of "where does it all end?"

We had a good meeting in a beautiful setting and fun was had by all. All officers at the state level were condemned, or re-elected, to another term. Next year's convention will be combined with Oregon at Hood River. Steve Sheppard's sugar ester treatment for varroa has been approved for registration and the manufacturer is currently seeking a distributor. This treatment is a frame by frame spray with a solution of sugar ester and water that has a 70% kill of exposed varroa and is made of food grade ingredients, can be used at any time of year, with no lasting effects and little likelihood of resistance ever occurring. It sounds like a very good alternative to sugar dusting as it actually kills mites and is no more work and should be inexpensive and is made of environmentally benign ingredients.

Also appreciation goes out to Stephen Augustine for his efforts at getting the new web site posted. If you have not yet checked it out go to www.westsoundbees.org and have a look. Follow the links and send helpful suggestions to our friendly webmaster. You may want to don a veil first because the bees are buzzing.

So empty out your boot, turn up your collar, keep scraping boxes and smile. Winter won't last forever, it will only seem that way. See you Tuesday and we will learn how those girls fly anyway, it promises to be fun.

- Paul



WSBA Holiday Dinner and Auction

Share good food and good friends, with a good dose of laughter thrown in....don't forget to bring an auction item (and feel free to bring more than one thing!)

Date: Tuesday, December 17

Social: 6 PM, Dinner: 7 PM

Mitzel's Restaurant, Hwy 305 @ Poulsbo

RSVP with dinner choice by December 10

206-842-6577 or sweetlifefarm@bainbridgeisland.net

Appetizers and desserts provided free by WSBA; you pay for dinner and choice of beverages. All dinners include choice of house or Caesar salad or soup, and bread basket

Turkey Alfredo \$8.99

Tender penne tossed in creamy alfredo sauce with rotisserie turkey, broccoli, onions and mushrooms

Prime Rib \$14.99

With creamed horseradish, baked potato and seasonal vegetables

Pacific Salmon Fillet \$11.99

topped with herb butter, with seasonal vegetables and baked potato

Tomato Basil Penne \$7.99

vegetarian pasta tossed with penne noodles and tomato basil sauce



Refreshment Schedule

Nov: Nancy Fortner & Joe Grubbs

Dec: Dinner Meeting at Mitzels

Jan: -open-

Feb: -open-

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.

Master Beekeepers' Course Simon Fraser Univ. February 10-14, 2003 Vancouver, BC.

Cost is \$150, contact Dr. Mark Winston, Simon Fraser University Burnaby, B.C., V5A 1S6
Phone: (604)291-4910
or (604)291-3012
Fax: (604)291-3496
e-mail: winston@sfu.ca

Editor's Note:

Articles of interest to beekeepers and announcements of interest to Association members are welcomed and encouraged.

Submit articles and announcements to Stephen Augustine:

Email: saugusti@krl.org
Mail: 401 B Liberty St NW
Poulsbo, WA 98370

FOREIGN BEES IN THE U.S.

A "Catch The Buzz" Alert From Bee Culture

Do we want New Zealand and Australian honey bees in the U.S.? Apparently we do. In August this year APHIS put out a news release (distributed here and in the magazine we publish) on the plan to allow imports of honey bees from New Zealand and Australia. They had previously made this announcement, citing trade laws supporting the action pending analysis of lack of disease or pest differences between these countries. Essentially, their analysis showed, so they said, that their countries had the same pests as found in the U.S., thus the free flow of bees from there to here would pose no new or exotic pests or problems to U.S. beekeeping. U.S. beekeepers and others were asked to make comments on why this should, or should not occur. These comments had to be based on science, and not on marketing arguments. Very, very few comments were made.

However, Canada has been doing this for several years with, again, no apparent problems. If enacted, bees

would be allowed into the U.S. with no inspections and no quarantines. Most states have stricter border crossing laws in place. This is, in the opinion of some, akin to the fox guarding the chicken house. We are asked to trust foreign exporters more than we are asked to trust U.S. State Inspectors. On October 29 another hearing was held with APHIS, New Zealand and Australian representatives present to review the very few comments that were submitted, and to answer questions of anybody present. Only 2 U.S. beekeepers were present. The questions they asked were not answered. The representatives were not impressed, and again stressed that this should occur. The absolute end of this comment period is November 18, 2002. One of the primary arguments presented by both countries is that they have in place incredibly tight security, so that nothing alien can cross their borders, and thus be transmitted to the U. S. The irony here is, or course, that New Zealand found varroa long after it was established, and this week, Small Hive

Beetle was found in Australia. The credibility of these arguments is certainly in question. What will the next "Varroa" be? If you feel this is important enough to examine further then the deadline for the comment period should be extended for at least a couple of months. Until the end of January anyway.

To comment send an email by **November 18, 2002** to **regulations@aphis.usda.gov** The subject MUST be "**Docket No. 98-109-1**"

Include your name and postal address to show that you are a US citizen. Ask to extend the comment period on live bee imports until Jan 31, 2003 so that we all have time to figure this out, and maybe even help the USDA fix it. And include YOUR comments on why this should, or shouldn't happen. Arguments of the \$\$\$ involved won't work. It can't be a marketing issue. It has to be science to be considered.



Buzzword



West Sound Beekeepers Association
10982 NE Tulin Rd
Kingston, WA 98346

Next Meeting:

Tuesday Nov. 19th, 7:00p.m., at Stedman's

Program:

Aerodynamics of Bee Flight by Michael Dillon
of U. of W. Department of Zoology

*RSVP for Holiday Dinner by
December 10th!
Details inside...*