

Buzzword



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Next Meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 16, 2004,

Bee-ginner's Instruction
at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Hive Management

by Jerry Hominda
at 8:00 p.m.

Stedman's Bee Supplies
Silverdale

OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

President:
Basil Gunther 360-297-5075
Vice President:
George Purkett 360-895-9116
Secretary:
Tricia Sullivan 360-779-1210
Treasurer:
Joe Grubbs 360-871-5308

Educational Materials:
Barbara Stedman 360-692-9453
Librarian:
Roy & Vickie Barton 360-613-0175
Newsletter Editor:
Stephen Augustine 360-779-1210

The Association Needs You!



We are quite fortunate to have one of the most active and vibrant organizations in our state. A crucial part of that is our members who are willing to contribute generously of their time and efforts in leadership roles towards the ongoing education of members. As of January 2005 the following positions are opening up and will need to be filled:

1. **Newsletter Editor:** Edits and publishes the association's newsletter every month. The newsletter editor receives information on association activities and events from other officers, notably the president, and publishes this information in the newsletter.
2. **Secretary:** The secretary keeps the minutes of monthly meetings and in conjunction with the treasurer maintains the membership roster.
3. **Webmaster:** The webmaster maintains the association's website and updates it as necessary with newsletter updates, upcoming events, and links to other sites.

Please consider volunteering for one of these positions. Contact Stephen Augustine at 779-1210 for the Newsletter Editor and Webmaster positions and Tricia Sullivan at 779-1210 for the Secretary position.

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!)

Tentative Date: Tuesday, December 21. Time to be announced.

Tentative Location: The Olive Garden, Silverdale

As of this writing the above date and location are unconfirmed. The dinner date may be moved up to Tuesday, December 14th if the Olive Garden banquet room proves to be unavailable on the 21st.

There is likely to be a limit of 40 persons for the Olive Garden banquet room. For this reason we are taking reservations. If you are planning on attending please call in your reservation(s) to Basil Gunther at 297-5075 immediately.

We have also planned on having a honey taste-off at the dinner so plan on bringing honey from your apiary to be included in this event.

Bee-ginner's Instruction



Before the meeting at 6:30 p.m. by Paul Lundy

The topic for this month is Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

THE LEAVES HAVE FALLEN

Adapted from Ron Bennett and supplemented by Stephen Augustine

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 bees 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. Again, adequate ventilation cannot be stressed enough.

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 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.



“What is this ‘spirit of the hive’ - where does it reside?”

Maurice Maeterlinck, 1901, from *The Life of the Bee*

2005 Membership Dues

WSBA membership dues are due for 2005. Dues are \$24 for the year and this includes associate membership in the Washington State Beekeepers Association.

Please pay your dues at the next meeting or mail checks to treasurer Joe Grubbs at:

WSBA
6021 Peterson Rd SE
Port Orchard, WA 98367

RECIPE CORNER



Honey Pumpkin Pie

- 1 can (16 oz) 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 in large bowl; beat until well blended. Pour into pastry-lined 9-inch pie plate. Bake at 400° F 45 minutes or until knife inserted near center comes out clean.



KNOW A HONEYBEE'S WORK

Compiled by Stephen Augustine

- ❖ The life span of a worker honeybee is only 4 to 6 weeks during the busy summer months
- ❖ A foraging worker bee will visit about 100 flowers per day to collect nectar and pollen
- ❖ A typical honeybee will fly about 400 miles during her lifetime to make a total of about 1/8th of a teaspoon of honey
- ❖ One pound of honey is approximately 76 teaspoons = the lifetime's work of 608 bees = 243,000 km flown
- ❖ The average temperature of the interior of the beehive is 93.5 °F and maintained so during the hottest and coldest days of the year by fanning and deposition of water (for cooling) and shivering and clustering (to produce heat)
- ❖ It takes 8 to 10 pounds of nectar to make a pound of honey
- ❖ It takes 8 to 10 pounds of honey to make a pound of beeswax
- ❖ The six sided hex shape of honeycomb is the strongest shape per material weight - it was proven so using advanced mathematics and six pages of equations
- ❖ One ounce of honey would fuel honeybee flight nearly around the world
- ❖ Honeybees can fly at a top speed of about 25 mph and forage as far as 4 miles from the hive
- ❖ Propolis made from tree sap is used as a glue and anti-bacterial agent inside the hive
- ❖ The queen honeybee can live for up to 4 years
- ❖ By late spring the queen will lay approximately 2000 eggs per day at the rate of 5 or 6 per minute (she will lay a total of around 200,000 eggs per year)
- ❖ A typical hive maintained by a beekeeper will house around 30,000 to 60,000 bees
- ❖ Honeybees have developed the most sophisticated language (bee dances) known in the animal world
- ❖ Honeybees orient themselves by using the position of the sun, on cloudy days they can still deduce the sun's position by detecting polarized light
- ❖ Honeybees are among the very few animals on the planet which give life profusely (via pollination) but yet take no life at all in order to survive (they subsist only on pollen and nectar)
- ❖ A honeybee spends her life in work - first as a cell cleaner, then nurse bee, then house bee (nectar receiver), comb builder, guard, and finally as a forager
- ❖ At the end of her short lifespan the honeybee will literally die from exhaustion, having worn out her muscles and wings



Queen Isabella in her Court

April 2001, Bees By The Bay, Poulsbo, WA

Refreshment Schedule

Nov: Jim Carter (we need another volunteer)

Dec: Holiday Dinner

Jan: Brent Benson

Feb: Dee Lamar,
Chanetta Ludwig

Mar: Rusty King

If you are unable to fulfill your commitment to provide refreshments for a meeting please notify Basil Gunther by giving him a call at 360-297-5075 before the meeting date.



Get well wishes go out to:

Barbara Stedman who is recovering from surgery. Get well Barbara!

If you know of a member who has been ill let us know at (360)779-1210

Formic Acid Handbook

Bill "Formic Acid" Ruzicka has published a 32-page booklet, entitled, *Formic Acid Use Handbook and Manual of Treatments*.

The document is liable to change quickly, but updates as well as the manual itself will be available at <http://www.mitegone.com>

Minutes of the Last Meeting

October 19, 2004, 7-9 p.m. at Stedman's Bee Supplies

Basil Gunther, President presided at the meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

- * Joe Grubbs was not present to give a treasurer's report.

Announcements:

- * Paul Lundy will be offering a "Bee-ginners Workshop" at 6:30 p.m. prior to every regularly-scheduled WSBA meeting. Paul will gear timely information to beginning beekeepers but all are welcome.
- * Paul Lundy and Basil Gunther attended the Washington State Beekeepers' Conference October 14-16 in Spokane. Paul gave a short review of major talks.
- * Stephen Augustine announced that the WSBA needs to find a new newsletter editor and web master beginning in January. Please consider taking on one of these roles. To be discussed further at the November meeting.

New Business:

- * Basil suggested setting up a bulletin board-type discussion on the www.westsoundbees.org website, so local beekeepers could have discussions of local interest.
- * Discussion about whether to have a Holiday Dinner Party in December came up. Paul Lundy made a motion to have a Dinner Party at the Silverdale Olive Garden on December 21 or 14. Motion seconded and passed. Basil will reserve the space and get dinner details. Tricia Sullivan will organize a honey taste-off for the evening. Basil will ask Roy Barton if he'll organize an auction.

Program:

- * Chanetta Ludwig gave a presentation on Apitherapy from information that she learned at the Apitherapy Workshop that the WSBA sent her to in July.

Submitted by: Tricia Sullivan, Secretary, October 13, 2004



West Sound Beekeepers Association
3763 NW Anderson Hill Road
Silverdale, WA 98383
<http://www.WestSoundBees.org>

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Hive Management
7 p.m. at Stedman's in Silverdale