

Buzzword



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Next Meeting

September 17th,
2002 at Stedman's

Fall Management

Treating and preparing
colonies for successful
wintering

By Mike Johnson

OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

<u>President:</u>	
Paul Hosticka	360-297-3614
<u>Vice President:</u>	
Kevin Wirth	253-851-4664
<u>Secretary:</u>	
Tricia Sullivan	360-779-1210
<u>Treasurer:</u>	
George Purkett	360-895-9116
<u>Educational Materials:</u>	
Barabara Stedman	360-692-9453
<u>Librarian:</u>	
Roy Barton	360-613-0175
<u>Newsletter Editor:</u>	
Stephen Augustine	360-779-1210

The Ant & The Grasshopper

Message from the President

September marks a season of change. One day is crisp and clear with some of the best weather this planet has to offer and the next is cool and unsettled reminding us of the long dark winter that is bearing down on us.

I'm reminded of the old tale of the ant and the grasshopper where the ant is industriously preparing for the coming winter and the grasshopper is loafing in the sun enjoying the beautiful day. A few weeks later the ant is snug and warm in its well stocked den and the grasshopper is dying out in the cold. The bees are

very much in the ant mold here. They are bringing in pollen and nectar and preparing the brood nest for winter, all the while taking a bit of time to loaf in the sun and seemingly just enjoy being alive. We as beekeepers best not fall into the grasshopper mold, for we too have a duty to fulfill if we hope to have our bees survive the winter. These bright beautiful days are our last chance to make sure all is well with our colonies and procrastination will result in winter losses. Mite strips, if used, must be in for the prescribed time of 6 to 8 weeks for Apistan or 6 weeks for CheckMite+. Formic acid needs 2 weeks of

weather in the 60s to be completely effective and the bees need a few weeks to ripen any needed feed and get it properly placed around the brood nest.

Fall management is surely the most critical task of the successful beekeeper and that will be the topic of our next meeting. Experienced beekeepers know what they need to do, but they still must do it, and new beekeepers can come and refresh their knowledge and ask any questions. High winter survival brings satisfaction and justifiable pride to the beekeeper while nothing

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AT THE LAST MEETING (TUESDAY, JULY 16TH, 7-9 PM)

Treasurer's Report: George Purkett gave the treasurer's report. Our bank balance as of July 16 was \$3501. We have 68 paid members as of July 16th.

Announcements:

- * Picnic will be held August 20th at the Hosticka's house in Kingston. Come at 3 pm if you'd like to "Find a queen with Paul."
- * Fall Conference is at Sun Mountain Lodge in Winthrop from October 24th -26th.
- * Send "announcements or observations" (e.g.: swarm arrived, foulbrood outbreak, etc.) to Stephen for the newsletter at saugusti@krl.org
- * Dale is looking for suggestions on getting rid of carpenter ants.
- * Jean Iverson would like to sell Jon's four hives. Contact Rusty if you're interested.
- * Northwest Beekeepers are having a picnic on July 27th, see Paul for details.
- * Paul will ask Bob Martello to share at a future meeting about visiting bees and beekeepers during his trip to the Ukraine.

Program:

George Purkett presented a program on using food-grade mineral oil to control varroa mites.

Submitted by: Tricia Sullivan, Secretary, September 11, 2002

Get well wishes go out to:



If you know of a member who has been ill let us know at (360)779-1210 or (360)297-3614

“Bee vomit,’ my brother said once, ‘that’s all honey is,’ so that I could not put my tongue to its jellied flame without tasting regurgitated blossoms.”

Rita Dove
“The Old Neighborhood”

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/>)

September starts our Fall management planning and preparations, and protecting your bees from their neighbor hives and yellowjackets. The worst problem beekeepers face in late Summer and early Fall is robbing. Don't tempt robber bees by exposing honey. Don't work the brood nest unless necessary; stop if robbing starts. One of the best methods to minimize robbing and help your colonies stave off the yellowjacket onslaught is to reduce entrances to a bee space sized slot after hot days are over.

The major nectar flow is over now and the bees are starting to wind their

populations down for winter. But, the populations are still high and there are flowers around (Queen Ann's lace, Pearly Everlasting, Japanese Knotweed, and others) for the bees to work. For colonies that are light in stores start feeding them a heavy sugar syrup (1:1 sugar/water by volume) until the colony's gross weight is about 150-180 pounds.

It is advisable to use a sticky board and monitor a 24-hour varroa mite-drop with mite strips. A count of 25 mites or less usually indicates that mite treatment is not necessary. However, if your hives are infested with

varroa mites and if you have determined that mite strips are the best course of remedial action then the strips should be in the hives by now. Also remember to remove the strips within the specified time period (6-8 weeks) otherwise you will only be helping to induce resistance in mites, which will lead to future treatment problems for all beekeepers.

Keep on the lookout for American Foulbrood, Chalkbrood and Nosema. Watch for signs of tracheal mites by looking for bees with the K-wing appearance or for bees crawling in front of the

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BEE MENTOR PROGRAM

WSBA has an established mentor program. Following are the people who have signed up as volunteers to assist new beekeepers with advice and on site assistance. They will also respond to most calls for swarm capture.

South Kitsap:

George Purkett, (360)895-9116, purkettg@nwinet.com

Central Kitsap:

Mike Johnson, (360)830-0295, mlj@hurricane.net
Roy Barton, (360)613-0175, honeyhill@tscnet.com

North Kitsap:

Paul Hosticka, (360)297-3614, phos@tscnet.com
Paul Lundy, (360)297-6743, lundyknox@att.net

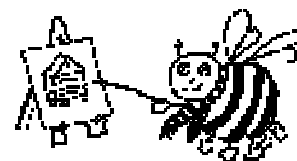
Bainbridge Island:

Jim Willmann, (206)842-5991, jwillm4622@aol.com

Poulsbo and environs:

Stephen Augustine, (360)779-1210, saugusti@krl.org

If you would like to be added to the mentor list please contact Paul Hosticka at (360)297-3614



...ANT & GRASSHOPPER (contd. from page 1)

is more painful than opening a dead hive in February knowing that you could have prevented its loss.

Come the third week of October the die will be cast so what better time for an enjoyable weekend at the State Convention near Winthrop in the glorious Methow Valley. You can find the info elsewhere in this newsletter and I hope that many of you can make the trip. I always find these meetings to be great fun, with a chance to hear from research and industry leaders on important topics together with informal social gatherings where you can hob-knob with like minded lunatics guilt free.

By most accounts that I have heard it has not been a good honey year for our members. We had a horrible spring, weather wise, but July and August were not unusual so the reasons are, for me, a bit of a mystery. I hope we can talk about this and share how we did and any observations or theories as to the cause. Personally I got pretty much skunked in the spring, had a somewhat below average blackberry crop and an outstanding fireweed season with total yields down by 25% or so. For the problem to be so wide-spread there must be some common thread affecting all of us but right now I don't know what it might be. Come and share your tales of woe and together we may figure something out.

As we always say, just wait until next year. Everything will be perfect and we will have more honey than we know what to do with but in order to get to next year we need to make sure the girls are in good shape for winter now and that takes getting out there and taking care of business. So don't dally or the ghosts of thousands of forlorn buzzers will haunt your slumber all winter. Hope to see you Tuesday. - **Paul**



That Outstanding Fireweed Yard in the Olympics

IMPORTANT NOTICE – PLEASE READ

At the request of several members of the Association we are going to publish contact details of the Association members in the October 2002 issue of this newsletter. This contact information will be restricted to Name, Phone #, Email (if available), and City.

If you do NOT want your name or contact details published in the newsletter please let us know before Tuesday, October 9th, 2002 by contacting

Stephen Augustine, Phone: 360-779-1210 Email: saugusti@krl.org or
Paul Hosticka, Phone: 360-297-3614 Email: phos@tscnet.com

Refreshment Schedule

Sep: Mike Hoey &
David Myhre
Oct: Mark McColigan &
Catherine Mathewson
Nov: Nancy Fortner
Dec: Dinner Meeting
Jan: -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.

Octopus Garden Queens



Kitsap County bred,
New World Carniolan,
marked, laying queens
for \$12.

Five frame nucs for
\$55.

Limited supply.

Call Paul at 297-3614

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

WSBA SUMMER PICNIC 2002

The Association's 2002 Summer Picnic was held at the quiet hideaway of Octopus Garden Bee Ranch in Kingston on August 20th, 2002. A beautifully sunny afternoon complemented the good food, good drinks and the gracious hospitality of hosts Paul & Susan Hosticka.

Photos courtesy of Bob Fortner



Paul Hosticka pawns off some questionable used equipment to George Purkett and Jim McCormick.



Bill Jones, Vickie & Roy Barton, Dale Spoor, Betty Schicker and Chris Williams share a few tales while seated under the apple tree.

If you missed the summer picnic mark your calendars now for the December dinner meeting tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, December 17th, 2002.



...BASICS IN BEEKEEPING (CONTD. FROM PAGE 2)

hive. Treat for tracheal mites as appropriate with either formic acid or menthol. However, remember that both these courses of action will require 60 degree or higher days of temperature for effectiveness.

Check your stored comb for possible wax moth infestation. Wax moths (like rust?) never seem to sleep. They can ruin all of your precious combs in little time. You can effectively prevent wax moth infestations by keeping your supers bagged in large plastic trash bags. Freezing infested combs in a freezer will also kill all the wax moth eggs and larvae. You also need to protect any stored equipment and combs from mice. They will burrow through your stored combs, eat your combs (especially honey supers) and build nests in the boxes.



The International Bee Research Association (IBRA) is the "world information specialist on bees."
<http://www.cf.ac.uk/ibra/>

WASHINGTON STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
2002 CONFERENCE - OCTOBER 24-26, 2002
SUN MOUNTAIN LODGE, WINTHROP, WASHINGTON

Conference Registration Form

Please use a separate form for each family

Attendee's Last Name First Names Reg. Date ** (Mail or E-MAIL by October 11th)

Company Name: Home Phone:
Mailing Address: Alternate Phone:
E-mail:

Registration Fees (for meetings, syllabus and coffee breaks)

- Full Conference (includes two breakfasts, and lunch on Friday) \$ 90
Full Conference for Couple sharing syllabus (includes meals for both) \$ 170
Friday only (includes lunch) \$ 70
Saturday only (half-day session only, no meals) \$ 30

Select ONE of the above: Registration Fee \$

**Late registration Fee (between Sept.24th and Oct.12th): add \$15 Late Fee \$

NOTE: On-site registration discouraged. After October 13th, the registration fee plus late fee will remain the same, but will not include meals.

Call (509-997-9699) or e-mail (queenbee@methow.com) Miriam Bishop ASAP if you have missed a deadline.

Optional Events and Meals (MUST be reserved in advance)

- Thursday Night Wine & Cheese: \$ 5 x people* \$
Friday Evening Banquet: \$30 x people* \$
Saturday Lunch w/speaker: \$15 x people* \$

(*If you are bringing a spouse or non-registered guest to these special events, be sure to add them here.)

Exhibitors: contact Miriam Bishop to plan your display. Display Space \$

Total Amount Enclosed for all Fees, Meals & Displays TOTAL \$

Make checks payable to: WA. State Beekeepers Assn. 2002 Conference

Mail form and payment to: Miriam Bishop, PO Box 703, Twisp, WA 98856

Questions? Schedule? Call 509-997-9699; or cell phone 509-322-2766; or e-mail queenbee@methow.com

Lodging: Contact Sun Mountain Lodge directly to reserve your room. 800-572-0493 Special rates for WSBA \$70+tax per room for two people; add \$25 per additional person in the room. Deadline to reserve at this rate: September 9th (but call and ask if reserving later).

RVs: Contact Riverbend RV Park directly to reserve space at special rates for our group. \$21/site w/10% discount if we get 5 or more rigs. 800-686-4498. Located on the Methow River 2 miles north of Twisp, and about 10 miles below Sun Mt. Lodge.

Finally tell us where you plan to stay: Sun Mountain Lodge Riverbend Other

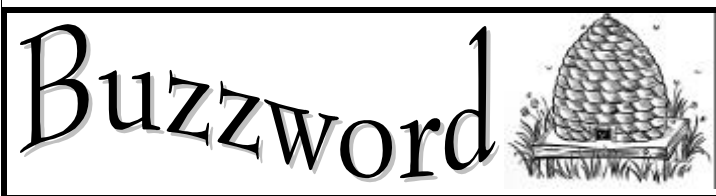
Special Dietary Needs? 6/08/02

FALL MANAGEMENT

The basic principle of Fall Management is to ensure that your colonies are healthy, strong and free of diseases/pests as they go into the winter. Additionally, you should ensure that each colony has adequate honey stores as this is the food they will subsist on from October until March of next year. Lastly, you should ensure that each hive is adequately ventilated. In the Puget Sound area the winter killer is not the cold but the moisture. As bees consume food stores they will release significant amounts of moisture. If this moisture does not have an outlet to escape it will condense on the inner cover and drip on the winter cluster – chilling them and ultimately leading to the colony’s demise.

In regards to treatments for diseases and pests an IPM approach is recommended. That is, after sampling or careful observation if the colony exhibits signs of the disease or problem then use an appropriate treatment. Prophylactic use of the various treatments generally selects for resistance in the pest or disease rather than helping the bees. Here is a recap of some of the different treatments that you might use.

Sugar Syrup for Feed	1:1 by volume of sugar and water, feed until the gross weight of the colony is about 150-180 pounds.
Fumidil-B for Nosema	One teaspoon of Fumidil-B dissolved per gallon of sugar syrup, two gallons of medicated syrup per affected colony.
Terramycin for AFB	Mix one teaspoon of Terramycin with two tablespoons of powdered sugar. Spread this amount on the ends of the frames, and repeat every 3 to 5 days until three treatments are given to each affected hive.
Grease Patty for TM	Keep grease patties (vegetable oil or shortening and powdered sugar) above the brood nest continuously to reduce the incidence of Tracheal Mites.
Menthol for TM	One 7x7 inch (1/3 rd cup) menthol packet on top of brood nest. Remove the packet after 4-6 weeks.
Formic Acid for TM	Soak absorbent pad with 30ml of 65% formic acid and place on top bars. Three treatments at intervals of five to seven days. Remove used pads each time.
Formic Acid for Varroa	Soak absorbent pad with 30ml of 65% formic acid and place on top bars. Five to six treatments at intervals of five to seven days. Remove used pads each time.
Sugar Dusting for Varroa	Dust individual frames with ordinary powdered sugar as described in the July issue of Buzzword.
Apistan Strips for Varroa	1 Apistan strip per every 5 frames covered by bees hung between the frames of the colony cluster (usually 2 to 4 strips are needed per colony). Apistan should NOT remain in the colony longer than 42 to 56 days (6 to 8 weeks).



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

Next Meeting:
 Tuesday Sept. 17th, 7:00p.m., at Stedman’s
Program:
 Fall Management with Mike Johnson