



INLAND BEEMAIL

Monthly newsletter of the Inland Empire Beekeepers Association

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WSU Field Day Pullman

We had a great day at the field day in Pullman on June 17-18. We began Friday evening with a wine and cheese social followed by Saturday AM lectures on new developments in bee research at WSU. For the rest of the morning we had three separate field classes. One looking at foulbrood detection and selection of hygienic traits, a second looking at basic hive management and a third looking at various forms of varroa mite control. In the afternoon we had a neat session on WSU's queen rearing program with a trip to their mating apiary north of Albion. Across the following pages are pictures from our field day. Plan on joining us next year as this is one of the best opportunities to meet and learn from WSU researchers and other bee keepers—editor.



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Foulbrood discussion

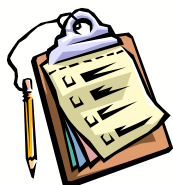


Hygienic Traits



June Minutes

—Linda Carney, Secretary



No report this month

Hive Care :

July

The Bees.

Nectar flows are at their maximum, with plenty of bees and activity around the hive.

The Beekeeper.

Watch your colonies as they fill up the hives with nectar. Add supers as necessary and watch that the brood nest does not become honey bound. In some areas, beekeepers begin extracting in July. Supers can be pulled and extracted as early as when about two-thirds of the comb is capped.

In areas of high production, and where flows extend to mid-August, extracted combs can be returned to the hives.

Test for varroa in some randomly selected colonies. Be on the lookout for colonies with unusual population expansion, as they may be receiving large numbers of varroa infested bees from hives that are collapsing nearby.

As you survey your crop, ready some of your efforts for fair entries.

-adapted from
www.backyardbeekeepers.com

More on Hygienic Traits



Beekeeping 101—Swarm Season



2005 Program

July

- Field day IEBA/WSU Apiary
- July management
- Honey removal/extraction
- Mite management

August

- Picnic
- Fall preparations

September

- Meeting at Fair
- September management

- Fair preparations

October

- October Management
- Guest speaker

November

- Thanksgiving dinner
- Guest speaker

December

- Potluck dinner
- Election of officers

Varroa Mite Control

Ether Roll



Drone Comb



On the way to the queen yard



Classifieds

Tate's Honey Farm has all of your extracting and packaging needs as well as spring packages and queens. Woodenware for all your winter projects and spring needs. Shop hours are 8:30—2:00 every Saturday at E. 8900 Maringo, Millwood. Contact us at 509-924-6669 or online

www.tateshoneyfarm.com

BEEBOXES BY LEE

Woodenware, standard or custom orders, IPM bottom boards, Hive top feeders, etc, select lumber. Order now to be ready for spring. Lee Berchtold (208) 687-1300

Miller's Homestead *Jim and Jenine Miller*

Cheney, WA 1-509-299-9085
14606 Stangland Rd., Cheney. Look at our web site for prices on all available items.
www.millershomestead.com

NUC's - For Sale

Now taking orders for Queens and Nucs.4.9mm and standard cell sizes available. Contact Travis Sammons at 509-928-4326



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Georgian National Flag

A Beekeeping Trip to the Republic of Georgia

By Jim Miller

Garmajoba (Georgian for Hello)

During the month of January 2005 my friend, John Fouts, who works for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in the Republic of Georgia, asked me if I was interested in coming to Georgia to start some beekeeping classes. My immediate response was "I have a passport, my shots and I am ready". The Georgia Farmer to Farmer program is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and implemented by Agricultural Cooperative Development International and Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance (ACDI/VOCA). I was contacted by Winrock International, who does the recruiting for ACDI/VOCA, and they asked for my resume. Okay, now I have committed to the task, where is the Republic of Georgia?

The first map I looked at showed the Greater and Lesser Caucas Mountains. Then the bells went off. Caucas Mountains is where the Caucasian bees come from. I could not find a good reason not to go where they have been keeping bees since 4000 BC. While my search continued for information about Georgia, I learned that the Georgian language is unique to Georgia. The country of Georgia has a long history of traders and empires taking claim to a road that passes through the country. This road that connects the east with the west and is called the Silk Road.



John Fouts hard at work.

At ten PM, April 17th I arrived in Tbilisi Georgia. I left home Friday morning at 9:00 AM and traveled 12,000 miles, halfway around the earth to meet my good friend John.

Tuesday morning I was taken to the US Embassy and met with US Ambassador Miles who was very interested in beekeeping in Georgia. The Ambassador requested that I return for another meeting at the end of my tour.

We left for the western office of USDA which is located in Kutaisi. I must say the driver kept the car between the white lines. The white line on the extreme right of the highway and the one on the extreme left of the highway. The center line was there just for show. The current passing laws are whatever makes you happy, so pass on curves, crest of hills, blind turns, intersections and any place in-between. This was done at 100km/hr and a steady tooting of the horn. We made the trip the 210 km in 3 hours. Which I have come to learn is standard time for this distance.



Living Room of the USDA office in Kutaisi

Our USDA driver is Nugzar Jinjikhadze of Kutaisi. Nugzar is well adapted for this position as driver, interpreter, businessman and friend. He is an outstanding driver who speaks Russian, English and his native tongue of Georgian. He has a bachelor's degree in Food Preparation and a master in Business Management. He has a beautiful wife, two boys, and a pure Georgian dog. From this point forward Nugzar is my driver and John is the boss.



Nugzar Jinjikhadze the USDA Driver

For my first day at work, we went to the Kveda Simoneti School which is located east of Kutaisi by about 15 minutes. This is a three story building that has all of its doors and windows, walls and a roof. All of which are in need of repair. We went into a

class that was in progress, the students stood when the teacher entered and left the room. I greeted the students which were in the 8th or 9th grade. They responded Good Morning in good English. I made the statement that I was pleased to see the respect that was shown and stated that this is not done in the US. I walked away from that school crying. The Georgians have so little material wealth and a great desire to improve their standing in life. Now I understand why John works here.

On the second day of work we returned to the Kveda Simoneti School. Everything went great. There were 24 students and 13 adults present. Three of them were beekeepers with 114 hives between them. They all sell retail and sell a liter for 3 or 4 lari which equals about \$2.25 in US money. I was tested for my knowledge of beekeeping by two Georgian women beekeepers. I guess I passed the test because they wanted me to come back on Friday.



The Kveda Simoneti School

The beekeepers and teachers that I have come in contact with in Georgian are well educated. They have graduated from schools in Georgia and Russia some with engineering degrees and other with teaching degrees. All of them are trying to improve themselves and provide for their families.

My second assignment started on Monday, April 25th. We arrived in Chiatura around noon. At 1:30 PM I met the Upper Imereti Farmers Association. Their president is Fridon Jajanidze and Mamuka Gogilava is the Vice-President.

Chiatura is located in a deep gorge northeast of Kutaisi. How deep is the gorge? Let me tell you. They have 52 cable cars that run from downtown to the top of the gorge. It is one of their means to get to the top. Another way, and the way we traveled is by car to the hotel at the top of the gorge. We passed this cow that was grazing and I noticed that the legs on the left side were about a foot shorter than the ones on the right side. I asked Mamuka why the difference in the length of the legs. His reply was so the cow can walk upright and won't fall over. A little further up the hill I saw several chickens with string wrapped around their bodies and the other end was attached to a stake. I had never seen this before and being a nosy American I had to ask

why the string and the stake. The reply was as follows, the owner has lost chickens before. They appear to lose their footing and tumble to the bottom of the grade. The people at the bottom of the gorge were tired of eating chickens that have fallen to them. So the people at the bottom got together and came up with this idea of how to keep the chickens at home. The owner of the chickens will be required from time to time to move the stakes. There is another problem that they have not been able to correct so they have posted signs. We have them in the US "Caution falling rocks". They have signs at the bottom of the gorge that say "Caution falling eggs".

At 9:00 AM on Tuesday we left the Hotel for the movie theater down town where the class and meeting are to be held. And I use the word down town literally. We are to travel by taxi to the movie theater. The taxi appeared at the gate to the hotel and then turned around. He turned the engine off to save gas. Mamuka, the luggage and I got into the car. I picked the safest seat in the car, the back seat behind the driver. You have heard the stories about white knuckle drivers; ever see a white knuckle passenger? Picture this road, which I came up yesterday, it is paved, holes here and there, more turns than a snake on a hot tin roof, and a 3000 foot drop. My door closes and we are off just like the bobsledders at the winter games. And you guessed it, the engine is not running. Down we go, around we go, past the chickens, the cow and a brown dog that was crossing himself and saying a prayer. I could not hear who the prayer was for because we had just broken the sound barrier. Thirty seconds later we are at the bottom safe and sound.

On Wednesday at 9:00 AM we departed the Hotel and the same bobsled was waiting for us. As we shot down the hill we passed the chickens, cow, and the same dog that was crossing himself. I must be getting into a habit. The beekeepers of the area met at the theater and decided that the trip to the bee yards should be called off because of the rain.

My time in Chiatura was shorter than planned so we started looking up beekeepers in the Kutaisi area. One beekeeper, Avto Gabelashvili, lives in Kutaisi and works about 1500 hives with his five brothers. The other beekeeper, Iuza Gigashvili, lives in the mountains northeast of Kutaisi. We went to see Iuza first. He had over 50 hives at this location. The bees are a mixture of Caucasian and Georgian Mountain Bees. Both bees are gray in color and the Caucasian has stripes while the Mountain Bee doesn't. I have never seen so many bees so calm and collected. His operation is clean, efficient and very well managed. I will call this man the Guru of Beekeepers. Before leaving Georgia I learned how they are treating their bees for Varroa mites. Because money is in short supply they have developed treatments using natural ingredients. After inspecting several hives I could not find any mites. Iuza gave me the recipes and I will have to try them here in the US.

On Wednesday, May 4, 2005, we visited with Roman Margalidze, Director of the Laituria Agricultural Technical School. He would like a 12 week class on basic beekeeping. I have found

that the people of Georgia want very much to improve themselves and their country.

The school has several projects and from time to time they are able to sell some of their produce and a portion of this goes towards



teacher's salaries. The local government doesn't have the resources to help with the cost of running the school.

John Fouts, Nugzar Jinjikhadze and Roman Margalitadze

John Fouts, Alfred Williams, Senior Agribusiness Advisor, and I kept the appointment with Ambassador Miles and Patricia N. Moller, Deputy Chief of Mission. I gave Mr. Miles the report that I had completed. The Ambassador was very interested in Beekeeping in Georgia and how honey sales might increase the monthly income of the beekeepers.

One thing I discovered is that Georgia is very much like Washington State. The east side is dry and the west side is wet and green. A mountain range separates the two. I have met some wonderful people who made me feel at home.

I am going to miss Georgia, the people, and the friends that I have made. I am hoping that I will return, with Jenine, and review what I have started.



A young Georgian Dance Troupe preparing for competition

Nakhvamdis (Georgian for Goodbye)

Bee Culture
THE MAGAZINE OF AMERICAN BEEKEEPING

Inner Cover
By: [Kim Flottum](#)

I was talking with a honey bee researcher recently who was half-seriously suggesting that the quest for the perfect *Varroa* control was wearing thin. That there were other, important problems to consider, and other curious things to unwind and uncover. Both broader pictures and intriguing niches to study and to glean from. Some with *Varroa* as a part of the picture, some not at all. Knowledge, after all, has many facets.

Another researcher expressed a similar view, for a very different reason. The money, it seems, is coming from a different master, and starvation was certain on a *Varroa*-only-control diet.

Varroa fatigue, it appears, is setting in. I know exactly what that is. I ll bet you do, too. I want to just keep bees, not gain a degree in acarology. But everything I do is keyed to control Varroa. Everything. Screened bottom boards. Disease reduction. Monitoring and measuring the whole number of mites all the time. Chemicals, hard and soft. Brood removal. Resistant bees. Tougher bees. Better bees. To little or no avail, however. Varroa is still winning.

I can keep doing it though. It s a mind set thing. Management. Win most, lose some. Sometimes more than others. 30% isn t the end of the world, after all (see the Honey Price Report on Bee Loss survey results). But it s 30% because those research people keep throwing things at us to try. If they didn t, it d be worse.

If you look at it, pretty much a whole generation of beekeepers, and honey bee researchers have spent their professional lives trying to keep up. Trying to overcome this tiny pest. And succeeding right about 70% of the time. Often far less. Seldom more.

The danger flag, of course, is that the money isn t on Varroa anymore. It s on multiple-pest IPM strategies. It s on molecular genetics. It s on sublethal effects of environmental toxicants. Like apples, it s no longer just codling moth, but on the seasonal lepidopteron pest complex. It s not on Varroa, but on the reduced quality of pollination due to low, medium and high levels of Varroa, coupled with low, medium and high levels of small hive beetles, and, with and without old comb.

And nutrition is coming back into focus. Better feed, or more feed, or the same feed better timed.

(Continued on page 9)

Recipe of the Month

Ingredients

- 1 Tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1/4 cup minced onion
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 can (8 oz.) tomato sauce
- 1/3 cup honey
- 3 Tablespoons vinegar
- 2 Tablespoons dry sherry
- 1 teaspoon dry mustard
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon coarsely ground black pepper



Photo courtesy NHB

Directions

Heat oil in medium saucepan over medium heat until hot. Add onion and garlic; cook and stir until onion is tender. Add remaining ingredients. Bring to a boil; reduce heat to low and simmer 20 minutes. Serve over grilled chicken, pork, spareribs, salmon or hamburgers.

Nutritional Information Per Serving (about 3 Tablespoons)

Calories: 103 Calories from Fat: 21% Carbohydrates: 19 g Cholesterol: 0 mg Dietary Fiber: 1 g Fat Total: 3 g Protein: 1 g Sodium: 408 mg

(Continued from page 8)

All of these are, actually, exciting. I hope the multilayered problems and questions are resolved. And maybe 70% isn't so bad. That was a passing grade, back when I was in high school.

We kind of have two choices, don't we? Either run fewer colonies, better, using all those soft chemicals, mechanical IPM techniques, and keeping stress to a minimum; or, run a whole lot more, with the expectation of losing 30, 40, 50% every year. And accept that as the cost of doing business. It's doable, if you budget and plan for it. And get it.

Summer meetings. I love em. If you haven't tried one yet get out of your rut and get going. For one thing, you won't get stuck in an ice storm or a blizzard. The livin' is easy in the Summer time.

The Heartland Apicultural Society meeting is in Edwardsville, IL, July 7-9, for those in the middle. **WAS, the Western Apicultural Society meeting is in Moscow, Idaho, July 20-23 if you're out west**, and the Eastern Apicultural Society meeting, August 1-5 in Kent, Ohio, is sure to please everybody in the east, and perhaps beyond.

You want to know what's going on, you gotta be at one of these. Absolutely.

Web Site of the Month

Each month IEBA member Bob Hegerberg is going to share the latest in his favorite web sites on Beekeeping.

Take some time to check this month's selections out.

<http://www.honeybeeworld.com/>
Commercial operators diary.

<http://www.beemaster.com/honeybee/beehome.htm>
Online course in beekeeping.

<http://cvs.anu.edu.au/andy/beye/beyehome.html>
See the world through the eyes of a honeybee.

http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/states_experiment_drag-drop_Intermed_State15s_500.html
Geography test.





**Inland Empire
Beekeepers
Association**

**Next Meeting:
Friday July 8th
7:00 PM Social Time
7:30 Meeting**

The Inland Empire Beekeepers Association (IEBA) meets the 2nd Friday of every month at the Spokane County Ag Extension office by the County Fairgrounds, at 222 N. Havana. The association is affiliated with the Washington State Beekeepers Association (WSBA). IEBA membership dues are \$5.00 for an individual or \$10.00 for the entire family. This includes your receiving the *Inland Beemail*, which is published by the association every month.

INLAND BEEMAIL

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Send To:

DADANT is now manufacturing and selling a 4.9 mm cell size foundation.



Since 1997, the [Lusby's](#) have successfully maintained their honeybee colonies the traditional way, without the use of drugs, essential oils, or chemical treatments. Through their experience, they believe to be successful at keeping bees the "non-

chemical" way, three elements make up the solution; matching comb size to the natural environment is 1/3, diet is 1/3, and breeding is 1/3.

If you read through [historical documents](#) that the Lusby's have compiled from countless hours of research through periodicals, journals, scientific papers and books, it is clear that a deliberate change took place back in the early 1900's to go to the outer bounds of possibility in creating a bigger honeybee. A point can be made that a sudden increase in bee diseases and pests also happened at the same time.

Seeing that our country was founded upon and originally used 4.83mm cell sizing, the Lusby's have found that there is naturally an optimal cell size for ones own geographic area, of which they have compiled these sizes on a [world map](#) for reference.

It is the opinion of some beekeepers that an extreme emphasis over the years on breeding a bigger and 'better' bee has lead to a problematic honeybee.

If you are interested in reading more about how one uses the 4.9 foundation in their hives, please refer to the following pages:

<http://www.beesource.com/eob/4dot9/index.htm>

[http://beesource.com/ubb/Forum13/](http://beesource.com/ubb/Forum13/HTML/000008.html)

<HTML/000008.html>

The [Biological Beekeeping List](#) provides current discussion on beekeeping without the use of chemicals and drugs and discussion on how others are converting their bees to the 4.9 mm foundation.

**The next meeting on July 8th
will have for the program agenda:**

Field day IEBA/WSU Apiary / July management