



INLAND BEEEMAIL

Monthly newsletter of the Inland Empire Beekeepers Association

Volume 10, Issue 8 — August 2005 — www.inlandbeemail.com

Presidents Corner:

Happy 'Hot Days of Summer' to one and all. It is almost Fair season. The August picnic is our last meeting in which we can plan and coordinate all the different tasks.

Also, get your entry paperwork done and sent in before the deadline. Please enter lots of the judging events. Remember to get with Jack and Kelly and sign up to work at the fair booths. It is always fun and you can learn a lot from the other beekeepers.

The IEBA annual picnic is the 14th of August starting around 1300. I will go early and try to round up plenty of tables. Hopefully I can get the area with the big cover. IEBA will provide meat, buns, drinks, flatware, paper products, ice, table cloths, etc. Please bring a salad or treat. Rick has volunteered to bring the honey ice cream. John has agreed to bring his huge grill again. Come one, come all. Please call or email your IEBA friends and remind them about the picnic.

The honey straws for the fair are in. We need volunteers to take a case home and bag the straws. Ten honey straws per bag. The straws, bags, tape and a sign out sheet are at Jerry Tate's. Please go by and sign out a case. We will bring those that have not been bagged to the picnic. **One last important item for the picnic, bring your folding chairs.** See you there.

FAIR TIME!



August 1, 2005

Fall Preparations—by Bob Arnold

Our bees have nearly completed putting up our honey crop. It has not been a good year. We have had excellent soil moisture but have not had sufficient heat during the nectar flow to make a good crop. Our bees will probably have 1/3 to 1/2 the honey of last year. We still have the month of August and things could change but it is not as likely as I would like! Part of the problem that many of us had was the queen stopped laying during periods in May and June which reduced the hive population from the peak you would like to have when the nectar was available. This again shows the advantage of putting feed on during those periods in May and early June to keep the queen laying. Next year!

Now is the time to begin your preparations for winter. Remove your honey crop as soon as you can but leave one of the unfilled supers on thru August just in case. Once you get the honey off and only have one partially filled super on it is a lot easier to check out your bees. If you have requeened already then you have completed the next most important step for winter. If not, you should put a new queen in during August. Having a one year old queen is best if you can swing it. If the queen is a two year old queen now you have no choice you must requeen.

It is best to requeen no later than the end of August as September is the month to have all of your mite medications on and they really can interfere with the requeening process. The menthol medication can be a real problem driving the bees out of the hive. The

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WSBA Website

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August Agenda

—Ted Swenson



Welcome!

- ◆ Primary Focus – Picnic
- ◆ Short meeting at end

Reports:

- ◆ Fair Reports - Kelly
- ◆ Inland Beemail Report - Dave
- ◆ Four Corner Bee Reports – All!!

Old Business:

- ◆ IEBA Charter/Constitution Update – Nothing to report.
- ◆ Idaho and Spokane Fairs
- ◆ Storage shed location

New Business:

- ◆ Honey Straws

Meeting Adjourned



Hive Care :

August

The Bees.

Nectar flows are slowing down. In some areas, the honey flow is over. Bees can be found capping the honey and capping it. Other areas can still have a flow, especially after a good rain.

The Beekeeper.

For most of us, this is extracting month. Get your supers off, extract, or cut comb. As you survey your crop, ready some of your efforts for fair entries.

If you are expecting some more flow, you can put some of the wet supers back on.

This is also the time that you need to take stock of your hives in terms of overall health, varroa infestation, and queen vitality. For a good article on fall (that means August here) requeening, please give Bob Arnold's suggestions a read.

Be sure that no honey supers are on when you start medicating. Treatments such as ApilLife Var™ are very temperature dependant, and need to be administered when the weather is warm. You may also wish to consider alternatives to Checkmite™ and Apistan™ by trying Sucrose Octoanoate this fall. Again, you need three weeks of decent weather to apply it. *adapted from www.backyardbeekeepers.com*



August Minutes

—Linda Carney, Secretary

President Ted Swenson called our July Business meeting to order.

The **minutes** from the May meeting was published in the Inland Bee Mail. The secretary, Linda Carney read the minutes from the June meeting. A motion was passed to adopt the Secretary’s reports for both months.

The Treasurer, Collette, gave the **Treasurer’s report**. We have \$513.19 in checking and \$4,808.51 in savings for a total of \$5321.70. We have only two large expenses left according to President Swenson. They are the honey straws to be packed and the UPS charges for shipment. They will be available for sale at the Spokane Fair.

No Joy in Beekeeping Report
No Fair Report

Bob Adsit and Ted are worried about having enough of the honey straws bagged by fair. So everyone who is attending the picnic meeting will be asked to bag straws.

The **Inland Beemail** had nothing new to report

In the absence of Jerry Tate, President Swenson reported and unofficial count of 22 in attendance at the June WSBA seminar in Pullman. Ted asked for some comments from those members who attended the sessions. Some responses were that it was elemental which was good and bad, some found it helpful, most liked the hands on experiences, and good food. All people who attended are encouraged to speak with Jerry Tate about ideas for next year so it will always be interesting and educational.

President Ted Swenson told us Bob Arnold took 30 nukes to Pullman in hopes of getting 25 mated queens and Jerry Tate is scheduled to go in mid-month to do the same thing. The queens they are getting are not for the Associations North Bee Yard. We are not aware of the status of the bees for that yard.

4 corners report

East side - Travis Sammons has some hives to heavy to move! The snowberry and mustard is coming and coming in heavy. He will be pulling honey probably this Sunday.

South – A member said to their two hives one is doing well but the second hive seems to be queenless.

West - John Pierce has lots of honey. They recently re-queened and now some of their queens are not laying.

Jerry Miller said the observation hive is doing very well.

North- Bob Arnold told Ted that 10 days to 2 weeks ago his hives stopped putting nectar in supers and started putting it in the lower boxes. Bob thinks it is the ground temperature. We may be looking forward to an extended honey flow according to several of the members.

Old Business – We still need a storage shed and location. Please, be prepared to express your ideas at another meeting.

New Business—August is the picnic!!!! It will be at Plants Ferry Park at 1pm, Sunday August 14th!!!

The Association will furnish hamburger, hot dogs, veggie burgers, buns, condiments, and drinks. Member’s attending are asked to bring other dishes to share such as salads, desserts, etc. Be sure to let everyone know. It has always been a lot of fun and of course the whole family is welcome. Be sure to bring some chairs.

The next meeting will be the day before the fair opens, September 8th. It will be a very short meeting

Travis Sammons is selling 8-frame equipment. He showed the boxes and they were very well made. Please get in touch with him if you are interested.

The meeting was adjourned.

2005 Program

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



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varroa meds have not been a problem in the past but now will become a problem for queen introductions as all of the new meds (Api Life Var and Mite Away) cause the queen to stop brood rearing for a period which will no doubt interfere with the queen introduction. I am not familiar with brood problems of Sucroside.

If you are going to introduce a mated queen—ie the type Tate's has for sale—it is best to make up a nuc out of the hive you want to re-queen and introduce the queen to the nuc. The nuc can be 2 to 4 frames of bees brood and honey and a feeder. Look for the queen but if you don't find her go ahead and make up the nuc with frames you have searched for the queen.

Make up the nuc 3 days before you want to introduce the queen. Take the frames you want from the hive put them in your nuc box along with a half gallon of one part sugar one part water feed. Take the nuc to a new location if possible. If not, move the parent hive 6 feet or so and put the nuc in place of it. This is not the best but will work providing you don't get it to be so strong that it is aggressive toward the queen. Inspect the nuc on the third day after you made it up for the presence of eggs. If there are eggs then you have the queen from the parent hive in the nuc and you need to find her and put her back into the parent hive.

If there are no eggs then you can introduce the new queen. If you purchased the queen in advance you can simply introduce the queen in

the mailer cage by placing the cage, candy upwards between two of the frames having the most bees immediately after opening the nuc. Do not pull the cork on the candy for 3 days! This insures the queen cannot be released before three days is up. Keep feed on until you pull the cork. Then stay out of the hive for a week!

If you don't have the purchased queen yet you can wait a few days or so and then put her in. Be certain that all of the queen cells are removed when you do put the new queen in. Likewise, if you had the parent queen in the nuc check out the parent hive for queen cells when you return the parent queen back into the parent hive.

Fall queens are usually well mated and will generally be very good so your luck at introducing the queen is better in fall than during the spring. Let the queen get well established in the nuc ie have several frames of capped brood. If you keep feed on the nuc for 3 weeks (1 qt every few days) or so the nuc will be amazingly strong by the end of September. You can then find the queen in your parent hive, kill her and simply place the whole nuc into the parent hive. Usually it is a good idea to have fed the parent hive for a 3 to 5 day period before introducing the nuc. This will make them less likely to have any fights over the new bees in the hive.

Now if you had placed the nuc on the same hive stand separated by a double screen board there is absolutely no problem introducing the nuc to the parent hive. The two queens have been together in the

same stand so the pheromones are familiar to both the hives and there is never any fighting even under dearth circumstances. So if you have a double screen board you can make up your nuc on the same hive stand by placing the nuc bees above the parent hive. Do this early in September as sometimes the new hive gets very weak and may get attacked by other bees and robbed out. This technique works but is more problematic than making up a small nuc and taking it to a new location.

Assuming that you have gotten the requeening all in hand then the other fall preparations are your next concern. It is imperative that you get your mite meds on late August to the first week of September. The bees are raising the winter bees and need to have the best health possible if they are to winter successfully. Both the Apistan and Check Mite strips have been shown to be partially and possibly totally ineffective towards controlling varroa. The latest meds include Api Life Var and Mite Away. Both treatments are effective but probably not as good as either Apistan or Check Mite when they were originally introduced. Both of these meds will cause a break in the brood rearing which is so essential during this period. You must decide what to do now and get your meds purchased and on the hives as soon as all of your honey is off. With the Mite Away you will not need to do a separate menthol treatment for the trachael mite.

I feed Fumigillen also for nosema. It is a small cost compared to the

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loss of the colony due to nosema. This also gives me the chance to fill up the hive with sugar syrup which is good for the bees. The formula for the sugar syrup is two parts sugar to one part water either by weight or volume. This gives the

hive an additional 15 pounds of weight for the two gallons of syrup fed. Some of your hives will need feeding anyway so this is a no brainer! Needless to say it is time to get busy and get your bees ready for the picnic!

work right you will have a booming hive of bees and will be very pleased. But you must start in August or you may again be buying a package wondering what went wrong. Good luck and see you at

PROTECTING HONEYBEES AGAINST YELLOWJACKETS



Yellowjackets are usually considered beneficial insects because they kill many pest insects and feed them to their larvae. However, some species, such as the western yellowjacket (*Paravespula*

pennsylvanica), the common yellowjacket (*P. vulgaris*), and the German yellowjacket (*P. germanica*), can attack honeybee adults and larvae. A typical yellowjacket worker is about 1/2-inch long. Coloration is yellow and black or white and black.

Yellowjacket Life Cycle

Yellowjackets have annual colonies. Inseminated queens overwinter in protected locations. They emerge from late March through May, select a nest site, and build a small paper nest in which they lay their eggs. Yellowjacket species build nests below the soil in mouse burrows or in similar sites, also between walls or in the attics of houses. Worker yellowjackets rear and feed the brood and also forage for food. The queen remains inside the nest laying eggs. Colonies expand rapidly and may total up to 5,000 workers when maximum size is attained in August or September. In the fall, inseminated queens seek sheltered spots for overwintering.

Yellowjackets eat bee brood, rob honey, and sometimes kill the queen or the colony. Weak colonies are especially susceptible. In general, yellowjackets become pests of honeybees in late summer through fall and are more serious pests in dry years. In some areas, such as on the Kitsap Peninsula, they almost

seem to outnumber honeybees. The following options can be used to reduce the damage of yellowjackets to honeybees.

- Locate yellowjacket nest and treat with an insecticide
- Place bait or attractant traps around the apiary
- Reduce the size of honeybee colony entrance
- Move honeybee colonies to a new location

Typical western yellowjacket worker



Dilly anti-yellowjacket screen

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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

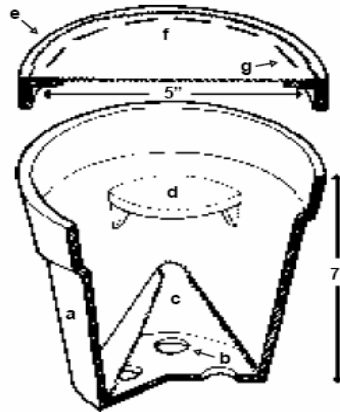
NUC's - For Sale

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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Cutaway view of cone trap. a. plastic container with approximate dimensions; b. entry holes on bottom—about $\frac{3}{16}$ -inch in diameter; c. window screen cone with $\frac{5}{16}$ -inch hole at tip, set on bottom of plastic container to cover entry holes; d. meat platform—may be plastic or $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch plywood, either glued or slotted to inner wall of the container; e. lid with center cut out accommodates screen insert, allowing meat odor to circulate; f. screen insert; g. staple to secure lid screen to lid frame lip. Yellowjackets enter through holes in container bottom, continue through the hole in the screen cone, and take the meat, then are unable to escape. The unit may be hung with wires or string, or held up with a metal hoop. Replace the meat bait *daily*, or it will lose its attractiveness. When doing this, gently remove the unit and place it in a freezer for several hours to kill the yellowjackets. Dispose of the workers, replace the meat bait, and return the unit to its station.

Locate Yellowjacket Nest, Treat with Insecticide

Yellowjackets do not forage very far. Usually the nest(s) will be within 1100 feet of the apiary. Flying yellowjackets can be tracked to their nests in early morning or at dusk when few other insects are flying.

Yellowjackets dusted with flour or powdered sugar are easier to follow. When you find nests, spray the entrance hole, and do not plug the hole. Returning foragers will then enter the nest to be killed by the insecticide residue. Apply treatment after dark.

Place Bait or Attractant Traps around the Apiary

Numerous types of traps are available at area garden centers. Contact your

county agent for suggestions.

For an effective trapping method, hang a fish on a string just over a bucket or can of water with detergent added. The yellowjackets will try to fly away with pieces of fish that are too heavy and will fall into the water. The detergent acts as a wetting agent, trapping wasps, which then drown.

Yellowjackets can be baited into traps that do not have a toxicant. White soda pop bottles with a thin sugar syrup in the bottom—too thin to attract bees—will catch many yellowjackets. Or, use narrow neck gallon jars with honey in them. Honeybees can get out, but yellowjackets usually do not. Setting and baiting cone traps daily with fresh meat (horse meat, ham, beef) will reduce yellowjacket numbers. Yellowjackets enter through holes in the container and take the meat, but are not able to escape from the cone trap.

Reduce Honeybee Colony Entrance

Beekeepers can reduce damage from yellowjackets by using screens to reduce entrances. This method gives guard bees a better chance to protect the colony.

Screens allow ventilation. Galvanized window screen stapled over the hive entrance with about a 2-inch opening in the center works fine (Dilly Anti-Yellowjacket Screen). Anti-robbing screens, tuck in screens with a 2-inch opening, or reversed Miller entrances also work. Be sure to screen any other holes in the hive bodies. In western Washington, place entrance reducers on colonies about mid-August

Move Honeybee Colonies to a New Location

As a final option, move all hives to a site with few or... *continued on page 8*

Recipe of the Month

Black Cherry & Chocolate Frozen Yogurt

- Makes 6 servings -

Ingredients

- 1-1/2 cups black cherries, fresh or frozen, pitted
- 2 cups cherry low-fat yogurt
- 1/2 cup honey
- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract
- Chocolate Swirl



Directions

Coarsely chop 1/2 cup cherries; set aside. In blender or food processor container, combine remaining cherries, yogurt, honey and almond extract; process until smooth. Stir in reserved cherries. Transfer mixture to ice cream maker; freeze according to manufacturer's directions. When frozen, place 1/4 of yogurt in medium container; drizzle with 1/4 of Chocolate Swirl; repeat with remaining yogurt and chocolate. Store in freezer until ready to serve.

CHOCOLATE SWIRL: In small saucepan, combine 1 oz. chopped semisweet or bittersweet chocolate and 2 Tablespoons water. Stir over low heat until chocolate is melted and mixture is smooth. Remove from heat and set aside until ready to use.

Nutritional Information Per Serving

Calories: 211 Calories from Fat: 12% Carbohydrates: 46 g Cholesterol: 3 mg Dietary Fiber: 1 g Fat Total: 3 g Protein: 4 g Sodium: 42 mg

Note: Honey should not be fed to infants under one year of age. Honey is a safe and wholesome food for children and adults.

Courtesy of National Honey Board
<http://www.nhb.org/>

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.algonet.se/~beeman/>
 Swedish Beekeeping

<http://www.nhb.org/>
 National Honey Board

<http://maarec.cas.psu.edu/pest&disease/pppdIndex.html>
 Pictures of parasites, pests, predators, and diseases



**Inland Empire
Beekeepers
Association**

Next Meeting:
Friday August 10th
7:00 PM Social Time
7:30 Meeting

The Inland Empire Beekeepers Association (IEBA) meets on the first Friday of every month at the Spokane County Extension office by the County Fairgrounds. The association is affiliated with the Washington Beekeepers Association (WSBA). The cost is \$5.00 for an individual or \$10.00 for a family. This includes your receiving the newsletter which is published by the association every month.

AUGUST PICNIC
See details on Page 2

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no yellowjackets. However, in some years and in parts of the Northwest, such sites may be difficult to find.



By Daniel F. Mayer, Extension entomologist, (retired); Roger D. Akre, WSU entomologist, (deceased); Arthur L. Antonelli, Extension entomologist, WSU Puyallup Research and Extension Center; and D.M. Burgett, entomologist, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR. Use pesticides with care. Apply them only to plants, animals, or sites listed on the label. When mixing and applying pesticides, follow all label precautions to protect yourself and others around you. It is a violation of the law to disregard label directions. If pesticides are spilled on skin or clothing, remove clothing and wash skin thoroughly. Store pesticides in their original containers and keep them out of the reach of children, pets, and livestock.

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Article courtesy of Dr. Arthur L. Antonelli Extension entomologist, WSU Puyallup Research and Extension Center



The next meeting on August 14th will have for the program agenda:

FALL Picnic
Fall Hive Preparations