



INLAND BEEEMAIL

Monthly newsletter of the Inland Empire Beekeepers Association

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Presidents Corner:

What a great couple of months we just had. The annual picnic was better than ever and both of the Idaho and the Spokane State Fairs were fantastic. I want to again thank all the volunteers for the fairs and especially thank Kelly McSheehy, Jack Knox, Bob Adsit, Jerry Miller, and Jerry Tate for their leadership, management expertise, and hard work. The teaching by all the volunteers was great to see and the income from the fairs appears to have set another new record. Well done.

Hopefully everyone has his or her bees winterized. It got down to 20 degrees last night so fall/winter is here. Time to get ready for spring. Our class will discuss winter prep and how it impacts all of next year.

At this month's meeting we will decide on our annual Thanksgiving turkey dinner. We will decide on potluck or catered or a combination and if we want to start at 6:30 (as we did last year). Jim Miller will be our speaker. Hope to see everyone there!

Preparations for Wintering - by Bob Arnold

The beginning of the new beekeeping year starts in September. This seems odd since the bees really don't get going until the spring flowers start blooming. However, your bees must make it through the winter with enough strength and resources to begin the spring with gusto if you are going to make a good crop. The most essential skill in beekeeping for us

in the northern latitudes is successful wintering.

Your hives need to be assessed in late August to determine if they have sufficient food for winter. They should have at least the equivalent of one deep box of honey. For most of us 9 deep full frames of honey is sufficient to get the bees through winter and into May. Rarely will any of the bees use more than a full box of honey before April. Usually it is possible to provide feed for the bees early in April if they run short to carry them into the early nectar sources. If you are keeping your bees in westerns (6 5/8" boxes) you should be wintering with 3 boxes with at least 13 frames of honey in the top two boxes.

The honey stores should be located in the top box with the bottom box having some honey and lots of pollen. If you have saved frames of



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honey add them to the top box filling it to the sides. If you are feeding to provide needed stores the bees will generally fill up the top box before storing much in the lower box.

You can use pure cane sugar, pure beet sugar or high fructose corn syrup. The corn syrup used in cooking is not edible for the bees. Molasses is also not edible for the bees. Sugar syrup is easily mixed by taking equal weights (or volume) of cane or beet sugar and hot water (preferably 120° to 130°F) and mixing until the solution clears. The syrup is given to the bees warm (~100°F).

A 2:1 mixture of sugar and water can be used if you just want to add stores to the colony. This mixture is more difficult to prepare but will add weight to the colony faster than the 1:1 mixture. The bees will still brood some but not as much as with the 1:1 mixture. Generally you will need to provide some heat and stirring together when you make up the 2:1 syrup even if you add the sugar to 130°F water. Note that the bees seem to be more eager to consume the 1:1 mixture.

Some people will mix honey with water and feed it back to the bees. This practice has the risk of feeding American Foulbrood spores found in your honey back to the bees. Even if your bees do not have any signs of AFB they may have

robbed out some other hive that did have AFB. This can be done but is not a wise practice.

Feeding your bees each fall is generally good practice. The feeding usually stimulates colony brood development giving strong healthy “fat” young bees for winter. Putting your mite controls on at the same time that you feed will help insure that any brood reared will have the best health possible. Feeding pure sucrose to

the bees seems to really make healthy bees. You can add Fumigilin-B to the feed to control nosema which is an insidious adult bee disease effecting most of our colonies to some extent. Note also that the last feed of the year is probably the first feed the bees use during the winter. This feed can be well controlled. Often we will have falls with lots of aphids and the bees load up on droppings from the aphids—honeydew. This is bad feed for the bees and will cause a serious case of dysentary.

Feeding during September usually proceeds smoothly with moderate strength colonies taking a gallon in 2 to 4 days during weather that varies between 55°F to 70°F. Our average temperature begins to drop below 70°F as we reach the end of September. During October the feeding will start to slow down until, when temperatures stay in the low 50's, most of the colonies will not take the syrup. The bees must be able to process the syrup into the form they can store. This requires the removal of moisture and some sugar conversion. As it gets colder the bees are unable to perform this processing and simply stop feeding. Clearly you must get your syrup on before the temperatures get too low or be prepared to feed your honey in frames.

The colony to be wintered should have a queen that is less than two years old in the fall. A queen can be replaced in the fall by first introducing a young queen to a nuc. The queen is allowed to begin rearing brood in the nuc before replacing the old queen. This will insure that the bees have accepted the new queen before you have killed the old queen. It is wisest to have the nuc es-

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established in August, or at the latest, early September. This gives you a month to observe the new queen's brood. Often if a new queen is going to fail she will do so after the first month of laying.

Once the new queen's brood is observed the nuc can be introduced to the old hive. Simply find and kill the old queen and then shake all of the bees from the top box into the bottom box. Remove the number of frames in the nuc from the top box and replace them with the nuc frames making certain that the queen is present. Place a sheet of over the bottom box and place the top box on the newspaper. This can be done up into early November.

The big unknown in wintering has become mites. Control of the mites or tolerant bees has become imperative if you are to winter successfully. The conventional application of menthol in the form of pellets placed in a mesh bag between or above the brood chambers simply is unreliably ineffective in controlling the tracheal mite. Weather plays too big a factor in whether the tracheal mites receive a fatal dose of menthol. Using the vegetable oil menthol mix soaked in a mechanic towel does seem to work well. This method is well described on the Internet. Simply stated vegetable oil is heated to perhaps 150°F and the menthol pellets or crystals are dissolved in the oil. The solution is then poured into a zip lock bag with some blue mechanics towels. I use a few of the mesh bags of menthol to about a cup of oil and about 5 mechanics towels. Then one towel is placed on the top bars of each box. Use this medication after ambient temperatures are below 70°F. The bees will eventually tear the towels up and remove

them.

Treatment for the varroa mite is quite a different problem. The Apistan or Check Mite strips may or may not work for you. The other methods (Api Life Var and formic acid) probably will work. Clearly you must find out whether you need to treat and if your treatment is effective. Using the sugar roll, ether roll or the sticky board must be in your bag of tricks. You must become familiar with these methods if you are going to be able to keep your bees alive. The treatment is simple once you know what the infestation level is.

Once you have gotten your bees fed, healthy and ready with a good queen the next issue is what to do with the hive for winter. Our climate here will allow the bees to easily winter outside with no wrapping or insulation in our coldest winter. Bees rarely die from the cold. They will die because of disease, bad queens, too few young bees, wet internal hive conditions, too little feed, feed in the wrong place, nosema, AFB, mites but rarely too cold of a winter. You can simply leave your bees outside in the cold and they will do fine.

Provide an upper entrance for colony ventilation and for the bees to use. The bees will prefer this entrance for their winter cleansing flights and for early spring development. It also serves as the only entrance during heavy snow falls and perhaps an iced bottom board.

If this entrance is directly beneath some form of insulation above the inner cover the bees will tend to congregate around the entrance even during the coldest days of winter. Sometimes the cluster will use all of the honey on

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October Minutes

—Linda Carney, Secretary

September 8, 2005

This was the Fair Meeting and as such it was held in the Agricultural Building on the Spokane County Fair Grounds. There was lots of noise and activity as people completed paperwork and presented their entries for the County Fair. Travis and John Sammons brought in 4 Caucasian queens to show to the members. “Russian” bees are actually Caucasians bees according to Travis. He has queens for sale at a very reasonable price.

President Ted Swenson called our meeting to order. Collette, our Treasurer, was present and stated that our accounts are in good order. The minutes from last months meeting were posted in the Inland Bee Mail.

Wow--- did we do a good job at the Idaho Fair? Yes---yes, we did. Kelly told us we made \$1848.97 at the fair. The volunteers all had such a good time and enjoyed sharing bee adventures and facts with the many visitors to the bee booth. 80,000 people were reported to have attended the Idaho fair and a goodly amount of them passed by our booth.

4 Corners Reports

South - Julie and Bill Watts said they have been feeding their hives. The second hive body ½ full so they are feeding to get the bees ready for winter.

East- Kelly said she just has one hive

West- Cheney- Jim Miller says all of his hives seem to be doing well. But, he does have 18 hives that are extremely aggressive. Jim started his meds the last 2 nights. He noticed at his extraction business people in town had about the same amount of honey as last year. The people who had hives out of town seemed to have gotten out ½ the honey they got last year.

Valley- Travis Sammons also has started feeding his lighter hives. When asked what was available at this time of season for the bees, he said there are wild snapdragon and a few other plants for pollen.

Ted Swenson announced a word of **warning and caution!!** Several beekeepers in the greenbluff area have AFB hives that have died and several have been robbed. Keep alert --Good record keeping can save your hives because a beekeeper can back-track and know where his bees have been. Ted himself is destroying two of his hives because he knows they were in the greenbluff area and probably robbing. He is beekeeper who does not take chances with the health of his apiary.

WSBA - Jerry Tate, President of the Washington State Beekeepers Association, announced the October convention being held in Newport Oregon would also host Idaho. It will be a tri-state convention, Oregon, Washington and Idaho. Come and have a learning experience!! Information regarding the convention can be found at the WSBA website.

Bob Adsit presented a motion to authorize up to \$1200 for an 8x12 storage shed for the association’s supplies. The motion was passed. A location for the shed still has not been found so the purchase of the shed will take place at a later date.

We are all very anxious for Jim Miller to tell us what he did for so many weeks on his trip to Georgia (of the former Soviet Union). He has teased us by stating he knows how to control varroa mites. Jim will be a featured speaker at a future meeting and will talk about his trip and other fun things about bees. That will be a meeting no one will want to miss!

At the October meeting, we will be deciding on how we want to handle the Thanksgiving meeting and meal. For this meeting we all had thoughts of the fun times ahead at the Spokane Fair.

Our meeting was adjourned.

<i>2005 Program</i>		
<p>October October Management Guest speaker</p> 	 <p>November Thanksgiving dinner Guest speaker</p>	 <p>December Potluck dinner Election of officers</p>

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



Gallon Honey Jars for Sale

New Gallon Glass Jars for Sale
\$1.50 each or \$1.25 each if ten or more are purchased

CALL Jill Mikael

@

(208) 772-6240

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one side of the top deep box. They will get up to the inner cover and they have exhausted their honey and they will starve with honey just a few inches away. By providing some insulation above the inner cover and some room between the inner cover and the top bars the bees can move around and get to the honey. All you need is two inches of closed cell foam insulation above your inner cover.

The colony is best located in an area protected from the wind. It should be kept in a high spot rather than a low spot where cold air tends trap. However, protecting from the wind is less important than **providing to the colony entrance**, full visibility of the sun between the hours of 12 noon and 3 PM. This is the time of the day the bees will most likely get out and have a cleansing flight. The sun will warm the front of the hive and they will readily break cluster to go out. Note that this condition should be met during the shortest day of the winter. Keep the bottom board entrance to 3/8" height and full width of the hive. Restricting it to a few inches width seems to cause the bees not to keep the bottom board clean of

dead bees. Using bottom screen boards during the winter are still debatable.



HONEY HEATER PLANS Available on MARREC web site

<http://maarec.cas.psu.edu/pdfs/honeyHeaterPlans/hhplans.htm>





Recipe of the Month

HONEY AND ALMOND BISCOTTI

These cookies from the town of Prato are also known as can-tucci. They are usually served with the Italian dessert wine Vin Santo.

— ingredients —

2 1/2 cups all purpose flour
 1 1/2 cups plus 1 tablespoon sugar
 2 teaspoons baking powder
 3/4 teaspoon salt
 5 large eggs
 1 tablespoon honey
 1 tablespoon grated lemon peel
 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
 1 cup whole almonds, toasted

— preparation —

Preheat oven to 375°F. Butter and flour large baking sheet. Whisk flour, 1 1/2 cups sugar, baking powder and salt in large bowl to blend. Make well in center of dry ingredients. Add 4 eggs, honey, lemon peel and vanilla to well. Stir egg mixture until blended; gradually mix in dry ingredients. Mix in almonds.

Drop dough onto prepared sheet by tablespoonfuls, forming two 12-inch-long by 2-inch-wide logs. Space logs 3 inches apart. Using moistened fingertips, shape logs neatly. Beat remaining egg in small bowl. Brush logs generously with egg; sprinkle with 1 tablespoon sugar. Bake logs until golden and firm to touch, about 15 minutes. Cool logs on baking sheet 10 minutes. Reduce oven temperature to 325°F.

Transfer warm logs to work surface. Cut on slight diagonal into 1/2-inch-thick slices. Arrange slices, cut side down, on 2 clean baking sheets. Bake until pale golden, about 8 minutes. Cool completely. Store airtight up to 1 week.

Makes about 36 biscotti.



FALL IS HERE



SPRING IS AROUND THE CORNER

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.beesource.com/pov/usda/thermology/techbulletin1429.htm>
 The Thermology of wintering hives

[http://www174.pair.com/birdland/Breeding/Honey Bee breeding at Ohio State](http://www174.pair.com/birdland/Breeding/Honey%20Bee%20breeding%20at%20Ohio%20State)

<http://www.ext.colostate.edu/Pubs/insect/05525.html>
 Nuisance Wasps and Bees

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IEBA Website

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WSBA Website

www.wasba.org



October Agenda

—Ted Swenson

Agenda

10/14/05

Welcome!

Full Business Meeting - But lets do it FAST!

Reports:

The Secretary's Report - Linda
 The Treasurer's Report - Ky
 Joy in Beekeeping Report
 Fair Reports
 Spokane Fair – Kelly & Bob
 North Idaho Fair – Kelly & Jack
 Inland Beemail Report - Dave & Frank
 WSBA Conference Report - Jerry
 WSBA Report – Jerry
 Four Corner Bee Reports

Old Business:

IEBA Charter/Constitution Update – Nothing to report.

New Business:

Thanksgiving Meal – Nov 11th
 Long Horn Smoked Turkey, Pot Luck sides, and Honey Ice Cream?

Holiday Plans for the IEBA – Dec 9th

Meeting Adjourned

Class Subject: Winterizing Your Hives

Hive Care :

October / November

The Bees.

It's the end of the season and the weather will not allow any more manipulation of the bee hives. While some flight will still be observed, for the most part, the bees are settling down into their winter cluster.

The Beekeeper.

The season has come to an end, and there are probably some loose ends still to tie up in the beeyard. If you are feeding light colonies, continue to give them warm sugar syrup (2:1). Watch the timing of your medications and remove them as directed. Warm days have drawn to an end, so any hive manipulation will likely have to wait for a real warm spell or spring.

Be sure to have an upper entrance and adequate ventilation for the hive. Condensation dripping on the cluster is deadly. Some beekeepers use an absorbing layer of straw above the inner cover to wick up moisture.

And, like most of us, you probably have some honey to package and the next season to look ahead to.





**Inland Empire
Beekeepers
Association**

Next Meeting:
Friday October 14th
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:

**Inland Empire
Beekeepers Association
Annual Class on Beekeeping**

Every Friday Evening January 13th to
March 17th, at the WSU/Spokane
County Extension Office
222 N Havana
6:00 to 7:30 pm

Instructor/Coordinator -Jim Miller

Books—"The Hive and the Honey
Bee" by Dadant Publications, and
"Master Beekeepers Certification
Program" by Washington State Bee-
keepers
Association.

Topics covered include:

- ◆ The World of Beekeeping
- ◆ The Honey Bee & Her Products
- ◆ Bee Biology
- ◆ Beekeeping Equipment
- ◆ Making A Start in Beekeeping
- ◆ Life in The Honey Bee Colony
- ◆ Flowers For Bees

- ◆ Spring Management
- ◆ Honey Bee Nutrition
- ◆ Construction of Boxes, Frames
& Foundation (Hands on)
- ◆ Swarming
- ◆ Summer Management & Honey
Production
- ◆ Honey Classification & Grading
- ◆ Fall Management
- ◆ Honey Extraction, Wax
- ◆ Processing & Packaging
Techniques
- ◆ Diseases & Pests
- ◆ Honey Bee Mites
- ◆ Pollination, Queen Rearing &
Marketing

Text book for the class: "The
Hive and the Honey Bee," a Dadant
publication. The text will be available
for purchase at the first class from
Tate's Honey Farm for about \$25.00.
After that, the regular price is about
\$36.00.

Certification as a Beekeeper

by Washington State Beekeepers Asso-
ciation will also be available for an
additional \$10 per individual payable
at the first class.

Instructors for the class will be
experienced Inland Empire Beekeeper
Association members and special in-
vited instructors.

The class is open to anyone
interested in becoming a beekeeper, as
well as those already involved in the
art and science of beekeeping.

The class registration fee is
\$30 for an individual or \$40 per family
whose members all live at the same
address. There is no age limit, but
small children are discouraged because
of class disruption.

For more information, go to
inlandbeemail.com, or contact Toni-
Fitzgerald at (509) 477-2164,
tjfitz@wsu.edu or Jerry Miller (509)
838-6347

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

OCTOBER MANAGEMENT &
Guest Speaker