



INLAND BEEEMAIL

Monthly newsletter of the Inland Empire Beekeepers Association

Volume 13, Issue 7 — July 2008 — www.inlandbeemail.com

Presidents
Corner:

President's Corner:

IF YOU HAVE NEVER READ A PRESIDENT'S COR- NER BEFORE, READ THIS ONE!!!!

Happy Honey Flow to one and all. For you purists, happy nectar flow. Let's hope that this 97-degree weather does not burn up all the plants.

My main focus this month is the **WSBA**. My intent is to get the word out that our state beekeeper organization is very different than it was just five years ago. Lots of new blood to energize the old and a refocus on honeybees and what will help beekeepers keep their bees alive and healthy. Some examples:

* The WA State Apiary Advisory Committee has been reconstituted. This committee has the power to allocate the money that is collected as part of the hive registration fees. At the April 3rd meeting the committee requested \$10,000 for WSU colony health research. This was approved and the recommendation taken to the state. This money has now been made available to WSU.

* Two \$1,000.00 research grants for the 07-08 period were given to two WSU students. The funds came from the WSBA's general and memorial funds.

* WSBA and WSU are very involved in the importation of germ plasma from Italy and Germany (*apis carnica*). This is an excellent effort to increase the honey bee gene pool here in the US. Dr. Steve Shepherd and Sue Colbey from UC Davis are running this program in conjunction with sev-

eral CA queen breeders. They have very broad-based support to include the almond board. If you attended last years WSBA conference you would have heard Dr. Debbie Delaney explain how the US honeybee gene pool is shrinking and how 90+ percent of all mated queens come from less than 28 breeder queens each year.

* The Master Beekeepers Committee is reviewing and updating the Apprentice booklet (last update 1998). They have agreed to include 'Eastside' beekeeping requirements/techniques to address the 'Westside' bias that the booklet has.

* Beekeepers lobbied the state legislature about several topics to include the B&O tax on the wholesale of honey and bee products. This resulted in a revision of tax laws. Quote:

Taxation of honey beekeepers – 2SSB 6468 (chapter 314, Laws of 2008) provides beekeepers exemptions from the following taxes:

- * B&O tax on wholesale sales of honey and honey bee products
- * B&O tax on bee pollination services
- * Sales and use tax on sales of pollinating bees

To qualify for these tax exemptions, beekeepers must be registered with the Department of Agriculture. (emphasis added) *Effective July 1, 2008: expires July 1, 2013.*

*WSBA vice-president Eric Olsen met with the Governor in an effort to secure emergency funding for WSU to test 800 samples for colony and bee health. The funds have been approved. (see below)

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

* The WSU honey bee disease diagnosis laboratory is now operating with three technicians. WSU is in the process of hiring a person to manage the lab. Watch the web site for the sampling protocol so you can send in samples to be tested. In addition, WSU has a new post doctoral person that will manage the WSU queen-breeding program.

* On April 16th, Eric Olson, Lee Hamilton, Jim Bach and Jerry Tate attended a meeting at WSU for the awarding of checks to WSU for the colony health studies. Lee and Eric each Donated \$10,000 which has started the ball rolling. Current Contributions are as follows:

- Lee Hamilton-\$10,000
- Eric Olson-\$10,000
- Tree Fruit Commission-\$10,000
- Long Beach Cranberry Growers Assoc. \$3,000
- Tony Noyes of Noyes Apiaries-\$2,500
- Idaho Honey Producers \$5,000
- Washington State Bee Registration \$20,000

WSBA is working on additional funding from other sources to include:

- \$40,000 from the Governor's Emergency Fund
- \$40,000 from the Pesticide Commission.

* At the 14 June WSBA meeting a motion was made and discussed concerning the allocation of WSBA funds for research projects. Motion by Jim Bach, second by Eric Olson to use \$5,000 from each of the Van Wechel and Timmons funds for a total of \$10,000 toward WSU honey bee laboratory and field research activities. Carried.

* WSBA will be posting contributions on their web site. If you would like to contribute to this effort check out the website for additional information.

The bottom line is efforts by WSBA and state-wide beekeepers have resulted in research funding in excess of \$150,000.00. This research is about WA State honeybees. It is not about CA

queen breeders or a silver bullet for commercial beekeepers throughout the country. It is for multiple programs aimed at serious problems our honeybees are facing. We are fortunate to have a University that is becoming more and more involved with the problems we face. Many states have no beekeeping programs. We have one of the best.

What we can do at our level is support the Washington State Beekeepers Association. The higher the number of association members and the number of associate members (members of local beekeeper associations such as IEBA) the stronger our voice is. In addition, talk to interested members of the public. Use these pieces of information and your knowledge of beekeeping to educate other voters. If the media contacts you, go for it. If you know one of our elected officials, bend their ear. Get activated. Get loud.

See everyone next Friday.



IEBA - Meeting Minutes June
Linda Carney, Secretary

June 13, 2008

President Ted Swenson called our June meeting to order.

Julie Watts, **Treasurer**, played a dual role at our last meeting. Not only did she do a fine job as Treasurer, but she also stepped into the role of taker of the secretarial notes. We currently have \$9,054.68 in our checking account. The **minutes** taken by Julie were published in the Inland Beemail.

WSBA- Jerry Tate was not present so President Ted Swenson came forward with some information regarding the queen grafting being done in Pullman. There have been some additions to the University's gene pool. The new genes are from Europe. As a result, the IEBA will be getting new queens. Bob Arnold said the USDA gave the US Senate "the riot act" and wanted to know why they were not getting more money for the honey bees.

Fair Committees-

Idaho- Kelly M. passed around a sign up sheet for the Idaho Fair which will be help from August 20-24th. The "Old Fashion Fun" may have a different building for our bee booth.

Spokane- Roger will have a sign up sheet available for the September dates at the next meeting on July 11, 2008.

4 Corners Report-

North- One beekeeper is feeding his bees while another (Bob Arnold) has discovered European Foul Brood in a yard near the IEBA yard. Bob thinks the bees, especially the drones, are under stress.

South- Raspberry is in bloom.

West- Jim Miller said his hives are doing well. He has been using essential oils and has no trachea or varroa mites.

East- It is going great guns! A beekeeper has 19 frames of bees and is going to split and put 7 frames in a new super.

Education Committee- Harry Smits- No report

Our meeting was adjourned.

Agenda
7/11/08

Welcome!

Start Thinking -----**State FAIRs--**

Reports:

The Secretary's Report – Linda
The Treasurer's Report - Julie
Fair Reports – see new business
WSBA Report
Four Corner Bee Reports
How is your honey flow?

Old Business:

Education Committee Report – Update of MBCP booklet to reflect "East side beekeeping"

New Business:

Idaho State Fair
Spokane State Fair
IEBA Annual Picnic

Meeting Adjourned

CLASS:

Something to ponder

Last year at this time Matthew Hutchinson and I were inspecting my crazy Honey Bee hives here at Millers Homestead when the question arose “What does a healthy Honey Bee look like?” We finished our task and sat down on the cool shaded veranda and started to ponder the question over cool lemonade.

After some deliberation we decided that we need to understand what the Honey Bees daily diet consisted of. We also decided that we needed to understand the Honey Bee pathogens. We had to learn how to recognize pathogens and how to treat the Honey Bees. We also realized that various federal agencies and universities have been working on different aspects of “What does a healthy Honey Bee look like?” We know that we had to do a lot of research. Where does one start the search these days? Fifteen years ago we would have trucked off to the nearest library. Today we trucked off to the nearest computer with internet access.

After obtaining several reams of data and filling several four inch binders we returned for more deliberation. However, we did not go to the shaded veranda we went to a heated inside room with a nice cup of warm honey flavored tea. It became quite clear to us that the answer to the health of the Honey Bee could be essential oils. How can we tell if essential oils will help the Honey Bee? We decided to set up a Bee Clinic to evaluate the current Honey Bee. We wanted to look for mites, nosema and American foul brood. How does one find these small pathogens? We turned to another beekeeper who has a degree in Microbiology, Victoria Christenson. With her guidance we set up a lab with dissecting and compound microscopes and started the process of dissecting Honey Bees.

After about six months of dissecting Honey Bees we have expanded our search to include evaluation of muscle tissue, physical appearance of the Honey Bee, the presence of varroa and tracheal mites, and the presence of nosema spores.

In February Matthew started feeding his bees essential oils in sugar patties. The amount and the number of different types of essential oils have changed over the months. Since March we have been dissecting Honey Bees monthly and establishing a pattern for the pathogens.

We are now half way through the first year of using essential oils within the hive. I am pleased to find an improvement in the Honey Bee in general. We are finding less than 1% of varroa mites on the Honey Bees; the nosema spores have dropped from the million spores in the fall to less than 50,000 spores this summer.

We realize that we have more data to collect and more time needs to elapse before we can make a decision either way. But we feel that we are on track to finding the elusive Healthy Honey Bee.

Essential Oils are not the only way to treat Honey Bee pathogens. The current method of using across the counter medications will work, if they are used according to the intended use. We strongly suggest that you visit the web sites of the suppliers of the various medications and learn what they will and will not do for the Honey Bee.

Enjoy the summer and beekeeping
Jim Miller
Millers Homestead

CATCH THE BUZZ

Haagen-Dazs joins with others in Helping The Honey Bee!

Just three months after the Haagen-Dazs brand announced its national Haagen-Dazs loves Honey Bees(TM) program and its pledge to donate \$250,000 to Pennsylvania State University and the University of California, Davis, to fund sustainable pollination and Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) research, the ice cream brand is following in the apiary tradition of teamwork and announcing several new and notable partnerships with organizations that share the goal of helping honey bees.

The Haagen-Dazs brand has partnered with Pollinator.org, an organization dedicated to preserving the health of honey bees and native pollinators in the U.S. The two organizations will host an "Ice Cream Social on the Hill" in Washington, D.C. during National Pollinator Week June 22-28 to keep honey bees and America's hardworking and struggling beekeepers top-of-mind for legislators and decision makers.

Also during Pollinator Week, the brand is partnering with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums to provide educational materials and host a sampling event featuring Haagen-Dazs Vanilla Honey Bee ice cream at the Smithsonian (Washington D.C) and Dallas (Texas) zoos.

The Haagen-Dazs brand will also be spreading its wings in the fashion community as a sponsor of the A NEW HIVE art installation hosted by Earnest Sewn, taking place at Earnest Sewn's flagship store in New York City, July 2008. The installation will draw New York's attention to the plight of the honey bees via sculpture, drawing, limited edition accessories, bee-culture inspired conceptual fashions, curated antiques and live specimens. Haagen-Dazs ice cream will be sampling the new Haagen-Dazs Vanilla Honey Bee ice cream flavor and donating educational materi-

als and bee-friendly flower seed packets to attendees and boutique patrons. Proceeds from the event will establish new beehives in New York City public gardens and support educational programs on the importance of bees and the art of beekeeping, as well as research to support sustainable beekeeping practices.

Haagen-Dazs ice cream is also a sponsor of "The Vanishing of the Bees," a work-in-progress documentary that takes an investigative look at the bee crisis. For more information about the documentary please visit <http://www.vanishingbees.com/trailer.html>.

"We've been overwhelmed with calls and emails in support of the HD loves HB program," said Haagen-Dazs brand director Katty Pien. "We knew honey bee health was important, and it's heartwarming to see how this program has touched a chord with so many people and organizations. These new partnerships have helped us continue to spread the word and educate thousands of people about the plight of the honey bee. Each of these organizations is doing great work in their own right and together we can really make a difference."

Haagen-Dazs Ice Cream Sets Goal to Distribute One Million Bee-Friendly Flower Seeds

Honey bees in America are still in trouble. The Apiary Inspectors of America recently commissioned a survey of U.S. beekeepers to estimate colony losses across the country between September 2007 and 2008, and reported a 14 percent increase in total losses as compared to last year.

To maintain healthy environments for these important pollinators, the Haagen-Dazs brand is working with community groups throughout the U.S. to distribute one million bee-friendly flower seeds. To date, the Haagen-Dazs brand's million seeds initiative has distributed more than 350,000 seeds and empowered a number of communities

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

to take action in the fight to save the honey bees. If you'd like to help the Haagen-Dazs brand reach its million seed goal, email or call Jon Belinger at (312) 228-6894 or hdloveshb@gmail.com.

Consumers can do their part to help the honey bee population by doing the following:

- Create a bee-friendly garden with plants that attract honey bees.
- Educate neighbors, schools and community groups about the severe situation the honey bees and our food supply are facing.
- Support beekeepers by purchasing locally produced honey.
- Reduce herbicide and pesticide use.
- Help researchers find a solution to CCD and other problems honey bees face by donating funds to leading universities like Penn State University and UC Davis.

For full details on how the Haagen-Dazs brand is helping honey bees and how you can take part, please visit <http://www.helpthehoneybees.com>.

About Haagen-Dazs

Crafted in 1961 by Reuben Mattus in his family's dairy, Haagen-Dazs is the original super premium ice cream. True to tradition, we are committed to using only the purest ingredients in crafting the world's finest ice cream. Truly made like no other, today Haagen-Dazs ice cream offers a full range of products from ice cream to sorbet, frozen yogurt and frozen snacks in more than 65 flavors. Haagen-Dazs products are available around the globe for ice cream lovers to enjoy. For more information, please visit <http://www.Haagen-Dazs.com>.

CATCH THE BUZZ

Sierra Club Wants Treatments stopped, NOW!

From Alan Harman www.beeculture.com/

The Sierra Club accuses the U.S. Department of Agriculture of caving in to lobbyists over massive bee deaths and compares this with Germany taking a major step to keep their bees pollinating crops.

In light of the mounting evidence that new seed chemical coatings are deadly to bees and action by Germany calling for their immediate suspension, the Sierra Club reaffirmed its call for a U.S. moratorium on specific chemical treatments to protect our bees and crops until more study can be done.

It cites Germany's federal agricultural research institute as saying, "It can unequivocally be concluded that poisoning of the bees is due to the rub-off of the pesticide ingredient clothianidin from corn seeds."

At issue are the neonicotinoids, including clothianidin, being used in a new way - as seed coatings. For years, farmers have been spraying neonicotinoids onto their crops to stop insect infestation. Now Bayer, Syngenta and Monsanto have acquired patents to coat their proprietary corn seeds with these neonicotinoids.

"Part of the equation in the U.S. is genetically engineered corn, as more and more corn seeds are being gene spliced with a completely different species -- a bacterium," says Walter Haefeker of the German Beekeepers Association Board of Directors. "Bayer and Monsanto recently entered into agreements to manufacture neonicotinic-coated genetically engineered corn. It's likely that this will worsen the bee die-off problem."

A Sierra Club statement says American Beekeeping Federation former president David Hackenburg has been urging the U.S. Department of Agriculture to do more study.

"Look at what's time based," it quotes Hackenburg as saying. "The massive bee decimation started when regulatory agencies rubber stamped the use of neonicotinoid spraying and coating." Sierra Club genetic engineering committee chairman Laurel Hopwood says the club joins the concern of beekeepers. "It's unfortunate that regulatory agencies are using double speak," he says. "They claim to protect our food supply - yet they aren't doing the proper studies. The loss of honeybees will leave a huge void in the kitchens of the American people and an estimated loss of \$14 billion dollars to farmers. We call for a precautionary moratorium on these powerful crop treatments to protect our bees and our food."

Classified Ads

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 at 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

NUC's - For Sale

Now taking orders for 08 Nucs 4.9mm and standard cell sizes available please call for prices. Contact Travis Sammons at 509-928-4326 / 509-991-3758

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

RUSSIAN or KONA Queens

You Get:

Proven Queen

- ◆ 3 frames brood
- ◆ 1 frame honey
- ◆ 1 frame honey/empty comb
- ◆ 3 lbs. of bees

Chattaroy Hills Honey Farm
Ted Swenson (509)220-0185

Available: 21 or 28 April

Limited #, First Come First Serve



Beeboxes, frames, foundation, tools and equipment

open M-S 9-5:30

East Farms Feed

21518 E. Gilbert
Otis Orchards, Wash. 99027
509.928.3616

IEBA Contacts

President

Ted Swenson
(509) 238-6489
tedandbarb@icehouse.net

Vice President

Daren L. Mumau
509-926-4177
dmuma@wildblue.net

Treasurer

Julie Watts
(509) 448-1141
crittercrapfarm@netzero.net

Secretary

Linda Carney
509-448-0417
tlclimo@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor

Dave Bearden
509-226-5231
nmsuaggie@icehouse.net

Associate Editor

Frank Seiler
509-991-3019
seilerbees@msn.com

Spokane County Fair Chairman

Linda and Rodger Carney
509-448-0417
tlclimo@yahoo.com

WSU County Extension Liaison

Joan Nolan
509-924-3652
joan1422@msn.com

North Idaho State Fair Chairman

Kelly McSheehy
(208) 687-6016
McSheehy@aol.com

Web Master

John Pierce
509-242-2035
admin@bee-mail.org

WSBA at Large Delegate, Technical Advisory Program, & IEBA Bee Class Instructor

Jim Miller
509-299-9085
jandj@cet.com

IEBA Program Chair & WSBA Area 6 Delegate

Bob Arnold
509-276-2399
sar3140@aol.com

Joy in Beekeeping

Al Dwinell - Chair
Julie Watts
Dale Edwards

IEBA Historian

Jon Burcham
509-928-4829

IEBA Website

www.inlandbeemail.com

WSBA Website

www.wasba.org

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



**Inland Empire
Beekeepers
Association**

**Next Meeting:
Friday July 11th
6:30 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

Dave Bearden, Editor
5319 N Simpson Rd
Otis Orchards
WA 99027

Phone: (509) 226-5231
email: nmsuaggie@icehouse.net

Send To:

IEBA

Birthdays & Anniversaries

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 3 -- Sharon Daggett
- 8 -- Steve Abbott
- 8 -- Diane Burnham
- 11 -- Julie Watts
- 19 -- Peggy Abbott
- 21 -- Alban Sherman
- 22 -- Jack Knox
- 24 -- Charles gross
- 26 -- Harry Smits

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 -- Joe Javanovich & Terese Palaia
- 13 -- Daren & Sharon Mumau
- 30 -- Dale & Cherry Edwards
- 31 -- Bob & Sharon Arnold

Beekeeping Calendar - Bob Arnold

July

Watch colony honey production and curtail additional supers once the flow is tapering off. Pull supers that are filled as soon as they are filled. Add additional supers only if the honey flow is going very well and the bees have filled the others. Honey flows from knapp weed will provide strong flows in some areas well into September but only in years with good moisture and rains in August. Alfalfa will provide slow flows in August to fill supers and provide winter brood chamber stores. For years that honey flow stops early in July, remove all of the honey supers and begin your fall work. Mark honey production on colonies by estimating the number of boxes on honey each produced. Mark colonies that need to have new queens.