



INLAND BEEEMAIL

Monthly newsletter of the Inland Empire Beekeepers Association

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Presidents
Corner:

President's Corner:

From all reports April has turned out to be a good month for beekeepers. Good weather for the most part which resulted in good pollen production. I saw very few days that the bees were not able to find some pollen. As a result, brood production seems to be coming along just fine.

Darren and Bill conducted another great package installation demonstration at the extension office. They used IEBA equipment and packages.

This year's first bee yard training session occurred last Saturday and was well attended by experienced and brand new beekeepers. I'm sure Bob will give the association members a report at the next meeting.

Darren represented the association at the annual Master Gardeners Event at the extension office. He will tell us all about it at the meeting.

Hope to see everyone Friday the 8th.

Agenda

May 8, 2009

Welcome!

Reports:

The Secretary's Report - Linda
The Treasurer's Report - Julie
Joy in Beekeeping Report –
Fair Reports -
WSBA Report – Jerry
Four Corner Bee Reports – All!!

Old Business:

IEBA Yard Report - Bob

New Business:

Association By-Laws Update. Procedures?
Master Gardener's Event report - Darren

Meeting Adjourned

What Kind Of Queen?

By: [Jennifer Berry](#)

Italian, Carniolan, Caucasian or Russian? Which is best?

Courtesy of Bee Culture

A Little Background

Honey bees were first introduced into this country in the early 1600s by settlers from Europe. The race of bees that traveled by boat to the Americas was *Apis mellifera mellifera*, commonly known as the Dark, German, or Black bee. The German bee was predominant for decades but later lost ground to the imported Italian honey bee because of certain, undesirable characteristics. Beekeepers were annoyed with the temperament of the German bee. It was defensive, nervous on the comb and would boil out of the colony when disturbed. It was also very susceptible to European Foul Brood, which swept the country in the early 1900s. Colony losses were severe enough to spark a move towards the Italian honey bee. Today in the U.S., *Apis m. mellifera* is very uncommon and probably doesn't even exist in its pure form.

The Italian honey bee, *Apis mellifera ligustica*, is still the dominant player in the bee industry today. When you order package bees and queens from commercial sources the bee you more than likely will receive is the Italian honey bee: aka the 'three banded Italian.' These bees became popular for numerous reasons. First, they tend to be a semi gentle bee, not overly defensive or nervous on the comb. Second, Italians can handle most of the climatic variety that the Americas offer. Third, they don't use a tremendous amount of propolis and finally, swarming is not on the top of their list. The main complaint surrounding the Italian honey bee is their propensity to produce a ton of bees. This is fantastic while plants are bearing nectar and pollen but not so much when the blooms have disappeared. Unfortunately, the trend to produce wall to wall progeny continues into the Summer and Fall. This equates to more mouths to feed which in turn means dwindling honey stores which translates to either less honey removed by

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the beekeeper or more trips to the apiary to feed sugar syrup. In the past the Italians were the reigning monarch in the U.S. but in recent decades they've been challenged. The Carniolans along with the Russians are gaining in popularity.

Carniolans, *Apis mellifera carnica*, are a dark, grey bee that originated in Slovenia. The Carniolan gained popularity because of its gentle disposition and resistance to brood diseases. The other advantage they have over the Italian is their ability to 'flow with the flow.' In other words they build up quickly in the late Winter in time for the Spring flow then shut down brood production when nectar and pollen become scarce. The Carniolans overwinter in smaller clusters and hence honey stores are conserved. The only disadvantage is their tendency to swarm more readily when the brood nest becomes overcrowded.

Sue Cobey's breeding program developed the 'New World Carniolan.' Over decades queens in her program have been evaluated and selected for their ability to resist pests and diseases while still exhibiting important traits like overwintering ability, gentleness, increased brood and honey production.

Another western honey bee, the Caucasian, *Apis mellifera caucasica*, originates from the high valleys of the Central Caucasus. This is a geopolitical region located between Europe, Asia and the Middle East. The Caucasian is a race of gentle, dark bees that aren't bothered when beekeepers open their hive. They are slow to expand in the Spring but eventually can reach fairly large populations by mid Summer. They do have a few negative attributes which is probably what has kept them from gaining too much ground. Probably the most annoying to beekeepers is their tendency to collect and use propolis. Over the years beekeepers have selected against this trait due to the difficulty it added while working colonies; sticky hive tools, fingers, or gloves in warm weather while in cooler temperatures frames, lids, and inner covers cemented together. Caucasians are also inclined to drift, and robbing behavior can be bothersome. You won't find them very often anymore for these reasons.

The newest arrivals on the scene are the Russian bees which have been growing in popularity over the years. They are a mixed hybrid of *Apis mellifera* and come from Primorsky region of far-eastern Russia. In the mid-1800s settlers brought European bees, perhaps several races in all, to this area which were already

inhabited by the native Indian honey bee, *Apis cerana*, the original host of *Varroa destructor*. It is believed that these initial populations of European honey bees became infested with *Varroa* and over time developed resistance in order to survive. Hence Russian bees have been exposed to *Varroa* mites longer than other races of *A. mellifera*. In 1997 Dr. Thomas Rinderer, USDA Bee Lab Researcher, imported these bees into North America. In 2007 the Russian Honey bee Breeders Association was formed. The purpose of the association 'is to maintain and improve the various lines of Russian honey bees through propagation and selective breeding.'

The Russian bee is a dark bee that overwinters in small clusters and can withstand harsh Winter conditions. They are good honey producers but shut down brood production earlier than Italians which is good for conserving honey stores. Russians are inclined to build numerous queen cells during the brood season and can swarm more readily than some other bees.

Finally, I'd like to mention the Minnesota Hygienic, which isn't a race of bees but rather a line of queens selected for a particular trait. Developed by Dr. Marla Spivak at the University of Minnesota, hygienic bees will detect, uncap, and remove infected or infested brood from the combs. Bees with this behavior reduce the incidence of diseases like American foulbrood and limit reproduction and therefore population growth of mites and small hive beetles. These queens are commercially available.

While thumbing through the bee journals you will notice numerous ads selling queens. To a new beekeeper this can be a bit overwhelming. How do you know which queen is best for you, or your location? This is when a local mentor comes in handy. Talk with them or other members in your club to see which queens they've been purchasing over the years. You will quickly find out that beekeepers can be opinionated, especially when it comes to a race or line of bees they've been keeping. Actually, if you stay in beekeeping long enough, so will you. Now, you may receive conflicting stories about which queens to purchase and hence your path becomes even more unclear. So experiment. Purchase several different queens from different breeders and make your own decision. Another way to narrow the selection process is to find a queen breeder that fits your particular beekeeping philosophy.

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After you muffle through and figure out which queen you want to purchase you need to order her sooner than later. By now it's March. Most early queens are already sold but they should be available later in the year. If you prefer to re-queen in the Fall you still have plenty of time.

If you have never received queens in the mail let me give you a few pointers. Depending on who you purchase your queen from will determine how she arrives. If you are ordering a few queens they usually arrive in a sturdy, cardboard, postal envelope or box. Holes are cut for ventilation and the queens will be in individual cages (wooden or plastic) inside. If you are purchasing a large number of queens they're usually shipped in a battery box; a cardboard box with wired mesh windows. Inside the queens are securely housed in individual cages. The main difference between the two methods is the location of the attendants. In the envelope, the attendants are placed inside the cage with the queen. In the battery box, they're shook directly into the box and then sealed. Hence there are live, free flying bees inside the box but outside the queen cages. It's usually not a good idea to open the box inside unless you like buzzing bees at windows and lights. The battery box is supplied with queen candy which the attendants consume and then feed to the queens. Cages with attendants have the queen candy inside at one end.

If you are unable to install your queen when she arrives, take the cage out of the envelope and place a few drops of water directly on the screen towards the end where the candy is located. Not too much water, you don't want to drown them. This will help the nurse bees consume the candy and feed it to the queen. Then place the queen back in the envelope and keep it out of direct sunlight and away from any heat source. If your queens arrive in a battery box, lightly squirt water through the wired opening to hydrate the bees; again not too much. It is also a good idea to place your queen(s) someplace where the cat, dog, ferret, gerbil, rabbit, or snake will not have access. I've heard numerous stories about the horrible demise of queens due to a quick swipe of the paw or snap of a jaw.

Before installing a queen it is a good idea to remove the attendants. Several years ago Wyatt

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IEBA - Meeting Minutes April Linda Carney, Secretary April 10, 2009

The April meeting was called to order by President Ted Swenson.

Linda Carney, Secretary, read aloud a few highlights of last month's minutes. The full **minutes** were published in the Inland Bee Mail

Julie Watts, Treasurer, reported \$11,022.56 in checking and \$1,884.71 in savings. Her

Treasure's report was accepted as presented.

We did not have Fair Reports.

WA State Report-Jerry Tate mention there is a law suit against the Federal government for not having health certificates on bees being brought into our country. He also told us that the Washington basin orchards are late this year.

There was no **Joy in Beekeeping Report**.

The 4 Corners Report - Will Moore said he already has 4 frames of brood on some of his hives. Others have 2 frames or less. His family kept their hives in a building this last winter and has 10 out of 14 hives left. They felt it was a success. Their bees are doing really, really well. He has noticed yellow and orange pollen being brought to the hives.

East- 2 out of 2 hives.

North- the pollen has finally kicked in.

President Ted Swenson's *words of wisdom* for April.

This is the time to rotate the frames for IPM. Get out the older frames and replace with new.

Old Business

This year's taxes and non profit registration are done.

Diane is in charge of ordering T-shirts and ball caps for the association. Please, have your logo suggestions for the use of the Association submitted by the next meeting. A motion was made and passed to give the winner a \$100 gift certificate.

It has become necessary to have the name of the IEBA and the IEBA's address on labels which will be placed on the honey products sold at the Spokane Fairgrounds.

The meeting was adjourned.



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Magnum conducted research which showed acceptance rates increased when queens were introduced without attendants. Removing these attendants can be tricky if you're not used to handling bees/queens. If your queen is in a wooden cage, both ends will have a cork plug securely in place. Remove the plug on the end without the queen candy and let the attendants out. Preferably you want to have the cage in some sort of clear bag, queen muff, or veil covering because the queen may shoot out of the hole and take off flying. This can be disturbing when you watch your newly purchased queen fly off into the wild blue yonder. If she escapes the cage just carefully grab her by the thorax and gently place her head into the hole of the cage. She will be grateful to return to the cage if it means being released from the Giant Fingers. Plastic cages have a cap but usually the candy is in that part of the cage. There is a second plastic cap that is attached to the cage. Gently remove it and allow the bees to exit. If you are brand spanking new at beekeeping you may want to just leave the attendants in the cage and install her. Once you feel confident picking up queens then you can attempt this. If the queens are in a battery box you don't have to worry about removing attendants. Just open the box next to the hive and insert the queen.

Here is how I introduce a queen. Open the colony, find the old queen and remove her. Open one end of the queen cage and remove the attendants then replace the cork or plastic cap. I take a small amount of honey with my hive tool and touch the corner of the screen. The queen will usually immediately start to feed on the honey. When inserting the queen cage, I prefer to put the queen-candy side down. This way there is no chance of the queen-candy melting and seeping down, entombing the queen. Since there aren't any attendants, no dead bodies could possibly block the candy. After several days I personally release the queen from her cage. I want to see the queen emerge from her cage, walk out onto the comb and be greeted, lovingly, by her new court. If bees are balling the cage (layers of worker bees curled up around the cage, biting and trying to sting the new queen) I leave her for another day or two. Take care with this newest member. Remember without her there's no colony.

I'm going to change the subject for just a minute, but I promise there is a point. Recently it seems our

souring economy has been on everyone's mind. Turn on the radio, TV or computer and you're bombarded with doom and gloom: stock market down again, raising unemployment, foreclosures, failed bailouts, company closures, corporate thieves and increasing crime rates. Driving around Athens, Georgia I see the direct results of our failing economy. Folks standing on the road side with large orange signs that read, 'Going out of business, 60-80% off, everything must go.' It's the topic of conversation at dinner parties and lunch socials. Friends in the restaurant business are wondering how they can hold on for another month. Houses still on the market for over a year have new 'for sale' signs reading 'Price Lowered.'

With all this concern about the economy one would think that the interest in beekeeping would also take a downturn. It doesn't seem to be the trend, so far. Maybe it's due to all the headlines about CCD or the desire to save money by making one's own honey. Who knows? But we, as consumers, are still wary of carelessly letting go of our hard earned money. Purchasing beekeeping equipment, bees and queens may still be on our list but we want more reassurance that the product is good.

Where am I going you ask? Last year I was invited to speak at the Western Reserve Beekeepers Association, in Medina Ohio. One of the highlights of my trip was a tour of the A.I. Root Company; you know the place they make all of those fabulous candles. I saw first hand how votives, pillars, and tapers were made, colored and scented. It was a fascinating tour. But more interesting was the building that A.I. Root built back in 1869. It is still standing and houses this amazing company. While on the tour Kim Flottum, tour master and editor of this magazine, handed me the fourth issue of *Gleanings* magazine dated 1876. I sat down and gently began to thumb through it. One thing that caught my eye was the advertisements for queens and bees. A few of those are in that yellow chart. Just for fun, I converted the 1876 price to today's (actually 2007) to see if the industry has kept up with inflation, which is where those numbers come from on the chart. Now granted I'm over simplifying a bit, but it seems to me that we're getting queens and bees today at a steal. Maybe our beekeeping dollar isn't hurting so bad.

See ya! - Jennifer Berry is the Research Coordinator at the University of GA Bee Lab

Russian Honey Bee Breeders

Courtesy of Bee Culture

By: [Bob Brachmann](#)

The Russian Honey Bee Breeder's Association – putting discipline and quality behind the name.

The idea of a Russian Bee Breeders Association was conceived in the late 1990s. Members of the USDA Agricultural Research Service Baton Rouge Bee Lab and industry cooperators foresaw the value and need for such a group. They desired an industry based organization dedicated to maintaining and improving those lines of Russian bees being selected from the wide population that was being imported and monitored by the USDA. I am pleased to report that the Russian Honey Bee Breeders Association is up and running. At present, we are maintaining, and selecting to improve, 18 separate lines. These lines are divided into three separate blocks. Those blocks are designated as blocks A, B, and C. We beekeepers are also divided into those three blocks. Each member within a block is currently responsible for annually reproducing populations of two lines from his block, monitoring varroa and tracheal mite populations, monitoring honey production and then selecting the best queens from those colonies. Though other characteristics or traits exhibited in a colony may eliminate it from consideration, our focus will remain on those three traits, with *Varroa* resistance given top priority.

The following example describes a member's duties more fully. Beekeeper 'Ivan' is in block A. His breeding responsibilities are focused on two lines within that block, lines A1 and A2. He establishes drone source colonies in an isolated mating yard with queens that he receives from each block B and block C queen breeder. This mating yard therefore is stocked with drone source colonies from all 12 of the B and C block lines.

He grafts from selected breeders from block A line 1 and from block A line 2. The cells from these grafts are placed into mating nucs in the isolated mating yard. Once these queens are successfully mated they are marked and clipped. These nucs are then used to set up several yards of 15 or more colonies, the colonies in each of these yards all representing queens from just one of Ivan's two lines. These colonies may be monitored for one season or they may be monitored for a longer period. Each year Ivan will select from the best of his two lines and raise extra daughters from them. Several of these daughter queens are shipped to every other member of the association. Those received by Block B and Block C members mother some of the colonies in their own 'selection' mating yards. Ivan's 'teammates' in Block A don't use them in their 'selection' mating yards but simply maintain and observe them, using them for production. This provides redundancy and resilience within the organization and allows the teammates to contribute to the evaluation of all the lines within their block. Such evaluations must be made by Ivan and his Block A teammates every third year for the purpose of choosing which line from within their block is performing best and these will be used by all association members the following year to produce production queens for sale to the beekeeping community.

Though customers don't have the variety of stock needed to do any meaningful breeding of Russian bees, they are assured that they will not receive queens from the same block in consecutive years. This minimizes the possibility of inbreeding within their operations. If Ivan's efforts are multiplied by 16, the current number of members of our association, you can see that there is considerable selection pressure annually to improve the lines of Russian bees.

Our breeding plan is organized with the

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idea of making inbreeding inconsequential. Noteworthy also are the redundancy and resilience imbedded within the organization; every member has some stock from every line.

Our organization is led by President Manley Bigalk, Vice President Hubert Tubbs, and Secretary and Treasurer Charles Harper. For the past decade they all have worked alongside the staff at the USDA bee lab in Baton Rouge to help ensure the highest degree of genetic integrity in the Russian Honey Bee Program.

In order to maintain those standards we have established standards and qualifications.

We've determined that in order for an operation to produce Russian stock both with genetic integrity and in sufficient numbers it's necessary that each member must operate a minimum of two hundred colonies. Additionally, the entire outfit must be made up of Russian stock or be moving rapidly toward that goal.

It is also required that mating yards, especially those that produce 'selection' queens, are isolated, and that they have well stocked drone source colonies of the appropriate lineage and in sufficient numbers. (We've set a ratio of one good drone source colony for 20 mating nucs. So, for example, with 24 well stocked drone source colonies representing two colonies from each of the 12 appropriate lines one could set out 480 mating nucs.)

Satisfactory compliance with the above requirements is verified by site inspections by a member of our Board of Directors. (Baton Rouge bee lab personnel have performed some of these inspections for us.)

The Baton Rouge bee lab has developed molecular genetic markers which

distinguish Russian honey bees from non-Russian honey bees. Regular testing of the currently propagated lines with this technique will be necessary to maintain genetic stock integrity and to ensure that the bees being sold as 'Russian' are indeed representative of the stock. This testing will also confirm that apiaries designated for breeding purposes are indeed isolated and are not overlapping with those of other non Russian stocks.' Our members 'will be required to submit 30 worker bees from each of their designated lines on a yearly basis for stock certification' (from the *Russian Honey Bee Breeders Association Manual*). Samples may be taken during site inspections or at other times for the same purpose.

In order for a member of our association to be designated a 'certified' Russian Bee Breeder their site inspection must be satisfactory to our six member board of directors, their stock must be tested and found to be genetically pure, and they must be con-



tributing acceptable stock back to the program. To date only our three officers have contributed stock back to the program. With last years efforts more of our members are prepared to contribute in 2009. Some don't yet have all the necessary assets in place but are working towards that end.

The businesses of our members vary. We operate in the South and in the far North, in Atlantic as well as in Pacific states. Some of us produce honey for bulk sales and a few are producer packers. Some of us derive the bulk of our income by providing pollination services. Some of us sell bees and queens. All of us contribute to our or-

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ganization because we value, and desire to improve on, the various fine qualities exhibited by Russian bees; they help our businesses to succeed.

There are many problems confronting our industry. We are proud of our contribution to the list of solutions.

Members – President Manley Bigalk, Vice President Hubert Tubbs, Secretary and Treasurer Charles Harper, Bob Brachmann, Jimmy Brooks, Louis Busby, Crystal Card, Steven Coy, David Ferguson, Bobby Frierson, Nick Nickels, Dwight Porter, Kenny Reed, Ray Revis, Ted Swenson, Carl Webb.

For lots more information visit our web page at www.RussianBreeder.org, where you can also find out about each member and contact information.

Bob Brachmann is a Charter Member of the Russian honey Bee Breeder's Association. He is very active in the Association, and is an active contributor to the EAS conference in Ellicottville, NY this August. Come and meet Bob, Dr. Tom Rinderer, Carl Webb and Charlie Harper this Summer.



AGRICULTURE SECRETARY VILSACK AND FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA HIGHLIGHT HEALTHY EATING

White House Garden to Receive USDA-Developed Honey Bees

WASHINGTON, April 9, 2009 – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack joined First Lady Michelle Obama and a group of 5th graders on the South Lawn of the White House today to talk about healthy eating, the availability of locally grown fruits and vegetables, and bees.

“Growing your own fruits and vegetables is one of the best ways to have healthy food,” Vilsack said. “Working in a garden is a great way to stay physically active and maintain a healthy body. And the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is helping schools make sure that every student in America has a healthy and nutritious lunch to eat at school.”

This July, USDA will be providing two types of parasite-resistant honey bees developed by USDA scientists to pollinate the plants in the new White House garden this summer. Both of these bees are rapidly gaining in popularity with beekeepers.

Honey bees enhance any garden, because they increase the yields of plants that require pollination, they produce honey, and they are one of Nature's most fascinating creatures to observe. Unfortunately, parasitic mites cause serious health problems for most varieties of honey bees, and many beekeepers must use pesticides to combat the mites in the hives. But the USDA-developed bees are mite-resistant, offering a more natural, organic alternative for the White House garden.

Honey bees are crucial to American agriculture, adding some \$15 billion in value in the nation's crops, particularly specialty crops such as almonds and other nuts, berries, fruits, and vegetables. In California, the almond crop alone uses 1.3 million colonies of bees, approximately one half of all honey bees in the United States, and this need is projected to grow to 1.5 million colonies by 2010.

Scientists with the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), USDA's principal intramural scientific research agency, developed the two types of mite-resistant honey bees. One type is highly resistant to the parasitic mite *Varroa destructor*, commonly known as the varroa mite. The bees have a trait called "varroa-sensitive hygiene" which prompts the worker bees to detect and remove infested bees from the nest, eliminating the need for chemical help to control the mites.

The second type of mite-resistant honey bees is based on a strain of honey bees from Russia which are naturally resistant not only to varroa mites, but also to tracheal mites, which infest the breathing tubes of the bees. These bees are also highly tolerant of cold weather and require less artificial feeding than typical honey bees.

The Russian bees were brought to the United States by Thomas Rinderer, research leader at ARS' Honey Bee Breeding, Genetics and Physiology Research Unit at Baton Rouge, La., where studies have been under way on the bees since the mid-1990s. Rinderer and other ARS scientists will collaborate with White House staff on installation of the USDA bees in the White House garden.

For the past eight years, breeder queens of the Russian-derived and varroa-sensitive hygienic bees have been released to the beekeeping industry. In 2008, a breeders' group called the Russian Honeybee Breeders Association, Inc., was formed to supply the Russian-derived queens throughout the U.S. beekeeping industry, and demand is outstripping supply.

Both types of mite-resistant USDA bees are good pollinators and easy to keep alive because of their hardiness, thus helping ensure the success of the new White House garden..

Haagen-Dazs Donates more money.

Three years later, scientists still stumped over what's mysteriously killing off entire hives

Over the last three winters, more than one in three honey bee colonies in the U.S. have mysteriously died; a staggering phenomenon scientists have named Colony Collapse Disorder, or CCD. And for the second year, the Haagen-Dazs brand is taking the lead in driving solutions to solve this dire puzzle threatening our food supply and stumping scientists from around the world.

Because honey bee pollination is required to produce one-third of all the natural foods we eat, honey bees play a critical role in ensuring we have enough food to feed our growing population.

Why hasn't the cause of CCD been identified? Three basic factors are hampering research into the crisis: lack of awareness among the general public, lack of action aimed at alleviating the problem, and lack of funding to determine the root cause and address much-needed solutions.

The Haagen-Dazs brand has found that while consumer awareness of the honey bee crisis increased in the last year, largely through the brand's education efforts, the study revealed that only a little more than half of consumers are aware of the crisis. And only one in six is aware of something specific that they can do to help the honey bees(1). Funding on the scale required to seriously tackle this issue also remains elusive. The Farm Bill approved by Congress last year included a provision to fund more research, yet Congress has not yet allocated the money, putting the allocation in question. In the meantime, bees continue to die by the billions.

That's why the Haagen-Dazs brand is stepping up for a second year and redoubling its *Haagen-Dazs loves Honey Bees*(R) campaign efforts. Elements of the campaign include:

- A second donation to UC Davis and Penn State Universities of \$250,000. This brings the brand's total donation for honey bee research to a half million dollars over two years.
- Continuation of the Haagen-Dazs brand's public education efforts with:
 - A special flavor, Vanilla Honey Bee, and all "bee-built" flavors (*flavors that use at least one honey bee-pollinated ingredient*) of ice cream, sorbet, frozen yogurt and bars proudly carry a *HD loves HB*(R) symbol and message under the lid.
 - A full-scale awareness effort, coupled with unique print and online advertising.
 - Part of the brand's donation to UC Davis is being used to create a Haagen-Dazs Honey Bee Haven - a one-half acre bee-friendly demonstration garden coordinated by the California Center for Urban Horticulture. Visitors to the garden will be able to glean ideas on how to establish their own bee-friendly gardens and help to improve the nutrition of bees in their own backyards.
 - An upgraded interactive website

(www.helpthehoneybees.com) premiering in April with a focus on examples of how consumers have gotten involved in helping to save the hardworking honey bees.

"Thousands of people reached out to join in our efforts to save honey bees over the course of the year. We're making a difference but there is still much to be done," said Ching-Yee Hu, Haagen-Dazs brand manager. "We are so proud to continue our support. This is a problem bigger than simply protecting our source of all-natural ingredients, like the almonds in our Vanilla Swiss Almond flavor. This issue affects our ability to provide food for our tables." The brand encourages everyone to find a way to become a bee crusader in 2009. Do your part to help save the honey bees. Here's how you can make a difference:

- Create a bee friendly garden with plants that attract honey bees. Select a plant with a long growing season or a group of plants that together will offer flowers from spring through fall. A great resource for information can be found at www.helpthehoneybees.com, or from the horticulturalist at your local plant nursery.
- Avoid insecticides in your garden. Instead, promote good bugs (called 'beneficial insects') in your garden - bugs that will happily eat the bad bugs chomping on your plants. A comprehensive resource for information is www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/ and <http://horticulture.psu.edu/extension/mg>
- Every time you buy a Haagen-Dazs ice cream bee-built product, a portion of the proceeds of the sale go toward helping the honey bees.
- Tell a friend - The honey bee disappearance is already having an effect on the world's most beloved foods. However, many people have yet to learn about this issue and how they can help. Visit www.helpthehoneybees.com to send a Bee-Mail or to create your own animated honey bee to help spread the word.
- Visit the Haagen-Dazs Bee Store at www.helpthehoneybees.com - All proceeds from our bee store will fund CCD and sustainable pollination research at Penn State and UC Davis.

For full details on how the Haagen-Dazs brand is helping honey bees and how you can take part, please visit

www.helpthehoneybees.com.

About Haagen-Dazs

Crafted in 1961 by Reuben Mattus in his family's dairy, Haagen-Dazs is the original superpremium 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 www.Haagen-Dazs.com.

(1) According to a recent survey conducted by Opinion Research Corporation on behalf of the Haagen-Dazs Brand

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

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

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

Honey Bee Packages For Sale

Packages 2-3-4 lbs / or Nucs with five frames
April through August
Call to place orders at (509)590-3319
Aleksy and Lilly Isakov
Spokane, WA

For Sale—5 Frame Nucs

\$90.00 each
Call Gib Earl
(509)936-0130

FOR SALE— 5 Frame NUCs

Available May 14th
Italians and Carniolans
\$75.00
Call Bob Arnold
(509) 993-0562



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IEBA Website

www.inlandbeemail.com

WSBA Website

www.wasba.org

Hive Care

May:

MAY

The Bees. Now the activity really starts hopping. The nectar and pollen should begin to come into the hive and may get heavy at times. The queen will be reaching her greatest rate of egg laying. The hive should be bursting with activity.

The Beekeeper. You can remove your Apistan strips (if they have been in the hive for 45 days). Also remove the menthol if you were using that for Tracheal Mite control. Add a queen excluder if you choose to use them, and place honey supers on top of the top deep. Watch out for swarming.

Inspect the hive weekly. Attend bee club meetings and workshops. And, if you are like rest of us, keep making up those frames to get ready in time for the honey flow.

If you have hives really busting at the seams, consider making up some splits to make up for any winter losses. An extra nuc or two always comes in handy.

-adapted from
www.backyardbeekeepers.com





**Inland Empire
Beekeepers
Association**

Next Meeting:
Friday May 8th
Social Time 6:00 Meeting 6:30

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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IEBA

Birthdays & Anniversaries

May Birthdays

- 9th -- Kirsten Silva
- 13th -- Brian Spock
- 19th -- Scott Ingles
- 20th -- Charles Bourg
- 29th -- Robert Mcallister
- 30th -- Joe Jovanovich
- 30th -- Boyd Lundberg
- 30th -- Lois Bremner

May Anniversaries

- 9th -- Roger & Linda Carney
- 17th -- Art & Clara Ross
- 18th -- Dave & Pam Zack

Beekeeping Calendar - Bob Arnold

May

Check for AFB. Boomer colonies (2 or 3 boxes full of bees and brood) must be split/reduced or they will swarm. Move box with queen and open brood to a new stand 6 feet or so away. Introduce a mated queen immediately into the box on the original stand. Reduce colony strength, on those not split, by moving frames of brood and bees to weaker colonies. Replace queens that exhibit poor laying performance or those going into their second honey flow year. Feed pollen patties if insufficient pollen is available. Check weekly for swarm cells. Cut swarm cells only if there is evidence of a good laying queen (lots of eggs). Split colonies with swarm cells that are determined to swarm moving the box with the queen to new stand and leave cells in original stand. Keep switching brood boxes as top box gets full of brood. Keep checking new queens and package queens every 5 days for good egg laying. Replace new queen that is not laying properly immediately in the presence of nectar or syrup. Put 1:1 sugar syrup on during nectar dearth periods. First evidence of whitening comb put on new foundation in the top box. Add supers only if there is a substantial prolonged nectar flow. Start any swarms caught on foundation. Keep vegetation down around colonies.