



# INLAND BEEEMAIL

Monthly newsletter of the Inland Empire Beekeepers Association

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Presidents  
Corner:

## Presidents Corner:

Two very successful fairs are in the record book. A big thanks to all that volunteered their time and skills. Once again, huge thanks to Jack and Kelly for running the Idaho fair and to Linda and Roger Carney for running the Spokane State Fair for the association. We also owe Scott, Jerry (Miller) and Jerry (Tate) for their uncounted hours making sure the fair was a success. I need to highlight all the work that Scott did. We could not have had successful fairs without him.

I hope everyone has finished pulling their honey supers. I want to emphasize again how well our IEBA hives did this year, pulling in 1,083 lbs of honey!! That is the best ever. This honey saves the association \$1,570.00 in honey costs for the fairs. We will save out some of it for our yard rent honey, tax man payment honey and other odds and ends. We still have about 25 gallons of honey from last year. At the meeting we will discuss if we want to have it put into honey straws for use by the IEBA teachers. About half of the straws could be available for purchase by association members. We will sell them by the case only. Price to be determined based on shipping etc.

We will also discuss purchasing an enclosed trailer for the association fair, picnic, and other odds and ends storage instead of the 'approved' storage shed. There are several advantages to a trailer all of which we will discuss at the meeting.

See you at next Friday's meeting. 1830 hours.

Editor's note....That's 6:30 PM for the rest of us (smile)

## Inland Empire Beekeepers Association

### Agenda

10/09/09

### Welcome!

### Reports:

The Secretary's Report - Linda  
The Treasurer's Report - Julie  
Fair Reports – See Old Business  
Four Corner Bee Reports – All!!  
First Year Beekeeper Questions - Darren

### Old Business:

IEBA Charter/Constitution Update – Skip  
Idaho and Spokane Fairs

### New Business:

Fair Upgrades: Banner stating “Education Focused  
Non-Profit Association”

“Funds Go To Beekeeping Education”

Equipment Trailer vs. Storage Shed

Honey Straws – Use of remaining IEBA honey

Meeting Adjourned

## *IEBA - Meeting Minutes September*

Sept. 10, 2009

The Spokane Fairgrounds is very active with carnival people putting the final touches on their rides and games, vendors getting the last of the supplies, and people with their entries filling out paperwork and watching their entry be placed upon a shelf. Our bee booth was no exception. People had been coming in all day to enter in food, honey, and displays. They continued to arrive and fill out their paperwork as a short meeting took place.

This September Fair Meeting was called to order by Vice-President Daren Mumau.

The Secretary, Linda Carney, presented the minutes of the last meeting as published in the Inland BeeMail and her minutes were accepted as published.

The Treasurer, Julie Watts, gave her report and this was also accepted.

Vice-President Mumau lead a quick round of discussion on the local conditions of the honey supply this year and the bees. The consensus seemed to be that most of the members present were expecting a good honey crop.

A motion was made to purchase 9 cases of creamed honey for the IEBA Fair booth to have for sale this year. The motion was discussed and was passed.

With no further business we adjourned the meeting and worked on the booth.



## Halloween Recipe

### HONEY AND ALMOND BISCOTTI

These cookies from the town of Prato are also known as cantucci. 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.

## TIPS ON HOW TO HANDLE BEES

Honey bees sting intruders to protect themselves or their nest from harm. Beekeepers must be prepared to receive stings and to overcome natural fears and apprehensions regarding stings. With time, one gains confidence and proficiency in handling bees and the number of stings taken in the process of bee hive manipulation decreases. Here are some tips to help reduce the number of stings.

### When to Manipulate Bees

- Open and examine bee colonies on warm, dry windless, sunny days between 10 AM and 4 PM when most older bees are out foraging. Avoid cold, windy or showery days when foragers are in the hive. More bees are in the hive on cloudy days than on sunny or partly sunny days.
- It is easier to examine bees during a nectar flow; even the most gentle bee colony may be hard to handle during a nectar dearth. Feeding colonies sugar syrup may aid your manipulations but doesn't always help.
- Colonies are easier to examine when they have a smaller population. Inspections are usually easier in the spring than in summer or fall due to the smaller populations and other factors. Fall inspections of large colonies that often have few flowers available for forage are usually the most difficult to conduct.

### How Long to Keep a Hive Open

- Bees are usually quite tolerant to moderate beekeeper manipulation of 10 to 15 minutes. Avoid keeping colonies open where there is danger of chilling brood. Brood examinations should never be prolonged. In all examinations keep the colony open only as long as necessary.
- If a colony becomes noisy or very flighty it is best to close the hive. Hive bodies can usually be separated for 15-20 minutes under normal conditions.
- Combs with honey quickly attract robber bees under conditions other than nectar flow. Cover hive bodies and supers not being examined. If robbing starts, stop examinations for the rest of the day and reduce the entrances on the weakest hives to help prevent them from being robbed. It is best to avoid robbing because it is sometimes difficult to stop once it has started.

### What to Wear

- Always wear a veil. Stings on the face are painful and you could have permanent injury to the ear drum or eye if stung at these sites. If a bee gets inside the veil, walk away from the apiary and remove the bee. Do not remove your veil in the apiary.
- Use protective clothing. Wear white or light colored

coveralls over regular clothing if it's not too hot. Use boots and securely fasten the coveralls in or over the boots. Tuck pants into socks, or tie with string, rubber bands or elastic if coveralls are not used. A windbreaker jacket will help avoid stings.

- Use gloves sparingly. During unfavorable weather or when moving colonies, gloves are handy. Otherwise, you can manipulate colonies better and with a finer touch without gloves.
- Do not wear dark or rough textured clothes. Beware of dark socks when boots are not used. Bees can grab hold of rough texture better than smooth surfaces. Avoid wool, suede or leather.
- Keep veil, pant legs and shirt sleeves bee tight. If a bee gets inside clothing squeeze them in the clothing or walk from the apiary and open your clothes to allow the bee to escape.
- Do not use sweet smelling cosmetic materials such as perfumes, hair sprays, colognes, etc. before handling bees. Bees may be attracted or irritated by such smells. Some people feel sweat may attract bees and lead to stings but others disagree.

### How to Manipulate Colonies

- Make certain you have a lighted smoker that readily dispenses "cool" smoke. Puff smoke in the hive entrance and proceed into each colony at a leisurely pace to permit the bees time to respond to the smoke. Continue using your smoker as you examine the hive. If bees are "looking at you" on the top bars, disperse them with one or a few puffs of smoke.
- Make all movement around bees smooth and deliberate. Avoid jerky or rapid movements. Pry hive covers off gently. Avoid jarring or bumping any part of the bee hive. Bees are very sensitive to vibrations.
- Work from the back or sides of your bee hives. Stay out of the bee's flight path when walking near colonies or working them.
- After removing hive covers begin examining by removing a frame near the outside; the frame adjacent to the outermost one is a good first one to remove. If robbing is not a problem (nectar is available and bees are busily working on flowers) you can lean the first frame against the outside of the hive leaving room to work the remaining frames with ease. If robbing could start be sure to cover hive bodies you remove and do not leave any frames exposed.
- If you wish to examine all boxes start with the lowest one. Pry up the top box to break the propolis seal and

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puff smoke between the boxes. Remove the top box and place it on the hive cover which should be placed upside down on the ground. Proceed to remove all boxes until you reach the lowest one. Cover the boxes not being examined. Examine each box after you replace it on the lower one.

- When removing a frame, pry it loose on both ends from adjacent frames with the hive tool. Grasp the loosened frame firmly and pull it up gently, being careful not to scrape the bees on the adjacent frame. This is difficult to accomplish with the first frame you remove but be as careful as possible. After one frame is removed, leave it outside to give a working space for subsequent frames. Frames with much burr or brace comb may take extra prying. When replacing the frames use the working space and replace the last frame (first one removed) carefully.

- If you scrape burr and brace comb as you examine the colony, put it into a can or container of some sort. Do not leave bits of comb or frames lying about the apiary. Scraping can be irritating to the bees so scrape only comb that is in the way.

#### **What to do if You Get Stung**

- When you open a hive, bees may land on you or crawl upon your hands or clothing. Brush them away gently or leave them alone.

- When a honey bee stings, the stinger usually stays behind because there are barbs on the sting. As quickly as possible, scrape, do not pull, the stinger from the sting site. The hive tool or finger nail can be used to scrape the stinger.

- The stinger contains some glands that secrete chemicals that serve as an alarm odor. If other bees quickly sting the same area or buzz about the area, puff smoke on the site with your smoker. You might need to withdraw from the colony and wash the site with water to remove the chemical. Washing isn't usually necessary as the chemical is with the sting; by scraping the sting away and removing it, you remove the alarm chemicals.

- The sting site will hurt for a while. Application of a sting relief remedy helps some individuals. Otherwise, a cool compress (ice cube, mud, cool water, etc.), may provide some relief.

- If you are allergic you will quickly notice a reaction. Typical symptoms are difficulty in swallowing, shortness of breath, itching on parts of the body away from the sting, a rash or blushing of the skin, dizziness or faint feeling and swelling in the throat or around the eyes, face or nose even though the sting is at another location. If symptoms are very severe, seek medical attention

quickly.

- If you experience pain and the sting site begins to swell in the first 15 minutes you probably don't have an allergy. For the next few hours, the sting bite may continue to swell. The amount of swelling is highly variable with each sting. If the swelling stays at the sting site, even though it may be extensive, you should not be concerned.

- After a day or so, the sting site will itch. Try to resist scratching since that only makes it worse and you could get an infection. A first aid cream may provide relief from the itching.

- Swelling and itching may persist for a day or two following a sting. You should be over the effect of a sting after 3 or 4 days.

#### **What to do if You Receive Multiple Stings**

- Multiple stings may create more discomfort than a single sting. The amount of swelling will not necessarily be more extensive with multiple stings but the itching will probably be more intense. Multiple stings are no more severe to an allergic person than a single sting – both are serious.

- Multiple stings may be an indication of aggressive bees. Perform your manipulations and close the hive as quickly as possible under such circumstances. In some instances it is best to close up without further examination.

- If there is a specific reason for aggressive behavior by the bees you might be able to eliminate it. After the bees have had time to calm down they may become manageable once more.

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MAAREC, the Mid-Atlantic Apiculture Research and Extension Consortium, is an official activity of five land grant universities and the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Park, PA 16802 Phone: (814) 865-1896 Fax: (814) 865-3048 Web site: <http://MAAREC.cas.psu.edu>

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**Participants in MAAREC also include state beekeeper associations, and State Departments of Agriculture from Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.** MAAREC Publication 2.1. Author: Dewey M. Caron, University of Delaware

## Honey And Infant Botulism

By: [Ross Conrad](#)

### Courtesy Bee Culture

Why is honey the only food that is singled out for a warning label stating that it should not be fed to infants less than a year old?

'Do not feed honey to infants under one year of age' or some similar warning is common on honey labels. This is because honey may contain spores of the bacterium *Clostridium botulinum*. Botulism spores are similar to seeds in that once in a favorable environment they will germinate and grow into their vegetative phase. Infant botulism is caused when enough *C. botulinum* spores enter their vegetative stage and start growing rapidly in an infant's immature digestive tract producing a toxin that impacts the child's neurological functions. Newborn babies lack the intestinal micro flora that prevent healthy children and adults from getting sick after ingesting *C. botulinum*. About half of reported cases of infant botulism have occurred in babies less than two months old. While it is believed that by six months of age most infants will have developed their intestinal flora to the point where they become resistant to *C. botulinum*, an additional six months has been added to the warning by the national Center for Disease Control (CDC) as a safety factor.

Symptoms of infant botulism include muscle weakness or loss of control such as droopy eye lids, weak cry, feeble sucking, drooling, lethargy, irritability, constipation, and progressive 'floppiness,' all of which may follow an initial fever. An infant exhibiting these symptoms should receive prompt medical attention. Recovery is almost certain as long as the condition is diagnosed and treated early and the baby has not gotten brain damage. Infant botulism should not be confused with food borne botulism resulting from the consumption of pre-formed botulism toxin that can sicken older children and adults.

Infant botulism can occur in babies that are not fed honey. This is because *Clostridium botulinum* spores are ubiquitous in our environment and found in soil, water, and on dust floating in the air. It is not known how many spores must be ingested before infant botulism will occur, or why only some babies seem to become sick. However, it does seem

that chances of contracting the illness depends a lot on the immediate environment of the infant and the overall health and susceptibility of the baby. Infants may contract botulism from the surfaces in the environment, breathing dust in the air or from water or food, as most foods will contain *C. botulinum* spores unless they have been processed in a way that has cleaned off or destroyed the spores and bacteria. The states of Pennsylvania, Utah, Arizona and California tend to have higher instances of infant botulism than other states. It is believed that these states may have soils that have higher than average levels of *C. botulinum* spores.

*C. botulinum* in its vegetative stage can not survive in honey due to honey's antibacterial and antimicrobial properties that are well documented. In fact, when honey is ripe with a moisture content below about 18 percent, nothing harmful to humans can grow in it. Raw honey that is ripe is the only natural unprocessed food that, for all intensive purposes will never spoil when stored properly in an air tight moisture proof container.

There are several ways that honey inhibits the growth of bacteria and mold. The high sugar content and pH of honey inhibits the growth of molds and other pathogens in much the same way that sugar is used to preserve jams and jellies. Raw honey that has been unheated and unfiltered also contains the enzyme glucose oxidase which converts into hydrogen peroxide and water as it breaks down. In addition, honey is hygroscopic. This means that it draws moisture to itself. As a result, when honey comes in contact with bacteria, it will suck the moisture out of the bacteria killing off the microscopic critters. In fact, if you have botulism growing in a petri dish and add raw honey, the honey will kill the botulism. Given that honey itself will kill off botulism in its vegetative stage and that *C. botulinum* spores are prevalent throughout our environment and thus present in many foods besides honey, why do we focus specifically on feeding honey to infants under the age of one?

To date I have not been able to find any documentation of a single case of infant botulism that can be proven to be caused by honey. This may be because it would be considered immoral to conduct a study where babies were purposely fed honey contaminated with botulism spores in an effort to clearly prove cause and effect. However, this begs the question: why is honey the only food that is singled

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out for a warning label stating that it should not be fed to infants less than a year old?

When researchers investigate instances of infant botulism, they find that in most cases the child has not consumed honey, however there have been some cases where the babies had been fed honey at some point prior to getting sick. When this information is combined with the fact that about five percent of the thousands of honey samples tested have been found to contain *C. botulinum* spores, this identifies honey as a risk factor and establishes a correlation between honey and infant botulism. This is the reason why the CDC, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Health Canada, along with other public health associations and the National Honey Board all agree that there is enough of a scientific link between honey and infant botulism to warrant the precautionary measure of a warning statement. However, any scientist worth his or her salt will tell you: one of the most basic principles of science is that correlation does not prove causation. This basic truth seems to be what the CDC, AAP, Health Canada, and National Honey Board want us all to forget.

Now don't get me wrong, I am not claiming that just because it has yet to be definitively proven that honey is a cause of infant botulism that it is impossible for babies under one year of age to contract botulism from contaminated honey. After all, high concentrations of spores have been found in honey at times. What gets me is that the same can likely be said for many other foods. As a result I will admit that while label warnings may be prudently cautious and appropriate in the case of honey, I am at a loss to understand why honey is the only food item singled out with regard to carrying a warning statement.

Where are these spores coming from in the rare cases where honey has been found to be severely contaminated with *C. botulinum* spores? Some scientists believe that high concentrations of botulism spores may enter honey during rare and extreme conditions within the hive, or when dead bees get into the honey. However, since botulism spores can not grow in nectar that is being processed into honey inside the hive, nor can it grow in ripe honey that is in the comb or in the jar, it seems most likely

that contamination occurs sometime during the honey harvesting, extracting, and bottling processes.

Efforts to produce honey free from botulism spores start by thoroughly cleaning your honey processing area, and all equipment prior to use for extracting and bottling. Everyone involved in the processing of honey should wash their hands before work. These are common sense actions that should be done by everyone on a regular basis anyway. If you want to go the extra mile, open windows should be closed to prevent dust buildup. To be extra cautious, outdoor shoes should be left at the door and only clean indoor shoes should be worn while processing the honey so as not to track dirt into the processing area. As unlikely and inconvenient as these last suggestions sound, they may be the easiest way to ensure your honey is free from significant numbers of botulism spores, especially if you keep your bees in one of the states identified as a higher than normal risk. While it is possible to irradiate honey in order to kill off any spores it may contain, such measures are inconvenient and expensive, and well beyond the reach of an average beekeeper.

If you are among those of us who are unable, or simply unwilling to take such measures to ensure your honey's purity, then err on the safe side and only sell your honey to customers that are older than one year of age.

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 American Apitherapy Society  
[www.apitherapy.org](http://www.apitherapy.org)

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**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](http://www.tateshoneyfarm.com)

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Look at our web site for prices on all available items.  
[www.millershomestead.com](http://www.millershomestead.com)

## Beeboxes, frames, foundation, tools and equipment open M-S 9-5:30

### East Farms Feed

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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 Carniola's  
\$75.00  
Call Bob Arnold  
(509) 993-0562



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### IEBA Website

[www.inlandbeemail.com](http://www.inlandbeemail.com)

### WSBA Website

[www.wasba.org](http://www.wasba.org)

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 9th**

**T**he 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

### October Birthdays

1st -- Phyllis Knox  
11th -- Jim Miller  
26th -- Mark Nason  
26th -- Sally Fleming  
27th -- Patsy Dwinell  
31st -- Darlene Nason

### October Anniversaries

11th -- Jack & Phyllis Knox

Best wishes, dear beekeepers

Let's update the Birthday and Anniversary lists. If you are a registered IEBA member please send your name /spouse's name/b-day/anniversary dates to [joan1422@msn.com](mailto:joan1422@msn.com) so that we can celebrate you and your special day!

### *Beekeeping Calendar - Bob Arnold*

#### **October**

Check for AFB. Check mite fall counts. Any additional feed can be put on early in the month but after about mid October the bees may not take any feed. Feed only 2:1 syrup with Fumigillen in it. Nucs can still be introduced but introducing mated queens is problematic—only introduce a mated queen if you first save the old one in the form of a nuc in case the new queen is not accepted. Colonies must face full sun during noon to 2 PM during winter period. Reposition colonies in bee yard late in October after most bee activity has ended. Remove mite control materials after exposure period has been reached. Reduce entrance to exclude mice (must be no higher than 3/8"). Make certain each hive has an upper entrance. Add 2" closed cell foam above upper entrance. Make certain that rain/water cannot run into brood chambers. Winter strong nucs in their 5 frame nuc boxes side by side with upper entrances and 2" closed cell foam above. Give them 3/4" space above frame top bars to move around. Winter those nucs that fill the five frame box and have at least 4 frames of honey. Attend state beekeeping conferences.