



INLAND BEEEMAIL

Monthly newsletter of the Inland Empire Beekeepers Association

Volume 14, Issue 11 — November 2009 — www.inlandbeemail.com

Presidents
Corner:

Presidents Corner:

Presidents Corner:

Come one, come all to the IEBA Christmas Potluck and can food drive. The feast begins at 6:30 PM, 11 December at the extension office. Bring a salad, side dish or dessert, and a good appetite. IEBA volunteers (only me so far) will provide ham, drinks, rolls, and more. Please bring one or more cans of food as a donation to the food bank.

December is also the month that new association officers are elected. Roger Carney is our 'Nominating Officer' once again. Please come and participate.

The Dec beemail has the proposed IEBA Constitution and Bylaws in it. Please review and bring discussion points to the meeting. We will vote on it at our January (annual) meeting. I will give a short presentation on the additions to the current constitution at the meeting.

The beemail also has the registration form for our first class of for our 2010 education program. If you want to become a WSBA Journeyman beekeeper and meet all the requirements please sign up. The class will be limited to 12 people. Only IEBA members may attend.

I have also included in the beemail the 2010 education schedule for the first six months as requested.

If you cannot attend then let me take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Honey of a New Year.



Inland Empire Beekeepers Association Agenda

Welcome!

Merry Christmas

Reports:

The Secretary's Report - Linda

The Treasurer's Report - Julie

Fair Reports – none

Four Corner Bee Reports – none

First Year Beekeeper Questions - Darren

Old Business:

IEBA Constitution Update see printed version in Dec beemail and on website

New Business:

Journeyman class registration – *Hive and the Honey Bee* text request

Meeting Adjourned

Presentation: 2010 WSBA Convention by Jerry Tate

Have a HONEY of a New Year!!

IEBA - Meeting Minutes September

November 13, 2009

President Ted Swenson called our Friday the 13th, Thanksgiving Dinner/Meeting to order. Because of the laughter and chewing and talking, the meeting took a few moments to come to order.

The Secretary, who was trying to pile her plate higher, asked that the **minutes** be accepted as published in the Bee Mail. The minutes were accepted as published.

The Treasurer presented an excellent spread sheet to the President and it is available for anyone to look at and admire. (Lots of detail for the expenses of this last year) She next announced we have \$1,887.53 in savings and \$15,896.31 in checking. The **Treasurer's report** was then accepted.

Fun, Fun, Learn, Learn

A Journeyman beekeeping class will be starting in January 2010. It will only be open for 9-10 people, so, get your name in as soon as possible. This is a great opportunity not only to hang more pieces of framed paper on your wall, but to gain new knowledge and experiences.

Old Business

The IEBA charter update is still scheduled to be discussed at the next meeting. Please, if you have not done so look at the proposals and the constitution and also develop some ideas that you would like to see incorporated.

What is the earliest year recorded that we have found for the IEBA and it's constitution? 1945

Congratulations

Brandi Manchester, Mary Himley, and Duane Eshelman have passed the tests for the Apprentice Level of the Master Beekeeper Program. Mary and Duane were present to receive their certificates from President Ted Swenson.

While we are thinking of food, just one more bite before I write, the Christmas dinner will also be pot luck. And if the luck we had with food at this feast is any indication, there will be such joy and good cheer next month that it would be wise to check on your tire pressure to insure safety with the extra weight on the way home.

There was a suggestion to bringing a can of food for the Food Bank to the Christmas Dinner. Those present all agreed that it would be a dandy idea so please bring a can to donate to others when you come to the Christmas meeting/dinner.

Yes, it is time once more to elect officers and fill openings. Roger Carney is in charge of the election committee. If you have someone interested in an office or position or if you want to surprise them with a nomination please contact Roger. His phone number can be found in the Inland Bee Mail, or the phone book. Also he will be present at the Christmas Dinner/Meeting and you can speak to him near the ham, or potatoes, or desserts.

It was announced, our yearly dues will be available to be paid at the Dinner/Meeting in December. However, they are not due until January 2010. Anyone anxious to be part of our IEBA Association can become a member by paying their dues to the Treasurer.

Our meeting was adjourned and we were able to get back to good food and good conversations.

Inland Empire Beekeepers Association Class Schedule for 2010

Dates and time may change

Classes may be cancelled if an instructor is not available

Courses open only to members of the Inland Empire Beekeepers Association

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Subject</u> | <u>Notes</u> |
|-------------|--|---|
| 22 Jan 2010 | Journeyman Beekeepers Class County Extension Office 6:30 – 8:30 PM | Four Sessions Lots of home study Open Book/Class Discussion Tests |
| 29 Jan 2010 | Beeswax County Extension Office 6:30 – 8:30 PM | How to filter beeswax Uses of beeswax Candle production |
| 5 Feb 2010 | Journeyman #2 | Same as above |
| 19 Feb 2010 | Journeyman #3 | Same as above |
| 26 Feb 2010 | Creamed Honey & Mead Making County Extension Office 6:30 – 8:30 PM | How to make and market Creamed Honey How to make Mead |
| 5 Mar 2010 | Journeyman #4 | Same as above |
| 12 Mar 2010 | 2 nd Year Beekeeping County Extension Office 6:30 – 8:30 PM | See course syllabus |
| 20 Mar 2010 | Basic Beekeeping Class Classroom portion | 9-5 County Extension Office Group A |
| 26 Mar 2010 | 2 nd Year Beekeeping County Extension Office 6:30 – 8:30 PM | See course syllabus |
| 27 Mar 2010 | Basic Beekeeping Class Classroom portion | As Needed. 9.5 County Extension Office Group B |
| 2 Apr 2010 | 2 nd Year Beekeeping County Extension Office 6:30 – 8:30 PM | See course syllabus |
| 17 Apr 2010 | Package Installation Class Basic Beekeeping Students | Parking lot of County Extension How to install a package |
| 24 Apr 2010 | Field Day 1 Basic Beekeeping Course | See course syllabus Group A: 9-1 PM Group B: 2-4 PM |
| 31 Apr 2010 | | |

IEBA Class Registration
Journeyman Course

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Minimum Requirements: Apprentice Certificate, 2 yrs experience, 30 Public Service Units

| | | | |
|--------|--|--|--|
| What: | WSBA Journeyman Course | | Four Sessions Lots of home study Open Book/Class Discussion Tests |
| Where: | Extension Office | | Text: <i>Hive and the Honeybee</i> |
| When: | 6:30-8:30 PM 22 Jan 5 Feb 19 Feb 5 Mar | | We will try to acquire enough texts so no one has to buy one just for this course. |
| | | | |

CONSTITUTION

of the

INLAND EMPIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Article I: Name

Article II: Purpose

Article III: Membership

Article IV: Officers

Article V: Meetings

Article VI: Finances

Article VII: Committees

Article VIII: Vacancies

Article IX: Real Property

Article X: Amendments

Article XI: By-Laws

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- CONSTITUTION -

ARTICLE I

The name of this association shall be the Inland Empire Beekeepers Association (IEBA) herein the association. The association is not for the profit of any individual member and will be incorporated in the state of Washington as a Non-Profit Corporation.

ARTICLE II

Purpose: The Inland Empire Beekeepers Association is a Non-Profit Corporation that exists to promote beekeeping in Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho through the education of future and current beekeepers in all aspects of beekeeping and to educate the general public on the benefits and necessity of Honey Bees and their products.

ARTICLE III

Membership

Section 1 Membership: Any beekeeper or any person interested in apiculture may become a member of this association on the payment to the treasurer of the yearly dues. The membership year shall be from 1 January to 31 December.

Section 2 Dues: Dues shall be payable yearly in advance in an amount determined by the membership at any annual meeting. One dollar of the dues shall be transmitted to the secretary-treasurer of the Washington State Beekeepers Association as individual associate membership dues in the State Association.

Section 3 Affiliations: Any junior or 4-H beekeepers club may become a member of this association as a unit on approval of the executive board and upon the payment of the annual fees of ten cents per member to the secretary-treasurer of this association. The name and address of each of these junior members shall be filed with the secretary.

Section 4 Life Membership: Life membership in the association may be given to a member who has contributed in some outstanding way to the association's aims and ideals and for meritorious service to the association upon recommendation of the executive committee and a majority vote of the members present at any regular meeting. Life members

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shall be excused from payment of local dues. No member shall be given life membership merely for continuous membership or for the purpose of not paying dues.

Section 5 Termination: Any membership may be terminated for inappropriate, immoral, or unethical behavior by a vote of two thirds of the association members present (see quorum) after open discussion.

ARTICLE IV Officers

Section 1 Officers: The officers of this association shall be a president, a vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer. These officers shall constitute the executive board.

Section 2 Duties of Officers: The duties of the officers shall be those as assigned to them by “Roberts Rule of Order” and according to which rules the business of this association shall be conducted.

A President: The president shall preside over all association meetings; call special meetings as deemed necessary; perform all acts and duties of an executive and presiding officer including the appointment of any committee required for the proper function of the association.

B Vice President: The vice president shall assume the duties of the president in his/her absence and assist the president as necessary.

C Secretary: The secretary shall keep a permanent record of all official meetings of the association, report official association activities to the membership, and perform other duties as required by the association.

D Treasurer: The treasurer shall receive and disburse all funds and maintain accurate records of all association accounts. The treasurer shall deliver complete books documenting all financial transactions to his/her successor in office.

Section 3 Between Meetings: The executive board shall function in behalf of the association between meetings in all matters that cannot be postponed until the following meeting which is not considered by the executive board to be of sufficient importance to warrant the calling of a special meeting.

Section 4 Election of Officers: The officers of this association shall be elected by ballot at the annual meeting of the association (each December) and shall hold office for one year or until their successors shall have been elected.

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ARTICLE V Meetings

Section 1 Meetings: The regular meetings of this association shall be held on the second Friday of each month. The annual meeting of this association shall be held at the December session. Ten percent of the members and at least two officers shall constitute a quorum to transact business. There shall be at least four meetings yearly.

Section 2 Non-standard Meetings: The August meeting shall be the annual picnic. The date, time and location shall be determined by association vote during the June or July meeting. The September meeting shall be at the Spokane County Fair Grounds vicinity the IEBA exhibition booth if the association participates in the fair. Time shall be determined by the association at a meeting prior to the September meeting.

Section 3 Special Meetings: An emergency or special meeting may be called by members of the executive board. An email shall be sent to those members who have signed up for email delivery stating the subject, date, time, and location of the meeting.

Section 4 Quorum: A voting quorum at a membership meeting shall be no less than ten percent (10%) of the paid membership as reported by the treasurer at the last Board of Directors meeting previous to the membership meeting where a vote(s) is (are) to be taken. A quorum at a Board of Directors meeting shall consist of one half of the Board of Directors plus one.

ARTICLE VI Finances

Section 1: No indebtedness shall be incurred by any officer, committee member, or other member of this association on behalf of the association except as authorized by the association. Authorization of the association is evidenced by discussion and by an affirmative vote by a simple majority of the membership present at the meeting (see quorum). The association monies shall be placed into a checking account with joint signature of the president and the treasurer. Monies in excess of month to month needs as determined by the treasurer shall be placed in a savings account to draw interest. If the association ceases to exist in some future time, the funds and assets of record shall be disbursed to the Washington State Beekeepers Association.

Section 2 Annual Budget: The president and treasurer may produce an association budget to be presented to the association at the beginning of each calendar year. A simple majority vote of the membership at the meeting (see quorum) shall constitute approval of the budget. The budget shall authorize the executive board to disburse funds up to but not more than those approved by the budget. If additional funds are needed the officers must present the request to the membership and receive their approval. If a budget is not used, the association officers must present each disbursement to the membership for approval at any scheduled meeting. The intent of the budget process is to minimize time needed for 'business' and maximize time for 'education'.

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Section 3 Audit: An Audit Committee shall be selected by the president or the association membership and shall perform an audit on an annual basis. Additional audits may be conducted as necessary. A report from the Audit Committee shall be made to the membership at large during the annual meeting.

ARTICLE VII Committees

Section 1 The president shall appoint at the first session of the annual meeting (or at other meetings as needed), the following committees to serve for that year. The first named to be chairman of that committee.

Section 2 Membership Committee: The membership committee shall promote, solicit, and secure membership to this association.

Section 3 Program Committee: The executive board shall constitute the program committee. Additional members may be added to the committee by the president. The Program Director shall be appointed by the president. The Program Director shall produce a yearly program based on input from the membership. The program is the most important part of any association meeting.

Section 4 Education Committee: The purpose of the committee is to promote beekeeping in Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho through the education of future and current beekeepers in all aspects of beekeeping and to educate the general public on the benefits and necessity of Honey Bees and their products. The Committee Chairman shall be appointed by the president. The committee shall meet when and where the chairman decides to discuss education related subjects. The committee shall provide the president with recommendations to be presented to the association membership for discussion and approval.

ARTICLE VIII Vacancies

All vacancies occurring in committees between meetings shall be filled by appointment by the president. A vacancy in the executive board shall be filled by the remaining members of the board, provided that such appointee shall in no way act as president. Upon resignation of the President, the association Vice President shall assume the duties of the President as Acting President. At the next association meeting the Acting President shall call for a vote by association members to confirm him/her as the association President to serve until the next annual meeting. If the Vice/Acting President is unwilling or unable to serve as President he/she shall call for candidates from the association members and conduct an election to fill the vacancy. The minutes of the meeting and a change to the association registration with Washington State Department of Licensing shall be submitted within two weeks of the election.

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ARTICLE IX Real Property

Section 1 Association Property: The association may purchase real property with approval of the membership. Real property includes but is not limited to bee hives, fair equipment, audio visual, and storage equipment. Office supplies, expendable items, and honey bees are not real property. The president is responsible to know the location of association property. At the annual meeting the president will inform the association that the real property has been accounted for. Items may be removed from the property list (see section 2) by majority vote of the executive board. The treasurer is not responsible for association property.

Section 2 Property List: The treasurer shall maintain a record of real property items. The list shall include the item nomenclature, date purchased, last known location, and date sold, destroyed or transferred. The president in conjunction with the treasurer will determine what items are on the list.

Section 3 Return of Property: All elected officers and any members, upon completion of their term in office or assignment, shall return to the association any and all papers, documents (digital or otherwise), and property deemed to be important to the operation and history of, and belonging to, said Association. Failure to comply may result in expulsion from the association and civil action if deemed necessary.

ARTICLE X Amendments

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote (see quorum) during the annual meeting. Proposed amendments shall be in writing and presented to the membership at any annual or regular meeting. The amendment (s) shall not be voted on until the next annual meeting.

ARTICLE XI By-Laws

This constitution may contain By-Laws. By-Laws to this constitution may be adopted or updated upon a majority vote after notice, verbally issued at a monthly meeting at least one month prior to the vote, and the amended text shall be published in the monthly newsletter (if available) at least one month prior to the vote, with notice of the time and place when the vote will be held.

Adopted December 31, 1945

Amended March 17, 1965

Revised February 11, 1977

Corrected December 6, 1977

Revised January, 1987

Revised January, 2010

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BYLAWS

of the

INLAND EMPIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Article I: Adoption & Update Procedures

Article II: Walt Peterson Joy in Beekeeping Trust Fund

Article III: Website

Article IV: Newsletter

Article V:

Article VI:

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- Bylaws -

Upon reading of these Bylaws of the Inland Empire Beekeeping Association, the members present vote to hereby accept these bylaws:

ARTICLE I Adoption and/or Updating

By-laws to the IEBA Constitution may be adopted or updated upon a majority vote after notice, verbally issued at a monthly meeting at least one month prior to the vote, and the amended text shall be published in the monthly newsletter (if available) at least one month prior to the vote, with notice of the time and place when the vote will be held.

ARTICLE II The Walt Peterson Joy In Beekeeping Trust Fund

Section 1 Joy In Beekeeping (JIB): The association will manage the Walt Peterson Joy In Beekeeping Trust Fund. The intent of the trust fund is to award scholarship grants and awards to help new beekeepers or to assist established beekeepers to start or maintain colonies of honey bees. The JIB is not a beekeeper of the year award.

Section 2 Board of Trustees: The president shall nominate and the membership shall approve each trustee by a simple majority vote at the annual meeting (see quorum). There shall be three members on the board of trustees, each serving for a three year term. One new member will be nominated and approved each year. The senior member of the board shall act as the board president. The board of trustees shall manage and disburse all monies in the trust fund. The trust fund shall remain a separate account from the association accounts. Rules for the trustees are:

- A. To avoid the perception or possibility of a conflict of interest, members of the board may not enter a nomination for another member while serving on the board.
- B. To avoid the perception or possibility of a conflict of interest, members of the board shall be ineligible to take part in the decision making process or voting involving a member of that board member's family. A family member in this case shall consist of: father, mother, son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter, nephew, niece, aunt, uncle, or married partner (in-law) of family relative.
- C. Selection of the JIB winner shall be limited to a single individual. Grants will not be split between can-

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didates.

- D. Nominations for the JIB grant and awards must be put forth by another member of the association. Trustees may not nominate themselves for the award.
- E. There is no requirement for the grant to be awarded each year.

Section 3 Yearly Grant: A yearly grant of up to \$250.00 will be awarded by the fund in each calendar year for the purpose of perpetuating a continuing interest in beekeeping. To allow as many as possible to benefit from the fund, a person winning a grant may only receive the grant once. The criteria for grant qualification are:

- A. Applicant must be an active IEBA member. Applicant must have attended at least four IEBA meetings in the last twelve months.
- B. Applicant has provided bees for apitherapy to one person for a period of twelve months, if requested, OR
- C. Applicant has provided ten hours of service at the IEBA booth at the Spokane Interstate Fair, North Idaho State Fair, or other approved public educational demonstration or promotion, OR
- D. Applicant has provided ten hours promoting beekeeping at schools in the area, OR
- E. Applicant has provided ten hours of beekeeping related service that has prior approval of the trustees.

All nominations for the grant must be in written form and presented to the trustees by the end of the monthly IEBA meeting in January. Nominator will state his or her name on the nomination. Award of the grant will take place at the regularly scheduled February meeting.

Section 4 Awards: Three yearly awards, each consisting of up to \$100.00 value of beekeeping supplies, equipment, honey bees, clothing, or other implement or component of the endeavor of starting and/or keeping colonies of honey bees shall be made to qualified graduates of the association authorized beginning beekeeping class, based upon the following criteria:

- A. Application, in writing, must be made for the award. The application must include a brief statement of the applicant's interest, plans for future beekeeping and any other information pertaining to the applicant's continuation of the craft.
- B. Applicant must have successfully completed the class material and graduated from an IEBA beginning beekeeping class.
- C. Graduate must have attended at least 75% of the scheduled classes, plus all outside lab offerings.
- D. Applications must be in the hands of the trustees with two weeks of the final class of each session.
- E. Winners will be chosen based upon the merit of the application and the work done in class by a secret majority vote of the trustees and the course instructor(s). In the event of a tie vote, the current president of the as-

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sociation or designated representative will be called upon to cast the deciding vote.

- f. The award may not be given twice to the same person.

ARTICLE III IEBA Website

Section 1 The Inland Beemail.com: The association will maintain a web site called the 'inlandbeemail.com' hereafter called the website, if association membership support is available for production, edit, and upkeep.

Section 2 Editor: The website editor will be appointed by the president at the annual meeting. The editor shall be responsible for producing and updating the website.

Section 3 Contents: The website shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- A. The Inland Beemail (news letter)
- B. Beekeeping Articles

Section 4 Editing: The website editor determines what is on the website. Any article, advertisement, or other entry that the editor deems inappropriate shall not be on the website. Such article, advertisement, or other entry will be passed to the executive board for their consideration.

Section 6 Classified Ads: The website may contain classified ads submitted by association members only. The ads will remain on the website until the member asks for their removal or the member leaves the association or fails to pay yearly dues. The member submitting the ad is solely responsible for the content of the advertisement.

ARTICLE IV News Letter

Section 1 Inland Beemail: The association will publish a news letter called the 'The Inland Beemail' hereafter called the Beemail, if association membership support is available for production, edit, and distribution.

Section 2 Editor: The Beemail editor will be appointed by the president at the annual meeting. The editor shall be responsible for producing and distributing the Beemail.

Section 3 Contents: The Beemail shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- A. Minutes of Meetings: The association secretary in concert with the editor may use the Beemail as the official means of recording the minutes of each meeting. Copies of the Beemail will be maintained by the secretary and the editor for two years.

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- B. Articles submitted by members of appropriate length and subject matter, as determined by the Newsletter Editor.

Section 5 Editing: The Editor determines what is in the Beemail. Any article, advertisement, or other entry that the editor deems inappropriate shall not be included in the Beemail. Such article, advertisement, or other entry will be passed to the executive board for their consideration.

Section 6 Classified Ads: The Beemail may contain classified ads submitted by association members only. The ads will remain in the Beemail until the member asks for their removal or the member leaves the association or fails to pay yearly dues. The member submitting the ad is solely responsible for the content of the advertisement.

Article V. Fair
Purchase/Sale of honey products

Article VI.
IEBA Bee Yard/Queen Rearing Yard

Article VII
Donations to Education/Research

Adopted January 2010

Colony Collapse Disorder, Parts I & II

By: [Ross Conrad](#)

CCD, a sign of things to come.

Courtesy Bee Culture

Part Two

Faulty assumptions

One reason for the current chemical regulatory mess that has allowed our bees to be negatively impacted (see Part I in the June *Bee Culture*), is that regulated chemical industries have influence over the formation of the regulations by which they are to be governed. In addition, our legal and regulatory systems were never designed to limit the accumulation of small impacts. Instead, U.S. law relies on cost-benefit analysis to justify individual impacts, a practice that has become obsolete as it destroys the planet as a place suitable for honey bee (and human) habitation.

In his 1980 book, *Overshoot*, William Catton, Jr. states, 'Infinitesimal actions, if they are numerous and cumulative, can become enormously consequential.' This statement refers to the problem of cumulative impacts where actions that are harmless or tolerable at the individual level can degrade the planet's life support systems if thousands or millions of people do them. One person fertilizing their lawn near Chesapeake Bay for example makes no significant impact, but when thousands do it the bay becomes degraded and Blue Crab populations decline precipitously.

When it comes to chemicals the current regulatory approach to controlling pollution does not deal with global pollution. The main focus has instead been on the maximally exposed individual.¹ In the United States, we conduct risk assessments (used when conducting 'cost-benefit' analyses) to evaluate the risk to a hypothetical 'maximally exposed' individual. If the threat to that individual (or honey bee) is found to fall within acceptable limits, then regulation does not occur and these so-called acceptable amounts of contamination are allowed to be released forever after. Then another risk assessment and cost benefit analysis gives the go-ahead to another acceptable release or use of a different toxic substance or harmful activity. Then another and another. What we have not started to look at until recently is the total impact of all these acceptable risks. Our society has assumed that it could tolerate

unlimited small amounts of harm as a byproduct of economic growth. It is only when a particular activity is demonstrated to fail to provide a net benefit to society that most of our property and environmental laws are permitted to interfere with economic activity.

Obsolete Laws

Biochemist and lawyer, Joseph H. Guth, legal director of the Science and Environmental Health Network, has analyzed this situation and offered solutions in several scholarly papers one of which is soon to be published in the *Barry Law Review*, titled 'Cumulative Impacts: Death-Knell for Cost-Benefit Analysis In Environmental Decisions.'² In this paper Guth points out that our laws only forbid damage when the perceived benefits are not considered to outweigh the cost or destruction to the environment or human health. The law also puts the burden of proof that an activity is creating more harm than good on the injured party, or the government. If the victim (or the government) can not meet the burden of proof, then the damaging action is allowed to continue by default. This burden of proof transforms doubt, and missing scientific information into a barrier to legal protection for the environment (and honey bees). The default presumption is that the benefits of economic activity always outweigh the costs unless a specific cost-benefit analysis (often based upon incomplete or faulty research conducted by those that stand to profit) can show otherwise.

According to Joe Guth, '... we see the fatal flaw inherent in our system of environmental decision-making. Routinely allowing all environmental impacts except those proved to fail a cost-benefit test, it permits those impacts to grow without limit even when their cumulative effect results in ecological overshoot. Many of these impacts occur not because they actually satisfy the law's cost-benefit test but because whenever we do not know enough, the law's default structure permits them to continue.'

Joe Guth continues: "These laws do not permit regulators broadly to take account of what is happening to the world around them. They embed regulators in a decision-making structure that may seem scientific but in fact is profoundly unscientific because it

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prevents them from responding to the ever more detailed findings by the world scientific community that we are overshooting the Earth's ecological capacities. Rooted in the assumption that ecological overshoot does not occur, our current statutes are incapable of containing the cumulative scale of ecological damage . . . It is an approach that has become outdated because it is based on assumptions that are no longer valid.'

Guth sums up by stating, 'To maintain a functioning biosphere in which humans can prosper, the law must turn its attention to the problem of cumulative impacts. The law will have to abandon its use of cost-benefit analysis to justify individual environmental impacts and instead adopt the goal of maintaining the functioning ecological systems that we are so dependent upon.'

From 'Yes We Can,' to 'Now We Do'

In Section II of his 'Cumulative Impacts' paper, Joe Guth states that 'Our legal system already harbors examples of decision-making structures that establish a principle of standard of environmental quality or human health and do not rely on cost-benefit balancing,' and that these examples 'show that such legal principles or standards can enable the legal system to contain the growth of cumulative impacts.' Clearly we have the capacity to deal with this issue if we decide we really want to.

These new understandings of chemical toxicity and our inability so far to adequately address them with our current regulatory structures and laws may help bring about radical and overdue changes to our chemical regulating policies. Other countries are starting to come to the conclusion that broad screening principles should be applied before individual chemicals are even tested. Such thinking would require us to go beyond the European Union's new chemicals policies. The Swedish Natural Step principles might be a good place to start in establishing a truly adequate and protective chemical policy.³ The Natural Step Framework of four system conditions that focus on ending the systematic buildup of toxic substances, the degradation of nature and our natural systems, and conditions that undermine human needs, has proven itself to be a scientifically robust model that can be used to help us make pragmatic decisions that move us toward

sustainability.

Another way in which we might move toward a system that allows us to enjoy the fruits of modern technology while honoring the limits of the Earth is by making a serious commitment to adopt the Precautionary Principle.⁴ This principle would shift the burden of proof by assuming that every action that causes an impact on Earth may be harmful unless proven otherwise, and by forcing us to always seek out and choose the least harmful alternative. Furthermore the Precautionary Principle requires that we pay attention to the consequences of our decisions by monitoring for environmental harm and reversing course if necessary. This would also mean that we would favor decisions, or courses of action that are reversible and avoid commitments that are extremely difficult to undo⁵ (such as releasing genetically engineered organisms into the environment).

An approach that should be considered in combination with the Precautionary Principle is to make chemical manufacturers responsible for the impacts that their products have on the environment. We currently allow companies to externalize these expenses. Often it is we, the tax payers, that are having to cover the costs of cleaning up messes like the superfund sites scattered throughout the U.S. Unfortunately, of the more than 1700 superfund sites that have been identified in the U.S., less than 500 have been cleaned up since the fund's establishment in 1980. We need to start forcing companies to bear the costs of cleaning up the messes their products produce.

These may seem like common sense proposals, but how remote they are from the way decisions are being made today! The importance for human society to approach chemical regulation (and many other issues) differently becomes apparent the moment we accept that humans have become a force of geologic proportions and are degrading the biosphere upon which the honey bee (and ultimately all other species) are entirely dependent. This implies that the public along with the media, the courts, public and corporate decision makers, and school children, among others, must be informed that the world is new – new because humans have become a force of geologic proportions and are now degrading the planet in ways that threaten the

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ability for much of the life that exists now to continue to survive. This is definitely new and requires a new understanding of our history and our kind, new thinking, new goals, new habits and attitudes, new stories and societal structures. Much of what we learned in high school and college is obsolete and stands in our way.

In taking on these efforts we must give full recognition to the remarkable human capacity for self-deception and denial. We humans do not accommodate change readily, in fact we tend to resist it. We seem wired (especially as we age) to deceive ourselves and deny reality; we look for scapegoats to blame and punish. This crucial reality must be thoughtfully acknowledged and navigated successfully if we are going to manage to implement the changes that are needed.

Time is of the essence

Proper chemical regulation is not primarily a technical problem but a human problem that encompasses money, political power, and societal rules and laws based upon faulty assumptions. These issues will need to be overcome before we can expect CCD to totally go away. Given that it is not just honey bees that are in decline but also native solitary bees, moths, butterflies, bats, and birds, this problem is all the more urgent. Researchers that study these things indicate that we are currently seeing a rate of species extinction of about 70 species a day, that's about three species an hour (some estimates are much higher). This is a rate the planet has not seen in about 65 million years, a time when a giant asteroid is believed to have collided with the Earth and the dinosaurs died out.⁶ At this rate, some estimate that about half of all the life forms living on earth today will not exist by 2100.

Given all that we don't know or understand about the effects the chemicals we are making and using on a daily basis are having on the world, it is hard to imagine that they are not playing a significant role in the current rates of species extinction being observed today. A role that may be on par with the disappearance of our forests, the acidification and warming of our oceans, and the increase in carbon dioxide concentration in our atmosphere. Our future, which is intimately tied to the Earth's future, depends on what we choose to do on personal, regional, national, and international levels as a soci-

ety. One place we can start today is by reducing or eliminating the use of chemicals in our hives. Then we can expand on this to reduce or eliminate chemical use as much as possible from the rest of our lives. If we don't take effective action to come to grips with this entrenched problem soon, we may find that CCD is just a harbinger of things to come. *Ross Conrad, author of Natural Beekeeping, regularly conducts organic beekeeping workshops, classes and consultations in between taking care of his own bees. Dancing Bee Gardens, P.O. Box 443, Middlebury, VT 05753; www.dancingbeegardens.com; dancingbeegardens@hotmail.com.*

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WSBA Website

www.wasba.org

Hive Care :

December

The Bees.

Snow is on the ground, and the bees have settled into their winter cluster. Until next month, there will likely be no brood present.

The Beekeeper.

The beeyard needs not much attention except for three critical areas:

(1) be sure to keep entrances clear of snow to allow bees to make cleansing flights on warm days.

(2) many beekeepers also use an upper entrance allowing for flight, but more importantly ventilation. Condensation building up and then dripping on the cluster is deadly.

(3) Check the weight of hives by tipping up a corner. If hives are light, you can still help them out with 2:1 sugar syrup. On a warm day, add an empty super and place a couple of inverted jars of syrup right on the top bars. Work quickly so that heat loss is minimal.

Now is also the time to sit back, read a good bee book, make some candles or equipment, and plan out your upcoming beekeeping year.





**Inland Empire
Beekeepers
Association**

**Next Meeting:
Friday December 11th**

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. Social time at 6:30 PM and the meeting starts at 7:00 PM. 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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DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 6TH --- Linda Carney
- 10th --- Cindy Ostendorf
- 11th --- Jerry Miller
- 11th --- Jennifer Hutchens
- 25th --- Matt Hutchens
- 27th --- David Zack
- 30th --- Beverly Bailey

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 1st --- Vern & Ealaine Staack
- 5th --- Bill & Jill Spock

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 so that we can celebrate you and your special day!

Beekeeping Calendar - Bob Arnold

Watch colonies to make certain that water, snow and ice are not a problem. Clear off when necessary

