



INLAND BEEEMAIL

Monthly newsletter of the Inland Empire Beekeepers Association

Spring has Sprung! It s Bee Time!

Volume 9, Issue 4

April 2004



The IEBA sponsored Beginning Beekeeping Class always draws a full house. Congratulations to the 2004 Class!



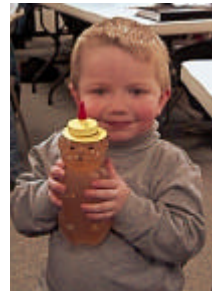
President Ted hands out certificates to the many graduates of 2004 Beekeeping Class



Many Thanks to our Instructor, Jim Miller



A sticky but sweet hands-on learning experience



Got Honey?



IEBA Veterans Ancel Goolsbey (Left) and Wes Tate enjoy visiting with the new beekeepers

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Minutes of March 2004 Meeting

- Jenine Miller for Linda Carney, Secretary



Minutes from the 3/12/04 Inland Empire Beekeeper's Association:

The meeting started at 7:30 p.m.

Ted welcomed the new beekeeping graduates.

The secretary's report was approved as printed in the February *Inland Beemail*.

The **Treasurer's Report** was given and accepted as read.

The **Joy in Beekeeping** awarded three vouchers in the amount of \$100 each. The recipients this year are: Kelly McSheehy, Eileen Davis, and

Andy Wright.

The **Four Corner Bee Reports** were as follows:

North by Bob Arnold. The bees are flying on warmer days and finding the first pollen of the year. The queens are laying well, the darker bees are behind the yellow bees.

East by Jack Knox. On the past Monday, he saw the bees bringing in bright yellow pollen. Jerry Tate suggested the pollen came from Buttercups.

West by Jim Miller. No report yet.

South by Joe Jovanovich.

The bees are active but he hasn't seen any pollen yet.

Ted Swenson said he has found pollen and honey in the top box with eggs in the middle frames. The middle of the bottom box contains larvae and capped brood. The queen was laying in mid February and the emerging bees are a shiny yellow. This is a description of his Russian hives.

Old Business:

Ted has been collecting all versions of the constitution that anyone could find. 1987 seems

Did You Know

A hive of honeybees must fly over 55,000 miles to bring in enough nectar to make one pound of honey?

APRIL Meeting Agenda

—Ted Swenson

Reports:

- ◆ The Secretary's Report
- ◆ The Treasurer's Report
- ◆ Budget Update
- ◆ Joy in Beekeeping Report
- ◆ Fair Reports
 - Spokane Fair
 - North Idaho Fair
- ◆ IEBA Bee Class Report
- ◆ WSBA Report
- ◆ Four Corner Bee Reports

Old Business:

- ◆ IEBA Charter/Constitution Review and
- ◆ IEBA Cook Book - Chris Fischer
- ◆ Programs—Bob Arnold

New Business:

- ◆ TBA

Program – Bob Arnold ☺

Zachary Huang pictured at right provided us with the great package installation photos featured in Jerry Tate's article on package installation. Dr Huang is Associate Professor of Entomology at MSU and has set up a top notch web site featuring organized and searchable bee pictures from around the world. Check it out at <http://cyberbee.msu.edu>. You will be amazed at the photographs. ☺



As far as we know, Ramón Seiler of Newman Lake is the youngest Certified Beekeeper in Washington State. Many thanks to Joan Nolan who proctored the tests orally. ☺

(March Minutes Continued from page 1)

to be the most current draft. Ted retyped it and Joe Jovanovich will verify its accuracy. Next month, Ted will want volunteers to make up a Revision Committee that will incorporate changes, such as Joy in Beekeeping.

Chris Fisher has not received any new recipes and still wants them. As a side note, Bob Adsit said that in one year, we sold 487 cook-books at the fair.

Bob Arnold made a presentation on the Program Survey results which have been tabulated and sorted.

New Business:

Edith Connerly made a donation to Joy in Beekeeping.

A request was made for teachers to talk about honeybees to fourth graders on May 13 at Camp Reed. It will start

at 11:00 and last about 4 hours.

Bob Adsit is looking for volunteers for school classes.

The upcoming Washington State Convention taking place this October was discussed.

Mr John Cripe wants bees in Idaho for pollination in mid April.

Dave and Donna Coldberg want bees for pollination near Silverwood.

Ted worked up a budget for the year using figures representing the worst case estimates showing the lower income estimates and the higher expense estimates. He distributed copies of the annual budget. He will have a short update at each meeting and his report will be by exception. After discussion, this was made into a motion and approved.

Bob Adsit is looking for volunteers to help give short

presentations at the Junior Livestock Show May 5 & 6 from 9:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Jerry Miller is looking for volunteers for the Country Living Expo on March 27. They can show a short video and talk about beekeeping for about 1 hour.

John Pierce knows of some used beekeeping equipment for sale. He will find out more about it. He also knows of a doctor in Western Washington looking for bees for apitherapy. Jerry Tate told John to have the doctor contact him.

Wally Plowman gave a report on the American Beekeeping Federation Convention he attended. He highly recommended that anyone who can go to it, do so.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm followed by Ted Arnold's excellent program presentation on queen rearing. ☺

Hive Care : April

The Bees. The weather begins to improve, and the early blossoms begin to appear. The bees begin to bring pollen into the hive. The queen is busily laying eggs, and the population is growing fast. The drones will begin to appear.

The Beekeeper. If you have not done so already, pick a warm and still day do your comprehensive hive inspections. Can you find evidence of the queen? Are there plenty of eggs and brood? Is there a nice pattern to her egg laying? Now, or very soon, on a very mild and windless day, you should consider reversing the hive deeps. This will allow for a better distribution of brood, and stimulate the growth of the colony. If stores are getting light, begin feeding and continue feeding until the nectar flow. This is the time to treat for nosema, foulbrood, and tracheal mites to ensure that the chemicals will be off before the honey flow. April is also the month for packages. See Jerry Tate's article in this issue of the *Inland Beemail*.

-adapted from www.backyardbeekeepers.com



Wally Plowman reports on the recent ABF Convention.

The Few, The Proud, and Careful around swarms

— From *Marines OnLine*, Story by Lance Cpl. Michael Nease

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA, Ariz. (March 25, 2004) — Marines may have noticed the pleasant smell of citrus blossoms as the season begins in the orchards around the station. Marines aren't the only ones to notice that smell.

Millions of bees depend on those orchards to survive, and the orchards depend on the bees to pollinate the crop, but stray swarms of bees put Marines, their families and employees of the station in danger every year.

Last year, over 90 swarms were reported on station, and six have been reported already this year as of March 17. Two of these were in the tails of AV-8B Harriers, and others were scattered in trees and buildings across the station, said Larry Reyelts, the station's pest control coordinator.

"We've had them in every place imaginable," said Reyelts. "We've had them in the cockpits of airplanes. They get in the gear boxes on the runway, fencelines -- pretty much any place imaginable." The swarms can be very dangerous if they are disturbed, especially to people who are allergic, said Mike Barry, a paramedic with the station fire department.

"If you get stung, you could just have a generalized swelling and irritation, and that's no medical emergency," said Barry. "But just because you've never been allergic in the past doesn't mean the next time you get stung you won't be allergic."

The onslaught of an allergic reaction could be gradual or fast. People who know they are allergic to bees need to have an epinephrine pin with

them at all times. Other people should be aware of the symptoms of an allergic reaction, which are hives, itching, redness of the face and most importantly, trouble breathing, said Barry.

"All bee swarms are treated as an emergency," said Patrick Bailey, station assistant fire chief. "We have paramedics in house so if someone is stung, we can start treatment right away. That's why we're the first people notified." If you discover a swarm of bees, call 911 immediately and keep yourself and others away from them, said Bailey. "Do not disturb the bees," Bailey warned. "Once you disturb them, they will attack. Even if they are regular honey bees, they will normally attack." There are two types of bees in the Yuma area — European honey bees and Africanized bees.

Later, settlers in South America brought over African bees, which are more aggressive, but produce even more honey. These Africanized bees

(Continued on page 7)

IEBA PEOPLE

President

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

Vice President

Joe Jovanovich
509-448-2493
joecoug@earthlink.net

Treasurer

Colette Lehinger
509-924-1001
blehinger@aol.com

Secretary

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

Newsletter Editor

Frank Seiler
509-226-2382
seilerbees@att.net

Spokane County Fair Chairman

Bob Adsit
509-489-0730
Bvadsit@sisna.com

Spokane County Fair Asst Chair WSU County Extension Liaison

Jerry Miller
509-838-6347

North Idaho State Fair Chairman

Jack Knox
208-773-5452
pjkx@adelphia.net

Web Master

John Pierce
509-455-4110
jpierce@vinsdevie.com

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

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

IEBA Program Chair & WSBA Area 6 Delegate

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

Joy in Beekeeping

Laura Shulenbarger (Chair)
Linda Carney
Ted Swenson

IEBA Website

www.inlandbeemail.com

WSBA Website

www.wasba.org



Classified Ads

BEEKEEPERS order your package bees by April 10th for April 17, 2004 delivery. Contact Tate's Honey Farm, 509-924-6669 or taccon105@icehouse.net.

BEEBOXES BY LEE Woodenware, standard or custom orders, IPM bottom boards, Hive top feeders, etc, select lumber. —Lee Birchtold (208) 687-1300

Miller's Homestead
Jim and Jenine Miller
Cheney, WA
1-509-299-9085

Providers of
-Package Bees Apr. 17th
-Natural honey
-Cut comb
-Creamed honey
-Custom Honey extraction
-Plastic containers
Web: millershomestead.com

**Time to order packages!
April 10th is the last chance!**



Looking for used eight frame and Ross Round equipment — Frank Seiler (509) 991-3019

Wanted: Honeybee Brood. Will pay \$5.00 per frame, including frame exchange. Need 40 frames by May 1, 2004. Call Ancel at 924-8316 or see me at the IEBA meeting April 9, 2004.

Package Success!

—Adapted from a guide by Tate's Honey Farm

With the arrival of spring, the beekeeper starts thinking about replacing winter losses, expanding or purchasing your first colony. To ensure a successful venture you need to take into consideration certain aspects of beekeeping that will ensure a great ending to your season. Preparation, good colony management, and disease prevention are the foundation of a good season for any beekeeper. What you do each season depends on whether you have a package or overwintered bees.



Opening Package © Z. Huang

Starting a Package

The first step is to have your equipment ready for your package. This includes good comb, or new foundation, a feeder or drawn comb with honey and pollen. A good sturdy hive body with bottom and top painted and ready for your package. You will need a feeder, either an internal division board feeder or an entrance feeder. Sugar for your syrup and a bag of TM-10.

After you receive your package you need to install it right away into your hive. The longer the delay, the more stressful it is for the queen and your bees aren't producing anything. Make sure you have syrup prepared prior to installation so you can put the syrup into the feeder right away. You should put Terramycin (TM-10) in your syrup and treat for American Foul Brood right away. Mix 1 teaspoon soluble TM-10 into each gallon of syrup. Use hot water to mix the TM-10 and sugar.

Our package bee breeder started build-

ing his bees in December. He started by using medicated syrup and a pollen supplement like "Brood Builder". The package breeder uses Coumaphos strips to treat for Varroa Mites. The breeder has been using Coumaphos for the last 3-4 years and so your package should be able to be treated with Apistan™ strips for the next few years.

With the arrival of spring the beekeeper starts thinking about replacing winter losses, WSU did research the last two years on whether we need to treat twice a year or once and the determination is that once in the fall or spring is fine. I recommend that a new package get treated in the fall. Do not wait until late in the fall but try to get the strips on in late August or early September. We take a bee sample and send it to the bee lab for Tracheal Mites. I normally take this sample on Sunday and mail on Monday so we get an early idea of the Tracheal Mite load. If the mite load is heavy, you will need to treat with Menthol.

Install your package on April 17 or Sunday the 18th. Set the single brood chamber at your location and fill your feeder. If you have an internal feeder put it against the left or right side of the box with drawn comb next to it. I remove 5 frames from the middle of the box creating a space to shake the bees from the package into. I now pop the package on the ground hard enough to shake all the bees onto the bottom. Then, I remove the syrup can and the queen and put the can back in the hole or place a small piece of wood over the hole so I can prepare my queen. Carefully re-

move the cork on the end of the queen cage and put your miniature marshmallow in the hole. You are now ready to install the bees. Again pop the package on the ground and see the bees drop to the bottom, quickly remove the board or can and shake the bees into the hole we created by removing the frames. Now carefully set the frames in and let the bees climb up the side of the frames and the frames will settle down into the box. Get your queen cage and place it between the 2nd and 3rd frame from the feeder, pinching the queen cage between the top bars. You want the screen side to be facing the front of the hive with the marshmallow facing the bottom board. Put your inner cover and top on and let them alone until the following Saturday April 24th.

April 24th is the big day. It is your first opportunity to see what is happening in that hive and to insure your queen is doing well. Prepare your syrup again before you open the hive. Remove the cover and inner cover and gently smoke your bees. Remove the outside frame or feeder (whichever doesn't have bees on it). Now gently slide the frames over, working toward the cluster of bees and the queen cage. As you get to the 2nd and 3rd frames very gently pry them apart and remove the queen cage. Ensure that she has indeed gotten out of the cage. Now take out the 3rd frame and check for queen or eggs. If you have eggs, look at the pattern and size of the patch. Put the 3rd frame back in the hive and remove the



Check your queen © Z. Huang



Placement of queen cage © Z. Huang



Pouring bees onto hive © Z. Huang

2nd frame also and do the same check. Put the frames back in fill you feeder and close the hive up until next Saturday. As your package continues to expand you should see a 3-pound package provide about 3-4 frames of brood during the first 21 days as the brood develops and your first hatch comes off. You now have the bees covering 5-6 frames after the first three weeks.

A couple of things to watch for are that the queen lays a nice round pattern and that you do not over-

feed the bees causing them to crowd the brood nest with syrup. Feeding every Saturday is usually about right. The bees are doing it right and so are you if they start putting a circle of honey around the brood nest, filling in from the outside about 1 inch and filling the corners. If they start putting the honey in the middle of a brood frame they have too much syrup or something is wrong. We do not want them to cap any syrup. Continue feeding until the honey flow starts. Remember not to move any frames with syrup up into your honey supers as the syrup will contaminate your honey.

After week number 3 we can expect the brood to hatch and the queen to relay where the brood hatched. After about 6 weeks the bees have had two full brood hatches and are expanding fast. You should now put your 2nd brood box on the hive and let them work their way up into the second box.

As the bees get brood in the second box you can add your extender patty.

Overwintered Hive

If you have an overwintered hive on the first warm days of spring check your hive

for food stores and activity. When our daytime temperatures reach 45°F or better and the nighttime temperatures reach high twenties and low thirties the queen should start laying brood. As soon as this happens the hives honey consumption becomes a problem. If the hive seems to be light start feeding it syrup and if you are in an area with no pollen flow you might want to give them a pollen additive to accelerate brood rearing.

On a warm day I normally clean my bottom board and move all the bees into the bottom brood chamber or switch brood chambers. Remember several things influence the hive to get moving. Warmer temperatures, pollen flow and nectar flow. We can give them pollen supplement and syrup to get them moving early. When you first check your hive, see how many frames the bees are covering and now relate that to how a package builds up. If the bees are covering 3-5 frames, treat it like a new package, but if it is covering 6-8 frames it is a 5-6 week-old package.

If it is more than 8 you need to be concerned with early swarming and the hive running out of food. If in early spring your hive is covering 10 or more frames you might have a good one to split. Remember to do it after queens are available. Raising your own queens in the spring is not something a beginning beekeeper should try. Remember, if you split, you are trying at a minimum to create two hives stronger than a package just before its first brood hatch. I really prefer one at the second brood cycle and one at the first brood cycle. I know I will get a good honey crop from one and the other at a minimum will be a good hive going into winter.



Queen Laying Egg © Jerry Tate

Conventional/Chemical Treatment Methods for disease

American Foulbrood

Mix 1 teaspoon TM-10 (Terramycin™) in one gallon of syrup. Treat at least 2 times in the spring and 2 times in the fall.

Varroa Mite

Treat with Apistan™ strips 2 per hive installed in the bottom brood chamber. Install when the bees are working in both brood chambers. Leave the strips in for 45 days or until you install the honey supers. This should be done in the spring or fall and the strips cannot be used again.

Tracheal Mite

Use Menthol bag 1 per hive, install after the temperature reaches 70 degrees and put it on top of the 2nd box and to the rear of hive.

American Foulbrood during summer

Use extender patty and install it when you put the first honey super on. Install between the 1st and 2nd brood chambers laying on top of the frames. 2 patties required each season. 2/3 pound of granulated sugar and 2 tablespoons of TM 10, mix and then blend in 1/3 pound of Crisco™ shortening, roll out on a 7 in. by 7 in. piece of newspaper into 1/4" to 3/8" patty.

Nosema

Mix one teaspoon of Fumidil B™ in a cup of hot water and add to the sugar before adding the balance of the water. (Fumidil B™ does not dissolve well in syrup) Feed one gallon in the spring for old colonies and 2 gallons in the fall for all colonies.

Many thanks to Zachary Huang for his kind permission to use the photos. They, and many more can be found at his excellent web site <http://cyberbee.msu.edu>. Dr. Huang is Assistant Professor at the Department of Entomology for Michigan State University

Also, thanks to Jerry Tate for his informative article. For more information, you can visit www.tateshoneyfarm.com. Jerry, like many beekeepers in the area receives his packages on April 17th this year. If your bees are coming in on a different day, you'll have to adjust your dates a bit from the article. ☺

For a good pictorial guide on installing packages, try <http://www.honeyflowfarm.com/bee/project/packagebees.htm>

Editor's Note: Last fall at the Oregon & Washington State Beekeepers Ass'n. Annual Joint Meeting, some of us enjoyed a slide show by Dick Turanski on Beekeeping in Uganda. I ran across a couple of articles this month that tie in with that theme.

BEEKEEPING IN UGANDA

Story by Ben Ochan, Ugandan journalist

Picture by Susie Emmet

Traditional methods of bee keeping are still predominant in Uganda where it remains an important seasonal activity in many regions. Rural people have a good knowledge of bees, plants and places favoured by bees but hives are usually destroyed and colonies often killed in the process of collecting honey. Contamination and fermentation of honey is also common. Despite the diversity of vegetation suitable for bees in the region, a shortage of bees means that beekeepers are dependent on collecting swarming bee stock. The current shortage is also limiting production of honey and by-products for which there is considerable potential.

Beehives are traditionally constructed from timber, bamboo boruss palms or woven from forest climbers and honey is usually harvested twice a year between March - June and the secondary season in August - October. The most favoured bees are *Apis mellifera adansonii* but six species of stingless Trigonid bees are also used in Ugandan honey production. However, hives are crudely raided at night with the use of grass torches and fire to smoke out the bees leaving many colonies destroyed. Honey is eaten directly from combs or is extracted and the surplus is sold or given to neighbours or relatives. Other bee products (brood comb and bee bread) are also harvested but, although they may be used, they are often wasted.

A few keepers have modern honey presses but, more commonly, honeycombs are pressed by hand. Much of the honey produced has impurities, including wax and bee parts. Those who have invested in pressing machines produce better quality honey. Honey from honeycomb is extracted, warmed, strained and bottled. Some is sold to clinics to be used for medicinal applications, including treatment of sore throats, and by HIV/AIDS sufferers who take it to treat opportunistic infections. Propolis is also in high demand by the medical sector for treatment of diseases. Some beekeepers salvage the comb to use its wax for candles or, mixed with maize flour, to make ice-cream cones. In addition, wax is in demand by cob-

blers, makers of household textiles, and garments and for making batiks.

The Ugandan Beekeepers Association estimates that only between 800-1200 metric tonnes of honey is produced per year due to current lack of beestock. The Association has introduced improved wooden hives costing about US\$15 (Uganda shillings 25,000), which can be opened for checking honeycombs and reduces the damage inflicted to a colony. The Association also has smoker pumps and protective wear to sell to keepers but unfortunately most beekeepers are unable to afford these items.

Eria Nsubuga Nvule, a bee expert in Uganda and a lecturer in the department of Zoology at Makerere University has said that absence of queen bee raising and bee-packaging projects are the main constraints to the modernization of beekeeping in the region. Mr Nvule, who is also an expert in artificial insemination in bees, said queen bee raising and packaging would be a step to improved beekeeping, honey and wax production and improvement of incomes and the environment, since honey has a ready local market and bees can be used to improve pollination. He also believes there should be a deliberate effort by the government and development agencies to revise policies in order to prohibit indiscriminate bush burning and tree felling. The Queen Bee and Bee Packaging project would be an impetus to modernizing bee keeping as it would enable multiplication of the native bee stock and promote a variety of different strains according to beekeeper's needs (e.g. an industrious strain to forage nectar, a strain that does not swarm, and a gentle strain that can be handled by any lay person). A German NGO, Action Africa Hilfe (AAH) in collaboration with Mr. Nsubuga Nvule, has recently introduced such a project in Palorinya Sudanese Refugee Camp in Moyo along the Uganda-Sudan border. The project supplied many hives and starter colonies to help refugees begin beekeeping in order to improve their incomes. ☺



Uganda Honey for EU

by Doreen Kansime, Kampala

Uganda will be able to export honey to the lucrative European Union (EU) by the end of this year.

This is after the honey was certified and conformed to international standards, honey entrepreneur Maria Odido said

This certification is required when exporting organically grown (without the use of fertilisers and pesticides products like honey, fruits and vegetables to the EU which sets high standards for such products

"We have now completed the analysis for honey and once the report on it is finished, will start working with ministry of agriculture and Uganda National Bureau of Standards on formulating a Ugandan standard which will conform to the international standard.

After this, we hope to have the certificate ready by October," Odido, the chairperson of The Uganda National Apiculture Development Organisation said.

The analysis is necessary for accurate labelling a key requirement for exports to the EU, she said.

There is a big movement towards organically produced foods in western economies caused by a suspicion of food produced using fertilisers and pesticides.

Shell Foundation through DFCU bank put up the \$40,000 needed to finance EU compliance requirements. ☺

For more information on beekeeping methods in Africa, check out <http://www.biavl.dk/africa/>



One of the author's beehives recently converted to bottomless

(Vantage Point... Continued from page 12)

least, it is worth a try.

Did I go out and convert my entire apiary to bottomless? Well, no. I took two hives that I can observe well and reassembled them without a bottom.

The largest advantage is that mites that drop out are gone forever. But so are the many other things that usually end up on the screen or bottom board. Dead bees, wax capping, and other debris that can harbor pests and disease are no longer left for field bees to crawl through as they enter and exit the hive.

Other annoyances are also at a disadvantage. Mice cannot nest, Skunks are in for a nasty surprise, and comb in the outside edges will not mold. Water has no place to accumulate, should it enter. Less smoke is needed to manipulate the hives.

What about robbing by other bees and yellow jackets? Simon claims that "there is a difference between how the guard bees function with bottomless as opposed to conventionally bottomed. In the conventional setup, the robbers only have to get past the guards, which are positioned at the entrance looking out. Once in, yellow jackets can have their way virtually without a challenge. With bottomless, the guards cover the entire territory, scanning in every direction,

and it is not possible to get past them. I have watched yellow jackets working the bottomed hives while avoiding the bottomless. I think with the guards out in the open, the yellows get attacked a lot quicker and heavier, and they learn fast."

The article goes on to describe some disadvantages, such as having to reassemble the hive with a bottom board if you want to move it. Also, the bees are not going to be entering the hive on a given side, but will establish specific flight paths in and out of the hive. Working the hive, you will inevitably end up in some bees' flight path. Simon has also noted that the actual amount of honey produced by his bottomless colonies is a bit less. Yet, he feels that the benefits that he gains are more important.

"What I am proposing is not good for business. Instead of adding products, I am taking products away. Instead of increasing honey production, I am decreasing it. But a little honey is better than none, and dead bees make no honey at all."

Wherein lies the crux of the matter. Unless we manage our colonies to survive without the crutches of miticides, pesticides, and antibiotics, the time will soon be here when these will prove so ineffective that all we will be left with are sick, unproductive bees. And, our window of opportunity for reversing that trend shrinks with each season.

Other non-standard management methods are worth exploring also. I know some of our membership is working with small-cell foundation. Top bar hives are also popular with a few beekeepers. In the following months, I'll try to give some attention to these topics, and the people who have explored these management techniques. ☺

**For more information, see the March 2004 issue of *Bee Culture*, pages 41-44 or visit Charles Simon's website at:
<http://www.charlesmartinsimon.com/stinging-insects.htm>**

(Marines... Continued from page 3)

have since made their way up into the states, said Barry.

"The big problem with Africanized bees is that they're very aggressive," said Reylets. "As much as 40 percent of the hive might come after you.

"As far as safety goes, the best thing to do is just stay away from them," he continued. "If you do get into them, get away quick because you can't tell if they're European or Africanized bees. They look the same."

Reylets tries not to kill the bees, but sometimes there is no other solution. If he can save them, he'll take them back out to the orchards and release them.

When bees are discovered on station, the first thing emergency services does is rope off the area with caution tape. Often the bees will simply be resting and not intending to establish a hive. These bees will typically leave after a couple of hours, said Bailey.

If they don't leave on their own, the best time to remove the bees is at night when the bees are less active and all together, said Reylets

"Most of the time it's easier to handle these swarms at night because they're all in at that point," said Reylets. "If you take a swarm during the day, what happens is you've got the scouts out and some of the workers - probably a third of the hive is out. If you remove the swarm, the other bees will come back, find their queen gone, and become really erratic and dangerous.

Editor's Note: There are a few details in this story that a beekeeper will probably not find entirely accurate, as is often the case when the media reports on honeybees.

In the event of coming upon a swarm, please do not call 911, unless you or someone has been severely stung or has been stung and is developing signs of an allergic reaction. Instead, call your local Agricultural Extension office to locate a beekeeper who will remove and relocate the swarm.

For the local Spokane area, there is a list of swarm-removing beekeepers online at www.inlandbeemail.com ☺

Schedule of Events:

April 9, 2004	IEBA Meeting Finding a queen in the hive and what to do for queenless hives
May 14, 2004	IEBA Meeting How to control or reduce swarming Methods for starting nucleus hives
June 4 & 5, 2004	WSBA Meeting at WSU, Spring Short Course
June 11, 2004	IEBA Meeting How to introduce a new queen into a strong hive What to do if your hive swarmed
July 9, 2004	IEBA Meeting Disease recognition and treatment Late summer requeening
August (tba) 2004	IEBA Meeting Summer Picnic
August 25-29, 2004	North Idaho State Fair in Coeur D'Alene
Sept. 9, 2004	IEBA Meeting Fair Grounds on Thursday night
Sept. 10-19, 2004	Spokane Interstate Fair
October 8, 2004	IEBA Meeting Selection of hives for wintering Preparing hives for winter
October 14- 16, 2004	WSBA State Convention Will be held in Spokane (see box on right)
November 14, 2004	IEBA Meeting Thanksgiving catered meal RSVP required Dinner at 6:30 pm
December 12, 2003	IEBA Meeting Pot Luck Christmas dinner Election of Officers

**WSBA 2004
Annual Meeting**

October 14 - 16

The IEBA is hosting the 2004 WSBA convention. Many of our members are already hard at work putting the program together. If you would like to help out, contact the appropriate committee leaders listed here:

- **Registration** — Collette Lehinger 509-924-1001
- **Thursday Night Reception** — Wine tasting hosted by John Pierce and Katuska Kohut of Vins de Vie
- **Suppliers Booths**— Ted Swenson (509) 238-6489
- **Friday Night Auction** — Roger Carney 509-448-0417
- **Advertisement** — Open

The Program Committee is working on bringing in first class speakers to help us with these main topics:

- Queen Breeding and Russian Bee Research Program
- Current WSU Research, Importation of new honeybee strains into the US
- IPM (Integrated Pest Management) Implementation of techniques to reduce chemical and antibiotic uses
- Effects of pesticides and miticides on queen and colony health
- Sound scientific research — how to interpret the information that is available

Plan Now to Attend!



Reminders:

Washington State Beekeepers Registrations are now available at www.inlandbeemail.com. Registration is a legal requirement for all beekeepers in Washington State and benefits research programs in this state. Registration fees are due April 1st.

EPA registration continues and may be mandatory for some beekeepers that are involved in the food industry. To learn more, visit the National Honey Board at www.nhb.org.

The Washington State Beekeepers Association is now online at www.wasba.org. A monthly newsletter is also published by them and can be viewed online. Also, consider becoming a full member and enjoy the benefits of this statewide organization. ☺

Oprah Catches the Buzz

“Honey adds a bee-atific sweetness and languid warmth to everything from tea to lobster to the best napoleon you’ve ever tasted.” The March 2004 edition of *O, The Oprah Magazine*, features six beautiful pages on honey in an article titled “Bee Season.” ☺

WHERE IS MY QUEEN?

—April Program Feature by Bob Arnold, IEBA

hen finding the queen, the first most helpful rule is to choose the time of day when it is easiest. Generally early in the day is the best. Morning light up to perhaps 1 PM is the best. As the day gets older the air gets more moisture and the scattered light is greater giving a hazier view. Waiting until the bees are flying well will reduce the number of bees that are in the hive making it easier to see the queen.

The most important rule for finding a queen is to find the frames having eggs. Sealed brood and open brood frames will often have some eggs but these will generally be older and the queen will not be on those frames. Frames of honey and pollen will rarely have a queen on them. Look for frames with eggs – this is where the queen should be.

Start with the top box and inspect it first, then the next until you get through the bottom box. Smoke the top bars lightly—enough to cause the bees to scramble down from the bars to the comb but not so much as to get them running all over. Generally a couple of good puffs is all that you want to do when you are looking for a queen. Be quiet, don't bump the box, lid or frames and work quickly but carefully without mushing bees and comb together.

Take the top box off the hive and set it aside on a separate bottom board in a position so the sun is over your shoulder. Enter this box by taking two of the side frames (one side) out. Find the location of the



Queen with her retinue

brood in the hive by carefully and quickly inspecting the frames from the outside in. Set them aside in the order they go back into the hive. Carefully pull each of the frames out and inspect them for eggs. The queen is rarely on a frame that has only sealed or hatching

brood and virtually never on a side frame having only honey. It is generally helpful to look at the frame ahead of the one you are about to remove. Slide over the one you are going to remove and look down between the



Eggs mean that the queen could be on this frame

two frames quickly---sometimes the queen can be seen even though you are looking at a small angle to the frame. Once you have done this quick inspection pull the frame out and inspect it for eggs. If it has eggs keep it in the box, if not put it in order outside the box. Do this until all of the frames have been inspected leaving only frames having eggs within the box and the rest outside of the box in the order they were removed.

Carefully inspect each of these frames remaining in the box over. Inspect the frame with the sun over your shoulder and scanning methodically the whole frame for the queen. She will usually be by herself---not in a pile of bees---often with her attendants about her. Check the other side if there are eggs or not on it as the queen often will run to the other side while you are looking for her. Generally, during the spring, she will be so intent on laying eggs that she will be laying as you find her and not trying to hide on the other side or down by the bottom bar. Make sure you are careful and don't bump or drop the frames as the queen can be lost or injured easily. Once you have found a queen practice loosing and finding her again. This trains your eye-brain connection making it easier to find the queen in the next hive.

If after looking the frames over twice and you haven't found the queen it is best to put the frames back into the box in their original order. Do the same with the bottom box taking all of the frames out in sequence and putting the frames with open brood and eggs back in the center of the box for individual inspection. If there is no brood or eggs in a box carefully set it aside as there will likely be no queen in that box.

Sometimes you just cannot find a queen.

(Continued on page 10)

Honey Recalled in Canada

On March 18th, John McCool of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) confirmed that the March 13, 2004 recall of imported honey, involved containers labeled "Product of Australia". The honey was packed in Australia by Capilano as a blend of Argentine and Australian honey. The No Name brand honey was recalled from Westfair Foods which is owned by Loblaw's and operates under the retail name of the Real Canadian Superstore.

March 23 the CFIA announced a further recall on some brands of imported honey. The countries of origin are Turkey and Australia. Canada, like many other countries, operates on zero tolerance for this antibiotic and any product with detectable levels must be removed from the shelf. The levels found in the recalled product were reported to be near the detection limit of 0.5 ppb.

Health Canada has produced Q and A information to provide further advice on the situation.

For more information, go to the Canadian Honey Council's website at www.honeycouncil.ca.

Editor's Note: It appears that these lot numbers were not distributed in the US. ☹

Some Honey Samples Test as Altered Sweetener in US

From February-April, Columbia Food Laboratories, Inc. is accepting samples of imported honey from packers and importers under the reduced fee testing program offered by the National Honey Board. The lab is conducting a series of three tests to make a determination as to whether the sample is pure honey or suspected of being an altered sweetener product.

During February the lab tested 69 honey samples sent in by 13 different companies. Nine of the 69 samples were suspected of being an altered sweetener product rather than pure honey. Of the 9 suspect samples, 7 were from China, 1 was from Turkey and the origin of 1 was unknown ☹

(Continued from page 9)

The dark queens are often more difficult to find than the big yellow italians. You can get them marked which helps a lot in finding the queen. If you have to find the queen and can't, there is always the queen excluder. Put the hive back together with a queen excluder between each box and return in three days. The box with the eggs will have the queen and you can go to work looking at each frame.



Dark Marked Queen

If this still does not find the queen then you can resort to shaking all of the bees into an empty box placed above a queen excluder with a box with frames below but without the bees. Take each frame from the hive and shake it into the box. The bees will cluster on the side of the box and with some smoke can be driven down to the box below the excluder. Eventually the queen will be found crawling around on the queen excluder or the side of the box above the excluder. This is an absolute last resort but will work if you have to get the queen.

How to Recognize and What to Do with Queenless Hives

This time of year the queen should have begun laying in earnest. An old queen will often run out of stored sperm in the early spring and begin laying drone eggs in worker cells. When these eggs hatch they will grow rapidly and fill the cell with a larva much larger than the cell can hold. The large grub just doesn't appear to fit within the cell. It is more easily observed after the cell is sealed with the bulging appearance of the sealed cell. Usually this brood is very spotty. This is a dead give away that your hive has a drone layer. Usually the only thing that can be done is to combine the colony with a queen rite colony. This can easily be accomplished by using a sheet of newspaper and put the queenless colony on top of a queen rite colony with the newspaper in between.

Sometimes you will be able to find the drone laying queen. If you do then you can sometimes introduce a queen to the hive after killing the drone layer by first introducing 2 to 4 frames of brood having eggs, open and sealed brood. If the bees will start a queen cell you can be sure they will be interested in a mated queen if

introduced separately. Introduce the new mated queen before any queen cells are capped with conventional techniques. Make certain they do not raise queen cells after you have put your mated queen (in the introduction cage) into the hive

If you enter your hive and find no eggs and a lot of bees fanning the air you probably have a queenless hive. You should check all frames to make certain there are no eggs before concluding the hive is queenless. The best action is to combine this hive with another or simply shake all the frames in front of another hive and remove the equipment. Use this queenless hive to strengthen another hive



Drone Brood

that you can later split and introduce a new queen into.

You can also find a hive this time of year with an old queen that is laying poorly as evidenced by her poor brood pattern. These queens should be kept alive but replaced as soon as mated queens

are available. If they are not replaced this hive will surely not produce a bit of honey and probably will not survive the summer in any kind of shape for wintering. Wait until good queens are available, preferably early May and requeen this hive. ☼

WSBA Direction for the Future by Jerry Tate, WSBA President

I would like to share my vision and direction for the WSBA in the coming year.

The first area I see is working with the other associations and beekeepers statewide to breathe life back into the Apiary Board. We are gathering lists of association memberships, colony registrations and any other source of beekeepers' contacts. Then we will develop a list of names for the Director to select from for the state Apiary Board. We expect to make a mailing by early summer to present what we would like to see accomplished with the registration moneys and how we would like to see the money handled to meet the needs of research and betterment of Washington beekeeping.

The second area is to gain more support for our field day at WSU and increase our attendance. Our goal is to make this a truly annual event, and then attempt to spin off some very specialized workshops to address specific issues or advanced training throughout the state in the months and years to come. TAP

(Technical Assistance Program) is an area that will help greatly to develop new and needed programs.

The third area is to assist the IEBA in the state convention and again bring out the folks to make this a great event for them and the state. As a member of the IEBA also, I can attest to the hard work and dedication they are putting into this. Jim Miller needs to be commended on the organization and dedication to arranging the fall program.

The fourth area is to have a revised set of bylaws for us to review and approve at this years' annual convention. We have several volunteers prepared to assist in that task. Included with that is to provide a greater understanding to the membership of our mission, budget, and composition. Our membership is changing very fast and we need to bring many new folks under our umbrella. We can make this happen by improving the communications with our local associations and members using our web site, newsletter and most directly through the area reps. We have made great strides with our newsletter and web site and Paul and Frank are doing a first rate job there. If each year we can improve our respective organizations it will be good for beekeeping in Washington State. ☼

Confessions of a Bee Junkie

Featuring the collection of Joan Nolan

addiction to collecting bee things began 28 years ago when I attended my first beekeeping class taught by Ancel Goolsbey. He had then, and still does today, such an infectious love of bees that you couldn't come away from his class without a great admiration for these sweet little things.

It wasn't enough to have them in the bee yard. I wanted bees in the house too. I remember vividly the first item I purchased on my journey to amass everything with a bee on it. Oddly enough it wasn't a honey pot, but rather, dusting powder in an orange, plastic skep shaped container. Then came the honey pots one by one. Gradually our little dinette began to fill up with pots on stackable corner shelves. Those shelves eventually gave way to a custom made oak hutch. It was bee-u-tiful with its lights shining on all the honey



pots. When those shelves were full I realized by keeping similar sized pots together I could add 3 more glass shelves! The top of the hutch and refrigerator held the cookie jars and larger bee items.

By the mid 80's my obsession became known to many. To my delight family and friends became scouts and went on "Bee Alert" for all gift giving occasions. The real surprise came when our daughter, returning from a high school ambassador program, presented me with a Belleek honey pot. Belleek is pottery from Ireland with its characteristic basket weave and clover design on creamy white porcelain china.

Such a precious gift deserved more than being crammed into a hutch so I placed it on one of the built in shelves in the living room.

Bend, Oregon was one of the best hunting grounds for honey pots I had ever seen - the likes of which I have never seen since. Soon the front room shelves were filled too.

In the antiques stores I kept coming across skep shaped pots with rather dull, unattractive colors. Finally I inquired why these pots were so pricey. I got a lesson in Frankoma

earthenware- the fine handcrafted original American terra cotta pottery. Suddenly these ugly pots took on a beauty all their own.

My favorite type of pot to collect is the ceramic bee resting on wire legs. Of the 26 I now own one was found in its original package minus the 5 ounces of orange blossom honey.

My husband, Jim, is always so excited to bring home a honey pot he finds at thrift or antique stores. He'll anxiously ask, "Do you have this one?" He's disap-



pointed when I tell him I do but he's all smiles when I add "but not in that color!" Then I assure him - you can't have too many.

So folks what's the bottom line and just how many honey pots and bee things are in this collection? I became overwhelmed when I started to count them. Do I figure in the cups? How about the bee pins, picture frames and planters? What about the Christmas ornaments, the tea pots, magnets, candles and don't forget the wind chimes and yard doo-dads. Some things are better left unknown. A collection, however, demands an answer to "How many?" so I counted just the items in, on, or hanging from the hutch. It came to 384. That's right, 3-8-4. Wow, that gave me a buzz. Truly, you can't have too many.☺

WINTERING RESULTS

in Bob Arnold's Beeyards

Another winter completed with mixed results. I had a total of 341 hives that were wintered with a total of 318 making it alive. Being alive was the first count but after the hives were inspected for good queens the quantity was reduced to 294 because of queens that were dead or drone layers. None of the hives died because of starvation. Nosema was blamed on anything that had lots of fecal material either on the outside of the hive and on the top bars. I had a few hives die because of this situation but most were just weak. A total of 14 cases were observed. The hives were all fed a two gallons of fumigillin but some of them did not take the feed and did have symptoms of nosema. No AFB showed up in the sealed brood---probably too early.

I also counted the number of frames of bees to give me an estimate of how many I might be able to split later on in May. I had a total of 41 hives of less than 4 frames and 156 greater than 8 frames. The larger colonies should expand to permit splitting by May and would provide sufficient splits to make up winter loss, strengthen the weaker colonies and expand the number of colonies to about 400.

These inspections were complete by the third week of March. As I am writing this I have just completed the first round of feeding. The hives have expanded nicely and look excellent. The weak hives are still weak but most are improving.

Clearly the biggest problem has been queens. Many of the dead or drone laying queens were in their second winter. Some were last spring's queens. We never used to have such a problem with queens. Perhaps it is the

Checkmite strips. The queen breeder recently sent a letter saying they were no longer using Checkmite due to queen problems. The Checkmite really kills off the varroa mites but it may also be hard on queens.☺

2004 Wintering Results	
Hives going into winter	341
Nosema	14
Starved	0
Unknown loss	9
Surviving	318
4 frames or less	41
8 frames or more	156
Queens failed	24
Net Hives	294



Inland Empire
Beekeepers
Association

www.inlandbeemail.com

INLAND BEEMAIL

Frank Seiler, Editor
PO Box 214
Newman Lake
WA 99025

Phone/Fax: (509) 226-2382
email: seilerbees@att.net

Send To:

What's in your collection?

If you have a collection you'd like to have featured, please contact the editor, Frank Seiler.

In next month's issue we will feature Honey Collections!

Next Meeting:
April 9th, 2004

6:30 pm IEBA
business meeting
7:30 pm
Program

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. ☺

Vantage Point

Well, another mistake by your editor. It took me three months to realize that the column "Bottom Board" is in use as a title in the longstanding bee journal "Bee Culture." I thought that I had come up with a pretty witty title, but it is not mine to use. Hence a new title for the column.

As editor, I have a unique position in that I see many sources of news and information, sift through them and bring to the membership those things that may be of interest. Some of these items may not be in line with the mainstream of accepted beekeeping practice, and I think that I will devote this column to those sorts of topics. Perhaps it will challenge others to explore different methods and maybe we can learn something new about our precious honeybees.

Some of these ideas I am going to try myself and report back to you the observations that I make. No, these are not scientific studies that I am performing in my beeyards, but most beekeeping "Eurekas" do not happen at research institutes. Don't get me wrong—there is much good research being

Frank Seiler, Newsletter Editor

done at our institutes of higher learning, but let's face it: Research will only focus in the direction that its sponsors wish it to be directed. And generally, those sponsors are in the business of selling goods and services to the industry. If there is no money to be made, money for research is scarce.

What about some of these new ideas? I read with great interest an article in the March issue of the journal *Bee Culture* entitled "Bottomless Beekeeping" by Charles Simon.

I am fully convinced of the benefits of screened bottom boards, and those that I left open all winter now have the strongest colonies. Simon takes it one step further, losing the bottom board altogether. At first read, I thought "Yeah, right!" but since then I have reread the article several times and found his arguments well-founded. He addresses both pros and cons of the method and has convinced me that at the very

(Continued on page 7)

