

INLAND BEEEMAIL

Monthly newsletter of the Inland Empire Beekeepers Association

Volume 9, Issue 5

May 2004

President's Corner

-Ted Swenson, IEBA President

Hope that this beemail finds everybody busy with their bees and enjoying beekeeping in all respects. So far I'm impressed with the package bees. They looked like a heavy three pounds with few dead in the box. All of the queens are out and laying. We shall see how long they last this year.

I am amazed at the fast build up of the over-wintered hives—counted 12 frames of brood in one of my strongest Carni hives. What is really amazing is the age of the queen (2002). She is something else. I have several of her daughters in splits from last year and plan to do several more this year. Speaking of splits, I think this year is going to be great for increase.

Several hives have capped queen cells (swarm

type). It's still April and I have made up several five frame Nucs. Check weekly because swarms are coming.

Also, I have seen several yellow jacket queens this last three weeks. Now is a good time to put out the traps that have the pheromone attractant. I have had good results with them the last couple of years.

Friendly reminders:

- June 4th and 5th is the WSBA meeting in Pullman. (WASU Beefest)
- Get your WSBA Conference reservations in now and save some \$s.



Hope to see everybody at the meeting.

Minutes of April 9th 2004 Meeting

- Linda Carney, Secretary

At 6:18 there were 11 people present.

At 7:00 there were 42 people present

Our President, Ted Swenson, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m..

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as read. A motion was made to have the complete minutes posted in *The Beemail* and only the highlights to be read verbally at the meetings. This motion was passed.

A treasurer's report was not given at the meeting.

Joy in Beekeeping – Laura Shulenbarger and Joe Jovano-

vich reported \$368.68 in checking plus there has been a \$25 donation. The CD has \$5,805.00 and it will be rolled over.

Fair Reports

Spokane - Bob Adsit reported that, "Jessica said 'Oh, I forgot to mail the stuff to you', so we'll pay around \$100 with the Best in Show credit. The booth insurance is going up so we may carry our own insurance.' Bob will look further into the matter and let us know his findings.

North Idaho- Jack had nothing to report. The event insur-

ance at the North Idaho Fair is \$75 and we do not pay a booth fee because the booth is considered educational.

Bee Class

Jim Miller said he has mixed feelings about our Association paying between \$500 and \$600 in dues and not getting paperwork in a timely manner! The master beekeepers program helps the State make money he said. He thought perhaps we should associate with the WSBA but have our own officers. WSU could do the art, cer-



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Check us out on the web
www.inlandbeemail.com

May Meeting Agenda

-Ted Swenson

Reports:

- ◆ The Secretary's Report
- ◆ The Treasurer's Report
- ◆ Joy in Beekeeping Report
- ◆ Fair Reports
 - Spokane Fair
 - North Idaho Fair
- ◆ *Inland Beemail* Report
- ◆ WSBA Conference Report
- ◆ WSBA Report
- ◆ Four Corner Bee Reports

Old Business:

- ◆ IEBA Charter/Constitution Review and Update Plan - Proposal
- ◆ IEBA Cook Book - Chris Fischer

New Business:

- ◆ Authorization for funds to Produce & Mail WSBA Conference Mailer.
- ◆ Authorization for funds to be provided to IEBA Beemail Publisher on a revolving basis.
- ◆ Authorization for funds to be paid to Tate's Honey Farm for Honey & Honey Straws. (Prep for Spokane/ North Idaho Fairs)

Program – Bob Arnold: Swarming and making up nucs

(April Minutes Continued from page 1)

certificates, and exam. Thank heavens they released the certificates just in time to be presented.

WSBA Report

Jerry Tate, President of the Washington State Beekeepers Association, said that there is a "changing of the guard." There is a new emphasis on information, and members. There is new way of doing things and the State Association is adding new stuff. Jerry told us "This newly elected board will go into new areas." There are over \$56,000 earmarked for promotion and research on hand with Washington State through the Apiary Registration Program. The State Association will meet with Washington State officials for the good of our beekeepers. The big emphasis now is to redo the bylaws and updating the materials.



Bees working the Crabapple blossoms.
© Chris Fisher

4 Corners Report

East- Jack Knox – 'The drone eggs have already hatched and there is lots of pollen going in the front door.'

West – Jim Miller – 'The bees have been dragging in pollens of different colors these last few weeks.'

South —Jerry Tate said that it looks like a honey flow the way the bees are acting. There is a good flow of nectar. At the Greenbluff yard the bees are bringing in nectar and they are very gentle.

North – Bob Arnold - The temperatures are still lower where he keeps his hives. All are taking feed just fine. Bringing in yellow, gray and a touch of red pollen. There are specks of white on the comb so that is a good sign some of the bees are producing wax.. He is getting spectacular brood – Some of his hives are 4 high. He warns that the bees will swarm early so make sure they don't leave.



Swarm in Mead © Jerry Tate

Old Business:

WSBA Conference

Nothing to report at this time.

Cook Book

All members are please reminded to send recipes to Chris Fisher or Linda Carney. There has been good response thus far and the number of recipes has been increasing.

New Business

Two members who were not present at the last meeting were given their Journeyman Certificates. They are Roger Carney and Linda Carney. Congratulations!

John Pierce told us that he has two names that he can use for our Association. They are *inland-beemail.com* and *inland-empirebees.com*. A motion was made for the IEBA to pay for the cost of its websites. This motion was passed.

The **Farm Fair** needs volunteers for May 5th and 6th and May 13th is the **Davenport Fair** and also needs volunteers.

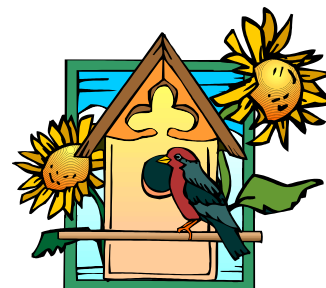
The meeting was adjourned, followed by Bob Arnold's program feature on finding queens.

Hive Care : MAY

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

The Beekeeper. You can remove your Apistan strips (if they have been in the hive for 45 days). Also remove the menthol if you were using that for Tracheal Mite control. Add a queen excluder if you choose to use them, and place honey supers on top of the top deep. Watch out for swarming. See Bob Arnold's article elsewhere in this issue. Inspect the hive weekly. Attend bee club meetings and workshops. And, if you are like rest of us, keep making up those frames to get ready in time for the honey flow. If you have hives really busting at the seams, consider making up some splits to make up for any winter losses. An extra nuc or two always comes in handy.

-adapted from www.backyardbeekeepers.com



A honey of a neighbor

Down at the end of S Second Street, the last commercial beekeeper in South Tampa still mines liquid amber gold

By RON MATUS,
South Tampa City Times
Published March 26, 2004

BALLAST POINT - In the far corner of his tiny farm, Marion Lambert endures a tornado of bees and eases a slim wooden frame from a box of hives. Beneath a clump of insects, an amber goo glistens.

"Oh yeah," Lambert says. "That's all honey."

Lambert calls his crop "spring honey," but "Tampa honey" might work, too.

Lambert is a beekeeper. In Tampa.

In densely populated South Tampa.

He's among a dwindling group of Florida beekeepers who mine flowers in cities.

In the same way that rural beekeepers tap orange groves and pine plantations, urban beekeepers rely on the things that blossom around them - in yards and parks,

in front of strip malls, in the middle of road medians.

Weeds produce the nectar that bees transform into honey. So do backyard citrus trees. So do millions of pretty plants cultivated by a booming landscaping industry.

And yet, in Florida, urban beekeepers are fading away.

Bee-killing pests and foreign competition are a big part of the problem. So are freaked-out residents.

For people who buy honey in the supermarket, maybe it doesn't matter. But if they only knew what beekeepers know: Nothing captures the essence of a place better than a jar of honey.

Lambert, 56, began keeping bees in Tampa 30 years ago, when he left his native Pensacola for construction work at MacDill Air Force Base. He began leasing four acres in Ballast Point. A mile west, cars stream down Dale Mabry Highway. Next door, a row of houses backs up to his farm.

For making honey, "You can't beat this place," Lambert says.

(Continued on page 7)

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Linda Carney
Ted Swenson

IEBA Website

www.inlandbeemail.com

WSBA Website

www.wasba.org

Classified Ads

Tate's Honey Farm has all of your extracting and packaging needs. Queens available though September. Shop hours are 8:30—2:00 every Saturday at E. 8900 Maringo, Millwood. Contact us at 509-924-6669 or online www.tateshoneyfarm.com Please bring back your empty package bee containers!

BEEBOXES BY LEE

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

Miller's Homestead Jim and Jenine Miller

Cheney, WA
1-509-299-9085
Providers of
-Natural honey
-Cut comb
-Creamed honey
-Custom Honey extraction
-Plastic containers
Honey Supers, 10 frame and painted \$39.50 FOB 14606 Stangland Rd., Cheney. Look at our web site: millershomestead.com for prices on containers for the honey flow. Extraction this year will be during the month of August. Saturdays only.
www.millershomestead.com

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

Now taking orders for Queen Cells and Nucs. Queen Cells at \$4.50 and 4 frame nuc colonies at \$50 w/o box & frame exchange. Also 4.9mm raised nucs available by special order. Contact Travis Sammons at 509-928-4326





Mystery in a Cup of Tea

Using odds and ends from the space station pantry, researchers have learned something new about fluid physics — By Dr. Tony Phillips



April 9, 2004: Try this: In your kitchen at home, squirt a stream of warm honey into a cup of water or tea, and watch what happens. Sweet gooey rivulets, falling downward, twist themselves into curly-cues, filaments, and spinning "smoke rings." It's mesmerizing. But only for a split-second, then the honey splats into the bottom of the cup.

Gravity is such a brute.

What you need is a kitchen in space.

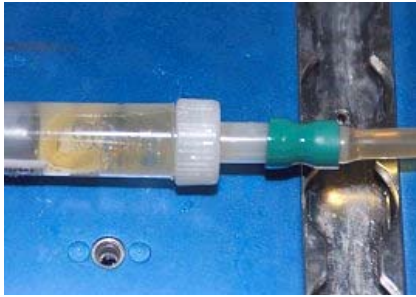
Without gravity dragging everything down, spinning rings of honey in water could hang suspended for hours. Honey-ribbons would have more time to twist and turn, developing into ... no one knows what.

"How fluids mix in weightlessness is not well understood," explains chemistry professor John Pojman of the University of Southern Mississippi. Here on Earth, he says, the physics is dominated by gravity. Dense fluids sink and light fluids rise; everything else is a side effect of that basic motion.

In space, the pull of gravity subsides and other, more subtle phenomena rule. Intermolecular forces can hold films or globs of fluid together that, on Earth, would be torn apart by their own weight. These delicate structures can last for a long time, simply because they float rather than crash into the floor of their container.

That's not to say weightless fluids are still. On the contrary, in a container holding two different fluids,

like honey and water, scientists expect strange and complicated currents to flow. "Tiny differences in fluid composition or temperature can, in theory, induce stresses that cause convection," explains Pojman. This effect, called "Korteweg stress," is unobservable on Earth because buoyant motions overwhelm it. But in space it could be important.



Honey injected into water during the MFMG experiment onboard the International Space Station, March 2003. Image credit: NASA.

How different is tea-time in orbit? Astronaut Don Pettit showed us in 2003 when he filmed himself taking tea onboard the International Space Station (ISS). Instead of sipping from a cup, Pettit used chopsticks to pluck grape-sized blobs of tea from mid-air, grinning each time he popped one in his mouth. Pojman remembers seeing the film. "I wanted to fly right up there and start experimenting," he says.

Understanding how fluids behave, singly or in mixtures, is important to the space program, especially now that NASA plans to send people back to the Moon and on to Mars.

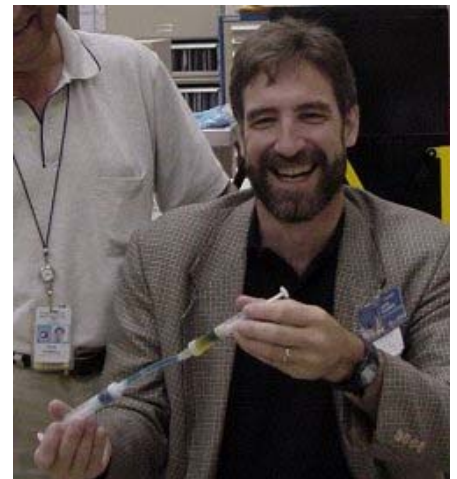
"We're going to have to manufacture things in space," explains Pojman, "and that means dealing with fluids." As an example, he offers plastics—a key component of habitats, radiation shields, rovers, etc. Plastics are usually formed by combining dissimilar fluids or fluids and powders, then heating the mixture. "If you've ever used Bondo™ to repair your car, you've done this yourself: you mix a resin together with peroxide to create a sticky plastic substance," adds Po-

jman.

Mixing is also necessary for certain types of medical space-research—"especially protein crystal growth in microgravity," notes Pojman. When two fluids are put together, do "Korteweg currents" flow? Do the fluids dissolve evenly? Do they break apart into droplets? These details actually make a difference.

Pojman himself couldn't go to the ISS to investigate such questions, so he devised an experiment that astronauts could do for him: the Miscible Fluids in Microgravity Experiment or MFMG for short. "MFMG is a very simple experiment," he says. "It involves two syringes, a drinking straw, honey and water. All of these things were already onboard the ISS."

One syringe is filled with honey or a honey-water solution, the other with pure water. The tips of the syringes are connected via a short tube (the straw). When all is ready, an astronaut gently squirts a blob of honey into the



John Pojman displays the prototype MFMG experiment. Bob Powell, a NASA expert on developing procedures for microgravity experiments, looks over his shoulder

water, or vice versa, and films what happens. ISS science officer Mike Foale did the experiment last week, and transmitted the video to Earth.

"We've already learned something new," says Pojman.

There's a number in fluid physics theory called "the square gradient parameter" or *k*. It's proportional to the strength of intermolecular forces between two different fluids, like honey and water. "How two fluids behave when mixed in low-gravity is going to depend on *k*," says Pojman. "We've never been able to measure *k* on Earth for a pair of miscible (mixable) fluids. It's value could be anything! But just from watching the video of MFMG we've got an upper limit on *k*--it must be less than 10^{-8} Newtons."

He reached this conclusion in the following way: If *k* were much greater than 10^{-8} Newtons, honey blobs injected into water would quickly assume a spherical shape. But they didn't. The blobs, squeezed into elongated shapes as they passed through the nozzle of the syringe, remained elongated.

"The fact that we could do this using only odds and ends onboard the space station is encouraging," says Pojman. A similar procedure could be used to set limits on, or actually measure, *k* for many different pairs of fluids.

Some fluids are more important than others. Pojman is most interested in monomers and polymers that might be used in space manufacturing. Such fluids are simpler, internally, than honey, so they might lend themselves to "cleaner" measurements of fluid physics constants.

It's unlikely, though, than any of those other fluids will be as much fun, or mesmerizing, as honey. Who knows what new physics lies in its sweet spinning "smoke rings" or gooey dancing ribbons? It's something to think about the next time you're relaxing with a cup of tea ... and you reach for the honey.

Editor's Note: The kitchen-science experiment described in the opening passages of this story is best done using a "honey bear"--

a plastic honey-filled bear with a nozzle on top, available in most supermarkets--microwaved for about 30 seconds. The warmed honey flows easily through the nozzle with a viscosity only a little greater than water. Squirt the honey, gently, into a transparent cup filled with cool tap water. You'll soon see rings and a variety of other weird shapes.

More on this story, along with film footage can be found at http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2004/09apr_tea.htm

We are grateful to NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center and Science@NASA for allowing us to reprint this story and illustrations.



The orchard mason bee

(Osmia lignaria) is a gentle beneficial insect that has potential as a pollinator of apples, cherries, and other tree fruits. It is found throughout most of North America, particularly in wooded areas but often around homes in towns and cities.

Homeowners sometimes become concerned when they see the bee entering cavities under shake siding or investigating nail holes or other cavities in wood during April, May, and June. These are not destructive insects, since they do not excavate holes in the wood. Therefore, no controls are recommended, although holes may be filled with caulking to prevent the bee from nesting.

The orchard mason bee is slightly smaller than a



Male orchard bee. Note the long antennae

honey bee and a shiny dark blue in color. Males are smaller than females and have longer antennae and an additional tuft of light colored hairs on the face. Females have hairs on the underside of the abdomen adapted for carrying pollen.

Nesting Habits

The female uses existing holes in wood for a nest. She chooses holes slightly larger than her body, usually 1/4 to 3/8 inches in diameter. The bee first places a mud plug at the bottom of the hole, then brings in 15 to 20 loads of nectar and pollen which she collects from spring flowers, including apples and other fruits. If you watch the bee closely as she enters the nest, you can see the pollen on the underside of her abdomen.

When the female has provided a sufficient supply of food for the larva, (cont'd Page 11)

Knox Cellars Featured in People Magazine—The father/daughter team of Brian Griffin and Lisa Novich are featured in an article entitled "You've Got Bee-Mail!" in the April 19th Issue of *PEOPLE Magazine*. It highlights the supplier of native bees from Bellingham, Washington and chronicles how an interest in native pollinators led to a business with yearly sales of over \$200,000. To learn more about Knox Cellars, find the April 19th copy of *PEOPLE* or go online at <http://www.knoxcellars.com/> Excellent info on Orchard Mason Bees.

Bring Back the Bees



PROPOLIS POWER

By Amy Norton
Wednesday, March 17, 2004

NEW YORK (Reuters Health) - An herbal mixture of echinacea, propolis and vitamin C may lessen the blow of cold season for young children, a new study suggests.

Israeli researchers found that children who took the herbal elixir for 12 weeks had less than half the number of colds that children given a placebo did. Overall, 89 percent of children in the placebo group had at least one upper-respiratory infection during the study, compared with 53 percent in the herbal group.

The herbal mixture, sold as Chizukit in Israel, provides equal doses of echinacea and propolis, plus a small shot of vitamin C. Echinacea, which is derived from the coneflower, has long been touted as an immunity-boosting cold fighter. Propolis is a waxy substance that honeybees take from plants to do home repair on their hives; research suggests it can battle both viruses and inflammation.

Although echinacea is one of the best-studied herbal remedies, the evidence is inconsistent. Some test-tube and animal studies have shown the herb can affect immune cell activity, but clinical trials of whether echinacea can treat or prevent colds have yielded conflicting results.

The new findings, published in the March issue of the Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine, contrast with those of a study released in December. In that study of children ages 2 to 11, researchers found that echina-

cea, when taken at the first sign of a cold, did not shorten the duration of illness or make symptoms less severe.

This latest study focused on prevention. Researchers randomly assigned 430 children ages 1 to 5 to take either Chizukit elixir or a placebo twice a day for three months. In the end, parents in the herbal group reported far fewer runny noses and coughs than those in the placebo group did.

Still, researchers say it's too soon to start recommending Chizukit--or the widely available ingredients that make it up--for routine use.

"Additional studies are needed in larger samples to confirm our findings," conclude Dr. Herman A. Cohen, of the Pediatric and Adolescent Ambulatory Community Clinic in Petach Tikva, and his colleagues. Research, they add, needs to rule out the risk of adverse effects, particularly in children with allergies or other medical conditions.

Dr. Shilpa Sangvai of Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh agrees on the need for further research. She told Reuters Health that while this study "showed some promising results," it left certain questions unanswered.

The study, she pointed out, lacked information on the children's "baseline characteristics" that could sway their risk of colds, such as whether they were in daycare or were exposed to cigarette smoke.

Sangvai, who co-authored a commentary published with the report, said future studies should account for such factors. She and her colleagues also point out that nearly one quarter of the 430 children in the study dropped out during the first week, and were not included in the final analysis.

SOURCE: Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, March 2004.

Traditional popularity as a natural antibiotic in East European countries.

Propolis, which is a mixed product with material that bees collect from pollens and tree barks, and a secretion of bees, has been traditionally utilized for years as a natural antibiotic and an anti-inflammatory or analgesic in Eastern European countries. The main production center is Brazil, and the form is a dark brown colored wax. At present, most propolis products in Japan are produced by an alcohol extraction method. The main effective component of propolis is a flavonoid, the effects of which are reported to be as follows.

- 1) Anti-inflammatory and pain-killing (analgesic) activity
- 2) Anti-true fungal activity
- 3) Anti-tumor activity
- 4) Anti-viral activity
- 5) Superoxide scavenging activity
- 6) Protective function for liver
- 7) Anti-diabetic activity
- 8) Prevention against radiation damage
- 9) Anti-asthma activity
- 10) Strengthening activity for blood vessels

Propolis has become well known through a presentation at the 50th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Cancer Association, in 1991 in Japan. Propolis has been popular in Japan since the International Federation of Beekeepers' Association "Apimondia" held in Nagoya city in 1985. "Apimondia" was established as a place for exchange of information, and has over a 100 year history since the first meeting was held in 1897, in Brussels.

Concerning the effect of propolis, Mr. Tet-suya Matsuno, of the National Institute of Infectious Diseases, presented information that he found three anti-cancer agents such as diterpene from propolis, at the 50th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Cancer Association in September 1991. This led to a "propolis boom" in Japan. Then, research on propolis was extensively conducted in Japan, for instance, Hayashibara Co., Ltd. found significant effects such as macrophage activation and antibacterial activity in ethanolic extracts of propolis. Some 300 companies are selling propolis health foods and the market for it has been increasing steadily.

Propolis, also called "bee glue," is a resinous substance bees use to construct and maintain their hives. In laboratory tests, propolis has exhibited a variety of interesting antimicrobial and antitumor properties

(Neighbor... Continued from page 3)

He keeps about 150 hives, right there past the pig, the pony, the two cows and the 11 goats. The bees zip over the turnip greens in the organic garden and buzz past the barns with tin roofs. They rev around the wood-frame house that Lambert and his wife live in and scoot under the Confederate flag that flutters from a pole.

In February, they start the heavy lifting.

Lambert hauls most of his hives to Plant City and Manatee County, where orange groves drip with barrels of nectar. But in April, after the orange trees have been plundered, he'll bring the bees back to South Tampa. Here, they raid palmetto at MacDill, azaleas along Bayshore and bougainvillea, bottle brush and honeysuckle wherever they can find them.

"They work from here to Kennedy Boulevard," Lambert says.

In the groves, Lambert's bees can make 70 pounds of honey per hive per month, a pace that can be sustained only for a couple months. In South Tampa, the bees might make 30 pounds a month, but they make it steady from mid-February to October.

Development hasn't hurt, Lambert says. Landscapers and homeowners looking to spruce up yards bring in gobs of plants that offer overlapping blooming periods.

The result: Honey just keeps flowing.

Beekeepers realize the landscaping industry is "a hidden giant," says Dave Palmer, a horticulture expert with the Hillsborough County Extension Service. A study Palmer did in 2000 found the horticulture industry in Hillsborough County topped \$500-million in sales, a figure that rivaled the county's huge farming industry.

Urban beekeeping is hardly confined to Florida.

In Manhattan, hobbyists keep hives on top of apartment buildings, where

bees can dart back and forth to community gardens and Central Park. In Boston, there are hives on top of a museum. London has a beekeeper's association.

In Florida, bee experts estimate up to 40 percent of the state's 1,300 beekeepers are based in urban or suburban areas.

In the late 1980s, the state had 2,600 beekeepers. Most of those still plugging away are hobbyists who keep two to 10 hives, just enough to make their own personal stash for sweetening coffee, dribbling into recipes and giving away to friends.

Usually, they operate in peace - until the neighbors find out.

In Leesburg a few years ago, city officials called emergency meetings after a beekeeper parked a trailer full of hives outside his home. Elderly customers at a nearby restaurant panicked when bees buzzed them. In Gainesville, an anonymous complaint in 1998 led authorities to shut down a four-hive operation in a couple's back yard.

Most of the time, the fear is unwarranted, bee experts say.

"Bees are not aggressive, they're defensive about their hives," says Dave Westervelt, a state apiary inspector based in Gainesville. "They're just like humans. If someone bothers your house, you're going to defend it."

In Tampa, farming operations including beekeeping were outlawed in the 1950s. The property Lambert leases was grandfathered in because it had been farmed before he got there.

Until two years ago, Lambert wasn't South Tampa's only beekeeper.

Don Nores kept about 10 hives behind his woodworking shop in Virginia Park for almost 50 years. For a time, he kept another handful in friends' yards in Beach Park.

"People didn't even know they were there," says Nores, 77.

He called his product "neighborhood blossom" and put his

own brand name on jars: "Tampa Natural."

Honeys differ in flavor, color and consistency, depending on the plants they're made from.

South Tampa honey is no different: If citrus is in bloom, the honey will taste like oranges. Palmetto adds a native richness; hibiscus, a dash of tropical; Brazilian pepper, a touch of exotic.

When mangroves flower, the honey has a subtle saltiness to it, Lambert says.

Most of Lambert's crop is destined for corporate bakeries around the country, but some is sold at the roadside stand in front of his house.

His South Tampa spring honey should be available in early June.

Lambert's farm is at 6101 S Second St. Take Bayshore Boulevard south, then Interbay Boulevard west, then Second Street south. His stand is at the end of the street.

- Ron Matus can be reached at 226-3405 or matus@sptimes.com

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Editor's Note: Unfortunately I could not get permission to reprint the wonderful photo that went with this story. For a delightful picture of Mr. Lambert at work, see the following web link: http://www.sptimes.com/2004/03/26/Citytimes/A_honey_of_a_neighbor.shtml



Dave Bearden and Jack Knox inspecting progress of a colony. © Frank Seiler

Schedule of Events:

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

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.

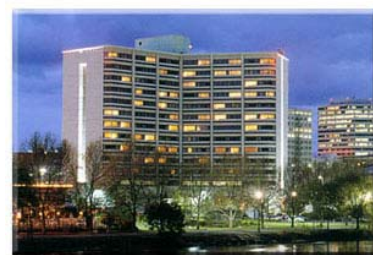
The Washington State Beekeepers Association is now online at www.wasba.org. A monthly newsletter is also published by them and can be viewed online. Also, consider becoming a full member and enjoy the benefits of this statewide organization. You can find the registration form and map for the WSU Spring Short Course here. Print it out and send it in today! ☺

What's in your collection?

We ran out of space in this issue, but in next month's issue we will feature Honey Collections

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

Plan Now to Attend!



Doubletree Hotel

How to Control or Reduce Swarming

—May Program Feature by Bob Arnold,



Here in the far north we are just starting to see swarm cell building in the strongest hives. I am sure many of you in the warm south may have seen your first swarms or definitely some swarm cells being built! Oh happy day the bees are rolling!

Swarming is the greatest time for beekeepers as it is when we get to make new hives and correct all of the wrongs we did during the previous fall, winter and spring! The goal now is to keep the swarms in the hive and not in the trees. The best thing is to anticipate that all strong hives will swarm and to take measures to make certain these swarms do the best possible good for your apiary.

For your strongest hives the best thing to do is to split the hive. You need to make some preparations. First a queen needs to be ordered to be on hand the day you do the split. Put some feed on the hive to be split just in case there is no nectar flow during the time you are introducing a new queen. Next it is easiest to have put a queen excluder between the two boxes that your bees are in. If there are more than two boxes make certain that one box is isolated with the queen excluder that has brood in it. This excluder needs to be in place three days before you do the split. Put the excluder under the top box on Wednesday evening after you get home from work.

Then on Saturday morning you can check the top box for eggs. If there are eggs in the top box then the queen is in that box. You can look for the queen in that box or you can just take the box under it and separate it from the hive. Take the top box with the queen and move it to a new bottom board at a new spot in your apiary. The bottom box remains in place at the original hive location and gets

the new queen. Put her in at the same time you split the hive. Leave all the corks in the queen mailing cage. In three days gently remove the queen cage and without agitating the queen release the queen from the cage. You can do this by laying the cage on the top bars and pulling off the screen from the mailing cage. This releases the queen on your terms rather than letting the hive eat out the sugar. Keep the feeder with the new queen hive.

It is best to take all of the sealed brood away from the old queen when you move the box containing the queen to a new site within the same apiary. The bees with the queen will drift back to the original location leaving sealed brood uncovered. This brood will die if it is exposed to the cold. It is best just to give the old queen empty cells to lay in with some open brood and eggs. You can simply shake the bees off the sealed brood into the queen's box and move the sealed brood back to the original hive location. This hive is best given two boxes as it will be quite strong and will be needing room for nectar and the egg laying of the new queen.

If you have another location several miles away split the hive by keeping equal brood in both the original hive and the new hive. I like to move the queenless hive to the new location leaving the original queen at the old location. The old queen may be in one of several boxes making it a lot more work to move. It is best to try and keep equal amounts of brood in both of the splits when moving the new hive to a distant location.

So what can you do if you do not want to increase your hive numbers? If you have a queen that has gone through her second winter you must replace her this spring. However, it is my experience that a queen going into her second winter will likely fail during the second winter or early second spring. Yes, I know the book says that second year queens are okay but my experience is they do not last as long as they used to. So, you can split your hives putting new queens in every spring and minimize the risk of a failing queen in the winter or early spring when queens are not available. Then

just before the honey flow starts recombine the two hives. I always prefer to kill the old queen rather than letting the two hives duke it out!

If you do not wish to split your hives you must carefully watch your hives for swarm preparations. Make certain the queen has room to lay in by adding more boxes as the hive gets filled with brood, bees and honey. You must stay ahead of the bees adding boxes **before** they are filled with bees. Moving the bottom box to the top of the hive will usually give the queen new room to lay. However, you will usually need three deep boxes for a strong hive as two boxes will just get too full of brood and the hive will start swarm cells.

Add your supers as soon as you see any whitening of comb on the top bars. Once the supers are added the queen may start laying in them. Let her go for awhile and then get her out of them by shaking all of the bees down and then separate the queen from the supers with a queen excluder. The bees will work the supers through the queen excluder once they been in the supers. **Do not put the queen excluder on before the bees have been working in the supers** as they will likely stay out of the supers until they have the brood boxes filled and have made swarm cells!



So what do you do if the hive made swarm cells while you were not looking! Once you find capped swarm cells you must do take immediate action. First the question must be asked are the bees swarming or replacing a failed queen? If the queen has failed you will usually find supercedure cells on the face of the comb. These will be built right into the comb where swarming cells will usually be found on the bottoms of the comb and not built right into the comb. Carefully examine all of the combs be-

(Continued from page 9)

fore you make a decision whether the hive is swarming or replacing a failed queen. If the hive is replacing a failed queen put the hive back together and leave it be.

If you determine the hive is swarming then you must split the hive. Try to find the queen and separate her from all of the brood giving her comb to lay in and move her to a new spot. Often it is difficult to find the queen as she may have stopped laying eggs and is reducing in body size to get ready to fly with the swarm. In any case split the hive to have only one box per new hive giving each box at least one good swarm cell with the brood equally distributed in each new hive. Come back the next day and try again to find the



queen. Once you find the queen separate her from all of the brood and make certain she is in a new location. Once the cells have hatched and the new queens are mated and laying (a time of approximately 2 weeks you can let the hives develop or recombine them back into one for the honey flow.

If you find uncapped swarm cells in your hive you still have time to prevent swarming. Here the best procedure is again to find the queen and split the hive. However, you can pick all of the swarm cells out, remove some capped and open brood to a weaker hive and shake open brood bees out to a weaker hive. Give the queen another box of comb or just add some comb. All of these operations will help reduce the hive

strength and give the queen more laying space. Putting feed on the hive may also keep them from making more queen cells. You must check back in a few days to make certain she has not started new queen cells. Adding supers still might be too soon unless there is some comb whitening.

Swarm time is when the bees are wanting to increase their numbers. It is best to work with the bees and let them do what is natural. So divide your bees into more hives is the best procedure when they have the inclination to swarm. You can always recombine them later. It is an opportunity for you to put in new queens keeping your hives always strong, healthy and ready for the next winter. Swarm season is indeed the most exciting time of the year!

(Vantage Point — Continued from page 12)

One of the problems contributing to California's shortage of in-state bees is a Calaveras County ordinance.

As more people move to rural areas and then complain about the presence of honeybees, the beekeepers are being pushed from the places they need to cultivate their inventory.

On February 12, 2004, The Union Democrat newspaper published an article by Scott Pesnecker about the problem. In the story, Oakdale beekeeper Joel Whitlock, a local beekeeper, stated that Calaveras County codes do not protect beekeepers. A single complaint, he said, is enough to get a beekeeper booted from his property.

The county ordinance, Whitlock explained, is "too vague and ambiguous. It says if a person can't get along with their normal activities, then the bees have to go."

The county's bee rule — called the apiary ordinance — says hives can only be on property if they don't cause a "nuisance" to neighboring residents. Hives must be far enough from buildings so that people occu-

pying those buildings aren't prevented from "pursuing their normal activities." No specific distances are listed. The ordinance also says hives must be far enough away from roads so they don't create a nuisance.

Calaveras County Agricultural Commissioner Jearl Howard said the ordinance was vaguely worded on purpose when it was written in 1984, because it's hard to predict where bees will look for food and water.

"Trying to predict everything they can do (in a document) is very difficult," Howard said.

Three beekeepers subsequently addressed county supervisors about their concerns. Supervisors agreed to hold a study session this month (March) to review the bee ordinance.

Howard reportedly said that his office has received complaints about five of the county's 20-25 bee sites. At least three of those sites are being shut down, Whitlock said.

This report will undoubtedly provide food for thought for Oregon's beekeepers as well as those in adjacent states who provide out-of-area

pollination services.

Food for thought indeed. In my research, I have not yet found an ordinance for the new City of Spokane Valley (though it may be out there somewhere). Both the Spokane County and City of Spokane ordinances are very clear about distances etc, and what may and may not be kept, though the rules are very restrictive.

Note too that both of these ordinances require that the hives be properly registered at the State level. Even if you meet all the space requirements, you are likely to get into some difficulty if you have not registered your colonies.

Besides registering your colonies, being a member in your local and State organization will give you a voice for the betterment of the industry.

Volunteering your time to talk to people about the benefits of honeybees at the various schools and fairs helps improve the image of all beekeepers.

And don't forget, a jar of honey for your nearest neighbors will go a long ways in keeping relations sweet.

For more information on our local ordinances, please visit our website at www.inlandbeemail.com.

(Mason Bees — Continued from page 5)

she lays an egg and then seals the cell with a thin mud plug. She then provisions another cell, and continues in this fashion until the hole is nearly full. Finally the bee plasters a thick mud plug at the entrance (Fig. 3). Some wasps and leaf-cutter bees also build nests in such holes but their nests can be distinguished from the orchard mason bee nests by characteristics of the plug. The plug of the mason bee is always rough while the wasp prepares a smooth plug. (Fig. 4). Leaf-cutters seal the holes with chewed-up leaves.

The female orchard mason bee lives for about a month and can produce one or two eggs each day. The larva hatches from the egg after a few days and begins to eat its provisions. When the pollen-nectar mass is completely eaten in about 10 days, the larva spins a cocoon and pupates within the cell.

Near the end of the summer the bee transforms to the adult stage but remains in the cocoon throughout the winter. In the spring, when the weather has warmed up sufficiently, the males begin to emerge by chewing their way out of the cocoons and through the mud plugs. The females, which are almost always in the inner cells of the tunnel, emerge a few days later. One or two weeks may be required for all the bees to emerge during cool weather.

Females mate soon after emerging, then begin nesting in 3 to 4 days. The bees forage on a number of different flowers. In wooded areas, they seem to prefer ball-head waterleaf. In urban areas, dandelion and Oregon grape are commonly visited, in addition to cherries and apples.

This Bee Is Gentle

The orchard mason bee is non-aggressive and will sting only if handled roughly or if it should get trapped under clothing. It is less objectionable than the honey bee as a pollinator in urban areas and should be encouraged. Efforts are being made experimentally to develop large populations of these bees to use as a supplement to honey bees for fruit pollination, much as the alfalfa leafcutting bee was

developed for alfalfa seed pollination.

Collecting Orchard Mason Bees

If you wish to develop populations for pollinating a home or commercial orchard, you can set out trap nests to collect the bees. Trap nests can be made by drilling holes 1/4 to 3/8 inches in diameter and 3 to 6 inches deep in pine or fir 4x4. A brad-point bit leaves a nice, smooth hole. Alfalfa leafcutting bee boards with hole diameters of at least 1/4 inch can also be used. Attach the boards to a house or other structure where you have seen the bees. Some protection from rain is desirable. You may also place boards on dead trees or posts in wooded areas near streams where there is a good supply of mud for nest construction and wild flowers on which to forage.

Position boards where they will receive morning sunlight. Put the nests up in March before the bees begin nesting and remove them in early to mid-summer when nesting is completed. If the boards are stored outdoors over winter (under cover to protect them from rain and snow) the bees will emerge in April. They should forage for pollen during the period of apple bloom and afterwards, if sufficient other flowers are available to them.

Using the Bee in Orchards

If you wish to develop large populations for orchard pollination, you should store the nests under refrigeration at 35 to 40° F. This will permit control of emergence time and reduce predation and parasitism by the insect enemies of the bees. Do not place the nests in storage until September or October to assure complete development of the adults. The following spring, place the boards in the orchards in plywood shelters facing east to catch the morning sun. To hasten emergence, incubate the boards at room temperature for 24 hours before placing the bees in the orchard. The boards and some new nesting material should be in place a few days before apples begin to

bloom, or earlier if other fruit bloom such as cherries, is available. Provide 500-1000 filled holes per acre. These should contain 750-1000 females, assuming an average of 1 1/2 females per hole. Males also visit flowers, but they do not live long and are not as effective as pollinators. Competing flowers such as dandelions should be moved as soon as the fruit begins to bloom.

If no natural mud source is available near the nesting shelters, dig a shallow hole, line it with plastic, and fill it with moist soil. A simple drip irrigator can be made from a plastic bucket and a piece of drip irrigation tubing to keep the soil moist.

Developing large populations of the bees may be a slow process under orchard conditions; the short duration of bloom does not allow the bees to accomplish maximum reproduction. The orchard mason bee also has a tendency to fly away rather than using or re-using nests in the near vicinity. However, relatively large populations have been developed in 2 or 3 years in urban situations. Once established, orchard bees will nest in containers filled with large-diameter drinking straws folded in half.

Nature Study

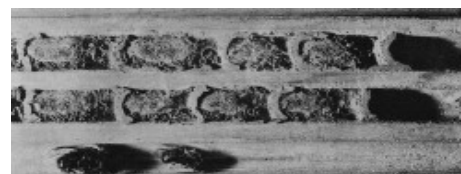
In addition to their value as pollinators, orchard mason bees are fascinating insects for nature study. Observation nests can be fashioned from transparent plastic or glass tubes placed in a box that can be opened for observation. A film and video, *The Orchard Mason Bee*, depicting the life history and management of the orchard mason bee is available from the WSU Media Materials Services, Holland/New Library, Washington State University, Pullman, WA 99164. Phone 509/335-7664 for loan availability. Source: <http://gardening.wsu.edu/library/inse006/inse006.htm>



Orchard mason bee putting entrance plug in her nest



Trap nest with holes filled by female bee



Filled Orchard Mason Bee observation nest



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Next Meeting:
May 14th, 2004
7:30 pm IEBA
business meeting
followed by
Program: Swarming

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

Frank Seiler, Newsletter Editor

Kids Get It when I tell them that everyone should have a beehive. I have talked to hundreds of schoolchildren, and most of them understand that honeybees are vital to everybody in the ecosystem. But sadly, there is a distinct disconnect between what kids know in third grade and the laws they enact some twenty or thirty years later.

Please read the story "Honey of a Neighbor" on page 3 and substitute "Spokane" or whatever city or county you live in wherever it says "Tampa" and be concerned. The Spokane Valley, not too many years ago, was a productive, agriculturally based haven for beekeepers, but as development increases, so does the pressure to not keep insects that could possibly sting!

What follows is retyped from the Oregon State Association's newsletter, and it behooves us to not only register our hives with the WSDA, but also to become full members of the State Association (WSBA) which represents our interests in legislative matters.

From the April 2004 Edition of *The Beeline*:

Beekeeping Restrictions in California's Central Valley Creates a Real Buzz and Possible Bleak Future for Pollinators in the Region.

Recent reports have described the problems experienced by California's almond growers regarding a shortage of beehives available for pollination services. Many beekeepers from Oregon and other states across the country have been making the trek to the almond orchards with their truckloads of bees. Yet, even with bees being brought from out of state, there have not been nearly enough bees available for the exponentially expanding almond orchards in Oakland and around the Central Valley.

(Continued on page 10)

