

INLAND BEEEMAIL

Monthly newsletter of the Inland Empire Beekeepers Association

Volume 9, Issue 7 — July 2004 — www.inlandbeemail.com



<http://www.beekeeping.com/vita/bdiseases/chalkb.htm>

July Program Feature by Bob Arnold

The major diseases that I have been experiencing have been AFB and Chalkbrood. Yes—chalkbrood! This disease used to rarely be seen and never did significant damage to the bees. Now the disease is significant and is a serious problem for many of us.

The disease is a fungus (*ascophaera apis*) that will attack the larvae. The infected larvae initially look white but will turn black after being in the comb for a period of time. The fungus is spread by fungal spores from old infected comb or from the mummified larvae which are often discarded at the entrance to the hive and remain on the ground. Bees will spread the spores from hive to hive (queens, workers and drones). Old apiary sites with discarded chalkbrood

mummies can act as latent infection. Spores remain viable for 15 years. Old comb that has had chalkbrood is a source of infection.

Often the chalkbrood will show up in the early spring around the edges of the brood. Apparently the fungus likes cooler temperatures and higher humidity for growth. Congested hives with poor ventilation also seem to favor growth of the disease.

Certain lines of bees also seem more prone to developing serious infections of chalkbrood. Having bees that are hygienic will help reduce the infection as they clean out the mummies reducing one source of infection.

At the present there is no medication to control the disease. Martha Gilliam with the ARS Carl Hayden Bee Research Center in Tucson

thinks that microbiological control with microbes naturally found within the hive can attack the fungus and provide control. "Gilliam's investigations have revealed that microbes such as certain *Penicillium*, *Aspergillus*, and *Bacillus* organisms apparently produce compounds that inhibit growth of chalkbrood-causing fungal spores". (<http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/AR/archive/aug98/bees0898.htm>)

Presently, most queen breeders recommend changing the queen of any colony that shows excessive chalkbrood infection. However, it appears that all or many of the queens



July 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:

TBA

Program — Bob Arnold: Disease—
focus on Chalkbrood

(Chalkbrood — Continued from page 1)

that I have been getting this year show significant chalkbrood infection. Some have such bad infections that they cannot produce a strong field force. This is the first time I have seen this. I am concerned, now, that the queen line maybe the problem. In any case, I have been replacing queens that show large amounts of the infection. I still have not seen a decrease of the number of mummies that I usually do as the season progresses from spring to summer to fall.



Taeona Seiler & Katuska Kohut chatting at WSU

President's Corner

—Ted Swenson, IEBA President

Last month I opened my article with the comment "what a strange spring we are having... Hopefully all the rain will be good for the nectar flow." The huge amount of purple vetch says the rain was just what was needed. I will not forecast a bumper crop, but it is looking good in the Northern areas.

The WASU beefest was an event well worth the time and expense. The amount of knowledge, ideas, and experiences being passed back and forth

between different beekeepers was awesome, much better than in Hood River 2003. The classes were OK, but the conversations during the social and between the classes were exceptional.

As a reminder, please complete the WSBA survey and mail it in. An alternative is to fill out the survey online at www.wasba.org

And, don't forget to get your WSBA fall conference registrations in.

Minutes of June 11th 2004 Meeting

- Linda Carney, Secretary

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

The minutes were accepted as written in the *Inland Beemail*. The Secretary did read the highlights of the minutes to the members.

A **treasurer's report** was not given. Collette's son was injured in a car accident and so she was not present at this meeting. Although there was no report, President Swenson told us that we are within budget.

A motion was passed to buy a card and some flowers to be sent to Collette's injured son.

Joy in Beekeeping had no report

Hive Care :

July

The Bees.

Nectar flows are at their maximum, with plenty of bees and activity around the hive.

The Beekeeper.

Watch your colonies as they fill up the hives with nectar. Add supers as necessary and watch that the brood nest does not become honey bound. In some areas, beekeepers begin extracting in July. Supers can be pulled and extracted as early as when about two-thirds of the comb is capped.

In areas of high production, and where flows extend to mid-August, extracted combs can be returned to the hives.

Test for varroa in some randomly selected colonies. Be on the lookout for colonies with unusual population expansion, as they may be receiving large numbers of varroa infested bees from hives that are collapsing nearby.

As you survey your crop, ready some of your efforts for fair entries.



(Minutes — Continued from page 2)

Fair Reports-

Spokane County Fair- Jerry Miller spoke for Bob Adsit. A motion was passed to pay \$102.18 for our fair insurance which is payable by July 1, 2004. There will be fair entry information books available after the first of July. Also, the extension office would like to expand the observation hive so we are to expect a call from them.

North Idaho Fair – Jack Knox said volunteers are needed and he just happened to have a sign up sheet. The fair will be Wednesday, Aug 25, thru Sunday, August 29th. Tickets for the volunteers will be at the Will Call booth. Frank Seiler's *Inland Beemail* has been asked for even in Bangladesh. We are **WORLD WIDE!!**

State Convention- Jim Miller did not have any new information to report.

WSBA- Bob Arnold as our Area Rep. said the subject most asked about was when and if formic acid will be available. Jerry Tate said it has not been approved for yet because there is not enough evidence of a failure rate with coumaphos. A "Mite Gone" representative could come thru Spokane on a non-meeting Friday and conduct a 4-hour seminar. It is because of this matter and others that it is very impor-

tant to fill out the survey. The results will be reported in October and then there will be a start to compile nominations and then in March the Board will be reconstituted at the State level and the money could go to research and education. We will be making recommendation to the State on how to spend money.

What was learned at WSU Bee fest-

Linda Carney spoke about the lines of clothing now available with the WSBA logos.

Bob Arnold learned about a bear deterrent and its construction. Another member spoke of the value of being able to recognize a varroa mite from actual experience. Another thought the bee anatomy and the bee's circulatory system was fascinating. Even things not in the books were learned from other people attending the function. For example, during the Queen grafting class, John Sammons said to put queen cups in 24 hours ahead of time and you will get much more acceptance. Jerry Tate said that by being here with people you learn a lot of things that are not in the books. President Ted Swenson said the wealth of knowledge came from the people, not from the classes. Being there was the education.

Old Business-

Chris Fischer will have the cookbook sent out this month for it's printing.

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 return your empty package bee containers!

BEEBOXES BY LEE

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

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

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

Extractor for Sale: 6-12 frame Dadant powered extractor with manual speed control, like new, stainless steel \$700;

4 Frame Dadant powered extractor, stainless steel \$350.
Curt Bucklin, 208-265-5859

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

Must sell: Platform scale, 50 gal ss honey tank with valve, 2-5 gal wax/honey separating tanks, 18"x10"x48" ss baffled sump tank, 2 fiberglass deep sinks 200 7 5/8" supers most never used, tops, inner covers, bottoms and queen excluders
Contact: Jim McAdam 509-276-2386

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Joy in Beekeeping

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Linda Carney
Ted Swenson

IEBA Website

www.inlandbeemail.com

WSBA Website

www.wasba.org



(Minutes — Continued from page 3)

It has been learned that the Master Beekeepers are under the WABA and were constituted with 10 members. One may serve on the committee if they are a Journeyman working on their Masters. Jerry Tate said many of the current members are waiting to step aside for energetic new members.

A **Journeyman class** will be start in October. It will be held on four consecutive Thursdays from 6-9 pm. The dates are Oct 21st, 28th, Nov 4th and Nov. 11th.

Jim Miller also wants to have a one day Masters Program in September.

The Honey Board has a comprehensive book available with many sections on how to market your products, recipes, how to keep records, etc. It is a very large three ring binder and is availability to beekeepers from the Honey Board for \$10

Mr. Carney has volunteered for cookies for the next meeting.

An idea suggested by some members is switching the order of the meeting. Have the program first, 7:30-8:30, and then have

the business meeting. It may provide better attendance for those who have to leave early. Another idea was from 7-7:30 for the program. We were asked to “kick it around”, discuss it with other members, talk to the board members with some of the member’s ideas and opinions and we can talk about it again.

Our meeting was adjourned followed by the program: Queen Rearing with Travis Sammons.

HONEY COLOR AND FLAVOR IT ALL DEPENDS ON WHERE THE BEES BUZZ

The color and flavor of honeys differ depending on the nectar source (the blossoms) visited by the honey bees. In fact, there are more than 300 unique types of honey available in the United States, each originating from a different floral source. Honey color ranges from nearly colorless to dark brown, and its flavor varies from delectably mild to distinctively bold, depending on where the honey bees buzzed. As a general rule, light-colored honey is milder in taste and dark-colored honey is stronger.

Honey is produced in every state, but depending on floral source location, certain types of honey are produced only in a few regions. Honey is also produced in most countries of the world.

Following is a look at some of the most common U.S. honey floral varieties. To learn more about available types of honey in your area, contact a local beekeeper, beekeeping association or honey packer. For help finding a honey packer or a specific floral source, visit the Honey Locator.

ALFALFA

Alfalfa honey, produced extensively throughout Canada and the United States from the purple blossoms, is light in color with a pleasingly mild flavor and aroma.

AVOCADO

Avocado honey is gathered from California avocado blossoms. Avocado honey is dark in color, with a rich, buttery taste.

BLUEBERRY

Taken from the tiny white flowers of the blueberry bush, the nectar makes a honey which is typically light amber in color and with a full, well-rounded flavor. Blueberry honey is produced in New England and in Michigan.

BUCKWHEAT

Buckwheat honey is dark and full-bodied. It is produced in Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin as well as in eastern Canada. Buckwheat honey has been found to contain more antioxidant compounds than some lighter honeys.

CLOVER

Clover honey has a pleasing, mild taste. Clovers contribute more to honey production in the United States than any other group of plants. Red clover, Alsike clover and the white and yellow sweet clovers are most important for honey production. Depending on the location and type of source clover, clover honey varies in color from water white to light amber to amber.

EUCALYPTUS

Eucalyptus honey comes from one of the larger plant genera, containing over 500 distinct species and many hybrids. As may be expected with a diverse group of plants, eucalyptus honey varies greatly in color and flavor but tends to be a stronger flavored honey with a slight medicinal scent. It is produced in California.

FIREWEED

Fireweed honey is light in color and comes

from a perennial herb that creates wonderful bee pasture in the Northern and Pacific states and Canada. Fireweed grows in the open woods, reaching a height of three to five feet and spikes attractive pinkish flowers.

ORANGE BLOSSOM

Orange blossom honey, often a combination of citrus sources, is usually light in color and mild in flavor with a fresh scent and light citrus taste. Orange blossom honey is produced in Florida, Southern California and parts of Texas.

SAGE

Sage honey, primarily produced in California, is light in color, heavy bodied and has a mild but delightful flavor. It is extremely slow to granulate, making it a favorite among honey packers for blending with other honeys to slow down granulation.

TUPELO

Tupelo honey is a premium honey produced in northwest Florida. It is heavy bodied and is usually light golden amber with a greenish cast and has a mild, distinctive taste. Because of the high fructose content in Tupelo honey, it granulates very slowly.

WILDFLOWER

Wildflower honey is often used to describe honey from miscellaneous and undefined flower sources.

HONEY BLENDS

While different types of honey are available, most honey, especially honey supplied in bulk, is blended to create a unique and consistent taste and color.

Source: www.nhb.org

TEMPERATURE CONTROL IN THE BEEHIVE

By Randolph E. Schmid
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON ? Honeybees may all look alike, but their diversity helps make them more efficient as a group. Bees like to keep the temperature in their nests at a warmish 90 to 97 degrees, and do so by clustering together to add heat or by fanning their wings to cool things off.

Scientists in Australia now have found that nests that include bees from several fathers ? resulting in genetic diversity ? make this process smoother and more efficient.

The discovery by Julia Jones and col-

leagues at the University of Sydney was reported in yesterday's issue of the journal Science.

Researchers studied normal beehives in which the queen is fertilized by several males and compared them with other hives where they used artificial insemination to make sure only one male mated with the queen.

As it turned out, bees from many fathers tended to start fanning at different temperatures.

That means that in normal hives, as the temperature rose, more and more bees would stop other jobs and begin fanning to cool things down.

Conversely, as temperatures declined, some would stop fanning and go back to other jobs while others kept fanning until it was cooler. The result was a relatively even temperature, on average.



But in one-father hives, most workers tended to start and stop fanning at the same time, resulting in a roller-coaster temperature compared with normal hives.

Multiple mating of the female honeybee probably developed for other reasons, researchers say, but as a secondary result it leads to more efficient task allocation in cooling and warming the hive, allowing workers to respond to change without overreacting.

SILENT SPRING IN EUROPE

Börje Svensson, Sala, Sweden

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Individual bees are very delicate organisms existing within the strong and resistant body of their colony, inside its carefully protected cavity. Honeybees have been surviving this way since long before man first stepped on earth (Free et al., 1982). An individual bee will freeze to death within minutes in the climate of Sweden where I have been keeping bees for 28 years. Colonies of bees have survived my mismanagement, infestation with wax moth, queenlessness, wet insulation, or even being tipped over during a cold winter storm. Some of my colonies always survived and managed to multiply when the spring sun shone and brought flowers and nutritious food back into the life cycle

again. Winter losses never ever exceeded 15% - until last year.

Unwelcome experience

Winter 2002-2003 was a totally new experience for me and for thousands of my colleagues in countries like Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland and Germany. I lost 50 colonies out of 70! Only 20 survived. One neighbour lost 95 out of 120, someone else 24 of 25 and so on. Some colonies died even in December. I found colonies that had just stopped living. They had given up life without any sign of struggle. They were dead without visible reason. They had plenty of good sugar feed. Pollen stores were available. The queen was sitting dead in the middle of the cluster. Other colonies tried to survive but gradually dwindled away with less and less bees and finally gave up before the warm weather could help them to recover.

I had a terrible job to clean up all the dirty comb and contaminated hives. The combs had to be brushed off before being melted in water so that the sugar remains could be separated from the pure wax. It is always a depressing job disposing of dead bees knowing their important task for maintaining good pollination in our neighbourhood.

Immediate survey

Our National Beekeepers' Federation, SBR, reacted without delay and organised an instant survey within a random sample of 2,520 beekeepers (Kristiansen, 2003). From the 1,654 responses we can conclude that the colony losses in my county were about 36%. The national average was 'only' 20%.

A similar survey of 6,072 German beekeepers came up with an average of 29% winter losses during the same winter (Otten, 2003). The Swedish survey could not make any conclusions about any particular cause of the winter deaths but rather speculated that the event was a combination of unfavourable circumstances during the season 2002.

However there are several observations that can rule out some of the theories proposed:

1. Both experienced and less experienced beekeepers had problems.
2. The death toll was high also in areas where the Varroa parasite has not yet arrived.

3. The death toll was high also in areas where other diseases such as foulbrood, sacbrood, chalkbrood or nosema are rarely seen.

4. The death toll was high also for colonies in very well insulated hives.

5. The winter death was very low in the forest areas of northern Sweden but at the same time very high in the farmland area in northern Finland.

6. The death toll was high both in areas affected by the radioactive Cesium137 downfall from the Chernobyl accident as well as in non-affected areas.

More bad news

So we are many beekeepers who have hoped until now that the scientists are correct: that it was an extremely bad year of a kind that appears once in a while. But is it really like that? The sun is now warming up the hive bodies and the snow is rapidly melting away. The first Crocus flowers are beginning to provide pollen and Salix will soon follow. A first summary of my remaining colonies is again a catastrophe!!! Only 17 colonies surviving out of 30!!! And some of the survivors are very weak and may not make it another 2-3 weeks. My phone is ringing. Beekeeper friends are reporting: 7 of 8 dead, all but 2 dead, more than 50% dead and so on. It is too early to see if this is as serious a problem as last year, but this time I am not going to wait before raising my voice.

Possible explanations

We have to find resources and support to find out what is happening to our bee environment. What are the possible explanations? How can researchers join hands to determine how to overcome these problems? To start the discussion I would like to present a list of possible explanations that can be thinned out or extended with contributions by those who have a better view. Please join the debate with your own observations or theories.

1. The European Commission has decided to allow use of a number of doubtful pesticides. Some of these were banned in Sweden for many years such as Amitrole, 2,4-D, Linuron, Mecoprop, Paraquat, Propineb,

Thiram and Bromoxynil. Many of these are extremely hazardous to humans but the objections from our government chemistry authority had no effect on the decision makers in Brussels. These pesticides are mainly herbicides and fungicides and most likely we will not find one of them that is used all over the affected region.

2. The European Commission has authorised a large number of new pesticides for an even larger number of different uses without adequate hazard testing. The new generation of pesticides can be generalised as: i) low dosage, ii) long persistence, iii) systemic action, iv) difficult to detect in laboratory tests. The Swedish government authority is also complaining in their annual report (KI, 2003) that it is difficult to keep track of the different pesticides due to many changes of ownership within the private sector.

3. The aphid pests (*Megilethes* spp) on oil-seed rape have developed resistance to the most popular pyrethroid pesticides. Therefore the chemistry authority again approved use of the extremely bee poisonous insecticide Fenitrothion (Sumithion or Folithion) from year 2001. This pesticide was banned more than 20 years ago due to its enormous risks for bees, other insects and aquatic life.

4. The use of insecticides increased in Sweden 2001-2002 by 250%. A possible reason is that the warm summers (global warming?) caused heavy growth of aphid colonies in many grain crops.

5. A new range of pesticides has entered the market during the last five years. These are all based on the active ingredient Imidakloprid, a chemical that affects the digestive neurosystem of insects. Popularly we can say that insects that come into contact with these products lose their appetite and stop being harmful to crops. These insecticides have long persistence and a systemic effect. It is therefore possible that the harmful effect will occur over a long period and only gradually in a bee colony that is slowly during winter consuming its stored reserves of plant material. The treated seed will for instance germinate in August 2004, the plant will flower in June 2005 and bees will collect and store con-

taminated nectar and pollen that can cause indistinct symptoms during the winter 2006, one and a half years later!

Here is a list of Imidakloprid products being registered in Sweden:

- Chinook for seed dressing of oil-seed rape seed.
- Gaucho and Montur for seed dressing of sugar beet seed.
- Prestige for dressing of potatoes before planting.
- Confidor for treatment through irrigation water in green houses (ornamental plants, tomatoes, cucumber and sweet pepper).
- Merit Forest for treatment of forest plants against insect attacks.
- Some products are also registered for use in homes as dip sticks for indoor plants.

Commercial representatives also confirm that these products have been tried as seed dressing on wheat and oats. They are however not willing to disclose to what extent farmers are using seed treated with these chemicals. In France Imidakloprid pesticides have been banned for use on sunflower crops after heavy protests from beekeeper groups.

6. Pesticides in sugar cultivation or industrial manipulation of white sugar may be another problem for bee colonies. Use of the above mentioned systemic seed dressers on sugar beet seed (point 5) or insecticides on sugar cane fields can be a hidden problem. Also new techniques for extraction or bleaching of white sugar may cause a possible hazard to bees. An increasing trade with sugar products has also been noted

7. Extensive use of desiccants (Glyfosat, Rambo, Roundup) for total extermination of weeds instead of mechanical cultivation. The total usage of these herbicides has increased four years in a row. This is remarkable since the increase of Glyfosat products took place at the same time as the acreage of ecological farming also increased. This must imply that the intensity of Glyfosat usage has increased on the farmland that is still cultivated with chemicals. Several Glyfosat products are also registered for use by gardeners.

8. Increasing downfall from burning of

Schedule of Events:

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

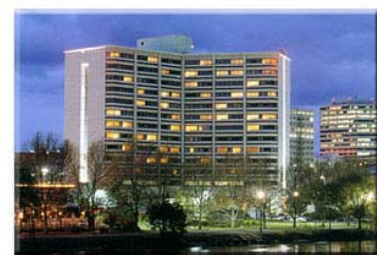
The IEBA is hosting the 2004 WSBA convention. Many of our members are already hard at work putting the program together. If you would like to help out, contact the appropriate committee leaders listed here:

- **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**

Plan Now to Attend!



Doubletree Hotel

household waste material as an energy resource. A new government fee on dumping of waste products has created an enormous interest for using household waste as an important energy resource. Large municipal heat and power plants have been converted from charcoal and crude oil to household waste and other biomass sources. The disadvantage with this quick change is that the cleaning techniques for many dangerous organic substances in the smoke are still rudimentary. In some cases we do not even know what to look for. The amounts of downfall may be very small but still extremely hazardous to human and other life from the very stable organic substances that come with the smoke from waste burning. Examples of such substances are PCB, Toxafen, Dioxin, halogenated flame retardants, nonylphenol, or-

ganic tin compounds, phthalates and secondary residues of all these products etc. I do not claim that I have any proof for any of the above theories. What is of paramount importance is that we try to find out the cause for the winter deaths of honeybee colonies during the last two years. Will my bees survive another winter like this? Or will we meet a silent spring next year?

STOP PRESS
From the author – May 2004

If bees cannot survive can we?

Börje Svensson, Sala, Sweden (author)

References

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Kemiinspektionen (2003) Sold quantities of pesticides

2002, KI, Stockholm, Sweden
Kristiansen, P. (2003) Vinterförlusterna 2002/2003, Bitidningen (7-8), 13-14.
Otten, C. (2003) Daten und Fakten zu den Völkerverlusten, ADIZ 37 (8/2003), 6-8.

We are beginning to see the full size of the problem now. In my county it seems like more than 50% of colonies died this winter.

The media is beginning to take notice now, but some of the news is old, as far back as 1999 from France!

[http://www.bees-trees.demon.co.uk/news%20and%20views.htm#silent spring](http://www.bees-trees.demon.co.uk/news%20and%20views.htm#silent%20spring)



**Inland Empire
Beekeepers
Association**

**Next Meeting:
July 9th, 2004
7:30 pm IEBA
business meeting followed by
Program: Chalkbrood**

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.

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It is a pleasure to be your newsletter editor. Each month, it gets harder to decide on what stories to include and publish as many of you find great leads and information for me. Also, thanks to Bob Arnold, we have a timely and informative article each month to help us with the practical aspects of beekeeping. All of you are to be greatly commended for your contributions.

I would also like to remind all of you that are working towards the Journeyman Level in the Master Beekeeping Program that a published article in the *Inland Beemail* earns you credits toward your certification. Need a topic or assignment? Come see me.

It is gratifying to see the level of interest our little newsletter is creating. We have readers that have commented back to us from many parts of the US, and all over the world, such as Uganda, Ireland, England, and Australia.

This month, we have made some format changes to the Inland Beemail to

make the copyfitting a little easier, and I hope you enjoy the new format. To aid those of you that are having trouble with the larger pdf files, we are also going to be publishing the current copy of the Inland Beemail as a set of web pages that do not require such a lengthy download.

Coming soon to a computer screen near you: Picture galleries from some of the fine photos that have been submitted to us. Some of these are now posted on the State Association's web site www.wasba.org. If you do not have a digital camera and would like to have us scan your photos, we have the technology.

It seems that the weekend before the IEBA meeting is always a really busy one, and that makes it hard to get the mailed copy of the Inland Beemail out in time for all of us to receive it before the meeting. I would therefore like to ask all the contributors to have their copy in a little earlier. Deadline dates are as follows for the rest of this year: 6/26, 7/31, 8/28, 9/25, 10/30, 11/27.

All of these things as well as my hectic work schedule mean that we have a slightly shorter newsletter this month. In the next issue, we continue to look at a management technique about which the Dadant Catalogue warns "Caution—for experienced beekeepers only." No, it is not a dangerous chemical mix, but a thin sheet of wax with smaller cell sizes embossed on it. We will again look at the structure of a natural colony and see where this small-cell management could yield some advantages.

I hope that these articles will help you to expand your beekeeping horizons and try some new things. If you have an idea or story you wish to share with the rest of us, please let me know!



Vantage Point
Frank Seiler, Newsletter Editor