



INLAND BEEEMAIL

Monthly newsletter of the Inland Empire Beekeepers Association

Volume 10, Issue 4 — April 2005 — www.inlandbeemail.com

Presidents
Corner:

Presidents Corner: Date: 27 March, 2005

Our meeting this month is an education event, nothing but discussion about the bees. At least that is what we will try for. This is the first time we will try this format so it will be a work in progress. Any ideas, suggestions, what works and what does not work comments will be appreciated.

This is the first meeting that our recent bee class graduates will show or not show up. Lets make sure we say hello to these folks and encourage them to attend all our meetings. Networking is a wonderful thing and in these times it is becoming more and more important. Beekeeping changes very rapidly now. Information flow is even more critical.

We are very fortunate to have a new fair manager. Kelly has graciously volunteered. Her primary assistants are Jack for the Idaho fair and Scott for the Spokane fair. A huge THANK YOU to all three.

We are making progress on the North Yard. The honey supers, screened bottom boards, five frame Nucs, and Pierco frames for the honey super have been ordered. I have a growing email address group for those who want to participate in the Cougar Queen program.

Bad news of the month is the presence of the small hive beetle in California. According to Eric Olsen, the beetles came in on a semi-load of bees from Florida for almond pollination. This is real bad news. All of us will need to study up on what to look for and how to react. More to follow.

Hope to see all of you Friday the 8th.

Beekeepers May Sue for Damages in Minnesota

The Minnesota Supreme Court rules that honey bees which enter fields treated with pesticides are not trespassers, but foragers that are owed reasonable protection from harm by applicators and property owners. Observers say that allowing beekeepers to sue for damages to their hives sets a significant precedent for other such cases around the country.

Establishing a precedent with national implications, the Minnesota Supreme Court has decided that property owners are liable for damages when bees are killed by exposure to pesticides applied on their land.

The 4-2 decision in Jeffrey Anderson, et al., v. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and International Paper Co. (No. A03-679) was issued March 3. It reversed a state appeals court opinion, which upheld the Douglas County District Court's dismissal of virtually every claim brought by Anderson and his fellow beekeepers (No. C7-02-332). The beekeepers, who are demanding \$2 million in damages, allege that commercial applicators hired by DNR and IP negligently and wantonly exposed their foraging bees to Sevin XLR Plus – whose active ingredient, carbaryl, is highly toxic to bees.

The beekeepers maintained that DNR and IP were liable for damages under common and federal pesticide law – and brought

those (and other) arguments to the state Supreme Court for their appeal.

Although the Supreme Court justices didn't answer every one of the questions posed by the appeal, the court held that while trespass theory might not be appropriate for honey bees that by nature are foragers, landowners owe no duty to protect the bees, "except that the land possessor cannot intentionally or wantonly destroy the bees"). "The bee caution gives notice that if there is bloom present, foragers present or they can be expected to be present (Extend Residual Toxicity) **the use is wanton and malicious under the law**" and a majority of them agreed that landowners with "knowledge or notice of foraging honey bees" have a "duty of reasonable care" to protect foraging bees from harm. Adapted from articles located @ Canadian Honey Council - <http://www.honeycouncil.ca/users/folder.asp> and @ <http://www.courts.state.mn.us/opinions/sc/current/opa030679-0303.htm>



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www.inlandbeemail.com

WSBA Website

www.wasba.org



April Agenda

—Ted Swenson

Agenda - 4/11/05

Welcome!

- ♣ Education Night - Lets Talk About Bees!

Reports:

- ♣ Four Corner Bee Reports

Old Business:

New Business:

- ♣ Small Hive Beetles

Meeting Adjourned

- ♣ Tonight's Program:

April Minutes

—Linda Carney, Secretary

March 11, 2005

President Ted Swenson called the meeting to order.

Dave Bearden received a loud round of applause for his first presentation of the *Bee-mail*.

After a quick verbal recap of the minutes by the secretary, the **minutes** were accepted as published in the *Inland Bee-mail*.

President Swenson gave a quick **Treasurer's report**. We currently have \$9,586.63 in our accounts. We have purchased 3 barrels of honey to be used for the fair. The treasurer's report was accepted as presented by President Swenson.

The *Beemail*- Dave would like articles to be submitted to the *Beemail*. Please try to submit them the first three weeks of the month.

Jerry Tate was not available for a State Report. However, Bob Arnold told us Jerry Tate, Ted Swenson, and he had a meeting with Steve Shepard from WSU. Shepard has 12 lines of bees established and would like to have 2 hives of

(Continued on page 3)

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. .

—adapted from
www.backyardbeekeepers.com



(Continued from page 2)

each type (24hives) at the Northern bee yard. The beekeepers would keep his lines. Steve would provide queens and after a year we would give him back data. The date for the Puyallup WSU field trip has not been decided.

President Swenson’s **Words of Wisdom** “The best way to learn beekeeping is networking with other beekeepers.”

4 Corners Report – Jack Knox from Idaho said the bees are out and but only pussy willows are available for pollen.

Old Business-

The **cookbooks** are selling like hot cakes!! We have sold 242 of the 358 that were ordered. Yes, we only have 119 left!

Library – *Please* consider being a volunteer to get this project off the ground.

North Bee Yard- the location will be at the west side of Loon Lake. Before it is operational we need to build a bear fence and assemble some equipment. Volunteers will be needed later. The cost of honey supers, frames, and screen bottom boards will be under budget. If anyone is interested in Cougar Queens please send Ted Swenson an e-mail.

Kelly McSheehy has volunteered for the position of **Fair coordinator**. We will need more people to be involved for the 12 days of the Spokane fair and the 5 days for the Idaho fair. Bob Adsit said it is important to have the night person be the morning person. This keeps the money easy to track. Jerry Miller has graciously agreed to keep his hours from last year but we do need volunteers to cover the other hours. Please volunteer, it is fun and we do accomplish a lot.

Bob Adsit suggested our VCR be replaced. There was a *motion* made and accepted to authorize up to \$350 for the purchase of a TV DVD unit.

New business.

Joy of Beekeeping had three grants of \$100 based on letters sent in and the committee selected the following recipients:

- Bonnie Kimmel
- Arek Werner
- Marilyn Caruthers

President Swenson is putting out a call for a volunteer to be an **Association Historian**, the Keeper of the History. We already have some binders with photographs and statistics. He believes it would be nice to keep track of the kids we are able to introduce to bees and the other activities of our Association.

The **Farm Fair** is May 4-5, Wed and Thursday, and there will be over 500 young people in those two days. There will be 10 to 12 stations in the Ag Building and each will have a few minutes for each group to stop by and get a quick talk. It will be from 9am to 3pm. Bob Adsit would like some volunteers.

Our Association received a letter from **Better Bee** and they will send a \$5 gift certificate to each graduate of our recent class and a certificate also will be given to the teacher, Jim Miller. There were 55 paid graduates.

John Pierce reminded the members to use the web. It gets better with use! (We have had over 1400 hits since the first of January)

Jerry Tate, President of the WSBA told us there is possible litigation for a packer-producer because of labeling his honey. The honey had been mixed with syrup and although it was put on the label he is being investigated. According to Jerry, there is an RCW (Revised Code of Washington State) law that you cannot advertise as honey if not 100% honey. He cautioned all of us to be careful of how we market our honey. The WSBA will be watching this situation.

The next Washington State Beekeepers Association meeting will be in Ellensburg on the 26th of March. Our meeting was adjourned

2005 Program

<p>April</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans for IEBA/WSU Apiary April management April field day Package introduction Hive equalization Feeding <p>May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workday IEBA/WSU Apiary May field day May management Colony increase Nuc prep/queen cell introduction 	<p>June</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field day IEBA/WSU Apiary June management Honey production Queening & Nuc introduction <p>July</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field day IEBA/WSU Apiary July management Honey removal/extraction Mite management <p>August</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Picnic Fall preparations 	<p>September</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting at Fair September management Fair preparations <p>October</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> October Management Guest speaker <p>November</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thanksgiving dinner Guest speaker <p>December</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potluck dinner Election of officers
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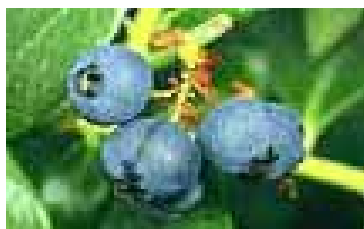
Honeybees disperse bio-control in blueberries

Abstract of research report:

Effectiveness of honey bees in delivering the biocontrol agent *Bacillus subtilis* to blueberry flowers to suppress mummy berry disease. - Selim Dedeja, Keith S. Delaplane, Harald Scherm, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602, USA

Honey bees are important pollinators of commercial blueberries in the southeastern United States, and blueberry producers often use supplemental bees to achieve adequate fruit set. However, honey bees also vector the plant pathogenic fungus *Monilinia vaccinii-corymbosi* which infects open blueberry flowers through the gynoecial pathway causing mummy berry disease. Here, we report the results of a 3-year field study to test the hypothesis that using bee hives equipped with dispensers containing the biocontrol product Serenade, a commercial formulation of the bacterium *Bacillus subtilis* which has shown activity against flower infection by *M. vaccinii-corymbosi* in laboratory

experiments, can reduce mummy berry disease incidence when honey bees are used as pollinators in blueberries. Individual honey bees carried $5.1-6.4 \cdot 10^5$ colony-forming units (CFU) of *B. subtilis* when exiting hive-mounted dispensers with Serenade. On caged rabbit-eye blueberry bushes in the field, population



USDA / ARS

densities of *B. subtilis* vectored by honey bees reached a carrying capacity of <103 CFU per flower stigma within 2 days of exposure, and there was a highly significant non-linear relationship between *B. subtilis* populations per stigma and bee activity, expressed as number of legitimate flower visits per time interval per cage ($R = 0.6928$, $P < 0.0001$, $n = 32$). Honey bee density (1600 or 6400 individuals per 5.8-m³ cage) and Serenade treatment (presence or absence of the product in hive-mounted dispensers) significantly

($P < 0.05$) affected the incidence of fruit mummification on caged bushes, whereby increasing bee density increased disease incidence and application of Serenade reduced disease levels. Taken together, results of this study suggest that use of a hive-dispersed biocontrol product such as Serenade as a supplement during pollination can reduce the risk of mummy berry disease. This may be a prudent practice that optimizes the benefits to pollination of high bee densities while reducing the associated disease-vectoring risk.

Canadian Honey Council - <http://www.honeycouncil.ca/users/folder.as>



U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Grants Section 18 exemptions

In recent letters to the Washington State Department of Agriculture the EPA granted specific exemptions under the provisions of section 18 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as amended, to the Washington State Department of Agriculture. The first exemption was for the use of the formulated product ApiLife VAR containing thymol, eucalyptus oil, and L-menthol in beehives to control varroa mite (*Varroa spp.*). (expires December 1, 2005)

The second is for the use of coumaphos impregnated in plastic strips to be hung in beehives to control varroa mite (*Varroa spp.*) and small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*). (expires February 1, 2006)



USDA / ARS

April Management

April is the turn around month. The bees have made it through winter and through the lingering losses of the month of March and are generally rearing brood. Sometimes this is not the case but in general the populations will start to increase with young bees in April. Often our weather may delay this until the second or third week in April but young bees are on the way!

Some of the hives may have a case of nosema. Usually these hives will be weak and have defecation within the hive or on the outside of the hive. Hives with severe cases of nosema often will just continue to get weaker and eventually die. Colonies that have a mild case of nosema will often get weaker until strong flows of pollen and nectar are available. These colonies will be late in development but will survive and may build up soon enough to produce a good honey crop. However, it is best to medicate with some Fumagilin-B since lingering cases of nosema take a toll on rapidly colony development. The cost for the Fumagilin-B in the size for 5 gallon of syrup is about \$15 or \$3/colony. For a gallon of 1:1 feed you need about 5.5 lbs of sugar and 2/3 gallon of water. (Note that water is about 8.33 lb/gallon times 2/3 gives about 5.5 # or a 1:1 mixture). This is good sense and costs only about \$5/colony (@\$.36/# for sugar).

Note that stimulating the bees in spring by feeding is probably not very valuable unless of course they are starving and you didn't save any honey from last year. Usually feeding in spring only has an effect in a bad year. In normal years there is ample food for the bees and feeding to build brood is expensive and problematic. Often feeding complicates matters as you may start feeding and have the nectar flow start and the feed is wasted. So feed your Fumagilin-B early and only 1 gallon and let the bees go to town. If they are low on stores move honey from the heavy colonies to the light colonies or feed back some of the honey you stored last fall.

Your colonies bottom boards need to be cleaned and any old equipment in need of repair should be removed and replaced with newly painted repaired equipment. Old comb that has seen its better day should be removed and replaced with drawn comb. **No foundation until the honey flow and no foundation in the brood chamber unless you are starting a package.** The bees do not draw out foundation early in the year and also do a poor job in the brood chamber. If you are starting a package on foundation you must feed continuously until the bees have all of the foundation drawn. If the bees are in the top deep (assuming the colony is in two deeps) it is a good idea to put the bees and open brood on the bottom with all of the sealed brood (in the center of the chamber) and the honey on the top. This will give the queen some empty cells above her brood nest for egg laying.

If the colony is a small one but has a good queen say 2 to 4 frames of brood. You can place a stronger colony below it with a screened board separating the two colonies. The weaker colony will gain warmth from the strong colony below and you may be able to add some sealed brood to the weak colony from the strong colony. Do this carefully as you do not want the brood to get

chilled. It is better to add a little brood at a time and do it more often than a few large brood frames only to have the outer edges die from chilling. Remember we can still have some weather in the 20's during the evenings.

The queen's laying pattern should be observed carefully over a few weeks time. Often 2 year old queens begin laying slowly and look poor yet with a little time, good pollen and some nectar they come around and do fine. However, pay careful attention to each queen's laying, if they have had a good food supply and have ample stores and bees and still aren't laying well they need to be replaced. Two or three weeks of poor laying will leave a well wintered hive looking poorly and most surely will not produce. You should see solid slabs of brood in 2 to 4 frames by mid to the end of April. Often poor queens will have brood in 2 to 4 frames but it will be with lots of space without any brood. These queens will linger and eventually be replaced or swarm but will surely not get better.

In these times it is best to see that a new queen is in the hive each year. April is a good month to begin preparations for replacing your queen. By the end of April you should have a good idea of which of your hives is weak and which is strong. The strong hives can be used to strengthen the weak hives by moving sealed brood from the strong hive to the weak hive. This can be simply done by shaking the bees off of a frame of brood (into its hive) from the strong hive and placing it in the center of the brood nest of the weak hive. The weak hive generally will cover frames in the top brood chamber and not the bottom chamber. If you put the new brood frame into the bottom chamber it will most likely not be covered with bees and the brood will be chilled. It is best to put some of the open brood at the outer frames of the top chamber and the new sealed brood into the center of the top chamber.

There are about 25 worker cells per square inch. In a frame that has brood on both sides with approximately 6" x 14" of sealed brood there is about 1.2# of bees on the frame (3500 workers/#). Adding a couple of frames like this will boost the population by 7000 bees. For a hive with 8 frames of bees, about 1700 workers/frame, (figured on 30,000 bees covering 18 frames for a full winter hive of bees) this is a 50% increase in the number of bees in the hive. Well you can do the math whatever way you want but putting two solid frames of sealed brood in a hive having 8 frames covered with bees will really boost the hive.

Anyway you look at it by taking sealed brood from a strong hive and giving it to a weak hive during April will even the hives in your apiary. What you need to achieve is to have all of your colonies with similar strength so each hive is a producer rather than a few that are boomers and the rest just so so. Moving brood will also buy you time to evaluate each colony's queen and then replace the queen early in May just before they begin swarm preparations.

To summarize April is the month to clean up your hives, replace

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old equipment with newly repaired and painted equipment and replace old comb with new drawn comb. Feed Fumagilin-B to boost the veracity of the colony. Move honey around to make certain all hives have good stores---3 to 4 combs of honey. Feed only if the bees get low on stores and forage conditions are not keeping the hive going. Even out your hive strengths by moving brood from the strong colony to the weak colony. These tasks are simple and will put you ahead of the game. Late in April to early in May get ready for replacing your queens. Get your queens ordered for replacement about 1 week before the average swarm date for your area.

Classifieds

Tate's Honey Farm has all of your extracting and packaging needs as well as spring packages and queens. Woodenware for all your winter projects and spring needs. Shop hours are 8:30—2:00 every Saturday at E. 8900 Maringo, Millwood. Contact us at 509-924-6669 or online

www.tateshoneyfarm.com

BEEKEEPERS order your package bees for April 9, 2005 delivery.

BEEBOXES BY LEE

Woodenware, standard or custom orders, IPM bottom boards, Hive top feeders, etc, select lumber. Order now to be ready for spring. Lee Berchtold (208) 687-1300

WANTED: I am looking for a wholesale source for bulk beeswax. I need pressure filtered golden beeswax with NO additives. Thank you, S. Burge
smzbb@comcast.net

Miller's Homestead

Jim and Jenine Miller

Cheney, WA 1-509-299-9085

Package bee will be delivered April 9, 2005 to Millers Homestead and to Jack Knox's in Couer d'Alene. The cost for a 3 pound package is \$59.40 plus sales tax. Orders are to be made by March 25th. Prepayment required.

14606 Stangland Rd., Cheney. Look at our web site for prices on all available items.

www.millershomestead.com

NUC's - For Sale

You Get:

- Proven Carniolan Queen
- 3 frames brood
- 1 frame honey
- 1 frame honey/empty comb
- 3 lbs. of bees

Chattaroy Hills Honey Farm

Ted Swenson

220-0185

Available: 9 or 16 April



Used Equipment

Bought all the stuff new in 1990. Used it one season.

- two hive bodies (\$100)
- a metal top (\$15)
- a wooden base with seasonal doorway (\$10)
- a masonite inner cover (\$5)
- ten frames with new foundation
- three full of capped honey
- six frames that need attention (\$15)
- a smoker (\$20)
- a large bee suit (\$50)
- a woven helmet with netting (\$25)
- three books on the subject:
The Complete Guide to Beekeeping, new revised edition by Roger A. Morse, pub. E. P. Dutton 1980 (\$5)

Starting Right with Bees, 17th edition, revised by the editorial staff of Gleanings in Bee Culture, pub. The A. I. Root Company, 1974 (\$5)

ABC and XYZ of Bee Culture, "A Cyclopaedia of Everything Pertaining to the Care of the Honeybee: Bees, Hives, Honey, Implements, Honey Plants, etc. Facts Gleaned from the Experience of Thousands of Beekeepers, and Afterward Verified by the Authors," pub. The A. I. Root Company, 1923 (\$50)

The total comes to \$300.

Make an offer I can't refuse.

Willing to trade for six quarts of honey once a year for the rest of our lives! When anyone dies, the deal's off, so as not to obligate our heirs!

Carol Jean Rose

POB 550 Spirit Lake 83869
208-263-2093
rosehips@imbris.net

Wanted Pollinators !!!

Dear IEBA,
Here in the Okanogan many of the fruit growers are experiencing a bee shortage. Do you have information to help us locate bees?

Time frame we are looking at is up to 3 weeks from say the 5th of April to the 25th. Our neighbors and I could use in the vicinity of 120 hives and probably more with a little phone calling. Let me know as soon as you know anything. Prices? Contact

Paul Mannino(509)826-5984
annino@ncidata.com

Did You Know...

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

Adapted from

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) - North Carolina is trying to boost the buzz surrounding the state's crops. As farmers leave tobacco and move into new crops like cucumbers, melons, and berries, the state is confronting a crisis: it simply doesn't have enough honeybees to pollinate all those flowering plants. In the late 1980s, the state had some 180,000 managed bee colonies, each of which contained at least 30,000 bees. Now, there are about 100,000 such colonies, and the state's beekeepers last year had to turn down requests for some 10,000 new colonies. The bees are needed because without their flower-to-flower flights, farmers can't get the maximum yield from crops like cucumbers, apples, blueberries and melons, which now account

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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.

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 Broad 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 building 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 Trachael Mites. I normally take this sample on Sunday and mail on Monday so we get an early idea of the Trachael 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 so I can prepare my queen. Carefully remove 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



Opening Package © Z. Huang



Placement of queen cage © 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 overfeed 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.

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

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

March 31, 2005

WSBA Board Meeting Ellensburg March 26, 2005

Meeting Notes by Bob Arnold

The meeting started at 10:00 AM with approximately 30 people from all over the state. Two groups, field day and the Master Beekeeper Group, met until about 12 noon to review and make plans. After the groups met, the general meeting convened and continued until ending about 3 PM.

Plans for the two field days were firmed up. The WSU field day is planned for June 17th and 18th at WSU. The Puyallup field day will be on July 8th and 9th at the WSU Agricultural Center in Puyallup. Both field days start with a wine and cheese social on Friday evening. The field day will begin 8 AM on Saturday with classes in the morning, a noon barbecue and afternoon field ac-

tivities. **Pre-registration will be required with no registration the day of the field day.** Registration cost will be \$20 per family or \$10 individual with \$10 per person for the barbecue.

General Plan for both Field Days:

1. Friday evening Cheese and Wine
2. Saturday Field Day / Luncheon barbecue
3. Sunday morning board meeting
4. Classroom instruction Saturday morning
5. Field work Saturday afternoon with hives setup for inspections
6. Subgroups formed each with a leader for inspections

The tentative program for the field days is:

WSU Field Day June 17th and 18th

- ◆ Hive inspection procedures
- ◆ Mite inspection & treatment

- Ether roll, sticky board, sugar dusting, strip check
 - Brood inspection
 - Treatment options: drone comb trap, medications, screened bottom board
 - ◆ Queen introduction techniques
 - Techniques for finding queen
 - Hive preparation for mailer cage introduction
 - Nuc introduction
 - Use of screen board for splitting and queen/queen cell introduction
 - Nuc preparation, queen cell introduction, use for re-queening
- Puyallup Field day July 8th and 9th**
- ◆ Hive inspection procedures
 - ◆ AFB inspection & treatment options, use of ultraviolet light for inspection
 - ◆ Mite inspection & treatment
 - Ether roll, sticky board, sugar dusting, strip check
 - Trachael mite inspection for and treatment options
 - Varroa mite inspection and treatment options
 - ◆ Queen introduction techniques
 - Techniques for finding queen
 - Hive preparation for mailer cage introduction
 - Nuc introduction
 - Use of screen board for splitting and queen/queen cell introduction
 - ◆ Honey removal techniques ie chemicals and bee escape
 - ◆ Fall Management
 - Feeding
 - Nosema treatment
 - Preparation for winter
 - Overwintering of nuc's

Reports from the various parts of the state indicated that colony losses were extensive in many areas but varied dramatically from beekeeper to beekeeper. Losses of commercial colonies in California also varied dramatically with perhaps an average loss of 50%. A USDA Beltsville Md

Bee researcher, Bart Smith, surveyed 7 commercial operations in California (not necessarily California beekeepers) trying to determine the cause of the losses. Currently there is no correlation to nosema, varroa or trachael mite with the exception of one of the 7 operations. It was a Washington operation that had most of its losses correlated to trachael mites of colonies that were kept on the coastal side of Washington state and not treated for trachael mite. No conclusions were reached on the impact of viruses on the colony losses. Varroa mite losses were undoubtedly significant but were not fully blamed as the one responsible cause of the high colony loss. Many commercial beekeepers were currently using effective illegal means for controlling the varroa mite. Both Apistan and Checkmite strips were believed to be ineffec-

tive.

One other disturbing item was a Florida operation brought bees, perhaps under illegal entrance to California, that had the small hive beetle. These bees were subsequently sold and transported to a Yakima beekeeper's locations in Yakima.

Containers of honey (1#) have been found at dollar store(s) on the west side of the state that are illegally labeled. These containers are prominently identified as honey but contain, as spelled out in fine print on the label, high fructose corn syrup and sugar syrup. The Washington State agricultural law requires honey mixed with other ingredients to be labeled with the word "artificial" or "imitation" in the same type size and style as the word "honey". The WSBA will advise the Washington state packer of his violation and request that all of the product be removed from sale. If this does not occur WSBA will take formal action by addressing the infraction to the Washington State Agriculture Commission.

We also briefly discussed plans for the 2005 joint fall meeting with Oregon at Agate Beach on the Oregon coast and the future locations for the 2006 and 2007 fall meetings. All agreed that we need to have another fall meeting at the Sun Mountain Lodge in Winthrop but did not set any date. We discussed having our 2006 meeting in Pierce County.

Some concerns were stated on the status of the research program at WSU and the lack of presence of any representative at this meeting.

(Continued from page 6)

for \$100 million every year, according to state agriculture officials.

Twenty years ago the state had a healthy population of wild bees, but they have been ravaged by mites. Farmers now rely on a dozen or so commercial beekeepers to pollinate their crops.

North Carolina State University hopes that a cost-share program it is starting will lure more people into the hobby, laying the groundwork for an eventual increase in commercial beekeeping.

The school is providing 250 qualified applicants with two hives of Russian honey bees and bee hives. Participants will have to invest \$50 to \$150 for beekeeper protective clothing, smokers, and additional hive equipment. The program will help put the newcomer in touch with nearby mentors.

Instead, the organization hopes to bring new people into the hobby and that they decide to master other aspects of bee cultivation, including breeding and production of honey, pollen and beeswax. All together, those activities generate \$10 million annually for the state's economy.

And it's possible that some hobbyists could decide to take the plunge and join the bee business full time.



**Next Meeting:
Friday April 8th
7:00 PM Social Time
7:30 Meeting**

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.

INLAND BEEMAIL

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Send To:

Dear Friends,

We are sad to announce that Bob Stump of Gig Harbor, WA, passed away Thursday morning, March 31, 2005.

Bob was a Master Beekeeper and was elected president of Washington State Beekeepers Association in 1999 and served in that capacity through 2003. He also served as treasurer of the Master Beekeeper's Committee for several years. Surviving Bob is his wife, Tillie, and his six sons and two daughters: son Robert, daughter Pat Hubbard (Don), son Bill (Mary Anne), daughter Betty Logan (Bob), son David (Chris), son Tom (Jeri), son Kevin (Heather), and son Greg. Also surviving are Tillie's two daughters, Lucinda and Norma Jean, and son Ronald.

Funeral ceremonies will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 6, at St. Nicholas Catholic Church in Gig Harbor, WA. The street address is 3510 Rosedale St. NW, 98335.

If you would like to send a card or other remembrance to Bob's wife and family, send to 5417 99th Ave. NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98335.

The Washington State Beekeepers Association



The next meeting on April 8th will have for the program agenda: April Management, Feeding Bees, Package Introduction and Hive Equalization. We are also going to talk about the WSBA Board Meeting, April Field Day and Plans for IEBA/WSU Apiary