

Washington State Beekeepers Association



Keep the "Bee" in Business

Publication of Washington State Beekeepers Association

www.wasba.org

November 2005

President's Message

We seemed to have a good time at the convention and I was glad to see everyone again. When you go to conventions you're never sure if you will hear good news or bad. Hearing in detail about the small hive beetle was not the high light of the convention but it was reassuring to know work is being done to help us. I was glad to see all the work going on at Marla Spivak's lab and it makes you feel there is hope for our industry. Overall, the news at the convention was very positive. We still don't have prices for packages or queens but they are working on it. I got the feeling we will see sticker shock.

WSU has a new grad student named Ben Horwath. Ben is a West Valley kid from Spokane and will be a welcome addition. WSU tested all their colonies and the mite thresholds were very low, so they choose not to treat. Steve is working on a grant to extend our queen rearing program. I like the WSU queens I got and now hope they winter well and build up in the Spring so we can see how they are as producing queens.

I want to take a moment and thank two people who have been a big help to our association. Lee Massey has served our association for over 15 years and will really be missed. He will still be hanging around which means we can get him to help when needed. Thanks for everything, Lee. Also, a thanks for the work done by Frank Seiler as our web master. Frank's regular job is just too busy for him to continue as webmaster. If it had not been for Frank stepping up a couple of years ago we would not be where we are now. Thanks Frank.

And we need to give a great big thanks to all of you who attended the convention, for the Oregon Beekeepers and especially Harry Vanderpool for all of the work he did on this convention. We had a great time and what a way to end the beekeeping season.

Jerry Tate

Washington State Updates

Program Calendar for the Association.

FEBRUARY 18, 2006:

WSBA Executive Board Meeting
Bar 14 Ranch House Restaurant
1800 South Canyon Road, Ellensburg, WA
10 AM to 2PM

FIELD DAYS 2006: TBA

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

WSBA Executive Board Meeting for 10/27/2005

The executive meeting was held Thursday 10/27/2005 with President Jerry Tate calling our meeting to order.

The main topic, almost the only topic, was WSU. President Tate informed us that as of this year a technician could only go to another WSU department *if they are fully qualified*. (Previously a technician could move anywhere depending upon seniority.) President Tate feels this change will make a big difference in our programs. The new Dean for Agriculture seems to want to work with the state agriculture associations to accomplish needed research. The State of Washington has been cutting money for technicians at the schools which makes it difficult to have someone to care for the plants, animals or bees. Maybe there is a way to help with the funding of technicians etc. That needs some ideas and thoughts.

Earlier this year, WSBA was able to get 2 grants from the Pesticide commission. A graduate student was found for one of the grants but at this point the 2nd grant does not have a graduate student to do the research. It is important that we do what we say in the grants as that is how we will get additional grants. We will be getting an accounting of where we stand on those grants during the next meeting. President Tate stated, "Our Association is not going to go forward with the Pesticide Commission unless we do what we say we are going to do!" The plan is to develop a list of specifics for research and the expectations of results from that research to be tied into grant money given to WSU. The membership has been asked to come up with ideas for the first meeting in 2006.

The WSU was not able to provide a bee yard in Spokane but the plan is not dead and the hope is to do that next year. Three IEBA members in Spokane were given 15-23 queens each, to install in their nucs for evaluation. Five other bee-

(Continued on page 2)

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Executive Board Meeting Minutes, continued

(Continued from page 1)

keepers in the state received queens to care for during the winter and next year. WSU gets the best two queens back to use in the breeding program.

Another topic of interest is the possibility of another bee yard north of Seattle. Depending upon the level of interest by the NW Associations, we may be able to set up a bee yard in Mt. Vernon. The idea is to have local associations take care of WSU yards to help the research. They would use WSU equipment and install packages etc. to provide bees for WSU research. The local clubs could use the hives for training and field days. We could have several field days or just one a year and have it in different locations such as Spokane, North of Seattle, South of Seattle, or the middle of the State. At the Feb. 2006 meeting we will decide what we want to do.

Our field days were successful and we need to decide in February what we will be doing for next summer so we can plan ahead. If we want just one field day a year then June may be the best month for the majority of people. Whatever is decided the local association participation is very important. The purpose is to sponsor training and become a more visible to local associations, beekeepers, and the general public. The Puyallup field day was an example of a good job with great local support!

The Board approved to have the general membership vote upon a new web site manager, Jane Bedinger, at the Friday meeting, Oct. 28th. (Frank Seiler's work schedule has made it very difficult for him to keep up the web site).

The reports will be tabled until the general meeting on Friday, October 28.

The meeting was adjourned.

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Annual Meeting Minutes

October 28, 2006

President Jerry Tate called the meeting to order.

Linda Carney, Secretary, submitted the **minutes** of the last meeting to the newsletter for publication. A motion was passed to accept the minutes as published.

Lisa Knox, the Treasurer, published the **treasurer's report** on page 13 of the NW Corner Fall conference Handbook.

A quick recap of balances as of 9/30/2005:

Total funds on hand (checking & savings)	5865.77
WSBA Savings CD	7127.27
PR Fund	2022.03
Thurber Scholarship Fund	30011.35
Carl Van Wechel Research Fund	5420.39
Alvina Timmons Scholarship Fund	22108.73

We had 90 WSBA members in 2005 and 19 non-renewed memberships. We had 189 Associate Memberships as of the printing of the booklet. (The IEBA had not submitted their dues to Lisa in time to be counted.) Once more the annual audit showed the books to be in good order.

President Tate, who has belonged to many organizations throughout his career, stated that "Lisa keeps track of the financials better than other organization that he has belonged to".

Master beekeepers Report - Paul Lundy

The correspondence program is ready for the website. The Journeyman test will be revised by the end of the year. After reviewing the database, President Tate believes we really need to encourage the local associations to take the programs and get member to earn their certificates. The website will make it available to all.

Elections of Officers - Miriam Bishop

Miriam announced that all of the current officers (except for VP) and all of the area reps are willing to remain in their positions for another year. There was a unanimous ballot for all officers and area reps to remain in their positions. **Eric Olson** consented to run for Vice-President and he was elected as our **new Vice-President**. A motion was made from the floor for **Jim Bach** to be the **Upper Yakima Representative** to replace Eric Olson, motion was passed.

Website - To relieve Frank Seiler of his responsibility for the web site Lisa Knox looked into web site managers. She did research and was finally able to find an individual

(Continued on page 4)



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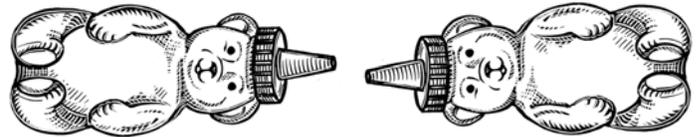
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Local News

The Northwest Corner Fall Conference in Newport Oregon was great. Lisa and I went down a few days early and soaked up the seashore, lighthouses and crab. Darn nice place for a vacation and darn tooting fine place for a convention. The Oregon folks put on a very well run convention and I thank them.

The first shock I had attending the convention was the opening talk about the small hive beetle (SHB). I know we've all been hearing about how migratory beekeeping is changing how we manage our hives, but to expect the SHB in Oregon and Washington? At least all the talk was on progress made on SHB control. Dr. Mike Hood was particularly thorough in his presentations.

(Continued on page 5)



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Annual Meeting minutes, continued

(Continued from page 2)

who was in our price range, Jane Bedinger. Lisa submitted information and costs to the Executive Board and reviewed these at the general meeting. Basically the on going maintenance at \$10.00 per month and design work and pages to be charged at a discounted \$15 per hour. A motion was passed to accept Jane Bedinger's proposal to organize and maintain the website and the Executive Board to monitor the new website and its charges. President Tate and the other members present wanted to thank and extend their gratitude to Frank Seiler for setting up the website then getting the website off the ground and to a great start. **A round of applause for a job well done!**

Convention and Site - If any group or association is willing to commit to sponsoring the 2006 convention please come forward. The Mount Baker Beekeepers were encouraged to be in charge of the next convention. The WSBA will do a lot of the work regarding the convention. If they can decide in December if they want to have it then President Tate can get started on helping get some speakers.

By an overwhelming majority the members were willing to support Miriam Bishop in 2007 for a convention at Sun Mountain again in Winthrop. For any of you who have not been to this fantastic lodge please look it up. It is unbelievable!

To clear up the confusion President Tate explained the money from the silent auction will go to the State that got the bid. The exception is the vendors and queen breeders and that

will go to the hosting State.

The next Executive Board meeting will be February 18, 2006 in Ellensburg. It will be an extra long meeting because of committee meetings. The Board will also be discussing the Field Days, which we have had the last few years. Prior to the start of the regular meeting will be the committee meetings.

A **motion** from the floor to approve support for a Section 18 exception for Api-Life Var and Coumaphos was passed. Without a Section 18 these cannot be shipped. It was discussed that Oxalic Acid just needs to be registered; it does not need a Section 18.

Steve Sheppard on his Queen Grant. Dr Sheppard needs a letter from Jerry Tate in support of the existing grant applications, Steve will be writing a report. One grant was to examine the stock in a commercial setting and the second was to look into integrating IPM into a commercial setting and adopt into programs. WSU was unable to get students for these projects so they advertised nationally. One position was filled recently but the second one has not been filled at this point. Again, that second position is similar to what Jamie did to develop IPM thresholds for hobbyist's & sideliners but on the west side of the State. Per what we discussed at Executive Board, President Tate said he felt that Dr. Sheppard had filled us in as far as we will be able to take care of the two pesticide grants.

John Timmons presented a check for \$5,000.00 for the Alvina Timmons Scholarship Fund. In general, it was agreed that scholarships will be awarded for research in Washington.

The meeting was adjourned.

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Local News, continued

(Continued from page 3)

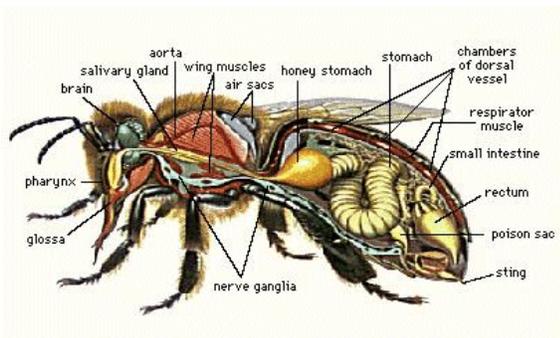
Of all the talks we greatly anticipated, Dr. Lambert Kanga was the leader in interest with his presentation on fungal pathogens in the control of Varroa mites. His data shows, at the research level, the mite killing fungus is as effective as Apistan. Commercializing the fungus is the hardest step. He went into detail about the methods used to try to stabilize the fungus to expand its use as a commercial product. We have quite a wait.

Dr. Marla Spivak presented her continuing research and breeding program for hygienic honeybee traits. She also discussed queen introduction success rates. The bottom line: queen success rates increase significantly if the newly mated queen is kept in a nuc for 21 days before introduction into a colony. There is a greater than 80% success rate if you wait. If a queen is introduced to a hive after only one week after mating, the success rate is only 20%. This is quite interesting as we all seem addicted to getting package bees and queens in the early spring when queen fertilization is not optimal. It's no wonder we all complain that we have bad queens. Her talk really made me reconsider early spring re-queening.

George Hansen, of Foothills Honey, gave a nice presentation on his year in beekeeping. We all discovered George's talent as an artist and increased our appreciation for all the things he does to promote good beekeeping.

I had a lot of fun at the conference and met some wonderful beekeepers. I finally got a chance to meet beekeepers from Cowlitz and Clark Counties. I hope to visit them in 2006.

Paul Lundy



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Van Sherod (2007), 2429 2nd Ave. W, Seattle, WA 98119
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Master Beekeepers Committee minutes

Master Beekeepers Committee Minutes for meeting October 29, 2005

Meeting was called to order by Chair Paul Lundy.

Attended by the following committee members:

Chair- Paul Lundy	Co-chair- Jo Miller
Treasurer- Robert Smith	Secretary- Tim Bueler
Bob Zahler	Jim Pefley
Ted Swenson	Van Sherod
Jody Pilarski	Miriam Bishop
Jim Bach	

Discussion on the status of the correspondence program. The program has not been placed on the web site because the volunteer webmaster has been too busy. This should soon be remedied with the proposed hiring of a professional webmaster by WSBA. Journeyman tests and keys are still in the process of being corrected and put into digital format. The test materials will be reviewed and submitted to the committee in e-format. Chair asked that this process be complete by the end of this year so the final test and key can be distributed to proctors early in 2006.

The redesign of the Apprentice level certificates was discussed. There were several choices for paper which were reviewed by the Committee. The layout and design were also reviewed. The location of the Committee stamp/seal is currently unknown. It is expected to be at WSU. A motion was made and seconded to accept one of the papers. The motion carried. Some fine tuning of the wording used on the certificate will be worked out between Jo Miller and Bueler.

Discussion on the status of the MBCP participant list. The database has not been updated as far as contact information or active vs. non-active participants. WSU is still the administrator of the list and will remain so unless, or until a change is made. Bishop suggested the list could be compared against the current WSBA member list but that an update would have to be a coordinated effort between the person updating and WSU.

Treasurer's Report: Smith reported he has received several hundred dollars at this conference for deposit into the MBCP account. The current account balance, before the deposit, is approximately \$2950.51.

The status of committee member Jim Miller was discussed. Miller has not attended meetings and has attempted to change the entire process, at IEBA, by which MBCP certificates are issued. It was mentioned Miller came to the Committee by

appointment from WSBA President Stump. Lundy stated he had a conversation regarding this issue with Tate and that Tate stated the Committee has autonomy on this matter. A motion was made and seconded to dismiss Jim Miller from the Committee. The motion carried. Lundy will inform Miller. Chair asked for suggestions of a person to fill the vacancy. Swenson asked if a resident of Idaho could be on the Committee. Discussion ensued. It was decided as long the person is a member in good standing of WSBA that person could be on the Committee. A motion was made and seconded to table this discussion so potential members could be approached to discuss their willingness to participate. The motion carried. Discussion on the amount of participation in the program at the local level. Discussion progressed between committee members on what each does in their locality to encourage participation. It was pointed out the MBCP was set up as a self-study program. The apprentice course and test was also given every year at the WSBA conference. When the program is available through the WSBA website it should be more accessible to more people.

The next Committee meeting will be at the next WSBA executive board meeting. The meeting will be in Ellensburg on February 18, 2006, with committee meetings starting at 10:00 AM.

Swenson reported that Jim Miller is proposing to not follow MBCP guidelines in the class he teaches through Inland Empire Beekeepers Association. Swenson proposed a motion that if IEBA is not going to follow MBCP guidelines they not be allowed to use MBCP program or course materials. The motion was made and seconded. The motion carried.

Treasurer Smith handed back some checks that got lost - subsequently found and, because of their age, the bank is not allowing him to deposit. Members will take these back to the people who wrote them to see if they can rewrite the checks. Bueler asked permission to get more apprentice level books printed for the upcoming year. A motion was made and seconded to allow the printing. The motion carried. Committee members will inform Bueler as to how many books they require.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted; Tim Bueler, Secretary



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Other News; Canada

Oxalic Acid Dihydrate Approved in Canada

After a lengthy review of the documentation submitted by the Canadian Honey Council, the Pest Management Regulatory Agency has approved the use of oxalic acid dihydrate (commonly referred to as "oxalic acid") for the control of Varroa mites in honey bee colonies. They have determined that oxalic acid may be safely used, provided that **specified conditions** are respected.

The conditions and directions for the use of oxalic acid are available on the Canadian Honey Council website, or click here for a printable PDF file.

Beekeepers should note that oxalic acid dihydrate may damage bee brood and will not control Varroa mites in capped brood. Use only in late fall to early spring when little or no brood is present. Do not use when honey supers are in place, to prevent contamination of marketable honey.



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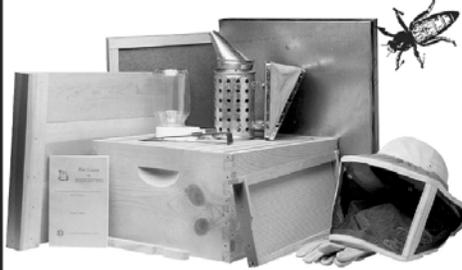
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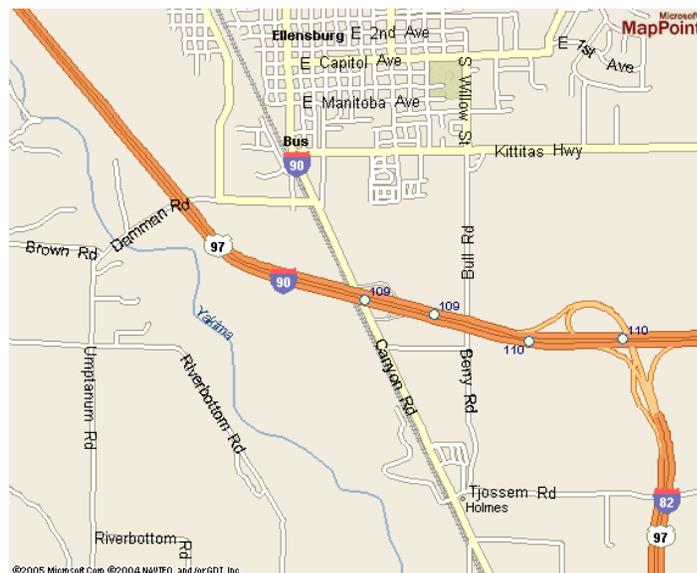
FEBRUARY 18, 2006

**The next WSBA Executive Board Meeting
will be held at the:**

**Bar 14 Ranch House Restaurant
1800 South Canyon Road, Ellensburg, WA
Phone: 509-962-6222**

10 AM to 2PM

Everyone is welcome.



Committees meet from 10 AM to 11 AM.

Committee topics include:

Field days for 2006
Convention 2006 plans

Master Beekeeper Certification topics include:

Correspondence certification program
Website update
Replacement committee member
Certificates & Journeyman test

Directions from Seattle via I-90:

At exit 109, turn RIGHT onto Ramp towards Canyon Road / Ellensburg. At the intersection of the ramp and Canyon Rd, turn RIGHT (North) onto Canyon Rd, go under the overpass and the restaurant is on the right.

Directions from Spokane via I-90:

At exit 109, turn off onto Ramp towards Canyon Rd. / Ellensburg. Turn RIGHT (North) onto Canyon Rd. The restaurant is on the right.

P. Lundy
Washington State Beekeepers Association
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