

Washington State Beekeepers Association



Keep the "Bee" in Business



Publication of Washington State Beekeepers Association

www.wasba.org

July 2006

President's Message

Well we made it through our June field day at WSU and it seemed that everyone enjoyed themselves and learned new things. A real special treat and nice surprise was having Dr. Nick Calderone, Associate Professor, Department of Entomology from the Dyce Laboratory for Honey Bee Studies at Cornell University in New York, visiting Steve Sheppard at WSU and he presented a talk on Friday on diseases that is for his Master Beekeeping program and we all enjoyed that. I learned some new items on research that I hadn't heard. And of course the wine and Cougar Gold were great. Tasting all the honey was a lot of fun also.

Saturday started off slow but we all got going and it ended up being a fun day. I must commend the WSU staff for putting this on. I never thought beekeepers would have fun sitting behind a microscope but they sure did. Debbie Delaney and Fatimah Al-Hamlan had every microscope setup up with something different. It was well received. The one with the live queen was especially fun for me and looking at bees eyes was very interesting. Good job researchers!

The bee building tour was an opportunity for everyone to meet Doug Johnson our technician and Ben our new grad student. Everyone really liked the frame assembly jigs and especially the solar wax melter. The bee yard had demo's of AFB, testing for mites and different types of treatments.

Don't forget the other great field day August 26th in Puyallup!

It's also getting time for everyone to think about the upcoming state convention. We should be getting our reservations in within the next month. Don't wait till the last minute.

Time to start thinking about what medications you are going to use this fall. Some of the meds are not real easy to get and you need to order ahead and plan ahead. We have more options now than ever before.

John Pettigrew is giving up his spot as area 5 representative and Paul Hosticka of Dayton has graciously stepped up to take John's place. John, thank you for your years of service and thank you Paul for volunteering!

Finally a sad note with the passing of Robert (Bob) Schwartz an early member of the IEBA. Bob will be missed by many folks in our local beekeeping community. His love of bees and always working to improve our situation here can only be commended. One of Spokane's early beekeepers to raise large quantities of queens in the Spokane area. Bob will be remembered for his smile, sense of humor and his love of family and friends and not the least his love of his bees. His granddaughter will especially miss all the trips to work the bees with Bob; during the last two years she had been a fixture at his side.

Jerry Tate

GET IN YOUR AUGUST FIELD DAY REGISTRATION BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!

CHECK OUT THE NEW DATE FOR THE PUYALLUP FIELD DAY.

**IT IS LATER IN THE SUMMER!
AUGUST 26**

Washington State Updates

Program Calendar for the Association.

FIELD DAYS & CONVENTION 2006:

AUGUST 26	NEW DATE! Puyallup Field Day
OCTOBER 12 to 14	State Convention Best Western Lakeway Inn Bellingham, WA

SAVE THE DATE!

THIS YEAR THE **2006 CONVENTION** IS IN BELLINGHAM WASHINGTON AND IS SPONSORED BY THE MOUNT BAKER BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION.

Thursday, Oct. 12, 2006, Friday, Oct. 13, 2006 and Saturday, Oct. 14, 2006

August Field day planned

August Field Day in Puyallup

DATE IS AUGUST 26th: *The date has been set!* Mark your calendar for Saturday August 26th for a great day of beekeeping education. Friday night there will be a wine and cheese gathering.

Here are some of the topics:

Varroa and Tracheal treatments available to the beekeeper, Hygienic Behavior Assessment, Screen bottom boards, medication rotation and drone comb use.

Colony inspections, bee behavior in the hive, colony handling, colony growth dynamics.

AFB demonstration, Disease talks and posters, AFB treatments, TM and Tylosin.

Raising your own queen, using nucs and queen introduction methods, fall requeening.

Last event of the day is Beekeeping Olympics.

Bee sure to check out the registration form for the AUGUST Field Day at the end of this newsletter. The registration form for August is also on the website at www.wasba.org.

Washington State Beekeepers Association Fall Conference 2006

The 2006 Washington State Beekeepers Association Fall Conference will be held in Bellingham, WA on October 12th - 14th, at the Best Western Lakeway Inn & Conference Center.

Best Western Lakeway Inn
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<http://www.mtbakerbeekeepersassn.org/convention.htm>

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Size Medium: very good condition \$35
Size Extra Large: veil needs repair \$25
Call Paul at 360-297-6743

Honey Vendor needed for Cle Elum, WA Farmers' Market.

The market is in full swing from now until October. We understand local honey is in short supply right now, so if you can sell honey at our market later in the summer, please contact us! If you have honey right now, please contact us! Our Market is on Saturdays on the grass lot next to "Pioneer" Coffee, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We are on Cle Elum's main street, so we get ALOT of traffic due to our "recreation" location.
Please contact: Cathy Carroll, Market Manager
trademark@iezpc.com
(509) 674-4681

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WSU June Beefest (Field Day) 2006

By Ted Swenson, IEBA

WSU Bee fest 2006

Paul Lundy twisted my arm hard enough to get me to do an article about the Bee fest down in Pullman. As this is my first ever WSBA article please be gentle with the darts.

The WSU Bee fest was down in Pullman on the 23rd & 24th of June. I really was not sure I was going to go this year until I heard how few were signed up two weeks prior to the event. I am very glad I went. I enjoyed this one more than any of the three previous.

The Friday night wine and cheese event with honey tasting/judging was great. The honey tasting was very interesting although some of the honeys were a little old and did not taste like they normally would. (Orange blossom honey for example). Maybe next year I'll save some almond honey so others can experience its unique taste! I would encourage WSBA to expand this next year. Once everyone had a sugar high from the honey and as much wine and cheese as they wanted, Dr. Nick Calderone from the Dyce Laboratory for Honey Bee Studies at Cornell University in New York gave an outstanding presentation on drone frames and their impact on Varroa mite population. I like having a presentation on Friday evening; it gets you into the right frame of mind. I would love to get a copy of the slides so I could present it to the IEBA. That was the best info on drone combs and their effect I have seen or read about.

The Saturday events were conducted at four different locations. We still have a problem with detailed maps but once everyone got to the sites things went well.

WSU Lab: Debbie and Fatima did a great job. First they presented their projects and explained some of the DNA work they are doing. They showed us the pipettes and the medium they put the DNA samples in and a bunch of other neat stuff. Then

(Continued on page 4)

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WSU June Beefest (Field Day), continued

(Continued from page 3)

they took us to the classroom which had two dozen microscopes all ready to go. They had set up several different stations with different things to look at. Some of them had samples of queens, drones and workers; bumble bees and fruit bees (huge proboscis); mites etc. The best was looking at a live queen and some workers under the microscope. When I gave them some water I got to see their tongues etc. at work. Also grooming and feeding the queen. Fascinating stuff. I could have spent many more hours in the lab; in fact I skipped the equipment dipping station so that I could spend extra time there. Let's have more lab work next year. Maybe artificial insemination?!!

Hawk Hill: Having Dr. Nick there was fantastic. Being able to ask him questions of all types without a hundred other beekeepers interrupting etc. was great. His thoughts on screened bottom boards were very interesting. Nick believes that any adult mite that drops through the screen is past their reproductive stage (usually six cycles per adult female). Until beekeepers find something that will knock the mites off the bees, fertile mites will stay in the hive. Powdered sugar is one example but no scientific tests have been done. There are a few others that some beekeepers swear by. There is scientific data that shows screened bottom boards do enhance brood production. There is also strong indications that they help prevent winter freeze by increasing hive ventilation. They do help keep the hive clean but hygienic bees do that anyway. I have 125 screened bottom boards and everyone of them took too much time to build and were the most expensive part of the hive. The next 75 are going to be solid screw on commercial bottom boards. I will then try to compare and see which way I want to go. Could save me a bunch of time and money. He also demonstrated how to do ether rolls for mite detection and counting. Marina discussed AFB and showed us some infected frames from their hives.

I thought Dr. Steve Sheppard was in rare form up on the hill. Very informative down to earth comments. Only a few slips into technical stuff light years beyond us mortals. He was very good at drawing out responses, very little lecturing. Good stuff.

I did not go to the bee building and see the equipment dipping station or building tour. Been there done that. I stayed at the lab with Debbie for an extra hour. Varroa magnified are really ugly.

(Continued on page 5)




Nick Calderone teaching mite control at the WSU apiary.

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WSU June Beefest (Field Day), continued

(Continued from page 4)

Last but not least - Lunch. Best yet. No fuss no mess. Lots of good food; the menu was cold cuts of turkey and ham with two types of cheese, tomatoes and lettuce with chips and plenty to drink. Impossible to go away hungry. Easy clean up. Did not hear any complaints.

Next year: I think 32 beekeepers are the lowest attendance yet, which is disappointing. I'm sure we can do a better job of advertising than we did this year. This will fall into IEBA's efforts to get our recent grads more involved after they graduate. I didn't see too many new faces, which is not good. Hopefully next year we will not schedule the conference on the same weekend as hoop fest. Lots of families will go there over a beekeeping conference. Any year but this one would have seen me at hoop fest and not the conference.

On the way home that evening I thought about what had been accomplished those two days and what it cost me to attend, both time and money. There is no doubt in my mind that it was money and time well spent. I looking forward to next year's WSU Bee fest.

Ted Swenson



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Guess what's coming to dinner...or...

Do you know the composition of your pollen load?

... asked by the authors: "Are the doses found in pollen dangerous for bees?"

Originally published in the July 2006 issue of *Bee Culture* "Research Reviewed", re-printed by permission from the author; Dr. Steve Sheppard, Thurber Chair, Dept of Entomology, WSU.

One of the key features of the group of insects known as bees is the presence of finely divided or branched hairs on their bodies that facilitate the collection of pollen from flowers. Honey bees in particular have been referred to by at least one researcher as "flying dust mops", in reference to their ability to pick up various particles and chemicals on their bodies. In the case of this researcher, the flying dust mops were analyzed to determine the level of specific particulate compounds or volatile chemicals from a nearby ordnance dump site of military significance. The tiny insects could fly onto the site in question without the danger of causing explosions, such as those that might accompany the movement of heavier wheeled vehicles. Subsequent chemical analysis of the foragers' bodies provided information on exactly what was leaking from the ground within the study site. Although less reminiscent of science fiction, another way in which the honey bee can be used to monitor the environment is through analysis of the pollen they collect. That is, pollen loads of honey bees can be removed as they return to a beehive and chemical analysis of the pollen can reveal the spectrum of pesticides or other contaminants that are encountered by the honey bee population.

Based on a large-scale study of honey bee pollen loads, Chauzat and colleagues recently published a paper worthy of careful consideration (Chauzat et al., 2006). These researchers surveyed five regional sites located from northern to southern France and determined that honey bee pollen loads from all the areas contained a wide range of pesticides. Pollen loads were sampled from 5 randomly selected colonies within each of five apiaries per region at different time periods of the year (October-November, March-April, May-June, July-August and October). Overall, pollen trap samples taken from returning foragers of 125 individual colonies were examined at each period. The researchers examined a subset of the samples for the presence of residues of 41 different molecules, including 34 that were active ingredients of commercial products (25 insecticides and 9 fungicides) and 7 that were metabolites (physiological breakdown products) indicating exposure to particular chemical families.

The results showed that of the 41 compounds they searched for, 19 could be found in the pollen loads of honey bees. The most frequent residues were imidacloprid, 6-chloronicotinic acid and fipronil, found in 49%, 44% and 12% of the samples, respectively. Imidacloprid and fipronil are the active ingredients of various pesticides widely used in agriculture. The proportion of samples containing either imidacloprid or its metabolite 6-chloronicotinic acid or both was 69%. Sixteen other pesticides were also found, with the frequencies of occurrence in the samples ranging from 1% to 11%. It is worthwhile to note that fluvalinate and Coumaphos were among the "other" pesticides found. These two pesticides were found in the highest concentrations of all contaminants and both have been used in France (and in the US) for control of *Varroa destructor*. The authors suggested that the source of the mite control chemicals in pollen loads could be contaminated honey and nectar regurgitated and used by foragers to "glue pollen grains together while making pollen loads". This, of course, presupposes that some degree of in-hive contamination of nectar and honey had occurred.

Of the samples that were examined for the presence of all 41 compounds, only 12.3% were found to contain no pesticide residues. Thirty-two percent of the pollen load samples were contaminated with one compound, 29% were contaminated with two compounds, 21% were contaminated with three compounds and 6% were contaminated with four. A single sample was reported by the authors to be "polluted" with 5 different compounds. Interestingly, with the exception of fipronil, the contamination was common throughout the sampled year, with no obvious seasonal effects.

The quantity of the pesticide residues found in the pollen was generally low (with the exception of the aforementioned fluvalinate
(Continued on page 7)

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Guess what's coming to dinner...or..., continued

(Continued from page 6)

and Coumaphos), so the following question was asked by the authors: "Are the doses found in pollen dangerous for bees?" Taking imidacloprid as an example, they suggest that, based on the "LD50", the amount of contaminated pollen that a single bee would need to ingest to be killed directly is rather large (33µg). LD50 (median lethal dose) describes the amount of a given compound needed to kill roughly 50% of a population of test animals. However, the authors point out that the traditional measure of LD50 does not adequately assess the negative effects of a pesticide. On the contrary, it is now known that very small amounts of pesticide active ingredients can lead to changes in honey bee physiology and behavior that can have profound effects on the viability of a colony. Leaving us with this dilemma may seem to be unkind, but in their defense, the researchers point out that the uncertainty results from current limitations of the available methods. The inability of scientists to measure subtle effects of contamination on individuals in the field represents a great hindrance to understanding the full consequences of contamination on the well-being of whole colonies.

How are the results of this study relevant to us as beekeepers and consumers in the US? First, as there is no reason to think the situation in France is unique, we can imagine that a similar study in the US would show that pesticides and mixtures of pesticides also enter the pollen stores of our colonies, especially those in agricultural settings. Second, if we accept that it is worthwhile to reduce the levels of pesticides inside beehives wherever possible, then we should strive to reduce or eliminate the beekeepers' contribution to the pesticide profile. Thus, by reducing pesticide use in hives though the implementation of IPM principles, beekeepers can simplify the profile of chemicals their colonies must face.

In recent years, some beekeepers have reported problems with higher than "normal" levels of queen supercedure, difficulties in queen introduction and unexplained colony dwindling and colony losses in the presence of adequate food stores. Could this be due to sub-lethal effects from the mixture of contaminating pesticides that are present in our hives? Further, as newer pesticides that target specific features of insect/arthropod physiology and reproduction become available to replace broad-spectrum pesticides, could these newer chemistries be even more likely to affect honey bee colonies though the "sub-lethal route? All of these are questions that will need to be answered in the future. Meanwhile, as always, beekeepers will have deal with the situation at hand. Perhaps consideration of the implications of this report on the pollen loads of French honey bees could serve as a starting point to recognize the seriousness of an issue that may be with us for a long time.

Chauzat, M. P., J. P. Faucon, A. C. Martel, J. Lachaize, N. Cougoule and M. Aubert. 2006. A survey of pesticide residues in pollen loads collected by honey bees in France. *J. Econ. Entomol.* 99: 253-262.



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Queens, Bees, Honey & Pollination

Honey News (from National Honey Board)

Interested in Getting Your Honey on Supermarket Shelves?

For small producers of food products, trying to get a product on the shelves of the large grocery store chains often can be a long, frustrating experience. Steve Sorensen of Lund Food Holdings, Inc., helps decide which foods Lund's stores carries. He sees 10 to 15 new products each month, some from people who have little more than a family recipe. He says 1 in 10 get in the store, and specialty products make up less than 10 percent of the store's total sales volume.

This article was from the www.startribune.com. To learn how four small food companies successfully placed their products: Angie's Kettle Corn, Kitchen Dancer soups, Frostop Root Beer and Mumtaz basmati rice, please go to the Star Tribune for the full story.

Massachusetts Farmer and Haitian Cabbie Form Unique Beekeeping Alliance

Many different kinds of business arrangements exist in the world of beekeeping, however, an alliance between a cab driver from Haiti and a rooftop beekeeper in New York City is definitely unique! David Graves, a beekeeper from Becket, Mass., keeps 14 beehives on rooftops scattered throughout New York City, including a soul-food restaurant in Harlem and an Episcopalian church in Midtown. Enter Antoine Philippe Dorcelus, who immigrated from Haiti in 1983. The two met at a New York City farmers market when Dorcelus approached Graves because of his interest in beekeeping. Dorcelus owns a small piece of property in Haiti, which he hopes to eventually farm by planting fruit trees and keeping bees to pollinate the trees. Graves and Dorcelus' farmers market conversation more than two years ago resulted in the unusual alliance, with Graves providing beekeeping instruction and Dorcelus providing cab rides, including transporting bees! In his spare time, Dorcelus avidly reads and learns about farming and beekeeping and is a regular subscriber of the American Bee Journal.

This story was from the NY Times.



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For more information,
please visit us at:

www.wasba.org

PUYALLUP FIELD DAY REGISTRATION

The Washington State Beekeepers Association Invites You to Attend Our 2nd Annual Field Day
Saturday, August 26 WSU Extension D. F. Allmendinger Center
in **Puyallup, Washington**

First, please join us Friday evening at 7 pm for a complimentary wine and cheese social!

The Saturday programs consist of 4 event sessions lasting about 1 hour starting at 8:30 am, with lunch in the middle. At 3 pm we will have a new event called the beekeeping Olympics.

Topics at Puyallup:

- Varroa and Tracheal treatments available to the beekeeper, Hygienic Behavior Assessment, Screen bottom boards, medication rotation and drone comb use.
- Colony inspections, bee behavior in the hive, colony handling, colony growth dynamics.
- AFB demonstration, Disease talks and posters, AFB treatments, TM and Tylosin.
- Raising your own queen, using nucs and queen introduction methods, fall requeening.

Last event of the day is Beekeeping Olympics.

The cost for an individual is \$10, or you & your family for \$20! Please join us for lunch on Saturday! We will be serving a great lunch with all the trimmings.
Price of each meal is \$10.00.

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!

Register for the Puyallup Field Day by August 11, 2006.

As you can see, we have a full day's activities planned, and we don't want to waste time standing in line on Saturday to register! Fill out the form below and include your check made out to WSBA, send to: WSBA, P.O. Box 1331, Kingston, WA 98346-1331. We will send you a full schedule of events for the weekend along with maps.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Registration Fee: \$ _____ (One person \$10, family \$20)

Lunch: \$10 X _____ = \$ _____ (number of meals)

Total included \$ _____

Will you be attending the Friday Wine & Cheese Social? (circle one) Yes No

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