



Washington State Beekeepers Association



Keep the "Bee" in Business

Publication of Washington State Beekeepers Association

www.wasba.org

January 2008

President's Message

I'm not really sure how I made it through this year. It was nice to have Christmas with family and friends. Best gift of all was a picture of my 7 Grand Kids, from the ages of 1 to 16....hope there is a beekeeper in there. Not sure yet but I have some granddaughters that love to sell honey at the markets and are very good at it. Customers sure like it.

Our next executive board meeting will be Feb 16 in Ellensburg at the Bar 14 Restaurant. We will plan on starting at 10 AM and hoping to end about 2 PM. We will meet in the Banquet Room. We have the room at 0930 and there will be coffee and pastries. Everyone is invited.

Latest news from the pollination front is that colonies from Western Washington are getting hit pretty hard with winter losses before leaving for California or after arrival. Early reports from Eastern Washington is that the bees look pretty good and most if not all are in California. Losses are very small so far. Prices are looking pretty good it seems, so let's hope all our beekeepers get contracts for their bees.

Eric Olson has been working hard on the legislative front to get additional funding for WSU and on the B&O tax issue for those that pollinate with their bees. WSU has some funding for an Apiary Manager. There is some work being done to increase the amount of money available for that position.

I have given some thought for goals for this year. Of course, this made me think back to our survey results from 2004 which seems like a long time ago. The main points were:

Honey bee Pest Management

Concentrate on improving Varroa mite, tracheal mite, and American Foul Brood treatments.

WSBA Resources & Training

Actively pursue and establish a priority of education and training.

Beekeeper and WSBA Communication

Mandate for communication & timely information.

Washington State University (WSU) Sponsored Research

Continue queen breeding research.

Locally bred queens for Washington State beekeepers.

State Legislature & Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA)

Strong mandate to continue to gain access to state & federal land for honey bee forage.

Make use of our Apiary registration fee dollars.

How do I think we have done? I think I would give us high marks for **resources, training and communication**. We haven't solved the Varroa problem within the state but if you look at the areas that we have improved, we have done pretty well

(Continued on page 2)

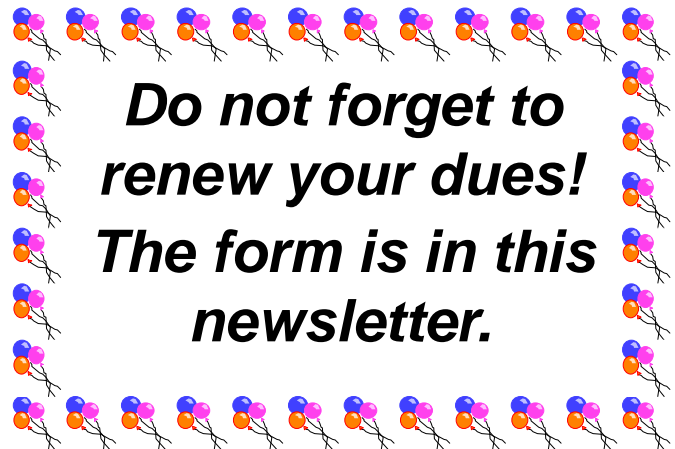
Washington State Updates

Program Calendar for the Association.

February 16, 2008:

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

Fall Conference 2008 To be announced



***Do not forget to
renew your dues!
The form is in this
newsletter.***

President's message, continued

(Continued from page 1)

at improving the information available to beekeepers to address pests. Our revised Master Beekeeping program, the State association web site, and our newsletter have greatly improved our ability to communicate with beekeepers and keep them informed of what is happening. We have held field days, addressed pest issues at our conventions and there is always something in our newsletter and our web site has the latest information. I would give us a better than average on **pest management**.

WSU research continues to be a major issue for us as the queen rearing program is ongoing and progress is slow. Local associations have established 3 bee yards stocked with WSU queens. I personally believe this is not going to help the commercial beekeeper but it has and will continue to help the hobby beekeeper. WSU needs to keep this program a priority. Local associations who participated with WSU in 2007 are now more aware of many aspects of queen rearing and many are raising their own queens. They are also becoming aware of what a good queen is for them. We still need to push hard for WSU to become the testing facility for bee diseases within the state. We need to really back WSU providing diagnostics services for this year and get it going. I think we all feel strongly this is an unmet need that WSU is well suited to provide. Evaluation of chemical contaminants in wax needs to be added to the program.

We have done a lot with the state legislature and that is something we need to work on more this year. We need to improve state funding of Apiary Research and to work to educate our legislature in what is happening with beekeeping and its current needs. We got the Apiary Advisory Board going and now can address the use of registration funds.

So when I look at what has been done to address the concerns raised in the survey I think we did about a B-grade overall. What are the objectives in the coming year? I and the executive board need to do more to address the issues at WSU and be more realistic at what we can do and expect from them. Having a significant testing program is within the scope of WSU and should be a major goal for them and us. They should continue to raise queens and support the local association bee yards. I think there is more we can do here without a major investment that will get good results for the hobby beekeeper. An area of major improvement needs to be on the state legislative front. We also need to address this with our State representatives to Congress. In addition to WSU and the Legislature we need to improve membership in WSBA and to increase the number of WSDA registered beekeepers within the state. I have been very lax in working the membership issue and that will get added focus this year. So will have registration which it isn't the fee that is important, is that it sends a message to the state that beekeepers are here and should be considered when state monies and support are needed. I wish everyone a happy 2008 and may your bees prosper and multiply.

Jerry Tate

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FEBRUARY 16, 2008

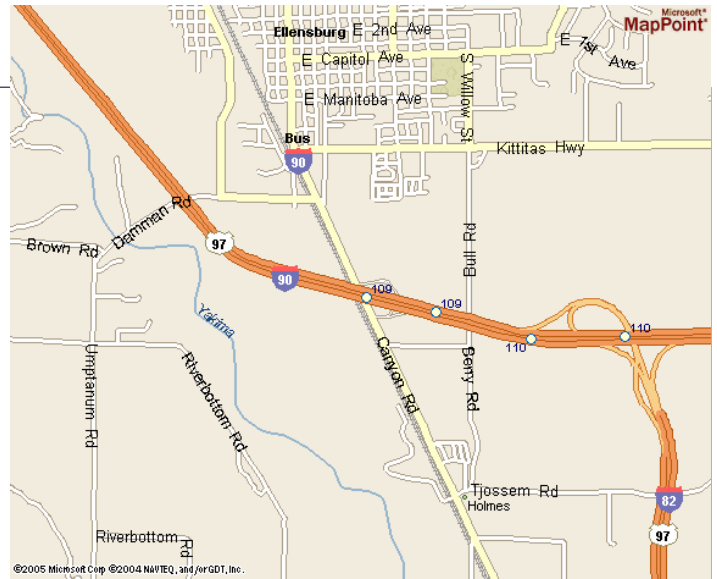
The next
WSBA Executive Board Meeting
will be held at the:

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.



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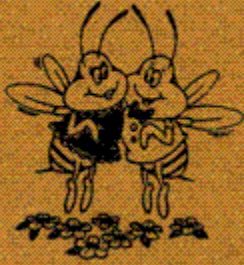
Directions from Seattle via I-90:

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.

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Executive Board Meeting Agenda

Executive Board Meeting Agenda
For February 16, 2008

Reports:

The Secretary's Report-minutes in last newsletter
The Treasurer's Report
Membership Report
Individual Membership
Association Membership
Master Beekeepers Certification Committee Report
Area Reps

Old Business:

Convention Report
WSU Report-Steve Sheppard
Report on Apiary Board

New Business:

Formation of a Legislative Committee discussion
2008 convention report
WSU Field day discussion

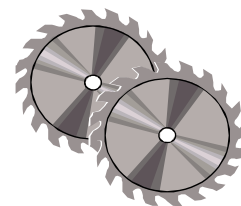
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Notes From The WSBA Fall Convention

**By Jim La Hatt
Mount Baker Beekeepers Association**

Last month we summarized the Thursday evening mixer and the Friday presentations. This month we will give a recap of the Friday evening dinner and auction and Saturday's presentations.

The buffet style dinner was one of class and taste that could be expected from a hotel of the caliber of Sun Mountain Lodge, excellent in every way. This coupled with the stimulating conversation would have been a complete evening in anybody's book. But, top it off with an auction called by Dr. Mike Burgett, and you couldn't find a more entertaining evening for love or money. The bidding started off with Cougar Gold cheese going fast and high. So fast, in fact, that I couldn't get my paltry bid in. Come to think of it, I would have been embarrassed by my stinginess and probably would have been given one of Dr. Burgett's "you skin flint" stares. Now that I do think of it, I think I did receive one of those at least once during the evening, but it's all in good-natured jest. With the proceeds going to the WSBA scholarship fund it's more appropriate to think of the process as a fun way to make a donation and receive a thank you premium in return. Cougar Gold and other cheeses from the WSU creamery (*Oh, the fond memories of a bag of Cougar Gold crumbles from Ferdinand's and a six pack from the Coug.*), Washington State apples by the box, beautiful hand crafted candles, gourmet honey, mead, tools, collector's items, and the list goes on and on. My advice is, show your appreciation to those members and vendors who so generously donate the auction items. Bid high and bid often.

With the festivities of the night before a pleasant memory, Bart Smith, Beltsville Lab, began Saturday's presentations bright and early by summarizing the 5 year, \$4.5 million Honeybee Health research project. There are 4 USDA labs working on the project with oversight by industry participants and ARS. The goals of the project are:

- Honeybee stock improvement,
- Nutrition improvement,
- Mite management technique improvement, and
- General honeybee management technique improvement.

It'll be interesting next year to hear the progress report on this project.

Bart then proceeded with a discussion of Braula Coeca, the bee louse. The bee louse is a wingless fly that lives only in association with the honeybee. The adult form has six legs, is the same size as Varroa, rides on the bee's thorax and feeds from the bee's mouthparts. It gravitates to the queen, but is fairly evenly distributed. After over wintering, it lays its eggs

(Continued on page 7)

WSBA Officers & Exec. Committee

President:

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509-966-2867

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Paul Hosticka, 517 S. Touchet Rd., Dayton WA 99328
509-382-8939, Treasurer@wasba.org

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Area #1b Representative:

OPEN, Area1b@wasba.org

Area #2 Representative:

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360-894-2159, Area2@wasba.org

Area #3 Upper Valley Representative:

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Area3a@wasba.org

Area #3 Lower Valley Representative:

Arlene Massey (2009), 2781 Hornby Rd, Grandview, WA 98930, 509-882-4601

Area #4 Representative:

Dave Sabold (2010), 17 Bean Road Winthrop WA 98862,
509-996-2522, Area4@wasba.org

Area #5 Representative:

Paul Hosticka (2010), 517 S. Touchet Rd., Dayton WA 99328
509-382-8939, Area5@wasba.org

Area #6 Representative:

Robert Arnold (2010), 42615 N. Division Rd., Deer Park, WA 98006, 509-276-2399, Area6@wasba.org

For more information,
please visit us at:

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Journal of Economic Entomology Abstract

Demographic Consequences of Drift in Contiguous Hives of *Bombus terrestris*

DIANE LEFEBVRE AND JACQUELINE PIERRE
J. Econ. Entomol. 100(6): 1756-1763 (2007)

ABSTRACT The objective of this experiment was 1) to quantify drift between bumblebee, *Bombus terrestris* L., colonies when hives are vertically stacked; and 2) to measure the impact of drift on the colony growth. The experiment was conducted outside, in an open area, at three sites with one stack of three colonies per site.

Observations were made from the 28th to the 58th day of the colony development, before the competition point. Bumblebees were regularly marked with a colony-specific color to access the migrations and the cumulative births in colonies. The population size and the colony composition were analyzed by dissection at the end of the experiment. The results showed that ~50% of the individuals observed at a hive entrance (entering and exiting individuals) were foreigners. The cumulative births became significantly lower on the lowest floor after one week of experiment.

At the end of the experiment, colonies were composed of 20.58% drifters (resident since at least 1 d), and a mean migration rate of 19.82% was determined. Globally, the lowest floor seemed to be progressively abandoned by resident workers for the benefit of the other floors. Because drift induces modifications of the colony growth (potentially on the number of foragers produced and likely on pollination), we suggest to greenhouse growers not to stack colonies but to distribute them throughout the greenhouse.

Source: [Journal of Economic Entomology](#), Volume 100, Number 6, December 2007, pp. 1756-1763(8)

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The convention, continued

(Continued from page 5)

in May. The adult may irritate the honeybee, but the greatest nuisance comes from the immature form which lives above the honey, just under the cappings where it damages and disfigures the comb. The damage looks like venous burrowing under the cappings and can be quite extensive. Fortunately the affliction is mostly an east coast malady and is not a major threat to west coast apiaries at this time. In addition, most miticides readily kill Braula.

Next, we heard of California legislation, bill AB771, that establishes a 2 mile "bee free" zone around the citrus belt. This bill, sponsored by a large citrus concern, in order to protect their seedless mandarin oranges from inadvertent pollination by honeybees is, to say the least, precedent setting. Honeybees can be labeled as trespassers and it denies beekeepers the right to farm. Established honeybee operations are already being asked to leave the area. *(Check it out! Get informed!)*

Ben Horwath, WSU masters candidate gave us a progress up-date on his masters research project which had a mile long title, but he condensed it for us to read, "Field Evaluation of Selected Honeybee Stock within Migratory Beekeeping Operations". The purpose for conducting his research, besides a requirement for receiving his masters degree, is to investigate the effects on the honeybee caused by the stress of migratory beekeeping systems, such as heat, vibration, disorientation, constant stimulation, queen mortality, variable nutrition and pest exposure. He is also investigating the WSU genetic stock compared to other sources with respect to pesticide reduction, Varroa and bacterial infection and real life economics.

Next, Sam Hapke, WSU masters candidate, introduced us to his masters research project, which also has a title that is equally long and starts out with "Timing and Traits of Phoradic and Adult Introduced..." . Fortunately for us he shortened it to "Integrated Pest Management". The premise of his research is " control of pests maybe the answer, since eradication has not worked". The goals of the project are to reduce pesticide use and preserve efficacy of pesticides in control of pests. He will be using the basic tools of I.P.M. which are:

- Monitoring,
- Preventing,
- Mechanical controls,
- Biological controls, and

(Continued on page 8)

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Queens, Bees, Honey & Pollination

The convention, continued

(Continued from page 7)

- Threshold chemical treatment.

He will be testing timing-vs-threshold treatment. This will compare the efficacy of calendar timing of treatment to constant treatment, threshold treatment and of course, the no treatment control colonies. His test will also be comparing WSU stock to commercial stock. One of the main goals of Sam's research will be establishing pest threshold levels for western Washington. Good luck Sam. (*If you want a good bee story, invite Sam to sit at your table next year and ask him to tell you his bee in the ear story.*)

Glenda Wooten, Wooten's Golden Queens, spoke to us about the American Beekeeping Federation, the National Honey Board and the National Beekeeping Conference in Sacramento. For more information got to www.americanhoneyproducers.org.

Next, Sue Cobey, UC Davis Bee Lab Apiarist, gave us an up-date on her recent move from OSU to the Bee Lab at UC Davis and let us in on the plans to establish an I.P.M. program there. She also spoke about keeping our eyes open when we inspect our colonies. We should be inspecting the bottom boards and looking for crushed Varroa and Varroa with pieces missing. This possibly indicates grooming behavior. And, we should be looking for consistency in hygienics and not destroying drone comb arbitrarily. Sue says, "We need to enhance drone production". If we have colonies that are consistently exhibiting hygienic behavior, then we should not be destroying a possible method of passing on that behavior to later generations.

Dr. Burgett, OSU, Professor Emeritus, discussed the serious and lighter sides of his ongoing research project in Southeast Asia. As soon as I saw the slides of his research assistants, I was ready to volunteer for a tour of duty - that is until he told us about Apis Dorseta. As Dr. Burgett says, "they have been reported to have killed water buffalo". Well, I guess I'll wait for the report.

His study is fascinating. With Apis Cerana, Apis Florea and Apis Mellifera sharing the same flight ways and drone gathering areas, why is it that there is not more interbreeding? It seems as though they fly at different times of the day. At least that is the preliminary findings.

As a side bar he spoke briefly of Tropalapsis, the tropical mite. Dr. Burgett says, "This mite makes Varroa Destructor look like a pipsqueak". With increased international transport of honeybees, will it be long before we're dealing with this one too?

Following right along, Dr. Steve Sheppard, WSU, Department of Entomology, introduced us to Thias Collet who reported on her research on the introduction of Africanized honeybees into the New World. Tracking the DNA from various sources, the evidence suggests that Africanized honeybees have had successive introductions into the Americas over history. As an interesting sidelight, she also informed us that there are no Africanized honeybees in Chile. She says, "Ocean, dessert, mountains, and the cold of the Patagonian peninsula are all barriers to the migration of the Africanized honeybee".

Well folks that closes the report on the presentations, but as all who have attended WSBA conferences know, that is not the end of the exchange of information. As important as the formal presentations, the conference atmosphere offers ample opportunity to exchange information and develop friendships over libations and dinner. Nanci and I will long remember and cherish our new friends.

Jim La Hatt

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A quick note from your Treasurer

Greetings all, as your new treasurer I would like to introduce myself to those who don't know me and offer condolences to those that do. I'm Paul Hosticka and together with my wife Susan we live quietly and keep between 50 and 100 colonies, raise a few queens, and market our honey from our place near Dayton in the southeast corner of the state.

When I agreed to take over from Lisa, who has stalwartly kept us afloat these past 7 years or more, I expected a check book and maybe a cigar box with a little petty cash and a roll of stamps. Turns out it's a bit more complicated than that and I now have an even greater appreciation of her tireless work. The accounts were all in perfect order and she has been very helpful in the transition and in getting a dunce like me up to speed. Our association maintains 3 memorial scholarship funds by which we support bee related research at WSU and elsewhere. We put on an annual convention with well known expert speakers where we all get together, learn the latest, swap lies and have a lot of fun. These really are great conventions and I encourage you all to join in the fun next fall.

Paul Lundy puts out a first class newsletter, we maintain a web site full of timely and reliable information, we provide educational outreach through our master beekeeper program and field days, we facilitate the registration of needed medications through the WA Dept. of Agriculture and a bunch of other stuff that I can't think of right now.

Beekeeping has never been easy but it seems to get even less easy every year. With the combined work of a lot of smart people and the rest of us, we will keep it going. So please renew you membership, brow beat your beekeeping friends to join and get your local associations to renew their membership. It all goes to a good cause. See the application form in this newsletter and send it in today.

Thanks and may your bees prosper in the coming season.

Paul Hosticka
Dayton WA

WA State Beekeepers Association

Paul Hosticka, Treasurer

517 S. Touchet Rd.

Dayton, WA 99328

Balance Sheet

As of December 2007

Assets

WSBA General Fund		
Checking Account	\$595.51	
Savings Account	\$1,902.73	
Savings CD Account	\$4,333.11	
PR Savings Account	<u>\$1,990.10</u>	
Total WSBA General Fund		\$8,821.45

Scholarship/Research Funds

Thurber Fund	\$3,119.58	
Thurber CD	\$30,120.49	
Alvina Timmons Fund	\$3,195.51	
Alvina Timmons CD	\$26,961.05	
Carl Van Wechel Fund	\$2,020.73	
Carl Van Wechel CD	<u>\$5,881.40</u>	

Total Scholarship/Research Funds \$71,298.76

Total Assets

\$80,120.21

Liabilities

Equity		
Current Earnings	\$3,217.59	
Historical Balancing Account	<u>\$76,902.62</u>	
Total Equity		\$80,120.21

Total Liability & Equity

\$80,120.21

WASHINGTON STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The fees listed below cover WSBA membership for one person. Additional persons from the same operation may join for \$7.50 each.

Check one category:

<input type="checkbox"/> 0 to 50 colonies.....\$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 1,501 to 2,000 colonies.....\$90.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 51 to 150 colonies.....\$22.50	<input type="checkbox"/> 2,001 to 3,000 colonies.....\$120.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 151 to 300 colonies.....\$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 3,001 to 4,000 colonies.....\$150.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 301 to 500 colonies.....\$40.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 4,001 to 5,000 colonies.....\$180.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 501 to 1,000 colonies.....\$55.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 5,001 to 6,000 colonies.....\$225.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 1,001 to 1,500 colonies.....\$70.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 6,001 or more colonies.....\$250.00

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CARL VANWECHEL RESEARCH FUND \$ _____

ALVINA TIMMONS SCHOLARSHIP FUND \$ _____

NOTE: Annual renewal for membership is due by March 30th each year. *New memberships are accepted any time.* Keep your dues current in order to vote on issues presented at State meetings and to remain on the mailing list for the WSBA NEWSLETTER.



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E mail address: _____

Send annual dues to: **Washington State Beekeepers Association**
Paul Hosticka, Treasurer
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Dayton, WA 99328

Washington State beekeeper/broker registration is due by April 1st every year. Here is the link to the form on the Washington State Department of Agriculture web site.

<http://www.agr.wa.gov/PlantsInsects/docs/ApiaryRegistrationForm.pdf>

P. Lundy
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