

Lewis County Beekeepers' Association: June 2011 Newsletter

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Upcoming Events:

- **Wednesday, June 8, LCBA Monthly Meeting, 7 p.m., Extension Classroom, Old Chehalis Courthouse**
 - **Speaker: Norm Switzler will show film footage of colony and swarm removals done by LCBA's "Bee Team."**
 - **Business Meeting**
- **June 24-25: 2011 WSBA-WSU Field Day at WSU-Pullman Apiary & Bee Lab!**

Dr. Steve Sheppard and WSBA invite all interested beekeepers to come to Pullman, WA for an informative and fun day of beekeeping activities and socializing! Participants will tour the WSU Apiary and Laboratory and see how they assess colonies for bee diseases, examine queen pheromones, carry out queen rearing, and more. There will be hands-on workshops, including how to assess for stock selection, swarm prevention methods, splitting colonies, transferring feral nests to boxes, preparing hives for moving, gloveless beekeeping, and more. There will also be a honey exchange. The complete schedule and registration form are at the end of this newsletter on separate pages that you can print out.

Warning: Susanne heard from WSBA that there's a big ball game at WSU on that weekend, and hotel rooms are filling fast, so if you are interested, you will want to make reservations very soon. There will be RV and tent camping for those so inclined. For more information, contact WSBA President Paul Lundy at: 360 297 6743 or email at: lundyp@me.com.

Notes from LCBA's May 11, 2011 Meeting

As 40+ beekeepers convened in our Extension classroom, President Bob Harris pointed out that we may need to get a new meeting space because we have been getting pretty full houses at these meetings. Secretary Susanne voiced concern that we might swarm. Luckily, we have VP Norm Switzler and his “Bee Team” to make sure none of us get away! Pres. Bob checked on who needs nametags and sent around a sign-up sheet for those who want them.

Treasurer’s Report: Our funds, while not exactly swarming, are solid: Treasurer Sarah Roebas reported that LCBA has \$2,874.27 in the bank. Bob announced that LCBA had conducted a successful fundraiser for the Home Care Center in Centralia that works with expecting mothers: the Paneskos volunteered LCBA as an organization to gather supplies to sell at the HCC Center’s quilt auction. LCBA raised almost \$1000 on a complete hive set up, much of which was donated by Jason and Heather Sherwood, plus the Extension beekeeping course. The HCC sent LCBA a thank you note.

Announcements:

- WSU-WSBA Field Day, June 24-25 (details and registration information in our last newsletter). Susanne noted that because a ball game is taking place in Pullman that same weekend, hotel/motel accommodations are disappearing fast, so reserve soon if you are going! An alternative is RV and tent camping: if interested, check with Susanne for Paul Lundy’s contact information.
- Bob has 6 deep boxes that he can give away, so check with him if you’d like them.

Integrated Pest Management: Bob asked: is anyone practicing integrated pest management (IPM) re: varroa in their hives? If yes, Bob has 5 slide-in bottom boards donated by the Sherwoods: these bottom boards have “cells” drawn on them, and Bob explained that practicing IPM means counting the number of mites per cell to calculate mathematically what the mite load of a hive is.

Hop Guard? Gary Stelzner reported that he has tried Hop Guard, right after our last LCBA meeting, and the hives on which he used it were not as strong as his other two: Gary put in two strips into each hive, and both hives died. Bob noted that Dewey Caron said last month that Hop Guard can be hard on queens. Gary didn’t like the smell or the look of the oily dripping into the bottom of his hives. His other two hives were very strong, and he was concerned that varroa might be weakening them, but he did not have the evidence of varroa. After Hop Guard treatment, there were no bees at all in one hive—no dead bodies, just gone. On the other, a small cluster of bees between the center frames. Another LCBA member put one strip into a hive, thumbtacked it to the side of the frame so that it would hang down between, and his is thriving. Bob asked why he used it: he just did it for prevention. He did this in early March. Bob asked what Peter Glover and Susanne had heard at the Hood River conference, and they reported that the results were preliminary – the data had not been published or peer-reviewed. Also, the hives reported on at Hood River were from much warmer climes, like California and Hawaii; further, this is the time of the year when we’re most likely to experience bee losses.

Spring Bee Management: Bob noted that his bees are sucking up the sugar water & Honey B Healthy. Asked how to keep hives dry, Bob noted that his screen boards are open on the bottom all year for ventilation: He also has a top with risers to help with ventilation: the cover is called “Four Seasons,” and Bob gets it from Ruhl Bees. He takes these Four Seasons covers off in winter, though, to prevent heat escape. When pollen patties are put in, the patties tend to get moldy fast. Bob medicates only with

Fumagillen in the fall (preventative for tracheal mites). Bob paid particular attention to queen & swarm cells when he inverted his boxes, but did not see too many, one to two per hive on average, and the queen cells were fully formed & capped. So far, he has not seen swarm action. He urges: if you have not inverted your boxes, that is a fundamental, cheap thing one can do to prevent swarms. Bees are hard wired to move upward, so they need room upstairs, and seeing room above tends to inhibit swarm behavior. Norm echoed Bob's point re: the echoing of the boxes. Bees concentrate their honey, nectar, etc., in the top box, and very little was in the bottom box. Pat Swinth, who has Italians and Carniolans, reports that his bees already have pearly white comb drawn – the bees clean up their “pad” quickly.

Smoking bees while manipulating hives? Peter said that he uses sugar water spray with a bit of Honey B Healthy in it, and that helps them. Norm agrees: smoking can upset pheromonal balance inside the hive and may set bees back 3 to 4 days. They experience upset, as in a forest fire. If you use smoke, use it sparingly.

Cleaning and inspecting hives: Norm has not been pulling out frames, but he's been cleaning off burr comb that is gumming up the top. One quick puff of smoke & they will drop down for a few seconds, and it's easy to do a quick scrape. Norm likes to inspect, clean, when bees are out foraging: then fewer bees are at home to get hurt by moving equipment.

Bee bearding: a bad sign? Norm noted that when bees are bearding (gathering in a big cluster on the front of a hive body), that usually means restricted air flow within the hive, so check if you have screened bottoms and enough ventilation. Bearding can be a precursor to a swarm, so check: if both boxes are heavy, you need to add a box. Norm notes that to pull frames out of the hive body, the outdoor temperature should be over 50 degrees. If you have hived a new group, put in some frames with drawn comb to help attract them. If you see drone cells, that is normal b/c drones don't over-winter; if you don't want swarms, kill those queen cells.

Lean your hive bodies slightly downward: Norm noted importance of leaning box forward/downward to help moisture drain. If you are having moisture issues, take out entrance reducer to help with drain. The Paneskos reported that they switched their boxes and found that one frame had a hole burnt through it with brown comb; it was a wax frame, not plastic frame. Norm guesses it is a communication hole, and the discoloration may be from the bees walking on it.

Be careful how you slant frames when you pull them! When you examine, Norm says, don't put frames on their sides b/c larvae can fall out of their cells. “Don't confuse them: we're already too involved in their world. . .”

Working with old used frames and cut comb: When bees move out of cut comb [comb cut from wall of a building], and not used, it will shrink a bit; you can melt it down & make candles. But once they move out of cut comb, they don't like to go back; Norm likes to give them foundation comb. Put manufactured comb up above so they move up into that. Norm doesn't like to leave the old comb in more than 2 years. If you scrape all the wax off plasticell boards and use a sandblaster on it: Pat Swinth worked it over and found that worked pretty well to get old wax off the plastic foundation board. You have to rewax those frames, but then at least they are clean.

When to remove the entrance reducer? If there are not drops of moisture under inner cover, leave it in there. Wait till weather gets into 60s and 70s before you take it out. The entrance reducer helps colony keep invaders out. Meanwhile, the screened bottom should give plenty of ventilation.

Bottom boards: Bob really likes the Rubes' bottom boards (www.countryrubes.com). If you don't want to build your own bottom boards, there is Honey Hut at Centralia Deli, or Ruhl Bees in Portland.

Keep feeding your bees! Norm and Bob emphasized that this is key to helping bees thrive amid our strange weather. We've had fluctuating temperatures, so queens will have been laying. It's been about 3 weeks since many hived, so probably should start seeing fuzzy young bees soon.

Feeding sugar water: top feeders will hold 2 gallons. They SHOULD be eating natural food, though, so when there is enough nectar flow, taper off the artificial feed. Norm doesn't use top feeders and won't feed sugar: he feeds them honey, when he feeds, in a feeder in the middle of his yard, so they have to exercise to get their food. He's seen them foraging at 45 degrees. Bob does use sugar water, as do others. If you use it, the sugar/water mix to use now is one to one: heat it, then get it well mixed before feeding it to bees.

Bob noticed that putting out frames from which he extracted honey recently helped his bees – he put them out in the bee yard, and the bees cleaned them right out. Already, a week later, they had transferred the honey to a nice arch of capped honey in the middle of the frames where the queen is laying eggs; they recognized the food source, these were his NEW hives, and they didn't let it go to waste. The eye opener for Bob was how quickly they identified and utilized a food source.

What are our bees eating naturally, now? Alders, maples, hazelnuts. Norm suggests watching to see what proportion of your bees are coming in with pollen: if most are not, then give them sugar syrup. They need the carbohydrates, yes, but the sugar solution is nutritionally lacking, so they need pollen too. But trees, plants are starting. Pollen patties are a decent supplement, particularly for new colonies. You can put them beneath the inner cover, on top of the frames, or in the top feeder. If you don't see active feeding on it within a week, then take it off so that it doesn't attract mold.

Just hived bees – what behavior to expect? About a dozen members had hived bees this spring. . Norm says that new hivers should have capped brood and emerging bees soon, if not already. There will be a flurry of activity as they begin doing orientation flights, a cloud of hundred or even thousands. They go a little way, then home, then further, then home, etc. Norm likes to be around them so they get used to his smell. The older bees will be dying off. Norm believes they do smell us; after all, he can smell them. Acrid smell says they are getting a bit upset, so back off till they cool down. He knocks on boxes gently before he goes in. If you are not killing bees, you do not have a bad pheromonal smell. When they smell others getting killed, they get agitated. Norm has seen them carrying pollen now (for several weeks when it has been warm). Be careful how you walk in front: they may hit you as they make their beeline for their entrance hole, so it's best to stand off to the side.

Urban beekeeping: often people will keep hives on roofs so that the bees are not buzzing neighbors as they come home. Bob noted that in NYC, there are many rooftop beekeepers, and to deal with heat and ventilation, they'll have them up on platforms. Norm notes that you can put some latticework in front of the hives, and they will fly up and over the lattice work (or a hedge). There are no ordinances v.s.

keeping bees in town, but be a good neighbor, set them back from busy sidewalks, and help bees' flight path not be right through sidewalks, driveways, etc. An upper deck would be a good place for them.

Mowing around bee boxes? Norm reports that that's ok, but try to keep from spraying them with exhaust. It is good to kill grass right under and around hives/bee yard, because this will cut down on ants and other critters climbing up into the hives. Some have put down newspaper, then covered with wood chips to kill the grass; Norm has put down rubber matting and nailed it down with penny nails. Check with M&M Transport: they give away free wood chips when they have them. There are also \$2 sheets at Goodwill. Try to avoid dark material that will absorb sun heat. Norm likes lineal matting; Del's has supplies at reasonable prices.

Don't over-manage bees at this time! You could accidentally crush your queen. How often to look for queen cells, with this in mind? Norm says every two weeks. Gary Stelzner noted that he doesn't worry about queen cells: he thinks they may have an urge to swarm, and he puts out an empty box to prepare for them, to capture the swarm. Sometimes the scout bees will find that box, and lead the queen & swarm to the box. Norm suggests that the result of that would be two half strength colonies instead of one very strong one; of course, you can recombine later. Bob reported that Jason will make a colony and a half – take 3 or 4 solid frames & a queen and make a nuc. (You have to get a queen, though, buying one or hatching a queen from a queen cell.)

Pat Swinth says you can watch when the swarm develops to see where they are going to go, where the scouts are going. Some say a couple hundred yards is about the distance they would like to travel. Others say two feet is enough. When they want a new home enough, they will find it. Queens are not good fliers and don't want to go far. Jim Thielges tried luring a swarm with honey drizzled on top of frames and a pheromone cell; it didn't work in that case, but sometimes it does. As a general rule, bees will prefer to go into a good setup, with drawn comb, rather than build from scratch. A box is a more attractive potential home if it has comb in it.

Bee Team / Swarm & Colony Removals: Norm announced that he'd be glad to have people ride along for Bee Team swarm removals, and reminded us that he and the others can do free removals. Norm will be speaking at the Cowlitz County Beekeepers about his capture experiences on Thursday the 19th. Norm has some video footage of swarm removals and would like to get more. He has a sign up sheet for ride alongs.

Summer LCBA Meetings: Our June meeting topic will be announced: our July meeting will be our traditional summer potluck @ Bob's, with a report from the WSU- WSBA Field Days by those who attend. Our August meeting topic (tentative): starting a small scale bee business focused on honey sales. Bob is interested in presenting.

New from Dewey Caron, our April Speaker: How To Evaluate "Bad News" from Over-Wintered Hives:

“Reading the [bad] news!!” By Dewey M. Caron, Dept of Horticulture, Oregon State University.

An old beekeeping sage once remarked “even dead hives have tales to tell”! My modern take on this is as bee hive stewards we resemble the highly paid actors/actresses on the current crop of Crime Scene dramas popular on TV - every time we enter the apiary and open the hive we “visit our ‘crime scene’ to view the ‘body’”!!! March/April spring visits unfortunately turn up far too many ‘dead bodies’.

What can a dead-out say to us? What can we learn from examining the dead hive? By looking carefully you might be able to reduce the losses this next month or next winter season. Start with symptoms.

Cluster of frozen, dead bees, worker bees head-first in empty cells, some capped brood but no honey stores (or no honey near cluster position): This is our “classic” starvation symptoms. If very small dead cluster, capped honey may be present on adjacent frames but bees, reluctant to abandon brood, were unable to move to it, probably due to heavy Nosema infections which is often cause of dramatically smaller adult populations by spring. Equipment reusable after brushing off dead cluster but recommend you air out frames for a month (store honey in freezer before reuse). If you wish you can wash frames with a clorox® bleach solution. Give frames to strong colonies to clean or if wet and mushy remove comb and replace with foundation especially if flies and beetles present. You could have fed heavy syrup in fall to insure adequate food reserves (note to self – FEED IN FALL IF LIGHT ON STORES).

Weak colony with small cluster and evidence of water damage to hive parts, especially covers and wet soggy bottom board: Conditions would signal a lack of proper ventilation within hive during the winter causing unnecessary “stress” to the wintering cluster and higher than normal adult losses. Clean bottom board, ensuring hive tilts slightly forward and break propolis seal around cover (avoid covers blowing off during spring winds/storms by piling bricks or stones on top) and investigate use of the addition of hive insulation materials (to absorb moisture) for next winter season. You can remove bottom box if empty and clean mold from frames with diluted bleach solution.

Little or no honey stores when top box lifted, small cluster under covers: This indicates colony in danger of starving in April (and into May last spring). Feed immediately, using dry sugar on inner cover (if you use one), solid sugar candy or sugar syrup. If you feed sugar syrup do not let colony run dry and remember that syrup will stimulate the colony, likely to result in greater swarm preparations in May. See note to self above!!

Fall adult population dwindles rapidly, colony dies before 1st of year with no adult bodies present: This is CCD (Colony Collapse Disorder) symptoms. Combination of viruses and Nosema may be major factor (sick adult bees leave hive to die outside is reason for lack of bodies) but nutrition or pesticides have not been ruled out. Reuse equipment after airing out of empty frames, store frames with honey in freezer until reused when starting new colonies in spring.

Fall adult population dwindles during winter, heavy varroa numbers, “snot” brood (larvae dying with symptoms of European Foulbrood, sacbrood and chalkbrood), resulting in small colony dying in March/April or too weak to begin expansion in spring: This is condition we call Bee PMS. Varroa mites apparently spread viruses causing adult dwindling and varroa mites congregate on reducing number of adult bodies. There is not enough healthy brood to replace losses of adults so colony barely survives but is still unhealthy and dies during spring cold snap or it never rebounds to become a productive colony. Requeen if colony survives or bolster with nuc to provide opportunity to recover.

Acute dysentery (fecal spotting excessive) with adults exhibiting strange trembling behaviors &/or exiting hive on cold days to die outside. Colony very weak or dies in February/March with high numbers of adults on bottom board, often with several frames of capped honey stores: Dysentery can be due to heavy Nosema infections or poor overwinter stores or high tracheal mite infestations. The trembling bees and hive abandonment often due to high tracheal mite numbers. Dead cluster position may be on sunny side of hive and likely to be smallish (grapefruit size). With heavy Nosema, symptoms often similar but fewer dead bees on bottom board and often small cluster still present with adults appearing wet and greasy looking. Clean any fecal matter on frames with dilute bleach solution (be careful not to damage beeswax cells) and remove older comb to replace with new foundation

Small clusters, surviving adults with deformed wings and varroa evident, brood appears stunted and brood cells with heavy varroa infestations: These symptoms indicate high varroa infestation and virus disease which could be due to lack of varroa control in fall or ineffective treatment of varroa. Early spring use of formic acid (new MAQS® – mite away quick strips) might help colony recover. Equipment from dead-outs reusable after thorough airing in sunlight as varroa do not survive without a bee host.

Drones present or were present into late fall, brood very spotty &/or drone brood in worker cells: This probably represents a queenless colony or a queen that is not properly laying fertilized eggs in worker cells (due to mis-mating or lack of genetic diversity in sperm stored in her spermatheca). Dump colony out and start over or bolster with queenright nuc . Colony is often too weak to attempt to requeen. Equipment can be immediately used on other colonies or to start new colony but if excessive dead drone brood distribute to strong colonies to clean out or remove and replace with foundation if old.

Damage or evidence of yellow jackets, ants, small hive beetle, wax moths &/or, mice nesting inside hive: None of these conditions resulted in colony death or weak surviving condition. They are, however, symptoms of a weak colony. Clean up the “mess” as much as possible before reuse of frames and seek to bolster colonies in the fall to enable colony to protect their environs. Remember to remove excess equipment and store off hive over winter, prohibiting entry of these common fall pests.

Reading a dead-out or weak/dying colony can be tricky and you will need to call upon your skills as a hivekeeper. I hope you had few “bodies” in your apiary to investigate this spring. Reminder: IF you have not filled out a hive loss survey (mailed in March to larger beekeepers and distributed at April Association meetings) please would you take a few minutes and do so NOW. If you did not get a survey I will be most happy to immediately send you one. Contact is carond@hort.oregonstate.edu. Thank you for your cooperation and happy spring!

Dewey M. Caron 2011

Cooking with Honey: June Recipes

*Summer and Honey go together like June and Weddings! This month's recipes come from the National Honey Board (www.nationalhoneyboard.com) and from Ruth Tan's book, *Sweet & Sour Recipes: Summer Honey Delights*, or email me for the PDF file (her URL is: <http://www.benefits-of-honey.com/honey-recipe.html>).*

Happy Apple Crunch: from Ruth Tan's Sweet and Sour Honey Recipes: "A jumble of apples and strawberries with a dulcet yoghurt base. The Surprise: With the aromatic yoghurt and pistachio sauce, apples never taste so good!" **Serves 2-3.**

Mix all ingredients together:

1 chilled green apple (optional skin, washed, cut into small thin slices)

1 chilled red apple (optional skin, washed, cut into small thin slices)

4 dried apricots (cut into tiny bits)

5 chilled strawberries (washed, cut into small thin slices)

Lime juice (1 tablespoon)

Salt (1 teaspoon)

Honey (2 teaspoons)

Sprinkle with pistachio nuts (3 tablespoons, remove shell and crush coarsely) just before serving.

Missy Cheeky Sandwich: *A Twist on the Grilled Chicken Sandwich* from Ruth Tan's book: Ms. Tan says, "Biting unto this fragrant grilled sweet and sour chicken sandwiched between soft bread is a big deal for breakfast. The Surprise: Chicken Sandwich is traditional but not one that comes with an aromatic sweet sauce made of raisins and sesame seeds. Totally scrumptious!" **Serves 2.**

Directions:

- Marinate chicken (1 small piece, about 200g) in soya sauce (2 teaspoons) and black pepper (a dash). Grill until golden brown and cut into small pieces.
- Add these ***ingredients*** to the grilled chicken and mix:

Raisins (1 tablespoon, cut into tiny bits)

Sesame seeds (half a tablespoon)

Honey (2 teaspoons)

Mustard (2-3 teaspoons)

Lettuce (4 leaves)

2 cherry tomatoes (cut into small pieces)

1-2 limes (extract juice)

A few dashes of black pepper

Sandwich the chicken mix with white soft bread (4 slices)

O' Orange Swing: A Twist on Marinated, Grilled Chicken from Ruth Tan: *“Honey-Orange juice-marinated wings grilled to make you drool. The Surprise: The wings will soar to your great delight with their delicate orange nuances.”* Serves 2.

Marinate 6 chicken joints in the following ingredients for at least 4 hours:

2 oranges (extract juice)

Black pepper (ground, a few dashes)

Salt (2 teaspoons)

Honey (2 tablespoons)

Ginger (chopped very finely)

Cumin powder (1 teaspoon)

Garlic (chopped very finely)

Grill for about 20-25 minutes at 390-400 degrees (Fahrenheit)

Garnish with basil leaves

Optional: A perfect sauce to go with the grilled wings: 1 lemon (extract juice), 1 chili (finely chopped), salt (half a teaspoon), honey (half a teaspoon)

Sherried Sweet Potatoes with Pecans [Recipe By: The Texas Department of Agriculture; from The National Honey Board] Makes 6 servings.

Ingredients:

•6 sweet potatoes

•***1/2 cup honey***

•1 cup orange juice

•1 Tablespoon grated orange peel

•1/3 cup sherry

•1 cup pecans, coarsely chopped

•2 Tablespoons butter or margarine

Directions:

- Boil sweet potatoes in salted water until tender.
- Peel and cut in thick slices.
- Preheat oven to 350°F.
- In a bowl, combine ***honey***, orange juice, orange rind and sherry.
- Place a layer of sweet potatoes in a baking dish, cover with some of the honey mixture and sprinkle generously with pecans.
- Repeat layers of potatoes, liquid and pecans until casserole is filled.
- Pour remaining juice over the top, sprinkle with nuts and dot with butter.
- Cover and bake for 30 minutes, or until juice has been absorbed by the potatoes and top is browned.

Honey Cheesecake [from The National Honey Board; makes 8 servings]

Ingredients:

- *1-1/4 cups flour*
- *1/2 cup ground walnuts*
- *1 teaspoon ground cinnamon*
- ***1/3 cup honey***
- *1/3 cup butter, melted*
- *2 packages (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened*
- *2 eggs*
- *2 egg yolks*
- *1 cup sour cream*
- *1 Tablespoon grated lemon peel*
- *2 teaspoons cornstarch*

Directions:

For crust:

- Combine flour, walnuts and cinnamon.
- Add ***1/3 cup honey*** and melted butter; mix well.
- Press into bottom and up sides of 8-inch springform pan.

For filling:

- Blend cream cheese with honey until smooth.
- Beat in eggs and yolks.
- Add remaining ingredients; beat until smooth.
- Turn into prepared crust and bake at 300°F 50 to 55 minutes or until set.
- Cool and refrigerate until thoroughly chilled before serving.

LCBA NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Western Apicultural Society Journal – check their website for the most recent news:

http://groups.ucanr.org/WAS/WAS_Journal

Looking for a place to put some extra hives?

Rusty Cox writes, “Is anyone looking for someplace to put bees? I do not know how to work with them, but would be interested in putting so on our property.” Contact Rusty at rustywire@earthlink.net.

Looking for a Beekeeping Mentor: from Deborah Chaffee

Deborah writes: “I took your beekeepers class in the fall/winter of 2009. . . . Instead of getting my own this year, I was hoping there is a beekeeper out there who would let me help with theirs so I can have some hands-on learning and real-world training before I commit to getting my own.” If you’d like to invite Deborah to see what you do with your bees, please email her at: chaffeefamily@msn.com

Wanted: A Used Honey Extractor

Lewis Chase writes: “I lived in Cowlitz Cowlitz County from 1996 – 2009 and raised two to three hives of bees. I have since moved to Reno, Nevada and will be starting a new hive of bees to pollinate my 36 fruit trees. I have purchased everything except a used Honey Extractor. A two frame extractor will be enough to get me started. If one of your members has a spare one, I would be interested in purchasing it. It could be shipped via Greyhound Bus Service to Reno at a reasonable rate.” If you have a used extractor that Lew could buy, please contact him by phone at 775-343-9239 or by email at iamfriendlylew@yahoo.com

Need Help With Your Bees? Don’t Bee Shy – Contact a Bee Mentor:

- If you’d like to be connected with a honey bee mentor in your area, call Susanne at 360 880 8130 or email Susanne.beekeeper@gmail.com.
- If you need help with Mason Bees, check with Kimo Thielges (kimosabe@compprime.com), or Ted Saari (KNT98632@q.com).

Would You Like to Volunteer as a Bee Mentor? Bee mentors take calls, answer questions, and may visit members’ bee yards. If you’re interested in serving this way, please call Susanne at 360 880 8130 or email her at Susanne.beekeeper@gmail.com.

Free Swarm & Colony Removals by our “Bee Team.” If you – or someone you know – has bees in a structure and wants them removed but not killed, please call a member of the Bee Team. This service is free, though we accept donations to support our educational programs.

Can You Help? Want to ride along on a removal? It’s fun, free, educational, and saves bees from the exterminator! Call us (360 880 8130) or email Susanne.beekeeper@gmail.com – it’s a great experience!

LCBA T-shirts and caps: Queensboro has lowered their prices on LCBA T-shirts, long-sleeved shirts, caps, etc. They offer an unconditional 10 year guarantee and will replace items if they get torn or broken. To order online, visit <http://www.queensboro.com> and use our LCBA logo number: 11342127.

Respectfully reported—bee happy! Forms for the WSU-WSBA Field Day are on separate pages below.

Susanne Weil, LCBA Secretary: Susanne.beekeeper@gmail.com; 360 880 8130

WSU Honey Bee Field Day Topics

June 24-25, 2011 WSU Campus - Ensminger Pavilion and Apiaries

Friday evening beginning at 6 p.m.:

Honey bee film(s) and wine and cheese social gathering in the Ensminger Livestock Pavilion

Poster set-up (all associations invited to produce a poster about their club activities/bee forage and locales—see note below)

Honey exchange – all participants invited to bring 2 bottles of honey for exchange table (see note below)

Registration and group assignment for Saturday Apiary rounds

Saturday - Ensminger Pavilion

Good morning greetings, registration and coffee – 7:30 – 8:30

8:30 – 8:45 Announcements and Welcome: WSU, WSBA, WSU-CAHNRS Administration

20 minute talks –

- 1) Honey Bees – genetic diversity, breeding efforts
- 2) Honey Bee pests/diseases and legal control options
- 3) Alternative pollinators – Status and long term prospects

Concurrent poster session: local clubs and WSU students

10:00 a.m. - Apiary /laboratory rounds begin- (participants spend approx. 1 hour at each location)

Pests and Diseases: (Diagnostic Laboratory)

Laboratory diagnosis – Erin O'Rourke/Scott

Identifying AFB from scales and brood

Queen pheromone demonstration

Bee Beards (weather permitting) (Dr. Tim Lawrence) (Tukey Orchard or Teaching apiary)

Queen rearing: (Sue Cobey) (Feed Mill)

Stock selection assessment 1 (brood area, pattern),

Preparation of cell-builders (options)

Grafting demonstration/timing,

Mating yard activities

Clipping marking

Practical Colony Manipulations (Beth Kakohnen) (Hilltop)

Stock selection assessment 2 (freeze-killed hyg. test)

Swarm prevention techniques

Splitting colonies

Preparing hives for moving

Transferring colony from a box hive or feral nest to frame hive

Honey Bee behavior – implications for beekeepers (Steve Sheppard) (location TBA)

Stock selection assessment 3 – gentleness, brood viability assay

drones and workers

gloveless beekeeping – understanding the threshold concept

Practical identification of honey bee diseases, pests, problems (WSBA Master Beekeepers)

Identifying pests/diseases/problems in the apiary (non-AFB)

Control methods for colony health

Conventional and alternative

Note for beekeeper participants in 2011:

- 1) **Honey Exchange Table:** Bring two 1 lb jars of your honey for exchange table. Leave two of yours there and take away two of jars of your choice left by other beekeepers
- 2) **Posters:** All local associations are invited to produce a beekeeping/local “apicultural conditions” poster for display at the field day. Can be reclaimed at the end of the field day for use in local fairs, etc. or donated for temporary display in the WSU bee lab until the next field day.
- 3) Lunch will be provided at noon on Saturday at the Livestock Pavilion.
- 4) The weather should be pleasant in Pullman in late June. However, evenings can be quite cool and some layered clothing is a good idea.

2011 WSU/WSBA Beekeeper Field Day Registration

June 24-25, 2011 WSU Pavilion, Diagnostic Lab, and apiaries

Dr. Steve Sheppard and WSBA invite all interested beekeepers to come to Pullman, WA for an informative and fun day of beekeeping activities and socializing! See the next documents for all the details, including activity plan, driving directions, and accommodation resources.

Please send your registration form with your check made out to WSBA to:

Paul Hosticka

Treasurer, WSBA

517 S. Touchet Rd.

Dayton, WA 99328

We look forward to seeing you, so please let us know that you'll be joining us as soon as possible!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email: _____

(or your phone # if no email, in the event we need to contact you with schedule changes)

Registration Fee: \$ _____ (One person \$20, family \$30)

Total number in your party: _____

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