

Lewis County Beekeepers' Association:

June 2012 Newsletter

In This Edition:

- **Upcoming LCBA Events**
- **Notes from LCBA's May 9, 2012 Meeting**
 - **Dr. Dewey Caron re: Pacific Northwest Bee Losses**
 - **Tim Weible - frames display demonstrating common problems**
 - **Beekeeping Q&A**
- **Beekeeping Supply Options**
- **LCBA Announcements:**
 - **Need a new queen? Options...**
 - **"Bee Mentor" list updates**
 - **Swarm and colony removal information**
 - **Need a place to house some bees? An option...**
 - **Upcoming classes & conferences**
 - **Root Beer with Honey – celebrate spring, courtesy of the Swinths ☺**

Upcoming LCBA Events:

June 13: LCBA Monthly Meeting, 7 p.m., Centralia College, Washington Hall 103; 701 W. Walnut, Centralia; cross street, Washington (directions are at the end of the events section).

Movie Night! *Queen of the Sun: What the Bees Are Telling Us*

This 80 minute film has spectacular footage of bees and beekeeping practices around the world. The filmmakers take a biodynamic perspective and

clearly want to stir up discussion. We will watch part of the film, take a break, finish, and follow up with discussion, our brief business meeting and usual beekeeping Q&A.

June 30: Advanced Beekeeping class, West Sound Beekeeping Association, Silverdale, WA; see announcements section of this newsletter for details.

July 11: LCBA Monthly Meeting – Our Annual Summer Potluck, 6 p.m. at Rose of Sharon Farm. Thanks to Bob & Sharon Harris for opening their farm to us again!

Please note: We're starting at 6 p.m., not 7 p.m., but stop in whenever!

Where: Rose of Sharon Farm (if you are not on our mailing list, please contact secretary Susanne at Susanne.beekeeper@gmail.com or 360 880 8130 for more information).

Please bring:

- Food to share, a chair, plate, & cutlery. If you've got a card table to share, please bring it along. For food, please bring whatever you like. Of course, recipes involving honey are always welcome!
- Bob will have a grill ready to go and will provide cold drinks.
- If you want to look inside some hives, bring your bee suit!
- July Meeting Agenda: This summer potluck will be mainly for socializing, with a short agenda:
 - Update: How Are Your Bees Doing?—Troubleshooting Q&A
 - September Elections for LCBA Board of Directors. Our Bylaws provide for elections in September. This year, the Vice President & Secretary offices are up for election. If you are interested in serving, please contact President Norm Switzler at 330 1788.

July 14-15: Queen Rearing class, West Sound Beekeeping Association, Silverdale, WA; see announcements section of this newsletter for details.

August 8: LCBA Monthly Meeting. For this meeting, we'll be in Centralia College's New Science Center lecture hall, Room 111, just across the street from our regular meeting room. Greeters will be around to steer folks in the right direction.

Speakers: Report from Queen Rearing Class. Norm Switzler, Ted Saari, Tim Geise, Jon Wade, and Dave Gaston will report on what they learned at the West Sound Beekeeping Association class in July, and we'll discuss the possibilities of starting our own LCBA queen rearing program.

September 12: LCBA Monthly Meeting, 7 p.m., 103 Washington Hall, Centralia College.

Topic: Getting Ready to Over-Winter Bees; possible talk on tracheal mites and sending samples to WSU for testing (TBA)

October 4-7: Joint WSBA and Western Apicultural Society Annual Conference, Embassy Suites at Tukwila, just north of the Seattle Airport, WA. For details, see the Announcements section, below.

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW LOCATION FOR JUNE & FUTURE MEETINGS!

Centralia College, Washington Hall 103.

Address: 701 W. Walnut, Centralia 98531.

Cross street: Washington St.

Directions:

If you're coming North on I-5:

- Take I-5 Exit 81 (Mellen Street exit).
- Turn right and travel east (right hand turn from exit ramp) on Mellen Street.
- Mellen Street angles to the left and becomes Alder Street.
- Travel three blocks on Alder until you come to Washington Avenue.
- Turn left onto Washington Avenue, and travel three blocks to Pear ST., then continue on Washington one more block to Walnut Street.
- Washington Hall is the large building on Washington between Pear and Walnut. There are two side entrances on the Washington side and the main entrance is from the Walnut side. Street parking is available (you need a permit to park in one of the parking lots).

If you're coming south on I-5:

- Take I-5 Exit 82 (Harrison Street exit).
- Turn left and travel east (left hand turn from exit ramp) on Harrison Street.
- Harrison Street angles to the right, then to the left, and becomes Main Street.
- Turn right from Main Street onto Washington Avenue.
- Go 2 blocks south on Washington to Walnut.
- Washington Hall is the large building on Washington between Pear and Walnut. There are two side entrances on the Washington side and the main entrance is from the Walnut side. Street parking is available (you need a permit to park in the parking lots).

NOTES FROM OUR MAY 9 MEETING:

Speaker: Dr. Dewey Caron surveyed us on our winter bee losses & updated us on research news about the state of honey bees in the Pacific Northwest.

VP Ted Saari announced that President Norm Switzler was home ill and introduced our returning guest speaker, Dr. Dewey Caron, emeritus professor from the University of Delaware, currently working on honey bee research at OSU-Corvallis and in Bolivia. Dewey commented that with our nice new weather, we should be checking our colonies for swarm potential and perhaps soon consider adding supers.

FYI: Dewey's talk contained too many details to capture completely here. Those who subscribe to the *American Bee Journal* can find his article, "Honey Bee Colony Mortality—Survey of Beekeepers in the Pacific Northwest," in the March 2012 issue (co-author Ramesh Sagili, OSU-Corvallis). The article covers both commercial and hobbyist beekeepers.

Dewey's focus was the "Epidemic of Bee Losses" in the U.S. and how it is playing out in the Pacific Northwest. Historically, we've seen a century of disappearing bees: cycles of disease, collapse, and rebuilding population. For example, in 1891 and 1896, "May Disease" caused problems. In 1905-1919, the "Isle of Wight" disease plagued the British Isles. Closer to home, "Disappearing Disease" hit Portland, Oregon around 1915. Research on the Pacific Northwest (Burgett et al., 2009) shows that it was typical for beekeepers in our region to suffer winter losses of 10 to 15%. However, the intrusion of parasites, especially Varroa mites, in the mid to late 1980s was followed by substantial increases in losses: from 1989 to 1998, average losses reported by PNW beekeepers were 22.6%, with the rates rising as the decade unfolded. Then, in 2006-07, Colony Collapse Disorder was first reported in Florida: losses have risen further and been attributed to a wide range of causes (outlined below). Canada's losses have been similar to those in the U.S. There are two places in the world not losing many bees – parts of the Americas that have only Africanized honey bees and Australia. Australia has no varroa mites, which Dewey believes are a key factor in our losses.

Dewey announced some good news this evening: both nationwide and in the Pacific Northwest, 2012 losses were lower than 2010 and 2011 losses. Nationally, 2010 losses were 34.4% (this result is based on responses from just over 4000 beekeepers, accounting for about 18% of U.S. managed bee colonies); in 2011, national losses were 29.2%. In 2012 national losses were 21.9%. While the drop is good news, obviously this level of loss is not sustainable.

Pacific Northwest data:

2010 Commercial/semi-commercial losses: 24.6%; 2011 losses, 21.4%; 2012 losses 21%

2010 Small scale beekeeper losses: 45.3%; 2011 losses, 29.5%; 2012 losses 29%

For unknown reasons, Washington beekeepers are experiencing higher losses than are Oregonian beekeepers. Oregon and Idaho had even fewer losses; however, in the Midwest, Florida, and eastern states, very heavy losses were reported, ranging from 41-70 percent in 2010 and only slightly lower in 2011. Tim Weible asked why the Midwest losses are so heavy – because of weather extremity? Dewey said that there have been swings year to year, and it is

hard to pin the losses to any one factor. The survey initially asked about just bee survivals and more recently has started to ask about bee management practices.

Dewey announced that based on preliminary data gathered so far in 2012, nationally we had fewer losses: more like 22%, as opposed to 29.9% in 2011 and 34.4% in 2010. There is a repeating pattern: national losses are a bit lower for commercial (50+ colonies) beekeepers, and heaviest losses are reported for small scale apiarists.

Dewey asked if we would complete surveys if we over-wintered bees to help build his database. That will help him give us tailored results. BeeInformed.org is collecting data online (note from your scribe: this is a very well organized, informative website). Beekeepers talk with other beekeepers through these surveys: 25% lost fewer than 14% of their operation, but 25% lost more than 53% of their operation. *What is the latter group doing that the first is not? Why the differences?*

Is the use of specific products a factor in overwintering success? For example, Apiguard: about 28% loss was reported by Apiguard users; those who used another varroa control method, or used nothing, had well over 30% losses. Dewey showed us some graphs: what researchers are trying to do is control these survey data for error – if the “error bars” do not overlap, this suggests significant results. If you used Apiguard in this survey, you lost 9% fewer than those who did not.

Drone brood removal: there was no real difference in losses for those who did or didn't practice this. The question is, though, how effectively the drone brood removal was done.

Honey-B-Healthy? Those who used this had slightly fewer losses but not significantly lower losses: 32% as opposed to 35% losses for those who did not use it. Dewey noted that there are other reasons to use HBH besides trying to prevent winter losses.

Formic acid: there are some numbers of individuals who are making their own pads. When just formic acid is looked at, as with HBH, there are no significant difference in losses.

Hop Guard was included: very few people are using it, less than 4% of beekeepers, and it had a huge error bar, showing wide variation in results. They will keep asking about it.

One member asked about mixing essential oils and lemon grass – the HBH ingredients. Can this be done at home? Dewey said that if you mix these ingredients directly with sugar syrup, that isn't effective because you're trying to mix an oil-based with a water-based fluid. You get little tiny droplets of the oil, and when bees collide with those droplets, it kills them. You must add the emulsifier. The secret of HBH is the emulsifier lecithin, so bees can get the material down. HBH also helps stop mold from forming. Is it worth what you're paying for it? Dewey says the research doesn't say it does anything reliable, but it is up to the individual (“if you're a believer...”) Adding a few droplets of the essential oil won't cause real harm if used

with the emulsifier; but Dewey would avoid wintergreen, pennyroyal, the stronger oils. One member commented that pennyroyal ate through a plastic cup! Mite-a-way quick strips (formic acid) seem to be more useful.

Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) – as most beekeepers now know, this syndrome is typified by few adults, no dead bodies (since you can't autopsy a corpse you don't have, solving CCD is additionally complicated). Did the survey show CCD? Consistently, some respondents report this, and typically they have heavier losses.

Another factor that we see much more is now is "Bee PMS": also called 'snot,' brood shows bad patterns, adults "look bad," colonies perform poorly, varroa numbers are high, and there is heavy spring death.

Among early warning signs of trouble, in fall, bees are not taking much feed, and when you mix in fumagillin, they don't take it. The label says we're to mix it into sugar syrup, but some spray it right onto bees. Other signs: disappearing bees in fall, snot brood, deadouts in fall, 'pickup rate' of lots of dead bees in spring, wintering issues, feeding issues. There are warning signs but they are subtle.

Some thoughts: higher replacement than losses is becoming a trend. Nucs are becoming more widely used. Some do less combining, more allowing small colonies to overwinter.

Pollination fees have risen consistently, in part because CCD remedies have added higher costs, and there has been a major spike for almond pollination. Average price \$90 [averages in almonds and fruit crops]. In the west it is similar, though the almond prices have been leveling off a little. If you have nucs, that is because of almond pollination making colonies big and creating early queens. In blueberry pollination: rental prices for pollination have increased modestly; same for fruit. See Dewey's article on May *ABJ* on PNW pollination rental prices.

Dewey's list of likely culprits for bee losses:

- Disease epidemic
 - New or newly virulent pathogen [new viruses, changing viruses]
 - Secondary pathogens [opportunistic killers – once weakened, other factors hit]
- Pesticides – lots of information and misinformation
 - Neonics, chlorpyrifos, pyrethroids
 - Open question as to what is happening; if we did away with neonics, as is being considered in Europe, would ag go back to even more toxic pesticides?
 - Miticides
 - Synergism (fungicide +) if you have treated your bees with Apistan, and they are in blueberry locations now, and the fungicide is applied to the blueberries, it is killing bees big time because of this synergy.

- Environmental stressors
 - Bee nutrition inadequate – monoculture in agriculture
 - This begs the question why backyard beekeepers with more of a smorgasboard for their bees are having heavy losses...
 - Climate change
- GMOs – other
- There is no one thing killing bees = it's many things. Nosema, mites, viruses, etc.

One of the most hopeful developments Dewey has seen has been that beekeeping teaching and mentoring is growing. For example, Oregon and Ohio are adding master beekeeper programs patterned on Washington's. Programs like our LCBA mentoring and swarm/colony removal programs can make a real difference: "we should be the first line of defense against the things that are afflicting our bees."

Dewey thanked colleagues Ramesh Sagili, Mike Burgett, Randy Rucker, Walt Thurman, and all the beekeepers who filled out their survey, plus NASS/OSU for funds. If you have questions, Dewey's email is dmcaron@udel.edu, and he welcomes questions.

Gary Stelzner asked: if other hives rob a nosema-afflicted hive, is transmission possible? Dewey thinks yes. – that is, if there are bees still alive in the colony. If they're already dead, then no.

Powdered sugar dusting? Dewey noted that this can be effective for reducing numbers of mites on adult bees. Hop Guard does the same thing, but doubling up the two methods doesn't help twice as much or even more = you can't kill the same mites twice! Powdered sugar, for all the good things it does, is toxic in too great amounts. When bees feed on honey, they don't eat the honey – they dilute the honey. You can overdose on even a good thing. Putting the powdered sugar through a mill can help – use real powdered pure cane sugar, Drivert sugar, break up big crystals into smaller crystals; one member reported using a coffee grinder to break up the crystals.

Is there any one factor that makes a difference in bee survival? Dewey says the bee we have does make a difference, referencing Sue Cobey's breeding work with bringing in Carniolans and Russian (Caucasian) bees. We are getting a bounce of about 10 to 15 % fewer losses, and this may be a factor. Commercial beekeepers cannot afford to buy from just one producer, though, lest weather in queen producing area turn out to be bad and harm queen production.

How to control varroa in hives? Dewey urged doing whatever you can to keep varroa below threshold level – if you use a sticky board, 50 or more per day mite drop is threshold. More recommended is a sugar, alcohol, or ether roll, then the number of mites is going to be under 2 percent (*i.e.*, no more than 6 mites if you have a sample of 300 adult bees) and certainly no more than 5 percent. Beekeepers that seem to be doing better have mites under control. It's

important to avoid “Varroa bombs”: individual colonies with high numbers of mites. To achieve that, a multi-pronged approach is necessary – controlling stock, using screened bottom boards, practicing drone brood removal, using a combination of essential oils.

Dewey noted that in treating for varroa, many use Apiguard with good results, though with Apiguard, temperature has to be right: not too hot, not too cold. Others use an acid: some like formic acid (some make it up themselves), and many are using oxalic acid. Using sugar or hopguard to knock off mites can help. Do not use a hard miticide during nectar flow if you have supers on. Dewey noted that there is no one formula, but the best results seem to come from varroa control, more feeding, and using nucs to make colonies grow out of their mite problem. Beekeepers who practice multiple approaches are not allowing a loss to become a loss – rather, they are picking up early warning signal colonies and making those colonies stronger via management.

Another technique that works is to break the brood cycle by requeening colonies every summer - colonies will be in better shape. Dewey suggests requeening by combining a nuc with an old colony. Also, beekeepers or associations can try rearing their own queens. Sue Cobey (WSU) teaches a class, but it is filling up. Dewey will give a course during the last two weekends of July near Portland . Some states are establishing queen programs: Washington does not have one yet.

On diseases like foulbrood, Nosema, etc., what diseases require you to burn the hive, and, when you can, what parts of the hive can you save? Dewey answered that American Foulbrood is the disease that requires you have to burn; with any disease, however, be sure you get it confirmed before you destroy any hives. About equipment: it’s important to air out equipment from dead-outs and use sunlight to help break down bacteria, etc. Dewey suggests using light Clorox solution: it’s important to be careful, and to know that too much soap is toxic to bees. Hydrogen peroxide is a no: one can’t get it concentrated enough.

Dewey had to catch a plane to Georgia to teach a beekeeping class, so we thanked him for sharing his knowledge with us again.

LCBA Monthly Business Meeting - Notes:

Mentorship coordinator Brandy DeMelt commented that we have not been able to get answers on location and fees for the Southwest Washington Fair, so it looks like we will give it a pass this year. Having club members as vendors at the show, as we did when the Sherwoods had their apiary business, made it possible for us to piggyback, but now the logistics seem too difficult.

Ted and Susanne announced that President Norm and Ted are going to take the West Sound Beekeepers' Association's Queen Rearing class this coming July. The board approved paying for tuition for two non-board members to attend with the proviso that the members would report back to the club on what they learned and be willing to work on a queen project for our group (the board members are paying their own way). Tim Geise and Dave Gaston volunteered to attend the class.

Steve Howard has designed an LCBA business card – we should have some ready for distribution, if not by our June meeting, then by our July potluck. The card includes brief information on swarm and colony removals. Thanks to Steve for doing this for us.

Tim Weible – Demonstration of Frames with Classic Bee Problems

Tim Weible, who is teaching the WASBA Apprenticeship class this spring, brought a boxful of frames demonstrating common problems that beekeepers need to be able to identify. None were diseased frames, yet all displayed problems we are likely to see: starvation, robbing by wax moths and other insects, or by mice, weak queens, laying worker brood patterns, etc.

Among the problems that Tim's frames demonstrated were wax moth, which presents as straight lines and zig-zags, criss-crossing the comb. One way to get rid of that residue is to put frames in the freezer. Tim also showed examples of comb that had been chewed away by rodent and insect invaders. Mice had nibbled out the corners of a frame. With insect robbers, though, we don't see the discrete chunks missing as with the mouse – it's more like little sawdust chunks fall out of the comb after they have taken the protein and carbohydrates.

One very interesting frame displayed “drone comb” with its classic “shotgun brood” pattern, laid by workers in a queenless hive: brood gives off pheromones, as the queen does. The queen's pheromones keep the laying workers suppressed from laying. But when queen pheromones disappear, a hive can develop laying workers. Typically, you should see five cells per inch with workers – but you'll see fewer with laying workers laying drones.

Another classic problem Tim demonstrated was mold on an inner cover – also lots of propolis, which adds space and more ventilation than you want. Tim quickly covered bee space issues – bees will build comb between frames if they have too much space, but will propylze if they have too little. If you have 9 frames, you get a little deeper comb. Tim suggests that when you have too much propolis, give a quick scrape to make inner cover a better fit. No soap or chemicals – just scrape.

Your scribe suspects we will be inviting Tim back for a repeat show – it's one thing to read about a hive problem, but a very different thing to see it live and in person. Thanks, Tim!

Beekeeping Q&A

Swarm precursors: if you see bearding, it is probably time to add a box. Bees swarm because they are either too crowded or have the urge to reproduce. They may also be overheated and need better ventilation. If you have 2 hive boxes already, then consider putting on a super.

Entrance reducers? Tim says use the smallest hole, always – unless ventilation becomes an issue in hot temperature. When you see the hole become very congested, so bees have trouble coming and going, then he will turn it to the longer reducer hole. August and September are probably the times to do this. He likes to minimize excess labor for the bees – in this case, the guard bees will have to work less hard to keep ‘bad guys’ out.

Yellow jacket traps? Get a trap and put hamburger meat in it; keep entrance reducers on. Otherwise yellow jackets will rob your bees hard work and feed their young with it. Brandy noted that she had helped some elderly neighbors putting out yellow jacket traps early spring, and she noticed that she was catching large queens – she hopes that will mean fewer jackets later.

Beekeeping Supply Options:

- ***In Lewis County:***

- ***Tim Weible, The Honey Hut at Centralia Deli Steak & BBQ, 708 Harrison, Exit # 82 off I-5, 2 1/2 blocks east on your left. Phone, 360-736-1015; email, centdelisteakbbq@aol.com; website, Centraliadelisteakandbbq.com.***

Tim is our LCBA Beginning Beekeeping instructor for Spring 2012. He is a longtime beekeeper and has become a licensed Mann Lake dealer. Tim’s “Honey Hut” has pretty much everything you may need by way of supplies in stock: suits in small to XX, gloves, boxes assembled or unassembled, supers, wax and plastic foundation, frames, tops, bottoms, smokers, tools, and books. Tim also offers specialty items like local honey and even mead, as well as bee-related gifts.

- ***In Rochester, WA:***

- ***John Martin, 19019 Moon Road SW, Rochester 98579; Phone, 360 280 5274; email, hjweaver@emypeople.net.***

John visited our March meeting. John is a construction worker and beekeeper from Rochester, WA, who has started a business importing woodenware

products from woodenware-worker Harold Wieber of Beeline Apiaries and Woodenware, which is based in Pennsylvania. John's shop is in Rochester, and he spoke to us about their woodenware products: frames, boxes, and more, and he will have bee suits in stock in April. He demonstrated the fit of his boards. To connect with John, please call ahead at the number above.

- ***In Oregon:***

- ***Ruhl Bees, Portland: 17845 SE 82nd Drive, Gladstone, Oregon 97027; Phone, 503 657 5399; email, staff@ruhlbeesupply.com; website, <http://www.ruhlbeesupply.com/>.***

John Edwards, owner of Ruhl Bees, has a full array of bee-related products and offers a 10% discount to current dues-paying LCBA members. John has addressed our club and is our contractor for our spring 2012 package bee order. See his website for details, informational links, and more.

If you need a new queen, Steve Howard reports that Ruhl Bee orders new queens every week. If you place your order by a Thursday, the queen will come in by the following Tuesday. The cost for Italian queens is \$26.50. Shipping, (Priority Mail) is \$9.10 for up to a total of five queens. Beats driving!

- ***Priester Farm Bee Supply, 31890 Tide Creek Rd, Deer Island, Oregon 97054; Phone, 503.556.1060; email, beewhisperer@priesterbee.com; website, www.priesterbee.com.***

Kevin drove up to make a presentation at our March meeting. His store is just over the Columbia in Oregon— between Rainier and St Helens off U.S. 30, about 5 miles about Goble. Kevin sells wooden wares, medications, supplements, and bees and tries to keep his costs competitive. He has about 70 packages, Carniolans and Italians, left available to order; he will be picking his up on April 7, and his bees come from near Oliveras, where John Edwards gets his bees. Kevin is essentially a new beekeeper himself, having been beekeeping for several years. He thought this would be a good opportunity because of supply and demand in the northwest. His is a family run business; he works full time for a construction company and runs his bee business by appointment only and on weekends.

Kevin's bee supply is open weekdays, after 6 p.m., he's usually open till 10 p.m. It's a good idea to call ahead. Carniolans \$84 per package. 4 pound packages are \$94 per package. Queens \$31. He buys as much American made equipment as he can. 90% of his material is made on the west coast. He builds boxes and frames for sale. Kevin was asked what type of wood he uses: pine or cedar, he said. Cedars can have some material toxic to bees; more aromatic woods can be more toxic.

- ***In California:***

- ***Country Rubes, 20693 Dog Bar Road, Grass Valley, CA 95949; phone, 530-913-2724; email, rubes@countryrubes.com; website, countryrubes.com.***
Country Rubes owner Janet Brisson has presented at LCBA; several years ago, she gave us a great demonstration of how she dusts her bees for mites using organic powdered sugar, which knocks down many mites and spurs bees to groom each other, knocking off still more. Her special design of screened bottom boards is key to her approach to "integrated pest management."

- ***Online Suppliers: for details, check their websites:***

- ***Dadant:***
 - <http://www.dadant.com>
 - 888 922 1293
- ***Mann Lake:***
 - <http://www.mannlakeltd.com/>
 - 800 880 7694
 - if you order \$100 or more, shipping is free
- ***Glory Bee:***
 - <http://beekeeping.glorybee.com/>
 - 800 456 7923

LCBA / WSBA News and Announcements:

Need a Queen?

Steve Howard reports that Ruhl Bee orders new queens every week. If you place your order by a Thursday, the queen will come in by the following Tuesday. The cost for Italian

queens is \$26.50. Shipping, (Priority Mail) is \$9.10 for up to a total of five queens. Beats driving! See Ruhl Bee contact information, above; if you are a dues-paying LCBA member, you should be able to get a 10% discount.

Mentor/Mentee Coordination:

Newbees needing help: [names and #s not published online].

LCBA bee mentors:

- 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." This service is free, though we accept donations to support our educational programs. Need a swarm removed? Call a Bee Team member; want to ride along on a removal? Call Susanne at the contact information above.

Need a place to house some bees? Space is available!

Amber Ferrano writes, "I can't afford a set up for keeping my own bees, but I have room and a nice eco-system in my yard for bees. I help take care of my uncles hives in Everett so I can keep an eye out, feed and do anything that's needed. I have a variety of flowers, berries and grapes, elderberry tree and a couple nut trees. I fertilize with seaweed, B-1 and fish, the neighbors I know don't use pesticides either." Please email Amber if you have bees who need a place to live! (amber.ferrano@gmail.com)

Conferences and Classes Coming Up...

Queen Rearing Classes & Other Opportunities from West Sound Beekeepers:

T. J. Jorgenson, president of the Westsound Beekeepers Association in Silverdale, WA, wrote to let us know that his club is putting on two new courses this year:

* **Advanced Beekeeping: Saturday June 30th, 2012 8:30am-4:30pm** at West Sound Beekeeping Association, located at Stedman Bee Supplies, Silverdale WA. \$60.00, registrations on or before June 15, 2012 \$75.00, registrations after June 15, 2012. By now this class may be full, but if you are interested, check with the registrar, David Mackovjak, trimack@prodigy.net or 360-340-0381.

* **Queen Rearing: July 14 & 15, 2012 9:00am-4:30pm** at West Sound Beekeeping Association, located at Stedman Bee Supplies, Silverdale, WA. Cost: \$125 for individual, \$100 for 2nd individual from same family. By now this class may be full, but if you are interested, check with the registrar, David Mackovjak, trimack@prodigy.net or 360-340-0381.

* For details on these courses visit: <http://www.westsoundbees.org>. You can also contact T.J. at hansvillehoneyfarm@gmail.com.

Joint WSBA and Western Apicultural Society Annual Conference, October 4 - 7, 2012.

Embassy Suites at Tukwila, just north of the Seattle Airport, WA. For information, visit: http://groups.ucanr.org/WAS/Conference_Information

This year's conference will draw a much larger group of beekeepers, because it will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Washington State Beekeepers' Association. Besides more attendees, there will be more vendors and more invited speakers than typical for a normal WAS Conference. There will be more presentations devoted to commercial beekeeping topics, but we will honor our roots and have concurrent sessions for the small scale interests.

Currently it is estimated that registration will be around \$155 per person and will include lunch on Friday and Saturday, as well as morning and afternoon beverage breaks. It appears that the banquet will cost \$42 per person and will be held between 6:30 and 9:30 on Saturday. Conference details will be available as they become firmed up.

American Apitherapy Society: 17th annual 2012 Charles Mraz Apitherapy Course & Conference, October 5-7, 2012, Portland, Oregon (Governor Hotel, 614 Southwest 11th Avenue, Portland, 97205). EARLY BEE registration ends on June 30, 2012. Contact: American Apitherapy Society, 631-470-9446 aasoffice@apitherapy.org

Medical doctors, a spectrum of holistic health practitioners, veterinarians, researchers, backyard beekeepers, and members of the general public interested in self-reliant health care will convene from all over the United states and the world to learn about apitherapy. Apitherapy, an ancient healing modality, refers to the therapeutic use of products from the beehive: honey, pollen, royal jelly, propolis, and bee venom therapy.

Attendees will receive basic training in the therapeutic properties of each of the hive products including a hands on bee venom therapy session where participants obtain practical experience with this amazing healing practice. Presentations are given by the CMAACC faculty who are some of the most prominent and experienced apitherapists in the country. Examples of material covered in these presentations are allergic reactions, techniques of BVT, informed consent and legal issues, propolis and cancer, veterinary apitherapy, wound healing, and much more. Back by popular demand, we will be offering two levels of the course offering basic information to those new to Apitherapy and more advanced information to those already experienced with Apitherapy. Certificates of completion will be available to participating professionals. The AAS is a nonprofit membership organization established for the purpose of education in the advancement of Apitherapy. CMAACC has been named in memory of Charles Mraz, an American pioneer in the use of bee venom to treat diseases.

Root Beer Recipe with Honey – Courtesy of Pat and Shirley Swinth:

3 pounds HONEY

3 pounds SUGAR

5 gallons warm water

One package YEAST

McCormick Root Beer Extract

Mix & enjoy – the Swinths report that this tastes like A&W Root Beer!

Respectfully reported—bee happy!

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