

## Lewis County Beekeepers' Association: May 2011 Newsletter

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    - **Speaker: LCBA Vice President Norm Switzler will field Q&A. Just hived your bees, or brought colonies through your first winter? What's normal, what's not? Also: LCBA Swarm Removal Project Update: how to get involved with the "Bee Team."**
  - **June 24-25: WSBA-WSU Field Day at WSU Pullman**
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### Upcoming Events:

- **Wednesday, May 11, LCBA Monthly Meeting, 7 p.m., Extension Classroom, Old Chehalis Courthouse**
  - **Speaker: LCBA Vice President Norm Switzler will field Q&A. Just hived your bees, or brought colonies through your first winter? What's normal, what's not? Also: LCBA Swarm Removal Project Update: how to get involved with the "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:** I 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 camping for those so inclined. For more information, contact WSBA President Paul Lundy at: 360 297 6743 or email at: [lundy@me.com](mailto:lundy@me.com).

### **Notes from LCBA's April 13, 2011 Meeting**

#### ***Business:***

Heather Sherwood announced late April pickup dates for package bees from Sherwood Apiaries; nukes are expected in mid-May and possibly later, depending on weather. Heather reported that this will be the last year that Sherwood Apiaries will order package bees: she is scaling back to about 10 hives, and in early May, she will begin selling some bees and equipment, so if you are interested, contact her (cellphone, 360 480 9853). Bee supplies are tight this year: Heather's been told that even some of the things she's ordered are not available. There's a run on entrance feeders: none on west coast! She has some other feeders, though.

Pat Swinth brought white runner beans for beekeepers to take home and plant: bees love them. Thanks, Pat!

***Speaker: Dewey Caron, "The Bee Loss Epidemic" [note from scribe: there was a LOT of information in this talk! I did my best to capture it, and will check with Dewey to see if corrections are needed.]***

About 50 beekeepers packed the Extension classroom for Dewey's second talk at LCBA (he was our April 2010 speaker, too). Dewey is Emeritus Professor of Etymology from the University of Delaware & Affiliate Professor at Oregon State U. Since retiring from UD in June 2009, he has moved to Portland to be closer to his children and grandchildren; he doesn't yet have bees in Oregon, but he assists in the OSU Apiary, where he has a courtesy Affiliate Professor appointment. Dewey does, however, have a few colonies of Africanized bees in Bolivia, where his wife's family lives. In winters, he works in Bolivia with the bee teaching/extension program at San Simon University. This past winter, he wrote a Spanish Manual of beekeeping with Africanized bees. As if all this didn't keep him busy enough, he still teaches a beekeeping course through University of Delaware's online program!

Dewey brought two surveys that he asked us to fill out so that he could get data comparable with last year's. The January 2011 *American Bee Journal* has Dewey's 2010 honey bee mortality study; ABJ's April 2011 issue compares west coast with east coast data. Those who don't have access to ABJ are welcome to email Dewey for data at [dmcaron@udel.edu](mailto:dmcaron@udel.edu).

At our meeting, Dewey shared data on national and Pacific Northwest bee colony losses, as well as ideas about why beekeepers in WA & OR have been experiencing heavy annual colony losses the last few years. He distributed a new survey and asked our cooperation to document another year of colony health/unhealthy conditions. He also shared ways to recognize symptoms of pending loss and add some comments on management that could help strengthen colonies in the next month or two.

As his talk continued, Dewey noted that U.S. bee populations have declined from 5.5 million colonies at the end of WWII to 2.4 million today: barely enough to pollinate California's almond crop.

There have been many reasons for honey bee (HB) declines. In the 1980s, declines accelerated due to HB tracheal and varroa mites; Bee PMS since 2000; CCD since 2007. There have been three different waves. However, historically there have been periodic disappearances of bees, for different reasons, starting in 1869.

In Oregon and Washington, annual beekeeper losses from 1970 to early 1980s, before mites and CCD were factors, were about 10 to 15 %. From 1989-98, losses were mite influenced: the researcher, Burgett (1988), sampled commercial bees in the northwest and found losses of 22.6% commercial (330+ colonies) and 25.4% semi commercial. This doubled the historical HB losses that were “normal” prior to the entry of mites to the U.S. So mites became, and remain, a major factor in bee losses.

Since 2007, when CCD was identified as a problem, losses have intensified. In 2010, a national survey showed 34.4% HB colony loss. In the breakdown of data from this study, there was 32.5% loss in WA, 29.7% in Oregon, 27.3% in Idaho; Illinois and Iowa had 73.4% losses. The lowest losses were in New Jersey with 10.4%. In California, the loss was 31.7%. To see 2011 links, Google MAAREC, then see the twitter feed for the live link. These data cover commercial, semi-commercial, and hobbyist beekeepers. Dewey says that the hardest group to reach is backyard beekeepers, those keeping 3 to 4 colonies, and so he asked us to participate in survey. Dewey will share data with us via newsletter.

#### WINTER HB COLONY LOSS SURVEY: Oregon & Washington

2008 survey – 25 OR-WA Beekeepers – estimated 67% of total = 30%

29.5 % commercial (range 6% to 50%)

55% semi-commercial (range 10-83%) ABJ June 2009

2009 survey 34 OR-WA beekeepers – estimated 45% of total

21% commercial & semi-commercial losses

25.8% OR small scalers [ABJ Mar 2010]

2010 survey – 47 OR WA beekeepers estimated 80% of total

24.6% commercial & semi-commercials

44% OR WA small scalers [American Bee Journal, Jan 2011] – that includes us in Lewis County, with 3 years average number of years of experience, and an average of 3 colonies.

We in the Pacific Northwest are not alone: the mid-Atlantic states have also seen steadily increasing losses (ABJ April 2011). No matter what backyarders did to treat for mites, there was no statistical difference between having losses or not. It didn't make a difference if beekeepers did something or nothing: losses still occurred. East coast has traditionally had higher loss rate.

There have been two additional Washington surveys – Eric Olson found a loss rate of 38.7% for 29 commercial and semi commercial beekeepers who started winter with 87,384 colonies and lost 33,783 colonies. A 2<sup>nd</sup> early season survey in Washington carried out by Paul Lundy, WSBA president, found that 80% of beekeepers owning fewer than 20 colonies, mostly west of the Cascades, found 25% loss in

early season survey. Dewey noted that typically we lose colonies in spring, not in February—his explanation for this came later in his presentation.

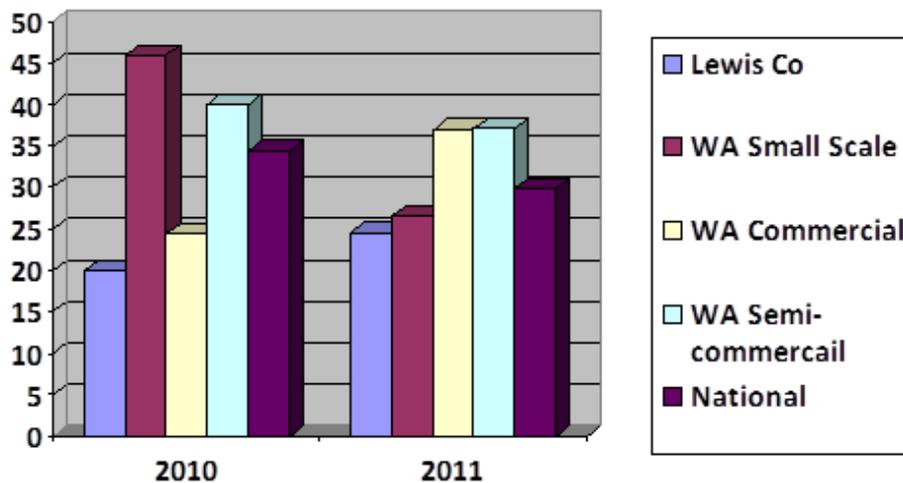
*Here are the preliminary data from our 2011 survey: Dewey sent these after our meeting.*

**LEWIS COUNTY – PRELIMINARY SURVEY of Winter 2011 Losses, by Dewey M. Caron, Ph.D.**

“At the April 13, 2011 Lewis Co Beekeepers’ meeting I passed out a survey to gauge overwinter losses in the group. I received 23 responses. Colony total for the 23 respondents was 90 colonies (Medium=4 colonies; 1 colony was most common number, with 1 to 13 range). 12 of 23 beekeepers had no winter losses – 11 beekeepers had lost a total of 22 colonies – a 24.5% weighted rate (22 colonies loss of 90 total number of colonies of the 23 respondents). Median and most common number of loses was 1 (range 1-5 colonies). Last year 8 Lewis individuals filled out Dewey’s survey – 5 reported no loss with total loss of 4 of 20 colonies, a 20% rate.

“I am still collecting responses, so these numbers are preliminary. As of April 25<sup>th</sup>, I had 65 survey responses from WA sideliners (mainly in Lewis, Cowlitz and Clark Counties). They started winter with 452 colonies (Med=3, range 1-35 col,). 39 had losses (120 col loss total) while 26 had no losses, a 26.5% total weighted loss average. Five commercial WA individuals, (total of 18,209 col lost 6719 colonies of 18,209 total, a 36.9% weighted average loss. Eight semi-commercial WA individuals lost 220 col of 590 total = 37% weighted average loss. My survey last year of WA beekeepers (n=50) was 24.6%, with sideliners (n=34) having the highest loss level(46.6% - see these results in January 2011 American Bee Journal article).

“A full report of 2011 WA losses will be prepared and published later this year. Paul Lundy is also collecting loss data from WA beekeepers, and I am finishing analysis of the WA responses to the National Survey – last year 144 WA individuals responded (statewide loss weighted average = 32.5% ). I sincerely thank all the Lewis Co beekeepers for providing data for this 2011 loss survey.”



Back to Dewey's talk at LCBA:

So: is it necessarily CCD if a beekeeper loses bees? Or is it starvation, or queen failure? Commercial beekeepers were much more likely to identify non-manageable conditions, such as poor queens and pesticides, as leading cause of their losses. Only 7% of commercial beekeepers surveyed reported "CCD" as cause or symptoms; yet these same commercial beekeepers had 57% total losses compared with 25% for semi-commercial beekeepers.

What is CCD? The CCD syndrome was first described 2007. It includes:

- Adult bee population is suddenly gone w/out any accumulation of dead bees;
- A small cluster is present with the queen plus a few young bees; however, brood, pollen, honey are still present;
- Robbing or scavenger attack [wax moth or small hive beetle] delayed

Why does CCD happen? Is there an association of viruses, nosema, mites? Mites may help transmit viruses. Montana researchers think the answer is a combination of a specific virus and nosema [Bromenshenk 2010].

A different syndrome that has been identified is called Bee PMS symptoms [parasitic mite syndrome]: This is NOT CCD. Collectively, the brood looks bad and exhibits these indicators:

- Snot brood [aka cruddy brood]
- Adults "look" bad
- Poor colony performance
- Varroa numbers high
- Heavy spring death rates

In "BEE PMS," if you look closely at bees, the adults look sick, droopy looking, and not lively. It does take a lot of experience to observe this. Bee behaviors include trembling, falling, falling into cells, etc. If you do sample for varroa, numbers come up high: that is not true for CCD, but it is true for PMS.

In 2010, 60% of beekeepers said that their losses were higher than previous year. Were they replacing colonies? They were replacing more colonies than they were losing, but then, beekeepers do that throughout the year. In 2008, beekeepers reported replacing 20.7% more; in 2009, they reported replacing 26.4% more; in 2010, they reported replacing 6% more. Most replacements were accomplished by splitting. Some beekeepers were supplementing their colonies with Australian packages, but that option isn't available now.

Could losses be related to a specific agricultural crop? Monoculture practices related to almonds have often been suggested as problematic. Here are data so far:

Beekeepers: did you move your crop to almonds?

No: 4063, 42.5% a loss, total colony loss of 112,082

Yes: 103, 35.5%, 460,607, 80.4%

In Oregon and Washington, of course, almonds are not the issue.

Dewey asked, looking at the overall picture of honey bee health: Is the honey bear half full or half empty? He reflected that we are seeing higher replacement than losses. In the face of increased losses, he asked, have pollination prices increased? Have CCD remedies added higher costs? He noted that the level of losses in the west are lower than the east and national survey; however, different surveys find different numbers. Another feature he noted was that small scale beekeepers, hobbyists or backyarders have heaviest losses. But what is the difference in loss level from one beekeeper to the next? Why does it seem so random (you lose none, neighbor loses all?)

To resolve all these questions, scientists need to be able to examine colonies in process of dying, not the actual dead bees. But dead colonies DO have a story to tell. That story includes early warning signs: Fall “issues”; disappearing bees in fall; snot brood (see above); and deadouts in fall. A new publication is out that gives some more recent information: A Field Guide to Honey Bees and their Maladies (this booklet costs \$20: Dewey had some copies at the meeting, and those interested can email him at the address above).

What are some likely culprits? Disease epidemic, perhaps a new (or newly virulent) pathogen, or a secondary pathogen? Environmental stressors like monoculture agriculture, climate change, GMOs, magnetism? Synergism (fungicide +)?

Could this new epidemic be related to pesticides? Dewey brought a true/false questionnaire exercise and challenged LCBA members to try it, warning that he has found beekeepers are not as well informed re pesticides about farmers are. Here are the questions, for those who missed the meeting:

TRUE OR FALSE EXERCISE ON HONEY BEES AND PESTICIDES (BY DEWEY CARON) Answer key is below.

1. The sharp decline of honey bee colonies (6 million to current 2.4 million) can largely be blamed on pesticides.
2. Honey bees are more sensitive than other insects to pesticide poisoning.
3. The most common pesticide residues detected in bees or in the bee hive are those of miticides that are the result of beekeeper practices.
4. Pesticides with higher LD-50 numbers (lethal dose to kill 50% of bee population) are more toxic to honey bees compared to pesticides with lower LD-50 numbers.

5. Pesticide metabolites (what a pesticide breaks down into) are almost always less toxic to honey bees than the original formulation.
6. For some materials a combination of pesticides can be much more fatal to bees than if either pesticide was applied alone.
7. The chemicals termed Neonicotinoids (imidichlorprid, etc.) are the most common pesticides found in beeswax and honey bee brood samples.
8. Multiple pesticides added together can only be a more toxic combination to honey bees than if used singly.
9. Synthetic pesticides such as fluvalinate (Apistan) and coumaphos( Checkmite+), used for mite control, do not kill honey bees if used properly.
10. The chemicals termed neonicotinoids (imidachlorprid, etc.) have been identified as major factor in bee loss relative to the symptoms of CCD (dead adults not present but colony collapses and dies in 2 – 4 weeks during the fall months)
11. Pesticides including miticides to kill mites based on natural plant extracts (thymol, for example) are much safer chemicals than synthetic pesticides since they do not usually have sub-lethal effects.
12. Miticides commonly used to kill mites by beekeepers and the pesticides bees are exposed to outside the hive while foraging generally are not found in honey.
13. The miticides used by beekeepers are mostly soluble in water so they can be found in low amounts in the honey stored in the bee hive but generally not in extracted honey.
14. Pesticides known to be toxic to honey bees can be safely applied in the late afternoon or early evening hours with little danger of killing honey bees.
15. Pesticides play an important role in controlling pests of crops worldwide and therefore should not be banned even though they may harm honey bees.

1,F; 2,F; 3,T; 4,T; 5,F; 6,T; 7,F; 8,F; 9,T; 10,F; 11,F; 12,T; 13,F; 14,F; 15,T.

[1 – 9 correct: not very good; 10 – 12 correct: good; 13 – 16 you understand the issues.]

LEWIS COUNTY BEEKEEPER PESTICIDE QUIZ SCORES: Top score possible: 15

Scores reported were: 13, 9, 11, 10, 4, 9, 4, 5, 8, 12, 9, 10, 11

Most score under 10 on the pesticide test. Pesticides may be an issue, but it is not proven yet. Many want to blame neonicotinoids (synthetic). Many spray on orchards—cherry, apple—but this may not be the reason. See our April LCBA Newsletter information from Jim Bach: when we look for neonicotinoids in dying bees, we do not find those chemicals. If it's killing bees, why aren't we finding it in dying bees who seem to be poisoned? Possibly we are not looking in the right way, and maybe that is the problem with the EPA registering it. To prove, for Bayer, that it isn't toxic, they only need to use old protocol.

We DO know that neonics cause changes in behavior. Bees have 3 day short term memory, and if their learning behavior is being interfered with by chemicals, they are forgetting how to do tasks in the bee colonies.

Another candidate: mitocides. When we look, we find 98% of time our own mitocides present in our dying/dead colonies. Residue of mitocides is cumulative. When we look in bodies, in brood, we see it. We DON'T see it in the honey. Honey remains relatively untainted. The mitocides are in beeswax. What differs is what amount we find. If we don't put a mitocide into a bee colony, we still find it, but in lower levels.

Formic acid is not being tested for b/c so much is already there in bee bodies and honey. When Mite-Away Quick Strips put in data, showed that in 7 to 8 days, back to background level of chemicals.

Q: aren't neonics so lethal that we don't find them in colonies because bees don't survive to get back to colony? Dewey said that tests have shown LD50 test doesn't confirm neonics killing bees. Another question: isn't EPA giving a free pass on neonics to Bayer? It is possible that the test is not sensitive enough to show the toxicity? Yes: Sublethal effects could be the problem. Here synergism comes into play. Fungicides? You put them on your fruit tree. But if you add neonics to the mix, it's more than a 1 plus one dose of toxic chemicals in terms of its impact.

Look at ingredients on a pesticide label: inert ingredients mean what? The carrier that makes material stick on a leaf, the thing that makes insect feed on a leaf, etc. EPA only tests pure technical materials; not what is in your bag. And now we know some are toxic. Also, b/c these are proprietary ingredients, companies won't tell what is in the inert ingredient list. Fluvalinate can be toxic for bees but doesn't show up in list.

Another major concern that bee researchers now have is looking at bee nutrition: what is living in digestive tract? Nosema actually inhibits absorption of nutrients. Dewey showed a striking photo of fungi growing out of a bee's head: this didn't used to be seen (see [ag.udel.edu/maarec/](http://ag.udel.edu/maarec/))

Newest thoughts on what is causing bee losses, summarized:

- It may be a combination of virus and nosema [the University of Montana study) but definitive test not done—infect colonies with both and see what happens.
- New technologies [military] “allows them to use what they already know to find something they did not even know they were looking for.”
- Role of mites in virus transmission, such as the Israeli acute paralysis virus (IAPV)
- Pesticides (neonics) in environment (April LCBA) – not ruled out. Evidence is mounting, though, that pesticides are part of the picture.
- Epidemics: often cause not found till epidemic is over. Given historic patterns of bee die offs this is possible. But data show that die offs are still taking place.

Bob noted that issue with surveys is not necessarily reliable data b/c depends on reliability of those responding. Dewey said he thinks they have a robust sample, and in any sample there

is some bias. Tim asked about bee management, particularly bee transport: Dewey said that when transport happens, 10% of queens die. Another question focused on genetics: the genome of honey bee has been mapped, but not specific races of bees. Dying colonies have different genes being expressed than healthy colonies.

Could importation of cheap honey have any effect on not having funds to do good research? Dewey answered that of 24.5 tbs of honey ingested annually by U.S. citizens, only 9 are U.S. grown. But Dewey noted that there is funding to study. Research funding, though, is targeted to CCD, not things like swarming or queen breeding. Industry does give money for research to universities; by and large it is federal granting. But that federal funding may be cut in the present budget battles.

What can beekeepers do while researchers are seeking answers? Some “do”s include:

- Air out equipment
- Increase genetic diversity
- Start fall management early in fall b/c that dictates spring health
- Monitor for mites
- Reduce contaminants
- Feed bees
- Hop Guard: only kills mites on adults: it will not go through capped larva, where mites nest. As a new product, HG will have to be evaluated as beekeepers try it. Mite quick strips – also need to check on this. But mite strips break down, are vegetable product, 7 day treatment, kills mites in the cells, both male and female cells. Hop Guard and powdered sugar don't get to those.
- Tim asked about Amitraz; Dewey said that it was withdrawn after it killed bees in Florida and beekeepers sued, so that is not coming back.

Some “don't”s for beekeepers include:

Don't equalize[doing same thing to all colonies; if you have one sick colony, that disease gets spread around]

Don't stress bees

Don't mis-dose with medications

Don't locate too close to sick colonies – healthy bees then get sick themselves

Does beekeeping need a “re-invent,” like the maple sugar industry, which found a different process that used less energy? Dewey suggested that beekeeping's possible reinvent is nuc management (4 or 5 frames per box). A nuc colony grows by nature, and if it comes from a colony with a mite problem, the nuc can grow out of that. Start with leftover bees/brood in fall. Open brood doesn't have mite flow b/c

mites are in capped brood, and then you can treat it. You have combination of nucs and colonies. What kills bees in winter are moisture issues. These nucs have queen separators and absorbent material, not Masonite inner cover. This is a new technique, last 5 years. They are making up nucs with chosen frames in late August. Nucs that go to almonds have to be made in late August/early September. You can stop swarming by making up nucs. The last WAS journal had article on nuc management. Nucs could also resolve our stock issue. Locally breed survivor stock with resilience in our environment. Our bee colonies that survive know our conditions and they survive for a reason. There will be a queen rearing workshop in June at the WSU-WSBA Field Day (see below).

LCBA members thanked Dewey for an information packed talk!

### May Recipes:

*Even if it doesn't always feel like spring these days, we can bring on a spring/early summer feeling in the kitchen. This month's recipes come from Ruth Tan's "The Benefits of Honey" website. If you like these recipes, you can download a free copy of her 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> . . .*

### **Fruit Dip (just 5 minutes to prepare!)**

#### *Ingredients:*

- 3 cups plain yogurt
- 1 cup chopped almonds
- **1 Tb. honey**

#### *Directions:*

- Combine all ingredients in a bowl and mix well
- Chill mix and serve with fresh cut-up assorted fruits (such as strawberries, red and green apple slices, honey dew, and grapes)

### **Thai Honey Green Mango Salad Recipe**

#### *Ingredients (2 servings):*

- 1 small green mango
- Half a green apple

- 1 red chili
- 3 lemon leaves
- 5 shallots
- 5-6 basil leaves for garnish (optional)
- 2 Tb. dried shrimp
- 1 Tb. roasted peanuts

*Dressing:*

\* 1 Tb. fish sauce (check the Chinese condiments at the supermarket)

\* **1 Tb. honey**

\* ½ Tb. lime juice

*Directions:*

\* Skin and cut the mango into long strips.

\* Chop green apple into fine cubes.

\* Remove seeds from chilli and slice thinly.

\* Slice shallots thinly.

\* Wash and pound the dried shrimp finely.

\* Fry shrimp with a little oil until fragrant and dry.

\* Combine fish sauce, **honey** and lime juice.

\* Put all the ingredients into a large bowl, & pour in the dressing.

\* Toss well and serve with basil leaves.

## **Perfect Honey Pizza Recipe**

*Ingredients:*

\* 5.5 oz. ham slices (cut into small 1 inch by 1 inch squares)

\* 5 slices of soft white bread

\* **1-2 Tbs. honey to spread**

- \* 10 Tbs. shredded Mozzarella cheese
- \* 3 tomatoes (chopped finely, drain away juice)
- \* Dashes of mixed ground spices – sesame, oregano, basil, pepper, thyme, and rosemary

*Directions:*

- Preheat oven to 280 F. degrees
- Spread honey on bread slices.
- Lay tomato pieces evenly on the bread, followed by ham squares.
- Spread cheese on top and finish off by sprinkling the mixed spices.
- Place in the oven at 280 F. degrees for 25-30 minutes.

### **Honey Chinese BBQ Pork Recipe (Bak Kwa)**

*Ingredients:*

- 2 to 2 ½ pounds lean pork
- 2 clove Garlic – blended/ground
- 1/2 tsp. five spice powder
- 1 1/2 Tb. soy sauce
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 Tb. margarine
- **4-5 Tbs. honey**

*Instructions:*

- \* Slice pork thinly and knock each slices to tenderize it
- \* Add seasoning, place pork slices in a container, & refrigerate for at least 5 hours to marinate
- \* Arrange thin pieces of pork onto a flat plate to dry
- \* When dry, cut pork slices into squares of about 4 inches
- \* Barbecue the square pork slices with burning charcoal until both sides are golden in color

- \* Glaze the slices with honey from time to time
- \* Cooled barbecued slices can be stored in the refrigerator freezer for a few weeks!

### **LCBA NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

#### ***Used Equipment Opportunity:***

Heather and Jason Sherwood are getting out of the bee business, and we'll miss having their great local help. Heather is scaling back to about 10 hives, and in early May, she will begin selling some bees and equipment, so if you are interested, contact her (cellphone, 360 480 9853). Bee supplies are tight this year: Heather's been told that even some of the things she's ordered are not available. There's a run on entrance feeders—there are none on west coast—however, Heather has other feeders available for sale.

#### ***Western Apicultural Society Journal - May 2011 issue is now available:***

Editor Fran Bach asks readers to visit the WAS website:  
[http://groups.ucanr.org/WAS/WAS\\_Journal](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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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