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## May 2013 LCBA Newsletter

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*Questions? Suggestions? Resources you'd like to share?*

*Please contact LCBA Secretary Susanne Weil: [susanne.beekeeper@gmail.com](mailto:susanne.beekeeper@gmail.com) or call 360 880 8130.*

## UPCOMING LCBA EVENTS:

*The board will set up more mentoring workshops for May and June, including opportunities to observe colony removals ~ check our website and watch for email announcements!*

**May 8: LCBA Monthly Meeting, 7 – 9 p.m., 103 Washington Hall, Centralia College.**

*Social time 6:30 to 7 – come talk bees!*

### **Topics:**

**(1) BeeInformed Honey Bee Loss Survey Data.** You've no doubt heard the dire reports about bee losses this past year. How bad is it, and where does the Pacific Northwest fit in the national data profile? Dr. Dewey Caron will be back to share the most recent research results, as well as what may be causing bee die-offs. He'll also survey us about how our bees have fared this year.

**(2) Business Meeting: Feeding Bees – Exploring the Methods; Managing to Prevent Swarms.** Treasurer Jon Wade & President Norm Switzler will give an overview & lead Q&A session. **Also: monthly raffle – if you have something to share, please bring it to the meeting** (if you can, email [susanne.beekeeper@gmail.com](mailto:susanne.beekeeper@gmail.com) so we know what's coming; if you have a spur of the moment inspiration, though, please bring it!).

**May 11, Colony Removal:** Rob Jenkins will be removing a colony from a VFW or American Legion Hall in Winlock, (very) early a.m.. Helpers, photographers, and interested bystanders welcome! As soon as available, details will be emailed to those on the swarm/colony removal list; if you're not on the list but are interested, please email Susanne (see above).

**May 19, Mentor Workshop, Winlock, Noon to 2 p.m.: Hive Examination II (queen evaluation, when to put additional boxes on hived packages and nucs, swarm management, supers):** Norm will lead this workshop, hosted by new LCBA members Jennifer and Matt Taylor at their apiary: for details, email [susanne.beekeeper@gmail.com](mailto:susanne.beekeeper@gmail.com) or call 360 880 8130.

**June 12, LCBA Monthly Meeting, 7 – 9 p.m., 103 Washington Hall, Centralia College.**

*Social Time 6:30 to 7 – Come Talk Bees!*

**Topic: Bob Smith, Olympia Beekeepers: How To Judge Honey.** Bring your honey to compare/contrast with others and get ready to enter this year's contest at the Southwest Washington Fair!

**June 12-13: "The Art of Queen Rearing," WSU-Pullman.** This workshop will be led by Sue Cobey and WSU's APIS team. For registration information, visit <http://entomology.wsu.edu/apis/> ; for the Queen Rearing course registration form, visit <http://entomology.wsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/QueenRearingWkshp2013.pdf?9d7bd4>.

**June 14-15: WSU-WSBA Bee Field Days, WSU-Pullman.** WSU's honey bee research team partners with WSBA to sponsor "Bee Field Days" every other year; beekeepers from all over Washington are invited to WSU's Pullman campus for workshops on hive inspection, identifying bee diseases, learning how testing is done in APIS's laboratory, and more. Schedule & registration information about Bee Field Days will be posted on our LCBA website and announced in our newsletter when available.

**Saturday, July 13, 5 p.m. till ? LCBA's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Potluck** – this time on a Saturday so that those with full time jobs and kids to get to bed on school nights can linger longer. Please bring a dish to share, a plate & cutlery, a chair, and, if you have something for our monthly fundraising raffle, please bring that too. Drinks provided by LCBA. Guests are welcome! This gathering is in lieu of our regular monthly meeting, though we will have a short business meeting as members munch. For address and directions, email [susanne.beekeeper@gmail.com](mailto:susanne.beekeeper@gmail.com) or call 360 880 8130.

**July 19: "The Art of Queen Rearing" - Mt. Vernon Agricultural Station.** Sue Cobey & the WSU APIS team will offer "The Art of Queen Rearing" a second time – see above for registration information, or visit <http://entomology.wsu.edu/apis/>.

**July 26-28: Pacific Northwest Treatment-Free Beekeeping Conference.** Pacific University, about half an hour south of Portland. Tuition of \$268 includes room and board. For more information, visit [blisshoneybees.org](http://blisshoneybees.org).

**October 3 – 6, 2013: WSBA Conference, Federal Way, WA. Please note new dates & location** – the conference was originally slated for Oct 31 - Nov 2 in Seaside, OR. Updates - program, venue, registration info - will be posted when available.

**October 24, 31, Nov. 7, 14: LCBA / WSBA Apprentice Beekeeping Course, Lewis County Extension Classroom, Old Chehalis Courthouse; Cost: \$30 individual; \$45 couple or family**

LCBA Past President Bob Harris and President Norm Switzler will teach this introductory class, assisted by Peter Glover, Sheila Gray, and Susanne Weil. The course is sponsored by Lewis County Extension. The registration brochure will be available on our website soon. Questions? Contact LCBA Secretary Susanne: [susanne.beekeeper@gmail.com](mailto:susanne.beekeeper@gmail.com) or 360 880 8130.

## NOTES FROM OUR APRIL 10th MEETING

**New ~ LCBA's Monthly Fundraising Raffle!** President Norm Switzler brought the meeting to order and, calling members' attention to the screened bottom board, super, and *Hiving Bees for Dummies* book that were on display, announced LCBA's first monthly fundraising raffle. LCBA's only income is membership dues; as a registered Washington State nonprofit corporation, though, we can raise funds for our educational and service programs, like the queen rearing project and scholarships. Raffle tickets are \$1 apiece. We hope to do this every month; Membership Coordinator Steve Howard noted that if members would like to donate items, they are welcome. The items don't have to be pertinent to bees; they could be, for example, plants, bulbs, etc. (Bob Harris suggested that bathtub gin should go for \$2 a ticket.) Raffle tickets are available during the break, and the drawing takes place at the start of the business meeting; you must be present to win. . . .

***Nuc Order News:*** Bob Harris and Tim Giese announced that our nuc bees will be available on Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, at a member's farm Chehalis. On Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Bob and Tim will drive to Oregon get the bees and bring them back to Bob's farm, where they will be spaced and uncapped so that they get the chance to forage for the day, orient to their boxes, then go back to box at night. On Tuesday morning, Bob will cap the boxes, so people can get them anytime on Tuesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> – it does not have to be morning. If you can't get them on Tuesday, there is no crisis; you can get them later, but tell Bob: the bees can't be capped indefinitely, so after April 23, they should be picked up early in the morning or in the evening so foragers aren't left behind. There will be no feeder – bees will need to feed. Bob noted that Tim is spending his own gas to get the bees, so please bring a buck for gas for Tim. Norm thanked Tim for setting this up for us and Tim & Bob for organizing and driving.

***Got Extra Nuc Boxes? Would You Donate Them for LCBA's Queen Rearing Project?*** Dave noted that if anyone had extra nuc boxes that they'd be willing to donate for the queen rearing project, please bring them to our next monthly meeting.

***Package Bee Orders:*** Bees will be available on Saturday, April 20, for pickup from noon to 3 p.m. at the Master Gardeners' Demonstration Garden at Fort Borst Park in Centralia. Norm, Susanne, and Peter will be there to advise on hiving; marshmallow plugs will be available.

### **Meeting Topic: Spring Management & Package Bee Issues**

The January 2013 issue of *Bee Culture* noted that Jim Tew, regular columnist, and the Ohio State Beekeepers Association have produced a series of free, online videos about beginning beekeeping. These videos can be accessed at [www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/beekeeping\\_class](http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/beekeeping_class). To give our new beekeepers some visual images of what they can expect when they hive their bees for the first time, as well as to spark discussion, we viewed the OSBA videos, "Package Bees: Part I" and "Package Bees: Part II."

***Comments on "Package Bees: Part I":*** the video did not discuss the need to face the queen cage's mesh surface away from frame face so that queen doesn't suffocate and so that the workers can feed her. Also, it was noted that the queens in the packages we will get will not have attendants.

***Comments on "Package Bees: Part 2":*** The beekeepers in the video didn't use sugar water, but doing so is a good idea, Norm notes, since it calms the bees. If it's a cool, windy day, spray them less, so as not to chill them. Tim noted the importance of bees being used to queen pheromone. If you chose, really you could release her immediately, not cork her, because the package bees have traveled with her for days.

***Where to put the nearly-empty package after hiving:*** Where to put the nearly-empty package after hiving: It was also noted that the practice of putting the emptied box right in front of the hive, leaning against the bottom board but not covering access to the hive entrance, is a good practice. Kent Yates noted that he takes out the candy and puts in crystallized honey – then you don't have a two to three day delay. Alan Sparling asked about the protocol for hiving a top bar hive; Dave said take there are several ways to put package bees into a top bar hive. You can either pin the queen cage to a bar or you can directly release her. You can empty the package into the empty hive or just remove a couple of bars and just set the package upside down over the hive chamber. They will go down and into the hive. Protect the package by putting something over them to prevent rain from getting into the hive. The next day check and see if they have all come out of the package and into the hive body.

Renzy Davenport mentioned that (for bad weather) after removing the queen and placing her against the frame, you could even put the package (box) of bees inside the hive, under the tops bars towards the back, and they'd come out instead of trying to shake them out.

***Syrup in the cans – GMO risk?*** Dave noted that that stuff in the cans contains corn syrup, a GMO product, so it may be best to chuck the can and put your own feed in a feeder. There are differing views on the “to feed or not to feed” question. Tim Giese says you do not have to feed: if you have comb available, that helps them. The sugar: water 1:1 mixture does give them a jump start on producing wax to build comb, but they should be fine without it. At the end of the season, you can feed if the hives haven't built up the weight of food they need for overwintering. Deanna Brix asked whether it isn't better to feed them honey, since that's more nutritious; Norm said yes, but it might not give them sufficient energy and stimulation to produce the wax flakes, production of which is stimulated by nectar, a much thinner solution than honey. Bees, however, can ripen most things that come their way, Tim added.

***A kinder, gentler way to hive the package – without shaking:*** Norm demonstrated the method that Renzy had noted (Larry Connor's method). First, take the queen cage and insert it, tacking or stapling it to a frame, taking care that the mesh part of the cage is not facing into the foundation – the queen must be able to breathe and the workers must be able to feed her. Second, place an empty deep body on a bottom board. Third, place the package in the empty deep body. Fourth, take out the syrup can. Fifth, place the deep body with frames and the queen cage on top of the empty deep containing the package. Sixth, put the inner cover and telescoping cover on top of the upper box. The bees from the package will move up to be with the queen. Check 24 hours later, and if the bees have moved up, remove the empty lower deep body and package, and place the deep body full of bees on the bottom board.

Bruce Casaw asked whether this hiving technique could it be done in reverse – putting the package in the empty hive body on top of the box with frames. Norm answered that you could, and it probably would work, but as a general rule, bees tend to want to go up. You could also use a shallow box to house the package if you put the package on its side.

***Don't smack that package down:*** One nice feature of this hiving method is not having to shake bees at all: Norm said, “some would say smack that package down before you take out the syrup can to shake them down away from it. I say be nice to your bees.” Norm also noted that your mileage may vary with this method: the bees don't read the book (or our newsletter). One time when he tried this, the queen went back down into the package and the bees started building comb in the package box, but this is unusual (bees thinking inside the box?).

***Important cautionary note to avoid hurting your bees!*** Also, Tim Weible noted, **never** scrape that wire mesh screen on the package because the bees will be holding onto the wire mesh sides with their feet – scraping the sides of the package will rip off their legs! ☹

***Spray the package with sugar/water mix before hiving:*** It is a good idea to spray the package of bees before hiving: saturate them well through the screen because it will take them several minutes to clean themselves, so they will be busy and distracted while you are manipulating the package to get the syrup can out. Putting Honey-B-Healthy into the syrup is good to help calm bees. Peter Glover noted that when he sprayed some mix on the foundation in the upper box where the queen cage was, by the next morning, the bees had all gone up to the queen.

***A note on living nucs:*** With the nucs, in contrast to the package, you'll see a pretty full box. You'll need to give them more room. Put them into a deep body, keeping the orientation and order of the frames, and you can add a division board feeder in place of two frames. You may only be able to put in 4 frames, as bees may build comb well out from the frames. Try to keep the spacing close enough so that the bees can build out from the foundation and then correct as the frames expand. You don't want to cram in an extra frame if it will abut the next frame, since then the bees won't have enough bee space. Ending up with 9 frames is not as bad as preventing bees from producing on a surface that they can't access.

***What if you see dead bees in the package?*** Jon noted that when you take your package bees home on the Saturday afternoon, they may have been in the box for four or five days. You'll have a cross section of bees in terms of age in the box, so some dead bees will simply have died from normal aging, so do not panic if you see a layer of dead bees. Jon noted that Dave Ragsdale said the bee distributors in California are having a better spring than last year, so the bees should be in good shape with queens well-bred by a diverse range of drones.

***Getting that cork out of the queen cage:*** Tim Weible brought queen cages from California that had plain boxes - not like those in the video with the figure-eight circle design. Tim noted the "putting the nail through the opening" method to be sure that you get the cork out of the queen cage- he recommends using a sheet rock screw to be sure to catch the cork and not push it down into the queen cage. Be sure you don't let your queen fly away!

Inserting a marshmallow in the queen cage might be a better option than using crystallized honey. When Norm got his nuc last year, there was no tube, so he improvised with crystallized honey from an old jar he had on hand. The down side of doing that was that once it warmed up (and just moving it around and pushing up into the hole starts to warm it up!), it drips out fast, within a few minutes. Thus, inserting the marshmallow is a better plan because it takes longer for the bees to eat their way through it and into the queen cage.

***Feeding package and nuc bees:*** It's better to err on the side of caution and feed, given our climate and its changeability - if the food is there they have the option, and if they can get natural food they will go for that in preference. Use pure cane sugar, always - remember that beet sugar is genetically modified! Kimo noted that he goes to the Asian grocery store in Lacey on Pacific to purchase very cheap lemon grass: and uses that (see his description of how it works, below). Bob suggested eating the lemon grass and gave a chew demonstration.

### ***Business Meeting Notes***

***Fundraising Raffle:*** President Norm kicked off our business meeting with the raffle drawing. Ben Hatchett won 1<sup>st</sup> prize and picked the super. Linda Newton won 2nd prize and picked the screened bottom board made by Gary Stelzner. Don Larson, whose ticket was drawn third, won *Hive Building for Dummies*. Kimo Thielges donated a jar of lemon grass stalks, won by Maggie Keeling. Altogether we raised \$87 for our queen rearing project and scholarship fund.

***Mentor Program:*** Norm explained that LCBA members taking WSBA's Journeyman class are volunteering to serve as mentors to first year beekeepers. Susanne circulated a sign-up sheet for those

who wanted to be matched with mentors in their area. Tim Geise noted that there are many right answers in beekeeping, so there is nothing wrong with consulting multiple mentors to hear different perspectives: none of us will be offended!

**Upcoming Events:** Susanne announced that because of projected cold, wet weather, we are moving the Mossyrock hive inspection workshop to April 27 instead April 13. We'll have the Mossyrock workshop from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on April 27, and the Winlock workshop from 3 to 5 p.m. that same day.

For our May 8 monthly meeting, Dewey Caron is coming to share information from the Bee Informed Partnership about bee losses and where the Pacific Northwest fits into the national data profile, as well as updated thinking about the whys of bee die-offs.

For Sue Cobey's queen rearing workshops, Renzy reported that he had asked Sue about these classes and had learned that they will not focus on instrumental insemination (her specialty), but rather, on other methods geared for the hobbyist; the workshops will include classroom and hands on training.

Please see "Upcoming Events," above, or our website for more cool bee-related happenings.

**WSBA October 2013 Conference: What Topics Would You Like To See?** Susanne is on WSBA's 2013 conference committee and asked LCBA members what kinds of talks and events would attract them to this annual event.

- Presentations with practical take-home ideas for hobbyist beekeepers was the top suggestion.
- Ask Wilma Sofranko to speak on beekeeping in Kenya (probably beyond WSBA's budget to bring her here, unfortunately).
- GMO and pollen issues – bee nutrition as a whole would be good to learn more about.
- Timing of the conference: possibly hold it in January or February, after people have had time to reflect on the previous year of beekeeping and are getting ready to start a new season?
- Location, location, location: Seattle is too far for many to travel. Olympia would be a more central destination.
- Film the sessions and put them on the Internet so that people who can't travel to the conference can see them. This could be done as a webinar for a fee. Possibly an ongoing webstream from the conference could be accessed via a password. Even making highlights available online after the fact would help.
- Neonicotinoid pesticides: a review of the research, public policies, and what beekeepers can do about this problem.
- Beekeeping on small agricultural holdings: instead of encouraging trucking commercial hives, could small farmers be encouraged to keep their own bees?

- Weather: how to protect bees from wind and water? Indoor overwintering information would be helpful.
- Zombie bees, Varroa destructor, Nosema etc. – what are best practices for dealing with these?
- Developing bee breeders in the Pacific Northwest – can it be done? We rely on buying bees from California – and these bees are not adapted to our climate. Breeding a northwest bee would help us become more self-reliant.
- More natural approaches to beekeeping: we tend to situate hives and use materials that work for us as beekeepers, but is that good for bees? For example, wild swarms normally go well up into trees, yet we place hive boxes close to the ground.
- Free beer is to humans as queen pheromone is to drones. . . . just a thought.

The discussion shifted to things that LCBA could do over the coming year, including:

- Creating a calendar for beginning beekeepers of what to do when during the year. Everyone seems to do things a bit differently, such as when to put on different treatments, when to go from 2:1 to 1:1 feed mix. A “year in the life of a beekeeper” varies greatly from region to region, and many books don’t distinguish by region. *Beekeeping For Dummies* has a calendar, as do some major supplies, but our climate is different.
- How can we get younger people involved? If we had more materials online, we could bring in more young beekeepers. We could also try outreach to high schools and the college.
- Possibly LCBA could, once a month, or at least a few times a year, have events designed for children. There is a new children’s museum in town. In this context, Norm noted that we will be at the Fair and will have an observation hive, which is a kid magnet – at another fair, there were colorful signs with arrows that read, “see the bees” to bring in kids, and we could do that, too. These would be alternatives to our meetings – the time of our monthly meetings is not good for kids, though trying to move to a weekend would lose others.
- Renzy noted the idea of giving scholarships to young people, possibly a boy and a girl each year to be sponsored to take the apprentice class, be outfitted with bees and equipment, and have a mentor – Gary Stelzner has raised this idea before, and members seem supportive. Norm noted that when kids see beekeeping in action, they lose their fear. As a home school teacher, Sharette does a home school bee open house and it is a chance for kids to see that bees can be mellow. Tim Giese noted that liability issues are a problem – we would need a specific disclaimer. Rick Battin noted that “hold harmless agreements” are simple forms.
- Could we have something on the website for kids? Susanne asked that if anyone knows of sites already designed to help make beekeeping accessible to young people, please send her a URL to link to our site. We could have a “just for kids” page.

Susanne thanked members for great ideas, not just for WSBA but for us; Norm adjourned the meeting.

## USING LEMON GRASS TO ATTRACT SWARMS

*Contributed by Kimo Thielges*

“Perhaps one or more of our LCBA members may want to try this as an experiment. Lemon Grass is a herb from which an extract is derived. For beekeeping purposes, the lemon extract is used to attract a bee swarm to a hive/nuc box.

“I will use actual blades of Lemon Grass as an experiment to attract a bee swarm, if I am so lucky to find one in my yard this year. A few long blades of lemon grass will be cut from the herb garden, then cut into several small pieces. These small pieces will be loosely spread in the bottom of a deep hive or a Nuc. The aroma of the lemon grass is very fragrant, and should attract a bee swarm to a hive/nuc. The lemon grass leaves will act as a substitute for the Essential Oil Lemongrass extract.

“*Essential Oil Lemongrass* will be my back-up method to attract a bee swarm. I purchased a 1 oz. jar (brown bottle) of Essential Oil Lemongrass for \$4.79 at Ruhl Bee Supply. It is also called Bee Outside.

*Lemon Grass Tea:* “Throughout the summer growing season, you may cut a blade of lemon grass from time to time, and cut it into small pieces. These pieces are put in a cup. Hot water is poured over it until the cup is nearly full. Add a teaspoon of honey to sweeten it. Allow it to cool a while, then enjoy Lemon Grass Tea.

*Cooking with Lemon Grass:* “For culinary purposes, Lemon Grass may be added to curry for flavoring. Vietnamese often use Lemon Grass in various dishes. For these and other culinary ideas, do an internet search on cooking with Lemon Grass.

*Growing Lemon Grass:* “Lemon Grass is a tropical plant, which can be grown with some gardening attention during the Summer in the Pacific Northwest. Lemon Grass may be purchased at most Asian grocers. Four or five bundles cost a dollar, or slightly more. I usually buy my bundles of Lemon Grass in Lacey at Hong Phat. This Vietnamese grocer is located near the intersection of College Street and Pacific Avenue, a few blocks East of Lacey City Hall, Timberland Library, and St. Martin’s College. Hong Phat Market’s address is 1107 College Street Southeast, Suite E, Lacey, WA. Phone: (360) 491-7834.

“Upon returning home, place your Lemon Grass bundles in a quart jar and fill it with a few inches of water (enough to cover the bulbous root area). Replenish water as needed. Within a month, the Lemon Grass should develop healthy roots. Transplant the Lemon Grass outdoors in a sunny location. You may want to plant the Lemon Grass in a small river rock garden. Rocks will absorb heat during the day, and retain it at night. Capped soda and milk bottles filled with water around the Lemon Grass plants will act as a Wall-O-Water. Or, empty glass beer bottles (with necks buried in the ground) will serve a similar purpose when placed in a circle around the Lemon Grass plants.

“Harvest the top several inches of Lemon Grass during August and September. Dry and save for usage during the Fall and Winter months. Transplant the Lemon Grass to planters, and bring indoors well before the first frost. Place them near a window that receives sunlight. Water as needed. Transplant outdoors in the Spring. If the plants do not survive indoors, buy more Lemon Grass stalks at an Asian grocer, and repeat the above process.

“May you be successful in your Lemon Grass growing efforts. -----Kimo”

## **BEES IN THE NEWS**

*Many thanks to Sarah Roebas, Steve Howard, and others who have sent links to news about our favorite members of the Genus apis ~ please keep ‘em coming!*

**“Beekeepers call for state to investigate spike in bee deaths”:** 11 April 2013, KING 5 News, Olympia:

The Thurston County Commissioners are asking the Washington State Department of Agriculture to investigate the effect of neonicotinoids in pesticides in light of recent research on the chemicals’ sublethal effect on honey bees. Possible restrictions on sales, such as limiting use of these pesticides to those with up to date pesticide user licenses, could result. To read TCC’s letter to WSDA, visit the Bees in the News link on our website.

WSBA President Mark Emrich was interviewed about the impact which neonicotinoids in pesticides are having on bees and beekeepers. Mark lost half his hives over the previous winter, despite having examined and treated for mites and other honey bee health challenges. To see the video, visit [www.lewiscountybeekeepers.org](http://www.lewiscountybeekeepers.org) and click on the Bees in the News link. The state has 60 days to investigate: to sign the Change.org petition to WSDA, visit: <http://www.king5.com/news/environment/Beekeepers-commissioners-call-for-state-to-look-into-bee-deaths-202614581.html> .

**“Honeybee Society”:** Popular Science, 10 Apr 2013:

New research has shown that the different “jobs” bees do in the hive are determined by “chemical tags attached to the bees’ DNA.” These tags can either instigate or reverse specific bee behaviors. The capacity of nurse bees to change a larva’s destiny by feeding royal jelly, making her into a queen instead of a worker, are well known, but now Arizona State scientists have found that chemical tags can activate other substantial changes. For example, foragers make up about a third of the colony’s workforce, but if there is a sudden nectar flow, “young bees that would normally become nurses immediately develop into foragers, a switch reflected by changes in their epigenetic tags.” Another example was discovered in swarming behavior, when “some foragers and free-agent bees will . . . shift to nursing.”

However, there are limits to how far the chemical commands can change bee behavior: “[i]n a lab experiment, after half of a hive’s population was taken away, only 10 percent of foragers became nurses. Scientists say that fragility may keep many foragers from making the switch. Foragers are programmed to be frail in order to protect the colony: Rather than bring infections or toxins back to the hive, they typically die out in the field.” The researchers aren’t sure what activates the chemical tags to spark these epigenetic changes, but one speculation is that “pheromones exuded by the forager bees might play a role.”

To read more, visit: <http://www.popsci.com/science/article/2013-03/honeybee-society> .

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*See Upcoming Events, above, for mentor workshops & colony removals.*

**WESTERN APICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER:** WAS Newsletter Editor Fran Bach reports that the May issue of the WAS Journal has been posted. Please go to: [http://groups.ucanr.org/WAS/WAS\\_Journal](http://groups.ucanr.org/WAS/WAS_Journal) and click on the line in the paragraph on the right as directed. If you are still getting the old issue, click on "empty cache" in your browser and/or "refresh" or "reload" under VIEW in your menu bar.

**APRIL WSBA NEWSLETTER:** “Pick up your copy from the main page at [www.wasba.org](http://www.wasba.org) by clicking on "Newsletters" under OUR SPONSORS on the lower right of the page. Then click "Current issue”.

**BEEKEEPING IN KENYA:** To follow February speaker Wilma Sofranko’s beekeeping adventures in Kenya, visit: [www.kireeco.wordpress.com](http://www.kireeco.wordpress.com).

That’s all for this month ~ best wishes for healthy bees this May!

*Take care & bee happy,*

Susanne for LCBA