

# What kills our bees in Lewis County?



**Varroa Mite and secondary infections**

**Wasps and hornets**

**Moisture issues and Nosema**

**Moisture control issues will be addressed  
at our September 9<sup>th</sup> meeting**



# Wasps and hornets are feasting on our bees, their larvae, and their honey

A Yellow Jacket trap



Close up inside of the trap



# Bees can rob and often do this time of year



We are currently in a dearth. You may need to feed your bees.

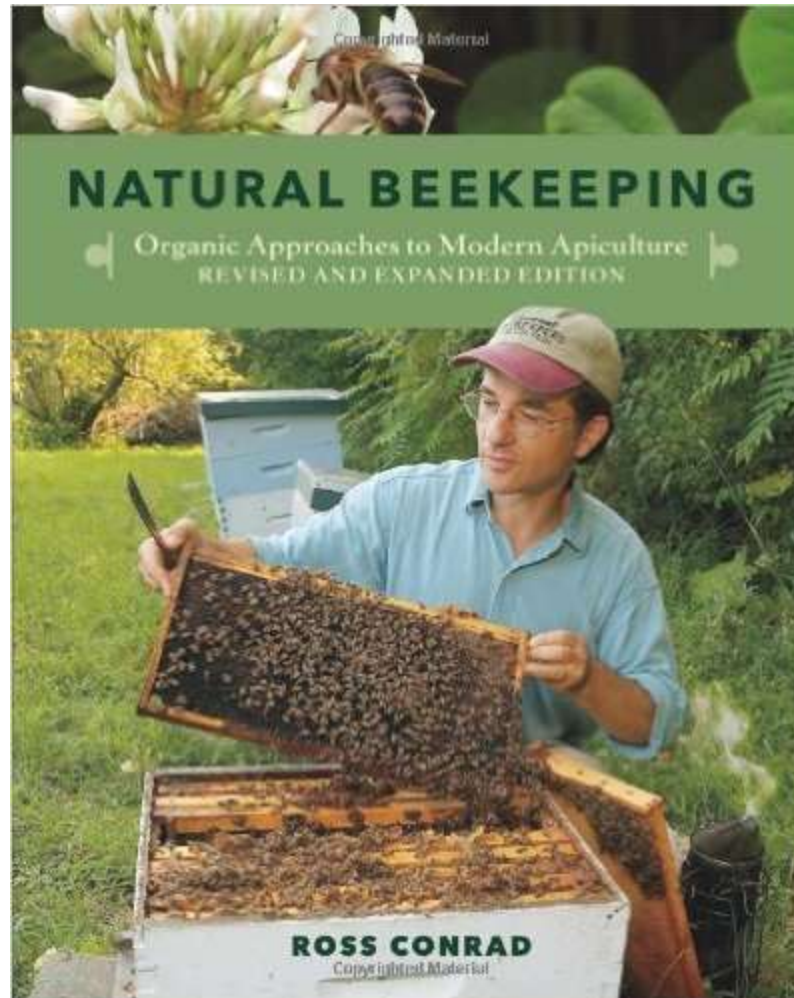
# Varroa Mites



# ***So how should we treat for mites?***

- Last year, Dr. Dewey Caron stated to LCBA that treating for mites in September is too late.
- This year, he stated to LCBA that there are dumb ways to treat for mites and smart ways.
- Dumb would be treating exclusively and often with a hard chemical, such as Amitraz.
- Smart would be using an integrated pest management system that uses organic acids.

# Ross Conrad



# ***Ross Conrad, a natural beekeeper***

- Ross states that Varroa mites don't necessarily kill a hive, but weaken it so that other stress factors and diseases, such as viruses, kill the hive.
- Ross also states starvation is often a result of a hive overwhelmed with mites.
- Ross uses a six step method to control the mites in his hives.



# *How does Ross control mites?*

- **Buy queens that are less susceptible to mites.**  
Russian, Minnesota Hygienic, Varroa Sensitive Hygiene, and Survivor Hives.
- **Make Nuc colonies in the spring to break the brood cycle.**
- **Use screened bottom boards.** In conjunction with powdered sugar and garlic powder methods. These methods only affects mites on bees, not in the brood.
- **Trap mites with drone comb or sticky paper.** This can be used with pheromone traps using methypalmatate.
- **Organic Miteacides.** Use Sucroside, Oxalic acid, Formic acid, Essential oils and Thyme, and Hop Beta acid to kill and control mites.
- **Change to a smaller comb size, and regularly pull out old comb.**

# Screened bottom board with a Varroa trap drawer



# Mite Away Quick Strip



*I have changed my thought process some as I have gained experience and confidence in keeping bees.*

*Personally, I treat my hives, but I am now much more likely to use organic treatments.*

As a club, we are here to learn from each other and to respectfully share our experiences and thoughts, so what are your thoughts on summer maintenance?

