Lewis County Beekeepers' Association:

September 2012 Newsletter

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UPCOMING LCBA EVENTS:

September 12: LCBA Monthly Meeting, 7 p.m., 103 Washington Hall, Centralia College, 701 W. Walnut Street in Centralia (cross street is Washington).

Topic: Preparing to Over-Winter Your Bees – It's Not Too Soon To Think About It!

- **Tracheal Mites: How to Find Out If Your Hives Are Affected – and What To Do If They Are.** Renzy Davenport, Olympia Beekeepers' Association, will describe his

experiences finding tracheal mites and what he did about it. Since our bees are most vulnerable to these mites in fall and winter, this talk will be timely.

- **LCBA President Norm Switzler will lead discussion: Preparing to Over-Winter Your Bees**

- **Business Meeting, including LCBA Board Elections (Vice President & Secretary) and vote on proposed bylaws revisions.** *FYI: only current dues paying members can vote.*

    - 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.

        - Candidates for Vice President: Dave Gaston
        - Candidates for Secretary: Susanne Weil

    - We will also vote on some proposed changes to our bylaws (see September business meeting, above). Changes include creating a Mentorship Coordinator position to organize mentors for new beekeepers and set up workshops.

        - Candidate for Mentorship Coordinator [if position is approved]: Gary Stelzner

    - Announcement: Brandy DeMelt has resigned as Membership Coordinator because of family care giving needs. The Membership Coordinator position is renewable in 2013. On advice of the board, President Norm has appointed Steve Howard to fill the remainder of Brandy's term. The board is thankful to Brandy for her work in the Membership position since the inauguration of LCBA in 2008.

September 15: Honey Spinning Workshop

Where: Gary Stelzner has invited us to his shop in Winlock: For directions, call 360 880 8130.

Time: 10 a.m. to around 4 p.m. Spinning takes time and the order will be first come, first served – so if you arrive at 3 p.m., you may not be finished by 4. We'll get through supers that arrive before 4, though.

What to Bring: Your honey supers and buckets for your honey. Board volunteers are providing 4 extractors, uncapping knives, comb scrapers, as well as 2 uncapping tanks. If you can bring any extracting equipment to help out, please do! Also, since spinning honey can be a slow process, you may want to bring a snack and coffee or pop. Should be a good time for talking bees!

September 22: "What It Takes to Get Started in Beekeeping" at Gardening for Everyone

Where: Washington Hall 103, Centralia College.
When: 2:15 – 3:30 p.m.
What: An overview of beekeeping, led by Peter Glover, Bob Harris, & Susanne Weil.
FYI: GFE itself runs from 9 to 2 p.m.; LCBA will have a table in the lobby, and if you'd like to volunteer, please contact Susanne at 880 8130. All GFE events are free & open to the public.

September 26: LCBA Apprentice Beekeeping Class begins

- Dates/Times: 9/26, 10/3, 10/17, & 10/24, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
- Location: WSU Extension Classroom, Old Chehalis Courthouse.
- Content: This class follows the WSBA curriculum and will be taught by Bob Harris and Norm Switzler, LCBA past and current Presidents; graduates get the WSBA Apprentice Beekeeper certificate.
- Cost: $30 per individual, $45 per couple. Costs cover WSBA course book, copying expenses, and support LCBA programs; students who join LCBA at the end of the course will get the $10 initiation fee waived.
- To register, contact the WSU Extension Office, 360 740 1214.

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 "Upcoming Educational Opportunities" section, below.

October 10: LCBA Monthly Meeting, 7 p.m., 103 Washington Hall, Centralia College.
Topic: Planting for Bees: Planning Ahead for a Bee-Friendly Garden.
Speakers: Darren Gordon, House of Bees, and Charles Bennett, WSBA Area 2 Representative. Darren and Charles will share their experience about plants bees love, and Darren will have seed packets available for purchase.

November 14: LCBA Monthly Meeting, 7 p.m., 103 Washington Hall, Centralia College
Topic: TBA, but there will be at least a short update from the WSBA/WAS conference on talks of interest to our group, like new information on indoor overwintering and a HopGuard test update.

December 12: LCBA Holiday Potluck at the Newaukum Grange, 7-9 p.m. Details & directions will be in November's newsletter.

Do you have suggestions for 2013 Meeting Topics? Please share! Contact Secretary Susanne Weil at susanne.beekeeper@gmail.com or 880 8130.

NOTES FROM OUR AUGUST 8 MEETING

Speakers: Report from Queen Rearing Class. Norm Switzler, Ted Saari, Jon Wade, and Dave Gaston reported on what they learned at the West Sound Beekeeping

Association class in Silverdale this past July; discussion of possibilities of starting our own LCBA queen rearing program.

Norm introduced the topic and the CD that was provided to students in the class. David Mackovjak and the other West Sound instructors were very knowledgeable and helpful. Not only were there lectures and two detailed CDs [these contained 12, count 'em, PowerPoints], but also hands on work with the bees. Norm had only praise for the expertise of the teachers and said, "I thought I knew a lot about bees until I took this class; I don't know squat." The goal of the course was to build confidence: that people can raise their own queens here in the PNW by giving hands on training and sending students away with the knowledge and equipment to raise their own queens. It does take practice because of fine motor coordination skills are necessary. Good eyesight is needed, too. Jon Wade took pictures which were shown in a slideshow to give some visual context.

Dave Gaston's Queen Rearing Experiment:

To help newsletter readers get an overview of how queen rearing works, Susanne interviewed Dave Gaston, who raised his own new queens following the class. Here's how it worked for Dave:

Dave captured three feral swarms from a cedar tree in Shelton which he hived in nuc boxes. Each swarm yielded frames with superb brood pattern (Dave had a photo to show the group: Norm commented that if you have a queen who produces that kind of brood pattern, you want to be sure to keep her.) After the class, Dave used the equipment provided to graft cells from the second of his feral "feeder hives." To know what cells from the original colony to graft, the trick is to find larvae the right size that would in the normal course of things grow up to be regular worker bees. These should be eggs that have fallen horizontal in the cell and are starting to become larvae, but are not yet capped. (You can see that a magnifying glass and/or good eyes are important here.) Using the grafting tool – which has a spring plunger to scoop up the larvae – he placed the 19 cells he took and put them into special cups provided at the Silverdale class. To set up the cups, Dave trimmed off the top of a foundation sheet and waxed it, then put on the cups. Next, he placed these into the nursery nuc box he had gotten ready for these grafted would-be queen cells.

To make this nursery nuc box, Dave took two frames of capped honey and placed these frames on opposite ends inside the nuc. Next, he took a frame with pollen and capped brood and shook nurse bees from those capped brood frames into the nuc box. To find nurse bees, go to your busiest box and take a frame and give a little shake – the ones that don't fly off are likely to be nursery bees. Nurse bees feed the queen. They have never been out of the hive and this may make them more hygienic and thus more beneficial to the queen. The idea was to make these nurse bees realize that they were queenless so that they would be ready to begin to raise queen cells. After inserting the grafted larvae in their cups, he sealed this nuc box with a screen and sealed the entrance with a "vent hole"; he also put sponges on the top of the frames to keep them moist. He put the box in his shop so that they were kept dark and cool for 24 to 36 hours. After that, he took the nuc nursery box to his apiary and removed the seals; he left it for four more days so that the larvae, now 8 days old, could be capped by the nurse bees. At this point, the

hope is that the nurse bees have been injecting royal jelly into those larvae to make them into queens. To feed the nurse bees, he put a feeder with a 1 to 1 sugar/water mixture and AminoBee (an amino acid supplement) atop the nuc.

Dave said that the "textbook" timing for the hatching of these royal young ladies would have been 16 days, but the heat wave happened right then, so they hatched out earlier: the heat speeds up the process. He had to move these to a breeding box and keep them separate so they would not kill each other. However, he had already given away 5 queen cells: when re-queening a hive from raised queen cells, the best procedure is to insert the queen before she has hatched out. The class taught that 90% of queens inserted this way will be accepted by their new colony. To insert them, press the queen cell into the wax frame, and let her hatch and the bees feed her.

In all, Dave raised 19 cells, of which 13 were viable. Of those, he gave away 5, and was able to save 4 of the remaining cells after the heat wave. He has re-queened hives with these new queens and reports that they are doing really well. Dave would like to re-take the class because having done this process, he now has more questions. For example, what do queen breeders do to keep queens separate and viable? Dave made that mating box with four separate, sealed chambers, each with two frames in it: but this can't last long, so he had to move the queens to nucs to give them enough space.

Notes from the Silverdale class from Norm, Dave, Ted, and Jon:

[FYI: There was a LOT of information presented, so I may have missed some details. If anyone has corrections, please let me know, and I'll make corrections for the archival edition that will be on our soon-to-appear website.]

The Silverdale class started with an overview of bee biology: we all know that queens have larger abdomens and can't go through excluder screens, but even Norm didn't know that queens differ by having no notches on their mandibles. Queens also have no pollen baskets – they don't need them, since they don't forage. The queen's stinger is straight & barbless, so she can sting multiple times, unlike workers. Also unlike workers, she has fully developed ovaries and spermatheca; she produces different pheromones than workers. Drones from different apiaries wait for this and are drawn to her pheromones. Norm suspects that she goes as high as she does to attract the strongest drones. Also, she may come out on multiple flights over multiple days till she is sufficiently bred. But these nuptial flights only happen when she has first emerged as a virgin queen.

Would queens want to breed earlier if the weather is warmer? Queens like a mild day in the 70s and will fly a radius of one to two miles around her box, up a hundred feet in the air, till they get sufficiently bred. (Presumably southwest Washington queens venture forth before the weather hits the 70s: otherwise, feral bees would struggle to build viable colonies….)

Queen growth happens fast. Even within one day, it was visible to students taking the class how much the queen cells had grown. Norm passed around queen cup sample: they are not supposed to be reused. The students were given these plus a feeder, a grafting tool, a book,

and more. The queen cup goes through a recess in a frame and hangs with the cup side down. The queens are introduced into queenless nucs that have some brood and honey. There needs to be some uncapped honey as well.

The development of the queens is affected very much by the available forage: if it is a time of nectar dearth, you must feed the bees, putting the feeder right above the queen frame. The queens are also subject to temperature changes – the heat accelerates their hatching, and as noted above, Dave lost a few of his this way.

Finding a queen larva demands great eyesight and light – a lighted magnifying glass helps. Jon said that as you start looking through the frame, you can see that the queen lays in a circular pattern. Most of the larvae within a circular area are all the same. When you move to the outside of the pattern, there are eggs, and they are vertical; inside the pattern, you see segmented larva. You have to keep them in the same orientation that they are in the comb; you cannot rotate them or you risk having a potential queen fall out.

As noted above, to raise the queens, you need nursery bees, 5 to 15 days old. You keep the queens in a nuc size box and keep them carefully closed so the queens can develop. From what Norm saw, it doesn't matter what frame the nurse bees come from: they just take care of business and are claimed by the queen's pheromones. They were taking six to eight frames of nurse bees to serve for one frame of queen cells. If you want new genetic stock, you have to have queens. The regular brood gets fed 160 times a day; queen cells get fed 1600 times a day and with a high concentration of royal jelly. Even regular young larvae get some royal jelly at the start and then are fed with bee bread. But once they pass a certain age even the best food won't help make them a stronger queen. Early nutrition is key. Bruce asked if there is a special feed that you give the queen rearing hive. "Amino Bee" is the formula that Dave used, and he had some large queens hatch out.

On Day 8, the queen larva is capped over and the queen larva feasts on royal jelly; the construction of her cocoon starts. On day 9, the queen larva finishes eating the royal jelly and finishes her cocoon. You can save any extra royal jelly and refrigerate it to use in the future. After 16 days she emerges – whereas the "malnourished workers" need 21 days.

One important thing to learn is how to gauge the age of the queen cell from the size of the cell. Not all the queen cells come to fruition; when the first queen hatches, she will tear down the other cells. She rips holes in the sides of their cells and stings them: she has a barbless stinger, so she is equipped to deal death throughout her rivals' cells without dying herself, unlike worker bees. This is why, if you try queen-rearing, you must check regularly: If you catch these queen cells soon enough, you could transfer them to another hive.

Once the queen hatches, she must spread her pheromones throughout the hive so that she claims her workers. The pheromone that she exudes at first is a more dominating one, succeeded by a calmer kind. Aggression: once the queen has been accepted by the hive, they will be more aggressive in protecting her. They will calm down, but most colonies that are not worked will get more defensive because they are not used to interference. Norm has 14 colonies at this point and didn't suit up to work them till June.

If you are going to re-queen, you don't want any remnant of the old queen – a colony needs to be queenless for a few hours to days to be receptive to new queen. Normally if you're going to introduce a new queen, you will check carefully via inspection and look at frames to see that the hive really is queenless (ideally, do a careful inspection to rule out the presence of a queen; at least look to be sure you find no eggs and larvae).

Once a queen is newly mated, it takes a bit of time for the semen to migrate into her spermatheca. No one remembered the exact number of days, but it is several, and not more than a week. Her pheromone production rises; she waits for the ovarioles to develop and egg production to start. Within a week, you should be able to go in and see good sized larvae after you re-queen (provided the queen is mated). But sometimes the bees decide they don't like her and then kill her. Once she hatches out, the odds decrease that the hive will accept her: odds are much better if you insert a capped cell. Queen breeders will slide a queen cage over the queen cell to protect her before she hatches, let alone before inserting her into a new hive. Norm sees this as an insurance policy.

Once the queen starts laying, her 260 to 373 ovarioles produce 1500 or more eggs per day – 200,000 per year! She averages one egg per minute; two days to make an egg; a queen typically lives 2 years but can make it to 7, but as she ages, she produces fewer eggs. Once the hive "decides" to supersede the queen, the workers may kill her; the workers will be attracted to the newer, younger version. But if the workers do not kill her, and there are two queens in the hive, the queens will eventually fight it out.

Worker bees will continue to work for months without a queen, but will die out in the fall. One attendee asked whether, at this time of year, is it too late to put in a queen? It probably is not too late; but it certainly will be too late if you have a queenless hive and do not try (unless you combine that colony with a queened colony to help them survive through winter)! The newly hatched queen will have to do a mating flight, and she might not make it back; there are risks.

Pros and Cons of Artificially Inseminating Queens:

When you buy a queen, you know that she is mated, but you do not know how effectively she is mated. When you raise queens, you can artificially inseminate them with special tools if you are trying to manipulate the genetics or avoid risking her in a mating flight.

However, Norm prefers natural breeding. 7 to 14 days after she emerges, the queen will take on her mating flight, cruising the drone congregation zone. "2 good flying days to meet up with a dozen drones each day would make for a great week," according to the CD from the Silverdale class. A queen in a non-managed hive can theoretically be mated by a son of her own mother (*e.g.*, her brother or half-brother): this is how inbreeding takes place. But the mating flight also brings in diversity from other drones from other hives because the queen will breed with up to 25 to 30 drones. When breeders say they are giving you a guaranteed Italian queen from a guaranteed Italian drone, say, this means she was artificially inseminated – that's the only way to ensure that genetic purity. A study last year found that "queen promiscuity" is a factor in

better bee health. Also, a hive with many drones can be a "happy hive." You can put in drone frames and raise drones specifically. But as we mess with their natural life style, we are stepping back from nature's intent.

Methods of raising high quality queens: clipping her wings a tiny bit will help [your scribe missed the reason why; sorry!]. Having a marked queen is very helpful in finding her. The marking system for queens is international and color coded.

Brood pattern: the students were given a tool to put over sections of frame and count number of holes not filled. "Solid brood indicates genetic compatibility between queen eggs and stored semen," according to the course CD.

One slide on the CD depicted swarming and noted that when the queen can't find a cell to lay an egg in, and attendants stop feeding her, she leaves – and a swarm ensues. Bob asked what this slide meant – which happens first – does the queen decide, or the workers? The answer seems to be that both can make choices. The workers can literally push the queen out the door and make her fly. Pat asked how you can keep the hive from swarming if you have potential new queens in the hive. They don't swarm because the queens are still just eggs; to avoid swarming, once the cell is developed and capped, you have to take it out. You take a regular hive box, divide it into three or four sections, and put the different queens in the different sections.

LCBA Queen Rearing Project?

About a dozen attendees expressed interest in participating in an LCBA Queen Rearing project. As anyone who has had to re-queen fast knows, it would be a real benefit to have locally reared, affordable queens available! At $30 a queen from companies, we will try to get the price down for ours if we succeed in breeding queens. We can buy the frames for queen rearing from companies like Mann Lake. The CD showed that the Silverdale club's success rate with viable queens grew greatly from 2008 to 2011. We should keep records, too.

Norm suggested that we table the rest of the material since we had only covered 2 of the 12 PDFs; there can be a workshop covering more queen rearing information early in 2013.

Business Meeting:

September 12 Speakers & Topics:

Tracheal Mites: Renzy Davenport from the Pierce County Beekeepers will give an overview of his experiences learning to identify and deal with tracheal mites.

Over-wintering Your Bees: Norm will review the steps to take to over-winter bees and lead a general discussion of procedures and options. ***(If you want information NOW, check the MAAREC article on Over-Wintering, attached to this newsletter email, as well as the information on removing supers and making fall feed mix for***

your bees, below. You are also welcome to call a bee mentor – see the list at the end of this newsletter!)

Southwest Washington Fair: Membership Coordinator Brandy De Melt put out the call for volunteers for our booth again; most time slots are now covered. Brandy also distributed free fair tickets and parking passes for volunteers. Brandy asked for additional volunteers to minimize people having to staff the booth alone. For the first time, we are housed in the Floral Building with the Master Gardeners and related groups. Susanne, Peter, Bob, and Norm have picture boards, equipment, and spare gear to display. We hoped to have the observation hive on the weekends. There will be an update on how the Fair went at our September business meeting.

Apprentice beekeeping class this fall: President Norm and Past President Bob Harris will teach this four evening course on 9/26, 10/3, 10/17, 10/24, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., WSU Extension Classroom, Old Chehalis Courthouse. The class follows the WSBA curriculum; graduates get the WSBA Apprentice Beekeeper certificate. The cost has been cut to make it more affordable while still covering expenses: $30 per individual, $45 per couple. This covers the WSBA course book, copying expenses, new PowerPoints, and supports LCBA programs; students who join LCBA at the end of the course will get the $10 initiation fee waived. To register, contact the WSU Extension Office, 360 740 1214.

Proposed LCBA Bylaws changes: Susanne reviewed the proposed bylaws changes, which have been sent to current members (only dues paying members are eligible to vote). Proposed changes reflect updating the "job descriptions" of the Vice President, Secretary, and Past President's positions to match the work that has evolved to meet LCBA's needs. Also proposed is splitting the large job of the Membership Coordinator into two positions: Membership Coordinator and Mentorship Coordinator. The latter office would focus on linking bee mentors to new beekeepers and organizing hands-on workshops on key topics like hive building, hive inspections, honey extraction, etc. Gary Stelzner has volunteered to run for Mentorship Coordinator if members approve creation of this new position. Finally, the dues schedule is proposed to shift from the old calendar of October through September to a new schedule of January to December, with the board elections, starting in 2013, to be held in December. This would simplify bookkeeping and move the dues year to coordinate with package bee orders, which is when many renew dues anyway.

LCBA Board Elections at September Business Meeting: The LCBA Vice President and Secretary positions are up for election this year [President, Treasurer, and Membership Coordinator are elected in odd numbered years].

Vice President: Ted Saari needs to step down as Vice President for health reasons; however, if no one is willing to run, Ted will continue. Ted noted that though he was not an expert beekeeper when he ran, it's good to have new and intermediate beekeepers' ideas on the board, and that it is a great learning experience. We thanked Ted for his service.

Secretary: Susanne Weil is willing to run again.

Updates since our August 8 meeting:

- Since August's meeting, Dave Gaston has volunteered to run for VP.
- Brandy De Melt is resigning as Membership Coordinator to fulfill family care-giving responsibilities. The board greatly appreciates her efforts and warmth in this position since the beginning of LCBA. On advice of the Board, President Norm has appointed Steve Howard to fill out the remaining year of her term, which will be up for election in 2013. Many thanks to Steve for his willingness to serve!
- If you are interested in running for either secretary or vice president, please call Norm (330 1788).

East County Beekeeping Classes: Norm is going to teach a short overview of beekeeping in East County this fall to help orient those who are interested – there are almost a dozen people out there who'd like it – and Sheila and Norm are working on having the full WSBA Apprentice course offered through the Morton senior center in the spring. Bruce has met with a number of east county beekeepers to show them his hives and answer questions.

REMOVING HONEY SUPERS – SOME TIPS:

Rather than simply take off a super full of not only honey, but also bees, it can be helpful to move each frame separately into an empty super box. First, gently brush the bees off the frame; then, place the frame in the empty box (it helps in transport to stand that empty box on an inverted telescoping cover); then, quickly cover it to prevent bees flocking to the exposed honey. Once the empty super box is filled with frames, put it into a heavy duty plastic garbage bag, tie it off, and store it in a cool place until you spin the honey. (Peter and I especially liked this method because we had not used queen excluders and wanted to avoid any risk of losing a queen.)

Some like to use a fume board and/or Bee-Gone (Butyric acid): however, if you use this, you risk having fumes contaminate your honey.

Another option for getting bees out of the super – used by President Norm – is to remove the super from the hive, stand it on its side in front of the hive, then use a leaf blower to blow bees off the bottom of the super and back toward the hive. Before turning on the leaf blower, Norm places a towel with one end on the ground in front of the hive and the other end on the hive entrance: this encourages the bees to go quickly back into the hive.

Questions? Give a call (880 8130) or ask at our September 12 meeting.

OVER-WINTERING BEES: A PREVIEW

Our September 12 meeting will focus on getting bees ready for winter. One key is feeding, and here is one recipe for sugar/water mix for winter feeding:

- 2 parts sugar to 1 part water; for 2 pounds of sugar, add 1 pint of water.
- To make the sugar dissolve, heat water to boiling, move pot off burner, then stir in sugar and stir till it dissolves. Let it cool before feeding to bees or adding supplements (like Honey-B-Health) or medications.

- Some beekeepers also favor supplementing their bees' diet at this time of the year with pollen patties: break them up into one to two inch square chunks and place them on top of the frames in your top brood box.

For more about over-wintering bees, see "Fall Management," the article attached to this Newsletter email; it's from the Mid-Atlantic Apicultural Research & Extension Consortium.

BEES IN THE NEWS:

Agricultural Research Service – Updated Report on Colony Collapse Disorder: In April 2012, ARS put out an updated report on CCD. You can read it at this link: http://www.ars.usda.gov/News/docs.htm?docid=15572. In brief, the report notes that though honey bee losses were less severe in the 2011-12 winter, one year is not enough time to declare bees out of danger. ARS's preliminary assessment is that a warmer winter (on average, if not in southwest Washington) and better management of bees, particularly including feeding honey and supplements to bees in times of nectar dearth and in winter, may be responsible for the lower death rate. The report goes on to address four major categories being researched as smoking guns in the CCD mystery: pathogens (like Nosema and viruses), parasites (mainly Varroa), management stressors (primarily transporting bees for pollination), and environmental stressors, which include poor nutrition and effects of pesticides. The report's discussion of neonicotinoid pesticides highlights the mixed information so far available and flags sub-lethal effects of these pesticides as crucial to research. Those of us whose cell phones are welded to our hips will be relieved to learn that our communication devices have been all but ruled out as a threat to bees. The report concludes with many links to new research and resources. Your scribe recommends this as a "must read" for beekeepers!

NetworkBees.com: For a more critical take on pesticides, see the interesting resources at this link: http://www.networkbees.com/index.html. Among other interesting features, the "videos" link features an interview with Tom Theobald, the beekeeper who challenged the EPA's stance on spraying pesticides near bee colonies.

Alkali Bees Threatened: Jon Wade found the following article in the *Seattle Times*, profiling the alkali bee, a native pollinator key to alfalfa production: these bees may be wiped out in a segment of Walla Walla County as an initiative to widen Highway 12 goes into effect. Scientists from WSU are working with local farmers on ways to protect the alkali bees. To read more, visit: http://seattletimes.com/html/localnews/2018863441_bee07m.html

Native Plants & Beekeeping: LCBA member Deanna Brix sent a link to the Fall 2012 edition of the online *Tahoma View*, a newsletter focused on conservation, profiling plants native to the Pacific Northwest. Beekeepers interested in plantings to support their bees may be interested in looking over the discussion, particularly the chart of trees, shrubs, and ground covers that thrive in our climate. You can view it at this link and scroll down to page 4: http://www.piercecountycd.org/images/tahomaViewPDFs/thm_vw_fall2012.pdf

This newsletter also features an offer to buy plants through their native plant sale. This would mean driving up to Puyallup next March; however, the prices look good, so if you are interested, please let me know – maybe an LCBA carpool could be arranged. Of course, we may well find local sources for the same plants.

An additional feature in this fall's *Tahoma View* is this interesting piece on "Alternatives to Knotweed Honey," quoted here (you can view photos of the plants discussed at the link above):

"Although knotweeds are known to produce a fine tasting honey, the benefits of honey production from this invasive species do not outweigh the devastation knotweeds have on our local ecosystems. Knotweed is a very aggressive, noxious weed species commonly found growing along riparian corridors as well as upper terrestrial areas throughout the Pacific Northwest. Knotweed can affect the health of an ecosystem by competing with and crowding out native vegetation, altering soil nutrient cycling which can negatively affect aquatic food webs, contributing to erosion of lands, and destruction of habitat for local fish and wildlife.

"Here are a few common plants found here in the Pacific Northwest that can produce excellent tasting honey without posing a threat to the health of our natural ecosystems:

"Fireweed (*Epilobium angustifolium*): Fireweed is abundant within disturbed areas such as roadsides, clearings, and especially recently burned sites, hence the common name. The rose to purple colored flowers produce an ample amount of nectar, which makes an excellent honey. Known as the "Champagne of Honeys", the flavor derived from this species has been described by many as that of a sweet summer pear.

"White Clover (*Trifolium repens*): White Clover is commonly found on disturbed sites such as roadsides, fields, and lawns. The flowerheads and foliage of White Clover are a preferred food source by many insect and small mammal species. The honey made from this plant is considered an important source of honey to humans as well as being the best quality honey available. It has a sweet flowery flavor with a pleasing mild taste.

"Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*): Snowberry is a common native shrub here in the Pacific Northwest. It can be found growing in places such as open forests, thickets and rocky slopes. The honey produced from this plant is light in color, and is very sweet with a taste of butterscotch."

Thanks to Jon and Deanna for passing along these great news items.
If you see a news flash that other LCBA members might find interesting, please send it to Susanne.beekeeper@Gmail.com for inclusion in our newsletters!

Beesource.com: Thanks to Debbie Burris at Lewis County Extension for sharing this very interesting resource. Beesource.com also maintains a national hive and colony list: if we can recruit more members for our "Bee Team" next spring, some of our members might wish to be listed. For the list, see: http://www.beeremovalsource.com/bee-removal-list/washington/m.

WAS's JULY NEWSLETTER – NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE:

Fran Bach reports that the August Western Apicultural Society (WAS) newsletter is now available at: http://groups.ucanr.org/WAS/WAS_Journal

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. If you experience problems reading or printing this issue, contact Fran at febach3@gmail.com. You can also reach her by phone at 509-573-4245.

BEEKEEPING SUPPLY OPTIONS: **Except for the online suppliers, all of these vendors have visited LCBA meetings and talked about their wares.**

(Detailed information on all vendors below was included in past newsletters. If you'd like those details, please email Susanne.beekeeper@gmail.com.)

- ***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.***
- ***Elsewhere in Washington:***
    - ***ROCHESTER: John Martin: Beeline Apiaries, 19019 Moon Road SW, Rochester 98579; Phone, 360 280 5274; email, hjweaver@emypeople.net.***
    - ***LAKEWOOD: Harvard Robbins: Robbins Honey Farm, 7910 148th St. SW, Lakewood, WA 98439, (253) 588-7033; robbinslh@aol.com***
    - ***PORT ORCHARD: Darren Gordon, House of Bees, 360 710 1483, www.houseofbees.com***
- ***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/.***

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

- ***In California:*** ***Country Rubes, 20693 Dog Bar Road, Grass Valley, CA 95949; phone, 530-913-2724; email, rubes@countryrubes.com; website, countryrubes.com. (Owner Janet Brisson has unique screened bottom boards, key to her "integrated pest management" approach to beekeeping.)***

- ***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:

LCBA Apprentice Beekeeping Class begins in September! Dates: 9/26, 10/3, 10/17, 10/24, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., WSU Extension Classroom, Old Chehalis Courthouse. This class follows the WSBA curriculum and will be taught by Bob Harris and Norm Switzler, LCBA Past and current Presidents; graduates get the WSBA Apprentice Beekeeper certificate. Cost: $30 per individual, $45 per couple. Costs cover WSBA course book, copying expenses, and support LCBA programs; students who join LCBA at the end of the course will get the $10 initiation fee waived. To register, contact the WSU Extension Office, 360 740 1214.

LCBA Members at the Chehalis Farmers' Market

Once again, Bob & Sharon Harris have the LCBA banner flying at their Rose of Sharon Farm booth at the Farmers' Market. They're selling eggs – and they have the Gieses' Woogie Bee Honey (multiple flavors, including orange blossom & wildflower). The Farmers' Market is Tuesdays on Boistfort St. in Chehalis, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. through October 23. The market features many other local growers, so come on down and support Lewis County!

Upcoming Educational Opportunities

- **Interested in the WSBA Apprentice Beekeeping Class? See LCBA News & Announcements, above, for information on our fall class.**

- **Interested in the WSBA Journeyman or Master Beekeepers' Classes?**

Visit http://www.wasba.org/master.htm for the basics – for more detailed information, you can contact Louis Matej at journeyman@wasba.org or 253-921-5612 for the syllabus. Jon Wade reports that the Olympia group and the Pierce County group both conduct Journeyman level classes, but are both on summer hiatus.

- **Joint WSBA / Western Apicultural Society Annual Conference, Oct. 4 - 7, 2012, Embassy Suites at Tukwila, just north of the Seattle Airport, WA.**; for the detailed conference schedule, visit: http://www.wasba.org/Conference%20schedule.pdf. Among many exciting topics to be covered: indoor over-wintering; nuc issues; bee nutrition issues in the Pacific NW; updates on CCD research; master beekeeping programs in WA & OR; queen rearing projects; update on HopGuard trials; new developments in bee genetic research; and more. (In your scribe's experience, the experts who present at WSBA/WAS do a good job of explaining things in terms you don't have to be a Ph.D. entomologist to understand.)
- For registration information, visit: http://groups.ucanr.org/WAS/Conference_Information. Registration is $155 per person and includes lunch on Friday and Saturday, as well as morning and afternoon beverage breaks. The banquet (6:30-9:30 Saturday) will cost $42 per person.

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

This conference focuses on apitherapy, 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. 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 more. The AAS is a nonprofit membership organization for the purpose of education in the advancement of apitherapy.

LCBA Bee Mentors: Don't Bee Shy - Call If You Have Questions!

- 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.*

Respectfully reported—bee happy!

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