



The

September 2010

BUZZWORD

West Sound Beekeepers Association <http://www.westsoundbees.org/>
Proudly serving bees, their keepers, and the public in Kitsap County, WA
(Editor's note: The interactive newsletter is scheduled to appear at year's end!)

Refreshments
?

Meeting Schedule:
Apprentice Beekeeping Class
6PM Tuesday 21 Sept 2010
Open Book Final Exam!

Regular Meeting
6PM Tuesday 21 Sept 2010

Steering Committee Meeting
7 PM Tuesday 05 Oct 2010

Queen Rearing Group
Meets after the Steering Committee

Meetings at Stedman's
Beekeeping Supplies in
Silverdale

Beekeeping Class
6 PM Sept 21 Last Class and open book exam
7 PM Regular Meeting
Speaker:
Ernest Bizzell
Professional Bee Removal Expert & General Contractor
WSBA Officer Election Night

What's inside:

Minutes.....	2
President's Message.....	3
Fair Report.....	4
NW Beekeeping basics.....	5
Bee Smart.....	6
Poetry Corner.....	7
Recipe corner.....	8
More Poetry.....	9
Grateful Harvest.....	11



**Congratulations to
Jason Deal WSBA 2010
Beekeeper Of The Year!**



The Bees Return From The Mountains

Secretary Notes

**Annual Picnic August 14,
2010 - 12:00pm-3:00pm.**

As we approached the back field of Stedman's, we found the customary appearance of a picnic; complete with tent, a smoking BBQ and tables. Mike Gutierrez created a fabulous picnic affair. We were set up in the shade and never felt the oppression from the heat of the day. The food was good and the company was great including family members, guests and a cute baby.



Jim Carlson welcomed everyone and we voted for our club's **"Beekeeper of the Year". Congratulations Jason!**

Kayla reminded us all about the Kitsap County Fair. Jason presented George with a hand drum for directing his swarms.

We tasted Kim's exotic honeys from Spain, Wasilla, AK, Florida, and more.

The meeting ended and we all helped put the chairs, tables, and tent away. A good time was had by all.

September 7, 2010 Steering Committee The business meeting was called to order at 7:15pm.

In attendance: Jim Carlson, Kayla Wentworth, Rosanne Carlson, George Purkett, Basil Gunther, Jason Deal, David Mackovjak, Kim Redmond and Larry.

David handed out a budget proposal. An open discussion was held. Basil made a motion to approve what was printed, Kayla seconded. With a show of hands it was approved.

Basil can produce the newsletter closer to home at a savings and by purchasing some paper ahead of time.

No Caucasian queens are coming for the apiary. Jason didn't receive any responses from the companies he contacted.

Who are the new officers for Oct.? Kim Redmond volunteered to be our new Treasurer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm followed by queen rearing discussions

Submitted by: Rosanne Carlson

Note from the President

Since our last meeting we had a lovely picnic. Thank you Mike Guttereiez for all the planning, you did a fabulous job setting everything up and creating a great get together. During the picnic we voted for our "Beekeeper of the Year" and while each candidate received well deserved votes, the winner was Jason Deal our apiary manager. Jason has helped make our apiary a notable and intriguing place for many kinds of research on queens and types of hives. As a beginning beekeeper, he has patiently helped me with information on queens and finding a queen for my queen-less hive. Congratulations on receiving this prestigious award Jason!



The bees received a lot of attention at the fair. Kayla amazingly investigated and organized a last minute shared booth with the Master Gardeners. The fair people enjoyed our presence and observation hive. Next year, the fair will give us a booth of our own. I am enthusiastic about this since it will help educate the public about bees, this helps us all in the long run. Thank you to all the volunteers who participated,

especially Jason and George for preparing the observation hive every day. Our club has a great group of people to pull this off in such a short time. It really demonstrates a wonderful sense of cooperation and community.

I have been happy to be able to help the club during its time of need by temporarily filling in for the president's position, however, October is the time to vote. We are in need of President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Kim Redmond has generously offered to run for Treasurer but as of now, we have not yet heard anyone interested in the other two vital positions. Please consider how you can help.

Now that the weather is changing and there isn't as much to do in the apiary it is time to read all those newsletters that you missed. Basil busily crafts an informative and educational publication and also lets us know about club meetings. Taking advantage of this informative publication is another way for us all to learn more about our bees. See you at the next meeting.

Fair Report

At our last board meeting we voted to enter the Kitsap County Fair to enlighten and educate the public about our Bee Association. It was too late to get a booth, so we called the Master Gardener's Club and asked them if we could share a spot with them. The master gardener's were so excited and they told us they would be delighted to have us.

On opening day, we had a very nice long table, George and I set it with his glass bee display and lots of flyers, coloring pages and hand-outs from our generous Barbara and Jasson's awesome honey to give out samples. Everyone stopped at our table to ask questions about the bees, and when they saw the live bees in the glass display, they were all in awe, young and old alike. All day long, people asked us questions and they all learned so much about the bees and bee keeping. We also got some people interested in coming to our meetings! We were so good at teaching that we received the Educational and Merit award.



It was a fun three day event. We all felt that it was very successful and next year will be even better



George, Kayla, Lee, Darren and Rosanne were kind enough to volunteer their time.

We thank the Master Gardener's for helping us. They were so wonderful and so helpful, and would like to have us back with them next year. Barbara Stedman for her generous donations of supplies, George for your exciting

bee display that made the three day a huge success, and Jason for your delicious honey, Darren for coming in and helping us out, and Rosanne, for coming to our rescue when we needed a break.

We will be ready for next year!!

Northwest Beekeeping Basics –September

Fall management and preparations for winter.

Ideally your hives will be full of young, well fed, disease-free bees and have adequate stores to last the winter. In addition you will have well-bred young queens of suitable stock and the hives will be in a sheltered location with plenty of winter sun and lots of late summer nectar and pollen sources at hand.

If you don't meet the ideal, you can make decisions to help you more closely approach it.

- If a queen is over a year old you can still requeen in September.
- Hives can be moved to better locations by moving a couple of feet every day or so; or to somewhere over 2 miles away for awhile and then back to the same area but in a different location. A permeable windbreak works better than a solid wall of the same height. The back should be a little higher than the front so water won't run in on the bottom board when it rains.
- The major nectar flow is over now and the bees are starting to wind their populations down for Winter. But, the populations are still high and there are flowers around (Queen Ann's lace, Dandelion, Japanese knotweed, Purple Loosestrife, Asters, etc...) for the bees to work, and hives with some storage area will make for a "happier" hive. So, keep supers with a few empty combs on big colonies, especially those that are overly heavy with stores in the brood nest.
- Remember that a two deep box colony of bees should weigh about 135 lbs going into winter. If hives are light, feed with 2:1 sugar syrup as soon as possible so the bees have time to process it before the weather turns. Prophylactic treatment for AFB with Terramycin is no longer recommended but many beekeepers still use a single dose of Fumidil-B in the first two gallons of feed to reduce *Nosema* spore levels. *Nosema* is aggravated by stress so always strive to reduce stress.
- Pollen patties made of pollen or pollen substitute might help bee protein levels in areas of low late summer pollen. Bee protein is necessary to produce young bees and make their bodies durable for the winter ahead. Pollen traps can help gauge the availability of pollen and the pollen itself can be extended with supplement for fall feeding or saved for late winter stimulation or even sale if plentiful. Don't over trap!
- Protect your bees from their neighbor hives and yellowjackets. The worst problem beekeepers often face in late Summer and Early Fall is robbing. Don't tempt robber bees by exposing honey. Don't work the brood nest unless necessary; stop if robbing starts. One of the best methods to minimize robbing and help your colonies stave off the yellowjacket onslaught is to reduce entrances to a bee space sized slot after hot days are over.
- Before blindly treating for *Varroa* it is prudent to learn how to monitor mite levels. The threshold number of mites per colony above which treatment is necessary will vary from situation to situation. See the www.westsoundbees.org site for methodologies and ideas. If treating for mites, carefully follow directions for your particular method. This also means stopping the treatment at the proper time.
- Properly store your empty honey supers. Watch out for wax moths and rodents.

Read good information in past issues of the Buzzword at www.westsoundbees.org

September 08 –Beekeeper's Winter: October-February

September 07 –Late Summer/Fall Management

December 06 -President's Message (about winter bees raised in fall)

Intelligence

Research has provided insight into some stunning cognitive capabilities for such a tiny brain, as well as some especially fascinating anecdotes that liken bees to humans. For example, just like the human capacity to recognize faces, honeybees show the ability to discriminate between two different human faces. A major feature of this trait in humans is that it breaks down when the face is inverted 180°.

This same feature was observed in honeybees. Further, bees can count up to four objects when they are encountered sequentially during flight. It appears that bees can navigate to food sources by maintaining a running count of prominent landmarks that are passed en route, provided this number does not exceed four.

Sleep

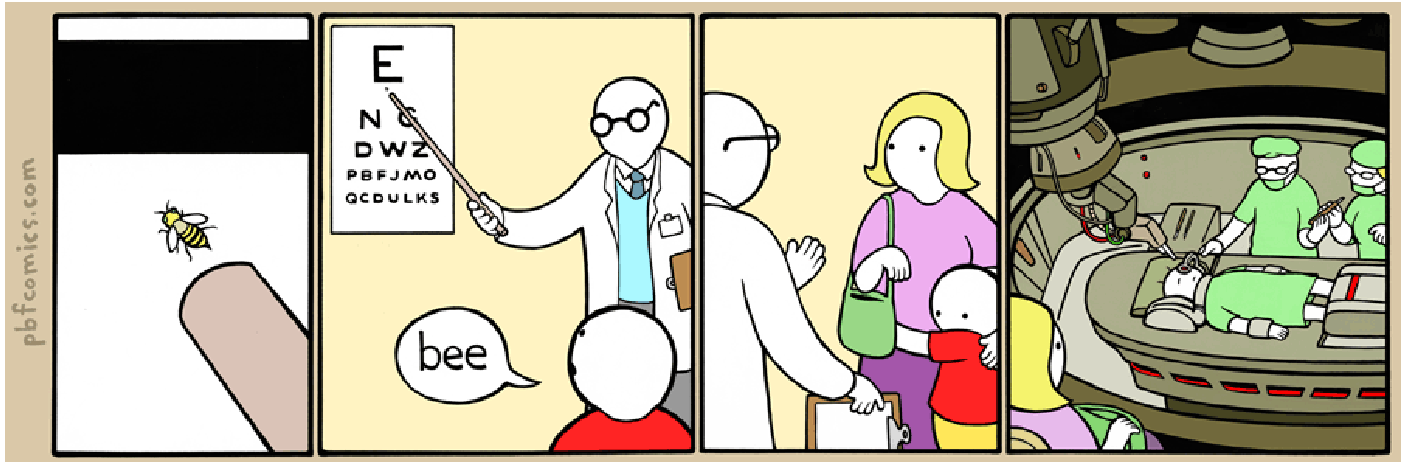
Children often ask what bees do at night, wondering if they are always busy doing something, or if they too idle sometimes in front of the TV. We know from ancient times that the sleep of the labourer is sweetest. Accordingly, honeybee foragers are among the first invertebrates for which sleep behaviour has been described. Foragers have strong circadian rhythms; they are active during the day and sleep during the night moving through three sleep stages. However, young bees exhibit sleep behaviour consisting of the same stages as observed in foragers yet pass more frequently between the three and stay longer in the lightest sleep stage. These differences in sleep architecture represent evidence for plasticity in sleep behaviour in insects. The harder they work - the sounder they sleep!

Memory

During evolution, honeybees have developed sophisticated sensory systems and learning and memorizing capacities, essential mechanisms that do not differ drastically from those of vertebrates. To forage successfully, a bee has to learn and remember not only the colour and shape of flowers that contain nectar and pollen, but also how to get to them. Since the species of flowers that are in bloom in the morning are likely to be replaced by a different species at a different location in the afternoon, the bee has evolved an impressive ability to learn and memorize local features and routes, as well as the time of blooming, quickly and accurately. Thus, having found a nectar-bearing flower at a particular time on a particular day, a forager can remember the task and the time at which it was completed, and visit the flower at the same place and time on the following day.

The time sense of the honeybee can modulate their response to a local stimulus according to the time of day. Honeybees can learn scents or colours in a time-linked process and remember them in a 24-hour cycle. Circadian systems permit organisms to measure time for adaptively significant purposes. Bees synchronize their behaviour with daily floral rhythms, foraging only when nectar and pollen are at their highest levels. At other times, they remain in the hive, conserving energy that otherwise would be exhausted on non-productive foraging flights.

The processes of learning and remembering are undoubtedly more sophisticated in primates and mammals than in insects, but there seems to be a continuum in these capacities across the animal kingdom. The abilities of an animal seem to be governed largely by what it needs in order to pursue its lifestyle, rather than whether or not it possesses a backbone. The properties of learning and memory in insects have been shown to be well suited to the requirements of the tasks that they have to perform. Honeybees can plan their activities in time and space, and use context to determine which action to perform and when.



Winning Poem from The WSBA Poetry Contest

Topic: Swarms and swarming



(Untitled)

**Dripping,
sagging,
a form
hanging on
the tree
thousands of creatures
waiting for the signal
until the sound of a scout's vibrating wings tell of a new home.**

The author of the winning poem is Warren Carlson who will receive a one year's subscription to American Bee Journal magazine. Read the other poems in the e-Buzzword at www.westsoundbees.org

ARE HERBS THE ANSWER?

A beekeeper had been collecting honey from an herb garden for many years. He always bragged that his hives were Varroa free. When he asked the Bee's Officer why this was, the inspector replied laconically, "It's only a matter of thyme, son!"

HONEY BUTTER ZUCCHINI BREAD

From Kim Redmond (Makes 2 loaves)

3 cups self-rising flour
1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
½ teaspoon ground nutmeg
1 teaspoon salt

3 eggs
1-2/3 cups sugar
1/2 cup vegetable oil
1/2 cup melted butter
1/2 cup honey
2 tablespoons vanilla extract

3 cups grated, unpeeled zucchini
Optional:
1 cup chopped walnuts
1/2 cup flaked coconut

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease two 9"x5" loaf pans. Stir together flour, cinnamon, nutmeg and salt until blended. Set aside.

Whisk eggs, sugar, oil, butter, honey and vanilla together in a large bowl. Stir in zucchini, walnuts and coconut. Add the flour mixture and stir until well combined. Divide the batter between the prepared loaf pans.

Bake until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean (about 1 hour.) Cool completely. Store loaves overnight in plastic bags for best flavor.

The Swarm

Morgan Carlson



**The buzz filled the air,
on a summer day so fair,
Grouped in a bunch,
they must have a hunch.
Away they fly,
circling to the sky.
Looking in the trees
for many missing bees.
A beekeeper shouts, "Oh no!"**

Please don't go

The Honey Bee Ball

R. Carlson

I've laid many eggs and my house is getting hot
The workers are fanning and their wings are getting shot.

I'm feeling a little anxious, despite all my care
The weather is sunny, the smell of nectar is in the air.

A feast we are having, getting ready for a trip
a young queen is growing and honey I now sip.

I'm restless inside and a journey is now prepared
flying into the light, to a branch is all I dared.

Many others are together, in a dizzy whirling dance
something in me says that I have to take the chance.

Great numbers are swirling, sensing pheromone
a beautiful cluster's forming, the sunlight sets the tone.

They hold onto me in a symmetrical embrace
we hook our feet together with considerable grace.

Softly buzzing we collectively agree
vistas are great from our vantage in the tree.

The branch is now shaking, a man's face I do spy
big wooden boxes to entice us, he proceeded to try.

Banging pots, wringing hands, and running all around
His hasty motions don't appear at all too sound.

Shaken from our cluster point with skill and goodly care
down down we go, I can't tell how we will fare.

We've had a slight diversion from the original plan
now we're under the power of a white suited man.

His smoke and sugary sweets, charm me for a while.
I think we might make it through this unsettling trial.

Reluctantly we enter, a newly contrived home.
Choosing to remain means busily building comb?

He challenges my decisions, for it's my prerogative
Will this be a place we all would want to live?

Furnishings are scanty while my tastes are so refined
He puts us in this box of his, and honey is often mined.

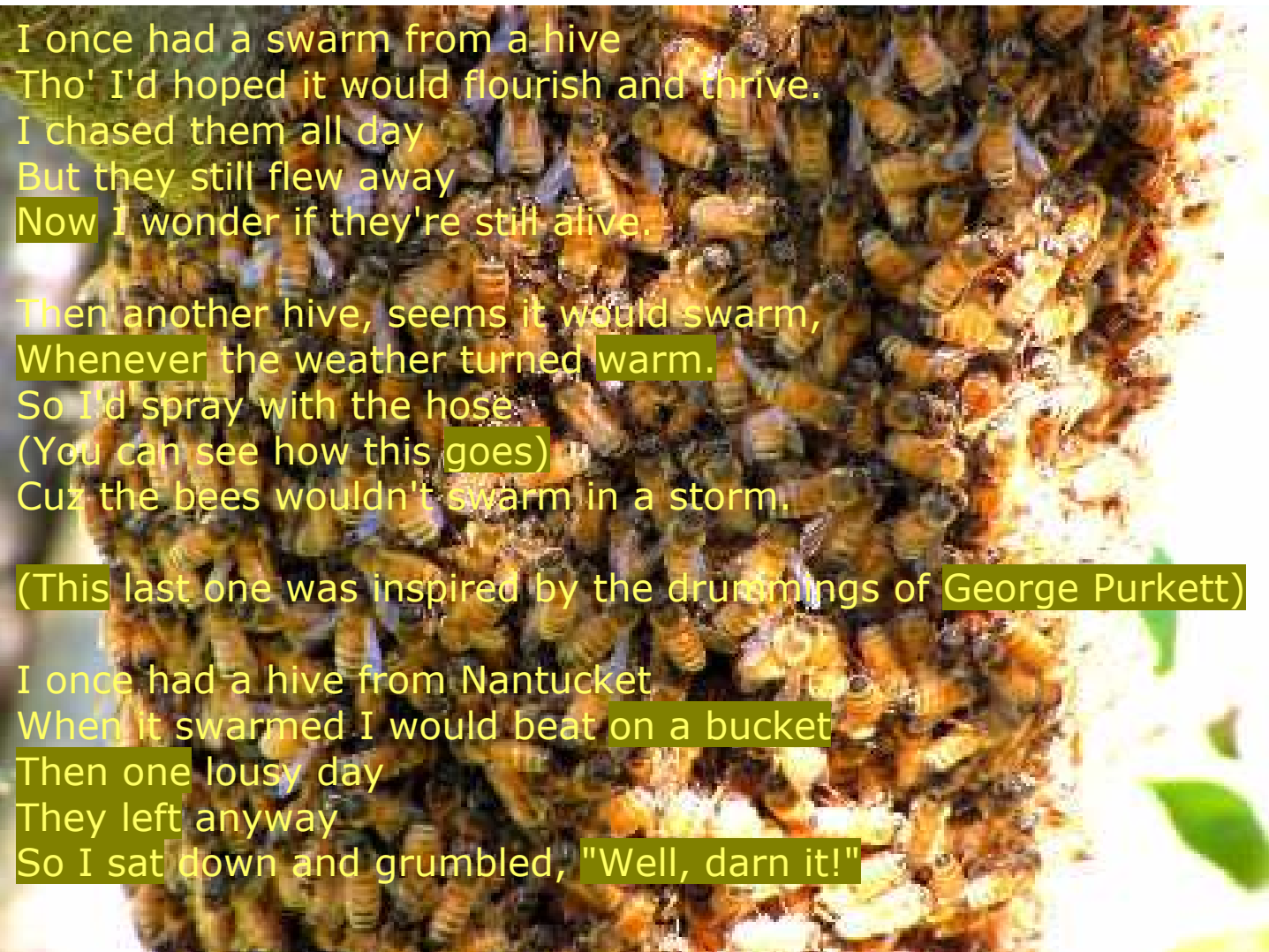
I can't fault him for his passion, our taste is quite the same.
I'll share our golden harvest in this continued yearly game.

At this little juncture, I'll cease my brief vacation
eggs I'll lay while I partake, in our beloved libation.

I'll fortify his ego, though the outside still will call.
Oh life seemed so lovely in our freely hanging ball...

Swarmin' Limericks

- Kim Redmond



I once had a swarm from a hive
Tho' I'd hoped it would flourish and thrive.
I chased them all day
But they still flew away
Now I wonder if they're still alive.

Then another hive, seems it would swarm,
Whenever the weather turned warm.
So I'd spray with the hose
(You can see how this goes)
Cuz the bees wouldn't swarm in a storm.

(This last one was inspired by the drummings of George Purkett)

I once had a hive from Nantucket
When it swarmed I would beat on a bucket
Then one lousy day
They left anyway
So I sat down and grumbled, "Well, darn it!"



The photo titled "Whoa!", from Dave Myrhe's apiary, shows the lengths a beekeeper will go to in an effort to keep supers, stacked six-high, from toppling over before he can get around to harvesting!

**An Out Apiary in the
fireweed**



HARVEST - BE GRATEFUL – SHARE

Kim Redmond

The evenings and nights are cooling down and the mornings bring the foggy mists that herald the end of summer. Soon the kids will be back to school and the bees will tuck themselves away to wait out the cold of winter.

In the mean time many of us are helping prepare our bees for winter, harvesting the surplus of honey, and admiring the wonderful handiwork of our six-legged friends. Grateful for a vast (or meager) return on our time and investment, we will count ourselves fortunate and maybe give ourselves a pat on the back for bringing our charges through another season.

As a beekeeper, what have you learned this year? Will your newfound knowledge change how you care for your bees next year? Will it help you plan now for spring of next year? And what of your knowledge have you shared or will you share with others? Can you help us become better beekeepers? Can you share your experiences and enthusiasm about beekeeping with those who are curious? You probably don't think of yourself as a teacher but you will be amazed at how fascinated people are to hear your tales of beekeeping. Please share. Go to the club meetings; tell us what you've learned or even what you suspect about beekeeping. Let us know what you're curious about because maybe someone in our group can help. And share your honeybee insight with the community. Who knows, that one funny, fascinating, or interesting story you tell about beekeeping might be what makes your neighbor reconsider applying pesticides that could harm your bees. Or it could be the catalyst that moves a bee enthusiast to becoming a beekeeper. Or maybe it will just brighten someone's day – so share!

Stay warm, enjoy the bounty and colors of fall...and bee-happy.

Buzzword leftovers, served sunny side up...



How Do You Open This Thing?



At the picnic, Jason officially presents George with a new Pocket Bee Charmer....