

Buzzword



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Fall Into Winter</i>	1
<i>At The Last Meeting</i>	1
<i>Basics in Beekeeping</i>	2
<i>Meet The Members</i>	3

Next Meeting

October 15th, 2002

Fall Management Discussion

David Myhre will lead a discussion of the fall management techniques that were used by association members.

7:00 p.m. at Stedman's

Fall Into Winter

Message from the President

It is October already, alas summer is gone, Indian summer is gone, fall is nearly gone and the great dark looms. The fall colors are peaking but we will still have a few precious warm, sunny days to finish getting the girls ready for bed. This really is the last chance and most of your fall management should already be done. For those who tend to be fashionably late, get out there and get it done or you will find that the party is over and the lights have been turned off and everyone has gone home when you finally make your appearance. The condition of your bees next spring and your success next year are absolutely determined by

colony health and stores in the fall. At Tuesday's meeting David Myhre is going to lead a discussion of the various fall management strategies employed by our members. Everyone who wants to will get a chance to outline their methods, thinking, and observations. I know that a lot of good frontline research is being done by our members and a chance to share methods and results will be a great help to all of us. Whatever your strategy, be it going strictly by the book or whispering secret incantations under the full moon we want to hear about it and how you feel it works. So give it a little thought and come prepared to share your experiences on this most important seasonal

management.

Starting next month we will officially be in the off season and can lighten up and start having some fun. Stephen Augustine has lined up a speaker for November who will talk about the Aerodynamics of Bee Flight. Michael Dillon is a graduate student at the University of Washington and knows of such things. It should be a lot of fun to hear from him. I remember as a kid hearing that scientific investigation proved that a bumble bee could not fly. We have come a long way in a few decades and now we have advanced our aerodynamic knowledge making it possible for bumble bees to fly. I am putting

(contd. on page 3)

OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

- President:
Paul Hosticka 360-297-3614
- Vice President:
Kevin Wirth 253-851-4664
- Secretary:
Tricia Sullivan 360-779-1210
- Treasurer:
George Purkett 360-895-9116
- Educational Materials:
Barbara Stedman 360-692-9453
- Librarian:
Roy Barton 360-613-0175
- Newsletter Editor:
Stephen Augustine 360-779-1210

AT THE LAST MEETING

Treasurer's Report:

- * George Purkett gave the treasurer's report. Our bank balance as of September 16 was \$3443. We have 68 paid members as of today.

Announcements:

- * Reminder of the Fall Conference at Sun Mountain Lodge in Winthrop from October 24th-26th. Registration forms for the State Fall Conference are available from Paul.
- * Jean Iverson is still trying to sell Jon's four hives. Contact Rusty if you're interested.

New Business:

- * National Honey Board is encouraging local bee associations to host "Honey & Biscuits" for local volunteer firefighters. Paul will talk to Randy Billick about this possibility.
- * WA Dept. of General Administration is having a surplus sale including bee trucks.
- * Master Beekeepers' Course is being offered at Simon Fraser University February 10-14, 2003 in Vancouver. Paul has the registration information. Cost is \$150. There is a party at the end.

(Continued on page 2)

CORRECTIONS

Following are a few corrections to articles in last month's newsletter

- * On page 4 a caption for a photograph of the summer picnic incorrectly identified Nancy Jones as Vickie Barton
- * On page 6 sugar syrup for fall feeding should be in the ratio 2 parts sugar to 1 part water, not 1:1
- * On page 6 the formic acid treatment for varroa mites is five treatments of 40ml each, not 30ml.

"Go to your fields and your gardens, and you shall learn that it is the pleasure of the bee to gather honey of the flower,
But it is also the pleasure of the flower to yield its honey to the bee
For to the bee a flower is a fountain of life,
And to the flower a bee is a messenger of love,
And to both, bee and flower, the giving and the receiving of pleasure is a need and an ecstasy."

Kahlil Gibran
The Prophet

FOR SALE

12 oz capacity jars with plastic lids included.
2.75 diameter x 4.75 high
Mason jar lids will also work

\$2.00 per case of 12
Contact: Al or Barbara

**Stedman's Bee
Supplies**
360-692-9453

BASICS IN NORTHWEST BEEKEEPING

Adapted from Ron Bennett (<http://members.aol.com/beetools/>)

As we shift into our fall/winter program, the bees are in the process of preparing to cluster up (they form a tight ball of bees in the central area of the hive to conserve warmth) for the winter. There are still yellowjackets about and on warmer days bees from other hives may try to rob, so continue precautions against robbing - such as reducing the entrance opening of the hive.

One good way to help your hives is to tilt the hive slightly forward by placing a board under the back edge of the hive. This points the entrance downward and helps to keep water from gathering on the bottom board of the hive. Another point to keep in mind is that your top may not be water tight and placing a cover over the top (a sheet of plywood larger than the top, of any

good stiff water-tight material will do) and putting a weight (a brick or rock) to keep it from blowing off will help keep your bees warm and dry.

The bees also tend to generate a lot of water vapor in the hive in winter from normal aspiration. Cracking the top open and putting a few sticks or pebbles between the inner and outer covers will give the hive enough ventilation to keep it from turning into a dank, damp environment. Adequate ventilation is possibly the most important characteristic to monitor throughout the fall and winter.

By now you should have fed all your colonies adequate saturated sugar syrup (2 parts sucrose to 1 part water) for them to have laid up winter stores. Remember that the gross weight of each colony should be about 150-180 pounds going into win-

ter. If there are still sunny days forecast it may not be too late to give them some feed to bring them up to weight.

Carefully wrap and store your honey supers for protection against wax moths. You may expose the comb to sunlight or freeze them to kill moth larvae. Your bees invested a tremendous amount of energy and resources into creating that comb and you should value and protect this asset carefully. Also protect your stored comb from mice by whatever method you are comfortable with. Mice can destroy boxes of comb in short order.

You should be done with all your medications by now with the exception of mite strips. If the days are still warm it may not be too late to treat with formic acid for tracheal mite control.



AT THE LAST MEETING (CONTD. FROM PAGE 1)

- * Cub Scouts would like a presenter on Saturday, November 9th in Silverdale for Scouting leaders. Susan Hosticka has contact information.
- * Rusty mentioned that 11th grade biology classes at Klawhoya would like a beekeeper to speak. Contact him.
- * An Education Committee was appointed consisting of John Davis, Stephen Augustine and Paul Hosticka. They will work on putting together an "educational packet."
- * Paul Hosticka is willing to sell formic acid with pads and instructions to association members. Contact him for prices.
- * A mailing list of association members will be circulated in the next newsletter. Let Stephen Augustine know if you do not want your name published.
- * Stephen Augustine would like to have a thread-bare web site for the association. The cost would be \$65 a year for hosting the site. Motion passed to allocate \$65 for a web site host. Visit www.WestSoundBees.org.
- * Many members shared that this year provided a worse than usual honey harvest.

Program:

Mike Johnson presented a program on Fall Hive Management.

*Submitted by:
Tricia Sullivan, Secretary, October 8, 2002*

...FALL INTO WINTER (contd. from page 1)

a slide presentation together about small-scale queen rearing and the great holiday dinner meeting awaits so keep the third Tuesdays clear on your calendar. As always we continually seek topics and speakers so if you have an idea or want to hear about a particular subject mention it and we will try to make it happen.

Another area that deserves some of our attention is adding any books or videos to the library that would be helpful or interesting. If you have not found information that you want or have found information elsewhere that you think others would enjoy please mention the title and source and we will get copies for the library. We have an ample budget, and a well stocked library is a great resource when looking for a bee fix during the dark of winter. And for those that have books and videos that are overdue please return them, it is after all the only honorable and decent thing to do. And who among us is not honorable and decent?

The leaves are falling and the days growing dim. Another season in the bee yard is history. It is a time to reflect and ponder, this year was not the best but far from the worst. Adding everything we learned this year to all that we already knew, by next year, I figure, we should know just about everything. From then on it ought to be easy, right? Hope to see you Tuesday.

- Paul



MEET THE MEMBERS
An Interview with Bob & Nancy Fortner

After a several year hiatus we are resuming a somewhat irregular column in which we get to know members of the Association. This month we meet brand-new beekeepers Bob and Nancy Fortner who live on 10-acre Sweet Life Farm on Bainbridge Island. Bob is a native Washingtonian and Nancy is a native of Texas. They met and married exactly 25 years ago while they were both in the army – Bob was a medical doctor and Nancy was a nurse. They have a daughter who is a senior in college. Among their varied interests are gardening, canning & preserving, cooking, eating good food, travelling, reading, and going to the movies. They currently run an online bookstore (<http://www.fortnerbooks.com>) specializing in out-of-print, used, & rare books.

For this column I asked them how they got started in beekeeping, what their first year's experience was like and what their hopes and plans are for future years in beekeeping.

We started keeping bees last July, when a friend who knew we were interested brought us a swarm in an old, dirty hive body he had laying around. Nothing like being thrown into the frying pan to motivate us to figure out what we should be doing to keep those girls alive. By late fall, the bees had done an admirable job of cleaning up the hive body and filling it with honey, with some help from us in the form of supple-

mental syrup. Right after we got our hive, were out at the Farm Kitchen in Poulsbo one Sat-

urday morning, enjoying pastries and coffee, and had the good fortune to meet Stephen and Patricia, who answered a bunch of questions and encouraged us to join the beekeeper's club. When we attended our first meeting – last year's picnic – we were delighted to find such a nice group of people who not only are kind enough to answer all our dumb questions, but also seem to



Bob, Nancy & Otis

(Continued on page 4)

Refreshment Schedule

- Oct: Mark McColigan & Catherine Mathewson
- Nov: Nancy Fortner
- Dec: Dinner Meeting
- Jan: -open-
- Feb: -open-

If you are unable to fulfill your commitment to provide refreshments for a meeting please notify Barbara Stedman by giving her a call at 360-692-9453 before the meeting date.

The fall conference of the Washington State Beekeepers Association is just around the corner:

October 24-26
Sun Mountain Lodge
Winthrop, WA

You may still be able to register by calling Miriam Bishop at 509-997-9699

Members planning on going to the conference are reminded that auction items are always welcome and that the money raised supports research at WSU.

Editor's Note:

Articles of interest to beekeepers and announcements of interest to Association members are welcomed and encouraged.

Submit articles and announcements to Stephen Augustine:

Email: saugusti@krl.org
Mail: 401 B Liberty St NW
Poulsbo, WA 98370

Visit our Association's new website at:
<http://www.WestSoundBees.org>

...MEET THE MEMBERS (contd. from page 3)

share so many of our same interests. We don't seem to run into many other people who get their kicks from growing things, cooking from scratch, and preserving the harvest. We continue to be smitten by beekeeping and the group, as we fumble along learning the ropes. We soon learned (after it was too late in the season to do anything about it) that our one hive body full of honey might not be adequate to support the colony through the winter. We anxiously waited for spring, using winter to learn more about beekeeping with books and tapes and going to meetings.

Come spring, we invited Stephen and Patricia to go through our hive with us, and decided that we needed a new queen and new frames to replace the old ones we had inherited. Since we were completely hooked, we ordered a "starter" package, a new queen and more hive boxes and frames, so we could have two colonies with the proper two hive bodies for. Skipping some of the details from then to now, we are going into winter

with 2 pretty solid looking colonies, and 6 frames of honey for ourselves. Not much, but considering the fact that everyone says it was not a good season, we feel pretty good about the progress we made. We went through an old queen and a sterile queen on the old hive before it settled down with a good queen and started filling up frames. Our new hive went gangbusters for about 6 weeks before it swarmed; then we put one of Paul's new super duper queens in that hive. Considering the season and where we started, we feel pretty fortunate to have 2 double-body hives and one super with built out frames and honey stores for the winter. This is beginning to look like that commercial that says, "I'll bet you can't eat just one." I see more colonies on the horizon....

Why do we keep bees? For the honey, the wax AND the pollination in the garden! We're having a great time experimenting with honey in food and soap recipes, and the wax in soaps and lotions. So far, we have experimented with other

people's honey and wax; we can hardly wait to use our own! Beekeeping fits right in to our passion for growing and making things, and we are actively working to integrate hive products with the berries and herbs we grow, to use as gifts for friends and family, and eventually to sell. We've come up with (we think) some pretty cool stuff; at the very least, we have Christmas presents covered this year :) In December, Nancy is signed up for a booth at Christmas in the Country at Willowbrook Farm on Bainbridge, where she will try selling some of the skin care products she's been cooking up.

Thank you, everyone in the club, for being kind and helpful to a fault, for making us feel so welcome. This group is a wonderful example of how people of different ages, with different backgrounds and vastly different levels of knowledge and involvement can come together and enrich one another in so many ways. We feel very fortunate to have fallen into your colony!



West Sound Beekeepers Association
10982 NE Tulin Rd
Kingston, WA 98346

Next Meeting:

Tuesday Oct. 15th, 7:00p.m., at Stedman's

Program:

Fall Management – Discussion of Methods Used