

# Buzzword



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**Next Meeting**

Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2004,

Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Bee-ginner's Instruction  
at 6:30 p.m.

Stedman's Bee Supplies  
Silverdale

**OFFICERS & COMMITTEES**

President:  
Basil Gunther 360-297-5075  
Vice President:  
George Purkett 360-895-9116  
Secretary:  
Tricia Sullivan 360-779-1210  
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Roy & Vickie Barton 360-613-0175  
Newsletter Editor:  
Stephen Augustine 360-779-1210

**WA State Beekeepers Association Survey Results**

This year 807 surveys were sent to all known Washington State beekeepers. 233 responded, with only 12 addresses coming back as undeliverable. This means that 29% returned a completed survey. The survey had 39 questions, covering honey bee pest management, WSBA resources & training, beekeeper and WSBA communication, Washington State University (WSU) sponsored research, State Legislature & the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA). Additionally beekeepers were asked for opinions on the top three issues in beekeeping today. 78% of the folks who responded to the survey participated in, or at least knew of, their local beekeeping

association.

The last State wide survey in 1979 was comprised of 45 questions and covered most of the same type of questions with an emphasis on pesticide kills of honey bee colonies. The 1979 survey was sent to 2,094 beekeepers of whom 1,454 responded (1,232 listed themselves as hobbyists).

**On pest management:**

73% of respondents want help from WSBA with pest issues. The top concern is Varroa mite infestation, with tracheal mites and AFB a close second & third. Most respondents use

*(Continued on page 3)*

**Formic Acid at Work**



Paul Lundy submitted a picture of formic acid treatment at work. In the picture you will notice that the hive entrance has been reduced with the intent of creating a formic acid vapor cloud inside the hive. The little dark spots at the hive entrance are dead mites.

## Bee-ginner's Instruction



Before the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Topics this month include  
 \* Medication roundup  
 \* Hive placement  
 \* Equipment storage

“They gather in the center of the hive, contract themselves, and cling to the combs that contain the faithful urns; whence there shall issue, during days of frost, the transmuted substance of summer.”

Maurice Maeterlinck, 1901,  
 from *The Life of the Bee*

## Looking for jars to package your honey?



Stedman's Bee Supplies has a good selection of glass and plastic jars

## THE LEAVES ARE FALLING

Adapted from Ron Bennett and supplemented by Stephen Augustine

**A**s 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 to the hive.

A good practice 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 ply 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 winter. 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 freeze the comb 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 which should be taken out at the end of 45 days. If the days are still warm it may not be too late to treat with formic acid for tracheal mite control.



## RECIPE CORNER

### Buddha's Garden Feast

2 Tablespoons peanut oil or salad oil  
 6 cups assorted fresh vegetables  
 1 can (6 oz.) sliced water chestnuts, drained  
 1 can (16 oz.) baby corn, drained  
 1 can (10-3/4 oz.) vegetable broth  
 1 Tablespoon cornstarch  
 2 Tablespoons catsup  
 2 Tablespoons soy sauce  
 2 Tablespoons white vinegar  
 2 Tablespoons honey  
 6 oz. frozen Chinese pea pods, partially thawed



Heat oil in wok or large heavy skillet. Add fresh vegetables and stir-fry until barely crisp-tender. Add water chestnuts, corn and broth. Combine cornstarch with catsup, soy sauce, wine vinegar and honey. Stir into vegetables; bring to a boil. Reduce heat. Add pea pods. Cover and cook 2 to 3 minutes. Serve over steamed white or brown rice or crisp Chinese noodles.



### Refreshment Schedule

**Oct:** Mary Monroe  
**Nov:** Jim Carter  
**Dec:** Holiday Dinner  
**Jan:** Brent Benson  
**Feb:** Dee Lamar,  
 Chanetta Ludwig  
**Mar:** Rusty King

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

### ...WASBA Survey Results (contd. from page 1)

Apistan, menthol and Coumaphos and believe Integrated Pest Management is important. A little over half (56%) of people who said IPM is important also rotate acaricides (mite controls).

#### On Training & Education:

With an 87% positive response participants clearly would like WSBA to emphasize education and training in its programs.

#### On WASBA Communication:

WASBA communication with WA state beekeepers needs to improve.

#### On WSU Sponsored Research:

Survey participants are concerned about quality queens, and 66% of respondents are interested in locally produced queens. 77% of participants would like WSU to continue its honey bee breeding program. According to survey participant's experiences it appears that honey bee defensive behavior has not worsened. According to the respondents, beekeepers are not all that aware of Washington State University programs.

#### On State Legislature and WSDA:

Beekeepers who responded to this survey support WASBA's efforts to represent them with a 78% positive response to our activities with state regulators and the Legislature. 78% of respondents want

input in the use of the Apiarist registration fees. Although only 43% of respondents appear to want to re-form the Apiary Committee. Access to state and federal lands for bee forage continues to be an important issue for 82% of respondents.

#### On the top three issues in beekeeping today:

1. Beekeepers need advances in treatments with honey bee pests and diseases.
2. Better education of beekeepers and the public.
3. Improve WSBA communication & WSDA regulations.

#### Conclusions of the Survey:

- \* Concentrate on improving Varroa mite, tracheal mite, and American Foul Brood treatments.
- \* Actively pursue and establish a priority of education and training.
- \* Mandate for communication & timely information.
- \* Continue queen breeding research.
- \* Locally bred queens for Washington State beekeepers.
- \* Strong mandate to continue to gain access to state & federal land for honey bee forage.
- \* Make use of our Apiary registration fee dollars.

### FOR SALE

For sale as a whole to ONE buyer:

2 supers unused, unpainted, with twenty undrawn frames  
 8 supers with drawn frames (mixed wax and plastic)  
 4 empty supers  
 1 brood box  
 6 white pails and lids - some with spigots  
 1 small extractor (2 frames)  
 1 small plastic uncapping tank  
 1 3-frames nuc  
 7 bottom boards  
 1 screened bottom board  
 2 queen excluders  
 8 inner boards/feeders  
 6 summer covers  
 4 wrap-around covers  
 9 cases of glass jars with lids  
 1 small propane torch for cleaning  
 25 lbs soy pollen/protein (for bees)  
 Plus miscellaneous other items.

Total price for all the items: \$200 or best offer. Call J.P. Gagnon at 206-780-2737 mornings (business phone).



## Minutes of the Last Meeting

September 21, 2004, 7-9 p.m. at Stedman's Bee Supplies

George Purkett, Vice-President presided at the meeting.

### Treasurer's Report:

- Joe Grubbs presented a treasurer's report. We have a total of \$4937.72 in checking and savings. We have 68 paid members for the year.

### Announcements:

- Paul Lundy will be offering a "Bee-ginners Workshop" at 6:30 p.m. prior to every regularly-scheduled Bee Association meeting. Paul will gear timely information to beginning beekeepers but all are welcome.
- Please return any library materials that you have checked out so others can use them as well.
- The Washington State Conference is October 14-16 in Spokane.

### New Business:

- Someone suggested that we consider sending a batch of samples from Association members' hives to Jan Dormaier for tracheal mite and nosema inspection.

### Program:

- Paul Lundy presented basics for Fall Management and George Purkett talked about top-bar hives.

*Submitted by: Tricia Sullivan, Secretary,*

*October 13, 2004*



**West Sound Beekeepers Association**  
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Silverdale, WA 98383  
<http://www.WestSoundBees.org>

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