

*Feral colonies  
bee size article*

# W.A.S.

## Western Apicultural Society Journal

Vol. 12 No. 2

SUMMER 1990

### 1990 W.A.S. MEETING -- WHAT'S HAPPENING!

This issue of your W.A.S. Journal will show you how to get around San Luis Obispo and onto the Cal Poly campus to enjoy the 1990 conference. The last issue contained a simple map with directions to San Luis Obispo, so between the two issues, everyone should get to the meeting!

Those entering campus from Highway 101 would do best to take the Grand Avenue exit from the south or the Monterey exit from the north (see map). Just after entering the campus on Grand Avenue, you will encounter an information booth by the right line. Information about parking, dorm locations, etc. is available here. The campus information operator may be reached at (805) 756-1111.

Also enclosed is a registration form with prices effective until July 13, after which a \$15 late fee will be assessed. Arrangements for the Hearst Castle trip (August 16), banquet (August 17), and campus housing need to be made as soon as possible. Space in the dorm may be limited, so register soon.



## MEETING REGISTRATION

Please use the enclosed registration form for early registration. On-site registration will take place in the Trinity Hall lobby beginning at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday morning. Registration packets, name tags, and campus information will be available at the desk. Those already registered may pick up their dorm room keys at the same time. See the winter journal issue for details on accommodations. Note: Parking rates listed for cars and RV's are weekly rates.

## ROOM RESERVATIONS AND MEALS

Extra room nights are available for \$25.00 per person per night/single and \$17.00 per person per night/double. Before and after the meeting, meals are available on the Cal Poly campus at Vista Grande cafeteria/restaurant, Snack Bar, and Sandwich Plant.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Conferees are on their own for lunch on Tuesday, then we kick off the 1990 conference with the time-honored **short course** from 1:00-5:00 p.m. Exhibitors may set up their displays during this time. Dinner at the dining hall begins at 5:00 p.m., followed by a Delegates and Directors meeting at 6:00 p.m. An informal social mixer (Bee Buzz) will be held in the dorm lounge starting at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday.

Our formal presentations begin after breakfast with such interesting topics as Africanized bees in Central America (Dr. Mike Burgett), preparing for Africanized honey bees in northern Mexico and Texas (Dr. Evan Sugden), hymenopteran micro-features (Dr. Lynn Royce), and laying workers (Dr. Robert Page).

A Santa Maria-style BBQ will be held Wednesday evening in the Cal Poly Rose Garden. This BBQ style is a favorite of the central California coast and will be prepared by experienced caterers in a lovely setting on campus. Sweaters or light jackets may be needed to fend off the evening ocean breezes. The social (The Hive) will feature a slide presentation on a mystery subject by Brian Sheriff, along with the usual refreshments.

Thursday's program includes talks on mass overwintering of queens (Margriet Wyborn), queen pheromone (Dr. Mark Winston), and pesticides and bees (Dr. Bill Chaney).

The afternoon features a Hearst Castle tour with box lunches. Be sure to sign up early for this. Then we'll go downtown for the Farmers Market and sample local dining fare.

The evening entertainment includes slide presentations by Joe Stone on his bee-keeping activities with boy's camp members and Joli Winer on "Birds in the Beeyard."

### WESTERN APICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA, INC.

President	Mark Shelton	Crop Science / Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, CA 93407	(805) 756-2286
Secretary	Nancy Stewart	2400 21st Street Sacramento, CA 95818	(916) 451-2337
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### EDITORIAL STAFF FOR W.A.S. JOURNAL

Managing Editor	Eric Mussen	Entomology Extension University of California Davis, CA 95616	(916) 752-0472
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### MEMBERSHIPS

Individual	\$ 10.00	Commercial	\$ 50
Junior	7.50	Life	100
Senior	7.50	Couple Life	150
Couple	15.00	Benefactor	500
Associate (Club)	10.00	Patron	1000

### ADVERTISING RATES: ¼ page

One year	\$ 50	Single copy	\$ 25
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Payments in foreign currency should be adjusted to reflect current rate of exchange (U.S.).

Copy deadline is the 10th of the month. Send all copy to the Editor. Information must reach the Editor at least one month in advance of the copy deadline.

Friday should wrap up the conference with a bang. Dr. Norm Gary will tell us how to survive multiple threats of Varroa mites, tracheal mites, and Africanized bees, while Ann Harman (all the way from Maryland) will discuss "Apitherapy: the Good Side of Bee Stings." Following lunch will be our annual workshop session from 1:30-5:30 p.m. At this writing, the workshop schedule was nearly firm, but details won't be presented until your next journal issue. However, plan to join the **Loyal Order of Bee Beards** under the expert supervision of Drs. Burgett and Gary. Also be sure to watch Dr. Herb Drapkin's new high-speed extractor remove honey from Permacomb<sup>R</sup> without uncapping! This could be the start of something big. We'll head for our last social hour, then to the banquet at 7:00 p.m. for an evening of fine dining, beekeeping auctioneering, entertainment, and the presentation of the award for Outstanding Service to Beekeeping.

Everyone should leave this conference with some new beekeeping knowledge and a feel for the ambience of the central California coast.

More details on the meeting in the June W.A.S. Journal issue.

## Minutes of Board of Directors and Delegates Meeting - August 7, 1989

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m. by President Stan Williams. Those attending were: G. Kern, W. Nye, J. Corner, N. Gunter, J. Ellis, M. Shelton, L. Casazza, J. Etzel, B. Spangler, H. Drapkin, M. Agnew, S. Twist, O. Jones, W. Robinson, N. Gary, V. Burke, E. Mussen, R. Neese, N. Stewart, and S. Williams.

After announcements J. Ellis moved and R. Neese seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the 1988 meeting as printed in the Journal. Carried.

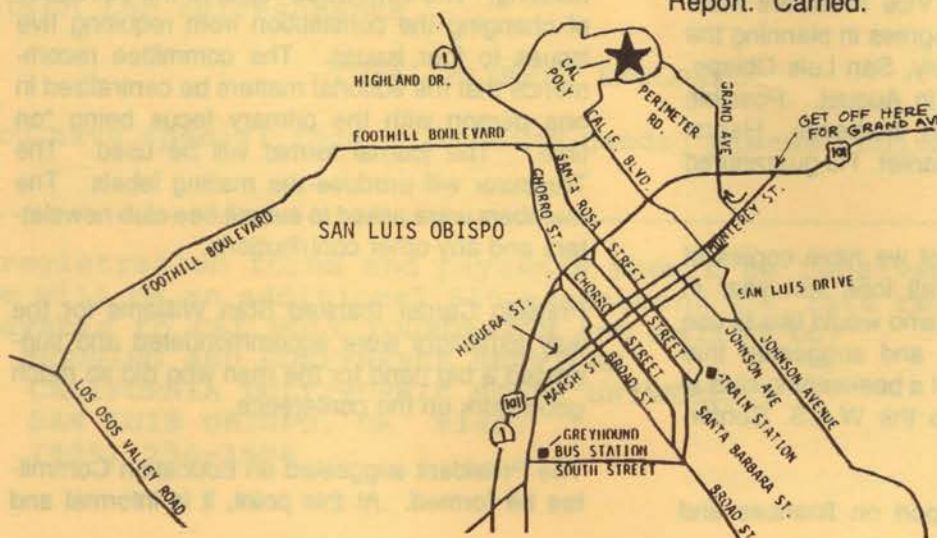
The Secretary reported that there are copies of past proceedings and past journals available for publicity. It was suggested that proceeding copies could be sold for \$2.00 each to cover printing costs. Journal copies will be put out for conference attendees to take. Extra stationery from 1988 (with the names of that year's officers) is also available for anyone who would use it.

Norm Gary was named as historian to keep copies of all past proceedings, etc. on file.

Les Casazza and Vivian Burke, organizers of the San Francisco Beekeepers, were introduced.

R. Neese presented the Treasurer's Report and placed it on file. Membership has declined from 180-195 in 1988 to 159 as of this date in 1989. The organization is, however, gaining on lifetime members. Comments were made about the downtrend in club memberships in general, including very large clubs like the Eastern Apiculture Society. W. Robinson moved, B. Spanger seconded a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Carried.

Mark Shelton



W. Robinson, Journal Editor, reported that two journal/newsletters had been sent and three more would be sent in 1989. He asked for any suggestions for future editions. The President appointed a committee (W. Robinson, B. Spangler, N. Gary, G. Kern, and R. Neese) to discuss the journal format and then make recommendations at the general meeting.

M. Shelton, next year's president, reported on plans for the 1990 conference in San Luis Obispo. There are good facilities and he has 70 hives nearby. Tentative date is the third week in August.

There are two awards being made this year. O. Jones will report fully on nominations at the general meeting. There were no resolutions.

New business: It was suggested that a way to increase membership is to hold our conferences in locations where membership has increased in the past.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

submitted by:  
Nancy Stewart, Secretary

### **Minutes of General Business Meeting August 10, 1989**

The meeting was called to order at 11:03 a.m. by President Williams.

R. Neese moved the minutes be approved as printed in the Post-Conference Journal. E. Mussen seconded. Motion carried.

Officers' reports: Second Vice President Mark Shelton reported on the progress in planning the 1990 conference at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, tentatively the third week in August. Possible activities include a beach barbecue, Hearst Castle tour, local farmers market. He guaranteed sun!

The Secretary reported that we have copies of the video that Virgil Brazell took last year in Tacoma to loan to anyone who would like to use it as publicity for W.A.S. and suggested that anyone who is a member of a beekeeping club at home name a delegate to the W.A.S. Conference.

The Treasurer gave a report on finances and

membership. It was placed on file.

The President made suggestions for future activities, including more short courses for interested beekeepers and getting out publicity on bees because of the current wave of public interest.

Journal Editor W. Robinson deferred his report until the Journal Committee makes its report. N. Gary, Proceedings Editor, thanked all of the speakers who got their write-ups in on time.

The President thanked all of the people who helped in the planning and carrying out of the conference.

There were no resolutions.

O. Jones, head of the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate for 1989-90 officers: President, Mark Shelton; Vice President, Eric Mussen; Second Vice President, Bill Nye; Secretary, Nancy Stewart; Treasurer, Ron Neese; Director Utah, Olive Jones; Director Arizona, Judith Shaw. States without directors are: Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming, Alaska, Hawaii, and Alberta, Canada. Olive suggested that anyone at the conference who knows beekeepers in these states write and invite them to the next conference and they may become directors.

There were no nominations from the floor. R. Zahler moved the nominations be closed; J. Ellis seconded the motion. Carried. The President asked for a vote to accept the slate as presented. It was accepted unanimously.

Norm Gary presented a report from the Journals Committee that was appointed in the Directors meeting. The committee rejected the possibility of changing the constitution from requiring five issues to four issues. The committee recommends that the editorial matters be centralized in one person with the primary focus being "on time." The journal format will be used. The Treasurer will produce the mailing labels. The members were asked to submit bee club newsletters and any other contributions.

Franklin Carrier thanked Stan Williams for the way exhibitors were accommodated and suggested a big hand for the man who did so much good work on the conference.

The President suggested an Education Committee be formed. At this point, it is informal and

WESTERN APICULTURAL SOCIETY  
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY  
AUGUST 14 - 18, 1990

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_ DAY PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTRATION: All adult participants \$40.00 x # \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

HOUSING (optional)  
Single room, August 14 - 17, 4 nights \$100.00 x # \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Double room, August 14 - 17, 4 nights \$68.00 x # \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Extra nights? \_\_\_\_\_ x # \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

(Children under 6 with sleeping bags may stay with parents at no charge)

MEAL PLAN (optional)  
August 14 through August 17, (includes dinner on Tuesday, breakfast, lunch and barbecue on Wednesday, breakfast and lunch on Thursday and Friday). \$48.35 x # \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Children ten and under \$33.35 x # \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

BANQUET, August 17 (optional) \$15.00 x # \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
Includes social 6 - 7 pm, dinner served at 7 pm.

PARKING (if not staying on campus) \$3.60 x # \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

RV parking (must be self contained) \$15.00 x # \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

HEARST CASTLE TOUR August 16 (optional) \$17.00 x # \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
(includes admission and transportation)

Donation for refreshments \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

If you have special food or housing needs, please indicate: \_\_\_\_\_

All registration forms and payments should be received no later than July 13. There will be an additional \$15 assessment for late registration. Checks must be payable to CAL POLY FOUNDATION and mailed to:

HOUSING AND CONFERENCE SERVICES  
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY  
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93407  
(805) 756-1586



members are encouraged to send any type of educational information, slides or the like to Ray Hicks.

Sites Committee report: Mike Burgett reported 1990 is in San Luis Obispo; 1991 tentatively in Logan, Utah; and proposed 1992 be at Oregon State. R. Neese moved we accept Oregon State in 1992 and Utah in 1991, seconded by V. Philippi, and carried.

Unfinished business: It was suggested that honey and photo, etc. competitions be held next year. The missing name tag ribbons will be replaced for next year.

R. Neese moved we adjourn. V. Philippi seconded. Carried. The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Submitted by:  
Nancy Stewart, Secretary

### **Minutes of Board of Directors and Delegates Meetings August 10, 1989**

The meeting was called to order by President Mark Shelton at 12:50 p.m. Those attending were: J. Etzel, N. Gary, R. Neese, N. Stewart, B. Spangler, E. Mussen, G. Kern, B. Nye, R. Parsons, J. Ellis, V. Brazell, V. Philippi, S. Williams and J. Shaw.

The President said he enjoyed the conference a great deal and covered some possible plans for next year. He made the following appointments: Journal Editor, Wayne Robinson; Proceedings Editor, Norm Gary; Auditor, Burt Spangler; Sites Committee, Mike Burgett; Nominating Committee, Olive Jones; By-Laws and Parliamentarian, Ron Neese; Program Committee, Norm Gary (committee members, Eric Mussen and Mark Shelton).

There was a discussion of program content, honey and photo competition, exhibit hours and door prizes. The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Submitted by:  
Nancy Stewart, Secretary

## **FERAL BEES IMPORTANT**

Three researchers from UC Berkeley [Gambino, Hoelmer, and Daly] recently published an article [*Apidologie* 21 (1), 1990] in which they described the various nesting sites and comb orientations of 193 feral honey bee colonies in California. The nesting sites were fairly predictable, but even when given no orientation cues within nesting cavities, the bees showed a tendency to orient their combs close to north-south. This suggests that they perceive and are affected by geomagnetism (or Editor's comment--they may orient to the direction of sunrise and sunset.)

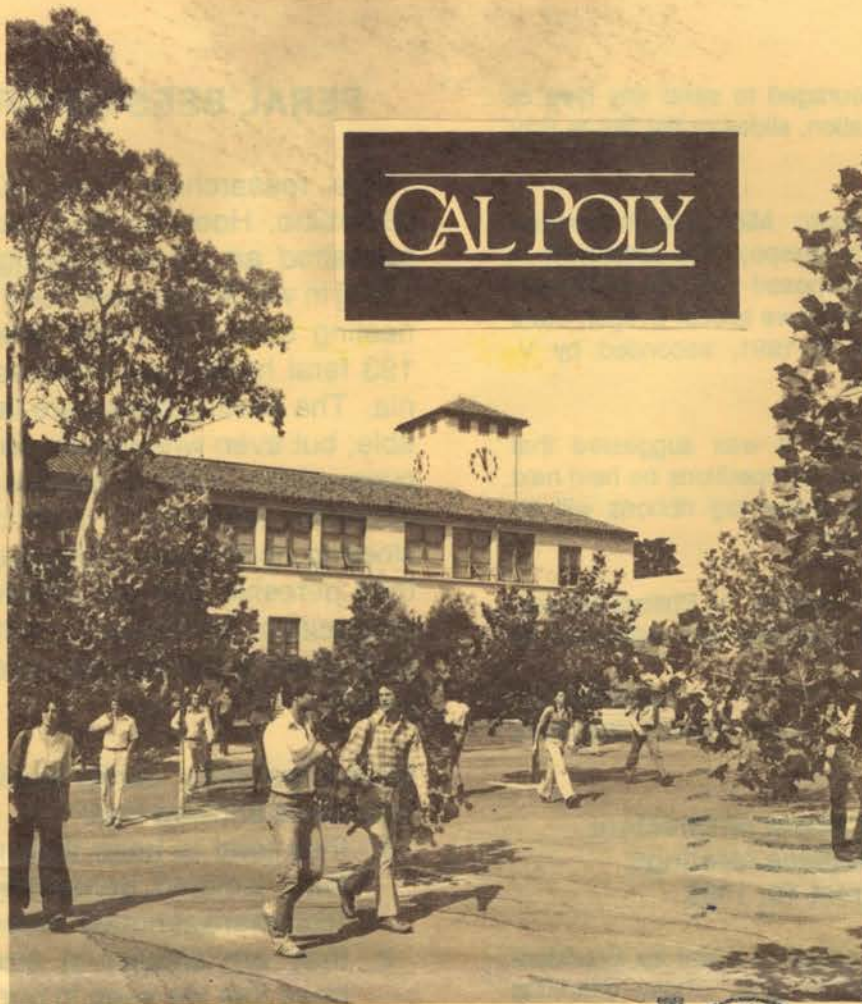
More importantly, earlier studies of these feral bees showed that:

1. they tend to keep their populations fairly isolated genetically from our "commercial/hobby" bees
2. they are smaller in size than the bees that we keep in our hives, and they appear to be more like their "wild" ancestral parents from Europe
3. they segregate out in morphometric (body part measurement) analyses into their own group, distinct from both our "domesticated" and the "Africanized" bees

The importance of this information already has been proven in northern Mexico. A swarm of bees trapped only 25 miles south of Texas were analyzed by standard computer morphometrics and determined to be Africanized. The bees were sent to Beltsville for confirmation where, because of their small size, they were run through "I.D. Mini." That is a special analysis based on data from California feral bees. The bees in question turned out to be European feral bees and, for the time being, we still believe that Africanized bees are farther away from the border.

submitted by Eric Mussen

CAL POLY



W.A.S. Treasurer  
Ron Neese  
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JUN 18 '90