

FEBRUARY 2014



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**w.a.s. journal**  
The Journal of the Western Apicultural Society of North America

*Melanie Kirby and her mother, Rosemary Kirby, invoke New Mexico Native American ceremony to launch the 2013 WAS Conference in Santa Fe.*



**2014 memberships became due January 1st. If you have not already renewed, please do so now. Officers and regional reps especially are reminded that their office requires being paid up.**



# Western Apicultural Society of North America

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## President's Message

Greetings and best wishes for 2014. We've snow on the ground, and cold winds from Canada. Still, in January we always get a thaw. It is a good time to check overwintering hives, see how their food stores are holding up. If they've made it this far, you want to be sure they will have enough food to make it into spring. So on a warm day, take a look.

Looking forward, I've scheduled the Western Apicultural Society 2014 conference for mid-September. Mark your calendars for September 17-20th. The conference Hotel will be the Double Tree by Hilton, Edgewater, at 100 Madison St, Missoula, MT 59802, phone 406-728-3100. This is a full service hotel next to the University of Montana campus, situated on the Clark Fork River. A foot bridge takes you from the hotel over the river to the campus. Bring your fishing gear, or rent it across the street in the Fly Shop. Conference Room rates are \$120 night. Add \$35 if you want a river view room. If you choose one of these, you can practically cast your line into the river from your room. The hotel has a Finn and Porter restaurant, provides cookies at check in, and runs a free shuttle

from the airport directly to their door. The Double Tree is a few blocks east of the Holiday Inn Parkside, where we held the 2005 meeting. Its closer to the campus and only a few blocks from the main downtown area of Missoula.

The good news is that there are several other hotels such as a Holiday Inn Express nearby if you are looking for more economical rooms. There are also campus food services, sandwich shops, and several fast food restaurants, including an Albertson's grocery, within 1-3 blocks. No need for a car – in fact, when you're that close to the University, finding a parking spot can be difficult. If you drive, park in the hotel lot. If you fly, take the free shuttle. Do check a map if you book a hotel other than the Doubletree. Some of the campus hotels are adjacent to the north side railroad tracks, and you may not want to hear coal trains rumbling past at night. Bring walking or running shoes – there are paths for walking, jogging, and biking that run parallel to the river. For hardy folk, walk onto the campus, head for the switch-back trail up to the M on MT Sentinel, overlooking the valley and the university. There are great views from up there, so be sure to bring a camera. Remember, we are over 3000 ft. elevation so if you come from sea level you may get winded by the climb to the M. If you are really adventuresome, try hang-gliding from MT Sentinel or take a kayak through the run on the Clark Fork by the Higgins Street Bridge. For more leisurely activities, ride the Missoula Carousel.

We already have some parts of the program shaping up. We've arranged for Marilyn Marler, a UM botanist specializing in native plants and restoration of western lands, to provide an overview of bee-pollinated plants. In addition, she is the current Chair of the Missoula City Council and will welcome you to Missoula. We also have an internationally known group of researchers at the University who specialize in climate change research. I've asked them to discuss what climate change means for beekeepers, and what to expect in western states and provinces as a consequence of shifting weather patterns. Our State Apiculturist will be here to provide you with an overview of beekeeping in Montana.

On Saturday morning, we will have bee-related workshops on the campus. We're still putting these together, but we know that we will be conducting a workshop on how to use a microscope to monitor levels of Nosema in your own bees. We also hope to have workshops on continuously monitoring electronic hives and lasers that map bees over fields, bee-friendly plants, native bees, and wax processing for the small scale beekeeper. Please let us know if there are other issues that you'd like to see covered in a workshop, or if you'd like to volunteer to be a workshop instructor.

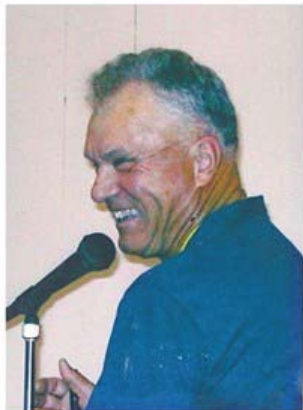
Remember, we are only a couple of hours from Glacier National Park, about an hour and a half from Western Bee in Polson and Flathead Lake, and about four hours from Yellowstone Park. If you can spare a few extra days, come explore the mountains, rivers, and lakes of western Montana. Go over to Butte, our mining city, or down to historic Virginia City, or explore the Lewis and Clark Caves. If fishing is your thing, we've a local expert who will be more than willing to help you. If shopping is more to your liking, there are buses that can take you all around Missoula, or drive up to Whitefish, where the rich and famous have homes – it is our version of Sun Valley. Also, Missoula is a big bicycle city, with more bikes per person than almost any other city, lots of custom bike shops and bike tour companies.

We're working on a Honey Festival, to be held on campus on Saturday, probably on the Oval in the center of the University Campus. We'll confirm these plans in the next WAS Newsletter. However, plan on buying honey to take home, or come prepared to sell honey. If you need a table, let me know.

Finally, please spread the word to other beekeepers and beekeeping clubs. Come to Missoula in the fall, bring your friends and family. *Jerry Bromenshenk, President*

## Ray Hicks

February 10, 1934 - December 9, 2013



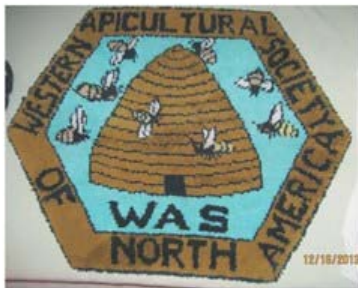
WAS lost one of its charter members just before Christmas. Ray was a beekeeper for over 30 years and a mentor to many people. He was also a faithful attendee at WAS conferences from its inception, a founding member who applied his photographic talents to recording the evolution of the Society. Despite fighting cancer, he and Gerry attended the 2013 conference and gave us yet one more year of history in pictures .... and tee-shirts! Ray kept a full collection of tee-shirts from all the years they were offered. These were displayed at the 2013 conference in hopes someone can come

up with a brilliant way of making use of such historic items. A number of award plaques still in WAS possession have his name on them, an indicator that he was active on many fronts within the organization.

Ray is survived by his wife, Gerry, two daughters, five grandchildren and one great-grandson. He was a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley with a degree in Electrical Engineering.

Rest in peace, Ray. You are one of the best and we will miss you.

### Does anyone recognize this rug?



This beautiful hand-hooked rug depicting the WAS logo came into the hands of your editor a couple of years after languishing a good long while in storage. The original intention was for it to be used as a fund-raiser for WAS and auctioned at each conference. At first it worked, then it didn't, and it now appears as


an artistic piece to welcome conference goers at the registration desk.


After discussion, a few of us reckon it was made in the late 1970s, so is consistent with the very early days of WAS. Can anyone tell us who made it and when? Call or email Fran 509-573-4245, febach3@gmail.com.


4 February 2014

### WAS Presidents to date

- 1978 Norman Gary (California)
- 1979 Lucien Alexander (Oregon)
- 1980 Randy Barker (British Columbia)
- 1981 Charles Duncan (California)
- 1982 William P. Nye (Utah)
- 1983 John Edwards (Washington)
- 1984 Eric Mussen (California)
- 1985 Mike Burgett (Oregon)
- 1986 Doug McCutcheon (Br. Columbia)
- 1987 Tom Muncey (Nevada)
- 1988 Dan Mayer (Washington)
- 1989 Stan Williams (California)
- 1990 Mark Shelton (California)
- 1991 William P. Nye (Utah)
- 1992 Mike Burgett (Oregon)
- 1993 Mark Winston (British Columbia)
- 1994 James Bach (Washington)
- 1995 Eric Mussen (California)
- 1996 Russell Messing (Hawaii)
- 1997 Eric Erickson (Arizona)
- 1998 Steve Sheppard (Idaho)
- 1999 Leonard Joy (Nevada)
- 2000 Fletcher Miller (Alaska)
- 2001 Mike Burgett (Oregon)
- 2002 Eric Mussen (California)
- 2003 Jaquie Bunse (British Columbia)
- 2004 Jerry Bromenshenk (Montana)
- 2005 Steve Sheppard (Washington)
- 2006 Adrian Wenner (California)
- 2007 Diana Sammataro (Arizona)
- 2008 Mark Pitcher (British Columbia)
- 2009 Eric Mussen (California)
- 2010 Dewey Caron (Oregon)
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- 2013 Melanie Kirby (New Mexico)
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## More accolades for Dr. Eric Mussen

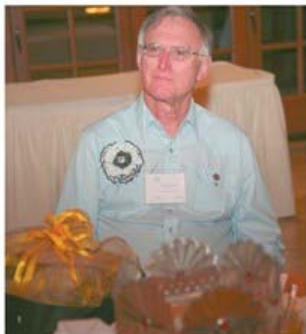
The closer he gets to official retirement, the more accolades are being heaped on Dr. Eric Mussen, one of the most respected and influential professional apiculturists in the nation,

At the 2014 WAS conference in Santa Fe, Eric was honored by the group he helped found 37 years ago and has guided throughout its history. Among his gifts was a bucket of small items, the bucket representing the one he carried for his wife Helen, collecting marine specimens in their early courtship days - Helen's interest being marine biology (top two photos).

In his response, Eric confessed to a love of "doo-wop" music and plans to spend a lot more time on it in retirement. It appears WAS members can rest assured he will make the most of the years he no longer has to sit in an office.

Not to be out-done, the California State Beekeepers' Association recently presented him with a plaque decorated with a smoker "for 38 years of work and support" (bottom photo). Dr. Mussen then presented a slide show of some of the highlights of his career during his two-hour presentation on "The Most Interesting Time in Beekeeping."

Dr. Mussen has given presentations to CSBA since joining the UC Davis faculty in 1976. He is also the organization's apiculturist and parliamentarian and has served as a delegate to the American Beekeeping Federation.



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\* typical average cost per hive, retail.

\*\* Apivar®: 2 strips per brood chamber = 4 strips (advertized price)

## Practical applications in Apitherapy

© 2013 Bradford S. Weeks, M.D.

Dr. Weeks, co-founder and president emeritus of the American Apitherapy Society (AAS) discussed apitherapy, the medicinal use of honey bee products: bee venom, raw honey, bee pollen, royal jelly, propolis, bees' wax and brood. His purpose was to help beekeepers appreciate the treasure trove of health and wealth which hums within each hive. Formerly a "folk" medicine remedy, honey bee products now have been scrutinized by scientists around the world and Dr. Weeks elucidated the scientific rationale for endorsing the hard working honey bee as "physician assistant". The motivation for the lecture was to empower beekeepers to value and profit not only from pollination services and the sale of honey, but to participate in apitherapy as well - for profit but also for the good of many people suffering with chronic diseases.

The various remedies available from the bee hive were introduced as follows:

1) **BEE VENOM** - Dr. Weeks, with tongue only partially in cheek, referred to the genre of magazines at the supermarket check out line as the best of medical journals for only in the likes of the Star, the Daily Mail etc. are home remedies like honegar (apple cider and honey toddy) discussed as well as sensationalized accounts of people being stung by bees. For example: Dateline: 12/31/91 The Sun (typical popular press sensational account) "Man's arthritis cured by falling into beehive. Accidental topple into beehives results in 1,000s of stings and necessitated a rush to the hospital in Hartford CT, but George Farmer survived to tell his story. He was so covered with stings that you couldn't see any part of his body." reports beekeeping son Mark Farmer. The patient went through a typical "healing crisis" where "He was bloated and red like an overripe tomato". But the next day, "He was sitting up in bed and joking even though he still looked like raw hamburger". "I feel wonderful" George says, "There isn't a single ache or pain anywhere. I haven't felt so good in 30 years!" George's doctor, Nolan Johnson MD credits George's astonishing cure to bee stings," and **THE WOMAN WHO STINGS HERSELF WITH BEES TO CONTROL MS, DAILY MAIL**, Wed Dec 29 2004. "She admits it hurts. But Paula Cooke believes allowing herself to be stung by bees every day is helping in her battle against MS...."



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Honeybee venom has a rich and storied reputation as being good for “whatever ails you” throughout the centuries. Venoms are prime templates for powerful medicine being as they are comprised of molecules with high biological activity. Despite the stigma of a poison being dangerous, Dr. Weeks reminded us of the time honored wisdom of the 15th century physician Paracelsus who taught “Poison is a matter of dosage”.

**Risk of allergic reaction:** Dr. Weeks stressed that allergies to bee venom are unpredictable wherein a beekeeper who is not allergic presently to venom could develop a life-threatening allergy if his or her system were to become stressed (lowering cortisol and DHEA) so it is critically important for all beekeepers to have on hand a bee sting kit (adrenalin shot, Benadryl, anti-inflammatory agent like the three-seed drink made from berries Soul ([www.myrainlife.com/safalab](http://www.myrainlife.com/safalab)) and tablets of vitamin C (an anti-histamine).

**2) RAW HONEY** - Topical usage was described to successfully treat the following ailments: burn, (this is an increasingly common use of honey in hospital emergency rooms, as a sterilizing and regenerative topical remedy for surgical dressings, anti-fungal, anti-acne, pink-eye, intranasal for pharyngitis (sore throat). Descriptions of raw honey when taken orally were described as lowering blood sugar and serving as an anti-colic for infants.

**3) BEE POLLEN** - was described as “the world’s most perfect food”, and recommended as a protein supplement for everyone but of particular benefit for vegetarians. Its common use as a treatment for allergies was reviewed.

**4) PROPOLIS** - also referred to as “Russian Penicillin” was described with reference to its high concentration of bio-flavonoids as well as its proven ability to bind lipids in the gastro-intestinal tract and lower serum total cholesterol. Like raw honey, propolis confers topical and oral anti-biotic and anti-fungal benefits and is often used in dentistry as temporary filling since no germs persist when in direct contact with this nutrient dense go from the hive.

**5) BEES’ WAX** - was described as part of folk remedy for burns as well as for its well known commercial use as a base for dermatological creams

**6) ROYAL JELLY** - is a precious nutritional supplement rich in vitamin B5 (pantothenic acid) as well as a potent anti-aging remedy provided it has been harvested and processed in a manner which avoids oxidation and rancidity.

Dr. Weeks reviewed his 30 years of offering apitherapy and described benefits for people suffering with these ailments:

- 1) Arthritis: (RA, OA, JRA, frozen shoulder, tennis elbow), sciatica, back pain, plantar fasciitis;
- 2) Neurological Illnesses: Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson’s, ALS
- 3) Cancers: (breast, prostate, colon, melanoma and other skin cancers)
- 4) Infective diseases: viral (hepatitis, mononucleosis, warts, meningitis), retro-viral (AIDs), spirochete (Lyme’s disease);

Rationales for the mechanism of action include the Irritant/Counter-Irritant Therapy which involves the irritant eliciting from the body a response which is therapeutic. Fever was an example of a symptom in response to an irritant (infection) which is therapeutic. “Give me the power to create fever and I will cure all illness” (Parmenides in 500 BC).

In addition, bee venom being a therapy which brings an enthusiastic response is in concert with the philosophy of the great founder of homeopathy Dr. Samuel Hahnemann who taught: “You can never cure a chronic illness. The best you can hope for is to make it acute, and then you can cure it!” Since bee venom has the effect of taking a chronic process (long-standing arthritis) and inflaming it, we learned how venom renders acute and remediable that which had festered beyond the reach of medicines.

## NUTRITIONAL ADJUNCTIVE THERAPY

Dr. Weeks stressed that the use of bee venom ought to only be administered to a person who is well nourished because ultimately the body is the physician. The body is the miracle worker - and only a well-nourished body can respond optimally to the challenge and stress of bee venom. The metaphor of bee venom as

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a "jockey" whose job is to get the speed out of a "race horse" (representing the immune system in this metaphor) was described in order to make the point that the responsible racehorse owner would also employ the services of a "trainer/groom" (in the metaphor, the nutritionist whose role at the end of the race would be to revitalize the "race horse"). Of all the nutrients, primary importance was placed by Dr. Weeks on good clean water. Hydration is critically important for anyone receiving apitherapy since water serves to buffer, biochemically speaking, physiological reactions, optimizing response to the challenge of the venom. Dr. Weeks encourages all apitherapy patients to drink 1/2 their weight in ounces a day away from food (this is important since drinking water with meals dilutes stomach acid and inhibits digestive forces). The easy bench mark is to drink enough water to keep the urine clear or light straw yellow.

The following essential supplements were recommended for anyone receiving apitherapy:

- 1) SOUL: the 3-seed anti-inflammatory drink - oral and topical use ([www.safalab.com/product/soul](http://www.safalab.com/product/soul) or [www.myrain-life.com/safalab](http://www.myrain-life.com/safalab))
- 2) Vitamin C: 1000 mg 3/day up to bowel tolerance 1 gram every hour while awake (Note: the adrenals need ascorbic acid to produce cortisol and vitamin C is an anti-histamine.)
- 3) Adrenal support: (sea salt, licorice, DHEA, natural cortisol)

### Brief Review of peer-reviewed scientific literature

**Raw Honey:** Natural Honey lowers Plasma Glucose, C-reactive Protein, Homocysteine, and Blood Lipids in healthy, diabetic, and hyperlipidemic subjects: comparison with Dextrose and Sucrose. Author: Al-Waili NS J. Med Food. 2004 Spring;7(1):100-7.

**Topical Honey Application vs. Acyclovir for the Treatment of Recurrent Herpes Simplex Lesions:** Med Sci Monit, 2004; 10 (8) Al Waili, N.S. Dubai UAE "Two cases of labial herpes and one case of genital herpes remitted completely with the use of honey." For labial herpes, the mean duration of attacks and pain, occurrence of crusting, and mean healing time with honey treatment were 35%, 39%, 28% and 43% better, respectively, than with acyclovir treatment. For genital herpes, the mean duration of attacks and pain, occurrence of crusting, and mean healing time with honey treatment were 53%, 50%, 49% and 59% better, respectively than with acyclovir treatment.

**CONCLUSION:** "Topical honey application is safe and effective in the management of the signs and symptoms of recurrent lesions from labial and genital herpes."

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Honey May Prevent Recurring Tumors: Dr. Ismail Hamzaoglu, Istanbul University, Dec 2004, Archives of Surgery - In this study, the incidence of metastatic disease was reduced if the cancer site was packed with raw honey after surgery. A Mayo Clinic cancer expert said the results, though preliminary, are "too fascinating to be dismissed." (Update: these results have been dismissed nonetheless!)

Dr. Weeks closed with quoting from the Finnish Creation Myth "The Kalavala", Rune 15 "Lemminkainen at Tuonela River".

The mother Goddess creator of the world has a medical problem. She seeks the dead body of her son named Lemminkainen (Finland's equivalent to Thor) in the river Tuonela where he has perished. She creates a huge iron rake to drag the depths of this mighty river and collects the dismembered pieces of her water-logged son.

Who ya gonna call???

She calls for the honeybee to...

"Go forth and fetch me honey, go forth to seek for honey, back from Metsola's fair meadows, from the cup of many a flower, and the plumes of grasses many, as an ointment for the patient, and to quite restore the sick one. Then did Lemminkainen's mother raise it to her mouth and taste it. With her tongue the ointment tasted, with the greatest care she proved it. 'Tis the ointment that I needed, and the salve of the Almighty, used when Jumula the Highest, The Creator heals all suffering".



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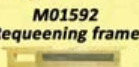
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## Honeybees' Location of Choice: A critical factor in hive survival

By Valerie Solheim, PhD, [HealingBees.org](http://HealingBees.org) & [HealingBees.us](http://HealingBees.us)



If we haven't read the literature, the news is old: "Bees can be kept almost anywhere; they do not have to be in a 'perfect' spot," according to the University of Kentucky Entomology website. The advice is to locate your hives in a sunny location with afternoon shade, facing southeast and provide a windbreak. However, if we sought out feral beehives where would we find them?

David Brown observed, "Honeybees remain wild enough to survive on their own, and they can do so miles from the orchards and other food sources with which we associate them." On the website, Permaculture Ireland and Northern Ireland, an earth energy article cited that before the tents or homes were put up the old people noted where the beehives were located to avoid sleeping over bad land.

Ron Bogansky received a call to remove a beehive hanging from a branch in a spruce tree. "I've heard about this but never saw one. . . . Sure enough, there was a large colony . . . I don't know what could have made the bees stay at this location rather than finding a more suitable home."

"The population of feral bees in this narrow band . . . that borders Outlet Creek was estimated to contain 77.1 colonies/km . . . and these colonies tend to have a clumped distribution . . .

The authors did not establish the reason for these "extremely high [hive] densities". Similar findings had been observed in other studies cited in this article and likewise not explained. I suggest from my own research that these feral hives might be located over geopathic stress lines (GSL). This is not an original idea. Bees, along with most colony insects, thrive over GSL: "Some animals and plants are attracted to Geopathic Stress lines and thrive on them. Animals that like Geopathic Stress lines include feral cats, bees, wasps, and ants." Some plants also enjoy the energy output of these areas: "oak, elderberry, cherry, plum, apricot, and fir/pine trees prefer areas of negative [positive ions] energy." This could explain why the beehive Ron saw in the spruce tree (pine tree family) appeared to be quite healthy and established. In extension, the hive-mind obviously experiences itself as well protected from toxins, disease and parasites given that it chose not to dwell in a cavernous structure.

Geopathic Stress Lines (GSL) are "found to be associated with underground streams, fault lines in the underlying strata of rocks, as well as Hartmann and Curry lines." (Google Hartmann and Curry lines for a definition). Honeybees must be attracted to this energy field that radiates positive ions (meaning fewer electrons). Since bees have been attracted to GSL for thousands of years, it must provide a strong beneficial



Feral beehive in pine tree  
Photo by R. Bogansky

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## Bayer's second annual Bee Care Tour buzzes from coast to coast.

More than a quarter of all plants consumed in the U.S. are dependent upon honey bee pollination. The care and protection of bees is critical to our agricultural system – and the future of our planet's food security. The Bayer Bee Care Tour is launching at Washington State University on February 6. The tour will bring awareness of our commitment to honey bee health and will provide a collaborative opportunity for beekeepers, growers, researchers and others to help solve bee health's toughest challenges.

The tour will stop at the following locations:

- Washington State University – February 6
- Oregon State University – February 12
- University of California, Davis – February 18
- Commodity Classic convention and trade show – February 27–March 1
- South Dakota State University – March 12
- Purdue University – March 20
- Washington, D.C. – June 16–23



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effect for the colony. Returning to the “old timers’ observations of bees locating their hives “miles from the orchards and other food sources” they apparently found living in a GSZone more advantageous than living near abundant food sources.

The advantages of establishing a hive over GSL cannot be definitively determined without further study. However, one significant benefit that might be rendered from this choice hive location is high electro-magnetic energy emissions. The Earth’s natural electro-magnetic (EM) field is about 7.8 Hz. Beehives generate (EM) fields from 90 – 500 Hz. A 7.8 Hz EM field is of little benefit to them. Some underground streams give off as much as 250 Hz which would be highly beneficial to the hive inasmuch as it wouldn’t have to work as hard to maintain or attain that frequency level for functions in the hive and for hive protection, i.e. heat. The heat maintained in the hive is critical to the hive’s survival: protection against parasites, cell construction, incubation, honey dehydration and winter temperatures. This work is more stressful on the colony as a whole than fieldwork is.

Obviously this is an area of promise for research, with consequences for beehive survival based on hive placement that could be highly significant. At present, hive location is a non-factor in entomological studies. If it is even mentioned in the protocol it is considered inconsequential. Given that bees and hives are highly sensitive to electro-magnetic states in and outside of the hive and within their bodies then, reasonably, the electro-magnetic environment above and below the hive location is vital to their well being. Any data generated without this information is incomplete and therefore unreliable. “Every colony as a whole shows a level of [EM] charge which is characteristic of it, depending on its strength and the amounts of brood and honey in it.”

With all of this said, there is an alternative to the dilemma of hive location for beekeepers. Since 1980, Slim Spurling (d. 2007), Bill Reid and staff with Tranfiguration have been researching and developing copper tools that amplify beneficial charge states, creating a field that is predominantly electron-rich. An electron-rich field is charged with negative ions -- ‘negative’ refers to polarity, not to non-beneficial. Negative ions have a healthy influence on biological life forms and in fact are actually required to sustain them. When negative ions are depleted, organisms stagnate, illness sets in and disease manifests. Positively charged ions (free radicals) - think cancer - saturate the blood and interfere with metabolism. Cells become inefficient and clogged with waste byproducts. Organisms lose their regenerative ability and rapidly age.

In industrial environments and now environments worldwide contaminated by the spread of Fukushima radiation, positive (low electron states) ionic fields are displacing negative ionic fields to the detriment of most living organisms. This is in addition to the toxins, GMOs and biochemical substances introduced into our air, water, soil and plants. Research indicates that these positive ionic fields can be changed with the introduction of the copper tools into contaminated areas.

The picture on the right (next page) is Tranfiguration’s Star Burst design.

Hal Puthoff, leading research scientist in quantum physics, states it this way: “All matter exists in a vast quantum web of connection [a Field] and that information



*A twisted tree trunk indicates that the tree is located in a Geopathic Stress Zone.*

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*Dr. Eric Mussen checks out some of Dr. Solheim’s fascinating work in the exhibit hall.*



transfer means: "exchange of energy." The higher the quality of information transfer (less obstructed), the more organized the field (more fluid), the more efficient the super-organism such as the beehive. With greater efficiency there is less stress and an improved state of well being.

The purpose of the HealingBee CD is to entrain the hives to the frequency level of healthy hives in subtle energy zones. The recording of the bees was made inside the hive. The concept of coupling the subtle energy wave with the sound pattern of the hive is to (1) bring the bee colony into a more organized energy field and (2) entrain them with the acoustic pattern of a healthy hive. This is achieved principle of sympathetic resonance. The aspect of resonant entrainment states that two or more oscillating objects lock into a cycle: their vibrations become synchronized resulting in a newly organized field. Within this field the hive colony becomes more efficient, meaning it works less with greater productivity.

Research and development scientist Peter Jackson states, "The Star Burst (twisted ring and rays) and hexagons of the bee cells are resonate cavities based on specific geometric forms designed by nature. When acoustic patterns (vibrational wave forms of the HealingBees CD) are applied to these geometries, a coherent resonance across multiple frequencies results, which enables the natural functions of organisms to perform as designed. This end state may also be termed negative entropy or harmonic coherence."

The beneficial effects that this highly organized field has on the hive colony strengthen the colony by enabling it to overcome most of the threats it faces in a contaminated environment. A discussion of this can be found in 'The Beehive Effect' by this author and on the HealingBees.org website. However, two factors are hard to overcome in the best of locations, climate change and a weakened hive due to genetic modification. Extreme weather conditions, floods, droughts, tornados, hurricanes and temperature fluctuations are causing havoc not only for beekeepers but also for all agricultural endeavors. With respect to genetic modification, it is vital as beekeepers that our decisions are made with integrity.

The focus of this article is on one such decision, hive location. The random placement of hives by beekeepers and entomologists needs to be examined. My research indicates that location is of critical importance to the hive's ability to thrive, especially in hostile environments. It is like their skin (protective energy field) has been ripped off and they are treading water in a toxic soup. We beekeepers also have a responsibility for this reality. Our need to make beekeeping fit our lifestyle with high honey productivity has stripped the bees of their natural habits and habitat. Meanwhile, quantum physics and biology offer us ways to create an environment with subtle energy transfer tools that not only beneficially sustain the honeybee colony but the surrounding environment as well, meaning us, too.



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### Examples of how nucleus hives can be made up, wintered and managed

By Liz Huxter

No matter what number of hives you manage, having nucleus colonies on hand is very useful. Nucleus hives are a smaller version of regular hives. Typically they are 4 or 5 frames of standard size. We prefer 5 frame nucs that are in individual boxes. They are much lighter to move and handle yet have plenty of room to service a large enough cluster to winter. They are insurance against winter loss. Nucleus hives are handy for adding to colonies that have gone queenless. Or they can provide an extra income in the spring. They are always in demand in early spring when beekeepers find they need to replace winter losses. Having an established, locally bred queen and 3 or 4 frames of brood, they are a much better "deal" than a package being sold at the same time. They also offer a means to increase your hives by wintering in a smaller unit that can grow to a honey producer in time for most flows. They are less expensive to feed and treat. They offer a better means to efficiently treat for varroa. For queen breeders, nucs can serve as a preliminary test of queens. As I will describe in detail next, making nucs can sync in well with such other hive management practices as equalizing hives and requeening.



Now that we understand their usefulness, let's have a look at the pros and cons of different ways they can be made up. Basically, you can think of making them up in the spring, summer or fall.

Making spring nucs dovetails nicely with swarm control and equalizing before the honey flow. Hives with too much brood well before the honey flow can be cut back by removing brood by the "topper" or "walk away" method. Here any spare brood is shaken off and put in a spare box above a queen excluder with at least two honey/pollen frames. Then that evening or early the next morning the box with extra brood and the covering bees is taken to another site 2 km or further to make up the nucs. No queen needs to be found before taking away the brood. At this season the nights are warm and the bees don't have too much trouble keeping the brood warm. Another reason nucs can be made up with the least amount of brood at this time of year is because there is still plenty of time before fall to get a well filled out unit ready for winter. Nucs can be made up with only one frame of brood (defined as having at least 60% brood coverage) and two frames covered with bees. If many nucs are needed, probably the most efficient way of making up nucs is to break out all the hives in a yard. An advantage here is the brood and bees do not need to be moved. Breeders can assess the hives as they are being "nuced out" and the best queens retained. Just be sure not to face the nuc entrance in the same direction as the hive did if the nuc is in the same position.

At this time in the spring queen cells are best to use. Drones are plentiful and the matings should be some of the best. Also using queen cells allows for a break in the brood cycle, helping to control the buildup of varroa mites. If a treatment for varroa is given just when the new queen's brood is about to be capped, about 19 days after cell up, almost all the brood from the original colony will have hatched and so all the mites will be out from under the cappings. This affords greater efficiency for treatments of phoretic mites (on the bees). Oxalic acid or Hoggard are good choices. Randy Oliver has a wonderful article illustrating this concept and demonstrates the high efficiency for the oxalic acid drip method (see [ScientificBeekeeping.com](http://ScientificBeekeeping.com)). The nuc make up in the spring offers the most "bang for the buck" but has the drawback of having to manage this larger number of units for the rest of the season. One possibility to make up for these costs is getting an "extra" or "free" queen out of these units with very little detriment to the nuc's build up.

Here's the reasoning behind getting the "free" queen. The queen from the first queen cell will have laid the entire comb(s) that the bees are covering in a few days. So after the first queen has laid the available comb and there are larvae present she can be pulled and a second queen cell inserted. The brood from the first queen will be hatching in 16 to 17 days. The second queen will typically have mated and be laying eggs within 15 to 16 days. So no brood is "lost". The potential for laying more brood increases as the first queen's brood hatches and there are more bees to look after the larger amounts of brood to be laid by the second queen. The first queens can be used in the queenless nucs or for more nucs, splits or requeening. This time of the year (May/June) extra queens come in handy.

Making up nucs in the summer can sync nicely with the end of honey flow and requeening. Our honey flow typically starts in late June and stops in mid to late July. We used to have an August flow as well but the "weeds" that provided that flow have been nearly eradicated with bio controls. So now we take a few days in early August to break out nucs in between extracting the honey.



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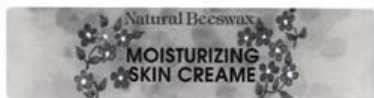
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Above, *Art Ius* wintered nucs being fed in March.

Below, *Art's* nuc in spring



Some advantages of making nucs up after the honey flow is the bees have "paid" for themselves and you now have an idea of their propensity to collect honey. The best queens can be kept in nucs for breeders the following year. These summer nucs are usually made by completely breaking out the entire yard of colonies. We take yards with older queens that have had a recent flow and are packed out with brood, pollen and honey. These hives are very efficient for making nucs. Nearly every frame will go into a nuc because it will have either brood, honey or pollen in large amounts. For summer nucs, we use twice as much brood and bees, 2 plus brood frames with a minimum of three frames covered by bees. Here I emphasize these brood patches cover 50% or better of the frames and again we feed these nucs right after they are made up. In the summer we typically use queens but cells could be used if there are still plentiful drones in

the hives and the nucs are made by the end of the first week of August for our area. At this time varroa treatments can be applied to the new nucs or a mite treatment could be used in the hives before the nucs are made from them.

We rarely make up nucs in the fall but a neighboring beekeeper routinely makes his nucs in late fall with a high degree of success year after year.

Art Ius, of Fruitvale, British Columbia, often takes his hives into the fireweed for a summer flow. In early October he breaks them out into 6 frame nucs with new queens and moves them to their wintering location at lower elevation inside an unheated shed. Moving the 6 frame nuc boxes is far easier than moving the whole colonies and the nucs give Art nearly all new queens in double to triple the number of units. These will be his honey producers (or make up losses) the next year. Why I said nearly all new queens, Art doesn't necessarily find all the old queens. His 6 frame nuc boxes have a two inch space above the top bars to give the bees plenty of room to cluster in the fall. The clusters still have many of the old bees that will die off shortly but need space initially. He gives them a top entrance with access to outside the shed and feeds through a hole in the lid with a pop bottle starting in March. Art insulates them with 2 inch Styrofoam all around for winter.

In south central British Columbia where we winter our nucs we use two different configurations. In the warmer areas (where peaches grow successfully), we winter the 5 frame nucs in rows. Usually they have the entrances alternating east and west in "sandwiches" of 9 or more nucs side by side. These sandwiches consist of 2" Styrofoam sheets top and bottom with a strip of foil covered bubble wrap stapled around the circumference of the "sandwich". The insulation under the nucs proves its worth in the spring. Nucs insulated at their base will have brood further down the frame giving rise to larger populations of bees earlier in the spring. The foil covered bubble wrap serves to deflect wind and retain radiant energy given off by the nucs. The wrap is not tightly wrapped so that moisture can escape. Under the lid, we use plastic to reduce burr comb, to keep bees in their own nucs, and to retain moisture and heat in the spring. A corner of the plastic is folded back in winter to allow moisture to escape. The sandwiches are raised 18 to 24 inches off the ground on stands of 2x4s and spent bee boxes. Stucco wire is wrapped around the base to prevent skunk predation.

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In colder areas (hardy apples grow) we stack the sandwiches on top each other for over winter and move them to single high before spring flight. These nucs all face south and have their entrances in the center at the bottom of the nuc. Foil covered bubble wrap is stapled up the backs and over the top insulation. The success of wintering nucs improves as you breed from the best every year. They become more winter savvy.

Picking good wintering sites is an important factor for wintering success in colder areas. South facing slopes with good wind protection are ideal. Another key factor is having the nucs all of good size going into winter, three to four frame clusters. The shared warmth of larger clusters in winter makes for less stress for all the nucs. Another major key to improving your wintering success is to keep the best wintering nucs for further selection.

The nucs are fed in late summer and early fall so they are going into winter with about 3.5 to 4 frames of honey. In the spring, they usually don't require feeding until the first major pollen flow. Pollen patty is fed about three to four weeks before the first major pollen flow is expected. 2 plus pounds are given to the large nucs with bee clusters of 4 frames. Two to three weeks later a second round of pollen patty will be fed, a third round will be fed in years with inclement weather.

In good years, the nucs can be "nuced" to get them down to size for sale in early May. The extra bees and brood make more nucs. We also winter queens in small 4-way shallow boxes in a building to have extra local queens available from early March on.

Obviously there are numerous ways to winter nucleus hives successfully. Kirk Webster has a great explanation of how he winters nucs of different sizes in conditions colder than ours. ([kirkwebster.com](http://kirkwebster.com))

Nucleus hives serve many purposes and give flexibility to any beekeeping operation. Making them up often makes other management practices easier and more efficient. Probably one of their greatest advantages is they allow for local queens to be used at any time of the season, aiding the effort to breed and use bees acclimated to local conditions and pathogens.



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## REGIONAL REPORTS - WHAT'S HAPPENING ACROSS "WAS COUNTRY" ...

*A big THANK YOU to all the regional reps for your reports. Every single one of you responded to the request (a first!), with excellent reporting and some very interesting news. Your efforts are much appreciated. Please excuse necessary editing to fit space. Editor*

### Alberta Happenings - Bob Keenan

Quick facts about Alberta beekeeping (from Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada report Nov 13/2013): 800 beekeepers; 282,000 colonies; 40,520 lbs production in 2012 or 45% of all Canadian production; 85% of Canada's honey is exported to USA. These 800 beekeepers are commercial producers and represented by the Alberta Honey Producers Co-op. In the larger cities hobby beekeepers continue the North American trend of increasing numbers.

The Calgary Beekeepers Club has about 40 active members with colony numbers ranging from 1 to 200. Most would have 3 – 10 with sweet clover, both yellow and white varieties, an abundant roadside food source. 2013 members report bigger yields than last year, from 45 to 55 lbs per colony. A long warm fall produced a continuing honey flow.

An agricultural newspaper reports an Ontario researcher studying compounds made from plant products have shown a greater efficacy against nosema ceranae than Fumagilin B. While nosema ceranae is present in Western Canada it has so far been controlled with Fumagilin, according to Dr. Medhat Nasr. The compounds showing the greatest efficacy are made from broccoli, oregano and citrus fruit.

Another researcher with Alberta Agriculture found three previously unseen viruses present in leaf cutter bees but it is not yet known what the impact will be. One is sacbrood and the other two are still being identified. Leaf cutter bees are important pollinators in Southern Alberta's alfalfa fields.

### British Columbia - Ian Farber

More cities and municipalities in BC are allowing beekeeping within their boundaries. There is strong interest in backyard beekeeping and in native bees, especially Osmia, or the Blue Orchard Bee, as viable urban pollinators.

There is a healthy and growing interest in people attending beekeeping courses throughout the province. A recent course was offered by the Ministry of Agriculture and the BC Honey Producers' Association to certify instructors who teach beginning beekeeping. This should ensure that new beekeepers receive important (and accurate) basic information. Membership in the BCHPA is growing steadily.

Honey yields last year varied considerably. Some areas benefited from spring rains and got bumper crops. Others were down due to a very hot summer with little or no rainfall. The provincial average was in the 60-65 pound per hive range, total crop 2.56 million pounds.

There is growing demand for pollination units in the Fraser Valley for blueberries, cranberries, raspberries, strawberries, blackberries and other crops that benefit from honey bee pollination. Colonies are being imported to BC from other provinces to meet this demand. There is always a scramble to obtain early nucs, packages and queens for pollination purposes. Open field mating does not usually happen here until May.

Most local clubs schedule field days and picnics in the spring to provide seasonal tips and advice on splits, requeening, etc. and have ongoing projects and public education events throughout the bee season.

In the colder areas of the province with lots of snow the bees are sometimes wrapped for extra insulation or simply left in the fields. With sufficient honey stores and proper ventilation, they usually survive the very cold winters in the north and the interior of BC. On a provincial scale, wintering losses were reported at 18% last year.

Wasps were a province-wide issue this year, both for beekeepers and the general population, one of the cyclical years when wasp and hornet populations soared. Many beekeepers reported robbing by wasps and the death of weak colonies. Calls to remove bees from yards, trees and houses were almost always wasp and hornet related.

Research into the use of pesticides and their effect on native and honey bees is ongoing. No decision has yet been made on the use of neonicotinoids.

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## Saskatchewan - Alvey Halbgewachs

A year ago, the winter and spring was very harsh and beekeeping was off to a late start. Hive losses were higher than normal and forage crops were late flowering. As a result, production was delayed and honey yield reduced. Despite these challenges, we had a decent crop but not nearly as high as the record-breaking yields in cereal crops.

The Saskatchewan Beekeepers Association continues to focus on research that will support local beekeepers in hive management. The 2013 research projects were completed and new projects are being developed for the 2014 season.

The Regina and District Bee Club continues to educate students and the general public at Canadian Western Agribition and other requested venues. Our focus in 2013 was education about pollination.

*At the time of writing, Alvey was in hospital for what looked like an extended stay. Thanks to Doreen Bradshaw for sending in the report. Our best wishes to Alvey and hopes that he'll be home soon.*

## Alaska - Dr. Joe Carson

Hello from Alaska. We had a fantastic summer in 2013 - great weather, adequate moisture and tons of sun. Production was great as well due to the fireweed being able to grow in the warm 'midnight sun'.

Many of the larger beekeepers in the Northern area have gone out of business due to the past years' poor weather and honey production. Lower 48 beekeepers have tried to make inroads into Alaska due to the high honey prices we command but have found that the trials and tribulations encountered on the road to "success" are very rough and costly.

Shipping bees to Alaska via airlines has been dramatically restricted. If you have not been a "known shipper" and have a consistent history of shipping bees into Alaska, they will not do business with you. The only other option is via air freighters which can take many days to complete the journey north from Sacramento.

The autumn bee chores went without a hitch because the rains held off for longer than usual. Most Alaskans are hobbyist beekeepers and still kill their bees after extracting the honey rather than trying to overwinter them.

The early snow came as usual in small amounts and then we had a cold snap to set the bees for their long winter nap. But also as usual, we had a Chinook wind blow through and the temperature rose to over 40 degrees, it rained and ruined the snow insulation before the bottom dropped out of the thermometer again. -40 F. temperatures have been recorded in many parts of Alaska during December. Snow has returned to most of the state and looks to remain until springtime in April. If everything remains true to past experience we will see average honey production in 2014 as we generally have a fantastic honey year and then an average honey year followed by a catastrophic year. Such is the life of the Alaskan beekeeper.

## Arizona Update - Zack Funke

In the midst of winter here in Arizona we don't see temperatures dip like many of the surrounding states. In the "Valley of the Sun", Phoenix, at 1170 ft. morning temperatures are 48 degrees today, Jan 9th, and increase up to 68 degrees by late afternoon. This means our bees are getting a later start in the day and have to exert more energy to keep the brood warm. The bees have slowed honey, wax, and brood production at most sites around the valley during this time of year.

Walking the grounds at the Desert Botanical Gardens I

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observed Chuparosa and rosemary flowers, but our big nectar producers mesquite, ironwood, saguaro, and creosote are dormant until late April, when the vegetative life comes alive with expressive flowers. We have to wait until the grapefruit and oranges start blooming, beginning in February and March respectively, for the next honey crop.

I observed a grapefruit tree blooming in Tucson, at 2643 ft, two weeks ago so their honey production season begins a bit earlier in the Southeast of the state.

The largest bee club in the Phoenix area is the Beekeepers Association of Central Arizona and meets every third Thursday. There are approximately 30-40 attendees each meeting, ranging from hobbyists to commercial operations.

**California - Archie Mitchell** *Note - this article is re-printed with permission from author Dr Gordon Wardell.*

Beekeeping today is in an age of contradictions, much like Dickens' Tale of Two Cities'. It is the best of times, and it is the worst of times. It is an age of wisdom and it is an age of bewilderment, a season of honey production and a season of starvation. We have one year of heat and drought followed by one of wet and cold. We have new mite control products, but not enough control of the mites.

While today we are learning more about bees than we have ever known in the past, we still have few answers to the horrible losses we see every year. Recently, the Bee Informed Partnership reported a 9.2% increase in winter mortality over the 2012/13 winter. That is a 42% increase over the previous year, and while staggering, the losses were on par with winter losses over the past six years, averaging 30.5%. When asked what the respondents considered an acceptable winter loss they replied that 15% was acceptable, but 70% of the respondents experienced losses greater than that.

Coming out of almonds this past year, the bees were heavy with honey and populations were strong. Late-season almond nectar was plentiful and the colonies were able to bulk-up, making for good splits following almond pollination.

Despite the heavy rains that moved through the Northeastern part of the country, the bees also came back from blueberries and cranberries in good shape — then summer set in. Reports from the upper Midwest indicate a lighter than normal honey year in 2013. Some beekeepers reported less than half of their normal yields in the Dakotas, Minnesota and Montana. Cool wet weather was holding the colonies back, a stark contrast to last year's drought in the upper Midwest.

In general, if the bees aren't making honey they aren't making brood either; meaning a lot of supplemental feeding in the fall. On a good note, most beekeepers are reporting that they are able to get the Varroa mites under control this year.

Beekeepers across the country continue to report heavy queen losses and supercedures, not to mention queens in colonies that fail to respond to stimulation. Some report queen losses as high as 50%. Queen replacement has never been higher. In the recent past a queen would be good for two years but many commercial beekeepers are now going through two queens/colony/year just to assure that they have optimum populations in California for almond bloom.

While no one has been able to identify the causes of such heavy queen mortality, we all have our suspicions (the usual suspects — mite control products, viruses, Nosema, pesticides or a synergism of any or all of these). PAM is currently funding research to investigate these problems. Until we have answers we need to be monitoring queens more carefully and replacing non-performers.

After last year's tight bee supply for almond pollination, many growers have gotten their contracts out early and there are reports of multi-year contracts being signed. Almond pollination contracts paid to the beekeeper (broker fees aside) are averaging \$150 to \$175 depending on what part of the Valley we are talking about. Prices tend to be higher north of Fresno. It is still too early to predict what the supply will look like for almond pollination this season.

## Colorado - Miles McGaughey

Hello from colorful and cold Colorado. The Colorado State Beekeepers Association annual winter meeting was held Saturday, November 9th at the Douglas County Fairgrounds in Castle Rock, Colorado. Dave Mendes was the featured speaker, on the life of a migratory beekeeper and honey bee nutrition. Michele Colopy from the National Pollinator Stewardship Council gave a presentation on protecting pollinators. After a great meeting at the WAS gathering in Santa Fe in October it was wonderful to see Colorado beekeepers and pass on what we had learned there. Many beekeepers in Colorado, myself included, face substantial losses from the flooding in September and this meeting provided much needed diversion and fellowship.

Priorities for the upcoming year include finalization of the 501c tax exemption status for the state beekeeping association, several plans to improve bee forage over the state, and a proposal for a Colorado queen stock improvement plan. A business meeting was held and voting conducted on the logo and theme for our largest undertaking for 2014 - The 125th anniversary of the Colorado State Beekeepers Association! This will be monumental and great interest was shown by all present. Celebrations will be held all over the state.





## Hawaii - Jenny Bach

Beekeepers in Hawaii are making a strong comeback after great losses due to the arrival of the varroa mite in 2008 and small hive beetle in 2010. There are many stories of success and jars of honey to prove it. We attribute this success to a number of factors. One is that beekeepers are determined and innovative. Old practices were replaced by new ways to increase genetic diversity, we experimented with different hive designs, such as top-bar hives. Organic treatments are much more popular than synthetic chemical treatments here in Hawai'i. Organic treatments are most commonly used among small business and hobby beekeepers, while there are some successful beekeepers who are completely "treatment-free". This is a hotly debated topic, but here in Hawaii the proof is in the honey. There are beekeepers who run 80-100 hives and have never used a single chemical. These treatment-free beekeepers mimic what bees do in the wild, such as allow colonies to raise their own queens, allow swarming, break up the brood cycle, build their own wax, etc.

What I see most among these treatment-free beekeepers is how hard they work to keep their bees healthy. There is an old, out-dated idea that these beekeepers are breeding diseases and pests. Although there may have been a few occasions where this could be true, the majority of the treatment-free beekeepers are not only responsible but very proactive in keeping their bees healthy so they are not spreading disease. It is a shame there is conflict amongst beekeepers over this issue. In Hawaii, beekeepers respect each other and accept that there is no "one size fits all" when it comes to beekeeping. Treat or not, what matters is that practices are clean and strength is found in collaboration.

Our rich diversity in honey and pollen contributed to this quick recovery. We are fortunate to be surrounded by the abundant forest, jungle, and natural habitats that provide consistent nectar flows that keep bees nourished. There is also a strong movement in the farming and gardening communities to plant bee gardens and pollinator borders.

One of my mentors explained during the dramatic losses in 2010, "where there is challenge there is opportunity". It was difficult to understand while local beekeepers were losing hives at alarming rates. Now, I see the opportunity that this crisis brought -- a greater appreciation for our pollinators which led to people asking, "how can I help the bees?" Beekeepers improved their management to encourage the natural life cycle of honeybees by using less invasive practices. Pollinator gardens started popping up like wild flowers, bringing many new beekeepers with them.

So beekeepers, remember there is always opportunity in the challenges we face. We just have to be ready for it. The annual declines in US colony numbers is showing us something. Are we ready to make the appropriate changes to turn the challenges into opportunities?

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## Idaho - Sherry Olsen-Frank



In 2013, the Treasure Valley Beekeepers Club experienced another round of growth in Southwest Idaho. Local interest in honeybees helped boost the club to more than 200 members in 2013. Membership has grown each year since the original organization in 2008.

Early in the year, several well-attended "Build It & They Will Come" educational days were given by the club to teach new members how to properly construct hives and equipment. Members also participated in half a dozen community education classes that introduced beekeeping to nearly 100 interested people.

These sessions were capped off by the Noyes' Honey Store's annual nuc and package sale in mid-April, where 135 beekeepers purchased bees and enjoyed the club-sponsored picnic.

The 2013 swarm season started with an unusually early swarm on April 1st. Resuming in earnest in mid-April, it continued at an optimistic pace for only four weeks. By mid-May the spigot turned off, resulting in one of the shortest swarm seasons in recent memory.

The Club's major summer event was centered on National Honey Bee Day. The Mayor of Boise (The City of Trees) proclaimed a "City of Bees" Day. At the same time John Miller (the main character in The Beekeepers Lament and California State Beekeepers Association President) hosted a showing of the Marcus Imhoff film "More Than Honey" to a sold-out local theater. The festivities were covered in the e-version of American Bee Journal.

A dry summer brought honey crops slightly lighter than average. In July and August little surplus honey was harvested. We had some unique fall weather that allowed wasps to be more of a problem than usual. The temperature through much of October hovered just below the honey bees' working temperature, yet was still warm enough that wasps were found robbing and killing hives all around the valley.

## Overwintering bee colonies "by the numbers" in Montana - Scott Debnam

Beekeeping in winter time is uneventful, that is for the beekeeper anyway. For the bees it is another story. Though there is no evidence of activity on the outside of the hive, inside it the bees have the responsibility of staying warm during our frigid northwestern winters. Here is a look into an overwintering bee colony "by the numbers" in western Montana.

28.9 Average ambient temperature (Fahrenheit) over the winter months (Nov-March).

44.8 Average temperature of the unoccupied area within the hive during winter months.

67.7 Average cluster temperature during the winter months.



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5.5 Average lbs of honey consumed each month during winter.  
9.7 Average lbs of honey consumed in March with the renewal of brood rearing.

66.8 Average weight of the hives going into the winter.  
49.1 Average weight of the hives coming out of winter.  
15.2 Average number of frames covered by bees in November.  
6.6 Average number of frames covered by bees in March.  
50% Loss of population size over the winter.

These data were derived from a set of 24 colonies studied during the winter of 2010 in Missoula, Montana.



*Beekeeping in Western Montana in January*

## Nevada - Debbie Gilmore

Thank you for this opportunity to be a voice for Nevada beekeepers. I am aware of two beekeeping organizations in Nevada. The Northern Nevada Beekeepers Association (NNBA) in Reno, which has been active for many years, and the Mason Valley Beekeepers (MVB) in Yerington, going into their sixth year with 60 members in seven rural Nevada communities.

In February 2014, the MVB are hosting their two-day 4th Annual Mason Valley Beekeepers Conference in Yerington.

Over 100 participants are expected with speakers from Nevada, California and Oregon. Two tracks run concurrently, one track for beginners and the other for more advanced beekeepers. A silent auction and raffle are held to raise money for educational projects and for equipment for the membership. A Young Beekeepers Scholarship will be created this year and will begin with a fundraiser at the conference. Registration and additional information can be found at [www.mason-valleybeekeepers.org](http://www.mason-valleybeekeepers.org).

Recently, the Mason Valley Beekeepers have been contacted by the Nevada Department of Agriculture who want to be a participant in the Beekeepers Conference and to discuss a joint effort in developing a Nevada Pollinator Protection Plan.

## The Buzz in New Mexico - Jessie Brown

New Mexico was pleased to have the Western Apicultural Society choose Santa Fe as conference location in 2013. The conference theme of "Working Together" keeps recurring at the North American Beekeeping Federation Conference in Baton Rouge, LA that I am attending as I write this report. As we are presented with a myriad of talks about the pressures that honeybees are experiencing-- pesticide exposure, proper nutrition, genetics, etc. -- Pete Berthelsen from

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Pheasants Forever reminded us that there are many groups that we can work with have the same goals as beekeepers in maintaining/creating high quality habitat for pollinators, butterflies and birds.

2013 was an interesting year for beekeeping in New Mexico. Albuquerque Beeks, co-chaired by Jessie Brown and Megan Mahoney, cooperated with the City of Albuquerque Open Space to start a hands-on mentoring program with both top bar and Langstroth hives, attended by about 150 people in sessions that ran from May to October. Find out more at [www.abqbeeks.org](http://www.abqbeeks.org).

The Sangre de Cristo Beekeepers, organized by Kate Whealen, reports that 2013 started out very dry, with few swarms reported. Most people couldn't make divides since there was no spring nectar and no resources in the colonies. After the late monsoon rains, most colonies were able to put together enough honey for themselves for the winter, and beekeepers were able to harvest small amounts. There were many problems with bears in areas where they hadn't been a problem before.

Rob Shepler reports from the newly formed Southern New Mexico Beekeepers, a group of about 40 folks within elevations of 3500 to 9000 feet. Most of the low elevation/southern NM beekeepers encounter Africanized bees on a regular basis. One of their points of pride is the legalization of beekeeping in the city of Alamogordo, accomplished as of Nov 1st, 2013 after 8 months trying to convince the Mayor and Commissioners to change the law that has been in effect since the 1970s. You are invited to visit their online community, under the "Groups" section at [www.nmbeekeepers.org](http://www.nmbeekeepers.org).

## Oregon Happenings - Dewey Caron

Oregon beekeepers held their annual meeting Halloween (Oct 31st) and Nov 1&2 at Seaside on the North Oregon coast. Attendance was over 200 with the coastal rains/mountain snows not appearing until later. A stellar group of speakers covered the program. The Oregon Master Beekeepers Journey program had their first Bee Institute Thursday followed by a Halloween costume party (with bee snacks for trick-or-treaters from Ruhl and Glory Bee).

OSU is surveying beekeepers on pollination rental economics again this fall to compliment a nearly 30-year continuous record. Virtually all beekeepers with 300+ colonies are heading to CA almond groves in February. Several sell brood frames to CA bee breeders following colony removal from the groves or make nucs for sale to 'newbees' back home. Spring starts early in OR commercial yards.

Our beekeepers are working with the state Legislature and Dept of Ag to develop a Pollinator Protection Plan. The Master Beekeeper committee is completing the Masters level plan - enrollment in the MB Apprentice level (each individual paired with a mentor) and Journey levels has been strong. Bee Short Courses are scheduled and will soon be underway in Southern Oregon, Klamath area, Eugene, Salem and Portland, offered by local bee associations.

Bees entered the winter in decent shape. Let's hope the winter losses (42% for backyarders last spring, 20% for larger-scale operations) are reduced this winter.

## Washington - Jim Smith

Hello from WA state. As a new representative, I am looking forward to serving the Washington area and visiting local associations this upcoming year.

Overall, honey production in the western part of the state this summer was low to medium. In central Washington, there was a medium flow in the spring and low to nothing in the summer due to spraying that was done in the area.

Research continues at Washington State University and in the Bee Diagnostic Lab. Most recently they have been testing wax and pollen samples for the pervasiveness of neonicotinoids.

Looking forward to the upcoming year and reporting a positive honey flow and low hive losses in September when we meet at the 2014 WAS Conference in Missoula. See you all there.

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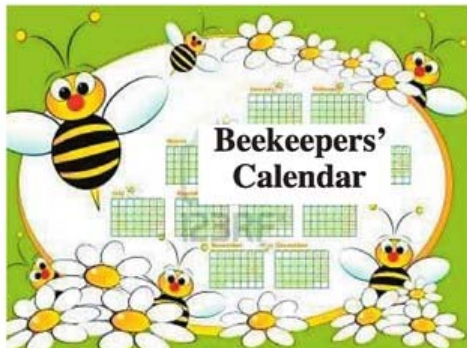
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June 16 - National Pollinator Week, Washington DC

Feb 28 - Mar 2: 7th Annual Organic Beekeepers Meeting, Oracle AZ. Info <http://www.tucsonymca.org> or <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/organicbeekeepers>, or contact Dee Lusby 520-398-2474 late evening.

July 27 - Aug 1: Eastern Apicultural Society 2014 Conference,

Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond Campus. Info <https://www.easternapiculture.org>.

Sept 17 - 20: Western Apicultural Society Annual Conference, University of Montana, Missoula MT. Info Dr. Jerry Bromenshenk 406-544-9007 or [WASpresident2014@gmail.com](mailto:WASpresident2014@gmail.com).

For more Beekeepers' Calendar of Events items, visit the Global Beekeeping Calendar, courtesy of the Florida Beekeepers Association & Malcolm Sanford at [http://www.my.calendars.net/bee\\_culture](http://www.my.calendars.net/bee_culture)



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