



# W.A.S.

## JOURNAL

THE WESTERN APICULTURAL SOCIETY  
OF NORTH AMERICA

VOLUME 18 NUMBER 2

APRIL 1998

1998 WAS Conference

August 10-13, 1998

University Inn and Conference Center  
Moscow, Idaho



**Western Apicultural Society  
of North America**

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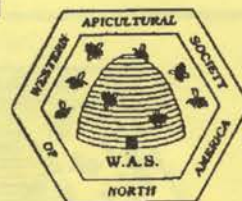
**Publication Schedule**

The Journal is published quarterly.  
*October* following the conference with a submission date for material of October 1st.  
*January* with submission deadline of January 1st.  
*April* with conference information and a submission date of April 1st.  
*July* with final conference details and a submission date of June 15th.

Articles, news, letters to the Editor or President, or other items of interest are not only welcome but solicited from the membership on a regular or one time basis.

**Western Apicultural  
Society of North  
America**

**Board of Directors**



Each state/province in Western North America is entitled to elect one Director on the governing board of the Society. Directors meet before and after each general meeting and set policy and guidelines for the operation of the business of the Society. Throughout the year they serve as the liaison between the Society officers and the members in their respective states. They are responsible for recruiting new members, keeping track of state concerns and advising the membership of their activities through this Journal. The board currently consists of the following members:

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## THE EDITOR'S CORNER

**The mailing list:** Please keep us informed of your *current* mailing address. We would like to insure that you receive your Journals and must have a correct mailing address to get it to you. If you move, change addresses or post office boxes, don't forget to send us a change card. Some names have had to be deleted from the mailing list as we have no valid addresses. This includes several "Life" members. **Contributions:** The editor would appreciate receiving articles in scannable form--plain text font, upper-lower case, if typed--a good ribbon and a minimum of strikeouts or corrections. You may submit them by E mail.

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**Next Issue:** The next issue is scheduled for **July, 1998** and I will need any material to be included by **July 1st, 1998**.

**Announcement:** Unless my health improves dramatically, this will be my last year as your Journal Editor. I have enjoyed doing the Journal for the past several years but my failing health dictates my cutting down on repetitive activities which include deadlines and the need to be up to a certain task at a certain time. We will be looking for a replacement, who, I will be happy to assist in any way I can. If you would like to take over this fun filled activity please let Steve Shepherd or Olive Jones know.

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## IN MEMORY

We have received word that **ROSS HOPKINS** of North Gower, Ontario died on October 4th, 1997. Ross was a Charter and Life member of WAS. Our sympathy goes to his wife, Jean. **VIRGIL A PHILIPPI**, Virgil retired after 31 years as a welder with Chevron, USA in Richmond CA. He lived in El Sobrante for 55 years. He was the husband of Dorothy Philippi of El Sobrante, married 62 years, and leaves two daughters, six grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. He was 83 years old. Virgil belonged to local and regional bee organizations, including Alameda Beekeepers, Mt. Diablo Beekeepers and WAS. He was a native of Grantsburg, Wisconsin. A memorial service was held Saturday, February 14, 1998 at El Sobante Methodist Church. Virgil gave his bees to his daughter, Marilyn Mangle, also a beekeeper, so he knew that they were in good hands.

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and they can use as many as they have time for. The teachers do not need to have a background in beekeeping because materials with all the necessary information is provided along with answer sheets.

People have many misconceptions about bees and this usually develops during childhood. We want to inform the general public through their children. We want to show: that the honey bee is a friend, not an enemy; that honey bees sting only as a defense; how they live and function in hives; how man uses honey bees; and how important they are to mankind.

Honey bees play a crucial role in pollination, thus ensuring an abundance of plant foods for man, domestic animals, wildlife and enabling the persistence of plant species. The bee industry is also beset by more problems than we can puff a smoker at. Americans would stop eating foreign honey if they knew the terrible impact that this unfairly priced imported honey was having on our industry. Home gardeners would be more aware of the care they should take in applying insecticides if they knew the value of bees to their gardens. Education and promotion is the key. We need to work very hard to inform the public as well as our legislative officials about the importance of honey bees to mankind. As beekeepers we should make every effort to get at least one copy in each of our local school libraries. This booklet is being offered at a minimal charge. If you would like to obtain a copy, please contact Loretta Surprenant, Box 300, Essex, New York 12936 or call (518) 963-7593.

## NEW BEEKEEPERS

It appears that interest in non-commercial beekeeping waxes and wanes over time, for various reasons. Our last period of heightened interest was in the 1970's. That was the time of "back to nature" with Ewell Gibbons stalking the wild asparagus and eating Grape Nuts cereal. Sugar was loathed as an "empty calorie." Honey was the sweetener of choice. As that fad wore off and honey prices became depressed, interest in hobby beekeeping plummeted. The finishing blow was the arrival of the tracheal and Varroa mites. This combination of parasites just about eliminated every managed colony that was not being intensively protected by a beekeeper. The mites also eliminated most of the feral colonies.

This is the first time in memorable history that "free bees" haven't been available to pollinate fruit trees and garden crops in people's back yards. Apparently, a substantial number of small acreage fruit and vegetable growers east of the Rocky Mountains relied on feral bees for pollination to a much greater extent than we do in California. Without feral bees, these orchardists, truck farmers, and people with substantial plantings requiring pollination now want to keep honey bees.

I was invited to attend and present lectures to the northeastern Ohio Tri-county Beekeeping Workshop held a few weeks ago in Wooster, Ohio, at the campus where Dr. Jim Tew conducts his bee education program. The facility we used could seat 1,000 in the main lecture room. It was half full!

many with families. That makes this "local" meeting as large or larger than the annual meetings of the Eastern Apicultural Society or the American Beekeeping Federation.

Is there potential for such growth in our organization? Perhaps. We do not have so many small and moderate sized farms clumped together as they do in the Midwest, but we have an enormous number of small farms scattered throughout the West.

We should be able to recruit some more WAS participants from our local clubs. We should be able to advertise our meetings in the bee journals in such a way to entice new people to attend. I guess we would have to have quite an emphasis on "beekeeping," as such, but we have done that with short courses, before.

Interestingly, the Ohio Tri-county meeting was an inexpensive, single day event, held on a Saturday, that drew people from Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Michigan and states even farther away. Get out and spread the word! We are going to have a terrific meeting in Moscow, Idaho, and it would be worthwhile for any beekeeper to attend. -- Eric Mussen, Past President

#### CONFERENCE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Here is the list of speakers and talk titles already committed. Steve is working on some others - including a bee plant talk..

Currently confirmed....

"Africanized honey bees in Brazil - 40 years later"-- Dr. M. Cristina Arias, University of Sao Paulo, Brazil

"Temperature regulation of the brood nest in Asian honey bees"-- Dr.

Mike Burgett, Oregon State University  
"Swarm biology and colony management"-- Dr. Dewey Caron, University of Delaware

"Current status of parasitic mite control" -- Dr. Mark Feldlaufer, USDA-ARS Bee Research Laboratory, Beltsville, MD

"Territoriality and competition in honey bees"--Dr. Carl Johansen, Coeur D'Alene, ID

"Research on botanical oils for tracheal mite control"-- Ms. Beth Kahkonen, Washington State University

"Repellents as a method to reduce honey bee poisoning"-- Dr. Dan Mayer, Washington State University

"Queen management" -- Dr. Eric Mussen, University of California

"A year in the life of a commercial beekeeping operation"--Mr. Eric Olson, Yakima, WA

"Importation of honey bee stocks to North America: past, present and future" -- Dr. W. Steve Sheppard, Washington State University



Our cover this issue by courtesy of the editor of SoCal Good Sam's Sam-O-Gram.

## President's Message Spring 1998

Winter is now officially over and beekeepers here in Washington state have had some opportunity to assess the condition of their colonies. For the most part - in this part of the country there does not seem to have been much benefit to colony overwintering success from the "El niño" - induced mild winter. Several large operations centered in Washington, maintaining more than 15,000 colonies, reported winter losses of around 30%. The primary cause is uncertain, but the beekeepers suspect combined effects of mites, poor fall flow conditions (leading to reduced production of quality winter bees), and stress typically related to transport during migratory operations. Unfortunately, in many areas we have yet to complete the gauntlet of spring dwindling, where the rate of mortality for overwintered (old) workers exceeds the rate of production of replacements. At a recent presentation in British Columbia, Dr. Marla Spivak recounted that the majority of "winter loss" of colonies in Minnesota actually takes place from February to April. This points out the importance of those Spring inspections...

The Program for WAS 1998 is nearing completion and confirmed speakers and talk titles are listed in this issue of the Journal. Timely topics range from a progress report on the development of new mite control materials (Dr. Mark Feldlaufer), to reports of ongoing field research - botanical oils for tracheal mite control and honey bee repellents (Ms. Beth

Kahkonen and Dr. Dan Mayer), to the status of USDA and University efforts to introduce additional honey bee stocks to the US (yours truly). Important insight into honey bee biology and apiary management will be presented on several topics, including swarm biology and management (Dr. Dewy Caron), queen management (Dr. Eric Mussen), temperature regulation in Asian honey bees (Dr. Mike Burgett) and territoriality and competition in bees (Dr. Carl Johansen). A fascinating glimpse into the complex organization required to operate colonies on a large scale will be provided by Mr. Eric Olson. Finally, a lesson from history that may be applicable to the future of some WAS members and of general interest to many will be given by Dr. Cristina Arias, as she relates information on Brazilian beekeeping today with Africanized honey bees. We also have a number of "mystery speakers" who remain anonymous (having not confirmed their attendance). We will tie down those loose ends (and speakers) and present a finalized Program in the July WAS Journal.

More on the venue - remember that the Best Western University Inn is just across the street from the University of Idaho (note the clever name of the Inn!). Various entertainment and recreation opportunities include an 18 hole golf course, 15 tennis courts (bring your racket and let's play!), an all-weather running track and nightly performances by the Idaho Repertory Theatre. The Treaty Grounds brewpub, a multiplex cinema and the Palouse shopping mall are within easy walking distance of the



Inn. Speaking of walking... a brand new walking and biking path has just been completed between the cities of Moscow ID and Pullman WA. Following the route of an old railroad track - this paved flat trail follows the course of Paradise creek and the affords the opportunity for more leisurely paced transportation.

For those of you arriving by plane - complimentary transportation to and from the Moscow/Pullman airport is provided by the Best Western University Inn (prior arrangement 208-882-0550 or use airport courtesy phone on arrival). Transportation services are available from the Spokane International airport or Lewiston regional airport - contact Link Transportation (208) 882-1223 for information.

Look for more detailed information concerning possible excursions of local interest in the July WAS Journal. These include taking a jet boat to tour and picnic in scenic Hells Canyon, a riverboat excursion on the Snake River, an outdoor evening concert in Moscow's East City Park, garnet collecting in the Emerald Creek garnet area, or taking a leisurely hike to the top of Kamiak Butte for a spectacular view of the Palouse hills. The teaching apiary at nearby WSU is available for some hands on fun with bees- perhaps a workshop event if we have the interest.

In closing, I'll take a page from Eric Mussen's Presidential writings of last year and urge you to keep looking for door prizes, silent auction items and regular auction items. As a newcomer to the "hosting game", my students and myself are grateful for the

combined wisdom of experienced WAS members and officers. Working together, I am sure we will have a great event in Moscow and continue the tradition of WAS as a relevant organization to beekeepers.

Steve Sheppard  
Washington State University  
Pullman WA 99164-6382  
shepp@mail.wsu.edu

## Hotel Accommodations

Please make your hotel reservations as you preregister. The conference rates will be \$72.00 for a single and \$85.00 for a double. These rates include a Breakfast Buffet (not a Continental Breakfast but a full Breakfast Buffet.) Include your room charge with your reservation and mail to the Treasurer. He will take care of registering, reserving, and paying the Hotel.

The address of the hotel is: 1516 Pullman Road, Moscow, Idaho (208) 882-0550.

This special rate and block of rooms will be held until thirty days prior to the meeting. Preregister and reserve your room prior to July 10, 1998 to get the conference rate.

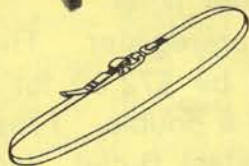
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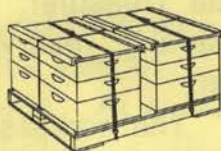
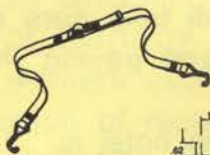
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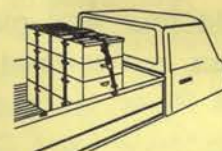
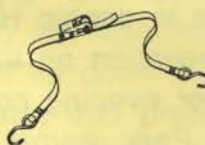
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