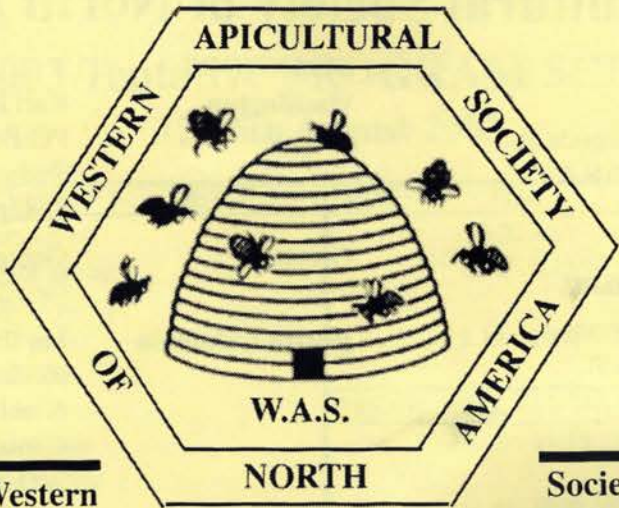


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Spring 2003



The Journal of the Western

Society of North America

Apicultural



*W.A.S. Conference 2003  
Simon Fraser University  
Burnaby B.C.*



**About the Program**

The main reason why beekeepers come and attend a WAS conferences is to have fun and meet their western bee-keeping friends. With this in mind your committee has a whole lot of entertainment arranged for you. The program includes a short course that will be held on Saturday before the banquet. Topics include candle making, grafting, encaustic painting, disease lab, mason bee workshop and more.

Wednesday and Friday morning's focus is speakers on a variety of topics.

Thursday is tour day.

Friday afternoon we will have the WAS OLYMPICS. Be prepared and hone your beekeeping skills because you will have some tough competition. We will have the timed smoker lighter competition, timed frame nailing, swarm catching, and grafting competition. Perhaps we will arrange it into a bee-triathlon.

Our famous Bee Beards will be on Friday afternoon after the Olympics.

We are very excited about having Michael Young as our international speaker. He is an acclaimed chef, produces wonderful mead and is an entertaining speaker. He will be giving away the secrets of mead making.

Michael will also be speaking on beekeeping in Ireland and the United Kingdom, while Mark Winston be reading from his books and speaking on 'writing about bees'.

Eric Mussen will be giving us a update on the small hive beetle.

Roger Clapham of Clapham Bee Products, will tell us all the stories about how bees wax is transformed to products through the exciting game of sales and marketing. His humour is catchy and infectious.

Steve Pernal from Agriculture Canada, Beaverlodge, Alberta, will be speaking about American foulbrood and what we can do about this old disease.

A great time is guaranteed. Just think, we can talk bees for four days straight! Ahhh, what a delight!

*Margriet Dogterom, Program Chair.*

# Western Apicultural Society of North America

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### Other states/provinces vacant

Each state/province in Western North America is entitled to elect one Director to 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/provinces. They are responsible for recruiting new members, keeping track of state/provincial concerns and advising the membership of their activities through this Journal.

## W.A.S. NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES

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# WAS 2003 Tentative PROGRAM SCHEDULE

## 12-16th August 2003

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	DETAILS	DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	DETAILS
Tues 12th	1 pm	Exhibitors set-up Silent auction set-up Gadget display set-up			8.30 am	Welcome	
	3 pm	Exhibits open Registration SFU guided tour Self guided tour Lab tour- Heather			8.30 - 9.15	The business of Queen Rearing	
		Delegates meeting Directors meeting			9.15 - 1000	American Foulbrood what we can do about it	Steve Pernal
		7 pm	Bee buzz Social in Exhibit room	Video clips - pollination	BREAK	10.00 - 10.30	
					10.30 - 11.15	It is a honey of a business	John Gibeau
					11.15 -noon	Making Mead and Preparing Honey	Michael Young
					LUNCH	Noon-1.15	
DINNER On your own					1.15 - 2.45	WAS OLYMPICS	HOST
Wed 13th	7.30 am.	Registration		<i>Timed smoker lighter competition, Timed frame nailing, Swarm catching, Timed filling queen cages with bees, Grafting competi-tion, Queen marking</i>			
	8.00 am	Exhibits open		BREAK	2.45 - 3.15		
	8.20 am.	Door Prizes			3.15 - 5.00	BEE BEARDS	
	8.30 - 8.40	Introduction and welcome	J Bunse	DINNER On your own			
	8.40 - 9.00	Welcome to SFU & Vancouver	Mark Winston	Sat 16th	7.30 - 10am	Registration	
	9.00 - 10.00	Beekeeping in Ireland& the UK	Michael Young		8.00	Exhibits open	
					8.20	Door prizes	
BREAK	10.00 - 10.30				8.30 - 2.45	SHORT COURSES	
	10.30 - 11.15	Writing about Bees	Mark Winston		9.00 - 10.00	Candle making	
	11.15 - Noon	All about the small hive beetle	Eric Mussen		9.00 - 10.00	Grafting	Shelly
LUNCH Noon-1.15 pm				BREAK	10.00 - 10.30		
	1.15 - 2.00	Bees wax- from the bee hive to the store	Roger Clapham		10.30 - 11.15	Encaustic Painting	Michael Young
	2.00 - 2.45	Clapham bee products			10.30 - 11.15	Disease Demo	Daniela/Heather
BREAK	2.45 - 3.15				11.15 - Noon	Mason Bee Workshop	M. Dogterom Desiree/Alice
	3.15 - 4.00	Bees and research Bees and more bees	SFU students	LUNCH Noon - 1.15			
	4.00 - 4.45	Alternative pollinators	SFU students		1.15 - 2.00	Candle Making	
DINNER On your own					2.00 - 2.45	Grafting	Shelley
Thur 14th	TOURS	1. Bee tour 2. Sightseeing tour		BREAK	3.15 - 3.15		
DINNER		SALMON BARBECUE			3.15 - 5.00	Disease	Daniela/Heather
Fri 15th	7.30 am	Registration			3.15 - 5.00	Encaustic Painting	Michael Young
	8.00 am	Exhibits open		BANQUET 6-8pm AWARDS BANQUET			
	8.20 am	Door Prizes				How to make Mead	Michael Young
				<i>Mead tasting and Mead award, Silent Auction, Grafting, awards, auction, Best Gadget award, beekeeping award</i>			

## The W.A. S. Conference Committees

Your conference volunteers are well into the arrangements for the program, the exhibits and the tours. Catering is well in hand, and we are excited about all the detailed planning that goes into providing you with an experience you will remember for years to come.

Daniela Bates, Commercial Exhibit Coordinator, joined W.A.S. at the very first conference in 1977 at U C Davis. She fondly remembers meeting the wonderful beekeepers "south of the line", and is looking forward to meeting you this summer. In her apiary she managed 7 colonies for 20 years, only giving up her beloved bees when her son became dangerously allergic. Daniela has been working for the Apiculture Program of the British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries since 1979 as a Bee Inspector and Program Administrator, thoroughly enjoying working with many BC beekeepers.

John Simpson, Tour Bus Organizer, is relatively new to beekeeping, having been introduced to our wonderful world in 2001 as he assisted Perry Brandt with his bees. Now John is an active Vice President of the Surrey Beekeepers, and his wife Vanessa publishes the club newsletter. John

operates 5 colonies and has put them to work in blueberry pollination for the first time this year.

Wendy Morrison, Silent Auction Coordinator, got hooked on bees while attending a lecture during the beekeeping course her husband Don was attending. When Don had hip replacement surgery and had to miss a lecture, he sent Wendy to take notes for him! Now Wendy is the Secretary of the North Fraser Beekeepers, Don is President, and the two of them have jumped into beekeeping full tilt! Wendy's eye for all things "Bee-ish" will be a real asset as she gathers the items you will be bidding on this summer!

Dr. Margriet Dogterom, Program Chair, received her PhD in pollination biology of blueberries at Simon Fraser University in 1999. She is a pollination consultant to fruit and seed producers using honey bees, bumble bees and Mason bees. She also has a thriving business in retailing her unique Mason Bee products, Mason bees and her self-published book "Pollination with Mason Bees". Her close connection with the research community has been extremely valuable in obtaining the fascinating and varied speakers, workshops and activities for your summer enjoyment.

*Jaquie Bunse*



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# Dealing with Anaphylaxis

by Dr. Eric Mussen

At our WAS Conference, we had a number of speakers who presented information on using "hive products" for health and medical uses. Part of the program dealt with allergies to these products and how to treat a severe allergic reaction.

To be fair to Charles Mraz (on video) and Dr. Christopher Kim, MD, they never have induced an anaphylactic response in thousands of patients they have treated with venom therapy. That probably has a lot to do with the initial exposures of their patients to the venom. Small doses of venom are used at first, then soon increased to the "therapeutic" doses.

Family members and pets of beekeepers, if they aren't out in the bees getting stung, are likely to be getting their initial exposure by inhalation of air-borne venom proteins from nearby beekeeping equipment or from a single, quickly removed sting. To study anaphylaxis, researchers frequently use inhalation exposure by guinea pigs so that they can get a real strong reaction to the allergen when injected.

When our bodies come into contact with "foreign" proteins, they often make antibodies to the "invaders." One of the two major types of antibodies are beneficial: Gamma G. Those antibodies circulate in the blood and attach to the proteins, if they show up again. Each exposure is like a "booster shot," increasing the "titer" of the protective antibody. Thus, most beekeepers have very little reaction to stings as the beekeeping year progresses.

A second type of antibody usually is produced, also. That is Gamma E, and it is not helpful in the case of "hay fever," bee sting or food allergies. The Gamma E antibodies start out in the blood, but they eventually become fastened to "mast cells" throughout the body. If a mast cell gets ruptured, it releases histamine and other chemicals that can induce symptoms of anaphylactic shock. In the case of hay fever, the mast cells release histamine around the nose and throat, causing sneezing, runny nose, itchy eyes, and itchy back of the throat.

In the case of bee sting and food allergies, the mast cells deeper in the body are associated with the Gamma E-antigen reaction. The released histamine affects the surrounding tissues. The most problematic response is an uptake of the fluid portion of the blood into the tissues. As the fluid accumulates, the amount in the circulatory system decreases and blood pressure drops drastically. Tissues begin to swell. In severe cases, brain and other cells begin to die from lack of oxygen and swelling in the throat can increase until the organism asphyxiates. We often are told that this process is not very fast and we have about 20 minutes to get medical help. That is not true in many cases. The reactions can be extremely severe in

just a few moments.

In nearly all cases, injecting an appropriate dose of epinephrine (adrenaline) can reverse this rapidly deteriorating condition. Epinephrine increases blood pressure and heart beat rate to above normal levels. Usually, the accumulated fluid returns from the tissues to the blood and the patient often feels "like new" in less than a half-hour. That time should be used to get the patient to competent medical help. If the patient begins to have trouble breathing, again, a second shot of epinephrine can be given. It is likely that the medical staff also will treat with steroids and antihistamines, if things are very severe.

It is difficult to recognize anaphylaxis in some cases because the list of symptoms is lengthy, and each person responds in his or her own way when going into shock. Usually, they feel nauseous (bad cramps, sometimes incontinent), they often flush, they become disoriented and lose contact with the "real world," and then have severely restricted breathing. Generally, one is told to wait until breathing becomes difficult before giving the shot(s). Even then, many people "pull through" the experience (really scary). However, if this is the second or later incident, then getting shot sooner is much better than later.

There used to be two choices for prescription epinephrine delivery systems. Apparently, the old Hollister-Stier kit, containing antihistamine tablets, alcohol swabs, elastic band, and a two-possible-shot adjustable syringe, is no longer in production and supplies are running out. That leaves the EpiPen. With that apparatus, you simply slide it out of the container, like a premium cigar, remove the end cap, and press the black tip against your thigh, real hard. A retracted needle tip springs out, the dose of epinephrine is injected, and the process is completed in just a few seconds. The needle is long enough to go right through your clothing. Carefully put the spent injector, needle end first, back into the carrying tube. The hospital will dispose of it properly. I hope your health provider will help cover the cost, because without competition, the cost seems to be rising quickly. For detailed information about EpiPens, leave your request on the voice mail of Linda Edwards at 1-800-786-5775 Ext. 8060.

Bee sting reactions don't conveniently divide into OK and possibly fatal. There are many in between reactions. Most people, who have swollen dramatically after being stung, call themselves "allergic" and their medical doctors agree. They are afraid that the next sting may be fatal and their medical doctors agree. Although research papers suggest that is not true, it would be prudent for all those people to have access to

continued from page 5

epinephrine, just in case. Some beekeepers' stories seem to confirm their fears.

Another different reaction to bee stings is the "crisis." Proponents of bee sting therapy think that this reaction is very good - the beginning of healing responses induced by the venom. I went through that, but not on purpose. I needed some bees for sixth grade students to dissect. In the course of not doing it right, I got about 100 bees in the kill jar and nearly as many stings in my ankles. I kept going all day. My ankles and feet were swollen so much that I couldn't wear shoes for the next two days. At about 4:00 that afternoon I felt really tired, so I went home, took some antihistamine, and plopped down on the couch. I developed chills that would make a Hong Kong flu virus envious. Helen couldn't pile enough blankets on me to warm me up at all. I just went to

sleep (scared Helen). I woke up about 90 minutes later, dripping in perspiration and feeling way too hot. In about 30 minutes I was ready to eat and feeling normal. Well, almost normal. Those ankles still were really tender and swollen.

What do I suggest? I recommend that all beekeepers carry with them, or have immediately available to them, a couple EpiPens. They have a life expectancy of about 22 months at room temperature, and refrigerator storage can damage the injecting mechanism. Their useful life is shortened fairly quickly if you keep them in the glove compartment of your pickup truck (heat denatures the epinephrine). You never know when someone might go into anaphylactic shock for a myriad of reasons. Only if you have the medicine immediately available will you be able to do anything other than stand by and watch the drama unfold.

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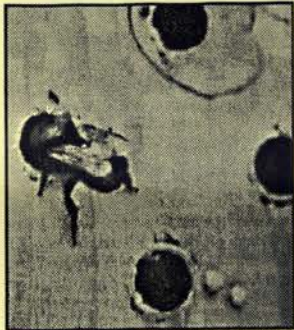
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## Is there such a thing as an urban bee?

In Vancouver, British Columbia, the urban gardener is housing thousands to millions of mason bees. These friendly little bees are a boon to urban tree-fruit production. Since tracheal and varroa mites destroyed all wild honey bee colonies, fruit tree production is poor.

Bees are essential to fruit production, which occurs when pollen is moved from one flower to another. Bees are able to do this very efficiently because their branched hairs with an electrostatic charge pick up the tiny pollen grains.

In many municipalities, honey bees are not permitted. The result is that honey bees are rarely seen in suburbia. The problem of few bees and no fruit has been overcome by housing mason bees (or the orchard mason bees *Osmia lignaria*), and managing them. Mason bee husbandry is a young science and art in North America. Perhaps the mason bee will provide the majority of early spring pollination in both city and suburbs.



The WAS Mason Bee workshop will include a discussion of nest types and systems of looking after these bees. Learn how easy it is to get started. Presenter Margriet Dogterom is the author of "Pollination with Mason Bees", and owner of Beediverse Products. Her specialty is pollination and mason bees.

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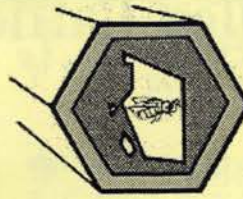
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# The Scoop on Pollen Patties

By Allen Dick, Commercial Beekeeper, Swalwell AB  
Condensed from May 2003 Hivelights

Some years and some places, bees may be able to take care of themselves, but when kept in large yards, especially in areas where monoculture has become the norm, and when the hives are intensively managed, there is a real possibility that bees may run short of good pollen or honey stores at several times of the year. Weaker colonies may be unable to compete, and are particularly at risk.

Chances are, most colonies will survive, but they may fail to thrive. If there is a shortage of either pollen or honey, colonies will reduce or stop brood rearing, and even tear out half-grown brood. Any larvae that are raised at such times will be malnourished and, when they become adults, will not be as good nurses and foragers as they might have been. The effects of even temporary starvation can last for generations, and will have continuing negative impacts on splitting, honey crops, and on wintering success.

Most beekeepers can detect when their hives are short of honey, but far fewer can determine with certainty when their bees are short of protein.

Protein is usually fed as a patty on the top bars of the brood chamber that contains the open brood. Protein supplement patties are usually made of relatively cheap high protein food ingredients like brewers' yeast and soy flour (both must be suitable for bees -- see a bee supply specialist), plus trapped pollen and sugar. Although pollen is a valuable ingredient, it is expensive and not always available. Moreover, unless the pollen is sterilized by radiation, patties with pollen will spread chalkbrood and possibly foulbrood, and as a result, many beekeepers prefer to use patties that contain no pollen.

Patties with high proportions of trapped pollen will be consumed about three times more quickly than those without any pollen content. If sugar is used to make up about 50% of the dry ingredients, those patties will be eaten at an acceptable rate, even when natural pollen is being brought in.

Bees really don't care much for yeast or soy patties unless

they contain lots of sugar. Enough sugar, and the bees will eat anything. We generally use at least 50% sugar (calculated on the dry part of the mix) and find the bees will eat them -- even with zero pollen content -- any time.

Although bees will benefit from protein feeding whenever they are confined, other than winter, spring is the traditional time to feed patties. Stimulating brood rearing is often the stated goal, but causing early brood rearing by using substitutes and supplements can be tricky. Once the bees are induced to raise unnatural amounts of brood by feeding, they must be supplied continuously and never allowed to run out until natural pollen is coming in reliably. If they run out -- even for a day -- the brood they have started may be thrown out or develop poorly. Brood rearing takes a lot out of the old wintered bees, and without new nurse bees, they may be too worn out to raise much more brood later, even with fresh pollen coming in.

In my view, inducing unnatural amount of early spring brood is not the best use of protein patties. I prefer to use early patties to nourish the adult bees in hopes they will be in better shape when fresh natural pollen arrives. Even weaker hives can thrive when protein is available on those days when the weather keeps them confined. Last year, we fed three to five patties (3-5% pollen) per hive, ending in June. They were all consumed, and some of them had zero pollen content. We keep putting on patties even after the natural pollen flows start we know there will be days the bees can't get out. Our patties encourage slower, but steady, consumption and do not raise the bees' expectations to unreasonable levels.

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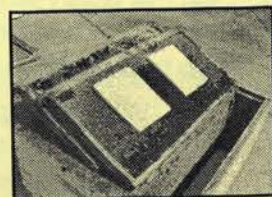
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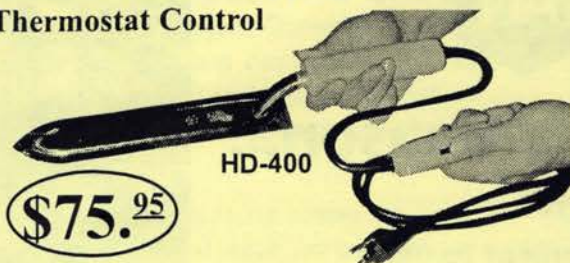
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# Proposed Import of Californian Honeybee Queens into Canada

Ever since the import ban of US bees was put into place following the discovery of Varroa in 1987, Canadian beekeeper groups have disagreed on the issue. Some have argued that the trade restrictions have had greater economic impact than the benefits offered by the protection. Others feel that not enough protective measures were put into place and that as a result, Varroa managed to enter Canada anyway and spread to most beekeeping areas. Throughout the many years of import restrictions, northern beekeepers have demanded unrestricted access to Californian bee stock and especially queens in early spring, to replenish their colony numbers.

In the last few years, the justification for keeping the ban in place has lessened as both countries began to have similar honeybee disease profiles. The exceptions being the Small Hive Beetle (SHB) and Africanized Honey Bee (AHB) found in some parts of the US but not in Canada.

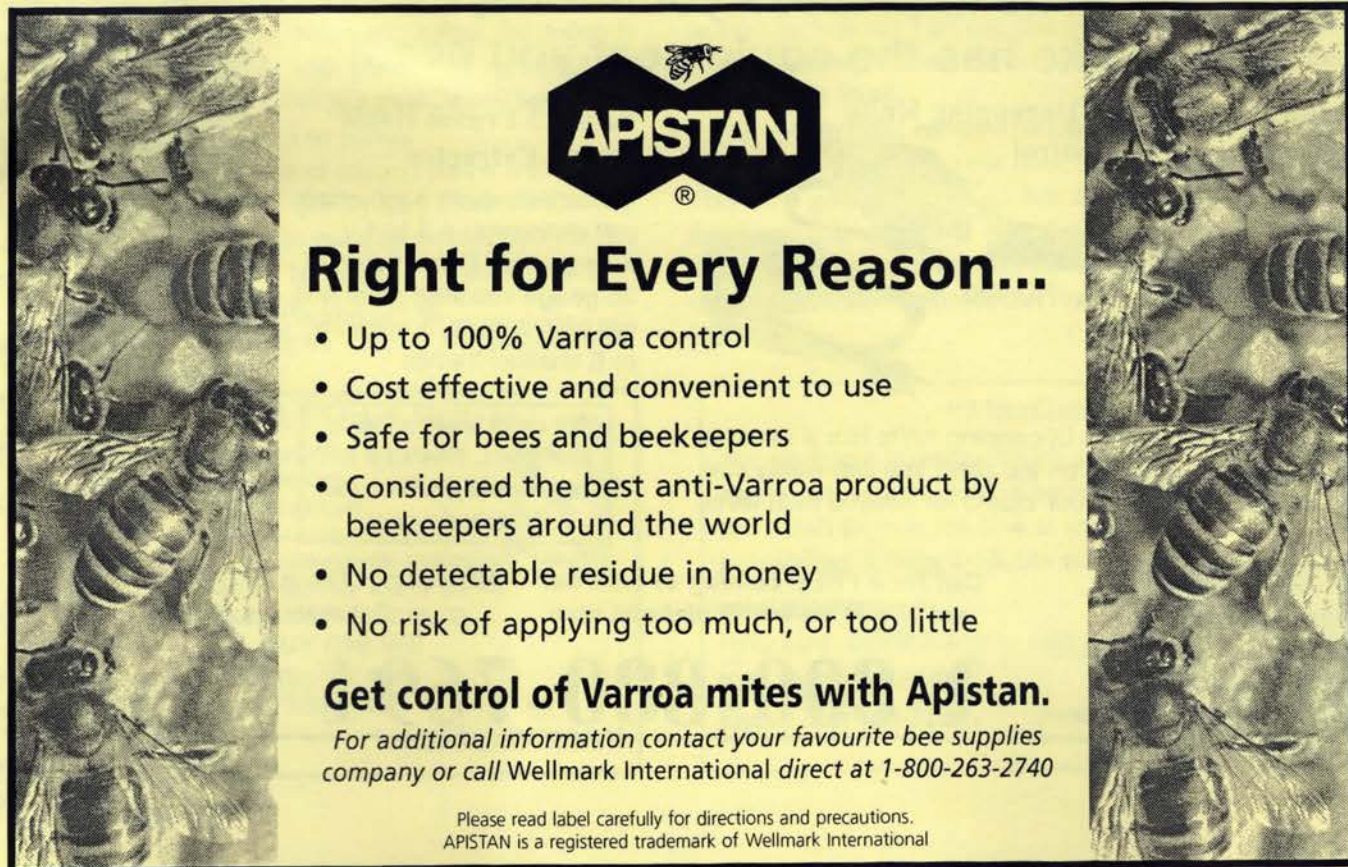
Even though there may not be conclusive scientific information available, a large body of anecdotal and circumstantial information has become available suggesting that neither pest poses an acute and grave threat to the entire Canadian honeybee population.

To accommodate the long-term demand of some northern beekeeper groups for US bees and simultaneously address the

concerns of many beekeepers across Canada about the potential of importing a new pest, efforts have been made to develop a protocol for the controlled importation of honeybee queens from California. While this effort was initiated during the winter months, the long-awaited (Canadian) Federal Risk Assessment on the import of honeybees from the United States was released. The assessment also concluded that controlled queen importations would pose minimal health risks to the Canadian bee population while perhaps offering significant economic opportunities to beekeepers in northern Canada. During the initial discussions, virtually all provinces were in support of the principle of importing honeybee queens from the United States. But, the "devil is always in the details" and as provinces began to discuss the details of the import conditions, disagreements developed over the type of detection techniques needed to determine AHB genes in the imported stock. Eventually, an import protocol emerged that would be unworkable and very costly.

The current impasse may prevent the import of honeybee queens from California this year, but British Columbia and Alberta remain in support of the initiative and are considering petitioning the federal government to authorize queen imports into their provinces in the future.

*Paul van Westendorp  
British Columbia Provincial Apiculturist*



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# SAFETY FIRST in Honey Bee Transport

By James C Bach

The goal of honey bee transportation should always be to do it safely and then to get the bee hives to the desired destination. Safety relates to entities such as safety of:

- Other drivers and their families on the public roads, day or night,
- The driver of the bee truck and its passengers,
- The bee colonies in the hives, and
- That of communities through which you transport bees.

Let's look at the people safety issues first. There is:

Driver safety - You should have adequate rest prior to leaving and adequate rest periods during the trip.

Passenger safety if the rider is sleeping - Some drivers get sleepy knowing their rider is sleeping and not available to talk with.

Driving monotony occurs when going a long way at night when all you see are the white lines with no other lights or things to look at. Driving on an unfamiliar road with little to divert your attention from the road can cause mental fatigue. Too much idle chatter or constant music can cause fatigue.

Other drivers are unfamiliar with the distance it takes to stop a heavily loaded truck and so make foolish decisions about pulling out in front of you. Look carefully for other drivers pulling up beside you on the road. Know where they are, realizing they don't know what you will do anymore than you can predict their actions.

Drivers should not wear their bee veils while driving. It hampers vision to the sides and you can't turn your head easily.

Bee hives should never be placed in the cab of the car or truck with the driver or passengers. Queen bank boxes should only be carried in the cab if they can be secured so as not to slide onto the floor if you must apply brakes hurriedly.

Loose bees should not be allowed in the vehicle cab under any circumstances.

Now let's look at equipment safety issues:

Equipment should be in good repair, not just adequate repair.

Vehicles should meet highway transportation statutes, rules and codes for mechanical reliability and lighting requirements.

Carry safety equipment at all times - reflectors, rotating beacons, flashing lights and cell phones.

Vehicle mirrors should be fully functional and properly adjusted for good rear vision.

Tie down straps should be in reliable condition that will secure loads without breaking such as in a truck roll over. A sufficient number of tie down straps should always be used to ensure a secure load.

Vehicle brakes, especially truck brakes must meet highway safety standards at all times. Brake shoes must be adjusted regularly to meet code specified tolerances. Electric trailer brakes must always be operational. Trailer inertial braking devices must be in good repair to prevent overloading the braking capability of the towing vehicle.

The trailer break-away chain must be properly attached to the towing vehicle and trailer. Trailer batteries must be operational at all times. Trailer hitches should be inspected for condition, look for welding cracks and loose bolts.

Light wiring harnesses should be checked regularly for wear to insure proper and required lighting capability. Head and tail-lights should be cleaned regularly to insure sufficient lighting and safety for drivers approaching from the rear of the vehicle during darkness and inclement weather.

Bee hive nets must be used when required for public safety, day or night. They are good insurance in case of an accident.

Bee hive safety:

Bee hive bottom boards, hive bodies, supers and hive covers must be in good condition for transport. Weak, un-repaired or rotting wood will result in improperly secured loads, load shifting during transport, and a potential impact on public safety. Hive parts that are in good repair help to ensure adequate hive ventilation by the bees during transport.

Fifteen or more combs of bees in two story hives create a lot of heat during transport, especially if the load is netted in hot weather. This causes the bees to "hang out" at and above the hive entrances, further compromising hive ventilation. Some long distance haulers carry 25 or more gallons of water, a pump and hose to wet the load if needed. Others carry a long hose so they can use hose bibs at rest stops or truck stops to wet the load. Hot colonies and hives can cause comb meltdown, resulting in dead colonies and an economic impact.

Failure to secure a load can cost you money if you are stopped by law enforcement officials. If large hives (3-5 deep boxes) are individually strapped for trips to the mountains it may be necessary to tighten straps during the trip. Large strapped hives can shift during transport opening up bee spaces that can result in a public nuisance. The hives must be properly secured to the vehicle even if the individual hives are strapped.

Safety is a state of mind and continuous effort. Develop a Safety Plan and train your employees regularly.

I wish you many safe and happy miles on the road.

Recipe ...

## Smoked Salmon, marinated in rock salt, lime juice blended with crème fraiche, drizzled with lemon, dill & honey oil dressing

From Michael Young, Northern Ireland, a professional chef and WAS 2003 Conference speaker

Ingredients for 16 portions (Gravadlax beekeepers style)

2 tablespoons sea salt

2 teaspoons light honey

1 teaspoon finely crushed black peppercorns

3 tablespoons lime juice

3 tablespoons lemon juice



1/2 bunch (large) dill

100 ml crème fraiche

Salmon, filleted, with skin (2 lb/ 1 kg)

Smoked salmon without skin (2 lb/ 1 kg)

Dill sprigs, red chard and lime to garnish

(1 lime equals eight wedges)

Prepare the salmon by making thin slices along its full length. Mix together sea salt, sugar, finely crushed peppercorns, and lime juice. Roll out some cling wrap on a flat surface, spread with some chopped dill. Add one-quarter of salt mixture. Lay some salmon slices on. Cover with plenty of dill and sprinkle with more salt mixture. Repeat the process with the remaining salmon. Cover salmon with remaining dill and sprinkle with remaining salt mixture. Sprinkle with the lemon juice. Then completely wrap with plastic.

Place a flat board on top with 2-pound weight and refrigerate, turning occasionally.

Whilst the salmon is in the refrigerator, prepare the smoked salmon by cutting in thin strips (Julienne).

Take a large slice of smoked salmon, lay flat on a chopping board, and with a round cutter, cut a round template out, place to the side. Remove the salmon from the refrigerator and take off the cling film. Cut as the smoked salmon. Place both in a mixing bowl. Add crème fraiche and blend well.

Place the cutter ring in the centre of the plate, fill to the top with the julienne of salmon mixture, pat down firmly, place the circle of salmon on top, make sure it is nice and level. Remove the ring, add a small piece of crème fraiche in the centre, garnish with a fine sprig of dill and red chard. Drizzle around with the citrus and honey oil.

### Citrus & Lemon Oil Dressings

Just add equal amounts of honey and lemon juice and finely chopped dill. Garnish with lime if preferred.

# Hivelights

Is published quarterly by the Canadian Honey Council and features news and articles on beekeeping, new technology and book reviews of interest to both hobbyists and professionals.

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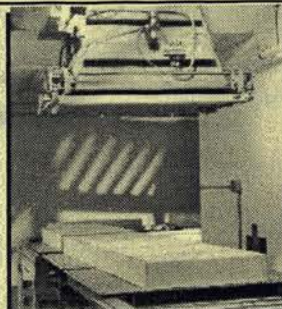
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# Small Hive Beetle in Australia

As reported by Gardner Murray, Australian Chief Veterinary Officer, and Pat Boland, Biosecurity Australia, Canberra, reprinted from February 2003 Hivelights (Canadian Honey Council)

The pest identified as Small Hive Beetle (*aethina tumida*) has been detected in a number of apiaries in Australia, specifically in the states of New South Wales and Queensland. Small hive beetle has not been previously confirmed in Australia.

Affected areas were quarantined and wider surveillance was carried out to determine the extent of the incursion.

Even know the pest is not OIE listed, Australia placed restrictions on exports of live bees to ensure that small hive beetle is absent from any shipments. Export of live bees from restricted or quarantined areas or within 25 km of infested apiaries is not permitted. Before export, pollen and comb honey will be frozen at temperatures of at least -120C for at least 24 hours, which is known to destroy all stages of the beetle.

Australian authorities are doing all within their capacity to limit the spread of this pest and to ensure that exported products such as live bees are free of the insect. *Gardner Murray*

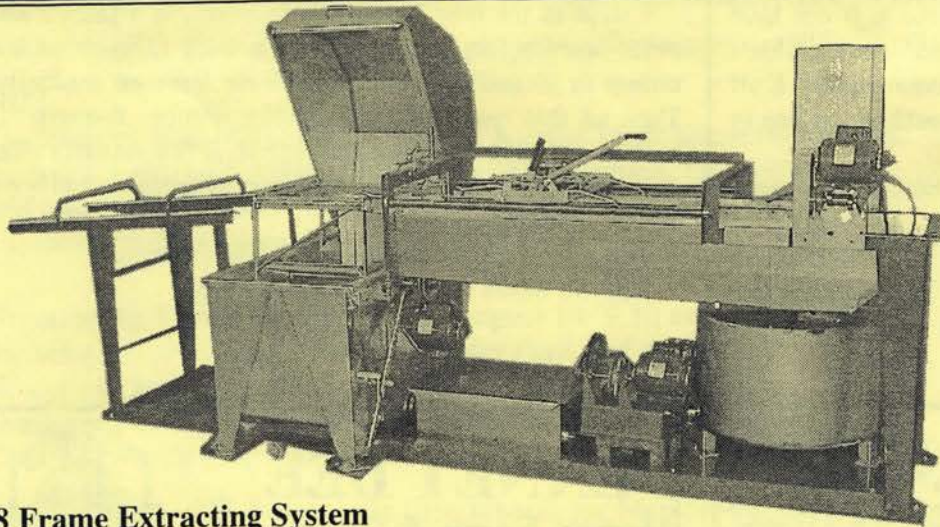
SHB was first discovered in beehives in the Richmond area 40 km west of Sydney NSW and at Beerwah, about 80 km north of Brisbane on Queensland's (Qld) Sunshine Coast. All

other states have been checked and no small hive beetle has been detected.

Both Qld and NSW have undertaken a wider study to ascertain the extent of spread. Intensive attention has been paid to trace forward techniques in order to check out high risk movements including interstate movements. Additionally, beekeepers in NSW and Qld have been given advice on how to check their hives for the beetle and have been sent questionnaires. Some 750 responses indicate the extent of the infestation is limited to the area identified.

The initial outbreak prompted the declaration of restricted or quarantine areas in NSW and Qld. With the decision by the National Emergency Animal Disease Management Groups (NMG) that eradication of the beetle was not feasible, these restrictions have been lifted. In place of eradication, the NMG decided to develop a national strategy to assist beekeepers to manage the pest.

Australia is proposing that exported bees not be sourced from a restricted or quarantined area and that certification be provided that apiaries of origin are not within a 25 km radius of any known infested apiary. *Pat Boland*



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# Just a Box of Bugs

By Bryant Ross, Langley BC

**D**espair, utter despair -- is the best way to describe what I felt at that moment.

There is a disease called "foulbrood" that is the kiss of death to a beekeeper. It appears in a hive and that is the end. Not only does it kill the bees eventually, but it spreads to all the other hives as well. It is incurable and always fatal. By the time you detect it, it is too late. Perversely, the only action a beekeeper can take is to kill the bees and burn the hive.

Today, I opened one of my hives. It was a weak one that I had nurtured through the summer and brought back from the brink of death twice. I could never understand why it wouldn't thrive. Because there were so few bees in it early in the year, I never saw the signs of foulbrood. I re-queened it, and split another colony to strengthen it quickly. I used every trick I knew to keep it alive and help it live.

Today, I opened the brood chamber and got a whiff of the stench of the disease. I had been told about it but never smelled it myself. I had no problem identifying it. Where there should have been beige, healthy, capped brood cells, they were a greasy brown color and sunken, some with little holes chewed in them by workers checking why their little sisters hadn't emerged. Dead brood was seeded through all the frames of comb, and it stank like death. Every indicator was there, but I didn't want to believe it. If one hive had it, the others may very well be infected too. I couldn't check because my equipment was now contaminated. It all had to be cleaned first, and by then it would be too late in the day.

I put the hive together and walked back to my shed, where I took off my suit. I was devastated.

A beehive isn't just a box of bugs. It is an entity. Each bee is the same as the next, but the hive has a personality. Some are gentle, some aggressive, and some are unpre-

dictable. Each colony is a part of me as I am a part of it. I work to anticipate the needs of each hive and give them what they need to work. I watch their growth with the same anticipation and pride as a parent. I learn their idiosyncrasies. I watch them and help them where I can.

Sometimes I sit in the summer sun between the hives and listen to their sound as they fly out and back in a never-ending stream, working, working, working. Sometimes I'll sit beside them at night with my cheek pressed against the wooden boxes. I feel the warmth, listen to the subdued buzz. In the winter, I'll press my ear to the side of the hive to reassure myself that life is still in there. I look daily as the weather warms, for signs of their awakening. I whisper to them in the fall that I will see them when the sun comes again.

Today, I realized that all the work with these hives had been in vain, that they were doomed. All six of the others may be doomed as well. I waited until 11 p.m. and then I went out and sat with them. All the bees were back. The night was cool as I sat there beside the hive. I thanked them for the time we shared and apologized for what I had to do. I stuffed newspaper in the hive entrance and flipped up the top cover, poured a quart of gasoline through the feeder hole and closed the lid.

I wept as the hive sound rose in alarm, to a pitch I had never heard before and dread ever hearing again. It took a minute or so until the tone and volume lessened gradually. Then all that remained was echoing silence. Tomorrow I will go out there and set a match to it. A few minutes after that, all that will remain will be embers, memories and hope for my other hives.

I try to tell myself they're just boxes of bugs.

They're boxes of bugs, but I love them.

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