

W.A.S.

JOURNAL

THE WESTERN APICULTURAL SOCIETY
OF NORTH AMERICA

VOLUME 18 NUMBER 1

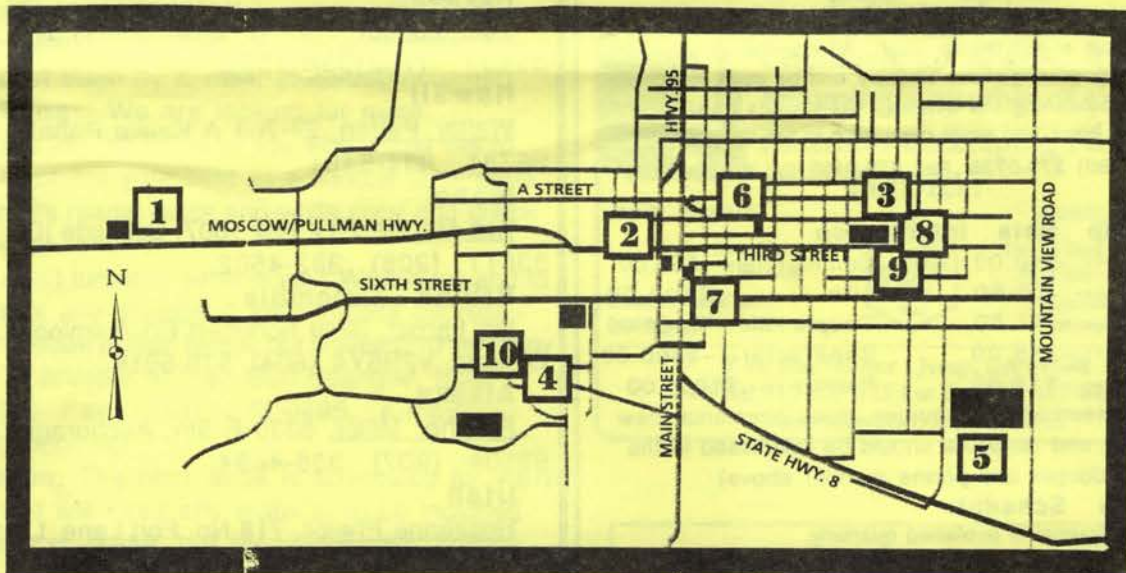
JANUARY 1998

1998 WAS Conference

Moscow, Idaho

University Inn and Conference Center

August 10-13, 1998



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|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Appaloosa Museum | 2. Farmer's Market |
| 3. Fresh Air Concerts | 4. Jazz Festival |
| 5. Latah County Fair | 6. McConnell Mansion |
| 7. Prichard Gallery | 8. Renaissance Faire |
| 9. Rendezvous in the Park | 10. University of Idaho |

**Western Apicultural Society
of North America**

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All membership inquiries, dues payments, new memberships and renewals should be addressed to the treasurer. (Address and phone number above)

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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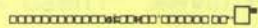
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You can reach W.A.S. (Ron Neese, Treasurer) on the internet at: was@mother.com. If you have any suggestions or ideas about how to use our internet connection to better benefit, send an e-mail note to the above address. The Journal Editor can be reached at burtsbs@nccn.net and items for publication can be submitted by E-mail. Fax is available by appointment only. Call (530) 273 0736.



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. (burtsbs@nccn.net)

Advertising: We are looking for more advertisers too, so those of you who would like to run an ad or just your card as a booster item, send your camera ready black and white copy and check to the editor.


Dues: Don't forget to send in your WAS dues and to notify us of any change in your mailing address-- Send your dues to Ron Neese but please also send any change of address to me. Burt Spangler, (530) 273-0736, Fax (530) 273-0495, e-mail: burtsbs@nccn.net

Next Issue: The next issue is scheduled for **April, 1998** and I will need any material to be included by **April 1st, 1998**, but please get it to me as early as possible but no later than that.

Announcement: 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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Past President's Comments

Boy! The older you get, the faster time flies. It seems like only yesterday that we were visiting Old Tucson and keeping an eye on the thunderstorms in the nearby mountains. I have managed to accomplish one item of unfinished business from the conference. At least ten registrants did not receive a copy of the 1997 WAS Proceedings, because we ran short. I have had more copies printed and you can receive yours by contacting me in one of three ways: Snail Mail - Eric Mussen, Entomology, University of California, One Shields Avenue, Davis, CA 95616-8584 or E-mail - ecmussen@ucdavis.edu or by telephone - (530) 752-0472. Be sure to tell me your complete return mailing address!

We have updated the WAS brochure and you can get a copy from Eric Mussen and use it to recruit new members. Our association is healthy, but it would be more vibrant with some new recruits. It is my understanding that quite a few new hobby beekeepers are starting honey bee colonies for local pollination purposes. That's great! Let's get them into our local clubs and into WAS, the only western region organization with a large annual meeting designed especially for non-commercial beekeepers.

By now you probably have been reading about pockets of tolerance or resistance of American foulbrood to oxytetracycline (Terramycin) and of Varroa mites to fluvalinate (Apistan). The best way to prevent that from happening in your bees is to follow label instructions when using control products. Terramycin should be in the

hives only during times when brood rearing coincides with nectar and pollen dearths. At those times, your strong colonies may be robbing weaker (sick) colonies and bringing back foulbrood-contaminated food. Or they may be digging into food stored months or years ago when foulbrood was active in your own hives. These are normally early spring and early fall phenomena. Those are the ONLY times that Terramycin should be in the hives (NOT in the summer; NOT in the winter).

This information pertains to "extender patties" as well as to dust (powdered sugar) applications. Obviously, if the patties are going to last 30 days, then you have to add three times as much Terramycin as you would for a dusting that lasts only ten days. (If your patties last more than 30 days, then you are not rolling them real thin, like a crepe, and applying them right into the heart of the brood nest.) "Grease patties" can be used year 'round to interfere with tracheal mite reproduction, but "extender patties" (with Terramycin) should NOT be used during summer or winter.

Similar guidelines cover the use of Apistan. The most effective time to use the strips is from mid-August to October, when your "winter" bees are being reared. If they are parasitized as pupae, they will not make it through the winter. If you see Varroa mites in the brood in the spring, then a six-week or less treatment should get you through to the fall. The strips should NOT be left in the hives over winter or all during the spring. Resistance is directly related to exposure to the treatment material - greater exposure =

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earlier resistance.

How about the essential oils and herbal treatments? Well, there may be some that work well, but I don't know of any. The following is a quote from the December 1997 issue of the Apiary Inspectors of America Newsletter. The excerpt is part of the "State Report" of Virginia. "Of major concern to the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Virginia beekeepers is the advertising of illegal mite treatments through direct mailings and the internet. In Virginia, all formulations of formic acid and, so called, "natural and safe herbal or mint products" are illegal. In fact, current research at Virginia Tech is showing that treatment levels of these products sufficient to control mite populations are also causing decreased egg laying by the queen, increased egg and brood mortality, and decrease in adult bee life span. Attempted queen supercedure (sic) results in an increase in queenlessness and laying workers. Field observations by our Virginia bee inspectors support these research findings."

What this tells us is to use what is registered until there is proof that alternatives work, that their dosage rates are worked out, and that their use is registered both nationally (EPA) and in your state or province.

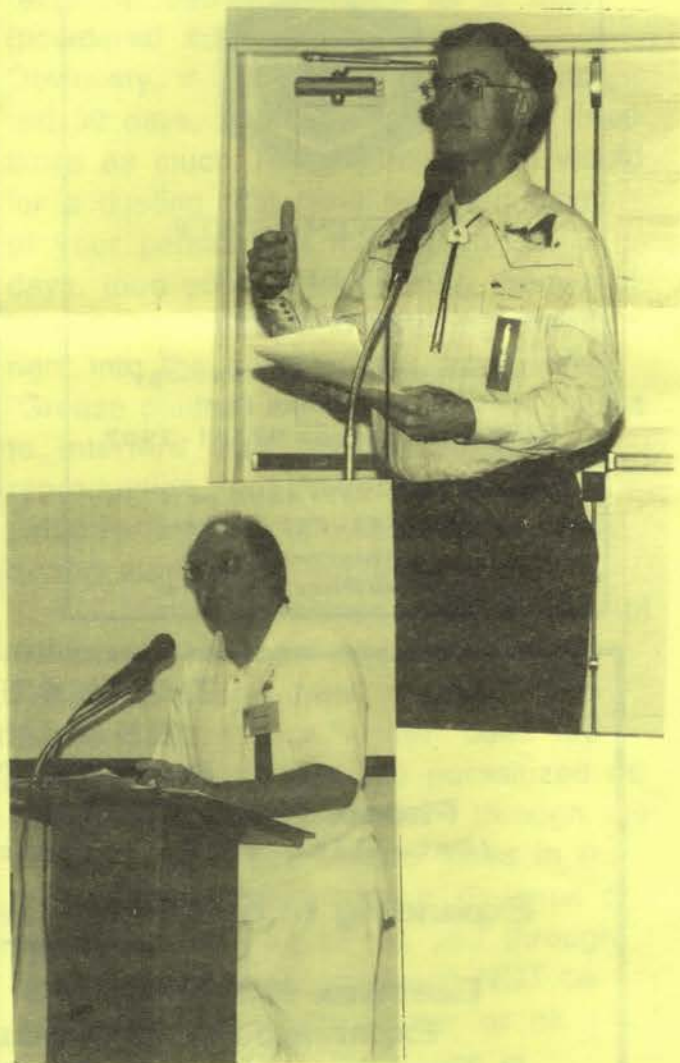
Remember the door prizes at the Tucson meeting? There were so many that we ran through the prize numbers more than once. That was your doing. We had member and guests from all over collecting and contributing door prizes for us.

Please do that again! It really perks up the meeting. And don't forget

the silent auction and live auction items, either. Those two auctions are our only real fund raisers. Our dues barely cover the cost of the WAS Journal. Keep up the good work. Your contributions have been wonderful. Thanks, Eric.

IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF THE DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS WHO HAVE ACCESS TO "E MAIL" WOULD SEND THEIR "E MAIL" ADDRESSES TO THE EDITOR. THIS CAN BE DONE BY "E MAIL" TO: burtsbs@nccn.net

Wasn't Tucson Great!!



Kim Flottum and Eric Mussen were feature speakers at Tucson.

PRESIDENT'S WINTER MESSAGE

Greetings from the snow covered Palouse hills of eastern Washington. With temperatures in the single digits at night the bees are quiet, with their fate resting on the adequacy of our winter preparation. The longer nights also provide an opportunity for reading and reflection. Having an interest in the history of New World colonization by honey bees, I recently found myself looking through the 1915 edition of "Beekeeping" by E. F. Phillips. As anyone who wanders through old bee books knows, part of the pleasure comes from detours caused by unexpected finds of some historical tidbit of beekeeping information. Thus, my attention wandered to a map in the book that depicted nationwide distribution of honey bee colonies by state and county based on the 1910 census. The total number of managed colonies in the US was over 3.4 million in 1910. Estimates of the number of honey bee colonies currently being managed in the US. are just under 3 million.

We can only guess at the size of the feral honey bee population in 1910. However, it must have been substantial, given the relatively few pesticides that were in use (or even known) at the time, the absence of urban sprawl and other impacts from our human population and the blissful absence of tracheal and Varroa mites. The current population of feral honey bees is also a mystery although, by most accounts, it declined in the past decade as a consequence of parasitic mites. A decline in our feral population may explain the results of a summer project conducted by two WSU

students. Intending to genetically characterize feral bees of Washington State, the students mailed out 350 questionnaires in 1997 to beekeepers, and city, state and national park managers within WA, asking for information regarding the location of feral honey bee colonies from which to collect samples. They did not receive a single positive response! In contrast, with a similar questionnaire to various states in the early 1990's, we were able to determine the locations of some 700 feral colonies throughout the southern US.

In 1910 there were 1,380,000 colonies west of the Mississippi and 3,445,000 in the eastern US. Colony numbers for the western states included 6,000 in Montana, 4,600 in Wyoming and less than 500 in North Dakota. Missouri (203,600) had more colonies than California (201,000)! How times have changed...not only for bees, but also for people. For example, while the number of managed colonies declined between 1910 - 1998, the US population increased from 92 million to 268 million. Thus, using fewer managed colonies than existed in 1910 and without benefit of feral "assistance", beekeepers in 1998 are involved in an agricultural system that feeds three times as many mouths! Where will we be in another 88 years?

WAS Conference 1998 update

The 1998 Annual WAS Conference will be held from August 10 -13 in Moscow, Idaho. The location is at the junction of the mountains of west central Idaho and the rolling Palouse hills of southeastern Washington. The

Snake River is 20 miles away and nearby attractions include Hell's Canyon, where the river slices through a gorge one and a half times deeper than the Grand Canyon, Kamiak and Steptoe Buttes, where billion year old granite domes tower above the Palouse wheat fields, and myriad other scenic rivers, lakes, mountains and geological attractions. However, for those craving the real outdoors, a two hour drive places you at the edge of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. Here you can camp and walk more than a hundred miles eastward to Montana before encountering another road. Moscow, ID and Pullman, WA are situated 8 miles from each other and are home the University of Idaho and Washington State University, respectively. Pullman and Moscow offer the cultural advantages of having two major universities in juxtaposed small town settings. Saturday farmers' markets, the National Lentil festival, summer music festivals and other local activities abound. Both towns have excellent "pedestrian friendly" downtown areas with antique malls, used book stores, theaters, craft shops and farm implement dealers. Bus service runs regularly between the two towns for a very nominal charge (senior citizens free, others less than \$2).

The Venue

The venue for the conference will be the University Inn and Conference Center (Best Western) of Moscow. It is located directly across from the University of Idaho on the Moscow-Pullman road. The meeting room/exhibit hall facilities are exactly to our specifications and the overall facility

has numerous amenities for a pleasurable stay including (but not limited to...) a pool, Jacuzzi, sauna, exercise room, two bars, a 24-hour cafe, a restaurant, and central courtyard. Room rates will be comparable to the 1997 Tucson conference. Next to the University Inn is a shopping mall (largest in the area) and we are assured that self-contained RV owners can use the Mall parking lot next to the Inn during their stay. An RV park with full hook-ups is on the south edge of town (3-4 miles). Numerous shops and restaurants are within walking distance, including the "Treaty Grounds" - Moscow's local brewpub serving "Pullman Red" and "Moscow Gold". The WSU teaching apiary is located nearby (6 miles) for some hands on activities with bees. Potential side trips include taking a jet boat up the Snake River for a Hell's Canyon tour and lunch, rafting down the Snake, Grand Ronde or other rivers, a Kamiak Butte picnic, digging for garnets at the Emerald Creek Garnet area, tour of a glass-blowing studio in Garfield, and others. More details on possible extracurricular activities will follow in the next WAS Journal.

Travel

For those of you unfamiliar with this region, airline connections are available through three means: The Pullman-Moscow airport (3 miles) is served by 19 daily Horizon/Alaska Air commuter flights. Service to nearby Lewiston, Idaho (30 miles) can be had via Horizon and Delta Express (flights to Lewiston are sometimes less expensive than to Pullman). Finally, Spokane International airport (80

miles) is served by a large number of carriers. The University Inn will provide complimentary transportation to and from the Moscow/Pullman airport.

The Program

The Program is shaping up nicely. The intention is to have a mix of topics that will be of interest to members. Several scientists have already committed to speak and discuss research topics including new methods of mite control, honey bee breeding for resistance, and on going importations of honey bee stocks. Dr. Cristina Arias, from the University of Sao Paulo (Brazil) will be in attendance to present her research on honey bee genetics and update us on the beekeeping situation in Brasil 40 years after the arrival of AHB. A commercial beekeeper will describe the organizational challenges of maintaining a large scale pollination-honey operation. Much more to come-- watch for further details of the Program in the next WAS Journal. -- Walter S Sheppard, President.

To reach Steve try the following address:

Walter S. Sheppard
Associate Professor
Thurber Chair
Washington State University
Pullman WA 99164-6382
shepp@mail.wsu.edu

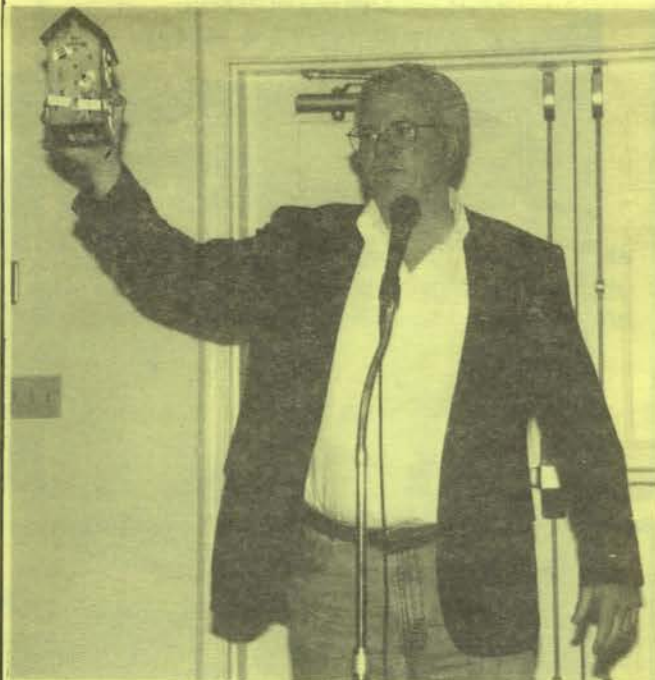
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If you would like more information about the Moscow area, call MOSCOW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, 800-380-1801, or write to them at: 411 S. Main, Moscow, ID 83843

More from Tucson



Dr. Eric Erickson was our host



Jim Tew does a little auctioneering.

The Africanized bees were a bunch of pussycats while we were there in the heat of an Arizona afternoon, but the people who worked them regularly said we would find a different situation earlier in the day.

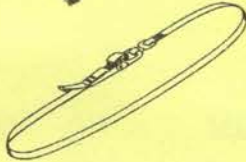
I think they were just overwhelmed by all those tightly suited beekeepers decending on them all at once.



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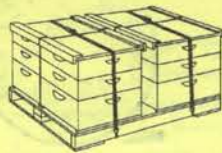
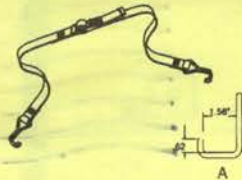
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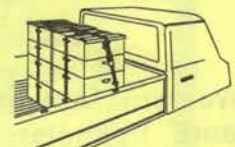
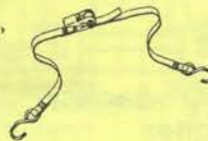
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