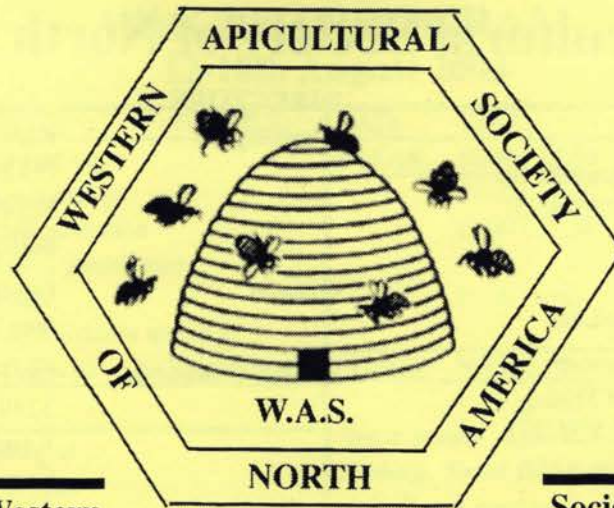


Summer 2003

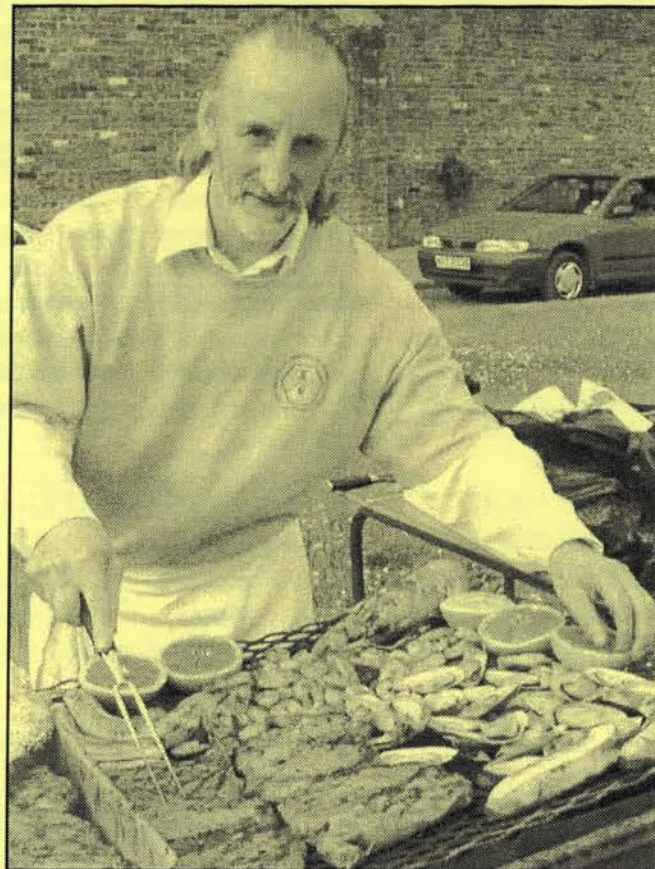


The Journal of the Western

Society of North America

Apicultural

Special guest speaker at the WAS conference in Burnaby will be Michael Young, of Belfast, Northern Ireland. Michael is a professional chef as well as a beekeeper and involved in the Irish beekeeping association. He will be talking about the beekeeping industry in England and Ireland, as well as encaustic painting, a form of creative artwork using molten wax colors.



Shown here is Michael's fabulous "Honey for the Barbee" barbecue dinner. Space doesn't allow us to print the entire article with all the recipes, but it will all be available at the conference. See page 11 for a couple of delicious teasers. The menu includes the three recipes we had room for plus Honey Smoked Mackerel with a Crispy Sesame Seed Crust, Green Lipped Mussels and Tiger Prawns with Lemon and Honey Dressing, Wilted Dandelion Leaves infused with fresh Mint and a Honey & Garlic Vinaigrette and, for dessert, Ripe Bananas, roasted in their skins, stewed inside with Fresh Flower Honey, infused with Mead or Brandy!

W.A.S. Conference 2003
Simon Fraser University, Burnaby B.C.
August 12 - 16

Western Apicultural Society of North America

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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.

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WAS 2003 PROGRAM

12-16th August 2003

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	DETAILS	DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	DETAILS	
Tues 12th	1 pm	Exhibitors set-up		BREAK	10.00 - 10.30			
		Silent auction set-up			10.30 - 11.00	Intricacies of Pollination	Don Dixon	
	3 pm	Exhibits open/Registration			11.00 - 11.30	It is a honey of a business	John Gibeau	
		SFU guided tour/Self guided tour			11.30 - noon	Where do Bees Go for Their Groceries?	Steve Mitchell	
		Lab tour						
	5-6 pm	Delegates meeting/Directors meeting		LUNCH	Noon-1.15			
	7 pm	Bee Buzz Social	Video clips		1.15 - 2.45	WAS OLYMPICS		
DINNER	On your own				<i>Timed smoker lighter competition, Timed frame nailing, Swarm catching, Timed filling queen cages with bees, Grafting competition, Queen marking</i>			
Wed 13th	7.30 am.	Registration		BREAK	2.45 - 3.15			
	8.00 am	Exhibits open			3.15 - 5.00	BEE BEARDS	Steve Mitchell & Heather Higo	
	8.20 am.	Door Prizes			DINNER	On your own		
	8.30 - 8.40	Introduction and welcome	Jaquie Bunse		Sat 16th	7.30 - 10am	Registration	
	8.40 - 9.00	Welcome to SFU SFU Research Overview	Mark Winston			8.00	Exhibits open	
9.00 - 10.00	Beekeeping in Ireland& the UK	Michael Young	8.20	Door prizes				
			8.30 - 2.45	SHORT COURSES				
			8.30 - 10.00	Successful Techniques with Mason Bees		Margriet Dogterom		
BREAK	10.00 - 10.30				8.30 - 10.00	Encaustic Painting	Michael Young	
	10.30 - 11.15	Writing about Bees	Mark Winston		8.30 - 10.00	Soap & Candle Making	Roger Clapham	
	11.15 - Noon	All about the Small Hive Beetle	Eric Mussen	BREAK	10.00 - 10.30			
LUNCH	10.00 - 10.30				10.30 - Noon	Varroa Management & Resistant Testing	Steve Pernal	
	10.30 - 11.15	Writing about Bees	Mark Winston		10.30 - Noon	The Nitty Gritty of Grafting	Steve Mitchell	
	11.15 - Noon	All about the Small Hive Beetle	Eric Mussen		10.30 - Noon	Not Just Honey	Ron-Huarong Lin	
LUNCH	Noon-1.15 pm			LUNCH	Noon - 1.15			
	1.15 - 2.00	Bees Wax - from the bee hive to the store	Roger Clapham		1.15 - 2.45	Disease Lab	Steve & Heather	
	2.00 - 2.45	Making Mead & Preparing Honey	Michael Young		1.15 - 2.45	Encaustic Painting	Michael Young	
BREAK	2.45 - 3.15				1.15 - 2.45	Wild Bee Identification	Claudia Ratti	
	3.15 - 3.40	Do Bumble Bees Drift Between Colonies?	Anna Birmingham		1.15 - 2.45	How to Evaluate Good Queens, Good Colonies	Jim Bach	
	3:40 - 4.05	Queens & Workers	Shelley Hoover	BREAK	2.45 - 3.15			
	4.05 - 4.30	Wild Bees in Cranberry & Blueberry Fields	Claudia Ratti		3.15 - 5.00	Tricks of the Trade	Panel	
	4.30 - 4.55	Foraging is Altered with Nosema Disease	Ron-Huarong Lin	BANQUET	6 - 8pm	AWARDS BANQUET		
DINNER	On your own					How to make Mead	Michael Young	
Thur 14th	TOURS	Bee tour or Sightseeing tour				Mead Tasting and Mead Award		
DINNER	SALMON BARBECUE					Silent Auction Awards		
Fri 15th	7.30 am	Registration				Beekeeping Award		
	8.00 am	Exhibits open						
	8.20 am	Door Prizes						
	8.30 am	Welcome						
	8.30 - 9.15	Colony Behaviour - Choosing Your Queen	Jim Bach					
	9.15 - 10.00	American Foulbrood & what we can do about it	Steve Pernal					

Directions to Simon Fraser University Campus and Burnaby Cariboo RV Resort

From USA Interstate 5 – Take exit 275 (Commercial/truck border crossing) onto HWY 15. From Hwy 15 go West on Hwy 1. Take Exit 37 (Gagardi) and follow it up the hill to SFU Campus. The Information Booth staff are very helpful if you need directions.

Turn right at the light, then left at the next light for BCRV. The next right turn is Cariboo Place – BCRV.

From Blaine – Take the first exit on right, Hwy 99A, stay right, direction "Cloverdale/Hope" on Campbell River Road. Turn left onto Hwy 15. From Hwy 15 go west on Hwy 1. Take Exit 37 as above.

From Hwy. 99 - Go to King George Hwy (Hwy. 99A) which becomes McBride Blvd. after crossing the Patullo Bridge. Turn right on 10th Ave., then left onto Cariboo Road (watch for Cariboo Road sign on left side). When you have gone over top of Hwy 1, follow Cariboo Road to:

For SFU: Gagardi Way. Follow signs up the hill to the campus, parking, accommodations etc.

For BCRV: Follow Cariboo Road to the right. The next right turn is Cariboo Place – BCRV.

From Hwy. 1 West or East bound – Take Exit 37 (Gagardi) and follow it up the hill to SFU Campus, or turn right at the light, then left at the next light for BCRV.


From Vancouver International Airport – Full line of rental cars and limos available.

Public Transit (bus) to SFU – Proceed to Domestic Arrivals – take bus #424 to Airport Station. Runs every 8 to

15 min. Transfer to #98 Burrard Station. Arrive at Granville Street – walk up to Hastings Street and take west-bound #135 SFU. Runs every 10 – 15 minutes. Last bus to SFU runs at 1:40 am.



Simon Fraser University

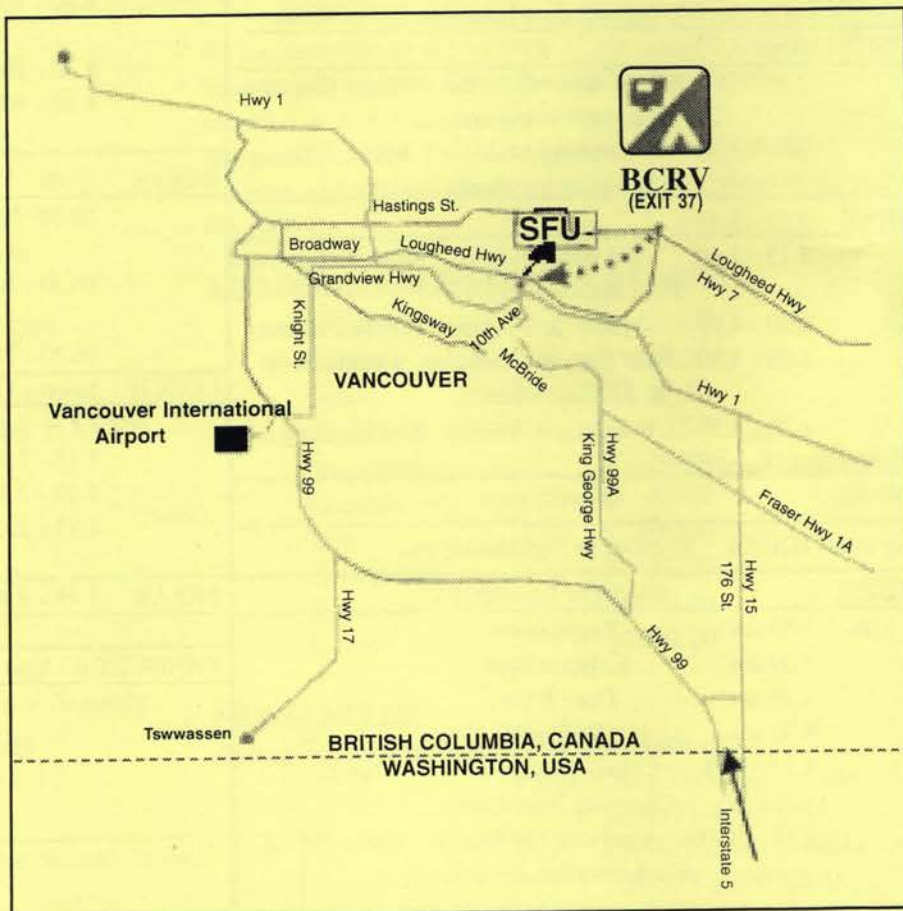


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President's Invitation

by Jaquie Bunse

Come See Bees in B.C.!

The silver is being polished, the best dishes, funniest bee jokes and the sunshine are all being readied for your arrival at WAS 2003. Simon Fraser University is not only beautiful, but it is home to Dr. Mark Winston and his team of bee people. Together they have, over the years, produced some leading research now positively affecting our food production in blueberries, cranberries, tree fruits, and greenhouses among many other studies.

Dr. Winston is our sponsor for the conference, and is keeping a close eye out to ensure that you will benefit from much timely information and a whole lot of fun as well! While you are here, don't forget to take a guided or self-guided tour of the campus and take in the scenery from this top o' the world location. The catering staff at Ravens will be opening early to be sure you have a good breakfast to start your busy day, and they are working on menus for the West Coast Barbeque as well as the Awards Dinner to delight your palate.

The SFU bees have been at charm school all spring and summer. Don Dixon with Heather Higo and her crew, have assured me the bees are all prepped for the Bee Beards and WAS Olympics on Friday!

Many of our wonderful suppliers will sponsor your refreshment breaks, display their newest and best gadgets and products, and have very kindly donated some wonderful items for the annual Silent Auction. We thank them all sincerely for their very valuable participation in WAS 2003. Do come prepared to find the whatzit, (just what you always needed) and a special gift for that beekeeper unable to make it to the conference this year.

Daily parking for WAS registrants is discounted to \$3.00 per day. Passes will be in the registration packages.

Tour Day, August 14, will be a pleasant opportunity to visit new and old friends during the tours, stretch your legs a bit

while seeing the sights, and let the driver handle the roads! You may choose the Beekeepers Tour into the Fraser Valley, with stops at Honeyview Farm, Minter Gardens, and the Fort Winery. A commercial beekeeper will show you his operation and discuss how it has evolved over 30 or more years. Provincial

Apiarist, Paul van Westendorp, will entertain you with interesting gems of information during the ride, and answer any of your questions regarding the crops dependent upon BC honey bees, the challenges of keeping bees in the southwest corner of the province, and lead you to the wine tasting table!

If you have had enough bee talk for a few hours, then perhaps the sightseeing tour around Vancouver is for you. Folks will enjoy world famous Stanley Park, the ocean views, our unique downtown neighbourhoods, and a visit to Capilano Suspension Bridge, in operation on the North Shore for many years. You will have some time to shop at Park Royal Centre, have a leisurely lunch and then ride back to Simon Fraser University to enjoy the Barbeque.

Dr. Margriet Dogterom has been searching around the globe for our talented slate of speakers, and we are certain that you will learn from them and one another during the lectures, and of course you'll have lots of good stuff to do during the workshops on Saturday.

Bring along four jars of honey to trade with others from another area. There will be time set aside during the conference for trading.

Please join us at Simon Fraser University for a "B C Bee Experience" at the Western Apicultural Society Conference.



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Dr. Carl Johansen

The western beekeeping industry was saddened to hear of the death of Dr. Carl A. Johansen, long-time entomologist for Washington State University. A memorial service was held in Couer d'Alene, Idaho on July 13th. Carl is survived by his wife, Ruth, four children, four stepchildren, nine grandchildren and thirteen great grandchildren.

After a WWII army career that saw him decorated several times, Carl attended WSU where he earned both his B.S. and M.S. in Entomology, then his PhD at Cornell University in 1952. His areas of specialization were bee research, environmental toxicology (bee poi-

soning), pollination and integrated pollinator and pest management.

His love for music was widely known and he enjoyed playing his tuba while joining in with family and friends. Both Carl and Ruth were members of the band "The Snake River Six" for many years while they lived in Pullman, WA.

Donations in Carl's memory can be made to Hospice of North Idaho, 9493 N. Government Way, Hayden, ID 83835 or the Roger D. Akre and Carl A. Johansen Scholarship Fund, c/o Rebecca Redinger, Entomology Dept., WSU, PO Box 646382-FSHN 166, Pullman WA 99164-6382.

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Dixon Awarded Outstanding Service to Beekeeping from Western Apicultural Society

Don Dixon will receive the 2003 Outstanding Service to Beekeeping Award from the Western Apicultural Society at their annual August meeting, held this year at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada. The award recognizes his 25 years of service to the beekeeping industry while Provincial Apiarist with Manitoba Agriculture following completion of his M.Sc. research under the supervision of Dr. Cam Jay at the University of Manitoba in 1978.

Don's dedication and commitment to the development and promotion of the beekeeping industry locally, nationally and internationally have left an admirable legacy.

Throughout his career he has maintained a strong level of participation in several beekeeping industry and professional associations. He was the Secretary of the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association (MBA) from 1978 - 2003 and was active on many MBA committees, including the Chairman of the Organizing Committee for the Annual Convention. He also participated on numerous Canadian Honey Council Committees and was the Acting Secretary/Treasurer of CHC in 1981/82.

Don has been a strong participant in the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists (CAPA) and was a member of the CAPA Executive for several years, including 2 terms as President from 1985-1990. He also represented the CAPA on several international committees including the Tri-Country Committee on Africanized Bees and Parasitic Mites which, during the 1980's organized several symposia for beekeepers in Mexico, the U.S. and Canada as well as worked on developing coordinated prevention and control strategies for both Africanized bees and parasitic mites.

As the Chairman of the Organizing Committee for the Apimondia '99 Congress, Don was instrumental in bringing this international beekeeping Congress to Vancouver and for making it one of the best beekeeping meetings ever held. It was attended by approximately 3000 participants and a significant profit from the Congress was provided to the Canadian beekeeping industry to support future research and development activities. Don's reputation as a conference organizer has gained him international recognition and his skills in this area have been sought by many professional beekeeper and entomology associations.

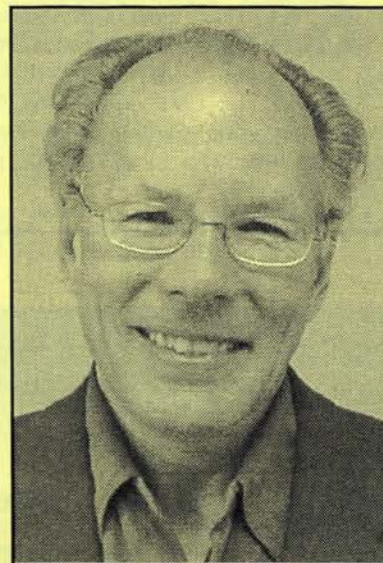
Over his career, Don has been a tireless supporter of beekeeping extension and education. He has lectured on numerous aspects of beekeeping throughout Canada and the U.S. and has worked on several beekeeping development programs in India, Sri Lanka and the Philippines. Don has co-instructed the University of Manitoba, Introduction to Beekeeping Course for 27 years and has lectured at numerous commercial beekeeping courses in Manitoba and at the University of Guelph and Simon Fraser University. He has contributed to numerous beekeeping publications, including being the primary editor of the first edition of the CAPA publication on Honey Bee Diseases and Pests. This publication has since gone through numerous updated revisions and printings, has been translated from English into two other languages and has sold tens of thousands of copies throughout North America and the world.

The timing of the WAS award is most fitting, since Dixon was appointed to the position of Director, Soils and Crops Branch, Manitoba Agriculture and Food in June 2003.

Don previously received numerous awards and recognitions for outstanding contribution and service to the beekeeping industry, including the MBA - Bee Hive Award and the CHC - Fred Rathje Memorial Award. It is with pleasure that WAS recognizes the accomplishments of this extraordinary contributor to our industry, whose accomplishments, honesty, integrity, sense of humor, and respect for the dignity of others have earned him this most deserved honor.

For further information contact:

Jaquie Bunse, President
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Email: bunsebee@telus.net
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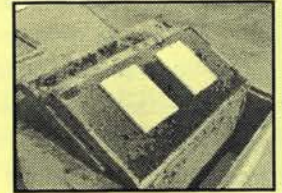
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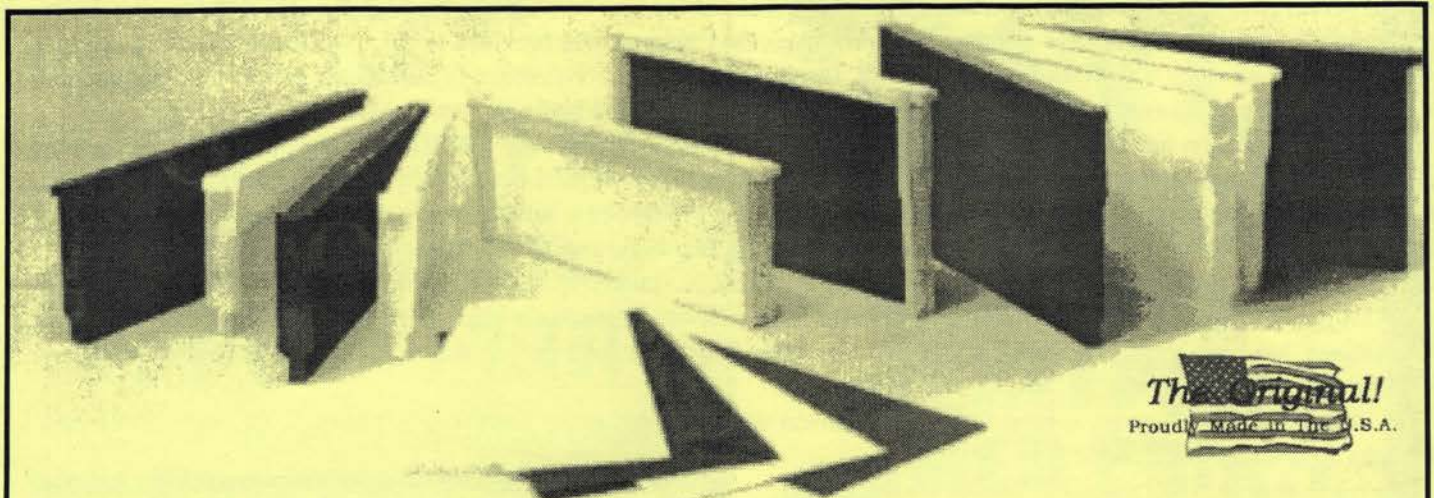
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Experiencing Bee Loss - What To Do

By James Bach

Estimate the severity of the loss:

Slight: a few scattered dead bees (25 - 100) in front of the hive. Can't see any impact on bee colony size. Not economic unless it is repeated several times.

Moderate: 1 to 2 pounds of dead bees (1-2 combs covered with bees) dead in front of the hive March - July. Bees are 1 or 2 deep within a foot of the hive landing board. Colony is smaller, foraging bees are depleted. Bees are able to cover brood. Some colonies have more dead bees than others. Economic loss is \$25 - \$50/hive.

Severe: 4 or more pounds of dead bees (4+ combs covered with bees) in front of the hive. Several bees deep tapering 2+ feet in front of landing board. Usually all colonies in apiary affected. Colony is 4 or more combs smaller than it should be. Not enough bees to cover brood area. 10 to 25% of queens are not laying and/or missing. May lose up to 100% of queens. Economic loss is \$75 - \$125/hive, sometimes more.

- Call your Department of Agriculture Pesticide Compliance office to report the loss or ask for an investigation, your insurance company, and your State or Provincial Apiarist.

- Gather at least a pint sample of fresh (still moist - VERY IMPORTANT) dead bees in a ziploc bag or jar and put it in your freezer if you want them analyzed by a private lab. Document date, location, collector's name and suspected pesti-

cide or cause of loss.

- If you are trapping pollen, collect it and save in a plastic bag or jar in your freezer. It may be contaminated.

- Take distance photos of apiary, of dead bees in front of hives and close-up of size and shape of dead bee piles in front of several hives. Also take photos of colony in hive, dead bees on the bottom board, lack of bees covering brood.

- Do not move bee hives until an investigation is completed. The compliance investigator will want to take his own samples.

- Have a disinterested third party verify the loss with you. A County Extension agent, your insurance rep, your attorney or a private crop consultant are all ideal.

- Document apiary location, date and time of discovery, temperature, neighboring crops being foraged by bees, pesticide application method if known, date of last visit to apiary, previous management activities from apiary logs and your assessment of loss severity.

- Ask grower(s) (very nicely) what pesticides were used.

- Ask applicators (extremely nicely) what pesticides were applied and when. Compliance investigators have authority to get a copy of their records.

Report the loss IMMEDIATELY if you will want to have the bees analyzed for pesticides. Documentation is important if you want to take legal action.



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By Michael Young, Belfast, Ireland

GRAPEFRUIT JAMAICA

A real hot classic. So simple and no work involved here, but truly elegant. Just cut grapefruit in half and remove the flesh. Cut out the segments and place them back into the hollowed skin. Douse with honey and Sweet Mead. Wrap in foil and place on the barbecue open face up. Or find a warm spot at the end of the barbecue and cook slowly without the foil. This dish is best served with a little Reggae music.

CHICKEN SUPREME MARINATED IN LEMON JUICE, SOY SAUCE, HONEY, A SPLASH OF MEAD

4 chicken breasts 2 tablespoons Mead or Sherry
1 egg white 1 teaspoon soy sauce
Finely grated rind of 1 lemon, Juice of the lemon
3 tablespoons vegetable oil 2 teaspoons honey

In a bowl, beat egg white until frothy. Mix in lemon rind, mead, oil, lemon juice, soy sauce and honey. Place the chicken in the marinade and cover with cling film. Put in the refrigerator and rest over night.

Remove excess liquid off the chicken, place the chicken on the barbecue and cook both sides gently until golden brown. Place into the roasting tray, and finish off the cooking to make sure the chicken is cooked right through. No salmonella here!

CARAMELIZED HONEY YAMS/SWEET POTATOES

This is all for my vegetarian beekeeping friends. Just lightly brush them with a mixture of warm butter/oil and honey and place them whole on the barbecue. Cook slowly, keep turning them until they are soft to touch. They will become caramelized and black. This is the idea. Once cooked, peel gently with your finger. Once tasted they should light up your eyes!

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New Developments with Formic Acid

By David Vander Dussen, NOD Apiary Products, Stirling Ontario

Frustrating formic. Why bother looking at it? It is well known that it can kill both varroa and tracheal mites, but the problems!

Inconsistent results. Brood damage. Queen kill. Time consuming multiple applications. Highly corrosive, dangerous to handle. Illegal in the US except as Apicure, which is not on the market anyway.

NOD Apiary Products Ltd was founded by beekeepers in Ontario, Canada, to consider the list above as barriers to overcome, not as stop signs. The Canadian government has given the beekeeping community a temporary use Scheduling, known as C94-05, of reagent grade formic acid. This allowed the Ontario Beekeepers Association (OBA) tech transfer scientist Dr. Medhat Nasr to develop the Mite-Away Single Application Formic Acid Pads and led to its manufacture in 1997 by NOD Apiary Products.

The Miteaway pad was developed to be viable for the commercial beekeeper. Multiple application schedules, requiring six applications four days apart to control varroa mites, had proven almost impossible to maintain. The single application method was adopted within three years by 85% of the beekeepers in Ontario using formic acid.

The Miteaway pad had problems Temperatures had to be monitored and, in cold springs, a second trip to the bee yard would be required at the two week mark to put three slits in the top of the pouch. It didn't give very good varroa mite kill in the fall, so it wasn't recommended for fall use. The bees often propolized over the micro-perf holes in the pouches before the treatments were completed. On top of that, there had been enough problems with formic acid that Health Canada (PMRA) informed the beekeeping industry it was going to remove permission to use it unless a documented application method was registered!

NOD Apiary Products had already been developing changes to the Miteaway pad. In conjunction with the OBA tech transfer program and scientist Allison Skinner, field trials were run to document efficacy and hive health with the new developments. In warm weather conditions, excellent results were obtained for both single and double brood chambers. There were no problems with queens or hive health. Warm weather conditions are considered to be days with highs in the 55 to 80° F range, spring or fall. Cool weather conditions, highs in the 40 to 55° F range, showed excellent results for single brood chamber colonies, but poor for double brood chamber colonies.

These changes to the Mite-Away pad meant that formic acid could be applied effectively to colonies under a far wider range of conditions, spring and fall, and with just one trip to the bee

yard. This second generation of the Miteaway pad was renamed the Miteaway II.

The US beekeeping industry is facing low varroa kill efficacy, even from the organophosphate chemical family with CheckMite+! Hives are dying, or struggling to survive. Our work in Canada caught the attention of Dr. Patti Elzen from the Weslaco USDA Bee Lab. In August 2002, she visited one of our bee yard field trial sites, to see if our Miteaway II could be used under southern US conditions.

Dr. Elzen has set up some initial Miteaway II efficacy trials in Florida with David Westervelt, and other trials are being set up in the Weslaco area, to monitor hive health as well as efficacy.

Can Miteaway II formic acid application technology save the North American beekeeping industry? Formic acid doesn't give the >99% control that Apistan and CheckMite+ initially did. However, there is no known way for the mite to develop resistance to formic acid and, combined with SMR queens, Miteaway should give the control required to have a healthy beekeeping industry. Even the organic farming community approves of formic acid!

Registration for Miteaway II, a pre-charged, ready-to-use formic acid pad, has gone to PMRA and the EPA. These registration processes will take some time. In Canada, Miteaway II will be sold under the umbrella of C94-05. In the US, beekeepers can ask their State Apiarist to apply for a Section 18 Emergency Registration.

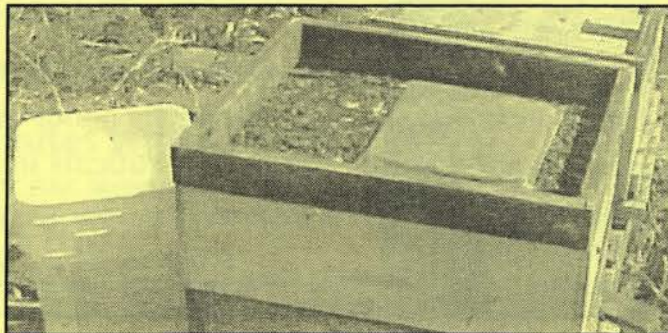
For more information about Miteaway II, check out the website at <http://www.miteaway.com>

Resources

Mites of the Honey Bee, edited by T. Webster and K. Delaplane, Dadant and Sons Inc. 2001. Health Canada Pest Management Regulatory Agency Document C94-05. For a copy, type C94-05 in a web search engine.

The Sting, volume 18, no. 5.

David Vander Dussen can be reached at NOD Apiary Products Ltd., PO Box 142, Stirling, Ontario, Canada K0K 3E0, 613-395-4257, email: riverval@kos.net

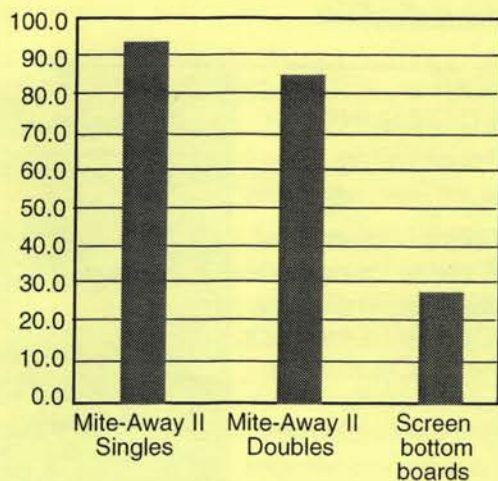


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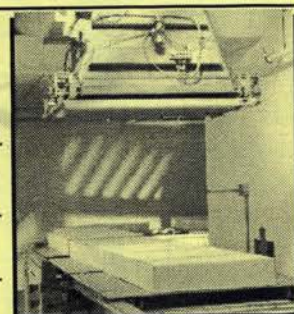
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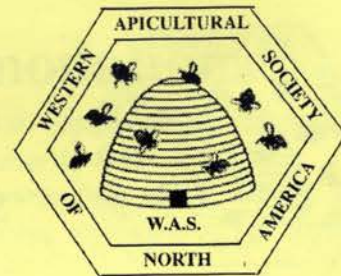
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