

August 2011



Visit the WAS website at groups.ucanr.org/WAS/

Aloha! Latest news from Hawaii

ALOHA. The WAS 2011 annual conference is getting close! In 2 months we hope to see you in beautiful Hawaii. We are very impressed with the line of speakers and current topics which are included in this Journal. You can also access them on our website http://groups.ucanr.org/WAS/Conference_Information/Conference_Details.htm -- be sure to refresh to get the latest version.

We hope to see all of you in Paradise and if you haven't made plans yet there are still great room rates. Don't miss this opportunity to join us and relax in Hawaii, this only happens every 15 years!

Registration and Lodging

Early discount registration ends August 10th. So please take advantage this price which is also refundable. Please send your registration to Jim Bach ASAP.

Do not miss the opportunity to stay at this 4 star resort. To make reservations call the Hotel directly at (866) 774-6236 and specify you are part of the WAS conference to get the discount rate.

Program

Our program was made possible by Jennifer Bach, of Bee Love Apiaries and the director of the Honey Bee Education Program and Cary Dizon, President of the Big Island Beekeepers Association and our conference coordinator. We have a wide range of speakers covering various current beekeeping topics and various panel discussions. We are very impressed with our list of speakers. Please take a look at the current program in this journal (see page11). We thank our speakers for going the distance (3000 miles+) to give us their presentations!



Western Apicultural Society of North America

2010 - 2011 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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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.

2 August 2011

Excursions

On the third day of the Conference (Wednesday, September 14), we offer a choice of two excursions; a Captain Cook excursion and a Hamakua Coast excursion. The highlight of the Captain Cook excursion will be a presentation by Kona Queens on their queen bee raising operation. This will take place at Honaunau National Historical Park, a place of considerable cultural significance in and of itself. The highlights of the Hamakua Coast tour will be Bee Love Apiary in Papa'aloa and Volcano Island Honey Company in Honoka'a. Bee Love Apiary is an example of natural beekeeping island style and Volcano Island Honey Company is known for its creamy, white, organic, Keawe honey and commitment to values based business practices.

Post-conference Workshops

On Friday, September 16, following the last day of the Conference, Larry Connor will be offering a Master Class at Ka Hana No'eau farm near Hawi. The farm is only 20 miles from the Conference site. The topic is a timely one, "Rebuilding the Apiary After Losses". The class will be an all day affair from 9 am to 3 pm. Interested persons may pre-register on the Wicwas Press web site, www.wicwas.com. Click on the words "On-line Store" and scroll down to "Hawaii Master Class". Course fee is \$50 and includes a copy of his book "Increase Essentials".

Another beekeeping workshop hosted by Melanie Kirby of Zia Queen Bees, and Sam Comfort of Anarchy Apiaries will also be available on the weekend following the Conference at Bee Love Apiaries and Pu'u Wa'a Wa'a Ranch, Kona. More information on this will be announced at a later date. For more details please visit www.beelovehawaii.com or email mail@beelovehawaii.com

One regular feature of WAS is exhibits by vendors. This year the Exhibit Hall will be adjacent to the Presentation Room. All breaks and functions will take place in this area so there will be plenty of time to chat with the vendors during the conference. The Silent Auction will also be set up in this area.

As last year, we plan to give our vendors 5 minutes before sessions start to speak about their products. We believe there's plenty of interest in what's being offered and this gives attendees an opportunity to learn more about the products offered.

We have also reserved a Conference room for break-out meetings and the pre-function area outside the meeting rooms is large and can accommodate groups who want to meet and socialize between sessions.

Hawaii Info/Breaks

There are many options to explore the Big Island during your breaks. Hapuna Prince is located on the sunny side of the island where there are a



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August 2011 3

number of beaches to enjoy. If you would like to see Hawaii's underwater world you can get a discounted 20% off snorkeling and scuba diving packages. Book with Waikaloa Coast Divers at <http://waikoloacoastdivers.com/index.html> and specify you are with WAS beekeeping conference. They provide a shuttle to and from the hotel.

You can also take 30 minute drives in any direction to explore towns such as Hawi and magnificent Pololu Valley, a great hike north of the hotel. Waimea, cowboy mountain country is also northeast from the hotel (25 minutes). If you head south you will end up in Kona where there are a number of shops, ocean activities such as blue water fishing. Continuing south 20 minutes from Kailua Kona you can explore Kona coffee country in Captain Cook. Or you can just relax at the hotel at the spa, beach and pool side.

How to get there (no bus or shuttle)

Kona Airport (KOA) is the closest airport to the hotel. Travel from the airport to the hotel is by taxi or rental car. If you plan to take a taxi, give your flight information to the hotel concierge (808) 880-1111 before leaving and tell them that you want to take advantage of the WAS Conference discount with Hamakua Taxi Service. The taxi service operates 4 and 7 person vans. The cost of the trip (\$75 plus tip and taxes) can be split among the total number of passengers. Find out from the hotel if other conference goers will be arriving at the same time and arrange to share the fare if traveling by taxi or the cost of renting a vehicle.

- As you leave the airport, turn left onto Queen Kaahumanu Highway 19 and drive north towards Kawaihae.

- Continue north about 27 miles, about 30 minutes.

- Half way there (about 15 minutes) you will come to a stoplight (near the Waikoloa Resort area), continue north.

- You are within 2 miles of the hotel when you see signs for the small town of Puako.

- Pass the state highway sign for Hapuna Beach State Park, go over the overpass, and shortly thereafter you will enter the Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel grounds - entrance on the right side - where the guard will direct you to the hotel, located oceanfront.



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- 1978 Norman Gary (California)
- 1979 Lucien Alexander (Oregon)
- 1980 Randy Barker (British Columbia)
- 1981 Charles Duncan (California)
- 1982 William P. Nye (Utah)
- 1983 John Edwards (Washington)
- 1984 Eric Mussen (California)
- 1985 Mike Burgett (Oregon)
- 1986 Doug McCutcheon (British Columbia)
- 1987 Tom Muncey (Nevada)
- 1988 Dan Mayer (Washington)
- 1989 Stan Williams (California)
- 1990 Mark Shelton (California)
- 1991 William P. Nye (Utah)
- 1992 Mike Burgett (Oregon)
- 1993 Mark Winston (British Columbia)
- 1994 James Bach (Washington)
- 1995 Eric Mussen (California)
- 1996 Russell Messing (Hawaii)
- 1997 Eric Mussen (California)
- 1998 Eric H. Erickson (Arizona)
- 1999 Leonard Joy (Nevada)
- 2000 Fletcher Miller (Alaska)
- 2001 Mike Burgett (Oregon)
- 2002 Eric Mussen (California)
- 2003 Jaquie Bunse (British Columbia)
- 2004 Jerry Bromenshenk (Montana)
- 2005 Steve Sheppard (Washington)
- 2006 Adrian Wenner (California)
- 2007 Diana Sammataro (Arizona)
- 2008 Mark Pitcher (British Columbia)
- 2009 Eric Mussen (California)
- 2010 Dewey Caron (Oregon)
- 2011 Antonie Botes (Hawaii)

4 August 2011

Room Rates and hotel/restaurant info

The Hapuna Prince is still offering WAS conference goers a discount room rate. Rooms include buffet breakfast and access to fitness center, spa, beach, and pool. Please make reservations as soon as possible to secure your room. We suggest taking advantage of booking with the Hapuna Prince. This is a great price and you will be within walking distance of the conference rooms. There are a number of high-end resorts and B&Bs near by. If you choose to stay away from the hotel you will need a car. The Hapuna Prince is fairly isolated and the Big Island is BIG for an island.

The hotel has a number of restaurants and room service available. There are also great restaurants located in Kawaihae (10 minutes from hotel) such as award winning Cafe Pesto. The King and Queen shops have a number of restaurants as well as convenience stores (15 minutes south from Hotel). Remember, your registration includes lunch and a range of drinks during the conference.

Silent Auction

A good selection of items is already promised, including some island excursions and restaurant coupons. Bids will close early so buyers can utilize them before they leave Hawaii.

WAS MEMBERSHIP RATES

Individual.....	\$20.00 US
Junior	\$15.00 US
Senior	\$15.00 US
Senior Couple.....	\$20.00 US
Couple.....	\$30.00 US
Association	\$20.00 US
Commercial	\$100.00 US
10-Year.....	\$200.00 US
Couple 10-Year	\$300.00 US
Benefactor	\$500.00 US
Patron.....	\$1000.00 US

WAS NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES

(Payable in US funds only)

- black & white only available

Full page (7.25" x 9.75"	\$150 per issue
Half page (7" x 4.5" or 4.5" x 7").	85
Quarter page (3.5" x 4.5" or 4.5" x 3.5")	50
Business card (3.5" x 2" or 2" x 3.5")	25
Up to 25 words (incl header & contact info)	10
26 - 50 words	.20

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Volunteers and Awards

A special thanks to our great volunteers! And a special thanks to Jim and Fran Bach and to Dewey Caron for their support and guidance in the organization of this years conference! We couldn't have done it without them.

We have selected this year's WAS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO BEEKEEPING and THURBER AWARD FOR INVENTIVENESS awards selected by your hard-working WAS Conference Board. Please join us for the Awards Banquet on the evening of Sept. 15.

Hawaii Honey Challenge

Big Island Beekeepers Association will be hosting the 2011 Hawaiian Natural Honey Challenge in conjunction with the Conference. Honey entered in the Challenge must be produced within the state of Hawaii. The Public Tasting and Announcement of Awards will take place from 7 pm to 9 pm the evening of Wednesday, September 14 in the Conference Exhibit Hall. Everyone with a Conference name badge will be admitted to the Tasting for just \$1. (People without badges will be charged \$5.) The Public Tasting includes the opportunity to vote for the People's Choice award.

The Public Tasting is a fun social event that is open to the public. Everyone willing to pay for a ballot will get the opportunity to taste dozens of unprocessed honey entries from around the state of Hawaii and determine the one they like the best.

Balloting will end the last half hour of the event and then awards based on a formal judging event that will have occurred earlier in the week and the People's Choice award will be announced. The announcements will include a description of the award winning entries; the location of the apiary and known floral essence. It's an opportunity to see how your taste matches that of the panel of judges selected for the formal judging.

T-Shirts

Look for the Conference T-shirt order form in this issue of the Journal. We have chosen a Hawaii-themed design for this year's T-shirt. It will be the fashionable thing to wear at the Conference. We encourage people to pre-order by the deadline to guarantee that a shirt in their size will be waiting for them at the Conference. Only a limited number of shirts will be available for purchase at the Conference. We are only asking \$15 per shirt plus a shipping and handling fee to send shirts to people who do not plan to attend the Conference.



Last Minute Changes

We will do our best to keep you updated on any further changes. If this newsletter or our website does not answer your questions or concerns, contact me at jenny@beelovehawaii.com or 808-640-0278. I will do my best to provide you with an answer. I am often in the field away from phone and computer access so please be patient. It may take me a few days to get in touch with you.

For specific questions regarding the program contact me at the above addresses and phone number.

For registration assistance contact Jim Bach 509-910-6861 or email jcbach@fairpoint.net.

For anything related to the hotel, vendors, etc. call Cary Dizon 808-966-7421 or email cpd@dfarm.us.

TEE- SHIRT ORDER FORM

Whether you are attending WAS 2011 in Hawaii or not, you can order a tee-shirt. **Shipping & handling must be added only if you are NOT picking up your order in Hawaii.**

NAME _____

Size __S__M__L__XL__XXL

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Cost \$15 each x ____ shirts = ____

Pick up ____ at conference ____ please ship (*will be sent*

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Priority Mail (\$4.95 ea US; \$11.95 to Canada; \$13.95 all other;
plus another \$2 if you want Signature Confirmation)

Signature confirmation x ____ = ____

TOTAL \$ ____

Send payment with this form to Jim Bach, WAS Treasurer, PO Box 397, Selah WA 98942. **ORDER**

MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 31st. A very few extras will be available at the conference.

6 August 2011

WESTERN APICULTURAL SOCIETY

2011 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel, 62-100 Kauna'oa Drive, Kohala Coast, Hawaii 96743

September 12-15, 2011

Pre-Registration Form (SEND by August 10 th)

Name(s): _____

As you wish it (them) to appear on your name badges

Current mailing address: _____

City, State/Province: _____ ZIP/Postal Code: _____

Telephone number: _____ Email: _____

CONFERENCE RATES

Cost per person No. of Persons Total

Full (4-day) Conference Package

Pre-registration (by August 10th) \$115.00 x _____ = _____

Delayed registration (after August 10th) \$130.00 x _____ = _____

Daily registration (lunch/breaks included) \$ 45.00

Tuesday x _____ = _____

Wednesday x _____ = _____

Thursday x _____ = _____

EXCURSIONS (included in registration, excursions run concurrently, choose ONE per person)

Hamakua Coast x _____

Captain Cook x _____

AWARDS BANQUET (Thursday) \$ 35.00 x _____ = _____

POST-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP WITH DR. LARRY CONNOR (register at www.wicwas.com or on-site during the conference)

ANNUAL DUES (US funds) not required for attendance at conference = _____

(\$20 – Individual, \$15 – Junior/Senior, \$30 – Couple, \$20 – Senior couple, \$20 – Association,
\$100 – Commercial, \$200 – (10 Yr) Life, \$300 – Benefactor, \$1,000 – Patron)

TOTAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION PAYMENT = _____

Pre-registration forms and payments must be received no later than August 10, 2011. Payments must be in U.S. funds and either a check or money order (no credit cards) made out to Western Apicultural Society.

MAIL TO: JIM BACH, CONFERENCE REGISTRAR/WAS TREASURER, P.O. BOX 397, SELAH, WA 98942.

Full refund if unable to attend as long as cancellations are made by September 11. No refunds after that date or for no-shows.

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HAPUNA BEACH PRINCE HOTEL

ISLAND OF HAWAII

Room Reservation Form

Aloha! We look forward to welcoming you to Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel. Reservation Deadline: Friday, August 11, 2011. Please note the block of rooms for your Conference may fill before the deadline date. We urge you to make your reservation as soon as possible. Reservations received after this date will be accepted on a space-available basis. Use one reservation form per room.

GROUP NAME: WESTERN APICULTURAL SOCIETY GROUP DATES: September 12 - 15, 2011

NAME: _____

Names of people accompanying in your room _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

ARRIVAL DATE: _____ DEPARTURE DATE: _____

NOTE: Your rates are special and contracted for this program only. Reservations three (3) days prior to and three (3) days after the listed program dates will be confirmed on space available basis. Check-in begins at: 3:00 p.m./Check-out: 12:00 p.m./Late checkout charge will apply. Room attendant gratuity is discretionary at a suggested rate of \$2.50 plus 4.166% tax per room per day. Portage for groups is an automatic \$8.00+ tax per person round-trip charge which will be applied to your individual guest folio.

Hotel Parking: Self Parking is complimentary. Valet Parking is \$20.00 plus tax per day.

Room categories are limited and based on availability. Reservations are accepted in order of their receipt.

HAPUNA BEACH PRINCE HOTEL: Run of House

**Reservations booked now until conference time: \$159.00, plus tax,
includes daily breakfast buffet for two at the Ocean Terrace**

Rollaway charge of \$40 plus tax per day will apply when one is requested. The third person charge is \$60 plus tax per day. (Maximum occupancy of EITHER three (3) adults, OR two (2) adults and two (2) children 17 or younger are permitted in a room.)

SPECIAL REQUESTS: _____

(Floor, bedding type, non-smoking room, etc.) *Although every effort is made to accommodate, a special request cannot be guaranteed and will be based on space availability in order of request.

ONE-NIGHT DEPOSIT REQUIRED (plus tax) to guarantee your reservation. You may apply to a major credit card.

Cancellation of reservations after fourteen (14) days prior to arrival and any no shows will result in loss of deposit.

(Name on card) _____

Card Number _____ Exp. _____

Signature _____ OR enclose check payable to: Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel.

PLEASE MAIL COMPLETED FORM TO: Central Reservations Office, Prince Resorts Hawaii
100 Holomoana Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

OR FAX TO: (808) 944-4491 Toll-Free phone: 1-866 PRINCE 6 (1-866-774-6236)

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August 2011 9

WESTERN APICULTURAL SOCIETY 2011 CONFERENCE & ANNUAL MEETING

Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel. Big Island, Hawaii

September 12 – 15, 2011

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Monday: September 12 (day 1)

Afternoon: check in, set up, board meeting

7:00-9:00 pm: BEE BUZZ welcome mixer (no host bar) and "Welcome" address by Dr. Eric Mussen. Silent Auction opens.

Tuesday: September 13 (day 2)

Theme: New Research & Colony Recovery

7:30 - 8:00 am: Registration

8:15-9:00 am: Dr. Ethel Villalobos on Mite-Away Quick Strips for varroa mite control in the sub-tropical climatic conditions of Hawaii.

9:00-10:00 am: Dr. Pat Couvillon, "Learning and memory in Honeybees".

10:00-10:30 am: Break.

10:30-11:30 am: Dewey Caron "Bee Loss Epidemic" -- A discussion of the 2011 overwinter bee loss statistics from National and PNW regional surveys including what it means for beekeepers and BMP-based methods to reduce and replace losses.

11:30am -1:00 pm: Lunch

1:00-2:00 pm: Christi Heintz, "Latest Project Apis m Research Findings".

2:00- 3:00 pm: Recovery Panel (Larry Connor, Randy Oliver, Serge Labesque, Melanie Kirby, Michael Kliks)

3:00-3:30 pm: Break

3:30- 4:30 pm: Jim Bach, "Identifying Quality Queens" - observable queen and colony behaviors that indicate queen quality.

4:30 - 5:30 pm: Dr. Michael Kliks, "Honey Spectrometry".

Wednesday September 14 (day 3)

Theme: State of Hawaii Beekeeping

7:30 - 8:00 am - Registration.

8:00 - 9:00 am - HI Apiary Specialist Danielle Downy

9:00 - 10:00 am - State of Hawaii Beekeeping Panel Discussion (BIBA President Cary Dizon, HBA President Michael Kliks, Danielle Downey, Jenny Bach, Ron Hanson,)

10:00 - 10:30 am - Break

10:30 am - **Depart on Excursions (choose one on registration form).** Bring bee suits, or at least a veil.

1. HAMAKUA COAST TOUR: Bee Love Apiaries to look at top bar hives and a 200 foot waterfall. On to Volcano Island Honey Co, lunch en route, Puukohola Heiau National Historical Site on return trip. Back about 4:30.

2. CAPTAIN COOK TOUR: Honeybee tour and presentation, lunch at City of Refuge - Honaunau, provided by Kona Queens, coffee tasting on the return trip.

7:00 -9:00 pm Hawaiian Natural Honey Challenge - public tasting. Awards announced at end of evening.

Thursday: September 15 (day 4)

Theme: Alternatives to Conventional Beekeeping

7:30-8:00 am Registration.

8:00-9:00 am Serge Labesque, "Lessons from Natural Honey Bee Nests"- examines the features of natural honey bee nest cavities and how bee colonies use them; lessons that lead to natural ways of keeping bees healthy and productive.

9:00-10:00 am Melanie Kirby, Zia Queen Bee Company, is "The Reconciliation: Aspiring breeders' practical approach to establishing survivor stock for changing times and environments "

10:00-10:30 am Beverage Break

10:30-11:30 am Sam Comfort, Anarchy Apiaries, "The Bees that Bind Us: Grass-roots Strategies for a Beekeeping Future" - tactics for self-reliant beekeeping

11:30-1:00 Lunch

1:00-2:00 pm Randy Oliver, "Keeping Bees Healthy" Part I - covers colony immunocompetence, nutrition, nosema, viruses, mite monitoring, non-chemical mite management, and suggestions for breeding for varroa resistance.

2:00-2:30 Break

2:30- 3:30 pm Randy Oliver, "Keeping Bees Healthy" Part II.

3:30-4:30 pm WAS Annual Meeting.

4:30-5:00 pm WAS Board meeting.
Close of silent auction.

6:00-8:00 pm Annual Awards Banquet.

8:00 pm End of Conference.

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WAS 2011 Annual Business Meeting

3:30 - 4:30 pm, Thursday, September 15th, immediately following the last conference session

Prior to the start of the 2011 conference, the 2011 Board and Regional Representatives will meet to discuss issues needing to be dealt with at the annual meeting. Immediately after the AGM, the new Board will meet to make appointments for the coming year. See the Conference Program on page 11 for details as to time.

Thursday afternoon, all members attend the Annual Meeting which confirms future conference sites (2012 is already confirmed for Washington state), elect new officers and regional reps, and direct WAS operations for the coming year, including needed changes to the by-laws.

RESOLUTIONS: Dewey Caron is 2011 Resolutions Chair. Please send any resolutions you have to him prior to September 1st (see page 2 for contact info).

NOMINATIONS: This year, no officers (executive members) are up for re-election but we will confirm the current 2nd Vice President as President-Elect for 2012. According to the rotation listed in the by-laws, directors for Alaska, California, Idaho, Oregon, Washington and the Yukon are up for election/re-election, each of which will serve three year terms. At present, the Idaho, and Yukon seats are vacant, as are Alberta, Montana and Wyoming. **If you live in one of these five regions and would consider standing as the area rep, or know someone who is, please contact the WAS Journal editor (see page 2).**

Dr. Joe Carson stepped into the Alaska position earlier this year and needs to be confirmed, as do new reps Beth Conrey in Colorado and Melanie Kirby in New Mexico.

The Hawaii rep must be replaced. The current California rep is Archie Mitchell, with Herb Brasington in Oregon and Jim Bach in Washington. Please consider whether you can stand for any of these positions either as a returning representative or a new one, and encourage beekeepers in the unrepresented regions to become involved. Duties are minimal, -- making beekeepers in your area aware of WAS and attending the Board and Directors meetings at the annual conferences.



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August 2011 11

WAS By-laws proposed updates - 2011

James C Bach hereby moves that the following amendments be discussed and voted on at the next WAS Board and Business meetings to be held in Hawaii on Sept. 12 & 15, 2011. **A copy of the complete By-laws including the following underlined text will be in your conference registration packet for your review and comment.**

Article 1 – NAME

Section 2. Change know to "known."

Section 3. Insert Saskatchewan into the list of US states and Canadian provinces.

Article III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 2. A. (1): Define "Association Permanent Membership" or delete sentence.

C. Couple: Following C. enter a new D.

D. Senior Couple – Any husband and wife, one or both of whom are over sixty-five (65) years, both of whom have voting privileges. Annual dues shall be \$20.00.

(Reorder D through J accordingly.)

I. & J. Change "automatic Life" to a "ten year" membership?

Section 3. Line three: delete ~~the~~ and insert "for registration and otherwise,"

Section 4. "Membership shall terminate upon death..." Couple, Senior Couple and Couple- 10 year: memberships shall continue with the surviving spouse until such spouse chooses not to continue the membership.

ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS

Section 4. Line 2 – end: Delete the n in an so the phrase is "and the result of a requested vote..."

ARTICLE VII – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 5. Line 1: Define "expenses" of the Secretary and Treasurer..." in the WAS Board Policies.

Section 6. "The Board of Directors shall bond the Treasurer and insure the Society against loss." Dr. Eric Mussen must complete the bond and insurance policy upon authorization of the Board because the Society is registered in California.

ARTICLE XIV – ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AT CONFERENCE

Section 3. Delete ~~that~~ and insert "the first Board Meeting..."

WAS Board Policies:

Jim Bach's comments and suggestions will be discussed at the first Board Meeting during the conference in Hawaii and such action taken that is deemed proper, then may be discussed again at the WAS Business Meeting and may be subject to amendments and votes by WAS members.

RESOLUTIONS - Dewey Caron is acting as Resolutions Chair for the 2011 WAS conference. Please forward any resolutions to him at dmcaron@udel.edu or mail to: 15965 Queen Victoria Place, Portland OR 97224

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12 August 2011



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The Hive has spoken!

August 2011 13

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Look for Conference registration information on
www.wasba.org.

*Contact Jim Bach at 509-910-6861 or
jcbach@fairpoint.net for more information.*



2011

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HIGHLIGHTS

- Pre-convention board meeting is moved to the morning of the 14th to make way for the afternoon events.
- Wine-tasting tour followed by an outing to a local cooking school the afternoon/evening of Monday the 14th. (RSVPs needed for these events, free except for a small transportation fee (probably) for the wine tasting tour. RSVP to Carlen Jupe at castatebeekeepers@hotmail.com, preferably with preregistrations.

- Break-out sessions for small-scale beekeepers

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More info www.californiastatebeekeepers.com, (209) 545-5359 or castatebeekeepers@hotmail.com.

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14 August 2011

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2012

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**American Beekeeping
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August 2011 15

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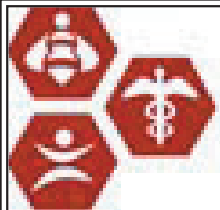
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16 August 2011



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Place: The Inn on Bourbon, New Orleans, LA

Watch the AAS website at 'www.apitherapy.org'
for early registration, the program and other information.

All the information about the
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APIMONDIA 2011 organizers have planned several contests within the activities of the Congress, covering scientific, technological, cultural and commercial aspects of apiculture, so that beekeepers and other industry members can show the excellence, quality and innovation of their work.

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More information on the web:

www.apimondia2011.com

prensa@apimondia2011.com or info@apimondia2011.com



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August 2011 17

Beekeeping 911: There is hope!

By Danielle Downey, State Apiculture Specialist, Hawaii

Hawaii is the United States' most famed island paradise. For beekeepers, the isolation offered years of freedom from the pests and parasites that plagued mainland apiaries for decades. With abundant feral bee habitat, limited agricultural pesticide use and few lethal threats to colony health (except for an American Foulbrood scourge in the 1930s), Hawaii was truly a beekeeper's paradise.

But those idyllic days are over. Small Hive Beetle and Varroa destructor have arrived on some of the Hawaiian Islands to a devastating 1-2 Punch effect. Beekeepers are scrambling to save their operations in the face of massive and sudden losses, quickly learning new techniques and choosing management strategies from a wide range of imperfect tools. And, because these tools and techniques were developed in temperate environments for one pest at a time, there is no easy fix.

Queen breeders are drawing on mainland expertise to update their methods and ensure their famous quality queens continue to flow to U.S. and Canadian beekeepers who rely heavily on these early spring Hawaiian queens.

Growers of fruits, vegetables and nuts in Hawaii are asking themselves hard questions. "What happens if we lose our feral bee population?" "How important are our managed bees for production?" On islands where SHB and Varroa have not arrived, the urgent question is how to keep it that way.

These sudden changes have resulted in a crash mobilization of Hawaiian beekeepers and supporters of the industry who are fighting for the survival of their bees. All this in a context where backyard agriculture continues to grow just as it is nationwide, with many new beekeepers entering the practice and learning what it takes.

It is indeed a very interesting time for Apiculture in Hawaii, and of course it is still a paradise for vacationers, so we hope you will join us for the WAS meeting in September to witness beautiful Hawaii's unique beekeeping situation as it is coming through this crisis.

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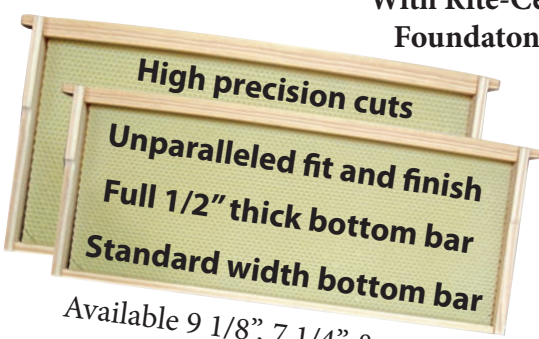
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18 August 2011

Speakers at WAS 2011



JENNIFER BACH - Jenny began beekeeping while completing her Bachelor of Science in Biology at the University of Hawaii, Hilo. She has been a beekeeper for 9 years, is the owner of Bee Love Apiaries and 1st Vice President of WAS.

Bee Love Apiaries removes unwanted honeybees from homes without using poisons or inflicting harm on bees. Jennifer is also the creator, coordinator and educator for the Honeybee Education Program and Honeybees for Farmers Project.

The Honeybee Education Program offers free outreach presentations to children of any age and beekeeping courses to high school students. As a passionate beekeeper, she continues to mentor new beekeepers and assist farms with their own sustainable pollination services.

Bach's beekeeping philosophy is rooted in natural and holistic practices, believing that holistic beekeeping promotes a natural life cycle that benefits the well-being and genetic diversity of honeybees.

JIM BACH - Now retired (really?), Jim was the Washington State Department of Agriculture's Apiculture Specialist for almost 25 years. Through those years, he maintained his own small apiary for research purposes and continues to do so, observing bee behavior and its relevance to colony production and longevity. During his professional years he traveled widely both inside the state and outside, including several times a year into Canada, which kept him up on developments in beekeeping on both sides of the border.

Since his retirement, he has been involved in several honeybee research projects, most recently with the development of HopGuard (2009) and canola pollination (2011) and written numerous articles for national and regional bee journals.

He served as president of the Apiary Inspectors of America for 3 years and negotiated the Honey Bee Tracheal Mite and Varroa quarantine issues with USDA. He is a past president of WAS and currently both the WAS Treasurer and Washington State Beekeepers' Secretary.



DR DEWEY M. CARON - Emeritus Professor of Entomology & Wildlife Ecology, Univ of Delaware, and Affiliate Faculty Horticulture Dept. Oregon State University, Corvallis.

A Vermont native, Dewey chose honey bees for PhD studies at Cornell University under Roger Morse after a Zoology degree from Vermont and MS in Ecology from the University of Tennessee. He began teaching beekeeping in 1967 at Cornell, continuing 11 years at U of Maryland and 29 at U of Delaware before retiring in 2009 when he moved to Oregon to be closer to grandchildren and continue efforts with bee extension.

In 40+ years he has published 6 books (most recently a Spanish Beekeeping Manual), numerous book chapters, over 75 scientific publications and over 300 popular articles on bees and insects.

Currently in Oregon, he is again deeply involved in teaching beekeeping. He is immediate Past President of WAS and spearheaded the 2010 WAS meeting in Salem. He also continues to be active in International Development activities with bees in Central America and Bolivia along with continuing research with Africanized bees in the Americas.

SAM COMFORT - won four hives in a poker game and hasn't looked back over the last nine years. He learned the ropes in honey-product mixology, migratory pollination, and queen bee production around the US, until deciding on a path of less-invasive, treatment-free beekeeping in Do-It-Yourself hive boxes.

The mission of Anarchy Apiaries is to bring the means of production back to the beekeeper and facilitate the sustainable bee network.



'Keeping baby hives in little clay pots proved too much work, but they sure were tasty'

August 2011 19



DR. LARRY CONNOR - A student of Bert Martin at Michigan State where he studied pollination. He was Bee Extension Specialist at Ohio University and then headed up a Dadant honey bee breeding program in Florida.

He was owner-operator of Beekeeping Education Service in Cheshire CT and purchased Wicwas press from Dr Roger Morse of Cornell.

Now living in Kalamazoo, Michigan, he continues his publishing, writing and lecturing. He contributes monthly to both the American Bee Journal and Bee Culture Magazine. A prolific writer he has popular bee books and is a talented teacher and beekeeping course presenter.

DR. PATRICIA COUVILLON - is an Associate Professor in the Pacific Biosciences Research Center (PBRC) and Department of Psychology at the University of Hawaii. Her research in comparative psychology addresses the evolution of learning and cognition across species. Her work on honeybee learning spans 30 years, and she has published numerous studies demonstrating surprising similarities between the learning of honeybees and vertebrates. Dr. Couvillon has extended her research to more complex cognitive capacities of honeybees, specifically short-term memory and concept learning.



CARY DIZON - is the current President of the Big Island Beekeepers Association (BIBA), Cary began beekeeping after she retired to Hawaii Island in 2001. She brought with her an unassembled beekeeping kit. She joined BIBA in 2004 seeking help in assembling the kit. (It contained two bottom boards and no hive cover.) She remained with BIBA helping out with the newsletter and was initially elected Pupu (Refreshment) Chair and later became Newsletter Editor after Ted Jordan retired. Her involvement in the Association evolved from researching bee poetry and honey recipes to disseminating information on controlling varroa mite and Small Hive Beetle and other current beekeeping information through email, the Association web site, blog, and new Facebook page. Under pressure from the influx of honey bee pests, the Association has evolved from a social group where a few beekeepers met occasionally to discuss their favorite topic, to one providing regular educational programs, outreach to both beekeepers and the community, and involvement in legislation to improve controls on invasive species entering our state and improve the business environment for beekeepers here.

Bringing the Western Apicultural Society Conference to Hawaii Island has been a major opportunity to increase local access to information on current trends in beekeeping.

DANIELLE DOWNEY - Danielle got her first sting in 1992 working with Marla Spivak at the University of Minnesota, and went on to graduate work and many more stings at Simon Fraser University with Mark Winston. She has been stung doing bee research, education, regulation, film/tv bee work, commercial and hobby beekeeping operations.

She recently left her State Apiarist position in Utah to establish an Apiary Program at the Hawaii Department of Agriculture in the wake of Varroa and Small Hive Beetle arrival. She is the President of the Apiary Inspectors of America, has half a PhD, and reports that stings hurt in Hawaii too.



20 August 2011

RON HANSON - received his first beehive from his father at the age of twelve. He feels extremely fortunate to have learned beekeeping at a young age and has loved it ever since. As his father passed on his intimate knowledge of beekeeping, he is doing the same for his son and especially to his eight year old grandson.

Before Varroa and Small Hive Beetle, Ron has managed up to 150 hives on the Big Island of Hawaii, taught beginners beekeeping and held several hands-on training workshops. With today's ever-changing honey bee health challenges, Ron is working hard to propagate bees. He also continues to give his unique insight, techniques and knowledge to beekeepers on aiding the bees to build strong and healthy colonies (even with mites, beetles and nosema).

When Ron is not beekeeping, he is beautifying his yard and garden and loves to spend time with his wife and grandchildren.



CHRISTI HEINTZ - manages pollination research for both Project Apis m.(PAm) and the Almond Board of California. PAm is a non-profit organization specializing in funding project-driven, practical research for the benefit of beekeepers and pollinated crops.

Christi has been conducting research for the California almond industry since 1979. Since 2006, she has focused her efforts solely on pollination research.

She currently serves as Executive Director of PAm and also manager of the Almond Board's pollination research program. Christi holds B.S. and M.S. degrees from UC Davis and became a hobby beekeeper after taking apiculture classes from Dr. Norm Gary at UC Davis.

MELANIE KIRBY AND MARK SPITZIG - Mark is from northern Michigan and began keeping bees there in the year 2000. Meeting Melanie, a New Mexico native, in Florida in 2005, they decided to try keeping bees in her home state, where they created Zia Queenbee Co. based in the southern Rocky Mountains of northern New Mexico

along with sister enterprise Superior Honey Farms in Marquette, Michigan. Their motto is: 'Conscientious beekeeping from the shores of Lake Superior to the banks of the Rio Grande.'

Mark began as a hobbyist with 2 hives. Now 11 years later, he has progressively invested his time, energy and professional aspirations to survivor stock beekeeping and is currently managing over 300 hives and 600+ mating nucs.

After serving in the US Peace Corps as a Beekeeping Extensionist in Paraguay, South America, Melanie focused her attention on professional apiculture and is an aspiring survivor stock queen bee breeder. She has been a professional beekeeper for 14 years, blessed with the opportunity to keep bees on 2 continents, in 3 countries and 5 states.



DR. MICHAEL KLIKS - holds Masters and PhD degrees in biology, medical parasitology, microbiology and immunology. During a career that spans almost half a century he has been a lecturer and researcher on almost every continent short of Antarctica and acted as a consultant to major organizations, including the World Health Organization.

During his many international sojourns, he has been abducted twice, once in Thailand by the soldiers of his fiancée's father, and again by government officials in Nigeria, who thought he was trying to foment a revolution.

He speaks seven languages and holds executive positions with the Hawaii Beekeepers Association, Island Pollination Services, his own Manoa Honey Company, National Honey Board, Sierra Club, and is a consultant to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture Commodities Advisory Group.

As if that weren't enough, he is a serious bodysurfer -- winning master's division championships -- hikes, fishes, swims, skis (on snow and water) and dives.



SERGE LABESQUE - Originally from France, Serge was a meteorologist before moving to California. He now lives in Glen Ellen, CA, and is Technical Director with Kreysler and Associates, a manufacturer of composite products.

As a passionate beekeeper, Serge maintains bee colonies in Sonoma County. He practices beekeeping through techniques that allow beekeepers to be self-sufficient practitioners by relying on the natural strength of local strains of bees and without using any treatment for pest and disease control.

Serge is an active member of the Sonoma County Beekeepers' Association. He teaches beekeeping classes at Santa Rosa Junior College and in many other venues, where he shares his experience and opinions on beekeeping. He was the recipient of the Western Apicultural Society 2006 Thurber Award for Inventiveness.

ERIC MUSSEN - is Extension Apiculturist at UC Davis officed at the Harry H. Laidlaw Jr. Honey Bee Research Facility. He has a B.Sc. in Entomology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst and M.Sc and PhD degrees from the University of Minnesota, working with Dr Marla Spivak. His research interests include managing honey bees and wild bees for maximum field production, while minimizing pesticide damage to pollinator populations. He has continued interests in Nosema and maintaining healthy bees from his PhD studies.

His Monthly Extension Newsletter UC Apiaries is one of the best and most informative in the industry.

Eric has served WAS in many capacities and has been President five times, including the 2008-2009 term.



RANDY OLIVER - is a beekeeper and researcher who is much in demand as a speaker at beekeeping conferences in North America and beyond. His articles can be found in major bee journals and on his website <http://scientificbeekeeping.com>.

DR. ETHEL VILLALOBOS - was born and raised in Costa Rica. She received her PH.D. from UCLA, where she studied behavior and ecology of Hymenoptera, including solitary bees and wasps.

After completing her doctorate work, Ethel spent time teaching in Hawaii and Costa Rica where she lead undergraduate and graduate courses in tropical biology under the auspices of Duke University and the Organization of Tropical Studies.

In 2008, Ethel became the Co-PI for what is now the University of Hawaii Honeybee Project. Her work for this project includes research on sustainable methods for Varroa mite and small hive beetle control as well as working with growers to develop best management practices and reduce pesticide input.

Ethel is also interested in studying, from an ecological and evolutionary perspective, the unique interactions between honeybees and their parasites that are currently taking place in the Hawaiian islands.



22 August 2011



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August 2011 23

North Korea claims honey blocks radiation, relieves fatigue and stress

As radiation concerns mount worldwide about Japan's nuclear crisis, iodine tablets and foodstuffs known to block radiation have been selling like hotcakes. A North Korean special remedy for radiation has received great attention Tuesday as broadcast media specializing in North Korean news reported anti-radiation honey is being provided to North Korean workers. Radio Free Asia reported that anti-radiation honey is categorized as one of the special offers for workers and is made by a local pharmaceutical company. Honey itself is known to be invaluable in North Korea as apiculture in the country has collapsed due to reckless logging.

The anti-radiation honey targets workers who have been exposed to radiation or current workers at nuclear power plants. The description on the honey bottle says the honey contains ginseng and medicinal herbs and recommends taking 20 grams three times a day. The North Korean state broadcasting agency reported in 2008 that the health life science institute developed special health products including anti-radiation honey.

From The Korea Herald/Asia News Network, excerpted in Catch the Buzz.



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24 August 2011

Honey containing GM pollen needs approval before sale in the EU

Under EU rules all genetically-modified crops or food made with GM ingredients need to be approved before they can be sold in the EU. February's non-binding opinion by Yves Bot, an advocate general at the EU's Court of Justice, spells out that even "a minute quantity of pollen" from a GM crop would mean that "honey must be the subject of an authorisation to be placed on the market". Advocate generals' opinions are not binding on the court, but they are often followed in judgments. This message brought to you by Bee Culture, The Magazine Of American Beekeeping.

From a Bloomberg article, published in February written by Anthony Aarons and Stephanie Bodoni.....

Beekeepers with hives close to fields of Monsanto Co. genetically modified maize can't sell their honey in the European Union without regulatory approval, an adviser to the EU's highest court said. The unintentional presence in honey "even of a minute quantity of pollen" from the maize is sufficient reason to restrict its sale, Advocate General Yves Bot of the European Court of Justice said in a non-binding opinion.

"Food containing material from a genetically modified plant, whether that material is included intentionally or not, must always be regarded as food produced from modified plants", said Bot. The Luxembourg-based EU tribunal follows such advice most of the time. Rulings normally follow within six months of an opinion. EU rules require prior authorization before genetically modified goods can be put on the market. The bloc's 27 nations are split over the safety of food produced from genetically modified crops. This is slowing EU permission to grow them and has prompted complaints by the U.S. and other trade partners.

Beekeepers "have a real problem," said Achim Willand, the lawyer for the group of producers that brought the case.

"It's incomprehensible that the cultivation of such crops on unprotected fields is allowed," Willand, of German law firm Gassner, Groth, Siederer & Coll, said in telephone interview. Since the beekeepers aren't allowed to sell their honey, their only option is to "seek damages and ask that safeguards are put in place" against the pollen from GM crops, he said.

EU Permission

Monsanto, the world's largest seed company, received EU permission in 1998 to cultivate its MON 810 maize and the various products derived from the strain such as maize flour, starch and oil. The German State of Bavaria has a number of fields where the crop is grown for research.

Karl Heinz Bablok, one of a group of beekeepers that brought this case to court, detected traces of the crop in his honey and in the pollen he harvested from a field a few hundred meters behind his beehives. The beekeepers have asked Bavaria to prohibit further planting close to their hives and for measures to prevent bees coming into contact with the crops. A German court sought the EU tribunal's guidance on the matter.

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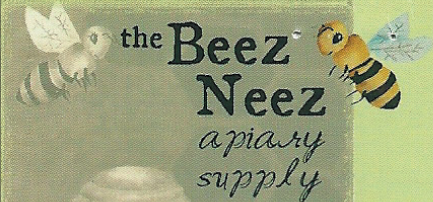
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26 August 2011

UBC Bee Research Update

By Dr. Leonard Foster, UBC Proteomics Lab

Hello everyone! I hope that honey is flowing for you as quick as it is for us here! Blackberries seem to be very good this year. In addition to supering our colonies, we are gearing up for a new big project that I will share details of later. In addition, we have been involved in other small stories I will share.

Together with a virology group that is also at UBC, we have found something extremely interesting with Israeli Acute Paralysis Virus (IAPV). You may recall that this is one of the viruses vectored by Varroa and it was implicated in many of the bee losses in the States, although I believe that link is no longer certain. In any case, the virus can certainly kill bees and it does this with what we thought was only two genes, which is quite amazing. By comparison, humans have about 25,000 genes and bacteria typically have about 3,000 genes.

We have been able to demonstrate that there is actually a third gene in IAPV that was not previously known and that this gene seems to be functional. We don't know what that function is yet, that will be the focus of some future work, but it definitely does exist and it redefines what we know about the virus.

We have also made a significant step in understanding another serious bee pathogen: *Paenibacillus* larvae, the cause of American Foulbrood. Despite AFB having been studied for decades, we still don't really know why it causes disease in bees. At the molecular level, what machinery does it contain that allows it to be so deadly?

We have started to address this by sequencing the entire genome of the bacteria, in collaboration with BC's Genome Sciences Centre, the USDA and a group in Belgium. Doing this, we found several factors and toxins that are very likely used by the bacteria to cause AFB. We have much more work to do to confirm this but this sequencing effort was an absolute prerequisite for advancing our understanding of AFB and hopefully one day leading to more powerful methods for controlling it.

Research from the rest of the world

I know I don't have to convince you that bees are fascinating! There are several aspects of their physiology that must rank among the most intriguing phenomena in the living world but many of these have already been described, such as the waggle dance. For me, the remaining Holy Grail of bee biology was a description of what controls a fertilized egg to grow into a queen versus a worker.

A recent paper by Masaki Kamakura from Japan seems to have solved this riddle (Royalactin induces queen differentiation in honey bees. *Nature*. (2011) 473:478-483). Dr. Kamakura took royal jelly and isolated a specific protein from it that he showed was able to induce increased body size, enhanced ovary development and shortened developmental time, as one would expect for a queen differentiation factor.

Surprisingly, a similar effect was seen in fruit flies treated with this protein! It is fair to say that this finding took the whole field by surprise, however, as there is substantial other evidence pointing in the direction of other molecules being responsible for the queen versus worker split. Thus, at this point it is not clear how to reconcile these conflicting observations but Dr. Kamakura's work seems quite convincing in and of itself. For me, it was the most exciting thing I have read about in the bee literature in the last five years!

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Beekeepers' Calendar

Sept 12 - 15: WESTERN APICULTURAL SOCIETY ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel, Hilo, Hawaii. See page 3 of this Journal for information to date. Forms and programs will be posted on the website 'groups.ucanr.org/WAS/Conferences' as they become available.

Sept 21 - 25 (PLEASE NOTE CORRECTED DATE): APIMONDIA INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Info www.apimondia2011.com.

Oct 20 - 23: BC HONEY PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING, Delta Vancouver Airport Hotel 3500 Cessna Drive Richmond. Info www.bcbeekeepers.com.

Oct 27 - 29: WASHINGTON STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION FALL BEEKEEPING CONFERENCE, Best Western Evergreen Inn, Federal Way, WA. Info www.wasba.org or contact Jim Bach 509-910-6861 or jcbach@fairpoint.net.

Nov 4 - 6: AMERICAN APITHERAPY SOCIETY ANNUAL COURSE & CONFERENCE, The Inn on Bourbon, New Orleans, LA. Info www.apitherapy.org.

Nov 12: COLORADO STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION WINTER MEETING, Castle Rock, CO. Info www.coloradobeekeepers.org.

Nov. 13-16: ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA CONFERENCE, Reno, Nevada. One of the program symposia on the agenda is bee declines - "Identification, Clarification, and Communication of the Real Truths", organized by Rosalind James, Jeff Pettis, Theresa Pitts-Singer, and James Strange of the federal bee lab in Beltsville, MD.

Nov 15 - 17: CALIFORNIA STATE BEEKEEPERS CONVENTION, Doubletree Hotel, Rohnert Park, Sonoma County, CA. Info www.californiastatebeekeepers.com, 209-545-5359 or castatebeekeepers@hotmail.com.

Nov 17 - 19: OREGON STATE BEEKEEPERS CONFERENCE, Seaside Convention Center, Seaside OR. Info www.orsba.org.

Jan 10 - 14: AMERICAN BEEKEEPERS FEDERATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Rio All-Suite Casino Resort, Las Vegas, Nevada. Info www.nabeekeepingconference.com.

For more Beekeepers' Calendar of Events items, visit the Global Beekeeping Calendar, courtesy of the Florida Beekeepers Association & Malcolm Sanford at <http://floridabeekeepers.org>



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During a nectar flow honey bees are very forgiving but as weather turns hotter and nectar becomes scarcer, European-race bees tend to become more protective and hotter weather makes colony manipulations more of a chore. When we do inspect (to remove honey for example) we need to avoid triggering robbing behavior.

Robbing is the bees 'fast track to riches' – a shortening of the biological chain of collecting, storing, ripening to merely stealing the processed honey resources directly from another colony. Humans are bee robbers, as are bears and if we let them so too are ants, yellow jackets, skunks and a whole host of tiny hive invaders. Many years ago I suggested that a backyard beekeeper cable lock his supers to prevent a resourceful neighbor from removing the filled honey frames (which he 'thoughtfully' replaced for refilling after extracting their honey).

Robbing behavior, when it gets started, can be dramatic. It can be scary mob scene for beekeeper and neighbors, a heightened chance of someone getting stung, a means of spreading disease (AFB for one is largely contacted by healthy colonies robbing a colony weakened by the disease) and loss of entire colonies with little opportunity to make up their demise before winter. If you happen to witness it in action, it can be confused with swarm emergence, except parent hive bees die and no queen containing swarm will cast from the colony. Flight activity is concentrated at every entry area of bobbling, flighty bees.

We do not precisely know why bee colonies get robbed but often our management activities contribute to this behavior. Feeding colonies (especially continually adding sugar water to feeders of functionally 'dead' colonies), uniting weaker colonies, removing honey to extract (putting wet supers back on a colony is 'controlled' robbing), leaving frames unprotected outside while inspecting a colony,

and setting up nucs for queen cell rearing or fall divides are all possible triggers. In nature, weaker units may be the prime targets but in the managed apiary it may be witnessed in both weaker or stronger colonies.

The best defense against robbing is not to be the cause. Remove honey-filled supers at end of the day, covering the frames in another box as they are brushed of clinging bees (there are other ways to remove honey-filled frames but 'bounce and brush' is still the cheapest and often the 'best' small-scale method), keep entrances of smaller, weaker colonies reduced (Eric

Avoid being robbed!

By Dewey Caron

TABER'S on the web ...



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Mussen demonstrated a robbing screen at WAS last year), resist the temptation to inspect colonies during the summer (or make them fast in and out), and do necessary summer chores (queen rearing, establishing nucs, varroa mite assessments) with as little exposure for open colonies as possible (use manipulating cloth or wet toweling to cover opened portions of colonies or boxes removed while working in lower boxes – queen rearers sometimes use a portable open-top mesh cage large enough to include a person and the colony for manipulations).

If you happen to see robbing in progress immediately protectively cover the colony being robbed until flight ceases (Yes, there is a chance it will overheat with all the frantic bee body movement – putting a water sprinkler on the colony being robbed might also work) and reduce all other colony entrances. Do hive openings with minimal use of a smoker since this may only compound your problem (as it reduces guarding behavior). After dark, reduce all colony entrances to minimum (use items like dried grass or mud that will allow bees to remove themselves) and inspect apiary to avoid repeat of the robbing the subsequent day. I hope you have never or will never get to witness robbing behavior in your apiary.



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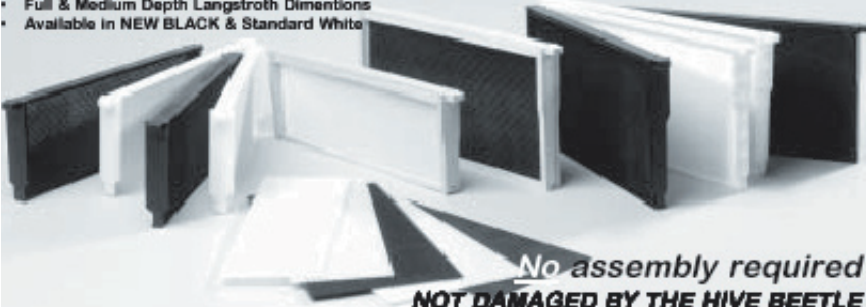
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Residues in Honey after Treating against Varroa using the Thymol Frame

By Stephan Bogdanov, Verena Kilchenmann, Anton Imdorf, and Peter Fluri, Apicultural Dept, FAM, Liebefeld, Switzerland.

Translated by A.E.McArthur MIL.

Thymol has shown itself to be an effective treatment against Varroa and it is tolerated well by the bees. This substance has been used in Switzerland since 1994 mainly in the form of "Api-life Var" which is registered by the International Office for the Regulation of Medicines. The treatment is carried out after the removal of the honey harvest during late summer into autumn for a period of 8 weeks. The repeated use of this method even over a number of years causes no excessive residues to build up in either the wax or honey.

Over the last 3 years a modification to this treatment has appeared in the shape of the "Frakno-Thymol Frame" designed by Franz Knobelspies. He recommends contrary to the "Api-life Var" method that the colonies should be treated on a continuous basis with thymol. This of course begs the question of whether the quality of the honey might be affected by thymol residues. This would not be a health problem as such, however the taste of the honey could be influenced and this would contravene the current food regulations.

Food regulations in Switzerland and also those of the EU prohibit any additions to honey which would alter its natural taste.

Tests on the Taste of Honey

In Switzerland the tolerance level for thymol is 0,8mg/kg of honey and at this level the consumer palate is unable to taste the thymol. The threshold for taste being altered is about 1,1mg/kg.

The reason for the current work was concern for the quality of honey where thymol was resident for all of the year in the colony. The Apicultural Institute of the University of Hohenheim released results in 1997 which showed that a fifth of German honey from colonies treated using the thymol frame indicated a thymol content above the Swiss tolerance threshold of 0,8mg/kg. The aim of our current study is to establish the level of thymol residues present in honey after the long term use of the Thymol Frame by Swiss beekeepers.

Although the study was carried out over a single season and the results are therefore only provisional, it was decided because of their importance they ought to be made available to beekeepers now.

Effectiveness of the Frakno Thymol Frame

The effectiveness of the Frakno Frame was not considered during this research. According to the views of the beekeepers, there was no cause to believe that the frame was ineffective in its use in the 17 test apiaries. Of course when the recommended long term treatment is interrupted (removal of the frame during the weeks or months of nectar flows), there could be a fall off in the effectiveness of the frame whose consequences are not known.

Conclusions

After long term treatment of colonies using the thymol frame a number of honey samples showed a thymol residue level in the region of the tolerance limit (0,8mg/kg) or above this limit. It is possible that the honey taste could also be affected.

The removal of the thymol frame during the honey flow may probably reduce the residue levels. Doing this would reduce the effectiveness of the treatment and possibly cause it to be ineffective against the mite.

Due to the misgivings mentioned regarding honey quality the use of the THYMOL FRAME in general beekeeping practice cannot at this point in time be recommended.



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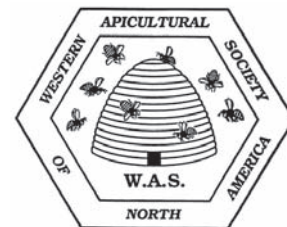
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