

May 2011



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



Aloha! Conference news from Hawaii

If you didn't get your room booked at the Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel by the March 31st deadline, there is good news. The conference organizers have been able to negotiate an on-going rate of \$159 per night, plus taxes, which still includes the buffet breakfast for two. So only \$20 per night more and this price extends right into conference time. The form for booking rooms is on page 8. Book by phone or mail, as special rates usually don't apply to online bookings.

Don't forget to send in your Conference Registration form (on page 6) by August 10th for the earlybird registration rate.

Program

The program for Conference 2011 in Hawaii is shaping up well. Not all speakers are confirmed as yet so stay tuned to the next issue of the Journal and the WAS website (groups.ucanr.org/WAS/Conference_Information) for further developments.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH, will be set-up and registration day, and a board meeting in the afternoon, culminating in the Bee Buzz reception to get acquainted/reacquainted with WAS members and speakers.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH, Dr. Eric Mussen will open the program and set the tone for the week. Other speakers will focus on New Research, and Colony Recovery after devastating losses. They include Dr. Ethel Villalatos on evaluating the Mite-Away Quick Strip to control Varroa in Hawaii's subtropical conditions; Dr. Pat Couvillion on learning and memory in honeybees (both these speakers are from the University of Hawaii); Christi Heintz of the California Almond Board research division on the latest Project Apis m developments; a "Recovery Panel" consisting of Dr. Larry Connor of Michigan, beekeepers Randy Oliver and Serge Labesque of California, queen breeder Melanie Kirby of New Mexico & Dr. Michael Kliks of Hawaii. The last presentation of the day is Jim Bach's observations on Identifying Quality Queens. The presentation will cover symptoms of queen quality that beekeepers can observe and measure starting with the number of worker bees in the queen retinue when she stops on the comb face. Queen quality is further revealed by bee behavior towards her, colony organization and behavior, brood patterns, brood survivability, food storage behavior, brood cappings, queen harassment and bee cluster shape and density. Queen attractiveness is revealed in the queen retinue and bee behaviors will vary accordingly.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 14TH, there will be two sessions dealing with the State of Beekeeping in Hawaii. Dr. Larry Connor, writing in the spring issues of Bee Culture, gives a detailed outline of his experiences and observations earlier this year in Hawaii, so most of you will be familiar with the severity of their losses. State Apiary Specialist Danielle Downey or WAS 1st Vice President Jenny Bach will lead off, followed by another panel, consisting of Danielle Downey, Dr. Michael Kliks (President Hawaii State Beekeepers), Cary Dizon (President Big Island Beekeepers) and beekeeper Ron Hanson. The discussion is on "Working Toward Recovery".

Immediately after the morning break, excursions will depart. Conference-goers must choose one of two tours listed on their registration forms. **BRING BEE SUITS, OR AT LEAST A VEIL.**

The Hamakua Coast Tour will visit Volcano Island Honey Company and some sight-seeing options on the way back to give people a chance to experience some local color.

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Western Apicultural Society of North America

2010 - 2011 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Saskatchewan	Alvey Halbgewachs 3047 Lacon St, Regina SK S4N 3A9 Canada 306-757-3147 cechalb@sasktel.net	Journal Editor/Historian:	Fran Bach PO Box 397, Selah WA 98942-0397 Phone 509-573-4245 febach@fairpoint.net
Alaska	Dr. Joe Carson PO Box 110828 Anchorage AK 99511 907-727-8200 dr.joecarson@gmail.com	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.	
California	Archie Mitchell 1520 N B Court, Lompoc CA 93436 805-291-3279 archibald_178@hotmail.com		

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The Captain Cook Tour will have lunch sponsored by Kona Queens, then visit Oliverez Honey Bees en route to a coffee tasting before returning to the hotel.

After dinner (on your own) The Hawaiian Natural Honey Challenge will allow those registered for the conference who show up wearing their name tags to participate in the Public Tasting phase of the contest at "kamaaina" rate of \$1 (it's a fund raiser). They will be able to sample all the entries and vote for the "People's Choice". At the end of the Public Tasting there will be a presentation of awards based on both the formal judging (done earlier in the day) and the "People's Choice". This is mainly a social event (it's open to the public, so we anticipate some of the other hotel guests will attend) with a lot of coming and going. There will be tables and chairs for folks to sit and talk while waiting for the outcome of the "People's Choice". We're still in the planning phase of the Challenge, but there should be a no host bar and background music.

Thursday's program will focus on Alternatives to Conventional Beekeeping, beginning with Serge Labesque on Lessons From Natural Honey Bee Nests, examining the features of natural honey bee nest cavities and how bee colonies use them. From these observations, Serge will draw lessons that lead to natural ways of keeping bees healthy and productive.

Sam Comfort's topic is 'The Bees that Bind Us: Grassroots Strategies for a Beekeeping Future', focusing on "tactics of self-reliant beekeeping".

Randy Oliver will discuss "Keeping Bees Healthy", covering colony immunocompetence, nutrition, nosema, viruses, mite monitoring and non-chemical management, and breeding for Varroa resistance.

Other speakers are expected to be Melanie Kirby of Zia Queenbees, and Michael Thiele.

More speakers and topics will be announced as they are confirmed. A full schedule will be published in the August WAS Journal.

The last session on Thursday will be the Western Apicultural Society Annual Meeting, immediately followed by a short session of the new WAS board for 2012.

Friday, immediately after, but separate from the conference, Dr. Larry Connor is offering a "Rebuilding and Growth Master Class" workshop. Time will be spent in Hawaiian colonies with the following topics included:

1. Rebuilding beekeeping colonies: reuse and replacement of beekeeping equipment (what is contaminated and what is not); methods of rebuilding; diseases, pests and more.
2. Increase colony management: feeding, growing from small to medium to large.
3. Queen management: buy or let the bees raise a queen; available queen stocks; finding, introducing and supporting queens; when to replace.
4. Hive evaluation: working frame by frame; evaluation of colony assets; egg laying rate; selecting colonies for increase production.



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It will be an all day affair (9 am to about 3:30 pm), location not yet confirmed. The cost is \$50 and includes a copy of Dr. Connor's book, 'Increase Essentials' (\$20 value). Other titles are available for those who already own this one. Register at www.wicwas.com. If there is still room, on-site registration during the conference may still be possible.

Travel

Arrange your own transportation by air into the Kona Airport. Since there is no shuttle service to and from the hotel, and the airport is a good 45-minute drive from the hotel, a rental vehicle is almost a necessity. Coordinate with friends to share if you like. A map of the route from the airport to the hotel will be included in the August issue.

Tee-shirts

Tee-shirts are being designed. More on this next issue.

Silent Auction

The silent auction will include donation from local businesses and farms as well as the members of WAS and BIBA. As in the last Hawaii Convention, some of the auction items will be offers to take local tours. Unfortunately, some people made the highest bid on tours, but were unable to use them because they were leaving soon after the Convention. We will try to complete the bidding on those items early enough to allow for their use. The process of soliciting auction items has just begun but already we have some premium Kona Coffee, and some hotel accommodations donated among other things!

Mike Klungness is in charge of silent auction items. Contact him at 808-968-6789, cell 808-895-3075 or email klungnesm001@hawaii.rr.com.

So please do join us on the beautiful to Kohala Coast on the Big Island of Hawaii for a restful and informative week of bees and beach in an all-facility resort setting with pools, golf, spa and more. Check the website at www.princeresort-shawaii.com/hapuna-beach-prince-hotel.php.

E komo mai (welcome)!



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- 1980 Randy Barker (British Columbia)
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- 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)
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- 2002 Eric Mussen (California)
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- 2004 Jerry Bromenshenk (Montana)
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- 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)

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WAS Annual Business Meeting

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.

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.

This year, no officers (executive members) are up for re-election but several regional reps are. Alaska, California, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and the Yukon reps are due for election/re-election. At present, the Idaho and Yukon seats are vacant. 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, although the latter two do not come up for re-election in 2011. The current CA 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, and encourage beekeepers in the unrepresented regions to become involved.

WAS MEMBERSHIP RATES

Individual	\$20.00 US
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Senior Couple.....	\$20.00 US
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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
Make check payable to Western Apicultural Society and mail to Journal editor Fran Bach (see page 2).	

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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. SEE PAGE 3

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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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 _____

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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.

Reservations booked AFTER March 31, 2011: \$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.

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Ventilated Hive Covers

By James C Bach

Why do non-commercial beekeepers need to make some accommodation for ventilation at the top of a hive? If you live in humid western Oregon or Washington there are climatic conditions when ripening honey and moisture evaporating from the colony cluster condenses on the bottom side of the hive cover or inner cover. This moisture sometimes drops down on the fall and winter cluster, chilling the bees, and has been known to kill a colony. Too much moisture in the hive also enhances the growth of mold within the hive. This condition also has been known to occur in eastern Washington in cold wet winters.

This author has also observed colonies of bees without top ventilation to die in areas where the apiary happens to be placed down slope from an agricultural pesticide application to crops. The bees fan air through the hive in warm and hot weather to dry nectar and to cool the hive. Without top ventilation the bees will fan pesticides flowing down slope from the crop through their hive. In hives with top ventilation the bees can move to the top of the hive and protect their cluster by getting air from the top of the hive. I've seen the bottom of a colony dead from pesticide residue (lab evidence obtained) while the top of the colonies survived.

So how do you provide top ventilation for hives? There are two simple ways to do this if you have tools to do so. If you are using telescoping hive covers with inner covers you can cut and remove 3/8" by 1.5" (0.95 x 3.8 cm) from the middle of one deep end of the inner cover rim. Place the inner cover, deep side down under the hive cover. If you are using what are called migratory or California hive covers you can glue and nail or screw a

3/8" to 1/2" thick by 3/4" to 1" wide strip (0.95 to 1.25 cm thick x 1.9 to 2.5 cm wide) around the outer edge of the bottom of the hive cover, leaving a 1.5" ventilation gap in the center of one end.

I do not recommend boring holes in the front of the hive brood nest or super boxes. It lowers the resale value of the equipment if you're trying to sell them to some beekeepers. If a beekeeper chooses to move their hives to a different nectar crop they will need to plug these holes with a cork, short gun shells, or staple screen over them to keep the bees from escaping the

hives. I've seen beekeepers forget their shot gun shells and get stung several times by a populous colony upset by the long distance move. In early summer you will need a top screen on the hive to provide adequate ventilation during a move. Use 1/8" hardware cloth, or fly screen, tacked to a 1.5" high rim the size of the hive body. Tuck-in entrance screens get plugged with bees during a hot weather move but a top screen usually prevents this from happening.

Vented Bee Hive Cover Inventor: Norman R. DeYoung

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Pettis speaks to UK Gov't on neonicotinoid studies

Dr. Jeff Pettis, research leader at the USDA-ARS Bee Research Laboratory in Beltsville, MD., told British Members of Parliament his research doesn't sufficiently explain bee losses seen in the U.S. Pettis was the first researcher to suggest a possible link between insecticides called neonicotinoids and bee deaths.

"The lab study certainly seemed very clear that low levels of pesticides were impacting on honey bee health," Pettis told the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Science and Technology in Agriculture at the House of Parliament in London, UK. "But when we look in the field we don't see the same results. Even in those colonies that were exposed to low levels in the field, we're not seeing outbreaks of the gut parasite pathogen that we saw in the lab."

One of the UK Government's most senior scientific advisor, Professor Robert Watson, the chief scientific adviser at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), has ordered a review of the evidence used to justify the safety of pesticides. There are mounting fears around the world that the growing use of "neonicotinoid" pesticides, which work by poisoning the nervous system of insects, could explain why bees and other pollinating insects are in such dramatic decline in Britain, Europe and the United States, where the insecticide is widely used.

Neonicotinoids contain compounds which do not simply sit on the surface of a plant, but are taken up into every part of it, including the pollen and nectar, where they can be absorbed by foraging bees and other pollinating insects, even though they are not the insecticide's target species. Their use has been banned or restricted in France, Germany, Italy and Slovenia.

Pettis said he has found bees are more vulnerable to infections by the nosema parasite when they are in contact with microscopic doses of imidacloprid, the most popular neonicotinoid, manufactured by the German agribusiness giant Bayer. "But when we look in the field we don't see the same results. Even in those colonies that were exposed to low levels in the field, we're not seeing outbreaks of the gut parasite pathogen that we saw in the lab."

"Pesticide is an issue, but it is not the sole driving issue," he said. Poor nutrition and pathogens are also a problem. "I think there's more of what I call the 3-P principle – poor nutrition, pesticides and pathogens. Those three things are interacting greatly. My own view is that pesticides are one of the major issues confronting pollinators, but not the driving issue."

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10 May 2011

Reading the [bad] news!!

By Dewey M. Caron, Dept of Horticulture, Oregon State University

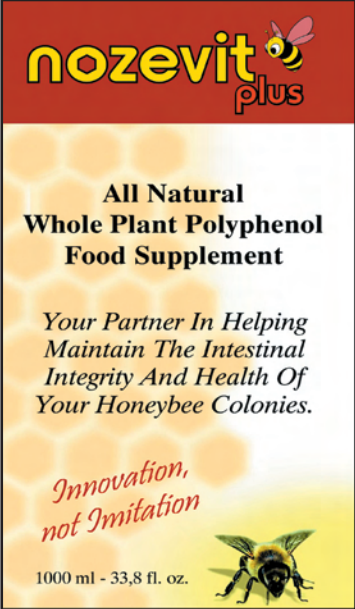
An old beekeeping sage once remarked "even dead hives have tales to tell"! My modern take on this is as bee hive stewards we resemble the highly paid actors/actresses on the current crop of Crime Scene dramas popular on TV - every time we enter the apiary and open the hive we "visit our 'crime scene' to view the 'body'!!!! March/April spring visits unfortunately turn up far too many 'dead bodies'.

What can a dead-out say to us? By looking carefully you might be able to reduce the losses this next month or next winter season. Start with symptoms.

Cluster of frozen, dead bees, worker bees head-first in empty cells, some capped brood but no honey stores (or no honey near cluster position): This is the "classic" starvation symptoms. If very small dead cluster, capped honey may be present on adjacent frames but bees, reluctant to abandon brood, were unable to move to it, probably due to heavy Nosema infections which is often the cause of dramatically smaller adult populations by spring. Equipment is reusable after brushing off dead cluster but recommend you air out frames for a month (store honey in freezer before reuse). If you wish you can wash frames with a clorox® bleach solution. Give frames to strong colonies to clean or if wet and mushy remove comb and replace with foundation especially if flies and beetles are present. You could have fed heavy syrup in fall to insure adequate food reserves (note to self – FEED IN FALL IF LIGHT ON STORES).

Weak colony with small cluster and evidence of water damage to hive parts, especially covers and wet soggy bottom board: Conditions would signal a lack of proper ventilation within hive during the winter causing unnecessary "stress" to the wintering cluster and higher than normal adult losses. Clean bot-

tom board, ensuring hive tilts slightly forward and break propolis seal around cover (avoid covers blowing off during spring winds/storms by piling bricks or stones on top) and investigate use of the addition of hive insulation materials (to absorb moisture) for next winter season. You can remove bottom box if empty and clean mold from frames with diluted bleach solution.



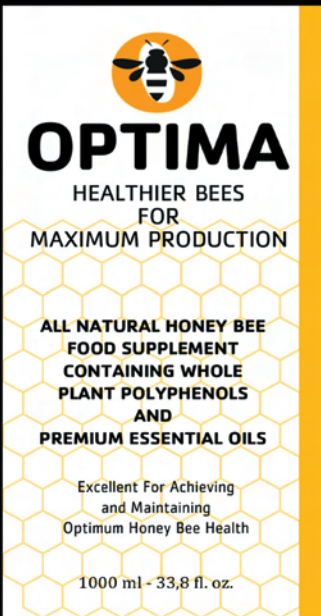
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Little or no honey stores when top box is lifted, small cluster under covers: This indicates colony is in danger of starving in April (and into May last spring). Feed immediately, using dry sugar on inner cover (if you use one), solid sugar candy or sugar syrup. If you feed sugar syrup do not let colony run dry and remember that syrup will stimulate the colony, likely to result in greater swarm preparations in May. See note to self above!!

Fall adult population dwindles rapidly, colony dies before 1st of year with no adult bodies present: This is CCD (Colony Collapse Disorder) symptoms. Combination of viruses and Nosema may be major factor (sick adult bees leave hive to die outside is reason for lack of bodies) but nutrition or pesticides have not been ruled out. Reuse equipment after airing out of empty frames, store frames with honey in freezer until reused when starting new colonies in spring.

Fall adult population dwindles during winter, heavy varroa numbers, "snot" brood (larvae dying with symptoms of European Foulbrood, sacbrood and chalkbrood), resulting in small colony dying in March/April or too weak to begin expansion in spring: This is condition we call Bee PMS. Varroa mites apparently spread viruses causing adult dwindling and varroa mites congregate on reducing number of adult bodies. There is not enough healthy brood to replace losses of adults so colony barely survives but is still unhealthy and dies during spring cold snap or it never rebounds to become a productive colony. Requeen if colony survives or bolster with nuc to provide opportunity to recover.

Acute dysentery (fecal spotting excessive) with adults exhibiting strange trembling behaviors &/or exiting hive on cold days to die outside. Colony very weak or dies in February/March with high numbers of adults on bottom board, often with several frames of capped honey stores: Dysentery can be due to heavy Nosema infections or poor overwinter stores or high tracheal mite infestations. The trembling bees and hive abandonment is often due to high tracheal mite numbers. Dead cluster position may be on sunny side of hive and likely to be smallish (grapefruit size). With heavy Nosema, symptoms often similar but fewer dead bees on bottom board and often small cluster still present with adults appearing wet and greasy looking. Clean off any fecal matter with dilute bleach solution (be careful not to damage beeswax cells); replace older comb with new foundation

Small clusters, surviving adults with deformed wings and varroa evident, brood appears stunted and brood cells with heavy varroa infestations: These symptoms could be due to lack of varroa control in fall or ineffective treatment of varroa. Early spring use of formic acid (new MAQS® – mite away quick strips) might help colony recover. Equipment from dead-outs reusable after thorough airing in sunlight as varroa do not survive without a bee host.

Drones present or were present into late fall, brood very spotty &/or drone brood in worker cells: This probably represents a queenless colony or a queen that is not properly laying fertilized eggs in worker cells (due to mis-mating or lack of genetic diversity in sperm stored in her spermatheca). Dump colony out and start over or bolster with queenright nuc. Colony is often too weak to attempt to requeen. Equipment can be immediately used on other colonies or to start new colony but if excessive dead drone brood distribute to strong colonies to clean out or remove and replace with foundation if old.

Damage or evidence of yellow jackets, ants, small hive beetle, wax moths &/or, mice nesting inside hive: None of these conditions resulted in colony death or weak surviving condition. They are, however, symptoms of a weak colony. Clean up the "mess" as much as possible before reuse of frames and seek to bolster colonies in the fall to enable colony to protect their environs. Remember to remove excess equipment and store off hive over winter, prohibiting entry of these common fall pests.

Reading a dead-out or weak/dying colony can be tricky and you will need to call upon your skills as a hivekeeper. I hope you had few "bodies" in your apiary to investigate this spring.

If you have not filled out a hive loss survey (mailed in March to larger beekeepers and distributed at April Association meetings) please would you take a few minutes and do so NOW. If you did not get a survey I will be most happy to immediately send you one. Contact is carond@hort.oregonstate.edu. Thank you for your cooperation and happy spring!



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12 May 2011

Use of HopGuard for Varroa Mite Control *By James C Bach*

In 2009, I worked with the team from the Tuscon AZ bee lab testing the use of HopGuard for the control of Varroa Mites. Subsequently I used HopGuard in my own seven colonies with sticky boards (Pam sprayed on 1/4" Masonite) covered with a cover screen. I replaced the sticky boards every two days and counted the Varroa fall on the boards each time from September 15 thru October 10. One HopGuard strip was used for each five combs covered with bees in the hives.

Natural Varroa mite fall (without treatment) over four days ranged from 0 to 67 with a mean of 16.7 mites. After treatment for two days, counts ranged from 31 to 478 with a mean of 209.7 mites (12.6 fold increase). The subsequent two days of treatment showed a mite fall of 4 to 69 with a mean of 17.9 (11.7 fold decrease); and the subsequent two days showed a drop of 4 to 74 with a mean of 19.3 Varroa. Following the above six days of treatment I removed the used HopGuard strips and inserted new ones. During the following two days (9/21 to 9/23) the mite fall was 0 to 270 with a mean of 106 Varroa. After eight days it was 5 to 129 with a mean of 41.3 Varroa (2.6 fold decrease).

On Sept. 1, I had a Varroa count of 1 to 121 with a mean of 38 Varroa. I removed and replaced the HopGuard and two days later the mite fall was 20 to 122 with a mean of 62.6 Varroa (1.6 fold increase). After two more days the count was 2 to 125 with a mean of 37.4 Varroa.

While brood rearing is occurring, Varroa continue to emerge from the cells and their numbers will increase into the fall. In Oregon and Washington over-wintered colonies, brood rearing starts in late February and continues until mid-September or early October depending on the weather. I have noted Varroa increase in colonies above the economic threshold in late July and early August, depending on brood survivability and queen quality. However, Varroa has not been seen on bees in the colony, without a concerted effort to find them, until late August. The use of sticky boards and screens with HopGuard is a very effective way to determine mite loads over a two day period, but it does not give a picture of the colony's total mite load.

My observations show that the bees remove the active ingredient from the hard paper strips in two days and remove them from the hive. Bees readily walk on the strips and the queen lays eggs in the cells in their immediate vicinity. Bees don't fan to remove the slight odor of the HopGuard active ingredient.

Suggestions: Use latex or rubber gloves to apply the strips. Pour the liquid on the top bars of the frames where the bees will come into contact with it. Make brood-less five deep frame splits or nucleus colonies in late April and early May, and treat with HopGuard (cost is \$0.60 per strip or \$1.80 for the two-day treatment. I'd recommend at least a four day treatment = \$3.60) to kill the Varroa on the adult bees. Also treat swarms for four days with HopGuard before they begin brood rearing.



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- Treatment is most effective when brood rearing is at it's lowest
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Beekeeping in Bolivia

By Dr. Dewey Caron, Portland OR



1. Selected Africanized bee stock in University apiary - note we are handling without gloves and selected bees do not 'run' as frequently. 2. Professor Julio Ledo of Univ Mayor San Simon teaches beekeeping - note beautiful frame of brood characteristic of Africanized bees. 3. Typical apiary Villa Rivera, Bolivia. 4. An old timer has this hive of 2 sizes. 5. Although we recommend hives away from traffic this apiary is right alongside a busy highway- note rustic hive to right.

14 May 2011



6



7



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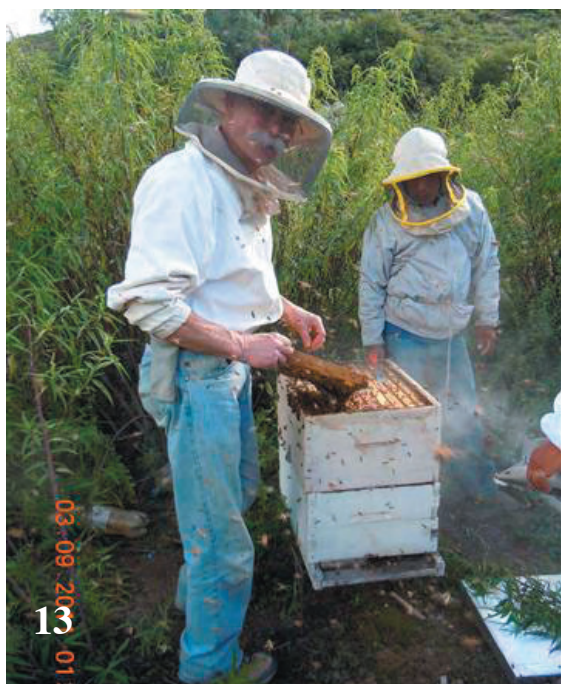
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6. Bees flying around veil, trying to sting camera Tarata Bolivia. 7. Colonies with pollen traps - in Bolivia honey and pollen are sold as medicines. 8. Good fitting frames a must - here the middle three frames are too short for the box - poor brood pattern from Parasitic Mite Syndrome. 9. Nectar flow just started and bees are busy drawing a super of foundation. 10. Obtaining foundation of pure beeswax is a perennial problem, getting it drawn properly an even bigger problem.



10

May 2011 15



11. Tower hive (super in middle is filled by bees of both hives on hive stand). We needed to add a super of foundation to this hive. 12. We saw lots of Parasitic Mite Syndrome, here chalkbrood mummies in glove and on frame - note rustic 'hive tool'. 13. North Carolina Apiary inspector Don Hopkins looking at Africanized bees. Don was in Bolivia on a Farmer to Farmer program. 14. Community association meeting. 15. Here I am presenting my Spanish Beekeeping manual as door prize at annual meeting.



16 May 2011

People are loaded with pesticides too

It's enough to drive a virile young beekeeper out to sea. Research by Spain's University of Granada find exposure to organochlorine pesticides significantly alters semen quality in young people in southeast Spain, taking them to a level that could hinder fertilization.

The finding was based on results from a sample of 280 volunteer students aged 18-23 years from the University of Almería in Spain. The starting point was the hypothesis that organochlorine pesticides cause alterations in semen quality parameters. The risk increases with exposure to different pesticides, even in low concentrations.

The most common means of exposure to pesticides among the general population is through food and other household products. From the 18 pesticides found in the participants' blood, some are forbidden in Spain, as DDT, although others as the fungicide called vinclozolin –employed in vineyards and citrus groves– are legal.

All the samples analyzed had at least one pesticide in considerable concentrations, and the average number of pesticides detected was 11, ranging between 4 and 17. Some 62% of the participants had residues of 10 to 14 different pesticides in their blood.

The study found a strong correlation between exposure to vinclozolin and malformation rates in spermatozoa. Although no evidence was found on the potential effect of vinclozolin on humans, further experimental tests should be conducted for verification. The fact that exposure to organochloride compounds significantly affects semen quality should not be disregarded in any epidemiologic study aimed at evaluating the influence of environmental factors.

"Foreseeing the final effect of pesticides on health is not easy, basically because we are exposed to multiple environmental pollutants that interact in different ways, making it difficult to foresee their final effect," lead researcher Clemente Aguilar says. He says for those wanting to reduce or withdraw as many pesticide residues as possible from food, "it is very important to wash food with water and soap, as it cuts the surface greasy film of these products, which is the part containing more residues."

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FR-815	5 3/8" (13.65 cm)	\$1.65	\$9.95 (\$.995 ea)

Unassembled Select Grade Frames - Wedged Top & Bottom Bar

Item#	Size	Each	Case of 10
FR-900	9 1/8" (23.18 cm)	\$1.75	\$10.95 (\$1.095 ea)
FR-905	7 1/4" (18.42 cm)	\$1.75	\$10.95 (\$1.095 ea)
FR-910	6 1/4" (15.88 cm)	\$1.75	\$10.95 (\$1.095 ea)
FR-915	5 3/8" (13.65 cm)	\$1.75	\$10.95 (\$1.095 ea)

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WW-915	7 1/4" (18.42 cm) Natural	\$2.90	\$26.20 (\$2.62 ea)	\$2.20			
WW-920	6 1/4" (15.88 cm) Natural	\$2.90	\$25.50 (\$2.55 ea)	\$2.10			
WW-924	6 1/4" (15.88 cm) Black	\$2.90	\$25.50 (\$2.55 ea)	\$2.10			

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May 2011 17

Australian 'Plan Bee'

In the face of serious objection, the Australian government has decided to rethink a decision not to fight the invasion of the destructive Asian honeybee. Asian honeybees were first discovered in Queensland in May 2007 at Portsmith, Cairns. Scientists are not in agreement about whether it is possible to eradicate the Asian honeybees.

Queensland horticultural association Growcom's chief executive officer Alex Livingstone said fruit and vegetable growers in Queensland rely heavily on the pollination services of European honey bees. "These services to agriculture are estimated to be worth millions of dollars annually," said Mr. Livingstone. "Currently, Australia is the only honey-producing country in the world where varroa mite is not present."

Mr. Livingstone said Biosecurity Queensland had so far detected Asian honeybees in Cairns and surrounds, sites on the Atherton tableland and as far south as Innisfail. "However, the pest should be considered a national problem since it could well become established in states farther south, as the fruit fly has done, to the detriment of horticulture Australia-wide," Mr. Livingstone said. "Growcom considers that if there is any chance that the pest can be successfully eradicated then it should be pursued."

A two-year, \$260,000 project known as Bee Force has been announced. Using a state government-supplied beehive, Lyndon Fenton is one of two urban beekeepers taking part in the pilot project to improve the monitoring of pests and diseases that threaten the country's honey production and agricultural industries. Each participating beekeeper has been supplied with a sentinel hive that will act as an early-warning system for foreign pests and diseases. The hives have been strategically placed in area's close to Melbourne's port -- the most likely entry point for invasive threats such as the destructive varroa mite.

Each hive is fitted with a drawer with a sticky mat at the base. Designed to trap the debris that falls from bees when they clean themselves. Every six weeks, the mat is collected after 24 hours in the hive and sent to Department of Primary Industries entomologists for analysis. Fenton's home is within one kilometre of the port.

The mite has taken hold in all neighbouring nations, including Papua New Guinea and New Zealand. Infected countries have suffered losses of bees, honey production, crop yields and export revenue.

Authorities believe its arrival in Australia is inevitable. It is not only honey production and associated bee products, worth about \$80 million a year, that are at risk. Almost 65 percent of horticultural and agricultural crops produced in Australia require pollination by honeybees. If honeybee pollination were to end, the \$3.8 billion horticultural sector would be on its knees.

The cost to the industry of the varroa mite or a similar pest's arrival could reach \$50 million a year over 30 years. "It's vital that we minimize the risk of varroa mites ever coming to Australia but equally, it's crucial that if the pest does arrive, we detect it quickly."



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All You Need are a Few Good Queens

18 May 2011

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Mite-Away II Quick Strips usage

MAQS has been in the marketplace in Hawaii for 18 month, and now parts of the US for 2 months. There has been a lot of interest and many phone calls. Here is a Top-10 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) list for MAQS:

1) The paper wrap on the gel strip.

Q) I remove the outer plastic wrap, should I peel the inner paper wrap off of the of the gel?

A) The paper wrap stays on. It works as a wick to help control the vapour release.

2) Examining the colony and then treating.

Q) The label says to disturb the colony as little as possible at time of application. Can I do a full colony exam and then treat immediately, or should I wait and come back and treat?

A) The bees need to have their affairs in order when treated. When running trials it was found out that the colony assessments were best done 3 days in advance of the application. If the colonies were taken apart, assessed, reassembled and then treated shortly after we saw some absconding. It also increased the risk of queen loss. After an exam it would be best to wait at least until the next day to apply MAQS.

3) Treating with honey supers on.

Q) Can I really treat with honey super on? Why does it not flavour the honey?

A) Formic acid naturally occurs in honey at levels ranging up to over 2,000 parts per million (ppm). The formic acid concentration in hive air during MAQS treatment remains well below 100 ppm, so the levels in the honey do not go outside of naturally occurring levels.

4) Screen Bottom Boards

Q) Should I leave the Screen Bottom open or close it off?

A) There was only one trial run so far with screen bottom boards open, by Randy Oliver (www.scientificbeekeeping.com). He published the results in the February 2011 issue of American Bee Journal. There was a 4 to 5 % reduction in efficacy over a solid bottom board, however, both open screen and solid bottom boards saw over 90% drop in mite loads, so it is basically up to the beekeeper.

5) Additional entrances, cracks in the equipment.

Q) Should I close off all entrances except the fully open bottom board entrance?

A) The fully open bottom entrance should be seen as meeting the minimum ventilation need. Having additional entrances does not seem to affect the efficacy of the treatment. Adequate ventilation is critical with this product. For 2 brood chamber colonies some beekeepers slide back



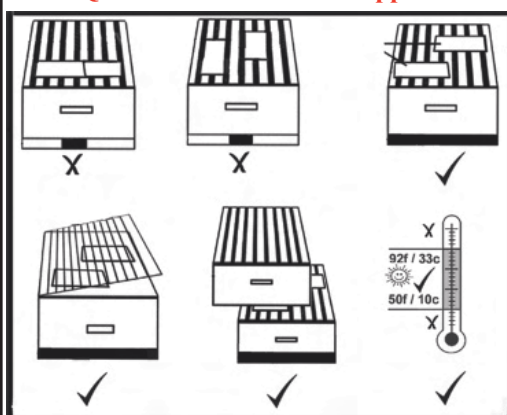
NOD is greatly appreciative of the Advice & Support received from:

Dr. Ethel Villalobos, University of Hawaii
Dr. Lyle Wong and The Hawaiian Dept. of Agriculture
Jerry Hayes, FL State Bureau of Plant & Apiary Inspec.
Dr. Jamie Ellis, University of Florida
Dr. Frank Eischen, USDA, Weslaco, Texas
Dr. Jeff Pettis, USDA, MD
Dennis vanEngelsdorp, Penn State University
Ontario Beekeepers Assn. Tech Transfer Program
Geoff Wilson, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture
Randy Oliver, Scientific Beekeeping
The US-EPA Biochemical Pesticides Branch

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the second story to create a temporary full width entrance, and then slide the boxes back square sometime after the first 3 days.

6) Colony response - bees bearding on the hive.

Q) It looks like most of the bees in the hive are bearding out on hive. Is this normal?

A) It is normal for the bees to beard out for the first day, especially under warmer conditions. See the University of Hawaii photos in their report from 2009, found at: <http://www.miteaway.com/V1-wright-varroa.pdf>. There may be an increase in adult bee mortality in the first three days after application. Remember natural loss of bees occurs at about the same rate as egg-laying; with the formic treatment the bees may not be able to clean away the bees as quickly as usual.

7) Field bee activity.

Q) Will the bees continue to forage during the treatment?

A) Yes, the bees continue to forage.

8) Impact on brood - reducing dose?

Q) What is impact on the brood? Can I reduce the dose?

A) Studies have shown that reducing the dose reduces the effectiveness, and may still cause some brood damage. What we know from trials conducted so far is that MAQS works best by the 2-strip dose. Any brood damage that occurs is quickly made up, the queen is laying throughout the cluster area by Day +7. There are often lots of eggs by Day+4 although they may be as far away from the strips as possible. Any damage is cleaned up by Day +7. The field bees can continue to get pollen through the whole treatment, so there are good protein reserves when all the larva need feeding. The next time that MAQS is used, even if it is months later, the bees somehow know how to cope better.

9) Moving bee hives during treatment.

Q) Can I move the bees during the 7-day treatment period?

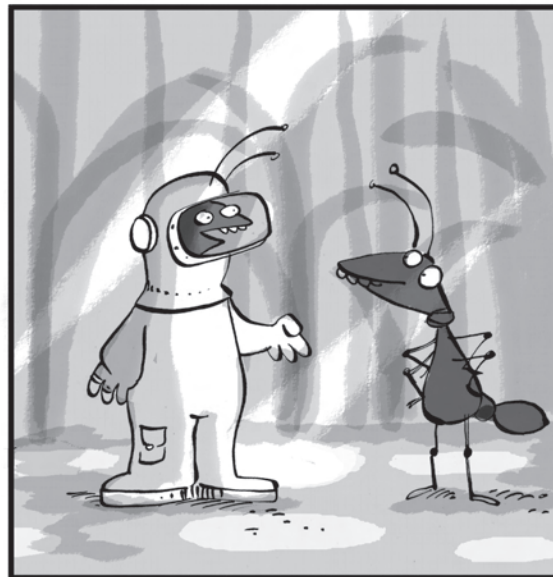
A) The bees should not be disturbed during the treatment period.

10) Removing the strip residue after treatment.

Q) The bees chewed up some of the strip but did not remove it all. How do I dispose of the residue?

A) The residue from MAQS will simply compost over time. It can be handled the same way as any other organic yard-waste material.

the barnders by gord.coult



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20 May 2011

Obituaries

Robert Randall Zahler 1925 - 2011

Bob embarked on his final passage on March 1, 2011 at the age of 87. Born to Joseph and Peggy Zahler on September 20, 1925 and raised in Mukilteo, Washington. After attending Rosehill School and Everett High School, Bob entered Washington State University and joined Sigma Chi at 15 years of age. As a Naval Reservist in college, Bob was pulled into active service during WWII as a marine engineer. After the war, Bob joined the Military Sealift Command where he spent a number of years as Chief Engineer on the USNS Albert J. Myer, a cable-laying vessel he grew to love. Bob retired from the MSC after 30 years of service but continued to work various maritime jobs into the 1980s.

Bob kept extremely active after retirement, in the VFW and American Legion, and served for years as Post Commander of Monroe's American Legion Post 58. Bob also became a master beekeeper, and was President of the Washington State Beekeepers Association for over 8 years, lecturing internationally on beekeeping practices. He was a long-time member of the Western Apicultural Society.

Bob was also passionate about old machinery and was often to be found working on one of his old trucks or farm tractors. He was a member of the Sky Valley Tractor Club as well as the American Truck Historical Society. Bob enjoyed collecting and restoring trucks.

A variety of health issues slowed Bob down over the last ten years but never stopped his interests or his passion for life.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Lois; children, Tony, Robin and Diana; son-in-law Tom, sister-in-law Doris House; grandchildren Emily, Frank and Nicole; and long time family friend Al Lee.

A celebration of his life was held on Friday, March 11 at the Edmonds Plaza Room, at the Library in Edmonds.



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Project Apis m.



Latest News from Project Apis m. - April 21, 2011

- **Visit our website at www.ProjectApism.org** - - What will you find? The Latest News – Upcoming Events – Research Updates – Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Beekeepers and **More!**
- **‘Bee Status’ Debuts!** - - A new addition to the PAm website is the **Bee Status**. View the observations of beekeepers throughout California’s almond growing regions for this past almond pollination season. Insights are given on bee activity relative to pollen collection, flight and overall quality of pollination. You’ll find the Bee Status on PAm’s home page. On the right-hand side, click on the honey bee.
- **2011 Almond Pollination Season Update** - - For the newest summary of California’s 2011 almond bloom, visit PAm’s **Cummings Report**. Recently posted on April 2nd, this in-depth report covers the northern, central and southern almond growing regions. Crop expectations improved North to South within the almond growing region. On the home page, click on the almond.
- **Project Apis m. Research Yields Four New Viruses** - - PAm sponsored research measured background levels of pathogens persistent in year-round sampling of a commercial beekeeping operation. The study was conducted under the direction of Dr. Joseph DeRisi, University of California, San Francisco. Dr. DeRisi’s lab has a track record for discovering new and novel pathogens - the human SARS virus being one example. PAm funded DeRisi specifically to apply his cutting edge technology to help solve our bee health challenges. The DeRisi project found new viruses, a protozoan, a bacteria and a phorid fly. The most abundant virus found in honey bees was previously unrecognized. **Come to this year’s WAS convention and find out why DeRisi called the phorid fly “a honey bees’ worst nightmare”.**
- **Education Sessions Recorded** - - Several educational lectures were recorded during the 2011 North American Beekeeping Conference and Tradeshow in Galveston, Texas. Go to <http://www.nabeekeepingconference.com/sessionrecordings.html> to access the audio version of these sessions that are now available.

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- **Voting Registration Begins on CA Apiary Research Commission** - - All beekeepers operating in California with more than 50 colonies of bees on March 1, 2011 may now register to vote in a referendum to be conducted this summer on the proposed establishment of a California Apiary Research Commission. Registration information can be found at www.cdfa.ca.gov/go/bees. Eligible beekeepers have until **May 30, 2011** to register to receive a ballot.
- **Mite Away Quick Strips (MAQS) Receive Federal Registration** - - On February 4, 2011, NOD Apiary Products officially received federal registration of MAQS by EPA, obtaining a Section 3 registration for control of *Varroa* mites. MAQS will be gradually available over the next few months as pesticide registrations are obtained in each state. To see if your state has been approved for registration visit http://www.miteaway.com/html/maqs_registrations.php
- **Wanted: Old Fumagillin!** - - Do you have an old bottle of Fumidil-B, Nosem-X or Fumagillan B stuffed in the back corner somewhere? Dr. Robert Cramer, MT State, wants to determine how pure the fumagillin is now. The original manufacturer sold the patent, if the competitor promised to maintain rigid quality control over the product. Apparently, there is some question about this. Send the original bottle or photocopy the label if you wish to keep the bottle. Dr. Cramer can be reached at (406) 994-7467 or (406) 994-7468 for more information.
- **Bees Need a Clean Home** - - Dr. Eric Mussen, UC Davis, has published an article in U.C. Apiaries (March/April 2011 – page 1) entitled “**Honey Bee Brood and Pesticides**”. It stresses the importance of providing honey bees with clean homes. Once again, best management practices can be implemented by providing clean comb – free from residues! Go to <http://entomology.ucdavis.edu/faculty/mussen/MarApr2011.pdf>.
- **Bee Clubs: How Stressed are Your Bees?** - - Dave Wick, of BVS, Inc., Montana uses IVDS technology from the Army’s Edgewood Center to map the viral load in bees, using viral loads as an indicator of stress in the colonies. The virus screening project targets hobby beekeepers and will compare regional differences in viruses across the US. Email Dave at mrwich@bvs-inc.us (or call 406-369-4214). Dave would like an aggregate sample of bees from your bee club or region to add to his database. A nominal fee will show the viral load of bees in your area and how your bees compare with others.
- **Donations** - Send your tax deductible contribution to: Project Apis m. 1750 Dayton Rd. Chico, CA 95928. If you sent colonies to Paramount, they will generously match your contribution to PAm, dollar-for-dollar. Write your check to PAm and include a note that you were a Paramount beekeeper. “A buck a hive” becomes two bucks!

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Beekeepers' Calendar

May 13 - 14 BEE-GINNERS BEEKEEPING COURSE, Crop Diversification Centre North (17597 Fort Rd NW), Edmonton. Info 800-387-6030 or duke@gov.ab.ca.

May 29: 2ND ANNUAL DAY OF THE HONEY BEE (Canada), Allen Garr, BC Coordinator 604-736-4184.

June 20 - 26: 5TH ANNUAL NATIONAL (US) POLLINATOR WEEK. Info www.pollinator.org/pollinator_week_2-11 or info@pollinator.org.

June 26 - 30: NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE, Waipuna Hotel, & Conference Centre, Mt. Wellington, New Zealand. Info www.nba.org.nz/node/805 or Bob Russell 011-64-9-294-8656, bob.russell@paradise.net.nz.

July 25 - 29: EASTERN APICULTURAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE 2011, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Warwick, Rhode Island. Info easternapiculture.org/conferences.

July 7 - 9: HEARTLAND APICULTURE SOCIETY CONFERENCE 2011, Vincennes University Campus, Vincennes Indiana. Info www.heartlandbees.com.

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.

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.

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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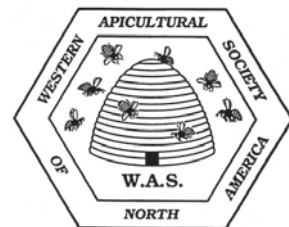
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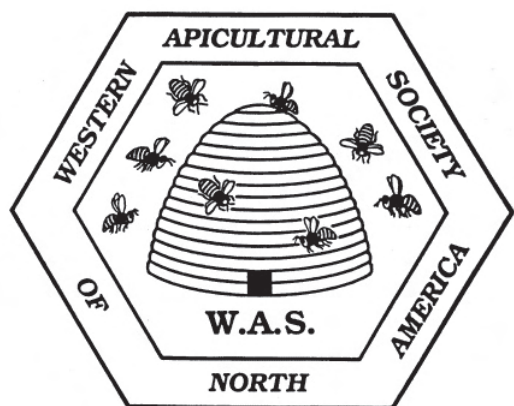
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