

November 2011



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



This splendid photo of a queen retinue the size of which is seldom seen today (fifteen! count 'em!) by Kodua Galieti, a beekeeper and professional photographer in Northridge, California, epitomizes the 'back to basics' type of information provided by many of the speakers at the 2011 WAS conference in Hawaii. Kodua shot this photo in one of her own hives and wasn't even aware of it's significance until she attended the conference. (See James Bach presentation article for more on the importance of a good queen retinue). Beekeepers in Hawaii are struggling with new introductions of both varroa mites and small hive beetle, which thrive in their warm, humid climate. Without the option of restocking from offshore, it will be an uphill battle, but speaker Randy Oliver said it best -- that other areas have also suffered decimations but are still active and productive today. 'This too shall pass!'

For those of you who attended the conference and received a list of participants contact information in your registration package, please note that Kodua's name and email were printed incorrectly as Koderia. Apologies for the error Kodua. Attendees, please make the corrections in your list. If you are looking for some really good bee photos for your club, check out Kodua's website at www.koduaphotography.com.

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Western Apicultural Society of North America

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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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2011 WAS conference wrap up



Jenny Bach

The Second Annual Hawaiian Natural Honey Challenge proved to be a sweet event. It was a great opportunity for traveling beekeepers to taste the many varieties of Hawaiian Honey.

For us, it was one of the most inspiring events we have ever been to. The uplifting presentations and great spirits were necessary for our recovery that translate to our colonies recovery. We enjoyed meeting the array WAS beekeepers and hearing their stories, practices and perspectives.

The Conference wouldn't have been the success it was if we hadn't had the support and advice of Fran and Jim Bach and also Past President Dewey Caron. With their coaching we were able to put it all together.

As Eric Mussens' stated in his opening speech, "It is time to become more inventive with bee-keeping". May we be reminded to continue our exploration in the art of keeping bees as we are life long students.

Just as the honeybees share their abundance we too can share what we have learned through our gains and losses.

Aloha from Hawaii! See you next year in Washington state!

Jenny & Cary

The 2011 W.A.S annual conference was a Blast! Besides enjoying the warm tropical air we had a great line of speakers to present on current issues related to the Hawaii and Western States. With between eighty and one hundred people attending the conference on any given day, five exhibitors, seventeen speakers and panelists, and the two excursions, we were a buzzing crowd.

Thanks to all of our speakers who made the effort to travel so far to share with us. The speaker line up was not only knowledgeable but very unique. Our daily topics also attracted our local beekeepers to attend the day they were most interested in.



Cary Dizon



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Hawaii Natural Honey Challenge

The Second Annual Hawaiian Natural Honey Challenge culminated in the Public Tasting at the Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel on Wednesday, September 14. At the event, the public was treated to a special demonstration of encaustic painting, also known as hot wax painting, by John Matsushita of Volcano, HI.

The Challenge has been sponsored two years in a row by the Big Island Beekeepers Association to promote the quality honeys produced by state beekeepers.

This year, the public was invited to sample forty-three entries from around the state to select the "People's Choice" award. Earlier in the week the samples had all been evaluated at a "Formal Judging" at which five judges selected for their interest in honey and discerning palate evaluated the entries by four criteria within two separate categories (solid and liquid).

The winners of the Formal Judging as well as the People's Choice were announced at the end of the Public Tasting. The results were:

Overall winner, liquid category was a Christmas berry, wildflower honey from Pahoa submitted by Ron Hanson, Best Big Island Bees.

Overall winner in the solid category was a Ohia Lehua flower honey from Volcano submitted by Henry Luckner, Daddy's Stolen Honey.

Winner of the People's Choice Award was a Ohia Lehua honey from Glenwood submitted by John Hanson.

Runners up in the individual categories were:

Best appearance (liquid): a honey derived from multiple fruit blossoms (citrus, passion flower, avocado, various fruit trees, beginning Jacaranda) from Upcountry Maui submitted by Michael McCoy, Ainalani Farms.

Best appearance (solid): a Ohia Lehua honey submitted by Shawn Harris, Wao Kele Farm.

Best aroma (liquid): a macadamia, tropical flower and citrus honey from Kalaheo, Kauai submitted by Joyce Takahashi, Miki Macs.

Best aroma (solid): a mixed wild flora honey from Mountain View submitted by Patrick Weder, Lotus Buddhist Monastery.

Best texture (liquid): a albizia, citrus, palm and guava honey from Lower Puna submitted by Jen Rasmussen, Paradise Nectar.

Best texture (solid): a Ohia Lehua honey from Glenwood submitted by John Hanson.

Best taste (liquid): an albizia and palm honey from Kurtistown submitted by Cary Dizon.

Best taste (solid): a mango honey from Kalapana submitted by Ron Hanson, Best Big Island Bees.

Judges for the sweet competition were: Danielle Downey, State Apiary Specialist; Stephen Coffee, a food enthusiast working as a science instructor in local schools; Jane Horike, a Hawaii County Economic Development Specialist who grew up with bees and a passion for local foods and products; Hope Johnson, raw food advocate and food writer; and, Sonia Martinez, cookbook author and freelance food writer.

WAS Presidents to date

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/Jenny Bach (Hawaii)

2012 James K. Smith (Washington)

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Cary Dizon, President of the Big Island Beekeepers Association thanked the judges for their hard work in carefully evaluating the forty-three entries which took over five hours to complete. They received gift baskets which included honeys from four of the best known apiaries on the Island: Volcano Island Honey Company, Big Island Bees, Mo Bettah Honey, and Weo Kele Farms; and Honey and Mele Macs from Big Island Princess, also the Challenge sponsors. thanks also to contest organizers, registrar Catarina Zaragoza and her committee, Vo Collins-Toribo, Pat Chu, Cary Dizon, Sonia Martinez, Jen Rasmussen, and Wendy Westlake. Others who lent a hand include: Maria "DiDi" Diaz, Margarita "DayDay" Hopkins, Mike Klungness, and Frankie Stapleton

For more information about bees, honey production, and BIBA activities, visit the association website: bibahawaiiibes.org.



The Hansons were multiple winners in the 2nd Annual Hawaiian Honey Challenge

WAS MEMBERSHIP RATES

Individual.....	\$20.00 US
Junior	\$15.00 US
Senior	\$15.00 US
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

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Awards



Jenny Bach presents Dr. Ethel Villalobos of the University of Hawaii Manoa Bee Lab with the 2011 Thurber Award for Inventiveness, in recognition of her key work on varroa and small hive beetle controls unique to Hawaii and education of beekeepers to deal with the double hit, since the pests arrived within months of each other. Thank you Dr. Villalobos.



Cary Dizon, President of the Big Island Beekeepers Association, was awarded the Outstanding Service to Beekeeping Award in recognition of her work in beekeeper and public education in Hawaii. She was a key player in obtaining a permanent position for a Hawaiian state apiary specialist and an integral part of the organizing committee for WAS 2011, considered by all who attended as one of the best conferences ever. Thank you Cary.

Recipients of the Thurber Award for Inventiveness

Dr. Ethel Villalobos (Hawaii)	2011
Kenny & Heike Williams (Oregon)	2010
Serge Labesque (California)	2006
Ed & Dee Lusby (Arizona)	1997

(Editor's note: Although the Thurber award is not given out every year, there have been many more recipients than this short list indicates. Though I have searched Journals back to 2003 (my tenure as editor), I have not found any more announcements. If you have received, or know someone who has received this award, please pass the information on to me at 509-573-4245 or febach@fairpoint.net.)

Recipients of the W.A.S. Award for Outstanding Service to Beekeeping

Cary Dizon (Hawaii)	2011
Harry Vanderpool (Oregon)	2010
Susan Cobey	2009
Joe Traynor (California)	2006
Justin Schmidt (Arizona)	2006
Don Dixon (Manitoba)	2003
Christine Peng (California)	2002
Gordon Kern (British Columbia)	2001
Ron Neese (California)	1999
Daniel F. Mayer (Washington)	1998
Gloria DeGrandi-Hoffman (Arizona)	1997
Hachiro Shimanuki (Maryland)	1996
Eric H. Erickson, Jr. (Arizona)	1995
Denis McKenna (Alberta)	1993
Mark Winston (British Columbia)	1992
Eric C. Mussen (California)	1991
Norman Gary (California)	1990
Robert Page (California)	1989
James Bach (Washington)	1988
Elbert Jaycox (New Mexico)	1988
Floyd Hilbig (Nevada)	1987
Basil Furgala (Minnesota)	1986
William Nye (Utah)	1985
Carl Johansen (Washington)	1984
John Corner (British Columbia)	1983
William T. Wilson (Wyoming)	1982
Roy Thurber (Washington)	1981
Harry Laidlaw (California)	1980
H. Len Foote (California)	1979
Ward Stanger (California)	1978

6 November 2011



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Scenes from WAS 2011, Hapuna Beach Prince Resort, Hawaii



In true Hawaiian tradition, Jenny Bach gets a kiss with her lei for taking over organizational responsibility for the conference when family issues forced resignation of the President



Unofficial recovery panel in session: (l to r) Dr. Eric Mussen, Dr. Dewey Caron, Keith Wedmore and Dr. Larry Connor



Good to see Maycelle & Tom Muncey, Sparks NV, with us



Full house for speaker sessions



Comb in a top bar hive at Jenny Bach's Hilo operation



Jio Rosenberg demonstrates a hive tool made especially for top bar hives.

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Richard Klungness did a great job of organizing the Silent Auction, which cleared \$1101, which was split between WAS and the Big Island Beekeepers.



An enthusiastic crowd dips into the flavors of Hawaii at the 2nd Annual Hawaiian Honey Challenge organized by BIBA.



A young beekeeper explains the intricacies of queen cages to exhibitor Wanda Bowman of Lecompte, Louisiana



The humid climate in Hawaii is perfect breeding grounds for this fellow, the small hive beetle, which is having a devastating effect on beekeeping in the islands. Much of the conference was dedicated to its treatment.



The Recovery after Decimation panel consisted of (l to r) Michael Kliks, Larry Connor, David Barnes, Serge Labesque and Randy Oliver.



Setting the stage for the conference was the State of Hawaiian Beekeeping panel with (l to r) Michael Kliks, Ethel Villalobos, Pat Couvillon, BIBA President Cary Dizon, Ron Hanson and Danielle Downey

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WAS 2011 Pre-conference Directors' & Delegates' Meeting Minutes

Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel, Kohala Coast, Hawaii, Thursday, September 12th, 2011

In attendance were Jenny Bach, Eric Mussen, Dewey Caron, Tom Muncey, Ian Farber, Betty Farber, Kari Hallopeter, Jim Smith, Bill Cervenka, Fran Bach, Jim Bach, Joe Carson, and Archie Mitchell.

Introductions were made and then Acting President Jenny Bach called the meeting to order.

The President gave updates for the conference. Melanie Kirby would not be present for her talk. Eric Mussen will be the moderator for the panel discussions. Moved Jim Bach/Dewey Caron that the minutes of the pre-conference Directors and Delegates meeting held in Salem, Oregon in 2010 be accepted as printed in the W.A.S. Journal. Carried.

Secretary's Report: Betty Farber acknowledged Jim Bach's help in researching past minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Jim Bach reported on the Treasury Account status as of August 31, 2011 and on the lack of records from the previous treasurer, which made it difficult for him. Jim spent over 200 hours getting the treasury reports in order. Moved Bill Cervenka/Ian Farber that officers of W.A.S. be given a tremendous thank you for work in straightening out the financial statements of W.A.S. following the resignation of the previous treasurer. Carried. Moved Dewey Caron/Ian Farber that the treasurer's report, which was circulated at the meeting, be accepted as printed. Carried.

Auditor's Report: Ian Farber will volunteer to audit and will work with Jim Bach.

Editor's Report: Journal Editor Fran Bach presented a one page financial statement of journal income and expenses. She reported a \$491.15 profit for 2010. The profit to date for the first three issues in 2011 is \$1012. As of September 01, 2011, approximately \$1200.00 is still to be received. Members are requested to send Fran a description of any problems regarding printing journal issues from the online version. Moved Dewey Caron/Eric Mussen that the editor's report for 2010 be accepted as presented with a note that the journal looks good. Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Sites: Eric Mussen reported that the 2012 conference would be held in Federal Way, Washington. In 2013, there is a good possibility that Santa Fe, New Mexico will be the site of the conference.

Awards: Jenny Bach will present two awards at the banquet on Thursday, Sept. 15, 2011.

Nominations: The following people were appointed by Acting President Jenny Bach to be acting directors for 2010/2011 meeting. Oregon: Dewey Caron; Alaska: Joe Carson; Colorado: Beth Conrey; New Mexico: Melanie Kirby.

Bylaws: Prior to the meeting Jim Bach distributed a copy of the proposed WAS by-laws updates for 2011. Moved Jim Bach/Tom Muncey that the by-law amendments presented by Jim Bach be discussed and voted on at the next WAS Board and Business meetings to be held in Hawaii on Sept. 15, 2011. Carried. Eric Mussen is known by the IRS as a "person of record" as he is required to sign official documents for WAS. This title will be in language that Jim Bach proposes for W.A.S. bylaw updates.

Eric Mussen brought up a discussion of bonding all executive members. The first financial quote for this expense is approximately \$900.00 per year. Eric will seek further quotes.

Resolutions: Dewey Caron would like letters of thanks to go to Karen Warthman of the Hapuna Prince Hotel, to Cary Dizon, the conference coordinator, and to Jenny Bach.

Appointments: Archie Mitchell was appointed director for California.

OLD BUSINESS: It was discussed that contracting with Pay Pal was not worthwhile for the short time it would be needed and that most members will pay by cheque.

NEW BUSINESS: Jim Smith will be the 2012 president. The conference will be held at the Cedar Creek Lodge in Federal Way in Washington. The dates will be announced at a later date.

Adjournment: Moved Jim Bach/Dewey Caron that the meeting be adjourned. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

WAS 2011 Annual Business Meeting, September 15, 2011

President Jenny Bach called the meeting to order. There were 25 people in attendance.

Moved Jim Bach/Tom Muncey that the minutes of the 2010 Annual Business Meeting be accepted as printed in the W.A.S. Journal. Carried.

Treasurer's Report: Jim Bach reported that as of August 31, 2011, the W.A.S. treasury account was \$41,396.84.

Editor's Report: Fran Bach reported that the Journal was used a lot for promotional purposes.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS: Auditing: Ian Farber has looked at the reports given to him by Jim Bach. Everything appears to be in order. He will submit a more detailed written report later. Moved Ruth Peterson /Joe Carson that the auditor's report be accepted as heard orally and that it will be in written order at a later date and also moved to accept the treasurer's report. Carried.

Sites: Eric Mussen gave the following report. The 2012 conference will be in Federal Way in Washington with Jim Smith as president. The 2013 conference will be in Santa Fe, New Mexico with Melanie Kirby as president. Joe Carson suggested a cruise to Alaska for the 2014 conference.

Awards: Jenny Bach will present the Outstanding Service to Beekeeping Award to Cary Dizon and the Thurber Award to Dr. Ethel Villalobos at the banquet.

Bylaws: Jim Bach will make updates and revisions. He will distribute these changes to members before the next board meeting. These changes will be published in the Journal.

Resolutions: WHEREAS the 2011 conference at the Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel, Kohala Coast, Hawaii was well attended and tremendously successful and

WHEREAS our meeting was greatly facilitated and excellently supported by Meeting Coordinator Karen Warthman and the entire staff and facilities of the Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel,

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the WAS program and social programs took much effort and great coordination and FURTHERMORE would not have been possible without the capable organization of Cary Dizon, the Big Island Beekeepers' Association, Jenny Bach, Hilo, and a generous number of Kona-area and Hawaii Island beekeeper volunteers,

AND FURTHERMORE acknowledging the capable guidance and leadership of the WAS executive committee, especially Fran and Jim Bach.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Secretary express the gratitude and wholehearted thank you of the entire WAS organization for our successful 2011 conference and experience.

Moved Jim Bach/Paul Lundy that letters of thanks be sent to Karen Warthman, Cary Dizon, Jenny Bach, and Fran and Jim Bach. Carried.

Unfinished Business: A. A discussion was held about Pay Pal. There are many fees for small organizations that use Pay Pal so it was decided to continue with members paying by cheque.

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B. Insurance: Eric Mussen has found an insurance agent who will for \$900.00 /year bond all officers in the organization. He will continue to pursue lower costs but feels this is a good offer. This does not cover event insurance.

New Business: A. Election of officers -- President: Jim Smith; 2nd vice president: Melanie Kirby; 1st vice president: to be announced by the president at a later date.

Directors: Alaska: Joe Carson; Washington: Jim Bach; California: Archie Mitchell; Colorado: Beth Conrey; New Mexico: Melanie Kirby. The following jurisdictions do not have directors- Arizona, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Yukon, and Alberta. Dewey Caron and Joe Carson will look into pursuing a Mexico connection to W.A.S. Moved Jim Bach/Kari Hallopeter that the slate of nominations be accepted as presented. Carried.

B. The proposed dates for the 2012 conference in Federal Way are Sept 24 - 27, 2012. The conference may be held in conjunction with the Washington State Beekeepers Meeting. Moved Eric Mussen/Ian Farber that the proposed dates be accepted as presented. Carried.

Communications: There were no new communications.

Bills: There is a little advertising money to come in and some conference bills. A financial report will be sent to the executive and then to the journal.

Resolutions: No new resolutions.

Adjournment: Moved Jim Bach/Jenny Bach that the meeting be adjourned. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

WAS 2011 Post-conference Directors' & Delegates Meeting September 15, 2011

In attendance were Jim Smith, Jim Bach, Kevin French, Archie Mitchell, Ian Farber, Eric Mussen, Kari Hallopeter, Fran Bach, Cyndi Smith, Paul Lundy, Betty Farber.

President Jim Smith called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m.

Appointments: A. Journal Editor-Historian – Fran Bach; B. Auditor – Ian Farber; C. Bylaws – Jim Bach; D. Sites - Eric Mussen; E. Nominations – Archie Mitchell; F. Awards – TBA;

G. Resolutions – Dewey Caron; H. Parliamentarian – Tom Muncey; I. Other committees – none right now

Old Business: Eric Mussen will proceed with inquiring into the insurance policy.

Adjournment: Moved Jim Bach/Tom Muncey that the meeting be adjourned. Carried

Betty Farber, Secretary



The Colorado State Beekeepers Association

Winter Meeting

will be held in Castle Rock CO on

Saturday, November 12th,

9 am to 5 pm.

Additional information, including a map and pre-registration form, is available on the CSBA website: www.coloradobeekeepers.org.

Featured Speaker

Jerry Hayes

of ABJ's "The Classroom"



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12 November 2011

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- Over 40 educational sessions designed to educate, update and inspire
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- Expansive beekeeping tradeshow, full of the latest in beekeeping innovations and great deals
- Optional activities perfect for networking and socializing with fellow beekeepers and industry experts
- The 2012 American Honey Show
- Something for everyone, from the small-scale beekeeper to the seasoned professional

Conference Location:

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www.riolasvegas.com

The ABF has negotiated a discounted group rate for all conference attendees of \$109 per night single/double occupancy plus tax.

2012 Registration Rates

Registration Categories	Regular (by 12.14.11)	On-Site
Single Person (Member)	\$285.00	\$335.00
Single Person (Non-Member)	\$335.00	\$385.00
Family (Member)	\$395.00	\$445.00
Family (Non-Member)	\$445.00	\$495.00
One-Day/One Person (Member)	\$185.00	\$235.00
One-Day/One Person (Non-Member)	\$235.00	\$285.00
One-Day/Family (Member)	\$295.00	\$345.00
One-Day/Family (Non-Member)	\$345.00	\$395.00

Note: Non-member rates include a one-year membership to the ABF.

Tentative Schedule: (subject to change)

Tuesday, January 10:

Morning/Afternoon: Board and Committee Meetings
Evening: Welcome Reception in Exhibit Hall
(complimentary to all registered attendees)

Wednesday, January 11:

Morning: Opening General Session
Noon: Tradeshow Opens
Afternoon: Shared Interest Group Meetings
Honey Show Judging
Evening: Honey Queen Reception & Quiz Bowl

Thursday, January 12:

Morning: Ladies Auxiliary Breakfast/Meeting
All Day: General Session
Serious Sideline Symposium
Tradeshow
Evening: Optional Evening Activity

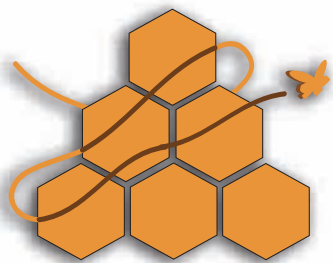
Friday, January 13:

All Day: General Session
Serious Sideline Symposium
Tradeshow

Saturday, January 14:

Morning: Interactive Workshops
Afternoon: Business Meetings
Evening: ABF Annual Banquet

For more information and to register, please visit
www.nabeekeepingconference.com



43rd Annual American Honey Producers Association Convention

The 43rd Annual American Honey Producers Association Convention is rapidly approaching. This year the convention will be on January 4-8, 2012 and will be held in sunny Phoenix, Arizona.

Our Vice President, Randy Verhoek, has been working hard at putting together a great program that features excellent speakers and great topics on improving honey bee stock, the latest virus strains affecting honey bees, and an analysis of hive management. Also, there will be a workshop lead by Mr. Randy Oliver covering some "hot" topics. It's going to be a great convention so get your registrations and room reservations in and join us in Phoenix, Arizona!

Registration/Hotel Deadlines - December 22

With a little over 2 months left, time is running out to get your early registration sent in. Yes, you can register at the door but you can save up to \$75.00 by sending in your registration now! So fill out a registration form (available online at ahpanet.com) and send it in **before December 22** to get in on the savings!

Mail registration form and payment to:

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428 Kent St.
Haddam, KS 66944



Fax: 785-778-2004 Email: brit@revhoney.com

Early Bird Special

Did you know that you and your family can attend the full conference for only \$200.00?! Take advantage of the early bird special and pre-registration prices.

Check out details below.

Full Conference Registration Pricing

1 Registration = Husband, wife & children under 18

Early Bird Special (before Nov. 15th) - \$200

Pre-Registration (Nov. 15 to Dec 22) - \$235

At the door (anytime after Dec 22) - \$275

We will be at the Sheraton Crescent Hotel this year. This Hotel highlights some of the most beautiful scenery in Arizona. With lots of great attractions nearby it's a great place to stay. **Reservation cut off date is December 22, 2011.**

AHPA Convention Room Rates:

-Standard Room-

\$109.00 per night
Single/Double

-Club Level Room-

\$149.00 per night
Single/Double



All rooms include two complimentary Breakfast Buffet tickets to the Indigo Restaurant

Additionally, convention guests can opt for the "Green Choice" program which offers \$5.00 or 500 Starwood points to guest who choose not to have their rooms serviced by housekeeping during their stay.

To make reservations:

Call (800) 325-3535

or go online to: www.ahpanet.com

and find a link under the "Conventions" tab

You MUST reserve a room in the AHPA "room block" to get discounted rate and free breakfast buffet.

Free Workshop with Randy Oliver

On Wednesday afternoon, January 4th, there will be a free hands-on workshop lead by Mr. Randy Oliver, creator and writer for ScientificBeekeeping.com.

Randy Oliver does practical beekeeping research including incubator and field trials for bee health issues, tests of

new products, protein supplements, and varroa, nosema, and virus treatments. With the practical researching Randy does, it makes him one of the most sought after speakers in the beekeeping industry. Randy will be discussing some hot topics and highlighting some areas of his research. You DON'T want to miss out on this event. Come and enjoy the special 2 hour workshop with Randy Oliver!

*Regular
Column-
ist in the
American
Bee
Journal*



NEW AHPA WEBSITE

Did you know that the AHPA Has a new website? Please be patient with us as we are still working on putting everything together. Although it is still under construction there is still a lot to check out. Hop online and check out some of the new pages we have and upcoming news and events.



For more convention information (transportation, attractions, restaurants), look under the "Conventions" page.

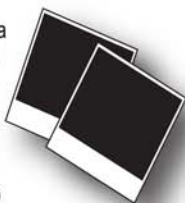
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Keep checking the website for further update on the convention.

BEEKEEPING BLOOPERS PICTURE CONTEST

We've all heard the saying "a picture is worth a thousand words". Well, what about a thousand laughs? We are

having a beekeeping bloopers/disasters picture contest and we need you to send us a picture of your beekeeping mishaps. The picture will be voted on at the Welcome Reception on Wednesday night. Best of luck to you!



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**Or email digital
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brit@revhoney.com

BBQ, Music & Cowboys

Pack your cowboy boots and bibs because Friday night is our special event at Pinnacle Peak Patio Steakhouse & Microbrewery (with such a long name it has to be good).

Instead of a tour, we are going for a change of pace with a BBQ, live band and a quick draw contest along with other crowd interaction surprises. There is **limited** room for this event so sign up and get your tickets soon or you'll miss out on a rootin'-tootin' good time.



BBQ Event & Entertainment

Early Registration -\$65 At the Door - \$70

**Price Includes: Transportation to/from
event, meal, band, and quick draw contest**

Menu: Choice of BBQ Ribs, 10oz. Sirloin Steak, 1/2
family style cowboy beans, wheat bread, apple pie and
cinnamon swirl ice cream, tea and coffee.

Welcome to Washington from our new President Jim Smith



I was introduced to beekeeping when my cousin, who was taking the large step to become a commercial beekeeper, needed help down in California to unload and medicate hives. Between the rain and the bee stings, it took me a few more years of helping to actually join the Pierce County Beekeepers where I took classes that gave me the basics of backyard beekeeping which is very different than commercial beekeeping.

My next step was becoming involved with the Washington State Beekeepers Association where I became a part of the Apiary Advisory Board and then the president of the Pierce County Beekeepers Association.

Currently I have completed the Journeyman beekeeper level and am working towards my Masters. In addition to being a member of the Pierce County Beekeeping Association, WA State Beekeepers Association and of course Western Apiculture Society, I am a member of the California Beekeepers association also.

Continuing to learn about bees, how and why they act and react the way they do, and how to keep them healthy is important to me. I have taken Sue Cobey's and Marla Spivak's classes on queen rearing, and continue to read and learn about these fascinating creatures. My latest interest is learning more about nectar flow.

In my "other" life, I am a mechanical engineer working for Boeing as a structural designer on the F22 fighter program. As I said earlier, learning is important to me in all aspects of my life. I have a Masters in Mechanical Engineering and a Masters in Business Management.

I am glad to announce our next WAS conference will be held in Seattle, WA at Cedarbrook Lodge. This is a beautiful facility that specializes in conferences and taking care of their clients. Sustainability is extremely important to them and they are excited to learn more about bees - and may even put a hive on their grounds. I am looking forward to the next year and to bringing you a conference that is full of information, providing a place to learn and relax as we look toward the challenges that are beekeeping today.

James K. Smith, PE



2011 WAS memberships run out December 31st. Get your dues in by that date for 2012 or this will be your LAST Journal!

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Conference 2011 ...

Current beekeeping problems – disasters or opportunities?

By Eric Mussen, Extension Apiculturist,
Entomology Department, UC Davis

Scientists tell us that honey bees have been functioning on earth for tens of millions of years. They also say that humans have been on the earth for about 200,000 years. Rock paintings of humans harvesting honey date back to 13,000 BCE (Before the Common Era). It appears that humans actually were keeping honey bee colonies in containers and using smoke to calm them down before 2,422 BCE. So humans have been manipulating hives of honey bees for over 4,000 years. However, it was 1609 before the most recognized early beekeeping treatise, "The Feminine Monarchie," was written by Charles Butler in England. Butler suggested that worker bees produce the wax for comb building, drones are males, the largest female is the queen, and workers lay the eggs. Records of honey bees, being successfully introduced into what is now the U.S., indicate they arrived on the East Coast (Virginia) in 1622.



However, it wasn't until really recently that modern beekeeping came into being. A major development was the recognition of the "bee space." Jan Dzierzon in Poland and Lorenzo Langstroth in the U.S. (1851) determined that leaving the appropriate space between components of the hive prevented the bees from attaching everything together. Foundation was being pressed and sold in 1857. Major D. Hruschka from Venice is credited with devising the first centrifugal honey extractor in 1865. Langstroth built the first U.S. model in 1868. Moses Quinby (U.S.) invented the first practical bee smoker in 1873. In 1890 it appears that W.L. Coggshall maintained the largest U.S. beekeeping operation, about 4,000 colonies. Coggshall developed our familiar bee brush. Our most commonly used hive tool was being sold in 1905. Since that time, most of our innovations simply have been modifications of the old equipment. Is there not an opening for further creativity?

European honeybees were imported into nearly every country in the world. Until sugarcane and beet sugar become available, honey was the only abundant sweetener. The number of colonies in the U.S. swelled to over five million in the 1940s.

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After World War II, demand for honey as a sweetener, and beeswax as a military material, dropped off significantly. Federal beekeeping subsidies dried up and the number of colonies in the U.S. began to decline at a fairly consistent rate over the next 50 years.

The arrival of tracheal and varroa mites accelerated the decline in colony numbers. U.S. beekeepers currently report producing honey commercially from about 2.5 million colonies. That number is significantly less than the total number of commercial colonies being operated, nationally.

European honey bees imported into the U.S. brought recognizable problems with them. American foulbrood (AFB) was bad enough that San Bernardino County, CA, implemented the first state honey bee inspection program in the late 1890's. It wasn't clear that AFB was different from European foulbrood (EFB) until White differentiated the causative pathogens in 1907. We already had Nosema apis, sacbrood, and a number of other virus diseases when we prohibited further importation of live honey bees into the U.S. in 1922, to prevent importing tracheal mites.

Globalization has opened the world to limitless trading, and human and commodity transportation. It also has opened the world to dissemination of nearly every problem from one spot in the world to any other location. We did, eventually, import tracheal mites, varroa mites, deformed wing virus, Nosema ceranae, Israeli acute paralysis virus, and perhaps as many more undetected organisms. Combined with the stresses of modern day beekeeping, we are seeing many instances in which the colonies simply cannot persist from one year to the next. We named this problem colony collapse disorder (CCD).

Interest of the general public and the country's agencies to protect honey bees resulted in infusion of funds into financially depleted programs. Millions of additional dollars became available to spend on conducting specific studies on honey bee health. We have a wealth of information, much of which remains to be analyzed. We have not found the cause of CCD.

We do not have a perfect acaricide for Varroa control. We do not have a perfect way to eliminate viruses from our bee populations. However, between the efforts of researchers and beekeepers, we are finding ways to reduce the damage inflicted by the stresses. We are working out approaches to keeping colonies going. We are digging more deeply into areas of research that appear to hold the keys for returning colony health. You will be learning the details of many of these aspects of colony health at this conference, so be sure to attend the sessions and consider applying some of the things that you learn to your beekeeping routines.

Honey bees have persisted through the age of the dinosaurs and the ice age, so I feel very strongly that they will persist through the age of severe human-induced stress.

TABER'S on the web ...



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Encouragement for Hawaiian beekeepers

*By Danielle Downey, Apiary Specialist
for Hawaii*

Hawaii is extremely remote and as such the diversity of Hymenopteran pollinators is less than expected in an environment with such great ecological richness. Little information exists about nectar flows, feral bee populations, unique microclimates or associated management techniques, or plant/pollinator systems as they pertain to honey bees. Endemic Hymenopteran pollinators belong primarily to the genus *Hylaeus* and are important pollinators of native plants, hundreds of which are endangered. There are also several additional introduced pollinator species, including honey bees.

Beekeeping started in late 1800s, and grew quickly with pollinator needs for kiawe (*Prosopis pallida*) cattle grazing. Bee stock importation was closed in 1909, and the industry produced over 1 million

pounds of honey annually. In the 1930s, an AFB epidemic wiped out much of the industry statewide. Management and regrowth occurred for honey production and queen rearing, which has become valuable to Canada and the mainland US particularly because queens can be produced early in the year. There have been few threats to honeybee colonies since then, until varroa arrived in 2007 (now on Oahu and Big Island) followed by small hive beetle (SHB) in 2010 (Big Island, Oahu, Molokai, Maui). This sudden change in pressures on hives has been devastating to many beekeepers.

Challenges to manage these issues are exacerbated by the lack of routine management prior to their arrival, the quick arrival of SHB on the heels of varroa, climate and conditions perfect for extremely high SHB populations, and a general reluctance to use chemical pesticides in Hawaii (which still boasts commercially available organic honey). *Nosema cerana* is also ubiquitous and unknown to many beekeepers, and is likely part of these sudden and heavy colony losses on Oahu and the Big Island.

The state of Hawaii has never had an Apiary Program, so the number of beekeepers is unknown, but managed colony number estimates are around 12,000. Larger commercial operations have moved quickly to protect their production, often enlisting mainland expertise to quickly assess and adapt management techniques for the situation in Hawaii. Even so, there have been some large-scale losses, and costs and labor have increased substantially. Small and mid-size operations have been hit hard, some with 100% losses; these are slowly beginning to re-grow, which is difficult with no commercially available bees and feral populations dramatically decreased by varroa.

Varroa was first detected on Oahu, where surveys showed it was already widely distributed. When it was subsequently found in a port on the Big Island a year later an attempt was made to eradicate colonies within a 5-mile containment zone. With no beekeeper registry, no Apiary Law, few organized beekeeper groups, and beekeepers moving their colonies out of the confinement zone, the effort failed. Funding was obtained in 2010 from the USDA to create an Apiary Program to manage varroa and secure Hawaii's beekeeping and pollination needs. This funding has provided for three positions to build and run an Apiary Program statewide, focusing on raising public awareness, beekeeper education, biosecurity, management techniques, regrowth, and pollination security. Funding is secure through July 2013 and legislation has been passed to secure the program, however with no budget allocation at this time.

Hosting the 2011 WAS Conference was of great benefit to Hawaii, in particular because it provided expert attention to the local pest crisis. About 2/3 of the attendants were from the mainland, and had decades of experience with varroa. Some also had experience with heavy SHB pressure. In addition to much of the program being dedicated to Hawaii's current situation, with helpful information sharing about management and rebuilding from this crisis, there was a clear message that Hawaii's situation is just one of many epidemics beekeepers have faced over the years. At this time when losses are still high, but regrowth efforts are beginning to show some promise, this message was very good for Hawaii's beekeepers to hear.



Identifying queen quality

By James C. Bach, Washington State
Apisrist (retired)

Visual identification of queen quality is somewhat subjective. The queen color, number of abdominal bands and variety or race are not indicators of queen quality. Quality depends more on genetic diversity, queen size and shape, egg laying ability, survival over two years without reduced performance, queen retinue behavior by house bees and wintering colony size – 12 to 15 deep combs covered with bees. Longer and wider queens lay more eggs than narrow or short queens.

1. In my 40 years of studying thousands of bee colonies, I've found that the number of bees in the Queen Retinue is the best and most useful visual indicator of queen quality. Just count the number of workers surrounding the queen when she has stopped on the comb face for 30 seconds or longer, and as she moves over the comb laying eggs. There should be at least 10 and preferably 12 to 15 bees in the retinue.

This bee behavior is a direct indicator of queen attractiveness based upon the amount of pheromone she produces, and the number of drones with which she has mated. See photo 1, taken from the American Bee Journal, July 2007 front cover. Queen pheromone results in the cohesiveness and behavior of bees in the colony. Honey production is more dependent on genetics.

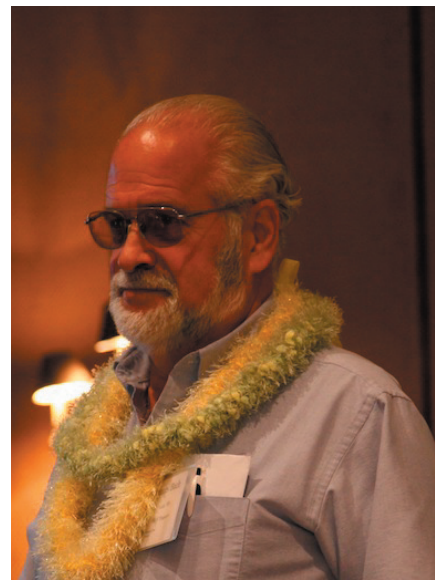
2. Desirable queen behavior is shown in photo 2 where she has laid eggs in an elliptical pattern in nearly every cell with only a few empty cells. Older brood is capped, you can see some white pre-pupae surrounding the cappings, and there are younger larvae and eggs in the periphery of the brood area. Photo 2b. Resulting capped brood.

3. In photo 3 you can see desirable worker behavior with an attractive queen. The bees remain distributed over the comb face, closely covering the brood area even at 60°F. (33.3°C).

4. Comparing bee cluster density at 55°F. (30.5°C) is indicative of queen attractiveness and genetic behavior. Loose clusters (some Italian colonies) use more honey during winter, and some say the colony shakes apart during transport resulting in more bee losses and small wintering clusters. The purest Caucasian and Carniolan bee strains cluster more densely for a given temperature. Since these strains have been hybridized with Italians in the U.S. they now behave more like Italians with some source exceptions. Cluster density is another quality that can be selected for by queen propagators. The bee colony shouldn't move off the comb face while you are manipulating the frames but should remain evenly distributed over the brood and comb. Colonies with more attractive queens will remain distributed over the comb face unless you shake them off. Likewise, bees shouldn't move to the hive walls when lightly smoked or manipulated (Photo 4). More hang all over the outside of the hive after manipulation (Photo 5).

5. With reduced queen pheromones in the colony you will hear an increase in worker bee fanning activity. This can be measured with a sound meter (Radio Shack). "Quiet colonies" will produce 50 decibels (50 dB) of noise even when foraging at the height of the nectar flow. "Noisy colonies" with unattractive queens will produce 65 to 85 dB of fanning noise, easily heard by the beekeeper.

6. This author has seen many newly purchased spring queens that have no queen retinue at all and often only five or six bees. Replacement daughters of new queens, even supercedure queens will lack queen pheromones and thus the number of bees in the retinue. Workers from such colonies will move to other colonies in the apiary with more attractive queens. Colonies lacking queen retinue numbers will consume more honey, reduce their colony size over winter and grow more slowly during spring buildup.



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7. This author has observed colonies with queens lacking retinue numbers that exhibit the following:

- A queen requests food from a nest mate, is refused but continues laying eggs,
- Spotty brood patterns where eggs and or young larvae have been removed by the bees,
- Off-color larvae – grayish (like EFB), nurse bees not feeding larvae resulting in brood removal,
- Colonies cluster in a chimney shape in the fall, instead of the desired elliptical shape,
- These colonies have been observed to abscond at the first hard frost in the fall, leaving two or three hands full of bees scattered about the hive,
- Colonies leaving the brood nest and supers during manipulations (see **photos 4 & 5**).

8. It's all about her! See **photo 1**!



Conference 2011 ...

The Reconciliation: A practical approach to establishing survivor stock

By Melanie Kirby & Mark Spitzig,
Zia Queenbee Co., Truchas NM

This is the presentation Melanie was not able to give at the WAS 2011 conference due to concerns about the imminent arrival of this young man -- Esai Mateo Aristaeus Spitzig. Baby "Buzz" Spitzig was born September 21st, 2011, weighing 8 lb. 9.5 oz.. A big boy who will be a great companion to his sister Isis, shown here as his guard bee.



The "Reconciliation" is an attempt to meld the modern day circumstances that

envelop our bees, and us as their stewards, with the realities of today's changing environments, agroecosystems, and landscapes. The "playing field" is changing -- physically, regionally, and philosophically. Those of us working with dynamic organisms in our earthly "laboratories" are ultimately controlled by the dynamic dual forces of both Nature and human inputs.

The origins of our efforts to establish Survivor Stock began 11 years ago in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Mark was a "recreational hobbyist", with a couple of interested friends, a couple of bought packages and several beginning beekeeping books. The initial literature and Mark's interest didn't really touch upon breeding, but on the basic concepts of the biological cycles of the bees throughout the seasons. These beginning concepts ultimately rely upon their environment and specific location. Our perspectives start as such -- as it does for beekeepers everywhere: Where one keeps bees will ultimately determine how one keeps their bees and affects how one's experience of bee handling develops into flexible plans of management and decisive protocol.

There is a noticeable distinction between Pre-Varroa and Post-Varroa beekeepers. For those who were keeping bees prior to Varroa's arrival, the experience always is posed against the past. Beekeepers who first felt and had to fight the impact of Varroa were devastated. The arena had changed. Then there are those of us who have known nothing else and have had to deal with their coexistence with our bees as a constant. Varroa resistance is the main target for selection for many across the globe. It is through this permanent affliction of honeybee hives that beekeepers have had to continually evaluate various forms of management -- with or without chemicals.

The varroa presence and the beekeeper's chosen method of control -- whether conventional or 'alternative' -- in any location, combined with the locational factors such as weather, climate, topography, and the surrounding agroecosystem and urban/ industrial inputs combine to form the "apisphere" or the living conditions in which a colony or apiary resides. These combined factors influence what nutrition is available. And the nutrition available, along with genetic factors of the bees, will nurture colonies into what they end up being: either flourishing survivors or failures.

This "apisphere" sets the stage for the display of a colony's longevity, what will truly indicate its ability to survive through a multitude of seasonal changes and situational manifestations. In the beginning, Mark relied upon the expertise of others. He purchased a medication kit from an area beekeeping supply chain that was comprised of antibiotic and chemical applications for the control of varied ailments and conditions that could befall the bees.

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The warnings on the packaging convinced him never to open them. His initial reaction was fear of these added inputs conflicting with natural reactions and synergizing while leaving residues that would permeate comb, honey and equipment. Mark eventually realized that apart from the locational differences and similarities that affect colony performance, the other added inputs -- whether through supplemental feeding or applied "therapies" would also add to the complexity of overall colony performance and their establishment of their Overall Lifetime Merit (OLM). He chose from the beginning, to seek "alternative" or non-chemically based methods for managing his bees. In 2001, he enrolled in Dr. Marla Spivak's "Overwintering in Northern Climates" workshop at the University of Minnesota. The techniques he learned there have helped to shape the seasonal management he continues to apply today.

Dr. Spivak said that colonies are susceptible to death by Varroa within 18 months. It became quite apparent to Mark that this indicated the need to find bees that could exceed the 18 month time threshold while continuing to perform well both in production, demeanor and health. This defined the beginnings of the two-year "thrive and survive" regiment which he, along with partner Melanie Kirby, continue to apply to all their hives. This is nothing more or less than Mother Nature tested and Father Time approved. It is what defines longevity as a selection tool for not only Varroa resistance, but also for a colony's Overall Lifetime Merit, which encompasses many more traits, including hygienic behavior, pest/disease resistance, gentleness over time and in varied conditions as well as productivity over time and through diverse circumstances.

The bees initially came from all over. All were given Time as their critical foe with diverse floral forage/ nutrition as their ally. The particular environment of northern Michigan, with lake-effect snow and extremely cold temperatures through long winters and short yet intense nectar flows in the summers, became testing grounds. Mark kept bees in this environment for 5 years. Additional testing grounds were established in the extreme landscape and microclimates of the southern Rocky Mountains in New Mexico.

There is a need for varied pressures on living organisms for them to demonstrate their genetic potential. The symbiotic relationship between the environment creating the bees and the bees relying on the environment for their continued longevity is known as nature nurturing. Recent research has presented interesting findings that Nature does indeed nurture by the effects of diet on DNA and genetic performance (Maleszka, 2010)¹. The combination of genetics and nutrition, which affect production and reproduction, ultimately dictate the Overall Lifetime Merit of a colony. The practicality of this approach is quite simple: either colonies make it or they don't. Those that do are worthy of recording and propagating. This entails the installation of a protocol for selection and propagation and for pedigree establishment. With bees, generations turn over quickly and thus it is crucial that time be allowed to test and assist in establishing the OLT. The more positive the OLT, the better able we are as bee farmers to discern selection points and co-create the rearing protocol.

Colonies that overwintered successfully two winters in Michigan were initially selected as breeders. In September of 2005, 50 out of a 100 of these colonies were moved to New Mexico. Fifteen were lost that first winter, thus 35 Michigan survivor colonies successfully transitioned to becoming NM survivor hives. Zia Queenbee Co. was established in March of 2006 and began to cross-graft daughters from these MI/NM survivors with local stock. Numbers have gradually risen over the past 6 seasons to over 300 survivor colonies and between 600-900 mating nuclei. Additional stock in the form of mated queenbees were integrated into the system from California, Florida, Vermont, Georgia, Louisiana and Michigan, including strains of New World Carniolan, SMR/VSH Italian, Cordovan, Russian and various crosses. All were monitored throughout two winters and those that survived and maintained quality were inducted as NM survivor-stock breeders. This program is still the basis for the Zia Queenbee Co. breeding protocol.

No miticides have been applied, neither "commercial pharmaceuticals" nor antibiotics of commercial origin. On occasion, ZQB will combine essential oils with cane sugar-based supplemental feed and protein patties to supply colonies with adequate nutrition during times of dearth and seasonal transitions so they can control any bacterial, protozoan or fungal afflictions within themselves and their abodes.

It is essential that the implementation of survivor stock be based on a particular locale. There has to be some point from which to start. Promoting regional fortification is the first step. However, it is also essential that over time, new "blood" be incorporated in and tested as there are no "super bees" out there with a "one-size fits all" label. However, the protocol of establishing regionally fortified stock complemented by conscientious rearing and propagation methods has developed quality queenbees that can not only endure and flourish in their own local areas, but are indeed proving to transcend regional boundaries by flourishing in other locations. The more beekeepers who try this methodology and incorporate Time-tested and Mother Nature-approved stocks into their apiaries, the more efficient The Reconciliation.

We encourage those interested to begin to develop their regionally fortified stocks. It does indeed take time and patience and multiple seasons. However, in the "grand-scheme" of things, it is this very necessary process that will ultimately determine the sustainability and the strength of The Reconciliation.

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Conference 2011 ...

Rapid, inexpensive biochemical analyses of honey to determine geographic origin

Presented by Dr. Michael Kliks, CTS Foundation, Honolulu HI. Associate authors Dr. Jun Wang & and Dr. Qing X. Li, Dept. Molecular Biosciences & Bioengineering; Dr. Soojin Jun, Dept Human Nutrition, Food & Animal Sciences, all of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu.

rines (OCPs) and fluoroquinalones, and a wide variety of **environmental pollutants**, such as polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs). The types and concentrations of such contaminants in honey may reflect regional variations where they were produced. Deliberate mislabeling of honeys is widespread in the wholesale and retail marketplace in attempts to conceal the true geographical or floral origins. For all of these reasons the source and type of honey in commercial trade is one of the most important concerns among current food safety and quality control issues for regulatory authorities, food processors, retailers, and consumers.

Many compounds in honeys can be used to determine their geographical and, or, botanical origins. For example, some researchers utilize "fingerprinting" to graphically display the spectral profiles of volatile and semi-volatile chemicals present in honey. These barcode like images can be compared to differentiate variations in floral origins, geographic regions, and any processing that the honey has undergone. **Saccharides** represent the main components of honeys and many papers have been published on the use of sugars as indicators of deliberate adulteration. **Enzyme activities** have been used to indicate the constituent nectars in honeys of different botanical origins. Analyses of **fermentation products** in honeys, such as glycerol and ethanol, can also give some rough information about the type and degree of processing of honey, but were not useful in distinguishing their floral or geographical sources. Analyses of **minerals and trace elements** in honeys also can be used to differentiate their geographical origin, due to the fact that these values correlate well with variations in local environmental pollution. Honeys from different floral and geographical origins contain distinct arrays of **organic acids** that can be used to obtain information on the floral and geographical sources of samples of unknown origin. Careful evaluation of the patterns of **phenolic acids, phenolic esters and aromatic carbonyl compounds** may give a good indication of the botanical origin of honeys. Different **amino acids** in honey have been used to determine the geographical source.

These methods have certain disadvantages as tools to differentiate the geographical origins of honey. For example, the separation of trace amounts of volatile compounds from a complex mixture such as honey is very difficult. Moreover, volatile

Honey is a natural, nutritious substance produced by honey bees from plant nectars as an adjunct to the plant's sexual reproduction. Honey consists mostly of the sugars glucose, fructose, maltose and sucrose, water, and other minor components, including proteins, organic acids, amino acids, vitamins, flavonoids and acetylcholine. In general, pure honey contains extraneous matter, such as pollen, traces of wax, variable amounts of sugar-tolerant yeasts, and dextrose hydrate crystals. Honey containing less than 17.1% water will not readily ferment. Raw, unprocessed honeys will crystallize over time. Processing of honey usually consists of controlled warming to destroy yeasts and dissolve dextrose crystals, followed by fine straining or pressure filtration.

Mislabeling, adulteration, and, or contamination

of honey has become a worldwide problem. Commercial adulteration is commonly done by addition of water, crystalline sugars and syrups (e.g. corn syrup, high fructose corn syrup). Contamination is usually related to intended or unintended exposure to **pesticides and antibiotics**, particularly **organochlorines**



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compounds in honey are less useful for making geographical differentiations than they are for the detection of botanical origins. Analyses of the spectrum of saccharides in honey are suitable for the detection of commercial adulteration of honeys, but only in rare cases can they be used to identify their floral or geographical origins. Very sensitive assays to detect residues of OCPs) and industrial-sourced environmental pollutants, such as PBDEs in honey samples could be useful in pinpointing geographical sources of honeys, but adequate libraries of well defined, stable, honey samples do not now exist.

Evaluation of enzymatic activities and fermentation products can give some information about honey processing and storage, but are not suitable for the determination of floral or geographical origin. Analyses of minerals and trace elements in honeys, as yet, only provide crude indications of the contaminants in their region of origin. Likewise, information on the type and concentration of organic acids and amino acids in honeys gives only indirect information of their origin. At this time profiles of proteins in honey provide the most useful methods to detect their botanical and geographical origins.

Because of the wide variety and broad distribution of global flora species, and their associated pollen and nectars, across diverse geographical regions, **using proteins as markers** is a logical choice for differentiating botanical and geographical origin of honeys. In the past two decades, several studies have been published on determining the geographical and botanical origin of honey based on trace proteins. Marshall and Williams detected at least 19 bands of proteins in honeys of different plant origins using silver-staining of sodium dodecyl sulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE). Recent work has demonstrated that **MALDI TOF mass spectrometry (matrix assisted laser desorption ionization tandem time of flight)** is a valuable tool, when integrated with Biotyper software, for fast and reliable classification and identification of proteins in clinical diagnostics, environmental and taxonomical research, and food-processing quality control. Using this methodology, the automated generation of graphic displays of protein "fingerprints" in samples allows the rapid, inexpensive performance of this assay and provides unambiguous identification of constituent proteins.

Dr. Q. Li and his colleagues at the University of Hawaii at Manoa devised a simple, rapid, and reliable method of "fingerprinting" proteins in a collection of 38 honeys of different geographical origins using MALDI TOF MS with Biotyper software. A protein profile spectrum can be acquired in a few seconds, and MS spectral data can be readily converted into fingerprint-like barcodes representing the protein constituents. This technique requires minimal sample preparation, can have a rapid sample throughput rate, and is inexpensive to perform, but the equipment required is still quite expensive.

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The use of **Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy** and multivariate analysis can also provide a rapid, robust, inexpensive qualitative analytical method to assess the qualities of honeys. Modern statistical software in combination with advanced analytical instrumentation provides high promise for routine differentiation of the botanical and geographical origins of honeys. Quantitative analysis of glucose, fructose, sucrose, and maltose in honeys using the Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy and chemometrics such as partial least squares (PLS) and principal component regression (PCR) was explored in our laboratory to determine and graphically display sugar profiles in known blends of sugars and in honey from different regions of the world (25). Software was used that performed canonical variate analysis of the spectrographic results. The calibration model using known concentrations of various blends of sugars was further validated by high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC). Analyses of commercial honey samples from many regions demonstrated that FTIR can determine the presence and concentration of glucose, fructose, sucrose, and maltose.

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Authentication of the geographical and floral origin and demonstration of adulterants and contaminants in honeys can ensure their quality and safety in the marketplace, and will promote consumer confidence, and facilitate advances in the apicultural industry. The identification and characterization of botanical and biographical origins of honeys is complicated. It often requires the use of several criteria and chemical markers and the use of several analytical methods as well as appropriate statistical analyses.

At this stage in honey analytics there is a need for collection and storage of a broad range of global honey samples that can provide a library of honey types and biochemical profiles. The components of the different honey types are broadly similar, therefore, sensitive spectroscopic techniques such as FTIR are needed to provide details of composition and concentration of analytes. Techniques offering highly specific compositional properties, such as mass spectrometry (MS), are desirable for identifying botanical and geographical sources. An ideal method would be automated, fast and cheap, require little sample preparation, and would provide highly specific information relevant to botanical and geographical sources of honey. MALDI TOF MS analysis represents a new promising method for such botanical and geographical source identification.



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UBC Bee Research Update



Hello everyone! I'm happy that we are finally able to discuss some exciting news about a project in our lab! We have been prevented from making any public announcements as one of the conditions of funding but as the formal announcement was made at this recent AGM in Richmond, I am now able to discuss it here. If you have followed my column or the reports from my laboratory the past few years you will know that we have been developing tests that we hope will allow us to determine quickly and easily if a particular colony displays one of several disease-resistant behaviours (e.g., Varroa-sensitive hygiene). Together with Steve Pernal (Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada), Rob Currie (University of Manitoba), Eric Jan (UBC) and Kathy Baylis (University of Illinois), we recently received about \$5.8M in funding from Genome Canada to really test if these tools we have developed work in a commercial setting. In addition, we are going to be working with Beeologics to develop new RNAi products and to test their existing products for fighting various bee diseases. In total, at the end of the three years of this project, we hope to be able to deliver to you some powerful new tools for managing honey bee diseases. You will hear much more about this over the next couple years but for the breeding side of the project, we have spent the last couple months surveying colonies from beekeepers across BC, AB and MB (thank you to all those who contributed!). The most hygienic of these we

have brought to two breeding locations in BC (Heather Higo and Liz Huxter are helping us with the breeding) and will use the tools we have developed to guide the breeding decisions. In the third year we will be putting the selectively bred colonies back into commercial operations in the three provinces and evaluating their performance in a real-world setting versus control colonies. Follow this space in the coming issues as I will continue to detail our plans and progress.

Research from the rest of the world

In the January 2011 issue I commented on the study published one year ago by Jerry Bromenshenk and his colleagues where they claimed to have identified a new virus in bees that was the likely cause of colony collapse disorder (CCD) in the United States (Bromenshenk et al., (2010) Iridovirus and microsporidian linked to honey bee colony decline. PLoS One 5.10: e13181). In my previous article I presented arguments about why their interpretation of their data was likely to be incorrect but at the time that had to be based on the description of what they did since their data was not available. Since that time they have released all of their data, as they are required to do when they publish, and this has given I and others in the field the opportunity to more thoroughly evaluate it. After doing so, my own group and a group at the University of California, San Francisco independently came to the same conclusions, that the authors did not follow one of the primary rules in interpreting such data and as a result came to erroneous conclusions. In this case there is absolutely no evidence (meeting the standards established in the field) to support the presence of the claimed iridoviruses in honey bees, let alone any link to CCD.

The original paper from UB-San Francisco is at www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21695130, written by GM Knudsen and RJ Chalkley. The follow-up comments were not published as a formal paper, similar to Foster's.

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Beekeepers' Calendar

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 4 - 8: 42ND ANNUAL AMERICAN HONEY PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION CONVENTION, Sheraton Crescent Hotel, Phoenix, Arizona. Reservation deadline December 23. More information is at www.ahpanet.com.

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

Jan 27 - 28: NEW MEXICO BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING, Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 114 Carlisle SE, Albuquerque, NM. Info Ken Hays 505-869-2369 or visit <http://blog.nmbeekeepers.org>.

Mar 2 - 4, 2012 5th Annual Organic Beekeeping Meeting, Oracle, Arizona. Info & registration: Dee A. Lusby, c/o Organic Beekeepers, HC 65 Box 7450, Amado Arizona 85645, phone 520-398-2474.

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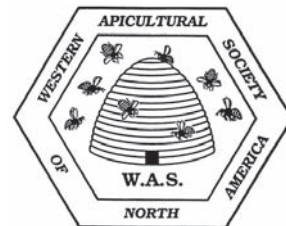
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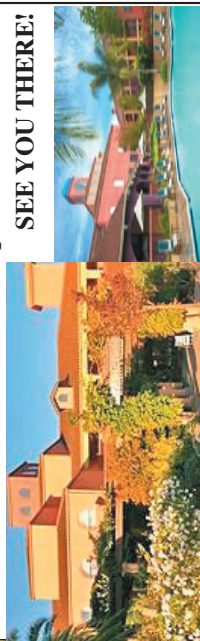
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- Pre-convention board meeting is moved to the morning of the 14th to make way for the afternoon events.
 - Wine-tasting tour followed by an outing to a local cooking school the afternoon/evening of Monday the 14th. (RSVPs needed for these events,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