

WAS Journal



Journal of the Western Apicultural Society of North America

Volume 42 Number 4

November 2019



New Board Members | State of WAS Bees | WAS 2019 and Welcome Keynote

Apimondia 2019 | Minutes | Awards | Student Research & Creative Activities Scholarship



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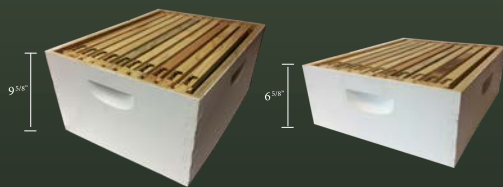
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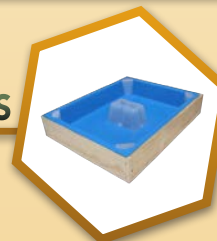


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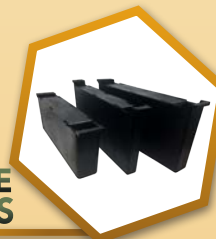


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Volume 42 Number 4

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Hawaii	TBA	Yukon	TBA
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Nevada	Del Barber (2019) 541.249.0160 goldentriangleapiary@gmail.com		

Past President's Message

September 18, 2019



With the conclusion of our WAS Conference and Annual Business Meeting this July in beautiful Ashland, Oregon, Sarah RedLaird, in her uniquely effervescent and energetic style, prepared a superb summary of the entire conference complete with links to the presentations,

pictures, commentary, and more. All the conference information can be found here: www.beegirl.org/blog/whatsnext.

Immediately following the conference, Sarah announced to the WAS Executive Board that her career path was “veering” to a place where she could provide “more support to enable farmers and ranchers to become more holistic through consumer education and policy change.” Following this decision, she tendered her resignation as the WAS president and was recently elected as the newest president of the Northwest Farmers Union’s (nwfu.org). There, Sarah plans to be the “best advocate

possible for good farm policy,” which will benefit all of us in the Northwest. The entire WAS Executive Board wishes Sarah, and her new Board, all the best in this newest endeavor!

With this unanticipated departure and the resulting WAS presidential vacancy, the WAS Executive Board was tasked with a presidential transition plan to help lead us into our Missoula Conference in 2020. When twice-before WAS president Dr. Jerry Bromenshenk (2004 and 2014; westernapiculturalsociety.org/2018-board-of-director-bios) graciously agreed to step in to fill the remaining year on the current presidential term, the Executive Board went into action. Under provisions included in the WAS Bylaws, the Executive Board was able to accept his offer and officially name Dr. Jerry Bromenshenk to his third term as WAS president.

With Jerry’s re-ascension to the presidency, new appointments were possible to fill vacant Director’s positions. Jerry has announced that Charlie Vanden Heuvel and Veldon Sorensen have agreed to serve as Oregon and Utah Directors, respectively. Both of these fellows are very active in their state beekeeping activities and bring skill sets that will significantly benefit WAS in the upcoming years . . .

Steve Sweet

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President's Message

October 15, 2019

Lead the Way, Leave a Legacy

September 29, 2019, over a dozen Montana locations received over a foot of snow, with 48 inches in Browning, 24 inches in East Glacier, 19.3 inches in Great Falls, and 1.7 inches in my home town of Missoula, thereby shattering the 1934 previous snowiest September record! That was indeed a surprise, as will be this president's message from me, Jerry Bromenshenk, your new and unexpected WAS president. This appointment was as much a jolt to me as the snowstorm, and this will be my third term (2003–2004, 2013–2014, and 2019–2020).

As your new president, let me first say, we wish all the best to Sarah in her future endeavors. Thanks also to the Executive Committee and its fast action to ensure a seamless transition toward the 2020 WAS Conference in Montana.

Conferences

Missoula Conference

Mark your calendars for Thursday through Saturday, July 9–11, 2020, for the annual WAS Conference. All of the WAS speakers and exhibitors will be hosted in the conference rooms and atrium at the conference hotel, the Holiday Inn Missoula Downtown.

Come to Missoula to learn what is new and who is new in terms of groundbreaking research and products for sustaining healthy bees. Speakers are to include: (1) Jennifer Walke and her students from Eastern Washington University, whose work on honey bee gut microbiota in mediating pesticide effects and *Nosema* research will be featured; (2) Steve Sheppard and his students and associates at Washington State University, who are working on issues such as Varroa mites and fungal treatments, bee genetics, and new research on CO₂ levels in honey bee wintering sheds; (3) Sandra Hope and her students at Brigham Young University, who are targeting and isolating specific phages which can be included in a bee diet supplement to fight foulbrood bacteria; (4) Scott Debnam at the University of Montana (UM) whose PhD research includes infrared imaging and metabolic studies of honey bee brood nest thermoregulation and the economics associated with thermoregulation; and (5) Jerry Bromenshenk, his team at UM, and the 700

members of his citizen science project aimed at providing real-time monitoring of bee colony pests and diseases using a smartphone app. In addition, we are talking with Randy Oliver regarding attending both the WAS Conference and a Field Camp on Sunday following the conference in Missoula (see



Field Camp, next section). I also have a promise from Huw Evans from the UK and Italy to prioritize coming to Missoula in 2020 to provide an overview of his company's scale-hive monitoring systems that are being used and marketed worldwide.

We are holding a few places on the program for additional presenters and will be sending out invitations to every bee research group in the western US and Canada. We do not want to exclude anyone. We have already found a few new research groups, including a college in South Dakota working with bees and pollination in greenhouses.

Moreover, plan on attending the WAS Banquet so as not to miss the first ever Student Poster Session and Social Reception [see Student Research and Creative Activities Scholarship, pages 11 and 35]. Among our goals for the 2020 WAS Conference is for everyone in WAS to have a chance to meet and encourage students from the western states and provinces. These students represent the next generation of western beekeepers, business people, educators, and scientists.

Field Camp

Stay over for the Sunday, July 12, Field Camp, for hands-on colony inspections, fun bee games, and demonstrations of cutting-edge bee and hive management technologies, ranging from scale hives to hive management software to apps and infrared imaging. All devices and software will



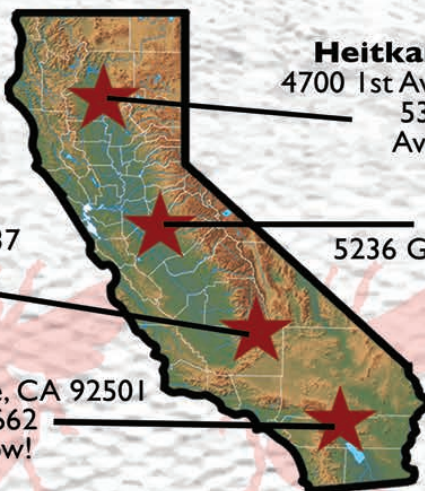
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Bee and Hive Monitoring Workshop

On Monday, July 13, I will open the 4th International Bee and Hive Monitoring Workshop with oral and poster presentations held on the UM campus, a two-block stroll from the conference hotel. Depending on preregistrations and the number of Hive Monitoring presenters from around the world, this will be a daylong or two-day event. We have seen rapid growth in this technology-based field since 2012, when six people showed up; we saw over 30 presenters arrive in 2014, and last year Frank Linton couldn't squeeze everyone in for the one-day Workshop during the Eastern Apicultural Society Conference.

Everyone is invited to join us for any or all of these events. Come and enjoy the days and the lazy summer nights along the Clark Fork River. Take in: (1) *one day* (e.g., Field Camp at Fort Missoula), (2) *three days* (WAS Conference), (3) *four days* (WAS Conference and the Field Camp), (4) *two-three days* (Field Camp and Bee and Hive Monitoring Workshop on the UM campus), or (5) come for the full *five- to six-day experience*. The dates, times, agendas, and registration options for all of these activities will soon be posted on the WAS Facebook page and website as well as on Frank Linton's Hive Monitoring website. While here, tour the town and enjoy great food and entertainment, all just a few feet from the conference hotel's front door. [See booking link, page 37.] Bring or rent fishing gear, bicycles, kayaks, and rafts, or grab an inner tube and float the river. Bring your family, and invite your friends. Plan a vacation to Montana!

Conference Organization



Jaylene Naylor

This WAS Conference and the 4th International Workshop are ambitious and goal oriented. We are fortunate to have an extremely competent WAS Program Chair, Jaylene Naylor, in charge of the WAS Program. Jaylene

is a beekeeper, former president of the Beekeepers of the Bitterroot Association, and a computer information-technology specialist with degrees in Physics and Astronomy. She helps manage UM's planetarium and is the Assistant Director for UM's Autonomous Aerial Systems Office. If we are lucky, she will fly some of UM's camera-equipped research drones to provide a bird's eye look at our bee-hives. Loren Stormo, president of the Beekeepers of the Bitterroot, has volunteered to coordinate the Student Poster Session. Together, Jaylene and Loren will also coordinate an organizational meeting for Montana's Small-Scale and Hobby Beekeepers. I will be in charge of the Field Camp and oral and poster presentations for the Hive Monitoring Workshop. Frank Linton will be working with me on this, and we expect to see a large number of speakers and companies from countries around the world.



Loren Stormo

WAS Business

Articles of Incorporation

So that I fully understand my own upcoming responsibilities, I re-read the original WAS Articles of Incorporation and the statements of its founders, Drs. Norman Gary, Eric Mussen, and Becky Westerdahl. It is a good thing that I read this document because, two days later, I received a message from Sherry Olsen-Frank confirming the successful filing of Articles of Incorporation, Non-Profit, for the Western Apicultural Society of North America, Inc., in the state of Idaho, October 4, 2019. This move of the Non-Profit Corporation from California to Idaho was initiated before I became president. It designates Sherry, WAS's treasurer and CPA, as the registered agent for the corporation. This greatly simplifies reporting and recordkeeping, and should provide cost savings.

The new Articles maintain, word for word, the original WAS purpose: "The specific and primary purposes of the corporation are as follows: To provide a central organization located in the Western United States for the education of beekeepers and of all members of the public concerning matters relating to the field of Apiculture; to provide for, promote, and actively engage in scientific research

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in the field of Apiculture and for the dissemination of such research to the general public; and to provide for and promote to members and to the general public a greater appreciation for the development and expansion of beekeeping as a hobby and as an important industry.” Removed from the new Articles are outdated statements and the original, registered agents: the founders of WAS, who were all at UC Davis and have since retired.

The relatively recent addition of WAS Facebook page and website plays a role in forming an educational society and distributing information. Nevertheless, we may need to take this up a level. It’s my opinion that WAS needs to provide worthwhile benefits to its members all year long, not just at an annual conference. The Student Poster Session for the Missoula WAS Conference is one step towards that objective.

Director Positions

I do not expect to see sudden changes to WAS, nor do I want to dictate change; therefore, over the past few weeks of my presidency, I have been working on filling eight open Director positions. I have filled two positions, have identified and talked to candidates for three other positions, and hope to have all positions filled within the month.

Rather than one annual meeting of Directors or the currently stipulated quarterly meetings of Directors, I will be asking for monthly meetings. We’ve only ten months before the conference in Montana, and we’ve got lots to discuss, such as how to get more members to conferences, what more WAS could be doing, what’s needed to make WAS financially sustainable, and how to better attract and serve members.

Committees

The first step towards this needs to be at the Committee level. I consider Committees to be essential to society planning and shared governance and have drafted a list of Committees, some of which are new [see page 36 and westernapiculturalsociety.org/about-w-a-s/committees]. Committees are to focus on specific issues and then report their findings and recommendations to the Board. Among the new committees are the following:

Director’s Review Committee—Historically, the WAS Board’s role has been to understand the Society’s mission, ensure compliance with laws and regulations, and provide financial oversight; however, the Board has not been engaged in external responsibilities such as

educational advocacy, community building and outreach, and fundraising. To address this issue, I am establishing a Director’s Review Committee. The purpose of this Committee is to review and then better define the roles and responsibilities of the Directors. I firmly believe that it is impossible to do a job well if you do not know what the job is, and I do not think that the Articles or the Bylaws spell this out. Every Board member needs to know what is expected and needed of him or her. I envision this as an interactive process requiring input from Board members and interaction with the Committee. The objective is to develop a guidance/governance document for the education, development, and performance assessment of ongoing and future Boards.

WAS Educational Outreach Committee—From reading the Articles of Incorporation and the newest revision of the Bylaws, it is clear that the annual conference is only one part of the overall mandate to educate and disseminate research. The founders anticipated that WAS would offer classes, short courses, and new materials. Dr. Dewey Caron’s recent article in the previous *WAS Journal* discusses some educational options in terms of different offerings of Master Beekeeper programs as well as some educational needs in terms of identifying guidelines and standards for such courses. The Eastern Apicultural Society has a long-established Master Beekeeper program; WAS does not. From my perspective, WAS probably does not need to develop a Master Beekeeper program, but a WAS Educational Outreach Committee, consisting of WAS members, should be able to review existing offerings and make recommendations that will be helpful to anyone looking for quality courses.

Student Research and Creative Activities Scholarship Committee [see additional description, page 35]—For 2020, we especially want to provide an opportunity for students, who are often at widely scattered western educational institutions, to share their passion and work with all of us, to socialize with other like-minded students and with WAS members, and to have an opportunity to add to their resumes by presenting at WAS, a regional educational and beekeeping meeting. To successfully pull all of this off, I am asking every WAS Director and every WAS member to help us get the word out, and, most importantly, to help raise funds via local beekeeper associations and beekeeping supply distributors. The objective is to cover the travel (transportation, meals, room, and student registration) costs to get students to Missoula, with at least one

WAS Presidents

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- 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 Erickson** (Arizona)
- 1998 **Steve Sheppard** (Idaho)
- 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 **Jenny Bach** (Hawaii)
- 2012 **James K Smith** (Washington)
- 2013 **Melanie Kirby** (New Mexico)
- 2014 **Jerry Bromenshenk** (Montana)
- 2015 **Beth Conrey** (Colorado)
- 2016 **Ethel Villalobos** (Hawaii)
- 2017 **Eric Mussen** (California)
- 2018 **Steve Sweet** (Idaho)
- 2019 **Sarah Red-Laird** (Oregon)
- 2020 **Jerry Bromenshenk** (Montana)

student from every WAS state and province, preferably many more. Loren Stormo, Veldon Sorensen (WAS Utah Director), and Alyssa Piccolomini (Montana State Entomologist and Apiculturist) have agreed to lead this effort. I have begun calling every state and provincial Director to discuss this initiative, answer their questions, and recruit their assistance. Loren and his committee will be following up on my telephone conversations, and we will be providing updates on the Facebook page and website.

The Western Apicultural Society is primarily an educational society, one that promotes bees, advocates best management practices based on practical experience and science-based information, and makes all of this information available to everyone—from a first-year novice to an experienced, professional beekeeper. The Society is also a community, a social circle of members connected by common interests with its own enduring and cooperating social group of individuals who should be working toward a common end. Yet, a community needs to be more than a group of loosely connected members reading the information provided by a few members, with a once-a-year meeting. Its members should have yearlong opportunities to participate, interact, and socialize.

As a first step toward this goal, for 2020, I again ask for your help in “priming the pump” by getting to know and supporting all of the western state and province students who are coming up the educational ranks. What better way to ensure the vitality and sustainability of future beekeeping in our region? It is a perfect opportunity to respond to the challenge that Jim Rohn posed: “All good men and women must take responsibility to create legacies that will take the next generation to a level we could only imagine.”

Jerry Bromenshenk

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Welcome, New (and ReNewing) Members of the Board!



Jerry Bromenshenk



Charlie Vanden Heuvel



Veldon Sorensen

With the July resignation of Sarah Red-Laird, Jerry Bromenshenk stepped up as president and will see us through the 2020 WAS Conference in Missoula. Jerry is the ReNewing board member. He has been serving as Member-at-Large, was previously Montana Director, and has been WAS President twice previously. Welcome, Jerry! Welcome also Charlie Vanden Heuvel! Charlie will serve as Director for Oregon, a position that Sarah also vacated on resignation. In addition, with the resignation of Al Chubak, Veldon Sorensen will serve for Utah. Welcome, Veldon! We thank Sarah and Al for their contributions, and are grateful for Jerry, Charlie, and Veldon's willingness to move us forward.

OREGON DIRECTOR—Charlie Vanden Heuvel

Charlie Vanden Heuvel reacquainted himself with tending to honey bees as he settled down. Rather than dipping his toe into the hobby, he dove in through attending meetings of multiple bee associations, entering the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program, and, most helpful, mentoring other beekeepers throughout the Columbia Gorge. He is currently at the Master level of the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program and an instructor for the Apprentice level in the Columbia Gorge region.

PRESIDENT—Jerry Bromenshenk

Jerry Bromenshenk grew up on a livestock feedlot and dairy farm near Billings, Montana. He originated use of honey bees as wide-area environmental sentinels and monitors (1974–2003); integrated use of citizen science and geo-spatial statistics in combination with honey bees to achieve landscape-level mapping of pollution sources, dispersion patterns, and impacts to bee colonies (1985); brought about EPA-approved, bee-based protocols for Ecological Assessments at Hazardous Waste Sites (1989); led a team with Colin Henderson for numerous productive projects; and developed infrared imaging as a management tool for beekeepers. With Scott Debnam and Phillip Welch, he developed the first Master Beekeeper program (2012) specifically designed to be an ADA-compliant, media-rich, three-level course for Internet delivery. Jerry is currently engaged in contract research in New Zealand, and his primary focus, at the moment, is beta testing of an acoustic scanning app for the detection and identification of bee pests and diseases.

UTAH DIRECTOR—Veldon Sorensen

Veldon Sorensen had his first beekeeping experience on the family farm in Dietrich, Idaho, when he discovered there was a market for the leaf cutter bees that had been making nests in the wooden shakes of the family home. His farm background and frustration with the never-ending battle with weeds led him to degrees at Utah State University and a PhD in Weed Science at Michigan State University. He then joined Bayer Crop Science as a product development specialist. Veldon began his association with the beekeeping industry in 1999 and bought his first hives in 2007. They died the first winter, which led to a deep dive in bee biology, focused research, and continuing bee education. Veldon has been a regular speaker on bee biology, bee health, and the interaction of bees with agriculture since his retirement in 2011. Currently serving as president of the Wasatch Beekeepers Association, he now keeps between 8 and 10 hives and has interest in queen rearing; he has been developing a process for small operations to successfully raise their own queens.



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- **Dr. Samuel Ramsey**, USDA-ARS, Bee Research Lab, Beltsville, MD
- **Cindy Bee**, Master Beekeeper, Certified Educator for the Appalachian Beekeeping Collective, WV
- **Jennifer Lund**, State Apiarist, Maine
- **Kim Skyrn**, State Apiarist, Massachusetts
- **Phil Craft**, Veto-pharma, ABJ contributor
- **Andrea Nurse**, Paleoecology Research Associate, Climate Change Institute, University of Maine, Orono
- **Eric Venturini**, Pollinator Conservationist, Xerces Society and Natural Resources Conservation Service
- **Tucka Saville**, Queen rearing
- **Sam Abben**, USDA-ARS, Bee Research Lab, Beltsville, MD



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State of WAS Bees | Winter 2019

The WAS region is extensive and amazingly diverse. So, too, are the conditions for the bees and the options for those who care for them. Here we find Director Reports of some of the conditions this season. See upcoming area events in the Beekeepers' Calendar (page 25) and/or posted at: www.westernapiculturalsociety.org.

IDAHO—Steve Sweet

Idaho's beekeeping scene continues on an energetic pace, led by local associations reaching out to the far corners of the state. An exciting trend has seen a broadening of our local beekeeper base following on the heels of activities focused on education. One of the most exciting education programs has blossomed at Boise State University, where the Bee Team, a group dedicated to learning about the health and care of honey bees, has been tending their Roof-Top Bee Farm, high atop the Student Union Building.

Addie Higgins, Class of '21 and the designated Team Queen Bee, spends her time coordinating student activities involving an annual office trip to distant sites, which has included both Oregon State and Washington State Universities, and Golden West Apiaries (home to Randy Oliver's operation). In addition to the annual Spring semester "Bee-Vacations," the Bee Team keeps busy organizing twice-monthly campus meetings, conducting regular roof-top hive inspections, and inviting interactions with members of the local Treasure Valley Beekeepers Club. This level of activity has helped the campus association grow to 20 enthusiastic students intent on learning the scientific principles necessary to succeed in beekeeping.

In early October, the Bee Team's regular hive inspection



Boise State University Bee Team members and their mentor, Kebin Duesman (far right), following a successful late-Fall hive inspection and mite-monitoring exercise.



In addition to harvesting honey and beeswax, the Bee Team makes products to sell on campus and holds educational events.

offered twelve students their first opportunity to observe a mite test following the Fall treatment program. Treasure Valley Beekeepers Club Mentor, Kebin Duesman, assisted the student team in assessing colony strength and also conducting an alcohol wash for mites on the active hives. The good news is that the average mite count was well below a one percent threshold.

The Boise State University Bee Team's dedication to learning science-based beekeeping skills necessary to maintain healthy hives, plus the Bee Team's involvement in the production of locally sourced bee products, is helping to produce the next generation of young beekeepers that will be the face of beekeeping's future.

MONTANA—Jaylene Naylor

Preparations for WAS 2020 in Missoula are well underway, but we don't have to wait until next July to hear and learn from an amazing and world-famous honey bee expert! Dr. Tom Seeley of Cornell University will be in Missoula and the Bitterroot Valley November 20 and 21 as a guest of the University of Montana's Division of Biological Sciences and the Beekeepers of the Bitterroot. Tom comes to share his fascinating work with wild honey



Tom Seeley

bee colonies and his studies of the collective intelligence of honey bees. For further information, please go to: www.beekeepersofthebitterroot.org. You can find more about Tom and his work at: nbb.cornell.edu/thomas-seeley.

I'm really excited about the student and faculty researchers we're bringing in to WAS 2020. Our Student Poster Session will be a great chance for undergraduate and graduate researchers to showcase their work for conference attendees and to make valuable connections with others from throughout the WAS states and provinces who share their passions for science and honey bees. There will be more information about the

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Brad Pankratz, 2015 President, California State Beekeepers Association

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conference agenda and activities coming soon, so keep in touch with us on Facebook and our website. As we head into the cold but beautiful Montana winter, I'm keeping my spirits up by looking forward to seeing you all in July!

NEVADA—Del Barber

Nevada beekeepers have been addressing many issues, including mite treatments, the season's dearth, fall planting and Eva Crane's research, winter feeding, cutouts, feral swarms, honey harvest (including products and labeling), and most importantly: Education of the public.

Las Vegas beekeeping made the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* with David Sharpless's public education contribution of an observation hive: www.reviewjournal.com/local/henderson/henderson-bird-viewing-preserve-showcases-working-honeybees-1839212. Hats off to David.

Great Basin Beekeepers of Nevada (GBBN) collaborated with member Cara and the Carson City Fair to offer a Honey Judging Category. The event for the initial year was a honey tasting compe-



Carson City Fair Honey Tasting



Feral Hive Bee Tree Rescue

tition. More than 300 participants showed up to taste twelve different honeys provided by members. Participants were guided to consider color, flavor, and favorites. David, Steve, and Gerianne won blue, red, and white ribbons. Most importantly, the activity stimulated lively conversations about honey bees, beekeeping, bee fidelity, labeling, and so much more.

It was an excellent venue for educating the public.

The coordinated efforts of a passing citizen, who observed a downed tree with a stressed bee colony and notified the Carson City's Parks and Recreation and Open Space (CCPROS), who called GBBN, who called upon member Cara to rescue the bees, became front page news in the *Nevada Appeal*, August 14–16, "Saving the Swarm"—truly exemplifying the connectiveness of this community that is Nevada's first Bee City USA 76. Great Basin Beekeepers participated in the 5th annual Fall Festival held at Silver Stage Middle School in Silver Springs on September 26. Almost 1,250 people, including 902 children, attended. There were 37 booths and 86 presenters. They distributed wildflower seed packets donated by Comstock Seed, gave out free honey tastes, and offered pollination activities.

Bee City USA 76 held their final 2019 on October 2. Lyndsey Boyer (CCPROS) summarized the organization's initial year. Of special interest is the website (carson.org/beecityUSA) that provides resources for beekeepers and gardeners to help pollinators, and that CCPROS worked to develop a pollinator-friendly planting list based on what was locally available and favored by local pollinators. Using this list and working with Carson City Community Development, Carson City has been encouraging a more pollinator-friendly plant palette by requiring that approximately 50 percent of the plants included in development design are selected from this list. Community Development reviews development proposals for apartment complexes, housing developments, and commercial properties, so through this process Carson City hopes to see inclusion of pollinator-friendly plants throughout the city.

Mason Valley Beekeepers finished its 12th year in 2019. The October 2019 meeting was the largest turnout of all! The year included a beginning beekeepers workshop, eight monthly meetings, three field days, and educational events in many communities in northern Nevada. Their members extracted over 10,000 pounds of honey in 2019!

Northern Nevada Beekeepers Association in Reno held its annual picnic where they enjoyed a honey tasting with 19 honey samples, Bingo, and lots of good food. The September meeting hosted local entomologist Kevin Burls to discuss pollinator health. Member Kevin shared with the group what he learned at the WAS Conference in July. The October meeting will host Jeff Knight, State Entomologist, and several speakers who will speak about holiday gift ideas including moisturizer cream, soap,

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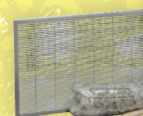
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cleaning wax, candles, propolis coating, honey sticks, and healing cream. Their meeting will wrap up with gobs of giveaway items for the raffle.

OREGON—Charlie Vanden Heuvel

Weather played a significant factor in the health of honey bee hives throughout Oregon the past year. The western portion of the state incurred cold/damp days in the spring preventing colonies from foraging. Of course, this behavior stymied the ability to expand toward the vital nectar flow numbers. Unfortunately, those hives without existing honeycomb suffered a high incidence of loss, whereas those populating old comb appear to have a higher degree of success. The overwintered hives did not have an easy go of it either, as the weather conditions prevented them from foraging, and thus starvation played a role in their demise. Compounding things, the cold, damp, rainy environment gave way to European foulbrood creeping into hives.

Depressing? Well, the good news is the mite loads for all accounts were dramatically lower than in 2017 and 2018 when the *Varroa destructor* mite caused significant losses. As with much of beekeeping, it is never clear how the plethora of issues play off each other, but as spring finally ended, those surviving colonies exploded in activity and strength. The old adage that first-year hives would not produce sufficient honey for cultivation proved inaccurate. Many of these newly created colonies produced an abundance of honey.

A beekeeper trait is to share with others. The Oregon State Beekeepers Association annually has an awesome booth at the Oregon State



Display in the OSBA Booth at the State Fair that includes an observation hive or two.

Oregon State University for the past two years has been very active in surveying native bees with the Oregon Bee Atlas program gathering master gardeners, naturalists, and beekeepers around the state to trap and identify na-



Oregon Bee Project at BioBonanza

is very active in various public events sharing the wonders of nature.

The Oregon Master Beekeeper Program is once again gearing up for their 2020 Apprentices. The program is unique in that it affords Apprentice-level students a qualified mentor along with classroom instruction, field experience across the four seasons, and encouragement to participate in public forums.

The Oregon State Beekeepers annual conference, October 25 through 27, will be held in Florence, Oregon. Michael Palmer (French Hill Apiary), Steve Sheppard (Washington State University), Priya Chakrabarti Basu (Oregon State University), Jay Evans (USDA ARS-Beltsville), Annie Young-Mathews (USDA NRCS-Walport) and, of course, Dr. Ramesh Sagili (Oregon State University) are key speakers for 2019.

UTAH—Veldon Sorensen

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, with support from state beekeeping organizations, sent a postcard to every registered beekeeper in the state detailing the value of assessing and treating for Varroa mites. The card explained how to check for mites, indicated why monitoring is important, and listed sources of information on how to take an effective sample and what to do if mite levels exceed the 2–4 mite threshold. Wasatch Beekeepers Association used this postcard and the August meeting to discuss mites in detail, including how to collect an effective sample, mite life cycle, control measures, and timing. All beekeepers were encouraged to report on their success in sampling, issues, if any, and mite numbers. They were also encouraged to participate in the October Mite-A-Thon.

WAS 2019 in Ashland!

As we turn our attention toward the 2020 season, may we bring our experience and learning during our stay in Ashland to our work with the bees. And may the learning continue!



Registration



Add-On Workshops



Katrina Klett



Judy Wu-Smart



Meghan Milbrath



Jamie Strange



Ann Ketter



Anna Gieselmann



Projects in Development



Luncheons & Banquet

2019 WAS Conference Welcome Keynote

Marla Spivak, PhD—University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota



Marla Spivak is a MacArthur Fellow and McKnight Distinguished Professor in Entomology at the University of Minnesota. She and Gary Reuter bred a line of honey bees, the Minnesota Hygienic line, to defend themselves against diseases and parasitic mites. Current research includes studies of the benefits of plant resins to honey bees, and the effects of agricultural landscapes and pesticides on bee health. She joined us virtually at the 2019 WAS Conference in Ashland.

Good afternoon to everyone attending the WAS conference in Oregon. I'm envious of everyone able to attend this meeting and sorry I missed the rafting trip; it sounds like an extraordinary meeting!

I am not able to join you because I'm attending the combined meeting of the Minnesota Honey Producers and North Dakota Beekeeping Association, in Fargo, North Dakota. This is an important meeting for my region, and I feel I

cannot miss it. Sarah Red-Laird had the good idea of having me record a welcoming message to you to kick off the meeting. So, here goes:

Welcome!

As I read over Sarah President's Message (on the WAS website), and scan the agenda and speaker list, it's clear Sarah has cooked up something special for all of you. It warms my heart that the invited speakers are mostly women. I never thought the day would come so quickly that there would be a critical mass of women researchers and beekeepers to tip the sex ratio at a beekeeping meeting. We've arrived, ladies!

And although I regret not being there, I'm happy that I don't have to be physically present to help tip that balance. There are many great women, men, and people from all paths moving forward in the beekeeping and bee research world—and I know bees and research will be better off for it.

You are part of—maybe even leading—the Changing of the Guard in beekeeping. You are backed by enormous grassroots support for pollinators and pollinator habitat. Now is the time to ride that wave. The hurdles ahead are different from ever before, but creativity and innovation are the trademarks of beekeepers and researchers, so I'm confident we can navigate the obstacles.

What are the hurdles? Here is a big one, in my mind:

We need to help all people in the US understand that all our bees are important: Our native bees, and our non-native honey bees.

There is an unprecedented awareness of our native bees—people are starting to realize that native bees exist, which is a big step. And there is growing awareness, based on research findings, about potential resource competition between managed honey bee colonies and wild native bees, and about potential pathogen spillover from honey bees to native bees when they forage on the same flowers.

As lovers of honey bees, we need to find a good balance between encouraging awareness and conservation efforts for native bees (and flowers), and sustainable management practices for honey bee colonies.

We need to think through some hard questions:

Should we be promoting unrestricted growth and movement of honey bee colonies, queens, and package bees?

Do we want unlimited numbers of backyard beekeepers?

Are we okay with unlimited numbers of honey bee colonies on public lands?

I don't think so.

In time, the backyard beekeeping craze will likely fade as people struggle to keep colonies alive. It seems to me that the number of people enrolling in beginning beekeeping workshops and classes is leveling off or decreasing, which may lead to a decrease in the number of backyard beekeepers, and thus the shipment of packages, nucs, and queens will level off.



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Some of our commercial beekeeping elders are pushing to move unlimited numbers of colonies into public land for pasture/forage. The livelihood of these beekeepers depends on having huge, migratory operations for pollination, honey production, and queen, package and nuc production. When these large operations move across the nation, the bees need spring and summer foraging locations that are relatively free from pesticide exposure, where the bees can build up and get strong.

I absolutely think honey bees deserve good, clean food—and plenty of it. But how do we balance the critical economic needs of beekeepers with critical ecological needs? How do we keep honey bee colonies healthy and well fed, and maintain bee- and bio-diversity?

I don't have the answers, but I will toss out some thoughts for you to mold into something better.

If there is competition for resources, we need to provide more resources. If bees are competing because there isn't enough food, we need to provide more food. This is the "Plant Flowers" mantra.

But, clearly, it is more complicated than that. We need diverse flowers, including lots of native species that honey bees don't always prefer, to promote niche partitioning of resources. Diverse flowers will lead to diverse bees foraging on them, and in this way reduce the overlap. For example, if sweet clover is the only flower in the road ditches in South Dakota, both native and honey bees will forage on it. But if we have areas of diverse native floral plantings, the native bees will have other options.

This same strategy can help mitigate virus and pathogen spillover. If many species of bees are landing on the same flowers and picking up virus particles, then we need to make sure that all bees are not all foraging on the same flowers.

That's a *floral resource angle*.

The complementary thought is the *beekeeping angle*.

As beekeepers, we need to make sure our managed honey bee colonies are as healthy as possible. If we keep bees in boxes, they need to be managed. The same goes with our native bumble bees and stem-nesting bees. If we rear or purchase bumble bee colonies and keep them in man-made boxes, if we set out boxes or hollow stems to attract stem-nesting bees, we need to manage them

carefully to avoid pathogen buildup and transmission.

For honey bee colonies, if there is pathogen spillover, we need to reduce the pathogen load in them. Keeping honey bees in boxes and allowing Varroa mite and virus loads to increase and spread is not doing anyone any favors.

Controlling virus loads is tricky, but I think we need to begin by researching the impact of high virus load on honey bee behavior. What virus load makes them sick? It seems clear the high levels of IAPV means likely death to a colony. But what do high levels of DWV mean? How do low-to-intermediate levels of DWV alter bee behavior? What about the variants of DWV—are all equally virulent? We have no idea. We assume high DWV loads are *bad*, but are they? We assume high Nosema loads are bad, but are they, particularly when they vary seasonally?

We do not know the effect of DWV on bumble bee behavior and colony reproductive success. Or on ant behavior and colony success. Let's get a handle on what is going on before we jump to conclusions.

In the meantime, are we ready for honey bees to be demonized in some people's eyes, at least for some years? Maybe a healthy dose of caution and respect for overpopulation is a good lesson for us. Maybe unrestricted growth of beekeeping is not a sustainable goal. Maybe we need at least 30–40 percent annual losses to cull out sick colonies.

As growers consider regenerative agriculture practices and gain awareness about the importance of biodiversity, and bee diversity, we need to position ourselves to be supportive of that change. We may need to diversify our own interests and research. We may need to encourage our beekeeping audiences to allow native bees to have their day in the sun and in the spotlight. As Bee Squad Becky just said in an email, "Let's start a beekeepers for native bees campaign!"



Let's not pit bee against bee. As beekeepers we may need to step aside to make room for different views, for the native bee view. Let's celebrate diversity, from people to bees, in all colors and forms.

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Beekeepers' Calendar

2019

November 12–14: 2019 **California State Beekeepers Association Annual Convention**. Pechanga Resort & Casino. Temecula, California. *Information:* www.californiastatebeekeepers.com/annual-convention.

November 19: 2019 **Pollinator Conservation in Agricultural Landscapes**. WSU Puyallup Research and Extension Center, Puyallup WA. \$25 *Information:* Alison Nichols, 253.845.9770 x 132.

May 10: **Oregon Coast Honey Lovers Festival**. Yachats. Save the date!

July 9–11: 43rd Annual **WAS Conference**. Missoula, Montana. *Information* as it becomes available: www.westernapiculturalsociety.org. Conference hotel and accommodations, page 37.

July 12–13: **4th International Bee and Hive Monitoring Workshop**. Missoula, Montana. Save the date!

August 3–7: **Eastern Apicultural Society 65th Short Course and Conference**. University of Maine, Orono. *Information:* www.easternapiculture.org.

August 24–26: European meeting of the **International Union for the Study of Social Insects**. University Paul Sabatier. Toulouse, France.

October 20: **Washington State Beekeepers Association 2020 Conference**. Save the date!

2020

January 8–11: **American Beekeeping Federation Conference and Expo**. Schaumburg, Illinois. *Information:* www.abfnet.org.

January 8–11: **American Honey Producers Association Conference**. *Information:* www.ahpanet.com.

January 9–10: The 2020 **American Bee Research Conference** (the annual conference of the AAPA), in conjunction with ABF Conference & Expo.

March 20–21: **HONEY Convention**. *Information:* honeyconvention.com.



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Apimondia 2019

Cheryl Wright, Portland Urban Beekeepers Association, Portland, Oregon

Although I am fairly new to beekeeping, when I saw that there would be an international honey bee conference, Apimondia, in Montreal, I decided to attend. Even if the conference was less than ideal, who wouldn't want to go to Montreal?

As I learned, Apimondia has a great reputation, and has been around for a while. It all began in 1893 when the International Committee of Apicultural Congress was established. Four years later, in 1897, in concurrence with the World Fair, the first Apimondia International Apicultural Congress was held in Brussels, Belgium. The first congress was very well attended, and a second congress was held in Paris, France, in 1900. The second congress was also very successful with meetings over 3 days that had 266 attendees from 16 countries. After this second success, an International Permanent Commission was formed, which continues today.

Apimondia has continued to meet with varied regularity, depending on major world events (like world wars). In 1928, the Congress proceedings were first published, and the Congress was held in conjunction with the International Congress on Entomology in 1932. In 1963, the every-2-year schedule was decided upon, and Apimondia became associated with the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization. From 1956 to 1971, the scientific papers were presented in a pre-congress. Since 1973, however, Apimondia has combined the scientific presentations with other pertinent beekeeping topics such as environmental concerns, nectar sources, bee stock, development of beekeeping, marketing bee products, the world honey trade, and apitherapy (honey bee products for human health). A variety of contests are also held, including honey, hive products, and innovative beekeeping hardware.

The 2019 46th Apimondia theme was "Beekeeping together within Agriculture." There were about 5,500 participants from 134 countries, more than 320 lectures, more than 360 posters, and more than 140 medals were awarded!

Apimondia 2019 opened with big fanfare and a packed auditorium. We enjoyed bagpipers, the Canadian national anthem, the Apimondia anthem in honor of the honey bee, and a band from the very northern reaches of Canada that featured First American traditional throat singing.

Apimondia 2019 was organized into seven major categories that were addressed through lectures and poster presentations that included beekeeping economy, bee biology, bee health, pollination and bee flora, beekeeping technology and



Cheryl Wright stands at the poster presented by Andy Melathopoulos, Oregon State University, during the 2019 sessions at Apimondia in Montreal.

quality, apitherapy, and beekeeping for rural development. Downstairs, below the scientific presentations, was a huge exhibition hall where international companies displayed their wares. The World Beekeeping contest entries were also displayed in this hall and included items related to the honey bee, such as different types of honey, beeswax and a myriad of candles and wax bars, meads and other honey beverages, cosmetics, and medicines. Also, contests for best apiculture-related innovations and inventions. Surprisingly, there were contests for books, magazines, artistic exhibits, and displays related to the honey bee.

Apimondia opened my mind to the many dimensions of the beekeeping world with aspects of honey bees that I had not imagined or considered. The environment was filled with detailed and technical information about the honey bee, images and colors, people speaking multiple languages all around me, and all of it was focused on the honey bee.

I learned so much at this conference that I don't have space to talk about, but there was a great deal of cutting-edge research presented. For instance, German researchers continue to look at feeding honey

bees lithium salts in sugar syrup to kill Varroa mites; the worrisome Asian mite *Tropilaelaps* that is being studied by a brilliant young researcher, Samuel Ramsey; and more presentations about bee genetics and biology than I can begin to describe.

The most surprising thing I learned, however, had very little to do with the science and/or strategy of keeping my own bees healthy and happy, but had to do with a gentleman from Uganda, Robert Ndyabarema, the Kamwenge Beekeepers Cooperative, and a partnership with the Uganda Wildlife Authority, all who had a common goal to minimize the people and park conflict.

The national parks in Western Uganda had a poaching problem, the farmers had an elephant problem, and the bees were the heroes. Elephants are big, hungry, pesky creatures, and do not discriminate between jungle food and people food. They frequently damage property and destroy crops, and it is illegal to kill or harass them. According to Robert, this was bad for the people who lived around the parks because their crops were routinely being damaged and destroyed. Additionally, the villagers were becoming increasingly more resentful of the elephants because there was little that they could do to protect their food and livelihood. This was bad for the elephants because no one really cared if they were poached; they were bad neighbors.

That's when the idea to keep honey bees occurred to Robert and his colleagues. Robert is the managing director of the Environment and Development. It turns out that elephants really hate bees. When elephants approach honey bee colonies, the bees become agitated, and if an elephant gets too close, the bees go right for the elephant's eyes, ears, and trunk. This can lead to an elephant's death, and elephants know this. As beekeepers, we all know the reputation of "Africanized" honey bees (*Apis mellifera scutellata* Lepeletier); they are a little touchy about their personal space and do not hesitate to let others know. So, Robert and his colleagues started teaching villagers how to keep their native honey bees in top bar hives. Over 500 colonies were distributed,

and people were taught how to build additional hives, as well as how to care for the bees and harvest honey. The villagers strategically lined the long hives end to end, and attached them together with wire. They used this configuration to create a border between the jungle and the villages. With very acute senses, the elephants can perceive the bee colonies from a significant distance, and they can hear or feel the bees vibrate as they become agitated. The successful end result had been that the elephants give these colonies, and subsequently the village, a very wide berth.

Data collected from this project showed that, from 2012 to 2015, there was a drop from 44 elephant crop raids to only 12. Unpublished data show this continued downward trend. Poaching has decreased to almost zero, and there have been no poachers from the villages arrested in the past several years.



Entries from all over the world related to honey bees!



Robert Ndyabarema stands with his poster. In his work with the Kamwenge Beekeepers Cooperative and in partnership with the Uganda Wildlife Authority, all had a common goal to minimize the conflict between people and the parks.

As an unintended consequence, crops yields have been higher for those crops that benefit from insect pollination, and, though not a huge crop, the villagers have enjoyed their honey harvest. More importantly, the people have come to love working with their bees in this win-win situation.



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WAS | Board of Directors & Delegates Meeting

July 10, 2019, Ashland Hills Hotel & Suites and Convention Center, Ashland

ATTENDEES: Sarah Red-Laird, Del Barber, Phylicia Chandler, Cyndi Smith, Sherry Olsen-Frank. Call in – Jaylene Naylor, Rosanna Mattingly, Jerry Bromenshenk. Steve Sweet called in late and left the call early due to feedback on the phone. Proxy – Melanie Kirby.

Meeting called to order by the president Sarah Red-Laird at 6:09 PM.

Secretary Report: MOTION – Sherry Olsen-Frank moved to accept the minutes as written in the *WAS Journal* for the Boise Conference. Second – Del Barber. Carried.

Treasurer Report: Sherry provided an up-to-date (7/10/2019) report on the conference. Sarah will be sending out an email to attendees informing them of the raffle, including they must be present to win. Also, anyone who posts or adds a picture to social media sites Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram with #wasashland will get a free raffle ticket/tickets.

Sherry – The wine tour is a pass-through event with 16 currently signed up; I will get a check to Sarah Shaw on Sunday morning to bring to the winery.

Expenses are still being pulled together. Sarah will double check the cost of the shuttle to Mt. Ashland for the bumble bee workshop.

Sarah provided the invoice from the hotel. Sherry – with the hotel, catering, and a couple of items not included in the report, we are currently \$9,400 in the hole, mostly due to attendance not being as high as anticipated. Speaker expenses were covered by sponsors. The executive board has been informed, is aware of the situation, and has made adjustments as we could. At present, we will be needing to use some of the reserves to cover the overage.

MOTION: Sherry Olsen-Frank moved to authorize the board to utilize some of the reserve funds to cover the shortfall. Second – Del Barber. Carried.

Treasurer Report: Financials on December 31, 2018: ASSETS: Cash \$44,933.79. Receivables \$1,840. Undeposited funds \$500. Total Assets: \$47,273.79. Net Income: \$5,814. (\$280 in temporarily restricted funds for the scholarship). Profit and Loss: Conference Income \$18,625. Other Total Income \$43,044. Expenses: \$19,098. Total Expenses: \$37,230. Net Income: \$58,014. 2019 through June 30. ASSETS: Combined

checking and savings \$72,654. Receivables \$4,805. Total Assets: \$77,459. Payables for the conference \$11,816. Preliminary income before conference expenses were \$18,369 prior to payment of the venue. Income January–June 2019: Conference Income \$31,965. Total Income: \$46,725. Expenses on hand through June 30 \$11,781. Total Expenses: \$28,342. Temporary Net Income: \$18,384.

Editor Report: July 2018–July 2019: Journal Net Income: \$5,969.53. Conference program cost will be similar to 2018. We received our nonprofit mail permit.

Historian Report: Journals scanned and uploaded from 2011 to the WAS website along with others that were available from 1983 to 2010. Cyndi will scan the remaining journals and get them to Rosanna.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Sites: None

Awards: The Outstanding Service to Beekeeping and two president's awards will be chosen by Sarah Red-Laird.

Resolutions & Bylaws: Went through a summary of bylaws.

MOTION: Sherry – Approve the proposed changes to the bylaws as presented on the website. Discussion: Rosanna requested that the bylaws be accepted with a provision for minor changes for consistency and grammar to be made later, as reviewed by the committee.

Sherry – Due to the significant changes and that need to be in place if the board and membership so chooses, can hold the next corrections/tweaks for the next Bylaws Committee to look at. Second – Del Barber. No further discussion. Carried.

Nominations: Slated for renewal

Sherry – We put up for nominations to the annual membership the following people if they wish to continue:

British Columbia – Nancy Burkholder

Nevada – Del Barber

Montana – Jaylene Naylor

Colorado – Ray Story

Saskatchewan – Doreen Bradshaw

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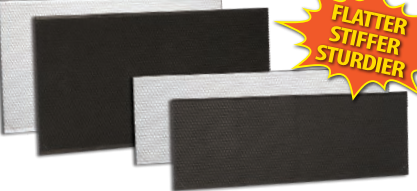
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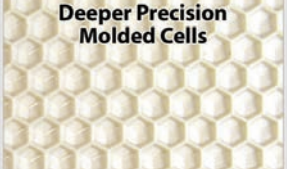
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NEW BUSINESS

As per bylaws, the current board can set the dues after which the bylaws with its changes will be presented to the membership. Discussion regarding the change in membership levels and increase in dues.

Current: Individual \$20, Junior \$15, Senior \$15, Senior family \$20, Family \$30, Association \$20, Business \$100, 10-year Individual \$200, 10-year family \$300, Benefactor \$500, Patron \$1000.

Proposed: Individual \$60, Junior \$30, Senior \$30, Association \$75, Business \$100, Benefactor \$500, Patron \$1000. List of benefits for business and association given: listed in the Journal, your business or association are linked on the website, you are invited to write a journal article and can talk about what you want to talk about and will point members to your association or business on social media.

MOTION: Sherry Olsen-Frank – Moved to set the new membership dues at Individual \$60, Junior \$30, Senior \$30, Association \$75, Business \$100, Benefactor \$500, and Patron \$1000. Second – Jerry Bromenshenk.

Amendment: Sherry Olsen-Frank – Effective date July 11, 2019. Second – Jerry Bromenshenk. Discussion: Clarification on who receives a printed copy of the journal. Not in the motion for a printed copy, includes a digital copy only of the journal. If someone wants a printed copy, there will be a \$20 charge due to the cost to print. No further discussion. Motion Carried.

Further discussion: Have the new dues go into effect August 1, 2019, and let conference attendees know that as of August 1 the dues are going to go up, but if they sign up at the conference, they receive the current dues pricing.

MOTION: Sherry Olsen-Frank – 2018 dues structure to be offered to Ashland WAS Conference attendees, new or renewing members, through the end of 2020, offer ending on July 14, 2019. Second – Del Barber. No further discussion. Carried.

Discussed when to have the board meetings and why historically we have it before the conference.

Meeting called: 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cyndi Smith

Western Apicultural Society | Annual Business Meeting

July 14, 2019, Ashland Hills Hotel & Suites and Convention Center, Ashland

President Sarah Red-Laird called meeting to order at 8:07 AM.

MOTION: Charlie Vanden Heuvel/Sherry Olsen-Frank – Move to accept minutes as printed in the 2018 *WAS Journal*. Carried.

Treasurer Report: Financials on December 31, 2018: ASSETS: Cash \$44,933.79. Receivables \$1,840. Undeposited funds \$500. Total Assets: \$47,273.79. Net Income: \$5,814. (\$280 in temporarily restricted funds for the scholarship). Profit and Loss: Conference Income \$18,625. Other Total Income \$43,044. Expenses: \$19,098. Total Expenses: \$37,230. Net Income: \$58,014. 2019 through June 30. ASSETS: Combined checking and savings \$72,654. Receivables \$4,805. Total Assets: \$77,459. Payables for the conference \$11,816. Preliminary income before conference expenses were \$18,369 prior to payment of the venue. Income January–June 2019: Conference Income \$31,965. Total Income: \$46,725. Expenses on hand through June 30 \$11,781. Total Expenses: \$28,342. Temporary Net Income: \$18,384.

MOTION: Becca Fain/Charlie Vanden Heuvel – Move to accept treasurer's report as presented. Carried.

Financial Review Committee: Steve Sweet – After a couple of hours going through the books, it was concluded that Sherry has done a great job of putting things together. The financial records were up to date and fully consistent with bank records presented. Following this, it was noted that Sherry is doing a very professional job as treasurer. There were some recommendations on financial controls, nothing out of the ordinary. We talked about the issues with California as the organization is registered in California. (Sherry stated it should be moved to Idaho by the end of the year.) WAS appeared to break even in 2018 and appeared to be on the right track.

MOTION: Theresa Beck/Becca Fain – Motion to accept the financial review. Carried.

Editor Report: Rosanna Mattingly – July 2018–July 2019. Journal Net Income – \$5,969.53. Conference program cost will be similar to 2018. We received our nonprofit mail permit. Many journal issues since 1983 have been

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scanned and uploaded to the website. Cyndi Smith will finish scanning in the issues that I do not have copies of. Discussed ongoing issues with the website and spam. There were some issues regarding security, but they have been taken care of.

MOTION: Steve Sweet/Theresa Beck – Motion to accept the editor's report. Carried.

Sites Committee: Jaylene Naylor – Next year's conference will be in Missoula, Montana, July 10–12, 2020. On the 12th will be the start of the 4th International Hive Monitoring Conference. The theme will be Honey Bee Health; we already have some speakers lined up with more information coming out soon.

2020 Awards Committee: Steve Sweet, Jaylene Naylor, and Charlie Vanden Heuvel.

NOMINATIONS

Slated for renewal:

British Columbia – Nancy Burkholder

Nevada – Del Barber

Montana – Jaylene Naylor

Colorado – Ray Story

Saskatchewan – Doreen Bradshaw

At-Large Member – Jerry Bromenshenk

MOTION: Sherry Olsen-Frank/Steve Sweet – Motion to approve slate as presented. Carried.

There are multiple states not represented in WAS – if you know anyone in these states, AK, Alberta, AZ, HI, WA, WY, Yukon Territories, and UT, who would be interested in being a director and is a good fit, we would love help in recruiting. They would just need to get us a letter stating why they are interested in serving WAS and what they have been up to in the bee world.

Bylaws Committee: Jaylene Naylor – Worked hard all year on the bylaws. The main change is to turn the president's term into a two-year term and have a conference chair person in charge of the conference, first to have continuity

in the organization and second so the president is not completely overwhelmed doing the conference for one year then be done. The vice president would also have a two-year term. These are the biggest changes. The rest of the changes are for continuity and to make sure the references back and forth were correct. Discussion: Steve Sweet – I would like the general membership to authorize the Bylaws Committee to make minor changes to the bylaws. Discussion: There is concern over the two-year presidency, the length of the commitment and the need for the changes; there is already continuity built into the current system. Sarah and Jaylene explained how they felt about the changes and why they supported these changes. Discussed how a program chair/facilitator would be valuable to WAS, how the president has been too busy putting together the conference to do the business of WAS, and why it is important to change so WAS can grow each year, building on the previous year rather than starting over, separating the focus from organizing both the conference and the annual meeting (the business) of WAS to an individual focus on each area. Also discussed the need to work on inclusivity to grow WAS tapping people on the shoulder asking for help, having the vice president organize the conference, and having the conference every other year. Sherry called for the question.

MOTION: Tally Kerr/Sherry Olsen-Frank – Motion to accept the changes to the Bylaws. Count: Yes 14. No 6. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Dues are a decision made by the Board of Directors; we will have further discussion regarding this issue. If anyone has any questions or comments, please direct them to the secretary—Cyndi Smith at: onthegocgs@comcast.net—who will direct them to the board members for discussion.

MOTION to adjourn – Becca Fain/Sherry Olsen-Frank. Carried. Meeting adjourned: 8:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cyndi Smith



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2019 Outstanding Service and President's Awards

Contributions in terms of service and work on behalf of the bees and those who keep them are possible in many realms. The Western Apicultural Society aims to acknowledge such efforts with several types of awards. The Outstanding Service to Beekeeping is to a person, normally from the West, who has made outstanding contributions in such areas as research, teaching, public relations, publishing, and service to WAS or other beekeeper organizations. The President's Award is a special recognition made by the president. Sarah Red-Laird acknowledged 2019 award recipients during the banquet at the 2019 WAS Conference in Ashland. We appreciate all such work. Congratulations, Del and Myrna, Sherry, and Phylicia!

Outstanding Service to Beekeeping



Del and Myrna Barber received the "Outstanding Service to Beekeeping Award" for their years of service through educating thousands of kids and their stand-up leadership in policy work this year on Nevada Senate Bill 389, which would have severely limited the rights of beekeepers in their state.

President's Award for Service to the Western Apicultural Society



The first President's Award went to Sherry Olsen-Frank, WAS Treasurer, who spent countless hours behind the scenes pulling the conference together and working on the organization itself. In the last six years in my involvement in WAS, Sherry has been a consistent

and responsive leader, even during tax season! Which says a lot, as she is a CPA.

The second President's Award went to Phylicia Chandler, WAS 1st Vice President. Phylicia does everything she puts her mind to with conviction, perfection, thought, grace, and integrity. Her work on the WAS Conference was no exception. She worked around the clock, and mastered every detail while I kept my focus on the big vision. And she did it with a genuine smile.



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Student Research & Creative Activities Scholarship Committee

Loren Stormo, Committee Chair, Florence, Montana

During recent months, the WAS Executive Board has been planning the details for the July 9–11, 2020, WAS annual educational and research conference in Missoula, Montana. The board decided to organize a committee to encourage students to: (1) attend the conference, (2) present a poster of their student research or creative works, and (3) meet students from other western states and provinces.

The Committee has been charged with assisting in finding travel funds for students to present works at the 2020 regional WAS Conference. The objective is to minimize travel and lodging costs, which often constitute a barrier to student participation—i.e., where possible, to provide sufficient funds for travel, meals, student registration, and rooms at the conference hotel. A limited number of housing and meal options may be provided by Missoula beekeepers and families. This outline begins that process.

Goals

Through the work of the committee, WAS aims to:

- Encourage students least 18 years of age with a proven interest in and commitment to beekeeping to participate in the WAS annual meeting.
- Provide financial assistance for travel and housing.
- Establish WAS state/province coordinators, each of whom is responsible for establishing a local committee for soliciting submissions, coordinating fundraising from local beekeeping associations and bee equipment providers, selecting the award recipients, and working out travel details.

Responsibilities

Scholarship Committee Chair Responsibilities

- Work with the WAS president to contact the WAS coordinator in each of the thirteen states and three Canadian provinces in the current WAS territory and notify them of the awards program. (We may also invite some or all of the additional states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas.)
- Develop a deliverable to make the process as streamlined as possible.
- Find Missoula-area volunteers who are willing to provide housing and perhaps meals and transportation to and from WAS activities for the award recipients.

- Find a volunteer coordinator from each participating state/province who is willing to perform the tasks required to be successful.

State/Province Volunteer Coordinator Responsibilities

- Identify and contact all beekeeping associations, commercial beekeeping organizations, and post-high school establishments with apiary studies programs in their state/province.
- Attempt to obtain their commitment to help in the fundraising process and implementation of the program.

State/Province Responsibilities

- Identify a scholarship coordinator.
- Set up (at their discretion) a local committee to assist in soliciting participation from associations and universities, and in raising awards money.
- Oversee the spending the scholarship money for its intended purpose.
- Select recipients for their state/province.
- Possibly coordinate transportation (including carpooling) for award recipients.
- Determine the number of the awards no later than May 1, 2020.
- Notify the Chair of the number of award recipients and housing requirements.

Loren Stormo [photo, page 9], Chair of the Scholarship Committee, is a beekeeper from Florence, Montana, who developed a strong appreciation for the joys of coaxing food from plants and animals while growing up on a small family farm in eastern South Dakota. He earned a degree in forest management from the University of Montana in 1979, and worked as a forester for 7 years. He then switched careers to the IT realm of the IBM iSeries for about 30 years. Loren retired in 2016, but keeps extremely busy with gardening, woodworking, and working with his siblings on inventions that include the Vape-A-Mite oxalic acid vaporizer and a Personal Flying Vehicle. He especially enjoys the many rewarding activities that result from working with other active members of the Beekeepers of the Bitterroot Association.

Opportunities to Participate (i.e., Help, Please!)

Much of the work of the Western Apicultural Society is done by committee, a number which are required by the WAS Bylaws. These include the Executive, Awards, Financial Review, Nominating, Resolutions and Bylaws, and Sites Committees. All of these committees have Chairs, except the **Sites Committee**, set to focus on the 2022 WAS Conference. President Jerry Bromenshenk has set up several new committees to carry the organization forward. With seven open committees, we need your help.

New Committees

Student Research & Creative Activities Scholarship: Described on page 35.

Membership Recruitment and Fees: Viewings of the WAS Facebook page and website demonstrate widespread interest, but overall WAS membership is static. The Committee is asked to address: (1) How to encourage more viewers to join? (2) What benefits does WAS offer, and what might it add to increase value? (3) What are membership target numbers? and (4) What fees need to be charged to be able to sustain and to grow overall WAS membership?

Featured Speakers Sponsors: WAS struggles to provide support for speakers. Many come on their own nickel. Some

ask for travel expenses and charge a fee. Popular, informed speakers add significantly to programs and attract more participants. The Committee is asked to: (1) Develop an Event Marketing Strategy, (2) Explore options for providing some financial assistance for all speakers, (3) Build relationships with sponsors that are empathetic towards their own needs and wants in our sponsorship proposal, and (4) Hopefully, find sponsors for select speakers.

Exhibitors and Vendors: For the 2020 WAS Conference.

WAS Educational Outreach: The WAS Articles of Incorporation anticipate that in addition to the annual conference, WAS will hold workshops and short courses, as well as publish new materials on any subjects relating to bee-related issues. The Committee is asked to review: (1) Whether WAS is meeting its mandate, (2) Whether WAS could be providing more to educational benefits to its members, and (3) What opportunities exist for better serving educational outreach objectives.

Directors Review: WAS Directors have typically met once a year at the annual conference. The revised Bylaws require quarterly meetings. For 2020, Directors are

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asked to teleconference monthly and to take charge of realizing the goals of the new Student Research and Creative Activities Scholarship Fund. This Committee is asked to: (1) Explore how Directors can best serve WAS and their local constituents, (2) Clearly define Directors' responsibilities, (3) Ensure that WAS meets its statutory (Articles of Incorporation) obligations, and (4) Take a more active role in the management of WAS business, including developing a strategic plan and making operational decisions.

Please take time to review committees and objectives, see where you want to make a difference, and volunteer!

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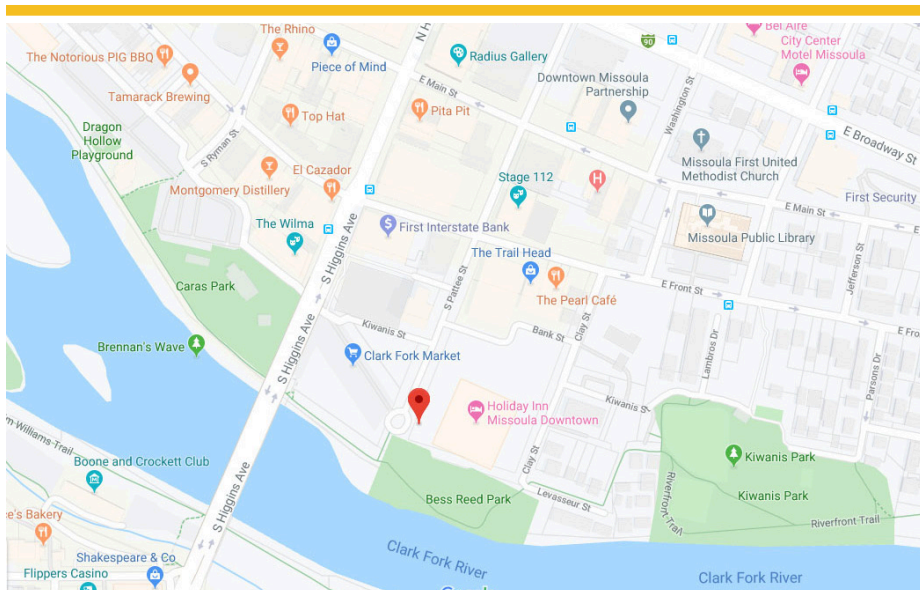
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Group Name: Annual Conference

Booking Link: Annual Conference

Cutoff Date: June 6, 2020

Booking Code: WAS

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Sunny Bee Honey Farm

Western Bee Supplies

Affiliated Associations

CANADA

Canadian Honey Council

US

California

Alameda County Beekeepers Association

Mt. Diablo Beekeepers Association

Nevada County Beekeepers Association

Sacramento Area Beekeepers Association

San Francisco Beekeepers Association

Colorado

Colorado State Beekeepers Association

Hawaii

Big Island Beekeepers Association

Idaho

Treasure Valley Beekeepers Club

Montana

Beekeepers of the Bitterroot

Oregon

Columbia Gorge Beekeepers Association

Lane County Beekeepers Association

Texas

Texas Beekeepers Association

Washington

Mt. Baker Beekeepers Association

43rd Annual Western Apicultural Society Conference

HONEY BEE HEALTH



westernapiculturalsociety.org

CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

Jerry Bromenshenk, University of Montana and Bee Alert Technology

Scott Debnam, University of Montana Master Beekeeping Program

Sandra Hope, Microbiology and Molecular Biology Department, Brigham Young University

Randy Oliver, Scientific Beekeeping

Alyssa Piccolomini, State Entomologist, Montana Department of Agriculture

Steve Sheppard, Department of Entomology, Washington State University

Jenifer Walke, Department of Biology, Eastern Washington University

Dave Wick, BVS Inc

And More!

Missoula, Montana
July 9–11, 2020

WAS2020 is followed by the 4th International Hive Monitoring Conference, July 12–13.
The Holiday Inn Missoula Downtown has set aside a block of rooms for both groups.

New _____ Renewal _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Other area(s) of work/interest? _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED

November 2019 39



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