



# BEE LINES

Regularly scheduled meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at [1305 Pine Avenue in Snohomish](#) in the Christ the King Lutheran Church building.

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## April 09

Next meeting is **April 14, 2009, 7:00 pm.**

This month's topic is spring management.

It will be a group discussion on what folks do to get ready for the new season. Also as some folks may be getting package bees the next day we will talk about installing packages.

Northwest District Beekeepers Meeting  
March 10, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Scott Jenrich, at 7:00 pm.

The minutes for the February meeting were read and corrected. There were 25 people present.

Treasures report: Checking \$791.03, Savings, \$836.29

General Hive Discussion:

- Beehaven reports that they lost 2 hives this winter. They were feeding and taking patties
- Scott Jenrich has 5 frame nucs from last summer that have not fared well this winter. He will experiment with something different next year.
- Jim Tunnell has a customer with a ferial hive in a tree that has been partially cut back. They will move this to a hive in the spring. Commonly, hives can do great in a warm spring and still fail in the cool, damp later spring.

PROGRAM: Jim Tunnell gave a talk on Integrated Pest Management or "Better Living Through Chemistry".

His advice is that you should only treat when there is a need.

Varroa mite treatment: Jim uses a short (western) frame in positions 2 and 7 in the hive. This encourages drone cell placement by bees, at the bottom of these short frames, where you can take them out and put them in the freezer, killing the cells and keeping the mite population down. Mites are more apt to be in the drone cells, which typically are created on the bottoms of frames. When opening these cells, the mites can be easily seen in good light, or with glasses, depending on how young you are. Screened bottom boards with sticky paper that can be changed out will give a clear indication of mites.

Dusting the bees with powdered sugar will also cause a mite drop. This needs to be done every 7 days for 3 weeks. Jim thinks that "ChecMite" has a nerve agent component, which could damage the immune systems of bees. Using this can also cause a reduction in the number of bees reaching adulthood.

Temperature sensitive formic acid leaves no residue but can be hard on the bees, killing brood and cannot be left in the hive when the temperature is above 80 degrees. This also must be used with a well-sealed bottom board and, by law; you should wear precautionary breathing gear when using it.

Vinegar fogger was discussed for mite control. Stan has used one of these in a hive that was mite infested, with good results after 3 doses.

Small cell based foundation is also a good way to keep mite population down. Scott uses this with good results. Bees are a smaller size and are



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birthed at 19 days and not 23 but this is more of the natural size that nature intended.

Tim Buhler uses the short frame method but cautions that it should be taken out of the hive early, thus improving the long-range health of the hive. Connie suggested that in using chemicals, we know what we are using and the potential long-range effects of these chemicals. American Foul Brood: This can be somewhat controlled by rotating out old brood comb. (The higher the incidents of foul brood spores, the older the equipment) Honey robbing can carry foul brood in the honey. Terramycin is the treatment of choice but it is better to change out foundation and keep hygienic practices. Frames should be changed out every 4 years. There is a caution in the use of Tylosen (?). Burning the hive is the best to rid of contamination. Connie takes 4 frames out of each box every year in the spring, using the method of Roy Thurber.

Wax moth: Is best controlled by good hygiene methods. Light and air circulation.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Wirt, Secretary

### Member Submissions

Mel Loomis will be bringing Dahlia tubers for sale, cost \$2 - \$5

David Pearson will be bringing some sample bottles from a supplier in Seattle, also he will be

bringing some sample labels from Amy's Honey Labels, (a supplier getting good ratings on several on line forums).

### Website Updates.

#### Over 1000 hits in less than 3 months !!!

I am still hoping to receive some pictures from folks to add to our photo section, if you have any send them in and I will add them, please include a brief narrative.

### Swarm List.

This page has been revised to show only dues paid members, if you have paid your dues and want to be added please email me with your details. This year we are going to mail the list out to 15 town halls and this list will go to fire/police and parks departments in our general area. I plan on sending this out around the end of the month so if you want to be included get your dues in and email me. I can still add you to the website any time of year but the mailing will only go out once (this year).

### Suggestions/Comments.

If you have any you can email any club officer through the website, additionally you can go to the forum we have created and post there also. It is slowly being discovered and already we are seeing post from folks looking for mentors etc.

**Do you need gloves ?** Don't like using kitchen gloves or spending big bucks to get leather ? Bucko gloves has a nice beekeeping glove that is getting good reviews on line, their prices are very good and if we have interest in the club



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maybe we can do a bulk purchase to get the best price.

Less than 3 pair \$9.00/pair +shipping

3-5 pair \$9.00/pair freight paid

6-11 pair \$7.75/pair freight paid

12+ \$7.25/pair freight paid

I have a pair and they are very nice, I will bring them to the April meeting for folks to look at.

### Jenter Queen Rearing System.

The following was recently posted on the OSBA forum and may be of interest to anybody using this system.

From: "Sandy Forrest"

<[sandy@brushymountainbeefarm.com](mailto:sandy@brushymountainbeefarm.com)>

To: "Bob"

Subject: Re: jenter queen rearing system

Date: Sunday, March 29, 2009 12:19 PM

Hi

Sorry about the delay on this item. Karl Jenter who has developed, marketed and produced this product for about 30 years is now 89 yrs old living in a retirement village in Germany. Luckily we have a nephew in Germany who is able to communicate with Karl when we have a problem. He contacted Jenter about 6 weeks ago and Jenter told him he would ship part of our goods in a few days and the rest in a few weeks. When we received the first shipment, it was not enough to fill our previous backorders on this. He has not communicated with us since. We will have our nephew to contact him so that we can understand what is going on. I am afraid we are going to have to discontinue this product because of Jenter's failing health and his lack of help with this business. We could have this shipment this week or next month, I am sorry I cannot tell you definitely. This is a good product, and

we are disappointed that it is such a problem to get.

I apologize for the inconvenience and we will be glad to refund the purchase price, just contact our office 1-800-233-7929 and ask for Becky.

Thank you

Sandy Forrest

Brushy Mtn Bee Farm, Inc

### In the News.

Honey business is sweet

The hives sit near an orchard, giving the honey a flavor that sells "like crazy"

**By Nancy Lofholm**

*The Denver Post*

Posted: 03/07/2009 05:58:19 PM MST

Eric Carney is on the tail seat as he and his cousin William Austin and his brother Clay Carney go to look in on their bees. They have started their own company the Austin Honey Company. They raise bees, sell honey and do their own marketing. (Joe Amon, The Denver Post)

PAONIA — When Clay and Eric Carney and their cousin William Austin decided bees could be their ticket to college, they first did what kids do — thought up goofy names for their startup honey business.

They rejected the Three Abeegos and the Three Buzzketeers. Instead, the 5,000 pounds of honey they sold in their first season came with professional-looking, trademarked Austin Family Honey labels.



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"I was concerned that when I was 25, being a Three Abeego might not be as cute as it was at 11," said Clay, who at that age is the youngest partner in the growing honey enterprise.

In an economy that is anything but sweet, Clay, Eric, 13, and William, 14, have learned there is still demand for a good jar of locally produced honey.

"We sold their honey like crazy," said Lee Bradley, owner of the Orchard Valley Farm market near Paonia, one of 15 markets statewide that buy it from them.

The boys used a sales-call list from their grandfather's fresh fruit and vegetable business and made their first sales call at Orchard Valley last summer. They had a practiced pitch and a detailed price list, Bradley said.

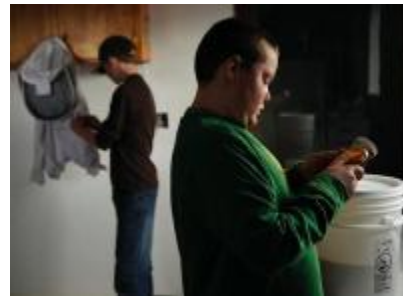
At \$3 a pound, their prices are a little higher than their competitors'. There aren't many when it comes to local honey. Two beekeepers sell honey commercially: North Fork Valley Honey in Crawford and Ambrosia Honey in Parachute.

The boys made their pricing decision based on flavor and debt. Their honey gets rave reviews for taste because it begins with a lot of fruit pollen.

The boys also are financially beholden to a family friend, Dr. Jean Van Dusen, who invested \$5,000 in the business. She said their characters

were enough for collateral on the no-interest loan.

The boys learned a quick lesson about running a small business. They sold \$5,000 of honey in their first year, but their startup costs were that much. This year, they plan to spend part of Van Dusen's investment to buy a larger spinner to get honey from the combs



Clay Carney, 11, puts a label on a jar of honey as his cousin William Austin, 14, cleans off his bee suit in Austin Family Farm's honey room. Clay's brother Eric, 13, is also in the business. The trio have 12 hives near Paonia. (Joe Amon, The Denver Post )

quicker and a fancier bottler that will hurry up the bottling process.

The idea for the honey enterprise came about four years ago when the boys were still in grade school.

Eric went to a berry conference in Nashville, Tenn., and was mesmerized by a beekeeper's presentation.



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"Eric stood right there and listened to the beekeeper the whole time. He missed the rest of the tour," said his grandmother Tony Austin.

He begged for bees, and last summer, his grandfather Glenn Austin bought eight hives that have now been split into 12.

They sit on a small bluff next to a peach orchard on a family farm that also produces cherries, apples, apricots, berries, plums and fresh vegetables. The farm gets an added benefit from the bees: They pollinate the orchards, so there is no longer the need to rent bees for that chore.

Out here, the boys don white jumpsuits and netted hats and pump smoke into the hives to subdue the bees while they check to see how they are wintering.

As the sleepy bees crawl around their combs, the boys talk about the need for antibiotics and mite medicine, the difference between drones and other worker bees and the constant battle with skunks and bears.

Like the boys they are, they also share cool facts: Bees fly out of their hives "to go to the bathroom," for instance.

Some of this they learn from publications such as the Beekeeping Journal and a beekeeper's catalogue — or from their grandfather, a farmer for nearly 40 years. They also have a mentor, beekeeper Chris Williams of Parachute.

"For their age, they are very knowledgeable," Williams said. "They're all really enthusiastic."

They boys would rather be out with the bees than playing video games, even though bottling honey can get "boring" and lugging 90-pound honey-filled frames around is "a bunch of hard work."

They like to share their bee knowledge by suiting up and taking their bee brushes, hot knives and smoking pots to schools. They demonstrate how they use the brush to move stubborn bees from the frames, the hot knife to trim the wax seal from the combs and the pots to calm bees when they are opening a hive.

The boys have plans to gear up when school is over in the spring and get more honey to markets in Delta County, Salida, Buena Vista, Colorado Springs, Woodland Park and Monument, and to a farmers' market in Minturn.

The farmers' market is their favorite, they said, because they can really work on their customer relations philosophy there. They know it's not enough to simply place a jar of honey in front of browsers and hope to sell it.

"You also have to have a good personality and stuff like that," Eric said.

*Nancy Lofholm: 970-256-1957 or  
nlofholm@denverpost.com*