



# BEE LINES

AUGUST 2011

NORTHWEST DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Regularly scheduled meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Meetings are held at 1305 Pine Avenue in Snohomish in the Christ the King Lutheran Church building.



**The Beginner Q&A Session on August 9 will start at 6pm before the general meeting.**

*The purpose and function of the Association is the promotion of interest in bees and beekeeping throughout the northwest district of coastal Washington and most particularly, Snohomish County.*

**Next club meeting  
Tuesday, August 9 at  
7pm. Beginner  
session starts at 6pm.**

The beginner session at 6pm will have the usual Q&A session and we'll be asking for input on what folks would like to see covered in this session.

The main meeting starts at 7pm. We will discuss club participation at the [Evergreen State Fair](#) in Monroe and a sign up

sheet will be available. The fair runs August 25 through September 5.

We will be showing a video called 'Summer to Winter'. This is a very timely video as we move from summer into the fall.

**Regional Beekeepers Meeting, Tuesday, October 18th, 7-9pm**

Here's the details for this year's District 1A Regional Meeting.

Everyone is invited.

**Speaker:** Heather Higo from The University of British Columbia

**Topic:** Emerging honey bee research in Western Canada - Expanding our Integrated Pest Management Tool Box

**Date:** Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 7 - 9pm

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Are you interested in contributing content, photos or book reviews to the NWBDA Web site [www.nwdba.org](http://www.nwdba.org)? Help us make this an even better content-rich resource. Contact Dave Grimes at [newsletter@nwdba.fatcow.com](mailto:newsletter@nwdba.fatcow.com) with your ideas!

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**Location:** Ballroom A at [The Skagit Valley Casino Resort](#) Conference Center in Bow, Washington.

**All ages are welcome to attend the meeting.**

**Driving Directions:**

Located just off I-5 at exit 236, 70 miles north of Seattle and 70 miles south of Vancouver, B.C. Parking is free.

**Dinner:** There are several restaurants inside the casino. The “All You Can Eat Market Buffet” for \$15.95 is a particularly good value. **You must be 21+ to enter the Casino or eat at the Market Buffet.**

**About the Speaker:**

**Heather Higo**

*“I started working with honey bees for a summer job in Mark Winston’s lab at Simon Fraser University in 1987. Fascinated, I stayed on to do a Master’s degree with honey bees, and then became the SFU bee research technician, running the SFU honey bee colonies and research lab until it closed in 2007. I participated in many unique bee*

*projects, including studies on pheromones, bee behavior and biology, swarming, pests and pesticides, native bees, and pollination biology, in addition to hosting Bee Master’s and doing extension work in the community - most recently teaching queen rearing workshops in the Fraser Valley.*

*I am now on assignment to the Next Generation IPM Research Project from my regular job in Plant Health for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency where I have worked since leaving SFU. I also maintain my own small beekeeping operation raising queens and producing spring nucs.”*

See you there!  
Amy Lopit  
[NWDBA](#) Regional Dinner Chairperson

**The Washington State Beekeepers Assn. (WASBA) Annual Conference Thursday, October 27 thru 29**

This exciting event will take place at the Best Western Evergreen Inn & Suites in Federal Way, Washington. This will be your opportunity to hear

the latest information and research pertinent to bee management in the Northwest.

This year’s theme will be:

**“Sustainable Beekeeping – Success for Commercial and Non-commercial Apiarists.**

The headline speaker will be Dr. Dave Tarpy, NC State Univ. His topic will be on the benefits of colony genetic diversity; commercial queen quality – the good and bad.

Other speakers include:

- Dr. Gloria deGrandi Hoffman, USDA Tucson AZ – Integrated Pest Management in bee colonies.
- Kirk Anderson and Mark Carroll, USDA Tucson – Results of their analysis of pathogens in honey bees in the Northwest
- Dr. Ramesh Sagili, Oregon State University – Honey bee research at OSU - an update.
- Ms. Jackie Park Burris, CA – Commercial queen rearing and the issues
- Paul Hosticka, WSBA Treasurer – Small-scale queen rearing for non-commercial beekeepers

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And Washington State University will provide five speakers including:

- Dr. Steve Sheppard, Thurber Professor – Importation of germplasm from Old World sources in 2011
- Sue Cobey, WSU Research Associate – Propagation and distribution of novel genetic material to beekeepers
- Natalie Boyle, WSU MSc student – Pesticide residues in brood comb
- Brandon Hopkins, PhD student – Recent progress in above freezing storage of drone bee sperm
- Beth Kahkonen, WSU Apiary and Lab Manager – Monitoring Honey Bee Colony Health
- James C Bach, WSBA Secretary, WAS Treasurer – Urban beekeeping with its nuances and issues

The Best Western room rates for a Single or Family room will be \$69 for single or double, \$79 for triple and \$89 for quad occupancy. Standard two queen-bed rooms will be \$79 for a single or double, \$89 for triple and \$99 for

a quad reservation. All rooms are plus taxes and any gratuity. There is shuttle service both ways from Sea-Tac Airport in Seattle directly to the Best Western.

To book rooms, telephone the hotel and ask for WSBA Conference rate – 877-574-2464 (local 253-529-4000).

Advanced registration for the conference is recommended. More detail about the conference, hotel registration contact numbers and forms, will be posted soon on [www.wasba.org](http://www.wasba.org). The site will be updated frequently as new information is received so please check back several times.

For more information, contact WASBA Secretary, James Bach 509-910-6861 or [jcbach@fairpoint.net](mailto:jcbach@fairpoint.net).

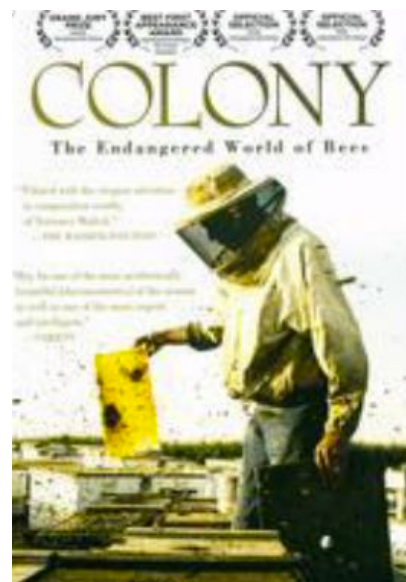
### Extreme Bee Bearding



The pictures tell the story in this article about a Chinese bee bearding competition.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2015729/Bee-bearding-contest-Shaoyang-Chinese-contestants-cover-insects.html>

### New Video available to check out from Sno-Isle Libraries



You can request to borrow this new video "*Colony: The Endangered World of Bees*" from Sno-Isle Libraries by going to this link:

<http://catalog.sno-isle.org/polaris/view.aspx?ctx=1.1033.0.0.6&CN=312072#.TiXA-aH2crQ.mailto>

## Meeting Minutes July 12, 2011

Meeting called to order at 7PM.

NWDBA Vice President, David Pearson, was given his journeyman level certificate. (*Editorial comment:* Applause! Congratulations David! And rumor has it he completed his studies in record time.)

### **Treasurer report:**

Checking balance and savings balance are the same as last month.

A motion was made to compensate out-of-town speakers for travel expenses. The point that "out-of-town" needed to be defined was made. The distance of 50 mile radius was brought up. Discussion occurred in regards to travel distances and quality of speakers. A motion was made that the stipend would be at the discretion of the board. This was seconded and approved.

The regional meeting was discussed. The scheduled speaker is Heather Higo from the University of British Columbia. The research going on in Canada will be the topic of discussion.

Amy Lopit's proposal was to go to the Skagit Valley Casino Resort in Bow, WA. Meeting room fee would be

\$515 plus tax/gratuity. This location can handle a fluctuation in attendance numbers. This was the best quote she found. The speaker has not asked for compensation, but the idea was raised to cover the cost of her travel and meal. Motion raised to change the sum to "not to exceed \$700." This was passed.

Newest Master Beekeeper for WA state was the guest speaker, Louis Matej. Shannon noted that he runs two queen systems. He is the assistant superintendent at the Puyallup Fair. He brought a powerpoint presentation showing how the different categories of honey and honey products are judged.

Some categories are: beeswax, educational displays, candles, and novelty items made of beeswax.

For the honey exhibit, there are 7 categories. Some are: Comb honey, bulk frames, creamed honey, pollen exhibits, candies, blends and cooked items. There is also a mead division.

Louis discussed the judging parameters. They average 800 items. There is also a cooking division with cookies, cakes and yeast breads. There is a category for honey-mustards, chipotle sauce, and bbq sauce. There is a category for new apiary products

such as lip balm. The "new use of marketing" category of honey products such as the gadget entry was described as a hive lifter or motorized dolly and swarm retrieval vacuum.

The Puyallup Fair is Sept 9-25th, and exhibits must be entered online. [www.thefair.com](http://www.thefair.com) is the website to do this.

The various types and distinctions of honey were discussed. The refractometer used determines the water content of honey, and it is required that honey be 18.6% water or below. The minerals in honey determine the color as they reflect light. The fair also requires the use of glass jars. There was an explanation of different pollen blends. There is a novice division and an open division.

The wealth of knowledge of our guest speaker was definitely useful for all in attendance.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30.

Find the official Northwest District Beekeepers Association Web site at:

<http://www.nwdba.org/>