



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.

February 09

NWDBA Meeting

January 13, 2009

The meeting was called to order by president, Scott Jenrich. The minutes for December were read and approved.

Introductions were made all around as we have many guests tonight. There were 15 people present, 6 new prospective beekeepers.

Treasures report: Checking has \$677.00 and savings \$835.00. These are approximate amounts, as John does not have bank statements for last month at this time.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business to report.

NEW BUSINESS: Scott is interested in presenting programs that are educational and interesting to our group, therefore, he asked for an open forum where everyone could say what they want to learn. A list follows:

- Pollen traps, construction and use.
- Wiring frames and applying foundation. (Jim has a new tool used in foundation)
- Marketing honey.
- Basic beekeeping, perhaps a DVD to be shown at a meeting.
- Nectar plants, how to recognize them and when do they bloom.
- General knowledge of types of honey gleaned from this area.
- Wax rendering.
- Use of beeswax in cosmetics.
- Catching swarms and bee removal.

- Moving bees.
- General hive management, what should you do and when should you do it.
- Making splits.
- Cultural differences in beekeeping. (Jim has knowledge from Russian/Ukrainian customers)

Other topics discussed:

Rachel Wessel is interested in starting a mentoring program, Bee Buddies, in our group. She passed around a paper for people to sign up to be a mentor or to be mentored.

Dave Pearson, our newsletter editor, is interested in making the newsletter and web page, into an interactive tool for those in the group to keep in better touch. Any information you would need to get to Dave can go to

nwdba_newsletter@yahoo.com.

Thank you Dave for your knowledge and ideas. Discussion on where to buy bee keeping supplies, revealed quite a few places but none as close as Beez Neez in Snohomish. Jim Powers gave a good testimonial on why to buy locally and the knowledge that you can glean from "hanging around" Jim's store.

A bee cupboard was discussed. Established beekeepers were encouraged to list equipment that they would be willing to give to newcomers who are starting out. This exchange could be through the forum or newsletter.

Bees, in crop rotation were a topic of discussion. What is blooming now and where commercial beekeepers are taking their bees?

Jerry Robnett reminded us of the Washington State Beekeepers Assn meeting, February 13th



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and 14th in Ellensburg, WA. We were glad to see Jerry back from having been injured last fall.

[Finally, A Complete Description Of Colony Collapse Disorder Across Time and Location.](#)

Next meeting will be February 10,2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Wirt, Secretary

From BeeResearch – Nosema update
This issue of colonies stronger if fed protein without fumagillin, only use if needed - could be explained by one of the first comments to me by Dr. Robert Cramer at MSU. He's a fungal pathologist in the molecular veterinary labs in Bozeman, has been working on alternatives to fumagillin - see Jan Bee Culture.

Robb was surprised that beekeepers used fumagillin. He said that in mammals, fumagillin is known to suppress the immune system, not something one wants to see when treating sick animals. He didn't know if this applied to bees-I suggest that he not waste time confirming this, but to immediately focus on alternatives for Nosema control, which he did.

Jerry Bromenshenk has been involved with Colony Collapse Disorder from the very beginning. He and his colleagues at the University of Montana, the U.S Army's Edgewood Chemical and Biological Center, his own company called Bee Alert Technology, and BVS, Inc. have ferreted out an amazing amount of information on this Disorder and are close to understanding the answers to this problem. Because of their work the beekeeping community is more aware of the best management practices over time to combat the worst of the regular pests and diseases bees have, and this year the almond orchards should have an ample supply of bees for pollination, in part due to their efforts, and of course the work of many other researchers and scientists. Of course it's only late December and bees are fickle, fragile creatures...and in bee time, it's a long way to February.

Over the two years that Colony Collapse Disorder has been a recognized problem, this group has probably visited more beeyards suffering from CCD, in more locations, and over a longer a time than most of the people involved in this search. As a result, in a full report prepared by this team to be released in the February issue of *Bee Culture* magazine, Bee Alert's Scott Debnam and Jerry Bromenshenk from Missoula Montana, David Westerveld from Florida's Apiary Inspections Bureau, and Randy



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Oliver, a commercial beekeeper with significant honey bee research experience from Grass Valley, California detail the symptoms of CCD with respect to where it hits, and when it hits. This information is critical in making a diagnosis as symptoms do change as seasons progress and knowing what to look for and when to look for it is absolutely necessary in making correct decisions. So far, no better guidelines exist for diagnosing this disorder.

To review what's commonly known:
The symptoms of the final stages of CCD have been oft repeated:

In collapsed colonies

- Complete absence of older adult bees in colonies, with few or no dead bees in the colony, on the bottom board, in front of the colony, or in the beeyard.
- Presence of capped brood in colonies during time of year when queen should be laying.
- Presence of food stores, both honey and pollen, unless a drought or time of year restricts availability of food resources.
- Absence of pest insects such as wax moth and hive beetle.
- Lack of robbing by other bees
- Robbing and return of hive pests is delayed by days or weeks.

In collapsing colonies

- Too few worker bees to maintain brood that is present.
- Remaining bee population predominately young bees.
- Queen is present.

- Queen may lay more eggs than can be maintained by workers, or is appropriate for the time of year.
- Cluster is reluctant to consume supplemental food such as sugar syrup and pollen supplement.

However, these are the terminal symptoms. By the time colonies reach this point it is far too late to do anything but bury the dead. Being able to spot colonies that are just becoming affected is a real plus because beekeepers can turn them around most times and keep them productive. Even though they still don't know the cause, proper and appropriate management techniques go a long way in helping. Here's what the team has found:

One year out:

Colonies are "just not doing well" with few other visible symptoms. They seem healthy, but have lackluster honey production.

Six months out:

Symptoms are vague and easily missed. Monthly inspections and careful comparisons are needed. Brood nests are



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slow to expand, with most in a single hive body. Mid-day inspections show bees dispersed in the colony, but this varies. Population growth slows to stops during growing season when compared to other colonies in the same yard. Honey stores remain untouched, bees are feeding on nectar recently collected. These symptoms are difficult to spot due to the careful comparisons needed.

Three months out:

CCD colonies appear slow to grow and are outpaced by non-CCD colonies in the apiary. There is a noticeable population decrease going from 3 to 2 boxes, or 2 to 1, and often the bees are on only a few frames in the bottom box...and they appear restless. Brood is shot gunned because of dead brood removal, and honey stores begin to diminish if it's late in the season, but if early, the honey remains untouched. Routine maintenance goes undone and no propolis seals are noticeable.

One month out:

Usually 8 frames of bees or fewer remain and they decline rapidly. Brood is produced, but can't be supported, queen replacement is often tried and abandoned brood is common. Stored honey depends on the season...in summer it may all be depleted, in winter untouched.

Finally:

Remaining bees fail to eat supplied food or medications, and it's mostly young bees that remain now, as the older bees are gone. Queens continue to lay excessively, and the colony usually lacks any aggressiveness at all.

Visual Symptoms of a CCD Colony

1. Just days before its collapse the colony seemed to be strong and fully functional
2. Mostly young bees remaining in the hive
3. Bees are not aggressive
4. Queen is present
5. Eggs are present
6. Full frames of brood may be present
7. Brood may show signs of "shotgun" pattern
8. Capped honey and fresh nectar are often present, although not in summer collapses, which are uncommon



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9. Fresh pollen has been stored in the hive recently, if external resources are available
10. Supplemental feed (syrup and extender patties) if supplied, are ignored
11. No robbing occurs
12. No secondary pests (small hive beetles, wax moths or ants) are found
13. No dead bees are noted around entrance of the hive
14. Bees do not show any signs of winglessness, paralysis or other adult bee diseases.

CCD tends to travel like a wave through a beeyard, and combining affected and unaffected colonies usually gives 2 dead colonies. Adding a package may help, and may not. There is a time until secondary pests will move in...using equipment before that time for more bees is risky and the colony may die again.

The Cause of Colony Collapse Disorder remains unknown, but the diagnosis, and thus the opportunity to administer remedial treatments is getting better all the time.

For the full article with additional information see the February issue of *Bee Culture* on our web site www.BeeCulture.com after Feb 1.

Thanks to Scott, David, Jerry and Randy.

The new website is up and running including a new forum for club members to discuss club and bee related issues. Several areas of the website are ready for member input,

Photos/for sale and much more.

<http://www.nwdba.org>

Finally, is your email on record with the club and current? If you have a new email and would like to receive the newsletter and club announcements please send it to:

nwdba_newsletter@yahoo.com

Thankyou, Dave Pearson

February meeting agenda

Call to order and welcome:

Introductions:

Reading of the last meeting minutes:

Treasurers report:

Old business:

New business:

Discussion topic will be on equipment assembly, if you have any tools or jigs you have made to help you do this please bring them to the meeting.