



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.

July 09

The club picnic is on July 18th at Flowing lake park. Start time is at noon. It is a potluck event. We will also have a silent auction. Please bring any items to donate to the auction. They do not have to be beekeeping related. So plan on attending for the fun of it all!

Next Mtg

Rick Jamesguard will be doing a presentation on how to enter your bee products into the fair for judging. Learn some tricks of the trade!

Northwest District Beekeepers Association
Meeting Minutes: June 9, 2009

The meeting was called to order by president, Scott Jenrich, at 7:00 p.m. The minutes of the May meeting were approved as typed.
Treasures report: Savings \$836.87, Checking: \$1013.0

Old Business: Getting ready for the Evergreen State Fair in August and September was discussed. Carol Kalina mended the tents from last year and they will hold for one more year. She is also doing to volunteer schedule and will begin signing people up at the July meeting and the picnic at Flowing Lake on the 19th of July.

Annual picnic to take place on the 19th of July at Flowing Lake State Park. This is a potluck picnic and we are encouraged to bring two dishes that feed 10-12 people. This is always a good

time to get to know other beekeepers in the area and exchange ideas in beekeeping.

New Business: There was no new business to discuss.

Program: David J. Pehling, from the Washington State University extension office in Everett, was our speaker and did a hands on demonstration of looking for varroa mites in bees. David brought 4 microscopes with him and had asked for dead bees, to be brought by club members, to be examined. There were 6 beekeepers under the age of 15 who kept one microscope going, which was encouraging to the other old people.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The next meeting will be on July 14th at 7:00 p.m. at the same place.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Wirt, Recording Secretary

Forum News

We have seen a 30% increase in members signing up to the forum. Also PSBA has asked if they could use the forum for their replacement as their current one is not very user friendly. Details are still being finalized and if we go ahead then it will change its name to something like "Western Washington Beekeepers Forum" Most areas will be open to anyone who would like to sign up and some areas like club purchases will be identified



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.

July 09

as club offers only. We have also added a Board Members only section for board discussions, this could be a good tool instead of trying to meet. We shall see how it goes. Any board member who has not signed in yet please do so now. You should have received an email with the password, let me know if you did not. There are a couple of posts about club purchases in the bulk purchase section, please post and let your preferences be known,

Thankyou, David Pearson.

How to make an economy wax melter

Not everyone has the time or money to build a nice wax solar melter from wood and glass additionally making a steam melter can get expensive. What follows is a proven method for a cheap economical solar wax melter, and yes even in our state they work. They also have the benefit of not getting the kitchen all waxed up.

You will need the following,

1. Small styrofoam cooler
2. Sheet of glass 11" X 17" (approx)
3. Some duct tape
4. Black matt paint (spray paint will melt the cooler)
5. One plastic Tupperware bowl
6. Paper towels
7. One elastic band

Take the cooler and paint the outside with the black matt paint, no need to paint the inside.

While that dries take the sheet of glass (clear plastic also works, glass is better) wrap the edges with duct tape.

Take the bowl and place a piece of paper towel tight over the bowl and hold in place with the elastic band.

Place the bowl in the cooler.

Take your wax, clean or not, but you want it to be dry if you rinsed it, on the paper.

Place the glass on top of the cooler

Place in an area that gets full sun.

That's it.

Its not the temperature that matters, it's the amount of sunlight, I find that a 75 degree day takes about 3 hours to melt the wax, but if its cloudy and 80 nothing will happen.

You will find that the paper towel filters the wax as it goes through, when done don't throw the paper away it makes a great lighter for your smoker.

Warning.

Leave the wax alone until the evening cools, you will get a nicer looking block, also don't forget this wax in the melted form is the same temp as if done on a stove top, let it cool before handling.

I will bring a sample of some I did just last week to the next meeting.

**Bee Colony Collapse Disorder:
New Bait Lures Varroa Mite To
Its Doom**



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.

July 09

ScienceDaily (July 5, 2009) — Varroa mites could literally be walking into a trap—thanks to a new attractant developed by Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists in Gainesville, Fla.

The 1/16-inch long parasite, *Varroa destructor*, is a top pest of honey bees nationwide, hindering the beneficial insects' ability to pollinate almonds, blueberries, apples, zucchini and many other flowering crops.

At the ARS Chemistry Research Unit in Gainesville, research leader Peter Teal and colleagues are testing a bait-and-kill approach using sticky boards and natural chemical attractants called semiochemicals. In nature, *Varroa* mites rely on these semiochemicals to locate—and then feed on—the bloodlike hemolymph of both adult honey bees and their brood. Severe infestations can decimate an affected hive within several months—and rob the beekeeper of profits from honey or pollinating services. But in this case, the mites encounter a more heady bouquet of honey bee odors that lure the parasites away from their intended hosts and onto the sticky boards, where they starve.

In preliminary tests, 35 to 50 percent of mites dropped off the bees when exposed to the attractants. Free-roving mites found the semiochemicals even more attractive, according to Teal.

Moreover, the extra dose of semiochemicals wafting through hives didn't appear to significantly interfere with the honey bees' normal behavior or activity, added Teal who, along with postdoctoral associate Adrian Duehl and University of Florida collaborator Mark Carroll, reported the results this past January at the 2009 North American Beekeeping Conference in Reno, Nev.

The team hopes ARS' patenting of the *Varroa* mite attractants will encourage an industrial partner to develop the technology further.

Adapted from materials provided by USDA/Agricultural Research Service.

The Electronic age, web sites and blogs

The days of setting up a road side table and an honor jar are sadly long gone. We have a growing number of farmers markets and that is great if you have the time and can get into one. That said today we have ways of getting the word out that did not exist 15 yrs ago.

You can go to craigslist and see folks selling honey pretty much year round, their prices are average but I am guessing the market is pretty small and usually the only buyers you attract are very local.

A great tool for selling your product is by using a website or a blog, just the idea will put a lot of people off but they are getting easier to use every day.

Websites, these can be a little daunting as you have to be able to create the site, find somewhere to host it, get a site address (.com, org etc) and spend some time getting it to look just how you want it. There is also some cost involved in having a website. Free website tools are available for creating your site (I like free) some are easier to use than others, I like "kompozer" it is the one I use for the club site and is basically a drag and drop editor. Once you have the page designed, you need to get it out on the world wide web, for that you need a host and not all hosts are equal, cost per month, reliability, and add on features are all things to take into account. For the club site I use www.fatcow.com they are very cheap, very reliable and have a host of free add on features that you can use, including things like a



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.

July 09

shopping cart feature if you are going to sell through your site. For many this is still a lot more effort than they want to expend and it can still be complicated, that's where blogs come in. Blogs, are basically and on line diary, you select a name you want to use (mine is <http://davesbeeadventure.blogspot.com/>) You select a basic template for layout, add pictures and text and you are done, blogs set up through www.blogger.com are free.

Both are great tools for advertising and selling your product, the club website has almost 3000 hits this year and we have received emails from as far away as South America, my blog is at 4000 since January and I have had comments from as far away as Australia. The tools for selling using a blog are very limited but it can be done if you are a little creative.

Which one for you? As a guide consider the club site took about 40 hours to set up initially and typically updates to the site are 5 – 20 minutes depending on what I am doing. The blog only took 10 minutes or less to set up and updates run about 5-10 minutes.

I know one beekeeper in the Seattle area has a website for his business and he is getting \$10 lb for wild flower and blackberry honey and \$24 lb for pollen, not bad at all.