



# 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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## June 09

### Next Meeting.

Tracheal mite testing.

Presentation by Dave Pehling. Dave is a zoologist with Washington State University. Please bring 5-10 of your bees collected from the landing board that have been frozen. Dave will show us how to check for the mites.

Northwest District Bee Keepers

May 11, 2009

Scott Jenrich, president, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The minutes were approved as written.

Treasures Report: checking, \$953.01, savings \$836.71

**NEW BUSINESS;** Discussion about the annual picnic which takes place at Flowing Lake in July, was positive for attendance. Scott will talk to Cindy White about getting a shelter for us. This is a potluck and, I believe in the past, everyone brought what ever and things seemed to work well.

Discussion about the Evergreen State Fair in August took place. Carol Kalina said that she would be agreeable to heading a volunteer roster for the times that we were open. It was suggested that it works best with 2 people during slow times and 4 people during busy times, such as weekends. The idea of reprinting the tee shirts was discussed but with Rachel and Jim not here any decision was made.

**OLD BUSINESS:** There was no old business.

**PROGRAM;** The program this evening was suppose to be Ron Babcock talking about pollen collection but Ron was unable to attend so Scott headed and interesting discussion on catching swarms. There were quite a few new beekeepers in attendance, Colleen is looking to get a swarm and can be reached at 360-668-4031.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm, next meeting is on June 8<sup>th</sup>, same time, same place.

Respectfully submitted:

Donna Wirt, Secretary

### Website and Forum news.

The website is starting to gain in popularity, we are up over 2000 hits. If you have any suggestions for additions to the site please send them to me through the newsletter link on the site. The forum is still a little slow but what activity there has been has been very positive, a couple of members got hooked up with mentors and at least one newcomer was able to get some "free" bees just by asking for help on the forum, Thank you Richard for your generosity.

### In the News.

**Honey Bee Colony Losses In U.S. Almost 30 Percent From All Causes From September 2008 To April 2009**



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*ScienceDaily (May 29, 2009)* — Honey bee colony losses nationwide were approximately 29 percent from all causes from September 2008 to April 2009, according to a survey conducted by the Apiary Inspectors of America (AIA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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This is less than the overall losses of about 36 percent from 2007 to 2008, and about 32 percent from 2006 to 2007, that have been reported in similar surveys.

"While the drop in losses is encouraging, losses of this magnitude are economically unsustainable for commercial beekeeping," said Jeff Pettis, research leader of the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Bee Research Laboratory in Beltsville, Md. ARS is USDA's principal intramural scientific research agency. The survey was conducted by Pettis; Dennis vanEngelsdorp, president of AIA; and Jerry Hayes, AIA past president.

About 26 percent of apiaries surveyed reported that some of their colonies died of colony collapse disorder (CCD), down from 36 percent of apiaries in 2007-2008. CCD is characterized by the sudden, complete absence of honey bees in a colony. The cause of CCD is still unknown.

As this was an interview-based survey, it is not possible to differentiate between verifiable cases of CCD and colonies lost as the result of other causes that share the "absence of dead bees" as a symptom. However, among beekeepers that reported any colonies collapsing without the presence of dead bees, each lost an average of 32 percent of their colonies in 2008-2009, while apiaries that did not lose any bees with symptoms of CCD each lost an average of 26 percent of their colonies.

To strengthen the beekeeping industry, ARS recently began a five-year areawide research program to improve honey bee health, survivorship and

pollination. Honey bee pollination is critical to agriculture, adding more than \$15 billion to the value of American crops each year.

The survey checked on about 20 percent of the country's 2.3 million colonies.

A complete analysis of the survey data will be published later this year. An abstract of the data is available on line at: <http://maarec.cas.psu.edu/pdfs/PrelimLosses2009.pdf>.

*Adapted from materials provided by USDA/Agricultural Research Service.*