



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.

September 09

August 11, 2009

Northwest District Beekeepers Assn

President, Scott Jenrich, opened the meeting at 7:05p.m. The minutes were approved as typed. Treasure's Report: Checking \$997.63, savings 837.15.

Old Business: We talked mainly about set up for the Evergreen State Fair in Monroe. The fair opens on the 27th of August and ends on Labor Day, September 7th.

The hives for the fair will be donated by Jim Tunnel for the first half of the fair and by Alan Pomeroy for the second half of the fair. The double tent set up was mended by Carol Kalina at the end of last year and will be good to go for this year.

Stan Pallo has the handouts from last year and he will bring them for set up on the 26th of August. Rachel will take a hand in putting the display together, having an artist's eye.

Jim had suggested that the wax we have collected could be melted in a solar wax melter during the fair, which would be of interest to candle makers. Jim has posters, showing diseases of bees as well as the hive with frames showing bee hive in normal and diseased states that can be put up on the poster boards.

On manning the display, it was suggested that we have 2 people during each shift during the week and 2-4 on the weekends. Jim and Rachel are

doing this for the most part and we can sign up with one of them. The donation box will be put out this year again, and John Bryant will make an understandable sign for the front in hopes of getting donations for continued bee research. Anyone collecting donations during there time at the display can bring them to the meeting on September 8th at 7:00 pm.

David Pearson has catalogs from Dadant and Mann Lake that will be available for interested potential beekeepers. Scott will call the honey board and get receipts to hand out

New Business: Val Scheck announced that on Sept 12th, Woodinville Farmers Market was looking for people to sell their own honey during the "Honeyfest" that they are having. It would be nice if some of our members could be there to talk bees and beekeeping. The hours in Woodinville are 9am to 3pm.

Scott Jenrich announced that during the October 13th meeting, two Washington State University graduate students will be in our meeting to discuss current happenings in bee research. We will welcome Judy Wu and Matthew Smart. 8:15 the floor was opened for general discussion on current problems, suggestions and tall tales of our beekeepers. We had 36 people present at this meeting and we seem to be growing again. We welcome all new comers and want you to know that there are no stupid questions and we welcome fresh ideas.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Wirt, recording secretary



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As I write this month's newsletter the Evergreen State Fair is in full swing. I put in about 40 hrs the first weekend (Thur-Sun) between our info stand and the inside display. I went home completely spent every night but I had a blast. Answering questions was a lot of fun and I found that the youngest kids asked the hardest questions. Right now I am enjoying a much needed break but will be back for the last weekend.

If you did not volunteer this year because you are new to beekeeping, consider giving it a go next year. Most of the public I spoke to were actually reassured when I told them this was my first year, it is easier for them to grasp how easy it can be when they hear it from somebody new to the game.

Our website is seeing steady traffic as is our forum, the addition of the PSBA members has given us a good boost in posts with some great topics.

NEWS

Scientists from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign have found a clue in the gut of honey bees that might help identify a deadly disorder that's killing off some of the world's most important pollinators.

In bees affected by what's now known as a colony collapse disorder, or CCD, researchers found breakdowns in the factories, or ribosomes, that manufacture essential proteins. Healthy bees

did not have as many ribosomal fragments in their guts as those affected by colony collapse disorder, according to the Illinois study, which was published last week in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

"They are overrepresented in CCD bees, significantly overrepresented," said May Berenbaum, a University of Illinois entomology professor and one of the study's authors. "The one consistent indicator of CCD across samples collected and in multiple times and in multiple places was the overabundance of ribosomal fragments."

The study is the first to identify a molecular marker for colony collapse disorder, a mysterious malady responsible for killing about 30 percent of the United States' commercial honey bees since 2006.

For the study, researchers relied on microarrays, an analytical tool that measures gene expression. Microarrays typically only measure active genes, but the Illinois team decided to gauge the breakdown of ribosomes.

"Microarrays for other organisms also contain these mysterious pieces of ribosomal RNA, for reasons that are not yet altogether clear," said Gene Robinson, one of the study's co-authors and an entomology and neuroscience professor at the University of Illinois.



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Berenbaum said that when the researchers were studying the CCD bees, they found viruses that had hijacked their ribosomes, taking over their cellular machinery to manufacture only viral proteins.

When that happens, the bees become susceptible to a number of problems that have been suspected of causing colony collapse disorder, according to the study.

Nutritional deficiencies, genetically modified plants, a parasitic fungus and the Varroa mite have all been identified as possible culprits behind colony collapse disorder.

"If your ribosome is compromised, then you can't respond to pesticides, you can't respond to fungal infections or bacteria or inadequate nutrition because the ribosome is central to the survival of any organism," Berenbaum said. "You need proteins to survive."