

May 9, 2008



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.

Dates to Remember

May 13: Regular meeting of the NWDBA
July ?? : NWDBA picnic at Flowing Lake State Park.
Oct. 16,17,18: The joint WSBA / OSBA Convention at the Vancouver Red Lion.
Nov. ?? : A Regional meeting

Minutes of the April meeting

April 4, 2008 The meeting was called to order by Stan Pallo, president of the beekeepers association. The minutes of the March meeting were read and approved.

Treasures report, unchanged, there is \$1213.15 in checking and \$833.79 in savings. The non-profit status of our group has yet to be completed.
Old Minutes: Jim Tunnell approached the subject of tee shirts to be worn during the Evergreen State Fair. These would be printed with a bee logo and information about our beekeeping group. A sign up list was passed around and we could say the number of shirts that we wished to order. It was suggested that we E-mail Cindy White, who works at the fair grounds, regarding selling tee shirts during the fair. The secretary will do this.

By May 15th and E-post card must be filed with the IRS, as per Wally Davis. John Bryant will check this out on line by going to www.irs.gov.

The apiary advisory board has voted to request the WSDA to approve the transfer of \$20,000 from the beekeeper registration fund to support the WSU colony health program. This research will evaluate levels of nosema apis and ceranae, tracheal mites, and varroa mites in Washington. All are suspected players in CCD. Bee samples

have been sent to Spain where a laboratory is said to be equipped to distinguish between nosema A, and nosema C.

The fair still does not have a chair person, however it was this way last year and went well. Jim Tunnell will be the person who will keep a schedule of who is to man the bee tent during that period.

Wally Davis reports that he has increased ventilation in his hives by putting screen on the bottom and that his Russian bees did well over the winter. Scott Jenrich reports that in his hives, Russians are stonger and fly in colder weather and are more aggressive. Jim Tunnell states that ventated bottom boards is a trend and that it does help to winter over hives.

The program was on swarming, what to do, how to tell, and how to catch them. Scott Jenrich did a very good program with a lot of visuals, including a swarm catcher made of two pressed peat flower pots, one smaller on the bottom and one larger turned over on top. He states that he caught 5 swarms last year in these. The demonstration was very helpful. It is stated that swarming cannot be avoided unless a new queen were installed every year. Scott reports that smaller print on foundation causes smaller bees and they do better in high wind situations, more can fit in a frame and they are more apt to be immune from varroa mites. Mann Lake has small foundation 4.55mm. The present 5.4mm foundation was introduced and adopted in the 1920s.

There were 5 new people at the meeting this month.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Wirt, Secretary.

May 9,2008

Nosema Ceranae - treat? with what? and when? Do I even have it in my colonies?

When my colonies went from about 55 to 25 in one year I, at first attributed it to neglect on my part. I had been having back problems and was not as attentive to the bees as I should have been. After going through my dead-outs, talking to other beekeepers and doing some reading, I came to the conclusion that I was not the only problem.

For me, this spring has proven to be one of the most frustrating in my many years of beekeeping. I lost about 60% of my hives since last spring. Of those, most were lost during the winter. I am still unsure about how many I will lose this spring. In March I was out picking up dead-out's. Most had ample honey and pollen, a few dead bees on the bottom boards and a small cluster of bees between the frames. There had been no workers laying and no AFB. Two had evidence of some diarrhea. There was not a significant number of exoskeletal remains of the Varroa Destructor on the bottom boards. I had not treated with Fumagilin. It appears that perhaps I should have. Records now show that Fumagilin, when applied in August, as soon as possible after the honey flow, will reduce winter losses. The longer the treatment is delayed, the higher percentage of losses are experienced. Treating in the spring with fumagilin is not likely to increase colony survival where the spore load is high and dwindling is already occurring. Keeping colonies strong and stress free from mites, AFB and starvation is critical in controlling Nosema Ceranae in Apis Mellifera.

For more on this subject read Randy Oliver's articles "[The Nosema Twins](#)" in the Dec. 07 through the April 08 ABJ's. Through the Colony Health Research

Project now underway at WSU we are expecting to learn much more in the near future.

By Stan Pallo

ANNOUNCEMENT

Bee prepared to take some of Mel's fine dahlia tubers home with you following the meeting. His selection is better than ever and his prices are equally as good. The bees love them in the fall as well.

Regular meeting agenda

7:00 pm May 13, 2008: Call to order

Welcome and introductions

Reading of the April meeting minutes

Treasurers report

Old Business:

Fair booth

Bee shirts

July picnic

New Business:

Good and welfare:

Discussion:

Colony health