



BEE LINES

OCTOBER 2010

NORTHWEST DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Regularly scheduled meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Meetings are held at 1305 Pine Avenue in Snohomish in the Christ the King Lutheran Church building.



Join us each month at 6pm before the regularly scheduled meeting for an informal beginner's discussion.

The purpose and function of the Association is the promotion of interest in bees and beekeeping throughout the northwest district of coastal Washington and most particularly, Snohomish County.

Beginner's Beekeeping Class a Success

On Saturday Oct 2nd we held our first club sponsored "Beginning Beekeeping Class"

The class was based on the WSBA Master beekeeper Apprentice level certificate. Jim Tunnell of Beez Neez was the instructor for the course,

Savannah operated the computer and I helped out when needed.

As this was held on a Saturday, Shannon ran the

store for Jim.

The class was well attended and we now have 29 new members in the club.

Morning coffee was available as well as cookies and we enjoyed Subway sandwiches for lunch. While folks were coming in and getting seated we played a video of a German skep apiary catching swarms for package production.

The class started out slow but picked up speed as the day progressed, we actually finished a little early and were able to show a youtube video on hiving a package.

After the class anyone who wanted was able to walk over and watch Jim move bees from a nuc into the store observation hive.

Feedback was positive and everybody appeared to have a good time.

2010 NW Regional Beekeepers Dinner.

Wednesday, October 13th at 6pm (see next page)

I am sure we will hold more of these classes in the future.

David.



New Newsletter Format

We're trying out a new format for the newsletter this month. Let us know if you have any problems viewing it.

The smallest bee is *Trigona minima*, a [stingless bee](#) whose workers are about 2.1 mm (5/64") long. -- Wikipedia

Bees belong to the insect order Hymenoptera, which is derived from Greek, meaning "winged membrane." - Gale Encyclopedia of Science

2010 NW Regional Beekeepers Dinner

Wednesday, October 13th, 6:00 PM

The NW Regional Dinner, hosted this year by Mt. Baker Beekeepers Assn., will be held at The Royal Fork Restaurant in Mt. Vernon, 2300 Freeway Dr, Mt Vernon, WA (360) 424-4044 We will be in their large meeting room which will be open to us from 5:30 PM.



[Here's a link to a map and directions.](#)

Simple to find: From I-5 take the College Way Exit #227, head WEST on College Way, turn right on Freeway Drive, go about a quarter mile and the restaurant is on the right. You'll see the sign.

Our Speaker for the evening will be Sue Cobey, Bee Breeder and Educator. Sue's topic will be, "Honey Bee Breeding: Why Our Progress Is Slow."

She will also give us an update on the UC Davis-WSU Stock Importation Project.

Mark your calendar. See you there!

Washington State Honey Rules

If you've ever wondered where to find current information about bottling, labeling and packaging honey in Washington State, here's the link, [Washington State Honey Laws](#)

About Sue Cobey



Susan Cobey, an acknowledged world expert in the field of honey bee breeding with over 30 years experience in establishing and managing the New World Carniolan Closed Population Breeding Program, has joined the WSU honey bee team. She will split her time between WSU and UCD, taking advantage of the different climates for honey bee breeding and selection.

(Editor's note: WooHoo! We're happy to welcome Sue to our neck of the woods!!!)

A major focus of the joint appointment is to expand the collaborative UCD and WSU efforts to enhance our domestic honey bee breeding stocks through the incorporation of germplasm collected from bees abroad.

Genetic diversity is critical to maintain healthy honey bee populations. The high losses of colonies nationwide due to parasitic mites and the phenomena of "CCD", coupled with "genetic

bottlenecking" due to the use of limited breeding stock to supply the industry, is a concern.

Cobey's background includes commercial queen production and University honey bee research. She worked for several beekeeping outfits in FL. and CA. and then establishing a queen breeding business, Vaca Valley Apiaries in northern California, with her husband, Timothy Lawrence from 1982-1990. In 1990 she took a position as Staff Research Associate at the Ohio State University. In 2007 she moved back to CA. to join the Laidlaw Honey Bee Lab at UCD.

Information Contact: Michael Jaross
michaeljaross@gmail.com
360-676-9214

It's almost time to elect our 2011 club officers!

If there's someone you'd like to nominate or if you're interested in a position yourself, let one of the current board members know. We'll be compiling a list of nominees so the full club can vote in November. Here's a little about the open positions,

President, position open

Responsible for coordinating and conducting the meetings of the membership and Board of Directors. Serves a one year term and may not be elected to a third consecutive term. After a one (1) year retirement, a former President may be elected again.

Vice-President, position open

Responsible for filling in for the President should need arise. Serves a one year term, elected annually.

Treasurer, position open

Responsible for handling the financial affairs of the association. Serves a one year term, elected annually.

Secretary, position open

Responsible for recording the affairs of the association. Serves a one year term, elected annually.

Three (3) members at large, one (1) position open

Responsible for representing the interests of the members. Serve a 3 year term, with one position being elected each year.

***Newsletter Chairperson, proposed position**

Responsible for writing and distributing a monthly newsletter via email, bringing hard copies of same to the monthly meeting and working with the treasurer and membership chairperson to close the gap between members paying and receiving the newsletter. Serves a one year term, elected annually.

***Membership Chairperson, proposed position**

Responsible for maintaining or increasing numbers,

communicating benefits of joining, acknowledging new members, and closing the gap between members paying and receiving the newsletter

***Evergreen State Fair Chairperson, proposed position**

Responsible for coordinating all aspects of NWDBA involvement in the state fair including working with fair personnel, scheduling volunteers, and design/set-up/take down of the booth.

*These positions may be proposed and voted on at the October meeting.

Northwest Corner Beekeeping Conference October 28, 29 and 30

This year's joint conference at Hood River Oregon is shaping up to be an event packed with valuable information with an excellent array of speakers.

This year's conference theme is ***Honey Bee Losses, How to Keep Our Bees Alive.***

It has been a few years since we've graced the halls of the Best Western Hood River Inn. It has gone through extensive renovation and expansion over the last couple of years, so there is plenty of brand-new conference room space for us!

Join us for three days of learning from some of the most respected people in beekeeping, and network with other beekeepers in the NW. This is your opportunity to learn about the latest products, treatments and techniques available to keep your bees healthy and ready for early spring pollination and nectar flows! The American Honey Queen will be at the conference this year, so be sure to stop and say howdy.

Advance registration is recommended, forms are available on the WSBA and OSBA web sites. We have

arranged for special rates for the conference attendees. Ask for the Beekeepers Fall Conference special room rate.

See their website at www.hoodriverinn.com/mainsite/index.html, or call 800.828.7873. In order to present a more extensive beekeeping conference than could be offered individually, Oregon and Washington have consolidated their resources to provide beekeepers in the Pacific Northwest a more effective and comprehensive beekeeping conference. By combining the state conferences we have better attracted the leaders of the beekeeping community to share their knowledge, experience and research in order to help us become better beekeepers.

See you at the conference!
www.wasba.org

October 12th NWDBA Meeting Guest Speaker

Dr. Steve Sheppard



Dr. Steve Sheppard, a Professor in the Department of Entomology at Washington State University in Pullman will be presenting the latest research news coming out of the Apis Molecular Systematics Lab. Dr. Sheppard's October 12th presentation will focus on the WSU honey bee selection and breeding program.

Here's a little more about WSU's Department of Entomology and

the work currently taking place in Pullman:

The Department of Entomology currently maintains and operates over 250 colonies distributed in 10 research and teaching apiaries. Field research in the apiaries is centered on projects addressing problems of major importance to Pacific Northwest (PNW) beekeepers.



Current colony health research includes: monitoring seasonal variation in *Nosema ceranae* infestations, molecular characterization of *Nosema* species in the PNW, evaluation of interactions between parasites and pathogens and examining sub-lethal effects of chemical residues in the hive and the environment.



As part of the research effort on honey bee colony health in the PNW, a diagnostic laboratory was set up at WSU in 2008 to evaluate submitted samples for the presence and prevalence of parasites and pathogens. In 2008, over 1800 samples were

processed in the diagnostic laboratory, including those obtained from commercial and hobby beekeeper operations and WSU research apiaries. The diagnostic laboratory continues to operate to provide a service function to PNW beekeepers and has received a substantial portion of its operating expenses directly from beekeeper donations.



The WSU honey bee selection and breeding program continues into its 8th year. The program provides selected honey bee stocks to beekeepers through provision of selected queens to the Washington State Beekeepers Association Collaborative Apiaries. The WSU breeding program is focused toward developing honey bee stocks that exhibit a measure of resistance or tolerance to common honey bee pathogens and parasites. A related program coordinated by WSU and UC-Davis is designed to enhance US honey bee diversity through importation of honey bee semen from Old World sources, evaluation of progeny and release of germplasm to the queen production industry.

September 14 Meeting Minutes

(Minutes are incomplete)

Mike Doleshel was our guest speaker. His topic was cut comb. Mike is a long-time Snohomish Valley beekeeper who specializes in cut comb honey. (see August Beelines

for more information about Mike).

He highly recommended the book he has used for years titled "Honey in the Comb" by Eugene E. Killion. He says it is one of the best books on cut comb, but cautions that it is geared toward Illinois so some information is not relevant to the Northwest.

After the presentation, many people brought a wide variety of honey for tasting.

Before the regular meeting, a big group turned out for the beginner's beekeeping discussion at 6pm.

In the News..

States are expanding efforts to combat 'funny honey'

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/us_food_and_farm_bogus_honey

See you at the October 12th Meeting!