

September, 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

Sept. 9: Regular September meeting.

October 16, 17, 18: The joint WSBA / OSBA Convention at the Vancouver Red Lion. This event features speakers from across the country on all subjects pertaining to bees. This is also a great opportunity to meet other beekeepers from across Washington and Oregon.

For an agenda, and information regarding accommodations and registration, log onto the **WASHINGTON STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION WEB SITE AT: WASBA.ORG.**

Oct. 22: Regional meeting at the Mt Vernon Royal Fork. Guest speaker will be Eric Olsen. Eric is Washington's largest beekeeper, VP of the Washington State Beekeepers Association, and chairman of the Washington State Beekeepers Advisory Committee. He is a prominent figure in the effort to acquire funding for the nation wide "colony health research project" and has personally contributed a significant amount as seed money toward beginning testing for the presence of **nosema ceranae** in Washington bees. I guarantee that he will keep your attention. Please plan to attend. Also note the change in date from the last newsletter. It will for sure be on Wednesday, October 22nd, beginning at 6:00pm at the

Mt. Vernon Royal Fork Buffet. It will be hosted this year by the Stanwood-Comano Island Association.

Meeting minutes: August 12, 2008

The meeting was called to order by President, Stan Pallo, at 7:20 pm, thanks to Glenn Engel getting here with a key. The minutes of the June meeting were unavailable and not read.

Treasures Report: Checking: \$1304.50
Savings: 834.74

There is \$310.50 from the silent auction at the picnic, in July, which has not been deposited.

OLD BUSINESS: The bee tents have been delivered to Stan for the fair. They need to be erected and checked for holes, maybe patched. Cindy has 2X4 timbers to use as anchors around the bottom of the tents. Cindy will also check on popup tents to use as shelter for volunteers and to shelter the exhibit for the fair. Set up is August 20th for whomever can be there.

Jim is still recruiting volunteers for the bee tent. Jim and Stan will bring the bee hives for the fair. A few chairs and a few

tables will be under the tent and Stan has honey sticks from last year that he will bring back. This seems to draw the public. Jim Ullman will help to organize the set up. Jim Tunnell has the tee shirts, designed by Rachel, for wearing at the fair, to identify been tent volunteers. Cindy has given the passes for entry into the fair and for parking, to Jim and these will be given out at the meeting tonight. Don and Tim will update brochures. Carol and Donna will be available to tear down at the end of the fair.

There is a new category this year for people who would like to enter a category in the honey exhibit. This is the heaviest Western (super) frame. This does not go on looks but only on weight.

Brandon Cress has a swarm and is back in business.

NEW BUSINESS: Knotweed is what is blooming now, at the end of the nectar flow season. This makes dark honey. Discussing on the use of formic acid for mite control ensued. This causes the queen to stop laying for a time, post use. Optimal time to use it is the 1st through the 3rd weeks of September. Recent research has stated that nosema is the partial reason for CCD. Fumagelin, used for this disease, is most effective when sprayed and not fed in syrup, as per Scott Jenrich.

Stan announced the conference in Vancouver, WA in October and wanted to know if anyone would be interested in signing up early.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45. Next meeting will be September 9th.

Respectfully submitted, Donna Wirt, Secretary

The Fair Report

Despite the loss of a few key people we have so much depended upon in the past, our fair booth turned out pretty well. After some initial concern that we might not have a canopy to set up under, we found two 10 x 10 pop-ups waiting for us. This was due in large part to Cindy White for pointing out our dilemma to fair management who did provide them to us. After securing our "stuff" from Beez Neez where it had been stored, then using other items donated by the Beez Neez and other members we were able to assemble an attractive booth. The live hive display was set up without incident and, as usual, became our big draw. Thank you Jerry Robinett and Jim Tunnell for trusting the rest of us with your bees. Staffing turned out to be more of a challenge this year. While never left unattended for any significant period of time, it was left with only one staffer at times. A big thanks to all those members and nonmembers who dawned their attractive NWDBA T-shirts and donated their time to greet the public and answer questions. What was the most asked question? It had to be: "Whats happening to those disappearing bees and are we having the same problem here? Other frequently asked questions were: What does it take to get started in beekeeping and how much does it cost? How much work and time is required? Can I keep bees in the city? It did seem to me that there was more interest this year in actually becoming a beekeeper.

A special thanks again goes out to our younger members, Ransom and Katrina Whipple, and our youngest member, Brendan Cress who all came through for us and the bees in a big way. Also in-

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cluded in the big help category is the Beez Neez Apiary Supply.

September Beekeeping

You may re-queen your colonies now if you did not do so in the spring. Unite weak colonies. To winter successfully, each colony must have the equivalent of ten fully capped frames of honey in the second hive body plus honey arches in the lower hive body, and two or more deep brood frames of pollen. If stores are insufficient, the colonies should be fed a 2:1 sugar syrup mixture. Use top feeders to prevent robbing. Start feeding early in the month, because the bees will not store the syrup and cap the cells when the weather turns cool. Feed one gallon for each deep comb of needed stores. The last gallon should contain Fumagilin. Feed pollen supplement as needed. Extract the honey now and give the wet combs back to the bees to lick clean.

October Beekeeping

Continue to feed bees if necessary. If you did not give fumagilin in September, do so now. Follow the directions and mix the appropriate amount into a gallon of two-to-one sugar/water syrup and feed it to the bees whether they need food or not.

September meeting agenda

Call to order and welcome:

Introductions:

Treasurers report:

Old business:

The Fair - What went right.

What went wrong.

Changes and improvements to be made for next year.

New business:

Program:

Hive products - Shelly Smith speaking on the benefits of bee pollen.

Ron Babcock speaking on collecting pollen.

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