

November 8, 2007



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

Nov. 13: Regular meeting of NWDBA.

Nov. 14: Regional meeting 6:00 pm. at the Mt. Vernon Royal Fork, hosted by the Mount Baker Beekeepers.

Minutes of the October meeting.

The meeting was called to order by President Robnett at 7:00 pm. Roll call was by sign in. Minutes of the October meeting were approved as read. Treasurers report: Savings balance as of Sept. 30, 2007 is \$832.75. The checking balance is \$1020.31. No checks have been written. John noted that the subscription rates for the ABJ has increased from \$17.20 to \$19.00 and the Bee Culture has increased from \$17.00 to \$19.00.

Announcements

President Robnett reminded everyone that election of officers takes place in November. Offices open this year are those of President, Secretary, Treasurer and two board positions. The board members whose terms are up are those of Connie Bueler and Cindy White.

Jerry announced also that Jim Marcus has invited anyone interested in bee venom therapy to hear Dr. Bradford Weeks speak on the subject next Thursday at 7:00pm at the Skagit Farmers

Supply in Mt Vernon.

Old Business

Research grant: John Bryant reports that he has developed an outline and is in the process of working on the details.

There was a general discussion about the purpose and/or goals of the MVRA focusing on the development of bees suited to our Puget Sound micro climate. John stated that a primary goal is to produce queens for placement in bee yards outside the MVRA. When questioned by Cindy White about field trials Scott Jenrich explained that he has initiated field trials on a limited basis due to the small number of queens produced. He must now wait until spring to begin evaluating the new colonies. Jim Tunnell stressed that large numbers of queens are needed to get reliable data. Other problems and complaints regarding the apiary are that of "bee drift" due to apiary layout and no wind breaks. It has been reported that members of other associations have become discouraged and are expressing a desire to pick up their bees and go home or sell them back to the apiary.

The NWDBA has four hives remaining at the apiary.

It was moved by Lindsay Person that a committee be appointed to design a re-

search project that will produce queens suitable for our Puget Sound environment. A second was heard. There was discussion. Cindy White moved to table. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned.

November Beekeeping

Continue to feed bees if necessary. The bees are still flying and bringing in some pollen. They are using stores and should be watched carefully. You may weigh a hive by reaching down with your calibrated arm and lifting the rear of the hive. If the hive feels that it is attached to the ground and your back cracks leaving you in a permanently bent over position, you can pretty well be assured that there are enough stores remaining to last until your back heals. If you are lucky, that is.

All appliances, supers etc. should be repaired, cleaned and put in a dry place for next year. You should protect your dark-end combs from wax moth damage. Dark thick ugly combs must be replaced as part of the IPM program.

December beekeeping

Keep the entrances free of dead bees. This is a good time to go to beekeeper meetings and read all of the beekeeper magazines that have been stacking up all year. Repair old equipment, and assemble all the new supers and frames you will need next year. If you need permits for outyards, apply for them now.

Editorial

As most of you who are members of the NWDBA know, November is the month we elect new officers. This is no time to sit on our hands and avoid eye contact or fidget in our seats thinking to ourselves, "I have nothing to offer, I can't speak in front of a group. It will take up too much

of my time. I just cannot commit myself. I will find myself in a position where other members will find out just how little I actually do know about beekeeping." How do I know about these excuses to justify not becoming involved? Because I have used all of them and then some. That's why! If it were not for all these excuses and more, I would not be a master at procrastination and excuse making, but rather, a master beekeeper. I guess the lesson here is: Do not bee like me.

This is an exciting time for our association. Our membership is growing. We have many new members with little or no experience keeping bees and others who are now just getting back into keeping bees. All are eager to learn more about beekeeping and maintaining healthy bee colonies in a legal, responsible and productive way.

We now have the fair booth as a vehicle to draw attention to bees and beekeeping in a very positive and rewarding way. Perhaps, however, the most potentially rewarding and certainly the most ambitious endeavor our association has taken on to date is the Mt Vernon Research Apiary (MVRA) which was intended to be operated as a cooperative and collaborative effort between the NWDBA, Stanwood -Comano, Skagit and Mt Baker associations. It seems to me that the key missing ingredient is communication, for without true communication which involves actually listening, hearing and understanding by all involved, cooperation and collaboration is extremely difficult if not impossible. Having said that, I do have confidence that Scott, working with the other co-managers from the other associations and with our support will resolve the existing problems and my vision of the MVRA becoming a field laboratory classroom and research center self sustaining through through the sale of

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wonderful queens and honey will be fulfilled. What a deal!

To get the most out of our association we must all be willing to teach, share our experiences (both good and bad), and work together finding ways to build relationships based on a common interest, bees, while setting aside egos and remembering that there are many ways of managing bees, and few absolutes.

As for those excuses, often some are legitimate. Usually most resolve within a few weeks, months or sometimes years. If you are in that position now, don't feel guilty or pressured by us. Just stay with us and get what benefit you can now, knowing that you may participate more actively later. If our membership has the passion for bees that I sense it has, many of those excuses will be set aside and we will have some real competition for those positions on the board.

Regional meeting -November 14, 2007-

Please plan to attend the Regional meeting hosted this year by the Mt Baker Beekeepers. These meetings are always fun, informative and provides an excellent opportunity to visit with other beekeepers in Northwest Washington. It is being held at the Mt vernon Royal Fork Restaurant, 2300 Freeway Dr. Mt Vernon, ph. (360)424-4044

Directions: Traveling North on I-5 take exit 227 ,then W. College Wy. to one block past the freeway, turn right on Freeway Dr.,and go 2 To 3 blocks . For a map just google " Mt Vernon Royal Fork Restaurant.

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