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# INLAND BEEMAIL

Monthly newsletter of the Inland Empire Beekeepers Association

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other summer. Honey production is down and we have been feeding the bees since the first of August. How are your bees doing? The boxes should be weighing about 100 lbs or better so the bees can make it through the win-

At the meeting this month we are going to hear from Kelly and Roger on the fairs. We are also looking forward to the report from Bob Arnold on the IEBA bee yard. The question is "Where is the bee yard now?"

The agenda for the October meeting is as follows: Social time 7:00 PM to 7:30 PM Open the meeting at 7:30 PM Treasurers report Secretaries report

#### **Old business**

The passing of the City of Spokane bee keepers ordinance.

The report on the Idaho Fair by Kelly The report on the Spokane Fair by Roger The report on the IEBA bee yard by Bob Arnold

Other old business

#### **New Business**

The report of the audit committee. Joan Nolan reporting on the 2008 class attendance.

What are our plans for the November and December meeting?

Close the meeting at 8:30 PM

See you at the monthly meeting 10/12/07 at 7:00 PM

Jim Miller President

### **Preparations for Spring**

#### By Bob Arnold

It seems that the longest period for beekeepers to endure is the time between the last of the honey flow and the next spring build up. This year the bees were bringing in honey the last week of June and the first week of July. The next honey may not come in for a year. That is a long time to wait to see the next honey flow! So you had better be ready or you will miss it.

The oldest rule for beekeeping is to keep young queens in the hive, healthy bees and adequate stores. Fall is the time that you prepare for the next honey flow. You can still introduce a new queen and they are still available from some queen producers. This time of year the queen **must** be introduced into a nuc and then introduce the nuc into to hive.

A queen can be introduced into a large hive in the fall as most of the bees are young and readily accept a new queen. However, if the queen is not accepted the hive is doomed as you have killed the old queen and they do not have time or drones to raise a good new queen. Thus it is unwise to introduce a new queen directly into a hive in the fall.

If you introduce into a nuc that is made up from frames of bees, eggs and brood from the hive that you are going to requeen you will have time to see the new queen laying before killing the old queen. Once the new queen is laying properly in the nuc then the old queen may be replaced with by placing the nuc into the parent hive once the old queen is found and killed. If your queen is going into the third winter it is essential that she should be replaced. If the queen is going into the second winter it is good practice to replace her but not essential.

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some evidence that the mite treatments are working. the mite drop you can make up a double screen and place it above the bottom board. You can slide 2 sheets of letter sized paper that have cooking oil spread on them between the bottom board and the double screen board. Check the sheets in a couple of days. You should see less than 20 mites per day on the sheets. If not your mite load is too high and different material should be used to treat the mites.

so) if you are to have sufficient food for the bees to make it into May without adding stores. You still have time to feed. Once the daily temperature maximums get below 50 to 55°F the bees cannot process the feed and will stop taking the feed. We still are seeing daily temperatures in the 60's and can readily add 30 pounds of feed to a hive if necessary.

For those of you having just a few hives you can easily make up your feed on the stove. You should make up your syrup as a 2:1 mixture of sugar and water as the bees will tend to store this rather than make brood. The mixture can be made in a large pot on the stove by first putting in a container of water and bringing it Bills Introduced To Protect Honeybees to a boil. Then take two containers of sugar and mix into the boiling water. To make up one gallon of 2:1 syrup you need 7.3 lbs of sugar and about 0.44 gallons of water.

You can feed your bees with the frame type feeder by placing the feeder near the bees. This time of the year it is best to place the feeder in the top box as you can easily remove the hive top to fill the feeder. Put the feed on warm early in the day. If the hive is strong they will consume the feed in less than two days. Most hives that have average size clusters will consume the feed in two days and be ready for more.

The feed will cost about \$3/gallon. Adding Fumigilin-B to the feed will add about \$3 more per gallon. Nosema is present in all of our hives and takes a heavy toll on the bees. Feeding two gallons syrup with Fumigilin-B to each of your hives will cost about

\$12/hive. Replacing your hives in the spring will cost Your mite treatments should have been on and doing about \$72 for the bees and the queen plus \$6 to \$12 there job. A check on the mite drop should provide for feed. Adding a 60% queen loss due to poorly mated queens in April will add an additional \$8 per If you do not have a screened bottom board to check hive. However, the real loss is in honey as hives that have queens that are superceded in May usually will not make honey and often do not make winter stores. Clearly the cost of sugar and Fumigilin-B for feeding make excellent economic sense.

Feeding for wintering is essential practice. If you have not fed you still can and it will pay dividends for your next honey flow. It will take a little effort but will add great peace of mind in the spring if you have Hive stores should occupy a full deep box (40 lbs or a hive that is bursting with bees and still has good weight. This will provide you with options that do not occur if your bees come though winter weak and low on stores. Best of luck!



Congressional leaders are working together in an effort to protect colonies of honeybees from the mysterious disorder scientists are calling the Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). Approximately 29 senators are cosponsoring the Pollinator Habitat Protection Act to research the phenomenon and protect honeybees. Another bill the Pollinator Research Act is slated to be introduced in July. The WSDA also plans to reestablish an apiary advisory committee that might conduct future surveys and offer hard numbers on the exact losses caused by CCD in our region. More than 30 states, including Washington, have declared themselves victims of CCD.

USDA FARM BILL HR2419 — Congress is currently debating USDA's Farm Bill and this version contains specific language regarding CCD and what USDA is doing to address this concern from the perspective of Agriculture in general. This version passed the House on July 27, 2007 and is in the Senate for their vote. An excerpt from the current draft is shown below:

# TITLE X—HORTICULTURE AND ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

Subtitle A—Honey and Bees Sec. 10001. Annual report on response to honey bee colony collapse disorder.

"(50) COLONY COLLAPSE DISORDER PRO-GRAM.—Research and extension grants may be made

to survey and collect data of honey bee colony production and health; research various factors possibly

contributing to or associated with colony collapse disorder; and develop mitigative and preventative measures to improve bee health.

Subtitle A—Honey and Bees 1 SEC. 10001. ANNUAL REPORT ON RE-SPONSE TO HONEY BEE COLONY COL-LAPSE DISORDER.

The Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to Congress an annual report describing the progress made by the Department of Agriculture in investigating the cause

or causes of honey bee colony collapse and in finding appropriate strategies to reduce colony loss.

#### SEC. 11315. POLLINATOR PROTECTION.

- (a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the "Pollinator Protection Act of 2007".
- (b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that
- (1) many of the crops that humans and live stock consume rely on pollinators for healthy growth; (2) pollination by honey and native bees adds more than \$18,000,000,000 annually to the value of United States crops;
- (3) 1/3 of the food supply of the United States de-

- pends on bee pollination, which makes the management and protection of pollinators an issue of paramount importance to the security of the United States food supply system;
- (4) colony collapse disorder is the name that has been given to the latest die-off of honey bee colonies, exacerbating the continual decline of pollinators in North America;
- (5) honey bee colonies in more than 23 states have been affected by colony collapse disorder; (6) if the current rate of decline continues, the United States will be forced to rely more heavily on imported foods, which will destabilize the food security of the United States through adverse affects on

the availability, price, and quality of the many fruits, vegetables, and other products that depend on animal pollination; and

- (7) enhanced funding for research on honey bees, native bees, parasites, pathogens, toxins, and other environmental factors affecting bees and pollination of cultivated and wild plants will result in methods of response to colony collapse disorder and other factors causing the decline of pollinators in North America.
- (c) AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS.
- (1) AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE. There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Agricultural Research Service
- (A) \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012, to be used for new personnel, facilities improvement, and additional research at Department of Agriculture Bee Research Laboratories;
- (B) \$2,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 and 2009, to be used for research on honey and native bee physiology, insect pathology, insect chemical ecology, and honey and native bee toxicology at other Department of Agriculture facilities in New York, Florida, California, Utah, and Texas; and (C) \$1,750,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2010, to be used for an area-wide research program to identify causes and solutions for colony collapse disorder in affected States.

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# (2) COOPERATIVE STATE RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION SERVICE.

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012 to be used to fund Department of Agriculture extension and research grants to investigate

- (A) honey bee biology, immunology, and ecology;
- (B) honey bee genomics;
- (C) honey bee bioinformatics;
- (D) native bee crop pollination and habitat conservation;
- (E) native bee taxonomy and ecology;
- (F) pollination biology;
- (G) sublethal effects of insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides on honey bees, native pollinators, and other beneficial insects;
- (H) the effects of genetically-modified crops, including the interaction of genetically modified crops with honey bees and other native pollinators; and
- (I) honey, bumble, and other native bee parasites and pathogens and effects on other native pollinators.

# (3) ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE.

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, \$2,250,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012 to conduct a nationwide honey bee pest and pathogen surveillance program.

(d) ANNUAL REPORTS.—The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Agricultural Research Service and the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report on the status and progress of bee research projects that are carried out by the Secretary.

# (e) GIVING POLLINATOR HABITAT AND PROTECTION A PRIORITY IN CONSERVATION PRO-

A PRIORITY IN CONSERVATION PROGRAMS.

—Section 7

1244 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3844) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection: 10

# "(c) NATIVE AND MANAGED POLLINATORS.

In carrying out any conservation program administered by the Secretary, except the farmland protection program, the Secretary shall establish a priority and provide incentives for

- "(1) increasing habitat for native and managed pollinators, especially native habitat; and
- "(2) establishing cropping systems, integrated pest management regimes, and other practices to protect native and managed pollinators.".



#### Fixing Wax Moth Damage

By: Ann Harman

Give the bees a hand and clean up those damaged frames (and this year, don't let it happen again)

For some of us it's the middle of Winter and others are thinking of Spring. Back there in a corner of the shed is that hive that suffered a major wax moth attack at the end of the season. Who knows why the colony weakened – *Varroa*, no food, lackadaisical queen – but the wax moths had a very good time before you found out what was going on.

At least the hive has sat over the Winter in an unheated shed. If you live in a climate with below freezing temperatures, even for a few days all the life stages – eggs, larvae, pupae and adults – are dead. But you'll need that equipment – for a package arriving in April a split from that big colony for swarm prevention. That hive is a mess.

Bees will clean up a wax moth mess, but think of that package, or the split. A small colony with a laying queen. Brood needs to be kept warm. Food needs to be distributed. Give those bees a break and get that equipment cleaned up.

It always amazes me at the strength of wax moth larvae as they prepare a 'bed' for the cocoon. They diligently chew into the wooden parts of boxes and frames and attach their tough cocoons. You have to admire their determination.

Let's tackle the equipment and see what can be salvaged. First, clean up your hive tool. One that is sticky from honey, wax and propolis when combined with wax moth webbing and cocoons will resemble masses of bubblegum. Your hive tool needs cleaning up before the season anyway.

Usually bottom boards, inner covers and hive bodies just need a good scraping to rid them of cocoons. Structural damage is limited to unsightly scoops in the wood that will not bother the bees. Frames, however, can present other problems. A severe attack of wax moth can leave some wood frame parts weakened from the chewed-away wood. Inspect those wood frames and those with weakened parts should be destroyed, along with the wax moth debris. You might be able to salvage a top bar and perhaps other pieces, but consider your time and effort versus the cost of some new wood frames.

If you used wax foundation in your brood nest frames consider that comb a total loss. Wax moth larvae relish tunneling around in brood comb with its resources of pollen and bee debris. Comb that has been built on Duragilt® cannot be used after the debris is pulled and scraped off. The lightly embossed surface is not considered starter comb by the bees.

How about frames with plastic foundation or those frame-foundation combinations now offered by many equipment suppliers. Here you are in luck. To clean the plastic foundation off it is best to use your fingers to pull the webbing from the plastic. A light brushing can help also. I do not recommend scraping vigorously with a hive tool or scrubbing away with a very stiff brush. A layer of wax on the foundation is best left undamaged, to help the bees rebuild comb. Small bits and pieces of webbing will be cleaned off by the bees, even those in a small nuc or package colony.

Burn the mess, even though the eggs of wax moth are presumed to be dead. You can bury it in your compost pile but I recom-

mend pulling the wires out of wired foundation.

You can save yourself a lot of time and bother by prevention. First you have to consider that wax moth is everywhere during the warm months. Next you have to know a few facts about the life of wax moths.

The wax moth female is sneaky and quick. She is active during the warm months so beekeepers in the south can expect wax moth damage almost any time of year. Year around your best defense is a strong colony. However, even in a strong colony one or two wax moths can lay some eggs in cracks and crevices. But the bees of a strong colony can eliminate the young larvae before damage is even noted.

Boxes of comb and empty honey supers can be stored briefly during the summer above the inner cover of a hive. The bees living below will protect these from damage – as long as the colony is strong. But if the colony should weaken those stored combs will be susceptible to damage.

You can do a number of things to prevent damage. It is still possible to obtain paradichlorobenzene (PDB). This chemical is lethal to wax moth larvae, and the odor of this chemical can be aired out of treated hive parts if they are left outside for several days before use by the bees. But you must consider what you are doing. PDB Is absorbed into the wax and residues are being found in wax. Do your bees need to be exposed to wax containing PDB? No. Does your honey need to be stored by the bees in wax containing residues of PDB? No.

Comb that has contained **only** honey and never any brood is not appealing to wax moth larvae. They do not survive on wax and honey. So if your honey supers have never had even one brood cycle, you can store these supers in any way you wish. If any damage from wax moth does occur it will be minimal. Wax moth females cannot lay eggs if light is present. The female spends her days in a tree but enters stored equipment during the night to lay eggs. You can make good use of these facts by preparing a storage place for comb. The cost is minimal but will save you time and money. Your storage shed can be simple, free-standing, part of other storage or part of a nice honey house. You need only to consider the amount of equipment you wish to store, a source of light and protection against mice.

If you are storing comb inside of another structure, that structure may already have protection from mouse damage. All you need to do is provide light. Store boxes of comb in stacks of about five to seven, alternating each box 90° from the one below. A lowwattage light bulb burning 24 hours a day is all that is needed to deter wax moth.

For a small number of boxes, you can construct a base or frame for stacking boxes so they are not resting on bare ground. Small-mesh hardware cloth must cover the base or frame for mouse protection. If you make short stacks, say five boxes, you can stack each box right on top of the other. A hardware cloth top will prevent mice from entering. A low-wattage light bulb placed above the stack will need to burn 24 hours a day.

You can make any sort of storage for boxes that fits your bee operation. All you need to do is think of using light as prevention.

Ann is out in the barn, cleaning frames in Flint Hill, VA.

# Classified Ads

**Tate's Honey Farm** has all of your extracting and packaging needs as well as spring packages and queens. Woodenware for all your winter projects and spring needs. Shop hours are 8:30—2:00 every Saturday at E. 8900 Maringo, Millwood. Contact us at 509-924-6669 or online at www.tateshoneyfarm.com

#### BEEBOXES BY LEE

Woodenware, standard or custom orders, IPM bottom boards, Hive top feeders, etc, select lumber. Order now to be ready for spring. Lee Berchtold (208) 687-1300

#### **NUC's - For Sale**

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#### Miller's Homestead Jim and Jenine Miller

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#### **NUC's For Sale RUSSIAN or KONA Queens** You Get:

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- 1 frame honey
- 1 frame honey/empty comb
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#### **IEBA Website**

www.inlandbeemail.com

#### **WSBA** Website

www.wasba.org

#### Hive Care:

# October/ November

#### The Bees.

It's the end of the season and the weather will not allow any more manipulation of the bee hives. While some flight will still be observed, for the most part, the bees are settling down into their winter cluster.

#### The Beekeeper.

The season has come to an end, and there are probably some loose ends still to tie up in the beeyard. If you are feeding light colonies, continue to give them warm sugar syrup (2:1). Watch the timing of your medications remove them as directed. Warm days have drawn to an end, so any hive manipulation will likely have to wait for a real warm spell or spring.

Be sure to have an entrance and upper adequate ventilation for the hive. Condensation dripping on the cluster is deadly. Some beekeepers use an absorbing layer of straw above the inner cover to wick up moisture.

And, like most of us, you probably have some honey to package and the next season to look ahead to.

# September

#### Linda Carney, Secretary

Thursday September 6th
The meeting consisted of stuffing straws for the fair. Next meeting will be October 12th See you there!



#### Beekeepers to advise WSDA on apiary industry

OLYMPIA - An advisory panel of beekeepers, a university researcher and an orchardist has been formed to recommend research needed by the state's bee industry and also enhance communications with the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA).

WSDA created the committee at the request of industry as a mechanism to obtain advice on issues affecting the apiary industry, including hobby beekeepers. The committee will suggest research projects that strengthen the apiary industry in Washington.

"Bees provide an indispensable service to farmers in pollinating their crops in addition to producing honey," said WSDA Director Valoria Loveland. "This panel will alert WSDA to problems and opportunities where industry and regulatory officials can work together to keep the bee industry viable."

Loveland appointed nine persons to the panel for two-year terms ending in July 2009. The panel includes:

Jerome Tate, Tate's Honey Farm, Spokane. Tate is president of the Washington State Beekeepers Association.

Eric Olson, Olson's Honey, Yakima. Olson is vice president of the Washington State Beekeepers Association.

Carolyn Elliott, Trees 'n Bees, Auburn.

James K. Smith, Bonney Lake.

Tim Hiatt, Hiatt Honey LLC, Ephrata.

Paul Hosticka, Octopus Garden Honey, Dayton.

Stanley Pallo, Stan Pallo Bee Yards, Startup.

Hermann Thoennissen, Kennewick. An orchardist, Thoennissen represents the interests of growers that purchase pollination services.

Steve Sheppard, Ph.D., Washington State University, Entomology Department, Pullman.

The group will meet with WSDA officials as needed, with the first meeting scheduled for August. The committee is expected to advise WSDA on the type of research that would benefit their industry. Research would be conducted by academic institutions or other organizations.

Funding would come from fees that more than 270 beekeepers pay each year to register their hives with WSDA.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, honey bees are essential for production of more than 90 food crops. In addition, honey bees contribute to the pollination of many plant species across the state-benefiting landscapes, gardens, and vegetable plots. Washington's beekeepers provide pollination services ranging from tree fruit orchards in Eastern Washington to blueberry and cranberry crops west of the Cascades. Industry leaders also transport their hives to serve growers in California, Arizona and other states.



#### **Next Meeting:** Friday October 12th 6:30 Meeting

Inland Empire Beekeepers Association (IEBA) meets the 2nd Friday of every month at the Spokane County Ag Extension office by the County Fairgrounds, at 222 N. Havana. The association is affiliated with the Washington State Beekeepers Association (WSBA). IEBA membership dues are \$5.00 for an individual or \$10.00 for the entire family. This includes your receiving the Inland Beemail, which is published by the association every month.

## INLAND BEEMAIL

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#### **OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**

Phyllis Knox - 1st Jim Miller - 11th Debi Brinson - 12th Nadia Ancker - 25th Mark Nason - 26th Sally Fleming - 26th Patsy Dwinell - 27th Konner Forshag - 29th Darlene Nason -31st

#### **OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES**

Jack and Phyllis Knox - 11th

## Beekeeping Calendar - Bob Arnold

#### **October**

Check for AFB. Check mite fall counts. Any additional feed can be put on early in the month but after about mid October the bees may not take any feed. Feed only 2:1 syrup with Fumigillen in it. Nucs can still be introduced but introducing mated queens is problematic—only introduce a mated queen if you first save the old one in the form of a nuc in case the new queen is not accepted. Colonies must face full sun during noon to 2 PM during winter period. Reposition colonies in bee yard late in October after most bee activity has ended. Remove mite control materials after exposure period has been reached. Reduce entrance to exclude mice (must be no higher than 3/8"). Make certain each hive has an upper entrance. Add 2" closed cell foam above upper entrance. Make certain that rain/water cannot run into brood chambers. Winter strong nucs in their 5 frame nuc boxes side by side with upper entrances and 2" closed cell foam above. Give them 34" space above frame top bars to move around. Winter those nucs that fill the five frame box and have at least 4 frames of honey. Attend state beekeeping conferences.