



Beekeeping News

www.pugetsoundbees.org

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PSBA Announcements and Upcoming Events

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Urban Beekeeping

Pacific Northwest magazine staff writer Paula Bock writes about "urban beekeeping" in the June 2 edition. Paula attended our last club meeting. Photos of club members may appear in the article. Watch for us in the Seattle Times!

the keynote speech before lunch, as well as perform hive examinations in the club apiary after lunch. This event consistently gets rave reviews. Remember to bring your bee suits and lunch! A few 'loaner' beesuits will be on hand for those who have not yet purchased their own.

Successful Queen Rearing Short Course

July 12—14, 2002
University of Minnesota.
This course teaches one method of rearing queens that works consistently for both hobby and commercial beekeepers. Topics covered include queen and drone biology, timing of queen rearing in northern climates, stock selection and breeding, setting up mating yards, and record keeping. Participants will have a chance to try their hands at grafting larvae and raising their own queens. Cost is \$75 and includes an 80-page manual, lunch, and refreshments.

Contact Information:

John de Groot:
eMail: john_degroot@juno.com
Phone: (425) 788-2259

Western Apicultural Society 2002 Annual Conference

August 12—15, 2002
Tahoe Biltmore Hotel/Casino. (800) 245-8667.
Use Group Number 0812 when making hotel reservation. Deadline: July 12, 2002. This conference is worth getting to. See Supplement to Sept. 2001 PSBA Newsletter for a summary of last year's WAS 2001 Convention.

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EVENTS

Beetopia

Beetopia is our annual 'field day' at the Arboretum's Visitor Center. This program is intended to train new beekeepers how better to care for their hives. The program will be conducted on Saturday, May 18, 2002; 9:30-4:00. Admission will be \$10 per person, or \$5 per student. We will discuss and demonstrate hive manipulation, swarm prevention, disease prevention, disease treatment, and hive examination techniques. Former Washington State Apiarist Jim Bach will present

PSBA MAY MEETING

At the UW Arboretum's Graham Visitor Center

2200 Arboretum Drive E. Seattle
Meetings are regularly scheduled on the 4th Tuesday of each month except July and December.

May 28, 2002

Beginner's Session

6:30 p.m.—7:00 pm

Spring Management
Presented by: Van Sherod

Main Program

7:15—9:00 pm

Success Factors and Pitfalls of Being a Professional Beekeeper

Presented by: Harvard Robbins
Mr. Robbins has about 600 hives and is a full-time professional beekeeper. He makes his income from both honey & pollination contracts.

Next Trustee Meeting:

A 5-minute vote on bylaw changes—
May 28th meeting

Wed. August 7, 2002 6:30 to 9:00 pm. At the Graham Visitor Center.

Almanac for Puget Sound Beekeepers

Adapted from Roy Thurber Bee Chats, Tips and Gadgets

MONTH of JUNE

Blackberries blossom starting about the 4th week of May to the 1st week in June. Fireweed about a week later in the lowlands.

Examine drawn comb in supers for moth damage and replace as needed. Have about 3 or 4 Western supers with 9 frame spacers ready for each hive. Remove paradichlorobenzene 3 to 4 days before use.

Do not use comb that has

previously been used for brood rearing in honey supers as the wax may have absorbed medications used for disease control.

Remove all medications from the hive before adding honey supers.

Add an additional super when the top super has 6 to 7 frames of honey in it or if the bees are clustered on the entrance at night.

Continue to inspect for swarm cells and remove.

If you use queen

excluders, be sure the queen is in the hive body below the excluder. The excluder can be placed any time from placing the first super up until 2 to 3 weeks before the expected extracting date to allow enough time for any brood in the supers to emerge.

Blackberry and fireweed flows are very fast!



“Add an additional super when the top super has 6 to 7 frames of honey in it or if the bees are clustered on the entrance at night.”

The Hive Corner PSBA Apiary Update

PSBA Apiary is located at the UW Arboretum, just south of the main greenhouses.

2002 Apiary Manager:

Gene Bowley (206) 324-0759
eMail: genebowley@yahoo.com

The club apiary was examined on Saturday April 27 by Dawn Corl, Jerry Mixon, and Norm Smith. They were examined again on May 4 by Tim Celeski. Below are their respective reports.

APR 27: The team mowed the grass and put out a rat trap in the shed (there were still lots of rat droppings).

Numbers were marked on the deep brood boxes, starting with #1 closest to the shed on the east (greenhouse) side, going in a circle, so ending with #6 on the west side closest to the shed.

The top empty boxes and package equipment were removed; brood boxes examined for queens of eggs (saw 3 queens and all had eggs); swapped brood boxes as most of the brood was in the top boxes and most of the

honey in the lower ones; medicated with grease patties and TM powder; stored the empty packages on the east side of the shed and the empty boxes on the west side. All the colonies looked strong.

MAY 4: All hives were in very good shape. The packages are coming along nicely. Lots of eggs, brood. Decent nectar and pollen. No queen cells.

Three hives are very strong, starting to get plenty of action on the upper story, so another deep super was added on top of the 1 deep/1 western already in place. With no other inspections scheduled for two weeks, this seemed like a pretty good idea. Brood boxes should be added to the three remaining colonies during Beetopia hive inspection. Lastly, TM powder was added to all hives at the lower level.

Volunteers Always Needed!

If you'd like to help out with the club apiary, please contact the appropriate person(s) below for more information.

Thanks to Gene for installing five of the information marquee sign frames!

Apiary Coverage Schedule

May 16 — 31
Paula Milligan
(206) 440-0791
eMail: ryderclan@yahoo.com

June 1 — 15
Bruce Eckholm
Phone: (206) 788-0255
eMail: eckholm@phinneybee.com

Jun 16 — 30
Scott Eby
Phone: (425) 486-4290
eMail: scott.eby@physio-control.com

Jul 1 — 15
John Keenan
Phone: (206) 297-1789
eMail: maevesvole@aol.com

President's Message John deGroot, PSBA President

Consider this six year record of honey production from the same apiary running 2, 3, 3, 4, 4, and finally 4 hives:

30 lbs from one, 0 from the other

30 from one, 0 from two others

83 from one, 0 from two others

248 plus comb honey from two, 0 from two others

268 from two, 0 from two others

246 from two, 0 from two others

The productive hives and the non-productive hives were usually the same ones on

succeeding years. In 2001 the two non-productive hives died in the fall or winter. These are patterns worth noting.

Colony productivity and survival are partly influenced by genetics. When hives located in the same apiary behave very differently, there are only a few things that could account for it.

Goof-off colonies will produce drones in the spring, which will contribute their heredity to the workers that come from any queen they mate with. Cattle ranchers cull their

herds to improve the breed. Today, genetic problems are rare in cattle.

Evaluate your hives after the honey harvest. Any colony that fails to provide a surplus should be eliminated unless derived from a late-season swarm. Captured swarms should be housed at a separate apiary and required to prove themselves. If they flourish, move them to your 'producer apiary'. If they don't, purge them. You don't need a large number of colonies to use this method. It will work with as few as two.



“Any colony that fails to provide a surplus should be eliminated unless derived from a late-season swarm.”

Ask the Expert

Question: I have several hives and last week - in just one of them - there were many bees that had no wings and no abdomens, but were still alive and crawling around the hive and bottom board. I treated the bees with Apistan last fall. What could have caused this and what can I do about it?

- Phyllis Nelson

Answer: One possibility that comes to mind is what is generally known as Septicemia. Septicemia is really a symptom that has been attributed to a number of bacterial organisms or their toxic products. In honey bees it was first described as a disease in 1928 caused by *Bacillus apisepicus*. Septicemia is considered a minor problem for beekeepers. When it occurs, it kills infected individuals rapidly (usually within 36

hours). One of the primary symptoms is the degeneration of muscle tissue that, in turn, leads to various body parts (such as wings, legs abdomen, etc.) being able to break off at the slightest touch. These bees without abdomens you saw were mortally wounded - they can survive only a few hours. Some authors have reported that the occurrence of Septicemia is related to stress including "massive artificial feeding, comb building in a swarm, or the mobilization of the colony population to counteract adverse weather". It has also been reported that the disease can be "found mixed with nosema disease, mite infestation or other unknown conditions". There is no treatment registered for Septicemia. Given the rapid onset of death in infected individuals, if Septicemia was the cause of what you observed, the col-

ony should have died or recovered on its own relatively quickly.

I can envision another possibility, although perhaps more remote. Back in my younger days while beekeeping in Georgia, we sometimes lost weak colonies to wax moths. As the infestation grew - the burrowing moth larvae (who move through the brood combs and spin silken tubes) often trapped the abdomens, wings and legs of developing bees. When these colonies were examined, rows of dead or living bees could be seen that were unable to escape from their brood cells. These poor bees begged food from nearby workers and probably lived a few days, but were doomed to remain stuck in their cells. Occasionally you could find living bees

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TRUSTEES

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Jennifer Cochrane, Gene Bowley,
Frank Fitzpatrick, Tim Celeski, John
Keenan

Tip of the Month

Tyvek® coveralls make for an effective and inexpensive bee suit. Your local safety supply store and many online stores have them for as little as \$7.

Virtual Beekeeping

Find everything you ever wanted to know about pollination or pollination services can be found at **www.Pollinator.com**. Detailed pollination information by crop can be found at **http://www.Pollinator.com/byCrop.htm**.

Journal Watch

Honeybee Shows a Little Gene Activity Goes Miles and Miles

Researchers have identified a crucial genetic component of the great bee leap from house bee to field bee. They have discovered that just before the transition, the activity of a gene aptly named the foraging gene increases sharply in the parts of the bee brain that absorb and interpret visual and spatial information.:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2002/05/07/science/life/07BEE.html>

Ask the Expert, continued...

(Continued from page 3)

in these colonies with most of their legs missing. I don't think I ever saw them without abdomens, however.

Unfortunately, there isn't a clear cut answer to your question. I certainly recommend that you conduct follow up inspections of the colony to verify its health at this point. Also, if you are breeding your own queens, I would suggest that you not use such a colony as breeding stock.

Steve Sheppard
Associate Professor
Washington State University

Puget Sound Beekeepers Association

PSBA Newsletter Editor

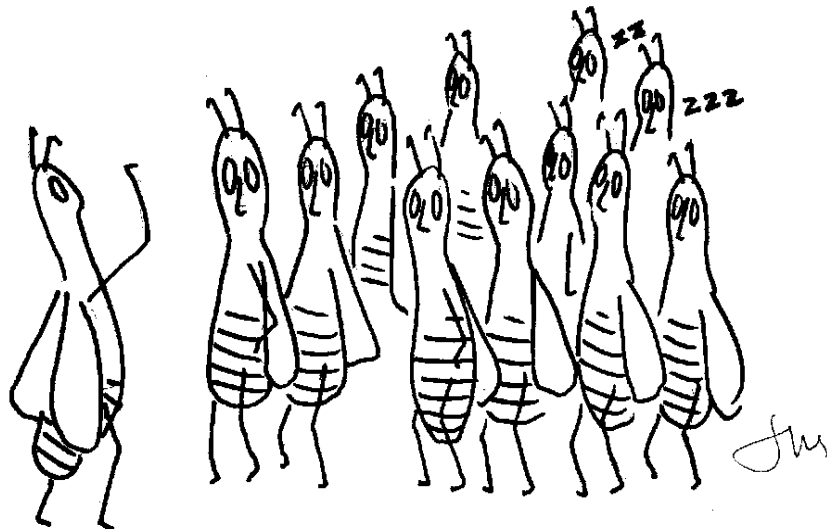
c/o Dawn Corl
6226 34th Ave. NE
Seattle, WA 98115

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WE'RE GONNA SUPSEDE THE QUEEN
TODAY SO LET'S OBSERVE A MOMENT OF
SILENCE STOP THAT BUZZING BACK THERE