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July 2014 LCBA Newsletter

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Questions? Suggestions? Resources you’d like to share, stories you’d like to tell?

Please contact LCBA Secretary Susanne Weil: susanne.beekeeper@gmail.com or call 360 880 8130.

Swarm & Colony Removals: Policy Clarification

LCBA is a registered non-profit educational organization of volunteers in all aspects of operation. Our volunteers donate many hours of their time as well as their money, resources, and personal labor to help people, all for the love of bees. Please address questions or concerns on club operations directly to the volunteer in charge of an LCBA event or office to seek an answer to your question or a resolution to a problem. Members may also ask to have their concern placed on a board meeting agenda. The board meets 4th Wednesdays of each month, 6 to 8 p.m. at Centralia College.

The LCBA board was recently accused in a public forum of trying to dictate and control the private activities of LCBA members, but this issue was not brought to the board by the accusing party. Our policy is that LCBA activities benefit LCBA members, but if an individual LCBA member hosts an activity as a private person, not as an LCBA event, whoever benefits from that activity is at the discretion of the host. The situation that sparked this accusation was the distribution of bees from swarm captures or carve outs. A request was sent via a Facebook message (which has been archived along with subsequent communications) to the LCBA secretary for names of LCBA members who wanted bees and this request was forwarded to the LCBA membership. The response was huge; a list of LCBA members requesting bees was drafted in chronological order of reply but rejected by the person who had made the request for homes. LCBA passed on the message to its members in good faith that bees were to be made available to them. Unfortunately this caused frustration and confusion when bees were not available. This situation was a first for us and we will not be sending out such a request again. Only LCBA-organized and publicized swarm captures or removals will be announced to the membership, and the leader of the event will ensure that LCBA members that do the work of supporting such events will have fair access to any bees collected at these events.

UPCOMING EVENTS:



Lintott Alexander Park by the Chehalis River (Photos, Chehalis Parks & Recreation)

Saturday, July 12: LCBA's 6th Annual Summer Potluck

In July, our Summer Potluck Meeting is held instead of our regular 2nd Wednesday meeting.

Come enjoy good food, good fellowship, & talk bees. Honey recipes always welcome!

Where: Lintott Alexander Park, Shelter #2; 1101 Riverside Drive, Chehalis WA

When: 4 – 8 p.m.

Facilities: We'll have 10 large picnic tables & benches. There's a wood burning stove with 4 cooking areas, 8 electrical outlets, an outdoor faucet, garbage cans with liners. **Please bring:** A dish to share, plate, cutlery, napkins – and family! LCBA will provide water and pop. Park management requests no alcohol at this event.

Topic: No speaker, though we'll have our monthly drawing and short business meeting. This month's drawing benefits the 2015 Youth Scholarship Program. August's drawing will raise funds for equipment for KiReeco, our sister beekeeper organization in Kisii, Kenya (see March newsletter). KiReeco will train 500 new beekeepers and build an extractor to help these subsistence farmers market their honey and fund their children's schooling. LCBA VP Dave Gaston has built a top bar hive (pictured below) to raise funds for KiReeco; Norm Switzler has pledged a swarm of bees for this hive in early 2015. Drawing tickets, \$5, will be available at the July 12 potluck and the August 13 meeting; to buy tickets between these meetings, please contact Susanne.



Above, top bar hive made by VP Dave Gaston for August 13 drawing to benefit KiReeCo, our "sister association" of Kenyan beekeepers.

LCBA's July & August Workshops will be announced soon. Topics will include testing for mites & diseases and removing honey supers. Meanwhile, WSU and West Sound Beekeepers are offering some interesting classes:

July 19-20, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.: Queen Rearing in the Pacific Northwest 2014, West Sound Beekeeping Association, located at Stedman Bee Supplies, 3763 NW Anderson Hill Rd Silverdale, WA 98383

“Queen rearing in the Pacific Northwest has its own unique challenges. We will discuss and provide training with emphasis on cell starters, cell finishers and mating nucs. Each student will be taught to graft appropriate-aged larvae and start queen cells. There will be considerable discussion on queen mating, drone production, drone saturation, chemical free beekeeping, local mating schemes, use of survivor stock, basic bee genetics, colony evaluation, and much more. Use of queen cells, virgin queens and queen banks will be explained.”

“Registration fee: \$135 for the first person, \$110 for a second person from the same family. The fee includes all instruction, break materials, a new book by Dr. Connor on queen rearing, and a starter kit including grafting frame, grafting bars, grafting tool, cell cups and a WSBA membership and lunch for both days. . . . Class is limited to 15 students. Please check our website for availability -- <http://www.westsoundbees.org>. Questions or concerns can be addressed to George Purkett, webmaster@westsoundbees.org or 360-895-9116.” Registration form pdf: www.westsoundbees.org

Thursday & Friday, July 31 - Aug 1 at WSU – Pullman:

"Starting Right With Bees": WSU Dept of Entomology Beekeeping Course. Instructors, Dr. Steve Sheppard, Sue Cobey, & WSU Bee Lab Graduate Students

Topics: "Interested in starting some bee colonies or want more confidence in working and caring for these? This 2 day course will cover bee biology, pest/disease identification, colony management, honey bee IPM, and gloveless beekeeping. The format combines instruction and hands on demonstration. Bring a bee veil, whatever protective clothing you are comfortable in, and lots of questions."

Registration: \$125. For registration form, visit:
<http://entomology.wsu.edu/apis/files/2014/01/Registration-Form-beekeeping-workshops-2014.pdf>

Saturday, Aug 2 at WSU – Pullman; Friday, Aug 8, Mt. Vernon Agricultural Station

**“Rearing High Quality Queens”: WSU Dept of Entomology Beekeeping Course.
Instructors: Dr. Steve Sheppard & Sue Cobey**

Topics: "Basic biology and various methods of queen rearing will be presented. The workshops emphasize hands on instruction in queen rearing methods, with lecture and demonstrations. Students will be involved in various steps including: setting up cell builders, grafting, and establishing mating nuclei. Both queen right and queen-less systems will be demonstrated. Bring a bee veil and whatever protective clothing you are comfortable in."

Registration: \$175. To access registration form, visit:
<http://entomology.wsu.edu/apis/files/2014/01/Registration-Form-beekeeping-workshops-2014.pdf>

August 12-17: LCBA at the Southwest Washington Fair

We'll have an exhibit in the Floral Building again, with our Observation Hive, People's Choice Honey Judging, & plenty of materials to help our Lewis County neighbors get to know bees better. Special events will be posted in early August. LCBA's official Fair honey judging will be August 11: for details re: entry & criteria, see subsequent section of this newsletter. Want to volunteer to staff our exhibit, or have show & tell items to loan? Please contact Susanne: we'll need you!

August 13: LCBA Monthly Meeting

When: 6:30 – 8:45 p.m. Social Time 6 to 6:30 p.m.; Speaker, 6:30; Business Meeting 7:45 – 8:45.

Where: 103 Washington Hall, Centralia College 701 W. Walnut, Centralia WA

Topic: Why Honey Bees Need Weeds: They're Medicinal!

Speaker: Franclyn Heinecke, WSBA Area 2 Representative: With relatively few immune genes, bees use forage - resins, nectar and pollen - to strengthen individual & colony immune responses. Blackberry pollen & honey, specifically, are especially nutritious for honeybees. Franclyn will also review some plants listed as noxious weeds, how they are controlled, & costs to state agencies of that control, as well as native plants beneficial to bees that can be used in gardens. Franclyn was at our May meeting & will present a counterpoint to Bill Wamsley's noxious weed presentation.

September 10: LCBA Monthly Meeting

When: 6 – 8:45 p.m.: Social Time 6 to 6:30 p.m.

Where: 103 Washington Hall, Centralia College 701 W. Walnut St., Centralia WA

Topic: Improving Fall/Winter Survivorship

Speaker: Dr. Dewey Caron: Bee losses in the Pacific Northwest were fearsome this past winter: Dr. Dewey Caron, affiliate faculty in Entomology at Oregon State University and one of the driving forces behind BeeInformed's bee loss survey, will update us on losses, broken out by Langstroth v.s. Top Bar v.s. Warre hives, but his main focus will be take-home messages from BeeInformed's research on "what we as beekeepers can do – before fall weather closes us down – to raise the bees that are going to raise the bees to pass the winter: fall management with emphasis on helping improve survivorship." Q&A from LCBA members to follow.

Coming Saturdays this October/November: LCBA's BEGINNING BEEKEEPING CLASS

When: October 4, 11, 25, November 1, 8, from 9 a.m. to noon

Where: Centralia College Student Center, 212 S. Rock, Centralia WA 98531

Registration Brochure: available under "Upcoming Events" on LCBA's website (or ask Susanne for a copy). LCBA offers the Washington State Beekeepers' Association's apprentice beekeeping curriculum. The class builds core beekeeping skills and covers basic bee biology/behavior, equipment & apiary set-up, seasonal management, identifying & managing pests, honey harvesting, and over-wintering. Students completing the course earn WSBA's Apprentice certificate & can advance to Journeyman & Master Beekeeper courses. Washington State Beekeepers' Association manual lays out basics for beginning beekeepers; LCBA's PowerPoints & demonstration materials supplement manual with visuals. Questions encouraged; children welcome. Post-Course Support: LCBA's free Mentor

Workshops give hands-on guidance in working bees. Students who join LCBA are eligible for discounts on spring package / nuc bee orders & free consultations with an individual “bee mentor.” Course cost: \$35 individual, \$50 couple/family. Fall 2014 instructors: Bob Harris, Tomme Trikosko, and Jon Wade.



Above left, Island County Extension Director Tim Lawrence, our October speaker; right, Dewey Caron, our September speaker. They say they're not bringing their bees with them. . . .

October 8: LCBA Monthly Meeting

When: 6 – 8:45 p.m.: Social Time 6 to 6:30; Speaker, 6:30 to 7:30; Business Meeting & Beekeeping Q&A, 7:45 to 8:45

Where: 103 Washington Hall, Centralia College 701 W. Walnut St., Centralia WA

Topic: Neonicotinoids & Bees; Bee Biodiversity

Speaker: Dr. Tim Lawrence: Tim is the Extension Director of Island County. Based on Whidbey Island, Tim works with WSU's Entomology department researching a wide range of honey bee health issues, including their most recent project sampling Washington colonies for traces of neonicotinoids. His talk on "Human Dimensions of CCD" was one of the highlights of last October's WSBA Conference.

LCBA MONTHLY MEETING NOTES: JUNE 11TH

Topic: Queen-Rearing in the Pacific Northwest: Breeding Bees Adapted to Our Climate

Speaker: Charles Bennett, President, Pacific Northwest Queen Rearing Club & Vice President, Washington State Beekeepers' Association.

Charles Bennett introduced himself: he's Vice President of WSBA, beekeeping instructor for Clark County Beekeepers, and President of the Pacific Northwest Queen-Rearing Club (<http://www.pacificnorthwestqueenrearingclub.org/>). He teaches 5th and 6th graders about the importance of saving the bees.

Charles started by sharing some inexpensive do-it-yourself tools for swarm removal: a simple box with a lid and holes – the kind vegetables come in – reinforced with duct tape and attached to a 20 foot bamboo rod. He positions the box under a swarm and flips the lid closed, usually getting 95 percent of the bees. He also showed a homemade robber screen that fits into migratory bottom boards: it can be opened up when yellow jackets are not bad, but when they are a danger, it can be nicked down to just one bee width. A screening piece of metal keeps yellow jackets from seeing where bees come out. Charles also noted that if you take a screened inner bottom board and put it on as top entrance, if you turn it over, you get lots of air between the screen and the telescoping cover to ventilate and help dry honey.

Charles showed a slide of his 20-some hives and nucs: he experiments all the time to see what will happen. He has a feeder about one hundred yards from his hives: he puts it out in the fall and has found it keeps bees from robbing each other's hives. He has a specially built shed in which he places about 25 nucs to over-winter: he noted the symbols painted on this shed, pointing out that it's been proven that bees like particular symbols they will go to. Karl Von Frisch, who figured out the bee dance, worked with symbols: he put food next to symbols on tables, and he tested which symbols they liked best. Those are the symbols Charles painted on his nuc house.



Above left, Charles's apiary; right, his "nuc house" with Von Frisch's symbols to attract bees home.

Charles's focus for this talk was the "misconceptions of queen rearing" (for further details, see the PDF file attached to the newsletter email, or visit the Monthly Meetings link on our website).

Misconception #1: "Nature does the best job of raising queens." People tend to let bees supersede. However, Charles believes the odds are that if you are getting queens out of California in nucs and packages, Africanized bees will be part of the group – Africanized queens hatch out one day sooner and will kill other queens, so you end up with a hot hive. Charles noted a North Carolina study showing that Africanized bees produce more drones, and so they can overwhelm the European bees in mating queens. Further, Africanized bees will usurp nests: in Mexico, he saw kids spraying the bottom of hives to kill Africanized bees in an attempt to stop them from infiltrating the hive and killing the queen. Charles will not deal with a hot hive, and uses multiple guards against this. For example, he killed one queen in an aggressive colony, requeened with a WSU queen, and now the colony is gentle. Charles told a story of a hot hive that he visited this very day in Toledo after a bear had destroyed the hives the night before: he got stung between the eyes and should have stayed away!

Misconception #2: "Survival queens are best to breed from." Charles asked what are considered good breeder traits: this goes beyond winter survival. We want bees that are mite resistant, Nosema resistant, good at building up nectar and pollen. He noted the importance of hygienic testing: he takes a soup can and inserts it onto a brood frame with liquid nitrogen (there are other methods) to kill all the brood in the circle: later, you figure out what percentage of the dead larvae the bees opened and threw away. You want

a high rate of uncapping within 24 hours: important because the bees recognized a dead bee, removed that cap and took it out. A hive that shows strong uncapping behavior has a queen you want to breed from.

To aid his bees in resisting both varroa and tracheal mites, Charles does not use foundation. He can put that foundationless comb in an extractor: he runs wires through splits in the frame tops, and the bees will build down through those wires to bottom of the frame. He does this because in the wild, bees build smaller cells, more per inch than the 5.6 cells per inch size of conventional foundation. Smaller bees have smaller tracheas, so this method helps discourage tracheal mites.

Misconception #3: “Chemical-free queen rearing is best.” But the reality, Charles argues, is that the worker bee brings in pesticides and miticides, sometimes a lot: bees forage on plants that have been in contact with garden sprays, bringing toxic chemicals into the hive that show up in propolis, wax, and honey. He thinks that no one really has organic or chemical-free honey. He believes in testing his bees for pests and diseases and treating them rather than letting them die. Again, his goal is to save bees.

Misconception #4: “Only one special pet method works.” Beekeepers can be like dictators, arguing that only their way works. Charles says, if it works for you, use it, and don’t be afraid to experiment. Queen rearing, he believes, will work in any kind of hive; as long as you get good weather and you have good eyesight to transfer larvae, you can breed bees. He now breeds queens by grafting, using a clokeboard and a breeder nuc.



Left, frame with cells from “Hopkins method” (photo Ohio Homestead Gardens & Apiaries: right, swarm cells (photo by the Bollingers)

Misconception #5: “If I buy a queen, she is bound to be a good one.” Charles says “buyer beware!” There is no better way to protect yourself than to breed your own queen. If you go through a local vendor and order one queen, will you get the best queen? No: vendors will give the best queens to their high volume orders. If your store bought queen is not laying within 21 to 28 days to build up the right pheromones, she will be weak. So, how to do it? The equipment is not very expensive: he showed a piece of wood with routed-out sections into which cups fit. He buys guards and puts them over the cups when transporting a breeding nuc or protecting cells from being eaten out from the side by another queen. It costs \$1.75 for a quill with a plunger to transfer larvae.

Charles recommends that prospective queen breeders sit through a class: WSU has some, as does West Sound Beekeepers (see Upcoming Events, above). Charles recommends Sue Cobey’s class: Sue is now in Italy and Croatia and Germany to bring back frozen semen and enhance our diversity. Charles got a queen from Sue’s WSU program: the colony had a small ball and hardly ate anything through the winter, and though he thought he was going to lose her, she is now his best queen.

Another helpful approach is to get a small group together to swap queens: if group members bring a frame of larvae from their best hive and swap and share, they will get queens that are both local and have diverse genetics. He runs genealogy on all his queens and emphasizes keeping good records to

know who's who in what hive. Charles noted an IBRA study that documented superiority of locally reared queens (see PDF file for details).

Misconception #6: "I tried it once and it didn't work, so I'm not good at it." Beekeepers should not be scared to try! Like learning colony manipulation, queen rearing is just another step in your beekeeping. Some recommendations: make cells and develop nucs for replacement queens; get involved in your club; come to meetings, read books etc.

Charles recommended several simple ways to breed your own queens: all of these are detailed with illustrations on Charles's PDF file:

Cell pull down is the simplest method. Take a frame from one of your best hives, look for eggs, take a cell, and just elongate that cell: Charles does this with a hive tool. Queenless bees will want to make a queen – but if you don't elongate the cell, they won't have enough time to build the right kind of cell. Do this with several: in 5 days, the bees will have the cells all built out. Then, you kill the small ones and take the big strong queen cells.

Cut out cells: Take a nail, go down to the plumber shop, solder a ring on a nail, roll it and stick it right in there, and you have a cell that you can put into a queenless hive and let the bees take it from there.

Cut comb method: Strips of comb hang from a bar put into a queenless hive; they'll build on it.

Graft larvae: when they are 18 to 24 hours old.

Supersedure: Charles does not let this happen. However, if you want to let bees build their own queen, the colony must be totally queenless if it is to work. If you put in a virgin queen, you must wait 21 days before you say it is queenless. It takes time for a virgin queen to get bred: if she looks small, it's possible that her abdomen has not blown up, and you see neither larvae nor capped brood. Don't be too quick to judge: come back in another week, and you may then find eggs and larvae. Give them time.

What method does Charles use? The "Joe Clemens" method: see the PDF file for discussion and photographs.



Cell Builder Frame Arrangement Top Box – Day 14 (photo, Paul Hosticka)

Questions? Norm asked whether Charles had ever tried calming down a hot hive. Charles won't do that: he believes that aggression comes from Africanized genetics best eliminated from your apiary. He draws a distinction between bees that are made aggressive by bad beekeeping practices – there is a difference between that and a hive that is aggressive by character. He wants to work bees unsuited and will not tolerate bees that will boil up at him. He uses smoke to calm them down. Norm noted that by working with bees, he can calm down a colony; Charles prefers the approach that “a queen that is producing aggressive bees needs to go.”

New member Kevin Phillips just got a swarm in hive, his first, and wondered whether he should replace the solid bottom board with a screened bottom board (short answer: yes for ventilation and to prevent moisture buildup). He also wanted to know whether varroa mites are prevalent in Lewis County. Charles explained how varroa tear down the immune system of the bee: he believes that if you don't treat, bees will die. Many debate whether treating will promote resistance to treatments and whether it is best to breed a more resistant bee: there is not consensus about this among beekeepers.

Herb Keeling asked what signs in California package can let you know Africanized genetics are present. Charles urged noting the drone count – you will find a high proportion of drones in an Africanized colony. Taylor Mizar asked what Charles is doing to change these imported genetics: he says that over time, his Pacific Northwest Queen Rearing Club hopes to flood the state with locally reared queens - and also local drones, so that virgin queens will be more likely to get bred by local drones.

Dan Maughan reported that a commercial beekeeper from Idaho just put hundreds of hives near his apiary: can he keep those drones out? In answer, an anonymous audience member asked: “have you

ever tried to keep your daughters away from boys?” On this note, we thanked Charles for his informative talk and slideshow.

Monthly Business Meeting Notes:

Drawing: President Norm Switzler kicked off our business meeting with our monthly drawing to benefit our youth scholarship program, assisted by Michaela Phillips. Lucky winners included Ted Saari, who drew first and took home a new honey cookbook; Ed Carter won 2nd and took Charles Bennett’s clover honey. Maggie Keeling, Mark Toenyan, Terrie Phillips, and Joanne Morgan each drew winning tickets and took home some nice bowls. Rick Batten and Sue Allen won plants donated by Steve Howard, who has been cleaning out his greenhouse and had more to give away in his truck. Thanks to all item donors and ticket buyers for helping support our 2015 Youth Scholarship Program!



Above, KiReeCo beekeeping students with Langstroth hive parts (photo, Wilma Sofranko)

KiReeCo, Kenyan Beekeepers ~ Proposal for a Sister Beekeepers’ Association:

At our February meeting, former LCBA member Wilma Sofranko updated us on beekeeper training being done in the Kisii highlands at her organic farm co-operative, KiReeCo (Kisii Rural Education and Empowerment Coalition). As members may remember, LCBA helped Wilma secure WSBA’s apprentice curriculum free of charge to facilitate training subsistence farmers in keeping bees. This gives these farmers an opportunity to sell honey through the fair trade co-op that KiReeCo’s organic farm works with. This income source can enable Kisiians to send their children to high school, an expense that most cannot afford.

KiReeCo / LCBA “sister beekeeping organization” proposal: Norm announced that KiReeCo has invited LCBA to become their sister organization, to, as their request puts it, “work in partnership to train farmers in humane beekeeping and honey production, help them set up a hive production program and workshop on their school campus, assist them in designing and producing a commercial extractor with assistance from KiReeCo volunteer technicians, and working together to share information, experiences, and data on beekeeping, honey production, livelihood impact, and other areas of concern to

both groups.” This would be done through information sharing, volunteer work, and targeted fundraisers – funds would not come out of LCBA’s regular association dues.

Pilot LCBA Volunteer Program: Several board members are planning to travel to Kenya this October (at their own expense) to volunteer as trainers of new 500+ new beekeepers, as well as to help with KiReeCo’s extractor and hive building initiative. Norm noted that when Wilma arrived, the Kisiians simply built fires under hives and drove bees away to harvest honey. Wilma is seeking our help to teach them sustainable practices: how to built hives, set up and manage an apiary, and sell their honey. A group of teenagers want to do removals and needs training. A local engineer has volunteered his shop for building extractors and hive components. Tomme raised the idea of a bicycle powered extractor: if anyone has design ideas, please let us know. This volunteer effort is a pilot program that may become an annual opportunity for LCBA members, if it goes well. Steve Howard asked who was going: so far it will likely be Dave Gaston, Gary Stelzner, Susanne Weil, Kent Yates, and himself. Linda Gorremans asked whether other beekeeping groups would be involved; Tom Mayber noted that given the scant resources of the Kisii beekeepers, it’s important not to strain their resources by overwhelming them with people.

Draft Memorandum of Understanding: Susanne presented the draft LCBA/KiReeCo memorandum of understanding (MOU) for initial discussion (see text below). LCBA members can vote on the MOU at our August 13 monthly meeting (date depends on KiReeco’s response to LCBA’s edits).

Fundraising: Members asked about ways to donate to KiReeCo: our August 13 meeting’s drawing proceeds will go to help buy equipment for the Kenyan beekeepers. Dave Gaston has built a top bar hive for this purpose, and Norm has pledged an early 2015 swarm to fill it: for this special item, tickets cost \$5 and will be available at the July 12 potluck as well as the August meeting. Don Hershey asked about donating drawing items for this fundraiser; Norm said these would be welcome for the August meeting.

Wilma is working on a PayPal account through which donations could be made, and this should be up and running by our July potluck meeting. Taylor Mizar asked about other possibilities to donate to the Kenyan beekeepers, and Gary Stelzner explained the “revolving hive fund” through which members can sponsor a hive for one Kenyan family; the family will take that amount of funding from sales of their honey and “pay it forward” to another family that wants to build a hive. Gary thinks what’s most interesting is that if you donate, we will get updates via email on how that family is doing with their hive. As the fund moves on to next family, we’ll get updates from them. It’s a chance to get involved personally with people in another part of the world.

More details and handouts will be available at our July and August meetings. If you’d like more information about KiReeCo, please visit our website and read about Wilma’s presentation in our March 2014 newsletter, visit their website: www.kireeco.wordpress.com, and/or contact a board member. The draft of the Memorandum of Understanding follows:

DRAFT: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This document is a memorandum of understanding between:

Kisii Rural Education and Empowerment Coalition (KiReeco), a registered non-governmental organization operating in the Kisii region of Kenya, and the Lewis County Beekeepers Association (LCBA) of Centralia, Washington, United States.

The two parties have agreed, in good faith, to work in partnership together for the common purpose of:

1. Training farmers in humane beekeeping and honey production using Langstroth hives.
2. Assisting KiReeCo and St. Theresa’s OVC Centre Secondary School set up a hive production program and workshop on the school campus as part of St. Theresa’s job skills program.
3. Assisting KiReeCo in designing and producing a commercial extractor with assistance from KiReeCo volunteer technicians.

4. Working together in developing a link between Lewis County beekeepers and Kisii beekeepers to share information, experiences, and data on beekeeping, honey production, livelihood impact, and other areas of concern to both.

In order to achieve this common purpose the Kisii Rural Education and Empowerment Coalition (KiReeco) agrees to:

1. Host visiting skilled beekeepers, recommended by the LCBA Board, who are interested in visiting Kisii for the purpose of assisting in training farmers or conducting research on bees, honey production, or other related areas, such as wood- and metalworking to aid in hive or extractor production.
2. Provide information and stories on a regular basis to LCBA members about KiReeCo's work with beekeepers and other related information.

In order to achieve this common purpose the Lewis County Beekeepers Association agrees to:

1. Develop a Board-administered approval process through which LCBA members would propose how they would serve the common purposes identified above.
2. Ensure that LCBA members understand that those approved for service pay their own travel and personal expenses and receive no wages.
3. Report to LCBA on experiences of those members who visit Kisii.

The time frame that the two parties shall work together in the above-described partnership shall be from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014, to be renewed annually, pending approval of both Boards.

Southwest Washington Fair, August 12-17:

Honey Judging: Susanne described the honey judging contests – if you're interested in submitting your honey, please see the honey judging section of the newsletter, below, for the submission process and judging criteria for the official Fair contest and LCBA's "People's Choice" tasting contest.

Free Queenline Jars: This year, the board bought 1 pound Queenline jars to give to members who want to submit their honey – this facilitates members' convenience and gives the contest display a professional look. About a dozen members signed up and took jars; jars will be available at the July 12 potluck. If you can't make the potluck, call Susanne to arrange getting a jar. Thanks to Treasurer Jon Wade for traveling to Ruhl's to get the jars for us.

Call for Exhibit Volunteers & Display Items! We're hoping to have another great display at the Fair. Last year, between the observation hive, the terrific show and tell items contributed by members, and the enthusiastic participation of our volunteers, LCBA was one of the most popular exhibits! It's a lot of fun and a great chance to help educate people about honey bees and the challenges facing them. Susanne passed round a sign-up sheet, and we still need volunteers, so please call or email if you would like to pitch in. Also, if you have display items to share, please contact Susanne to coordinate.

Youth Scholarship update: Membership Coordinator Tomme Trikosko reported that Mason Gaul's hive was opened for inspection, and Mason's dad – who's allergic to wasp and somewhat apprehensive about bees – started creeping closer. The bees exert a powerful lure on our curiosity. Jovanie Montalvo and bees are doing well, too. There are carve-outs coming up at Toledo High School, so these students are going to get a lot of experience!

Swarm & Colony Removals: Norm reported that removals started early this year, in April, and those who have removals already have full bee yards full, so they will be asking for people to come along and assist and possibly get bees. One member asked whether swarms and colony removals were as prevalent

across the country: Kevin noted that if you check Beemaster.com for information, you'll see it's a banner year from sea to shining sea. Norm noted the importance of safety during removals and quipped that if you're going up a ladder, have a spotter to tell the mortuary people what happened.

Susanne thanked Kevin and Gordon Bellevue for giving swarms to members without bees or who had lost colonies. Norm noted that LCBA's policy on carve-outs has been that the person who organizes a carve-out via LCBA's mailing list determines who takes home bees if the colony is viable, and that preference goes to LCBA members: there are no guarantees, since no one knows ahead of time what a carve-out will yield. If a member finds a removal, it is that member's colony to do with what he/she wants, and Norm and others will help. More and more people who call understand that bees are in trouble and should not be sprayed: very good news.

Mentor Workshops: The top bar hive assembly/inspection workshop at Dave Gaston's apiary on May 17 was well attended; the May 18 hive inspection workshops in Onalaska had a good turnout despite threatening weather. Susanne reminded members of upcoming hive inspection workshops on June 14 and 21. These are intended to give members hands-on pulling frames and evaluating brood pattern and overall colony condition with help from LCBA mentors. Members were asked to email for directions since we don't put members' contact information on the website. Thanks go out to hosts Dave, Bob Lloyd, Danny Halverson, Dan Maughan and Bob Harris, who volunteered their apiaries for these workshops, and to mentors Grant Inmon, Kevin Reichert, Gary Stelzner, Norm Switzler, Tomme Trikosko, and Susanne Weil.

Post meeting note: we had a total of 33 attendees at these workshops; all who came pulled frames & enjoyed discussion of what we saw, including supersedure & swarm cells. For more photos, see our website and Facebook pages.



Above left, Dave Gaston leading top bar hive inspection workshop on May 17 (photo, Tomme Trikosko); right, Norm Switzler carves swarm cells from frame at June 21 workshop (photo, Susanne Weil)

Beekeeping Q&A: Eldon Gilmore asked how Norm's Russian bees were doing; Norm noted that they are not speaking English yet, but that overall, his bees have been doing fine except one colony that swarmed while he was working another box - the only queen that did not like her home and chose to go elsewhere. If you are doing carve outs or are examining hives and find queen cells that you don't have a use for, Norm asks that you consider contacting a board member to donate them, as inevitably some queens die and members need replacements.

Terrie Phillips marked a queen herself, but then observed that when she put her back in, she hunkered down, and the bees hunkered down on her. Terrie wondered: should she have reintroduced her in a

queen cage? Norm wondered if they might have treated the mark spot as if it were a mite to groom off; Dave suggested that if the marking had dried, it should be fine.

Jerry Mizar observed that it's hard to judge how a hive is doing, as a first year beekeeper. He and Taylor added another deep box and put a frame that had drawn comb up in that second box: they try to check once a week or week and a half. They've observed that in the bottom box, about 80 percent of the frames are drawn, and a couple of frames in the top box have been drawn: is that good for this time of the year? Norm thought that sounded a little slow, but that with plenty of nectar available they should build up. This would be the time to taper off feeding and encourage bees to shift to natural, nutritionally superior forage. Kevin Reichert observed that if bees need to draw comb, feeding facilitates their doing so fast enough to take full advantage of the nectar flow, and Norm agreed that if one feeds, bees will draw comb faster and bigger.

Honey Judging at the Southwest Washington Fair Submission Guidelines [New Process!] & Criteria



Got Honey? Please consider entering it in our 2014 Honey Judging contests at the Fair! Once again, LCBA member Roy Schaafsma will judge the “formal” Fair contest. We’ll also reprise last year’s popular, informal “People’s Choice” tasting to help Lewis County residents learn about the benefits of raw honey.

For this year’s formal judging, we have a new process: the board has bought 1 pound Queenline jars to give to members who wish to submit honey, both for members’ convenience and to ensure a professional-looking display. Honey submitted for the formal judging must be in 1-pound Queenline jars (whether your own or those given out by the club). As last year, there’ll be 2 categories – amber and dark. Honey not submitted in Queenline jars can still be entered into the People’s Choice contest, however.

Jars will be available at our June and July meetings – please sign up and take a jar (or 2 if you’re planning to enter both amber and dark!).

**2014 Southwest Washington Fair
LCBA Honey Judging Contest Criteria & Submission Process – Agriculture Category**

This contest features raw honey that has not been processed or heated.

Southwest Washington Fair Handbook Information:

DIVISION G01: GRAIN-FORAGE-FARM PRODUCTS

CLASS 1 – BEE PRODUCTS

LOT: you can enter honey under one of these 6 categories - but please do NOT put any identifying labels on your entry!

1. Comb honey with sample
2. Raw honey Light with sample in 1 pound Queenline jar
3. Raw honey Amber with sample in 1 pound Queenline jar
4. Raw Honey Dark with sample in 1 pound Queenline jar
5. Wax
6. Other

Honey Judging Criteria for official Fair Contest:

- Color –3 classifications: light, amber, & dark, using Jack’s scale.
- Entries over 18.6% moisture are disqualified (refractometer will be used to measure moisture content).
- Filtration: 400 micron filtration is maximum
- Crystallization is NOT being judged this year
- Judge will taste for scorching only (taste is subjective)
- Entrants must submit honey in 1-pound Queenline glass jars (see above - available free to LCBA members – contact Susanne.beekeeper@gmail.com)

How to Submit Your Honey:

- Submission time: Entries accepted Monday 8/11, 12-7 PM (Floral Hall, SW Washington Fairgrounds).
- No entry fee.
- Honey released Sunday 8/17, from 7 to 9 p.m.; or Monday, 8/18, 10 AM - Noon

Questions? Contact LCBA Secretary Susanne Weil, 360 880 8130 or email Susanne.beekeeper@gmail.com.



Above, Sharette & Alesha Giese with their 2013 first-prize entry in the “dark honey” category.

2014 Southwest Washington Fair People's Choice Honey Judging Contest:

This contest showcases raw honey that has not been heated or processed.

Criteria & Process:

- People's Choice tasting will be based on flavor and aroma (honey labeled by numbers; visitors to the LCBA exhibit can vote for their favorite).
- To submit honey for People's Choice Tasting Contest, please bring a half-pint glass jar of honey to the Fair on Monday, August 11. Entries accepted Monday 8/11, 12-7 PM (Floral Hall; if this time won't work for you, contact Susanne – see above). Please . . . no labels to give your identity away!
- No entry fee.
- Judging: Saturday, Aug 16, 3 p.m., at the Floral Building (simple tally of votes).
- Retrieving your honey: it's pretty unlikely that any of your honey will be left to pick up, but if there is, you're welcome to get it Sunday, August 17, noon to 4 p.m. (or ask Susanne to pick it up for you).



Above left, Kevin Reichert & Grant Inmon display their 2013 People's Choice Contest First Prize honey; right, visitors to LCBA's exhibit tasting over a dozen varieties of members' raw honey.

Bees in the News

Thanks to Gillian Davis, Franclyn Heinecke, Bob Lloyd, Steve Norton, Norm Switzler, & Sherri Underhill for sending news.

“Bee-friendly” plants sold at Wal-Mart, Home Depot actually contain bee-killing pesticides”: 26 June 2014, *Salon.com*

The Pesticide Research Institute and Friends of the Earth announced that “[m]ore than half of the purportedly “bee-friendly” plants sold at Home Depot, Lowe’s and Wal-Mart garden centers across the U.S. and Canada actually contain neonicotinoids.” If you are a home gardener concerned about this, see the next story, and you can find more resources on LCBA’s website:

http://www.lewiscountybeekeepers.org/plant_for_bees .

Researchers bought “71 bee-friendly plants—including daisies, lavender, marigolds, asters and primrose—at 18 Lowe’s, Walmart and Home Depot outlets across the United States and Canada. For more than half of the plants, the researchers measured neonicotinoid residues in the flowers at levels between 2 and 748 parts per billion.” To put this in context, University of Minnesota exo-toxicologist Vera Krischik explains that “a dose of 192 parts per billion is enough to kill a honeybee . . . and dozens of studies have found impairments in bee navigation, memory and foraging ability at between 4 and 30 parts per billion.” Wild pollinators with smaller hive populations, like bumblebees, are also at risk from garden plants infused with neonicotinoids.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature” conducted a four-year study comparing results of research on neonicotinoids: their conclusion is that neonicotinoids are not only “a key factor in the decline of bees,” but cause other environmental dangers (for more about this study, visit

http://www.iucn.org/news_homepage/?16025/Systemic-Pesticides-Pose-Global-Threat-to-Biodiversity-And-Ecosystem-Services).

“One scientist with the task force called the chemicals the “new DDT” — except worse, because they wipe out the bottom of the food chain, and they’re 5,000 to 10,000 times more toxic.” *To read more, visit:*

http://www.salon.com/2014/06/26/bee_friendly_plants_sold_at_wal_mart_home_depot_actually_contain_bee_killing_pesticides/?source=newsletter .



(Credit: Protasov AN via Shutterstock)

“US National Pesticide Center beefs up mobile presence”: 14 May 2014, *OSU News*

Oregon State University’s National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC) now offers apps for smartphones and tablets that answer your questions about pesticide use: the apps have been funded by a \$5 million

EPA grant. The Pesticide Education and Search Tool (PEST) “offers quick, bulleted information on more than a dozen common pests.” Not only this, the apps “suggest alternatives to pesticides for common urban pests, like fleas, rodents and bed bugs.” To visit NPIC's website and download mobile apps, go to: <http://npic.orst.edu>. To read more, visit: <http://oregonstate.edu/ua/ncs/archives/2014/may/national-pesticide-information-center-beefs-mobile-presence-5-million-award>.

“USDA Provides \$8 Million to Help Boost Declining Honey Bee Population”: 20 June 2014, *American Bee Journal*

The USDA has pledged \$8 million to help farmers and ranchers in the key summer foraging states of Michigan, Minnesota, North & South Dakota, and Wisconsin who “establish new habitats for declining honey bee populations.” The new funds supplement \$3 million pledged by USDA earlier this year as part of the new Conservation Reserve Program “pollinator initiative,” which focuses on substituting better nutrition mixtures of seeds, so that bees have forage throughout the year. USDA’s concern is long term sustainability of U.S. crop production, since “[m]ore than \$15 billion worth of agricultural production, including over 130 fruits and vegetables, depend on the health and well-being of honey bees.”

The USDA’s initiative stems from President Obama’s newly established Pollinator Health Task Force, cochaired by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Gina McCarthy “to focus federal efforts to conduct research and take action to help pollinators recover from population losses. This includes a public education campaign to teach people ways that they can help pollinators in their own homes or businesses.” To read the president’s directive, visit: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/06/20/presidential-memorandum-creating-federal-strategy-promote-health-honey-b>. To read more about the USDA’s program, visit: <http://us1.campaign-archive1.com/?u=5fd2b1aa990e63193af2a573d&id=e07d2e4a7a&e=e9ff21e0bb>

“EPA is Advancing Pollinator Science and Sharing Useful Information with Growers and Beekeepers”: 20 June 2014, *American Bee Journal*

Spurred by the White House Pollinator Health Task Force initiative, The EPA has unveiled an online “Pollinator Risk Assessment Guidance” site aimed at helping “risk managers” evaluate dangers to bees and other pollinators, analyzing the impact of neonicotinoids on not only individual bees, but colonies. EPA is now revisiting the data that pesticide registrants are required to submit but expects that it will be years before “full-field studies” data are available. Meanwhile, to help farmers choose among pesticides, EPA “has also posted our Residual Time to 25% Bee Mortality (RT25) Data online. Bees may be susceptible to harm from direct exposure to pesticides sprayed on flowering plants, but pesticide residues generally decrease in toxicity as the spray dries and time passes. Farmers and beekeepers can use EPA's RT25 data to gauge the amount of time after application that a particular pesticide product remains toxic enough under real-world conditions to kill 25 percent of bees that are exposed to residues on treated plant surfaces.” To read more, visit: <http://us1.campaign-archive1.com/?u=5fd2b1aa990e63193af2a573d&id=aaf778205c&e=e9ff21e0bb>

“White House Task Force To Save Bees Stirs Hornet's Nest”: 27 June, 2014, *NPR.org*

President Obama’s initiative in part responds to the 2013 "Saving America's Pollinators Act" (sponsored by Reps. Earl Blumenauer, D-Ore., and John Conyers Jr., D-Mich.). This bill would have forced the EPA

to “suspend neonicotinoid licensing while additional research was conducted.” The bill was “stalled” after lobbying by pesticide manufacturers, Bayer and Syngenta among them, Monsanto, and “a number of farming groups”; however, this June, 3 California congressmen, concerned about dangers to the almond industry from bee die-offs, have co-sponsored the bill.

The president’s directive effectively requires scientists to prove further that neonicotinoids are dangerous to bees rather than ban them based on existing evidence, as the EU nations did in 2013. Friends of the Earth and other environmental groups criticized the president’s initiative, saying that it “does not go far enough.” Citing a May 2014 Harvard School of Public Health study linking the neonicotinoids imidacloprid and clothianidin and colony collapse disorder, FOE argues that “the administration should prevent the release and use of these toxic pesticides until [they are] determined safe.” [To read about the Harvard School of Public Health study, visit: <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/press-releases/study-strengthens-link-between-neonicotinoids-and-collapse-of-honey-bee-colonies/>]

Neonicotinoids have become a cornerstone of pest prevention in large scale agriculture: for example, more than 90% of U.S.-grown corn seeds are infused with the chemicals. The companies lobbying against “Saving America’s Pollinators Act” have invested in “bee-oriented public relations effort[s] — Monsanto hosted a "Honey Bee Health Summit" in St. Louis last summer, while Bayer has opened "Bee Care Centers," first in Germany as the EU considered its ban, and then in North Carolina last April.”

To read more, visit: <http://www.npr.org/blogs/itsallpolitics/2014/06/27/325640795/white-house-task-force-to-save-bees-stirs-hornets-nest>



“A bumble bee gathers pollen in September 2007 on a sunflower at Quail Run Farm in Grants Pass, Ore.” (Jeff Barnard/AP)

HR 4790, the Highways Bettering the Economy and Environment (BEE) Pollinator Protection Act, has been referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure committee for consideration:
from WSBA Area 2 Rep. Franclyn Heinecke, 4 July 2014

Beekeepers may wish to read more about this bill, which would “amend title 23, United States Code, to encourage and facilitate efforts by States and other transportation rights-of-way managers to adopt integrated vegetation management practices, including enhancing plantings of native forbs and grasses that provide habitats and forage for Monarch butterflies and other native pollinators and honey bees, and

for other purposes.” Since bees need diverse nutrition, this bill could make a major difference in expanding forage. To read the full text of the bill, visit: <https://beta.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/4790/text> . Franclyn will be LCBA’s August 13 speaker, presenting her Master Beekeepers’ research on the crucial nutritive role weeds play in the honey bee’s diet.

“Believe It – GMO Bees”: 12 June 2014, Bee Culture “Catch the Buzz”

Earlier this year, we reported on Harvard University’s mechanized “Robobee”: now, the National Academy of Sciences has begun to manipulate the genome sequence of bees. Scientists inserted a “foreign” gene that “made some of the cells in the bee glow,” showing “that genetically-manipulated queens could produce genetically-modified drones in the lab.” The honey bee genome was sequenced in 2006: among other discoveries, “the genome is rich in genes associated with smell, but it has relatively fewer genes associated with taste and immune functions, reflecting evolutionary adaptations associated with their unique lifestyle.” Ideally, these new genetic manipulations may pave the way to helping bees combat Varroa mites, viruses, and other pests and diseases.

Genetically modifying bees is difficult “because insect-genome-modification technologies require physically injecting these technologies (usually bits of DNA) into honey bee eggs, having the eggs hatch and develop into fertile queens, and then getting the queens to reproduce. However, bees do not like having their eggs injected.” What enabled the NAS project to succeed was a special method that allowed that injection. To read more, visit: <http://home.ezezone.com/1636/1636-2014.06.12.07.55.archive.html> .



Bee with deformed wing virus (photo, David Evans, U. Warwick)

“Scientists at the University of Warwick have discovered how a bloodsucking parasite has transformed Deformed Wing Virus (DWV) into one of the biggest threats facing UK honeybees”: 26 June 2014, *Science Daily*

Researchers have learned how Deformed Wing Virus “is amplified” by Varroa mites. When colonies are not infested by the mites, DWV, if present at all, “generally causes symptomless infections.” What the U. Warwick researchers found out was that “when Varroa feeds on honeybee haemolymph (‘blood’), specific

virulent strains of the virus are transmitted and amplified, explaining why colonies infested with the mite suffer most severely.” Further, “direct injection of a mixed DWV population in the absence of the mite, resulted in the same virulent strain being amplified -- suggesting that this route of virus transmission bypasses the insect's anti-virus defence systems.” When mites inject the virus, “levels of this single virulent form can be 10,000 times higher than in the absence of Varroa.” The researchers attribute the spread of virulent DMV to mite exposure. *To read more, visit:*

http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/06/140626172742.htm?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+sciencedaily+%28Latest+Science+News+--+ScienceDaily%29 .

“Bees have an inbuilt SAT NAV: Insects don't use the sun as a compass, but build a 'mental map' to navigate, study reveals”: 2 June 2014, *UK Daily Mail*

Bees do not, after all, orient home by the position: researchers at the University of Auckland have found that, instead, bees actually “create a ‘mental map’ like humans and other animals.” Despite their small brains and lack of navigating structures like the human hippocampus, bees can “rely on a built in ‘sat nav’ system to find their way around.” The study set back the body clock of bees by 6 hours and then “fitted them with tiny radar transponders” to see whether they could navigate home from a strange place, reasoning “that if the bees did rely on the sun as a compass, then the alteration to their body clocks would disrupt their ability to find their way home.” However, the bees whose circadian rhythms had been set back “returned with similar speed and accuracy as those that had not been put to sleep.” This led the researchers to conclude that “bees may navigate by a mental terrain map in addition to learned sun-compass directions.” To read more, visit: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2646418/Bees-inbuilt-SAT-NAV-navigate-study-reveals.html#ixzz33ujYsXgu> .



So, Where are we exactly?

(From Forum, Beemaster.com; thanks to Marcelle & Martin Stenzig for sharing this.)

“Wagging Bees Give Their Verdict on a Landscape”: 26 May 2014, *The New York Times*

A research team at the University of Sussex measured bees’ waggle dances to determine whether the \$ 56 billion-plus spent over the past 10 years to improve environmentally friendly landscaping worked or not. Since bees from one colony “can cover about 40 square miles of territory,” it was more efficient to analyze over 5000 waggle dances of bees than to try to have people cover the ground. “The bees’ verdict”: nature reserves were superior to tracts of land that had implemented better landscaping practices. The researchers think this was “probably because although they were specially planted with nectar-rich flowers like clover and bird’s-foot trefoil, these tracts were regularly mowed.” *To read more, visit:* http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/27/science/wagging-bees-give-their-verdict-on-a-landscape.html?emc=eta1&_r=0 .



“Take the Honey and Run: Meet California's Most Notorious Beenapper”: 5 June 2014, *Mother Jones*

Who owns the 150 honey bee hives confiscated on December 10, 2013 in California's San Jacinto Valley? David Allred, honey farm owner, or Gary Manning and Jeffrey Olney, who claim that Allred fooled police into becoming accomplices to bee robbery? The bees, estimated at \$30,000 in value, are examples of a new trend in the U.S., Great Britain, Australia, and New Zealand: bee rustling.

Allred has a checkered past as “a notorious beenapper with several convictions for bee theft. In 1977, he became the first person in the state of California sentenced to prison for stealing \$10,000 worth of bees using two stolen trucks. (He was sentenced to at least three years and served more than six.) The Los Angeles Times reported that during his sentencing hearing, Allred told the court that he wanted history to remember him as the "Jesse James of the beehive industry." (Allred denies saying this.)”

In this case, Allred was required to return the bees, but Manning and Olney say that by the time they got their bees back, Allred “had stolen the queens and replaced healthy bee colonies with sickly ones. Their lawsuit claims defamation, trespassing, violation of civil rights, negligence, interference with their business, and at least \$25,000 in damages.” Part of the problem in sorting out this he said/he said situation is that California’s “bee-tracking” system is outdated, leaving police to struggle to “untangle” events. The entire story is an amazing read: visit <http://m.motherjones.com/environment/2014/06/david-allred-california-bee-theft> .

New Feature: Photos by Our Members

Many of our members have great shots of their photogenic bees. Care to share? Please send yours to Susanne.beekeeper@gmail.com – I'll be sure to credit you. Bee sure to include a title!

Comb from Carve-out ~ photo by Marcelle Stenzig

(note the larvae at the bottom of the main run of comb...)



Below, Cody Warren and his foundationless hive: spot the queen? Photo by Linnea Warren



New member Amanda Cooke shared this photo by her friend Robert Turano:



ANNOUNCEMENTS & HELP WANTED

Varroa Mites Webinar: Dr. Gloria DeGrandi-Hoffman's webinar focused on "provid[ing] the most-up-to-date information on Varroa to help you make better decisions for controlling this mite in your colonies" has been recorded and posted on the University of Arizona website: <http://gears.tucson.ars.ag.gov/>

NEWS FLASH ~ LCBA IS ON FACEBOOK! Yes, it's true....thanks to Membership Coordinator Tomme Trikosko, we have another web presence. Take a look, post information, links, photos, or simply "Like" us on Facebook! This is a great opportunity to post questions and get (relatively) quick answers.

<https://www.facebook.com/LewisCountyBeekeepersAssociation?ref=hl>

July Western Apicultural Society Newsletter: Visit http://groups.ucanr.org/WAS/WAS_Journal and click on the line in the paragraph on the right as directed. If you're still getting the old issue, click on "empty cache" in your browser or "refresh" or "reload" under VIEW in your menu bar.

July WSBA Newsletter: available later this month. Pick up your copy online at www.wasba.org: click on "Newsletters."

That's all for this month - take care, & bee happy!

~~ Susanne Weil, LCBA Secretary (Susanne.beekeeper@gmail.com; 360 880 8130)