

W.V.B.A. Newsletter January 2007

Willamette Valley  Beekeepers Association

Willamette Valley
Beekeeper

Vice President's Corner Mike Rodia



THINKING AHEAD

It's the start of a new year in our bee yards; time to take stock of how our bees are doing; and make ready for colony growth beginning in the next few weeks. You can encourage this growth, as commercial beekeepers do, by feeding light sugar syrup to the bees. This will "mimic" a honey flow and stimulate brood laying.

A full colony of bees by mid-March can take advantage of the early maple tree nectar flow in the valley. However, a nectar dearth usually

occurs sometime in April and a large colony can suffer starvation if the nectar is insufficient or unavailable due to the weather. So be prepared to feed your bees in April if necessary. This feeding may be necessary even if you did not stimulate brood laying.

How much honey stores your hives have now, the availability of nectar, the weather and queen "vitality" will all interact to determine if hive stores are sufficient to feed the bees into May. If a hive dies out in February or March it is often because of mites, but a die out in April may be the result of starvation.

OBSERVATIONS FROM THE BEE YARD

1) There are lots (up to a few hundred or so) dead bees on the concrete pads in front of my hives. This is to be expected as the hives that go into the winter with 50,000 or so bees dwindle to 25,000 or so as the older bees die off and spring nears.

2) A few bees are flying now as the snow, sleet, rain, cloudy and cold weather have receded. At least for a little while. The clusters are a bit looser as some of the bees can now be seen just below the inner cover. Usually they're much further below.

3) The bees and honey from the broken-up feral hive that I dumped on top of the inner covers have been fully absorbed. About a

VP continued on pg. 2

February

- Lift the hives to find any light ones. Give these emergency feed of dry sugar or sugar candy on top of the brood frames.

- By the end of January or *early* February, treat hives for varroa mites. Read instructions. Mark your calendar, so you can remove the strips. Be sure to read all directions on the label.

- Move stores closer to brood area.
- Continue the repair and/or assembly of next year's equipment.

- Dust all colonies three times at seven day intervals with a 2 Tablespoon portion of Terramycin (TM25) mixed with eight parts powdered sugar. Sprinkle on top of brood frames.

- The following flower bloom and pollen vary from year to year, from weeks 5-12, which stimulates brood rearing and winter break-up: pussy willow, crocus, skunk cabbage, flowering plum, tulip bush, filberts, daffodil, dandelion and Oregon grape.

- When daytime highs are above 55 degrees F., start feeding sugar syrup.

- Check stored frames for wax moth infestation.

- Attend beekeeping meetings in your area, to learn, have fun and share.

<i>View From the</i>	
<i>Entrance</i>	
Classifieds.....	3
Leadership Roster.....	3
V.P. Corner.....	1
W.V. Beekeeping.....	1

Vice President's Corner *continued*

month ago I got a call from the groundskeeper at a local golf course. He had cut down a tree with a feral hive in it. The tree broke open and the groundskeeper, who had worked with his grandfather tending bees, collected the bees and broken up hive in a plastic bag. He didn't want to kill the bees or "extract" the honey and hoped I might help him. My initial thoughts were that the hive was finished and trying to save the bees or "extract" the honey was pretty much a waste of time and effort. But then I remembered that one can feed bees by giving them honeycomb. So what if a few thousand bees were attached to the comb? They would be accepted by the hive. If the queen had survived their hive's destruction she might have to duke-it out with my hive's resident queen. On the other hand, since I use a queen excluder year around, the two queens might never meet and a two-queen colony could result. Although I added new bees and honey to my hives the downside of this process is that I may introduce diseases or mites from the feral hive. I could also end-up with a two queen hive with one of the queens and consequently brood above the excluder. I'll keep you updated as to the outcome.

NEXT MEETING-BEE SOCIAL

A few years ago rather than have our January meeting mirror (other than subject covered) our other meetings, we decided to have a social. The social is a relaxed, open time to meet and discuss beekeeping with others, to partake in some honey containing homemade eats, view some new or unique bee equipment, show-off our handy-work and tips, and taste some "exotic" honeys among other things. So please come and bring anything to show that others may be interested in. Whether it be a frame assembly jig, modified or new kind of feeder, solar wax melter, home made observation hive, special tool you've made for cleaning wax from frame slots or whatever, it will be of interest. Bring something to share. We've had pizza, ice cream, honey- filled cookies, pastries, chicken wings, honey candy and so on. Some contain honey, some do not. It's not necessary that they do. Of particular interest is exotic honeys. I'll bring a few including Macadamia, Chokecherry, Buffalo berry, Slovakia wild flower and a few others. Anyone got any Meadowfoam (I like it) or something else? How about Queen Ann's lace or Poison Ivy? Bring what you have particularly if it's distinctive even if you don't know what it is. The red honey from Maraschino cherry juice is pretty good.

Our year-end prize drawings will also be held. Quite a few items will be available including, possibly, an observation hive. This is by far our largest drawing of the year and for all of those who attended meetings or participated at the Fair or Ag-Fest there will be tickets in the pot with your names on them. So your chances are pretty good you could win something. Of course, I'm tormented by thoughts that if you don't come my chances increase that I could win and maybe even more than once. So?

NEXT MEETING-ELECTIONS

It seems that sometimes the same club officers just go on from year to year. In many cases that is true, since we frequently don't have a lot of members that step forth or who will succumb to arm twisting to serve as club officers. As of this writing, however, we actually have a contest for who will be our next President. Fritz has agreed to run again and his opponent will be Richard Farrier who previously served as the club's President and Education Officer. Both Fritz and Richard have their own ideas and plans for the direction the club will take this coming year. It is extremely important that you attend the meeting and vote for the man and direction your prefer.

The rest of the slate for upcoming officers is familiar. Rodia for Vice-President, Rauchfuss for Treasurer, Kroemer for Newsletter Editor, Vanderpool for Bee School, and Kite for Equipment. The slot is still open for Secretary and it is possible the Library may shift to one of the other officers. So some changes are in the wind so please be at the meeting even if we haven't seen you in months. Remember even if things were bleak in your apiary this past year, they can and will be better in the year coming up and you need to start out the new year right.

DUES TIME

The dues to be a member in the WVBA are very reasonable. For \$20/year you get a monthly newsletter which helps to keep you informed about what's happening in beekeeping and monthly tips to help you manage your bees. You also are eligible for monthly and year end drawings for beekeeping supplies and items that can be worth more than the cost of dues. For \$5 more you can also attend the three session (March 12,19,26) bee school where the handouts alone are worth more than \$5.

And on top of all of this, you get to read my highly informative, sometimes mundane, sometimes entertaining, always chock-full of piety and uplifting prose that appears monthly in the newsletter. Just think of the chuckles you might miss each month if my column didn't arrive in your mail. So sign-up, pay your dues and continue to enjoy and benefit from being a WVBA member-even you Harry.

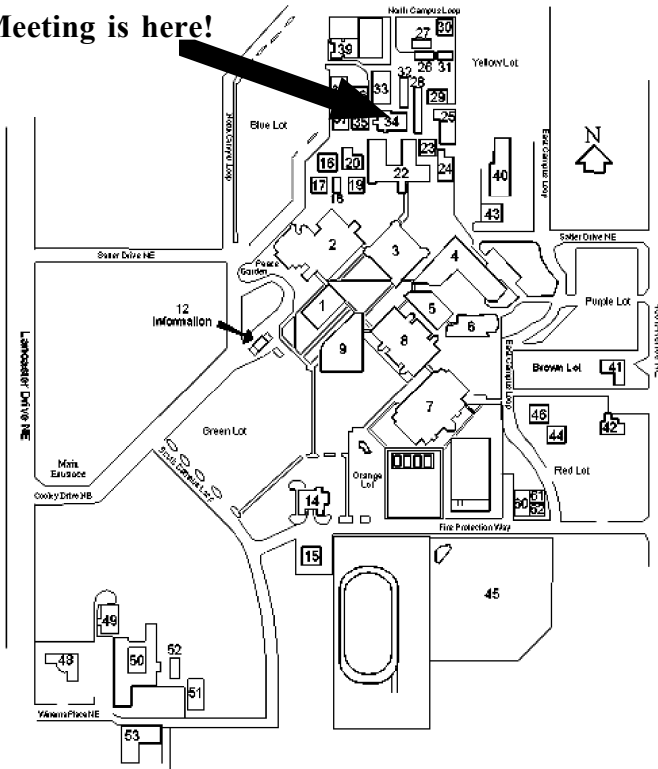
May the bees be with you and your honey cornucopia overflow with golden ambrosia

Classifieds

For Sale: 3 Three-pound packages of bees with 2007 queen, available mid-April, please call early and before April 1 for price and to reserve. Wild Harvest Honey (541) 456-2631, Blodgett, OR

For Sale: 8' x 12', steel mesh flatbed trailer, \$600.00. See at 1825 Walker Rd. N. E., Salem, 503-581-2371

Meeting is here!



W.V.B.A. Officers

President	Fritz Skirvin	503-581-9372
Vice-President	Mike Rodia	503-364-3275
Treasurer	Susan Rauchfuss	503-391-5600
Secretary	Evan Burroughs	503-585-5924
Bee School	Harry Vanderpool	503-399-3675
Hospitality	Rotating	
Librarian	Evan Burroughs	503-585-5924
Newsletter	Gordon Kroemer	503-538-2307
Equipment	Ken Kite	



Near the end of the year President Fritz wanted information from members to help leadership shape the direction of our group. Several were recieved, but we would like more. It is not too late to get your opinions heard. Write a note and bring it to the bee social. Drop it at the registration table with or without your name.

Thanks,
WVBA Leadership

Recipe Corner

Energy Drink

serves 2 people

- 150ml (1/2 cup) orange juice
- 150ml (1/2 cup) natural yogurt
- 30ml (2 tbsp) honey

Place all the ingredients in container and blend until smooth. Pour into two tall glasses.



Breakfast Pick Me Up

- 45ml (3 tbsp) honey
- 300ml (1/2pt) milk
- 300ml (1/2pt) natural yogurt
- Juice of 2 oranges

Place all the ingredients in container and blend until smooth. Serve over ice or in chilled glass.



Spicy Peanut Chicken Wings

Spicy chicken wings. P

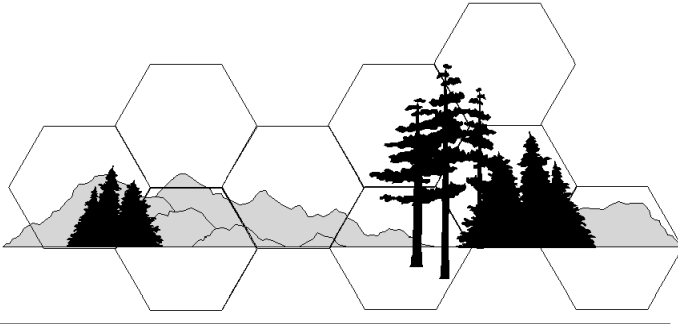
For the marinade:

- 60ml (4 tbsp) sesame oil
- 60ml (4 tbsp) white wine vinegar
- 45ml (3 tbsp) crunchy peanut butter
- 45ml (3 tbsp) honey
- 30ml (2tbsp) chilli sauce
- 900g (2lb) chicken wings

Whisk together marinade ingredients. Place chicken wings in a large container and pour over marinade, cover and refrigerate for as long as possible, preferably overnight.

Pre-heat oven to 220 C, 425 F, and bake chicken wings with marinade for 35-45 minutes, turning and basting frequently.





Willamette Valley  Beekeepers Association

P.O. Box 13245
Salem, Oregon 97301



Only one more issue without 2007 membership!

The *W.V.B.A. Newsletter* is a publication of the Willamette Valley Beekeepers Association. Gordon Kroemer, Editor, solicits all members and interested parties for news, tidbits, recipes, artwork, ads, etc. He may be reached at: kroemer2@verizon.net or Gordon Kroemer 29950 NE Wilsonville Rd. Newberg OR 97132

Upcoming
January 29 - Bee Social / Election
February 27 -
March 12 - Bee School

January Meeting Schedule

This month's meeting will be held on January 28th at 7 PM in Building 34.

Parking permits required.

The topic is: **Bee Social / Elections**

Presenters: Everyone

SEE YOU THERE!