



Next Meeting

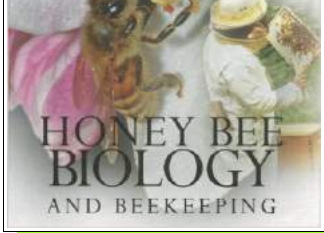
Wednesday, April 20 Time: 7 PM
 Gateway Centre Suites 1313 E. Maple St.
 The Rainier Room, Ste. 301 Bellingham, WA
 "Bee-giners" session: 6-7 PM Rainier Room

COMING IN MAY



Dr. Dewey Caron, Professor Emeritus, University of Delaware and Affiliate Professor, Oregon State University, author of the definitive "Honey Bee Biology."

Whatcom beekeepers will be delighted to hear that Dr. Dewey Caron will be running a workshop in Bellingham on the weekend of May 7th and 8th.



Dr. Dewey Caron started with honey bees as teenager and studied for his Ph.D under Roger Morse at Cornell University. Professor of Entomology and Apiculture for 11 years at University of Maryland and 29 years at University of Delaware, he is the author of *Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping*, the standard beekeeping textbook used to teach college students and beekeepers the science and practice of bees and beekeeping.

Dr. Caron is a past Chairman of the Board of the Eastern Apiculture Society and a past president of the Eastern Branch Entomological Society of America. He is currently the Master Beekeeper Advisor to the Eastern Apiculture Society and advisor to the *Bee Informed Partnership*, with which he is heavily involved. Dr. Caron is also a past president and current board member of the Western Apicultural Society.

The workshop will be from 9am to 4:30pm with a 90 minute break for lunch each day. The venue is still to be determined.

Day 1 is titled: "So you have bees in a hive, what do you do now?" aimed primarily at 1st year beekeepers. The afternoon session will, depending on the weather, feature hands-on hive work.

Day 2 is aimed at more experienced beekeepers and will cover topics such as swarm control, mite control, colony splitting, and backyard queen rearing.

You can enroll for either Day 1, Day 2 or both days. A light lunch will be provided both days.

MBBA member pricing will be \$40 for Day 1 or Day 2 only, and \$70 to attend both days.

Price for under 16 (member or nonmember) is \$20 per day separately or \$35 for both days.

NONMEMBER pricing is \$55 per day or \$100 for both.

Enrollment is on a first-come, first-served basis and will be open to members only through Sunday, April 17th. On April 18th, enrollment will be opened to non-members.

To register, send an e-mail to: president@mtbakerbeekeepers.org with your name and whether you wish to attend Day 1, Day 2, or both; you will be sent an invoice. Payment must be made by April 26th.

DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE BEE!



OK, so it's not *that* kind of bee, but the Whatcom Literacy Council Trivia Bee is great fun for a good cause. Imagine if you couldn't read all those bee books on your shelf! The Literacy Council has been improving adult literacy in Whatcom County since 1978. Join the fun on Friday April 29, 7 PM, at Bellingham High. The silent auction starts at 6, and *many thanks to the MBBA members who came up with donations for the auction!*



HIVE TIPS

Propolis, for you non beekeepers, is plant resin that is collected by the bees and processed by them to use as a kind of glue to seal up hives and anchor hive parts. It is thought to have antibacterial properties. Propolis, for beekeepers is pretty much just a pain in the butt. It makes hive inspections an exercise in prying and scraping. But, considering the antibacterial qualities, and the fact that bees aren't just using it to annoy us, encouraging propolis in your hive might be useful. When you're getting your equipment ready this spring, consider using a wallpaper scoring tool like the one shown to lightly rough up the inside walls of your hive boxes. The bees will want to smooth out those gouges and deposit propolis. It may keep some off the frame rests! (Wishful thinking?)

(Thanks to Michael Jaross for this tip.)



Meeting Refreshments
Anyone is welcome to bring something to eat or drink and give us an excuse to schmooze. And thanks for cleaning up after!

ALSO COMING IN APRIL

RUN for the BEES 5k
 April 30, 2016 11^{am} Presented by BELLEWOOD ACRES

- A unique **trail run** through the orchard!
- Family Friendly & on the Farm!**
 \$20.00 Individual ... \$40.00 Family
- Get an awesome BelleWood H2O bottle!
- Enjoy music, snacks & drinks at the finish line!
- SAVE THE BEES!**
 A Benefit for Honey Bee Research at WSU
- Honey Bee Seminars & Demonstrations
- Racers get 1/2 off Pearl Django Tickets

Register online now at [bellewoodfarms.com!](http://bellewoodfarms.com)
 (360) 318-7720
 6140 Guide Meridian 112 between B'ham and Lynden

Join us for the BUZZ!

Once again this year, Bellewood Acres, known for their fabulous apple orchard, distillery, restaurant, and shop, is sponsoring a 5K run to benefit honey bee research at WSU.

FINAL RESOLUTION OF THE "NOXIOUS WEED" BILL



Governor Inslee signing Bill 2478 "An act relating to supporting agricultural production, including that of apiarists, through the preservation of forage for pollinators."

MORE HIVE TIPS: USING PSEUDOQUEEN

by Janet Wilson

Two years ago I appealed to my first bee teacher and local bee supplier, Lindsay Dault of Urban Bee Supply, for advice: my apiary had ballooned to 30 colonies and I was desperate to keep the strong overwintered colonies expanding to meet the honey flow in June, while dealing with the swarm impulse. I could split the colonies, but they would be weak facing the flow, plus I had no more time or space for expansion of the beeyard. Lindsay had just been to a queen breeder presentation and as a result was planning to stock a new product, PseudoQueen. Originally meant to hold queenless colonies in a happy state for the pollination industry, it also worked well to suppress the spring swarming impulse. I decided to give it a try.

It is always hard to evaluate a new product in the beeyard...did it really perform, or was some other factor (weather, feeding, queen quality) the cause of the effects seen? But two experiences I had that year confirmed my faith in the queen mandibular pheromone sticks.

I was not able to beekeep as carefully as I'd like simply because I had too many colonies. I had one really nice little colony in a single deep that had come out of winter in roaring great spirits, queen laying up a storm. I put a stick of PseudoQueen in it to suppress swarming and promptly forgot all about them.

A month later, I decided to move that colony to a better site. When it was moved, I opened up the colony to do a full inspection, wondering if by now they needed more room. Bees literally boiled out when I lifted off the inner cover. Every cell in the single deep was stuffed with brood, every frame crammed with bees. But not a queen cell in sight, and the old queen was running around searching for places to lay. I had never had a hive that stuffed without having it swarm. I gave them a second deep, which the huge population drew out pronto, and that hive went on to be a top honey producer that year.

I had also put some PseudoQueen in a few other hives, and decided that one in particular was especially vigorous and so I wanted a daughter queen from that queen mother. I pulled out the old queen and some bees and brood into a nuc and left the main hive to raise a new queen. To my great

disappointment, they failed to raise a new queen...alas, I had forgotten the stick of PseudoQueen inside, which had them convinced they were completely queenright, weeks and weeks after its installation.

To my knowledge, none of the hives with PseudoQueen in them have ever swarmed. **And now I tie the Pseudo Queen to a colourful string and lead the string out between the supers to hang outside the hive, a visible reminder that there is PseudoQueen in the hive.** Hives treated this way MUST be inspected carefully as if for some reason the queen dies or goes missing, the bees will not raise a new queen. You must confirm queenrightness and lay on a regular basis while PseudoQueen is in the hive.

Uses for the sticks, listed by the manufacturer are: to hold a colony while a new queen is sought, to ship or hold queenless packages of bees destined to boost a hive in need of workers, holding queenless splits and nuclei ready for queening, stabilizing queenless pollination units.

Alas the company producing the product went into receivership, but happily a reformulated version is available this year and is carried by Urban Bee Supply: <http://www.urbanbeesupplies.ca>



Janet Wilson is a very successful beekeeper over the border in Canada and one of our valuable MBBA members.

Urban Bee Supply, on Ladner Trunk Rd. in Delta B.C. is billed as "Your one stop honey bee shop," and they have pretty much everything bee related, including classes. They are also working with Hives for Humanity, a non-profit organization that "encourages community connections through apiculture" (beekeeping).

You might want to keep up with their events and community benefits at:

<http://hivesforhumanity.com/>

