



Next Meeting
 Wednesday, July 19 Time: 7 PM
 Gateway Centre Suites 1313 E. Maple St.
 The Rainier Room, Ste. 301 Bellingham, WA

Anyone and everyone is welcome to bring refreshments to share at the end of the meeting—a good excuse to schmooze and talk bees.

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40th ANNIVERSARY
W.A.S.
CONFERENCE
DAVIS, CA
SEPT. 5-8, 2017

The Western Apicultural Society of North America (westernapiculturalsociety.org) is a non-profit, educational, beekeeping organization founded in 1978 for the benefit and enjoyment of all beekeepers in western North America. Membership is encouraged from anywhere in the world. However, the organization is specifically designed to meet the educational needs of beekeepers from the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming as well as the provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan and the Yukon.

WAS President Eric Mussen outlines some of the highlights of this year's conference: Kim Flottum, of Bee Culture will share some of his insights on the "Rapidly Changing Bee Scene." There will be speakers on colony management, including Les Crowder, co-author with Heather Harrell, of the book: "Top-Bar Beekeeping: Organic Practices for Honey Bee Health."

There will be an off-campus tour to a major beekeeping supply company and sugar syrup supplier, a visit to the UC Davis Bee Biology Facility and to

the Häagen Dazs Bee Haven Garden next door. A number of presenters will have additional mini-sessions outdoors at the Bee Biology facility. For those who wish to hear more in-depth beekeeping fundamentals, Dr. Larry Connor, founder and owner of the premier beekeeping book vendor, Wicwas Press (www.wicwas.com) will be presenting: "Keeping Your Bees Alive and Growing."

More details on the conference and online registration is at westernapiculturalsociety.org/.



A d v e r t i s e m e n t

Getting Started with Bees
 Hive Inspections
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Michael Jaross
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**FROM BEE INFORMED PARTNERSHIP:
 HIMALAYAN BLACKBERRY, BEAUTY OR
 BEAST?**

--Blog by Ben Sallmann

As a new member of the Pacific Northwest Tech Team, I have been fascinated by the wide variety of cultivated, native, and invasive bee-friendly plants in the region. Coming from the arid Sacramento Valley of Northern California, the lush greenery and cool

mountains have been a welcome change as well. One thing I have been amazed by is the quantity of Himalayan blackberry. I thought the central valley had a lot, but in the Pacific Northwest it seems to invade every patch of available ground. This blackberry species is a ubiquitous sight along roadsides, waterways, and disturbed ecosystems such as recently logged forests and areas impacted by wildfire.

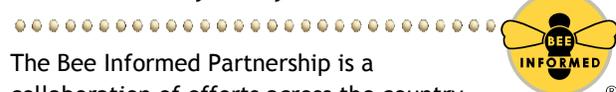
Perhaps our attitude should be "when life gives you blackberries, make blackberry honey!"

As with most invasive non-natives, there has been a

concerted effort to fight the spread of Himalayan blackberry. The fight, however, does not seem to be going well, and in the meantime beekeepers are thankful for the early summer pollen and nectar flow it provides. In an environment increasingly impacted by intensive agriculture, it can provide valuable forage between pollination contracts. I have observed the pollen to be cream in color and the bees can store a good amount of it during the bloom, which can last several weeks. Also, the shake-out is a welcome sight on warm June days when the nectar is flowing.

For those landowners who would like to encourage edible native berry species, replacing Himalayan blackberries with **salmonberries** or **thimbleberries** may be a good option. Although the flowers and fruit do not grow as densely, these species fill the same ecological niche at the forests edge and are also appreciated by honey bees and other pollinators. An added bonus of thimbleberries is that they are naturally thornless.

In many less-accessible spaces such as riversides, national forest land, and hedgerows, replacing Himalayan blackberry with native species is not feasible for now, and we have no choice but to coexist with this aggressive thorny vine. Perhaps our attitude should be "when life gives you blackberries, make blackberry honey!"



The Bee Informed Partnership is a collaboration of efforts across the country from some of the leading research labs and universities in agriculture and science to better understand honey bee declines in the United States. Supported initially by the United States Department of Agriculture and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture but now a not-for-profit, we're working with beekeepers to better understand how we can keep healthier bees. Get more info or sign up for their updates at: beeinformed.org/

RESOLUTION DESIGNATES INTERSTATE 76 AS COLORADO'S FIRST "POLLINATOR HIGHWAY"

From Bee Culture Magazine:
CATCH THE BUZZ

Colorado became friendlier to pollinators by passing the "Colorado Pollinator Highway" Resolution HJR 1029. The Resolution sponsored by Representative KC

Becker and Senator Jerry Sonnenberg passed both the House and Senate unanimously and designates Interstate 76 from the Nebraska state line to Arvada, Colorado. The designation will allow better vegetation management, education and outreach to support pollinator habitat along the roadway.

"Restoring and managing roadsides is vital if we hope to bring back pollinators," said Jennifer Hopwood of the Xerces Society. "We are delighted that the Colorado Department of Transportation and the State of Colorado are stepping up to help in this important effort."

Using existing tools and programs, the resolution directs the Colorado Department of Transportation to designate Interstate 76 as the Colorado Pollinator Highway. This allows the department to accept gifts, grants or donations to install signage for public education. The measure will also direct CDOT to coordinate with local governments, willing landowners and other groups to utilize Integrated Roadside Vegetative Management strategies to develop pollinator habitat where appropriate. These efforts have been found to save state transportation agencies money as the maintenance needs of pollinator habitat are very low.

"The designation will advance Colorado efforts to expand and improve habitat on the I-76 transportation corridor emphasizing coordination and outreach. We hope I-76 will become a model for others to follow in our quest to help pollinators and better manage the indigenous plants along our corridors. We admire the decision by our state government to see the need to promote integrated vegetation management by passing this resolution. It will be a privilege to work with I-76 CDOT Maintenance and Operations and the community to implement the intent of the resolution" said Michael Banowich of the Colorado Department of Transportation.



Colorado is home to over 950 native bee species, butterflies and other insect pollinators, all of which are vital to our state's economy, food security, and environmental health. Nationwide, Honeybee pollination alone adds more than \$15 billion in value to our agricultural crops each year, and provides the backbone to ensuring our diets are plentiful and varied. "Unfortunately, pollinator populations have been declining rapidly due to multiple stressors. "Among these stressors is habitat loss and

fragmentation and a lack of availability of forage. A diverse and thriving pollinator population supports agriculture and a diverse ecosystem and there are simple tools we can engage to expand pollinator habitat in Colorado," said Beth Conrey of People and Pollinators Action Network and past president of the Colorado State Beekeepers Association. "One area that provides an ideal opportunity is our state roadways and how we manage them."

David Julie, Education and Outreach Coordinator for the Colorado Native Plant Society said that, "Colorado's bounty of native wildflowers supports and depends upon healthy, diverse populations of animal pollinators. The Colorado Native Plant Society appreciates that this resolution highlights the essential role of pollinators and the need to protect them."



And from the *New Scientist*, a major United Nations report on pollinator decline suggests, "Possible solutions include building "bee highways" to allow the insects to move freely between foraging locations, reducing "green deserts" - landscapes dominated by a single crop species - and helping farmers work with nature."

See the entire article at:
newscientist.com/article/2114421-build-green-highways-for-bees-to-help-save-vital-pollinators/





Used Hive Woodware for Sale

Because of back and shoulder injuries, I must give up my beekeeping hobby. I have all the used woodware for two 10-frame hives and two 8-frame hives.

Each hive has: screened Varroa bottom with slide, 2 deeps, 2 supers, metal queen excluder, top feeder, inner cover and telescoping cover. Also lots of assembled new and used frames with plastic foundation.

Asking price is 25% of list price in Mann Lake catalog:

Complete 10-frame hive is \$86.

Complete 8-frame hive is \$77.

Phone Jack at 360-933-4768

NEW COMPETITION FOR EPIPEN



Symjepi is expected to go on sale later this year; the price is not yet determined

U.S. regulators have approved new competition for EpiPen, the emergency allergy medicine that made Mylan a poster child for pharmaceutical company greed.

The Food and Drug Administration approved Adamis Pharmaceuticals Corp.'s product on Thursday. It should go on sale later this year.

Symjepi is a syringe prefilled with the hormone epinephrine, which helps stop life-threatening allergic reactions from insect stings and bites, foods such as nuts and eggs, or certain medications.

San Diego-based Adamis says its product is easier to use than Mylan's EpiPen, a spring-loaded syringe filled with a set dose that comes with a training device.

Symjepi also is smaller than EpiPen, so it's easier to fit in a pocket or purse. Most children and adults with severe food or insect allergies carry a device wherever they go and leave a spare at home, school or work.

Adamis said it is still lining up a distributor so it hasn't set the exact price for its product, which will be sold in pairs like EpiPen.

Adamis spokesman Mark Flather said Symjepi is intended to be a "low-cost alternative" to EpiPen and similar products, and the company is aiming to sell it for less than generic EpiPens.

In a note to investors, Evercore ISI analyst Umer Raffat wrote that Symjepi is not identical to EpiPen and so the price Adamis sets "will obviously be an important consideration."

Currently, EpiPens cost about \$630 to \$700 without insurance while the new generic version retails for about \$225 to \$425.

Mylan, which has U.S. headquarters near Pittsburgh, launched generic EpiPens last December in an effort to deflect mounting criticism.

Last summer, the company came under fire for repeatedly raising the price of EpiPens and CEO Heather Bresch was grilled by a Congressional panel. Mylan hiked the price of a pair of EpiPens from \$94 in 2007, when the company acquired the product, to \$608 last year. The devices need to be replaced each year, adding to the financial sting.

Related: EpiPen Rival Adrenalick Costs \$100

Analysts and others have estimated that it costs less than \$20 to produce a pair of EpiPens.

While EpiPen has other rival products, doctors tend to prescribe EpiPen because it's so well known.

Just three years ago, EpiPens accounted for nearly 90 percent of both revenue and prescriptions filled in the U.S. for epinephrine injectors and syringes, according to QuintilesIMS, a pharmaceutical analytics company.

In the first quarter of this year, brand-name EpiPens only drew about 60 percent of epinephrine device prescriptions, while generic EpiPens - mostly Mylan's - had captured 38 percent of prescriptions.

Dr. Dennis J. Carlo, CEO of Adamis, said in a statement that his company is preparing to apply for FDA approval of a "junior version" of Symjepi. That would contain a lower epinephrine dose than Symjepi, and would compete with Mylan's EpiPen Jr.

