February 2009 Vol. XII No. IV

The Buzzword

West Sound Beekeepers Association
westsoundbees.org

March Refreshments

Drinks:
Mike & Tami Hoenig

Snacks:
Emily Pechia

Next meeting:

Tuesday, February 17 At The Stedman's

5:45 PM Journeyman Studies
6 PM Bee-ginners Class
7 PM Regular Meeting
Queen Rearing Group meets after the Regular Meeting

Program:

Tim Celeski

BeeKeeping Equipment
Bee Vacs, Honey Heaters, And More!

President, Webmaster
George Purkett .360 895 9116

VP; Queen Rearing Group Leader
David Mackovjak .360 698 5228

Secretary
Judy Gunther .360 297 5075

Treasurer
Dennis Heeney .206 842 5545

Educational Materials
Barbara Stedman .360 692 9453

Education Chairman
Paul Lundy .360 297 6743

Librarian
Roy Barton .360 613 0175

Newsletter Editor
Basil Gunther .360 297 5075

Journeyman Study Group Leader
Jim Dunbar . 360-286-5359

What's Inside:

Minutes from the January 20, 2009 meeting

Submitted by Michelle McMullen
George Purkett presided

Treasurer's Report:

Dennis reported $3100 in checking and $3069 in savings for the association.
Dennis presented the Profit and loss statement for last year.

West Sound Beekeepers Association
Profit and Loss Statement
January 1 2008 – December 31 2008

Income	
Member dues	2075.00
Auction	80.00
Queens Sold	80.00
Scholarship Funds Donated	746.00
Christmas party auction	159.00
Misc cash	1.00
Total income	**3141.00**
Expenses	
Monthly newsletter	774.23
Master Beekeepers	190.00
Club Apiary	875.39
Junior Beekeeper	199.00
Computer Web Site	23.50
Total expenses	**2062.12**
Year end profit	**1078.88**

New Business

Membership voted and approved last month's minutes in the hardcopy newsletter.

Membership Voted and approved $10 to register the association hives with the state.

Membership voted and approved funding for bulk purchase of a seed order being put together by Basil. Association will purchase 3 pounds of Phacelia tanecetifolia for use in doorprizes, auctions, distributions, etc. Members getting in on the buy will pay the association for their share of the buy.

Membership voted an approved David Heid to extract pieces from our associations newsletter as he tries to start up a newsletter for the Jefferson County Beekeepers in Chimicum.

At The Meeting

Jim Dunbar & George Purkett

The first session of the 2009 beginner class was held from 6 to 7 prior to the general meeting. Attendance is high this year and the beginners did look eager.

At the same time, the newly formed journeyman study group held their first session in the back room.

The general meeting started a little late as expected following the first night of the beginner class. Paul was chastised and then forgiven.

Jim Dunbar was pressed into service as Secretary for the meeting. (Thanks Jim)

9 new members stayed around for the meeting following the class. 4 looking for help and 5 without hives. New members are from all around the county. There were more new members from Bainbridge Island than anywhere else.

George bloviated about the association to impress upon the beginners what they had signed up for. Fortunately, nobody darted for the door. They paid Membership $24/yr, $10 for beginning book.

What they get for their money:

Monthly Meetings – association business, bee discussions and presentations.

Newsletter, electronic or mail – the electronic version is encouraged as there are no printing or mailing costs. It generally has more information included as the printed copy is limited by the number of pages that can be mailed by a single stamp.

Library materials for checkout – George showed the bin of books and movies and explained how to pull the card, write your name on it and put it in the box, and take the book. Upon returning the book, put the card back into the box, crossing your name off.

The Association website is www.westsoundbees.org all newsletters are posted there.

Yahoo group sign-up is encouraged for you to easily ask (or answer) questions via the web. A link to the yahoo group is on the links page of the association website.

Mentioned the Queen rearing group, the Journeyman study group, and the fair committee as other opportunities besides just the beginning class. Michelle mentioned the association will have a booth at ecofest in Kingston, May 2nd. Contact her if you want to participate. Website information about ecofest can be found at http://www.stillwatersenvironmentalcenter.org/

The association Apiary will be located in the same location as it was last year back behind the far corner of the back building at Stedmans. It will be used for the field days and the queen rearing group.

Membership should provide lots of knowledge and experience for the beginners to tap into. Also there are discounts available to the American Bee Journal and Bee Culture magazine.

New links have been added to the association website. Visit the website and see if anything interests you. www.apitherapy.org has changed dramatically and is worth visiting.

www.buylocalfoodinkitsap.org has an article about local beekeeping.

There is a law requiring beekeepers to register their hives with the state. The state association web site has the registration form. The state association site is linked on the association site. Your registration fees go to fund the state bee inspection services at WSU. Membership Voted and approved $10 to register the association hives with the state.

Treasurer Dennis Heeney Made his report complete with P&L.

Basil recommended we audit the books. George is looking for volunteers.

Question raised to see if we want to post fliers of teen grant on Olympic college. Agreement to wait to see if we wanted to deal with the outcome.

Basil recommended minutes from the meeting be posted onto the website.

Membership voted and approved last month's minute in the hardcopy newsletter.

Membership voted and approved funding for bulk purchase of phacelia seed order being put together by Basil. Association will purchase 3 pounds for use in doorprizes, auctions, distributions, etc. Members getting in on the buy will pay the association for their share of the buy. Contact basil if you are interested. Bees love the nectar and deer love the flowers, so plant a lot if you want to feed bees or deer. Basil reports planting it with buckwheat works well as it blooms after the buckwheat.

Jim Willmann donated a 2-frame extractor to the association. Thank you!

Jim also brought in Manuka honey from Australia for tasting along with some small Manuka

tree starts to give away. Manuka honey is one of the most expensive honeys in the world due to its antiseptic properties…and it tastes, as you would expect. "It is an acquired taste" is the kind way to put it.

Membership voted an approved David Heid to extract pieces from the association newsletter as he tries to Startup a newsletter for the Jefferson County Beekeepers starting up in Chimicum.

George gave a presentation on 'Population Explosion from Package to Production'. The presentation posed two hives started from packages the same day. One hive is headed by Queen Mary who lays 1000 worker eggs per day. The other hive is headed by Queen Elisabeth who lays 2000 eggs per day. And as these are George's 'ideal' bees, all of the eggs produce workers that live full lives of exactly 42 days. Of course, the interesting parts are when real world restrictions are applied to the 'ideal' hives, We see that the ideal hive may not really be ideal. Also, that the beekeeper has an incredibly important role to play during the first couple of months of a new hive being established. George claims he will post the presentation to the yahoo group or the website.

I did in fact post the presentation to the yahoo group in the files section. Still looking for a spot to place it on the website. I have embellished it since the presentation, and have added a few pictures and some comments to the tops of most slides. David Heid twisted my arm and I will be presenting it to his Jefferson County group.

A Message From Mr. President…

Please get your orders for bee packages to Stedman Bee Supply quickly so Barbara can get an accurate count of packages needed for the bulk bee order.
Please bring your Bee questions, answers, and thoughts to the meeting. I noticed last month we spent more time talking about business and less time talking about bees. I hope to reverse that for this month's meeting. This month's presentation is about beekeeping equipment –honey warmers and bee vacuums. The topic seems enticing to me. We may also have a possible short presentation from the journeyman group about colony examination if time allows. I am expecting a lively discussion about the bees as this is the final meeting before arrival of the new packages and members are assessing there over-wintering hive successes and failures.
I opened up my hives during the few good days of weather following the last meeting. Some hives look well while others look like stacks of used equipment. The (3) 4-frame nucs continue to look well. Some of the other hives I had thought alive, only had the activity of foragers from the survivors cleaning out the unused stores. I believe I have 7 stacks of equipment, and 7 boxes with live bees. I think my strongest hive is a top bar hive that had perished last winter but attracted a swarm in the spring and seems to be doing well. My next 2 strongest hives were two of my survivor hives from last year. I took resources from both of them for making nucs in the summer but did not re-queen them. The other 4 alive are the (3) 4-frame nucs and a single deep that I transferred another nuc into in the late summer as it outgrew the nuc.
And now for the hive failures: One was a poor little hive I placed in the shade year before last in a couple of western boxes. Last year they were down to a handful of bees but were able to pull through the winter. They remained small throughout the summer but seemed viable. As I watched, I thought they might make it through this winter but the one week of cold weather in January did them in. (Hint: Keep your hive in a sunny location)
The other 6 dead-outs started the season as two packages of bees. After they built up, I used them rearing queens. Then I dismantled them into multiple nuc boxes to accept the new queen cells. Some of the queens mated and started laying and some didn't. The queenless nucs were then recombined with the queen-right ones. I think my downfall was to under estimate the population growth. Their populations grew well and when I slacked off on feeding them as it started to go into fall, they began consuming their stores faster than expected. Perhaps also I should have been feeding pollen to build up the protein in the brood to become winter bees to give them extra help. I should have taken a better count of stores in the fall in each hive and promptly continued feeding. Instead, the fall rain deterred me. The hives consumed resources and the cycling of cold and wet and severe cold took its toll. They were doomed by poor beekeeping planning and beekeepers poor execution of his plan.
I will mention that one of the hives looked different in death. It had lots of stores and there were a lot of dead bees on the bottom but no dead cluster remaining. Maybe they lost a queen or did not read the book on how bees are supposed to cluster through the cold.
Two additional notes I have for last year. The nectar flow through the spring and summer was very gradual at my yard. The hives tended to consume the nectar flow and build healthy populations but never started putting on stores from the blackberries in June. Maybe the nectar flow came late, After I had robbed bee populations from all of the hives for nucs. I also did not find any varroa in any drone brood when inspecting last year. I found that very odd.
If anyone is interested in making a beekeeping show for the local public access channel check out information at www.bkat.org.

We will be electing new officers at the April meeting. If you are interested please ask existing or past officers what is involved.
If you have library material that you checked out last year and have failed to return it, please do so for others to use.
If you want to get on the email mailing list for the yahoo group 'westsoundbees', there will be a sign-up list at the meeting. It is the quickest way to broadcast a question to the beekeeping community for answers.
To those of you just signed up for the beginners' class, I invite you to stick around for the meeting if you have time and the patience. You are members and I hope to see you take full advantage of the associations offerings.
See you at the meeting,

George, **And a poem...**

Photo by Chris Hansen, Hansen's Honey

Summer Work of Bees

The nectar so sweet the bee-keeper sees,
His hives filling up by the work of the bees.
Each coming laden with sweets from the trees.
A merry young bee goes forth from the home,
Mingling with the others thus ready to roam-
Every one off for the flower-decked fields,
Right where the basswood so gratefully yields
Its bountiful treasure of bright, golden sweet,
Cheering each bee that so gladly they meet;
A busy and buzzing crowd are they-
Not stopping to idle, but working all day.
But to aid their keeper, we must allow,
Every bee makes it a solemn vow,
Ever to labor as hard as now.
Just over the hillside decked with flowers,
On field and meadow. 'neath blooming bowers,
Unseen and unheard does the "busy bee" work,
Rushing hither and thither, but never to shirk,
Now dandelions, butter-cups, lady-slips too,
Are yielding their sweetness for me and for you-
Loving the bees for all that they do.

By George W York, 1888 for the American Bee Journal

Also, Barbara asked if we could ask people wanting to pick up equipment with the packages to please call ahead to make sure they can have it ready and they might want to get it early to paint or prepare it.

I forgot to add this to my message.
George

…Stimulative Feeding

by Walt Wright, Bee Culture - Feb. 2007

It is my opinion that stimulative feeding of syrup in late winter/early spring, the early season, is a myth. The opinion is based mostly on observation of colony scheduling of activities, and there is no supporting data. You may ignore it at the risk of unwarranted time and expense.

This topic is expected to encounter stiff resistance from the "old dogs." "Stimulative" feeding has been a literature mainstay for a long time. Taking the word stimulative at its dictionary meaning, we assume that improving colony growth rate is the objective. That assumption implies that feeding the nectar substitute accelerates the growth rate. The implication that the bees are misled into acting on nectar availability, and accelerate brood nest expansion is just another hand-me-down misconception from yesteryear. Keep in mind that my reservations on stimulative feeding are *restricted* to the feeding of syrup or nectar substitute. Feeding pollen or a pollen substitute is a different discussion, but in some ways relevant. Since I'm not there yet, it's difficult to predict how much of each is likely to be treated.

There are several situations where late winter feeding is beneficial. More severe colony needs could be considered mandatory feeding situations. Those situations are those that help is needed to *sustain* brood nest growth at normal rates. The well-provisioned colony does not need that help. The question being addressed here is whether or not the feeding of nectar substitute actually accelerates brood nest growth (stimulates.) Ok, so I'm a nit-picker. Let's get into it.

A little history might be appropriate. Having tried several other ways to supplement retirement income such as fertile eggs, meat rabbits, and beef cattle, three hives of bees were purchased. It was obvious that the other ventures were not the way to go. Buying feed at retail prices canceled out any potential profit. But the bees feed themselves. That's a big plus.

Spurred on by the first full season (a super year) beekeeping seemed like the way to go. In the second full year, a few swarms were collected to run the hive count up to 10 going into winter. That 3rd winter the T mite penetrated the area and took out 8 of 10. The two survivors, in essence, caused me to start over with a major obstacle to overcome.

T mite effects do the most damage over the winter and into the early build up. It was imperative to become familiar with the build up process. There was not enough time in my schedule to sample mite infestation levels. This meant that judgments would be made on growth rates of the colonies. Written records were not kept at that time, but scrawled outlines of brood volume on the back were maintained on each hive opening with a permanent, felt-tipped marker, and dated. As the season progressed, a record of growth rate was conspicuous before popping the top. Slow developing colonies were inspected in greater detail.

The above background material is included to alert you to the fact that I had pretty good feel for growth rates before trying stimulative feeding. A second motivation for the trial was that medication for Nosema needed investigation. The feed was used as the carrier for the medication. After two full build up seasons of across-the-board stimulative feeding the effort was discontinued. There was no evidence that build up rates were accelerated by the extra work and expense.

Reflecting on the causes for this disappointment, it makes sense when you understand the bees' format for build up. Collectively, the following observations provide ample reasons for the ineffectiveness of feeding syrup to stimulate growth. Be advised that these personal observations have not been blessed by anyone in academic circles. Most of these observations have been mentioned before as they relate to other subjects. This list is considered those that are relevant to build up rates. This list is also oriented to "well provisioned" colonies - those that met requirements for dependable wintering in the fall.

1. The colony can roughly double brood volumes in each successive worker brood cycle. The doubling accounts for the "explosion" in the swarm prep season.

2. Brood nest expansion is limited by at least two factors: The amount of honey consumed by population and brood - freeing up cells for expansion. And the population of adult bees required to maintain brood rearing temperatures. In mid winter the second has the greater impact. In late winter, honey consumption is the controlling factor.

3. Adult bees in early build up are mostly foragers. This permits them to take better advantage of limited foraging opportunities.

4. The primary stimulation for full bore build up is pollen availability in the field. Early season foraging is predominately for pollen and water to thin honey for consumption. The colony in contact with overhead honey has little need for nectar if water is available.

5. The honeybee is greedy. They can't pass up free carbs, even if it is not in their best interest to do so. They will rob out less fortunate cousins when they have no place to store the booty.

6. In the build up period, the colony wants all cells filled within the cluster perimeter. With the exception of cells of honey being drained in the direction of expansion, filling empty cells with nectar is a high priority.

So what happens to the stimulative feed? I suspect that individual bees are pressed into service as mini storage tankers. We are guessing here because that is not easily confirmed by observation. One thing we are sure of is that they are not going to throw it overboard. If the guess is correct, you are actually doing the colony a disservice. Those tankers are taken out service for the mission of the period - pollen foraging.

That could slow expansion. The literature reports that northerly locations sometimes have a brood break in late winter. The colony that has used all the residual fall pollen puts brood rearing on hold pending field pollen availability. If that is true, it would seem reasonable to feed pollen or a substitute to stimulate. Only feed syrup to fill the brood nest. That would help. An internal water source might also be an asset.

If you feel cheated out of a more comprehensive discussion of my opinion, go back and digest the content of the observations. It's all there. Although this was not intended to be a test of your deductive powers,

you might come to the same conclusion that stimulative feeding of syrup can be counter productive. It seems to me that excessive feeding of syrup, when the objective is honey consumption for brood nest expansion, is pushing the colony in the wrong direction.

There is, however, a circumstance where feeding could accelerate expansion. That is the case where an empty deep is reversed in late winter. The bees are not going to expand into the empty deep until nectar is stored there first. If field nectar or flying weather is delayed, expansion is delayed. Feeding at reversal would speed up the process.

The recommendation from here is to take a hard look at stimulative feeding for your area. Keeping in mind that the doubling effect of normal brood nest expansion could mislead you into thinking the feeding is helping. If you get more than double the brood volume in a worker brood cycle, stimulative feeding is an asset for your location.

But you are building increased swarm potential.

The Need for Late Winter Examination

Adapted from an article written by Doug Colter in March 1998 for the Alberta Beekeepers Association

Each year, you try to do your best to assure the presence of a healthy, young queen of preferred bee stock, to provide adequate food reserves, to maintain disease-free colony conditions and to provide winter protection for all of your colonies. At this time of year, it is important to check on your colonies during a late winter colony inspection.

The purpose of a late winter Inspection is to answer several important questions

1. **Is a colony alive or dead?**
2. **How available are the food reserves to the cluster?**
3. **What is the health status of the colony?**

Quite simply, a dead or severely dwindled colony should be dismantled and moved out of the apiary to a bee-tight storage area or closed up until it can be moved out. This will effectively eliminate the dead or weak colony from becoming a potential source of diseases or pests to neighboring colonies due to robbing or drifting behavior. Later examination of the hive equipment may allow for determination of the cause(s) of the colony's demise.

Queens generally begin egg-laying in mid- to late January and brood rearing will expand if sufficient pollen stores are available within the cluster - even when outside temperatures are below freezing. Winter survival problems can arise, even with adequate food reserves, when the cluster cannot maintain contact with its food reserves. Generally, the cluster will not leave the brood to maintain contact with its food reserves. This is especially the case with small clusters that can cover only a few frames.

Sometimes, the cluster will simply eat its way in one direction, lose contact with its food reserves and starve in one corner of the brood chamber. The cluster may be able to expand during mild weather breaks, but due to a sudden return of cold temperatures, cannot move quickly enough to get into contact again with its food reserves. As a result, a large number of small colonies can die in January and February. This can even happen in more populous colonies if food reserves are inadequate or improperly positioned in the hive.

Prior to the actual examination, you should assemble everything you may need beforehand. You must be able to assess each colony quickly and respond accordingly to each situation observed. With your smoker ready, gently pry up the inner cover. Use a little smoke to calm the honeybees. Leave any adhering honeybees on the cover and put them aside, exposed side up.

Look down between the frames in the top box to check for adequate honey reserves in contact with the cluster. A fully capped frame of honey equals about 6.5 pounds of food reserves. The colony, in a standard hive, should have from four to six frames of honey in contact with the cluster. Such a colony should be secure for another three to four weeks.

Colonies that have sufficient but positioned food reserves can be quickly adjusted. Move combs of honey to the cluster, rather than the other way around. If you need to center the entire cluster to surround it with food reserves, you must move the frames as a single unit. Do this as carefully as possible so as not to break up or disturb the cluster.

Do not remove frames that contain pollen.

If you need to feed a colony, honey is best at this time of year. A frame of honey, saved during the harvest, for each colony is an ideal source of food. You can also use granulated honey. However, in both choices, disease free sources must be used.

Placing an inside frame feeder filled with granulated honey or dry granulated sugar, in position adjacent to the cluster, is an effective way to feed bees.

Feeding sugar syrup at this time can cause excessive moisture, and possibly dysentery problems, especially in small colonies. It can also chill the bees, cause the cluster to become restless and can stimulate food consumption. Any sugar syrup that you feed should be warm and as concentrated as possible (2:1 sugar-water) and limited in volume initially.

If you determine there is a shortage of pollen near the cluster, a pollen substitute or a pollen supplement should be provided.

Sometimes you may find a colony that is near starvation. The whole cluster appears restless and shivering. If the colony is worth saving (considering labor and time involved versus expected results), there are a few alternative methods you can use to try to salvage the bees. Use of a frame feeder may not be effective as the bees may be too weak to move to the feeder.

You can also provide a frame with warm syrup or honey poured into the cells. When the bees appear to have recovered, you can then place a frame feeder filled with honey or dry sugar next to the cluster. Another quick-fix remedy is to use frames of honey. If the honey is capped, you may have to remove the cappings to allow the cluster quick access to the honey.

Where colonies are populous, many beekeepers provide extra feed by using a division board or frame feeder filled with granulated honey or warm sugar syrup. Some fill empty brood combs with syrup using a sprayer. Others prefer to feed granulated sugar placed onto the inner cover, leaving the feed hole open to allow the honeybees access to the sugar. However, feeding sugar - dry or syrup - at this time of the year is stressful for the colony. When you provide supplemental feed, you should limit the amounts initially, gradually increasing the quantity on your next visits. Feeding large amounts at one time will usually have a negative effect on colony build-up. The colony has to divert energy to handle the sugar rather than to rear brood and maintain hive temperatures. The brood nest may also become "plugged" with excess syrup, interfering with egg-laying by the queen.

Another method that has been used to feed a colony until other forms of supplement can be applied is the "candy-board." If you do use this method, it is recommended to use the soft or fondant formulation. One problem of the candy board is the same as when granulated honey or dry sugar is used to feed colonies. The honeybees do need some moisture to allow them to liquefy the sugar. There may be sufficient moisture in the hive from the condensed water vapor produced by the cluster as they respire. If you would like to try fondant, a recipe is found in the January 2009 newsletter on the WSBA website.

There is a need to monitor your colonies for the presence of bee diseases and parasitic mites. The best time to monitor and to sample your colonies is now. For information on sampling and detection methods, consult IPM recommendations under 'beekeeping articles" at the WSBA website.

The late winter inspection with its necessary adjustments and/or supplemental feedings of honey, sugar, pollen substitutes or supplements will generally assure the survival and normal development of your colonies until natural sources of pollen and nectar are available. When winters are severe, you may have to inspect your colonies every two to three weeks and apply additional food reserves.

Mid-winter to late winter checks, if done quickly and carefully, will not greatly stress your colonies. Removing the hive cover will not cause problems but disturbing the cluster can. Winter losses due to inadequate food reserves can be prevented by your inspection of each colony as early as possible. However, if many colonies require feeding at this time of year, you may have to re-examine your winter preparation schedule to ensure adequate food reserves in future years.

WAR AND PEACE, **Chapter 4 Leo Tolstoy** (from Nottinghamshire Beekeeper's Newsletter Dec. 2008)

A bee settling on a flower has stung a child. And the child is afraid of bees and declares that bees exist to sting people. A poet admires the bee sucking from the chalice of a flower and says it exists to suck the fragrance of flowers. A beekeeper, seeing the bee collect pollen from flowers and carry it to the hive, says that it exists to gather honey. Another beekeeper who has studied the life of the hive more closely says that the bee gathers pollen dust to feed the young bees and rear a queen, and that it exists to perpetuate its race. A botanist notices that the bee flying with the pollen of a male flower to a pistil fertilizes the latter, and sees in this the purpose of the bee's existence. Another, observing the migration of plants, notices that the bee helps in this work, and may say that in this lies the purpose of the bee. But the ultimate purpose of the bee is not exhausted by the first, the second, or any of the processes the human mind can discern. The higher the human intellect rises in the discovery of these purposes, the more obvious it becomes, that the ultimate purpose is beyond our comprehension.

All that is accessible to man is the relation of the life of the bee to other manifestations of life. And so it is with the purpose of historic characters and nations.

The March Buildup ***Paul Hosticka March, 2003***

March, what can one say about March? It is not winter and it is not spring. It is not horrible nor is it wonderful. It is somewhat like November, a month we just need to get through. In the bee yard it is quite a bit different. Colonies that have wintered well and that are strong and healthy are beginning their population explosion. Pollen is flowing in the door, the first spring bees are emerging and there are three or four frames of capped brood days away from emerging. The queen is hard at it and stores are in great demand. These powerful colonies need close attention. Monitor for mites and disease. Feed if light and think about reversing or at least opening up the brood nest with an empty frame or two. It is too early to do splits but not too early to start thinking about it. Have a plan and get what equipment you need ready.

Varroa strips, if used, should already be in but if you need to treat this spring you have no time to waste.

Formic treatment can wait for a few weeks for better weather unless you have a critical situation. If so you should treat now and hope for suitable conditions. If the weather does not cooperate repeat treatment later.

March can also be the make - or - break month for struggling colonies. Tracheal mite and nosema take their greatest toll about now. Small suffering colonies should be reduced to one box, protected from robbing and boosted with a frame or two of capped and emerging brood. Medicate as appropriate. Be careful about combining weak colonies with strong, you don't want to introduce disease or parasites to a strong colony simply to save a few weak bees. Colonies that are going to make it will turn the corner in April and start getting stronger offering hope and reward to the diligent beekeeper. Those whose fate is sealed will perish, leaving a sadder but wiser beekeeper to carry on and learn from bitter experience. All beekeepers hate chemicals, all beekeepers hate mites, all beekeepers pine for the old days when we could tend our flock in peace and harmony with nature. We do not enjoy those blissful conditions today. Too much of beekeeping is doctoring and fretting about resistance and what trouble lies around the next corner. We have hope, and work toward a better future, but today we can only play the hand we have been dealt... We can wring our hands, stamp our feet, kick the cat and cry to the heavens that it is not fair but if any solution is to be found it is up to us...

So go out on a sunny day and spend some good quality time with your best colonies. Revel in the beauty and wonder of it all and fill your spirit with joy. Then put a clothes pin on your nose and do what must be done to help the unfortunate struggling colonies get on the road back to health.

Time to Renew your membership!

☑ **Yes! I want to be a member of West Sound Beekeepers' Association during 2009. I have enclosed a check payable to West Sound Beekeepers Association Check one:** ☐ $24 annual household membership dues ☐ $34 Bee-ginner class fee ($24 membership dues + $10 study guide)

NAME(S): _____

MAILING

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ **EMAIL:** _____

I would prefer to receive **email / snail mail** version of the newsletter **(circle preference)**

Please return to:

Dennis Heeney, WSBA Treasurer, 5350 Welfare Av, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

GUERRA Y PAZ, Capítulo 4 León Tolstoi (de Nottinghamshire Apicultor del Boletín de diciembre de 2008)

Una abeja en la solución de una flor ha picado un niño. Y el niño tiene miedo de las abejas y declara que existen las abejas pican a la gente. Un poeta admira a la abeja de chupar el cáliz de una flor y dice que existe para aspirar la fragancia de las flores. Un apicultor, viendo la abeja recoger el polen de las flores y llevarlo a la colmena, dice que existe para recoger la miel. Otro apicultor que ha estudiado la vida de la colmena más de cerca dice que la abeja recoge el polen de polvo para alimentar a las abejas jóvenes y la parte trasera a una reina, y que existe para perpetuar su raza. Un botánico que los anuncios de vuelo de abejas con el polen de una flor macho fecunda a un pistilo esta última, y ve en esto la finalidad de la existencia de la abeja. Otro, la observación de la migración de las plantas, toma nota de que la abeja ayuda en este trabajo, y puede decir que en esto radica el propósito de la abeja. Pero el objetivo final de la abeja no se agota en la primera, la segunda, o cualquiera de los procesos de la mente humana puede discernir. Cuanto mayor es el intelecto humano se eleva en el descubrimiento de estos efectos, el más evidente es, que el objetivo final está más allá de nuestra comprensión.

Todo lo que es accesible para el hombre es la relación de la vida de la abeja a otras manifestaciones de la vida. Y así es con la finalidad de personajes históricos y de las naciones.