

## **WSU Honey Bee Field Day Topics**

**June 9-10, 2017 - WSU Campus - Center for Undergraduate Education, Room 518**

**Friday evening beginning at 6 p.m.:**

Keynote Speaker and wine and cheese social gathering in the CUE Building

Registration and group assignments for Saturday Apiary round

Keynote speaker – Melanie Kirby - Honey bee breeding efforts in a geographic specific setting

## **Food Science Human Nutrition Building Room 103/155**

**7:30 – 8:30 am - Saturday - Good morning, registration and coffee/snacks**

8:30 – 8:45 Announcements, Introductions and Welcome: WSU, WSBA, WSU-CAHNRS

20 minute talks –

- 1) Dr. Tim Lawrence – Bee Beards – How and why do they work?
- 2) Drs. Nick Naeger, Jennifer Han - Toward field applications of mushroom products to help bees
- 3) Dr. Aziz Gul – Turkish beekeeping, honey bee reproductive biology research at WSU, goodbye Pullman

Honey exchange – all participants invited to bring 2 bottles of honey for exchange table (see note below)

Schedule – subject to variation due to rain or group number

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 am Apiary Station 1

11:00a.m. -12:00 p.m. – Apiary Station 2

12:00 p.m. – 1:20 pm - Lunch at FSHN Room 103/155, group photo

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 pm – Apiary Station 3

2:30 p.m. -3:30 p.m. - Apiary Station 4

3:30p.m. - 4:30 p.m. - Queen pheromone demonstration/ bee beards (weather permitting)

Diagnostic laboratory courtyard site

**Apiary /laboratory rounds begin- (participants spend approx. 1 hour at each location)**

**Station 1 - Pests and Diseases:** (Diagnostics – Room 166 FSHN)

Laboratory diagnosis – (Erin O’Rourke, Megan Asche, Dr. Jennifer Han)

Varroa mites, tracheal mites, Nosema

Introduction to a potential new mycological tool to control Varroa

**Station 2 - Queen Rearing:** Teaching Apiary

Stock selection assessment (brood area, pattern, hygienic behavior),

Preparation of cell-builders, Cloake system (options)

Grafting demonstration/timing,

Mating yard activities

Clipping, marking, spermathecal assessment)

(Sue Cobey, Melanie Kirby, Seneca Kristensdottir)

**Station 3 - Honey Bee Behavior: implications for beekeepers:** Observatory

Different honey bee strains

gentleness, brood viability assay

drones and workers

gloveless beekeeping – understanding the threshold concept

swarm prevention and splitting

(Dr. Steve Sheppard, Dr. Tim Lawrence)

**Station 4 - Practical colony manipulations and identification of honey bee diseases, pests, problems: feed mill**

Preparing hives for moving

transferring colony from a box hive, package or feral nest to frame hive

Identifying pests/diseases/problems in the apiary)

Identifying AFB from scales and brood

Mite control methods for colony health - conventional and alternative

Demo of experimental approaches (fungal products) mycological experimental

(Dr. Aziz Gul, Dr. Brandon Hopkins, Dr. Nick Naeger)

**Note for beekeeper participants in 2017:**

- 1) **Honey Exchange Table:** Bring two 1 lb jars of your honey for exchange table. Leave two of yours there and take away two of jars of your choice left by other beekeepers.
- 2) **Posters:** All local associations are invited to produce a beekeeping/local “apicultural conditions” poster for display at the field day. Can be reclaimed at the end of the field day for use in local fairs, etc. or donated for temporary display in the WSU bee lab until the next field day.
- 3) Lunch will be provided at noon on Saturday at 103/155 FSHN Building.
- 4) The weather should be pleasant in Pullman in June. However, evenings can be quite cool and some layered clothing is a good idea. In the event of rain, we will do what beekeepers sometimes have to do, work bees.