

Conference Details

We are attempting to cover quite a few areas of interest for beekeepers and those interested in native pollinators. Areas of interest are separated so that people living nearby, with special interests, may choose which sessions to attend. Monday afternoon will be “set up” time for vendors and the Silent Auction. A Delegates’ and Directors’ Meeting is scheduled for 3:00 pm in an out-of-the-way corner of the Conference room. Registration will begin around 3:00 pm, also, in the Krug Event Center.

Monday evening, August 17th, will start things off with a honey and wine tasting from 7 – 9:00 pm in the Krug Center at the Dry Creek Inn. The tasting will be led by WAS Treasurer, Mark Pitcher. A native of nearby Napa Valley, Mark teaches classes, annually, in wine making in northern California. Silent auction items will be available for bidding that evening, also.

Tuesday morning, August 18th, we are going to learn the latest information coming from university studies on honey bee diseases and honey bee health. Jerry Bromenshenk will describe the seasonality of virus titers in the samples they have processed. He also is likely to describe and display his hand-held, acoustic monitoring device that “listens” to the health of a honey bee colony. (For fun, look up Wood’s Apidictor in your browser to see its predecessor.) Following Jerry, Häagen Dazs postdoctoral fellow Michelle Flenniken will describe her efforts to determine how honey bees respond to being infected with viruses. She also will tell us how things are coming along with the bee disease microarray diagnostic chip. Then, Steve Sheppard will describe the changes in pathogen and parasite loads over the season in commercial beekeeping operations in the State of Washington. Jerry and Michelle may share similar baseline data on other commercial and hobby beekeeping operations with which they are involved.

Tuesday noon many of us we will carpool a short distance to April Lance’s property on West Dry Creek Road for a riverside BBQ (Dry Creek is too shallow for swimming). A map to the site will be provided in the green Healdsburg shopping bag handed out at registration. April is coordinating with a meat company to provide a great spread. A vegetarian entrée will be available upon previous request. Following the BBQ, participants can have a free afternoon or they can attend an afternoon session with Dr. Larry Connor dealing with topics of interest suggested by area club members. Dr. Connor’s sessions have an additional fee, beyond the Conference registration free. (Don’t abandon your carpool passengers!).

On Wednesday morning, August 19th, many of us will be leaving the Krug Event Center for a visit to Serge Labesque’s apiary in Glen Ellen (about a 45 minute drive). Among a number of other items of interest, we should have a Hungarian motorized, rotating circular combs hive, and a number of different top bar hives and apiary watering devices. Carpooling is essential for this trip. A map to the White Barn will be provided in the green shopping bag handed out at registration. In Glen Ellen we will be meeting in the White Barn, for an introduction from Anne Teller, the owner/manager of the organic farm and produce center (Red Barn) on the other side of the hill, before visiting the apiary.

For others, Dr. Larry Connor will be conducting a second, additional fee, half day session, dealing with a set of beekeeping topics different from the previous afternoon session in the Krug Center. Following the morning activities, lunch will be on your own. A list of eateries, nearby the Krug Center, will be provided in the registration materials

Wednesday afternoon, we shift to native pollinators. UC Davis Emeritus Professor Robbin Thorp will introduce us to the fascinating world of non-*Apis* bees. He will be followed by two other professors, Neal Williams and Claire Kremen, who will describe their studies on the contributions of native bees to commercial crop production east and west of the Rockies, respectively.

Thursday, August 20th, the last day of the Conference, is a very full day. The morning session opens with Ron Fessenden, MD, MPH; founder of The Committee for the Promotion of Honey and Health, Inc., and co-author of the books: “The Hibernation Diet” and “The Honey Revolution.” Following Ron’s introduction to the topic, we hope to have Liz Applegate continue the topic of honey and health by sharing her findings on the effects of honey on exercise physiology. Then, we have the Annual Business Meeting that will bring us to lunch time. Lunch is on your own and there are a number of interesting places to eat nearby.

Following lunch, Dewey Caron, Emeritus Professor, author of the textbook “Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping” and next year’s WAS President, will be describing the natural history of a honey bee colony. That will be followed by sideline beekeeper; part time researcher; part time school teacher; and bee journal author Randy Oliver. Randy will share with us his knowledge of many topics determined in many ways. After Randy, the Silent Auction ends and there is a Delegates’ and Directors’ Meeting at 3:30 pm.

At 6:00 pm we will have a no host social, then proceed to our Buffet Banquet and Awards Presentations in the Krug Center beginning around 6:30 pm. That evening, or the next day, everyone should enjoy a safe trip home or to wherever the next destination is.

Travel Tips

Healdsburg does not have much other than local transportation and taxis. There is a Charles M. Schultz (Sonoma County) Airport. Currently, Horizon Air [(800) 547-9308] has one flight in and out to Las Vegas, daily; two flights in and out to Los Angeles, daily; one flight in and out to Portland, OR, daily, and two flights out and one flight in from Seattle, daily. Avis, Enterprise, and Hertz rent cars at the airport, but it is only an eleven mile trip to Healdsburg, so a taxi might be less expensive. There is an Airport Express that busses folks from the Sonoma County Airport to either the San Francisco or Oakland airport for \$32 one way (only save \$2 on round trip ticket). Greyhound does not stop close to Healdsburg, although it must go right through the town, as it has stops in Santa Rosa and Ukiah along highway 101.