

FORMIC ACID TREATMENTS

SEMINARS FOR 2005

TIPS FOR THE PRACTICAL BEEKEEPER

A COMPLETE FOUR-HOUR COURSE ON:

- Status of formic acid use in the USA, Canada and worldwide.
- Testing for resistance and treatment efficacy.
- Effect of screen bottoms on fumigation and evaporation treatments.
- Why we use formic acid.
- Various methods of treatments.
- When to treat, missing the “Cue” and re-infestation.
- How to eliminate negative aspects for which formic acid is blamed.
- Safe use and handling of liquid formic acid.

The speaker, Bill Ruzicka, is a professional engineer who in 1980 became a bee breeder. He operates 260 hives for pollination and bee stock production in the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia Canada and produces 500 super nucs for Alberta each year. He is a keeper of “Vernon Bee Stock.” His operations are highly mechanized and extremely organized reflecting his years as an aircraft engineer. Bill holds a patent to the biological control of Varroa using the fungus *Hirsutella Thompsonii*. In search for a better formic acid treatment suitable for a commercial operation, he evaluated many existing methods of treatment and compiled a set of principles for successful treatment. The formic acid treatment he developed is now used in Canada, USA, New Zealand, Argentina and Spain. In 2002 thirty seminars were held in New Zealand and in 2003, Bill held 30 seminars and spoke at 4 state conventions in the USA. In 2004, 15 seminars were held in Canada and in the USA in both national and state conventions.

COMMITTED AND AVAILABLE DATES AND LOCATIONS FOR 2005:

Year Round MODESTO CALIFORNIA Practical instruction and courses

Register with: Matt Beekman Tel: 1 (209) 988-2823 Email: mattbeekman@usa.net

Deadline to book fall seminars is Sept. 15th / 05 – in order to have it published in the November issue.

If you wish to organize and reserve a seminar for 2005, please print and read “*How to book and Organize a Seminar*” available from the seminars link on the main menu of the www.mitegone.com website and then contact Bill or Susanne at billruzicka@mitegone.com, phone: 1-250-762-8156 or fax: 1-250-763-1206.

October 6th – 6pm. SALMON IDAHO – County Commissioner Annex / Meeting Room.

Register with: Dan Mudd Tel: 1 (208) 756-2863

October 13th – 6pm. MARION NORTH CAROLINA – County Administration Office.

Register with: Ray Revis Tel: 1 (828) 652-3524 Email: revisinc@wnconline.net

October 15th – Dec. 10th IN FLORIDA – FOR OTHER STATES You would have to fly me to your state meeting if you wish as Iowa did. I am available for local consultation and courses. I need volunteers to test a low dose acid application as a repellent for the small hive beetle.

Register with: Susanne Ruzicka Tel: 1 (250) 762-8156 Email: sruzicka@mitegone.com

November 10 – 12th – FLORIDA STATE MEETING - St. John's Agriculture Center near St. Augustine. Informal personal consultations about what's new in formic acid treatments with Bill Ruzicka.

Please book in advance by: Tel: 1 (250) 762-8156 Email: sruzicka@mitegone.com

December 10th – Jan. 5th FLYING HOME FOR CHRISTMAS AND BACK.

I can alternate dates and flights to one or two seminar locations.

Register with: Susanne Ruzicka Tel: 1 (250) 762-8156 Email: sruzicka@mitgone.com

January 10th – Jan. 14th (2006) A.H.P.A CONVENTION – HOUSTON TEXAS

Date and time to be announced.

Register with: Jerry Brown Tel: 1 (785) 778-2002 Email: brownhoneyfarms@hotmail.com

January 20th – Jan. 30th (2006) IN CALIFORNIA FOR THE ALMOND POLLINATORS

Almond Pollination is the best time to treat with acid. I will be available for personal instruction, consultation and group seminars.

Register with: Susanne Ruzicka Tel: 1 (250) 762-8156 Email: sruzicka@mitgone.com

For those who are unable to attend Bill's seminars, he created a News Bulletin and a 32 page Formic Acid Handbook and Manual of Treatments suitable for personal study or local bee club presentation. These articles are **available free** on the Internet by visiting www.mitgone.com. Click on the "New Information" tab on the left side of the homepage or scroll to the bottom of the home page and click on the "Print the 32-Page Handbook on Formic Acid Use" link. The handbook in tabloid production is available to clubs by mail for \$10 USD for 20 copies including postage.