



# The PSBA BUZZ

May 2007

Volume 8, Issue 5

EVENTS at the  
Arboretum Center  
Graham Visitor Center  
2200 Arboretum Drive E.,  
Seattle, WA 98112  
(Meetings are the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday  
of each month except July and  
December.)

**May 22, '07**

MEETING 6:30-9 pm  
Beginners Instruction  
6:30-7:15 pm  
Main Presentation:  
Dr. Sean O'Donnell, UW  
Prof of Psych will  
speak about his  
research with bumble  
bees

**June 26, '07**

Dr. Mike Burgett, OSU  
Prof. of Biology, will  
speak about SE Asian  
bees.

**Aug 28, '07**

Doris Mech, PSBA  
member will speak about  
her books about bees  
and sign books.

**Sept. 25, '07**

Kari Halopeter,  
Washington State Rep.  
on the Board of  
Directors of Western  
Apicultural Society of  
North America, will talk  
about WAS.

## Hive Calendar

### Monitor

Feed all hives if a dearth of nectar occurs. All medications except non-terramycin grease patties should be removed by mid-May if you intend to collect a honey surplus. Begin regular checks for swarm cells. Beware of crowding in the brood nest. Super in advance and no later than May 15 unless you are absolutely certain they have lots of room in the brood nest. Garage sales often have inexpensive canning jars. Optional spring requeening.

May brings the Dandelion, Clover, Scotts Broom (pollen), native blackberry (ground hugging variant of Himalayan blackberry), and geranium. Get ready for Himalayan blackberry in June

*-Based on Roy Thurber's Bee Chats, Tips and Gadgets*

## Announcements

### FIELD DAY, May 19, 2007

Registration starts at 9:30 am at the Washington Park Arboretum, Graham Visitor Center. Main presentation starts promptly at 10 am.

Main presentation will be lecture, question and answer, and hands-on construction by each attendee of a device for measuring the rate of varroa infestation by the powdered sugar or ether method. Main presentation will discuss what to look for in May, disease and treatment, and the standard tool kit for apiary visits. There will be Q and A on all things related to beekeeping.

Break for lunch at noon - bring your own or visit local places.

At 1 pm we all suit up and walk to the club apiary. Van Sherod and John de Groot will each take half the class and demonstrate proper technique for opening a hive, removing frames, examining for disease or poor brood pattern, measuring the rate of varroa infestation. Each participant will be given hands-on time. Some loaner bee suits will be available.

Oct. 23, '07

Group discussion faire - PSBA members discussion of everything

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# Club Notes

Honey is a delicious food that compliments many other foods with its sweet and varied flavors. But, more and more, the medicinal qualities of honey are being re-discovered. Historically, honey has been used as a folk remedy in cultures around the world for millennia. Honey has been touted as a cure for many illnesses, but rarely confirmed by science. Before the 1940's, when antibiotics were discovered and used extensively, honey was used for infections, with often miraculous results. Just yesterday an article in the Seattle PI discussed research into the use of honey; comparing it to commonly used drugs

[http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/opinion/313887\\_honey02.html](http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/opinion/313887_honey02.html) .

Honey is currently being used in many countries for infections, both inside and outside of the body. A diluted solution of honey has been used for stomach problems, ulcers and bacterial infections. Honey has the characteristic of helping with constipation and diarrhea. Although usually bacteria thrive in sugars, honey has an acidic characteristic which discourages bacterial growth.

Most of us have heard about using honey for wounds. In many places of the world, honey was used as a salve for cuts, burns and other skin problems. Honey contains a substance called glucose oxidase. When combined with water and oxygen, glucose oxidase forms gluconic acid and hydrogen peroxide.

<http://itotd.com/articles/218/honey-as-medicine/>

That means that honey can be used as an antiseptic with less damage to the skin. I have been told that honey, as long as it is not heated, has curative properties, from many people throughout the years.

So, honey is much more than just a great tasting treat. It has healing qualities that people are becoming introduced to. As health and natural products continue to become a focus of our modern culture and continue to be commonplace in many other countries, we find ourselves on the cutting edge of an ancient tradition.

*Richard Sirota, PSBA president*

# Bees In the News

## The Latest on CCD

Colony Collapse Disorder is still not understood, but until then, we can do the best we know how. Please read the latest from the

<http://www.ento.psu.edu/MAAREC/pressReleases/CCDRecommendations.pdf>

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# April Meeting

TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2007

Beginners Instruction: 6:30–7:15 pm

Van Sherod's beginner lesson precedes the main presentation.

Main Presentation: 7:30–9 pm

BUMBLE BEE BIOLOGY- WORKINGS OF A SIMPLE SOCIETY

Sean O'Donnell, Associate Professor of Animal Behavior Psychology, will present results from several years of research conducted at UW on Washington State bumble bees (genus *Bombus*), in collaboration with students and Dr. Robin Foster (University of Puget Sound). His studies have focused on individual variation in behavior, with the aim of understanding ecological, social, and physiological factors that influence the role that workers play in the colony, though he is also interested in how workers are integrated to yield adaptive colony behavior. Bumble bees smaller and simpler societies make a fascinating comparison with honey bee colonies.

## A little about Sean

Sean earned his PhD in Entomology and Zoology at the Univ. of Wisconsin in 1993, working on paper wasp behavior. He did postdoctoral work at UC Davis in Rob Page's honey bee lab, focusing on behavioral genetics. He's been on the faculty at UW in the Animal Behavior program since 1996, working mainly on social insects (bumble bees, paper wasps, and more recently army ants).

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# Apitherapy Corner

## Apitherapy and Warts

Warts are infections caused by a virus in the human papillomavirus family. The small bumps may appear anywhere on the body and are contagious on contact. Since honey bee venom has antiviral properties it can be used in the treatment of warts. Sting directly on the wart with one or more bees. If the wart is larger as in some plantar warts, stings can be placed in and around the wart. Some warts have disappeared after just one sting; most take stings over a longer period to recede.

An apitherapeutic alternative to bee stings is using propolis which also has antiviral properties useful to combat warts. Take a piece of sticky propolis from your hive and work it into a thin plaster large enough to cover the wart and hold it in place with a bandage. In addition to the antiviral power of propolis, covering warts seems to work in two other ways, it "smothers" the wart and irritates the wart and the skin around it, causing the body to attack it. This is also the reason duct tape has been successful in removing warts.

*Kate McWiggins, Certified Apitherapist*

We're on the Web!

[www.pugetsoundbees.org](http://www.pugetsoundbees.org)

[www.psbees.org](http://www.psbees.org)

[www.beegeek.com](http://www.beegeek.com)

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# Apiary Report

APIARY WORK PARTY NOTICE – MAY 13, 12:30

There are several hives in the apiary now, and they need attention. They include 2 packages installed before the April meeting and some swarms that have been put in empty equipment. These hives need to be checked and fed to be sure they don't starve. All hives need to be checked to be sure that they have healthy queens and enough space for expansion. Regular work parties are necessary to do these tasks, mow the lawn, and keep the apiary tidy, and maintain equipment. The first regular work party of the year is scheduled for Sunday, May 13 from 12:30 until done, probably about 3:00.

*Bruce Becker, Apiary Manager*

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## Fun Bee Facts

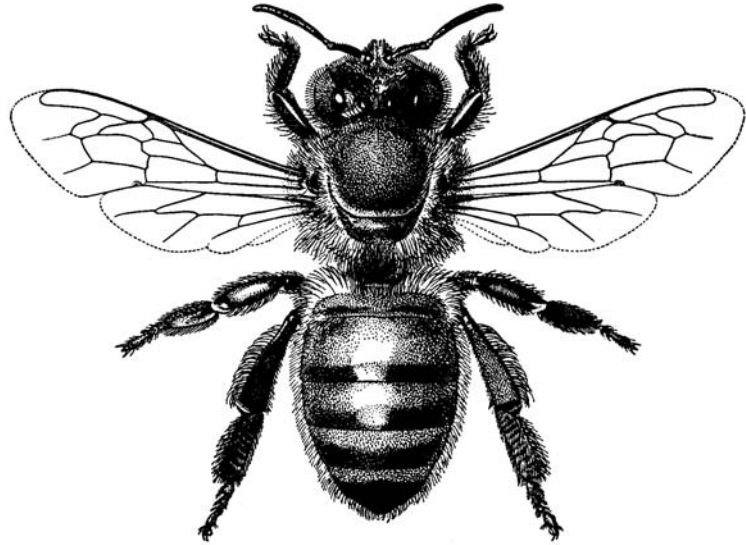
- Bees maintain a temperature of 92-93 degrees Fahrenheit in their brood nest regardless of whether the outside temperature is 110 or -40 degrees.
  - Honey bees produce beeswax from eight paired glands on the underside of their abdomen.
  - Honey bees can fly up to 8.5 miles from their nest in search of food. Usually they fly one or two miles away from their hive to forage on flowers.
  - Worker honey bees live for about 4 weeks in the spring or summer but up to 6 weeks during the winter.
  - The queen may lay 600-800 or even 1,500 eggs each day during her 3 or 4 year lifetime. This daily egg production may equal her own weight. She is constantly fed and groomed by attendant worker bees.
  - A populous colony may contain 40,000 to 60,000 bees during the late spring or early summer.
  - The brain of a worker honey bee is about a cubic millimeter but has the densest neuropile tissue of any animal.
  - Honey has been used for millenia as a topical dressing for wounds since microbes cannot live in it. It also produces hydrogen peroxide. Honey has even been used to embalm bodies such as that of Alexander the Great.
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## Marketplace

Got gear? Sell your stuff here!

Short ads are run for free for members of PSBA! The fee for non-members is \$25. Commercial ad rates: \$15 for 1/4 page, \$50 for 1/2 page, or \$75 for a full page. Send your ads to [editor@psbees.org](mailto:editor@psbees.org).

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