



The PSBA Newsletter

Aug 2004

2004, Issue 7

EVENTS at the Arboretum Visitors Center

2200 Arboretum Drive
East, Seattle

Saturday, July 17

ANNUAL PICNIC

at the Arboretum

11 am - 3:00 pm

Panel and Open

Discussion: *Bee Dances*

Tuesday, Aug. 24

MEETING 6:30 -9:00 pm

Beginners Instruction

6:30 – 7:15 pm

Main Presentation:

Diseases and IPM

7:30 – 9 pm

Saturday, Sept. 11

Fall Trustee Meeting

9:30 AM to 1:30 PM

At Tim Celeski's office

Saturday, Sept. 18

Seattle Tilth

Festival

Educational Booth and
Honey Sale

Sunday, Sept. 19

Bug Day at the

Burke Museum

Educational Booth and
Honey Sale

Hive Calendar

Year-to-year variation in temperature or rainfall, hills that block or funnel prevailing winds, northern or southern exposures, nearby lakes or rivers, and other geographic features near your apiary will speed or delay the blossoming time by as much as three weeks. Use the hive calendar as a guide.

July

End of lowland and beginning of higher elevation Blackberry. Dandelion, Clover, and Fireweed

Check for swarm cells each 7 – 10 days. Requeen as soon as the blackberry flow is over. Harvest and extract capped supers. Optionally, migrate to the mountains for fireweed. Collect and freeze pollen for use next spring. Bottle and sell honey and beeswax.

August

Dandelion & Clover in lowlands. Fireweed and Pearly Everlasting at higher elevations

Check for swarm cells each 7 to 10 days. Requeen. Warm temperatures improve the effect of all mite medications. Use medications after supers are off and per manufacturer's recommendation. Remove and extract capped supers. Collect and freeze pollen for use next spring. Bottle and sell honey and beeswax.

September

Some minor flows

Migrate hives back to lowlands after the fireweed and pearly everlasting flows end. Swarming becomes uncommon. Medicate as needed. Decide which hives to carry through the winter and combine the others. Bottle and sell honey and beeswax.

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

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Apiary Report

Report of the Work Party on June 26

Rob Stevens, Thom Lee, and Ann McClure volunteered at the late June work party. The lawn was mowed and all hives inspected. Thom noted the incredible smell of abundant basswood and lindens (*Tilia americana* and *Tilia cordata*) in the arboretum and on the drive approaching the arboretum. These trees are a major honey source in the Eastern United States. The nectar from these trees flows abundantly and makes a distinctive minty flavored honey. The Tilias normally

Tuesday, Sept. 28

MEETING 6:30 -9:00 pm

Beginners Instruction

6:30 – 7:15 pm

Main Presentation:

Nectar Source Plants

7:30 – 9 pm

Saturday, Oct. 2

King County Fall

Harvest Festival

Educational

Booth and

Honey Sale

Tuesday, Oct. 26

MEETING 6:30 -9:00 pm

Beginners Instruction

6:30 – 7:15 pm

Presentation: Mead

Making

7:30 – 9 pm

Tuesday, Nov. 16

MEETING 6:30 -9:00 pm

Election of Officers,

Potluck Dinner,

Tall Tales, and Awards

(The third Tuesday instead of the fourth - Bees don't like to compete with turkeys.)

December

We do not meet in

December.

Reindeer and honeybees don't play well together.

We're on the Web!

www.pugetsoundbees.org

www.psbees.org

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start blooming in the middle of July. With the warm spring weather, these trees are blooming as much as four weeks ahead of schedule! Normally the bees have been moved to the mountains by the time the Tiliacs are blooming so our apiary usually misses this flow. Hopefully we'll get a flavorful bounty due to this natural mis-scheduling.

We noted a number of hives have socked honey away in the brood frames, right in the middle of capped brood. We couldn't explain this but it seems like they would only do this when they are short on space. None of the hives actually were short on space, but perhaps the queen excluders made them think they were.

Hive number one: The queen has moved up out of the bottom (of three) western brood boxes. We didn't rotate since there was no evidence of swarming. Hive one is the worst offender of the honey in the brood chamber problem. Very little honey is stored above the queen excluder.

Hive number two is a very heavy propolizer. On the day we inspected, propolis was actually dripping from the inner cover. It has a very strong population but is more aggressive than the other hives. One super is full of honey and they are working on the second.

Hive number three has a very light population and evidence of hatched supercedure cells. No queen was found but 5 uncapped supercedure cells have big fat healthy larvae and royal jelly in them. These were left to restore the hive. No brood was seen at all.

Hive number four is very light in population. The May inspection noted damaged queen cells but we noticed eggs and a small but good brood pattern. Very little honey stores seen.

Hive number five has evidence of chalk brood at the entrance. This looks like tiny pieces of white and grey chalk which are actually dead larvae that have been killed by a fungus, *Ascosphaera apis*. The workers deposit the mummies at the hive entrance. This disease does not have any approved treatment but it has only a minor effect on a hive, rarely killing it. We removed the sliding tray of the screened bottom board in hopes of increasing the ventilation of the hive. This hive is suffering from a dearth of groceries; though in the supers they are storing honey.

Hive number six is doing great. It has great honey stores in the brood box as well as one full western honey super and half of a second. It has a strong population with a great brood pattern.

Hive number seven is extremely docile and calm with a beautiful brood pattern. The lowest western in the brood box has no brood but lots of eggs. They have stored one super of extra honey.

Hive number eight has great stores in the brood boxes but very little honey in the supers. We saw the queen twice, once in the lower box and once in the middle box, which spurred Thom to quip "she is very friendly, gregarious and well marked." This hive has a strong population and the queen lays a nice pattern.

Hive number nine shows signs of wanting to swarm. A swarm cup was seen on the bottom of the bottom box. This is unusual since, I believe, this hive is from a new package. The queen was seen however and she seemed to be doing well. One super is half full and the second is near empty.

Thanks to Rob Stevens for an excellent Apiary Report

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Work-party Schedule

Period	Leader
August 1 – 15	Mary McIsaac & Tim Comstock
August 16 – 31	Mary McIsaac & Tim Comstock
September 1 – 15	Paul Knutzen
September 16 - 30	Paul Knutzen
October 1 – 15	Scott Enright
October 16 - 31	Scott Enright

Thanks to all who participate in work parties.

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Club Notes

Get to know your club officers:

Person	Position	Hives	Second-favorite hobby
Tim Celeski	president	3	cold fusion research
Nancy Becket	vice president	2	wearing shoes on opposite foot to see if anyone notices
Paul Knutzen	treasurer	20	kumquats
Dawn Corl	secretary	8	authentic 11 th century Celtic curses
John deGroot	newsletter ed.	6	aggregious inexactitudes
Cara Mathison	adopt-a-hive	2	finding out what happens if you remove that label from the mattress
Scott Enright	swarm list	6	conversational Klingon
Cary Therriault	migration	20	inimitable impersonations
Bruce Becker	apiary manager	10	beekeeping laws of pre-Christian Ireland
Van Sherod	chief teacher	20	repairing perpetual motion machines
Bill Rahr	supreme guru	6	nationally famous collection of pedigreed bolts

(Don't blame Tim for this one)

Truck Hauling Bees Crashes

If this happen in our area, would we be ready to help?

Wednesday, June 16, 2004 BOZEMAN, Montana (AP) -- A tractor-trailer overturned on a curve on a highway, spilling its load of hundreds of bee hives and unleashing some nine million angry honey bees.

The bees buzzed furiously as driver Lane Miller, his arm scraped to the bone, struggled to flee his rig after it overturned Monday in Bear Trap Canyon west of Bozeman. The truck slid across the highway before coming to a stop between guardrails. "I had to kick the windshield out of the front of the cab and the bees were on me from that moment," said Miller, 41. "I've never felt so much fear in

my life." Miller walked away from the crash, and two people picked him up and took him to the hospital. Miller underwent surgery on his arm and suffered bruises and about 20 stings.

The state road was closed for 14 hours as crews and beekeepers cleaned up the 512 hives Miller was hauling from Idaho to North Dakota. In spite of bee suits and extra clothing, beekeeper Gary Clark said he counted about 60 stings of his own. "Everybody had literally thousands of bees on them, in their hats and on their suits," Clark said. "When we pulled the boxes out, big globs of them would fall on us."

Firefighters directing traffic also suffered stings. "The bees were so agitated you could barely see the beekeepers or the wreckage itself, just because of the cloud of bees that were swarming," said fire chief Shawn Christiansen. It wasn't until 3 a.m. Tuesday that a tow truck got in to haul out the tractor-trailer, leaving behind pools of honey from the overturned hives.

This could happen here. How well would we respond? Newsletter Editor

August Meeting

The Beginners Instruction

Seasonally appropriate procedures and concerns.

Main Presentation:

Bee Diseases and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques.

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Do the Puyallup in your Beesuit!

Dear Puget Sound Beekeepers:

You probably think it's a little early to think about anything to do with the Puyallup Fair (Western Washington State Fair), but I assure you it's not early at all. In fact, the Pierce County Beekeepers only have 1 general meeting and our picnic left to get over 120 volunteers needed to provide adequate coverage for the fair. Every year we struggle getting volunteers and every year we get way too few exhibits for our Honey Show. You might say that the Puyallup (Western Washington) Fair is in Puyallup and it should be totally up to the Pierce County Beekeepers to run and staff the fair. As you probably know, the Western Washington State Fair Honey Show and Exhibit represents ALL the beekeepers associations and ALL the beekeepers from all Western Washington. Yet because it is in Puyallup, the Pierce County Beekeepers carry over 90% of the load to put it on. We have 3 signs up on the top of the booth just under the Washington State Beekeepers sign; one of the signs reads: "Puget Sound Beekeepers". During the 2.5 weeks of the fair, thousands upon thousands of people visit our booth. When people come to our booth from all over, we provide them with information about all beekeeping associations in the state. You might even have some members in your association who have found their way to you from our booth. Unfortunately we only get 2 or 3 people from both the Puget Sound Beekeepers and the Olympia Beekeepers to help out volunteering. We would appreciate more active participation from other associations in Western Washington. We are also in desperate need of more exhibits entered in our honey show for judging. I call upon you the officers of Puget Sound Beekeepers to please, at every meeting from now until September, to

spread interest in either volunteering or exhibit entry for the honey show at the Puyallup Fair and to indicate the great importance it has on advertising, membership, quality of products, and education for our beekeeping industry. The Agriculture Premium list has already been published by the fair for anyone interested in entering exhibits. Call (253) 845-1771 to get on the list for a free copy of the Agriculture Premium List. (or if they give me their name and address, I will send them a copy of the Division IX (honey show) section of the premium list. I have made a few changes to the rules which make it easier to enter items. 1. I've extended the time of exhibit entry from 1 day to 2 days to allow more time to enter exhibits: Wed and Thursday (Sept 8th and 9th). Judging will occur on Thursday evening. Ribbons will be awarded on Friday morning. 2. Instead of having an Association Exhibit category, I changed it to an Individual Education or Beekeeping art Exhibit category. This will allow more individual participation. 3. Also, for pollen exhibits, I'm allowing both the queenline jars and the 4oz jars (note: for honey is still ONLY the queenline jars). All this is stated in the Premium List. Remind people that to volunteer is a very fun, educational and exciting experience. Each person volunteering 4 hours to the booth will receive a free ticket to the fair (\$10 value), couples volunteering will receive 2 tickets (\$20 value) and each couple or carload will receive a free parking ticket (\$6 value). In addition, each entry made to the fair will receive an additional free ticket and parking ticket. Here is a list of the times of the fair. We have 3 four hour shifts per day for 17 days:

Fri. & Sat. Sept 10 & 11	10am-2pm---2pm-6:30pm---6:30pm-11pm
Sun. to Thur. Sept 12 to 16	10am-2pm---2pm-6pm ---6pm-10pm
Fri. & Sat. Sept 17 & 18	10am-2pm---2pm-6:30pm---6:30pm-11pm
Sun. to Thur. Sept 19 to 23	10am-2pm---2pm-6pm ---6pm-10pm
Fri. & Sat. Sept 24 & 25	10am-2pm---2pm-6:30pm---6:30pm-11pm
Sun. Sept 26	10am-2pm---2pm-6pm ---6pm-10pm

Anyone interested in volunteering please contact me (preferably after 5pm) or leave a message at: (253) 921-5612. Leave the shift you would like, your address so I can send them tickets and your telephone number. Sincerely Louis A. Matej
Coordinator: Division IX, Honey Show, Western Wash. St. Fair VP-Pierce County Beekeepers

Thanks to Louis A. Matej for this notice

Bee Q & A

Question

How do I work my bees without gloves and without taking a lot of stings?

Answer

Heavily smoke your hands. Periodically, apply more smoke to your hands. Of course, you should choose wisely the situations in which you do this. No nectar flow, cold temperatures, cloudy skies, and a populous hive that just has been knocked over would be an unwise time to experiment with this technique.

Thanks to Brandon Clayton for this hint

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Reminder

Meeting Etiquette

Conversations in the back of the meeting room make it difficult to hear the presentation. Disturbers of the IPM presentation will become exhibit "A" in the infection demonstration.

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Local Queens

No, not beauty queens - Honeybee Queens!

We all are fortunate to have Brandon Clayton raising queens in our local area. If you discover that one of your hives is queenless, no longer are you at the mercy of the US mail. You can get a replacement the same day. Everyone who keeps bees more than a year or two has hives that become queenless unexpectedly. A local source of good queens is a big advantage.

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Foraging

Local Queens for Sale

LOCAL QUEENS from good stock will be available at this month's meeting; marked \$10 ea. For pickup in Woodinville, call Brandon Clayton at 425-486-3206. If you have a queen that you would like Brandon to breed from, that also is available.

Extractor for sale

Diederik Bron, from Sedro-Woolley in the Skagit Valley Beekeepers Ass'n, is selling his 2-frame Dadant extractor for \$150. The phone number is 360-856-5454 Ex 2.

Short ads are run for free for members of PSBA! . Commercial ad rates: \$15 for _ page, \$30 for _ page, or \$60 for a full page.

Round Dances

Volunteers wanted for work parties

Tim Comstock and Mary McIsaac will lead work parties on Saturday, July 24 - rain date July 25 - and on Saturday, August 21 - rain date on the 22nd. Contact either Tim or Mary closer to the dates for details: Mary McIsaac at 206-568-0042 or mzmarym@yahoo.com or Tim Comstock at timrox@comcast.net

Volunteers wanted for Public Outreach Events

Seattle Tilth, Bug Day at the Burke, and King County Harvest Festival will be upon us soon. Contact the president to volunteer.

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