



# The PSBA BUZZ

November 2005

Volume 6, Issue 10

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.)

## Nov. 15

MEETING 6:30–9 pm  
Election of Officers,  
Potluck Dinner, Tall  
Tales, and Awards  
“History of PSBA,” by  
Bill Rahr

*(NOTE: This is the third  
Tuesday of the month  
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.*

## Hive Calendar

### Harvest, Medicate, and Bottle

This is definitely the season to indulge in crafts from the hive. Beyond mere honey, so many different crafts can be created from the harvest. Candles from your own clarified beeswax have a warm glow more pure than paraffin wax made from petroleum. Lots of creams, lotions, and balms include beeswax, royal jelly and honey. Did you know that you can make your own soap from your hive products. Many soap recipes call for honey and beeswax to be mixed with oils and lye. One recipe is included later on in newsletter..

## Club Notes

Hey beekeepers,

I am turning on the heat and wearing extra layers, hope you are all doing well as we enter into our last month of fall. Brrrr.

This will be my last message as I am stepping down as president. It has been a privilege to serve this club. We are a wonderful group of diverse and experienced people. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

As we approach the winter months we will hopefully be busy working on our own projects and with the club. PSBA will be building some supers and perhaps put on a work party to build equipment. We are looking for a web manager; this would require little time and help our club lots.

I want to congratulate Van Sherod for winning the beekeeper of the year award. Van has contributed to the club in so many ways, we are thankful. To have a strong club we all need to contribute, this allows our club to reach out to new members and to accomplish projects that are important. PSBA would be doing much less without Van in our club. All the trips to the mountains and leading the beginners meeting, Van is irreplaceable as an energetic and disciplined member. Thank you for your time and energy.

—Tim Comstock, PSBA president

Jan. 24, '06

MEETING 6:30–9 pm  
Beginners Instruction  
6:30–7:15 pm  
Main Presentation:  
“Commercial  
Beekeeping”  
7:30–9 pm

### PSBA OFFICERS

#### *President*

Tim Comstock  
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#### *Secretary*

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### PSBA TRUSTEES

John Keenan  
John de Groot  
Mary McIsaac  
Bruce Becker  
Dawn Corl  
Laurie Aholt  
Rob Stevens  
Bob Clark  
Tim Celeski  
Richard Sirota  
Wes Uhlman

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# An Interview with the WSBA, State Beekeeper of the Year, our very own, Van Sherod

## Statistics:

Number of hives: 20

Last winter's loss: approx. 75% (even Van lost as many as you)

Beekeeper for: 21 years

Varroa Mite treatment of choice: Sucroside

**Buzz:** How did you get started in beekeeping?

**Van:** I was installing cabinets for a beekeeper in Kingston and became interested in his hives. I ended up trading a beautiful custom-made dining table for my first hive. Now I know that he got the better side of the deal. As I was bringing it back on the ferry, it started leaking honey because I hadn't provided enough ventilation. That was my first hard-learned beekeeping lesson. Back in those days, I didn't use any protective gear. Not even a veil. Before I knew better, I even took a frame out and showed it to a group of school kids. Nobody had any protective clothing on at all. Not until I got stung after opening a new hive when it was cold out did I realize that I had to worry about protective clothing.

**Buzz:** What types of honey do you harvest?

**Van:** I get many different types of honey from maple, blackberry, raspberry, fireweed, pearly everlasting and even a little bit of knotweed from my backyard.

**Buzz:** I understand that you have held a number of positions with the club?

**Van:** I used to be the president and vice president and of course I've been teaching the beginners portion of the meeting for years. I've also been the representative for the WSBA for our region as well. I'm currently on the WSBA master beekeepers committee. The master beekeepers program will be going through changes soon. The Journeyman level will probably be offered as a correspondence class.

**Buzz:** Congratulations on being honored with the Beekeeper of the Year. This is about the biggest honor that can be bestowed to a beekeeper. Did you know that it was coming?

**Van:** I had no idea. I've been going to the State Conference for 18 years now. This was just going to be one more conference. As I was approaching the podium, the speaker made the statement that he had never received so many letters recommending a person. I sincerely want to thank everyone who wrote a letter.

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## Apiary Report

The bees have been put to bed for the winter, but work is afoot to improve the apiary to fit in with the Arboretum's master plan. A group has started to compile ideas to improve the site including a new shed, a new fence and improving our southerly and easterly exposure. This will obviously need to be integrated with whatever the arboretum is planning. In the coming months we hope to be working on a neighborhood grant to help pay for all of this.

*Newsletter Editor*

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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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# November Potluck

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2005 (THIRD TUESDAY, NOT THE FOURTH)

Join us for the social meeting of the year. Bill Rahr will provide a "History of the PSBA."

## Elections

Our only general business meeting of the year! But don't panic, the business portion only takes about a half hour. We will elect officers for the coming year and hear year-end reports on the state of the club treasury and the apiary. If you are at all interested in helping with some of the clubs future as a trustee or an officer, please talk with Tim Comstock. You can email him at [president@psbees.org](mailto:president@psbees.org). The rest of the meeting will be pure fun.

## Awards and Tall Tales

Got some tall tales or wacky stories? We will be telling tall tales and swapping stories. It's lots of fun. Think about the 'interesting' things that happened this year and polish your yarns. We also will recognize those among the membership that have contributed to our success this year.

## Annual Pot Luck Dinner

Bring some food to share for the pot luck dinner. The club will provide plates and plastic tableware.

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# Bee Crafts

For those of you interested in more products from the hive, here's a recipe for making soap from your own honey and beeswax. There's a lot to learn about soapmaking and a lot of safety concerns working with lye. A good place to start learning is <http://www.millersoap.com/>. This recipe is only meant to entice you. It is **extremely** strongly advised that you do more research and reading on your own.

### Ingredients

- 54 oz. olive oil
- 16 oz. palm oil
- 16 oz. coconut oil
- 48 oz. lard
- 42 oz. water
- 18 oz. lye
- 1.6 oz beeswax
- 1.6 oz. honey

### Step-by-step procedure

1. Mix the water and lye together by adding the lye to the water. Be very careful about fumes and spills. Just mixing these two ingredients makes a lot of heat. (keep the lye away from aluminum, plastic and stainless steel are good choices)
2. Melt all the oils and beeswax together.
3. Let the oil and water mixtures cool until they are both about 100°F.
4. Add the lye water to the oils.
5. Stir with a stick blender to light trace. Add the honey.
6. Bring to full trace.
7. Pour in molds or a tray. Cover and insulate. Should be cured in 7 days.

# Foraging

[Favorite photos](#)

Amazing: A bicycle built for 260,000.



Newsis / Kim Dae-byok

## Marketplace

[Got gear? Sell your stuff here!](#)

I have some miscellaneous equipment for sale. Moving back to Canada and don't want to deal with the friendly custom agents.

- 1 Deep-\$5.00
  - 4 Shallows-\$5.00 each
  - 2 Westerns, new-\$10.00 each
- All in decent shape and freshly painted

18 Western duragilt frames, in various stages of drawn, partially drawn, and undrawn.

Please contact Lianne Shyry 425-277-1515 or email [Lshyry@comcast.net](mailto:Lshyry@comcast.net)

*Short ads are run for free for members of PSBA! The fee for non-members is \$25.  
Commercial ad rates: \$15 for ¼ page, \$50 for ½ page, or \$75 for a full page.  
Send your ads to [editor@psbees.org](mailto:editor@psbees.org).*

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