



The PSBA BUZZ

November 2007

Volume 8, Issue 10

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

Nov. 13, '07

Tall tales and potluck,
Nominations and votes
for new officers and
trustees, recognition of
outstanding members

Hive Calendar

Read, Plan, Repair, Sell

Do not disturb hives. Keep entrances free from ice. Store honey supers with Paradichlorobenze (see Control Wax Moth on page 3. Read technical books and journals. Make plans for the coming year: medication, requeening, equipment purchases, and migrations. Buy, build, and repair woodenware and equipment. Buy the bottles and packaging you will use this year. Package and sell last year's honey, wax and propolis. Render old combs into clean wax. Make beeswax candles.

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. A number of recipes are included later on in newsletter.

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

November Potluck

7:00, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2007 (THIRD TUESDAY, NOT THE FOURTH)

Join us for the social meeting of the year. Trustees and officers will meet at 6:00.

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 Richard Sirota. You can email him at 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 recalling our yarns from the season and swapping mistake which we have learned from. It's lots of fun. Think about the 'interesting' things that happened this year and polish your anecdote. 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.

PSBA OFFICERS

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PSBA TRUSTEES

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Rob Stevens
Allan Timlick
Laurie Aholt
Nancy Beckett
Jim Olsen
Tim Comstock

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Club Notes

Benefits of joining a group or club

Do you ever think your life is predictable? You go to work, you come home, you go to sleep, and, the next day it starts all over again. Do you ever think of changing that routine? Joining a club, allows you to be around people who have common interests and you look forward to an activity. These are healthy activities that help with boredom, depression and isolation. Just pick an interest. It doesn't have to be something you know a lot about or already have as a hobby. It can be something that you have thought about and want to learn more. If it is already a hobby of yours, it is a great opportunity to attend meetings where you have something in common with others.

A club is a great way to meet new friends. The first step is to go to a meeting. Check out the website, newsletter, or the Internet. Obtain information about it and take a chance and go. Almost everyone who goes to a club meeting for the first time is a little nervous. I promise you the more times you go, the less apprehension you will have and you will enjoy the experience. However, sometimes just going is not enough. You may need to walk up to someone new and talk to them. You can ask questions or talk about your experiences. You will be surprised how friendly most people are and they usually are more than willing to talk with you. Many people are shy and don't take the initiative to talk with a new person, but once they are approached, they warm right up and respond with friendliness.

So, look into a club or group and become involved. At the Puget Sound Beekeepers Association, we are always looking for new members. We enjoy teaching about the hobby and sharing the ups and downs. Become knowledgeable about something. As you get interested in a new activity or interest, you become more interesting yourself. You have another subject to talk about and find it is easier to talk with new people. That way you increase your social network and increase your health.

Richard Sirota, PSBA president

Bees in the News

PBS, Nature Series, Silence of the Bees

On October 28th, Nature premiered an excellent one hour program on Colony Collapse Disorder. Check their webpage for previews, videos and up to date information on the state of research and how Israeli Acute Paralysis Virus may be related. An excellent segment and related webpage on "What you can do to help" states that one of the best things that you can do is become a backyard beekeeper and join a local beekeeper's association. Puget Sound Beekeepers Association would fit that bill! Other recommendations are to plant a bee garden with tips on species and landscaping.

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/bees/>

We're on the Web!

www.pugetsoundbees.org

www.psbees.org

www.beegeek.com

60 Minutes: What's Wrong with the Bees?

On October 28th, CBS' 60 Minutes had a segment on Colony Collapse Disorder. Watch the whole segment here:

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2007/10/25/60minutes/main3407762.shtml>

and watch additional clips and interviews on Yahoo's News page

<http://60minutes.yahoo.com/segment/105/bees>

Honey Heals Wounds Effectuated by MRSA

Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) (usually pronounced in short as "Mursa") has been getting a good deal of attention lately since a recent report in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) announced that MRSA has become the most common cause of soft tissue and skin infections among emergency department patients in the US - it can cause serious, and even fatal invasive disease, explain the authors. It has even been stated that deaths from MRSA may exceed those caused by AIDS.

http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jrebX68bX2aB_Su54Hk5MIzA_9CQD8SAS9BO1

If they only realized that the cure could be found in our backyard. Honey may protect wounds from the MRSA. <http://apitherapy.blogspot.com/2007/10/honey-can-protect-wounds-from-superbugs.html>

The Journal of Wound Care particularly has analyzed using Manuka honey from New Zealand to treat the feared disease.

<http://apitherapy.blogspot.com/2007/10/honey-heals-wounds-infected-with-mrsa.html>

HONEY BEE FUN FACTS

- Unlike the stingers in wasps, the honeybee's stinger is barbed. Once the stinger pierces a mammal's soft skin, the attached venom pouch pumps a mixture containing melittin, histamine, and other enzymes into the target. When the bee pulls away, the barb anchors the stinger in the victim's body. The bee leaves the stinger and venom pouch behind and soon dies due to abdominal rupture. When a honeybee stings another insect, such as a honey-plundering moth, she does not leave her stinger planted in the invader. As she retreats from the insect victim, her barbed stinger tears through the insect's exoskeleton.
- During the mating flight several drones will deposit upwards of 90 million sperm in the queen's oviducts. The queen, however, will not use all the sperm. She stores about seven million sperm in a special pouch, the spermatheca.
- In one day a queen can lay her weight in eggs. She will lay one egg per minute, day and night, for a total of 1,500 eggs over a 24-hour period and 200,000 eggs in a year. Should she stop her frantic egg-laying pace, her workers will move a recently laid egg into a queen cell to produce her replacement.
- While workers select which fertilized eggs to brood in queen or worker cells, the queen decides the sex of her young. In a mechanism of sex determination known as haplodiploidy, fertilized eggs will become female offspring, while unfertilized eggs will become males.

Beeswax Lip Balms

Sure you can make candles out of beeswax, but there is so much more that can be done. Why buy Burt's Bees lip balm when you can make it yourself or even better...compete against Burt!

Almond Oil/Honey Lip Balm

8 oz. sweet almond oil
1.5-2.5 oz. beeswax
1 t. honey

Melt almond oil and beeswax together in a pyrex measuring container. Whisk in honey and pour into containers.

Cocoa Butter Lip Balm

2.5 oz. cocoa butter
2.6 oz. beeswax
1.4 oz. sweet almond oil

Melt all together and then pour into containers.

Flavored Lip Balm

2 tsp. beeswax
7-8 tsp. light oil (sweet almond oil, castor, jojoba oil)
1 tsp. honey
5 drops flavoring

Melt oil and beeswax until wax is melted. Remove from heat and add honey. Blend thoroughly, stirring constantly. Add flavorings and put into containers.

Honey Lip Cream

© Country Living
1 tsp. honey
1 tsp melted beeswax
2 tsp almond oil

Melt honey and beeswax in a double boiler, add almond oil. Put into a jar and shake. Pour into molds or jars and allow cream to set for at least 10 minutes before using.

From Halderman.net soap pages. <http://www.halderman.net/soap/index.html>

Marketplace

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

Honey Creek Farms, a wholesaler of honey and honey related food products, located near Vancouver, WA is offering the new Gamber Inverted Flip Top bottle. They currently sell 16 oz bottles in cases of 12 for \$7.50. (The price may come down if they can purchase truckloads rather than pallet loads.)

<http://www.honeycreekfarms.com/>

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.

