

PSBA MARCH MEETING



March 27, 2000
at the Arboretum's
Graham Visitors
Center, 2200 Arbo-
retum Drive East,
Seattle. Meetings
are regularly sched-
uled on the 4th Tues-
day of each month
except July and De-
cember.

Beginner's meeting will be combined with the
Main Program: 6:30 – 9:30 PM

Topic: Beekeeping Equipment

Topic: A hands-on Build Your Wooden ware day.
Each member should bring a plastic tarp, his / her
tools, and unassembled bottom boards, hive bodies,
frames, foundation, wire, lids, etc. We will have
working locations set up in each corner of the room,
where members may assemble their wooden ware
alongside other members who will be doing the same.
Observe how others do it ! Learn from your fellow
club members! Teach others how you assemble your
stuff ! Those who fail to bring their own wooden
ware will be put to work on the club's equipment.

Next Trustee Meeting: Wed. April 4, 2001: 6:30PM in
the Graham Center at Arboretum

Upcoming Events –

BEE-TOPIA. PSBA's Spring Field Day will have a new
agenda. It will be Sat. May 19, 2001. More details
soon!

APIMONDIA 2001 Durban, South Africa. Oct. 28 to
Nov. 1, 2001. Details at www.apimondia2001.com.

Beekeeping News

Almanac for Puget Sound Beekeepers

Adapted from Roy Thurber *Bee Chats, Tips and Gadgets*

MONTH of APRIL.

Maple trees blossom the first week of April.

Check to see if you have eggs indicating a laying queen. On a 55 degree day with no wind, a frame can be examined for no more than 10 seconds without chilling the brood. Clean the floor boards. Bees should now be flying freely and carrying in quantities of pollen. Colonies that require feeding should be given syrup made with equal parts sugar and water. Starvation is most common in late Spring. Do not expose syrup to foraging bees outside the hive. Use top feeders. Feed Fumidil-B to control Nosema. Feed Terramycin before bees start collecting maple nectar if you plan to harvest honey from this flow. Check for Varroa mite load and treat if indicated.

Requeen about the last week of April or the first week of May. Reverse the 2 lower hive bodies as the cherry blossoms show color, making sure that the queen is in the lower box.

Month of March (See February Issue)

ALERT DUES ARE PAST DUE.

If you have not yet paid your PSBA dues, please wait no longer. Scott will be printing the Year 2000 membership list on March 27, 2000. So if you want to be on the list, the absolute last final deadline is the March 26th meeting.

lengths.

Swarm List:

If you would like to volunteer to chase swarms this year, see Frank Fitzpatrick at the March 27th meeting, or call or send a note before March 31st. The swarm list is distributed to fire departments and newspapers and includes the names of beekeepers who are available in certain geographic locations to remove swarms. The beekeeper keeps the bees and the public is always most appreciative. THIS IS A FREE SERVICE PROVIDED BY PSBA AS A PUBLIC SERVICE! If someone insists on paying you to take away the bees, submit the money as a donation to PSBA.

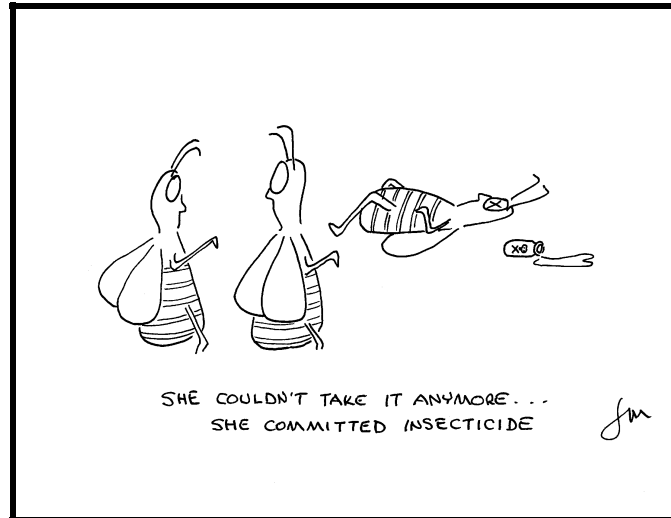
Cartoon	2
Presidents Message	2
Expert Answers	3
Letters	3
Journal Watch	4
Virtual Beekeeping	4
Tips/Ads	4

The Hive Corner

Steve Lenz, *PSBK Apiary Hives Update*

Apiary renovation plans were presented at the last meeting along with an impressive model of the new apiary. Donations to this project either of cash or actual material would be appreciated. Shortly, on our web site, there will be a list of materials that will be needed to complete the work. If you can help in anyway, he would be grateful. For cash donations, please contact Scott Eby. He will see to it that Eric receives it. For material donations please call Eric at 425-379-5671 or email him at memory555@aol.com. 4X4 at least 6 feet long are needed. If you have any 10 foot ones, this will be cut up in have to form the needed

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President's Message

John deGroot, President, PSBA

Many thanks to Gene for his hard work and leadership, to all the members who volunteered their time last year as trustee or officer, and to all the members who have volunteered to be a trustee or officer this year.

Several challenges lie before us. The continuing urbanization and sub-urbanization of King county will lead to decreasing amounts of agricultural land and increasing numbers of persons who know nothing of bees except that they can sting. We will be working with the local print, radio, and TV media to get a positive image of bees and beekeeping before the general public. We will continue to develop the club apiary as an informational resource to the general public and on an information kiosk inside the visitor's center. Members are asked to report any hints of restrictive zoning to the club officers, who will co-ordinate efforts to educate and influence local regulators.

A second area for attention is beekeeper

education programs. We are looking for opportunities to improve all our club's education programs. Spring Field Day has been nicknamed "Bee-topia" and we will work to make this an exceptionally valuable experience. Another goal is to give 8-hour beginner-level courses in hobby beekeeping next spring in each corner of King County. Volunteer instructors are needed.

A third area for attention is the services the club provides to our members. A current project in this area is the effort to facilitate pollination contracts with local hobby tree fruit growers.

The club leadership would like to receive feedback from every member. Please consider the following questions:

1. What are the three most important things the club should do?
2. What does the club do well?
3. What should the club do better (when,

Speaker Needed March 29th at the Arboretum

Dear John (deGroot):

I'm planning the Arboretum's guide training in March. Do you think you or another beekeeper could come and give a general 1-1.5 hour presentation on bees, beekeeping, etc. on Thursday, March 29th at 1pm here at the Visitor Center? The guides would also like to learn more about the Puget Sound Beekeepers Association as well as bees in

general.

Please let me know if this is possible.

Thank you,

Monica Ravin, Education Coordinator
Washington Park Arboretum
BOX 358010
Seattle, WA 98195

REMINDER:
WASHINGTON STATE
UNIVERSITY RESEARCH
PROJECT:
AN INVITATION FOR
INVOLVEMENT BY LOCAL
BEEKEEPERS

If you are interested in testing selected queens, call Melissa Gardner at (509)-335-4142 or email me at mgardner@mail.wsu.edu. Please include your name, address, telephone number, and the number of queens you are willing to test. The only requirement is that you take at least 2 test queens for comparisons. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. Thank you!



Melissa Gardner
Department of Entomology
Washington State University

QUESTIONS FOR THE EXPERTS

QUESTIONS: From Scott Ellerby

Have you tried using slatted boards over your bottom boards to give your colonies a little extra room? I would be interested as well in whether the experts are users/believers in bottom screen boards for mitigating the impacts of Varroa. The screen boards I have seen in catalogs fit over a standard bottom board and block off the old entrance, requiring the bees to surmount the vertical 1.5 to 2 inch barrier to gain entry. This seems to me a real imposition on workers heavily loaded with nectar. If I were to build one, I would consider adding a new landing porch at the same level as the screen board. Back to the slatted rack, I would also be interested in whether the expert believes the slats should run in the same direction as the frames.

ANSWERS: By Dan Hendricks

I have used slatted racks under my hives summer and winter for years. This last year I have

read two things which make me think I'll not do so this year. First, it is reported that placing a 1/8" hardware cloth screen below the entrance but above the bottom board excludes those live varroa mites which fall there. Second, it is reported that Langstroth left the entire bottom of his hives open (without bottom board) all winter without ill effect, even in below zero weather. The slats DON'T run in the same direction as the frames so you would have to custom make one to do so. I can't imagine why you would. Erase from your mind all thoughts of making things easier for the bees to do. Watch them a while and you will see they have absolutely no concern for flying round and round, up and down, this way and that to get where they want to go. Except during an all-out major nectar flow, most of the bees have nothing to do most of the time. Spend some time in front of an observation hive and you'll see this in action. See PSBA Forum on our website, [<pugetsoundbees.org/RESOURCES.htm >](http://pugetsoundbees.org/RESOURCES.htm) for

Letter to the Editor

Hi, Dawn. Might this be a worthwhile thought for an early spring Newsletter: "Eggs which the queen lays after the third week of May do not contribute to collecting the last surplus nectar flow for those who do not move their hives to the fire-

weed. Strive to maximize her egg laying up until then, at least." I expand on that thought in a new post to our Forum.

The last Newsletter was really great. You used all the space for worthwhile stuff. Dan Hendricks danhendan@yahoo.com

Puget Sound
Beekeepers
Association

PSBA Newsletter Editor
c/o Dawn Corl
6226 34th Ave. NE
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*FREE SERVICE FOR PSBA
MEMBERS!!!
Sarah Cooke will check
samples of your bees for
tracheal mites. Call her for
details at 206-368-5430*

FORSALE/WANTED

*Ads are run for free for members of PSBA!
Deadline for entry is 1st of the month.*

- 1. Packages of honeybees will be at available Wednesday April 18 thru Saturday April 21. To assure that you get what you want, order early from Beez Neez, 403A Maple Avenue, Snohomish, WA 98290 or call (360) 568-2191.*
- 2. Frank Fitzpatrick will bring packages of bees back from California around April 5th for a cost of \$31 plus gas contribution. Call him at 206-244-1291 for more details.*

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TRUSTEES

Bob Clark, Vic Scarpelli,
Van Sherod, Sarah Cooke,
Kate McWiggins, Steve
Lenz, Jennifer Cochrane,
Bill Cook, Gene Bowley, 2
open positions

Tip of the Month

Do you ever ask for beekeeper helpers who may have never had the 'opportunity' to be stung by a honey bee before? If so, I recommend having a sting kit with you just in case someone has an anaphylactic reaction to a sting or becomes stung repeatedly. The sting kit should include at least 3 Benadryl 25 mg. tabs (an antihistamine) and an Epi-Pen, which contains an adult dose of epinephrine to reverse airway constriction. The injection can be given right through clothing and is simple to deliver. The Epi-Pen is a prescription drug, but the cost is covered to some degree by most insurance policies. Ask your family doctor for a prescription.

PSBA Club Video and Slide List

Following is a list of club videos and slides: Nancy Beckett is currently the librarian. The club requests a \$35 deposit which is returned upon return of the videos.

1. An Introduction to Beekeeping
2. Package Bees the Easy Way
3. An Introduction to Beekeeping

4. Assembling Hives/Assembling Frames
5. Your Smoker and Reading Frames
6. Medications and Pesticides
7. Two for One Splits and Divides
8. Queens - Problems and Solutions
9. Instrumental Insemination of Queens
10. Candlemaking for Everyone
11. The World of Bees

NEW!! Two Excellent Series of Slides from Penn State University on Honey Bee biology, pest, predators, diseases – complete with written script about each slide. 128 slides total.

Virtual Beekeeping

1. BeeHoo at <http://www.beehoo.com/>
BeeHoo is a Yahoo-esque directory of resources for beekeepers and bee enthusiasts. The site is not searchable but may be browsed by category and subtopic. These include bees, bee management, hives products, and health, among others. Sites are listed with a brief description, including languages used at the site. BeeHoo has a nice international scope, indexing numerous non-anglophone (mostly European) sites. BeeHoo itself is provided in both English and French. Users may sign up for a