



Beekeeping News

PSBA AUGUST MEETING

August 22, 2000 at the Arboretum's Graham Visitors Center, 2200 Arboretum Drive East, Seattle. Meetings are regularly scheduled on the 4th Tuesday of each month except July and December.

Beginner's Class and

Main Program Topic

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Topic: Extracting Honey

Speaker: Van Sherod.

Upcoming Events –

Western Washington State Fair

The Puyallup Fair runs from September 8th to the 24th. Louis Matej, from PCBK, is the coordinator of the honey show and beekeeping booth in the Agriculture Bldg. One hundred and two volunteer shifts need to be filled. There are three 4 hr. shifts/day with 2 volunteers per shift. The benefits of volunteering include telling hundreds of people about bees and beekeeping, free entry into the fair and free parking on the day you volunteer – and it is fun! To sign up to volunteer, contact Louis Matej at 253-536-5612, e: honeybear@earthlink.net.

The honey exhibit is open to any beekeeper, advanced or novice. Winners earn ribbons and cash awards. Entry categories include honey, pollen, wax and wax products, baked goods, mead, honey mustard, frames of honey, honey candy, and special beekeeping gadgets. To enter, call 253-841-5045 for Agricultural Premium List and bring items to the fairgrounds for judging on 9/6. Good luck!

Washington State Beekeepers Convention

Mark your calendars for this year's convention on Nov. 2,3,4 2000 at Day's Inn Tacoma Washington. Cost for full conference is \$50 if registration postmarked on or before Oct. 10, 2000. Registration forms will be available at the next 3 meetings.

Almanac for Puget Sound Beekeepers

Adapted from Roy Thurber Bee Chats, Tips and Gadgets

Month of August

Purple Loosestrife begins blooming the first week of August.

All Major honey flows are over except for fireweed in the mountains. Watch for robbing. You should treat for Foulbrood and Varroa/Tracheal mites after removing honey supers. Some experts are now recommending sampling for Varroa mites and treating only those with detectable levels rather than uniformly treating every colony preventatively. Grease patties can be sweetened with your own honey to improve consumption.

Getting Ready for Sept. Order queens if you decided to requeen in the Fall rather than Spring. Prepare for feeding weak colonies that may not have enough stores for overwintering.

Month of September

Chinese Knotweed is the end-of-the-season honey flow, beginning the last week of August.

Harvest mountain fireweed honey. You may requeen colonies now that were not requeened in the Spring. Unite weak colonies. To winter successfully, each colony must have the equivalent of 10 fully capped deep frames of honey in the top hive body plus honey arches in the lower hive body and at least 2 combs of pollen. If stores are insufficient, colonies should be fed a 2:1 sugar syrup solution. Use top feeders to prevent robbing. (One good method is to use 4 inverted quart jars with holes punched in the lids inside an empty deep box and lid.)

Start feeding early in the month because bees will not store the syrup and cap cells when the weather turns cool. You can also put wet extracted frames above the inner cover for a few days for the bees to lick clean. Remove Apistan, if used, 6 weeks after you inserted the strips. When storing drawn comb, protect from wax moth damage with paradichlorobenzene (not commercial moth balls) by placing crystals in empty lids on top of stack of

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C A R T O O N

Letters to the Editor

Dawn Cori, PSBA Editor

6/27/00 (in response to Mark Winston's answer to the question of preventative medications in last PSBA Newsletter.)

Hi, Dawn. NO way. England's system is to PROHIBIT all AFB medications except burning! Mark wishes that was the Canada + US regulation, too! From Dan Hendricks e: danhendand@yahoo.com

6/28/00

The month of June contained two to-be-expected events— a couple of weeks during which the pollen in the trap was almost entirely

from blackberry and a week and a half in which the hive gained weight at a very acceptable rate. What I find absolutely shocking is that the two events did not occur at the same time! During the time the pollen came from blackberry, the hive gradually LOST weight. During the time the hive gained weight, the pollen did not come from blackberry, being dark yellow rather than dark gray. It is hard to conceive of any explanation other than the nectar did not come from blackberries. This puzzlement would not even have been apparent without having both a pollen trap and a hive scale installed on the same

Questions for the Experts

QUESTION...

Three of my four hives which died in late Spring with (1) dead bees on the bottom board, (2) bees dead with their heads in empty cells and (3) no honey in the hive. Any idea why?

Asked by: Canuche Tarenella at the June PSBA meeting.

ANSWER...

Could the dead hives have starved as a consequence of their hives having being robbed? Robbing can be prevented by restricting the entrances with 1/8" hardware cloth. Cut two pieces 3" x 9" and fold each into an angle 1 and 1/2 x 1 and 1/2 x 9. Place one angle over the entrance from the left end, say, and the second over the first, partially overlapping to leave an open area at the right end. The opening can be 1/4" or 1" or whatever is re-

quired to make it possible for the hive population to guard. Err on the side of producing congestion. This helps to keep yellow jackets out, too.

Answer: Dan Hendricks e: danhendand@yahoo.com

Another possible explanation could be that there just wasn't enough nectar flow in the late spring to support a growing population of bees. Or the weather was so cold and wet that the bees couldn't get to the nectar that was available. If the biggest strongest hives succumbed, then this explanation makes sense. If the weakest hives succumbed, then they were probably robbed. It is hard to imagine that bees might be starving just as blackberry blossoms are ready to bloom, but I (also having lost 4 out of 8 hives with the same symptoms 2 years in row) plan to have sugar syrup available in late May next year. This problem was reported in last month's newsletter by some

Message from the President

Gene Bowley, PSBA President

Beekeepers are ordinary people with a unique, but ancient hobby. This is a busy time of the year for us. Despite the swells of activity we must deal with in managing our bees, it seems there are always opportunities to teach the uninitiated. I hope each member of the association always takes advantage of opportunities to share the joy and fascination that is beekeeping.

At the end of July, the leaders of a Pea Patch project in North Seattle on 130th called me. A swarm of bees had settled in a birdhouse and I had been asked to relocate the bees but to keep them on premise. I assisted them in their desire to this and what turned out to be a fairly average bee problem, turned into a wonderful teaching moment. About 15 to 20 people showed up to watch what I was doing. They asked a lot of questions, took pictures and even video taped the event. I felt serving the community in this way generated a tremendous amount of public goodwill toward our or-

ganization.

Everyone in our association can enjoy such opportunities. I would like to encourage everyone to share your stories with the rest of the club. Please email a note to our Newsletter Editor, or hand her a note at any meeting. Beekeeping is a rich and rewarding experience. I hope you will share beekeeping moments with us and let us all appreciate the opportunity you enjoyed. I hope everyone is having a great summer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The office of Apiary Administrator has been officially given a trustee status with voting privileges.

Our thanks to Scott Ellerby for his help in collecting information and to Rich Webb for organizing the PSBA website.

PSBA is still seeking a volunteer for Advertisement/Publicity Coordinator.

Queen Elizabeth's Metheglin. *Queen Elizabeth's Reign (1558-1603)*

From: [The Wonderful World of Honey](#) by Joe Parkhill. Pg 61 Thanks to Van Sherod for providing this old recipe.

First, gather a bushel of sweetbriar leaves, and a bushel of thyme, half a bushel of rosemary, and a peck of bay leaves. Seethe all these (being well washed) in a furnace (not less than 120 gallons) of fair water. Let them boil the space of half an hour or better, and then pour out all the water and herbs into a vat. Let it stand until it be but milk warm, then strain the water from the herbs and take to every six gallons of water, one gallon of the finest honey, and put it into the boorne. Labor it together half an hour, then let it stand two days, stirring it well twice or thrice each day.

Then take the liquor and boil it anew. And when it doth seeth, skim it as long as there remaineth any dross. When it is clear, put it into the vat as before, and there let it be cooled. You must then have in readiness a kiv(e) of new ale of beer, which as soon as you have emptied, suddenly whelm it upside down, and set it up again, and presently put in the metheglin, and let it stand three days a-working. And then tun it up in barrels, tying at every taphole (by a pack thread) a little bag of beaten cloves and mace, to the value of an ounce. Such was the mead of good Queen Bess. It must stand half a year before it is drunk.

The Hive Corner

Marcia Carlson, PSBK Apiary Queen Bee Update

This last month in the apiary, our supervisor queen bee swarmed and made a new home in Issaquah, so oversight of the apiary has been scant! She would love a detailed perusal of the hives by some kind

volunteers ASAP to plan what is needed in the upcoming weeks. Give her a buzz at (206) 909-5055 if you have time to inspect one or two hives or all of them. Happy beekeeping!

Puget Sound
Beekeepers
Association

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FORSALE/WANTED

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

Used Equipment Wanted:

Electric capping knife,
small stainless extractor,
honey collecting bucket
with honey gate, and
honey containers.

Scott M. Ellerby
(206) 233-2853 (work)

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TRUSTEES

Bob Clark, Frank Fitzpatrick,
Vic Scarpelli, Van Sherod,
Sarah Cooke, Scott Eby,
Kate McWiggins, Steve Lenz,
Paul Lundy

Tip of the Month –

Smokefree hive inspection.

To keep bees quiet when working a hive, use a cotton cloth to cover the top bars of boxes that you are not inspecting. For the box you are inspecting, you can make a special cloth that has an opening wide enough to remove one frame using a bent wire between 2 pieces of cloth.

Journal Watch

Flight Mechanics. By Carl Zimmer. *Natural History* 11/99. Pg. 22 and 23. An interesting and understandable explanation of how our favorite insects move through the air.

Fly Swatters Save Lives. By Sydney Horton. *Audubon* July-August 2000. Pg. 18. Reviews recent research from Stanford University School of Medicine that links pesticide use with Parkinson's disease, including organophosphates (I.e. CheckMite Strips!)

Virtual Beekeeping

<http://www.pugetsoundbees.org>.

Our club's new web site now has the relevant local laws and ordinances on beekeeping in the Puget Sound area

http://www.ifas.ufl.edu/~mts/apishtm/apis_2000/apfeb_2000.htm#2

Copy of the Apis article from Vol. 18, No.2 Feb.2000 re: 1st report of using powder sugar method of screening for varroa discovered by U. of Nebraska grad student, Paula Macedo and published in 1/2000 issue of Bee Tidings by Dr. Marion Ellis.

<http://maarec.cas.psu.edu/educmat.html>

An great web site with tons of good information. Check out the Beekeeping Topics pages for in depth articles about Keeping Bees in Populated Areas, Bait Hives, Integrated Pest Management, Wax Moth, Swarm Control, Equipment, etc.