



# Beekeeping News

www.pugetsoundbees.org

## Upcoming Events and Announcements

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### PSBA AUGUST MEETING

#### August 28th

Beginner's meeting:  
6:30 - 7:15P.M.

Van Sherod - Fall Management

**Regular Program:**  
7:30 - 9:00 P.M.

Sarah Cooke - *Beeseases* (pests that can make your bees sick)

Tim Celeski, Dawn Corl and Van Sherod - *Harvesting methods - brush, blower and fume board.*

**Next Trustee Meeting:**  
Wed. Oct 3, 2001 6:30 in the Graham Center at the Arboretum

### Western Washington State Fair

The Puyallup Fair runs from September 7 - 23, 2001. Louis Matej, from Pierce County Beekeepers, is the coordinator of the honey show and beekeeping booth in the Agriculture Bldg. One hundred and twenty 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!

### The Hive Corner PSBA Apiary Update

Steve Lenz, 425-391-0657 e: lenzfamily@foxinternet.net  
Ben Streissguth e: bstreiss@wolfenet.com

Last year equipment costs were high because of the amount of equipment that needed to be replaced. This year new brood chambers and comb were needed because we are now using one deep with two western supers for brood chambers,

To sign up to volunteer, contact Louis at 253-536-5612, email: honeybear@earthlink.net

The honey exhibit is open to any beekeeper, advanced or novice. Exhibitors may win 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 9/5 between 8am and 7pm. Good luck!

making the hives easier to work. There were 2 aggressive hives, the Russians and the Buckfast hybrids. Van Sherod moved these hives to the mountains and requeened them. We received our 4 queens from Melissa Gardener, WSU,

### Announcements

1. John deGroot is seeking 6 more volunteers to teach an 8 hour beginning beekeeping course in different geographic areas in 2002 - Current volunteers are: Woodinville - deGroot, S. Boeing Field - Fitzpatrick. Call John (425-788-2259) if you are interested.

2. Anyone who would like to become certified as Apprentice and Journeyman Beekeeper, see Van to arrange for testing at the August PSBA meeting.

3. The following new

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late this year due to unusually poor weather that negatively impacted queen rearing.

To help prevent more stinging incidents, volunteers working in the apiary are asked to check if any

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## Almanac for Puget Sound Beekeepers

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

### Almanac

#### Month of September

Chinese Knotweed and Asters are the end-of-the-season honey flow, beginning the 3rd week of August.

Extract honey and prepare your hives for winter. You may requeen colonies now that were aggressive or 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 feed-

ing early in the month because bees will not store the syrup and cap cells when the weather turns cool. Remove Apistan, if used, 45 days after you inserted the strips. When storing drawn comb, protect from wax moth damage with paradichlorobenzene (not commercial naphthalene moth balls) by placing crystals in 3-4 empty lids on top of stack of 4-5 supers. Replace every 6 weeks.



"What's the best way to get combs ready for winter storage when wet?"

### Question for the Experts:

*Posted By: Antony Merritt honsec@sgbka.fsnet.co.uk*

I've just taken off my supers so I can sort through them & take off the honey now that the main flow is almost over. I have quite a few frames with nectar which I will put back on. What is the best way to get combs ready for winter storage when wet? Should I put nectar frames back on top of the supers & hope the bees clean them up and take the residue honey down to the super below, or should I wait until later in the year when

there is no flow on?

#### Answer :

*From Dan Hendricks: danhendran@yahoo.com*

"I wouldn't expect the bees to move the honey from one super to another. Some beekeepers store their extracting frames wet but I set the super out in the yard on end, one at a time, and let the bees rob them dry. I would do it now. You didn't ask but I wait to extract until the nectar flow

has ended.

*From Dawn Corl: dawn-corl@blarg.net*

Assuming your hives have adequate stores for winter, another option is to extract the nectar (uncapped honey with high moisture content), freeze it in gallon jugs to have on hand for feeding your hungry hives in the spring. It is also ideal for mead or beer making operations if you are so inclined.

*(Continued from page 1)*

beekeepers have volunteered to work with an experienced mentor this season: Deb Dehn: ddehn@hotmail.com 425-788-4395; Elizabeth Gray: gray\_e@msn.com 206-234-9478; Susan Lease: kelsan@worldnet.att.net 425-487-0735; Dylan Smith: msmith4349@aol.com 425-771-3407; Novella Carpenter: novella@sasquatchbooks.

com; Wayne Debeb: mulu-life@aol.com 206-723-9633; Bruce Eckholm: bruce.eckholm@appendixa.com 206-788-0255; Becky Havekost: havekost@centurytel.net 425-222-6638; Anne Patton: jpatton@bassettiarch.com 206-329-6823; Rene Patterson: rene9@home.com 206-725-6522.

4. If you would like to list your varietal honey on the National Honey Board's website

(Honey Locator), call 1-888-421-2977-5 or www.nhb.org to receive a listing request form.

5. If you experienced heavy losses of bee colonies, the American Beekeeping Federation requests that you send samples of bees to USDA-ARS labs for testing. Call 1-800-553-7162 for instructions for collection and shipping.

# President's Message

*John de Groot, PSBA President*

## Mentoring

'Mentor' was a trusted retainer whom Odysseus appointed to teach his son while he was away fighting the Trojan War. Mentor's name has come to mean "teacher and trusted counselor."

Why have one? Everyone in PSBA who has had a mentor declared it a tremendous advantage. If you need to learn something (who doesn't?), a mentor is the best way. Initially it was difficult for me to ask someone to be my mentor because every

member of the club was a stranger. The first person I picked didn't work out. I tried again and learned lots from a second mentor. After five years of beekeeping, I continue to seek more experienced beekeepers to work with and learn from.

Why be one? It's social. You get help doing things. Teaching organizes your thoughts and puts things into perspective.

Make the connection. Ask an experienced beekeeper who lives nearby if he/she would introduce you

to the world of bees. If it's uncomfortable to approach a stranger, ask an officer of the club to find a compatible mentor for you. Perform beekeeping activities as a team of two at the mentor's (or both) apiary. Working alongside the mentor will more than pay for your time. The learner is responsible for initiating and maintaining the relationship.

When? Right now! Too busy? Do you really expect that to change next month or year?

## Hive Corner

*(Continued from page 1)*

events are being held at the arboretum, to work the hives after 2 pm when fewer people are in the area, and to call the Arboretum ahead of time to make sure there won't be any conflicts 206-543-8801.

Steve asked officers and trustees to sign up for a pre-

scheduled week to work in the apiary. Steve is keeping the calendar. Dawn Corl, Jerry Mixon and Bruce Eckholm harvested the honey and delivered it to Van for extracting.

Eric and Gene Bowley are making progress on the informational kiosk inside the

visitors center. \$250.00 in club funds are available for the fence and kiosks.

Scott Eby bought a whiteboard that is now attached to the northside of the shed where we will keep a list of tasks, a calendar, and space to leave notes.



"...Mentors name has come to mean 'teacher and trusted counselor.'"

## Commercial Advertisement

At the August meeting, Dan Hendricks will have the water-mixable preparation of spearmint and lemongrass oils which Bob Noel calls "Honey-B-Healthy" available for sale. Two teaspoons are mixed with a quart of syrup and is compatible with Fumidil. The EPA has announced that it is not going to restrict the use of mint oils in beehives which

means that such use is not going to be illegal. Bob can't advertise it as helping with the control of both mites without jumping through a lot of approval hoops. Discussion of its efficacy can be found on his web site <http://rnoel.virtualave.net>, "Our New Experiments". Eight oz bottles are available for \$11, which is a 15% discount from the pub-

lished price. Bob Noel also recommends adding mineral salt to wintergreen/crisco patties. Dan will have some to give away at the meeting.

## Puget Sound Beekeepers Association

### PSBA Newsletter Editor

c/o Dawn Corl  
6226 34<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE  
Seattle, WA 98115

### FREE Service for PSBA Members !!

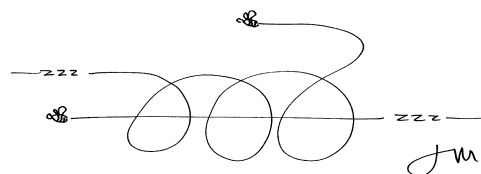
Sarah Cooke will sample  
your bees for tracheal mites.  
206-368-5430

10 assembled screened bottom boards with slide-out insert for varroa monitoring and control will be available at the August meeting or call Dawn 206-525-2433. \$15/unit. Free! Sawdust for smoker fuel and assorted other beekeeping treasures from Dawn's honey house cleaning frenzy.

*Short ads are run for free for members of PSBA! . Commercial ad rates: \$15 for ¼ page, \$30 for ½ page, or \$60 for a full page. Deadline for entry is first of the month.*

bizzzy

WOW! WHAT'S THAT  
PHEROMONE YOU'RE WEARING?



### PSBA OFFICERS

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Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98115

### TRUSTEES

Bob Clark, Vic Scarpelli, Van Sherod, Kate McWiggins, Steve Lenz, Jennifer Cochrane, Gene Bowley, Frank Fitzpatrick, Tim Celeski, 2 open positions

### Tip of the Month

Paradichlorobenzene moth crystals can be bought locally at Safeway. Be careful not to buy naphthalene moth balls as this is absorbed by wax and is toxic to bees.

### Virtual Beekeeping

*By: Rich Webb*  
CyberBeeNet [www.cyberbee.net/](http://www.cyberbee.net/) provides links to research news on honeybees, covering a range of topics from the illness-fighting properties of dark and light honey to Africanized honeybee genes. Included in this site is list of bee international research labs; access to

these labs can be achieved via the same site. Surfers can also travel to the International Bee Research Association ([www.cardiff.ac.uk/ibra/index.html](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/ibra/index.html)), a non-profit organization that focuses on the role of bees in agriculture and the natural environment.

"Bee Alert! Environmental Hazard Detection and Warning" [www.umt.edu/biology/bees/](http://www.umt.edu/biology/bees/) is maintained by researchers at the University of Montana who use bees to identify environmental hazards such as radiation and pesticides. They conduct real-time monitoring of environmental conditions and colony activities. The Univer-

sity's "Bee Cam" provides a live video of the activity within their observation hive.

### Journal Watch

Sue Hubble wrote a 2 part article, "The Sweet Bees - I & II" in the New Yorker, published May 9 and May 16, 1988. Although written 12 years ago, they are classics - a combination of accurate information, references to historical beekeeping and poetic raptures about bees. It was worth the trip to the library. I am willing to make copies available for others for the cost of reproduction.