



Beekeeping News

<http://www.pugetsoundbees.org>

PSBA SEPT. MEETING

September 26, 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

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Topic: Getting the Bees Ready for Winter

Speaker: Van Sherod

Main Program Topics

Time: 8:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

Topic 1: British Beekeeping

Speaker: Madeleine Pym, Seasonal Bee Inspector for West Surrey, UK.

Time: 8:45 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.

Topic 2: The Role of Mint Oils in Suppressing Varroa

Speaker: Dan Hendricks

General Meeting: 9:15 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Adopt-A-Hive

Next Trustee Meeting:

Wednesday October 4, 2000 at 7 p.m. at the Arboretum.

Upcoming Events –

NW WA Bee Association Annual Meeting Will be held Oct 11 at the Royal Fork in Mt. Vernon WA at 6pm. Dr. Sheppard is speaking.

WA State Beekeepers Convention Year 2000 convention will be on Nov. 2 – 4 at Day's Inn Tacoma, Washington. Pierce County has organized an impressive speaker lineup, including: Dr. Eric Erickson, Carl Hayden Bee Lab, Dr. Maria Spivak, U of MN, Dr. Steve Shepard, WSU, Jim Bach, and Pat Heikem, ABF. Cost for full conference is \$50 if registration is postmarked on or before Oct. 10, 2000. Hotel reservation (\$60/night) deadline is Oct 18th. 1-800-221 2680. Registration forms will be available at the next 2 meetings, or email Louis Matej at honeybbear@earthlink.com.

Almanac for Puget Sound Beekeepers

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

Month of September (See August newsletter)

Correction: Chinese Knotweed is the end-of-the-season honey flow, beginning the last week of August, not the 2nd week of September.

Month of October

Continue to feed bees as necessary until daytime temperatures consistently stay under 45 Degrees F. Medicate with Fumidil-B according to package instructions to prevent Nosema, and Terramycin to prevent American Foulbrood. Grease patties should be moved to the corners of the box so that they will not impede the upward movement of the cluster in the winter. Apistan strips should be removed 45 days after they were put into the hive. After you stop feeding, make sure top covers don't leak and insulate under the top cover. You can use solid foam insulation. Cut holes in the sides so that air-flow is not impeded and condensation prevented.

Bio. of Guest Speaker, Madeleine Pym

Madeleine Pym took up bees in the mid-70s when her father drove 250 miles with a colony of his own bees in the boot of the car, which he presented to her as a wedding gift. The bees had traveled from London to Cornwall where she lived in an old mill cottage. Aspiring to no more than the old 'let-alone' method of beekeeping the honey yields were small, as you might expect.

From there she went to live in Portugal where again bees took up residence in her life. Here the practice of small holders was to have a line of hives close to the house on scrub land. But it was on returning to live in London in the early 80s, when her eldest son showed an interest in bees, that beekeeping became a more serious interest. And once varroa made its entry into English beekeeping, the struggle to stay on top of the problem made her, as they say, a 'bee-keeper' and not a 'bee-haver'. Since then she has become one of a team of Seasonal Bee Inspectors who are employed by the British government to help beekeepers combat EFB and AFB, and is responsible for West Surrey in southern England. This MAFF (Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries) program of disease inspection is well supported by an insurance scheme set up and run by beekeepers which helps cover the costs when stocks have to be destroyed, and, where antibiotics are used, this cost is borne by the

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Letters to the Editor

Dawn Corl, PSBA Editor I would like to encourage members of PSBA to write letters and express their views..

August 1, 2000:

You know how devoted I am to buying queens. Well, a swarm queen has given me my comeuppance. I hived a swarm into a friend's hive in May, on foundation. A couple of months later I went through the hive and found not only lots of bees but 7 1/2 equivalent full deeps of brood! I have three hives which total fewer although two are recent starts. I don't think I've ever had more brood from one queen. And they are acceptably docile although they are excitable and a goodly number fly. Maria Jewell has one with an Allen's queen which is as defensive as any non-Guam ones I've encountered. Boiling with bees and making lots of honey but a trial to manipulate. A body can never know and you just have to play the odds. But I thought it was time to own up to being wrong about breeder-raised queens some times.

From: Dan Hendricks e:danhendand@yahoo.com

August 25, 2000:

I have long felt that the most valuable contribution a local organization can provide its members is to disseminate the experiences of the locals. The big picture and the new research data will inevitable come from the national magazines and books. I insist I don't have this opinion just because I have things to say. I really enjoy listening to every one. And I much prefer reading to hearing. And the News-

letter reaches those who don't/can't come to meetings, let us never forget. They pay most of the dues. From: Dan Hendricks e: danhendand@yahoo.com

August 29, 2000

I want to comment on some nectar flows which I did not expect, based on past hive records.

1. The specially strong hive which has developed from a swarm queen, on which I have commented earlier, had 8 1/4 equivalent full deeps on 8-27, 5 3/4 on 8-16, 4 5/8 on 8-5, 2 3/4 on 7-26. I am focusing on the last increase. I have not been accustomed to seeing this much this late and don't think the other hives I manage have done nearly this well during the same period. This hive also can't stop making wax. It has drawn 20 deep frames of foundation already and builds new, bright yellow burr comb everywhere. It hasn't figured out about bee space.

2. My scale hive reached its first peak on 5-20, the latest in my records. The second came on 6-22, the earliest on my records. I have never had more than two significant surplus flows but this year I got about 6 equivalent full deeps which maxed out on 7-26, about a week later than the previous latest second flow. This seems to comport with my observation that there seems to be a multiplicity of flows in the March-July period but most/many of them do not express themselves every year. It is evi-

Questions for the Experts

QUESTION...

If, at the end of winter, all the remaining honey is crystallized, will the bees starve? I solicit both opinions and experiences.

Asked by: Dan Hendricks

ANSWER...

From: Jean Bassett:

When glucose sugars are present in large quantity in honey crystallization will occur more rapidly than when fructose sugars are more abundant. Some floral sources of nectar normally have larger amounts of glucose sugars than fructose sugars such as cotton, cabbage and raspberry, others such as acacia with a higher amount of fructose sugars will

sometimes take years to form sugar crystals.

If honey is crystallized in the combs and ample water is available the honeybees will be able to use it. Therefore, starvation shouldn't be a problem if ample stores are available even though crystallized.

Jean Bee

From: Steve Sheppard:

To answer the "Experience" portion of your question - I have never had a colonies that had ONLY crystallized honey on hand at the end of the winter. I have had hives that contained quite a bit of crystallized honey and I have also given frames of crystallized honey to many colonies and in both cases there seemed to be no ill effects.

To answer the "Opinion" portion - I find it highly unlikely that a colony will starve when

Message from the President

Gene Bowley, PSBA President

Our website has become a useful tool for the organization. I want to report that with the help of Scott Ellerby and Rich Webb, the compilation of beekeeping laws is going along well. I also owe thanks to Frank Fitzpatrick. Personnel in the city of Kenmore contacted me to address their need for beekeeping ordinances. Without going into a lot of detail, our association has the opportunity to influence public policy.

The need for a beekeeping law surfaced in Kenmore because a beekeeper hasn't been sensitive to their neighbors and the problem the bees appear to be causing. I'm not writing this to do finger pointing, but as beekeepers we need to be ever vigilant to what the bees are doing at the hives as well as abroad. I have no idea if the beekeeper and neighbors have talked, but they should. Beekeepers must take

their neighbor's concerns seriously.

Most beekeeping laws develop because a public problem occurred. The city of Kenmore could pass very strict ordinances. By our association being involved with the law making process, we hope the city will adopt a well considered law to reflect a balance of interests for the beekeeper and the public.

Be aware of your neighbors feelings about the bees. Know what your local laws are. If you find the neighbors have concerns, then it is an opportunity to resolve them. Educate your friends and neighbors.

I hope by the time we have the next club meeting in September to have all the ordinance information on our website. Thanks for taking the time to consider my words.

Gene Bowley

ANNOUNCEMENT: Scott Eby has volun-

The Hive Corner

Steve Lenz, standing in for Marcia Carlson, PSBK Apiary Update

Dear club members.

For the past month, I have helped in working the club hives. This month, I received the baton from Marcia Carlson who, due to her moving and her work schedule, will steping aside for a while. I just want to say that she has done a fine job, as has every one else who helped. You all know who you are. It made it easy to step in and give a hand.

We have some Good news and some Bad news. I will start with the Bad news. Hive # 10 -Buckfast was tipped over with a cart. Thanks to Gene's quick response, it is saved and is doing fine. We will be working on strapping them up somehow for the hives

have been vandalized twice within the last two months. I would like to see them knock the Russian box over for these bees are the most aggressive bees out of the lot. I think I will nick name them, "TESTY". However they produce lots of honey. The club lost two hives over the summer – one Italian and one Yukoslovian. The Good news is that all of the rest are doing fine. Soon Van and I will be giving them Apistan strips and Terramycin patties to get them ready for winter. Come spring time, we will install queen replacements to the ones that need it. One last thing I would like to thank young Dillan and his friends. It was great working the bees with you. Keep up the good

Questions for the Experts (continued)

on crystallized honey ... with one proviso.
Based

(Continued on page 3)

on what we see with dry sugar or candy boards - bees must have moisture on hand to liquefy the crystals. I suspect that in most of our colonies in Washington State at the end of winter - access to moisture is not a

problem...as we have plenty (if not too much) moisture is available in the hive.

However, in the 1992 version of the Hive and the Honey Bee, Basil Furgala of the University of Minnesota reported that water must be supplied to colonies containing crystallized rapeseed (Canola) honey. He recommended a water feeder at the entrance of colonies -

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:

Stainless steel, electric radial extractor in excellent condition.

Dawn 206-525-2433

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TRUSTEES

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

Tip of the Month –

Alternative Natural Moth Repellent

Adapted from ABJ July 1995 issue.

Mix 1 cup sugar + 1/2 cup vinegar + 1 cup water and add 1 fresh banana peel. Cut top third of an empty 2L plastic pop bottle off and remove cap. Pour liquid & peel into bottom of the bottle. Invert the top so that the cap end is inside the bottle, but above the liquid and clip in place. Place one or two of these concoctions in your honey super storage room to attract and trap wax moths.

Journal Watch

"Honeybees May Show Aircraft the Art of Safe Landings." 7/31/00 From TIMES OF INDIA. By Rajesh Ahuja as distributed in Boeing News Clips (article supplied to me by Gene Bowley).

Neurobiologists discovered that honeybees adjust their speed relative to visual input of objects that they are passing. If speed is unchanged, the closer the object gets, the faster it appears to zip by. When flying, bees keep their visual speed relative to passing objects constant, so the closer the object gets, the slower the bee goes. By the time they land on the flower, their air speed is just about zero.

This simple idea has sparked engineers to develop computer controlled robots with video cameras pointing down at the ground that adjust for aircraft speed just like the honeybee. In this way the air speed of the plane slows relative to the speed of passing objects as it approaches the landing strip.

Virtual Beekeeping

Rich Webb recommended 3 sites:

<http://www2.oardc.ohio-state.edu/agnic/bee/>

This site has lots of links to companies, universities, journal, newsletter and Gov't web sites as well as sites organized by topics. It has bee slide shows and insect sound bites. A plethora of information.

<http://www2.oardc.ohio-state.edu/beelab/>

This site has a nice section on bee gardens with pictures and information about nectar and pollen plants.

<http://www.res.bbsrc.ac.uk/entnem/about/projects/varroa/alvarweb.htm> This site has a slide show and links to lots of sites about the varroa mite.

Dan Hendricks recommended this site for information about essential oils.

<http://www.hereintown.net/~rnoel/>