



# The PSBA BUZZ

May 2009

Volume 8, Issue 5

**EVENTS at the Arboretum Center**  
Graham Visitor Center  
2200 Arboretum Drive E.,  
Seattle, WA 98112

(Meetings are the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month except July and December.)

## June 23

See details inside  
Mike Burgett

## PSBA OFFICERS

### President

Nancy Beckett  
206-937-5583

[president@psbees.org](mailto:president@psbees.org)

### Vice President

vacant

### Secretary

John DeGroot  
425-883-3248

[secretary@psbees.org](mailto:secretary@psbees.org)

### Treasurer

Bruce Becker  
206-527-0226

[treasurer@psbees.org](mailto:treasurer@psbees.org)

### Newsletter Editor & Webmaster

Cynthia Salzman  
206-527-1663

[editor@psbees.org](mailto:editor@psbees.org)

### Apiary Manager

Tim Todd  
253-941-9855

[fitter32@hotmail.com](mailto:fitter32@hotmail.com)

## Hive Calendar

### May—Monitor

Feed all hives if a dearth of nectar occurs. All medications except non-terramycin grease patties should be removed by mid-May if you intend to collect a honey surplus. Begin regular checks for swarm cells. Beware of crowding in the brood nest. Super in advance and no later than May 15 unless you are absolutely certain they have lots of room in the brood nest. Optional spring requeening.

Usual nectar sources: Dandelion & Clover, Scotts Broom (pollen), Huckleberry (ground hugging variant of blackberry), Geranium.

### Mid-May to Mid-June— Prevent Robbing or Starvation

There is a gap between the nectar flows. At this time brood rearing is going at the maximum rate and the colony's need for honey and pollen is at the maximum. Mere rainy weather caused a brief dearth of nectar in early June of both 1999 and 2000. Strong hives respond by robbing out their neighbors. Some of the robbed hives starved to death in only 2 or 3 days. As a precaution, put entrance reducers and hard sugar-candy on all hives from 15 May through the actual start of Blackberry bloom for your local area.

## May Meeting

**TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2009**

### Beginners instruction: 6:30 – 7:15 pm

A how-to session on the basics of beekeeping.

### Main meeting: 7:30 – 9:00 pm. “Queen Rearing”

Mike Doren will speak on this important and interesting topic. He will cover prep and materials for grafting, how to graft, the grafting calendar, different types of queen nucs, number of bees needed to raise queens, and lots more.

## June Meeting

Michael Burgett, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Horticulture at Oregon State University, will speak at our June 23 PSBA meeting, starting at 6:30 pm. Burgett has studied honeybees for 40 years. He has a Ph.D. from Cornell University, specializing in apiculture. He has consulted for governments and other organizations in North and South America, Europe and Asia. He recently conducted research in Thailand on the “Asian Hive Bee” [*Apis cerana*] and authored an article to appear in the June, 2009 issue of the *American Bee Journal* on colony mortality in the Pacific Northwest. He will talk about this topic and his research at our June meeting. Don't miss this great speaker!

#### PSBA TRUSTEES

Brian Allen (2009-2010)  
Krista Conner (2008-2009)  
Mike Doren (2009-2010)  
Jerry Gallaher (2008-2009)  
Corky Luster (2008-2009)  
Jim Olsen (2009-2010)  
Mark Paris (2009-2010)  
Rob Stevens (2009-2010)  
Tim Todd (2008-2009)

#### PSBA TRUSTEES

Robert Clark (Lifetime)  
Bill Rahr (Lifetime)

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We're on the Web!

[www.pugetsoundbees.org](http://www.pugetsoundbees.org)  
[www.psbees.org](http://www.psbees.org)

## Announcements

### Field Day—May 16, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Graham Visitor Center, Washington Park Arboretum. Fee is \$15 per person/family. See the April PSBA newsletter for more details. Starts promptly at 10 am. For questions, contact John De Groot, 425-883-3248.

### WSU/WSBA Beekeeping Field Day: June 12-13, 2009

Washington State University's Dr. Steve Sheppard, his students, and the Washington State Bee Association (WSBA) are hosting a two-day beekeeping field program in Pullman, Wash. on June 12-13, 2009. Topics and activities include: identifying pests and diseases; queen rearing; assessing, splitting, and moving hives; mead tasting; honey exchange; queen pheromone demonstration; gloveless beekeeping and more! Only \$10 per person (\$20 per family), lunch included! For more information and to register, go to the WSBA website at [www.wasba.org](http://www.wasba.org).

### PSBA needs new Vice President

Ambra Wadley has resigned for personal reasons Thank you Ambra for all your hard work and dedication to the club. We will miss your contribution as an officer but hope you can still attend meetings. Now, we need a new VP. Any current member who has a desire to fill this position will be considered. Responsibilities include chairing the membership meetings if the president is unavailable, helping organize the July picnic and November potluck, attending board/trustee meetings 2-3 times per year, assisting with honey sales as needed and other duties as needed. Please speak to any officer or trustee if you are interested.

### Apiary Work Party

The next apiary work party will be led by Krista Connor. The date will depend on the weather, so email Krista if you are interested in helping: [krconner@aol.com](mailto:krconner@aol.com).

## Volunteers Needed

Our club receives many requests for speakers to talk to the public about beekeeping at schools and organizations or to occupy a booth at fairs. Anyone can volunteer. Please contact PSBA president Nancy Beckett, 206-937-5583 or [enbee555@gmail.com](mailto:enbee555@gmail.com), if you are interested in being added to a list of volunteers.

## Marketplace

### Clear honey bear containers for sale

12 oz. size, with flip caps and inner seal \$0.40 each plus tax, if applicable. Contact Bruce Becker at 206.527.0226 or [treasurer@psbees.org](mailto:treasurer@psbees.org).

### Got gear? Sell your stuff here!

Short ads are run for free for members of PSBA. Fee for non-members is \$25. Send your ads to [editor@psbees.org](mailto:editor@psbees.org).

## Please return library materials!

Please remember to return your PSBA library items by bringing them to the monthly meeting, or contact Nancy Beckett [enbee555@gmail.com](mailto:enbee555@gmail.com) or 206-937-5583 for mailing address.