



# The PSBA BUZZ

April 2011

Volume 10, Issue 4

## Meetings:

### Arboretum

Graham Visitor Center  
2200 Arboretum Drive E.,  
Seattle, WA 98112

### April 26<sup>th</sup>

Monitoring the Health  
of Your Hives –  
Richard Snyder

### May 24<sup>th</sup>

Panel of PSBA  
beekeepers for general  
Q&A

## PSBA OFFICERS

### President

Brad Jones  
206-612-1068  
president@psbees.org

### Vice President

Krista Conner  
206-938-5158  
vp@psbees.org

### Secretary

Marie Emerson  
425-882-3261  
secretary@psbees.org

### Treasurer

Bruce Becker  
206-527-0226  
treasurer@psbees.org

### Newsletter Editor

Krista Conner  
206-938-5158  
editor@psbees.org

## Hive Calendar

### April: Install Packages

Cold snaps or extended rainy weather may cause starvation or robbing, so be prepared to feed your colonies. Install packages on foundation and feed until the brood nest (2 deeps or 3 westerns) are fully drawn. Add honey supers when the fruiting (not flowering) cherries bloom or, alternatively, when the local Maple nectar flow begins. If medicating in the spring, install and remove per manufacturer's directions. Our climate make fall a much better time to medicate. Apistan must be removed before supering. Coumaphous must be removed 14 days before supering. Formic Acid Gel packs must be removed 28 days before supering.

### Register your hives!

<http://agr.wa.gov/PlantsInsects/Apiary/docs/ApiaryRegistrationForm.pdf>

**Nectar Sources:** Dandelion & Clover, Maple, Scotts Broom (pollen), Raspberry, Heather, Apple – early April, Alder (pollen)

## April Meeting

Meetings are the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month except July, November, and December

**Beginners' Instruction: 6:30 – 7:15 p.m:** Van Sherod will present: beekeeping tasks during the next few months

### Main Meeting: 7:30 – 9:00 pm: Queen Rearing, Richard Snyder

Richard Snyder has been beekeeping off and on since he was 13 years old. He maintains around 30 production hives in the Kent Valley. He started raising his own queens because of dissatisfaction with the high cost of queens for the quality. He started queen production using 3-frame, Western mating boxes, but his preference has turned to 5-Frame Deep nucs because he can "...evaluate the performance of the queen prior to introducing her to a full size[d] hive."

Richard will be talking about the considerations and strategies in when raising your own queens. He will also discuss and demonstrate simple methods for grafting honeybee larvae into an artificial queen cell.

## Announcements & News

### Apiary Work Parties!

**Next Party: April 23, 2-4 pm, Contact: John DeGroot 425-883-3248**

Where: Arboretum Apiary

Work to do: Prepare hives for packages and maintain apiary as necessary.

If interested in maintaining the club's apiary and learning something new, join a work party! It's a great chance to ask questions and help the club's bees and

Apiary Manager  
Aaron Lum  
541-231-1979  
Got\_hawn\_pride@yahoo.com

#### PSBA TRUSTEES

Vacant (2010-11)  
John deGroot (2010-11)  
Gail Eshom (2011-2012)  
Keith Glatzer (2011-2012)  
Kevin Gow (2011-2012)  
Steve Near (2011-2012)  
Christine Ranegger (2010-11)  
Bob Redmond (2011-2012)  
Anna Wald (2010-11)  
Robert Clark (Lifetime)  
Bill Rahr (Lifetime)

```
  ///
  ( ( /
 \ / = \ / || = || \
 (#) - / = = = - ( = || = || = || = >
 " \ = = / \ || = || = /
  ///
  \ \ \
```

We're on the Web!  
[www.pugetsoundbees.org](http://www.pugetsoundbees.org)  
[www.psbees.org](http://www.psbees.org)  
Facebook  
Twitter: @psbees

apiary. If interested, contact work party organizers.

#### Future Parties:

May - 1st half - Bob Redmond 206-786-5715  
May - 2nd half - Keith Glatzer 206-240-7362

### Farewell to Van and Barbara Sherod

Please join PSBA in wishing well to members Van and Barbara Sherod at our April meeting. They will soon depart for Montana to finish building their dream home. April will be Van's last beginner's instruction class.

PSBA Members and visitors alike know Van- he has been teaching the beginner sessions at PSBA meetings for at least 15 years (maybe 20-we've lost track!)



Among the many contributions to PSBA over the years, Van has always had a few good beekeeping tales to share- and he should, he's been keeping bees for 25 years! He's also known for his hand dipped beeswax candles and award winning honey, taking first place at local fairs for several years in a row. If you have a beekeeping or honey question, Van is sure to have an answer!



Several years ago while attending the Western Apiculture Society's annual meeting, Sherod volunteered to try out a bee beard. (photos by Van Sherod)

Much gratitude to Van and Barbara for being such dedicated PSBA members and ambassadors for the honey bees. We will miss you - please know a podium at PSBA will always be available to you for your beekeeping knowledge (or even a tall tale). We look forward to any future visits to Seattle!

### In the News

Jeffrey Pettis, Head of Bee Research Lab, USDA has conducted a (not yet published) study with Dennis van Engelsdorp, of Penn State University showing honeybees have ability to detect pesticide residues in pollen brought back to the hive. Referencing this study, Mr. Pettis has stated honey bees 'entomb' contaminated pollen in propolis in order to prevent it from being used as food. A news article in *The Guardian* quoted Pettis: "The presence of entombing is the biggest single predictor of colony loss. It's a defence mechanism that has failed." Full story can be found online: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/apr/04/honeybees-entomb-hives>

### Master Beekeeper Apprenticeship Test

If you are interested in taking this (open book) test you can purchase the companion booklet for \$10 from Krista Conner after April 26th. Please get in touch at the meeting or email: [vp@psbees.org](mailto:vp@psbees.org).

**Marketplace** 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).

Need reliable and safe smoker fuel? Brad Jones will be coordinating a bulk purchase of burlap (organic weed- blockbags) from Seattle Burlap. A price break starts at 100 bags at \$.99 per bag. Please contact Brad if you are interested in this bulk purchase. [president@psbees.org](mailto:president@psbees.org) or 206-612-1068