



# The PSBA BUZZ

March 2013

Volume 12, Issue 3

Meetings are held at:

## Arboretum

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

**March 26<sup>th</sup>:** Sue Cobey  
will present on **Genetic  
Diversity**

**April 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Paul Bryant,  
WSU Master Gardener  
will discuss pollinator  
friendly plants

## PSBA Classes and

**Field Day** Learn  
something new and support  
PSBA by taking one of our  
classes or participating in  
Field Day on May 18<sup>th</sup>! info:  
<http://pugetsoundbees.org/resources/education/>

## PSBA OFFICERS

*President*  
Krista Conner  
206-938-5158  
[president@psbees.org](mailto:president@psbees.org)

*Vice President*  
Kim Thomas  
206-778.0875  
[vp@psbees.org](mailto:vp@psbees.org)

*Secretary*  
Maureen Sullivan  
206-715-7799  
[secretary@psbees.org](mailto:secretary@psbees.org)

*Treasurer*  
Bruce Becker  
206-527-0226  
[treasurer@psbees.org](mailto:treasurer@psbees.org)

## Hive Calendar

**Oh, for the weather to get warmer!!**

- Be prepared to feed your bees when the weather gets into the high 40s and above.
  - Dry sugar can be provided at any temp, see: <http://www.bushfarms.com/beesnucs.htm>
  - For sugar syrup, mix cane sugar and water 1:1 at equal volume parts.
- If medicating, add to syrup where appropriate.
- Prepare and position bait hives for the swarm season by early April.
- Be sure to order nucs or packages in time for Spring installation.
- Order and assemble any equipment needed for the Spring and early Summer.
- If keeping Mason Bees, mid-March is a good time to set tubes out in their outdoor location so that Mason Bees can emerge when the time is right.
- **Register your hives before April 1** - Be compliant with [RCW 15.60](http://rcw.wa.gov)  
<http://agr.wa.gov/PlantsInsects/Apiary/docs/ApiaryRegistrationForm.pdf>

## March Meeting

Meetings are the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month except December

**Beginner Lesson: 6:30-7:00pm** Come early to the meeting and learn about Spring Hive Management during our monthly beginner lesson – with Q&A!

**Announcements: 7:00-7:15** Get the latest info on what's happening with PSBA

**General Meeting 7:30-9:00pm** Sue Cobey, WSU and UC Davis Research Associate and Owner/Operator Honey Bee Insemination Services, Sue Cobey will speak about "Enhancing Genetic Diversity In The US Gene Pool". Come learn more about this exciting topic from a renowned presenter.

## Announcements & News

**From the President** *Krista Conner*

The sun was shining and the PSBA apiary was abuzz with bees and volunteers last Saturday at the first apiary work party of 2013. Bruce Becker organized the party, and several students from the How to Become a Hobby Beekeeper class showed up to help our member volunteers. After the party, the activity continued as John DeGroot wrapped up the first session of the beginning beekeeper course. All this beekeeper activity was great to see and is a sign of more fun to come this year with PSBA. I hope you've been able to get out and see your bees flying and they are bringing in pollen too!

As mentioned last month, PSBA is hosting Field Day in May and you can register for it and more by visiting the [Education section](#) of our website. Make use of these offers to expand your knowledge and support PSBA in the process.

### Apiary Work Parties:

March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 12-2pm, Amy Lassen, 720.988.337 [amy.lassen@colorado.edu](mailto:amy.lassen@colorado.edu) April 14<sup>th</sup>: Time TBD, John Woodworth, 206-265-3295, [jwoodworth206@gmail.com](mailto:jwoodworth206@gmail.com)

**PSBA's Field Day on May 18<sup>th</sup>, featured guest: Randy Oliver, [scientificbeekeeping.com](http://scientificbeekeeping.com)  
Workshop with Michael Bush Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>**

Info and registration for Field Day and Michael Bush: <http://pugetsoundbees.org/resources/education/>

## PSBA TRUSTEES

Jessica Dally (2012-13)  
Gail Eshom (2013-14)  
Jason Hansen (2012-13)  
Barnaby Hoit (2012-13)  
Brad Jones (ex-officio  
President)  
Amy Lassen (2013-14)  
Daniel Najera(2013-14)  
Peter Nolte (2013-14)  
Jeff Steenbergen (2013-14)  
John Woodworth (2012-13)  
Robert Clark (Lifetime)  
Bill Rahr (Lifetime)

### Newsletter Editor

Jessica Dally  
206-437-3006  
editor@psbees.org

### Apiary Manager

Peter Nolte  
206.484.7084  
apiary@psbees.org

### Volunteer Coordinator

Gail Eshom  
volunteer@psbees.org

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### We're on the Web!

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

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

## Bee Lunch: Oregon Grape (Mahonia) *by Jeff Steenbergen, Trustee*



This attractive evergreen shrub with holly-like leaves is a native to the northwest. Different species of Mahonia can be found throughout North and Central America and in Asia. These different species are also planted around the city and may be hard to distinguish from our native varieties. The Oregon grape has clusters of long lasting yellow blooms in early Spring that are very attractive to honey bees and other pollinators (especially bumble bees). They do well in full sun to part shade and make good accent plants for gardens or can be used as hedges. They get their common name from the clumps of small "edible" bluish berries that form in late Summer.

## Navigating Spring Storms *By: Jeff Steenbergen, Trustee*

This is a tricky time of year for beekeeping with the tug of war between winter storms and Spring flowers. Blooming flowers tell the bees to ramp up production, yet storms will force the bees back into cluster. Winter losses make the cluster smaller and there's need to build population back up as soon as possible.

Observant beekeepers will keep a watchful eye on the cluster this time of year, to make sure food is close to the brood nest. When storms arrive the bees will cluster around brood which can unfortunately trap them a few frames, or even inches away, from much needed food causing them to starve.

There are many reasons a colony might not make it to Spring and leave you wondering what you could have done differently. It's never easy to lose a colony; we can either look at this as a learning experience or get discouraged and decide to get a new hobby. Take heart, not every colony survives winter. Colony losses happen even if you did everything right as a beekeeper. Part of this is mother nature selecting for the best genetics and the surviving strong colonies will spread their genetics in Spring to replace colony losses.

Inspect your colonies on the first nice day of the season (any dry day above 55F). However, if the bees are actively flying at slightly lower temps, take a very quick peak under the cover or behind the follower (in Top Bar Hives) to make sure food is within reach of the bees.

If a colony has died, it's important to understand what contributed to the loss by looking at the remains of the cluster on the frames and at the bottom board (take pictures of bees, cells and bottom board and seek advice if needed). Unless the issue is American Foulbrood or rodents it should be safe to clean up the frames and use for surviving or new colonies.

To clean up equipment, brush off dead bees from the frames and bottom board and remove any damaged or rodent eaten equipment. Mold and bees in the cells are fine to leave behind as they'll quickly be cleaned up by any new colonies installed. Honey frames can be used in active colonies or stored in a secure cool place until needed to feed bees. A hive with only brood combs can be left to attract Spring swarms or used to install a nuc, package or a split from a surviving colony later in Spring.

## Hive Monitoring Program *By: Daniel Najera, Trustee*

We want to learn what varroa mites are doing and **you can help!** PSBA Research Committee is looking for 20 beekeepers to participate in a hive monitoring project. The requirements to participate are:

- Use of a bottom board with an slot where you can insert a "catcher", similar to a sticky board
- Easy access to a single colony once a week (preferably at your house)
- You agree to put contents of the "catcher" into a vial weekly
- You will label vials for each day the sample is collected
- You attend most PSBA meetings

4 empty vials will be traded for 4 full vials (with your collected samples) at each PSBA meeting. We want beekeepers from as many different areas of town as possible. Please contact [research@pugetsoundbees.org](mailto:research@pugetsoundbees.org) if you want to help gather data about varroa mites!

**PSBA Classes and Field Day** Learn something new and support PSBA by taking one of our classes or participating in Field Day on May 18th! info: <http://pugetsoundbees.org/resources/education/>

## Marketplace

**\*\*\* please see bottom of this page for new marketplace fees and guidelines, effective March 9th 2013\*\*\***

**Seattle Beekeeping Equipment and Supplies:** For the new or seasoned beekeeper, we have everything you need for your hive! Beginner kits (10% discount), hive bodies, protective clothing, bases, tops, frames with foundation, queens, medications and feeds as well as many other supplies for beekeepers. We also teach beginning and advanced beekeeping classes. **The Ballard Bee Company.** (We are located in Ballard) [www.ballardbeecompany.com](http://www.ballardbeecompany.com)

**Beekeepers, are you considering replacing your winter honey bee losses? What about increasing your apiary size?** We will be supplying 3-pound packages with your choice of New World Carnolian or Italian queens direct from Heitkam's Honey Bees in Orland, California. Our expected delivery date is either April 20th or April 27th. Changes and adjustments in delivery date are possible to insure the quality of our packages. Pick up of your package bee orders will be in Bellevue. Individual queens are available at \$27 each. Price per 3-lb. package with a queen is \$100 pre-paid (includes WSST and a refundable \$5 core deposit on the return of the package bee box your net sales price is \$86.75 each). Please feel free to contact me for additional details: **Cary Therriault** [cktherriault@comcast.net](mailto:cktherriault@comcast.net)

**Spring has sprung with apiarist/beekeeper humor gifts at** <http://bit.ly/YqwW38> Tees, aprons, mugs, cards & more for all beekeepers with a sense of style.

-----**Please take note of NEW PSBA Buzz Marketplace Advertising Rates and Policy**-----

**Effective March 9th 2013**

### **Individual/Organization (non-commercial ads) fees and guidelines:**

**25 words or less: \$5 fee for members and non-members.** Ad content must be submitted at least 30 days before the first Tuesday of desired month of publication, and ad fee payment received within 1 day of request to be considered eligible for publication.

**26-50 words: \$10 fee for members and non-members.** Ad content must be submitted 30 days before the first Tuesday of desired month of publication, and ad fee payment received within 1 day of request to be eligible for publication.

### **Commercial Ads or ads producing Significant Value:**

**65 words max: \$25 fee for members and non-members.** Ad Content must be submitted at least 30 days before the first Tuesday of desired month of publication, and fee payment received within 1 day of request to be considered eligible for publication.

Larger commercial ad spaces, with images/logo display will become possible as we make changes to newsletter format. Stay tuned. Updates to advertising policy will be posted to our [website](#).

### **Advertising Policy Fine Print:**

- Definition of Individual/Organization ads and Commercial ads can be found on our website
- All ad fees and publication runs are for 1 month duration in the PSBA Buzz newsletter unless otherwise requested and additional fees paid.
- Order of listing in the newsletter is based on date payment received.
- All ad submissions must be sent to [editor@psbees.org](mailto:editor@psbees.org)

