



The PSBA BUZZ

April 2010

Volume 9, Issue 4

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

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

April 27

Laura Sweany -
Permaculture Expert

May 25

Speaker TBD

PSBA OFFICERS

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Apiary Manager

Hive Calendar

Install Packages

Cold snaps or extended rainy weather may cause starvation or robbing, so be prepared to feed your colonies. Install packages on foundation in mid April and feed until the brood nest (2 deeps or 3 westerns) are fully drawn. Add 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.

Nectar flow/Pollen: Dandelion & Clover, Maple, Scotts Broom (pollen), Raspberry, Heather, Apple – early April, Alder (pollen), Crocus, Heather, Skunk Cabbage, Pussy Willow (pollen), Maple, Apricot

March Meeting

TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 2010

Beginners' Instruction: 6:30 – 7:15 p.m.: different kinds of bees - queens, drones, workers and a bit about swarming.

Main Meeting: 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.: Laura Sweany is a garden designer, permaculture consultant, and owner and operator of Terra Flora Farm in Seattle. Laura will provide an Introduction to Permaculture - Whole Systems Design For Your Home and Land. One of the most exciting innovations in land care and development is the idea of permaculture. Created in Australia in the late 1970's, permaculture is a whole-system approach to designing any site for maximum health and productivity by using a methodology guided by natural patterns and processes. Laura will introduce the basic principles and strategies of permaculture and discuss its use in sustainable living and land use.

Announcements & News

New PSBA Website: Check out the new PSBA website <http://pugetsoundbees.org/> Many thanks go to Bob Combs for taking the lead on setting up the site, and to Patty Loesche in organizing content.

PSBA Apiary Work Party!

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. Work party organizers through June:

- Apr – 2nd half – John de Groot 425-883-3248
- May – 5/9, 2pm – Rob Stevens 206-526-5201- Prep for Field Day!
- May – 2nd half - Patti Loesche 206-784-7958

Tim Todd
253-941-9855
fitter32@hotmail.com

PSBA TRUSTEES

Brian Allen (2009-10)
Mark Paris (2009-10)
Rob Stevens (2009-10)
Corky Luster (2010-11)
Patti Loesche (2010-11)
John deGroot (2010-11)
Christine Ranegger (2010-11)
Laura Lovell (2010)
Brad Jones (2010)
Robert Clark (Lifetime)
Bill Rahr (Lifetime)

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We're on the Web!
www.pugetsoundbees.org
www.psbees.org

Field Day—May 15 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.!

Don't miss this annual educational event! Registration starts at 9:30 am in the greenhouse adjacent to the Graham Visitor Center of the Washington Park Arboretum. Fee is \$15 per person/family. Starting promptly at 10 am, the main presentation will be lecture, question and answer, and hands-on construction by each attendee of a device for measuring the rate of varroa infestation by the powdered sugar or ether methods.

Main presentation will discuss what to look for in May, disease and treatment, and the standard tool kit for apiary visits. There will be Q and A on all things related to beekeeping. Break for lunch at noon—bring your own or visit local eateries. At 1 pm we suit up and walk to the club apiary—bring your beesuit. Experienced members will take small groups from the class and demonstrate proper technique for opening a hive, removing frames, examining for disease or poor brood pattern, and measuring the rate of varroa infestation. Participants will be given hands-on time. Some loaner bee suits will be available.

Helpful Links/Surveys:

- WSU Diagnostics Lab- for sampling for diseases in your hive [WSU Honey Bee website, http://apis.wsu.edu](http://apis.wsu.edu)
- [Bloom Time Survey](#): Dr. Dominic Ebacher of Bremerton, WA is interested in first bloom date and location for important bee species in Western Washington. This data will be an important source for helping make good management decisions in future years. Everyone that participates will have a share in the data.
- [Petition](#) Boy Scouts of America to reinstate Beekeeping Merit Badge: consider helping Christopher Stowell, a young Boy Scout and beekeeper, in his efforts to persuade Boy Scouts of America to reinstate the Beekeeping Merit Badge.

Master Beekeeper Apprenticeship Test

If you are taking this test, please complete/ return it to Van Sherod at the monthly meeting, or call Van or Barb Sherod 206-284-1520 to make other arrangements. If you are interested in taking this (open book) test you can purchase the companion booklet for \$10 from Van.

A Message from Washington State Beekeepers (WASBA)

The March newsletter is available on the www.wasba.org web site. Remember, if you have not renewed membership this is your last newsletter. Questions: contact [Paul Lundy](mailto:PaulLundy) 360-297-6743

Marketplace

Warre Hives for sale- Warré hives are now available for purchase in Seattle, made entirely of cedar, for \$300 contact Lauren Montgomery at: 206-790-0464 or Immontgomery@comcast.net

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.

Please return library materials!

Many items are missing from our library. Please return your PSBA library items by bringing them to the monthly meeting or mailing them to Nancy Beckett, 6308 50th Ave. SW., Seattle, WA 98136.