



The PSBA BUZZ

January 2010

Volume 9, Issue 1

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.)

Jan. 26

Equipment & Expert Panel

Feb. 23

Wax and Wire Frames
Woodenware Assembly

Mar. 23

Top Bar Hives

PSBA OFFICERS

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Treasurer

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Hive Calendar

Read, Plan, Repair, Sell

Do not disturb hives. Keep entrances free from ice. Read technical books and journals. Make plans for the coming year: medication, requeening, equipment purchases, and migrations. Buy, build, and repair woodenware and equipment. Buy the bottles and packaging you will use this year. Package and sell last year's honey and wax. Render old combs into clean wax.

Nectar flow: A few minor blooms.

President's Message

Happy New Year, and I hope there have been some bright spots in your life this past year. Thanks to all of you for supporting our club by volunteering many hours to purchase, bottle and sell honey. We are also grateful to those of you who keep track of our money, teach about beekeeping to children and adults, and organize events and the purchase of packages. And I don't want to forget the swarm list which allowed for removal of those angry wasps and hornets and gave new homes to wayward honeybees. We have had lots of opportunities to teach others about our gentle craft of beekeeping.

I know that honey production has been very different for all of us. Some of you didn't get much honey and others got buckets full. I guess this is what happens when we are farmers – so to speak. We are so dependent on weather and location, and it seems to be much less related to our beekeeping abilities.

If you haven't taken time to evaluate your beekeeping year then this is a good time. Is there a book that you want to read, some equipment you want to build or buy, and some equipment you want to get rid of? Maybe you want to explore adding another hive or two. Maybe for some of you this will be the year that you get honeybees.

Just remember, the club is here to help you learn about all facets of beekeeping. Hopefully we will give you information and support that you need to be a successful beekeeper. Unfortunately we haven't yet figured out how to affect the weather – even though we might want to.

I wish you all a great beekeeping year, and may your hives bustle with bees and overflow with that glorious liquid gold that we love.

Nancy Beckett
President, PSBA

January Meeting

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2009

Beginners' Instruction: 6:30 – 7:15 p.m.

Van Sherod and John deGroot will show and discuss a complete set of woodenware.

Main Meeting: 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

A panel of PSBA board members—Krista Conner, Bruce Becker, Rob Stevens and Corky Luster—will talk about beginning beekeeping mistakes and answering questions from beginning and more advanced beekeepers.

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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)
Laura Lovell (2010)
Brad Jones (2010)

PSBA TRUSTEES

Robert Clark (Lifetime)
Bill Rahr (Lifetime)

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

Announcements & News

New PSBA Trustees

At the November PSBA meeting we elected new trustees and officers. Please see the list on the side bar. We still need one more trustee for the 2010-2011 term. If you are interested, please contact any current officer or trustee for more information.

Newsletter editor needed

Our current PSBA newsletter editor is stepping down. If you like to write newsletters and write about honeybees, then please consider editing the newsletter. It is printed every month except July and Dec because we don't have meetings those months. Please advise Cynthia Salzman, the retiring newsletter editor, or Nancy Beckett, club president. Thank you for considering this request

PSBA Logo

We would like to explore a new design for our club logo. Are you a professional graphic designer? If so, would you consider designing a new club logo pro-bono? If we have more than one designer, then the design could be worked on together. We would like the design to be used on our newsletter and website, as well as hats and clothing items. If you are interested please contact Nancy Beckett, enbee555@gmail.com or 206-937-5583.

Susan Cobey Presentation

About 35 people attended Susan Cobey's October 25th workshop on "Honeybee Genetics, Queen Rearing & Honeybee Health." Many attendees were from outside our club, and some were from Bellingham and Whidbey Island. Her talk was informative and engaging. It also gave us hope, especially after some of us attended the movie "The Last Beekeeper" just a few days earlier.

For downloadable PDF files on the Cloake rearing method she uses for breeding honeybees: <http://www.honeybee.breeding.com/>

For information about the Honey Bee Research Facility at UC Davis: <http://beebiology.ucdavis.edu/>

Washington State Beekeepers Association

For news, bee testing and other information, go to <http://wasba.org/>.

Honeybee video

Watch a video of a honeybee lapping up honey, taken under a microscope by a Ballard beekeeper: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U7gjEe73kyo>

Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD)

For an excellent compilation of literature about Honey Bee Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) VII: IAPV, Nosema ceranae, and CCD, go to: <http://tinyurl.com/beegeek1120>.

Survey from student at Seattle University

PSBA members received information, either by email or post, about a survey being conducted by Hailey Michel-Evleth, a student in Environmental Studies at Seattle University. Please take a few minutes and complete the survey and return it to her by the end of January 2010. Her research will not only benefit her project but it could also benefit us as beekeepers.

Marketplace

Beekeeping Boxes available

It's time to order your boxes for spring. This year our club contact is getting very busy, so Jim Olsen is coordinating sooner than last year. Here is his message:

Due to decreased trips from the eastern side of the mountains, we will have to pay

shipping this year. I believe our total shipping cost will be \$75, which I propose to prorate based on your order total. This seems to be the best deal; if we order individually, it runs \$50 for a small pallet. If you are interested, send me an email at jao@coredesigninc.com **by January 30, 2010**, with the number of boxes, handle preference, size, quality (commercial vs budget) and whether you want it assembled or unassembled

The boxes this year will come with either the standard half moon handhold or the cleats. If you want **both** the price per box will go up \$0.30. This producer is now producing other hive products as well. See below. He also cuts nuc boxes, etc. If you need something other than what is shown below, let me know.

Lids: migratory \$8.00 assembled

Bottom Boards: \$8.00 assembled (standard not the screened bottom boards)

Boxes:

Deeps: Commercial—\$8.00 unassembled; Budget—\$6.75 unassembled.

Westerns: Commercial—\$6.50 unassembled; Budget—\$5.50 unassembled.

Boxes come with half moon handholds or cleats. If you want both, add \$0.30/ box
Assembled boxes (stapled), add \$2.00 each.

Order deadline: January 30, 2010.

Estimated delivery: Late February or early March.

‘Jerry the Bee Guy’ business for sale

The bee and wasp removal business known as JERRY THE BEE GUY is still for sale. I am looking for a younger person to learn the techniques of poison-free removal of stinging insects so that I can retire. The name of the business has become so well known in the Puget Sound area that advertising has never been necessary. The client list grows each year and the idea of NOT using poisons on wasps is gaining preference. This business has a great potential to grow in the hands of an enterprising person. Call Jerry Mixon at (206) 525-2433 to talk about details of the sale.

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.