



The PSBA BUZZ

March 2011

Volume 10, Issue 3

Meetings:

Arboretum

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

March 22nd

Monitoring the Health
of Your Hives

April 26th

Queen Rearing by
Richard Snyder

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Hive Calendar

March: Examine, Feed if necessary. Prepare Hive Equipment for any new hives. Register Hives by April 1.

On the first 55 F+ afternoon, go through hives briefly: clean hive bottom boards and clean out dead hives. Feed hives that will not otherwise make it to summer. Feed all hives in order to medicate with fumagillin (Fumidial B). If medicating in the spring with Apistan or Coumaphous, install at the middle of March to allow enough time after removal for the required 'medication free' period before installing honey supers. Do not use Menthol or Formic Acid Gel packs in the spring; temperatures do not become consistently warm long enough in advance of the nectar flow to install and remove per the label recommendation.

Register your hives!

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

Nectar Sources: Crocus, Heather, Skunk Cabbage, Pussy Willow (pollen), Maple, Apricot, Alder (pollen late March)

March Meeting

Meetings are the 4th Tuesday of each month except July, November, and December

Beginners' Instruction: 6:30 – 7:15 p.m: Van Sherod will present: Bees in your hive: Workers, drones, queens. Queens and packages. This is great info for anyone getting their first package of bees next month!

Main Meeting: 7:30 – 9:00 pm: Monitoring the Health of Your Hives

This presentation was originally scheduled for February but postponed due to inclement weather. Beth Kahkonen will provide an overview of pest and disease checks, pesticides in and around the hive, food stores, and analysis of colony mortality. Beth is a Research Associate and Manager of the WSU Honey Bee Research Program. She received her Master's degree in Entomology from WSU in 1999. Her graduate research focused alternative controls for tracheal and varroa mites. She has worked for the past 10 years as a research scientist for WSU, University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania State University, and Boston University. Beth manages the 200 research hives at WSU and the queen rearing for the breeding program.

Announcements & News

New PSBA Logo

Thanks to PSBA member Marvin Johnson for developing our new logo (top left of this newsletter) and to Nancy Beckett for organizing the effort and Marie Emerson and Christine Ranegger for collaborating to finalize the logo.

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)

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We're on the Web!
www.pugetsoundbees.org
www.psbees.org
Facebook
Twitter: @psbees

Upcoming PSBA Beekeeping Classes

"How to Become a Hobby Beekeeper" taught by John DeGroot, PSBA Trustee and Krista Conner PSBA VP

There's still time to sign up for PSBA's beginner beekeeping class for March.

- Saturday 19 Mar. noon to 5 in greenhouse (arrive 15 minutes early)
- Saturday 26 Mar. noon to 5 (arrive early)

Class content will include: honeybee physiology and behavior, beekeeping equipment, procedures and best practices, diseases and parasites, and related topics. Classes are taught to a beginner's level of understanding. Prerequisites: an open mind and note-taking materials. Bring a snack and beverage and wear warm clothes appropriate for woodworking- we'll practice assembling frames and woodenware during breaks in the presentation. Class consists of 10 classroom hours divided into successive Saturdays from noon (arrive early) till 5 PM and an optional beesuited 'hands on' at the club apiary in mid-April. Advanced registration preferred. Please pay the club treasurer, Bruce Becker, \$40 for enrollment.

Apiary Work Party Time!

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. If interested, contact one of the below work party organizers for info:

Next Party: March 26 from Noon to 2 PM.

Where: Arboretum Apiary

Contact: Bruce Becker 206.527.0226

Work to do: Prepare hives for packages, and check status of over-wintered hives if weather permits.

Future Parties:

April - 1st half - Kevin Gow	206-633-3577
April - 2nd half - John DeGroot	425-883-3248
May - 1st half - Bob Redmond	206-786-5715
May - 2nd half - Keith Glatzer	206-240-7362

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.

Long time PSBA Member and Master Beekeeper has passed away

Robert (Bob) Zahler was a long time member of our club and he passed away on March 1, 2011 at the age of 87. Bob was a master beekeeper and was the president of the Washington State Beekeepers Association for over eight years, lecturing internationally on beekeeping practices.

You can read the full obituary and sign guest book here until 4/5/2011:

<http://www.legacy.com/guestbook/heraldnet/guestbook.aspx?n=robert-zahler&pid=149111880&cid=full>

Marketplace Short ads are run for free for members of PSBA. Fee for non-members is \$25.

Send your ads to editor@psbees.org.

Van Sherod is downsizing his equipment- cost is a donation to the club. If interested in seeing what's available, he will be at the Graham Center at 6:00 pm the evening of the March bee meeting. He will have supers (westerns, no frames), queen excluders, etc. Good stuff!