



# The PSBA BUZZ

April 2012

Volume 11, Issue 4

## Meetings:

### Arboretum

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

### April 24<sup>th</sup>

Latest Research in  
Queens

by Steve Sheppard,  
M.Sc., Ph.D.

Entomologist and  
Thurber Chair  
Washington State  
University

### May 22<sup>nd</sup>

"Summer Management &  
Honey Production" by  
Tim Comstock, past  
President of PSBA

## PSBA OFFICERS

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## 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 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 makes 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: 6:30-7:00** Sarah Cooke will cover this month's to-do list for beekeepers.

**Beekeeping Q&A: 7:00-7:30**

### General Meeting 7:30 – 9:00 pm

**Latest Research in Queens, by Steve Sheppard, M.Sc., Ph.D. Entomologist and Thurber Chair, Washington State University**

Dr. Sheppard's talk will focus on the latest research in queens, including historic imports of new bee germplasm to the US, and what WSU is doing to support biodiversity in local populations. Finally, he can address the importance of this time to support healthy queens and populations in your own hives.

Dr. Sheppard, a renowned researcher and scientist, came to Pullman to be an unpaid bush pilot. He teaches at WSU in the Entomology department and help runs WSU's Apis Molecular Systems Laboratory. He writes a column in "Bee Culture" magazine and publishes regularly in national and international journals. His research interests include evolution and genetics of honeybees; lately he has been working with Dr. Sue Cobey and others to bring new genetic diversity to honeybees in the USA.

# Announcements & News

## PSBA TRUSTEES

Nancy Beckett (2012-13)  
Gail Eshom (2011-12)  
Keith Glatzer (2011-12)  
Kevin Gow (2011-12)  
Jason Hansen (2012-13)  
Barnaby Hoit (2012-13)  
Steve Near (2011-12)  
Bob Redmond (2011-12)  
John Woodworth (2011-12)  
Robert Clark (Lifetime)  
Bill Rahr (Lifetime)

## Newsletter Editor

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## We're on the Web!

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

## Call for Volunteers:

It's that time of year when PSBA gets invited to participate in festivals and events to share the buzz about bees. In addition to having fun, you can log volunteer hours for your apprentice and journeyman certificates while you help promote bees and PSBA by volunteering at one of the following events:

- **Northwest Solar Fest, July 28, 2012, Shoreline, WA**  
More info: <http://hosted-p0.vresp.com/933591/822eff37e9/ARCHIVE>  
Contact Brad at [president@psbees.org](mailto:president@psbees.org) if interested in volunteering for this event.
- **GreenLife: A Sustainability Expo at West Seattle Summer Fest, July 13, 14 and 15** We have the option of doing any number of days but if we can get between 10 and 15 people, all 3 days are possible.  
Contact Nancy Beckett at [enbee555@gmail.com](mailto:enbee555@gmail.com) if you're interested in volunteering for this event.

## Welcome our new Apiary Manager!

Please welcome Peter Nolte as our new Apiary Manager. Peter is an actor by trade and second-year beekeeper. We are thrilled to have him in this role. Please introduce yourself and help out by volunteering for an apiary work party.

## Apiary Work Party Time at the Arboretum Apiary

If you are interested in maintaining the club's apiary or learning something new, join a work party! It's a great chance to ask questions, help the club's bees and the apiary. Contact one of the work-party organizers below for details of their work party plans.

**Next party: Sunday April 29<sup>th</sup> 2-4pm. Install package bees in PSBA apiary (behind Arboretum Visitor Center). Contact: Barnaby Holt 206-579-4021 for more info.**

May, 1st half: John Woodworth 206-265-3295

May, 2nd half: Brad Jones 206-612-1068

June, 1st half: Gail Eshom 206-324-7267

June, 2nd half: Steve Near 425-306-8137

## Bee Informed!

Last call to participate in this year's colony loss survey at Beeinformed.org. With enough participants (> 300) from our state, beeinformed will be able to offer state specific information about hive management practices as they relate to colony loss <http://participate.beeinformed.org/Surveys/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=76Kl4p3>

## 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. Contact: [krconner \(at\) aol.com](mailto:krconner@aol.com)  
More information about the certification steps: <http://www.wasba.org/master.htm>

**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)