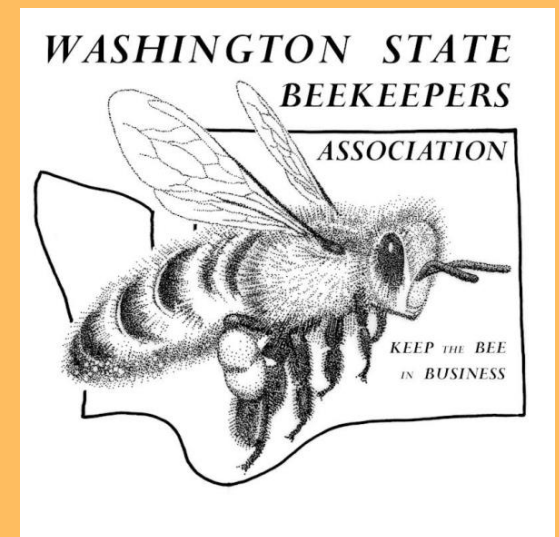


Puget Sound Beekeepers Association



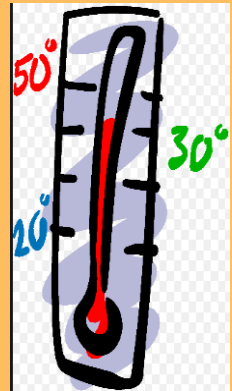
Tracy Klein
Master Beekeeper



Early Spring Management

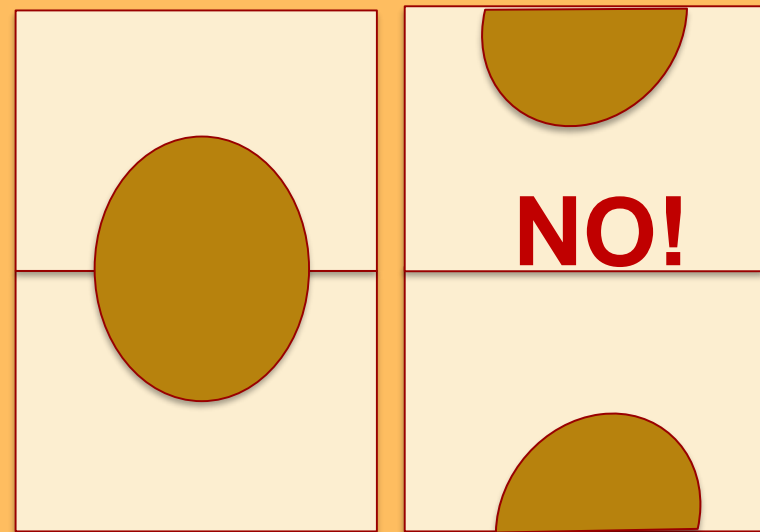
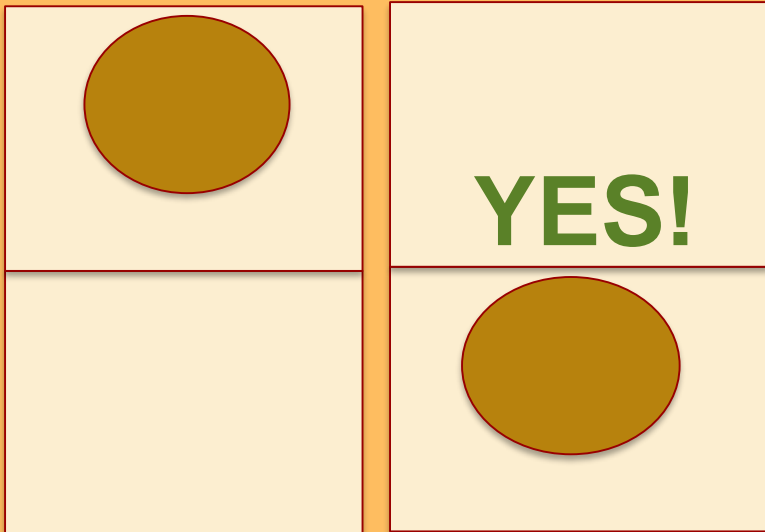
Inspecting Your Hive(s)

- Have a plan – what is your purpose for opening the hive
- Bring tools & your notebook or online device to record your inspection
- Get your woodenware ready ahead of time
- Only move frames if over 55 degrees F
- Work your hive from the back or side – don't block the entrance
- Avoid opening hives while it's raining or windy
- Complete all inspections during the afternoon while foragers are in the field



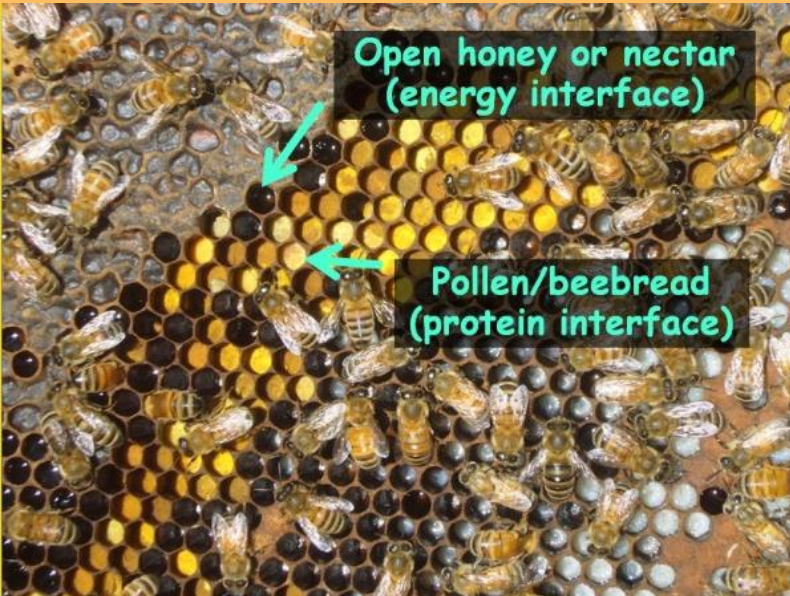
First Of The Season Inspections

- **Early Spring (March/April)**
 - Use hive tool to clear bottom board of dead bees and/or debris
 - Check for egg & brood pattern
 - Check Food stores – should never get below 10#
 - Feed 1:1 sugar syrup
 - Add a pollen patty
 - Reverse Your Boxes (Careful not to separate the brood)

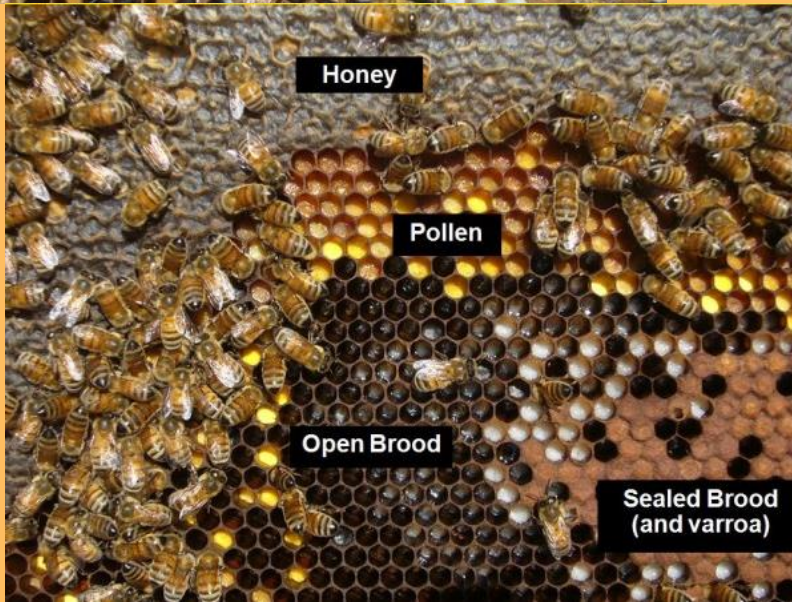


Inspecting Your Hives

Photos Courtesy of Randy Oliver, ScientificBeekeeping.com



Learn to read whether your bees are hungry



Preparing A Home For Your New Bees

Packages



- Last Chance To Paint
 - Use Exterior Latex On All Outside Surfaces
- Build/Set Up Your Hive Stands



Nucs



- Check The PSBA Website For Suggested Equipment List
- Vendor Partners Are Also Listed

- Talk With Your Neighbors About Your New Bees – Using Social Distancing

Feeding Your Bees

- **Pollen Patties**

- Should have lots of brood, and just like us, the bees need food in their pantries in case they can't go get more (ie rain/cold)
- Impacts queen health & ongoing acceptance

- **1:1 Sugar Syrup**

- Once the average daily temps are around 55°
- Used for food on those rainy spring days & for building wax

- **Supplements**

- White vinegar (acetic acid), 1-2T per gallon
- Lemon Juice (vitamin C), 1T per gallon
- Essential Oils (amount varies by manufacturer)

- ***NOTE: DO NOT feed your bees honey from the store or from unknown sources, it may contain foulbrood spores. Do Not feed brown sugar or molasses.***



Giant Asian Hornet



Immediately Report any sightings:

- 800-443-6684
- PestProgram@agr.wa.gov

Have Time On Your Hands?

- Read a Beekeeping Book
- Watch Educational YouTube Videos
 - Dave Burns, Master Beekeeper Colony Inspection
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5h8Z5zn1Clw>
 - Learn How To Do Splits
- Subscribe To An Online Magazine
 - Bee Culture
 - American Bee Journal
- If You Get Stuck or Have Questions, E-Mail Your Neighborhood Captain

