



PSBA Newsletter

January 2004

2004, Issue 1

**EVENTS at the
Arboretum Visitors
Center**
2200 Arboretum Drive
East, Seattle

Jan. 27

MEETING 6:30 -9:00 pm
Beginners Instruction
6:30 – 7:15 pm
Main Presentation:
Bee Dances
by Laura Bendit
7:30 – 9 pm

Feb. 24

MEETING 6:30 -9:00 pm
Beginners Instruction
6:30 – 7:15 pm
Main Presentation:
TBD
7:30 – 9 pm

Mar. 23

MEETING 6:30 -9:00 pm
Beginners Instruction
6:30 – 7:15 pm
Main Presentation:
Sugar Esters
7:30 – 9 pm

Apr. 27

MEETING 6:30 -9:00 pm
Beginners Instruction
6:30 – 7:15 pm
Presentation: TBD
7:30 – 9 pm

Hive Calendar

Year-to-year variation in temperature or rainfall, hills that block or funnel prevailing winds, northern or southern exposures, nearby lakes or rivers, and other geographic features near your apiary will speed or delay the blossoming time by as much as three weeks. Use the hive calendar as a guide.

January / February

Not much blooming. Bees may make cleansing flights on warm days.

Do not disturb hives. Keep entrances free from ice. Read technical books and journals. Plan your medication, requeening, equipment purchase, and migrations for the coming year. Buy, build and repair woodenware and equipment. Buy bottles and packaging for the next year. Render old combs into clean wax. On a warm day in late February when the temperature is above 50 degrees and the wind mild, a very brief hive inspection will not hurt them.

Based on Roy Thurber's Bee Chats, Tips and Gadgets

Apiary Report

Adopt a Hive Participants and their Mentors in 2003

Lianne Shyry – Dawn Corl

Scott Enright – Bruce Eckholm

Deborah Box – Tim Celeski

Deb Thompson – Mary McIsaac

Dianne Decristoforo – Mary McIsaac

Mathias Reinhardt – Rob Stevens

Issues for Next Season:

Splits. Depending on colony strength, apprentices are entitled to 5-frame splits in the Spring, 2003. They must provide their own nuc box. Assessment and timing will be determined in April.

2004 Enrollment. Contact the president or apiary manager to enroll in the 2004 program.

Program Review. The trustees will evaluate the program structure and discuss any changes. Issues include: more colonies; extending program to other beeyards; including club honey as a deliverable for program participation; extending the program to include extraction, etc.

Preparation for the 2004 season

May 15

FIELD DAY

10 am to 3 pm

Bring Your Beesuit !

Speaker: Jim Bach

May 25

MEETING 6:30 -9:00 pm

Beginners Instruction

6:30 – 7:15 pm

Presentation: TBD

7:30 – 9 pm

June 22

MEETING 6:30 -9:00 pm

Beginners Instruction

6:30 – 7:15 pm

Presentation: TBD

7:30 – 9 pm

July 17

ANNUAL PICNIC

at the Arboretum

11 am - 3:00 pm

Aug. 24

MEETING 6:30 -9:00 pm

Beginners Instruction

6:30 – 7:15 pm

Presentation: TBD

7:30 – 9 pm

Sept. 28

MEETING 6:30 -9:00 pm

Beginners Instruction

6:30 – 7:15 pm

Presentation: TBD

7:30 – 9 pm

Oct. 26

MEETING 6:30 -9:00 pm

Beginners Instruction

6:30 – 7:15 pm

Presentation: TBD

7:30 – 9 pm

So far, the volunteers to be Mentors in 2004 are: Bruce Becker, Tim Celeski, Dawn Corl, John deGroot, Wes Uhlman, Lyle Willis. More mentors would be nice.

One alternate site (Woodinville) for Adopt-A-Hive operations will be available.

Bruce Eckholm, the apiary manager

Club Notes

The Joys of Winter Beekeeping

As I write this it is a very cold (for Seattle, anyway) 27 degree December day outside. I checked on my hives yesterday which was warmer and sunnier and found that the bees feel that way, too. Outside my four hives were a number of dead bees that couldn't quite make it back in time to stay out of the cold. This time of year, there is a sharp shift in temperatures just going from sun to shadow. If a bee is out flying once the sun hits my hives, upon her return trip she may find that the hill on which my hives are located is now in shadow and have a very hard time making it back in time before succumbing to the cold temperatures. It's always sad to have to clean off these stragglers.

In winter I find myself thinking more about the peripheries of beekeeping than beekeeping itself. Now is a good time to get ready for the season by reading up to sharpen your knowledge and skills. I received an interesting book on honey from a friend and am planning on reading Von Frish's lectures on bees and color and pattern recognition. It's also a good time to plan, order and build the new equipment you're going to need for the new year. As many of you know, when April and May hits you may soon find yourself in need of new equipment and no time to build it. So get out those catalogs.

PSBA the 2004 Version

At the club's annual November Potluck the club elected its 2004 slate of Officers and Trustees. The Officers from 2003 were elected to an additional year and with several vacancies open in the rotating Trustee positions some new names were added for two year terms: Cara Mathison, Cary Theriault, Rob Stevens and Tim Comstock. And, once again many thanks for the ideas, efforts, experience and insights from the retiring Trustees: Lyle Willis, Scott Eby, Anne Patton and Vic Scarpelli. Another change for the year will be an attempt to set up just two trustee meetings a year in the form of retreats. We tried to have mini-meeting prior to the main meetings this year, but it didn't seem to work out for some people. As soon as we get the dates planned they will be announced in this newsletter and at the main meetings.

As you can see it takes a lot of folks to help PSBA run a successful operation. As you get ready for 2004, be thinking about helping out the club by volunteering once in a while. Because we're small, PSBA is a very low effort operation, but it does take a little bit of effort on the part of a number of people. It's the little things that help you know. Like in the details of beekeeping, these little things add up. Don't be shy about lending a hand on occasion. Time is precious to all of us, but if you can help once in a while, every little bit helps.

Happy 2004!

Tim Celeski, President PSBA

January Meeting

Nov. 16

MEETING 6:30 -9:00 pm
Election of Officers,
Potluck Dinner,
Tall Tales, and Awards
*(On the third
Tuesday instead of
the fourth, so that
the bees don't
compete with the
turkey.)*

December

*Reindeer and
honeybees don't
play together.
We will not meet in
December.*

Topic: Bee Dances by Laura Bendit

Come one, come all! Learn about Bee Dances from Laura Bendit.

Newsletter editor

Election and End-of-Year Status

Club Status

Current membership: 80 families

Current bank balance: about \$3,000.00

Election Results

President: Tim Celeski

Vice President: Nancy Beckett

Treasurer: Paul Knutzen

Secretary: Dawn Corl

Trustees elected to a two year term ending January 1, 2006: Tim Comstock, Cara Mathison, Rob Stevens, Cary Therriault

Lifetime Trustee: Robert Clark

Trustees with terms continuing from a previous year: Laura Bendit, John deGroot, John Keenan, Mary McIsaac, Wes Uhlman

Apiary Administrator (appointed): Bruce Eckholm

Newsletter Editor (appointed): John deGroot

Newsletter editor

Renew your Membership

Dues and Subscriptions

There are three options of how you receive your newsletter: by email, by an email notice that the newsletter is posted on the club web site, or by paper mail. Please indicate your preference.

Club members can receive discounted subscription rates to popular beekeeping journals (mailing addresses in USA only)

American Bee Journal; 1 yr \$17.20, 2 yr \$32.75, 3 yr \$46.05

Bee Culture; 1 yr \$17.00, 2 yr \$32.00

Speedy Bee; 1 yr \$13.25, 2 yr \$25.25, 3 yr \$34.00

You can pay in advance for Field Day (May 15, 2004) \$15.00 per person

PSBA membership dues for 2004 are \$20.00 per family

Membership Survey

How do you prefer to be contacted: by phone, by email, or by postcard?

In which year did you first join PSBA?

How long have you been a beekeeper?

How many colonies do you have?

How many colonies do you plan to manage through 2004?

What was your total honey harvest for 2003?

Please indicate your willingness to volunteer for: Apiary work parties, Adopt-a-Hive program, Mentoring, Swarm list, Honey sales events, Other (specify what).

Our club is a resource we all can use to become better beekeepers, but it is only as effective as we make it.

Send to Treasurer Paul Knutzen, 8036 S. Langston Road, Seattle, WA 98178

Hobby Beekeeping Course

Northshore (Woodinville) School District Continuing Education Program

A hobby beekeeping course will be offered in March. The course content includes all the information you need to get started keeping honey bees. Topics include protective clothing, tools, key success factors, typical annual schedule, hive manipulations, harvesting, set up, medication of colonies, and more. This course is presented through the Northshore School District's evening adult education program at a nominal fee. It will be taught on five Monday evenings from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM on March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th. A practical exercise at a beeyard will be scheduled for a weekend in April.

See John deGroot for more info.

Northwest Fall Conference

Bill Rahr attended the Northwest Conference at Hood River, Oregon

The Idaho, Oregon, Washington State Beekeepers Associations held their biannual conference at Hood River Oregon on November 6th 7th and 8th. As in years past, the Oregon folks did a wonderful job of hosting the get together and our thanks go out to them. Beekeepers from California, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington were treated to full days' of lectures, workshops, social gatherings and of course, the much looked forward to Banquet and Auction. Numerous vendors had good displays of equipment and literature, all available for sale.

The lectures that I appreciated most were Dr. Rick Fell's "Queen Pheromones' Roll in Hive Management", Dr. Keith Delaplane's "Ecology of Pollination" and Jay Miller's humorous rendition of "How I do Beekeeping with 12,000 Hives". Other subjects covered were W.S.U. Research Update, SMR Queens, Effects of Miticides on Queen and Drone Viability and Assets and Limitation of Modern Bee Management. We also were treated to liberal doses of IPM experiences, Varroa control, Queen breeding, Workshops and just plain discussions with other bee keepers from around the Northwest. Van Sherod, Dawn Corl, Agnes Schmoe and I were in attendance and hope to have the opportunity to pass on some of this wonderful and useful information to you during future meetings of our club.

The high point of the Friday evening auction occurred when Roy Thurber's old bee smoker, graciously contributed by Van Sherod, came up for auction. It finally was hammered down for \$150 to Paul Lundy (now of West Sound Beekeepers) with a provision that it shall come back every year for re-auction and a new caretaker. Thanks Van! Incidentally, the auction netted about \$1,300, which will go for bee research through the Washington State Bee Association.

Many Thanks to Bill Rahr for this report

Letter from Susan Fitzpatrick

Dear All,

I have been meaning to write this letter for a long time. Words cannot say how much I have appreciated all the work, support, and time you all have given to help my family and myself in dealing with Franks's hives and bee equipment as well as emotional support.

It has been an incredible and fascinating journey with Frank as he discovered beekeeping and as he let it become such a large and important part of his life. He would never miss a meeting unless there were too many wasp jobs lined up and he loved taking part in speaking about various aspects of beekeeping at the meetings as well as to anyone who would listen to him, especially children. I learned about bees, beekeeping, and wasps by osmosis, listening to Frank explain and teach and could almost pass myself off as a beekeeper except actually working with bees which is something I cannot do.

Many thanks especially to Van and Tim and all the workparty volunteers, who have spent many hours organizing all the work parties for moving the hives to the mountains and back, the Seattle Tilth event, the beekeepers garage sale, and helping me clear out the "millions" of jars stashed in our house plus Van's trips to the dump for me, extracting, and bottling honey.

Sincerely

Susan Fitzpatrick

Mentoring: Review and Preview

2003

The club had 6 official hive adopters. Liann Shryly, Thom Lee, Tony Umlauf, Mary McIssac, and Scott Enright participated. There were three mentor-teachers. The club facilitated the sale of 23 hives to beginners. The end results for the year are 9 beginners started keeping hives in 2003.

2004

The list of mentor-advisors includes (so far): Tim Celeski, Dawn Corl, and John deGroot. Locations in addition to the club apiary may be open to beginners by arrangement.

A few additional mentor-volunteers would be appreciated. You can help beginners get started right and ease the learning curve. One starts much better with a little advise from friends.

Newsletter editor

Puget Sound Beekeeping Association

We're on the Web!

www.pugetsoundbees.org

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Marketplace

Many Flavors of Honey for Sale

4 and 5 gallon buckets are available of the following honey flavors to members of the PSBA for reselling. The price is \$72 for the 4 gallon buckets and \$90 for the 5 gallon buckets....

Blackberry /Blueberry

Buckwheat

Raspberry

Pearly Everlasting

Onion/Dill

Orange Blossom

Sage

Alfalfa

This will go extremely fast. Call Susan Fitzpatrick at 244-1291 for information

Jar Lids for Sale

Frank ordered 20,000 new jar lids before he passed away. Van's got `em and is selling them in lots of 100 or 300 at 12 cents per lid. These are good quality brand new white plastic lids for wide mouth mason jars. If interested call Van Sherod at 206-284-1520, but please call no later than 8 PM.

Mason Jars for Sale

Van still has much of Frank's hoard of mason jars. They will be available to club members at reasonable prices. If interested call Van Sherod at 206-284-1520 (no later than 8 PM).

Short ads are run for free for members of PSBA! . Commercial ad rates: \$15 for _ page, \$30 for _ page, or \$60 for a full page. Deadline for entry is first of the month.

Round Dances

PSBA wants a talkative projector

The club needs the type of gizmo that projects electronic images from a laptop onto a wall screen. Please inform Tim Celeski if you know where we can get one for a reasonable price.

Chefs are finding Honeycomb to be the bee's knees for upscale menus

The full article will be available on the Web for a limited time at:

<http://www.dfw.com/mld/dfw/living/food/7402327.htm>

Thanks to Tim Celeski for this news item