



The PSBA BUZZ

August 2006

Volume 7, Issue 7

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.)

Aug. 22, '06
MEETING 6:30–9 pm
Beginners Instruction
6:30–7:15 pm
Dr. Pam Girres
Will discuss the bee
sting from a medical
standpoint

Sept. 26, '06
Marketing and Labeling

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Hive Calendar

Harvest & Medicate

Check for swarm cells each 7 to 10 days. Requeen. Warm temperatures improve the effect of all mite medications. Use medications after supers are off and per manufacturer's recommendation. Remove and extract capped supers. Collect and freeze pollen for use next spring. Bottle and sell honey and beeswax.

Nectar and pollen sources: Knotweed, Dandelion & Clover. Fireweed at high elevations; Pearly Everlasting at higher elevations

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

It looks like the giant knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*) is blooming much earlier than most years. See the description later in the newsletter. Normally, knotweed blooms in late August and early September. This year it appears that we won't have to compete for time between mite treatment and knotweed harvest. For those lucky enough to have this exotic plant close to their hives, supers should be added now. The dark, complex flavor of the honey from this buckwheat relative is very desirable. It does not have the same dubious flavor of buckwheat honey but rivals its color. Too often the bees get to taste knotweed all winter long since it usually comes during the medication season, but you'll get to taste it this year.

—Newsletter Editor

August Meeting

TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2006

Beginners Instruction: 6:30–7:15 pm

Van Sherod's beginner lesson precedes the main presentation. There's a lot to be learning about this month. Van is always open to questions.

Reservations for renting the clubs extractors will be taken during the break. Extractor rentals are only available to Association Members.

Main Presentation: 7:30–9 pm

Stinging Insect Allergies

Have you ever wondered what is behind the allergic reaction to a bee sting? Dr. Pam Girres will talk on the sting from a medical standpoint. Topics will include types of reactions, who is allergic, diagnosing allergies and treatments. This is a subject that all beekeepers should be aware of.

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

Club Notes

Hello Beekeepers,

I hope you are all enjoying our wonderful summer. On a nice evening, please stop by the clubs' apiary - we have a new shed! At our last work party (July 22nd), we painted the shed and began to install a new fence. You can also see other wonderful changes, such as a berm along the north side of the bee area that will eventually be a bio-fence. In addition, we put in some plants that will force the bees up, to keep bees out of visitors' bonnets. In September, PSBA will have another work party. This is an important time as we have to complete 240 more work hours to meet the requirements of our grant. There is a lot to do, including planting, cleaning, and organizing the sheds, just to mention a few. At the August club meeting, I will announce the September work date.

Important dates to put on your calendar:

August 26th: The Washington Beekeepers Association will hold a Field Day in Puyallup. This will be similar to the PSBA Field Day in substance and format in that there will be classes in the morning with a beginner focus, and a chance to inspect hives later. Registration is found on the Washington State Beekeepers website at www.wasba.org.

October 12-14: Washington holds its annual Beekeepers Convention. Hosted by the Mount Baker Beekeepers Association in Bellingham, registration is at the same location on the Washington State Beekeepers Association website. Early registration ends on **September 15th**.

August 24th-September 4th: The Northwest Beekeepers Association will be staffing the honeybee booth at the Evergreen State Fair. Contact them to sign up for a space and meet the public.

September 8-24: Washington State Fair in Puyallup. The honeybee booth is important for our club. We have a chance to promote the benefits of honeybees and help to get people interested in the hobby of beekeeping.

August 19 at 9:00 a.m. I would like to invite any interested members to the PSBA trustee meeting. We hold trustee meetings twice a year to discuss issues and make decisions about projects and topics for the club meetings. We would love to have interested folks participate. If you are interested, send me an e-mail or call me at (206)285-2942 or Rob Stevens at (206)526-5201

Bzzzz, Bzzzzz,

Tim Comstock
President PSBA

Announcements

Washington State Beekeepers will be having a field day on August 26th in Puyallup focusing on hobbyists and beginners. This date has been revised from the original schedule in July. Here are some of the topics:

- Varroa and Tracheal treatments available to the beekeeper, Hygienic Behavior Assessment, Screen bottom boards, medication rotation and

- drone comb use.
- Colony inspections, bee behavior in the hive, colony handling, colony growth dynamics.
 - AFB demonstration, Disease talks and posters, AFB treatments, TM and Tylosin.
 - Raising your own queen, using nucs and queen introduction methods, fall requeening.
 - Last event of the day is Beekeeping Olympics.

Check their webpage for updates on the registration. <http://www.wasba.org/>

Many thanks to Colin Stanton Wyman for his hard work in procuring a fireweed apiary permit for the Association members up in the National Forest. Hives are up in the mountains right now storing away the desirable fireweed honey.

Nectar Source of the Month

Japanese knotweed, *Polygonum cuspidatum*



While some bees are eagerly after water white fireweed honey in the mountains, the lowlands can yield the darkest honey imaginable. An escaped ornamental, Japanese knotweed is often found in waste places, neglected gardens, roadsides, and along stream banks. Though some consider this an invasive pest, beekeepers seek out it's fantastic nectar in mid August through mid September. The plants in the same area seem to have widely varying blooming times. Some plants bloom in late July while their neighbor won't break bud until late August. Northeastern beekeepers call this bamboo honey (for knotweed's hollow stem similarity) but it is more closely related to buckwheat (*Fagopyrum esculantum*); but the honey is much milder but just as dark as buckwheat. Look for extremely dark colored cells/frames during August and September.

Apiary Report

We've got a new shed and it's been painted, thanks to all who participated in the July work party. We've also installed a new gate on the west end of the site and have started the installation of the east fence. The north end of the site has been prepared with topsoil for a pollination garden/biofence which will serve to keep people out and force the bees to fly above the nursery walkway.

August Work Party

August 26, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. (Please note that this conflicts with the Washington State Beekeepers Field Day in Puyallup. Please don't let this work party take you away from a great learning experience)

A lot has been done but there is still a lot more to complete. The shed still needs a ramp. The split rail fence and gate will need to be completed and a temporary fence will need to be installed along the north boundary until the pollination garden is planted and established. An interpretive sign/kiosk will be installed with descriptions of the plants in the pollination garden as well as history and biology of bees. Be a part of this exciting renewal of the Apiary! Contact Bruce Becker at (206)527-0226 for more information.

We are seeking an interested woodworker that might be willing to take on an individual task of restoring our historic "Bee Garden" sign. This sign has been around since 1958 and is still looking great but needs a new paint job (including removing old paint layers) and a new post. Please contact Bruce Becker at (206)527-0226 if you are interested.



The bee garden is a comparatively little-known plot surrounded by Arboretum trees and hedges.

A Garden Of Bees

THE University of Washington Arboretum is famed for its floral splendor. But what is perhaps the Arboretum's most unusual garden area contains no flowers.

At the edge of a small meadow and hidden from passers-by by hedges is the Arboretum Bee Garden, dotted by several dozen white hives.

The bee garden was established in 1958 by the Puget Sound Beekeepers Association, a group of nearly 100 men, women and youngsters, all amateur beekeepers.

In addition to managing and maintaining the hives and bee colonies at the garden, association members have for several years sponsored beekeeping classes at the Arboretum.

Beginning the first part of June, the classes are conducted by Joseph Miller, bee-garden curator, and Carl H. Moen, an expert on hive management.

Miller and Moen agree that most of their pupils, after five hours of lectures and five hours of practical bee-handling, are confirmed keepers, lifelong participants in a complex and fascinating hobby.

ARBORETUM BEES - 1958

In addition, if you are volunteering for collecting swarms, schools, Bug Day, Seattle Tilth, or other community outreach where you are telling people about

beekeeping and Puget Sound Beekeeper's Association, please keep track of your time and tell Bruce Becker so we can put your time down on our grant reports for volunteer time.

Marketplace

Got gear? Sell your stuff here!

Queens available May-Sept. \$15 ea. 10+ \$10 ea. Pickup only, please call for availability---Brandon Clayton 206-947-4483.

Short ads are run for free for members of PSBA! The fee for non-members is \$25. Commercial ad rates: \$15 for ¼ page, \$50 for ½ page, or \$75 for a full page. Send your ads to editor@psbees.org.

Foraging

Bees on the Web

We all know that honey has antibacterial qualities, but now it may be the cure to save people with flesh-eating disease. MRSA, Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (aka superbug or flesh-eating bacteria) can afflict post-surgery patients. New Zealand is researching whether honey can protect cancer patients from this debilitating complication. Stay tuned for results.

http://www.southmanchesterreporter.co.uk/news/s/214/214925_christie_hits_mrsa_with_wonder_honey.html
