



The PSBA BUZZ

April 2009

Volume 8, Issue 4

**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.)

May 26

Queen rearing
Mike Doren

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Hive Calendar

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.

Usual nectar sources: dandelion, clover, maple, Scotts broom (pollen), raspberry, heather, apple – early April, alder (pollen).

April Meeting

TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2009

Beginners instruction: 6:30 – 7:15 pm

Van Sherod's beginner's lesson focuses on the basics of beekeeping.

Main meeting: 7:30 – 9:00 pm. "Bees and Noxious Weed Control: Finding Common Ground"

By Alison Halpern, Executive Secretary, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board (WSNWCB). Noxious weeds are nonnative, invasive plants that can harm our natural resources, health and economy. However, many noxious weeds also provide nectar and pollen for our honeybees and native bees. The WSNWCB is aware of the importance of bees and the decline of their populations worldwide and is working to promote "bee-friendly" noxious weed control and landscaping with non-invasive plants that benefit bees.

Announcements

Club apiary work party Saturday, April 25 at 1:00 pm

We will examine the brood on the newly installed packages and check the overwintered hives, weather permitting. If weather is too cold, we will still check and refill the feeders for the new hives. If possible, we will also mow and do the regular maintenance on the apiary area. If you are interested in participating, please contact Bruce Becker 206-527-0226 or treasurer@psbees.org.

Field Day—May 16, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Don't miss this annual educational event! Registration starts at 9:30 am in the greenhouse adjacent to the Graham Visitor Center of the Washington Park Arboretum. Fee is \$15 per person/family. Starting promptly at 10 am, the main presentation will be lecture, question and answer, and hands-on construction by

PSBA TRUSTEES

Brian Allen (2009-2010)
Krista Conners (2008-2009)
Mike Doren (2009-2010)
Jerry Gallaher (2008-2009)
Corky Luster (2008-2009)
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Mark Paris (2009-2010)
Rob Stevens (2009-2010)
Tim Todd (2008-2009)

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Robert Clark (Lifetime)
Bill Rahr (Lifetime)

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We're on the Web!

www.pugetsoundbees.org

www.psbees.org

each attendee of a device for measuring the rate of varroa infestation by the powdered sugar or ether methods. Main presentation will discuss what to look for in May, disease and treatment, and the standard tool kit for apiary visits. There will be Q and A on all things related to beekeeping. Break for lunch at noon—bring your own or visit local eateries. At 1 pm we suit up and walk to the club apiary—bring your beesuit. Experienced members will take small groups from the class and demonstrate proper technique for opening a hive, removing frames, examining for disease or poor brood pattern, and measuring the rate of varroa infestation. Participants will be given hands-on time. Some loaner bee suits will be available.

Washington State Beekeepers Association

Check out their latest newsletter on their website at www.wasba.org.

Volunteers Needed

Our club receives many requests for speakers to talk to the public about beekeeping at schools and organizations or to occupy a booth at fairs. Anyone can volunteer. Please contact PSBA president Nancy Beckett, 206-937-5583 or enbee555@gmail.com, if you are interested in being added to a list of volunteers.

Upcoming events needing PSBA volunteers at our booth:

Sustainable West Seattle Festival, May 3, 10 am to 3 pm.

Two shifts: 9:30 am–1 pm and 12:30–4 pm (to include set-up and clean-up).
Contact Nancy Beckett, 206-937-5583.

Plant Amnesty Fair, May 10, 10 am to 4 pm, Sandpoint Magnuson Park.

Two shifts: 9:30 am–1 pm and 12:30–4:30 pm. Contact Bruce Becker to volunteer, 206-527-0226.

Marketplace

For sale: nucs, boxes and more

Mike Doren is selling beekeeping supplies, including 15 nucs @ \$50 each ("I used these for queen rearing last year and they worked great.") and two 12.5 lb. boxes of new deep crimp-wired foundation W/O hooks @ \$75/ box). For prices and photos, go to <http://www.michaeledoren.com/For%20Sale.html>. For more information, contact Mike at 425-890-8756 or mike@mikedoren.com.

Selling heavily populated hives

Local commercial beekeeper Dean Barnett will sell complete hives made from splits. Each hive includes 1 bottom board, 1 lid, one deep super, and 9 frames heavy with bees and costs \$200. They are requeened this year (2009) with queens from Wooten's queen breeding operation. They are treated with Apigard and Fumagillin. They are now in the prunes near Chico, California. Dean has not had problems with Africanized bees because the location is in the north of California at a higher elevation. Hives should be available mid-April thru May, maybe into June. Contact Dean Barnett at 425-681-3036 (cell).

Clear honey bear containers for sale

12 oz. size, with flip caps and inner seal \$0.40 each plus tax, if applicable. Contact Bruce Becker at 206.527.0226 or treasurer@psbees.org.

Got gear? Sell your stuff here!

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

Send your ads to editor@psbees.org.