



The PSBA BUZZ

February 2009

Volume 8, Issue 2

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.)

February 24

Hive management:
Mike Doren

March 24

Mason Bees:
Dr. Evan Sugden

PSBA OFFICERS

President

Nancy Beckett
206-937-5583

president@psbees.org

Vice President

Ambra Wadley
253-638-9112

vp@psbees.org

Secretary

John DeGroot
425-883-3248

secretary@psbees.org

Treasurer

Bruce Becker
253-638-9112

treasurer@psbees.org

Newsletter Editor & Webmaster

Cynthia Salzman
206-527-1663

editor@psbees.org

Hive Calendar

Examine & feed if necessary

On the first 55°+ F afternoon, go through hives briefly: clean hive bottom boards and clean out dead hives. Feed hives that will not otherwise make it to summer. Feed all hives in order to medicate with fumagillin (Fumidal B). If medicating in the spring with Apistan or Coumaphous, install at the middle of March to allow enough time after removal for the required 'medication free' period before installing honey supers. Do not use Menthol or Formic Acid Gel packs in the spring; temperatures do not become consistently warm long enough in advance of the nectar flow to install and remove per the label recommendation.

Usual nectar source: crocus, heather, skunk cabbage, pussy willow (pollen), maple, apricot.

February Meeting

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2009

Beginners instruction: 6:30 – 7:15 pm

Van Sherod's beginner's lesson precedes the main presentation. Priceless instruction for all.

Main meeting: 7:30 – 9:00 pm: Hive management

PSBA trustee Mike Doren will cover all aspects of hive management, including; planning ahead—equipment and planning required before the bees arrive; hiving a package and feeding; checking on the new queen and the progress of the hive; the importance of time and timing; evaluating hive strength and planning for the honey flow; hive inspection to prevent swarming and other difficulties; supering; intro to splits and queen rearing; preparing for winter. The presentation will be geared toward beginning beekeepers but should include something for everyone.

Announcements

Class: How to become a hobby beekeeper

This two-day, 10-hour class includes everything you need to know to begin keeping honey bees, including information on protective clothing, tools, key success factors, typical annual schedule, procedures, harvesting, set up, and medication of hives.

The classroom instruction sessions take place from noon to 5:00 PM on March 7 and March 14. They include no live bees, but do include hands-on examination of equipment, woodenware, tools, and protective clothing. A practical exercise at a bee yard (protective clothing will be available) will be scheduled for later in April.

Apiary Manager
Tim Todd
253-941-9855
fitter32@hotmail.com

PSBA TRUSTEES

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

PSBA TRUSTEES

Robert Clark (Lifetime)
Bill Rahr (Lifetime)

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

In our climate, new colonies are started in mid-April. Class will be taught in the greenhouse near the Arboretum Visitors Center. Bring some snacks, paper/pencil for taking notes, and warm clothes (the greenhouse is poorly heated).

Advance registration is required. Check for \$40 made out to Puget Sound Beekeepers Association should be mailed to the club treasurer, Bruce Becker, 6535 42nd AVE NE, Seattle, WA 98115. For information, contact John DeGroot, class instructor, at john_degroot@juno.com.

Order your bee packages and queens

The club is now taking orders. A package (3 lbs. of bees with unmarked queen) costs \$70 and queens alone are \$15. Prices are subject to change. Specify Italian or Carnolian queens with your packages. Delivery date is to be determined but estimated around April 18-25. Pre-payment is required! Make out your check to Earl Kanz and mail them to Cary Therriault 3045 125th Avenue NE, Bellevue, WA 98005. Packages can be picked up at Cary's house (same address as above). Orders will be filled on a first come, first served basis. At some point, later orders will be filled from the second delivery. Please remember to save your empty package boxes to return to the club. Those interested (or with questions) can contact Cary at cktherriault@comcast.net.

Mark your calendars for Field Day

The club's annual Field Day event will take place this year on Saturday, May 16, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. This is an educational event that includes inspection of the club's hives. Look for more details in coming newsletters.

Marketplace

For Sale

Thriving poison-free insect removal business; JERRY THE BEE GUY. I will teach the new owner safe poison-free removal of honeybees, bumble bees, wasps, hornets, and yellow jackets, and their nests with brood comb. Must not have allergy to bee or wasp stings, and not afraid to be stung. Knowledge of use of small power tools, basic carpentry, and wood frame construction very helpful. Sale includes Astro van with specialized equipment, cell phone number known throughout Puget Sound area, web site, and client base of 1,000. Work half-year at your own pace. Contact Jerry Mixon at jerry@jerrythebeeguy.com for more detailed information.

Mason Bee Tubes

Tubes are the long size which include more bees. Price is \$2 per tube. Compare to \$6-8.50 online and in nurseries. Call Richard at 206-459-2242 for information.

Got gear? Sell your stuff here!

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.
