



The PSBA BUZZ

March 2009

Volume 8, Issue 3

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.)

March 24

Orchard mason bees:
Dr. Evan Sugden

April 28

Noxious weeds:
Alison Halpern

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Hive Calendar

Examine and 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 (Fumidil 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 sources: crocus, heather, skunk cabbage, pussy willow (pollen), maple, apricot.

March Meeting

TUESDAY, MARCH 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. Managing Blue Orchard Bees

Evan Sugden, PhD, teaches insect biology at the University of Washington and is an expert on honeybees, mason bees, bee parasites and pollination.

Announcements

PSBA Swarm List

Need bees? Being on the Swarm List is a great opportunity to capture free bees while providing a service to your community. This is probably not for beginners as it does involve working with large clumps of bees; if you haven't done this before, it can be challenging at first. The rules for the list are that you do not charge a removal fee if you keep the bees. This is a service the club provides to the community.

Come to the March meeting to hear more and sign up. If you are not able to attend the March meeting, please contact Jim Olsen at jao@coredesinginc.com.

The deadline for getting on this list is the end of March. The list will be published and sent to all the regulatory agencies the first week of April.

Apiary Manager

Tim Todd

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PSBA TRUSTEES

Brian Allen (2009-2010)

Krista Conners (2008-2009)

Mike Doren (2009-2010)

Jerry Gallaher (2008-2009)

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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

Club apiary work party April 12 at 1:00 pm

Work parties are a good way to learn more about bee keeping and help the club maintain its hives. The work party on April 12 will focus on preparing the hives for the new packages. If you are interested in participating, please contact Rob Stevens at robstevens5@comcast.net.

There is still time to order bee packages

A limited number of packages can still be ordered, for a target delivery date of April 18. 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. 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). 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.

Field Day—mark your calendars!

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.

Beekeeping abroad

The club recently heard from Jean Leslie Baker, a former Seattleite currently living in France, who would like to organize a visit from U.S. beekeepers to meet beekeepers in the Cevennes mountains of southern France. Such a meeting could coincide with the 2009 International Apimondia Conference in Montpellier, France September 15-20, 2009 (www.apimondia2009.com), then click on the language of your choice). If anyone is interested in such a project, please contact Jean at jean_leslie@earthlink.com.

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.