



# The PSBA BUZZ

March 2010

Volume 9, Issue 3

**EVENTS at the Arboretum Center**  
Graham Visitor Center  
2200 Arboretum Drive  
E., Seattle, WA 98112

(Meetings are the 4<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday of each month  
except July and December.)

## Mar. 23

Mason Bees: Dave  
Hunter of Hunters  
Mason Bees, LLC

## April 27

Laura Sweany -  
Permaculture Expert

## PSBA OFFICERS

*President*  
Nancy Beckett  
206-937-5583  
[president@psbees.org](mailto:president@psbees.org)

*Vice President*  
Krista Conner  
206-938-5158

*Secretary*  
Marie Emerson  
425-882-3261  
[secretary@psbees.org](mailto:secretary@psbees.org)

*Treasurer*  
Bruce Becker  
206-527-0226  
[treasurer@psbees.org](mailto:treasurer@psbees.org)

*Newsletter Editor*  
Krista Conner  
206-938-5158  
[editor@psbees.org](mailto:editor@psbees.org)

## Hive Calendar

### Examine, Feed if necessary

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.

### Nectar flow/Pollen:

Crocus, Heather, Skunk Cabbage, Pussy Willow (pollen), Maple, Apricot

## March Meeting

### TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2010

**Beginners' Instruction: 6:30 – 7:15 p.m.:** how to install packages and what to do this month for hive management.

**Main Meeting: 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.:** Dave Hunter of Hunter's Mason Bees LLC will talk about importance of Mason Bees and how best to raise them. Dave has been working with scientists on raising the optimally healthy mason for the past two years and will offer a 25 min. presentation followed by Q&A.

## Announcements & News

**New PSBA Website:** Check out the new PSBA website <http://pugetsoundbees.org/> Many thanks go to Bob Combs for taking the lead on setting up the site, and to Patti Loesche in organizing content.

### PSBA Sponsored Beginning Beekeeping Classes:

Graham Visitors Center  
Washington Park Arboretum  
Sessions

- Sat March 20 and Sat March 27 from 12pm-5pm  
Cost is \$40 for two day session [Registration form.](#)

Meadowbrook Farm  
North Bend, WA

- April 17th, 18th 12pm-4pm  
Cost \$30 for the series, For more info [Meadowbrook Schedule](#) or contact [Bob Combs](mailto:bob@combs-honey.com) at [bob@combs-honey.com](mailto:bob@combs-honey.com)

### Time to Order Bee Packages

Need 3-lb package bees this year? Limited amount unsold packages remaining! The first delivery is scheduled to arrive on April 10th and the second delivery scheduled for April 17th. (delivery dates weather dependant). Packages will be trucked directly from California to Bellevue.

Your choice of either Italian or Carnolian queens with your packages. Packages cost \$80 each (price includes \$5 refundable deposit when you return the core box).

Apiary Manager  
Tim Todd  
253-941-9855  
[fitter32@hotmail.com](mailto:fitter32@hotmail.com)

#### PSBA TRUSTEES

Brian Allen (2009-10)  
Mark Paris (2009-10)  
Rob Stevens (2009-10)  
Corky Luster (2010-11)  
Patti Loesche (2010-11)  
John deGroot (2010-11)  
Christine Ranegger (2010-11)  
Laura Lovell (2010)  
Brad Jones (2010)  
Robert Clark (Lifetime)  
Bill Rahr (Lifetime)

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We're on the Web!  
[www.pugetsoundbees.org](http://www.pugetsoundbees.org)  
[www.psbees.org](http://www.psbees.org)

Individual queens \$18 and require no deposit. Please contact Cary Therriault at either [cktherriault@comcast.net](mailto:cktherriault@comcast.net) or 425.885.0159 for ordering information. Orders must be prepaid by March 31.

### PSBA's first 2010 Apiary Work Party!

Drop by the PSBA Apiary at the Arboretum any time from 12-3pm on Saturday March 20 for our very first work-party of the year!

This is a great opportunity for new beekeepers to get a chance to check out hives that over-wintered, and to help inventory and prepare our woodenware for the coming season. You'll be able to ask some of the Association's most experienced beekeepers your pressing early-season questions, and get some hands-on experience with the tasks you'll need to perform on your own hives each spring. Spare equipment has sometimes been given away to lucky volunteers at this work-party in the past, so don't miss it! Please contact Brian with questions: [brizone@gmail.com](mailto:brizone@gmail.com), (206) 973-7374. Future work parties will be scheduled so if you can't attend this one, stay tuned for future work party announcements.

### Field Day—mark your calendars for May!

The club's annual Field Day event will take place this year on Saturday, May 15. This is an educational event that includes inspection of the club's hives. Look for more details in coming newsletters.

### A Note from WSU Diagnostics Lab

Washington State Beekeepers – please note changes to the [WSU Honey Bee website](http://www.wsu.edu/honeybee) - the most important is a short video on proper packaging of samples for diagnosis of tracheal mite, varroa mite, and nosema. We also have a new data form that should be sent with each sample - please take a look! To find the video and proper form to include please go to <http://apis.wsu.edu> - click on the Diagnostics Lab link.

### Master Beekeeper Apprenticeship Test

If you are taking this test, please complete/ return it to Van Sherod at the monthly meeting, or call Van or Barb Sherod 206-284-1520 to make other arrangements. If you are interested in taking this (open book) test you can purchase the companion booklet for \$10 from Van.

### Another Survey from Washington State Beekeepers (WASBA)

Help us assess what is happening to our honey bees in Washington State- Please take this very short survey about how many of your hives survived the winter, so far. Click [here](#), or for more information, email Paul Lundy at [editor@wasba.org](mailto:editor@wasba.org).

## Marketplace

**Warre Hives for sale-** Warré hives are now available for purchase in Seattle, made entirely of cedar, for \$300 contact Lauren Montgomery at: 206-790-0464 or [lmontgomery@comcast.net](mailto:lmontgomery@comcast.net)

### 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](mailto:editor@psbees.org).

### Please return library materials!

Many items are missing from our library. Please return your PSBA library items by bringing them to the monthly meeting or mailing them to Nancy Beckett, 6308 50th Ave. SW., Seattle, WA 98136.