



The PSBA Buzz

February 2013

Volume 12, Issue 2

Meetings:

Arboretum

Graham Visitor Center
2200 Arboretum Drive E.,
Seattle, WA 98112

February 26th

Daniel Najera, PhD
"Science, Education and
Honeybees".

PSBA Beginner Beekeeper Classes in February and March!

Info here:

<http://pugetsoundbees.org/resources/education/>

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Hive Calendar

February: Examine, Feed if Necessary

The days are getting longer!! Breathe a sigh of relief.

Hazel & Pussy Willow trees and shrubs bring early pollen in early February and March. Other food sources are: Crocus, Heather, Skunk Cabbage, Maple, Alder, and Apricot, among others.

- If deemed necessary, put dry pollen out in a dry container (e.g. empty hive box) for 'warm' days, so that foragers have a steady food supply.
- 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.
- If medicating, 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. Do medicate with fumagillin (Fumidial B). If using 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.

February Meeting

Meetings are the 4th Tuesday of each month except December

Beginner Lesson: 6:30-7:00 Learn what steps to take to be ready for the bees!

Announcements: 7:00 – Get the latest about upcoming PSBA events

Break 7:15-7:30 – Enjoy refreshments, introduce yourself to another beekeeper!

General Meeting 7:30 – 9:00 – "Science, Education and Honeybees" PSBA Trustee, Daniel Najera, PhD, Entomology will go into some detail about honey bee waggle dances and how we can use the waggle dances to promote honey bees and beekeeping.

Announcements & News

From the President – Krista Conner

As we await the warmth of Spring for a deeper inspection of our colonies, now's a good time to review last year's hive inspection notes (you have those, right?) and set your beekeeping goals for 2013. As part of your goals, make plans to explore new beekeeping topics at our monthly meetings – we have an exciting lineup of speakers this year thanks to the work of our Board. Check it out! <http://pugetsoundbees.org/about/meetings/> Or, get hands-on experience with some of our upcoming classes, Apiary work parties, or all day workshops. For more details about these, look in the [Education section](#) of our website, or the "Upcoming Events" section of this newsletter. Please note, we are still in the final stages of planning, so registration information is forthcoming.

Upcoming Events: Mark your Calendar!

- **March Work Apiary Work Parties:** 1st half of March, Leader: Bruce Becker 527-0226, treasurer@psbees.org 2nd Half of March, Leader: Amy Lassen, 720-988-4337, amy.lassen@colorado.edu
- **PSBA's Field Day on May 18th** -We are very excited to announce that **Randy Oliver** will be our featured guest at PSBA's Field Day.
- **Workshop with Michael Bush** Saturday, **September 14th** – PSBA will host a very special workshop with this renowned beekeeper.

Mark your calendars for these events and look for details and registration info on our website or in next month's issue of The PSBA Buzz.

PSBA TRUSTEES

Jessica Dally (2012-13)
Gail Eshom (2013-14)
Jason Hansen (2012-13)
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Amy Lassen (2013-14)
Daniel Najera(2013-14)
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We're on the Web!
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Bee Lunch: Western Hazelnut Pollen Surprise *by Jeff*



Steenbergen, Trustee

A common pacific northwest native that blooms in February is the Western Hazelnut (or Filbert). This is one of the earliest bloomers in the area and produces a good amount of pollen from "male" blooms called catkins. Being a native plant these trees do well in full sun or part shade and grow very long roots that enables them to handle our dry summers extremely well. Due to their long roots these trees are very difficult to transplant and do best when planted from seed. You

can find these trees all over the city thanks to the tasty nuts they produce that the squirrels will devour or hide before letting you get even one.

Finding the Perfect House *By: Jeff Steenbergen, Trustee*

Last month I talked about common ways to get bees. Now let's review the different types of hives that are legal to keep in our region. In Washington state, and many other places, hives must allow for the removal and inspection of the individual combs on a regular basis (Langstroth, Warre, and Top Bar).

The most common hive style is the Langstroth hive, containing either 8 or 10 frames. This hive style is what most people think of when thinking of a bee hive – square boxes stacked atop one another, vertically. Designed by Lorenzo Langstroth in 1851 to enable hive inspections without breaking comb, this hive type is constructed using specific measurements allowing for "bee space" (3/8" passageways where bees can travel within the hive).

There are four sizes for Langstroth hive bodies: deep, medium (or western), shallow, and comb. Beekeepers can mix these to suit their needs and to accommodate lifting abilities. (Larger sized hive bodies will be heavier when full of honey and bees). Becoming more popular, the narrower 8-frame hive bodies can reduce weight and more closely mimic a cavity size inhabited by bees in the wild. While it is common for beekeepers use foundation on the frames inside a Langstroth hive, natural comb (foundationless) frames can be utilized.

Warre hives, like Langstroth, use stacked boxes to manage the bees and the bees build comb off the top bars that are foundationless. One key difference from Langstroth, is that new Warre boxes are added to the *bottom* of the hive instead of the top, allowing the bees to build comb down into the new box. Warre hives are narrower than a Langstroth hive and make use of a "quilt" above the top box to absorb moisture.

Top Bar Hives (TBH) are horizontal hives with a solid roof above the bars. Bees build comb below the bars and it hangs down into the cavity of the hive. Unlike the other hive styles, the TBH does not require a beekeeper to move boxes of comb to inspect the hive, making this hive style easier on the back. Inspections only expose one section of comb at a time while moving through the frames. This type of inspection can help reduce the chance of creating a robbing situation and may also make it easier to inspect more aggressive bees. These hives require more time from the beekeeper to keep the comb aligned.

Marketplace Short ads are run for free for members of PSBA. Fee for non-members is \$25. Send your ads to editor@psbees.org

Bee-love is in the air for Valentine's Day & beyond! <http://bit.ly/WiRcUk> Tees, mugs, aprons & more with apiary humor sayings for all who appreciate bees.

Carniolan and Italian bee packages from Val Calcar apiaries of McMinnville, Oregon for sale. Please visit the web site at <http://alaskabeeproducts.net/> for pricing and ordering. Contact Mike Radford: radford180@gmail.com (907) 360-8182

Seattle Beekeeping Equipment and Supplies: For the new or seasoned beekeeper, we have everything you need for your hive! Beginner kits (10% discount), hive bodies, protective clothing, bases, tops, frames with foundation, queens, medications and feeds as well as many other supplies for beekeepers. We also teach beginning and advanced beekeeping classes. **The Ballard Bee Company.** (We are located in Ballard) www.ballardbeecompany.com

Newsletter submission deadline is second Sunday of each month. Send content to: editor@psbees.org
Submissions are not guaranteed for publish in any given month given space constraints – Please Submit Early!



Seola Bee Company is offering Woodenware! Take advantage of bulk pricing by ordering by March 5. Commercial grade hive bodies, top covers and bottom boards available in 5, 8, 10 frame sizes. Place your order here: <http://tinyurl.com/BeehiveWoodOrder>. Delivery expected around March 26th. Details and more info, contact: Brad Jones @ 206.612.1068 or brad@seolabeecompany.com

Cleaning out sale – Several boxes of 8 and 16 oz honey jars (new and clean) with lids. Mostly hex shaped but some “A-line” jars too. Price varies depending on type/size and quantity purchased – get in touch and we’ll agree on price. Bonus gift with purchase: 1 random beekeeper’s glove.
krista@seattlebeeworks.com