



# The PSBA BUZZ

February 2011

Volume 10, Issue 2

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

**Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
Monitoring the  
Health of Your Hives

**March 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
Alternatives to the  
Langstroth hive: top  
bar construction &  
maintenance –  
Presenters: Bob  
Coombs, Ken Reid  
and Darren Gordon

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## Hive Calendar

### February or March: 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 (Fumidial 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.

**Nectar Sources:** Crocus, Heather, Skunk Cabbage, Pussy Willow (pollen), Maple, Apricot, Alder (pollen late March)

## February Meeting

**Meetings are the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month except July, November, and December**

**Beginners' Instruction: 6:30 – 7:15 p.m:** Van Sherod will present: Beekeeper supplies: Bee suits, tools, etc. etc. If time permits, subspecies of Honey Bees will be covered.

### Main Meeting: 7:30 – 9:00 pm: Monitoring the Health of Your Hives

Beth Kahkonen will provide an overview of pest and disease checks, pesticides in and around the hive, food stores, and analysis of colony mortality. Beth is a Research Associate and Manager of the WSU Honey Bee Research Program. She received her Master's degree in Entomology from WSU in 1999. Her graduate research focused alternative controls for tracheal and varroa mites. She has worked for the past 10 years as a research scientist for WSU, University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania State University, and Boston University. Beth manages the 200 research hives at WSU and the queen rearing for the breeding program.

## Announcements & News

### Upcoming PSBA Beekeeping Classes

**"How to Become a Hobby Beekeeper" taught by John DeGroot, PSBA Trustee**

PSBA is sponsoring two classes in beekeeping in February and March. Class content will include: honeybee physiology and behavior, beekeeping equipment, procedures and best practices, diseases and parasites, and related topics. Classes are taught to a beginner's level of understanding. The only prerequisites are an open mind and note-taking materials. Bring a snack and beverage if you want them. Wear clothes appropriate for woodworking (we will practice assembling frames and woodenware during breaks in the presentation).

Each class consists of 10 classroom hours divided into successive Saturdays from noon (arrive early) till 5 PM and an optional beesuited 'hands on' at the club apiary in mid-April. Advanced registration preferred. Please pay the club treasurer, Bruce

Apiary Manager  
Aaron Lum  
541-231-1979  
[got\\_hawn\\_pride@yahoo.com](mailto:got_hawn_pride@yahoo.com)

#### PSBA TRUSTEES

John deGroot (2010-11)  
Gail Eshom (2011-2012)  
Keith Glatzer (2011-2012)  
Kevin Gow (2011-2012)  
Patti Loesche (2010-11)  
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Steve Near (2011-2012)  
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Bob Redmond (2011-2012)  
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)

Becker, \$40 for enrollment in one of the classes.

**First class:** Saturday 26 Feb. noon to 5 in Visitor's Center large room (arrive 15 minutes early)  
Saturday 5 Mar. noon to 5 (arrive early)

**Second class:** Saturday 19 Mar. noon to 5 in greenhouse (arrive 15 minutes early)  
Saturday 26 Mar. noon to 5 (arrive early)

### Another Bee Themed Film

Don't miss "**Queen of the Sun: What are the bees telling us?**" beginning March 4th at The Northwest Film Forum! Queen of the Sun is a profound, alternative look at the global honeybee crisis from Taggart Siegel, award-winning director of The Real Dirt on Farmer John. Film.com calls Queen of the Sun, "stunning... as soulful as it is scientific, as uplifting as it is alarming." **March 4th - The Northwest Film Forum** in Seattle, WA. Screening daily, check out The Northwest Film Forum's website for exact show times! [<http://www.nwfilmforum.org/>] Q & A with Director and Producer March 4th. FOR MORE INFO VISIT: [WWW.QUEENOFTHESUN.COM](http://WWW.QUEENOFTHESUN.COM)

*VOLUNTEERS WANTED: PSBA has been requested by the film organizers to have a PSBA information booth at this event. If you are interested in volunteering before and after the film to share info about our club and bees to the public, please let me know. [Krconner@aol.com](mailto:Krconner@aol.com) 206-938-5158.*

### Volunteers wanted! Get involved in PSBA!

In addition to the above booth at the film, volunteers are needed to support the club's operations. Please get in touch with Brad Jones at [president@psbees.org](mailto:president@psbees.org) if you are willing to volunteer for one or more of these opportunities to help grow our club:

- **Publication Committee:** Need 2 volunteers to assist in club publications via: Website, Facebook, Twitter.
- **Financial Audit Committee:** Need 2-3 volunteers to audit our financial records. You will have benefit of a standard checklist to follow to perform the audit.
- **Community Booth Events:** Need a working list of willing volunteers to work future booth events in the community. At these, PSBA has the opportunity to educate the public about bees and beekeeping, as well as sell some of the club's honey- just a lot of fun in general!

### 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.

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**Marketplace** 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).

### Bee Packages

It is time again to consider your package bee plans for 2011. 3-pound packages with queens from Heitkam's Honey Bees in Orland, California are available for purchase. Package price is \$85 each, and the price for individual queens is \$25 each. The \$85 package price includes a \$5 core deposit. Your net price will be \$80 per package, if you return the core box. All orders are prepaid. A slight change this year, pre-payment or checks should be made out to Cary Therriault, instead of Earl. We expect the first of several deliveries to be the second week of April. Orders filled on the first delivery date will be at a first-come, first-served basis. For any beekeepers interested, I can be reached at 206.920.2150 (c), 425.885.0159 (H) or [cktherriault@comcast.net](mailto:cktherriault@comcast.net).