

# SKAGIT VALLEY BEEKEEPERS



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Our next meeting is October 8th, the second Thursday of course, at 7:00 PM at the CENEX offices in Burlington. Our speaker for the 8th is Jim from Beez Neez apiary supply in Shohomish.. He will describe his business and what it takes to provide services to beekeepers in his area. Also and it is an important also, our Association is tasked with organizing the annual Northwest Region meeting of the Washington state Beekeepers Association. We needed a quality speaker and it looks like we have one. Randy Oliver, from California, who writes extensively for the bee journals and speaks to beekeeping organizations all over the country and the world, has agreed to speak at our meeting. That meeting is October 22 at the Royal Fork Buffet restaurant in Mount Vernon just across from the new Super Duper Wal-Mart store. We will eat at 6:00 PM, have a short, quality raffle and then listen to Randy. He is headed then to Victoria for the BC Honey Producers Convention as is their lead speaker. To help with his fee we will have a free will donation, and it really is free! You buy your dinner.



I'm hearing and seeing evidence of HIGH mites loads this fall. If you aren't checking the chances are very good you will be starting over next spring! You have to check and treat as you choose. You HAVE to! It is getting too late to feed much as the weather cools but you should be checking sugar/honey stores. You need a full box of SOMETHING for your bees to overwinter. It is also time to be brutal and decide if some hives are dinks and should just be doubled on to a strong hive. I have the hardest time with this! Make sure you have good hive ventilation. Ask what this means if you do not know. Your bees also need protection from harsh winter winds. Figure something out. Trees, hay bales, a barn, what ever. It helps to be elevated off the ground a bit.

I'm not hearing good about this summer's honey crop. All for now, Ed

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