

SKAGIT VALLEY BEEKEEPERS



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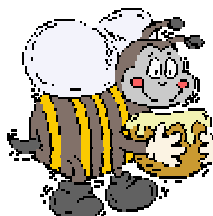
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Our next meeting will be Thursday November 11th, Veteran's Day or as it used to be called Remembrance Day which is most appropriate. Grateful thanks are due to all our veterans everywhere.

We meet at 7:30PM at the CENEX Skagit Farmer's meeting room on Park Lane, Burlington, WA as is usual.

This meeting will involve new information from the Washington/Oregon Beekeepers recent convention in Hood River, Oregon. President Bill Markus was awarded WA Beekeeper of the Year there and the Association received \$1000 dollars in grant funds or in kind donations, I am not clear which. Congratulations to Bill, he deserves it I believe. Dave Neel, from Island Apiaries, Whidbey Island, will attend our meeting He is our new Area 1A representative for the Washington State Beekeepers Association, also the result of the convention, so come and meet Dave

Bill tells me he will present a short documentary called Pollination Nation. I have run across this while putting together school presentations and it is good.



It is time to elect or re-elect our Association officers for next year.

Things are slowing in the bee yard for most of us although I had bees flying between rain events today

If you are looking for beekeeping information, I recommend that you mess around on You Tube. There is a wealth of information out there, some good, some not so good. If you dig a little there is European information especially from Germany and England where beekeeping is a serious avocation.

Things to Do:

- Clean up and begin to get ready for next year
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- Protect combs from wax moth damage. This would be a good subject for our meetings. See you, Ed Markus

Cookies, A—L

This newsletter is on-line.
Please e-mail your e-ddress

the meetings and ask your questions. I will send you a map to CENEX if you request it.

People have told me they feel silly asking 'experienced' beekeepers their 'simple' questions. Some of us can only handle simple questions. Sometimes experience is not enough to make you a competent beekeeper. I have tried all summer to expand my hive numbers and am slightly behind where I was last spring. One hive I thought would do poorly was a 'boomer' in an area I know little about. So ask away and we will try to answer. As my friend David Hedlin says, there are two good years for farming, 1916 when cabbage seed prices skyrocketed and his Grandfather paid off the farm mortgage and next year. Always next year.

We had a good apple year at the home place here. I am hearing talk of poor fruit set in the rain last spring. The 'proper' number of hives were in place. I had eight or ten hives for my little orchard and have almost never seen so many apples. Pears, no, pretty spotty. Plums and peaches so, so. We made about 75 gallons of apple cider.

An aside, trying to fill newsletter space, is to share my first attempt at a winter garden. There has been no need in this good weather but it will change soon. Rebar spikes, 1/2" PVC pipe and plastic will tell the tale. Lettuce and radishes with mesclun greens. Garlic goes in in two weeks.

To Do List

- Continue to feed as necessary, pollen patties and syrup will do. If and when it hits 45 degrees or so your bees will not be able to process syrup and will stop taking it. Pollen patties may be offered all winter according to some experts.
- You should be done with mite treatments if you use them. If not done consider, what will still work. Ask questions! We used to recommend fall feeding fumagillin for nosema but I am not sure any more.
- Think about the ventilation needs of your bees heading into winter. We always say moisture kills not cold. Make sure your hives can breathe a bit and vent moisture. A weight on the lids is a good idea.
- Think about keeping your hives out of the wind and out of low wet spots. Some folks reduce entrances for winter. Some folks place mouse guards as well.

All for now, enjoy the meeting. Ed Markus