

SKAGIT VALLEY BEEKEEPERS



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May 2011

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The second Thursday falls on the 12th this month of May. We meet at 7:00 PM at Skagit Farmers Administration, Park Lane as usual. The speaker will be Bill Markus talking about our trip to UC Davis and the Laidlaw Honeybee facility. The weather was great and he has a LOT of pictures of the facility, the Haagen-Dazs bee garden there and the trip to the 3 big queen producers our second day. Those folks were very busy but kindly put up with us because we were with Sue Coby. He asks me to show up and jog his memory. Me? With my memory?

Bill does say the Cobey NW Carniolan queens installed at The College Extension apiary have all taken and are taking off. Like our whole state all we need is some sun and warmth! When the sun shines it looks like I have bees and when I doesn't I don't.

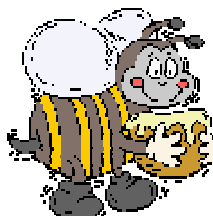
The maples and madronas are going strong here but when they drop off you may have a nectar dearth. Keep checking and feeding. If you have packages even more so! Reverse boxes as your bees are building.

We are headed right into swarm season believe it or not, so start watching for swarm cells. Even with crappy weather the bees will do their natural thing each year.

Adding supers will be a very good idea. Your bees need room to expand. Package folks need to add a box when the bees are exploring the outside frames of the first box.

Mites, mites, mites, You should be looking NOW! I still think most of our CCD mess and everything else revolves around mites in some major way. And at least you can do something about mites. Do It! So much for being a scientist and a bully.

Make a disease check as well. Bill keeps telling us we can send samples to WSU. Our website has moved ahead a step but the part I can see is in Latin I think. Our forms will be there and the swarm list soon I think. See you, Ed Markus



Cookies M—Z

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