

SKAGIT VALLEY BEEKEEPERS



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April 2012

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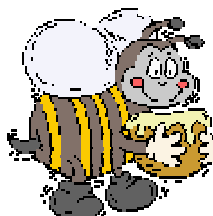
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Our Association meeting is Thursday, April 12 at 7:00 PM, the regular second Thursday of the month. We meet at CENEX at 1833 Park Lane, Burlington, 98233 over the train tracks at the KIA dealer on old 99 and right on Park Lane. Our speaker will be Seth Smith from Grassmere (Concrete) who owns The Valley Buzz apiary who will talk about bee vacuums and how to use them for bee swarm removal. Seth is knowledgeable and a good speaker.

The beekeeping class has completed their work and are full fledged beginners as we all often are when it comes to beekeeping. Remember, if someone tells you they know all about beekeeping, they are lying or just badly bumped their head. Concessions will do that.

My wife Jean and I made a flying trip to Montana last week and I made it a point to visit briefly at Bear Paw Apiaries, Inc in Chinook, Montana. It was quiet there as those folks were pulling their bees out of the almonds and heading for Washington State and the apple area around Tonasket. California had been good to them this year. It was too early for bees in several WA orchards, and it was hurting their planning.



I learned they have a labor problem and as a result bring in 3 skilled beekeepers from Nicaragua each summer as did a neighboring apiary.

Bear Paw had a pallet building session going and were gearing up for nucs from strong bees. They currently have about 4500 hives and they must all be in California as none were evident at the home place. It was lovely weather there and WAY too dry from a crazy snowless winter. Wild fire burned in various places. We left in a hurry when the radio started talking about spring blizzard warnings. The heck with that! Go figure.

To Do: Maples are ready to pop. Package bee time! New queens too

1. Make sure you have enough feed on for baby bees., patties and syrup if necessary
2. Make sure you have supers ready
3. Check for mites, look for disease
4. Leave space, prevent swarming

Cookies A—L

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

I am continuing to read about drenching bees for a nosema treatment, especially with nosema cerana now here. This is in place of an in-hive feeding treatment in syrup. The proper thin syrup with Fumagillin and/or Nozevit is sprayed on your bees with a hand pumper so they are forced to ingest the medication while cleaning up themselves and the hive. I have wondered for years about hives that just sit all summer doing nothing and this MIGHT be what is going on. I just run out of steam in August and I know better!

Jerry Hayes from Florida in *The American Bee Journal* reports the phoretic 'zombie' fly we are hearing about really has been around for a while. It has gone 'back burner' it seems. If that is the case, why was it 'just' discovered by California folks? I don't understand His comment in his *Classroom* column was it had to be a slow news day when this first was thrown in the news mix..

I was in a specialty import food store in Seattle and saw Tasmanian leatherwood honey for about \$18.00 for a medium can. That is quite a boat ride. Lots of world honeys are around now it looks like.

I got my annual official letter. I sent my \$10.00 to the WA Department of Agriculture to register my bees. Grudgingly. It is time. It should be done.

To DO List: It is early March and your bees are brooding up if you are lucky. That means feed may be needed.

- Pollen patties for brooding and/or light syrup should you choose. If you start you cannot stop. Don't let your bees starve out. Four combs of feed should be in your hive. Any less and you need to get with it.
- Clean off bottom boards. Get the winter crud out.
- Any mouse guards should come off.
- James Bach would tell us to watch big hives closely. Move brood frames to the center of bottom boxes and empty combs to the sides of the second box if you have them in place. The queen will brood upward from center and the bees can more easily care for brood pushed together.
- If you have LOTS of bees you might consider a honey super by months end. We need some nicer weather before that happens. Maples are coming!
- If you need bees/queens it is past time to call around and order. I have not heard about demand this year but there are sure a lot more ads in the bee magazines every month.
- Think about how to get your bees out of the rain next Fall. It can't hurt.
- IT IS TIME TO REREGISTER WITH THE ASSOCIATION. Buy the bee magazines at the Association discount.

Our speaker will have to be a surprise. Bill is still looking. Our potluck might be a good bribe! Remember to bring an auction item as you are able. You provide the bragging rights!