

SKAGIT VALLEY BEEKEEPERS



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February 2013

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The February meeting is Thursday the 14th at 7:00 PM. We almost always meet at 1833 Park Lane, Burlington which is the Skagit Farmer's Supply Administration Office. Simple directions are, head north on OLD 99 from the Burlington roundabout or south on Old 99 from Cook Road, turn in at the KIA dealer, cross the tracks and turn right on Park Lane. CENEX Skagit Farmer's Supply is the last building on the right.

Bill has asked Sue Cobey to be our speaker. She and many others have been working hard to collect, import and begin to use old world genetic supplies in their bee stocks. They will be looking and hoping for improvements for our bees. It is early days yet but things are moving and I hope we hear about it.

As of the first weekend in February, I am seeing pussy willows begin to swell, crocus' poking up and mouse-ear leaves on the honeysuckle. Spring is on the way. I have checked my bees and they are alive. One may need feed. I cleaned entrances, scraped bottoms out and made sure bees were dry. Good ventilation and plastic fabric

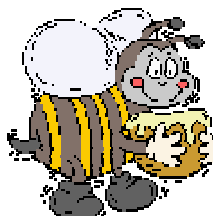
feed sacks quickly slit in half for extra rain covers have worked.

You could choose to feed pollen patties and 1:1 sugar syrup as things warm slightly. This would help stimulate brood rearing seeing that weather has not allowed much flight. I read recently that bees basically spit out pollen patties rather than consume them. It is one of those opinion things and I don't really know who is right.

If you think you will need queens, begin to make plans for ordering. It is already a little late to line up. Ask around about packages as well if they are in your apiary future.

I checked online to see if Apistan received a Section 18 clearance here for use on mites. Answer: No.

Again, HopGuard could be used now but that window of usefulness is closing. Ed Markus



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