

SKAGIT VALLEY BEEKEEPERS



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January 2013

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Best wishes for a Happy New Year. The January meeting will be Thursday the 10th, at 7:00 PM. We meet at the CENEX Skagit Farmers Supply administration building on 1833 Park Lane, If you are new to us, go north from Burlington on old Highway 99, turn in east at the KIA dealer, drive over the tracks and take the first right turn.. CENEX is at the end of the road on the right.

Pat Ray has agreed to be our speaker. His topic will be " A Year in a Bee Yard". He has plenty of years to talk about!

It is time to consider new queens and new equipment.

If the weather warms, you might pop a lid or two to see how your bees are doing. You will be lifting the back of hives a bit to check weight of stores It needs to be hefty or you need to consider feeding.

I don't have much to say this month so I am including a letter from James Bach as an electronic attachment..

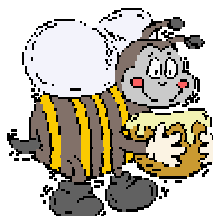
If you receive the newsletter by snail mail ask me for a print copy.

It is worth remembering that your queens could be starting to lay. Hop-Guard could be a useful 'soft' clean-up product against phoretic mites. Do it soon though.

I wish we had something to help reliably against nosema cerana. If you follow recent comments about fumagillan, you will not be impressed. It may possibly hurt bees more than it reduces 'cerana'.

I am a little tired of being advised over many years to stand on my head, wave my arms and chant to prevent or reduce fertile mites. It turns out powdered sugar is realistically useless as it does not clean up mites hatched in cells with brood. I have always wondered about that. The January issue of 'Bee Culture' explains this in detail. See Jennifer Berry for details. Formic acid is the only treatment I know of that kills mites in the cell.

See you at the meeting. Ed Markus



Cookies — N—Z

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