

SKAGIT VALLEY BEEKEEPERS



Ed Markus, Editor 360 421 4296 ejmarkus@fidalgo.net June 2011
Board Members: William Markus, President 630-5086 661 0452 Mary Pat Larsen, Secretary 708 0337
Alerd Johnson, V President 360 293-7953 Scott Rhodes Treasurer 360 856 2652
Bruce Bowen, Board 360 422-5146 Ed Markus Board 360 421 4296
Charlie Langseth, Honorary Board 293-6853 Greg Fagot, Board 360 854-0424

Our meeting this month of June will be Thursday the 9th at 7 PM at Skagit Farmers CENEX, 1833 Park Lane, Burlington, WA as usual. You should know that an internet search will find us on Facebook and our new website, under construction. Meeting information will be posted there.

President Bill informs me our speaker will be Amanda Summers, who directs the Samish Indian Nation project to eliminate knotweed in the Samish Nation drainage. Some of you may know it as Japanese bamboo, a Fall honey plant for some but a noxious weed as well.

If there is one message right now it is buttermilk is blooming, and that may be all. It is a dearth time in many places and you need to watch your bees food supply, especially new packages. I borrowed a barrel heater used to warm and filter used cooking oil in making biodiesel. It heats a 55 gallon metal drum and will get water above boiling if you wish. I mixed feed syrup from dry sugar in the easiest way so far. What an improvement. Ebay for about \$100 dollars. With the cost of fuel it makes sense, although I may be the only one doing this.



I am discouraged with having bees as pets again. It is cheaper to keep a dog but you have to clean up more. This Spring has been a rear end buster for so many ag folks in the Skagit Valley. It is no news that there is standing water still where crops should be in and up! A lot of folks in the West are waiting for the record snow melts to really hit. As I write, it is finally stunningly sunny and so it begins.

With this sun, bees will be in the trees, they have been waiting. Swarms will emerge, some of them yours. We have a call list now on the web site. The club response to requests for being added was underwhelming. I have received Association information calls based on our Facebook page, so it works.

Watch queen performance. Replace as you desire. It is easier to find queens to purchase now. Check for mite drop. I left hives queenless this Spring, one because it was tough to get queens, two I was so darn busy and three, a break in brood kills

Cookies A—L

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

mite reproduction. That is why making spits can perhaps reduce mites treatments to Fall only, as the mites cannot reproduce without brood. I STILL MAINTAIN ELIMINATING MITES ALL SUMMER IS THE BEST THING YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR BEES! Just figure out how to do it on the cheap!

You can still reverse brood chambers if the bottom boxes are underutilized. You could still 'checkerboard', look it up online. Don't forget to add more supers than you think you need. It may be all this rain has primed the blackberries for a huge nectar flow. And do not use antibiotics when the honey flow is on! Formic for mites seems to be fine.

I made 2 1/2 gallon bucket syrup feeders for next to nothing and they work great. I will bring one to the meeting.

I contacted Jerry Hayes again in Florida and once more he answered a question overnight. Thanks to him. I asked about using grease patties still for IPM mite control, just to be sure. He said it was only good for tracheal mites and we do not see them much any more. He believes the varroa mite treatments have wiped tracheal mites out. Patties just do not work against varroa even when essential oils are added.

Jean and I will be traveling when the next newsletter is due out. It may be that an email reminder about the July picnic at Bill and Judy's place will be all you see. This all should be on the web site and Face book when details are worked out. Check it out, all you beekeeper computer geeks! Just do a search, Skagit Valley Beekeepers. Good luck and hope to see you at the meeting.