

SKAGIT VALLEY BEEKEEPERS



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Thursday June 6th is our next meeting day. 7:00 PM as usual at the CENEX Administration Building in Burlington.

Bill has asked long time member David Powell to speak about pollen trapping and keeping mason bees and to share with us from his long experience .

Swarm season has hit hard this year I believe. We have had members scrambling to find enough equipment to house the hopeful swarms. I need to build more sugar syrup for boosting new swarms. Folks recommend new queens right away for swarms. I have had a couple swarm queens wink out quickly and I don't think the new attempts had a chance to mate with crummy wet weather.

I also decided to treat for mites as soon as a new swarm is hived up. Chances are they have mites. The good side is, a lot of mites got left behind when the bees took off.

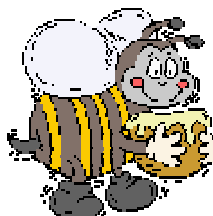
Remember you can help queenless bees decide to build numerous queens by carefully crushing the lower part of a cell with an egg, down to the mid rib of the foundation. A hive tool used carefully will easily do

the job. You can raise several queens cells from a great hive this way and remove the cells when ripe as you choose. Crush down and slightly open the lowest part of a cell wall, no more. Do not disturb the egg.

Honeysuckle has exploded in the sunshine which doesn't help European bees much. Wild and tame bramble berries are soon to bloom. I see some salmonberry going in places. Even in the buttercup dearth time, I see pollen coming in from somewhere. Super up folks, this may be the year for honey.

This would be a great meeting to come and ask questions. Mistakes have been made, bees have made us look silly again and maybe someone has an answer to all this. Or share your triumphs. Triumphs are good.

See you THURSDAY June 6th.



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