

# SKAGIT VALLEY BEEKEEPERS



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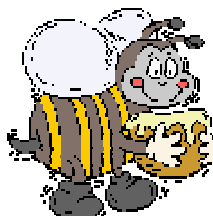
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March 14th is the Spring Potluck and Auction. We start early, 6:00 PM in order to include our speaker Mark Adams, a queen rearer of many years from Snohomish, and enjoy the dinner and silent auction. You are invited to bring items to include in the auction. My wife has once again volunteered quilted table runners and baby quilts. They seem popular.

A ham will be provided, paper plates and cups plus plastic utensils as well. I like a more substantial plate. Bring a dish as you wish, it is that kind of potluck. We always have too much, a wide selection and it is always delicious. I remind you to bring a labeled serving utensil if required. I get one from a thrift store so it doesn't matter much if it is returned.

Everyone is welcome, new members and old, spouses included please, so they will know you are attending bee meetings.

I recommend to you a paper by Randy Person of WSU Extension that I stumbled across while improving a mason bee block. This is well illustrated and has a Power Point attached. Good ideas there!



<http://snohomish.wsu.edu/mg/ombblock/paper%20liners%20that%20work.pdf#page=1&zoom=auto,0,792>

I see pussy willows in full bloom, some ornamental cherries are breaking pink.

There are king blossoms peeking on my apples and the pear buds are swelling. There is also a driving rain after a lovely weekend. Bees are stirring!

- Are your bees alive? Do they need feed, hive floors cleaned off and entrances 1/2 opened?
- Got a queen doing her thing? Peek and poke! You might think of feeding thick syrup 'yesterday' to stimulate brood rearing. It is warm enough.
- Test for mites. It is time. We will be 1/2 through March as of our meeting day. Decide what to do!
- Ask about packages/new queens if you need to start again or increase your apiary.

Potluck! 6:00 PM

This newsletter is on-line.  
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