

# SKAGIT VALLEY BEEKEEPERS



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May 2013

## Board Members

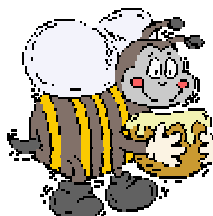
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Thursday May 9th will be the date for the next Association meeting, 7:00 PM at CENEX Administration, 1833 Park in Burlington. Bill says we will go over spring management together. There is a lot to do and remember.

I have to say that at least here at home, it looks like a tent caterpillar year. It has been a while. Some wasps are not around like they have been either to hunt them. I did a superior oil spray on time for a change on our orchard and am still burning and cutting as necessary. The neighbors trees just over the fence look like a cotton candy explosion occurred. I lent them my propane burners to keep them from using sprays. There are several kinds bumbles, my bees and sphinx flies I believe, out pollinating like mad and I don't want to lose them. Haven't seen many mason bees this year, not here anyway.

I have to recommend that you look three times for nests. And if you burn, extra crispy is advised, 360 degrees. It looks like caterpillars can regroup and rebuild. It is not enough to make them just upset.



- We are already at the stage where brood chambers may need to be added. Boxes can be reversed as the queen fills frames with brood. Swarm cells are possible now and we need to plan to prevent swarming. Some folks slide full brood frames from the brood box center towards the outside, replacing the center frame with an empty repeatedly. Some folks checkerboard. Ask at the meeting!
- Once the trees are done blooming, and it will not be long, you may have to feed a bit to keep brood rearing going. Count on a nectar/pollen dearth depending on where you have your bees.
- We need to constantly think about mite control, because of introduced virus issues as much as bee health. Lots of serious folks are replacing queens every year in mid-summer. Lets talk!

Cookies N to Z

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