

SKAGIT VALLEY BEEKEEPERS

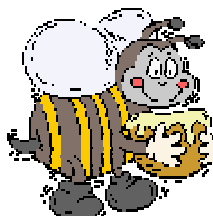


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Our Association meeting for October will be Thursday the 13th at 7:00 PM. The address? 1833 Park Lane in Burlington, the CENEX Skagit Farmer's administration building. Our speaker will be our own Pat Ray making the necessary points on local winter hive preparation. Pat has been keeping bees a LONG time now and his advice is GOLD!

Why should you care? The long range forecasts talk about a double dip La Nina. I did not know that could happen. That means befriend your fuel man, wax your skis now and water will not be a problem next Spring/Summer. Again! Mt. Rainier got it's first measurable snow yesterday 10/05 at Paradise as did peaks in California. So you need to hear again about good hive ventilation and plenty of feed for your bees. Mites need to be taken care of now or sooner! You need strong bees to weather the crud coming our way. Oh, if you need to blue tarp the roof on the honey house, get to it before they are all gone.

Yellow jackets and hornets took their toll here. Geez, I hate seeing that every year. I was too late with the fish head trick and the hornet excluders I tried were less than



wonderful. The smart bugs are the yellow jackets not the bees. The yellow jackets figure it out fast.

Honey production was nonexistent again here on the homestead. I read the letters in the bee magazines about plants not producing nectar back East that always, always did and wonder about us. I ran into an outfit from north of Spokane, Ambrosia Honey I think, at the end of August with bees hauled above Conway and they claimed they had made honey. Maybe! I would like to hear from others in our area.

- FEED folks. Check your bees. You need 90 pounds of goods, a full box of stores.
- Mite treatment. Check. Do it! Ask if you don't know how.
- Ventilation plans for hives, make them. It is important.
- Get your hives up off the ground. Bees do not like wet feet. Wind protection is good.
- Prayer is good as well!

Cookies M _ Z

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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.