

Skagit Valley Beekeepers



Seth Smith, President
Diana Dong, Vice President
Mark Benson, Secretary
Scott Rhodes, Treasurer
Bruce Bowen, Board

770-0481
391-9876
854-0046
856-2652
422-5146

Rob Johnson, Board
Steven LeBlanc, Board
Charlie Langseth, Honorary Board
Robert Niles, Editor

770-6170
202-2266
293-6853

robert@yakima.net

April 2016

Pollen Of Different Colors

The next meeting will be **April 14th, 2015 at 7:00 PM** at the Skagit Farmers Supply CENEX Administration building, located at 1833 Park Avenue, Burlington WA.

Hopefully you've been watching the bees when you get a chance. They're bringing in pollen from just about everything ..so many things in bloom right now.

Over 200 nucs were purchased by SVBA members. **Seth Smith** went over to Yakima to bring them back over to us. Three cheers for Seth!

By now your queens should have been released by the bees. I checked my hives and out of all of them, only one queen hadn't been released. So I released her.

Now I've done this before, carefully open up the queen cage, the opening touching the top bar of a frame and she comes out and like she's always been there, she simply goes down between the frame and joins the bees.

This time though, she didn't do that. She flew, swirling up and up and all around us. We just stood there, frozen. She'd come and go and come and go ...after a while, we knew we couldn't stand there forever, so we left that hive open and worked another hive.

I hope she found her way and decided to stay. I'll be checking that hive again soon, so I'll know here shortly.

That reminds me. Swarm season. If it isn't here, it'll be starting soon. Keep your bees!

Things To Do This Month

- The nucs have arrived! The ones I got were looking good. Bring your questions to the next meeting!
- Packages will be available soon. Packages need

special care! Feed 1:1 syrup to get them fed drawing out wax. Feed pollen substitutes. Keep it up until they're able to care for themselves.

- Peek at queens every 7 - 10 days - or just check for eggs. If the queen dies or is having problems, you'll need to replace her quickly.
- Consider mite treatments while there is no brood but do nothing that will interfere with the queen.
- For established hives, feed if needed/desired but **check for signs of overcrowding/swarming**. Have boxes ready to add. The dandelions are blooming. Are the maples blooming in your area?

Mischievous Beekeeping

I know this beekeeper who this last February had been placing dry pollen out on a plate for the bees and a bit of syrup for them as well. He was watching them and soon was noticing that there were a lot of bees leaving the syrup and heading off in a direction where none of his hives were located. There was either a feral hive or someone else in the area was keeping bees.

Well he told me that his mischievous mind got to working and he went in his shop, grabbed his white marking pen and got to practice his bee catching and marking skills. One by one he marked those girls, a nice dot on the thorax. Let the white dot dry and released the bee.

That mischievous beekeeper imagined some other beekeeper going through their hive in dismay over all the marked bees and their difficulty finding the queen.

He laughed a little.

Mischievous indeed!

