

Skagit Valley Beekeepers



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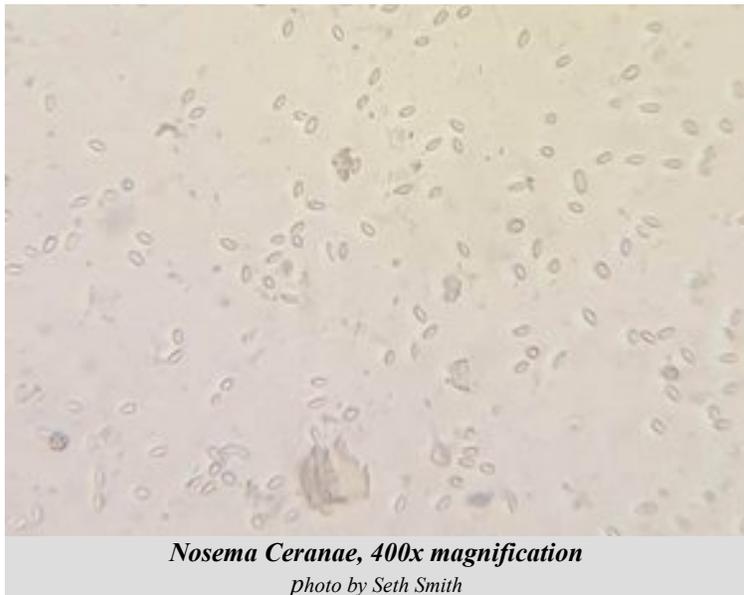
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March 2016

And They Are Off!

NOTICE! - Our March 10th meeting will be our annual potluck and auction. **Bring a dish to share** (if you so desire), there will be lots of food, including a nice ham! In addition, there will be an open bid auction. **You can also bring an item or items to be auctioned and the proceeds go to the SVBA.** Last year there were lots of great things to bid on - so bring your wallets!! The potluck will be held at the Sedro-Woolley Senior Center at 715 Pacific Street, Sedro-Woolley, WA. To view it on a map, visit: <http://goo.gl/lmjFNZ> - The center will be open at 6pm and eating starts shortly thereafter and after dinner is the auction.

The meeting itself will be a general question and answer session with some information about **Seth Smith's** studies of *Nosema* with his microscope (see image) and information about an upcoming queen rearing class.



Nosema Ceranae, 400x magnification
photo by Seth Smith

Seth Smith tells me that **Elizabeth Phoenix Agin** will be bringing her Flow Hive, a hive I'm sure many of you have heard about to the meeting for a little show and tell!

Things To Do This Month

- How are your bees doing? Small mass of bees? Maybe help them out with some bees and brood from another hive? Any dead-outs? Remove those hives, get them cleaned and ready for new bees. Purchase packages or nucs! Hurry, there isn't much time left if there's any time left at all!
- Check weight and/or honey storage. Make sure they aren't starving. If you're sitting there wondering, it's time to find out!
- Clean bottom board when it is warm enough.
- Is the queen laying yet?
- Sometime this month, maybe feed pollen patties and 1:1 sugar if you're looking to build up your hives. But if you start, don't stop until they can feed themselves.
- Be on the watch for crowding in the brood's nest and make sure the queen has sufficient room to lay!

Last Change to Order and Pay For Nucs

If you want any nucs, contact Seth Smith and get your order in. Payment is due March 15th but it might be easier to get him your payment at the March 10th meeting.

Bait Boxes

Spent a weekend putting together bait boxes with the goal of attracting a swarm. Hopefully from someone else – but if these boxes help me keep some of my bees, the happier I'll be. I made my boxes long enough to be able to insert a couple of frames but a good general size is a box 15 x

15 x 15 inches. Tom Seeley studied what size boxes bees were most interested in when finding a new home and he found that on average bees are looking for a cavity that is about 40 liters in size. Tom Seeley's book "Honey Bee Democracy" is a very good read, taking a simple subject and making it very interesting.



*A simple bait box to attempt to catch swarms
photo by Robert Niles*

Only a few simple tools are needed if you get one of the big box stores to cut your plywood for you.

A PDF file on how to make bait boxes and a little more about them can be found online at: <https://goo.gl/v0yuFN>



*Bait Box about 3 meters up in a tree, facing south
photo by Robert Niles*

