

Skagit Valley Beekeepers



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May 2016

Building Them Up!

The next meeting will be **May 12th, 2015 at 7:00 PM** at the Skagit Farmers Supply CENEX Administration building, located at 1833 Park Avenue, Burlington WA.

I hope you all got to get out and join Seth Smith's queen rearing class. Unfortunately I was not able to attend this year – but I did last year. I received reports that it was nicely done. A good class and some awesome food was served as well! **Many thanks to Seth and those who made it all happen!**

Most of the fruit trees are done blooming but my raspberries have bees all over it, mostly native and bumble bees. Blueberries too. The honey bees are visiting the brassica that are blooming. Bees are bringing in some nectar from something – the swarm I captured (is building comb and packing it full of honey ... and capping it already ..I have no idea what they are bringing in.

Two of those nucs I purchased from Seth at the end of March, we let cram up. They drew swarm cells on almost every comb.

Went through those hives, found the frame with the queen, along with another frame of brood, and a frame of pollen/nectar and created a couple new hives (nucs for now, hives later). Then I shook in more bees to the new hives for good measure. I wanted those bees to feel like they swarmed.

In the original hives, I left one good, gorgeous, fat queen cell in each. I'll let them raise a new queen. Instead of two hives, I have four – maybe not as much honey this year but I've increased my hives just in case. A bee insurance policy, you might say.

Seth mentioned at the April meeting that the price for nucs are going up ...a good bit. So some insurance might be a good thing. Worst case, I combine those queens back with the original hive.

Things To Do This Month

- The swarm season is on. Watch for swarm cells! Go through those hives and check for swarm cells.
- Check for mites now, if you treat, do so before you put those honey supers on.
- Good to have an extra box on hand just in case you need to hive a swarm or make a split.
- Is there room for the bees to put nectar? Is there room for the queen to lay? Are they back-filling the brood's nest? Make sure there is room!
- Make sure your bees have enough honey and pollen - watch for a dearth - be prepared to feed if need be.

