

Skagit Valley Beekeepers



Seth Smith, President
William Markus, Vice President
Brad Raspet, Secretary
Scott Rhodes, Treasurer
Bruce Bowen, Board

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708-9424
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Edward Markus, Board 421-4296
Greg Fagot, Board 854-0424
Charlie Langseth, Honorary Board 293-6853
Robert Niles, Editor robert@yakima.net

November 2014

Bee Officers

The next meeting will be **November, 13th, 7:00 PM** at the Skagit Farmers Supply CENEX Administration building, located at 1833 Park Avenue, Burlington WA. **The speaker will be Seth Smith and the topic will be the Officer elections for 2015**

To elaborate, we will be electing all officers and all board members for the 2015 year. Seth Smith, Bill Markus and Scott Rhodes would like to continue. Robert Niles (that's me) will continue on as the newsletter editor unless someone else would love to handle the newsletter (won't hurt my feelings).

Brad will not run again for secretary but would like to continue as club web master unless the new secretary would like to fulfill webmaster duties. Brad indicated that he spent about 1 1/2 hours each month as secretary including taking minutes during the meeting.

If members are interested in any of the offices please bring it up at the meeting!

For those of you wanting to earn credits toward the Master Beekeeper Certificate, holding club offices does provide credit towards the next level of the Washington State Master Beekeeper certification program. **We really need the membership's help in filling the secretary position!!!**

(If you don't show up, you may be voted secretary!)

Remember, there is **no meeting in December!** There won't be a newsletter either ..I get to take a month off!

Hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving and Happy Holidays to you and yours!

Things To Do This Month

- Ensure your hives have plenty of ventilation. You want to make sure your hives can stay as dry as

possible. If you use an entrance reducer, don't reduce it down to the smallest opening, the 4" opening may work best.

- Make sure they're fed up well. Lift the hive - it should be hefty. If not, it's too late for liquid feed but fondant or candy or simple dry sugar will help. Brad Raspet has a great recipe for bee candy/fondant at: <http://skagitvalleybeekeepers.org/contact/BeeCandy2.htm>, or more information on the Mountain Camp dry sugar method of feeding bees in the winter can be found at: <http://goo.gl/Zjqzrw>
- Install mouse guards.
- Clean dead bees off the bottom board from time to time
- Clean up your equipment and sharpen your hive tools.
- If needed, protect from wax moth damage.

At The Mount Vernon Library

Thursday, November 20th at 6:00PM

Adventures in Beekeeping with Naturally Treated Hives in Our Region: for anyone interested in bees and beekeeping

Presenter's Title: **Karen Bean**, Owner, Brookfield Farm Bees And Honey, Maple Falls, WA

Targeted Audience:

General Public with an interest in Honey Bees and Beekeeping in our region

Length of Presentation: 30 minutes

Region 1a Meeting Review

The meeting was very informative and we were surprised with a special guest, a French beekeeper named, **Klebert Silvestre**. Klebert raises *Apis mellifera mellifera*, the European Dark honey bee or "black bee". A special local black bee with the eco-type, Savoy (Savoie).

Klebert raises these bees, mating queens at about 1500 meters elevation (about 4920 feet elevation) in a place called "Valley of Bellevilles" (St Martin De Belleville). His bees pollinate and gather nectar from various plants at that height. Clover, thistle, thyme, fireweed, scabiosa are common. Klebert mentioned that keeping the black bee as pure as possible keeps the bee friendly and with few problems. After the warmer months they bring the hives down to about 600 meters (about 1968 feet) to over winter.



Klebert Silvestre



High altitude bees in the Valley of Bellevilles



It was a very interesting and informative presentation by Klebert with the opportunity to learn how the French keep bees, and at such heights!

Next **Sue Cobey** talked to us about her bees. Where Klebert has been working to keep his bees pure, Sue Cobey has been working to enhance the genetic diversity of the honey bees where in the United States. She has been working to study and introduce some diversity in the genetics of bees here in the United States. Bringing in semen from Carnica and Caucasian drones.

Sue Cobey showed a very interesting slide-show and video with a Caucasian mix of bees cleaning up, or harvesting a large amount of propolis from an emptied nuc. Just as if it was honey, they cleaned the hive, removing all propolis ..supposedly to recycle and use it in their current hive. Quickly worked even though the propolis was hard and cold.

Sue and Klebert will be giving a talk to French Beekeepers in November.

Thanks to our board members along with Sue and Klebert for their help in making the Region 1a meeting a success!

Do you have any suggestions?

Story ideas? Something you would like to know about or an article that you would like to write yourself? Please submit them to robert@yakima.net. We'd love to hear from you! **For the January issue, Please have any articles to me by December 25th, 2014.**

Short and sweet this month! See you and the meeting and then again next year!

