

Skagit Valley Beekeepers



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Board Members

William Markus, President	630-5086 or 661-0452	Brad Raspet, Secretary	708-9424
Alerd Johnson, V. President	293-7953	Scott Rhodes, Treasurer	856-2652
Bruce Bowen, Board	422-5146	Edward Markus, Board	421-4296
Charlie Langseth, Honorary Board	293-6853	Greg Fagot, Board	854-0424

Ed Markus mentioned in the September newsletter that he is stepping down after a very long run as the editor of this newsletter. He has done a great job keeping all of us informed and on track for quite a few years. *I hope you join all of us in thanking Ed for all the hard work and contributions to the Skagit Valley Beekeepers.*
THANK YOU, ED!

To introduce myself, my name is Robert Niles and in an attempt to step up and help out the Beekeeper's Association, I have volunteered to take over Ed's duties as "editor". I'm new to this sort of thing and will most likely make some spelling mistakes, grammar errors and downright "no-no"s. Please forgive me ahead of time or *gently* correct my blunders.

This newsletter comes to you a bit late, so I'll use it to update you on what happened at the October meeting.

Brad Raspet and Seth Smith both spoke at the October meeting. Brad introduced us to using Apiguard for Varroa mite control. Apiguard is a thymol based product made by Vita, a company in the U.K. (<http://www.vita-europe.com>). Thymol is found in the oil of the plant thyme, which is often used as a spice. Apiguard is considered a "soft" chemical for the control of mites.

Next Seth Smith talked about winter

preparations for your hives. Moisture control and ventilation being quite important to winter survivability. He advised that we should:

- Make sure there's plenty of honey in the hive but that there is enough space for the bees to cluster.
- Make sure we do whatever we can to keep the hives dry, including moving the hives if needed to be in a place away from damp areas, in the sun, with good ventilation.
- Make sure there is an opening at the top which will allow moisture to escape from the hive.
- Not to restrict the flow of air at the bottom of the hive.
- Feed the hives if needed. Feed fondant, sugar candy, or using the "Mountain Camp" method, simply pour a 4-5 pound bag of sugar on top of newspaper which is spread on the top of your upper most frames or on a "candy board". The sugar absorbs moisture in the hive while feeding the bees. See <http://goo.gl/Zjqzrw> for more details on the Mountain Camp method.

At the November meeting, we'll have elections for board members and *Sue Cobey, the Bee Whisperer* will be presenting. (See the WSJ article: <http://goo.gl/z1L13E> for an interesting read.)

