

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

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Vitellogenin What?

The next meeting will be **September 8th, 2015 at 7:00 PM** at the Skagit Farmers Supply CENEX Administration building, located at 1833 Park Avenue, Burlington WA. Speaker/Topic TBD.

Another bee season gone by and I don't know about you but the honey harvest for me was quite poor this year. Been hearing the same thing from other up and down the west side of Washington state. On a plus side, it's been a good year for increases and learning new things. If there's a nectar flow next year, I should be ready.

So, for me - it's the beginning of next year already. It's time to get those bees ready now - so that they'll be productive next spring. After I take my honey supers off (what there was to take off), I'll inspect and treat for mites if needed. I'm also watching for signs of Nosema ..not that nice Nosema apis but for that mean cruel Nosema ceranae. You really need to read **Randy Oliver's** article at <http://goo.gl/qvfBlb> - the symptoms aren't really the same as you see with Nosema apis. "Nosema apis is a cold weather disease, evidenced by the symptom of dysentery. An infection by N. ceranae is generally without symptoms—the older bees simply “disappear.” ... another symptom, reported by several, and described by **Bob Harrison** on Bee-L, is that of bees not taking syrup, and then massively drowning in division board feeders." I've seen this myself. It's a sad kind of "wow".

Seth Smith had a lot to talk about with his presentation about Nosema this last spring. Maybe this topic should be brought up again because now is the time to do something about Nosema ceranae ... for me, I'm trying the dribble method with HBH. The idea is to force the bees to flush the nosema out. I don't know if it will work but I'm going to try. Cleaning beekeeping equipment also helps. I take boxes and frames out of service and clean them then wash with a bleach water solution or leave them out in the sun. UV light from the sun has shown to kill Nosema.

So dealing with mites, dealing with Nosema and cleaning equipment are great activities this time of year. Fattening

up those bees is another good activity. Make sure they have plenty of food. Feed syrup and pollen substitute if needed.

The saying is that we got to take care of the bees that raise the bees that raise the bees that need to last the whole winter. Or something like that – you know what I mean ;)

Things To Do This Month

- Make sure each colony has adequate pollen and honey stores. Each colony needs roughly 80 lbs of honey in Western Washington.
- You should have about 10 deep combs of honey or about 15 western combs
- You can extract now. Give wet frames back to the bees to clean. Removed partially filled honey supers. After extracting, store honey supers in a cool, dry place.
- If you need to feed, feed 2:1 syrup - they can store and cap that faster. Don't wait til the weather is cold and wet, get it done now.
- Remove queen excluders!
- Unite weak colonies, **be ruthless**. Perform a newspaper join. Do not try to winter weak or diseased colonies. Weak ... not diseased.
- Raise the back of each hive about one inch so that any water can flow out of the hive.
- If you need to treat for mites, do so while it is still warm.
- Consider adding a mouse guard before the mice move in.
- If needed, move your hives to provide good wind protection and to get them out of damp areas or where pockets of cold air settle.
- Some suggest having a top and bottom entrance just in case the bottom entrance becomes clogged with debris or dead bees.

