

SKAGIT VALLEY BEEKEEPERS

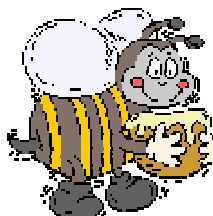


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First thing, FEED, FEED ,FEED your bees. A lot of bees this summer have few stores and not enough for winter or young winter bees. Bill has already fed out 50 gallons and I the same or more.

Check for mites. If you read the humor writer at the back of *Bee Culture* magazine this month, you know it can be as easy as a quart jar with a fine mesh screen, toss an inch of bees inside, a half cup of powdered sugar dumped in and shake. Wait a bit and shake again, then dump out the mites/sugar on something white. Do you have a few or a lot? Dump the bees back into the hive and they will recover. If you happened to get the queen, she is back in the hive. If you have a lot of mites, make a decision as to what to do. Ask at the meeting if you do not know. You need to do this soon as!

The speaker this month is Ed Markus, that is, me. I met a commercial beekeeper in northern Italy this summer, a great guy named Paul Rinner. In his area there was also a bee museum so I have a lot of photos of old stuff. The house on the farm museum is 600 years old, so they have a little different perspective. I fought my way through Power Point and it should work.



There was a lot of learning going on in our area involving queen bee production. Between Sue Cobey's queens at the Experiment Station and Bruce Bowen's most generous use of his bees, lovely queens were raised by both the Association and other folks wondering about making a shot at small commercial production. I have a few of those queens and they range from good to unbelievable. I had one queen go from nuc to two boxes in a month and a half! And that was after blackberry time!

- Finish extracting and get your combs dried out by placing the boxes on top of a strong hive. Use a queen excluder.
- Select your hives for wintering. Weak, poor queens, or no pollen hives need to go!
- Bees need 60 to 80 pounds of stores for winter with a couple combs of pollen stored as well.
- You need to start now so the bees can invert sugars, dry and cap the syrup.

Cookies A—L

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