

SKAGIT VALLEY BEEKEEPERS



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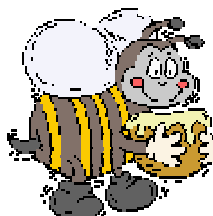
Our September meeting is Thursday the 13th at 7:00 PM in Burlington. We meet at the CENEX Skagit Farmer's Administration Building on 1833 Park Lane.

President Bill has asked Jim Weidert to speak to us. Mr. Weidert does hornet and wasp removal locally. You may have seen his ads in the paper or yard signs placed all around the county.

The Seattle weather forecasters are talking about a weak El Niño coming for the Pacific Northwest which could mean a drier warmer winter. You should still plan for ventilation, rain shedding covers and plenty of feed.

If you have questionable queens they should be replaced, but get to it. A good alternative is to combine small hives before winter. Be ruthless. If you do not have about a full box plus of feed stored on your bees you need to feed 2:1 syrup starting now so the bees have time to store it. I gallon makes 1 frame. Pollen needs to be stored as well and it takes the bees time to preserve it. If you treat for mites, that should be in progress.

The current ABJ magazine recommends equalizing hive populations for winter survival.



If you are extracting, do it now so you can put drippy supers back over your bees to lick clean before storage.

It is yellow jacket time. Because I sold most of my bees there are no yellow jackets here this year. They were showing up as the bees left.. I see dead ones from windshields all along the road while I walk, so they are out in plenty on Pleasant Ridge as usual, just not our yard. Yeah windshields! Yeah 50 mph traffic!

Reduce entrances as you need if your bees struggle. I usually loose several hives here each year no matter what I do as bees give up quickly and disappear when hornets go hungry in Fall. Hornets seem to never quit when starving. Bees do. Go figure. Frustrating!

Do your maintenance while the sun is still out. Ask questions at the meeting.

Cookies A-L

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