

Skagit Valley Beekeepers



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August 2015

And Then They Went

There is no regular meeting in August, instead we will meet at the Skagit County Fair grounds on Tuesday August 11th, 2015 at 7:00pm to set up our booth and for a short meeting. Hopefully you volunteered to staff the booth and share your knowledge of beekeeping to those curious enough to stop and look and ask questions. Bee at the meeting to pick up your free tickets to get into the fair.

I wonder what the bees are doing? Blackberries are all done and the bees have moved that all up and capped it. I have one out-yard where the bees are bringing in nectar, from what I do not know ..then I have another out-yard that is close to clover. The others might be in a dearth. I left a lot of honey on this year.

It is that time of year to start thinking about getting your bees ready for Winter. I know, it's August - but the bee math tells me that I have to start now to get those bees ready. The August issue of Bee Culture has a good article about this. If you got it, read it - if you don't, borrow a copy!

This month the newsletter will be short and sweet. Honey and getting bees ready for winter, fishing, family visits are taking up all my time ...sorry yard work, you'll come later when it isn't so darned hot. Or not.

PSBA's Field Day at the Seattle Arboretum

by Anita Anderson-Johnson

I'd seen **Peter Borst's** lectures on YouTube and commented to several beekeepers on his hive splitting techniques. When **Robert Niles** emailed me and said Peter was speaking at the PSBA field day, I could not sign up fast enough and what a wonderful day it was! Peter Borst has been beekeeping since 1974 and was the Senior Apiarist at Cornell's Dyce Lab for Honey Bee Research for seven years. He served as an apiary inspector for New York state from 2006 to 2008. He is also a regular contributor to the American Bee Journal.

The session went like this: We checked in @ 8:30 in the morning at the Graham Visitor Center. Breakfast was provided. In the morning session Peter Borst presented a talk on "Keeping the Hive Alive" then "Sustainable Beekeeping" followed by "Honey Bee Health." A picnic lunch was sponsored by Whole Foods Market. The afternoon session in the apiary offered a hive inspection with Peter and the participants rotating through several learning stations with various experts.

The afternoon stations were, "Waggle Dances" presented by **Danny Najera**, PhD, "Hiat's Honey" and his commercial operation by **Tim Hiatt**, "Hive Splits: Why And When To Split" by **Rusty Burlew** and "Bees That Are Pollinators" by **Will Peterman** of Beesearch.org.

The program was very well done and I applaud the Puget Sound Beekeepers Association for the very fun afternoon. The weather was perfect, the information phenomenal and the food delicious. Come to find out that Peter and I grew up in the same town, graduated from the same high school within a year of each other, so it was like old home week for me. He let me know that he is available to present to our group if we are willing to fly him out from upstate New York. *Air miles anyone?*

Things To Do This Month

- Remove your surplus honey and extract if desired.
- After honey supers have been removed, treat for mites as necessary (and as desired).
- If you plan to re-queen you need to get your queens in those hives soon.
- Get your bees ready for winter - what you do now effects how your bees will do in the winter. The egg that the queen lays today will be dead by mid-September. These are the bees that will take care of the bees that will take care of the bees that got to survive those long winter months.

