

Newsletter
March 2022

Skagit Valley Beekeepers Association

March 10 SVBA Silent Auction and Dinner is ON!

It's back, and you are invited! Please join us at our festive annual silent auction and potluck dinner which will be held on March 10th at the Sedro-Woolley Senior Center. We will begin the event at 6 PM so that you can bring your silent auction items, look around, and catch up with other SVBA members. The dinner and auction will then kickoff at 7 PM. We will even squeeze in a few moments to hold our monthly meeting. For directions, click <https://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/HumanServices/SeniorCenters/SedroWoolley/directions.htm>

Silent Auction

Bring Stuff and Buy a Lot

The annual silent auction will support the SVBA finances, and you can grab some great deals at the same time. Beekeeping-related items have been a big attraction in the past, and it's a good time to donate and buy them before the 2022 season is in full swing. But we should underline other donated items that can also attract a buyer and contribute to the cause. Maybe homemade pies or a shared fishing trip on the Skagit chasing salmon? Maybe round-trip air fare to Hawaii next February including a week-long stay at a time share condo, including lunch with a local beekeeper? Think about it, and use your imaginations.

Dinner Fixings

Bill and his King



+



Bill Markus has generously offered to cook and bring king salmon for everyone, but the rest will be up to us. Please bring a potluck dish to share with others to make up the rest of the meal. If you are most comfortable bringing something just for yourself, feel entirely free to grab something and come along.

Indoor masking is still in effect until at least March 21 according to news reports. We will be following the current masking protocols with the idea that it will be similar to restaurant operations these days.

If you know what you plan to donate and/or donate, try and let us know in advance.

You can send your RSVP's and information on donations to: Brad Raspet, SVBA President brad.raspet@gmail.com



Bee School is Back!

The SVBA will restart its WASBA-certified beginning beekeeping class after a two-year Covid era pause. It's happening in March, so set the time aside right away and spread the word. They will be held on the four Mondays in the month, March 7, 14, 21, and 28 from 6 PM to 9 PM.

The cost for the course will be \$50. For anyone who began the 2020 series with us that was interrupted by the Covid situation, you can complete the course now for no additional cost.

The classes will be held in the Burlington Library meeting room - special thanks to the Library for accommodating us!

We have an experienced lineup of Skagit Valley Beekeepers putting together the program and running the sessions, including Rob Johnson, Bill Markus, Brad Raspet and Seth Smith.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Brad Raspet, SVBA President 360-708-9424
brad.raspet@gmail.com

Beware Being Idle in March

Experienced members of the SVBA point out that March is not a “down” time for beekeeping here, but is in fact a critical month. Overwintering hives may have consumed food stores, and need supplemental feeding - including a supplemental pollen boost with key proteins to tide the colony over until natural pollen becomes plentiful. A warm day is an opportunity to check on the status of the colony, and you may want to have supplemental pollen patties at the ready. Like most beekeeping practices, there are some complexities associated with the type of supplement that you might use. Last month's guest speaker Dr. Jennifer Short distinguishes:

- Natural pollen - Supports the brood.
- Pollen supplements (pollen patties and similar products) - These provide an important dietary contribution to the bees at a key time, but is not used either for the brood or to produce queen jelly.
- Dry pollen products - These do not serve as a dietary supplement for the bees, but are used to produce bee bread.

Trading Post

- **Bow resident would like to rent 2 to 3 hives to support 1.5 acres of fruit plantings.** Gary Moulton has some pear, apple, and other fruit trees that would benefit from 1 hive by mid-March and 1 or 2 hives from early April to mid-May. If you are interested, contact Gary gamoulton@wavecable.com or by phone 360-391-5867.
- **Up to 6 beehive sites on Sedro-Wooley farm in exchange for a few jars of honey.** Paula Schaefer and her sister have a farm on East Gilligan Creek Road with 10 acres of forest and 10 acres they farm for hay. If you are interested in placing some hives there, contact Paula paula64schaefer@gmail.com or her cell phone (402) 203-8686.

If you have supplies and equipment that you may be interested in swapping, selling, or just plain giving to other interested members of the SVBA, send a brief description, price, and contact information to your editor, cecilbees121@gmail.com.

Membership: Renew or Join

If you haven't already sprung at the chance, your 2022 SVBA membership dues are now due. It's easy, simply mail us your annual renewal fee of just \$12.00. For those who wish to join, it's the same price, and a wonderful introduction to our beekeeping community with the many programs, events, education, advice and connections that we offer through our web page, Facebook, and this newsletter. The membership form and payment instructions are found at:

<http://skagitvalleybeekeepers.org/SVBAMembership.htm>



SVBA Leadership and Contacts

Brad Raspet, President

360-708-9424, brad.raspet@gmail.com

Dawn Beck, Vice President

206-719-3666, dawnrunner@live.com

Rob Johnson, Treasurer

360-770-6170, rsjohnson2u@yahoo.com

Susan DeLawter, Secretary

818-259-9059, susandelawter@sbcglobal.net

Steve Cecil, Newsletter

617-719-7870, cecilbees121@gmail.com

Steve LeBlanc, Board

360-202-2266, newbeekeeper32@yahoo.com

Alvin Forar, Board

360-435-3316, alforar@hotmail.com

Seth Smith, Board

360-770-0481, seth_smith@live.com