

Buzzword



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Next Meeting

August 20th, 2002

Summer Picnic at Octopus Garden

3:30p.m. – “Finding the Queen”

5:30p.m. – Potluck Picnic

Summer Woes (and the remedy)

Message from the President

Well here it is August and your hopes for a bumper honey crop have about as much chance of panning out as the threats your mother-in-law made last summer claiming that she won't be coming to visit again.

You say that your yield is so low that it would surely double if you could just figure a way to get all the honey off the door knobs and handles around the place and there must be at least a quart on the steering wheel of your truck that should qualify as "bakery grade" if you could only get it in a jar.

Then you were out pulling honey from some hot colonies on an even hotter day and there were so many bees in your veil that you know they would make a nice 3 pound nuc if you could box them up.



But it's no use since your daughter won't let you at that last empty brood box in the shed because a cute family of mice

moved in and they are now her favorite new pets.

And you've been having a little trouble picking up all the helpful lifestyle advice the better half has been offering so you went to the audiologist to get outfitted with a new hearing aid and all she did was pluck a walnut-sized piece of propolis out of your ear and throw you back out on the street, \$200 lighter in the wallet and none the wiser.

Is that what's bothering you Bunkie?

Then cheer up, I have an offer that can't fail to breathe new life into your weary old bones. Load up the family and come to

(contd. on page 3)

OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

- President:
Paul Hosticka 360-297-3614
- Vice President:
Kevin Wirth 253-851-4664
- Secretary:
Tricia Sullivan 360-779-1210
- Treasurer:
George Purkett 360-895-9116

- Educational Materials:
Barabara Stedman 360-692-9453
- Librarian:
Roy Barton 360-613-0175
- Newsletter Editor:
Stephen Augustine 360-779-1210

SUMMER PICNIC

Tuesday, August 20, 2002
Hosticka Bee Ranch in Kingston



There will be a "finding the queen" demonstration for anyone who wants to come early at 3:30p.m. or so. However, feel free to come any time in the afternoon. We'll eat at 5:30p.m. and since it's a potluck picnic bring a dish to share. The hosts will provide soft beverages, utensils, seating, and a good time for all. A map on the back page provides directions to the picnic. However, feel free to call 297-3614 if you need further directions or have questions.

Get well wishes go out to:



If you know of a member who has been ill let us know at (360)779-1210 or (360)297-3614

"Honey comes out of the air... At early dawn the leaves of trees are found bedewed with honey...

Whether this is the perspiration of the sky or a sort of saliva of the stars, or the moisture of the air purging itself, nevertheless it brings with it the great pleasure of its heavenly nature. It is always of the best quality when it is stored in the best flowers."

Pliny (A.D. 23-79)

Natural History, book 20

FOR SALE

12 oz capacity jars with plastic lids included.
2.75 diameter x 4.75 high
Mason jar lids will also work

\$2.00 per case of 12
Contact: Al or Barbara

**Stedman's Bee
Supplies
360-692-9453**

BASICS IN NORTHWEST BEEKEEPING

Adapted from Ron Bennett (<http://members.aol.com/beetools/>)

August is the month to wrap up your honey crop and prepare for next year. You should remove your honey supers and extract or prepare your cut comb. But, keep supers on your hives with a few empty combs on strong colonies, especially those that are overly heavy with stores in the brood nest. You still have a lot of bees in your hive and even though the blossoms that are on now are not the most desirable for honey, the bees need something to do and somewhere to put the nectar. Honey that the bees produce now is honey they will winter over with.

But, don't tempt robber bees by exposing honey. As you remove the supers from

the hives, cover them immediately and remove them from the bee yard as soon as possible. Once robbing starts, it is very difficult to stop and can cause the death of several of your hives!

Yellowjackets are also normally a problem this time of the year and exposed honey will draw them right to you.

Pay close attention to colony health and take remedial measures as necessary. Remember, if you do not have an infestation it may be best to leave well alone and not use various treatments as a matter of rote. Your queens will start laying eggs now that will be hatched brood by September first, and these are the bees that will

be wintering over in your hives.

Don't work the brood nest unless necessary. The bees that are being raised now are very important to your Spring success. Watch for any signs of robbing and reduce entrances to a bee space sized slot after hot days are over.

Keep on the lookout for American Foulbrood and check your stored comb for possible wax moth infestation. And remember, if you are going to use medications - follow the directions and do not treat for more than the recommended time.



BEE MENTOR PROGRAM

WSBA has begun a mentor program. Following are the people who have signed up as volunteers to assist new beekeepers with advice and on site assistance. They will also respond to most calls for swarm capture.

South Kitsap:

George Purkett, (360)895-9116, purkettg@nwinet.com

Central Kitsap:

Mike Johnson, (360)830-0295, mlj@hurricane.net
Roy Barton, (360)613-0175, honeyhill@tscnet.com

North Kitsap:

Paul Hosticka, (360)297-3614, phos@tscnet.com
Paul Lundy, (360)297-6743, lundyknox@att.net

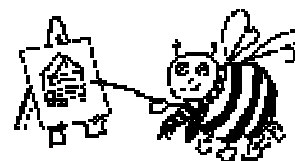
Bainbridge Island:

Jim Willmann, (206)842-5991, jwillm4622@aol.com

Poulsbo and environs:

Stephen Augustine, (360)779-1210, saugusti@krl.org

If you would like to be added to the mentor list please contact Paul Hosticka at (360)297-3614



...SUMMER WOES (contd. from page 1)

the annual August picnic. Bring whatever you like to eat and drink and have some fun for a change. You can strap on the old feed bag and enjoy delicious entrees from a world class buffet. Belly up to the dessert table and swap tales with some of the best liars in the county. And the best part is that there will be plenty of help around to push start your rig so you can make it home for a good night's slumber, dreaming the sweet dreams of innocence.

The coming dawn will no doubt reveal supers, beyond count, full and capped, an extractor clean and ready, and all traces of Bee-Go gone from what remains of your hair.

Hope to see you here. - Paul



BEEKEEPING IS VERY SIMPLE

Allen Dick (allend@internode.net), March 6th, 2000

I've been thinking. Over the years we see a lot of posts on BEE-L, sci.ag.bee, and elsewhere in which people are --- basically -- worrying about their bees. There is a blizzard of replies in which other people try to guess what is the problem. All of us worry. I know I do, and it's usually when I know I've ignored one of the basics, or tried to get fancy.

The thing is that bees -- we are told by good authority -- have managed to survive in widely varying conditions without -- or in spite of -- mankind's assistance since time immemorial. So why do we worry? If we put enough good bees into the right number of good boxes in a good place and watch for disease and predators, and feed them if they get too light, why should we worry?

I think we worry mostly because we want to exceed the natural level of success of bees in terms of multiplication, survival, and production of hive products, and we often do it in locations that may not favour bees. As a consequence, we place heavy demands on the bees.

From time to time, I think we need to sit back and realise that the bees usually do

fine by themselves if we have followed the mainstream practices outlined in all the books and avoided oddball ideas or tricky manoeuvres. Some of the books get into strange manipulations like Demareeing and shook swarming, but if one sticks to the simple basics, there is little likelihood of serious problems. If we keep it simple we have a lot less worries.

Basically, bees need to have good nutrition, good quarters, and a good location. Beyond that, nature will ensure that there is reasonable success. In today's environment, some awareness of detection and prevention disease and predators is necessary in addition, but here again, simplicity and conservative approaches pay off in high success rates.

That's why we suggest that beginners get more than one hive and also that they identify someone local who has had good success over the years -- in the opinion of his/her peers, not, necessarily him/herself -- and do as (s)he does. With several hives, the natural failure rate will not normally leave one without bees, al-

though a loss here or there is perfectly normal. Beginners need to know that commercial operators run thousands of hives profitably, and some seldom do more than glance under the lid once in a while to ensure there are still bees there and that they look OK. Sure they take some losses, but they always have a (simple) plan to make up for them.

Bees are tuned to work, 'straight from the factory'. The more one plays with the bees, the more risk of failure or trouble there is. It's much like a modern car: if you do the regular preventative maintenance and do check-ups periodically, reliability is pretty well assured. If you try to soup up your machine or alter the factory configuration, you are asking for reduced reliability, and moreover no one will stand behind you to make things right. You MAY get improved performance, but you may also have bad economy -- or even a wreck.

The best advice is to keep it simple and let the bees do what they have been doing for millennia.



Refreshment Schedule

Aug: Summer Picnic
Sep: Mike Hoey & David Myhre
Oct: Mark McColigan & Catherine Mathewson
Nov: Nancy Fortner
Dec: Dinner Meeting

If you are unable to fulfill your commitment to provide refreshments for a meeting please notify Barbara Stedman by giving her a call at 360-692-9453 before the meeting date.

Octopus Garden Queens



Kitsap County bred, New World Carniolan, marked, laying queens for \$12.

Queen cells for \$3. Limited supply.

Call Paul at 297-3614

Editor's Note:

Articles of interest to beekeepers and announcements of interest to Association members are welcomed and encouraged.

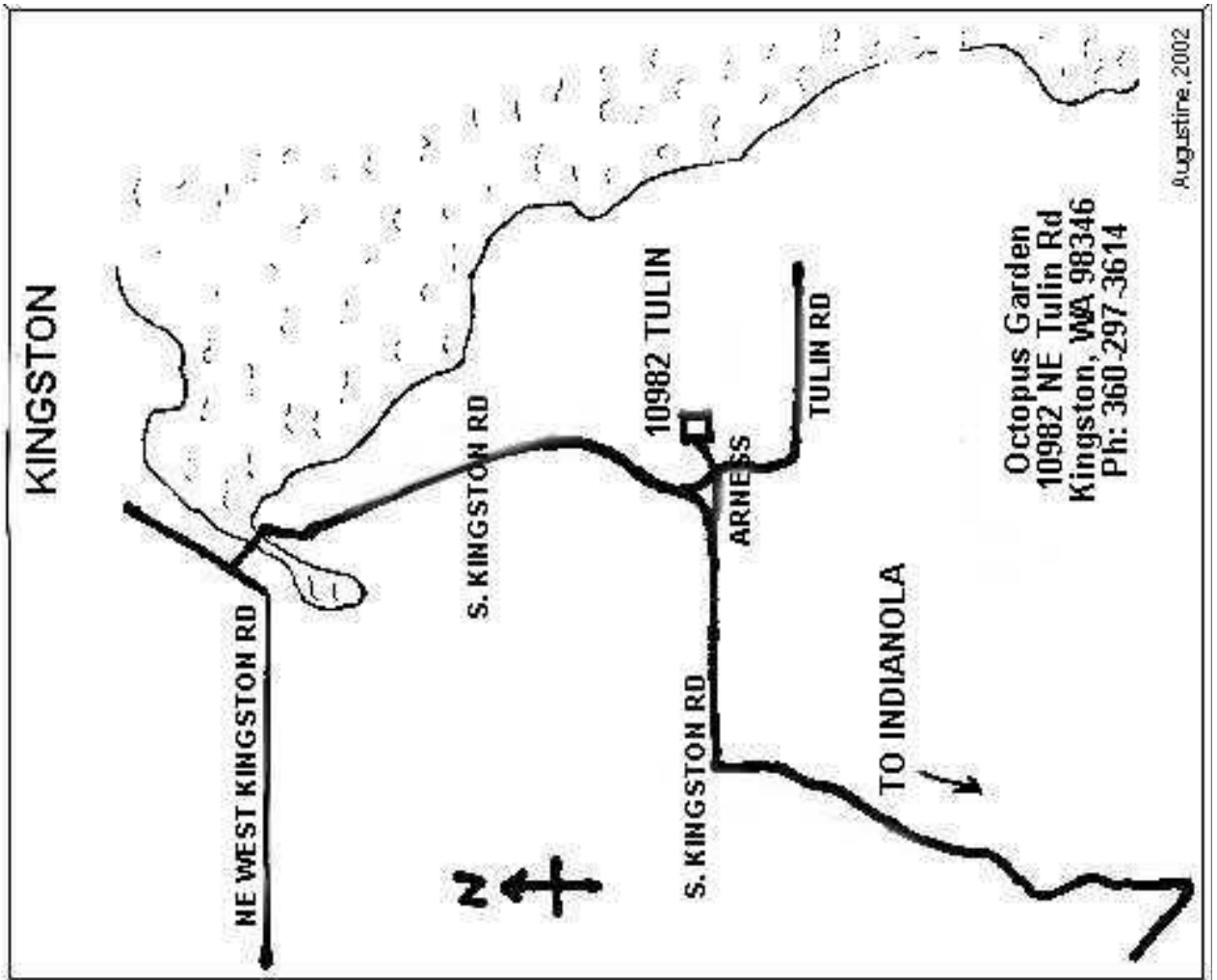
Submit articles and announcements to Stephen Augustine:

Email: saugusti@krl.org
 Mail: 401 B Liberty St NW
 Poulsbo, WA 98370

Read thought-provoking articles from a "Point of View" at:

<http://www.beesource.com/pov/index.htm>

Summer Picnic - August 20, 2002 Map to The Hosticka Bee Ranch



Buzzword

West Sound Beekeepers Association
 10982 NE Tulin Rd
 Kingston, WA 98346

Next Meeting:
 Tuesday Aug. 20th, 5:30p.m., at Hosticka's
Program:
 Potluck Picnic & "Finding the Queen"