

# Buzzword



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**Next Meeting**

December 17th,  
2002

**Dinner Meeting**

WSBA Annual Holiday  
Dinner Meeting

At Mitzel's in Poulsbo

Social at 6:00p.m.  
Dinner at 7:00p.m.

Reservations Required

**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:  
Barbara Stedman 360-692-9453  
Librarian:  
Roy & Vickie Barton 360-613-0175  
Newsletter Editor:  
Stephen Augustine 360-779-1210

**Year-End Ruminations**

Message from the President

**D**ecember, and yet another year is drawing to a close. Whether it is finishing in a blaze of glory or just sort of petering out I suppose depends on your personal situation and point of view. For the bees it marks perhaps the low point of colony activity and population. At best they are in there enduring and marking time until the days start getting longer and it is time to prepare for the spring build up. If they are in good health, have adequate stores, a viable queen and a protected location all will be fine and they will roar back to full strength next spring. If lacking any one of these

essentials they are in big trouble. As beekeepers our ability to intervene now is limited. Emergency feeding, while possible, has little chance of success if they are out of stores this early. Mite control likewise is difficult when the bees are in winter cluster and even assuming that the mites are killed the afflicted bees will not recover leaving the colony without healthy nurse bees to raise the next generation. It is good to experiment and see what can be done but hope is probably our best tool now. One thing we can do now is control their location. The "two feet or two mile" rule is suspended for a short time

during the winter and relocation, even for a small distance will most often be trouble free. So if there is a better spot or you want to improve their conditions now is a good time.

That leaves us with nothing to do but look out for our own well-being and what better way to improve our condition than to have a fun night out? The annual Holiday Dinner and Auction is just the sort of gala event that will cheer up even the most dour curmudgeon among us. You will find the details elsewhere in this letter so RSVP to Nancy Fortner soon and come and  
(contd. on page 3)

**WSBA Holiday Dinner and Auction**

*Share good food and good friends, with a good dose of laughter thrown in...bring an auction item if you can (and feel free to bring more than one thing!)*

**Date: Tuesday, December 17, Social: 6 PM, Dinner: 7 PM**  
*Mitzel's Restaurant, Hwy 305 @ Poulsbo*

**The Reservation deadline has passed. However you may still be able to register.**

Check with Nancy Fortner for late registration:  
**Ph: 206-842-6577 or Email: [sweetlifefarm@bainbridgeisland.net](mailto:sweetlifefarm@bainbridgeisland.net)**

**Menu:**

*Appetizers and desserts provided free by WSBA; you pay for dinner and choice of beverages. All dinners include choice of house or Caesar salad or soup, and bread basket*

**Dinner Choices are:**

Turkey Alfredo, Prime Rib, Pacific Salmon Fillet, and Tomato Basil Penne





**Get well  
wishes go  
out to:**

Al Stedman who was going into surgery this week. We hope for a speedy recovery.

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

“What living creature can you keep about you that yields more pleasure, delight & profit than these that possess so little room as a small part of your garden?”

- The Country Herb

### 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/>)

**W**inter is the time to care for your hives and equipment and make plans for next year. One of the most important things you can do is attend your state beekeeping meeting and learn first hand what is going on in beekeeping. The steps you continue to take now will determine how your bees will start next year - either strong and healthy or weak and in poor health.

Winter poses some serious problems for bees. The cold weather limits their activity and all efforts are focused on keeping warm. To keep warm, they need to eat, and to eat they must move away from the warmth of the cluster. Eating honey and the cold also cause condensation within the hive body and can wet and cool the bee even further.

You should ensure that your hives are adequately ventilated. Moisture collecting in the hive is the winter killer in our area. One simple way to provide increased ventilation is to put some small pieces of wood or

pebbles between the inner cover and the outer telescoping cover so that the outer cover is raised slightly. Alternatively you could provide top entrances for your hives by either drilling a 1/2-3/4 inch hole in the top box or by notching the inner cover. Check the underside of the outer cover for any moisture that has collected and in hives which do show visible moisture take remedial action immediately.

But in any case, provide rain-tight covers and raise hives onto stands, off the ground. Tilting the hives forward by placing a piece of wood along the back underside of the bottom boards will allow any moisture that accumulates to run out the front entrance. The hives should be exposed to the sun and protected from winds, and the location should be well drained and not subject to flooding. Protect the bees and comb from mice. Raising the hives off the ground, and reducing the front entrance (or better yet using only a top hole or slot in the inner cover edge) will help keep mice out of your

hives.

With all the above said, disturb the bees as little as possible and only open a hive when absolutely necessary and only on days warm enough for the bees to be flying. Work quickly and carefully so as not to chill the bees.

For colonies that are very low on stores emergency feeding may be attempted with sugar candy or fondant.

Check the yard frequently for molestation by vandals (critters, human and otherwise.) Skunks in particular destroy a hive in just a few nights by scratching at the front and gobbling up bees that run out to find out what the problem is. Screening the entrance area or carpet tack strips will discourage skunks. A roll of chicken wire laid in the front of the hive helps as well.

Prepare and repair your equipment and make plans for next year. This is the time to build new boxes and frames and not wait until you have a swarm and nothing to put it into next spring.



## BUTTERNUT SQUASH SOUP

The Recipe Corner

**2 Tablespoons butter**  
**1 onion, chopped**  
**2 garlic cloves, minced**  
**3 carrots, diced**  
**2 celery stalks, diced**  
**1 potato, peeled and diced**  
**1 butternut squash, peeled, seeded, diced**  
**3 cans (14.5 oz. each) vegetable broth**  
**1/2 cup honey**  
**1/2 teaspoon dried thyme leaves, crushed**  
**Salt and pepper to taste**



In a large pot, melt butter over medium heat. Stir in onions and garlic. Cook and stir until lightly browned, about 5 minutes. Stir in carrots and celery. Cook and stir until tender, about 5 minutes. Stir in potatoes, squash, broth, honey and thyme. Bring mixture to boil; reduce heat and simmer 30 to 45 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Remove from heat and cool slightly. Transfer mixture to blender or food processor; process until smooth. Return pureed soup to pot. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Heat until hot and serve.

## ...YEAR-END RUMINATIONS (contd. from page 1)

enjoy yourself for goodness sake. Auction items are welcome but not required, auction bidding is welcome but not required, fun is alas unavoidable and guaranteed.

At this time it seems appropriate to reflect on the year past. We lost two dear friends and fellow beekeepers with the passing of Tim Lindberg and then Jon Iverson. They are both missed but not forgotten and their fond memories will endure among those of us who knew them. I also want to thank on behalf of the association everyone who did so much good work to keep our organization going in such fine shape. Thanks to Al and Barbara Stedman for the generous use of their facility, to George Purkett for keeping the books and resisting the temptation to abscond with our vast resources, to Mike Hoey (retired) and Tricia Sullivan for keeping track as secretary, to Roy Barton for keeping the library in such good condition and to Stephen Augustine for taking the reins as newsletter editor and updating the web site and doing a superior job at both. Thanks also to everyone who helped so much by putting a presentation together. None of this happens by itself and we are grateful for all the good work. Finally I want to send my sincere and loving gratitude to each and every buzzer in every hive. They provide the fascination and glue that brings such a diverse and talented group of funny and benevolent lunatics together. But for them most of us wouldn't even know each other and without them we would all be far, far, the poorer. At least spiritually, monetarily may be another matter but we need not get into that here.

So do yourself a favor and come to the party and enjoy a great time. With a full belly, a good chin wag, and perhaps some priceless treasure in hand you will be well outfitted to face the new year, and it is sure to be the best year yet. See you Tuesday.

- Paul



### AT THE LAST MEETING (NOVEMBER 19, 2002)

#### Treasurer's Report:

\* George Purkett gave the treasurer's report. Our bank balance as of November 19 was \$3073.55. We have 70 final paid members for 2002. Dues paid now cover 2003. So far we have 4 paid members for 2003.

#### Announcements:

\* Simon Fraser University is sponsoring a Master Beekeeper's Course in February. See more details in the December newsletter.

#### New Business:

- \* Holiday Dinner Party at Mitzel's -- Please RSVP to Nancy Fortner by December 10. Susan Hosticka, Nancy Fortner, Stephen Augustine and Mary Monroe will bring homemade desserts. Rusty will extend the Association's special invitation to Jean Iverson and we will cover the cost of her meal. We also agreed that the Association would cover the costs of Al and Barbara Stedman's dinners as a small appreciation of the use of their building for our meeting space. Please remember to bring an auction item with you! We will decide at the January meeting how the proceeds of the auction should be spent.
- \* If anyone has any photos with their bees, please forward them to Stephen to post on the Association web site. He would like to make a photo collage of WSBA beekeepers and their hives.
- \* Paul Hosticka ordered eight new books for the Association library.
- \* Thanks to Roy Barton for having a honey display at the Fruit Club's annual show in Silverdale.

#### Program:

\* Michael Dillon, a graduate student at the University of Washington, delivered an excellent presentation on "The Aerodynamics of Bee Flight."

*Submitted by: Tricia Sullivan, Secretary, December 11, 2002*

Visit our Association's new website at:

<http://www.WestSoundBees.org>

Please provide feedback by sending email to [webmaster@westsoundbees.org](mailto:webmaster@westsoundbees.org)

Email aliases are available to WSBA members. Email aliases allow you to have an email address at westsoundbees.org - for example bob@westsoundbees.org. Email sent to the alias will then automatically be forwarded to your regular email address. If you would like an alias please contact the webmaster at [webmaster@westsoundbees.org](mailto:webmaster@westsoundbees.org).

#### Refreshment Schedule

**Dec:** Dinner Meeting

**Jan:** Paul & Susan Hosticka

**Feb:** Roy Barton

**Mar:** Betty & Walter Schicker

**Apr:** -open-

**May:** Joe Grubbs & Pamela Tarver

**Jun:** -open-

**Jul:** -open-

**Aug:** Summer Picnic

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.

**Master Beekeepers' Course**  
**Simon Fraser Univ.**  
**February 10-14, 2003**  
**Vancouver, BC.**

Cost is \$150, contact Dr. Mark Winston, Simon Fraser University Burnaby, B.C., V5A 1S6  
 Phone: (604)291-4910  
 or (604)291-3012  
 Fax: (604)291-3496  
 e-mail: [winston@sfu.ca](mailto:winston@sfu.ca)

#### 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](mailto:saugusti@krl.org)  
 Mail: 401 B Liberty St NW  
 Poulsbo, WA 98370

## MEET THE MEMBERS

### An Interview With Bob Martello

**T**his month we meet WSBA's almost-commercial beekeeper Bob Martello. Bob and his wife Tracy moved to this area (they live in Seabeck) 21 years ago from the Spokane area. They have been married 23 years. Their daughters Erika, Rachael and Rebecca are 19, 17, and 13 years old and have been very active in their beekeeping venture. The Martellos have been active in their church, Silverdale United Methodist and it was at church that Bob met another WSBA member and his mentor Ken Bennett who took him under his wing. This past summer the family went to the Ukraine on a mission trip and Bob had an opportunity to work with two beekeepers there. In January, he will be taking another trip to the Philippines and Bob hopes that he will be able to work with a beekeeper there as well. Bob expresses his gratitude to all the folks who have guided and helped him in his beekeeping venture.

#### HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A BEEKEEPER AND WHAT GOT YOU STARTED?

I have been keeping bees for seven years. I took my first beekeeping class at the Stedman's. I started with five hives the first year. The second year I jumped to 30. An article in a Reader's Digest book stirred my curiosity. If I'd only known...

#### HOW MANY COLONIES DO YOU CURRENTLY RUN?

I currently run 370 colonies.

#### CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR BEEKEEPING SEASON AND THE DIFFERENT PLACES YOU TAKE YOUR BEES DURING THE SEASON?

Our year starts in December with a trip

to California. In January, the bees are moved into the almonds. In April, they come home. In May, they head to Sequim for seed crop pollination. In July, they go to the mountains for honey production. September brings them home to prepare for the move back to California.

#### CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT SOME OF THE DIFFERENT CHALLENGES FACING A FULL-TIME BEEKEEPER WITH SEVERAL HUNDRED HIVES VERSUS A HOBBYIST?

I'm constantly on the go, not enough time in the day, never enough money, finding reliable help is always difficult.

#### WHAT IS IT ABOUT BEEKEEPING THAT YOU ENJOY?

I enjoy being out and doing my own thing. Bees are never dull, always interesting, a different challenge every day.

#### WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS IN BEEKEEPING?

My plans are to move into full-time within a year and eventually run 2000-3000 colonies.

#### DO YOU HAVE ANY ADVICE FOR FELLOW BEEKEEPERS WHO MIGHT BE THINKING ABOUT GOING FULL-TIME?

Be prepared for obstacles. Don't cut corners where it counts especially with meds, feed, and equipment.



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

#### **Next Meeting— Holiday Dinner Meeting:**

Tuesday Dec. 17th, 6:00p.m.  
 At Mitzel's in Poulsbo