



West Sound Beekeepers Association  
[www.westsoundbees.org](http://www.westsoundbees.org)

Volume 9, Issue 2



# BUZZWORD

February 2006

## NEXT MEETING

**Tuesday - February 21, 2006**  
**7:00 P.M.**

**Stedman's Bee Supplies**  
**Silverdale**

## Refreshment Schedule

**February**-George Purkett, Roy Barton  
**March**-Paul Lundy, Joe Higdon, Dave Bates  
**April**-Kimberly Brokamp, Jerry A. Hominda

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## Program Committee

Jay Miller      253-857-6417  
Al Twidt        253-884-1038  
?????Need Volunteer?????

## OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

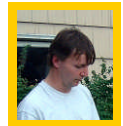
### President

Basil Gunther (360) 297-5075



### Vice President

George Purkett (360) 895-9116



### Secretary

Chanetta Ludwig (253) 884-2291



### Treasurer

Joe Grubbs (360) 871-8091



### Educational Materials

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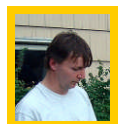
### Librarian

Roy & Vickie Barton (360) 613-0175



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### Newsletter Editor

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## **EDITOR'S CORNER:**

By Jerry Hominda

I am open for any topics, information, and idea sharing from any members. If you have a thought you would like to include in the newsletter you can e-mail me or send it by postal mail. I would be more than happy to include it.

I look forward to hearing from anyone in the future.

My e-mail address is: [goldenbee@juno.com](mailto:goldenbee@juno.com) and my mailing address is:  
7828 Ray Nash Gig Harbor, WA 98338

Now there is one outstandingly important fact regarding Spaceship Earth, and that is that no instruction book came with it.

**R. Buckminster Fuller 1895-1983:**  
*Operating Manual for Spaceship Earth (1969)*

## **Message From the President:**

Hello Everybody!

February is upon us again and although things look pretty much the same as last month, the reality is that big things are in the works. Bees and bee-keepers alike are feeling a bit hive bound and are itching to break the winter cluster and get things rolling. You could feel it in the air of the January meeting, a feeling of optimism and determination to make this year a better one than ever before! The January meeting took on a tone of vigor and renewal as ideas for a more vibrant organization were introduced and the groundwork laid for the exciting months ahead.

The primary purpose of our association is to provide assistance for the continuing education of our members and the public at large in the art and science of beekeeping. With that in mind, George Purkett is making the plans for the Association Apiary, which will be a tremendous educational resource for all our members, beginning or seasoned. It should be up and running by early April when package bees arrive.

This year our Basic Beekeeping classes will be presented in a new format: The classes will be held from 6-6:45 PM, before the regular meeting and will be free of charge. Hats off to instructors Roy Barton, Mike Johnson, and Paul Lundy for their continued efforts! The classes should continue for several months and encourage the recruitment of new members. Hoo-ray!

Jerry Hominda and George have been making plans for a Summertime Mountain Apiary so all our members and their bees can enjoy the benefits of the late summer honey flow. Let's keep reminding them how thankful we all are for this effort!

Pressure was brought to bear on getting the newsletter out earlier and cleaning up the email version and Jerry has risen to the challenge. Likewise pressure has been applied to your humble president to make sure programs and program committee are better than ever this year-count on it!

Stepping down off my soapbox (actually a deep), I'd like to remind everyone (once again) to keep tabs on colony stores, which tend to deplete more rapidly this time of year as bees begin to rev up for the spring flow by raising a bit of brood.

Pollen coming in the front door probably means brood rearing is going on, but Mother Nature can throw several foul, cold, and rainy days in succession, so don't let bees starve-rearrange stores, feed candy (see recipe on our web-site), or dry sugar if you need to.

Although pollen is being produced, bees may not be able to get it or it may be too wet or moldy to be usable. Now's a good time to break out that pollen you saved from last summer. The brood need protein to live, thrive, and survive. Pollen is where that protein originates. Pollen, or pollen substitutes can be fed in pollen feeders or mixed with a small amount of sugar syrup and formed into patties and set on the top bars. It's ok to leave wax paper on the patties for easier handling-bees can chew it right off!

Those of you using chemical miticide strips should consider placing them in the hive by mid-month so you can remove them in 6-8 weeks. After removal of the strips you should be putting suppers on your

biggest colonies, not only to give them room so they will not swarm, but in hopes of capturing the elusive spring nectar flow!

Don't forget to take time to watch flight patterns when that miraculous warm and sunny day comes along. You might consider reducing weak colonies to one box. I recommend making it a habit to smell your colonies when you remove the top for inspection. Fermented feed, resulting perhaps from late season feeding that wasn't able to dry down, wasn't capped and has been absorbing moisture all winter, has a distinctive smell. Fermented feed can cause dysentery, nosema disease, and contribute to colony collapse if not remedied. Watch for the classic signs of dysentery and nosema in the form of yellowish-brown streaks on the front of the box, landing board, and top-take appropriate action if observed.

If you don't know how to spot American Foulbrood disease, which also has a distinctive unpleasant smell (dead, rotting brood) and is one of the most devastating bee diseases, please educate yourself! Find out on the web, check out a book from the association library, or call someone in the association. Foul brood examples are brought to meetings for observation and education-if you suspect you have it bring your suspicious frame to a meeting-let the experts examine it. Never lower your guard when it comes to AFB!

Hmmm. Seems I'm still on that soapbox! As long as I'm here, I may as well suggest you obtain, assemble, paint, and repair new and old equipment, order queens, order queens and packages from the Stedman's, and don't forget to bring your association dues to the next meeting! Enjoy those seemingly rare beautiful days and I'll see you at the meeting -Basil

PS: There should be a downloadable WSBA Basic Beekeeping Class info/add sheet on the website by early February. Help Beekeeping by printing copies and post everywhere you think people will see them.

**Minutes January 17, 2006 7-9 PM at Stedman's Bee Supply**

**Submitted By:**

Secretary Chanetta Ludwig; chanettal@yahoo.com

Basil Gunther, President, presided at the meeting.

**Treasurer's Report**

- Joe Grubbs gave the treasurers report \$2403.49 in checking, and \$2794.33 in savings.
- 4 Members paid for 2006

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

- Discussion on having an Association Apiary. The hives would belong to the club. They would be used for demonstrations to show beekeeping to members.
- Puget Sound Beekeepers Association has a similar set-up. It was proposed to Al Stedman, that placement of the hives would be at Stedman's.
- Basic Beekeeping Classes will start on February 21st, third Tuesday, 6-6:45, before the meeting. There will not be a fee. But a recommended Book can be purchased. This class is put on by Roy Barton, Mike Johnson, and Paul Lundy. All are welcome to attend the class. They hope to have the class for several months depending on interest.
- We had discussion on future topics we would like to see. Suggestions were:
  -

Bill Rusika-(formic acid treatment)	Allergist Guest from Lakewood
Nectar Producing Flowers	Introduction of queens
Monthly guides to Beekeeping;	Timely Topics
Steve Sheppard (Queen Breeding)	Treatment for Pests and Diseases.
Jan Doermeier (Tracheal Mites)	
Hive Maintenance	Marina Mixner from Bee Conference (re: new Genetic Queens needed)
Hygenic Bees, Marla Spivak (Hygenic Queen Rearing)	Getting Colonies Ready for going to the Mountains;

**Door Prize Winner:**

- Chanetta Ludwig, Congratulations!! She won a subscription to the American Bee Journal!!!

**Program:**

- Basil brought a recipe for Candy Fondant and a Hive Top feeder with fondant in it as a food source to put on light hives. Many beekeepers use the fondant in apple orchards as a food source. It is 5 parts sugar, 1 part water 1/4 teaspoon Vinegar per pound. Using a candy thermometer heat to softball stage 242' and pour into feeder. It takes about 15 minutes to get to soft ball stage. Put on the hive when cooled.

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Success is counted sweetest  
By those who ne'er succeed,  
To comprehend a nectar  
Requires sorest need,  
**Emily Dickenson** 1830-1886:  
*'Success is counted sweetest' (1859)*

**Bee Manager's Note:** Jerry Hominda

This time of year can be tricky and deceiving to a beekeeper with any experience. Hives full of stores and healthy bees in the fall can have a fast turn around without warning. February can be a deadly month for colonies of bees that were strong leaving fall and going into the winter.

The deadly elements are freezing nights and mornings, clear skies with warm temperatures in the afternoon (55+ degrees F.), no available pollen or nectar, and a trend for active-hungry bees to begin consuming valuable stores to maintain bee energy and BTU's. In addition, these elements can encourage the queen to start laying. Last year (2005) beekeepers observed queens laying as early as February promoting restless bee activity and requiring large intakes of honey stores.

Some of the things to look for-how far away are the stores in relation to the primary colony activity. They should be close to the brood area or where the bees are collecting for the evenings. For example, if you have frames of honey in a lower box you should move them up to the top box. If the hives are light you should begin feeding them with a 50/50 mixture of sugar and warm water. Depending on how strong the colonies are you may not want to fill the feeders to their capacity. You want the bees to not take the feed in a couple of days-if you run risk of the solution getting rancid and causing dysentery.

This is a good time of year to make sure the queen made it through the winter-if a queen was old or ill before winter she may have perished. You can have a populated colony with no queen this time of year. Remember the bees are fairly dormant from November to February and do not necessarily rely on a queen through that time of year-they do not do much-can get by without a leader, but with the weather warming they definitely need a bee with organizational skills. If you discover a colony that is queenless all you can do is combine it with a weak one. If your hives made it through the winter consider yourself lucky and a successful beekeeper-bees do not make it on their own any longer they rely on an attentive bee manager.

Have fun working your bees?

## **CLASSIFIED**

**Joe Grubbs: (360) 871-8091**

- Has several colonies and miscellaneous bee equipment for sale.