

BUZZWORD

WEST SOUND BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

<http://www.westsoundbees.org>.

Proudly serving bees, their keepers, and the public in Kitsap County, WA and beyond!

JANUARY 2013

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Ted, Ted, Pumpkin Head!
Modeling one of the auction items
from the 2012 WSBA Christmas Party
(Photo courtesy of Lynn Wilson)

UPCOMING BEE-RELATED EVENTS

JANUARY 2013

American Beekeeping Federation

Date: **January 8 – 12, 2013**

Location: Hershey Lodge
Hershey, Pennsylvania

Topic: 2013 North American Beekeeping Conference and Tradeshow

American Honey Producers

Date: **January 8 – 12, 2013**

Location: San Diego Sheraton Hotel & Marina
San Diego, CA

Topic: 44th Annual Convention and Tradeshow

West Sound Beekeepers Association General Membership Meeting

Date: **Tuesday, 01/15/2013**

Time: 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Location: Stedman's Bee Supplies
3763 NW Anderson Hill Road
Silverdale, WA

Buzznote: January is a great time to make sure your hives are secure and the outer covers are on tight! When it warms up enough for bees to take those cleansing flights and do a little housekeeping you can help them out a little by cleaning the dead bees off the landing board. ~ Kim Redmond

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In January my mailbox fills up with seed catalogs; I make plans and place orders and dream about rows of lettuce. Apiary planning begins in January too! What are your plans for 2013 - what new things would you like to try? Whatever you are interested in learning, WSBA has a class that will help you get there.

Beginners: for those who don't yet have the WSU Apprentice certification, the "Beginner Beekeeper" class begins Tuesday Feb. 19. This curriculum provides the foundation for managing a colony (and a vocabulary for talking shop!)

Ready to learn more: there are two classes! The new "Beginner Hands-on Class" begins in April, watch the web site for updates. "Beekeeping in the Pacific Northwest" focuses on the special challenges we face in our cool wet climate.

Going farther: for those of us ready to "grow your own", the "acclaimed Queen-Rearing in the Pacific Northwest" class in June includes plenty of hands-on experience.

West Sound Beekeepers Association has a commitment to mentoring. Our dedicated and experienced teachers are all volunteers and spend hours preparing and teaching these classes. This is the great benefit of club membership, so take advantage and sign up soon!

Brandy Williams
WSBA President

TREASURER'S REPORT

Money Market Balance: \$4502.33
Savings Balance: \$3886.13
Checking Balance: \$1312.984

New Members:	6
Paid for 2013:	30
Raised from 2012 Christmas Party Auction:	\$822

If you have not yet paid your 2013 dues please do so as soon as you can. Your dues dollars help us help you in the apiary and in the class room....Thank you!

PS Remember.....referring friends and other beekeepers to our club builds good bee karma ☺

Frank Wilson
WSBA Treasurer

QUEEN-REARING GROUP UPDATE

West Sound Beekeepers Association
David Mackovjak, Queen-Rearing Chairman
January 2013



What is Piping??

Piping describes a noise made by virgin and mated queen bees during certain times of the virgin queens' development. Fully developed virgin queens communicate through vibratory signals: "quacking" from virgin queens in their queen cells and "tooting" from queens free in the colony, collectively known as piping. A virgin queen may frequently pipe before she emerges from her cell and for a brief time afterwards. Mated queens may briefly pipe after being released in a hive. The piping sound is variously described as a children's trumpet tooting and quacking. It is quite loud and can be clearly heard outside the hive. The piping sound is created by the flight motor without movement of the wings. The vibration energy is resonated by the thorax and transmitted through the hive as she presses herself against the comb. When the first virgin queen pipes, the workers instantly cease all movement for the duration of the signal, perhaps to minimize the background noise produced by their myriad of footsteps. Piping is most common when there is more than one queen in a hive. It is postulated that the piping is a form of battle cry announcing to competing queens and the workers their willingness to fight. It may also be a signal to the worker bees which queen is the most worthwhile to support. The piping sound is a G Sharp. The adult queen pipes for a two-second pulse followed by a series of quarter-second toots.

QUEEN-REARING GROUP UPDATE (CONTINUED)

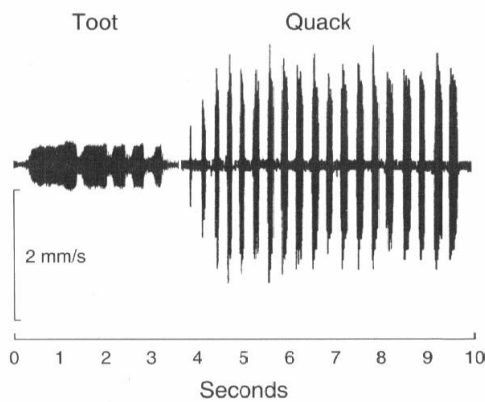


Fig 1. Queen piping signals, recorded as vibrations of the comb. A virgin queen moving on the comb produced a toot that triggered a quack by another virgin queen still confined to her cell. The units on the vertical axis – millimeters per second – are a measure of sound energy.

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queen_bee
Honeybee Democracy; Seeley, Thomas; pg 41;

2010

Princeton University Press.

Audio: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KpDkkip_F8g

Purpose: The Queen-Rearing group is to provide an opportunity for members of WSBA a venue to learn and explore the art of Queen-Rearing and produce quality queens.

Draft 2013 Goals for the Queen-Rearing group of West Sound Beekeeping Association (WSBA):

- 1. Explore and document different physical methods of Queen-Rearing**
- 2. Educate both the Queen-Rearing group and the WSBA on Queen-Rearing**
- 3. Provide quality queens to the Queen-Rearing group and WSBA**
- 4. Provide a Queen-Rearing course for Kitsap County Beekeepers**
- 5. Instrumentally inseminate a queen**
- 6. Develop a Queen-Rearing training program**

We are beginning to work on this year's schedule and it looks like 2013 will be a great year for the Queen-Rearing group. Mark your calendar with the following tentative schedule:

WSBA Courses: The following courses are put on by the Queen-Rearing Group. These are great courses and provide the knowledge and practical experience to help improve your understanding on beekeeping and Queen-Rearing.

Sat, 29 Jun 13 – Beekeeping in the PACNW

Sat & Sun, 27-28 Jul 13 – 2 Day Queen-Rearing Course in the PACNW

QUEEN-REARING GROUP UPDATE (CONTINUED)

Lecture Schedule: Queen-Rearing lecture schedule and the following lectures will be presented during our upcoming meetings. The intent is to provide a lecture the first part of the meeting (1 hr)

5 Mar (Tue) -- 8 pm, Kick off/Planning meeting
12 May (Sun) -- 1 pm, Cloake Board & grafting – David Mackovjak
4 Jun (Tue) -- 8 pm, Instrumental Insemination – George Purkett
9 Jun (Sun) -- 1 pm, Equipment building - George Purkett
7 Jul (Sun) -- 1 pm, Splits & Nucs – Jason Deal (?)
4 Aug (Sun) -- 1 pm, Hygienic testing – Paul Lundy (?)
3 Sept (Tue) -- 8 pm, Queen-Rearing 2012 wrap up



Hands-on-Demonstrations: A tentative schedule of hands-on demonstrations and skill sets (dates subject to weather and hive strength)

Sunday, 12 May 13 – Grafting
Tue, 21 Jun 13 – Bank queen cells, 6 pm Stedman's
Sunday, 9 Jun 13 – Equipment building & Queen grafting demo, 2-4 pm Stedman's
Tue, 18 Jun 13 – Bank queen cells, 6 pm Stedman's
Sunday, 7 Jul 13 – Splits & nucs & Queen grafting demo, 2-4 pm Stedman's
Tue, 16 Jul 13 – Bank queen cells, 6 pm Stedman's
Sunday, 12 Aug 13 – Hygienic Testing & Queen grafting demo, 2-4 pm Stedman's
Tue, 14 Aug 13 – Bank queen cells, 6 pm Stedman's



The Queen-Rearing group is open to all members who are interested in learning about the art of Queen-Rearing or would just like to learn more about bee keeping. To be included in Queen-Rearing correspondence please send me your name, phone number and email address.

David Mackovjak
Queen-Rearing Chairman
trimack@prodigy.net
360-340-0381

NEW ADDITION TO THE WSBA LIBRARY

BEEING by Rosanne Daryl Thomas, 228 pages

This is a story that mirrors many of the situations, conversations and experiences of new AND seasoned beekeepers. Sometimes wordy, sometimes funny, the story takes us through the successes and failures of a single mother, come accidental beekeeper. A fast and easy read that offers actual beekeeping facts and describes many things you SHOULD'N'T do as a beekeeper!

WSBA 2012 CHRISTMAS PARTY

David Mackovjak, Vice President

WSBA Members,

I just wanted to thank everyone who helped put together and attend WSBA Christmas party! We had a great turn out. A special thanks goes to Kim Redmond who coordinated a wonderful pot luck dinner at the Silverdale Community Center. Additionally she put together a very nice gift basket for Barbara Stedman to thank her for all her support she provides to WSBA. TJ Jorgenson was the great auctioneer who auctioned off numerous great gifts donated by members of WSBA. We raised an amazing \$822!! I'm pretty sure this has to be a record. Thank you to all the club members who donated items for the auction and/or purchased the many wonderful donations. Many thanks to everyone who made this all possible by sharing some delicious dishes and desserts. (It was Brandy who assembled this year's "Thank You" gifts for Barbara! ~Ed.)

The break down on the honey tasting competition and bragging rights for 2012:

1st Place – David Mackovjak

2nd Place – Angela King

3rd Place – Tie – Jason Deal & George Purkett



Great turn out for the WSBA Christmas party held at the Silverdale Community Center.
WSBA 2012 CHRISTMAS PARTY (continued)



Lots of tasty treats for the pot luck dinner.



Thank you Barbara for all your support to WSBA!!



Congratulations to David, 2012 WSBA Beekeeper of the Year!!

WSBA 2012 CHRISTMAS PARTY (continued)



Thanks to George who brought several bottles of Meade for the auction!



TJ Jorgenson, our energetic auctioneer and his wonderful support staff helped raise over \$800!!

(Kudos to Soren and Lake Jorgenson for helping with the auction and a HUGE thank you to Soren for his assistance with clean up! ~Ed.)



A special thanks to Kim Redmond who made all the beautiful table decorations.

Looking forward to a wonderful and successful 2013 beekeeping year!!

David Mackovjak
Vice President
360-340-0381

WSBA COLONY HOSTS 2012/2013

Jason Deal, Apiary Manager

The following members very kindly offered to care for the Assoc bees over winter:

Mike Dauber - split deep Dabob Gary - 2 colonies
Kirstin - Topbar and Langstroth Jean Ball - 5 boxes mixed (split deeps and singles)
David Mackovjak - #2 and #8 colonies, 1 five frame nuc, 1 experimental queen bank
Our sincerest THANKS to these "Fab Five" for volunteering to be foster parents!

BEGINNER CLASSES START FEBRUARY 9TH!

Tues, Feb 9: 6PM Honeybees and their Products	Sat, Feb 23; 12 noon Beekeeping Equip	Tues, Mar 19; 6PM Making a start in Beekeeping	Sat, Mar 23, 12 noon Spring Management	Tues, Apr 16; 6 PM Diseases and Pests	Sat, Apr 13, 12 noon Package bee demo	Sat, Apr 20, 12 noon Honeybees	Tues, May 21 6PM Swarming	Sat, May 25 12 noon Summer Management & honey	Tues, June 18 6PM Fall Management	Sat, June 22 12 noon Pollination, Queen rearing and Marketing
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Calling all Beekeepers! Interested in expanding your knowledge and helping other beginners at the same time?

Sign up to help present during the beginner classes. This goes a long way to gaining Journeyman level points and is fun, fun, fun! Let me know which section you would like by clicking on the link here: <http://www.doodle.com/qvud29sx6rryz7ii>

Excerpts from the January 1, 2013 "Catch the Buzz", an ezine from Kim Flottum, Bee Culture Magazine:

[Bumblebees do best where there is less pavement and more floral diversity](#)

Well, Duh! Sometimes You have to wonder, but we suppose it makes sense...

Landscapes with large amounts of paved roads and impervious construction have lower numbers of ground-nesting bumblebees, which are important native pollinators, a study from The University of Texas at Austin and the University of California, Berkeley shows.

[From farm to table, mealworms may be the next best food](#)

Insect protein may be a more sustainable alternative to milk, chicken, pork and beef

Food enthusiasts interested in sustainable farm practices may soon have a new meat alternative: insects. Beetle larvae (called mealworms) farms produce more edible protein than traditional farms for chicken, pork, beef or milk, for the same amount of land used, according to research published December 19 in the open-access journal *PLOS ONE* by Dennis Oonincx and colleagues from the University of Wageningen, Netherlands.

The researchers compared the environmental impact of meat production on a mealworm farm to traditional animal farms using three parameters: Land usage, energy needs, and greenhouse gas emissions. From the [start](#) of the process to the point that the meat left the farm, they found that mealworms scored better than the other foods. Per unit of edible protein produced, mealworm farms required less land and similar amounts of energy.

Commenting on their results, Oonincx adds, "Since the population of our planet keeps growing, and the amount of land on this earth is limited, a more efficient, and more sustainable system of food production is needed. Now, for the first time it has been shown that mealworms, and possibly other edible insects, can aid in achieving such a system."

Can I get those with BBQ Sauce to go?

(Does anyone else feel a little queasy? ~Ed.)

WINTER PREPARATIONS

David Mackovjak, VP
Jan 2013

It's that time of year as successful beekeepers we want to make sure our hives are overwintering well. We have had a lot of rain, in fact I was just reading in the Kitsap Sun, 2012 was in the top 10 wettest years on record. In the last three months we have received over 38" of rain!! That can be tough on your bees.

Bremerton (2012)	Monthly Rain	+/- Normal	Avg. Temp	+/- Normal
January	6.54"	-2.35"	36.1	-5.9
February	3.30"	-2.92"	39.4	-2.6
March	8.44"	+2.49"	39.7	-6.3
April	2.30"	-1.27"	43.1	-6.9
May	2.29"	-0.17"	48.6	-8.0
June	2.78"	+1.09"	53.0	-7.5
July	1.07"	+0.21"	60.4	-4.6
August	0.00"	-1.03"	64.4	-1.6
September	0.01"	-1.54"	58.2	-2.8
October	11.58"	+6.69"	50.0	-2.0
November	15.45"	+6.06"	43.1	-1.9
December	12.25"	+2.18"	37.8	-2.2
AVERAGE	66.01"	+9.44"	47.8	-4.4

Source: <http://pugetsoundblogs.com/forecasting-kitsap/#axzz2HG5K9J8L>

So what does that mean to us beekeepers? There are several items that you should be checking w/ your hives and especially on those rare warm sunny days when you see your bees out doing their cleansing flights:

1. Make sure the rain is not draining in the front hive entrance. Your hives should be slightly elevated from the back (ie piece of wood) so that any rain water will not collect inside the hive.
2. Make sure you periodically clean away the dead bees. It's cold out there and your bees will try to keep the hive clean but mostly will drop the dead bees at the hive entrance. Help out your little workers out by clearing away those dead bees.

Buzznote: January is a great time for beekeepers to check their winter stores (see the attached article.) ~ David Mackovjak

WINTER PREPARATIONS (continued)



Club hive w/ very few dead bees



Some hives will have lots of dead bees like this one.

3. Check for moisture collecting on the inside of your top cover. The bees will be expelling moisture as they consume their honey stores and breath. There is nothing worse than having cold water collect in the top of the hive and then drip back down onto your bees. This is probably the number one reason we lose hives in the PACNW. Ensure you have some small stones or pieces of wood to allow the moisture to escape under the cover. There are a number of other ways to do this; Kim Redmond has published some of her designs in the past.
4. Make sure your bees are not running out of stores. You should gently lift the back of your hive and "feel" the weight. If it is light, you need to provide emergency feeding. If you Google the internet, you'll find a number of methods for this. I have found the easiest method is to use dry sugar. You can lay down a sheet of newspaper and then just pour dry sugar onto the newspaper. Then insert a spacer or an empty super. Now the bees have an emergency food source plus the sugar will absorb some of the moisture in the hive. Also bees have a tendency to just move upward, so bees can starve with several frames of honey either below them or a frame or two over next to the cluster. This ensures they have a food source available above them.



Lots of bees in the upper super.

The bees will consume the sugar and eat through the newspaper.



Newspaper, dry sugar and a 1" spacer insert...

Good luck and bee vigilant!!
David Mackovjak
VP, WSBA
360-340-0381



Buzznote: January is a great time for beekeepers to take stock, think about this year's beekeeping goals, rejuvenate older equipment, and read. ~Paul Lundy

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Now is a great time to send in your 2013 dues. Member dues support the Association's goals of promoting better understanding and appreciation for honey bees and beekeeping by providing community awareness of the positive effects of beekeeping.

Being a paid member of West Sound Beekeepers Association also puts the Association's extensive library at your disposal, allows you the use of the Association's extractor, gives you the opportunity to have input on the direction the Association takes, makes you eligible to be an officer of the Association and puts you in touch with a lot of fun beekeepers! For only \$24 every member of your household becomes a member – what a great deal!

To join or renew your membership simply fill out the following form and bring it, along with your payment, to the next monthly meeting. Or you can mail the form with your payment to the WSBA Treasurer (address below.)

****PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO WSBA****

NAME: _____
MAILING _____
ADDRESS: _____
PHONE & _____
EMAIL: _____

Mail this form along with your check to: Frank Wilson, WSBA Treasurer
9330 Misery Point Rd NW
Seabeck, WA 98380