



BUZZWORD



WEST SOUND BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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

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

NOVEMBER 2013

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WSBA Apiary - getting ready for winter

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEST SOUND BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Date: **Tuesday, 11/19/2013**
 Time: 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
 Location: Stedman's Bee Supplies, 3763 NW Anderson Hill Road, Silverdale, WA
 Topic: *Cleaning House! (How to Prepare Your Mason Bees for Winter)*

PROPOSED WSBA BY-LAW AMENDMENT

To ARTICLE V - OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS, add the following:

Section 3- The term of office begins Nov. 1 following the October annual meeting at which the officers are elected and ends Oct. 31 of the following year.

This ensures an orderly transition with a fixed start and end date for officer terms. This bylaw amendment will be voted on at the November meeting, Tuesday Nov. 19.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

November 2013

Hi Everyone:

In case you missed the annual meeting, here are our 2014 officers:

Brandy Williams, President

Frank Wilson, Vice President

Elizabeth Bianchi, Treasurer

Karen Jones, Secretary

Jean Ball, 2011 trustee

George Purkett, 2012 trustee

TJ Jorgenson, 2013 trustee

Non-elected Trustees: Kim Redmond, Newsletter Editor

Dave Mackovjak served a full three years as vice-president and is rotating off the board. He continues to organize the queen rearing group and the summer classes. Huge round of applause for Dave and his years of service. Well done!

Two new volunteers join the board, both from the journeyman program. Elizabeth Bianchi has volunteered to be treasurer, and Karen Jones stepped up as secretary. Thank you and welcome!

Many thanks to Frank, Jean, George, TJ and Kim for continuing on with us. Look forward to working with you in 2014!

Monthly group meetings: I propose to extend our meetings to 90 minutes in 2014. Here's the standing agenda:

~What do you see in your hives? 10 minutes

~Announcements – 5 minutes

~Speaker – 15 minutes

So plan for a 7-8:30 meeting going forward!

2014 classes: the teachers are meeting to plan the 2014 year. Stay tuned to the newsletter, web site, and meetings!

November meeting: In November we will be focusing on mason bees – the gateway bee! Have you cleaned your cocoons? Come and learn how!

Brandy Williams

WSBA President

TREASURER'S REPORT

November 2013

No report available due to annual transitioning – stay tuned!

Elizabeth Bianchi

WSBA Treasurer

OCTOBER SWARMS

Rebecca Hudson

Jason Deal, to whom I am particularly indebted, informed me that I was assigned to write my epic tale of bee swarms in October. I am also very grateful to Jean Ball and David Mackovjak, whom helped in this undertaking.

The antecedent to this marathon began I believe, during an inspection on my Top Bar hive mid-September. I had not given myself enough space to pull the bar of comb up without bumping its side against another comb. I had not expected to have a very lumpy patch of drone brood protruding out of the offending comb. The flipside of this comb had a patch of worker brood half developed, and a bit of capped worker brood. This led me to believe that a Queen had been present to recently to have laying workers producing the drones. The drone thing remains a mystery to me. However in this moment I believe I had committed involuntary queenicide

The reaction to this Godzilla dressed as beekeeper crashing through the brood comb seemed to aggravate more than usual, and I had a *Bad feeling* about it. I was interrupted and my smoker went out, so I decided to finish the following day.

The next day I came down with a virus that made me too sick to think about doing anything. A number of people were very sick for the better part of a week from this upper respiratory virus. Then the massive rains started.

The first nice day after the mishap was a Friday the fourth of October. I was working in the house and backyard until about noon. When I walked to my front yard the girls were in mid-swarm, and rising. They quickly forming three separate swarms!

I first spotted the two medium size clumps across the street and two houses down, as I made calls I set up an empty nucbox with lemongrass oil as a lure, on a latter near the swarms. I glanced across the street and realized there was another in a bush. In my neighbors lawn that had told me she was "Severely Allergic to bees." Ah, the joys of a first year beekeeper! I never imagined such rich learning experiences.

The third swarm was big and touching the ground, four to five pounds we later guessed. Scratching my head I returned to check my box on the latter set up, when Jason and Jean to the rescue, rounded the corner. They appeared entertained by the situation.

I walked over to the Top Bar and bemoaned the sparse remains of my colony through the observation window. Jason walked up to me shaking his head, and said, "Only you, Rebecca. I've never seen a swarm in October." Everyone got to work boxing up the swarms and hunting for the virgin queens, well, Jason and Jean did that. I can't spot a regular queen half the time.

We went through the combs finding twelve queens, and two or three un-emerged ones. Jean set the roof of the hive up like a ramp to the hive entrance, and the girls obliged us retuning to it. My hive was full again and the neighborhood greenery was no longer covered in bees. I live in a very populated area off a relatively busy street and I had a lot of lookyloos. Jason got a couple calls from people reporting the swarm on Cambrian Ave. (mine).

I picked up the aftermath rubble once I had thanked my heroes, and wondered how the colony would fair after this late disruption.

Saturday about noon, I returned from a visit and found my bees again in full blown crazy making. This time they headed in mass for a tall Douglas fir in a very poor location for access. I called around, looking for someone to pick on besides Jason and Jean, but it was slim pickins due to the bulk of mentors and swarm collectors being at the WSBA annual conference across the sound.

OCTOBER SWARMS (continued)

I was fortunate enough to reach David Mackovjak. By that time the bees had all landed in one swarm on the limb of a chestnut tree. It was conveniently low, but the branch was about ten inches in diameter! Back to head scratching. "Sounds like I should bring my bee vacuum!", David assured me. It took quite sometime to vacuum the huge swarm, an hour it seemed. Once back at the hive David stood doing some of his own head scratching, since the box on the vacuum was made to fit on a Langstroth. After a fashion and some more Godzilla like tactics of which I will spare you, the bees were back in the hive. This time I locked them down as best I could in the hope that whatever queens were left would sort things out. The following week was quiet, the weather cool and damp. Until Friday the eleventh.

Another massive swarm, this time it landed on the sunflowers in my front yard. This was easy to gather, I just cut off the leaves covered in bees laying them in a box. The hive, I was surprised to find, was still pretty well full of bees. But there was still strangely high percentage of drones. This time I was concerned about neighbors getting weary of the beekeeper shenanigans, so I gave the box-o-bees to David. Things quieted down but my girls were not happy, just feeding them was difficult. I was not sure what kind of reserves they had after all the swarming.

On Monday the twenty-first as planed Jason returned to help me assess the status of my colony and bring me a fertile queen. Happily the stores were good, not so happily the girls were in dire need of a queen. The queen was set between the opening we left in the bars, and the girls gathered. Hooray! They started feeding her. The unhappy buzzing ceased and a harmonious hum of contented bees took over as the news spread of a fertile queen. I could smell the sweet enticing "come hither to the queen" aroma that exudes from such a reformation.

Today I went out and removed an empty queen cage and pushed the bars back in place. The mood of the hive is still good. Keeping my fingers crossed that brood will be laid before it is too late.

Now I have to address the mites that bloomed along with the drones.



QUEEN-REARING GROUP INFORMATION



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

WANT ADS

HELP WANTED

Our amazing editor Kim Redmond has asked to cycle off the position in 2014. We're looking for volunteers! Anyone out there with newsletter experience? This is your chance to rack up points toward your journeyman certification. Kim can show you how it's done. If you're interested, contact Kim offline.

Brandy Williams, WSBA President

(editor's note: Please contact me at biz@kimredmond.com if you are interested in becoming the West Sound Beekeepers Association newsletter editor!)

MORE HELP WANTED!

Seeking 2013 West Sound Beekeepers Association Christmas Party Coordinator (WSBACPC...hahaha) If you have time and desire we could really use a member to coordinate volunteers and help Brandy implement her plans for the 2013 Christmas party. We'll pay you with TONS of gratitude!!! Please contact Brandy (brandy@kitsapcuisine.com) or Frank (frank@thebeekeepersdigest.com) THANK YOU!!



Honey-Lemon Custard

5 eggs	3/4 cup honey
1 teaspoon vanilla extract	2 cups milk
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg	1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1 pinch ground cloves	

Beat eggs. Add honey and vanilla extract. Stir to mix in honey, then add milk slowly, stirring to mix. Add nutmeg and pinch of cloves. Pour into ovenproof baking dish or individual custard cups.

Place in pan of water about one-half to three-quarters full. Bake @ 350 degrees for 45 minutes or until firm to touch. Allow to cool.

This recipe serves 6

2013 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING LINE-UP

Month	Date	Speaker
Feb.	19	Farmer-Beekeeper Forum
March	19	Jeff Steenberg, Puget Sound Beekeepers Association, "Top Bar Hives"
April	16	Dave Mackovjak
May	21	Mark Emrich, Pres. W.S.B.A.
June	18	Dana Coggan, "Kitsap Weeds and Bees"
July	16	Kim Redmond, "Entering Your Honey in the Kitsap County Fair"
August	17	Picnic
September	17	Bob Redmond - "Wings and Wheels, Bees and a Healthy Food System"
October	15	Annual Meeting & Officer Election
November	19	Cleaning House! (How to Prepare Your Mason Bees for Winter)
December	17	Christmas Party at the Island Lake Community Center



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Now is a great time to send in your 2014 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: Elizabeth Bianchi, WSBA Treasurer
 15017 118th Ave NW
 Gig Harbor, WA 98329