



The

April 2011

BUZZWORD

West Sound Beekeepers Association <http://www.westsoundbees.org/>

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

(Interactive Newsletter is in the works!)

Refreshments:



Meeting Schedule: Bee-ginning Beekeeping Class

6PM Tuesday 19 April 2011

6PM Tuesday 03 May 2011

Regular Meeting

7PM Tuesday 19 April 2011

Steering Committee Meeting

7 PM Tuesday 03 May 2011

Queen Rearing Group Meets after the Steering Committee

Meetings at Stedman's
Beekeeping Supplies in
Silverdale

6 PM Bee-ginner's Beekeeping Class
Apr 19 Summer management and honey production

April 19, 2011 7 PM Regular Meeting

Program:

To be announced...

6 PM Bee-ginner's Beekeeping Class
May 3 Diseases and pests and honeybee mites – George Purkett

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Package Day (April 16, 2011)



Beauty

(beauty is in the eye of the bee-holder!)



Do you remember Package Days with AI?
I always think of AI when I have a package –Ed.

WSBA Business Meeting Minutes

April 5, 2011

Meeting called to order: 7:08pm

Officers present:

TJ Jorgenson, President

Christine Torres, Secretary

Also present approx. 18 members

Meeting Agenda & Treasurer Report Handed out

Old Business:

Purchase of newsletter software: Academic version cost \$58.50 Approved unanimously

New Business:

Basil Gunther reported on his efforts/plans for newly created wiki page.

Currently only officers and former officers have posting privileges.

Basil Gunther and George Purkett Editors/founders

Paul Lundy agreed to facilitate distribution of Swarm List to law enforcement/ emergency personnel/ cen com

A sign up sheet will be passed around at next meeting or contact Paul if you want to be on the list.

Volunteers are needed to man Beekeeping Information Booths at Stedmans' package day and at selected fairs as well as to give public presentations at fairs, farmers markets, schools etc.(will count towards journeyman status)

Current Volunteer opportunities (and volunteers so you know you wont be there alone):

Stedmans' Package Day:

Info Booth: Paul Lundy, George Purkett, TJ Jorgenson, Christine Torres, Jean and the Carlsons.

Stillwater (Kingston April 30th)

TJ Jorgenson, James

Master Gardeners' Booth Kitsap Fair (August 24-28)

Christine Torres

Bremerton Farmers' Market Presentation:

Darren Gordon

Package Day (April 16, 2011)

Package Hiving Demonstrations occurring hourly starting at 10 am

Meeting adjourned 7:57pm

Editor's note: The Wiki will be available for "public consumption" next month. It is mainly an organizational tool for the Steering Committee. Anyone who regularly attends the business meetings will be able to take part in the creation and editing of content. Each page has a discussion forum where anyone can "join" and comment, so it is possible for everyone to contribute.

Message from the President

Greetings fellow WSBA members and beekeepers! Hopefully we get some warmer weather and the bees can get out from under the spell of old man winter! So, as we wait for the temperatures to rise, I just wanted to give the heads up on a couple of housekeeping issues.

Every year, WSBA is asked to participate in a variety of public events. Occasions such as the Kitsap county fair, Stillwater's Environmental Education Centers "Ecofest", and the Kitsap Futurefest have all approached WSBA in past years about providing a presence of Beekeepers at their various events. These are excellent occasions for the association to educate the public on beekeeping in support of WSBA's mission to help inform the public on various matters of our craft. They are also a perfect way for apprentice beekeepers working towards their journeyman certification to gain valuable and needed public service hours. These events are a lot of fun and the questions and interest from the public makes the time fly by. Coming up on April 30th, is Ecofest. Please contact me at president@westsoundbees.org if you are interested in volunteering a couple of hours of your time to the cause!

We are also in the beginning stages of updating the swarm list. If you wish to be on it, and you are an association member, you can sign up at the next WSBA meeting on April 19th.

Lastly, I wish to thank all the members who showed up with bells on to help clean up the club apiary in preparation for package arrival and the coming season. Our apiary manager, Jason, directed the crew of dedicated beekeepers of all ages to jobs where they cleaned and torched boxes, scraped up old comb, did an epic job of cleaning out blackberry bushes, assessed any diseases, and went through the equipment shed. A great and productive time was had by all!

Our next meeting will be on the topic of "Alternative" hives, led by WSBA member Darren Gordon. He will be discussing various hive styles that are becoming increasingly popular and hopefully some elements of natural beekeeping that these hives employ.

Lastly, in honor of our resident poets, a homage to the bee:

The Bee, By Andrew Downing

The music of the busy bee
Is drowsy, and it comforts me;
But, ah! 'tis quite another thing,
When that same bee concludes to sting!



Stedman's Bee Supplies

3763 NW Anderson Hill Rd
Silverdale, WA 98383

(360) 692-9453

**Stedman's has
All Kinds of
Beekeeping
equipment,
Package Bees,
Honey,
And a fine
Gift Shop!**

Come on by!

NW Beekeeping Basics -April

Now starts the most exciting period of the beekeeping year. Your bees soon will be in a dramatic growth mode. The queen (bless her little heart) is laying over 1,000 eggs a day. Stronger hives are generally more active but not necessarily. It is impossible to tell what your overwintered hives need without looking at them. If you have high activity and no pollen gatherers, it may be robbing of a long dead hive. A hive with little or no activity could be a strong colony keeping a large brood nest warm, surviving on the leftover winter honey. Or the hive could be alive and struggling with an overload of pests, a lack of food, or a waterfall of condensation buildup. It is really sad to get a hive through the long cold and wet winter only to lose them in early spring. What a joy to see the first, strong, pollen laden flights. Soon they'll be demanding more space for family and food.

Spend a little time thinking about how you prepared for the winter vs. the current condition of the hives. If your result is less than stellar, write down what you did and what you hope to do differently. If all is well, the overwintered hives should be ahead of the package started hives so swarming may become an issue. Think about replacing queens for weaker looking (viable) hives. Equalizing or combining are also options. Feeding and medicating are options. Culling Old frames before the cluster expands onto them is an excellent option. Brood nest frames should be cycled every 3 to 4 years.

Here in the Pacific Northwest, there is about a three week period from the end of April into May where the nectar flow drops to almost zero. This is a very critical situation for your bees. They have been stimulated to build up a huge population to take advantage of the main nectar flow at end of May and are committed to raising and feeding a lot of young bees. Without feed sources around, bee colonies, which look big and strong and hard working, can actually starve out in the first three weeks in May. So, watch your bees carefully and don't let colony stores get below 15 lbs. If the colony starts to get light, FEED!!! Use a light syrup (1:1 sugar to water by volume).

April is also the time when those beginning with packages get to start having fun. So far it has been getting equipment together, reading and learning the craft, and maybe taking a course. The sunny location has been selected and now all is ready. Putting three pounds of unrelated bees and a queen into a box of foundation and watching them organize themselves into a cohesive, productive unit is one of the great marvels and joys of beekeeping. Make sure they have constant feed and possibly an antibiotic (for the first couple of gallons if antibiotics fit into your idea of bee management) at the start. After a week go in and take a look. Don't worry too much about disturbing them. It will be fine. You should see some drawn comb, eggs, and young larvae. Keep the feed on and add a second box after 6 or 7 frames are drawn out. Spend time watching them at the entrance and learn their habits. Gain confidence by going in and examining the colony every week or so. There will be no new bees for the first three weeks so expect to see some dwindling, but after that the population will explode. Make sure you give them room to grow. Keep feeding; they will let you know when they don't need it when they stop taking it. By the end of the first year you will know all you need to know about the subject. But as Ken Bennett, an old time beekeeper and a founding member of our Association says: "in beekeeping, it's what you learn after you know it all that makes the difference!"

**When putting beasts into the Ark
Noah to Ham made this remark,
"I see no good reason
Why bees come in threes, son
Somebody is having a lark!"
-The EKE**

Jefferson County Events with WSBA Members

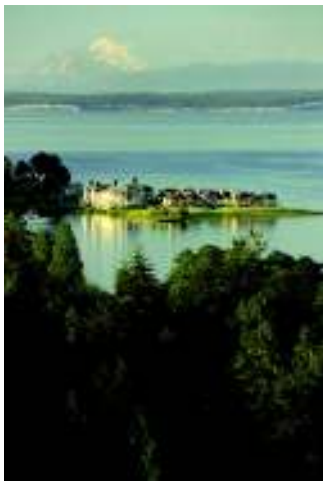
Earth Day Saturday April 23 2011 Gardiner, WA

Kim Redmond will have a beebooth @ Wild Birds Unlimited It is in Gardiner along Hwy 101 on the way to Sequim. There will be lots of vendors, food and music (and free pints of fresh unpasteurized milk!)

Honey Month in Port Ludlow

The *Inn at Port Ludlow* is devoting the Month of May to celebrating honey! All through the month the Inn will be displaying beekeeping equipment and bee-art and photography. If any members have items they would like to have on display or - if you have bee art you'd like to display for sale, please contact Kim Redmond at 360-531-1970.

All through the month the Inn will be offering spa treatments featuring honey and periodic adventures - **"PLAN BEE: A Fact Finding Mission"** for locals and visitors alike. Grand prize is a "Honey Basket"



May 5 - Cinco de Mayo, they will present a special dinner with honey incorporated into the menu and the margaritas !

May 7 -Honey Tasting 11:00 am to 1:00 pm presented by *Kim Redmond* of BEE-IEIO Honey Farm (\$25 per person)

Guest Lecture 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm - *Paul Lundy* will discuss the importance of backyard/hobbyist beekeepers and what people can do to support them.

"Queen of the Sun" Community Screening 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, hosted by *Kim Redmond* of BEE-IEIO Honey Farm with possible introduction by *Paul Lundy* (\$5 per person)

May 8 - Mother's Day - special "honey" gift for all Moms and special menu

May 13 - Cooking Class with Chef Dan incorporating honey into the menu

May 14 - Guest Lecture 11:00 am to 1:00 pm - *Darren Gordon*, House of Bees - **"Gardening for Bees"**

May 21 -Honey Tasting 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm presented by *Kim Redmond* of BEE-IEIO Honey Farm (\$25 per person)

Guest Lecture - *George Purkett*, Honey Tree Farm - **"The Joys of Beekeeping"**

May 22 - Honey Tasting 11:00 am to 1:00 pm presented by *Kim Redmond* of BEE-IEIO Honey Farm (\$25 per person)

May 27 - International dinner including honey "specials" with Winemakers Marie-Eve Gilla and Giles Nicault as well as Mark Bodinet, Guest Chef, Cedarbrook

May 28 - Honey Tasting 11:00 am to 1:00 pm presented by *Kim Redmond* of BEE-IEIO Honey Farm (\$25 per person)

A portion of the net proceeds from the Honey Tastings will be donated to the West Sound Beekeepers Association's Queen Rearing Program. Additionally, *the Inn at Port Ludlow* will make a donation of \$100 to the West Sound Beekeepers Association's Queen Rearing Program.

FLOWERS AND GARDENS AND BEES, OH MY!

While helping the public prepare to welcome spring, fellow Association members, Darren and Pam Gordon, spent the weekend of March 19-20 promoting bees and beekeeping at the Sequim Garden Show. The annual event is presented by the Soroptomists and is always bursting with garden décor, plants and advice. Being two of our Association's "Bee~heads", the Gordon's provided a wealth of information about Mason bees, honey bees, planting for bees and...well...bees!

Creators of the "Bee Garden", Darren and Pam also supply our area with Warre hives, Mason bee hives and some very interesting beekeeping supplies. If you are a new or seasoned beekeeper, you will find the Bee Garden to be a valuable tool in helping you provide nectar and pollen sources for your bees and as well as beauty for your surroundings. And, if you haven't had a chance to check out their other offerings, be sure to show up a little early to the next Association meeting and browse the store at Stedman's ~ you'll see lots of fun and exciting new beekeeping ideas that you likely cannot do without!



How the Mason Bee ware works...



A beautifully painted Warre hive



Discussing the Bee Gardens

And, finally, when you think about the financial investment you have in your bees and consider how you might possibly recover a portion of that, look to Darren and Pam as inspiration for creative ways to inform the public AND eke out a return on your investment!

Bee~Happy
Kim Redmond
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Bee Informed Beekeeper Surveys **Complete by April 18!**

Dear Beekeeper,

The Bee informed Partnership, a joint project among numerous universities and laboratories, needs your help and is asking you to please participate in two surveys. **Both surveys are open only from 1 April through 18 April 2011.** You can learn more about the Bee Informed Partnership at <http://beeinformed.org/>

Thank you for your participation.

Please take 20 minutes out of your busy day to complete these two surveys.

- 1) Winter Loss Survey <http://is-nri.com/take/?i=166637&h=vZbUWfMhAlz9sEg54S0HCw>

This should take less than 5 minutes.

- 2) Past Year Management Survey <http://is-nri.com/take/?i=166638&h=wCvJELAvCqbkk3aIowhTMQ>

This should take less than 15 minutes.

The purpose of the Bee Informed Partnership is to use beekeepers' real world experiences to help solve beekeepers' real world problems. We will use the data generated from these two surveys to help you decide which management practices are best for beekeepers like you, who live where you do and have operations similar to yours. For this to work, we need as many participants as possible...so please take the time to fill out the questionnaire and SEND THIS EMAIL TO ALL THE BEEKEEPERS YOU KNOW asking them to fill out these questionnaires too.

Should you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us at askbeeinformed@gmail.com or call us at 443.296.2470.

BE INVOLVED, BE INCLUDED, BEE INFORMED.

Thank you,
The Bee Informed Partnership Team

Sincerely,
Joe Connell, Farm Advisor
University of California Cooperative Extension
2279-B Del Oro Avenue, Oroville, CA 95965
Phone (530) 538-7201 FAX (530) 538-7140
<jhconnell@ucdavis.edu>



WSBA Queen Rearing Group Update

First Tuesday Lecture Schedule: We outlined our Queen Rearing lecture schedule and the following lectures will be presented during our upcoming meetings.

5 Apr – Drone Management – Jim Carlson
3 May – Cloake Board and grafting – David Mackovjak
7 Jun – Instrumental Insemination – George Purkett
5 Jul -- Hygienic Testing – Paul Lundy

Hands-on-Demonstrations: A tentative schedule of hands-on-demonstrations and skill events was also discussed and confirmed (dates subject to weather and hive strength)

Thurs, 5 May 11 – Cloaking setup demonstration, 6 pm Stedmans
Sunday, 8 May 11 – Queen grafting demonstration, 1-3 pm Stedmans
Sunday, 17 May 11 – Instrumental Insemination demo, 1-3 pm Stedmans

Thurs, 9 Jun 11 – Cloaking setup demonstration, 6 pm Stedmans
Sunday, 12 Jun 11 – Hygienic Testing & Queen grafting demo, 1-3 pm Stedmans
Sunday, 19 Jun 11 – Instrumental Insemination demo, 1-3 pm Stedmans

Thanks and looking forward to seeing a great turnout at our next Queen Rearing meeting on 3May when we will be demonstrating how to graft queen cells and the Cloake Board method. This will prep us for our grafting demonstration the following Sunday 8 May. Come join all the fun!!

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 group leader
trimack@prodigy.net
360-340-0381

March 2011 Treasurer's Report

LOOK AT US GROW! We are now **71 members** strong! In March 2011 we received 17 additional annual membership dues. Those dues will go toward the annual budget which includes important efforts such as rebuilding and maintaining the Association's apiary! **THANK YOU** to every member who has paid their 2011 dues ~ the bees appreciate your support!

Income for March 2011 was:

Library Fund Contribution ~ \$0
Beeginner Study Guides ~\$150
Queen Rearing Fund Contribution ~ \$
2011 Dues ~ \$431
Interest ~ \$.54

TOTAL INCOME: \$581.54

Expenses for March were:

Beginner Beekeeping book liability to WASBA ~ \$60 (paying to-date)
Membership dues to WASBA ~ \$6 (\$1 per member, annually)

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$66.00

NET INCOME FOR MARCH 2011: \$515.54

Checking account balance @ 3/31/2011 ~ \$ 3,671.45

Savings account balance @ 3/31/2011 ~ \$ 6,380.79

Total Cash on Hand @ 3/31/2011 ~ \$10,052.24

Undeposited Funds @ 3/31/2011 ~ \$ 0.00

2011 Scholarship Liability (Warren Carlson) Balance @ 3/31/11~ \$200

The WSBA Scholarship Fund value @ 3/31/2011 = \$508

DONATIONS

Directed and/or General donations that support all aspects of the Association are always welcome!

MEMBERSHIP DUES

I know I mentioned all of this before – but... **for a mere \$24 per household, you'll support honey bee research at the State and local levels, continue to receive the timely and informative Buzzword newsletter, be a part of an interesting and fun group, AND support your association's mission to Build Better Beekeepers and a More Informed Public. Wow! Where else can you get such a great return on your investment?** I feel it worth mentioning again because we have a lot of exciting things coming up and if space for a particular event is limited, we will always give members first seating.

Bee~happy,
Kim Redmond
Treasurer

Editor's Note: If you haven't paid your membership dues, then this will be your last newsletter until your membership is reinstated. My apologies for any inconvenience. Renew your WSBA membership today!



Yes! I want to be a member of West Sound Beekeepers' Association during 2011. I have enclosed a check payable to: West Sound Beekeepers Association (a registered non-profit association.)

Check one:

- \$24 annual household membership dues (one Membership covers the whole family)
- \$34 Bee-ginner class fee (\$24 membership dues + \$10 study guide **OPTIONAL**)

NAME(S): _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS (for newsletter): _____

I am including an additional donation to West Sound Beekeepers Association : Amount \$ _____

Personal Information is confidential and will not be shared or sold

Please return to:
Kim Redmond
WSBA Treasurer
P.O. Box 536
Chimicum, WA 98325

Recipe Corner

Here is a recipe courtesy of Virginia Webb, Mt Honey - home of the "Best Honey in the World" (Apimondia 2005 and 2009). More about Mt. Honey: http://www.mtnhoney.com/Honey_Bee_Movie.htm

HONEY SHORTBREAD

1 Cup Butter
1/3 Cup Honey
2-1/2 Cups Flour
3/4 Cups Chopped Pecans
1 Teaspoon Vanilla

Beat butter, honey and vanilla in large bowl with electric mixer until mixture is light and fluffy. Add flour, 1 cup at a time, beating well after each addition. If dough becomes too stiff to stir, knead in remaining flour by hand. Work in nuts. Pat dough into shortbread mold or ungreased 9-inch cast iron skillet. Score surface with knife so it can be divided into 24 wedges, prick deeply with fork into score marks.

Bake in preheated 300F oven 35 to 40 minutes. Cool in pan on wire rack 10 minutes. Remove from pan. Cut into wedges while warm. Makes 2 dozen.







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