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President's Report Franclyn Heinecke

Check your bees! Feed them if they need it.

This is the time of year bees may be running short of food. Peek into your boxes on a mild day. If the bees are at the top of the hive, they probably need food. You can use dry sugar, placed on top of a sheet of something like newspaper. You also can make fondant or candy boards. Or, put in left over candy canes, but make sure they are made from sugar and real peppermint oil.

Recipes on our website:

<http://pcbeekeepers.org/in-the-apiary/syrup-fondant-recipes>

New beekeepers – check out our resource links on the website:

Equipment list for new beekeepers:

<http://pcbeekeepers.org/in-the-apiary/recommended-equipment-list-for-beginners>

Where to buy bees and equipment:

<http://pcbeekeepers.org/in-the-apiary/bee-packages-queens-nucs>

Read up on and (hopefully) support state legislation supporting bees – HB 2478.

The bill to replace forage when noxious weeds have been removed was reintroduced after not passing last year. It is now **HB 2478**. Information about the bill is on our website:

<http://pcbeekeepers.org/home/please-support-hb-2478-for-better-bee-forage>

That page also gives instructions for how to contact your legislators if you want to ask them to support the bill. If you weren't able to contact your legislator after the earlier email went out about this, please consider doing so now. The more legislators know about our issues and that beekeepers across the state are watching activities in Olympia, the easier it will be to get legislation passed on behalf of our bees.

Check out PCBA members featured on videos presented at the 2015 Paris climate change conference.

TzuChi Foundation documentary film producer Nils Aucante was with PCBA members and other WA beekeepers last March. These short excerpts are now online. This information was part of a longer video presented in New York City during climate week in September, and at the Paris climate change conference in December:

10-minute episode featuring PCBA members!

<http://www.tzuchi.us/video/videos/episode-7-change-is->

[the-constant/](#)

8-minute episode about pollination and our work with the state legislature.

<http://www.tzuchi.us/video/videos/episode-5-pollination-is-key/>

3-minute video featuring Franclyn's perspective.

<http://www.tzuchi.us/video/videos/listen-to-the-bees/>

8-minute video about our state legislative chairman, Tim Hiatt, and his operation.

<http://www.tzuchi.us/video/videos/episode-4-brothers-and-bees/>

There also are videos of beekeepers in France and Haiti. I think it's a wonderful series, and so appreciate Nils' work and that he included members of PCBA in this important message.

Funding received for Pierce County Parkland Preserve project.

The Parkland Preserve is a 4.5-acre Pierce County Park. PCBA has teamed with Pierce County Parks to start a forage restoration project on the site. This project is not part of HB 2478, which is a wider statewide initiative, but it aligns nicely with it – replacing forage after noxious weeds have been removed. If HB 2478 passes, we will be ahead of the initiative with this project, and may be able to provide guidance to others who also want to restore forage after noxious

weeds are removed.

We have already received a \$2,000 matching grant from the WA State Beekeepers to help pay for educational signage at the site, and \$10,000 from the state Apiary Advisory Council for plants and ground preparation. Pierce County employees have contacted legislators to request \$30,000 in the state capital supplemental budget for the project. If Pierce County doesn't get project funding in 2016, they'll try again next year when it's the full budget year. We'll keep you posted.

Grant request submitted for the forage project near our apiary.

Phillip Golden, one of our study grant recipients last year, is now going for his Eagle Scout and wants to do a pollinator forage project to meet one of his requirements. He's going to focus on the roughly 20' x 150' area near our apiary at WSU. We've already started to prepare the site for improved forage. Phillip, his dad Larry and I submitted a grant request to Scotts Miracle Grow to help fund that project. They fund 50 projects throughout the US each year, with funds ranging from \$500 to \$1,500. The 2016 focus for their grant is "Pollinator Forage."

We'll keep you posted on this request.

Minutes

Minutes from the General Meetings and the Board Meetings can be found [here](#).

Volunteer Needed

We are looking for a volunteer to help serve refreshments for our monthly beekeeping. You would need to show up about 5:30ish to set up. If you are interested, please let our board members know at the next meeting. You may also click [here](#) to send an email of your interest and one of the board members will follow up with you.

Library News

Our association is now receiving our subscription to *American Bee Journal*.

These issues can be checked out each meeting at the library cart. The magazine has an interesting question and answer column. Recent articles have included how wild bee adaptations may be able to help our domestic bees, and a honeybee mating report with some photos that must have been tricky to acquire.

The check out process is quick and easy.

Laurel Wright
PCBA Librarian