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Pierce County Beekeepers Association

October 2016 – Volume 22 – Issue 10

Presidents Report Franclyn Heinecke

Remembering John Timmons.

We were sad to learn of the passing of our dear friend John Timmons. John was a long-time PCBA member and officer whose honey can still be found at stores and farmer's markets throughout Pierce County. He regularly opened his shop for PCBA work days, helping new beekeepers learn how to build and maintain hive equipment. Through his long-time friendship with commercial beekeepers, John provided queens for our fair observation hives for many years. He was a generous mentor to many new and old beekeepers, and a close friend to many of us. Active at the local and state level, John helped to introduce legislation that led to the B&O tax exemption for beekeepers. A scholarship fund in his wife's name and memory helped to fund many research projects at the WSU bee lab. He loved his bees and beekeeping. He was a trusted friend and mentor, and we will miss him greatly.

Oct 3 Meeting.

Dr. Dewey Caron will follow-up on his workshop about how to get colonies ready for winter. Come with your questions! That meeting will begin at 7:45 PM.

At 7:00, we will meet at the apiary to dedicate our new fence and to share the intent for the pollinator forage garden to be planted in October. Please try to be there to thank Phillip Golden for his work, and to congratulate him on finishing his Eagle Scout project that benefits PCBA.

Also at the October meeting:

- We will continue to take nominations for 2017 officers.
- We will have the 2nd reading of our proposed bylaws changes (see link below)
- https://gallery.mailchimp.com/8c7f0828bbceac1e9103c935f/files/Amendment_to_the_PCBA_Bylaws_v2.01.doc

x

If you have *auction items* for our November meeting, you can *bring them to the Oct 3 meeting* and *give them to*

bee-related items. Bee-related items are popular, also jewelry, specialty gifts. Large bags of sugar sell well. Funds raised go to support our educational program and community outreach.

Apiary garden workdays -- Oct 15 and 29, 10 AM – 2 PM.

About that garden -- if you have plant starts to add to the garden, bring them to the Oct 3 meeting, or bring them to the apiary for our first workday on Oct 15, 10 AM – 2 PM. Make sure they are well watered. Our workday Oct 15 will be to spread the last of the mulch and to begin laying out the plant design. We plant in earnest Oct 29. A few members will be going to the Native Plant Society sale on Oct 8 to pick up plants they are propagating for us, and to buy plants with some of the \$500 in funds that we have received from that group. This project is looking good, and our bees should have lots of nutritious forage close to their hives in the coming years.

Parkland Prairie Community Opening -- Oct 22.

The work is moving along swiftly for the 4.5 acre Parkland Prairie, and turning it into a pollinator preserve. There will be an open house and work party on Saturday, Oct 22, 10 AM. The park is just south of PLU, east of Pacific Avenue, at the corner of Tule Lake Road and Yakima Ave.

Nov 7 -- Officer Elections, Bylaws Changes vote and Annual PCBA auction.



The 2016 AGM will take place on Friday October 14th and is open to current BCHPA members. The Saturday Educational Day has expanded to include more speakers than ever this year. Industry experts will present on pest management practices for honey bees, the protection of pollinator habitat, queen-rearing and fertility along with new breakthroughs in pest management. A series of side-by-side talks geared for both the newcomer/beginner and commercial/serious sideliner have been organized. Our Sunday event will focus on informational workshops in informal group settings.

Speakers include:

Danielle Downey, Michele Colopy, Larry Connor, Stephen Sheppard, Paul Stamets, Rudi Peters, Leonard Foster, Marta Guarna, Lori Weidenhamer, and Virginia Abbott.

Convention Schedule:

6pm

- AGM: Friday October 14 – 8:30am–5pm
- Banquet: Friday October 14, 7pm
- Conference: Saturday October 15, 8:30am–5:30pm
- Workshop: Sunday October 16, 8:30am–4pm

[BOOK TICKETS NOW!](#)

Hotel Special Room Rate:

- [Pacific Gateway Hotel](#), 3500 Cessna Drive, Richmond
- Rooms start at \$135 plus tax valid to September 15, 2016
- [BOOK ONLINE with group discount code 1610BCHO](#) or call [1-866-382-3474](#) and request the BCPA room rate. Availability is limited so RESERVE YOUR ROOM NOW.

Here's a sampling of some of our speakers confirmed to date:

Danielle Downey – Project Apis m.

The new executive director of Project Apis m., has a strong beekeeping connection with B.C.; she received her MSc from Simon Fraser University as a graduate student of Mark Winston, in whose research lab she carried out several studies on mites and honey bee health. Her background includes training and research from bee labs in Minnesota, Canada and France; beekeeper education, work with commercial beekeepers and queen breeders, regulatory work as a State Apiarist in Utah and Hawaii, and wrangling bees for TV and film. She works closely with Apiary Inspectors of America, Bee Informed Project and a VSH breeding project with collaborators in Hawaii, Louisiana and Europe selecting and refining Varroa resistant bees. Project Apis m., formed a decade ago to provide growers with healthier bees resulting in better pollination and increased crop yields, has infused over \$6 million into bee research. It works with commercial beekeepers and with the top bee scientists in the U.S. and Canada. Danielle will outline some of the projects her organization has worked on, and what Project Apis m. is doing in Canada.

Michele Colopy – Pollinator Stewardship Council.

Michele has been the program director of the Pollinator Stewardship Council since 2013, a year after it was formed by the American Honey Producers Association with the intent of raising awareness about the adverse impact of pesticides on pollinators. The council provides advocacy, guidance and tools to document the detrimental effect of pesticides on the pollinator community. It has stated it is not opposed to the use of pesticides by the agriculture community, but wants to help educate growers about the adverse impacts on bees. Michele's father was a beekeeper in Ohio, where he used bees to pollinate his apple orchard. She keeps honey bees in the city, and has replaced her crabgrass front yard with pesticide-free pollinator

Administration from The University of Akron. She is also a Board member of the Medina County Beekeepers Association. She will discuss best management practices for avoiding pesticide exposure to honey bees.

Larry Connor

If you have a decent library of books on beekeeping, it is a sure bet that you have at least one or two books written or produced by Connor. A respected author, speaker and instructor, he is the owner of Wicwas Press, which produces a vast variety of helpful books on beekeeping. Connor received his PhD in entomology from Michigan State University and worked as an extension apicultural entomologist at Ohio State University. He led the Dadant Midnite and Starline hybrid queen lineprograms in Florida and is a frequent contributor to American Bee Journal and Bee Culture magazines. He resides in Kalamazoo, Michigan. An entertaining speaker, this isn't his first rodeo in B.C.; he also presented at the BCHPA AGM in Kelowna several years ago. He's preparing a pair of talks tailored for British Columbia beekeepers and will bring a good supply of his books for sale.

Stephen Sheppard, University of Washington

As the chair of the university's entomology department and Thurber Memorial Chair, Sheppard has been at the cutting edge of much of the North American research into honey bee genetics. Sheppard is overseeing a new \$16 million bee research facility at the university, including a germplasm repository and molecular lab. He has published or co-authored nearly three dozen research papers on honey bee health, population genetics and effects of pesticides on bees. He has a long-term honey bee breeding project and stock centre at WSU and has been involved in the importation of honey bee germ plasm and the maintenance of selected lines through the use of an isolated mating station at Smoot Hill, and instrumental insemination. Prior to his appointment to the UWA he worked for a dozen years in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Bee Research Laboratory. Some of his most recent research is in the beneficial effects of mycelia - mushrooms - for honey bees.

Paul Stamets, Mycologist and founder of Fungi Perfecti.

Can mushrooms save honey bees, and by consequence, our food security? Stamets thinks so. Stamets is a pioneering mycologist from Washington State who has long believed fungi and mushrooms can save lives, restore ecosystems and transform other worlds. He sees the ancient Old Growth forests of the Pacific Northwest as a resource of incalculable value, especially in terms of its fungal genome. His most recent work involves breakthrough research in a mycelia - mushroom - extract that shows promise in treating honey bees for varroa mites. He has been working with renowned entomologist and bee researcher Stephen Sheppard at the University of Washington. The author of six books on mushroom cultivation, Stamets was a guest speaker at the 2008 TED (Technology, Entertainment and Design) conference with a

Rudi Peters, owner of Skeena Valley Apiaries.

For beekeepers in Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley, B.C.'s most populated areas, raising bees can at times be challenging. But it has nothing on the challenges Peters faces in operating one of northwestern B.C.'s largest commercial apiaries. Located in Terrace, where winters in the Coast Mountains can be cold and moist. Sheena Valley Apiaries operates successfully, producing mountain fireweed honey and acting as a northern station for beekeeping education and services. Peters, a former dentist who has moved into commercial beekeeping full-time, follows in the footsteps of Martin deHoog, who first pioneered large-scale beekeeping in Terrace in the late 1970s. Peters has also been working with Yukon beekeepers, some of whom have recently joined the BCHPA. Peters, who is the second vice-president of the BCHPA, will talk about the unique challenges of operating a northern commercial apiary, including the unique art of how to perfect bear fencing even a bear is afraid of.

Other Speakers:

Leonard Foster, UBC – Update on this summer's Bee-omics project, looking at hygienic behaviour in bees through the use of proteomics.

Marta Guarna – Research Scientist, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – an update on a 60-colony queen research project at Beaverlodge Research Farm, looking at the effect of queen temperature stress and reduced sperm viability on queens and colony performance.

Lori Weidenhamer – author of Victory Gardens for Bees. Weidenhamer, a Vancouver resident, recently published a comprehensive look at the relationship between bees and gardens, complete with suggestions for what makes a great pollinator-friendly garden.

Virginia Abbott, Regional Pesticide Inspector, Pest Management Regulatory Agency. Abbott – or one of her colleagues – will present a talk on “What's That Spray” – a look at pesticides and insecticides that beekeepers may encounter. The PMRA talk will be aimed at educating beekeepers about the proper – and improper – use of chemicals, and when to recognize you have a problem and what to do about it.

Canadian Food Inspection Agency on changes to the use of antibiotics. New federal regulations will soon come in to effect requiring veterinary prescription for most medications used in farming. At this point, beekeepers aren't expected to be exempt and may find common medications they've used now restricted. The talk will explore how the regulations affect beekeepers. Speaker to be named later.

We're also putting together a number of short workshops on a variety of beekeeping topics, from honey house tips to making mead, comb and creamed honey to preparing

A full agenda will be published shortly.

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All parties interested in participating in this year's trade show please contact Terry Frounfelker at tfrounfelker@shaw.ca or visit <https://bchpa-2016-conference-trade-show.eventbrite.ca/>

Hospitality

Hannah Carter

Are you looking for dinner at the next meeting? How about a sandwich?

We are offering boxed lunches from Honey Baked Ham for \$10 a piece.

(please contact me a minimum of a few days before the meeting)

The lunches are:

1. Grilled chicken Caesar salad:

Crisp romaine lettuce, grilled chicken, seasoned croutons, Parmesan cheese, and Caesar dressing

2. Prime Roast Beef:

Tender roast beef, cheddar cheese, lettuce, tomato, tangy horseradish sauce, gulden's mustard, red onions, on a fresh ciabatta roll.

3. Mediterranean Veggie Delight:

Flavorful sun dried tomato humus spread, on toasted multigrain bread with leafy greens, cucumber, tomato, red onion rings, and sliced olives.

4. Honey Baked Turkey Classic:

Honey Baked Smoked or Roasted Turkey, Swiss cheese, lettuce, tomato, savory mayo, rich hickory honey mustard on a fresh baker's roll.

5. Honey Baked Ham Classic:

Honey Baked Ham, Swiss cheese, lettuce, tomato, savory mayo, rich hickory honey mustard on a fresh baker's roll.

If there are any questions about the menu, please contact me at pcba.hospitality@gmail.com.

Minutes

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

Upcoming Events

October 3rd

- 6:15 pm - Beginning Beekeeping Class
- 6:15 pm - Journeymen Class
- 7:00 pm - Dedication of the new apiary fence

October 15th

- 10:00 am - 2:00 pm - Workday to get plants into the apiary pollinator garden

October 22nd

- West Sound Beekeepers Association Speaker Michael Palmer at Central Kitsap High School

October 29th

- 10:00 am - 2:00 pm - Workday to get plants into the apiary pollinator garden

November 7th

- Auction

December

- Christmas Party and Gift Exchange

View complete event information [here](#).



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