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Pierce County Beekeepers Association  
AUGUST, 2014 \* VOLUME 20, ISSUE 8



# YOU'RE INVITED!

## 2nd Annual Apiary Extraction & Tailgate Party\*



Saturday, August 23th  
10am at the Apiary,  
then over to the Honey House  
to extract the club honey.

Since this will be over lunch, there will  
be hamburgers, Garden burgers,  
hotdogs and lemonade.

Feel free to join us, bring something to  
share if you can.

\*Remember we will be on WSU property, so even though it's a  
Tailgate Party - no alcohol, please.

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello All,

Here in Western Washington the completion of the blackberry harvest marks the slowing down of the honey flow, especially in rural areas. In more residential areas there is still a good nectar flow coming from lavender, clover and other plants grown in neighborhoods. It won't be long before we are starting to take down all our supers and get ready for the long winter months.

The PCBA is really active these days. Not only do we have a good queen-rearing program in the works, but also the re-renovation of the Honey House is well under way. Soon any member can participate in a number of programs we hope to have going in the Honey House. One is a diagnostic lab, which we hope the journeyman study group will get going. Another is the grafting of queen cells. Along with the extraction of honey, we also will use the Honey House to build boxes and frames for our apiary. I hope many of you will get involved with these programs.

As you know we have 2 meetings in August. On the first Monday of August, we will have a presentation on the Honey Show we have at the Washington State Fair. Bob Bennett is our Honey Show Coordinator. I am also the Ass't. Superintendent of the Agriculture Dept. at the fair. Bob and I will show potential exhibitors the rules and grading of honey and products. We're hoping that many of our new beekeepers will enter items in the fair and win ribbons and extra money. We will be selling Queenline jars for anyone wishing to enter their honey in the fair.

On the last Monday of August, Alisa, our fair booth coordinator, will be giving out tickets to all our volunteers who sign up to man the booths. Also, Franclyn Heineke, our newest Washington State Master Beekeeper, will be giving a presentation on why honeybees need weeds. What people think of as weeds, the bees think of as gold. I'm sure all of you will enjoy her presentation and learn more about bee foraging.

Remember, there is no meeting in September. Instead we will be at the fair for the entire duration.

Come October we probably will be having a presentation on queen-rearing from the teacher at the West Sound Beekeepers Association. He just gave a class on queen-rearing this month, and a number of our beekeepers attended and learned much -including Jeff Jones, our Queen-Rearing Program Director.

In November we will be having our annual auction, so please think about what you would like to donate to the club to be auctioned off. Usually we have a good number of valuable items.

Also in November we will be conducting our elections for 2015. If you want to get involved in the club, here is a good way. For Journeyman students, it's a full 15 points towards your Journeyman Certification. My tenure as President will be coming to an end, so we will be needing someone to step up and lead our club into next year. Please consider running for an office.

So in closing I would like to encourage all of you to continue to learn and stay involved in our association, as we are growing and meeting so many good people who share our love of bees.

Louis Matej  
WSBA Master Beekeeper  
PCBA President

## Secretary's Minute

By Tina Tyler for Aug. '14 Newsletter

What does your front yard look like? I am guessing (since you are involved with beekeeping) that it is not a typical manicured lawn with insecticide applied on prized plants. That skull and crossbones on the fungicide and bug killer packages mean trouble for us and the bees.

Mark Winston wrote, "The honeybee is a remarkably resilient species that has thrived for 40 million years and the widespread collapse of so many colonies presents a clear message: we must demand that our regulatory authorities require studies on how exposure to low dosages of combined chemicals may affect human health before approving compounds." One of the causes of colony collapse disorder is this chemical issue, but people are getting sick, too.

The Cowboys of beekeeping are those that ride out and collect swarms, especially feral bees. I celebrate their primal knowledge and techniques. They arrive fearlessly, stunning awed crowds. They know the bees and easily capture them. Jeff Jones is our Swarm Team Coordinator.

Down south, due to so many Africanized bees, they avoid collecting swarms from unidentified sources. This affects our bee population's diversity and strength.

Especially respected is a beekeeper capable of extracting a honeybee hive from walls of our buildings. Last year the Washington State Fair enjoyed the services of our Jim McCaig of **Because Honeybee Rescue and Relocation**. This is what he does while espousing natural, caring beekeeping. He never buys bees. . . .

Jim speaks of sustainability and practices it. He seeks the melting pot of queen diversity, and wants to incorporate European sperm.

Swarms don't happen in the rain. On the first dry day, they go. Capturing and housing a swarm now involves intensive winter feeding. How do you even do that? Opening the hive makes them cold, and water freezes. Freshly captured swarms spend much energy building foundation, not so much gathering food.

Please tell us any ideas you have for our programs. Sustainability and diversity are mine right now.

**\$ TREASURER'S REPORT FOR JULY, 2014 \$**

We've purchased our bees and had the spring fair, so the months of June and July were a bit quiet. Now it's about letting the bees do their thing. In June we held our raffle which brought \$327 to our Association. We are also ramping up our queen-rearing program, so you'll see some costs relating to that.

Next month we'll see the picnic-related costs show up as well as the costs related to the Honey House renovation which is in full swing thanks to our member, John Thomas. **THANKS JOHN!**

**JULY BALANCE SHEET**

<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	<b>\$7,348.17</b>
<b>Ending Balance:</b>	<b>\$7,547.26</b>

<b>Income</b>		<b>Amount</b>	<b>Expenses</b>		<b>Amount</b>
Memberships		\$200.00	Payment to WSBA - books		\$210.00
WSBA books		\$210.00	Transaction fees		\$1.70
Hats		\$20.00	Queens for queen-rearing		\$127.00
Fee reimbursement		\$3.00	Reimburse for queen class		\$48.36
Raffle		\$327.00	Post Office Box (Annual Fee)		\$128.00
Patches		\$25.00			
<b>Income Total:</b>		<b>\$785.00</b>	<b>Expenses Total:</b>		<b>\$515.06</b>

**BUDGETS**

Updated summary of the various budgets we've approved in board meetings along with their status:

<b>Budget</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Spent</b>	<b>Remaining</b>
\$1,000.00	To cover the annual costs of operating the apiary. Costs include feed, woodenware, bees, and other maintenance and operating costs. Jars and labels are not included in this budget.	Gary Moore	\$495.00	<b>\$505.00</b>
\$435.00	Support of the queen rearing program PCBA is starting this year. The cost includes \$135 for attending a class plus \$300 for bees and other expenses.	Jeff Jones	\$429.00	<b>\$6.00</b>
\$3,000.00	Remodel of honey house to better support the honey extraction needs of PCBA as well as create a learning environment for other activities including queen rearing, honey bee pest testing, etc.	John Thomas	\$2,144.00	<b>\$856.00</b>
\$100.00	Provide hospitality services at the general meetings of the PCBA.	Charles Carter Lawrence Jungers	\$86.00	<b>\$14.00</b>
\$340.00	Host PCBA summer picnic. The budget is primarily for a main dish, condiments, paperware, and other amenities. The budget also includes \$50 for a portable toilet provided by John Thomas.	Charles Carter Lawrence Jungers	\$338.00	<b>\$2.00</b>
\$100.00	Library expenses. Mainly the purchasing of books for member benefit.	Charles Carter	\$0.00	<b>\$100.00</b>

As always, if you have any questions or want more detail about our finances, let me know.



## IN THE BEEYARD with RENZY

Things are slowing down now for the bees, so we need to start shifting our beekeeping game plan. Before it was honey production, now it's winter survival. What we do over the next 6-8 weeks will affect how our bees do through winter and into early spring. Our goal is fat and happy bees with plenty of food and no disease. So the work we start to do this month, with an occasional prayer and some luck, will determine how many hives we have in spring. The next 6-8 weeks are the most important time of the year to reduce winter losses.

-Begin removing honey supers and start extracting. If you have minor nectar flows (fireweed, heather, etc.) in your area, then just combine and remove the full supers. Make sure to leave the bees with enough food to get through winter, or plan on feeding as needed once supers are pulled off. Sometimes the brood boxes will have no honey because they've been putting it all in the supers.

-Check hives for diseases and mites. Look at some of your brood frames and pay particular attention to laying pattern and the color of the larva. NOW is the time to treat for mites if you choose that option. Reducing the mite loads reduces the secondary diseases they pass along to our bees.

-Continue to look at a few of your brood frames for laying pattern, crowding, diseases, ensuring you have a queen, etc. to make sure things are happy and healthy.

-Reduce or combine weak hives.

-Wasps, yellow jackets and hornets can be found in greater numbers now going after our bees. Reduce entrances and put out wasp/yellow jacket traps. Or even move your hives to another location.

-Consider re-queening if your queen is old or didn't perform well. If you were attached to her, you can always make a Nuc and overwinter her (just in case - or for grafting queens in spring).

## NEWS FROM THE APIARY



I didn't get an official report, but I drove by the other day and it's still there. Louis will address the mission of the apiary and offer guidelines for it's use going forward at the August 4th General Meeting. The hope is to make the apiary a real hands-on learning tool for club members.

## QUEENS & SWARMS - by JEFF JONES



**QUEEN REARING**

I went to the queen-rearing class over the weekend of the 19th of July. I learned a great deal, and will be grafting some queen cells to get better at the technique. It will take me time to get good enough to teach this to other members of the club. I'm very excited to be able to have this as a part of our club.



**SWARM COLLECTING**

The swarms are slowing down this month. Thanks again for the members that have gone out and gotten swarms that I have sent them on. If you're on the "Swarm List", please be available to get swarms.

## ITEMS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST

### Speaking of The Fair...

We will be accepting items for display at the Western Washington Fair soon. **Ribbons** and **Ca\$h** for First, Second and Third Places will be given out. If you wish to display at The Fair, please join us at the upcoming General Meeting on Monday, August 4, 2014 as we will be going over this. Thank you and we hope to see you there!

-Bob Bennett, Honey Show Coordinator

# DO THE PUYALLUP! WASHINGTON STATE FAIR SEPTEMBER 5 - 21, 2014

Think about exhibiting your honey and signing up to man (or woman) the booth!



Come to the August 4th General Meeting for more information!



## Labor Day news feature on "unusual" jobs, including Beekeeper!

Remember the newspaper? They're hard to see because they're so thin, but Tacoma still has a local newspaper known as "The News Tribune". A week or more ago, the TNT (Tacoma News Tribune -for us who remember) sent their crack reporting team out to the apiary and garden of our own Franclyn Heineke. Being the new newsletter editor, I was invited to get the scoop for our little rag. Turns out they just needed somebody to hold the umbrella, so the sun didn't shine on the camera lens. I got a "Good Job", so... I've got that goin' for me.

I digress...

The reporter and photo/videographer were doing a story on "workplace attire", and enlisted the help of Franclyn to give a presentation on the garb of a beekeeper. While they were there they asked, and Franclyn answered, numerous questions about all aspects of beekeeping -including the foraging habits of the honeybee, and the importance of maintaining the flora (including most weeds) in ensuring their (and our) survival. The piece is to hit the press for publication in the TNT over the Labor Day weekend. Not sure which day it will be publicized, so please keep your eyes peeled for it. When I spot it, or find out for sure which issue it will be in, I'll email all y'all and let you know. It will also be on the TNT website at [www.thenewstribune.com](http://www.thenewstribune.com). Again, look for it -but I'll let you know when I find out for sure when it will be available for everyone to see.

During the "shoot" (That's Hollywood lingo.), Drew (the videographer) was right in there face-to-face with thousands of bees, and he barely flinched. He kept asking Franclyn to pose in front of the hive. She kept warning that they were playing with fire by doing that. It was a good 5 minutes into taping Franclyn's schpiel at

one of the hives when he finally got his initiation...**BAM!** right there on the ole' cheek. That's when I sprang into action, and gave him some brief instructions on what to do about it. After I explained to him how I usually handle it (run around like a little girl while screaming and waving my arms!), Franclyn told us where the bee-sting and alcohol-wipes were located. I told him about making sure to get the stinger out. I'm sure that redeemed me.

So, great job Franclyn. And I hope everyone gets the opportunity to see what survived the cutting-room floor when it debuts this Labor Day weekend. All of the video was for the TNT's online version of the story, which will be longer than what they have in the print edition. So check them out, and support our local paper.

### **DON'T DO THIS! Department**

After suiting up in a beekeeping suit for the first time, a bee decided to fly around in front of my face.

By the time I came to the conclusion that she was on the wrong side of the screen... **BAM!** ... too late.

Got it in about the same place Drew did.

### **DON'T DO THAT!**

If anyone has any personal anecdotes or stories about beekeeping guffaws, mistakes, or even bits of advice that the rest of the readers might appreciate, send 'em to me at [mgk323.com](http://mgk323.com). Also, we could do a section with bee and beekeeping cartoons if anyone had some G-Rated ones they'd like to send to me (in jpg format).

Letter from the editor:

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# SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**Saturday, August 2nd and 16th**

**11:00 am - 1:00 pm**

**Apiary Field Day**

**PCBA Apiary, WSU Research & Extension Center  
2606 W Pioneer, Puyallup**

**Monday, August 4th and 25th**

**6:15 pm - 7:15 pm**

**Apprenticeship Class / Journeyman Study Group**

**7:30 pm - 9:30 pm**

**PCBA General Meeting**

**Almendinger Center, WSU Research & Extension Center  
2606 W Pioneer, Puyallup**

**Monday, August 18th and September 15th**

**6:00 pm - 7:00 pm**

**PCBA Executive Board Meeting**

**Puyallup Public Library**

**324 S Meridian, Puyallup**

**Saturday, August 23rd**

**10:00 am**

**Honey Extraction & Tailgate Party**

**PCBA Apiary & Honey House**

**(See Bulletin - Page 2)**

**Friday, September 5th through Sunday, September 21st**

**(Monday through Thursday, 10:00 am to 10:00 pm)**

**(Friday and Saturday, 9:00 am to 11:00 pm)**

**(Sunday, 9:00 am - 10:00 pm)**

**DO THE PUYALLUP!**

**Washington State Fair**

**110 9th Ave. SW, Puyallup**

**For additional and/or other information**

**visit the PCBA website at**

**[www.pcbeekeepers.org](http://www.pcbeekeepers.org)**

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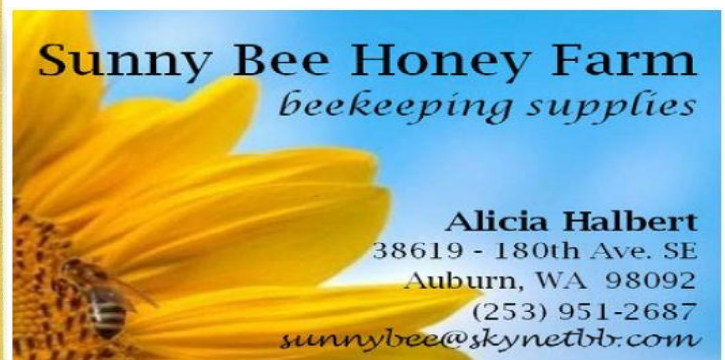


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## Thank You!

Questions? Comments?

Newsletter contributions are always welcome, but they may not always be included.

(Editor's discretion, of course!)

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Mike Konschuh, Editor