

Cappings

Pierce County Beekeepers Association

JULY, 2014 * VOLUME 20, ISSUE 7

IT'S



SATURDAY, JULY 12th

Apiary field day at 11a.m. followed by a potluck at 12noon in the Picnic Area

- WSU Extension Campus -

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello All,

We are now at the peak of the honey flow. Blackberries and clover are in full bloom. Make sure you have enough super space in your colonies to accommodate the nectar coming in. In strong colonies, a super can be filled in just a few days.

Believe it or not, we are still getting reports of swarms. With the overcast weather followed by very sunny days, we are getting calls for swarm pickups. Just yesterday I was called 2 times 5 minutes apart for 2 swarms. Swarms this late in the season must either be double-queened with existing colonies, or fed through the rest of the summer so they can make it through the winter. Swarms without special help will not survive the winter. Remember that the beginning of the beekeeper's year is in the fall. Make sure you provide plenty of food for your bees to get through the winter. When you take off honey, plan to leave 60 lbs. per colony, so it will survive the cold, rain and snow.

We just started another session of classes this month. There is still time for anyone to get into the classes and learn a lot about bees. We will have 2 classes in August.

Remember, there is no PCBA membership meeting on the 1st Monday of July. Instead we will be having our annual PCBA picnic at the picnic area of the WSU Extension Campus -just next to the parking lot off from the Almendinger Center. The picnic will start with a field day at the PCBA apiary, followed by a potluck at noon. Bring your favorite dish. The Association will provide hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks. Come and join us for some real fun and relaxation talking about bees with all our friends.

Also, be thinking about the Washington State Fair coming up in September. Anyone, whether they keep bees or not, can find a category in the Honey Show Premium List from the fair to enter exhibits where they can win money and ribbons. Go to the fair website www.thefair.com and click on the "Exhibit Entries" button. Open the Honey Show Premium List and find all the information. Start preparing your honey exhibits early to get out all the bubbles. You need glass Queenline jars to enter honey. You might even win "Best of Show" and the huge ribbon it comes with. Also, many of us know how fun it is to man the booth at the fair. You meet so many wonderful people, and you're doing some really good community service in telling people about the importance of bees.

Also in August, Franclyn Heineke - our newest Washington State Master Beekeeper, will be giving a presentation on her final required paper on the destruction of bee forage in our state. I've read the paper, and it is very good. Don't miss this presentation.

Lastly, our election for new officers is in November. There are 4 positions which must be filled. The nominations will begin in August, so if you're interested please let someone know so you can get nominated. You get 15 service points out of the 30 required for your Journeyman and Master levels. Also, please consider joining the WSBA. You will be able to keep up with beekeeping throughout Washington.

Hope you're all having a good bee summer.

Louis Matej
WSBA Master Beekeeper
PCBA President

SECRETARY'S MINUTE from TINA

There's a lot of truth to the old saw that **"five different beekeepers will often have six different ideas on how best to handle a given situation"**, says author **Russ Conrad**. This doesn't mean anyone is wrong. Apicurists are creative problem solvers and life-long learners.

This happens at board meetings for your club. In a small amount of time, decisions are made regarding queen rearing, selling and buying queens, our honey queen, our honey house, honey sales, honey labels, classes, teachers, programs, apiary, bees...

Please always feel welcome to attend any board meeting and give your input.

As I work my hive, the above quote is shown to me in **Technicolor**.

Last year everything was new. This year I pepper great minds in our club with all kinds of questions. I go to the Journeyman class and get more info. One person says it's too late, someone says do it now, someone says you really should have done that three days ago (true story).

The positive upshot from all of this is that I have support while I am learning. It floats my intuition, inquisitiveness, inventiveness. For instance:

Debris was coming out of my newly split hive - bees weren't. I asked board members to identify these white lumps of debris. Word had it that it is chalkbrood. From there I was able to research a tangible. Four days later a stream of bees coming out matched the other hive.

Russ Conrad continues: **"It is important for beginners not to allow the fear of harming bees keep them from working the hives. As experienced beekeepers know, simply taking your time while paying and staying focused are the best defenses. It is also important to keep up with the latest developments by attending bee association meetings."**



Spiceland Ketchup **Condiment Original by Tina Tyler**

Gently warm a can of tomato paste in a small saucepan with 1/3 cup of honey (time to use up that crystallized lump). Add 1/4 cup or more water while stirring to coax the desired consistency. Remove from heat and add 1/2 teaspoon allspice and 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon. Salt and Tellicherry Pepper to taste.

\$ TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MAY, 2014 \$

Financially speaking there was nothing too exciting to report out for the month of May. The report below shows that we had purchased bees in May. Combined with the five in April that makes six colonies we purchased for our apiary. The website charge is the annual cost of hosting our website, the rights to the name "pcbeekkeepers.org", and Association emails. Next month (June)_ is when we'll see the income from the raffle which was (spoiler alert) \$327 and the queens we purchased to kick off our queen rearing program.

MAY BALANCE SHEET

Beginning Balance: \$7,348.17
Ending Balance: \$7,277.32

Income	Amount	Expenses	Amount
Memberships	\$220.00	Payment to WSBA	\$20.00
WSBA books	\$20.00	Payment to WSBA for patches	\$10.00
WSBA patches	\$10.00	Transaction fees	\$3.26
Donations	\$5.00	Bees	\$65.00
Fee reimbursement	\$3.75	Honey Jar Labels	\$51.80
		Copies	\$29.54
		Website	\$150.00
Income Total:	\$258.75	Expenses Total:	\$329.60

BUDGETS

Just for fun and transparency, I thought I would provide you a summary of the various budgets we've approved in board meetings along with their status:

Budget	Purpose	Owner	Spent	Remaining
\$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	\$505.00
\$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	\$310.00	\$125.00
\$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	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
\$100.00	Provide hospitality services at the general meetings of the PCBA.	Charles Carter Lawrence Jungers	\$86.00	\$14.00
\$300.00	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	\$0.00	\$300.00

As always, come see me if you have questions or would like more details.

-Michael



IN THE BEEYARD with RENZY

The beginning of our major honey flow (Blackberries) is in full swing, and we need to take advantage of it while we can. Deeps and supers can fill up quickly if the weather is favorable. If you are feeding your bees, you will probably notice the bees taking the syrup more slowly or not at all... and that's ok. There's just something better they like at the moment. So this month we continue with a lot of the things we did last month in our apiary.

-Continue to check for swarm cells if your boxes look overcrowded, etc. A majority of the swarms have happened, but if the brood chamber gets clogged up with nectar, etc and the queen runs out of places to lay, then this could cause your hive to swarm.

--Remember, if you find a swarm cell, make a Nuc or use it to requeen or start another hive rather than just cut it out.

--If you get a swarm, you can always combine them back to the original hive (give them more room of course if you do), combine with a weaker hive or start a new colony.

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

-Pollen may be coming in and could be a different color and harder to notice (blackberry). The bees may bring pollen in at different times of the day than what you have noticed before. Also, it pays to spend a little time watching at the entrance.

-No medications if you have honey supers on. If you are using any chemicals, review the waiting period before you put supers on.

-Add a new super when the first is half full. And if in doubt - add a super! Generally speaking, early honey is often lighter in color and mild in flavor, and allows you a more diverse product.

-Leave your swarm traps out (free bees), as swarming still happens this time of year.

-Continue to monitor mite levels, look for signs of diseases, overcrowding, temperament, etc. if you open the hive.

-Consider trying a non-grafting method of queen rearing (there are plenty of drones out now for mating). You can use these queens to make a Nuc or as replacements for failing queens, etc. Maybe try overwintering a Nuc as insurance for any winter losses you might have.

NEWS FROM THE APIARY

from Jeff



QUEEN REARING

Saturday, June 21st I put three new queens in the hives to improve our genetics. I still have one more queen to introduce in July to make four new queens total with which to start our new mite-resistant strain of bees. I'm very excited about this project. A special thanks to Gary Moore for helping me get the hives ready to introduce the new queens.



SWARM COLLECTING

Thanks to all the members that have gone out and collected swarms. Calls are still coming in, so I'll be sending members out to get the swarms.



ITEMS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST

Lakewood MakerFest

Hello!

My name is Michelle Angell and I am a Librarian at the Lakewood Pierce County Library. I would like to invite the BeeKeepers Association to participate in this year's Lakewood MakerFest. The Maker Fest will be on Saturday, August 9th, 1-5pm at the Fort Steilacoom Pierce College campus in Lakewood. The event is sponsored by the Lakewood Computer Clubhouse, Pierce College, and the Pierce County Library System. The goal of MakerFest is to engage and excite youth, families, and adults to explore Maker/DIY culture and become Makers themselves. The Fest will be completely free to attend and there are no exhibitor fees. Last year we had over 140 people attend the event, this is a great way to connect with the Maker and DIY community of Pierce County and the South Sound! We would love to have your organization represented at this event! If you would like more information, or to register as an exhibitor, please go to lakewoodmakerfest.org. Check out our event page on facebook at facebook.com/lakewoodmakerfest . You can also contact me at mangell@piercecountylibrary.org, if you have any questions or are interested in participating in the planning process.

Thanks so much,

Michelle Angell

Anyone interested in this or getting one of our journeyman students or members to do this? -Louis

Milton Days 2014

Hello PCBA,

We would love to have you as a vendor! This two day family event is complete with live entertainment, vendors and a parade with Seattle's Biggest Sports Fan, Big Lo for our Grand Marshall.

We have some great entertainment this year including Motown Cowboys, Band Unloaded, Jerry Miller, Larry Jones man of a 1000 voices and Roc Bot.

The event is located at Milton Community Park in Milton, WA on August 16th and 17th. Vendors hours are 10am to dusk on Saturday and 11 am to 4 pm on Sunday.

We hope that you will consider becoming a vendor this year. Feel free to contact me with any questions or check out the City of Milton website at www.cityofmilton.net.

Brandy Wade

brandyw@digital-control.com

DO THE PUYALLUP!

WASHINGTON STATE FAIR

SEPTEMBER 5 - 21, 2014

Start thinking about exhibits and signing up to man (or woman) the booth!

Stay tuned for more information...



UPCOMING EVENTS

June 2nd

5:00pm - Apiary Field Day

6:15pm - Apprentice Class (Ch. 1/2)
Journeyman Study Group

7:30pm - General Meeting: Raffle



June 7th

11:00am - Apiary Field Day

June 16th

6:00pm - Board Meeting @ Puyallup Library

June 21st

11:00am - Apiary Field Day

July 5th

11:00am - Apiary Field Day

July 12th

11:00am - Apiary Field Day
12:30pm - Club Picnic



July 19th

6:00pm - Board Meeting @ Puyallup Library

July 21st

11:00am - Apiary Field Day

August 4th

5:00pm - Apiary Field Day

6:15pm - Apprentice Class (Ch. 3/4)
Journeyman Study Group

7:30pm - General Meeting:
Getting ready for the fair!

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