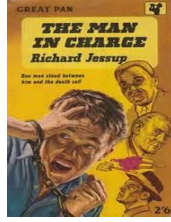


Cappings

Pierce County Beekeepers Association
OCTOBER, 2014 * VOLUME 20, ISSUE 10





LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello all,

Well today is the last day of the fair, and I would say everything went really well.



Not only did we have the National Honey Princess there for many shifts, but also our own Pierce County Honey Queen. Not only that, we received hundreds of email addresses from people wanting to learn more about beekeeping. I hope all of you who volunteered to man the booth had a great time at the fair. Thanks to Alisa Shorey and all who helped set the booth up and manage it; and a special thanks to Andy for supplying the bees and Bob for managing the Honey Show. And... congratulations to all who won ribbons.

Everyone should be feeding their bees right now. With the weather being so good the past couple months and the honey supers removed, the bees have only what you left to help them through the winter. If your colonies are like mine, they didn't leave enough in the bottom deep boxes to get them through. You need at least 60 lbs. of honey in the bottom boxes to get the bees through the winter, so feeding right now is a must. You might even put a couple pollen patties on the top bars so the bees can rear young bees for the winter.

We had a great year. It seems the honey crop was reasonably good. I'm getting some reports that some got bumper crops of honey this year. Let's hope next year will be the same. For many of you new beekeepers, this will be your first year to overwinter colonies. Remember, the fall is the beginning of a beekeeper's year. Plan and manage now for a successful 2015.

Our PCBA is planning to have the teacher from the West Sound Beekeepers come and talk to us about queen-rearing. He gave a class in queen-rearing this summer, and a number of our beekeepers attended. He will be sharing his information with us.

Also, we will be having the 2nd nominations for PCBA officers. If you're interested in running for an office, please let someone know so you can be nominated. For those in the Journeyman program, you'll receive 15 points for serving as an officer (30 required for certification).

Also, get ready in November for our annual PCBA auction. Please bring items to auction off. We usually have a lot of good stuff for beekeepers. Some items will be auctioned off verbally and others through a silent auction.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the volunteers who worked at the fair and who brought items for exhibit. Next year we are planning to make it easier for people to enter exhibits by allowing you to bring them to the August PCBA meeting. We will deliver them to the fair for you. I hope this will increase the number of honey and beekeeping exhibits for next year.

Take care and again, make sure you feed your bees.

Louis Matej
WSBA Master Beekeeper
PCBA President

\$ TREASURER'S REPORT \$

Attached is the financial report for August, 2014. A couple of items of note:

1. The remainder of the Honey House renovation projects will show up in September's expenses. The project came in under budget at \$2,641.00. Way to go John!
2. We have purchased the apiary signs and have them in our possession.

-Michael

Beginning Balance:	\$5,029.65
Ending Balance:	\$5,074.65

Income	Amount	Expenses	Amount
Memberships	\$300.00	Payment to WSBA books	\$210.00
WSBA books	\$210.00	Transaction fees	\$4.95
Jars	\$48.00	Jars	\$46.00
Donations	\$15.00	Frames and Foundation	\$200.00
Honey House rental	\$20.00	Hospitality	\$18.98
Hats	\$20.00	Apiary Sugar	\$46.86
		Apiary Signs	\$41.21
Income Total:	\$613.00	Expenses Total:	\$568.00

BUDGETS

Updated budget numbers to include the expenses in August thus far:

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	\$695.00	\$305.00
\$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	\$429.00	\$6.00
\$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	\$2,144.00	\$856.00
\$100.00	Provide hospitality services at the general meetings of the PCBA.	Charles Carter Lawrence Jungers	\$105.00	(\$5.00)
\$340.00	Host PCBA summer picnic. The budget is primarily for a main dish, condiments, paperware, and other amenities.	Charles Carter Lawrence Jungers	\$339.00	\$1.00
\$100.00	Library expenses. Mainly the purchasing of books for member benefit.	Charles Carter	\$0.00	\$100.00

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

-Michael



IN THE BEEYARD with RENZY

We're in the final stretch of hive preparations to ensure our bees make it through winter. If you have procrastinated the odds may not be in your favor come spring. The cooler nights are here and when the rains finally show up we all know it won't stop 'til spring. The bees don't have a lot of time to get empty frames filled with winter stores. As you feed and they start to slow down taking syrup keep an eye on what they have accumulated and make plans to supplement their feed during winter if necessary. It's always better to feed if unsure. You may begin to notice feelings of depression. This is normal for beekeepers when we realize it's the end of the season for our bees and we begin to tuck them in for winter. Fill your head with thoughts of packed hives in early spring to help you cope. If we've done a good job and paid attention to them we'll see them again in early spring ready to go to work.

Do they have sufficient stores? If not, continue feeding 2 (sugar) to 1 (water) syrup until they won't take it any longer or your upper deep is full. (westerns upper box is full, middle has about half the frames filled with honey). They should also have pollen on some frames....if not, consider giving them a pollen patty.

-Check to ensure your hive is queen right. If you see eggs, your queen was in the box recently (last 3 days). You do NOT have to see the queen then. Hive population has been dropping (drones have disappeared) and you may have noticed recently some hives had no eggs or brood. This is normal as the queen does shut down at times but not all hives are the same.

-Any sign of disease? Look at the larva and capped brood. Last chance for treatments so treat if needed.

-Mite treatments should be done or getting pretty close to being done. Don't forget to pull the strips or medication as required per the manufacturer.

-Entrance reducer? Put on an entrance reducer. The yellow jackets, hornets, etc. have been out harassing our hives.

-Consider adding some type of upper ventilation/entrance (small shims, popsicle sticks, etc.) to allow a little ventilation to reduce the moisture from the syrup your feeding, keep moisture from building up in the hive and to allow bees to escape should the bottom entrance get clogged with dead bees, snow, etc. during the upcoming winter months. Bees can handle cold...but not wet and cold. Don't keep the hive completely sealed up with only a bottom entrance...ventilate.



Secretary's Minute

From Tina Tyler
Sept. 2014

Recipe: Honey

Nectar
Enzymes
Remove water & store.

The above became a recipe for disaster with the drought. No nectar, no honey. Reports all over the nation noted the lack. My honeycomb was actually capped off half-way down the honeycomb. My friends wanted to know why the drought depletion of nectar was not replaced by watering their yards. Basically, nectar is not water. Lack of water created lack of nectar, so the whole idea of watering is terrific but forage needs are much larger. There are a lot of mouths to feed. Some nectars, such as clover and crucifers have a higher sugar concentration than spring flowers. The concerto of when each flower blooms, the amount of foraging honeybees at that time and weather all peak. Then, extra food is able to be stored.

My hives are healthy and strong but there is nothing extra this year.



FROM THE PCBA APIARY

Raising bees is a lot like raising kids. Everyone has their “own” way, and there are LOTS of opinions out there about what is the “right way” and what is the “wrong way”. But much like raising kids, you have to do what’s best for you and your bees.

One of the biggest controversies in the beekeeping world is over feeding. Do you feed or not? If you do, do you use sugar water, corn syrup, or honey? Do you feed all the time, or only when there is no other food source? And in researching this topic, there is one suggestion that you shouldn’t even try to sustain your bees over the winter at all!

So what’s a beekeeper to do? Good question.

I usually keep sugar water for our bees all year long. That's how I've always done it. But that doesn't mean it's right for your bees. So here are a variety of options, and you can decide what's best for you and your hives.

Honey only. This theory proposes that you only take honey out of the hive early, leaving plenty of honey for the bees to eat during the winter. With the decline in bee populations, is this a wise move? What if the honey is weak, and the bees can't sustain themselves? This might not be a risk to take. But for purists, this is the only way to go.

Sugar/Corn syrup. Several research papers claim that common table sugar is a better winter food for bees than the honey they collect in late fall. Most commercial beekeepers extract all of the fall-season honey and feed their bees sugar syrup to get their bees through the winter. For those of you who depend on honey sales, this might work best for you. It's important that the syrup is thick. Corn syrup can be fed to the bees straight, so it's easier to feed. Sugar has to be mixed with water (2:1) but sugar is readily available. Just remember that the thicker the syrup, the more benefit it provides to the bees.

One handy tip when making sugar water: use pints when measuring water, pounds when measuring sugar. If you want 2:1 sugar water, add two pounds of sugar to one pint of boiling water. Boiling the water rids it of microorganisms, making the syrup keep longer. There are lots of options when it comes to [feeders](#) as well. Select what will work best for you and your bees.

Don't do anything. This is the most shocking option you have for over wintering your bees. Don't over winter them. This seems to go against logic, but there are some ideas to think about. You don't use [supplements](#), [medicines](#) or [chemical treatments](#) on your bees, so you can ensure that your honey is chemical-free. You save money because you don't have to buy medicines. Mites and disease won't ruin future colonies. You don't have to replace an old [queen](#). Bees have more time to store and cap honey. You store your equipment in the winter, so it lasts longer. The down side is that you have to store and protect all your drawn frames. You risk not being able to get new [package bees](#) every year. The cost of [package bees](#) keeps going up. And, you will probably just feel guilty. But if it's important that you have pure, chemical-free honey and wax, this non-over-wintering could be an option.

Remember, there is no "official" rule book for beekeeping. Ask the experts. Do your research. But what really matters, is what feels and works best for you.

NEVER ASSUME

It was a magnificent spring, now summer's fading fast and all is well with the honey bees. Your colony has performed beyond expectation. The hive is next to the fence, mostly in sunshine, out of the wind and strategically placed to escape notice by neighbors who might have a conniption if they viewed them on a daily basis.

Some new beekeepers sincerely believe it isn't compulsory to smoke their colonies because so far this season the honeybees have been pretty congenial. Then one day it is cold, cloudy and or rainy and the inexperienced apiarists get a rude awakening. As they begin to access the hive, several bees fly directly at their veil bouncing off it as if they are warning the unwelcome visitors not to come any closer. Not understanding or heeding this obvious sign, the keepers continue to remove the lid using no smoke and instantly are overwhelmed by mad, stinging insects.

What in the world could be wrong? The same approach worked fine yesterday and the day before. Was it a strong aftershave or perhaps a powerful perfume being worn that upset the colony? Or were they just having a bad day? Maybe they despise the wife's pink bee suit complete with matching boots and bee pendant. As the startled beekeepers survey the scene from a safe haven several feet away, they ponder while counting stingers embedded in their clothing, their tarnished bee paradise lost.

An experienced beekeeper may get by now and then without the use of smoke on a sunny, warm day when there is an obvious honey flow.

During fall an experienced keeper knows that cloudy, rainy or cold days with intermittent nectar flow can result in much more aggressive bees. Beekeepers "in the know" **never assume** that the colony will be as docile as they were in summer. Besides the change in weather, robbing yellow jackets and wasps aggravate bees.

As the weather gets cooler, I encourage all beginning beekeepers to consider the potential for issues which could often result in unwanted robbing, and above all... unnecessary painful stings. Most of us realize not to enter hives in the depths of winter as, not only will you disrupt and annoy them during their cool weather mode, you break the seal of the hive and disturb the cluster This alters the temperature that they are trying to maintain.

With old man winter staring us down, here are a couple of items to consider that will help you get prepared for spring:

1. Note colony strength, checking for adequate stores of honey and pollen. If stores are not enough to last through the winter, feeding sugar syrup along with pollen patties will help the colony until spring.
2. Remove excluder if you are using a screened bottom board and the hive is in a windy spot. You may have to install a cover over the screen to help the bees maintain hive temperature.
3. Get any extra supers off, and get down to a hive body and only one super. Then install an entrance reducer. (This makes it easier for the guard bees to ward off unwanted guests.)

This will provide your colonies a fighting chance for winter survival.

Beekeeping is a wonderful, exciting and rewarding hobby and sometimes a lifelong journey. Spring and summer bee attitudes are not the same as fall and winter reactions. Learn to observe the weather, temperature and sound of the hive.

WB Gary D. Moore, MSGT/ 1ST SGT
USAFR, RETIRED
30 YEAR VETERAN

QUEENS & SWARMS



QUEEN-REARING

We have lost two hives due to yellow jackets. The other hives are doing well. They're taking sugar syrup as we feed them.



**SWARM
COLLECTING**

Swarms have really slowed down this month. We did have one in the middle of September, and I sent out a member to go and pick it up. I want to thank all of the members that have gone out and gotten swarms this year. It's been a very busy year for swarms, and I thank you very much.

PCBA October 2014 Membership Report



Active Members: 222

Comp & Other Bee Clubs: 7

Additional Records: 89

September meeting attendance: 74

1 Due August Lin Mille

4 Due Sept Shirley Davidson, Robert Matthews, Nancy Parsons, Ramdas Vaidyanathan

17 Due Oct: Allison Shinkle, Angie Clausen, Ashlee Tarbox, Carrie Little, Cathy McPeck, Christopher Smolko, James Martinson, Jennifer Lucas, John Hirsch, John Thomas, Larry Jungers, Lincoln Mettler, Mark Stave, Robert Pietila, Steve Gregg, Steve Pederson, Tricia Grace,

0 Member Renewals:

1 New Member(s): Dan and Cindy Ghormley



Oregon Conference, Nov 6 - 8

While WSBA is not having a statewide conference this year, the Oregon Beekeepers Association is hosting a conference Nov 6 - 8 with an interesting line-up of speakers including: Dewey Caron, Marla Spivak, Dennis vanEnglesdorp, Kim Flottum, Ramesh Sagili and Steve Shepherd. Topics include drivers of colony losses, research at OSU and WSU, updates on work in Minnesota, and much more. **See PCBA newsletter attachments for registration forms.**

Neonics in the News

Submitted by Franclyn Heinecke, WSBA Region 2 Rep.

Results on WSU Neonic study: Last year, PCBA approved using some of its treasury funds to help support research conducted at WSU. Those funds were teamed with WSBA research funds and funds collected when beekeepers register hives with WSDA -- all of which go toward bee-related research projects. Together, the funds provided for field research and journal review regarding neonicotinoid pesticides and honey bees. Dr. Steve Sheppard, WSU Entomologist, and Dr. Tim Lawrence, WSU Extension in Island County, conducted the study. Their summary indicates:

"Neonicotinoids do have a negative effect on honey bees and other insect pollinators including important species of native bees such as bumble bees, mason bees, and others. However, it is unclear whether neonicotinoids have a significant lethal or sub-lethal effect on bees at realistic field levels. The real concern is the acute exposure of bees to neonicotinoids from exposure to airborne dusts during planting. However, there is growing concern for chronic exposure through nectar, pollen, and water picked up by foraging bees and carried back to the hive. The best means of minimizing adverse effects may be by increasing people's awareness of the potential issues through educational forums and via improvements in the instructions on the pesticide label.

"Ongoing research is increasing our understanding of the impact of these types of pesticides on bees. For now, the best recommendation is to carefully follow the product label, be judicious in application, and avoid applying any insecticide product when bees are actively foraging in or near the target area."

Here is a link to the full report: <http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/FS122E/FS122E.pdf>

From other studies: A worldwide metastudy shows that "field-realistic concentrations (of neonicotinoids) adversely affect individual (bee) navigation, learning, food collection, longevity, resistance to disease and fecundity."

Much has been written about the lethal effect of planter dust from neonic-coated seeds killing bees, and mistimed application of neonics, as in the bumblebee kill in Oregon in June 2013. Much research has been done also on sub-lethal effects on bees, effects which aren't immediately lethal but cause problems going forward. A June 2014 worldwide metastudy by the Task Force on Systemic Pesticides summarized the sub-lethal effects on bees that "field-realistic concentrations adversely affect individual navigation, learning, food collection, longevity, resistance to disease and fecundity."

More specifically, sub-lethal effects were found by Sandrock et al. (2014) to be decreased foraging efficiency, compromised navigation memory and queen supercedure in autumn. They found that by the following spring, 60% of the treated queens were superseded (replaced by new ones because the bees detected the original queen as failing). The same hives demonstrated lower numbers of adult bees, eggs and larvae in the year following exposure. This study did report that some strains of honey bees are more susceptible to neonic poisoning than others, which helps explain the sometimes conflicting results of toxicology studies of neonics and bees.

Concerns over neonics spread far beyond their impact on bees. This summer the US Geological Survey found levels toxic to aquatic life in the Mississippi and Missouri rivers and seven other Midwestern rivers and streams. Every tributary they tested contained neonics (http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=3941#.VBI_RPIdV8E).

The City of Seattle has banned the use of neonics. See link to article: <https://www.change.org/p/city-of-seattle-we-call-on-the-city-of-seattle-to-ban-neonicotinoid-pesticide-usage/u/8234515>

Kim Flottom's article: 60 members of Congress asking the EPA to look at the issues of neonics: <http://live.ezine.com/ezine/archives/1636/1636-2014.10.02.08.59.archive.html>



EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Tacoma News Tribune - 9/10/14

Stung by the bee: Honeybees are a family tradition in the South Sound
By Craig Sailor, Staff writer - September 10, 2014

Alisa Shorey is our latest celebrity. Her and her son Shane were written about and shown looking through hives on Linda Boitano's lavender farm in Fife in the Tacoma News Tribune!
See the September 10th issue of the TNT (PCBA Library) or thenewstribune.com for article

Excerpts of information from the article:

Resources:

- Honey Bee Suite: honeybeesuite.com
- Urban Bee Company: urbanbee.com
- Pierce County Beekeepers Association: pcbeekeepers.org
- Olympia Beekeepers Association: olympiabeekeepers.org
- Native Bee Conservancy: nativebeeconservancy.org

Know your bees:

Many people call anything that has wings and stripes a bee. The common honeybee is a specific species (*Apis mellifera*), one of 20,000 worldwide. Bumblebees, wasps, hornets, yellow jackets and some flies bear a passing resemblance but only the honeybee produces enough honey to be commercially usable.

Stings:

Stings are fatal to bees and their last defense. Bees are not aggressive as long as you don't bother their hives. You can usually stand within inches of a hive (just not in front of an entrance) without being stung. But, if you do get stung don't worry about the bee. It can no longer hurt you. Instead, move away from any other bees and quickly scrape the stinger out – its venom sack will still be pumping – with your fingernail. You'll escape the vast majority of the venom, and pain, if you're quick enough. Some people have serious allergic reactions to bee stings.

Insecticides:

Most pesticides kill indiscriminately. Try to live with insects before bringing out the insecticides. Use sparingly and not around blooming plants.

Habitat:

Help bees and native pollinators by planting natives. Many pollinators – honeybees included – are attracted to some of nature's most stunning non-native flowers. You can beautify your yard and help honeybees. Online sources, such as wildflower.org, have comprehensive lists in a number of categories. A good habitat provides insects with food from spring and into fall.

This list contains both natives and non-natives that are good sources of pollen and nectar – the two food sources that bees need. It lists only some of the more common of hundreds of equally suitable plants. Planting the same species in groups results in more insect visits.

- Agastache
- Arbutus (strawberry tree)
- Aster
- Cosmos
- Ceanothus (California lilac)
- California poppy
- Currant
- Fireweed
- Helenium
- Mahonia (Oregon grape)
- Lavender
- Philadelphus lewesii (mock orange)
- Rosemary
- Salvia (sage)
- Styrax japonicus (Japanese snowdrop tree)
- Sunflower
- Thyme

Read more here: <http://www.thenewstribune.com/2014/09/10/3371605/stung-by-the-bee.html##storylink=cpy>

- AUCTION - Monday, November 3rd

The auction is coming to our November general meeting. Please come and bid on some great auction items. We are accepting new or gently used and functioning items. Please, no broken or damaged items. Some auction items: pollen trap, hand tools, bees wax and more; but don't feel you have to limit yourself to beekeeping related items.

We **do** accept credit/debit cards for your winning bids. If you have any questions, please contact Larry Golden at lgolden56@outlook.com or Marge Pearson at pilotchickm@comcast.net



DON'T DO (it like) THIS!

So, while I was doing some winter prepping of my hives, my mom came out with her bee jacket on. She likes to man the smoker and has gotten pretty good at putting most of the smoke in my eyes rather than on the bees. But I grin and bear it 'cause I know she likes to see the bees and check on how they are doing. And the suffering I go through is the least I can do for the lifetime of pain I've caused her. This past weekend she opted to fill the top feeders while I checked on the condition of my hives...it was about noon time and a warm dry day again. I learned from the day before at my other location that the bees were REALLY quick to jump on any spilled syrup or drips on containers, so I mentioned that to my helper. There's been a nectar dearth and no rain. Most plants don't have much to offer, so the bees were quick to jump on any opportunity. Well, as my helper came out with a small pitcher of syrup, she filled one container but it wasn't quite enough. She told me she was going back in the house to get more. I told her not to forget to cover the container as she walked away and I proceeded to dive into the next hive to do some "checking". I was done in a couple minutes and turned to see bees "bathing" in the syrup of the uncovered feeder container she left. As I moved to fish them out and gently swat others away, my eager helper strolled up. I re-emphasized the importance of keeping things covered this time of year as the bees were quick to dive into the containers. I asked her to make sure her new syrup-pitcher spout was closed too as bees can squeeze through tight spots to get to free food when things dry up. As I completed the next hive check, I grabbed the pitcher to fill the next feeder and noticed bees bobbing in the pitcher of syrup....lots of bees! I hollered for my "helper" and as she came up I pointed out the bathing bees and the small opening in the pitcher's lid that allowed bees in. As we both frantically tried to fish out the bees and keep others from diving in, my "helper" did not notice the uncovered half container of syrup she set down from another hive to help me.....and the bees diving into that container. It was almost like a comedy movie except I wasn't finding anything funny anymore. So I called an end to the "pool party" my helper kept trying to start. We sat down with a cold drink, and before I could rehash what she had done, she told me she never has a problem when she fills them by herself. Had it been anyone other than my mom I'd have poured some sugar syrup on her and then just watched. I chalked this up to payback for all the things my mom put up with in my younger days....and it left me with a memory I will laugh about in years to come.

-Renzy Davenport

If anyone has any personal anecdotes or stories about beekeeping (or related) guffaws, mistakes, or even bits of advice that the rest of the readers might appreciate, send 'em to me at mngk323@gmail.com. Also send pictures, cartoons and anything else that might be relevant and uplifting to club members.

Letter from the Editor:

E

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, October 6th

6:15 pm - 7:15 pm

Apprenticeship Class / Journeyman Study Group

followed by:

7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

PCBA General Meeting

Allmendinger Center, WSU Research & Extension, 2606 W Pioneer, Puyallup



Wednesday, October 8th

Total Eclipse of the Moon



Monday, October 20th

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

PCBA Executive Board Meeting

Puyallup Public Library

324 S Meridian, Puyallup



Monday, November 3rd

6:15 pm - 7:15 pm

Apprenticeship Class / Journeyman Study Group

followed by:

7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

PCBA General Meeting

Allmendinger Center, WSU Research & Extension

2606 W Pioneer, Puyallup

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Questions? Comments?

Newsletter contributions are always welcome, but they may not always be included.
(Editor's discretion, of course!)

mgk323@gmail.com

Mike Korschuh, Editor

For additional and/or other information
visit the PCBA website at www.pcbeekeepers.org