

Cappings

Pierce County Beekeepers Association

NOVEMBER, 2014 * VOLUME 20, ISSUE 11



(You don't have to vote for Bez... but vote!)



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Beekeepers...

October 2014

Winter is just around the corner and it is already starting to get cold. The bees have curtailed their foraging and are about to start using the stores of honey and pollen for survival through the winter months. Now is the time to stop feeding syrup, and if your stores are not adequate, you need to feed fondant or candy through the holes in the inner covers. If you need a recipe for fondant, there are many on the web, just remember you need to keep the temperature at around 240 to 245 during the boiling process to get a good product.

I only have 2 more months as president and I'm looking forward to just being a regular beekeeper again and not have to worry so much about organizing the meetings with all the details of keeping our association geared in the right direction. We will be having our election of new officers at the next general meeting. There is still time to be nominated for one of the 4 positions.

Also, please bring in all your usable items for our annual PCBA auction. This is usually not only profitable for the club, but also a lot of fun because there are so many good items that people really can use ...not just for beekeeping either.

We're also looking forward to hearing from our scholarship recipient for this past year. She will be giving a little presentation on what she has been doing and how much she learned with the help of all our members. We also have 2 new candidates for next year's scholarship. We really need to support young beekeepers, because they are the beekeepers and teachers for future generations.

We're already starting to make plans for our Christmas celebration in December, so plan to come to it as we always have a good food and a fun gift exchange.

If you know anyone who is interested in learning how to keep bees, please invite them to our January meeting. We will begin a new series of beekeeping classes. We already have a good number who signed up at the fair, and if it's as good as this past year, we should be getting about 150 new people. We're gonna need a lot of mentors for all these new beekeepers, so see Larry Golden if you are willing to help out. This is one area we really need to grow at as there are more people needing mentoring than mentors available.

Hope all your bees make it through the winter. This past year was really hard on some as the loss of bees was significant. It was a fairly good year for honey production, so hopefully the bees will manage to make it with a little help from us who care a lot about these wonderful creatures.

Take care and I'll see you at the meeting.....

Louis Matej
WSBA Master Beekeeper
President, PCBA

\$ TREASURER'S REPORT \$

Below is the financial summary for September, 2014. The expense of note is that we see the last of The Honey House remodel project of about \$500. During the summer we had approved the expenditure of up to \$3,000 to remodel The HH to make it a better resource for members. In the end we spent a total of \$2,641.03 to remodel The Honey House. As a result we are noticing a spike in extraction rental that is five times more than what we saw last year. Kudos to John Thomas for all the great work and seeing The Honey House remodel project to it's completion.

Beginning Balance:	\$5,074.65
Ending Balance:	\$4,414.01

Income	Amount	Expenses	Amount
Memberships	\$20.00	Apiary Supplies - Sugar	\$32.37
Honey House rental	\$40.00	Transaction Fees	\$3.24
		Honey House Remodel	\$497.03
		Printing - Fair Materials	\$188.00
Income Total:	\$60.00	Expenses Total:	\$720.64

BUDGETS

Updated budget numbers to include the expenses in September 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	\$727.37	\$272.63
\$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	\$2,641.03	\$358.97
\$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

Back in March we applied for 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status from the IRS, and in the last month we finally received our determination letter saying that we are now designated as a tax-exempt charitable organization. Yay us! This means that members donating items for the auction, and even your membership fee, are now tax deductible on your annual taxes. So, bring all those tax deductible donations to The Auction in November! This also means that our Association can qualify for various discounts and donations which are only afforded to 501(c)(3) organizations. Some recent examples include PayPal discounts and liability insurance discounts.



IN THE BEEYARD with RENZY

Wow, summer is over. Our bees should be tucked away for winter, and now we fight the depression that begins to set in as we have to wait 5 months before we can have fun again. Hopefully you got some honey and learned a lot not only from your bees, but from others within the club. If you kept any type of record, now is the time to review what went right and what went wrong while it is still pretty fresh in your head. Maybe even come up with an early game plan for the next bee season on what you want to try and what you want to make sure you don't do.

-Feeding sugar syrup should stop, since the bees won't have enough time to ripen and cap the syrup. This just adds to the moisture in the hive and isn't a good practice in the winter in our wet climate. If your hive feels light (lift the back up slightly to "get a feel") consider giving them a candy board or fondant as supplemental feed. Plain old sugar works too in emergencies.

-Do a last check to make sure you haven't overlooked something in your apiary that needs to be fixed, ie: you left on a queen excluder, haven't reduced the entrance, or put on mouse guards (if that's an issue in your area), and some type of ventilation. Remember, bees can handle cold ...not damp and cold.

-Mite treatments should be completed and remnants removed. Don't procrastinate.

-There's no real need to open the hive just to look unless you suspect a serious problem. It's getting cooler and you don't want to break the inner cover/lid seal if you don't have to, because the bees have weatherproofed everything.

-To wrap or not to wrap the hive. It's not necessary as our climate is pretty mild. BUT ...if it makes you feel good, then please do so. If you wrap your hive, ensure you have an open entrance and a little ventilation. (It sounds like common sense, but you'd be surprised.)

-Configure the hive for winter with attention to ventilation and moisture control. It's really pretty simple to do. Consider putting up a temporary wind break for the winter if you have wind issues at your hive location.

-Clean and store your equipment away for the winter.

FONDANT (See picture above)

Ingredients: *(Don't exceed 6 cups for this recipe. It's too hard to handle when you begin the "cream" work. Use any pot with a handle except the big kettle pots. Those are too big.)*

- 2 cups granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup water
- 2 tbsp light corn syrup

Preparation:

1. Prepare your workstation by setting a large baking sheet on a sturdy counter or table top and sprinkling it lightly with water.
2. Combine the sugar, water and corn syrup in a small/medium saucepan over medium-high heat. Stir until the sugar dissolves, then cover the pan and allow the sugar syrup to boil for 2-3 minutes.
3. Remove the lid and continue to cook the syrup, without stirring, until it reaches 240-245 degrees. (A little lower temperature seems to make the fondant softer... 230-235)
4. Pour the sugar syrup onto the prepared baking sheet. Allow it to sit at room temperature for several minutes. After 2-3 minutes (sometimes a bit longer), lightly touch the syrup with a fingertip. When it is warm but not hot, it is ready to be worked.
5. Dampen a metal spatula or dough scraper with water, and use the scraper to push the syrup into a pile in the middle of the sheet.
6. Using a dampened plastic spatula or wooden spoon, begin to "cream", or work, the fondant in a figure-8 pattern. Continually scrape the fondant into the center, draw a figure-8, then scrape it together again. At first the fondant will be very clear and fluid, but it will gradually become more opaque and creamy. After 5-10 minutes, the fondant will become very stiff, crumbly and hard to manipulate.
7. Once the fondant reaches this state, moisten your hands and begin kneading it into a ball like bread dough. As you knead, the fondant will begin to come together and will get softer and smoother. Stop kneading once your fondant is a smooth ball without lumps.
8. If it is stiff, you can always knead it by hand on a surface dusted with powdered sugar until it is easy to manage.

This recipe produces about 3/4 lb. of fondant. I make burger size patties with parchment paper between them and freeze them. If you leave the patties out for a bit, they tend to harden (in case they turn out a little softer than you like).

Just place the patty over your inner cover hole and use a 2-inch spacer box around the patty. Put the lid on top and check about every 2 weeks. This reduces disturbing the bees by lifting off the inner cover and placing directly on the top bars. Sometimes the patties will be hard, but that's ok. The patties help reduce a little moisture when placed over the inner cover hole.

Pierce County Beekeepers Association (PCBA)

P.O. Box 73744 Puyallup, WA 98373

Minutes from the General Meeting

October 6, 2014

Called to order by President Louis Matej at 19:30

Roll call:

Present: Renzy Davenport, Tina Tyler, Michael DeAngelo and general membership

Reading and approval of minutes: motion passed to accept

Treasurer's Report: \$2600 spent on honey house, honey house rentals have increased. Picnic expense was \$338. Ending balance is approximately \$5000.

Motion passed to accept.

Committee Reports:

Newsletter: not present

Education: 165 students started, 61 finished

Journeyman Class: Structure issues, talk on mites held by Louis

Membership: 230 members, and this chairman, Larry Golden, is now doing the Mentor-Mentee Committee

Swarm Control: slowed down

Apiary: down to 5 hives

Queen Rearing: yellow jackets killed weak hive

Honey House: Thank you John Thomas

Honey Queen Program: Elizabeth reported fair activities

National Honey Queen visited us

WA State Fair: very few exhibits

Scholarship Program: 2 new applicants

Nominating Committee Report

Bob Pietella called for a second general membership nomination of PCBA Officers:

President: Franclyn Heineche

Vice President: Gary Moore
Alisa Shorey

Secretary: Tina Tyler

Treasurer: Michael DeAngelo
Louis Matej

Unfinished Business

Michael DeAngelo has just received official notice that 501(3)(c) status as a nonprofit with the Secretary of State and tax exemption is completed. Donations can now be tax deductible and use group insurance.

Bob Pietella spoke of the idea of a live hive at the fair, per Elena Hoffman, Nat. Fed. Honey Princess

Adjourned: 20:30

Secretary's Minute

How We Get a New Board

by Tina Tyler

This is the time of year when the general membership nominates and votes on a PCBA board. I started contrasting this process to how a hive makes a new queen.

If the worker bees determine, by pheromone data, that the queen is starting to fail, the honey bees will commence feeding an egg(s) extra amounts lots of royal jelly.

On the sixteenth day, the hive has a new queen. She begins patrolling the hive making a sound called piping. If the toot is answered, she will find the other queen and sting until one dies.

The queen continues to mature, begins some orientation flights, learning landmarks to find her way back. Weather permitting she begins mating.

At a couple of months of age, she will spend a week on "nuptial flights." The drones wait in the trees. She mates with 5 to 20 of the strongest, filling her spermatheca.

In a couple of days, she can choose to lay drone eggs (unfertilized) or worker eggs.

As she lays up to 1200 eggs a day, she communicates with her colony via special chemicals important for the maintenance of social order. The adaptability of a worker to change from one activity to another with just a few seconds of notice is necessary for them to survive. ". . .The true nature of a honeybee queen: She is not really a leader but, rather, more like the heart of the hive." (The Rooftop Beekeeper by Megan Paska)

As we move into elections, it is pertinent to ask ourselves just what type of a club we want. I have always wanted PCBA to be welcoming, friendly, helpful, knowledgeable and accessible. What is important to you? Do you have some ideas? Would you work on a committee or run for a position? Please do!

Oct. 2014

NEWS FROM THE APIARY



QUEENS & SWARMS

QUEEN-REARING



The hives that are still alive look good.

We hope to get queens from these hives in mid-summer 2015.

SWARM COLLECTING



Swarms have stopped for the year.

Thanks to all the members that have gone out to get swarms this year.

PCBA November 2014 Membership Report



Active Members: 232

Comp & Other Bee Clubs: 7

Additional Records: 91

October Meeting Attendance: 78

4 Due September: Shirley Davidson, Robert Matthews, Nancy Parsons, Ramdas Vaidyanathan

14 Due October: Angie Clausen, Ashlee Tarbox, Carrie Little, Cathy McPeek, Christopher Smolko, James Martinson, Jennifer Lucas, John Hirsch, Larry Jungers, Lincoln Mettler, Mark Stave, Robert Pietila, Steve Gregg, Tricia Grace

23 Due November: Andy Matelich, Annette Smith, Becky Sundstrom, Charity Bodhaine, Charles Schaffer, Chrisine Scott, Dan Smith, Deborah Davenport, Ellen Sumner, Jim Erickson, Justin Viene, Larry Worwick, Laurel Wright, Lou Torre, Marin Miller, Mike Konschuh, Pam Murry, Ron Barnard, Sarah Jackson, Sherri Thomas, Steve Tolle, Suzanne Lewis, Wendy Bitney

6 Member Renewals: Allison Shinkle, Ginger Carter, Jeff Jones, John Thomas, Sally Bricka, Steve Pederson

11 New Members: Andrew King, Jack Gingrich, John Hayes, Marc Olsen, Nina King–Madlem, Rebecca Shjerven, Sam Moth, Sean Woods, Theresa Knutsen, Troy Wagner, Vicki Biggs

Mentoring: Right now all the bees should be nestled in for winter. You should be working with your mentor to plan for the next season. There might be gear to buy, hives to paint or reading to be done.

If you are in need of a mentor, please email me at <mailto:lgolden56@oulook.com> -Larry



Bees (and their keepers) in the news

The News Tribune recently published a wonderfully comprehensive feature on Maria Spivak - Minnesota bee researcher and recipient of a MacArthur Foundation "genius" grant for her work developing the Varroa hygienic-sensitive bees:
<http://www.thenewstribune.com/2014/10/11/3426447-entranced-by-bees-with-a-desire.html?rh=1>

She, and her graduate students, also runs the website Bee Lab -filled with lots of useful information about bees:
<http://beelab.umn.edu/BeeSquad/>

-Franclyn

- AUCTION - Monday, November 3rd 7:30 PM Be There or Be Square! (We got Auctioneer Lare)

DON'T DO (it like) THIS!

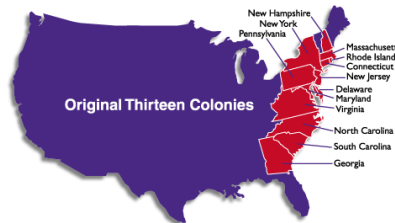
Nine-Fing -'er, uh I mean, Four-Fingers Farley (still recovering from the accident) was supposed to submit an article for this month's edition of Cappings, but he wasn't able to get it in on time. From what I understand, he just sits and mutters...

"Why couldn't my name be Three Fingers and a Thumb Farley? WHY?????"

Sorry, Farley.

So much for DON'T DO (it like) THIS!

In reverence for Farley, I'm going to lay it to rest and get serious (Don't think I can do it, do ya?) with a new segment called:



COLONY COLLAPSE DISORDER -- SOLVED!

(Well, maybe not SOLVED! exactly... more like SOLVED?)

Stay Tuned.

Letter from the Editor:

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SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS

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

AUCTION and ELECTIONS

Allmendinger Center, WSU Research & Extension

2606 W Pioneer, Puyallup



Monday, November 17th

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

PCBA Executive Board Meeting

Puyallup Public Library

324 S Meridian, Puyallup



Thursday, November 27th



Monday, December 1st

6:15 pm - 7:15 pm

Apprenticeship Class / Journeyman Study Group

followed by:

7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

PCBA General Meeting

Christmas Party

Allmendinger Center, WSU Research & Extension

2606 W Pioneer, Puyallup



Monday, December 15th

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

PCBA Executive Board Meeting

Puyallup Public Library

324 S Meridian, Puyallup



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Questions? Comments?

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

(Editor's discretion, of course!)

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Mike Korschuh, Editor

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

**ANYONE WISHING A MORE PRINT-FRIENDLY VERSION
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