

Cappings

Pierce County Beekeepers Association



Photo by Tina Tyler

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the year comes to an end, so also are the bees tucked away in their hives for the winter. Like you, I always worry how they are doing when the temperatures drop below freezing and the snow falls. I wonder how they keep warm and would love to do something to protect them from the elements. But we know that they are created with all the means necessary to survive these harsh winters. However, we know we can help them when we can.

Make sure there is no way the wind can blow into your hives by reducing the entrances and making sure the bottoms and sides are covered, especially if you use screened bottom boards. Scrape away dead bees and snow from the entrances to let your colonies breathe. And, if necessary, feed the bees with heavy syrup or candy on top of the inner covers to help them through the winter.

If you have done all you can for the bees, now is the time to rest and relax in anticipation for the work you will have to do to get your bees going again in the spring. Plan what you want to achieve next year and begin to build boxes and frames to meet these plans. Of course a lot of your plans rests on how the bees survive through the winter. Hopefully, the experienced beekeepers in our PCBA association have helped you gain knowledge and experience to do what you can to allow the bee's survival.

As you know, January marks the beginning of another class season for new beekeepers. We will need all the help from you to help these new beekeepers learn and get their colonies started. Please, even if you just started last year, become a mentor. You have a whole year's experience which will be greatly beneficial to those who are just starting. Keep active in the club, as we need everyone to join in learning.

The PCBA executive board is planning 3 Question and Answer sessions this next year... January, March and May. We're hoping this will give the new students and even you older students answers to your pressing questions. If we don't know the answer right off, we can always get them for you later.

We are also looking for anyone in the club who has a particular talent or specialty in areas like, wax rendering, lip balm making, mead making and equipment making, including gadgets you find useful to come forward and give presentations on these. Please let us know.

We, the board, are also considering adding new class times during the year. Perhaps we can also add a new class session in the summer going into the fall. We are looking for Journeyman beekeepers with at least 10 to 15 years experience to become teachers this year and next.

We also have a new swarm manager, Jeff Jones. Please sign up early as the PCBA provides this service to the community.

In closing, I want to thank everyone for your continued support this past year. We all do this for the love of bees, the beekeeper, and beekeeping. Without all of you, our club would not be what it is. If you have any ideas on how to make next year even better, let me know and I'll present it to the board. Please continue to volunteer as your help and participation is most valuable.

Thank You,
Louis Matej
President, PCBA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Apiary Report	2
Calendar	4
Classified Ads	3
From the Treasurer	2
From the Secretary	2
Library/Subscriptions	4
Membership Report	3
President's Message	1
WSBA	3
2014 Board Roster	3

JANUARY
2014
Volume 20, Issue 1



Regular meetings are at 7:30pm on the first Monday of each month, except July and September.

July is our annual club picnic. The September meeting is held on the fourth Monday of August to prepare for the Washington State Fair.

Club meetings are held at:

Allmendinger Building
WSU Extension Center
7612 Pioneer Way East,
Puyallup, WA

From January through June, Master Beekeepers classes are held at 6:15pm before the general meeting.


Board meetings are the third Monday of each month at 6:00pm. All members are welcome to attend and comment, but voting is limited to board members.

Board meetings are held at:

Puyallup Public Library
324 South Meridian
Puyallup, WA

All club correspondence should be sent to:

PCBA
PO Box 73744
Puyallup, WA 98373

 Come find us on
Facebook™
www.facebook.com/PCBAofficial



APIARY

The bees are doing well in this wet weather we are having now. It is winter in the north-west so we have lost two colonies but the others are doing well. I will get with Gary and set a date to set up a frame building demo at the honey house.

Thanks Jeff

The primary purpose of the PCBA apiary is to afford new beekeepers the opportunity to get hands on experience working with bees, while protecting the welfare of the colonies, with honey production as a secondary reward.

FROM THE SECRETARY

Hello Bee Friends,

I was elected Secretary of our organization before I knew what happened. I am looking forward to finding out how that gets done and spending time with the people who make Pierce County Beekeepers run. I have been attending for three years and really love this organization. Beekeepers are a special breed of county-girl (or guy)-gets-it-done. There are lots of ways of arriving at success and the ingenuity here never ends. I think beekeepers care more than the average individual and are courageous, too.

Currently, I am a Journeyman.

I have had my hive for a year. I built a carport for it. In this photo, I am smoking it, (photo on front page) adding hop guard and pollen patties two days after Christmas. I am so grateful to the people who have helped me!

Tina Tyler

FROM THE TREASURER

Hello, I'm Michael DeAngelo and I'm your new treasurer beginning this month. I'm new to beekeeping and in fact won't get my bees until around March since I missed the window of opportunity last year. That didn't stop me from jumping in head first though. I've had the advantage to do much reading, reaching, working the club apiary, talking with experts, joining the Journeyman's Program and completely over thinking every aspect of beekeeping. I got into beekeeping for two reasons: 1) I know nothing about bees and I love learning new things and 2) I thought it would be a great experience for my daughters. I am completely surprised by how much there is to learn and how interesting these creatures are.

My current status is that I received my bee boxes over Christmas and am assembling them now. I've decided to go with all 8-frame mediums in cedar. The cedar is for me, not the bees. I've love the look of that wood and these will be a fixture in my yard so the aesthetics are important to me and my marriage. I'm fabricating my own bottom and tops because I'm also going with all top entrances for the hives to help with moisture and ventilation. Like I said, I've had time to over think things.

As far as treasurer goes my priorities are: 1) make sure we stay fiscally healthy, 2) the apiary and training programs get the fiscal support they need, and 3) make it easier for members to do business with the Association.

I hope to have a great year as well as getting to meet more of you in the coming months.

Come chat with us at: www.wabeekeepersforum.proboards.com

2014 PCBA Executive Board Members

Louis Matej	President/Education Chairman
Renzy Davenport	Vice President/Program Director
Michael DeAngelo	Treasurer
Tina Tyler	Secretary
Larry Golden	Membership Chairman
Bob Pietila	Scholarship Chairman/Elections
Jeff Jones	Swarm Control Chairman
Susan YoungCrane	Mentor Chairman/Apiary Co-chair
James Getty	Education Chairman/Website
Ginger Carter	Newsletter Editor/Chairman
Kim Kapis	Website Co-Chair/Journeyman Chairman
Gary Moore	Apiary Chairman
Alisa Shorey	Spring and Fall Fair Booth Chairman
Kris Urv Wong	PCBA Honey Queen Program
Vacant	Honey Show Coordinator
Cathy McPeek	Refreshments
Charles Carter	Librarian/Subscriptions
Vacant	Raffle/Auction Coordinator

FROM THE WSBA

State Honeybee Work Group

When the WA State legislature extended the B&O tax exemption for beekeepers earlier this year, they included a proviso for the Dept of Agriculture to convene a honeybee working group to consider issues facing beekeepers in the state. That group had its first meeting in early December, with commercial beekeepers Eric Olson and Tim Hiatt, sidelineer Paul Hosticka, and small scale beekeepers Franclyn Heinecke and Krista Connor. Also on the group are representatives from tree fruit growers and seed farmers. Rounding out membership is Steve Shepherd and Brandon Hopkins from WSU, and people from the Dept of Ag and WA budget policy office.

The group's charge is to recommend policies and actions that would provide more favorable conditions for WA State beekeepers. Discussion at the first meeting focused on:

- Bee health and habitat
- Crop pollination and the interdependence between farmers and beekeepers
- Costs to operate various scales of beekeeping operations
- Regulations affecting beekeepers

The report to the legislature is due by the end of 2014. More details will be forwarded as they become available. If you have issues you would like brought to the group, or want more information, please contact me at 253.531.0933.

Franclyn Heinecke
Puyallup, WA
WSBA Region 2 Rep.

JANUARY 2014 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Active Members:

189 less 3 Comp & Other Bee Clubs

Holiday Party Attendance ~45

Due November

Ron & Lynda Barnard,
Charlie & Ginger Carter,
Steve Chanthavisay, James Erickson,
Ryan & Beth Hennigan,
Sarah Elizabeth Jackson,
Jeff Jones/Brian Rewert, Andy Matelich,
John Miller, Charles Schaffer,
Lou Torre

Due December

Jim & Kris Mendenhall

Due January

Tanissa Braun, Sally Bricka,
Laura Brooks, Kelly Buck,
Renzy Davenport, Theresa Devers,
Anita Fichthorn, Lisa Garnett,
James Getty, Brian & Carlene Gray,
Jerry & Caroline Green,
Alicia & sons Halbert,
Michael & Nori Henson,
Eowyn Hodorowski,
Amber Howard-McGinnis,
Alister Hunt, Dean Jacobson,
Gerald & Mary Jenson, Carroll Kastle,
Shannon King,
Anthony Koenig/Laura Barnes,
Eric Kuester, Keith Kusler,
Leslie Levenson, Steve & Kathy Manning,
Douglas McDonald, Laura McDonald,
Elsie McIver, Mark Mietzner,
David Mitman, Tim Modine,
Leigh Ann Myhre, Ronald Plewka,
Laurin Preston, April Prey, Don Pruett,
Kenneth Quirie, Jamie Redmond,
Jasun & Jaine Scheidler, Donovan Scott,
Alana Smith, Mark Thomas,
Charles Thornhill, Tina Tyler,
John Valentine, Keith Wood,
Sheila Wynn, Jesse Yates,
Susan YoungCrane

UPCOMING EVENTS

Happy New Year - January 1st

January 6th

- 6:15pm - Apprentice Class
Journeyman Study Group
- 7:30pm - General Meeting
Q&A Session

January 27th

(please note date change)

- 6:00pm - Board Meeting @ Puyallup Library

February 3rd

- 6:15pm - Apprentice Class
Journeyman Study Group
- 7:30pm - General Meeting

February 24th

(please note date change)

- 6:00pm - Board Meeting @ Puyallup Library



LIBRARY/SUBSCRIPTIONS

Don't forget, because you are a member of PCBA you can get a discount on your subscriptions to *Bee Culture* and *American Beekeeper* Magazines. If you want to take advantage of this discount, see the librarian at the next general meeting.

Do you have a photo, poem, short story, article, recipe or Classified Ad you would like to contribute to *Cappings*? If so, send it to me at:
pcba.newsletter@gmail.com

Harvard L. Robbins *Robbins Honey Farm*

Beekeeping Supplies, Bees, Honey

253-588-7033
253-370-0842

7910 - 148th ST SW
Lakewood, WA 98439

email: robbinsh@aol.com

Lincoln Mettler
**MOUNTAIN RAIN
BEE PRODUCTS**
Locally raised nucs and queens

12305 28th St. Ct. E. Edgewood, WA 98372
Phone: 253-826-3103 Cell: 253-330-4689
Email: mettlerfamily@comcast.net

Schaffer's Honey Bee Farms
~Pure Natural Raw Honey~

Charles E. Schaffer
Owner

28610 186th PL SE
Kent, WA 98042-5403

Phone: 253-315-5084
winterwood.gold@comcast.net
www.ceshoneybees.com

Package Bees
Nucs
Woodenware
Custom Extracting

Sunny Bee Honey Farm
beekeeping supplies

Alicia Halbert
38619 - 180th Ave. SE
Auburn, WA 98092
(253) 951-2687
sunnybee@skynetbb.com

Place your ad in
\$20
Cappings
for one year!