



BEE LINES

JANUARY 2012

NORTHWEST DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Regularly scheduled meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Meetings are held at 1305 Pine Avenue in Snohomish in the Christ the King Lutheran Church building.



New Year's Resolution:
Attend Beginners Session Jan. 10 at 6pm before regular meeting.

The purpose and function of the Association is the promotion of interest in bees and beekeeping throughout the northwest district of coastal Washington and most particularly, Snohomish County.

Club Meeting Tuesday, Jan. 10 at 7pm.

The proposed topic for January's meeting is pollen traps.

Come meet our new 2012 officers:

President:
Jim Tunnell
Vice President:
Gary Gibbons
Secretary:
Clare MacQueen

Secretary Intern:
Savannah Clendenen
Treasurer:
John Bryant
New Board Member:
Christina Robertson
New Board Alternate Member:
Shannon Bohling

Beginner Q & A Sessions Start Up This Month

Join us as we restart the beginner Q & A sessions that start up at 6pm

before the regular club meeting. Everyone is welcome to come join in the conversation.

Membership renewal reminder

Be sure to send in your membership renewals in January or sooner!

The membership form can be printed from the club Web site:

www.nwdba.org

Are you interested in contributing content, photos or book reviews to the NWBDA Web site www.nwdba.org? Help us make this an even better content-rich resource. Contact Dave Grimes at newsletter@nwdba.fatcow.com with your ideas!

Woodenware and Package Bee Order

More Details will be discussed January meeting about the club woodenware and package bee orders,.

The woodenware order deadline will be at the February 14th meeting and the package bee order deadline will be at the March 13th meeting.

Remember --

Membership must be up to date to participate in these group purchases.

To see prices or print out order form visit www.nwdba.org or see the copy on the last page of this newsletter.



DVD Review

Beekeeping: Beyond the Basics

Narrated by Ron Upshaw
www.worldofbeekeeping.com

Reviewed by Clare MacQueen.

Due to the luck of the draw, I received two DVDs from amongst the treasures of the White Elephant gift exchange at our Christmas potluck. The first, *The Vanishing of the Bees*, was nestled in a grocery-sized gift bag which was soon “stolen” from me during the festivities – all in good-natured fun, of course!

Fortunately, I got to keep the second DVD I drew, which turned out to be a nuts-and-bolts show. *Beekeeping: Beyond the Basics* stars Ron Upshaw and features Q-and-A cameos by NWDBA’s very own Dave Pearson, who, as many of you know, also teaches classes for beginning beekeepers.

For those unfamiliar with Ron, he’s a home-grown radio celebrity (Ron and Don News Talk, 97.3 KIRO FM), born in Mount Vernon and now living in Maple Valley. A few years ago, Ron became

interested in beekeeping and began researching the subject. To his frustration, much of what he read was either too vague or too technical.

So he decided to create for others the resource he had wished for as a beginner, naming it www.worldofbeekeeping.com, and including a forum where beekeepers can get practical and specific answers to their questions. This DVD is the second in a series inspired by requests from users of that forum, 2500 strong and growing.

Beekeeping: Beyond the Basics discusses safety tips, luring swarms, bee vacuums, hive rotation, combining hives, swapping hives, requeening, and making sugar fondant – not to mention these highlights: “Build a Deluxe Hive Stand” and “Hive Autopsy,” an informative investigation of a dead-out.

Ron’s personable, conversational style is appealing, even during longish segments such as

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construction of the hive stand, which I believe could have been pared down a bit. On the other hand, do-it-yourselfers might appreciate how the camera lingers. The addition of galvanized steel rods as a frame holder was unique, a stroke of brilliance, so who wouldn't be proud?

Ron includes generous previews of both videos online. Check them out, along with the forum and the website in general. Beginners in particular will find much interesting and useful info there. As he puts it, you can learn by watching over his shoulder.

I'm already looking forward to our next potluck and gift exchange—maybe I'll get lucky and draw another DVD!

Hot and Cool Bees

Clare also discovered at Ron Upshaw's website www.worldofbeekeeping.com a link to an awesome YouTube video about bees' infrared vision and "heater" bees. Astounding images and fascinating

information – and it's only seven minutes long.

Check it out: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zZEoAMfRICM>



Recent Bee Stories in the News

Study: Parasitic fly could explain bee die-off

<http://tinyurl.com/6qrpg7d>

A timely story about a parasitic fly that may be contributing to colony collapse disorder.

A New Threat to Honey Bees, the Parasitic Phorid Fly *Apocephalus borealis*

<http://tinyurl.com/7ffo88b>

(above articles submitted by Clare MacQueen)

Tiny saviors in our backyard

<http://tinyurl.com/7v6nsaf>

Research into wild bee populations in California

I'll Borrow Your Farm, You Keep My Bees

<http://tinyurl.com/77o6mpt>

A win-win beekeeping operation for everyone in New Jersey.

(above articles submitted by Colleen Brazil)

And a few words of inspiration from Clare MacQueen:

Do not think lightly of goodness, saying, "Nothing will help me improve." A pitcher is filled with water by a stream of drops; likewise, the wise person improves and achieves well-being a little at a time.

Find the official Northwest District Beekeepers Association Web site at:

<http://www.nwdba.org/>

