



BEE LINES

MARCH 2011

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.



Join us each month at 6pm before the regularly scheduled meeting for an informal beginner's discussion.

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.

Next club meeting Tuesday, March 8 at 7pm with guest speaker Janet Brisson.

Janet Brisson and her husband Mike have been a self-sufficient family and organic farmers for over 30 years. In 1995 they were forced to become hobbyist beekeepers due to lack of pollination as bees were losing their fight

against the insidious Varroa mites. Horrified to discover that even the most organic-minded beekeepers were driven to use some type of chemical to save their bees, the Brisson' researched and started building and using screened bottom boards along with intensive drone brood management to reduce their chemical use. After 10 years and various adaptations of SBB's, they re-

discovered using powdered sugar as an effective way of detaching varroa mites

Beginner session: We are having a speaker on mason bees which are really popular right now. We will also be available for general beginner questions.

and have been chemical free since the beginning of 2005. One final modification of their

See the film "Queen of the Sun: What are the bees telling us?" March 4-10, Daily at 7:15pm and 9:15pm Northwest Film Forum. For details and directions: <http://www.nwfilmforum.org/live/page/calendar/1668> Northwest Film Forum is located at 1515 12th Ave in the Capitol Hill neighborhood of Seattle, on 12th Avenue between Pike & Pine Street.

screened bottom board to make using powdered sugar easy, the Brissons developed their product, the Country Rubes Combo Screened Bottom Board, that has become nationally available to beekeepers.

Janet's program "Healthy Bees & Environmentally Friendly Varroa Control" will discuss how to monitor and manage your hives, bees and varroa mites using screened bottom boards, powdered sugar, and drone brood manipulations.

Club Special: Janet says "We will be bringing our Blems or seconds, screened bottom boards that have been slightly repaired or have a crack or knot and a plain white 'sticky board'. These SBB's are weatherproofed and totally functional, but because of the defects, we don't feel comfortable selling them to our distributors. We will be selling Blems for \$28.00 plus your local tax. We can take cash or checks."

"If you wish to purchase our First Quality screened bottom boards with the Gridded

'Stickies' for \$35.00+tax, please email me at rubes@countryrubes.com or call [530-913-2724](tel:530-913-2724) and let me know how many we should bring."

"The weatherproofed SBB's are ready to go on your hive. These boards are not paintable. For Unfinished Paintable SBB's with Gridded 'Stickies', also \$35.00+tax please contact me as I usually don't bring these along. I will also have entrance reducers (\$2.00) and robbing screens (\$10.00), also weatherproofed."

You won't want to miss this interesting presentation and special deals at the March 8th Meeting!

Gloves are in!

They will be handed out at the mtg. If you paid to have them mailed you should get them any day.

Shannon is still getting orders but at some point we need to cut off additional orders. She hopes to have some woodenware available at the mtg.

Message from Vice President David Pearson

"If I remember, we will be handing out membership cards to anyone who has not yet received one."

Important Reminder To All Members

Your club dues need to be in good standing by the end of the month.

Only up to date members will be able to participate in the swarm call out list and any club group sales.

Club Note

As part of the WSBA request to increase members trying to obtain their Journeyman level certificate I am considering offering a once a month session to study and take the exam. This session would probably be held in the Snohomish Library and would be two hours long. There would be ten sessions and after each session you would be able to submit the test for that session.

I would like to hear from anyone who would be

(cont.) interested in taking this course. The only cost is \$10 for the Journeyman book. If I get enough interest I will set it up and have details posted on the website. -- David Pearson

Beekeeping class is great value.

Last month we donated two seats in our February class to the JROTC for their annual fundraiser. As some of you may be aware this is the oldest and one of the largest JROTC programs around and was on the verge of being eliminated due to funding cuts last year. The auction goes a long way towards keeping this great program open.

We have received a letter from the organization thanking us for our donation and letting us know that the two gift certificates that we donated raised almost \$600. This was way more than I expected them to raise and I am very pleased to see that beekeeping is held in such high regard. -- David Pearson

Minutes from Washington State

Beekeepers Association (WSBA) Executive board meeting, Feb. 2011.

In attendance for NWDBA were Shannon Boling - President. David Pearson -Vice President, Anna Pearson - Secretary.

The Master Beekeeping Committee has decided to make a few changes to the current program. The first change is the requirement to have been a beekeeper for two years to obtain your journeyman certificate has been increased to three years, at the same time the four year requirement for Master beekeeper has been reduced to Three years.

Additionally we are looking at creating a more formal and structured class for the Journeyman portion. The committee would like to see associations do more to help members become Journeyman level beekeepers.

After the committees finished we had the main meeting.

WSBA membership came up for discussion. In general dues are slow

to come in and the trend is declining membership and increased associate membership. They are looking at adding an online payment option to their website. Also WSBA is going to do more to promote the benefits of supporting WSBA.

Did you know that WSBA was one of the main groups involved in getting Australian package bees banned from being imported into the US? They were also instrumental in getting the B&O tax waived for beekeepers in WA. Speaking of B&O, this exemption is due to expire in 2013 and WSBA is already forming a team to push for its extension, something that will not be easy in the current fiscal squeeze that the state is in.

Additionally did you know that according to the Department of Agriculture, beekeeping is Farming and as such we qualify for several tax breaks and incentives or at least we should. The IRS has decreed that beekeeping is not farming and a fight is brewing and (cont. next page)

(cont.) WSBA will in the forefront.

The State convention is in October this year and it will be held in Federal Way (more details to follow).

Everyone should make an effort to attend this 3 day event. There are many great speakers being lined up and the theme this year will be urban beekeeping, which should be of great interest to many of our members.

Details can be found as they become available on the WSBA website <http://www.wasba.org/>.

The Field day will be in June, this usually has a great turnout and should be a lot of fun. I did not record where it will be held this year but again details will be on the WSBA website soon.

Shannon brought the Bee license plate to the attention of the Board and she has been asked to submit a detailed request to the Board at their next meeting in Oct.

We had a report from Eric Olsen who is the largest beekeeper in

WA. He sent 13,000 strong healthy hives to CA in Nov - Dec and when they inspected them in January 9000 were dead. No explanation has yet been found. Dr. Sheperd from WSU has a team on the ground investigating and for now all they can say is, only one varroa mite was found, Nosema was limited or non existent and so far nothing is standing out. We should note that Eric was part of the testing group for Hopguard and he was very happy with the results. He also reported that 3 or 4 other large commercial outfits had been hit just as bad.

Minutes from NWDBA Meeting February 8, 2011.

A video on Canadian beekeeping was shown at the early session.

The treasurer's report was given on the balance of both checking and savings accounts.

Glove orders were taken by David P. and woodenware and bee orders taken by Shannon.

The local representative for WSBA reported on Hopguard, a new treatment for varroa mites. Mann Lake has it but is waiting for EPA to approve what the labels will say. You can place an order with them by phone and it will ship when available.

Mite away quick strips have been approved in Oregon on Feb. 4th. These should be available for purchase sometime soon.

Announcement made that a hands-on beekeeping course will be held at 21 Acres. Details can be found at <http://21acres.org/>.

We watched a video called "The Bee Works". A disclaimer was made that it was filmed in Ontario, Canada. They didn't use Langstroth hives. Theirs were more square and deeper, took 11 frames and had an extra top box for air space. The meeting was adjourned.

Find the official Northwest District Beekeepers Association Web site at:

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