

December 2015



Regularly scheduled meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at:

**Christ the King Lutheran Church**  
1305 Pine Avenue  
Snohomish, WA

A beginner's Q&A session starts promptly at 6PM and the regular meeting begins at 7PM.

All are welcome, from "new-bees" to experts. Please drop by and join the conversation. Share your experience and your questions!

New members are welcome to mail the completed form, or simply bring it to the next meeting.

We look forward to seeing you there!

NORTHWEST DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

# BEE LINES

Our mission: to promote interest in honey bees and beekeeping through the northwest district of western Washington, and, in particular, Snohomish County.

## Presidents Buzz

### Mark Salser, NWDBA President

Thanks to all who made it to our November meeting for elections and our honey tasting! I know that some consider officer elections boring and a meeting to be skipped, but they are a necessary part of running a successful club. The time put in by all of those who volunteer is what keeps our club successful and growing.

I'm super excited about NWDBA and trying to make it as useful and interesting as we can. I'd like to encourage everyone to consider how they can become involved in that idea of improving our club. Whether it's by deciding that you are ready to take on a 'newbee' and serve as their mentor, by submitting an article for this newsletter, or by getting involved with the planning of our events and talks, all of those things help keep our club vibrant! If your busy schedule only allows you to come to meetings and make an effort introduce yourself to those you don't know yet and chat about your bees with them, even that helps make the club welcoming and useful. If you can manage more, then please do – it will be greatly appreciated!

## NWDBA Board Members

Mark Salser, President

Mike Kossian, V-President

Lori McConnell, Secretary

Mary Rider, Treasurer

Tim Ade, Board Member

Helen Crozier, Board Member

Joe Canfield, Board Member

Visit Us Online @ [nwdba.org](http://nwdba.org)

Do you need a mentor?

[mentor\\_program](mailto:mentor_program@nwdba.fatcow.com)

[@nwdba.fatcow.com](mailto:mentor_program@nwdba.fatcow.com)

## December Meeting-December 8 It's time for our Holiday Party!!

Party begins at 6:00.

What to bring?

a dish to share...anything from salad to dessert,  
a wrapped gift to share (no need to spend a lot of money),  
a memory of what you remember from this past year  
along with ideas for the future,  
and your *inner-party self!*



## December "To-Do" List

### Northwest District Beekeepers Assn. October To-Do List for the Puget Sound\*

**Stores and feeding:** Begin checking hive weight. If a hive begins to feel light, consider placing sugar blocks or dry sugar on the hive. Some Beekeepers begin placing pollen patties on hives towards the end of December. The reason for this is that the Queen will begin laying eggs after the Winter Solstice.

**Insulation/Ventilation:** Some beekeepers place a variety of insulating & moisture absorbing materials beneath the outer cover. If moisture absorbing materials are used, it is recommended that these materials are inspected and replaced periodically through the winter. Whether using insulation or not, take care to maintain an upper entrance to assure ventilation and a second bee entrance that will be available to the colony in case snow or other debris clogs the bottom entrance.

**Mouse Guards:** Check that your mouse guards are properly positioned to prevent little critters from taking shelter inside the hive.

**Mite Treatment:** There are a number of beekeepers who treat their hives for mites towards the end of December. Hopguard is one product, among others, that is used. If you intend to do this, it is important to become very familiar with the product and its recommended application for this time of year.

**Equipment:** December is a good time to order any new equipment that fits your needs and plans for this coming Spring. By ordering in December, you will avoid price increases that usually are made in January. You will also have a month or two to assemble and paint your new equipment before things get busy in the spring!

**Relax:** The active portion of the year for managing Honey Bees is winding down (however there is always something more to do!!).

**Education:** Winter is a great time to pursue ways to improve our knowledge and skills for next season.

**Magazines:** Bee Culture, American Bee Journal

**Books:** "The Beekeeper's Journal" by Dianna Sammataro & Alphonse Avitabile  
"Beekeeping for Dummies"

Many good books published by Wicwas Press: <http://www.wicwas.com/books>

**Internet links:** There are MANY great links on the internet. For information concerning any specific issue, use a search engine to investigate specific topics.

Randy Oliver's website: <http://scientificbeekeeping.com/>

Michael Palmer: <http://nhbees.wordpress.com/tag/mike-palmer/>

**Network with other Beekeepers:** Get together with other beekeepers in your local area. This can prove to be enjoyable, but can prove to be very valuable to your Beekeeping experience. Among the many advantages of building relationships with fellow beekeepers are: problem solving; knowledge sharing; giving assistance in each other's yards; enjoying an occasional cup of coffee or a meal with someone with common interests, etc.

**\*Calendar vs Weather:** It is important to keep in mind that decisions are more dependent on prevailing weather conditions than on specific calendar dates!

*Sunshine Apiaries*  
 Mike Miller/206-295-3617  
[Sunshineapiaries@gmail.com](mailto:Sunshineapiaries@gmail.com)

- o Local NW queens \$35
- o 5 Frame Overwintered Nuc\$ \$140
- o Honey

*Proud sponsor of NWDBA*



For Sale:  
 5 Frame NUC Colonies  
 Locally Mated Queens

CONTACT: Larry Brainard  
 Tel: 425.478.0575 | [larrybrainard@comcast.net](mailto:larrybrainard@comcast.net)

**WELCOME TO THE HIVE**

Our new members in December:  
**Mike McKenna**




Ladies and Gentlemen...  
 Queens and Drones...  
 The moment we have all been waiting for!  
 Our annual Honey Contest winners....  
 A big thank you to Mike Kossian for organizing this event!!

Category	1st Place	2nd Place
Wildflower	John Weber	Mary Oosterhoff
Blackberry	Larry Brainard	Fred Peers
Fireweed	Mike Kossian	Mike Miller
Maple	Mike Miller	Mike Kossian
Knotweed	Fred Peers	

**A BIG THANK YOU!**

To everyone who helped to make this last year a great success!!  
 Including our outgoing board members, Mike Miller, Judy Gudyka and Larry Brainard. You are all awesome!!

**Mark Your Calendar!**  
 January  
 Meeting date  
 January 12, 2016

The 2016 membership dues are due on January 1st.  
 \$15.00 Individual - \$20.00 Family

American Bee Journal Subscriptions  
 25% off for club members  
 1 year \$21.00 - 2 year \$39.75 - 3 year \$56.25