



**Next Meeting**

Wednesday, January 14      Time: 7 PM  
 Gateway Centre Suites      1313 E. Maple St.  
 The Rainier Room, Ste. 301      Bellingham, WA

**ABOUT OUR NEW VENUE**

This will be the second meeting in our new location; for complete information and directions, go to: <http://gatewaytotaloffice.com/TheRainierSeminarRoom>

**JANUARY MEETING AGENDA**

-  Announcement of February speaker, Bruce Eckholm (see also page 2)
-  Details about Miguel Boriss's February workshop at Whatcom Community College
-  Possible last-minute speaker; check in with the MBBA website for more info. <http://www.mtbakerbeekeepers.org>

**Membership is due**

In an effort to make the Mount Baker Beekeepers Association more vibrant, and to offer more benefits to our members, dues have been restructured. Please see the attached "Membership FAQ" PDF for all the information.

**Refreshments**

Anyone who cares to share, bring something yummy to give us an excuse to socialize and schmooze about bees.  
 (Don't forget clean-up!)

Happy New Year!

**THINGS TO DO IN JANUARY**

- ◆ Sign up for an online beekeeping course—see links on page 4 of this newsletter. (Or check out Miguel Boriss's class info on page 2.)
- ◆ Order a new book; check out the great selection from Wicwas Press <http://www.wicwas.com>
- ◆ **NEWBEES:** Order your equipment and be ready for spring!
- ◆ Get your woodenware ready; get new frames to replace any that need to be rotated out.
- ◆ Do something different—one of our members dyed her bee suit fushia.



**EVENTS COMING IN JANUARY**

The 2015 Cattleman's Winterschool & Country Living Expo, presented by WSU Extension is taking place in Stanwood on Saturday, January 31. More than 185 classes in a huge array of agricultural interests will be offered. Among them will be "Rearing High Quality Queens," taught by Sue Cobey. The course description reads: "A fertilized honey bee egg has the potential to be a worker bee or a queen bee. The basic concepts to determine which pathway she takes and the beekeeping steps required to produce queens will be presented. Practical tips on how to rear high-quality queens will be reviewed." All the information on the classes and all-day trade show can be found at: <http://ext100.wsu.edu/skagit/countrylivingexpo/>

## WEBINAR REVIEW



Bee biologist and web speaker  
Barrett Klein



MBBA's first ever webinar topic was not your run-of-the-mill beekeeping fare. Biology professor from the University of Wisconsin, Barrett Klein entertained us with his incredible research into the sleep habits of bees. He explained his rather bizarre methods of keeping bees awake to see how that might affect their behavior.

(You can learn more about Klein and his research at <http://www.uwlax.edu/profile/bklein/>)

Our group came up with some provocative questions for the speaker, which he seemed to enjoy. One comment after the talk was that the subject matter could have been a little dry, but Klein's passion for his work and engaging delivery made it enjoyable. Our new facility was mostly up to the webinar task; a new projector is in the works.

Contact Barrett Klein at <mailto:barrett@pupating.org> and perhaps see how his thoughts regarding whether or not bees dream are coming along.

According to one at-home audience member, the remote connection worked well and wasn't too difficult to set up. Before all webinars, instructions on how to log-in will be sent out along with topic information.

Webinars will be available to MBBA members in a video archive, and Klein's is already there.

## COMING IN FEBRUARY

### *Beginning Beekeeping with MBBA member Miguel Boriss*

This new workshop at Whatcom Community College covers the basics of beekeeping, including setting up an apiary, managing your bees through the seasons, and being a good beekeeping steward in your neighborhood. The one-session workshop will be held on Saturday, February 28 from 9 am to noon. Registration is \$39, and participants are encouraged to register early. Call 360.383.3200 or register online at [www.whatcomcommunityed.com](http://www.whatcomcommunityed.com).



Our speaker for February, Dr. Bruce Eckholm will be discussing how "Honey bee intra-colonial genetic diversity increases foraging efficiency."

Originally from the Seattle area, Dr. Eckholm spent six years at the USDA Carl Hayden Bee Research

Center in Tucson, AZ. With the Tucson bee lab, he is currently developing a web-based tool for almond growers that will ultimately help the almond industry gain an understanding of the scale of colony losses.

### *Tales from the Outback*

The Outback Farm Apiary at WWU had to be dressed warmly for the winter due to its very shaded location. Hefting the hives indicated good stores, but caretaker Michael Jaross will be checking them until spring, when we'll post an update on their progress.





*Hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season!*



*MBBA member and commercial beekeeper Russell Deptuch and grandson Travis deliver “Bee’s Choice” creamed honey for Christmas 2014. “Bee’s Choice” honeys and other products are available at many events throughout the year— watch for postings in future Bee Bits.*

*In case you missed it....*

or definitely if you tried Ellen Gehling’s wonderful Lithuanian honey liqueur, “Krupnikas” at the December meeting and would like the recipe, here is the link, along with some lovely prose and pictures:



<http://globaltableadventure.com/2012/01/12/recipe-lithuanian-honey-spirits-krupnikas/>

*Thank you, Ellen!*

### VITA PHOTO CONTEST



*Boštjan Tovornik’s winning entry for the 2014 Vita Photo Competition*



*Still looking for a 2015 calendar?*

*Enjoy the photos from Vita-Europe’s annual contest and see what made their calendar:*

<http://www.vita-europe.com/news/vita-photo-competition-winners-2014/>

Vita (Europe) Limited is a mite control and honeybee health specialist. It is the world’s largest dedicated supplier of honeybee health products to the honey and pollination industries. With a rigorous and ethical approach to research and development into honeybee health, Vita has no commercial interests in crop pesticides or crop breeding that may be harmful to honeybees. With headquarters in the UK, offices in Italy, France and Russia, and partners across the globe, Vita researches, develops, and manufactures a range of honeybee health products.



## EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Aside from local classes and traveling far afield, there are a wealth of available internet options.

Penn State Beekeeping 101 course was offered last fall (for a fee), check their site for future courses: <http://beekeeping101.psu.edu>

Ohio State Beekeepers Association has an online training program that features a series of videos (free), which are also available on a 2-DVD set (\$25.): [http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/beekeeping\\_class/](http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/beekeeping_class/)

University of Montana will put you on the mailing list for upcoming information regarding their online programs: <http://www.umt.edu/sell/programs/bee/>

In addition to their online videos on a variety of subjects, retailer Brushy Mountain Bee Farm hosts webinars from time to time: <http://www.brushymountainbeefarm.com/>



There's always great information in the two main beekeeping magazines:

American Bee Journal <http://www.americanbeejournal.com>

and

Bee Culture <http://www.beeeculture.com>

They also have online bulletins that you can sign up for, and, of course, their websites are packed with information, as well.



### HELP WANTED

Looking for enthusiastic beekeepers who have taken online courses or participated in webinars and would like to share their experiences. Reply to: [beebits@mtbakerbeekeepers.org](mailto:beebits@mtbakerbeekeepers.org)

### ALSO NEEDED:

Consider taking a few minutes to further the education of your fellow beekeepers, and maybe enhance your own skills by submitting a **book review** or sharing a particularly helpful **online link**. One of our fellow beekeepers from Skagit Valley, Anita Anderson-Johnson, recommends a YouTube video by Peter Borst on how to make successful splits. Find it at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NxDwz9M87Xw>

Worth watching if just to find out why Anita says Borst "thinks like a bee."

Submit your reviews to [beebits@mtbakerbeekeepers.org](mailto:beebits@mtbakerbeekeepers.org); perhaps we can gather enough resources to have a valuable database on the MBBA website.

