



Next Meeting

Wednesday, July 8 Time: 7 PM
 Gateway Centre Suites 1313 E. Maple St.
 The Rainier Room, Ste. 301 Bellingham, WA

PLANTING FOR POLLINATORS

One of our gardener members offers some great advice on planting bee forage.

JULY MEETING SPEAKER

Weed or wildflower? Noxious, invasive species or good bee forage? Our July meeting speaker, Laurel Baldwin, Coordinator for the Whatcom County Noxious Weed Board knows the answers to these questions, and can probably shed light on beekeepers love/hate relationship with Himalayan blackberry.



Some Notes on Anise Hyssop

by Ellen Gehling

If I could plant but one plant for my bees, it would be Anise Hyssop, *Agastache foeniculum*. Like so many plants in the mint family, Anise Hyssop is very attractive to bees, both honey and bumble. A North American native to prairies, it grows 3' to 4' tall, and is a short-lived perennial that freely self seeds. It is drought tolerant and deer-proof. Flowering begins in July and it will continue flowering until frost if provided water during the droughty days of summer in the Pacific Northwest.

The honey is light in color and has a delicate minty flavor. Peter Lindtner in his book Garden Plants for Honey Bees, rates it three stars for nectar and one for pollen. Get seeds from: www.uprisingseeds.com. Best to plant from seed in the spring. This plant likes sun and well-drained soil.

In addition to gardening and beekeeping, Ellen's beautiful Wandering Waters Farm in Maple Falls is a popular wedding venue:

<http://www.mtbakerweddings.com/>



Pretty or poison?

The main objective of Whatcom County's Noxious Weed Program is to ensure that landowners control noxious weeds on their properties.

Check out this really nice link to the Washington State Noxious Weed Board list of publications and other info:

http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/nwcb_publications.htm

Meeting Refreshments

Anyone is welcome to bring something to eat or drink and give us an excuse to schmooze. And thanks for cleaning up after!



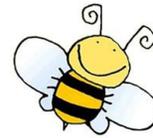
MORE FREE SEEDS!

Michael Jaross just received two big boxes with 1,000 packets of Burpee's Bee and Butterfly Flower Mix courtesy of The President's National Pollinator Initiative, USDA and US Dept. of Interior. Find out more about this program and other fun bee stuff at: <http://www.burpee.com/gardening/content/gygg/burpee-s-bee-and-butterfly-pollinators/pollinators.html> Contact Michael (michaeljaross@gmail.com) if you know of any programs that could use these seeds--community garden groups, school garden programs, church groups, urban seed bombers, etc. MBBA will be giving out the packets at our meetings and other events. Come and get seeds to get those wildflowers out there!

JO MILLER'S APPRENTICE BEEKEEPERS



Students enjoy final-class festivities, including beeswax candle making and honey ice cream at Jo Miller's popular Apprentice Beekeeping class. Following a well-deserved break, Jo will let us know when to expect her next Apprentice class. In the meantime, those who have completed the class may participate in the Journeyman discussion sessions.



And speaking of the Journeyman discussions, here are observations from MBBA Secretary Janet Wilson:

I just wanted to let you all know that one of the myriad benefits of taking the Journeyman class under the tutelage of Jo Miller was getting her advice on queen rearing.

I had been taught to take out a few frames off bees into a nuc with a couple of frames of stores, feed and let them raise up queen cells and with any luck a new, wild mated queen.

That worked well enough...I think I had about an 80% success rate, and the queens were mostly pretty good performers.

However, Jo advised me to do it a bit differently...take out the Queen and a court into the nuc, and let the main hive, which would have more resources, do the queen rearing (checking to make sure that not too many cells were being raised...I cut out all but the best 2 or 3 when multiples appeared).

That made sense, so that is what I did this spring. Wow. What a difference! I am finding the queens raised this way are much larger than the ones I have raised in the past and am hoping that translates into a better and longer lay rate as well.

But if nothing else, these barn-burners are a whole lot easier to find in the hive!

Remember, those of you going on from Beekeeping Apprentice to Journeyman or Master Beekeeper, that you may acquire your progress points by submitting articles and photos to Bee Bits!

Also, regarding queen rearing, this valuable link from last month's Skagit newsletter bears repeating: <http://thebeeyard.org/queen-rearing-calendar/> In addition to the handy and comprehensive queen calendar, this site from the Beekeepers of the Susquehanna Valley is a wealth of information.

WHOSE HIVE IS THAT ANYWAY?



MEET KELLY PEDERSON

by Nick Molenda

Kelly Pederson is a first-year beekeeper who is off to a great start. She has one hive set up in the front yard of her Bellingham neighborhood. "I'm so excited to have honey bees. They are so much fun." Kelly found the MBBA website and signed up for Jo Miller's Apprentice bee class, which began in March. The next day was her first bee club meeting and she ordered a new package of bees. "I was off and running. There is always something to do with the bees. My favorite thing to do is inspecting the hive. I enjoy looking inside and seeing what's going on."

Kelly says she has learned a lot from Jo Miller's instruction. "We learn all the basics of raising bees. There is a lot of information about diseases and how to manage the hive. We went on several field trips to different apiaries to practice how to handle the bees. Jo Miller's class rocks!" Kelly has alternated every other frame in the honey super with foundation-less frames. "I'm interested in getting honey and wax. With just one hive this summer, Kelly hopes she can have more in the future and to raise bees as naturally as possible.

Working with gifted equipment, Kelly started with a deep and a medium box, but she really wanted to work all mediums. When Jo visited Kelly's hive on the



One of Kelly's foundation-less honey frames—she's alternating them in her honey super to yield both honey and wax.

class field trip, Kelly expressed the desire to somehow transition out of the deep. So, under Jo's careful instruction, Kelly located the queen (marked her) and then put her in the top, medium box. Then a queen excluder was placed between the two. After 21 days (right around July 4), the brood in the bottom deep will all have emerged and she can remove that box. What to do with the honey, pollen, or nectar still in the deep will probably require a follow-up call to Jo.

**HEADS UP!
NEWS ABOUT
AUGUST MEETING**



Starting with the August meeting, we are moving our monthly meeting from the 2nd to the **3rd Wednesday of each month**. So, the August meeting will be held on the 19th instead of the 12th. The July meeting is still scheduled for Wednesday July 8.

It's that time again, for the 2015 Vita international honeybee and beekeeping photo competition!

The fourth annual Vita photo competition is now open for entries to anyone with an interest in beekeeping or honeybees.

Winners' photographs will appear in the 2016 Vita (Europe) Ltd Calendar and they will each receive a copy of the limited edition calendar. There will also be a cash prize plus beekeeping products for the best as judged by an international panel of beekeeping journalists and suppliers.

<http://beetime.eu/2015-vita-international-honeybee-and-beekeeping-photo-competition/>

Our bee-friendly folks in Davis, CA, get WILD:

<http://patch.com/california/davis/uc-davis-involved-major-wild-bee-research-0>

