



# BEEBITS

## NEWSLETTER

### Next Meeting

Wednesday, May 13      Time: 7 PM  
 Gateway Centre Suites      1313 E. Maple St.  
 The Rainier Room, Ste. 301      Bellingham, WA

### UPCOMING EVENTS

The British Columbia Honey Producers Association (BCHPA) has put together seven Integrated Pest Management (IPM) workshops to be held around the province, the



nearest one for us is at *Campbell's Gold Honey Farm, 2595 Lefevre Rd, Abbotsford, BC. It will be held on Saturday, May 30 from 1–4 pm.*

Heather Higo will be the speaker for the session, and is highly recommended by our friend Wayne Neidig, who is coordinating these workshops.

All speakers have been chosen for their vast knowledge of pest management and will be discussing acceptable pest infestation levels and monitoring practices, as well as genetic, mechanical, physical, biological and chemical controls. They will review the advantages and disadvantages of beekeeping using IPM. Disadvantages? That should pique your interest!

Go to <http://www.bcbeekeepers.com> for more information or to prepay with PayPal. You can also pay the \$25 fee at the door.

Heather's Bio: Under Mark Winston, Heather Higo received a masters in bee research from Simon Fraser University (SFU). She later hosted the bee masters program at SFU and worked on the IPM project with Agriculture Canada. She is currently continuing her bee research with University of British Columbia.

### EVENTS IN MARCH AND APRIL



With the symbiotic relationship between bees and plants, MBBA was a natural addition to the annual Whatcom native plant sale held at WCC on Saturday, March 28. Gary and Susan Cluett and Jim Lyons braved the cold weather to inform the public about the importance of bees.

MBBA participated in Bellewood Farms' *Apple Blossom and Honey Bee Festival* on April 26. The event, which included a 5K run, beekeeping demonstration, and a talk by Sue Cobey, was a benefit for honey



bee research at WSU. Bellewood's well-stocked gift shop features honey from Skagit as well as many bee-related items and books.



**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!*

## UPCOMING EVENTS, CONTINUED



Albany, OR, June 6-7

The Mother Earth News Fair, with venues all over the country, will be held in Albany, Oregon, this year. All the information regarding the fair, plus a schedule of speakers and workshops may be found at:

<http://www.motherearthnews.com/fair/home.aspx>

Of particular interest to beekeepers, there will be some excellent, well-known speakers. On Saturday, June 6, Matt Reed of *Bee Thinking* will address

Beginning Beekeeping with an emphasis on natural methods.

Also on Saturday, Shane Gebauer of *Brushy Mtn.* will ask, "What does it take to be a beekeeper?" Shane has another

session on Sunday: Maintaining Healthy Hives. Last, but not least, Kim Flottum of *Bee Culture* magazine addresses Honey Bee Nutrition on Sunday, June 7.

## LINKS TO LOVE

You may already be familiar with Rusty at *Honey Bee Suite* ("A Better Way to Bee") if you've searched for any resources online. Her blog, as well as the references on her site are excellent. Explore

everything from great reader photos to tips (such as using a heat gun to get propolis off excluders!) and thoughtful observances, such as this advice to new beekeepers:



<http://www.honeybeesuite.com/my-advice-for-new-beekeepers/>

## BAYER "FEED-A-BEE" PROGRAM

One way to help is to increase the number of bees and other pollinators in your area by including plants that provide essential habitat. Here are some that can be grown in most areas of the U.S., although it's ideal to plant native plants.

1 Aster	11 Oregano
2 Beardtongue, Pentstemon	12 Redbud (tree)
3 Bells, Phacelia	13 Rosemary
4 Black-eyed Susan	14 Sage (such as Salvia)
5 Bluebeard, Caryopteris	15 Sunflower
6 Catmints	16 Thyme
7 Coneflower	17 Tickseed, Coreopsis
8 Gaillardia	18 Toadflax, Linaria
9 Lamb's Ear	19 Verbena
10 Lavender	20 Yarrow

Share the buzz with your friends and let's keep planting!

SHARE

*"Beekeeping is a business that requires the greatest amount of attention to details... The good beekeeper is generally more or less cranky."*  
- C.P. Dadant

From the Bayer Feed-A-Bee site

As part of their commitment to a goal of growing 50 million flowers for bees, Bayer Crop

Science is distributing packets of 200 seeds to the general public and beekeeping organizations. Thanks to Michael Jaross, MBBA was the recipient of 700 of the packets. We'll be giving them out at meetings, WWU, and any events, like the Bellewood Farms Honey Bee Festival. Be sure to pick up a packet or two and get planting! The wildflower mix includes: Shasta Daisy, Lance-leaf Coreopsis, Plains Coreopsis, Wild Cosmos, Sulphur Cosmos, Purple Coneflower, Dwarf Sunflower Sunspot, Sweet Alyssum, Baby Blue Eyes, Lacy Phacelia, Yellow Prairie Coneflower, Mexican Hat, Black-eyed Susan, African Marigold, Crimson Clover, Zinnia, Bee Balm, California Poppy and Indian Blanket. For more information, please visit [beehealth.bayer.us](http://beehealth.bayer.us) or <http://feedabee.com/>. The site offers some helpful tips, such as the planting chart seen above, and some quite beautiful bee photos.



## BEE TRUCK TRAGEDY



A scene from the April 17 crash on I-5 that cost Belleville Honey scores of hives and millions of bees

--BURLINGTON, WA

Business at Belleville Honey is thankfully back to usual after their tractor-trailer loaded with more than 400 hives overturned on Interstate 5 north of Seattle last month. According to co-owner Heather Thompson, they were able to salvage just 72 hives, and it was necessary to re-queen 51 of those. The truck was totaled, but the trailer will be serviceable after some repair.

“Everybody’s good,” Heather commented, glad that the calls have stopped coming in from local and national media, as well as the confused public. And on the bright side, offers of help came in from “all over”; people even offering to build replacement woodenware. “We appreciate all the good will that people sent our way,” Heather emphasized. Co-owner Eric Thompson, who works with the farmer

*“We appreciate all the good will that people sent our way.” --Heather Thompson*

clients of Belleville found them to be very accommodating, and, with the aid of an eastern Washington beekeeper’s extra hives, Belleville has been able to meet all their pollination commitments. As you can imagine, Belleville has never been able to insure the bees, but with insurance covering other factors, such as loss of income, the bottom line won’t be so bad.

Of course, the accident happened on the day when packages were set to arrive and be picked up, adding to the chaos. But even as hundreds of people showed

up to pick up or see what was going on, operations continued pretty smoothly, and son Hunter Thompson calmly carried on as spokesman for the company in news interviews.

As the primary beekeeping equipment supplier for those of us in Whatcom county, we appreciate having Belleville there for us, and wish them continued success.



### Molded Plastic Frames For Sale

New, black 6-1/4" Pierco frames, well coated with wax. I have about 200. \$2.00 each. Contact Ellen if you are interested --photos available.

Phone/text 360-599-3425 or [ellenmgehling@gmail.com](mailto:ellenmgehling@gmail.com)

Find information about Pierco frames at: <http://www.pierco.net/index.htm>

### Editor's note:

Anyone with equipment, beekeeping supplies, or anything of particular interest to beekeepers, submit your information to: <mailto:beebits@mtbakerbeekeepers.org>