

Next Meeting

Wednesday, July 20 Time: 7 PM
 Gateway Centre Suites 1313 E. Maple St.
 The Rainier Room, Ste. 301 Bellingham, WA
 "Bee-giners" session: 6–7 PM Rainier Room



Another method of attaching a robbing screen



And here is an interesting variation

HIVE ROBBING



During periods of scarce food resources, foraging bees, like the one shown here, invade weaker hives and rob them of their honey. Photo by Kathy Keatly Garvey, UC Davis.

With all the moisture this year, robbing may not be as much a problem as it was last year, but it's always good to be prepared with robbing screens.

Seen from the side in this photo, the screen is placed on the hive at night or in the early morning before the foragers go out. As they leave the hive they figure out how to get back. Amazingly, bees learn their own screen maze, but have trouble with the one on the hive next door.

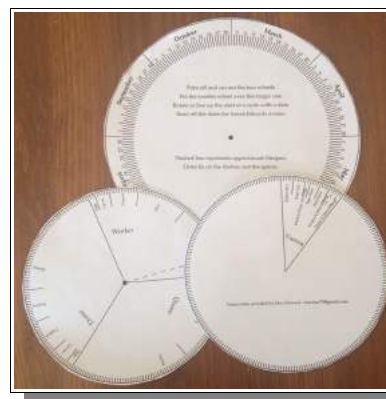


All the beekeeping suppliers offer robbing screens, like the one from Country Rubes seen here, or you can make your own—look up "robbing screens" on youtube. Eric Mussen, formerly of UC Davis has good info on screens at: <http://entomology.ucdavis.edu/files/147611.pdf>

CALCULATOR FOR BEES' LIFE CYCLES

From the North Olympic Peninsula Beekeepers' newsletter comes this useful Life Cycle Calculator. From the link below, print the two main wheels on heavy card stock, cut them out, secure the center and align to give you specific dates for the life cycles of workers, drones, or queens. (There is also a varroa wheel that gives you their life cycle, but how do you tell when they begin "roaming the hive"?)

The "Ready Reckoner" created by the Edinburgh beekeepers in the UK is especially handy for keeping track of sacrificial drone frames.



http://www.edinburghbeekeepers.org.uk/downloads/lifecycle_wheel_v4.pdf

RICHARD LITTEN 1934–2016

Long-time MBBA members will remember Richard Litten, who joined in 1992 and served as an officer or trustee on several occasions. Fellow beekeeper and MBBA member Lynda Feenstra remembers how meticulous he was about keeping records - queens, production by each hive, weather during honey flow, nectar plant bloom, and so on. Lynda and MBBA Treasurer Jo Miller both recall that he gave several talks and demos on various topics to our group. He was also generous with his time to give advice to newbees.



"The Mentor"

The notice in the Bellingham Herald declared that he "...enjoyed beekeeping for most of his life."

BEEKEEPING WEBINAR



BC Provincial Apiarist, Dr. Paul van Westendorp

covers a full range of topics related to beekeeping management, disease diagnosis and controls. The webinar series involves four sessions on consecutive Saturday mornings from 9:00 to 11:30.

At the excellent Field Day sponsored last month by the Langley, BC Bee Club, we learned about a webinar by BC Provincial Apiarist Paul Van Westendorp. Intended for beginner beekeepers the course is a simplified and shorter version of the classroom course. It

Prior to each session, registrants will receive an email with suggested reading materials and references. The course is planned to start in February 2017. It is free, but *registration is required*.

If you wish to be notified when course details and registration become available, please send an email to Paul van Westendorp to have your name and email address added to the course notification list. (*It is recommended for participants to have high-speed internet access*).

Email: paul.vanwestendorp@gov.bc.ca



EQUIPMENT SPOTLIGHT

This feeder from Bee Works (beeworks.com/index.html) in Canada is definitely worth a try.



Hive top Rapid Feeder

Placed over the hole in the inner cover, the central pillar has perforations that allow the bees access to the sugar syrup; the plastic cup over the pillar which snaps into place, stops the bees from being pushed into the syrup. It doesn't leak, and more importantly is very easy to refill without letting any bees out or opening the hive.

In addition to all kinds of products for sale, Bee Works is a wealth of information from getting started in beekeeping to queen raising.

Editor's note: I personally have a collection of feeders that have all failed in some way, but so far I'm finding that the Rapid Feeder solves all the usual problems. And a tip from Janet Wilson—using the syrup bucket, mark a circle on the inner cover so you can easily place the feeder so it's centered over the hole in the cover.

