



BEEBITS

NEWSLETTER

Next Meeting

Wednesday, November 16 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

NORTH OF THE BORDER OFFERING



Just up the road in BC, the Honeybee Centre (honeybeecentre.com) is always presenting interesting courses. Here is one happening this month.



Beeswax Lip Balm Making Course November 19

Making lip balm using beeswax

couldn't be easier! Learn from an expert on how to mix up a batch of your own and take home 6 tubes for yourself or to give away as a gift. By making your own cosmetics, you can control the ingredients, the quality and the cost. Whip up a batch for friends, make some for your wedding or baby shower, or become the next Burt's Bees! With a little information and guidance from our instructor, you'll be creating your own natural balm in no time. Book your spot [HERE](#)



Outback Beekeeper Michael Jaross is calling on the beekeeping community to be on the lookout for a nice piece of property (not too big), suitable for building a small house and be a sanctuary for bee and man. Hopefully not too far from town, but perhaps somewhere for his hives to thrive.

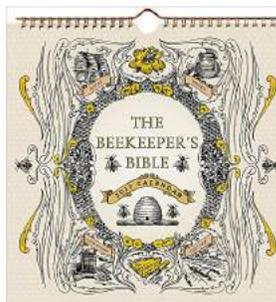
If you have knowledge of such a place, or even good suggestions for his search, contact Michael at: michaeljaross@gmail.com.

GIFTS AND GADGITS FOR BEEKEEPERS AND BEE LOVERS

With the holidays approaching, here are some suggestions for the bee-inclined.

Could this be the answer for old eyes trying to see new eggs and larva? At this price, it might be worth trying.

LED Lighted Slide-Out
Aspheric Magnifier,
\$7.95



This beautifully illustrated 16-month calendar features interesting tidbits about bees, honey, and the history of beekeeping.

Beekeeper's Bible 2017
Wall Calendar, \$14.99

MORE GIFTS AND GADGITS



Local beekeeper, noted Celtic harpist, and fabulous hostess Kathie Hardy enthusiastically recommends the Therapik to relieve the pain of bee stings. According to the maker, since most insect venom is thermolabile (sensitive to heat), Therapik® delivers heat in the specific temperature range necessary to neutralize the venom. The Therapik also garnered good reviews on Amazon, where it's available for \$12.95.

Therapik Mosquito Bite Reliever

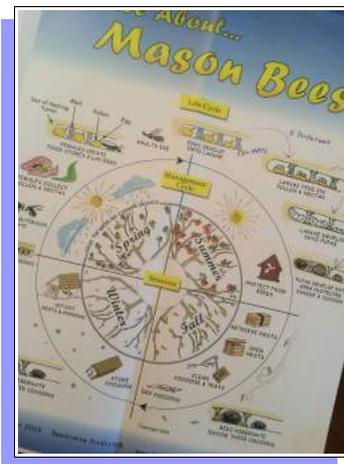
This fun garden stake is 19 inches tall and guaranteed not to sting or get mites. Perfect for the bee conscious gardener. Check at local nurseries or go online to order.

Regal Art & Gift Bee Garden Stake, \$23



DON'T FORGET ABOUT MASON BEES

Remember, it's that time of year to deal with Mason bee cocoons and put them to bed for the winter.



Crown Bees (crownbees.com) and Bee Diverse (beediverse.com) are both excellent resources for information on how to care for Mason bees.

Bee Diverse has a seasonal reference showing life cycles and management cycles.



RETAILERS AND PESTICIDES

A new Friends of the Earth report grades the top 20 food retailers in the U.S on policies and practices regarding food they sell grown with bee-killing pesticides.

--POST Online Media

Seventeen stores received an "F" for failing to have a publicly available policy to reduce or eliminate pesticide use to protect pollinators. Only Aldi, Costco and Whole Foods received passing grades in this category.

"Swarming the Aisles: Rating top retailers on bee-friendly and organic food," comes amid mounting consumer pressure on food retailers to adopt more environmentally-friendly sourcing policies.

A coalition led by Friends of the Earth and more than 50 farmer, beekeeper, farmworker, environmental and public interest organizations sent a letter urging food retailers to eliminate pollinator-toxic pesticides and increase USDA certified organic food and beverages to 15 percent of overall offerings by 2025, prioritizing domestic, regional and local producers.

This effort follows a campaign by Friends of the Earth and allies that convinced more than 65 garden retailers, including Lowe's and Home Depot, to commit to eliminate bee-toxic neonicotinoid pesticides.

New data from a YouGov Poll released today by Friends of the Earth and SumOfUs found that 80 percent of Americans believe it is important to eliminate neonicotinoids from agriculture.

Among Americans who grocery shop for their household, 65 percent would be more likely to shop at a grocery store that has formally committed to eliminating neonicotinoids.

“Over 750,000 SumOfUs members have spoken out advocating that U.S. Hardware stores take action to protect our pollinators. And after years of pressure, Home Depot and Lowe's have finally enacted more bee-friendly policies,” said Angus Wong with SumOfUs.

The report found that consumer demand for organic food continues to show double-digit growth.



Sign posted at the Pennsylvania Monument, Gettysburg National Military Park

But, of course, any hopeful beekeeper climbing to the top of the monument would be disappointed to find a scattered collection of wasps attracted to the heat of the edifice's white marble.

On a recent trip across the U.S., this editor was surprised to see and hear many spurious warnings about bees, which of course turned out to be wasps or yellow jackets.



First of all bees and wasps *are* closely related, and both members of the order Hymenoptera, which means “membranous wings,” but nevertheless, they are two distinct species and have very different behaviors. (A wasp is any [insect](#) of the order [Hymenoptera](#) and suborder [Apocrita](#) that is neither a [bee](#) nor an [ant](#).)

GET YOUR HONEY THIS THANKSGIVING

From the December 2015 issue of Bee Culture

Honey Roasted Parsnips

- 2 lbs. Parsnips (about 4—6 medium sized)
- 1 whole head garlic
- 6 large sprigs rosemary
- 3 Tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- ¼ cup honey
- ½ cup water
- 1 Tbsp smoked paprika
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp freshly ground pepper



Preheat oven to 375°
 Peel the parsnips. Trim off the ends and cut into ½-inch pieces. Separate the cloves of garlic and peel. Combine all the ingredients in a roasting pan. (Keep the rosemary sprigs whole.)
 Roast in the oven for 20 to 30 minutes or until tender, turning every ten minutes. Serves 6 to 8.



If you feel that bees are getting a bad rap in this regard, and you need a reference to have on hand when explaining to the general public about the difference between bees, wasps, and hornets, simply print this page, cut out this great “Bee/Not a Bee” card, and tuck it in your pocket.

