



Next Meeting

Wednesday, October 19 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

LOCAL HIVE MYSTERY—YOU CAN HELP



In a case reported recently, a beekeeper had good activity, brood, and plenty of stores in his hive; a few days later he went to fill a feeder and found a completely empty hive except for one bee—the queen!—sitting on the top of the frames. Even in colony collapse disorder (CCD) a few worker bees will stick with their jobs in the queen's retinue even though the other workers abandon the brood. The queen was rescued and may go into another hive, but the mystery remains. There weren't a lot of dead bees outside the hive and little frass streaking. ***It's important for any beekeepers out there who have experienced something of this nature to speak up! Contact Outback beekeeper Michael Jaross, who is trying to follow up on this case: michaeljaross@gmail.com***

There have also been some reports of unusual brood patterns, that is, low or no brood, for this time of year. If you're experiencing such problems, those would also be good to share.



BITS FROM BEE BITS

U.S. States like to designate a state insect. A lot of them have wisely chosen the indispensable honey bee, and they are:

- Arkansas
 - Georgia
 - Kansas
 - Louisiana
 - Maine
 - Mississippi
 - Missouri
 - Nebraska
 - New Jersey
 - North Carolina
 - Oklahoma
 - South Dakota
 - Tennessee
 - Utah (natch!)
 - Vermont
 - West Virginia
 - Wisconsin
- And what about Washington state? Sorry, it's the Green Darner Dragonfly.



And, just in case you've forgotten how important bees are to *all* the states:

BEE INFORMED Honeybees play an integral role in maintaining our food supply. Due to colony collapse disorder — the sudden die off in honeybee colonies — beekeepers are working hard to protect the species and educate their communities on the value of bees. Check out these sweet statistics from the American Beekeeping Federation.

<p>2.4 MILLION colonies are estimated in the U.S. today, two-thirds of which travel the country each year pollinating crops and producing honey and beeswax</p>	<p>1 OUT OF 3 bites of food Americans eat is directly or indirectly derived from honeybee pollination</p>	<p>Honeybees contribute over \$14 BILLION to the value of U.S. crop production</p>
<p>A good, prolific queen can lay up to 3,000 eggs per day</p>	<p>Some crops, including blueberries and cherries, are 90% dependent on honey bee pollination</p>	<p>60 POUNDS of honey produce 1 POUND of beeswax</p>