



BEE BITS

NEWSLETTER

Next Meeting

Wednesday, September 21 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

OUR BOOTH AT THE FAIR

Thanks to organizer Kelly Pederson and many volunteers, this year's booth at the Northwest Washington Fair was a great success and garnered many compliments.

In Kelly's follow-up to the fair, she said:

"Now that all is done and returned to where it belongs, I want to thank everyone who helped with the fair booth this year. All went well and according to plans! I believe that everyone showed up for the shift they'd volunteered for, and that they had fun doing it. I also know that many fair goers came away from the booth better informed about bees, and about how they can help do something to improve honey-(and native) bee habitat."

More thanks go to:
 Russell Deptuch (supplied bees twice)
 Michael Jaross (supplied bees)
 Jo Miller (helped with everything)
 Marcia Hoelzen (booth design guru)
 Justin Blackburn (tons of research and suggestions)
 Maggie Grantham (lots of helpful tips)
 Roger Gates (set-up, break-down, fair week "fixer")



The 2016 MBBA Fair booth theme, "Save the Bees," encouraged the public to learn how they can help.



An enthusiastic next gen beekeeper

The booth doesn't work unless members volunteer to staff it throughout the fair, so thanks go to: Kelly Pederson; Maggie Grantham; Darcie Hull (twice, and no longer keeping bees, even!); Stephen King (twice); Gary Clueit; Vincent Buys; Lynda Feenstra; Jill Feenstra; Evan Jones (twice); Ellen Gehling; David Puckering; Russell Deptuch (twice); Jo Miller; Rebekah Lee; Marco Hubert; Steve Pabody; Nick Molenda; Jim Lyons; Gaby Herrin; Paul Spinelli; Bill Buce; Mary Rawlins; Kevin Shonborn (twice, plus picked up bees); Patricia Crellin (twice); Justin Blackburn (twice); Justin Strow (twice); Stan Hanson; Jack Fisher. Evan Jones commented:

"Kudos to Kelly and everyone who revamped the displays in the booth. The booth is homey, attractive, and functional; good job and thank you people—a big gracias to Russell [and Michael] for the bees. It turned out well and people are spending a lot of time in the booth."

Another staffer notes:

"People had thoughtful and intelligent questions. Some had good stories, like the man whose grandfather found a huge hive in a felled tree. Grandpa found the queen and put her on grandson's arm; in a flash he was covered with bees attracted to the queen. It was

also fun to set some misconceptions right—one man spotted the queen in the observation hive, and then swept his hand over the frame, saying 'And all the rest of these are the males?'"

MORE BEES KEEPING THEIR COOL

In response to last's month's article on water for bees and how they drink, MBBA member and new beekeeper Tim Johnson sent in his elegant solution to slaking his bees' thirst:

"A couple of months ago, my bees were drinking water from the basins under our outdoor potted plants, and paying way too much attention to our covered hot tub, so I began working on a watering station. I experimented with a few different types and locations. Finally, I converted a half-gallon pet watering bowl filled with rocks into a bee watering station, and placed it about 40 feet from the hives.



Happy bees!

I had a few bee drownings, until I switched from regular rocks to lava rocks. Lava rocks wick-up water and provide excellent footing. The bees don't seem to mind me sitting just one foot away (sometimes with a big magnifying glass), watching them drink and interact. Unlike watching them come and go from their hive (which I also love doing), this gives me the ability to closely observe bees while they're standing relatively still for about a minute."

In an update on his system, Tim notes that the warm weather made the watering station even more popular, creating a somewhat hazardous flight path. Moving the waterer farther away and on the other side of the hive solved the problem and bees and beekeeper are happy.

Do you have a great way to get water to your bees? We'd love to hear it!

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THE PRICE OF EPI-PENS

The soaring price of EpiPens has been all over the news lately and is causing a lot of controversy. What is not controversial is that all responsible beekeepers should have epinephrine on hand and know how to use it in case of an allergic reaction.

With the rise of the life-saving pens' price to \$600, manufacturer Mylan finally relented to releasing a generic version for half that price.

What hasn't been in the news is that there is already a generic version available; some pharmacies have it now. When I asked at Haggens Rx, they hadn't heard of it, but two members have purchased it locally.

Check with your pharmacy about the generic—also ask your doctor or pharmacist about the validity of the expiration dates listed on the EpiPen. (Most advise caution!)

According to the Bellingham Herald, you might try some of these cost-cutting measures:

Drive over the border—if you buy in person at a pharmacy in Canada, the pens are sold over the counter without a prescription. (If you order online from Canada, you must have a prescription.)

Shop around—www.goodrx.com is a good place to compare prices. Also www.needymeds.org and familywize.org.

While it's always a good idea to have the pens, if you've had a reaction, you might want to check with your doctor to see if you've actually experienced anaphylaxis. An allergist may also help with sensitivity issues.



Important note! Store your EpiPens exactly as directed—do not refrigerate!