



BEE BITS

NEWSLETTER

Meeting Date: Wednesday, October 18
 (Meetings are the third Wednesday of the month)
 Time: 7 PM
 Place: Gateway Centre Suites,
 1313 E. Maple St, Bellingham, WA
 The Rainier Room, Ste. 301

Refreshments
 Last names A-M, bring something to share;
 we'll break early to schmooze and talk bees!

OCTOBER MEETING AGENDA



Hardy over-wintering hives at Brookfield Farm

Winter Preps II: We'll continue the discussion of this most important time of year, including sequencing and treatments. Enjoy a live demonstration of easy candy boards that you can make; check out the recipe on the next page of this newsletter.

Don't miss the drawing for a ready-to-use candy board!

Plus, everything you need to know about that other critical part of the winter puzzle—insulation. There are lots of different methods around the county; bring your personal favorites and/or questions about what works best.



SURVEY FOR WHATCOM BEEKEEPERS

The MBBA board recently sent out a survey to find out what members and prospective members would like to see covered at meetings and what activities or programs would be of the most benefit. There's still time to voice your opinions about how best to deal with beekeeping issues in your community with this quick and painless survey.

AND, when you're done please remember to click on the "Submit" button at the end.

Here's the link to the survey:

<https://goo.gl/forms/zVLeBMMtNrzy1o2I2>

Need help with preparing your hives for winter? Maybe you should "hire a guy!":

Getting Started with Bees
 Hive Inspections
 Vacation Care for Your Hives
 Queen Introduction and Marking
 Custom Apiary Maintenance

Michael Jaross
Whatcom Bee Help

A Consulting Service for Beekeepers
<http://whatcombeehelp.com/>
 (360) 483-9754

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SUGAR BOARDS MADE EASY

Sugar syrup is not an option for feeding bees in the winter in northern climes, but there are a number of alternatives. At the October meeting, commercial Whatcom County beekeeper Russell Deptuch will be demonstrating an easy-to-prepare sugar board that will feed your bees throughout the winter.



Here are the step-by-step instructions:

1 Make a wooden tray approximately 16-1/4" X 20" (to fit on top of a standard hive box), with supporting slats. Line with 1/2" metal screen.



2 Place a single layer of newspaper on top of the screen.



For each sugar board you will need:
Wood for building the tray
1/2" metal screening (approx. 17 x 20")
10 pounds granulated sugar
Water and a large bowl
Newspaper

3 Mix 10 pounds of cane sugar with two cups of water and one teaspoon of "Honey B Healthy" or "Pro Health." Knead with your hands until the water is evenly distributed and you can make a ball.



4 Spread the sugar mixture in the tray evenly, then while it's still moist, make a starter hole in the center of both sugar and newspaper so the bees can get through.



5 When the sugar is dry and has hardened, place the board on top of the hive, over the inner cover (or you may put it directly over the frames and then put the inner cover on top), being sure that the "tray" side of the inner cover is up to allow enough space for the bees to crawl around and get to the sugar board. Place the outer cover on top.



Bees feeding on the finished board