



<http://ejbees.org>

EJ'S NEWS

EJ is East Jefferson Beekeepers Association's Mascot.

Volume – 4

Gloria Neal- Editor

March, 2015

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CLUB MEETING

March 14

held at

Jefferson County Library

Board meeting 9:00 a.m.

Club Meeting 9:30 a.m.

APPRENTICE CLASSES

10:30 a.m.

Sat. Mar. 14th

Class # 5

Sat. Mar. 28th

Class # 4

E.J.Bees' PROGRAM

(starting at 9:30 a.m.)

WARRE AND ALTERNATIVE HIVES

MARCH APPRENTICE CLASS SCHEDULE

March 14 (#5) Inspecting a dead-out hive

(After the Club meeting, class will meet at Tarboo Valley Woodenware at 1029 Dabob Rd. Quilcene).. If you need directions, please call Frank at 360-301-0686 or Gloria at 360-301-1850.

March 28th (#6) Swarming--Kees Kolff

MARCH'S CLUB MEETING

Our meeting this month will cover alterative hives.

Harry will cover the Warre hives, and Calvin will be covering Jumbo hives.

Bring your beekeeping questions to the meeting, and after the presentations, if there is sufficient time, we will have a round-table discussion to try to get some answers for you!

Hope to see everyone there!

2015

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President:

Vice President: Diane Ginther

Secretary: David Morris

Treasurer: Harry Prather

TRUSTEES

Frank Neal

Dan Lockhart

Linda Pfafman

Ej bees' workers

These people have volunteered to head committees:

APPRENTICE CLASSES: Harry Prather

NEWSLETTER: Gloria Neal

MEDIA CONTACT: Bonnie Osmer

WEBSITE: Mike Edwards

JEFF. CO. FAIR:

Warren Osmer, Frank Neal, Harold Homberg

MEETING AND ACTIVITY

CO-ORDINATORS:

Tony Goldenberg, Harry Prather, and
Gloria Neal

MEETING CONVENER: Kees Kloff

EDITOR'S NOTES

EJ Beekeepers...

What an incredible month February was for us and our bees! There were hardly any days this month that the "girls" weren't at some time buzzing around looking for nectar, pollen or even a puddle of water to take back to the colony!

Upon lifting the lids on a few of the warmer days, we were met with strong, happy colonies. I'm not ready to disturb them too much yet, but March will be a good time to check on our Queens and see if they're laying and the size of their brood nests. With the amount of pollen I've seen them bringing in, I suspect that they may be starting those brood nests already.

If you're not using grease patties, you are missing out on an easy way to reducing the infestation of tracheal mites in your apiary! I have included a recipe in this months recipe section. There are even more recipes on-line, so take your pick!

Imature trachael mites pass from the host bee to a newly emerged house bee within 24 hrs. Grease patties interfere with the mites ability to detect the age of the bee, so after a bee is 9 days old, it is very seldom that the mites are able to penetrate the honey bee to inhabit the trachea.

If you've seen lots of field bees on strands of grass or K-wings, there's a good chance you may have a tracheal mite infestation! So get those grease patties made, or send a sample to WSU!

Well, that's the buzz for March, *Gloria*

WSU DIAGNOSTIC LAB WEBSITE

entomology.wsu.edu/apis/diagnostic-lab/

BUZZ WORTHY PLANTS FOR MARCH



This year with the warmer temperatures last month, the time frame for blooming could be a little earlier, or if we get a bad cold snap, it could affect the buds that are already swelling on some of our trees.

- *MAPLES
- *OREGON GRAPE
- *INDIAN PLUM
- *EARLIEST ASIAN PLUMS
- *WILLOW
- *CHICKWEED
- *HAZELNUT OR FILBERTS

CLUB DUES FOR 2015

**DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR CLUB MEMBERSHIP WITH EAST JEFFERSON BEES,
IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY
DONE IT.**

**IN ANCIENT TIMES, HONEY WAS CONSIDERED SO VALUABLE
THAT IT WAS USED IN PLACE OF GOLD TO PAY TAXES.**

MARCH'S HONEY-DO LIST

For the Apiary

Continue to monitor your colonies from the outside as well as a full inspection on a warm day, above 60 degrees. Make sure you have a "Queen right" colony. If you need to replace your queen with a purchased one, April is a good time to do that.

Now is a good time to stimulate your colony's growth by feeding them pollen patties and syrup. One part cane sugar to one part water for spring syrup as long as we keep having the warmer temperatures .

Check honey stores every two weeks in March through May until the starting of nectar flows. Raising brood and keeping the colony fed can take a lot of food stores.

If you need to medicate your bees, now is the time, before you put any honey supers on!

Time to finish getting old frames and woodenware cleaned up, repaired or replaced for this spring. Old foundation should be replaced at least every five years.

A good precaution, so you don't spread diseases between your colonies, is TO CLEAN YOUR HIVE TOOL EVERY TIME YOU USE IT! Keep a spray bottle of rubbing alcohol, and a clean rag or paper towels in your bee kit.

Remove any dead-outs as soon as you find them! Clean or destroy, depending on circumstances. If your not sure why your bees died, you can send a fresh sample to:

Dept. of Entomology, Washington State University

166 FSHN, Pullman, Wa. 99164-6382

BE A CONSCIENTIOUS BEEKEEPER...Don't leave a dead-out open in your bee yard! A disease could affect your healthy hives or the neighboring hives of another beekeeper! Honey bees are opportunists and sadly enough, they don't leave the honey alone in another hive that has died out even if it is full of foulbrood or other contagious diseases!



MARCH RECIPE

GREASE PATTIES FOR YOUR HONEY BEES

This recipe was shared with me by my cousin, Larry. I use it and the “girls” love it...

- 1 cup **Crisco** shortening
 - 2 cups white cane sugar
 - 1 TBSP. **your** honey (so you know it’s not contaminated or diseased)
 - ¼ to ½ mineral salts (optional), chopped in blender
 - 15 drops lemon grass oil
 - 15 drops wintergreen oil
- Mix well and make into patties. If you have honey supers on, do not use oils in patties during that time! If you don’t have your own honey you can omit the honey, also.

I make my patties and put them on small pieces of wax paper. Others use an ice cream scoop.

I put them on the corners of my brood box on top of the brood frames.

There is a lot of information on the internet on using grease patties for your colonies. Just type in grease patties and tracheal mites!

This not a cure-all if your colonies are heavily infested, but it is a great way to holistically treat your bees and give them a fighting chance!



BUZZING WITH



Blake

Bee-lieve me. It’s a fact!

A gallon of Honey weighs

11 lbs. 13.2 ounces.....Bee-licious!!!

-Blake



LOCAL BEE RESOURCES

TARBOO VALLEY WOODEN WARE

Remember, Club members get
5% discount.

Stop by and shop for sale items!

Ph. # 360-301-0686



**OPEN TO ANY BEEKEEPER OR INDIVIDUAL
WHO IS A MEMBER OF EJBEEES AND WANTS TO
PROMOTE SALE OF PRODUCT RESOURCES OR
SERVICES.**

Members advertise free.

If you're a business, the charge is \$5.00 for a business card
size ad, unless you are offering members a discount, Then
your ad is free.

To place an ad, email Gloria at
gloria@tarboovalleybees.com

**YOUR AD
HERE**