



<http://ejbees.org>

# EJ'S NEWS

**Volume – 6**

Gloria Neal- Editor

EJ is East Jefferson Beekeepers Association's Mascot.

**July, 2017**

## INDEX

Editor's notes.....Pg. 2

Board of Officers.....Pg. 2

Honey-do List.....Pg. 3

Queen timetable.....Pg. 3

Buzzing with Blake.....Pg. 4

Catching a swarm.....Pg. 4

Bee Resources.....Pg. 5

### **CLUB MEETING**

**Jefferson County Library**

**July 8th, 2017**

**Board Meeting**

**.....9:00a.m.....**

**Club meeting at 9:30 a.m.**

**Harry Prather will present**

**HONEY...FROM THE  
HIVE TO THE BOTTLE**

**RICH THOMAS WILL  
SHOW HOW TO MAKE  
AN EASY WAX  
MELTER**

## **THE PREZ SEZ**

Dear Fellow Bee Keepers,

Swarm season is upon us and our bees are working overtime. Nancy and I did manage to catch a swarm but can't determine from which of our hives it came from as they all seem to be doing as well as they were when we last checked. There are not many other hives located in our areas so it is a mystery.

Bees and beekeeping seem to be a hot topic these days. *The Costco Connection's* cover article in the July edition was informative and focused on our biggest challenge, i.e., the Varroa mite. The article did a good job explaining this challenge and the extensive research underway to find solutions. It was good to see that Costco is providing significant funding for actual research and scholarships for worthy graduate students focusing on bee survival.

In case you missed it, Chris Tucker, a reporter for the Port Townsend Leader published (June 14, 2017) an article about Gary Coyan and his bee program at Chimacum High School. Gary is a member of our Association and was recently named a Teach of the Year on the Olympic Peninsula. As many of you are aware, last year EJBA assisted Gary and the school with their initial efforts to raise bees at the school. Congratulations Gary and Chimacum HS.

Harry Prather will lead our program this month on harvesting honey. This is timely as August is the time to harvest and, as it is with most aspects of our beekeeping endeavors, it is always good to hear from experts in our Association on what works and what doesn't.

**Respectfully,  
Dave Morris**

At the next meeting, Harry Prather will be presenting some of the techniques in getting your honey from the hive to the bottle.

Rich Thomas will do a demonstration of a solar wax melter made from backyard and thrift store items. The device is very easy to use and will take your scrapings, burr comb and excess drone comb and easily convert them to beautiful yellow wax. He will also have a sample of the lip balm that his wife makes which is great for presents.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President: David Morris

Vice President: Frank Neal

Secretary: Nancy Morris

Treasurer: Harry Prather

Trustees:

Paul Jendrucko

Calvin Lomsdalen

Linda Pfafman

## EJ BEES' WORKERS

These people have volunteered to head committees in 2017:

**APPRENTICE CLASSES:** Harry Prather

**NEWSLETTER:** Gloria Neal

[gloria@tarboovalleywoodenware.com](mailto:gloria@tarboovalleywoodenware.com)

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Gail Moa

**WEBSITE:** Mike Edwards

**MEETING AND ACTIVITY**

**CO-ORDINATORS:**

Tony Goldenberg, Harry Prather, and  
Gloria Neal

# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

## EJ Beekeepers...

After Tony Goldenberg's presentation on Bait hives in March, many of our members have made up their own bait hives this year with great success! It's been fun to hear the many stories from all of you.

Last month, Grant and Patsy Simpson (second year beekeepers) traveled to Idaho to visit relatives. While there they were asked to save a colony of bees in a tree in relatives backyard. They took the challenge and were able to successfully get the colony moved out of the tree, so the tree could be sealed before any new swarms could move in. They kept a record of their work in pictures and will present it at a later meeting in the fall. They ended up with two brood boxes of honey bees when they were done. Keep tuned in as you won't want to miss this presentation. This same method also works for getting honey bees out of most buildings without tearing off the siding.

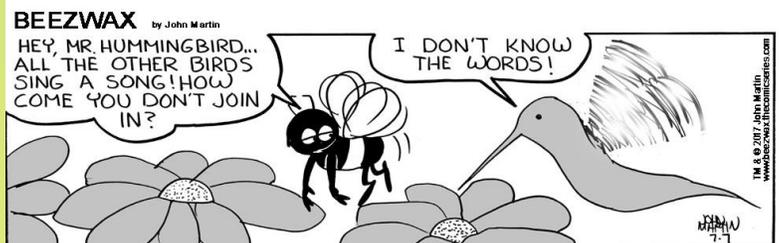
Hope your "girls" are putting lots of honey away for themselves and you.

*That's the buzz for July.*

*Gloria*

EJBees Websitr:

EJBees.org



# JULY'S HONEY-DO LIST

\*Inspect brood chambers for queen cells and signs of swarming. Make sure your colonies are queen right by checking for eggs or young brood.

\*If you see a curtain of bees on the outside bottom of your hive (bearding) this is normal in hot weather as they are cooling themselves or the colony.

\*Provide your bees with a water source, preferably with rocks to keep them from drowning.

\*Check your honey supers to make sure to add more before they are completely filled.

\*Using your sticky boards continue doing mite counts. Over 24 mites on a natural mite drop in 24 hrs is too many.

\*Keeping a journal on your bees is an important part of beekeeping.

## A NEW QUEEN'S TIME TABLE

I have received a number of calls from new beekeepers concerned about no eggs in their colonies after a swarm. Hope this helps to answer the question of how long it takes for a newly emerged queen to start laying.

Before swarming the workers reduce the food to the queen, so she will slim down and be able to fly. She will quit laying during that time. This makes it difficult for the beekeeper to find the queen, as she won't be much bigger than a worker. The swarm usually leaves the hive as soon as the first swarm cell is capped. In case of cold or rainy weather, it may leave later.

It can take a minimum of 8 days for a newly emerged queen to start laying,

BUT THIS IS NOT THE TYPICAL CASE. A breakdown of this 8 day period is:

After emerging, it takes 5 days for her to mature.

1 day to mate ( up to 12 or more times)

2 days for sperm storage

More typically it will be more like 12 to 20 days before you see eggs.

6 days to mature

4 days mating

2 days sperm storage

Depending on the weather, it could take another week or so before egg laying starts. She may not have a great laying pattern with single eggs per cell for a few days. The queen also must have sufficient comb to lay in and enough workers to care for the brood.

If you are concerned that your colony is indeed queenless, you can add a test frame of eggs and newly hatched larvae. If the bees make queen cells, they have lost their queen. If no queen cells are produced, They have a queen.

Gentle colonies can become bad tempered and loud , which can be another sign of a queenless colony.

So just remember to give your colony a little time and be patient. Most times your queen is there, and just not ready to lay yet!



# **BUZZING WITH**

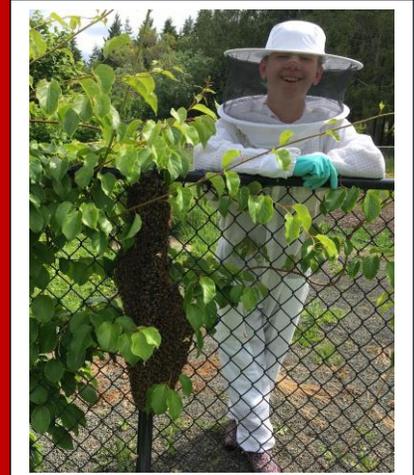


**Blake**

**Bee-lieve me. It's a fact!**

Swarms fly at a speed of 7 to 8 miles an hour.....They need a s-beeee-ding ticket!

-----Blake



## **CATCHING THE IMPOSSIBLE SWARM**

A week ago, I received a call from first year beekeeper, John Joseph, in Port Angeles. His bees had swarmed into a fir tree, a good 15 ft in the air, out on the end of a branch. Pretty difficult to get to. We talked about many ways to try to get the swarm out of that tree . He decided that he would try shooting an arrow with a string tied to it over the swarm. Maybe he could entice them to climb aboard a bee frame. Since he had a bow but no arrow, John decided to anchor a rope onto a plastic pole and was able to throw it over the branch, let the pole down, tie a frame to the rope and hoist it back up to the swarm.

After a little while, the swarm started moving onto the frame and after many trips up and down with the frame, John was able to get the swarm into the hive box. It was a long afternoon, but he was successful!!

**GREAT JOB, JOHN!!!**



If you have a swarm story to share,

Please contact me at:

[gloria@tarboovalleywoodenware.com](mailto:gloria@tarboovalleywoodenware.com)

## LOCAL BEE RESOURCES

### TARBOO VALLEY WOODENWARE & HONEYBEES

Frank Neal- Ph. # 360-301-0686... (If stopping by, PLEASE CALL AHEAD)

**REMEMBER, CLUB MEMBERS GET 5% DISCOUNT.**

**New Website: [tarboovalleywoodenware.com](http://tarboovalleywoodenware.com)**

**NEW email: [frank@tarboovalleywoodenware.com](mailto:frank@tarboovalleywoodenware.com)**

**CHECK OUT OUR "NEW"  
ULTIMATE STYLE BOTTOM BOARDS  
AND FRAME GRIPS**

**Looking for someone who would  
like to put Honey bees on my  
property...**

**Please call:**

**Helena Paneyko**

**360-774-1513**

Hi! I have a business making and selling beeswax candles and things. I am tapping out my current source and am looking for more wax. If you know anyone who might have wax for sale (especially large quantities), please give them my email address. You can check out my website if you

like. [givingthanksgardens.com](http://givingthanksgardens.com)

Thank you,

Leah Hollon Paquette

Owner/Maker

Giving Thanks