



<http://ejbees.org>

EJ'S NEWS

Volume – 7

Gloria Neal- Editor

EJ is East Jefferson Beekeepers Association's Mascot.

March, 2018

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CLUB MEETING

Jefferson County Library

Sat. March 10th, 2018

Board Meeting9:00a.m.....

PROGRAM: 9:30am

Why use Nucs in your apiary

by Calvin Lomsdalen

**Round table: What we should be
doing now in our apiary..**

Class starts today at

11:00 a.m.

March 24th

Class starts at 9:00 a.m.

See page 3 for details

THE PREZ SEZ

Dear Fellow Beekeepers,

Every month there seems to appear more fascinating articles about the wonder of bees around the world. The latest are a series of articles about bees and elephants. Evidently an elephant's trunk is extremely sensitive to bee stings. When elephants detect the buzzing of bees they immediately move to a safer location. This has been observed throughout Africa and in South Asia.

Kenyan farmers, with the help of dedicated scientists, are making this trait useful. Wild African elephants are devastating to forests and especially cultivated fields. This destruction causes dramatic harm to those subsistence farmers who find themselves destitute after a herd of elephants come through and flatten their crops. This can lead to violent confrontations where both humans and elephants are hurt or killed. Elephants usually raid fields at night.

There seemed to be no simple solution, until zoologist Dr. Lucy King noticed something: Elephants really don't like bees and will avoid them at all costs. If they hear buzzing, they'll leave an area immediately, signalling to others that bees are about. As noted above, this is because the bees' stings are especially painful to the elephants' trunks, and to avoid this pain, the elephants prefer to just stay away.

And thus, bee fences were born! "Beefencing," as it's known, is the use of hanging rows of beehives, each connected by a length of wire. When a nosy elephant approaches, it will knock into the wire, setting the hives swinging and disturbing the bees. And when the elephants hear that buzzing, they'll turn around and leave. The crops are safe, the humans are safe, and the elephants are safe. The bees are safe, too. Amazing!

Respectfully,

Dave Morris

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President: David Morris

Vice President: Frank Neal

Secretary: Nancy Morris

Treasurer: Harry Prather

Trustees:

Paul Jendrucko

Micheal Cavett

John Liczwinko

EJ BEES' WORKERS

These people have volunteered to head committees in 2018:

APPRENTICE CLASSES: Harry Prather

NEWSLETTER: Gloria Neal

gloria@tarboovalleywoodenware.com

MEDIA CONTACT: Gail Moa

WEBSITE: Mike Edwards

MEETING AND ACTIVITY

CO-ORDINATORS:

Tony Goldenberg, Harry Prather, and
Gloria Neal

EJBees Websitr: EJBees.org

LETTER FROM FROM THE EDITOR

EJ Beekeepers...

Have you ever wondered how a honey bee transports propolis back to the colony? Well, that question came up in our new apprentice class last month. No one had an answer. We all know that they do bring it back to the hive, that's obvious! But how?

Here's what we learned via the internet...The bees pick up resins secreted by plants or trees. (Resins are a plants equivalent of our white blood cells or immune system.)

The bees pick up the resins using their forelegs and mandibles and place it in the pollen sacks on their hind legs. Once back at the hive, other bees have to pull the sticky substance off their legs for them, before mixing the plant resins with their saliva and wax, which is secreted from wax producing glands on their abdomens.

One way to learn new things is to teach a class. Harry has lots of slots open for teaching in our apprentice classes.

Consider doing that!

That's the buzz for March.

Gloria gloria@tarboovalleywoodenware.com



2018 Apprentice Class

BEEZWAX by John Martin



MARCH'S HONEY-DO LIST

* Apiary permits are due in by April. Go to pestprogram@agr.wa.gov or call : 360-902-2070

* During winter your bees are clustering to keep warm, feeding the colony, and occasionally on a day above 50 degrees taking their much needed cleansing flights.

* This time of year it is a guessing game to know whether your colonies have made it thru the winter. A stethoscope is a wonderful way to hear any activity taking place inside your colonies. Or a quick peek to check on the colony can be done on a warm day. Lifting the bottom back of your hive box can give you an idea of weight and the amount of honey stores left. (removing the top weights on your lid first, of course).

* Making sure your bees still have food stores available, since our queens are starting to lay, and they still need food for the colony since we are still having the cold days when your bees can't forage. If you need to feed a colony low on foodstores, it is still too cold to feed syrup. Continue to feed cane sugar or fondant until temperatures are much warmer.

* Winter is a great time to review your 2017's Bee journal, and make decisions on how you want to manage your apiary for next year. It is an important part of beekeeping.

* Watch for signs of Nosema, which includes signs of disentary on the hive entrances.

* Don't forget to clean out the dead bees in your entrances.

2018 APPRENTICE BEE CLASSES

I will continue the three classes a month schedule I implemented last year, but I will not schedule apiary visits. Instead, we will have the apiary visits after lessons, weather permitting.

March 10th, 11:00 a.m. to noon LESSON 4 Spring Management

March 24th 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m...LESSON 5 Swarms

LESSON 6- Summer Management

April 14th 11:00a.m. to noon---LESSON 7 Fall Management

April 28th, 9:00a.m. to 1200p.m. LESSON 8 Diseases and pests

LESSON 9 Brood diseases

May 12th, 11:00am to noon- LESSON 10 Queen rearing, Marketing and Final thoughts.

May 26 th, 9:00a.m. to 10 :00a.m. REVIEW /TEST

I hope to have three apiary visits. One , we will inspect a vacant hive, just to get the idea of how to manipulate the woodenware and what to look for when inspecting a hive. The second and third will look at occupied hives to reinforce the proper techniques.

The text will be the new book written by the Washington State Master Beekeepers. It is available free of charge on their website, <http://wamasterbeekeepers.org/booklets/TheBeeBook.pdf>, or I will send a copy to anyone who sends me a request. e-mail at haroldp5@gmail.com.

While this book does not exactly follow the lesson schedule, it does have some advantages. First, it's free. Second, it has lots of pictures. Third, it's free.

I think the Master Beekeepers registration fee is still \$10.00, but of course that is subject to change. The club membership fee is \$24 for an individual or \$36 for a family, That brings the total to \$34 for an individual or \$36 for a couple.

Harry



BUZZING WITH



Blake

Bee-lieve me. It's a fact!

The honey bees' abdomen is covered with hard segments to protect the bee and keep it from drying out! ---

"One Sec!!-----Blake



Altho I'm not a big fan of Utube, occasionally, I do come across some worthwhile information.

That was the case on the Taranov swarm method,, by Adam Novitt.

2014 Mass. Bee Annual Field Day.

On finding a capped queen cell in one of our bigger colonies, and not wanting to take the chance of having them fly off to the neighbors, I tried it and it worked exactly like it was supposed to.

CHECK THIS ONE OUT!



This was the swarm created by the Taranov Swarm Method. This colony went thru the summer and fall very well, and are out flying on our warm days!

My thanks to Ray Sohn who taking the apprentice class this spring. Ray sent me this fascinating article on Bee propolis!

www.beeeculture.com/propolis

"We never stop learning, as beekeepers, do we?"

LOCAL BEE RESOURCES

KEEP BUZZING WITH BLAKE

Oxalic Acid treatments for your bees

For information, call Gloria and leave a message for Blake. He will return your call....360-301-1850

TARBOO VALLEY WOODENWARE & HONEYBEES

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

REMEMBER, CLUB MEMBERS GET 5% DISCOUNT. New Item:

New Items:

Robber screens

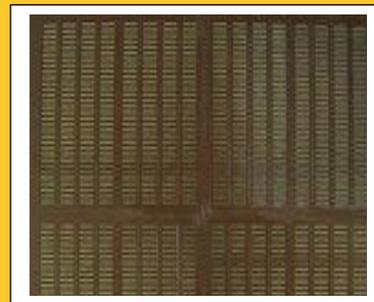
(For 8 or 10 frame brood boxes)

\$10.00 ea.



Propolis trap

\$8.00 ea.



NEW WEBSITE: tarboovalleywoodenware.com

NEW EMAIL: frank@tarboovalleywoodenware.com