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<http://ejbees.org>

# EJ'S NEWS

EJ is East Jefferson Beekeepers Association's Mascot.

Volume 8

Gloria Neal, Editor

AUGUST, 2019

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### CLUB MEETING at

Jefferson County Library  
 Saturday, August 3rd  
 9:00 a.m.  
 Board Meeting

.....  
**9:30 a.m.**  
**PROGRAM**  
 .....

**AUGUST 3<sup>RD</sup>**  
**2019**

Program will be on  
 Varroa and ridding  
 your hives of Varroa to  
 prepare for winter.

## THE PREZ SEZ

Greetings Fellow Beekeepers,

This month the club is gearing up to present a discussion on why and how to control Varroa mites in our colonies before winter. This topic is important, because of the Winter losses many beekeepers are experiencing with their colonies.

These are excerpts from Pullman, Washington, by Scott Weybright.

Saving honey bees is easier when Varroa mite infestation is reduced.

Varroa mites are pests that weaken bees' immune systems, transmit viruses and siphon off nutrients. They're a huge factor in colony collapse around the country.

"Most treatments only kill Varroa on adult bees, and are only effective for three days," said Brandon Hopkins, assistant professor of entomology and manager of the WSU Bee program. "But a lot of mites live in the brood, which are under a wax cap that most treatments can't touch. These bees hatch out and are already affected."

Be sure not to miss our August meeting. You will learn many techniques for controlling Varroa, and give your colonies a better fighting chance to make it till spring.

**WE ALL WANT HEALTHY SPRING COLONIES!**

**REMEMBER:**

**AUGUST'S MEETING IS FIRST SATURDAY!**

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President: Tony Goldenberg

Vice President: Blake Winn

Secretary: David Morris

Treasurer: Harry Prather

Trustees:

Paul Jendrucko

Rich Thomas

John Liczwinko

## EJ BEES' WORKERS

These people have volunteered to head committees in 2018:

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, &  
Gloria Neal

For information on club activities or schedule changes, please check the club website for updates.

<https://www.jeffcobees.org>

# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

## EJ Beekeepers...

August is the time when we're all looking for the rewards of our labor, caring for our honey bees! Most beekeepers are removing their honey supers by the middle of this month, to give their colonies time to finish building their own winter supplies.

We work all year with the goal of getting our colonies thru the winter and healthy for the next spring. The bees are doing their part, but we need to be diligent in keeping the Varroa population down this time of year.

An alcohol wash is the most accurate to check the percentage of the colonies' mite population. This determines if a mite treatment is necessary. A YouTube that I feel is very informative is Northwest New Jersey Beekeepers Association, with the state apiarist., Tim Shouler. Go to YouTube ...nwnjva.

Making sure that your colonies survive the winter means making sure that the Varroa mites have been eliminated before the Queens quit laying drone eggs.

Varroa prefer drone cells, but in the fall, with no drone cells to breed in, they move into the worker cells. These workers MUST emerge healthy in order to survive 5 to 6 winter months of winter.

Varroa are the number one cause of honey bee winter losses.

Where there are honey bees, there are Varroa!

BE PROACTIVE!!!

*That's the buzz for August!*

*Gloria*

360-301-1850 [gloria@tarboovalleywoodenware.com](mailto:gloria@tarboovalleywoodenware.com)

## BEEZWAX



## Susi's Tips and Tricks

*August 2019: a monthly offering of useful hints for beekeepers*

*\*Avoid starting a fire with the smoker--don't set it down on grass during fire season!*

*\*Install robber-screens or start to restrict hive openings NOW to avoid chaos in the bee yard.*

*\*Store extra honey-filled frames in the freezer until you're ready to extract, or until needed to top up winter honey supplies.*

*If you would like to submit your own tip or trick for possible future inclusion, please send it to [richandsusi@cablespeed.com](mailto:richandsusi@cablespeed.com) .*

*East Jefferson Beekeepers Association*



### FUTURE BEEKEEPERS?

Fair and other events where we can share our love of honeybees with the young and old, ensures that beekeeping will continue in the tomorrows.

### AUGUST'S HONEY- DO LIST

**\*This is the time of year that the Varroa mite infestations are rising to the highest. Be checking the Varroa counts with your white boards or a more precise method, an alcohol wash. A good YouTube I recommend is: Tim Schuler, New Jersey state apiarist, Alcohol wash for mite control.**

**\*Giving your bees a good water source close by as we go through these months of very little rain is a good idea. They need that water to help cool the colony along with keeping the colony hydrated. They will be more apt to leave your neighbors dog dishes alone, also. Be sure to place some rocks for them to land on, so they aren't falling in and drowning.**

**\* Honey supers will need to be watched and removed this month. The main honey flows are winding down by the middle of this month.**

**\*If you see a curtain of bees on the front of your hive on a hot day, this is normal...they are just cooling the hive or themselves.**

**\*Don't forget to keep grease patties on your colonies. It is a holistic soft treatment that seems to have an impact on the control of tracheal mites.**

**\*Watch for robbing this month especially if you have some smaller colonies!**



# **BUZZING WITH**



# Blake

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

Varroa are 1.5 mm small, just shy of being able to be seen by the naked eye. Because of their size 6 of them can cram themselves into one cell. ....Blake



## **KEEP BUZZING WITH BLAKE**

### **Oxalic Acid treatments for your bees**

For information, call Gloria and leave a message for Blake.

[buzzingwithblake@gmail.com](mailto:buzzingwithblake@gmail.com)

He will return your call....360-301-1850

## **TARBOO VALLEY WOODENWARE & HONEYBEES**

Frank Neal- Ph. # 360-301-0686...

**(If stopping by, PLEASE CALL AHEAD)**

\* We now have a limited amount of alcohol wash bottles for checking mite levels in your colonies!

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

NEW WEBSITE: [tarboovalleywoodenware.com](http://tarboovalleywoodenware.com)

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