



EJ'S NEWS

EJ is East Jefferson Beekeepers Association's Mascot.

Volume 10

Gloria Neal, Editor

August 2021

INDEX

| | |
|-------------------------------|------|
| Editor's Notes..... | Pg.2 |
| August meeting and picnic.... | Pg.3 |
| Tips and Tricks..... | Pg.4 |
| One Mother Mite..... | Pg.4 |
| Mites and more mites..... | Pg.5 |
| In the Garden..... | Pg.6 |
| Bee Links, Etc..... | Pg.7 |
| Bee Resources..... | Pg.8 |

Smokey the bear is busy
in

Eastern Washington
tending fires,

So Betty Bee has this
reminder!

Please use EXTRA
caution while using your
smoker.

Keep your garden hose at
ready at all times should
an ember escape!

Keep your smoker in your
sights until extinguished
and cooled down.

Use a cinder block or paver
as a smoker rest.

Catherine

THE PREZ SEZ

Dear Fellow Beekeepers,

In the past, EJBA has participated in the Port Townsend Rhody Parade. This year the parade organizers were late deciding if they were going to have a parade. As a result, the East Jefferson Beekeepers' board decided to have a combination meeting/picnic in lieu of parade participation. We welcome all members plus friends and family to participate in our August 14th meeting and picnic at Fort Warden.

With the diligent efforts of Rich Thomas and Mike Kelley, the online apprentice beekeeping classes have grown EJBA membership significantly and we urge the new members to stop by, even for a few minutes. The picnic is an opportunity to publicize who we are and what we do with the objective of continued growth in 2022. It is also an excellent opportunity for our new beekeepers to learn from our more experienced members. There will be plenty of opportunities for informal give and take at the picnic.

Nancy and I had an interesting swarm in early July. Our girls swarmed on the front of the bottom board which was somewhat elevated. We dismantled the colony down to the bottom board and shook and scraped the swarm into a new hive box. Both colonies are thriving with the original a productive honey producer. It was much easier than getting them out of nearby trees which has happened in the past.

Dave

PLEASE JOIN US

ON AUGUST 14TH, 2021

FOR A DAY OF BEEKEEPING FUN!

(Details on page 3)

2021 EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: David Morris

Vice President: Rich Thomas

Secretary: Susi Thomas

Treasurer: Harry Prather

Trustees:

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Tony Weller

Catherine Slaton

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NEWSLETTER

Gloria Neal

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

EJ Beekeepers...

Honey harvest time is just around the corner. Our "girls" are still working hard on the honey supers, but most have already filled the major part of the second brood box with their winter stores. Seems awfully early! Is it a sign that we will be having an early winter?

I hope you're monitoring your mite counts! This is the critical time when our healthy colonies can be so weakened by the viruses the varroa carry that our strongest colonies can be overrun by mites very fast!

Rich and Susi Thomas have done a graph (included in this newsletter) on how fast a mite infestation can grow just from ONE MITE!! Multiply that number by even 10 mites and the mite counts in a colony by winter can be astronomical! Be proactive against varroa!

If you're noticing that your bees are more aggressive, there may be a nectar dearth happening. Watch for robbing and fighting at the hive entrance and don't waste any time closing down the entrances and protecting your colony from these opportunists!

That's the buzz for August.

Gloria 360-301-1850 eastjeffbees@gmail.com

or gloria@tarboovalleywoodenware.com

BEEZWAX

MR. WIGGLY, WHY DO WORMS COME OUT OF THE GROUND WHEN IT RAINS?



WE LIVE IN THE DIRT... WE ARE FILTHY!



IT'S THE ONLY TIME WE CAN TAKE A SHOWER!



By John Martin

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AUGUST MEETING & PICNIC

The August 14th meeting and picnic day at Fort Worden in Port Townsend is nearly here! We'll meet outdoors at the Beach Shelter starting at the usual times: 9:30 a.m. Board Meeting; 10:00 a.m., Q&A; and 10:30 a.m. General Meeting with discussion and presentations.

Right after the meeting, we'll set up for our picnic-barbecue, and afterward, spend the afternoon enjoying the beach, the trails and bunkers, the exhibits, and all the good company. We have the Beach Shelter reserved from 9 a.m. until an hour before dusk, so you can bring your family and stay all day, if you like!

What to bring: The club is supplying hamburgers and hot dogs from Costco to cook on a gas grill. We'll also supply the condiments and buns, the plates, utensils, etc., and some basic beverages, specifically water and flavored soda.

Each family should bring a potluck dish to contribute, and beverages for yourselves, if you'd like something in particular. Beer and wine are allowed, but no kegs of beer. Cold or hot dishes are fine---there is a refrigerator to keep foods cold until picnic-time, and an ice table for serving. There's a stove with an oven for reheating or cooking, but no pots or utensils are supplied at the shelter.

There are several picnic tables with benches, but please bring your portable camp chairs for more comfortable seating for the meeting and afterwards.

Also bring whatever accessories you might want for the afternoon at the beach (such as a blanket or towels, fishing gear, beach-toys for the kids, etc.), or walking shoes for the upland forest trails, flashlights for exploring the bunkers.

Parking. A Discover Pass is required to park in the beach area, camping areas, and trailheads; if you have a pass, you can use the spaces right by the Beach Shelter. If you don't have a pass or do not wish to buy one, you can park up the hill in the campus area — i.e., near the park offices, barracks, Reveille Café, etc.

PLEASE NOTE: There is currently a ban on wood-fueled fires and charcoal fires in the park, including on the beach, due to high fire danger this season. Hence, there are no bonfires allowed, and only gas-grills for barbecues.

Fort Worden Maps and Information:

<https://www.fwfriends.org/trailmaps>

<https://explorewashingtonstate.com/visiting-fort-worden/>

Please come and join the fun--the Board looks forward to seeing you all at this enjoyable event!

TIPS & TRICKS -- from Susi

August 2021: a monthly offering of useful hints for beekeepers

- *Install robber-screens or start to restrict hive openings NOW to avoid chaos in the bee yard.*
- *Lay a garden hose out in the bright sunlight as a source for plenty of hot water to clean out the honey extractor after you use it.*
- *After extracting honey from the frames, set the frames back in the hive on top of the inner cover for the bees to “clean up.” Do this close to evening, so the scent of freshly extracted honey doesn’t cause a robbing frenzy in your apiary.*

If you would like to submit your own tip or trick for possible future inclusion, please send it to richandsusi@cablespeed.com.

East Jefferson Beekeepers Association

What Can One Mother-Mite Do to Your Colony?

-- Rich and Susi

Susi produced a table and graph illuminating the hypothetical maximum infestation of a beehive, starting with a *single* varroa mite, which, along with her daughters in turn, produces offspring during a five-month period between June 1 to November 1. It is quite scary to realize the growth potential of these mites, and it illustrates that if you do not have some mitigation procedure in place, and if you have infested colonies within 3 miles of your apiary, the chances of successfully overwintering your colony are dramatically decreased.

Mitigation procedures can include passive ones like trapping drone frames and queen isolation techniques, or active ones such as the application of organic acids. But please do not believe that the mites are under control even if your sticky boards are showing low counts in early August.

This table and graph were created using a simple, uncomplicated colony situation based on several assumptions that are clarified in the footnotes. It does not account for all possible variables: for example, it does not correct for the (unknowable) death of any of the daughter mites, nor for the possible migration of mites into the colony from other hives within or outside of your own apiary.

In the table, note that the starting number of mites on June 1 and the ending number on Nov 1 are shaded in pink. The final column (“Remaining Moms”) shows the number of mother mites that will be available to reproduce in the *next* period.

(Continued on Page 5)

Hypothetical Number of Varroa Mites Generated in 5 Months from a Single Foundress (see assumptions in footnotes)

| Date | No. "Moms" ¹ | X 1.7 ² | No. Viable Female Offspring | Plus Moms | Total Mites | Minus Moms to die ³ | Remaining Moms to Reproduce |
|--------|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|-------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| June 1 | 1 | X 1.7 | 1.7 | +1 | 2.7 | -0 | 2.7 |
| July 1 | 2.7 | X 1.7 | 4.59 | +2.7 | 7.29 | -0 | 7.29 |
| Aug 1 | 7.29 | X 1.7 | 12.39 | +7.29 | 19.68 | -1 | 18.68 |
| Sept 1 | 18.68 | X 1.7 | 31.76 | +18.68 | 50.44 | -1.7 | 48.74 |
| Oct 1 | 48.74 | X 1.7 | 82.86 | +48.74 | 131.6 | -4.59 | 127 |
| Nov 1 | 127 | X 1.7 | 215.91 | +127 | 342.91 | -12.39 | 330.52 |

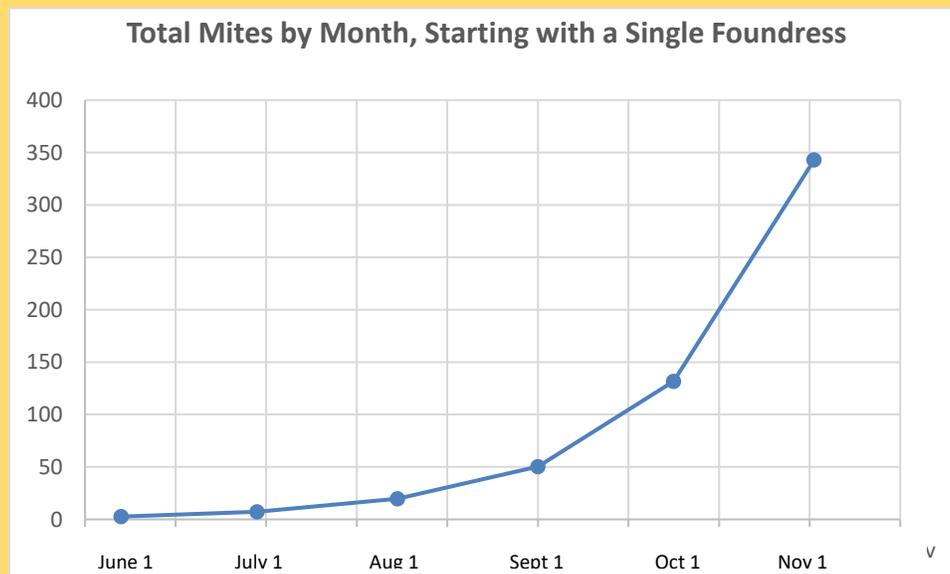
Footnotes:

¹"Moms" = Foundress and her viable daughters, each of which also becomes a foundress in other cells.

² Reproductive rate of foundress per breeding cycle; each cycle is 24 days + in-hive phoretic phase of 7 days, assuming reproduction continues to occur in drone cells, rather than worker cells, June 1 – Nov. 1.

³ Assuming each foundress dies after three cycles, we subtract those that are predicted to die, to calculate the number of mother-mites left to reproduce in during the following month.

The graph tracks the total number of mites in the hive month by month from June 1 to Nov 1, including the foundress, her offspring, and all of their offspring. The data points for "Total Mites" is Column 6 in the table above.



Number of Mites

Date

In the Garden - Sort of

What's in bloom, what's spent? What's just around the corner from flowering, and what's coming up in another month? I moved closer to the bee yard to have a look-see at the tomatoes and dill, when BAM! Right in my face a honey bee, and an agitated one at that. No doubt from the hive I had worked the previous day, and may I add, they were a bit out of sorts then, but without any apparent indicators as to why. Lots of bees coming and going, I thought to myself, and then BAM! I remembered what Gloria had said just that morning about signs of robbing: "Those bees crawling around the seams between your hive boxes are not bees from that hive - they're robber bees."

"PHOOEY,"* I said loudly enough for all the bees in the yard, and down the road a few miles, to hear. On with the bee suit! Into the yurt where my collection of #8 screen sat in various sizes and configurations.** There were so many bees coming and going, I couldn't manipulate the hardware cloth into the entry space without squishing honey bees right and left. Wet sheet! Wet sheet! How fortunate for my number four hive that a cotton sheet used for Taranov-ing earlier in the season was a few feet away in the bee shed, and the garden hose was already on. Nuff said. Robbing averted, but what a bunch of confused foragers laden with pollen and no idea how to enter their hive. Diligent they are, and before long they were finding a way in from the back of the hive, slipping in between the hive wall and the soggy sheet.

The next afternoon was calmer. I removed the sheet and stapled a flap of #8 screen over the front entry holes, and added a screen covering for the bottom entry, cutting the tiniest of flaps that would permit one bee at a time. What a sight; this could have been O'Hare Airport the day before Thanksgiving. The following day I cut one more flap and doubled the main entry/exit space. Off to the workshop to build 11 more robber screens to install late that night. The next day, one very confused yard of worker bees trying to find entry to their hives.

Robbing thwarted. Not a yellow jacket or bald-faced hornet in site. And speaking of non-honeybee robbers, time to pick up dropped fruit from underneath the cherry tree and raspberry vines. Best not to entice potential robbers to anywhere near the apiary — there's enough of a threat from the hives themselves.

With no measurable rain for over a month, and our June extreme temperatures that had local beekeepers double-checking ventilation in the hives, all signs point to a whopper of a dearth for our pollinators. If you love graphs and charts (guilty) take a look-see at WSU's weather page. Lots of statistics to make you say: Cool! There's even a chart for leaf moisture.***

And speaking of dearths: Feed, or don't feed? (Links below.) Plenty of discussion on feeding based on what's going on in your hives. Some of the splits from late spring are taking their sweet time building up the colony, while others have two supers in place and are a house afire. Still researching when to keep feeding and when to hold up. There's always something to learn.

— Catherine Slaton

* It may have been something stronger than "phooey."

** And every bit of materials I can't bear to part with knowing darn well I'll need it some day.

*** Be still my heart.

<https://www.honeybeesuite.com/summer-nectar-dearth-honey-bee-management/#comment-248251>

<https://weather.wsu.edu/?p=112050>

<https://www.beekeepingfornewbies.com/nectar-dearth/>

Favorite links, ETC.

MISTAKES BEEKEEPERS MAKE!



- *Assessing colony health based solely on the level of bee traffic
- *Not recognizing queenlessness
- *Leaving out frames or placing empty supers on your hive
- *Not feeding New colonies
- *Harvesting honey too early or taking too much
- *Only starting with one colony
- *Not properly suiting up
- *Not using a smoker
- *Putting your hive in a troublesome spot

For more info:

<https://beekeepinglikeagirl.com/10-mistakes-new-beekeepers-make/>

HEAT CONVERTED TO VISUAL IMAGES

<https://www.honeybeesuite.com/thermal-imaging-for-beekeepers/>



I saw this group on CNN. Their report is interesting and I thought it might make a good addition for the newsletter.

Paula schmidt

<https://beeinformed.org/>

Their report:

https://beeinformed.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/BIP_2020_21_Losses_Abstract_2021.06.14



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