



EJ'S NEWS

EJ is East Jefferson Beekeepers Association's Mascot.

Volume 10

Gloria Neal, Editor

December 2021

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THE PREZ SEZ

Dear Fellow Beekeepers,

Thanks to all who have made 2021 a successful year for EJBA. Our membership grew substantially with increasing interest in beekeeping in Jefferson County. A special thanks to Mike Kelley, Rich and Susi Thomas for their hard work developing our on-line beginning beekeeping classes. We are reinstating live classes in 2022. An updated on-line version will still be available although we strongly encourage in-person classes for those living nearby. We welcome potential beekeepers from outside Jefferson County to join our association and take the classes on-line.

As always, we encourage active participation in EJBA. Our board meetings are open to all members and many opportunities are available to participate through one of our committees. Because of Covid, we did not promote our mentoring program much in 2020-21. This will be a priority this year and I urge those, even with limited experience, to sign up as a mentor.

Dave

Merry Christmas
and a happy and healthy New
Year to you, your family and your
Honey Bees.

With warm regards,
Gloria



IMPORTANT NOTICE!

**East Jefferson Beekeepers WILL NOT be
meeting in December, but we look forward to
seeing you at our January meeting on Saturday,
January 8th.**

**Our meeting will be held at the Chimacum
Grange.**

More details on page 3.

2021 EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: David Morris

Vice President: Rich Thomas

Secretary: Susi Thomas

Treasurer: Harry Prather

Trustees:

Mike Kelley

Tony Weller

Catherine Slaton

ON-LINE CLASSES

Mike Kelley, Rich & Susi Thomas

APPRENTICE CLASSES

Harry Prather

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ACTIVITIES-EVENTS

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BLOG –EJBEEES.COM

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SWARM CORDINATOR

Tony Weller

ASSETS MANAGER

Catherine Slaton

MEDIA SPECIALIST

Jim Gurney

NEWSLETTER

Gloria Neal

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Hello EJ Beekeepers:

Where has this year gone?

Novembers' meeting was so informative with Dr. Tim Lawrence presenting the fascinating topic on drones and drone congregation areas. I hope you were able to come and participate.

We look forward to 2022 and the benefit of having a live classroom setting again. In-person classes may also be augmented by our on-line classes. (Please note that new passwords will be issued.)

To those of you who took the on-line classes in 2021, we encourage you to repeat the beginners' course in person. The series will be taught by multiple instructors, with Q&A after each class.

If you know someone who is interested in honey bees, please encourage them to come to the January meeting to learn more!

We look forward to seeing you in January!

.That's the buzz for December.

Gloria 360-301-1850 eastjeffbees@gmail.com
or gloria@tarboovalleywoodenware.com

BEEZWAX By John Martin



New Time, New Place, New Faces in the New Year

East Jefferson Beekeepers' Association

Members, prospective members, and guests---please come to the first EJBees' meeting of 2022 on the 8th of January! We'll meet at the Chimacum Grange, located at 9572 Rhody Dr. (Hwy 19), Chimacum, WA, which is across the highway from the Tri-Area Community Center and the Chimacum Schools.

The board meeting is at 9:30 a.m., followed by the general meeting from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Come meet the 2022 executive board members, hear plans for the year's activities, and learn some details about the upcoming, updated Beginning Beekeeping Course starting Feb 12. Also, some comments on the 2021 online class, apiary visits, and mentoring program will be offered by last year's participants.

Don't forget that annual membership dues are \$24/individual or \$36/family. Membership offers several benefits, such as access to our classes free of charge (*one must be a member to participate*); a mentor to help you get your apiary up and running; a discount at Tarboo Valley Woodenware and Honey Bees; and much more.

Dues can be paid in person at the January/February meetings, or by mail. To register by mail, simply send your check made out to EJBA along with name(s) and full contact information to **EJBA, Post Office Box 1984, Port Townsend, WA 98368**. If you plan to take the beekeeping class, please "check that box," because we'll be putting together the list of participants so we can send out new passwords for the online class videos, any schedule changes, etc.

It will be a pleasure to see all our fellow beekeepers again in the new year, and to warmly welcome all newcomers.

---Susi

2022 Beginning Beekeeping Course Schedule

At each session, one full module (2 classes) will be presented, taking up to 2 hours total per session:

Feb 12—After EJBA general meeting: **11:00 A.M.** Module 1 (Class 1 & 2)-- *Bee Basics and Keeping Bees*

Feb 26—Class only: **10:00 A.M.** Module 2 (Class 3 & 4)-- *Equipment and The Apiary*

Mar 12—After EJBA general meeting: **11:00 A.M.** Module 3 (Class 5 & 6)-- *Bee Diseases and Bee Pests*

Mar 26—Class only: **10:00 AM** Module 4 (Class 7 & 8)-- *Spring Management and Summer Management*

Apr 09—After EJBA general meeting: **11:00A.M.** Module 5 (Class 9 & 10)-- *Honey and Fall/Winter Mgmt*

Apr 23-24—Apiary visits

Winter Chores

Toward the end of July, my smoker began to revolt. So much resin had built up inside the lid and around the rim, it took a pry bar and a threat or two to get the smoker open. My creosote issues started after burning burlap in my smoker. I went back to burning wood chips, but the damage had already been done.

Let's hear it for early December. The days are short; I'm slowly ticking off the chores that were postponed in favor of tending hives. First things first, you know. But now the hives are winterized, the power supply line is repaired post shredding by bored geese, and the wind block is up. Time to clean the smoker.

Three methods appeared most often in search engine results: Creosote remover (such as copper sulfate), vinegar, and soda crystals (sodium carbonate decahydrate,) also known as washing soda. My smoker is in bad shape, as in: "Never put off till tomorrow what you can put off until December." But I'll start with vinegar, and when that doesn't work, move my way up through soda crystals, and copper sulfate. There is also the elbow grease cleaning method with a hive tool and a propane torch. I'm trying to delegate more work these days so rather than spend all afternoon burning and scraping creosote, I'll put some hard-working chemicals to the task. While the chemicals are working I'll grab a bee book to read, or see what's new on YouTube regarding our honey bees. Next spring my mantra will be "Stitch in time."

Do you have a go-to method for cleaning your smoker you'd like to share?

Catherine Slaton



<https://thehivehoneyshop.co.uk/2-most-important-bee-items-to-keep-clean/>

<https://carolinahoneybees.com/clean-a-bee-smoker/>

NATIVE BEES POLLINATING COTTON AND PEANUTS

<https://bioone.org/journals/florida-entomologist/volume-104/issue-3/024.104.0304/Wild-Bee-Pollinators-Foraging-in-Peanut-and-Cotton-Adjacent-to/10.1653/024.104.0304.full>

This is a study of allowing native flower strips to grow next to peanut and cotton fields, thereby attracting native bees to enhance growth and quality of these two crops through better pollination. Flowers included Firewheel or Indian blanket (*Gaillardia pulchella*), bee balm (*Monarda* sp.), and various Rudbeckia species. Even though this is a small, recent study, maybe more projects like this will help to turn agribusiness around to encourage more planting of native plants and wildflowers along with crops. Any search of how peanuts are grown will bring up the term "monoculture" for this crop--nothing else growing in a peanut field. Same with cotton.



A couple of quotes from the article:

"A growing number of studies have investigated the incorporation of native wildflower strips in agroecosystem programs to augment and enhance habitats for insect pollinators."

"While peanut and cotton do not require pollinators, two studies in peanuts found that bees can 'trip' ejection of pollen and cause cross pollination, resulting in increased yield [of] peanuts, and pollinators increase yield, fiber weight, and seed number in cotton."

"Complementary floral provisioning may, therefore, enhance both pollination services by native bees and bee conservation."

--Rich

Beekeepers,

We have completed the weekly oxalic acid (OA) treatments for this season. We did about seven OA treatments total--some hives got only five due to scheduling problems. We will continue with monthly treatments through the winter. Bee die-off has been minimal throughout November, monitored by sweeping the bottom boards.

I have been delivering about 4 grams through the insect fogger, enhanced by changing the formula slightly by adding 40 g (instead of 25 g) OA to 100 ml Everclear. Most hives have been showing 1 to 2 mites dropping per 24 hours since mid-November. However, I have a hive that is still dropping 4-6 mites per 24 hours, even after multiple treatments. We shall see—but all hives here seem to be healthy at this point.

Rich.

Even though the build-up time is delayed in our region, the graphic in this article is pretty accurate for our area.

Rich

<https://scientificbeekeeping.com/first-year-care-for-your-nuc/>

Apis Cerana Sounds the Alarm

We West Coast beekeepers keep eyes and ears open for news on the Asian giant hornet (*Vespa mandarinia*). Might the Asian honey bee provide clues as to how *our* honey bee could develop a strategy against the (so-called by nonscientific journalists) “murder hornet”?

By sounding the alarm, the Asian honey bees are able to rally against an attack by the murder hornet’s smaller cousin, *Vespa soror* (the giant hornet). Defense mechanisms include hisses and pipes, as well as physical shaking, known as *shimmering*.

Asian honeybees will also reduce their hive openings with animal dung, discouraging hornets from working their way into the hives. In addition to their being discouraged from entering, persistent hornets may find themselves balled and roasted by the defending bees (photo below!).



— Catherine Slaton

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/10/science/bees-screaming-murder-hornets.html>

<https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rsos.211215>

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/article/honeybees-use-tools-dung-repels-giant-hornets>

TARBOO VALLEY WOODENWARE & HONEYBEES

Frank Neal- Ph. # 360-301-1850...

5% discount to EJB club members

for bee supplies

NEW WEBSITE: tarboovalleywoodenware.com

NEW EMAIL: gloria@tarboovalleywoodenware.com

PLEASE CALL AHEAD!

Limited supply of candy and quilt boards