



EJ'S NEWS

EJ is East Jefferson Beekeepers Association's Mascot.

Volume 10

Gloria Neal

February, 2021

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**East Jefferson Beekeepers'
Meetings cancelled until
further notice**

**Thanks to Mike,
Rich and Susi for
their many hours
spent on the on-
line beekeeping
classes!**

THE PREZ SEZ

Dear Fellow Beekeepers,

My two colonies so far made it through the winter and are flying anytime the temperature gets above 48° F. One colony is bringing in pollen indicating the queen is laying. It has been a relatively mild winter so in general our bees seem to be doing well based on my discussions with others.

There's still no firm guidance on when the library can start allowing use of the meeting room but as restrictions relax its looking more promising. Rich Thomas and Mike Kelley are doing a masterful job putting together our on-line beginning beekeeping class modules. They are about ready to launch and so far, we have had good interest. The classes are open to anyone provided they are dues paying members of EJBA. Dues are inexpensive so it is a real bargain. Susi said she's getting inquiries from all over our geographic area.

Are bees sensitive to Wi Fi and EMF signals? My neighbor, during the summer, lives in Hawaii in the winter. He brought to my attention the multiple uses of a unique mineral mined in Russia called Shurgite. Evidently this is being used by some Hawaiian beekeeper and others to nullify the adverse impacts on bees from EMF and Wi Fi. I'm not sure of the validity of these claims but you can find out more at shurgitebeehives.com. He recently gave me a small bag of the mineral so I'll test it our this season and report back if I see any noticeable difference in my colonies' overall health. I'm still going to implement an integrated program to control mites though.

Sincerely,
David Morris

**Beginning Beekeeping Course
Starts March 13!**

Presented *online* at **ejbees.com**
10 classes over 5 weeks.

Find more information 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

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Gloria Neal

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

EJ Beekeepers...

Seeing our "girls" flying and bringing in a little pollen gives me spring fever!

I've understood that when we see the pollen on our foragers, it's a good indication that we have a queen and she may be laying already or soon!

After a year of not being able to have classes in person, and not knowing when we will be meeting again, the board has decided to do an on-line class, with a couple hands-on classes later this spring. We are excited to see these club projects progressing and all the work being done to get the classes up and running. We may not be able to meet as a club yet, but that won't stop us from keeping all of you informed.

Tony Weller has started a swarm list, and you will find it on the club BLOG. There are a lot of swarm pictures and information to help not only the person picking up the swarm, but pictures and information for identifying whether the caller has found a real honeybee swarm or hornets. So check that out! If you're interested in a swarm, get on the list!

Ever wonder, like I have, where the drones hang out, waiting for a young queen to take her nuptial flight? On page 5, you will find a link for that information plus a few more interesting links.

Don't forget to pay your club dues! There are a lot of advantages to being a member of East Jefferson Beekeepers Association!

That's the buzz for February.

Gloria 360-301-1850 eastjeffbees@gmail.com

or gloria@tarboovalleywoodenware.com

BEEZWAX

By John Martin



TIPS & TRICKS

February 2021: a monthly offering of useful hints for beekeepers

- *A set of colored thumbtacks is useful for marking frames; use them to distinguish frames holding pollen or honey, and those that need attention at your next inspection.**
- * If you paint your hives, use only latex primer and paint. Oil-based stain is also fine.**
- * As a reminder for proper frame orientation in a hive box, mark each new frame with a “sharpie” felt-tip pen.**

If you would like to submit your own tip or trick, please send it to richandsusi@ejbees.com.

East Jefferson Beekeepers Association

BEGINNING BEEKEEPING CLASS BEGINS MARCH 13th

The apprentice beekeeping class series will be online this year on the ejbees.com blog site, accessible only to registered participants* who are paid members of EJBees. There is no charge for the course, and the text is available at no charge from the blog site.

On March 13, 2021, the first two class presentations will be posted, and two more will be added to the site each week for a total of 10 classes over five weeks. Participants will receive a new password for each week's classes. Work at your own pace, review as often as you like! Once posted, all class presentations will remain on the site for the duration.

Q&A: Post your questions about each unit in the “comments” section found below the posted videos, and they'll be answered by the instructor, Rich Thomas. A hands-on apiary visit is planned in April, if weather allows.

*Any paid EJBees member can participate—register by dropping a line to Susi Thomas at richandsusi@ejbees.com.

Meanwhile...you can pay 2021 EJBees membership dues by mail. It's \$24 for an individual, \$36 for a family. Dues paid for 2020 were carried over to 2021. New and continuing members can send checks made out to “EJBees” to our new address: EJBA, PO Box 1984, Port Townsend, WA 98368. Please include contact info!

A FEW BENEFITS OF BEING AN EJBEES MEMBER

- *1. Get a 5% discount at Frank Neal's Tarboo Valley Woodenware**
- *2. Participate in EJBees classes on beekeeping**
- *3. Link up with an EJBees mentor**
- *4. Become an EJBees mentor!**
- *5. Have access to EJBees equipment**
- *6. Access notes on methods (e.g., the "Alcohol Wash" for mite counts),etc.**
- *7. Obtain a swarm through the EJBees swarm response "rescue" program.**
- *8. Become automatically an associate member of Washington State Beekeepers Association**
- *9. Contribute a "photo of the month" to illustrate your special technique, method or observation**
- *10. Vote on matters concerning the operation and direction of the EJBees organization.**

Bee Biology.....Rich and Susi Thomas

This is a new series on bee biology that we'll be writing for the newsletter from time to time. These are not intended to be scientific papers with references, graphs, etc., but rather, just brief notes that are readable and informative for the hobby-beekeeper.



Honey bee water forager: notice the bee's proboscis pressed tightly between the mandibles, making it an efficient drinking straw. The abdominal muscles pump to suck water into the bee's crop (Photo: Frederick Dunn)

HONEY BEES that collect water are specialists, a set of foragers completely distinct from the nectar gatherers. It's all they do! This job, however, only begins for them at the mature age of 20 days...before that, they have other duties in the hive. In this role, they fly out to find water and transport it in the same "crop" as would be used hold nectar (volume is 1/250th teaspoon) and deliver it to other workers in the hive whose only job at age 10 to 19 days is receiving and distributing water for all the colony's needs. The water forager's role has been shown to be at least in part genetically predetermined.

The water forager selects a source--a puddle, pond, droplets on a leaf close to the hive--then visits that same spot over and over again, always landing on exactly the same pebble, tuft of moss, or other perch originally chosen. Between bouts of water-gathering, the forager waits quietly in the hive until needed again. As the colony's demand for water increases, these bees employ a "waggle dance" to engage other water foragers, conveying direction and distance information, just as nectar and pollen foragers do for their own recruitment activity.

Dr. Tom Seeley conducted extensive experiments on this topic, published in 2016. See a nice video presentation of his findings at <https://youtu.be/bb5cowu-NZI>.

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FEBRUARY'S HONEY-DO LIST

- *Make sure your colonies have ventilation during the cold months.
- * Occasionally, on a warm day, when your bees are flying, it doesn't hurt to take a quick PEAK under the lid to check on your bees.
- * Checking the bottom entrance is a good idea so it doesn't get blocked with dead bees. Using a wire or stick to scrape any dead bees out is a good thing to do. I usually do this during a cold day when I know they are clustered so as not to injure any bees.
- *Make sure your bees have plenty of food stores by lifting the back of the colony and checking the weight. Do not feed liquid syrup during the winter months. Your bees need food stores close to the cluster. Feed fondant, a sugar brick, or cane sugar. Once you start feeding during the winter, you need to continue until spring when there is a good supply of nectar and pollen, and temperatures are warm and fairly stable.
- * On a WARM day (preferably above 60 degrees and no wind) you can do a hive examination on your colonies. (Occasionally March surprises us with one of those days...)
- * Check honey and pollen stores and the presence or evidence of a queen. Also, check for signs of Nosema. If nosema is found you may want to medicate these colonies.

Do you have a favorite link you would like to share?

Although we are still unable to meet, there are a lot of links about beekeeping on the internet. Some good, some not so good. So each month we hope you will share your favorite links with the rest of us. They will be added to the club newsletter.

Here is a good video dealing with both American and European foul brood. Video is at the bottom.

<https://txbeeinspection.tamu.edu/european-foulbrood/>

RESEARCH ARTICLE ABOUT DRONE CONGREGATION AREAS.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00040-004-0763-z>

If one enters "The National Honey Show", it will bring up multiple lectures. Highly recommended are Tom Seeley and Ralph Buehler. Rich

SKEPS

This is an interesting and entertaining video. It actually shows a number of important techniques even though skeps are not legal here in the US. This was the standard bee hive for hundreds of years, even in the early years of beekeeping in this country.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hn5OxMXCSz8>

Bees can sense a **flower's** electrical charge, which tells them if the **flower's** worth visiting. Everyone **knows** that **bees** buzz around **flowers** in their quest for **nectar**. But scientists have now learned that **flowers** are buzzing right back — with electricity. ... **Flowers** use various means to attract honey **bees** and other pollinators...

<https://youtu.be/4pEtGzb095k>



EVERYONE HAS A GREAT BEE STORY!

We would like to share your bee stories from last year with everyone. If you have a story or something that you learned last year about your bees, please send it to our club email...

Eastjeffbees@gmail.com

ASIAN GIANT HORNET

Would anyone like to head up the 2021 WSDA-sponsored Asian Hornet trapping program in East Jefferson County?

Please contact Rich Thomas at

richandsusi@ejbees.com



BUZZING WITH



Blake

Bee-lieve me. It's a fact!

Apis Mellifera: Apis means "swarm"
Mellifera means "honey bearing"

.....Blake



KEEP BUZZING WITH BLAKE

Oxalic Acid treatments for your bees....

Treat against varroa during the winter, when there are no brood cells...(No place for the varroa to hide.)

I AM SETTING UP APPOINTMENTS TO TREAT COLONIES. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR WOULD LIKE TO SCHEDULE A TREATMENT, PLEASE CALL THE PHONE NUMBER BELOW OR EMAIL ME...

Thanks, BLAKE.

buzzingwithblake@gmail.com Please call if you don't hear back from me!

Tarboo Valley Woodenware....360-301-1850

TARBOO VALLEY WOODENWARE & HONEYBEES

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

5% discount for EJB club members for bee supplies

NEW WEBSITE: tarboovalleywoodenware.com

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PLEASE CALL AHEAD!

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