



# EJ'S NEWS

EJ is East Jefferson Beekeepers Association's Mascot.

Volume 10

Gloria Neal, Editor

March 2021

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## THE PREZ SEZ

Dear Fellow Beekeepers,

Mike Kelley, Rich and Susi Thomas have done a masterful job putting together the online apprentice beekeeping classes. The response has far exceeded expectations and substantially grown EJBA.

Remember, you don't have to be a new beekeeper to take advantage of the lesson modules. If you're a member just request a password from Susi.

The board has been meeting regularly with our latest priority finding a place to hold a live meeting. As we move into so-called Phase 3, this should be easier. Unfortunately, the Jefferson County Library had repurposed their meeting room and it is no longer available even after all restrictions are lifted; however, our first meeting will be at an outdoor location. Live meetings are one of the primary benefits of EJBA membership. It's been my experience that the round table discussions that are usually on the agenda provide invaluable information, especially from our more experienced beekeepers.

Latest update...it looks like we may have an outdoor meeting in April. See details in the box below.

Sincerely  
David Morris



## APRIL EJBEES GENERAL MEETING – HOORAY!

Good News! The EJBees Board has scheduled our first general meeting of 2021 for April 3 at 10:30 a.m. We'll meet at the Wild Olympic Salmon shelter at *HJ Carroll Park in Chimacum*: 9884 WA Highway 19, between Chimacum School and Ness Corner Road.

The Shelter is a covered area with open sides, and we are allowed up to 50 people in attendance. We shall be observing strict masking and distancing rules. There are some large picnic tables with benches, but **it would be great if you could bring your own camp chairs, folding chairs, etc.**

This will be a chance for new members to experience the group in action, and for "old" members to meet these enthusiastic new beekeepers. Some of our experienced apiarists will present accounts of overwintering their colonies (many of us have had great success this winter). We will also have recommendations for where to get bees and what equipment to buy, and we will answer questions about the upcoming beekeeping season.

## 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

### COMMUNICATIONS

Susi Thomas

### ACTIVITIES-EVENTS

Rich Thomas [EJBEEES.org](http://EJBEEES.org)

### WEBSITE –[EJBEEES.ORG](http://EJBEEES.ORG)

Mike Edwards

### BLOG –[EJBEEES.COM](http://EJBEEES.COM)

Mike Kelley

### SWARM CORDINATOR

Tony Weller

### ASSETS MANAGER

Catherine Slaton

### MEDIA SPECIALIST

Jim Gurney

### NEWSLETTER

Gloria Neal

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

EJ Beekeepers...

March 20<sup>th</sup> is officially the first day of spring this year! The longer days usually bring with them warmer weather here in the Northwest. Trees are budding, plants are beginning a new cycle of growth, and spring flowers are beginning to bloom. And I have noticed that already our “girls” are busy bringing in pollen and collecting a lot of water! Can’t wait for a 60 degree day, so I can do a full inspection of my colonies.

Along with all this hustle-bustle, our colonies are starting their brood nests, and it’s really important to know they still have plenty of food stores. They will really be needing lots of food for those hungry little mouths, and they can run low very fast.

If you see your bees packing young larvae out the front door, your colony is in dire need of food, as they are already eliminating the expendable young. (Seems the drone larvae are the first to go.)

We are really excited about the on-line classes, and it seems like a lot of people are too, by the number of sign-ups. Thanks to Mike, Rich and Susi for putting in the many hours to make this possible.

It’s getting close to the time we start seeing swarms. If you’re interested on getting on the list of swarm recipients, check out the details on the blog. Thanks Tony, for the wonderful job you did in setting this up and getting the word out!

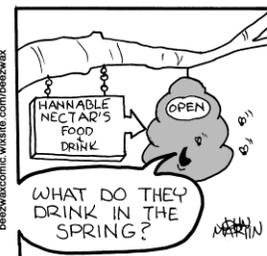
Happy beekeeping!

*That’s the buzz for March.*

*Gloria*

[gloria@ejbees.com](mailto:gloria@ejbees.com)

### BEEZWAX



By John Martin

TM & © 2021 John Martin Features

## MARCH HONEY-DO LIST

\* Make sure your bees are queenright.

\* This is a good time to check your colony's food stores. Our queens are laying now, and this can be a critical time for your honey bees. Their honey stores are at the lowest, and although they are active, there's not an abundance of flowers until the dandelions are blooming. These last stretches of cooler weather can keep your bees from gathering nectar. Stimulate development with pollen patties and 1:1 cane sugar/water.

\* If your colonies are strong, you may want to consider reversing your boxes to give the queen more laying room. Not sure how to do that? See page seven for a YouTube link.

### Online Journeyman Study Group Starting March 22

From SnoKing Beekeepers' Association:

We are starting an online journeyman study group. Our first meeting will be March 22. This certification is intended for those with three or more years of beekeeping who have completed WASBA's apprentice certification. We will meet online to go through the 170-page manual and to encourage and support each other in gaining knowledge and experience.

We wish to help each other with the other main goal of journeyman certification: to give back to the community with mentoring, talks on beekeeping and all pollinators, and being ambassadors for bees in general. Journeymen candidates who are not affiliated with the SnoKing Beekeepers will be encouraged to seek service opportunities with their home bee club.

If interested in joining, please contact us as soon as possible. Manuals should be ordered in advance. Cost of course is \$65.

**Eli Ocheltree**, SnoKing 206-859-7392,  
[eliochel@gmail.com](mailto:eliochel@gmail.com)

### OA News from EPA

EPA has finally approved the use of oxalic acid (OA) treatments for your bee hives **WITH HONEY SUPERS ON**. This includes aqueous solutions and oxalic acid vapor to kill varroa mites.

Rich

### Register Your Apiary---- You'll Be Glad You Did!

Remember to register all honey bee hives by April 1 with Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA). Beekeepers—backyard or commercial—need to register hives annually.

All money collected helps fund honey bee research projects with Washington State University and other entities. Registered beekeepers in compliance with the law are also protected from civil liability connected to keeping honey bees, and *do not pay sales tax on purchase of bees*.

[Apiary registration forms](#) can be submitted by mail to: WSDA, PO Box 42591, Olympia, WA 98504-2560. Or call at 360-902-2070. If you have other questions regarding registering hives, visit the [apiary registration webpage](#) or email [PestProgram@agr.wa.gov](mailto:PestProgram@agr.wa.gov).

## TIPS & TRICKS

*March 2021: a monthly offering of useful hints for beekeepers*

- *When you put frames into service, write the month & year on the top of each.*
- *Save yourself paying state sales tax on purchase of bees—register your hives!*
- *To make 1:1 spring syrup, fill a container halfway with white cane sugar, and fill the rest of the way with hot tap water, then mix. No further heating needed.*

*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*

Greetings Members and Friends of EJBees -

### CALL IN POIROT!

**EJBees is looking for missing equipment. Please check your closets, garages, and memory banks for the following:**

- (2) hive tools
- (1) book: *A World Without Bees*
- (2) (1) plastic mannequin

If there is something on this list that you've borrowed from, or are holding for the club please email Catherine at: [cs@ejbees.com](mailto:cs@ejbees.com)

Much thanks and happy beekeeping  
Catherine Slaton

### EAST JEFFERSON BEEKEEPING OFFERS EQUIPMENT LOAN

Unless your hobby is rock hunting in your backyard, or stargazing with the naked eye, there are certain costs involved. Did you know EJB has an extractor and electric knife available for loan? Save yourself some money and aggravation.

Please email Catherine at [cs@ejbees.com](mailto:cs@ejbees.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](mailto:richandsusi@ejbees.com).



## EJBEEES.COM BLOG AWARDED WEBBY FOR EXCELLENCE

Well, not yet, but soon. In the meantime, get ready to have your socks knocked off by our crack team of bloggers. Access to classes? You got it! Copious information on the zen art of beekeeping? You got it! Links to other Grade A sites on beekeeping? You got that too! Photos? Lots of photos for you to look at and inspire your beekeeping to great heights. Pour a glass of mead, or honey-sweetened tea and visit EJbees.com – you'll be glad you did.

Wait! There's more! We love to hear from our members. Do you have photos or content ideas for our soon-to-bee award winning blog? Be a contributor. Visit [ejbees.com](http://ejbees.com), or email material to [admin@ejbees.com](mailto:admin@ejbees.com) or [photo@ejbees.com](mailto:photo@ejbees.com).



### LAYING WORKER COLONY

(See article below)

## BEE BIOLOGY.....Rich and Susi Thomas

A phenomenon that is seen most often in the early spring is that of a "laying worker colony."

In this case, an older queen has become nonfunctional in her egg-laying ability, and worker bees have taken up the job of producing eggs for the colony.

Female worker bees are diploid, having genes both from the queen and a drone with which she mated, and they retain the ability to produce eggs. However, this tendency is suppressed by queen pheromone. Because these workers have never mated, they can only produce haploid eggs that will turn into drones—the male of the species. The process is called "parthenogenesis." It is a natural form of asexual reproduction in which growth and development of embryos occur without fertilization by sperm, and it can be found in many different animals and plants. (*A familiar example you might observe in your own back yard is aphids: they're "born pregnant."*)

In honey bees, the laying worker's abdomen is not long enough to reach the base of a cell, so she will lay eggs on the sides of cells and even on top of pollen. Often, a beekeeper will observe multiple eggs in one cell, or 2 to 3 drone larvae developing in a single cell. The colony is doomed if it continues on this imperfect pathway without a queen. The only reliable way to correct the situation is to combine a laying worker colony with a queenright\* colony, and to allow the normal worker bees to kill the laying workers.

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\*a queenright colony is one in which the queen is healthy, laying eggs, and producing adequate queen pheromone, so that the colony is satisfied and not seeking to replace her.

## VOLUNTEER SWARM RESPONDERS AND SWARM RECIPIENTS NEEDED

**SWARM RESPONDERS:** EJBees members with at least one year of beekeeping experience who have handled swarms successfully in the past are invited to volunteer for the EJBee's *swarm responder list*. Must have your own equipment. To apply, provide name, email, phone, and the location or area that you can serve. Send to Tony Weller: [tony4bees@ejbees.com](mailto:tony4bees@ejbees.com).

**SWARM RECIPIENTS:** EJBees members who want to receive a swarm must have the capacity to receive it in its raw state—that is, collected in a heavy cardboard box with no accoutrements and to house it appropriately upon receipt. The swarm responder is always first on the recipient list, and who then may pass swarms on to other recipients. To apply, provide name, email, phone, and your location. Send to Tony Weller: [tony4bees@ejbees.com](mailto:tony4bees@ejbees.com).

Please find detailed information on the blog site in the section, "Report a Swarm" at [ejbees.com/swarm/](http://ejbees.com/swarm/).

*NOTE: this is all volunteer work, a service to the community. No fee from the people to whom we respond, no reimbursement for expenses, no sales of collected swarms. Swarm responders use their own transportation and equipment.*

## IN THE GARDEN

Happy first day of spring: March 20, 2021. Listening to fellow beekeepers, I've heard exciting news about honeybees bringing pollen back to the hive. The maples and hazels are out as are the dandelions. (Who knew I could ever love a weed so much. Funny how they look so beautiful when you know they're providing essential food for the pollinators.) There's nothing like seeing a forager working away on early bloomers. Last July, imagining the bees venturing out in February in search of food, I put my entire bulb budget into *Blue Pearl* crocus with the package arriving from Scheepers Bulbs the day after the last warm day of late summer – that first dip into cold damp. On with the mud boots and waxed jacket, sack of bulbs in one hand, a shovel in the other, and in my pocket, a plastic feed bag to keep my knees from acting as a wick for that week's damp. The crocus went into the ground smack dab in front of the hives, the same patch filled to the hilt with calendula seeds from last year's crop.

Now in late March, the crocus are just about done, and new calendula is well on its way. In other parts of the garden hellebore is still showing off. I don't see many bees on my *Blue Slate*, *Ivory Prince*, or *Snow Love*, but other beekeepers confirm such sightings. Always on the lookout for rewards for my honeybees after working hard to bring their hive through, I've got a bright yellow post-it note to remind me to put everything on winter aconite this year. Winter aconite is another early bloomer loved by pollinators. Easiest to grow from plants, but also available in tuber and seed, winter aconite (not to be confused with aconite, also known as monkshood), will naturalize once established. There are several bulb companies that supply winter aconite tubers, and seeds are available from a few Etsy companies, if you're feeling adventurous.

And speaking of losing track of what I started to write about which was predicting chores by what's in bloom, I learned years ago that when the columbine has finished blooming, it's time to stop transplanting. Likewise, thanks to my friends at the Scottish Beekeepers' Association, I learned when the flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum*) starts to open, it's generally safe for first inspections. Makes the currant that much prettier.

Happy Beekeeping!  
Catherine Slaton

### POLLEN CHART

<http://www.sheffieldbeekeepers.org.uk/tools/pollen-chart/>

### BEAUTY FROM BULBS

<https://www.johnscheepers.com/>

### GROWING WINTER ACONITES

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2019/jan/12/how-to-grow-winter-aconites>



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

Although we're about to resume our meetings, 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

Since one of our objectives as beekeepers is a pure and unadulterated honey, this should be an interesting article.

Rich

<https://returntonow.net/2019/04/21/fake-honey-up-to-half-of-honey-is-not-honey-new-testing-technology-reveals/>

Here is a comprehensive study done seven years ago as to the effectiveness of various varroa treatments. This video was recommended on Randy Oliver's Scientific Beekeeping site. Many of the treatments studied were shown to be ineffective in controlling varroa mites.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4bm3Y4t1NwQ>

### TIME TO ORDER NUCS, PACKAGES, QUEENS

Sure, there's still a chill in the air, but bee delivery will be here before you know it.

Nucs, packages, and queens sometimes arrive as early as late April, and some suppliers have deadlines and/or a limited amount of stock available. Don't be that sad person hugging their empty hive wondering why you didn't order bees in time. Make sure you've got bees on order to put in your hives for 2021! Please visit the "Web Links" on our [EJBees.org](http://EJBees.org) website for a list of suppliers.

### REVERSING HIVE BOXES

This is a great YouTube video on reversing your LARGE colony boxes in the spring. Keep in mind, this is in Tennessee.

Kamon Reynolds

<https://youtu.be/NJ5zPCw8Jrg>

### Taranov Swarm Method

<https://youtu.be/ETgWMMZr4So>

The Taranov Swarm Method, published in 2014 by the Massachusetts's Beekeepers Association is taught by Adam Nevitt. This is a Russian technique suitable for beginners and experts alike with which you can easily split a hive, without finding the queen and without losing a swarm! Not only does the video explain this easy technique that we have used in our own apiary, it provides incredible insight on bee behavior and swarming. It's about 55 minutes, but well worth your time.

This is a picture  
of our Taranov  
swarm before  
we hived it.  
Gloria



A video by Randy Oliver showing a mite wash done in three minutes. He recommends doing one of these before the first honey supers goes on. This is just information to remind all our EJ-beekeepers that they need to keep this monitoring technique in mind for application in the spring.

Rich

<http://scientificbeekeeping.com/how-to-perform-an-alcohol-wash/>

YouTube 2/25/21. First swarm of the season. Catching a swarm that is about 20-plus feet in the air.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6KpnemGHKkl>

Thanks Rich!



# BUZZING WITH



# Blake

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

### BEEKEEPERS!

Honey bees spend less than 5 minutes at a foraging site before returning back to the hive.....

.....Blake



### KEEP BUZZING WITH BLAKE

Treat against Varroa during the spring, to keep the Varroa numbers down, as your colonies grow.

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. Thanks, BLAKE.

360-774-2177

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](http://tarboovalleywoodenware.com)

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

### PLEASE CALL AHEAD!

If you would prefer not to receive this newsletter, please email us at [Eastjeffbees@gmail.com](mailto:Eastjeffbees@gmail.com)