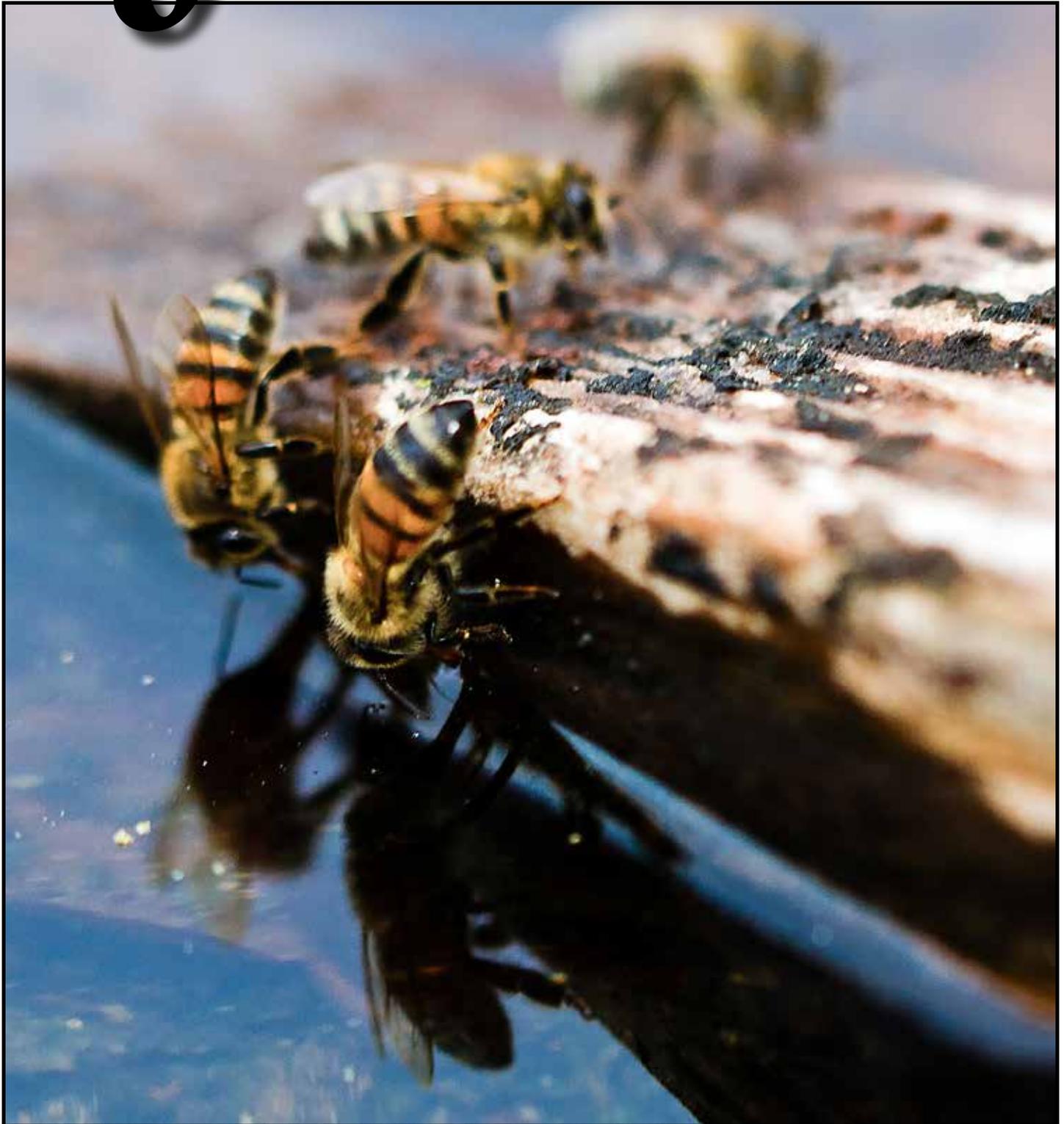


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Texas Beekeepers Association



Journal



Jan / Feb 2014

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Issue 14-1



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President's Report

from Blake Shook



I am cautiously optimistic about our coming spring thus far. We have been a little dry, but, at the time of writing this report in late January, we are already beginning to see a pollen flow a few weeks early in my area. Unfortunately, right when the pollen flow begins in my area, my bees are headed to California for almond pollination. As a migratory beekeeper, it seems I must pay far more attention to the weather in areas other than where I actually live.

In early January both national beekeeping associations held their annual conferences, ABF in Baton Rouge and AHPA in San Antonio. I was fortunate enough to be able to spend some time at both of them. I would love to report that there are revolutionary breakthroughs in research, new ways to kill mites, or a foreseeable end to the many issues we face as an industry. But, in many ways, the state of the industry is somewhat “normal”, or as normal as it can be these days. Winter losses continue to be high, but reports so far of mass die offs seem erratic and not overly widespread, yet! It seems as though we may not be quite as desperate for more hives on the almonds as we were in

2013, and honey prices continue to remain high. All of that could change tomorrow, but for today, that is where we are. One thing I have come to greatly appreciate during the past few years is normal or average. A normal, or average year in my operation, to me, is wonderful. We can live with stability and normality. It is the wild fluctuations in honey production, new diseases or pests, fuel prices, etc. that often times present problems for us as individuals and as an industry. Here's hoping this year remains average!

Your officers continue to work very hard on the projects I outlined in my last report. By the next journal I should have several big news items on some of the projects we are currently working on. But, for this month, everything is normal, which is fantastic.

Like many commercial beekeepers, I'm headed to sunny California, where we are keeping our fingers crossed, and hoping for an early bloom so we can get our bees back home to Texas as soon as possible.

Have a great month!

In This Issue

President's Report.....	3
Vice-President's Report.....	4
The Bud's and the Bees.....	6
Calendar of Events.....	7
The Cause of CCD - Another Research Discovery.....	8
Houston Livestock Rodeo.....	8
The Brantley Column.....	9
Central Texas Beekeepers Assoc. Beginners' School.....	10
Honey Bee Lab. Update.....	12
Texas Honey Queen Chair Report.....	13

Texas Honey Queen Report.....	14
Texas Honey Princess Report.....	16
4-H Beekeeping Essay Results.....	18
NRCS Report on Cropland.....	18
The Bee Whisperer.....	19
Amber Fossil Reveals Ancient Plant Reproduction.....	20
The Origin of Flowers.....	21
Honey Queen Photographs.....	23
List of Associations.....	24
Membership Report.....	26

Cover Picture "Thirsty Bees" by Dan Eudy

Vice President's Report

from Chris Moore



Look out 2014, here comes TBA.

We have several exciting projects this year:

1. **New TBA website**
 - a. Join/renew Online
 - b. Online convention registration
 - c. TBA Texas Honey Locator
 - d. Texas Local Association Locator
 - e. Texas Beekeeper mentor Locator
2. **Complimentary memberships to New First Year Beekeepers**
 - a. Administered by TBA Local Associations
3. **TBA @ Texas A&M**
 - a. Hiring a New Texas Apiary Inspector
 - b. Updating the Inspection Service
 - c. Updating Texas Bee Laws
4. **TBA Summer clinic**
 - a. To be held at the Janice and John G. Thomas Honey Bee Facility located on Texas A&M University's Riverside Campus, June 7th
5. **TBA Annual Convention**
 - a. To be held in the Houston Area, November 6th-9th

I am most excited about 1c, the TBA Texas Honey Locator. I get a lot of honey inquiries, and I always recommend that people purchase local honey. This will be a great tool for consumers wanting 'Real Honey' from 'Real Texas Beekeepers.' It will be equally as good for TBA members that are selling honey. Please sign up to participate. We hope to have this up and running in March.

American Honey Producers just had their annual conference in San Antonio. It was almost as good as our TBA convention.... almost, but not quite!

Beekeepers are struggling everywhere trying to keep their colonies alive & healthy. Varroa Mite control is one of the major battles. They are hosting and spreading viruses. The other major concern is queen fertility. Many new queens are going bad within 2-8 months. Viable sperm are dying inside the queen. Our own Dr. Juliana Rangel is in the process of researching why - looking into the effects of miticides, fungicides and pesticides.

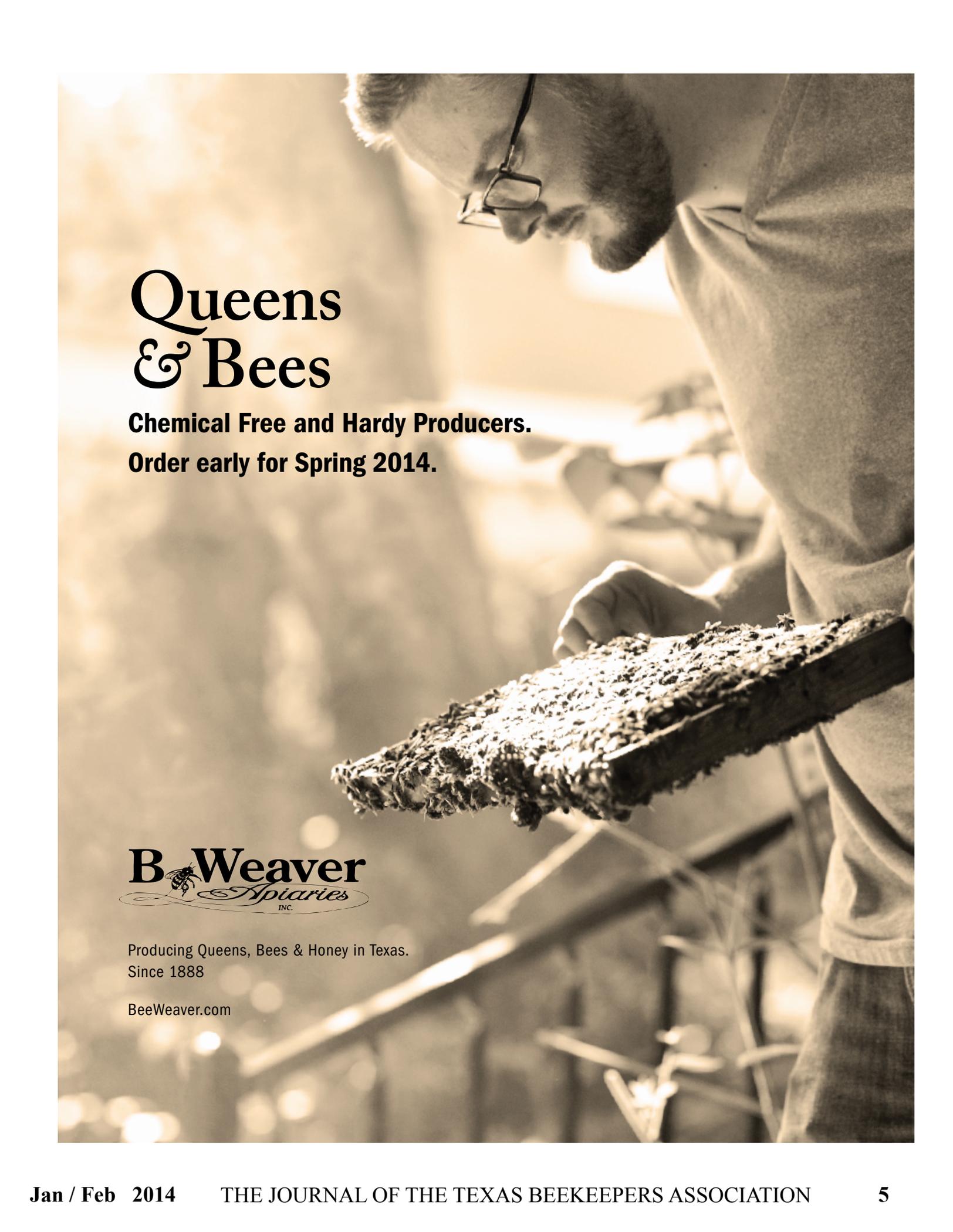
Spring has sprung. At least today anyway, mid-Jan, my bees are busy carrying pollen just as fast as they can. It is so refreshing and exciting to see them doing well; the fresh pollen stores, the fresh white wax on the frames and full frames of sealed brood. The population explosion has begun. They will consume a lot of feed this time of year, make sure your bees have plenty of food.

Hope to see you at the Winter Delegates meeting in February.



Bees are happy

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THE BUDS AND THE BEES

What is **NOT** a Honey Bee Flower

by Becky Bender, Texas Master Naturalist

Who wants to memorize or carry around a list of honey bee plants? Yet we all like to know where to observe our foraging bees and how to choose good nectar plants for our yards. One way to remember what IS a bee flower is by recognizing what is NOT a bee flower. Ah, yes, the process of elimination. It's used by doctors to arrive at diagnoses. Bird watchers use it to identify birds. And haven't all of us used it to select answers on multiple choice tests? So let's give it a try with honey bee flowers!

Within the world of pollinators, honey bees are considered "generalists" because they visit a wide range of flower types and species. In fact, you might say honey bees "accidentally" pollinate flowers while moving from one flower to another collecting food. Unlike the honey bee, some pollinators specialize in certain plants. Some moths and butterflies have evolved a long proboscis (tongue-like structure) to reach into deep flowers. Bumblebees perform buzz pollination by contracting flight muscles to shake pollen from flowers that are closed and hard for other bees to get into. Tomatoes and blueberries are crops best pollinated by the buzz method. There are even "specialist bees" that forage only one host plant. Though the honey bee is not a picky eater, she is still discriminating. Certain flower features are not attractive to her.

Let's take a look at what is NOT a honey bee flower.

Deep, tube-shaped flowers

We all know hummingbirds can drink from long flower structures like Trumpet creeper and Coral honeysuckle. Even some moths, butterflies and bumblebees are able to forage flower structures that honey bees may pass over unless there is nothing else available.



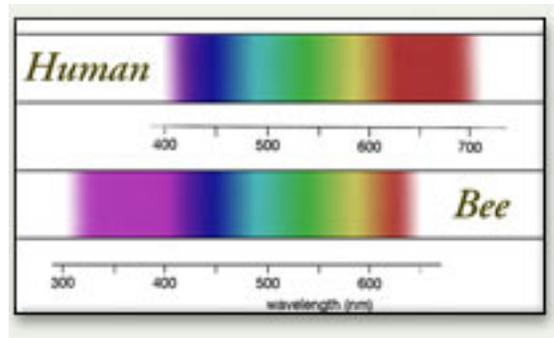
Bee works to get nectar from the base of a tubular Autumn Sage flower.

The length of a pollinator's sucking proboscis (tongue-like structure) largely determines the type of flower it will visit. The honey bee's proboscis measures 6.5 mm or ¼ inch long – long enough for many flowers but not long enough to reach nectar at the base of tubular flowers. In the photo of a honeybee on Autumn sage, notice how she enters the base of the tubular flower where it has separated from the stem -- the only way she can reach the nectar. Honey bees prefer open, flatter flowers which is why asters and sunflowers are favorites.

The size of a blossom typically doesn't matter to the honey bee. She will collect from the tiny, inconspicuous blossoms of poison ivy as well as from the large open cups of magnolia flowers.

Red flowers

To attract pollinators, plants have evolved to "advertise" their pollen using particular flower traits. These traits include scent, size, shape and color. Red flowers have evolved to attract hummingbirds and butterflies. But, as illustrated in the bee vision photo, bees cannot see the color red. Bee vision is shifted toward the shorter wavelengths – they see ultraviolet light which humans cannot see. This ultraviolet vision means they are especially attracted to blue and purple flowers. Perhaps you've noticed your bees mobbing the "purplish" flowers of catnip, rosemary, basil, cenizo, fall asters, horsemint and purple prairie clover to name a few.



Comparison of wavelengths visible to humans and bees. Bees do not see red but do distinguish colors especially well in the ultraviolet and blue-green regions of the color spectrum. Humans cannot see ultraviolet light but see red especially well.

Bee vision, with permission WebExhibits

Cultivars of plant species

A cultivar is a version of an original plant species that has been cultivated by man for desirable characteristics. Cultivars are selected for their ornamental appeal, particularly color, unusual forms and showy blooms. Roses, daffodils, azaleas and coneflowers are examples of popular garden cultivars. Some cultivars are also selected for pest-resistance.

Sound good? So what's the problem? Many cultivars may be attractions for the human eye but fail to perform their role for wildlife as their original, native flower species did. The new form of the flower may not have the same value for our bees. Let's take the example of the purple coneflower, *Echinacea purpurea*, a beautiful native Texas nectar and pollen flower. Cultivars of our original coneflower species are a current fad in the nursery industry. They may be sterile – not so good for goldfinches seeking seed. They may have flamboyant double flower forms – not so good for bees that must work harder to reach the nectar and pollen through a pile of fancy petals. Some cultivars may lose scent, a

road block for foraging bees. If you have flowers in your garden that never have insect damage on the leaves or bees on the blooms, consider pulling them out and replacing them with an original, native flower species.

It's tricky to know if a nursery plant is a cultivar. If it is labeled with a proper scientific name, the genus and species names will be italicized, and the cultivar name will be in regular type with single quotation marks like this coneflower: *Echinacea purpurea* 'Magnus'. But often there is no scientific name or an incomplete one. So be cautious of cute, marketing-hype flower names like, for example, a coneflower labeled Plum Passion Parfait. That is almost certainly a cultivar! If you can see the reproductive structures of the flower (stamen and pistil), then its pollen and nectar is probably accessible to honeybees. Local nurseries that specialize in native plants tend to stick closer to original flower species.

Next time you're looking for your industrious bees or shopping for bee plants, try the process of elimination. Like a multiple choice test, at least you have a good shot at getting it right!



Original native coneflower species:
Echinacea purpurea



Coneflower cultivar:
Echinacea purpurea 'Magnus'



Fancier coneflower cultivar:
Echinacea 'Secret Affair'

Your questions, comments and observations are welcome and may be used in future articles.
Send to Becky Bender at RBenderRN@aol.com.

Calendar of Events

Texas Beekeepers Association Winter Delegates Meeting in Salado, TX.....February 15th, 2014

Texas Beekeepers Association Summer Clinic.....June 7th. 2014

Texas Beekeepers Association at the State Fair of Texas.....Sept./Oct. 2014

Texas Beekeepers Association Annual Convention in Houston, TX area.....November 6th-9th, 2014

The Cause of CCD - Another Research Discovery

Pathogenic Plant Virus Jumps to Honey Bees

from mBio a publication of the American Society for Microbiology

by Ji Lian Li and others

A viral pathogen that typically infects plants has been found in honey bees and could help explain their decline. Researchers working in the U.S. and Beijing, China report their findings in *mBio*, the online open-access journal of the American Society for Microbiology.

The routine screening of bees for frequent and rare viruses “resulted in the serendipitous detection of Tobacco Ringspot Virus, or TRSV, and prompted an investigation into whether this plant-infecting virus could also cause systemic infection in the bees,” says Yan Ping Chen from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Research Service (ARS) laboratory in Beltsville, Maryland, an author on the study.

“The results of our study provide the first evidence that honey bees exposed to virus-contaminated pollen can also be infected and that the infection becomes widespread in their bodies,” says lead author Ji Lian Li, at the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Science in Beijing.

“We already know that honey bees, *Apis mellifera*, can transmit TRSV when they move from flower to flower, likely spreading the virus from one plant to another,” Chen adds.

Notably, about 5% of known plant viruses are pollen-transmitted and thus potential sources of host-jumping viruses. RNA viruses tend to be particularly dangerous because they lack the 3’-5’ proofreading function which edits out errors in replicated genomes. As a result, viruses such as TRSV generate a flood of variant copies with differing infective properties.

One consequence of such high replication rates are populations of RNA viruses thought to exist as “quasispecies,” clouds of genetically related variants that appear to work together to determine the pathology of their hosts. These sources of genetic diversity, coupled with large population sizes, further facilitate the adaptation of RNA viruses to new selective conditions such as those imposed by novel hosts. “Thus, RNA viruses are a likely source

of emerging and reemerging infectious diseases,” explain these researchers.

Toxic viral cocktails appear to have a strong link with honey bee Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), a mysterious malady that abruptly wiped out entire hives across the United States and was first reported in 2006. Israel Acute Paralysis Virus (IAPV), Acute Bee Paralysis Virus (ABPV), Chronic Paralysis Virus (CPV), Kashmir Bee Virus (KBV), Deformed Wing Bee Virus (DWV), Black Queen Cell Virus (BQCV) and Sacbrood Virus (SBV) are other known causes of honey bee viral disease.

When these researchers investigated bee colonies classified as “strong” or “weak,” TRSV and other viruses were more common in the weak colonies than they were in the strong ones. Bee populations with high levels of multiple viral infections began failing in late fall and perished before February, these researchers report. In contrast, those in colonies with fewer viral assaults survived the entire cold winter months.

TRSV was also detected inside the bodies of Varroa mites, a “vampire” parasite that transmits viruses between bees while feeding on their blood. However, unlike honey bees, the mite-associated TRSV was restricted to their gastric cecum indicating that the mites likely facilitate the horizontal spread of TRSV within the hive without becoming diseased themselves. The fact that infected queens lay infected eggs convinced these scientists that TRSV could also be transmitted vertically from the queen mother to her offspring.

“The increasing prevalence of TRSV in conjunction with other bee viruses is associated with a gradual decline of host populations and supports the view that viral infections have a significant negative impact on colony survival,” these researchers conclude. Thus, they call for increased surveillance of potential host-jumping events as an integrated part of insect pollinator management programs.

Article may be found at www.mbio.asm.org/content/5/1/e00898-13. *mBio*® is an open access online journal published by the American Society for Microbiology to make microbiology research broadly accessible. The focus of the journal is on rapid publication of cutting-edge research spanning the entire spectrum of microbiology and related fields. It can be found online at <http://mbio.asm.org>.

Houston Livestock Rodeo

from George Rodriguez, Harris County Beekeepers Association

Please sign up for the Houston Livestock Rodeo. Dates will be from March 3 thru 23. Two shifts per day, 9am-3pm, 3pm-9pm. We need 4 people per shift. If you would like to sign up but don't have your dates ready, you can go to:

www.harriscountybeekeepers.org, click on the tab “Contact HCBA” click on email link and let us know your name, association, phone number and what dates and shifts you would like to work. In the near future a Calander will be posted on the website so you can see where help is needed. More information to follow on passes and parking permits.



The Brantley Column

from S. S. Brantley
East Texas Beekeepers Association

The best of the bee world was in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, January 7-11 at the American Beekeeping Federation. Since it was so close, I could not pass up the learning opportunities and attended the convention along with over 700 other beekeepers from across the USA. There were also 150 vendors of bee related products displaying and selling their wares and services. Some nice bargains were available as the vendors were reluctant to repack and take home all the items they brought to sell. By planning ahead, some beekeepers were able to save on the hefty shipping costs from East or West Coast vendors by picking up the products at the convention.

I met a young man from Pakistan displaying ventilated bee suits made by his company Apisafe Technologies. His bee suits could be purchased in a variety of colors, including camouflage. At the Used Pallet Company booth, I learned they produced many things other than the name implied. Some of their beekeeping products included hive boxes and outer covers, both available in a variety of weather-proofing finishes. The outer covers can be manufactured to your specification with feeding holes cut where you want them. Their products are advertised to be lower in cost since they are made from reclaimed lumber. Their company has been in business in Fresno, California for over 20 years. You can find them on Facebook or call them at 559 264-6664.

The 2015 ABF Convention will be in California at the Disneyland Hotel, January 6-10. Should be a great place for a family vacation and a beekeeping event all rolled into one.

For our less experienced beekeepers, ETBA has a Monthly Guidebook geared toward keeping bees in East Texas (available from ETBA for \$1 to help cover printing costs). Guide book suggestions for February discuss colony strength, amount of stores or supplemental food needed, and the feeding of 2-to-1 syrup. As the days get longer and warmer, the queen will begin to lay more eggs. When the eggs hatch, the larvae must be fed and the hive will begin to use more stores. If you are not regularly checking the hives, the colony could use the available stores before you become aware that there is little or no food to support the increased amount of brood, resulting in starvation of the brood or even the entire hive.

Elm trees typically begin to bloom in mid-to-late January.

I am already receiving reports of elms in bloom and bees bringing pollen into the hive. This sudden availability of natural pollen also triggers the queen to increase brood production. Look at your hives on the warmer afternoons when bees are flying and look for pollen coming in. While elms do provide a source of pollen, they are not considered as a source of nectar. That is why you must ensure that the hive still has stored honey or feed supplementally until nectar producing plants begin to bloom later in the spring.

As we move into February, Maple and Wild Plum trees will begin to bloom. It is an old East Texas beekeeper's saying that the blooming of the Wild Plum heralds the beginning of serious brood production by the queen, preparing the hive for the soon coming spring honey flow. Resolve in 2014 to note the dates of the different blooming varieties in your area. Also note the activity you see at the hive as the blooms progress through spring. Keep the records in a notebook so you will be able to reference them in your future beekeeping journey.

I checked my hives at the house and was surprised to find three dead-outs. I had observed bee activity at these hives during some warmer days in January and thought them to be OK. However, it appears that the activity was robbers from the nearby hives removing the unprotected stores from the dead hives. Perhaps they thought they were visiting a Bed and Breakfast for a free meal. I will have to tend to the dead hives before the weather warms but at this time of the year, with the twice weekly severe cold spells, I am not worried about moths or beetles getting into them.

I have had reports of other beekeepers losing hives in this usually cold winter. Some have been lost due to running out of stores. Others have reported losses not so easily explained. One beekeeper reported that a strong healthy hive absconded, leaving behind an empty hive heavy with honey, both in the super and in the brood box, with a 3-4 inch circle of capped brood on both sides of two frames, surrounded by honey and pollen. It sounds like a textbook example of what a late winter hive should look like—except there were no bees, either dead or alive. The box was full of bees one Saturday. Eight days later, it was empty. What happened? We will never know, it is just one of the mysteries encountered in beekeeping.

Mr. Brantley has written a book, "Practical Experiences in the Beeyard"

Lavishly illustrated it is more than worthwhile to download and read.

https://docs.google.com/file/d/OByozRzhaAQWJbGpnbOdSanJCbWs/edit?usp=drive_web

Central Texas Beekeepers Association Sixth Annual Beginners Beekeeping School

from Michael Kelling, President CTBA

The Sixth Annual Beginners Beekeeping School will be held March 29, 2014 at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Brenham.

This one-day school has grown from 35 attendees in 2009 to 460 last year. We have had folks attend from as far away as Abeline, Corpus Christi, the Ft. Worth/Dallas area and Beaumont with many from Houston. Most are exploring beekeeping or have just started with bees.

While the school is designed for the beginning beekeeper, an Advanced Topics Seminar has been added to run concurrently with the morning Beginning and Intermediate sessions. A morning session dedicated to Top Bar Hives has also been scheduled.

Classes start at 8:30 on Saturday morning and will continue until 4:45 that afternoon. A Bar-B-Que lunch will be held at noon.



Door prizes will be awarded to many participants. Three large door prizes will be awarded at 4:45 p.m. Two hives complete with a migratory top, a bottom board, frames, and foundation all fully assembled and painted will be given away. The large door prize will be a complete hive plus a beginners kit of a jacket and veil, hive tools, and smoker. The large door prizes will be drawn from evaluation forms that have been turned in following the classes. Business that would like to donate items for door prizes should contact the club. Publicity for the vendor will be included with a donation.

Each student will receive a notebook prepared for the school that will contain information about the presenters, basic beekeeping information, beekeeping terminology and, when possible, a summary from the speakers on the class topics.

There will be a vendors area where beekeeping products will be available to view and purchase. Interested vendors should contact the club about space availability.

Each year the club assembles new equipment for students to purchase and take home with them. These hives are complete with frames and foundation and are painted, ready for bees. These hives can be purchased on-line on the registration form. Proceeds

from the sale of these hives helps fund our Scholarship Program. We currently have 10 youth participating. They will receive full protective gear, a complete set of boxes to assemble, and the bees to put in those hives. Each is assigned a mentor and will spend a year learning about bees.

The cost of the school will be \$40/person until March 26. From March 27 to March 28, the cost will be \$60/person. The day of the school, the cost will be \$80/person. Spouses or additional family members will receive a \$10 discount. If you are unable to register on-line, you can call (979) 277-0411.

Information on the school can be found at www.centraltexasbeekeepers.org.

You may also visit our face book page at: CentralTexasBeekeepersAssociationandFriends. Many of our members frequent the page daily to answer questions.

The Central Texas Beekeepers Association meets at 7 p.m. the fourth Thursday of each month except November and December at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Brenham, Texas. Visitors are welcome.

For more information on the Central Texas Beekeepers Association, you may email us at: centraltexasbeekeepers@gmail.com or call Michael Kelling at (979) 277-0411.



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Update from the Honey Bee Lab at Texas A&M University

from Dr. Juliana Rangel, Assistant Professor of Apiculture, Department of Entomology

Howdy TBA members and happy new year! This January I am celebrating the completion of my first year as assistant professor of apiculture at Texas A&M University. This experience has been incredibly rewarding, and I hope that all the hard work and dedication we have put into the bee lab and our research program is paying off. I have had a terrific time in Aggieland so far, and I hope to continue the success and productivity that we are already witnessing. If you did not attend the TBA convention in November, you probably did not get to see some of the research projects we are conducting in the lab. Here's a short synopsis of some of those projects, which will increase in number as we approach the fall semester, when we expect to have successfully recruited 1-2 top doctoral candidates that have applied to our program.

Part of our progress is owed to the group of students that are working in the Honey Bee Lab. For instance, our graduate student Adrian Fisher, whose thesis will focus on the effects of nutrition and pesticides on drone reproductive quality, just recently got awarded the 2014 American Association of Professional Apiculturists Student Scholarship. Adrian received a nice stipend, plus a new feather in his cap for having obtained this prestigious award. His work with drones will commence this spring as soon as the forage is plentiful, the weather is warm enough, and the bees start their reproductive season, so stay tuned!

Another integral member of our lab is our undergraduate researcher and assistant, Alex Martinez. A senior entomology undergraduate student, Alex conducted his first bee project last fall as part of a research-for-credit course. His project focused on surveying the levels of Varroa mites in the fall in the College Station area, and tested the efficacy of three different IPM methods for Varroa control. His results are very interesting because he not only showed that Varroa levels naturally drop over the course of the fall and into the winter (not surprising), but he also showed that all three methods worked in significantly lowering mite levels in all experimental colonies compared to untreated controls. Alex will be presenting his research at a symposium I am organizing titled "Emerging pests and IPM treatments in the Southwest," at the Southwestern Branch of the Entomological Society of America meeting on 24-27 February in San Antonio. This spring Alex will be working on a totally different project looking at the effects of Nosema on queen reproductive quality and supersedure.

We have new faces around the lab as well. Laura Weller is an undergraduate student that will conduct a research-for-credit project looking at Varroa levels in the spring, as well as whether the same IPM methods that were used in the fall help control Varroa in the spring. In this way we will have a one-year report

of Varroa mite levels in our area, which will be useful information for beekeepers near the Brazos area. We also have a new laboratory manager, Dr. Rose-Anne Meissner, who is wearing several hats around the lab, helping us getting it set up for molecular studies. A geneticist by training, Dr. Meissner will be working on developing the protocols needed to assess incidence and levels of Nosema as well as other bee viruses. We are delighted to have these two new members in our laboratory.

Last but not least, we could not have done much of this work without the help of our Apiary manager Mr. ET Ash. His help has been instrumental in maintaining the apiary in shape, and he has been a tremendous mentor to the students that are experiencing hands-on beekeeping for the first time.

At last, I want to mention that in early January I organized, and presented at the American Bee Research Conference (ABRC), which was held in junction with the annual convention of the American Honey Producers Association (AHPA). This annual conference is organized by the American Association of Professional Apiculturists and alternates in meeting jointly with the AHPA, the American Beekeeping Federation (ABF), and the Apiary Inspectors of America (AIA). Our keynote presentation titled "Swarm intelligence in honey bees" was presented by Dr. Tom Seeley, Professor of Biology at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. At the meeting, I had the honor of being selected new president of the AHPA. The 2015 ABRC will be held in junction with the AIA in Tucson, AZ.

Last but not least I want to remind all of you that we will be hosting the annual TBA Summer Clinic at the John G. and Janice Thomas Honey Bee Facility of Texas A&M University. The clinic will be held on Saturday, 7 June 2014 and will be filled with bee-related activities that I am sure you will all enjoy, so please plan ahead so you can join in beautiful Aggieland!

Thank you all for your continuing support, I have had a tremendous year and have been working really hard to continue this route of success. If you have any questions, please email me at jrangel@tamu.edu. Or, for up to date information regarding our program, please visit us on facebook at [facebook.com/TAMUhoneebeeelab](https://www.facebook.com/TAMUhoneebeeelab). Happy beekeeping!





Texas Honey Queen Chair Rachael Seida

Dear Texas Beekeepers,
Spring is on its way and so are we!!!

We attended the American Beekeeping Federation Conference in Baton Rouge, LA, during early January. Shelby Kilpatrick did an amazing job representing us and showing off how successful our program is at reaching the public. And, as always, the conference was a great chance to learn and connect with beekeepers from around the nation. The 2015 ABF Conference will be in Anaheim, CA, at the Disneyland Resort. Check your calendars and make your plans to come!

As always – check the Facebook page for updates our promotions this year. Also during the year we are always looking for new promotions across the state. This year we would like to hit some areas that we have not visited much in the past. San Antonio, El Paso, The Valley, Corpus Christi, and Waco all come to mind (though certainly not limited to those areas!).

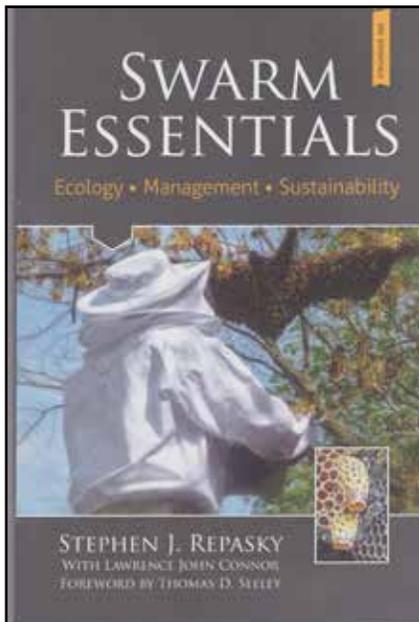
To host the Honey Queen or Princess is very easy: You need an

event or events to invite her to promote at (Fair/ Festival, Media, Schools, Civic Groups, etc.) and a host family (or single woman). My contact info is below if you have an event in mind, or more questions.

Since the TBA Convention, I had several persons (locally and nationally) inquire about starting a honey queen program in their club/association. This inspired me to take up, as a goal for 2014, a desire I have had for several years of writing a manual for starting and running a honey queen program. My progress in writing has been small since last entry, but I have heard from even more people that want to know how to start and run a “good” queen program. The best advice I have for them? Just get started. Don’t get bogged down with having the program ready to go. Just find yourself someone trustworthy and willing (notice I did not say qualified) to run the program (chairperson) and then find yourself a girl to represent you (honey queen).

We look forward to seeing all of you soon.

Rachael Seida, rachaelseida@hotmail.com
(214) 578-3477



Authors Stephen J. Repasky and Lawrence J. Connor take you on a path along the joys of swarming, in *Swarm Essentials*, walking you through the behavior of swarming, as well as tried and true techniques for prevention and management through the seasons. They offer you a new perspective on pest prevention and provide some quality tips on bolstering your beeyard with swarm capture. In the latest addition to the Wicwas Press Essentials series, second generation and EAS Master Beekeeper and Burgh’s Bees club president Steve Repasky teams up with respected entomologist, speaker, and author, Larry Connor to help you achieve your beekeeping goals and navigate the challenging subject of swarming!

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2014 Texas Honey Queen Hayden Wolf

Neonicotinoids

Greetings Texas Beekeepers!

I hope this article finds you and your bees doing well. My five hives are still going strong and have been quite active the past few days with the warmer weather here in East Texas. My Dad and I are making plans to build a few top bar hives - just to try them out for fun.

The best part of this month was traveling to the North American Beekeeping Conference and Tradeshow in Baton Rouge, Louisiana with Rachael Seida and 2013 Texas Honey Queen, Shelby Kilpatrick. We were there from January 6th-12th, and I had a wonderful time meeting beekeepers from all over the U.S., attending various beekeeping sessions and activities and helping out where I could. On the 7th, Shelby and I had the opportunity to tour the USDA Baton Rouge Bee Lab with some of the other conference attendees. My favorite part was getting to see American Foulbrood, Nosema Spores and live tracheal mites under the lab's microscopes. Another highlight from the ABF convention was attending the "Diagnosis and Discovery in Microscopy for the Beekeeper" workshop where I got to filter pollen out of honey and then look at it under the microscope. It was incredible to see all the different shapes, sizes and colors of the pollen! I was also able to try my hand at dissecting a honey bee under a microscope, which was more difficult than you'd think, but still a really neat experience. I may have to try it again at home!

Over the next few months I'm going to be researching and writing on the topic of "honey bees and pesticides; inside and outside the hive." I'll be looking at different pesticides, herbicides, and miticides and their affects on honey bees along with giving you tips for chemical free beekeeping.

The first pesticide we're going to look at is Neonicotinoids (Neonics) which I will start this month and finish in my next article.

Back in April of 2013 I read an article from the Guardian called "Bee harming pesticides banned in Europe." The article stated that the European Union had recently banned the use of 3 pesticides containing neonicotinoids: Thiamethoxam, Clothianidin and Imidacloprid, in an effort to reduce Colony Collapse Disorder. This sparked my interest and I began to research about neonics and how they affect bees.

So, what exactly is a neonicotinoid? Well, neonicotinoids are a neuro-active insecticide, and their name means "new nicotine-like insecticide." Neonicotinoids include: Acetamiprid, Clothianidin,

Thiamethoxam, Imidacloprid, Thiacloprid, Nitenpyram, and Dinotefuran. Imidacloprid is currently the most widely used insecticide in the world. Neonics are used on everything from corn and food crops, to lawn, garden care and even pet care products.

Most insecticides are only toxic when applied and are only effective for a short period of time. However with neonicotinoids, independent studies show that while the photodegradation half-life of most neonicotinoids is around 34 days when exposed to sunlight, it might take up to 3.8 years for these compounds to degrade in the absence of sunlight and micro-organism activity.

Plants easily uptake the chemical through their roots where it is then spread to all parts of the plant including the pollen nectar and guttation droplets that the leaves of plants excrete.

Neonicotinoids work as an insecticide by building up in specific neural pathways in the insects' central nervous systems. One of the popular uses for Imidacloprid is in termite baits. Once termites have ingested the product, they go out to feed and then can't find their way back home and eventually die. The same effects have been observed in honey bees undergoing CCD.

Jerry Hayes, (the writer of "The Classroom" in American Bee Journal) said "the interesting thing about Colony Collapse Disorder is that bees are leaving the colony and not coming back, which is highly unusual for a social insect to leave a queen and its brood behind. They are seemingly going out and can't find their way back home."

You may be wondering how bees come in contact with neonics. There are five different ways of contact that I'm going to cover.

The first way is through direct contact via crop spraying. This the most commonly known route where honey bees are either directly covered in the spray, are hit by drift from the spray, or pick up traces when they come in contact with recently sprayed foliage. In the UK, farmers are required by regulations to notify any local beekeepers before spraying so hives can be moved or closed; this however doesn't protect wild pollinators, such as Mason bees, Blue bees, and Bumblebees.

The next route of contact comes from the dust generated by the mechanical planting of neonic treated seeds. Bees may either fly through the clouds of dust or come in contact with drift from the dust. Dust from the abraded seed coatings was found to contain 20% neonicotinoid content which is over 2,000 times the dosage in spray treatments. Also, neonic contaminated talc which is used to keep the seeds flowing smoothly in the seed planter equipment,

and dust released from the machine exhaust, was found to have 700,000 times the lethal contact dose for an individual bee. They are however addressing this issue by improving the equipment so it doesn't let dust out. Hopefully, this will not be an issue for much longer.

Another way of contact (and one that could affect an entire hive) is contamination via pollen and nectar from plants and crops that have been grown from seeds treated with neonics. The bees ingest residues of these pesticides when they consume nectar and pollen from neonicotinoid-treated flowering crops. That neonic laden pollen and nectar is then brought back to the hive by foragers thus contaminating the colony's food resources. While foraging worker bees feed mostly on nectar, contamination of pollen is a special concern for newly emerged nurse bees who feed on pollen from hive reserves. Bee larvae are also at risk because they are fed a mixture of pollen and honey. Bees also collect 'guttation' drops (drops of water 'sweated' by the leaves of growing plants) as water sources, which can contain very high levels of neonics.

Bees may also gather water that is contaminated with neonics residues from nearby fields that have been sprayed. Neonics have been known to contaminate untreated crop plants and nearby

flowering weeds for well over 3 years after the original crop treatment.

Last but not least, neonics are not just used by farmers. Consumers who purchase bedding or other ornamental plants may be unknowingly bringing neonics into their own yards. Many nurseries and greenhouses routinely use treated seeds and neonic sprays or soil drenches on their plants. In addition, these neonic products are available to amateur gardeners in many different products and may be applied with fewer restrictions or in larger doses than in agriculture. Most users are also not aware of the potential consequences to pollinators and labels may not give adequate warning of the potential risks.

In my next article I'll be writing on a few studies done with neonicotinoids and honey bees. I'll also be providing some helpful tips for avoiding potentially harmful chemical in your yards and gardens.

Don't forget, the TBA Winter Delegates meeting is on February 15th, in Salado, TX. I hope to see you there! Until then, you can keep up with my travels by liking the Texas Honey Queen Facebook Page. Also, the Texas Honey Queen program is now on Twitter! You can follow us @TxHoneyQandP.

Happy Beekeeping!

Honey Queen Activities

Date	Event	Location	Type	Number of People Reached	Notes
11/17/13	The Northeast Texan	Van Zandt, Kaufman, Rains, Wood Counties	Newspaper Interview	5,000	
12/5/13 - 12/6/13	Honey Queen and Princess Training	Big Sandy, TX	Training		2 days of intensive spokesperson training
1/6/14	Gilmer Mirror	Gilmer, TX	Online Newspaper Article	500 views	
1/8/14	The Journal	Upshur County	Newspaper Article		Still locating number of people
1/6/14 - 1/12/14	ABF Conference and Tradeshow	Baton Rouge, LA		500	
1/16/14	Evergreen Garden Club	Kilgore, TX	Cooking Demonstration	12	



*2014 Texas Honey Queen,
Hayden Wolf
with
2014 American Honey Queen,
Susannah Austin from Florida,
and
2014 American Honey Princess,
Elena Hoffman from Pennsylvania*



2014 Texas Honey Princess Shannon LaGrave

Truth and Fancy in Bee History

Regarding ancient writings of beekeeping, what was known and where did fact and fiction cross? One crossing of fact was that bees were so honorable that when they showed any dishonor toward their “BeeKing” they would sting themselves to death. Most of the early writers thought that the leader of the hive was a King. One thing they had right was that some bees who lived in the hive did not work. They were given the title of Drones very early on.

One of the more reliable sources was Pliny the Elder, a Roman author and naturalist, who was also an army commander and naval officer. One of the reasons we have his writings is that they were written in Latin and were carefully preserved through the dark ages.

His work ethic is documented and he had people read to him even during his baths and refused to walk so as not to waste research time. He would travel with a secretary everywhere he went. His Natural History was 37 volumes long and consisted of facts extracted from at least 100 authors.

Pliny the Elder wrote about Bees in Volume 11. He believed that of all of the insects, bees alone were created for the sake of man. He stated that bees gathered honey and wax from flowers. The bees post guards at the gates of their homes. They are afraid of smoke and like the sound of clanging bronze.

Pliny stated that common bees cannot exist without their “King.” He gave bees human attributes because they built structures and worked together with some form of government under the rule of the “KING BEE” who is twice as big as the other bees.

On the odd side, he believed in the common belief of the time that bees came from the body of an ox in decay. This belief was predominant in many records of the time. Perhaps because of the belief that only a King could lead there was no understanding how larvae appeared inside the hive. The only thing that looked like a baby bee was found in decay.

Some of Pliny the Elder’s writings seem contradictory but understanding how it was created as a collection of knowledge from many sources explains this.

Pliny had recipes for Punic Wax or the cold Wax method of making paints and the Romans used wax in encaustic painting. They created writing tablets with which they taught young boys to write with. Wax was also a clean light source. Honey was an available ingredient flavoring many ancient dishes.

One of the areas that supplied Rome with honey and wax was the Isle of Malta. The Romans called it “Melita” meaning “Bee.” This island is 60 miles off the Roman coast and has many ruins of Roman villas and a system of apiaries dating back over 3,000 years. The names of some areas of Malta show connection to the early beekeeping of that time. Imgiebah means Apiary and Wiedil-il-Ghasel is the “Valley of Bees.”

The apiaries in Malta were created with stone pots or carved out of rock and were kept in cave style apiary with holes for the bees to enter and exit through. They were propped up sideways inside the cave and were larger circumference than the Egyptian apiaries. Bees were kept in this manner until the 1950’s.

Honey Princess Activities

Date	Event	Location	Type	Number of People Reached	Notes
12/5/13 - 12/6/13	Honey Queen and Princess Training	Big Sandy, TX	Training		2 days of intensive spokesperson training
01/13/14	Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Association Monthly Meeting	Collin County Community College		216	Larry Connor spoke on Queen Rearing

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4-H Beekeeping Essay Results - 2014

from Kyle Merten, Texas 4-H and Youth Development

The Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program is pleased to announce this year's Beekeeping Essay results. This year we had a record number of entries and encourage you to continue to participate in this project. The first through third place individuals are listed below along with the award they will be receiving. The first place winner will also be advancing on to the National Beekeeping Essay Contest to compete for additional awards.

1st place – Emily Frank – Tarrant County - \$300

2nd place – Travis Sallach – Washington County - \$200

3rd place – Hannah Mansker– Collin County - \$100

A special thanks also goes out to each of our sponsors:

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Pineywoods Beekeepers Assn.,
Trinity Valley Beekeepers Assn., and
Williamson County Area Beekeepers Assn.

NRCS Report on Cropland

from "Catch the Buzz" 1/22/2014

New NRCS report: Cropland erosion stable, specialty crop acres boom

A new report on the status and conditions of America's agricultural lands shows cropland erosion rates remained stable between 2007 and 2010, despite a growth in agricultural land use and more extreme weather events.

"We expected to see an increase in the erosion, but our numbers told a different story," said Dr. Patrick Flanagan, national statistician for USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

NRCS' latest National Resources Inventory summary report features data on how U.S. non-federal rural lands are being used. Data came from 800,000 sample locations across the country.

NRI data also show that between 2007 and 2010:

- Fruit, nut and flower production acreage surged from 124.8 million to almost 273.8 million.
- Cropland acres increased by 2 million acres, this following a steady decline over the previous 25 years.
- Pastureland increased by 847,000 acres.

- Developed land increased by 2 percent from 111.1 million to 113.3 million acres.
- Palustrine wetlands slightly increased. These include swamps or marshes, and estuarine wetlands.
- Acres enrolled in NRCS programs grew from about 17 million acres in 2007 to about 40 million in 2010.

"The NRI summary report is the only report of its kind and is one of our most comprehensive tools to understanding what's actually happening on the country's landscape," said NRCS Chief Jason Weller.

Download the NRI report <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/technical/nra/nri/>. For more information, contact the NRI Help Desk at nri@wdc.usda.gov.

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The Bee Whisperer

from Jim Lathem, President, Northeast Texas Beekeepers Association

In early spring, two children were playing under a grove of mature pear trees in their back yard. With wide-eyed amazement, they looked up and saw honey bees going from flower to flower. "What are they doing?" asked one child. In the summer, the honey bees visited their parents vegetable garden going from flower to flower. What are they doing? When ripe pears starting falling, honey bees were back. They landed on pears where the skin was broken. The honey bees extended their tongue to the pear much like a child does with a drinking straw in a drink.

In October, the children visited Texas Beekeepers Association's honey booth at Texas State Fair in Dallas. WOW! They saw the queen and workers quietly moving across a brood frame. And they saw bees going and coming from the observation hive through a long tube. Where were the bees going? What are they doing? How did they keep from getting lost?

One of the young boys continued to be fascinated with honey bees as he grew older. Each year he watched the honey bees at home and at the State Fair of Texas. When he was 14, his family moved to a farm near Edgewood. Two years later, he bought a

beehive from a local beekeeper. His father grew vetch and oats for their cattle. When the vetch was in bloom, "clouds" of honey bees were going and coming from the vetch. Vetch honey is one of the lightest colored honeys. It has a very mild flavor.

Not having enough money to buy honey extraction equipment, he destroyed honey comb to remove the honey. He sold his honey to a local grocery store. When it granulated, Mr. Johnson said, "Get your honey out of my store!" What caused the honey to granulate? What did I do wrong?

There were no local bee clubs that he knew about. Not to be deterred from keeping honey bees, he studied Walter T. Kelley's "How To Keep Bees and Sell Honey". Later he subscribed to "Gleanings in Bee Culture". I often wondered, "What am I looking for?"

The above is a true story. I know because it describes how I became a beekeeper 57 years ago. It points out the need to provide an opportunity for our youth and our adults to learn about the wonderful and interesting honey bee.

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Amber Fossil Reveals Ancient Reproduction in Flowering Plants

from Oregon State University

A 100-million-year old piece of amber has been discovered which reveals the oldest evidence of sexual reproduction in a flowering plant – a cluster of 18 tiny flowers from the Cretaceous Period – with one of them in the process of making some new seeds for the next generation.

The perfectly-preserved scene, in a plant now extinct, is part of a portrait created in the mid-Cretaceous when flowering plants were changing the face of the Earth forever, adding beauty, biodiversity and food. It appears identical to the reproduction process that “angiosperms,” or flowering plants still use today.

Researchers from Oregon State University and Germany published their findings on the fossils in the *Journal of the Botanical Institute of Texas*.

The flowers themselves are in remarkable condition, as are many such plants and insects preserved for all time in amber. The flowing tree sap covered the specimens and then began the long process of turning into a fossilized, semi-precious gem. The flower cluster is one of the most complete ever found in amber and appeared at a time when many of the flowering plants were still quite small.

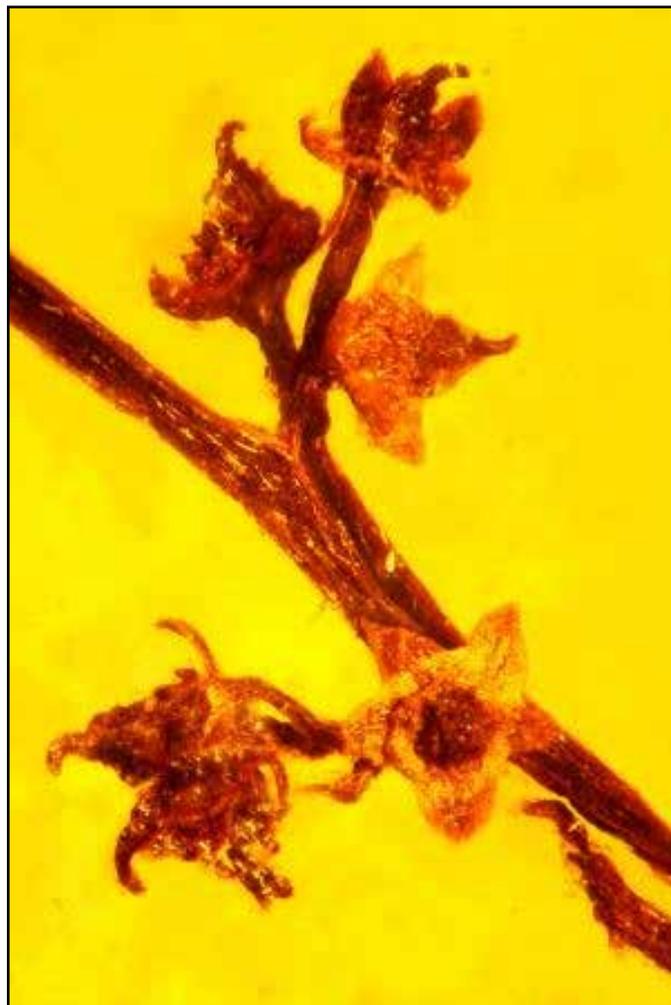
Even more remarkable is the microscopic image of pollen tubes growing out of two grains of pollen and penetrating the flower’s stigma, the receptive part of the female reproductive system. This sets the stage for fertilization of the egg and would begin the process of seed formation – had the reproductive act been completed.

“In Cretaceous flowers we’ve never before seen a fossil that shows the pollen tube actually entering the stigma,” said George Poinar, Jr., a professor emeritus in the Department of Integrative Biology at the OSU College of Science. “This is the beauty of amber fossils. They are preserved so rapidly after entering the resin that structures such as pollen grains and tubes can be detected with a microscope.”

The pollen of these flowers appeared to be sticky, Poinar said, suggesting it was carried by a pollinating insect, and adding further insights into the biodiversity and biology of life in this distant era. At that time much of the plant life was composed of conifers, ferns, mosses, and cycads. During the Cretaceous, new lineages of mammals and birds were beginning to appear, along with the flowering plants. But dinosaurs still dominated the Earth.

“The evolution of flowering plants caused an enormous change in the biodiversity of life on Earth, especially in the tropics and subtropics,” Poinar said.

“New associations between these small flowering plants and



various types of insects and other animal life resulted in the successful distribution and evolution of these plants through most of the world today,” he said. “It’s interesting that the mechanisms for reproduction that are still with us today had already been established some 100 million years ago.”

The fossils were discovered from amber mines in the Hukawng Valley of Myanmar, previously known as Burma. The newly-described genus and species of flower was named *Micropetasos burmensis*.

The full paper, “Micropetasos, A New Genus of Angiosperms from Mid-Cretaceous Burmese Amber” by George O. Poinar, Jr. and others is found at brit.org/webfm_send/455

The Origin of Flowers and the Evolution of Flowering Plants

from "Catch the Buzz" 12/20/2013

The newly sequenced genome of the *Amborella* plant addresses Darwin's "abominable mystery" -- the question of why flowers suddenly proliferated on Earth millions of years ago. The genome sequence sheds new light on a major event in the history of life on Earth: the origin of flowering plants, including all major food crop species. On 20 December 2013, a paper by the *Amborella* Genome Sequencing Project that includes a full description of the analyses performed by the project, as well as implications for flowering plant research, will be published in the journal *Science*. The paper is among three on different research areas related to the *Amborella* genome that will be published in the same issue of the journal.

Amborella (*Amborella trichopoda*) is unique as the sole survivor of an ancient evolutionary lineage that traces back to the last common ancestor of all flowering plants. The plant is a small understory tree found only on the main island of New Caledonia in the South Pacific. An effort to decipher the *Amborella* genome -- led by scientists at Penn State University, the University at Buffalo, the University of Florida, the University of Georgia, and the University of California-Riverside -- is uncovering evidence for the evolutionary processes that paved the way for the amazing diversity of the more than 300,000 flowering plant species we enjoy today.

This unique heritage gives *Amborella* a special role in the study of flowering plants. "In the same way that the genome sequence of the platypus -- a survivor of an ancient lineage -- can help us study the evolution of all mammals, the genome sequence of *Amborella* can help us learn about the evolution of all flowers," said Victor Albert of the University at Buffalo.

Scientists who sequenced the *Amborella* genome say that it provides conclusive evidence that the ancestor of all flowering plants, including *Amborella*, evolved following a "genome doubling event" that occurred about 200 million years ago. Some duplicated genes were lost over time but others took on new functions, including contributions to the development of floral organs.

"Genome doubling may, therefore, offer an explanation to Darwin's "abominable mystery" -- the apparently abrupt proliferation of new species of flowering plants in fossil records dating to the Cretaceous period," said Claude dePamphilis of Penn State University. "Generations of scientists have worked to solve this puzzle," he added.

Comparative analyses of the *Amborella* genome are already providing scientists with a new perspective on the genetic origins of important traits in all flowering plants -- including all major food crop species. "Because of *Amborella*'s pivotal phylogenetic position, it is an evolutionary reference genome that allows us to better understand genome changes in those flowering plants that evolved later, including genome evolution of our many crop plants -- hence, it will be essential for crop improvement," stressed Doug

Soltis of the University of Florida.

As another example of the value of the *Amborella* genome, Joshua Der at Penn State noted "We estimate that at least 14,000 protein-coding genes existed in the last common ancestor of all flowering plants. Many of these genes are unique to flowering plants, and many are known to be important for producing the flower as well as other structures and other processes specific to flowering plants."

"This work provides the first global insight as to how flowering plants are genetically different from all other plants on Earth," Brad Barbazuk of the University of Florida said, "and it provides new clues as to how seed plants are genetically different from non-seed plants."

Jim Leebens-Mack from UGA noted that "The *Amborella* genome sequence facilitated reconstruction of the ancestral gene order in the 'core eudicots,' a huge group that comprises about 75 percent of all angiosperms. This group includes tomato, apple and legumes, as well as timber trees such as oak and poplar." As an evolutionary outsider to this diverse group, the *Amborella* genome allowed the researchers to estimate the linear order of genes in an ancestral eudicot genome and to infer lineage-specific changes that occurred over 120 million years of evolution in the core eudicot.

At the same time, *Amborella* seems to have acquired some unusual genomic characteristics since it split from the rest of the flowering plant tree of life. For example, DNA sequences that can change locations or multiply within the genome (transposable elements) seem to have stabilized in the *Amborella* genome. Most plants show evidence of recent bursts of this mobile DNA activity, "But *Amborella* is unique in that it does not seem to have acquired many new mobile sequences in the past several million years," stated Sue Wessler of the University of California-Riverside. "Insertion of some transposable elements can affect the expression and function of protein-coding genes, so the cessation of mobile DNA activity may have slowed the rate of evolution of both genome structure and gene function."

In addition to its utility in retrospective studies of the evolution of flowering plants, the *Amborella* genome sequence offers insights into the history and conservation of *Amborella* populations. There are only 18 known populations of this very special angiosperm in mountainous regions New Caledonia.

"Resequencing of individual *Amborella* plants across the species' range reveals geographic structure with conservation implications plus evidence of a recent, major genetic bottleneck," noted Pam Soltis of the University of Florida. A similar narrowing of genetic variation occurred when humans migrated from Africa to found modern-day Eurasian populations.





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Queen's at Raffle Quilt



*Banquet - Which way from here?
(notice the ladies have no crowns)*



Sweet Ride



*Texas Delegation at Banquet
(Kay, Mark, Blake & Matthew)*



Honey Show Display

Listing of Local Beekeepers' Associations in Texas with TBA Delegate and Regular Meeting Information Shown for Each

Please forward any changes and/or additions to
John J. Talbert, Executive Secretary, john@sabinecreekhoney.com

Alamo Area Beekeepers Association

Edward Priest - (210) 722-7380

edward_p@sbcglobal.net

9570 Maidenstone - San Antonio, TX 78250

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday on odd # months; at

Helotes Ind. Baptist Church

15335 Bandera Rd., Helotes @ 7 pm

Brazoria County Beekeepers Association

Larry Hoehne - (979) 848-8780 or (979) 236-1385

233 Crestwood, Clute TX 77531

bcbaassociation@gmail.com

www.brazoria-county-beekeepers-association.com

Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month at 7pm;

Brazoria County Extension Office

21017 County Road 171, Angleton TX 77515

Central Texas Beekeepers Association

Michael Kelling - (979) 277-0411

CentralTexasBeekeepers@gmail.com

www.centraltexasbeekeepers.org

1997 Tonckawa Hills Ln - Brenham, TX 77833

Meetings: Monthly on the 4th Thursday

(except November and December) at the

Washington County Fairgrounds

Brenham @ 7 pm

Coastal Bend Beekeepers Association

Deborah Houlihan - (361) 877-2428

crazybutterflychick@hotmail.com

445 Parade Dr., Corpus Christi, TX 78412

Meetings: First Thursday of each month at 6:30pm;

City of Corpus Garden Senior Center

5325 Greely Dr., Corpus Christi, TX 78412

Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Assn.

John J. Talbert - (214) 532-9241

john@sabinecreekhoney.com

P O Box 6 - Josephine, TX 75164

www.northtexasbeekeepers.org

Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month;

Heard Craig Hall, 306 N. Church St,

McKinney @ 6:30 pm

Concho Valley Beekeepers Association

Mark F Hedley - (325) 463-5319

8247 FM 502, Rochelle, TX 76872

mark@spiralhornapiary.com

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each month Jan-Nov

Texas A&M Research and Extension Center

7887 US Hwy 87 N, San Angelo @ 7:30 pm

Dino-Beekeepers Association

Lee Burough - (817) 964-0238

dino-beeclub@hotmail.com

www.dinobee.com

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of month

Glen Rose Citizens Center

209 SW Barnard St, Glen Rose, TX 76043

East Texas Beekeepers Association

Richard Counts - (903) 566-6789

dickcounts@bigplanet.com

16239 Audrey Lane - Arp, TX 75750

www.etba.info

Meetings: 1st Thursday of each month;

Whitehouse United Methodist Church,

405 West Main (Hwy 346), Whitehouse @ 6:45 pm

Fayette County Beekeepers Association

Karolyn Mau - (979) 733-4022

k2isqueenbee@gmail.com

Meetings: First Saturday of the month, Feb, April,

June, August, October and December

Fayette County Agriculture Building

240 Svoboda Lane, La Grange, TX 78945

Fort Bend Beekeepers Association

1402 Band Road, Rosenberg, TX 77471

(281) 633-7029 (during office hours)

Jeff McMullan - Secretary - Treasurer

(281) 980-2363 (home): (281) 615-5346 (cell)

jeffmcmullan@comcast.net

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of each month (except

December) in the Fort Bend County

Bud O'Shieles Community Center

1330 Band Road, Rosenberg, TX 77471

Harris County Beekeepers Association

Cameron Crane - (409) 658-3800

info@harriscountybeekeepers.org

2300 Belvedere Dr., Baytown, TX 77520

www.harriscountybeekeepers.org

Meetings: 4th Tuesday of each month

Golden Acres Center - 5001 Oak Avenue

Pasadena @ 7 pm

Heart of Texas Beekeepers Association

Gary Bowles - (254) 214-4514

gbowles@peoplepc.com

Meetings: 4th Tuesday of each month

(except December) at A1 Buffet,

301 S. Valley Mills Drive, Waco @ 6:30 pm

Local Beekeepers' Associations in Texas

Houston Beekeepers Association

Rita Willhite - (832) 654-7317

rr.willhite@yahoo.com

7806 Braeburn Valley Dr. - Houston, TX 77074

www.houstonbeekeepers.org

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each month; Bayland

Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet St.

Houston @ 7:30 pm

Liberty County Beekeepers Association

Cameron Crane - (409) 658-3800

info@libertycountybeekeepers.org

2300 Beveledere Dr., Baytown, TX 77520

www.libertycountybeekeepers.org

Meetings: 1st Tuesday of each month at 7pm

Business meeting at 6:30pm

Liberty Agrilife Extension Office

501 Palmer Avenue, Liberty TX

Marshall Beekeeping Association

Beth Derr - (936) 591-2399

derrbe@netscape.net

210 Meadowlark Dr. Jefferson, TX 75657

Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month at

Harrison County Extension Office

102West HoustonSt, Marshall, TX 75670 @ 5:30 pm

Metro Beekeepers Association

Stan Key, President

stankey.texas@gmail.com

www.metrobeekeepers.net

8413 Castle Creek Rd., North Richland Hills,

TX 76182

Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month; Cana Baptist Church,

2309 East Renfro St. TX 76028 @ 6:30 pm

Montgomery County Beekeepers Assn.

John Hicks - (936) 756-9708

johnhicks12003@yahoo.com

www.mocobees.com

Meetings: 3rd Monday of each month at

Montgomery County Extension Office @ 7 pm

Northeast Texas Beekeepers Association

J.B. (Jim) Lathem - (903) 896-7100

netba1@aol.com

PO Box 777, Wills Point, TX 75169

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of each month; @ 6:45 pm

Russell Memorial United Methodist Church

Deen Building, Classroom 2

201 South 4th Street (Farm Road 47), Wills Point, TX 75169

Pineywoods Beekeepers Association

Terry McFall - (409) 384-3626

tdmcfall@hotmail.com

1700 FM 252, Jasper, TX 75951

Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month

Chamber of Commerce Building,

1615 S Chestnut, Lufkin @ 7:00 pm

Red River Valley Beekeepers Assn.

Bennie J. Watson - (940) 767-0207

1952 - A Hines Blvd.

Wichita Falls, TX 76301-7961

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each month

(except December) Bolin Science Hall, Room 209

Midwestern St. University

Wichita Falls @ 7 pm

Rio Grande Valley Beekeepers Assn.

Billy Wright - (956) 464-5042

Route 5, Box 74 - Donna, TX 78537

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each month;

TAMU Res. and Ext. Center, 2401 E. Highway 83

Weslaco @ 7:30 pm

Trinity Valley Beekeepers Association

Alan Eynon - (972) 231-5702, Ext. 104

abees@swbell.net

9702 Vinewood Drive - Dallas, TX 75228

www.tvbees.org

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of each month

(except August), Continuing Education Center,

C.C.Young Facility, 4847 West Lawther Dr.,

Dallas, TX 75214 @ 7 - 9 pm

Walker County Area Beekeepers Assn.

Steve Kelley - (936) 435-2426

shortmd@msn.com

102 Tam Road, Huntsville, TX 77320

Meetings: Last Thursday of each month

at Walker County Extension Office, #1 Tam Rd.

Huntsville @ 7 pm

Williamson County Area Beekeepers Assn.

Jimmie Oakley - (512) 388-3630

jimmie.oakley@gmail.com - www.wcaba.org

425 Sapphire Lane, Jarrell, TX 76537

Meetings: 4th Thursday of each month

(except December) 1st United Methodist Church -

McKinney Ministry Center, 410 E University Ave.

Georgetown, TX 78626 @ 7 pm

Membership Report 14-1 *by Jimmie Oakley*

2014 New Members

12/3	Hancher	Tom B.	Columbus, TX	35	
12/11	Fauber	Dan	Granbury, TX	35	
12/30	Cowger	Peter R.	Boerne, TX	35	
1/9	Unger	Linda	Dallas, TX	100	Century
1/9	Jafarian	Maryam	Crandall, TX	35	
1/11	Murray	Ryan	Austin, TX	50	Family
1/16	Liebe	Robin & Bill	Waco, TX	50	Family
1/16	Cowan	Amanda	Flint, TX	35	
1/16	Budd	Brad	Mabank, TX	35	
1/16	Goodwin	Warren D.	Tyler, TX	35	
1/24	Brumfield	Joan L.	Pearland, TX	35	
1/24	Moers	Ellen	Cypress, TX	35	



2014 Renewing Members

11/30	Ainslie	Philip P.	Belton, TX	35	
12/9	Smaistrila	Albert & Margaret	East Bernard, TX	50	Family
12/14	Sollenberger	T'Lee	Burleson, TX	35	
12/18	Atwood	Tom & Cathy	Terrell, TX	50	Family
12/24	Casey	Mack & Peggy	Danbury, TX	50	Family
12/30	Bounds	Rosanna	Moody, TX	25	
12/30	Chesnut	Robert L.	Fairfield, TX	35	
1/2	Opiela	Roger & Liz	Jefferson, TX	50	Family
1/5	Lane	Travis	San Angelo, TX	35	
1/5	Morgan	Frank & Lu	Copperas Cove, TX	50	Family
1/7	Johnson	Don (The Honey Guy)	Winona, TX	25	
1/24	Baugman	Christi	Garland, TX	35	

Associations Renewing 2014 Membership

12/28	Fort Bend Beekeepers Association	Rosenberg, TX	50	13&14
1/5	Concho Valley Beekeepers Assoc.	San Angelo, TX	50	
1/5	Coastal Bend Beekeepers Association	Corpus Christi, TX	50	

Mail All Renewals/Inquiries to: **Jimmie L. Oakley**
 425 Sapphire Lane
 Jarrell, TX 76537

Phone: (512) 388-3630
e-mail: jimmie.oakley@gmail.com



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