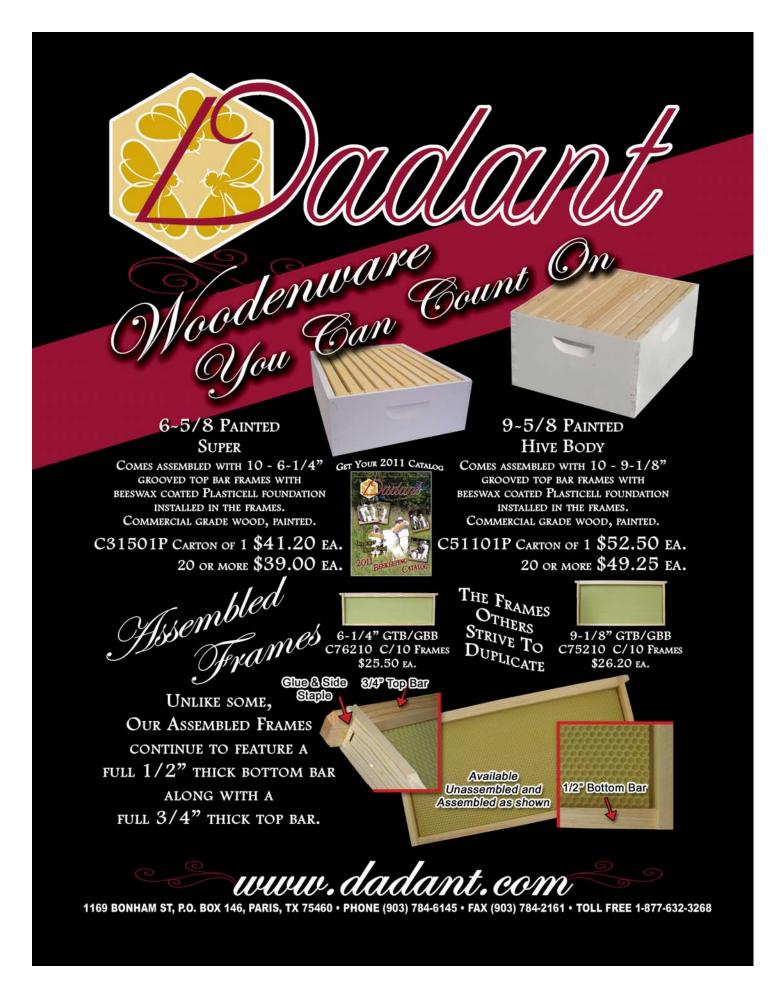


Beehives nestled in an almond orchard in Central Valley California.

**JAN/FEB 2011** 

www.texasbeekeepers.org

ISSUE 11-1



# **President's Report**

Dear Friends,

I have recently returned from one of the largest beekeeping conferences that I have ever attended. I heard that there were over 1200 registered attendees in Galveston for the *North American Beekeeping Conference and Trade Show*. There were so many things to learn that I had trouble getting around to all of the presentations that I wanted to hear. The speakers spoke on the latest research and developments in the honey bee industry. The trade show was very useful as well.

While at the Conference, some of us were able to get an update on the progress of the search for a replacement for the open position at the Honey Bee Facility at TAMU from Dr. David Ragsdale. He promised that things are moving along as planned and we should be having a meeting in College Station to interview the finalist for the position sometime in February. We continue to keep our fingers crossed that this position will be filled quickly. Dr. Ragsdale has promised that he will do everything that he can to get it done and I believe he will do so. It has been a pleasure to work with him so far and we are looking forward to our future relationship with Texas A&M University.

While on the interview subject, I have volunteered to serve on an interview panel to help select a new scientist for the USDA Honey Bee Lab in Weslaco, TX. I will have an update on that process in my President's Report in the next *Journal*.

As for the beekeeping industry in Texas, we are still up against some of the greatest challenges this industry has ever faced. With the CCD problem, I am hearing a lot of commercial operators who are only able to keep half the number of colonies that they once had. It is very frustrating to them, but it also presents bigger opportunities at the same time. Pollination fees continue to rise, as well as, demand for good colonies. The price for domestic honey continues to be strong and retail demand is very good. The price for imported honey is substantially lower than domestic honey and is taking a lot of the industrial market from domestic suppliers. If this process is left unchecked, I am afraid that it might eventually have an impact on our prices.

I hope your beekeeping ventures are going well!

Sincerely, Todd Youngblood, President TBA



#### **About the Cover:**

Beehives nestled in an almond orchard in Central Valley California

**Brady Bees and Honey Company** owned by Mark and Peggy Brady of Waxahachie & Liberty, Texas.

#### **Editor's Notes:**



We are still looking for someone to take over duties as Editor of the TBA *Journal*. I can't even begin to tell you how rewarding the experience has been for me! I have truly enjoyed working on the *Journal*. What I have learned over the years has been invaluable. But it's time to move on and let

someone else take over. If you have any interest in doing so - don't be intimidated - at least try it! You will learn so much! And you will be proud of yourself for what you have accomplished!

On a personal note, I will be walking in the *Avon Walk for Breast Cancer* in Houston, April 16 and 17th. Our team name is the *Bee-lievers!* We could use your support! If you

are so inclined to give to this great cause, please contact me at *coplinlura@aol.com* or 409/925-5415. We also have a webpage so that you may contribute online if you wish: <a href="http://www.avonwalk.org/houston/">http://www.avonwalk.org/houston/</a>. Click on the DONATE NOW button, do a search for my name and then



search for my name and then again, click on the DONATE NOW button.



Thank you, Joan Coplin

# In This Issue

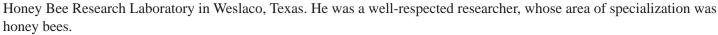
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#### **Im Memoriam - James Baxter**

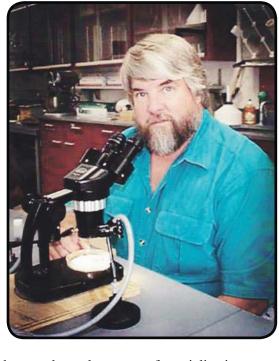
James Ray Baxter, 60, passed away on December 11, 2010 in Conroe, Texas. James was a resident of Spring, Texas for the past ten years, prior to that, Mission, Texas and Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Memorial services were held January 8, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Mark United Methodist Church in McAllen, Texas.

James is survived by his wife, Phyllis, his two daughters, Amy Brown and Beth Baxter, both of Spring, as well as, his so-in-law, B. J. Brown, his granddaughter, Elizabeth Elise Brown, two brothers, nieces and nephews. James was born May 3, 1950, in Mercedes, Texas to Robert and Elizabeth Baxter, and grew up in Edinburg, Texas, where he graduated from Edinburg High School. James held the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America. James graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Pan American University (University of Texas-Pan American).

James was a beekeeper for many years. James worked for the USDA-Agricultural Research Service in the Honey Bee Genetics Research Lab in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and at the Kika de la Garza Research Center,



James enjoyed fishing and hunting, taxidermy, the outdoors in general, as well as spending time with family. Sign the guest book at *www.themonitor.com/obituaries*.



# 2010 Texas Beekeeper of the Year

In 2010, we broke with tradition in naming *two* recipients of the "Jim Petty Memorial - Beekeeper of the Year Award". The first was presented to Patsy Youngblood and son, Todd, in memory of Elbert Youngblood, Jr. at an award ceremony during the 2010 TBA Convention in Kerrville, Texas.

Beth Walker was also chosen as a 2010 recipient. She was presented with the award by Dr. John G. Thomas in Galveston at the National Beekeeping Conference, Saturday, January 8, 2011.

Mrs. Walker is the daughter-in-law of G. C. Walker and wife of G. C. Walker, Jr. who served as TBA President in 1956 and in 1979.

She served as the first Honey Queen Chair Person in 1978, the same year as her daughter, Janice served as Texas Honey Queen, who went on to serve as American Honey Princess in 1979.

And now, along with her husband, G. C. Walker, Jr. (1981) and her son, G. C. (Clint) Walker III (2002), she has also been named "Beekeeper of the Year"! We salute this illustrious beekeeping family!



#### Beloved Fellow Texas Beekeepers,

I can remember the first TBA meeting I went to in College Station, where everyone opened their arms to G. C.'s new bride. I especially remember Mary Weaver, her lovely smile, and the way she took me under her wings. I realize that it was a committee who decided to give me the Jim Petty Award, but I believe that TBA, as a body, was as pleased as I to receive this honor. I would have preferred to receive it at the TBA banquet in November, but the honor is no less because John Thomas presented it to me at the ABF banquet in Galveston.

So thank you, from the depths of my heart, and I will see you in Corpus next November.

Beth Walker



# 2011 TAST Trans ROYNITY

These young ladies were crowned during the **Annual East Texas** Beekeepers Banquet in December.



#### ETBA Honey Queen, Bekah Lenamond

Hayden, fifteen years old, is theyoungest of four children of Gus and Joanne Wolf of Big Sandy, Texas. She is a homeschooled freshman and is active in her local church, her family quartet and the 4-H Club. Hayden volunteers at the International Alert Academy and assists with a weekly devotional at a local retirement home. She enjoys playing the piano, singing, gardening, cooking, painting and family activities. Hayden has always been fascinated with bees. She became a beekeeper in 2009 after receiving a beekeeping scholarship from East Texas Beekeepers Association. As the ETBA Honey Princess, her desire is to educate the public about the importance of the honey bee in our everyday lives and how to live a healthier lifestyle by cooking with local honey.

#### ETBA Honey Princess Hayden Wolf

Bekah, 16, is the second of six children born to Mike and Tammy Lenamond of Wills Point, Texas. She is a home-schooled sophomore. She is active in volleyball, basketball and the Phileos 4-H Club where she holds the office of County Council Secretary and a Delegate. She serves her community by visiting nursing homes and fund raising events for charities. She participates in church, singing in the choir, working with various children's ministries and the youth choir. Bekah loves playing the piano, gardening, caring for their farm animals and her siblings. She has been a beekeeper for three years and is an experienced speaker about the value of protecting the

honey bee, pollination and cooking with honey.

# 2011 COLLIN COUNTY ROYALITY



December 13, 2010, was a very special day for three very special young women. Those crowned at the Christmas Dinner are Collin County Honey Queen, Caroline Adams of Plano, and two Collin County Honey Princesses, Shannon LaGrave of Farmersville and Shelby Kilpatrick of Copper Canyon. What an honor and acknowledgment of our club to have young women beekeepers of such quality and character! Congratulations, dear newly crowned Collin County 2011

Queen and Princesses!



# **Honey Queen Committee Chair Report**

by Rachael Seida and Shirley Acevedo

Hello to All!

It has been my pleasure this past year to serve as Texas Honey Queen Co-Chair, and I hope to continue serving you in the future.

Over the past year, Shirley and I have concentrated on expanding the functions of the Texas Honey Queen Chairs – in particular to training our young ladies to represent us! Over the past year, I have traveled to many of the local clubs to train Honey Queens and Honey Princesses, as well as, offering information and support to the local chairs. Some of the aspects of training include,

- ~Speaking Skills
- ~Honey Bee Knowledge
- ~Cooking Demonstrations
- ~Bee Talks
- ~Booth Work
- ~Media Training
- ~And so much more!

The other service we offered this year was to set up informational meetings for local clubs to invite young ladies to learn about the Honey Queen Program. At these meetings I present information on,

- ~The role of a local Honey Queen/Honey Princess
- ~The role of a Honey Queen Chairperson
- ~The Texas Honey Queen Program
- ~The American Honey Queen Program

If you would like to schedule a training or informational meeting, contact . . .

#### **Shirley Acevedo**

Honey Queen Committee Co-Chair

email: <u>Shirley@acebees.com</u> phone: 972/734-7614 cell: 214/542-8276

#### Rachael Seida

Honey Queen Committee Co-Chair

email: rachaelseida@hotmail.com

phone: 214-578-3477

May God Bless You All! Rachael Seida, Texas Honey Queen Co-Chair

Allison with her family! her brother, Clay her parents, Caryl and Ned her sister, Caroline and grandmother, Millie Adams.



Allison displaying honey at the ABF Honey Auction



2010 American Honey Queen, Lisa Schluttenhoffer 2011 American Honey Queen, Teresa Bryson 2011 American Honey Princess, Allison Adams 2010 American Honey Princess, Amy Roden



# 2010 Texas Honey Queen/2011 American Honey Princess Report

Dear Texas Beekeepers,

I hope this note finds you and your bees very happy and healthy! As this *Journal* includes several reports from the *North American Beekeeping Conference and Tradeshow*, I would also like to briefly share with you my experience there, especially what happened on Saturday night...

First of all, I want to thank you, the TBA, for making it possible for me to attend this Conference and represent you as the 2010 Texas Honey Queen. What a wonderful, challenging and unforgettable week it was, full of learning and new experiences. Most of the time, I was kept quite busy selling raffle tickets for the ABF quilt, the proceeds from the sale of which will go to support the 2011 American Honey Queen and Princess as they promote the American beekeeping industry this year. A hearty "Thank you!" to all my Texas beekeeper friends who supported the program by buying tickets – it means so much!

And now for what I'd really like to tell you – at the ABF Banquet, on the last evening of the Conference, I was crowned the 2011 American Honey Princess! What an honor it has been to serve the TBA as Texas Honey Queen this year, and what a privilege it will be to continue to represent you all, as well as, the rest of our country, in 2011! I thank you so, so much for this incredible opportunity you have given me, for all that you have taught me, and for your support and wonderful friendship. I am looking forward to another year of promoting this industry we love so much, and motivating others to marvel at, appreciate and help one of God's most incredible creatures – the honey bee.

Much love and many thanks,

Allison Adams 2011 American Honey Princess



American Honey Princess, Allison Adams (TX) and American Honey Queen, Teresa Bryson (PA) crowned at the North American Beekeeping Conference in Galveston, Texas, January 8, 2011.



Texas Honey
Queen, Allison
Adams sells a
raffle ticket to
Kay Oakley from
Round Rock,
Texas at the
North American
Bee Conference
in Galveston.

Texas Honey Queen, Allison Adams sells a raffle ticket to Janet Rowe from Wylie, Texas at the North American Bee Conference in Galveston.





# 2011 Texas Honey Queen Report

Hi Everyone,

Well it seems the Honey Queens are hitting the stage. If you were so unfortunate as to miss the Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Annual Christmas Banquet, you missed a rare treat! I was there and I participated in the show. Caroline Adams (2010 CCHBA Honey Princess), Allison Adams (2010 Texas Honey Queen), and I rewrote and choreographed a catchy old tune to produce a song for our 'girls' called: "Honey Bee". Background singers and all; it truly was a "Broadway production"! Hopefully in November at the next TBA Convention we will be able to bring this show to you all. (plan on being there!)

Moving right along, Kellie and I have had our trifold photos taken, and work is being done to have them out very soon! We both also attended a media training session conducted by Rachael Sieda. We spent a lot of time learning how to speak with the media and developing key points to include in every presentation. The training will be very useful throughout this year!

In January, I was glad to see many of you at the *North American Beekeeping Conference* in Galveston, TX. What an exciting week! I was able to attend several seminars on many different aspects of beekeeping, such as starting a candle making business, different methods for comb honey production, making lotions and lip balms with beeswax, as well as, the importance of honey for a healthy life. I was able to help with the *Kids and Bees Program*, which is similar to our *Kids Learning About Bees*. Almost 300 children came to learn about honey bees at the many different booths! The Harris County Beekeepers helped to run the stations at the event. It went very well, and the children benefited from everyone's efforts.

I was also able to again see both Amy Roden (2010 American Honey Princess) and Lisa Schluttenhoffer (2010 American Honey Queen) and hear their year end reports at the Women's Auxiliary Breakfast. Teresa Bryson (2010 Pennsylvania Honey Queen) and Allison Adams (2010 Texas Honey Queen) gave their marketing presentations at that same breakfast. Both Teresa and Allison did an excellent job!

While in Galveston, I had my first radio interview! Rachael Sieda and I were interviewed by Galveston resident Brenda Lee. She and her husband have a radio show on which we appeared called *Food! Glorious Food!* In the interview, we talked about cooking with honey, how to get started in beekeeping, and the other uses of honey. The interview went very well, and I quite enjoyed it!

Finally, at the American Beekeeping Federation Banquet on Saturday night, I cheered along with many of you as our own Allison Adams was crowned the 2011 American Honey Princess! I look forward to opportunities of working with her in the coming year.

#### by Kaylynn Mansker

I will be at the *Fort Worth Livestock Show and Rodeo* on January 22, and I hope to see you at the TBA Delegates Meeting on February 19 in Dripping Springs, TX. Farewell for now!

Kaylynn – 2011 Texas Honey Queen



George Lee (Galveston radio host), Kaylynn Mansker, Rachael Seida at radio interview.



Kaylynn at Galveston radio hosts' front yard.

The radio interview is available to listen to on <a href="https://www.georgedouglaslee.com">www.georgedouglaslee.com</a> Click on the "radio and songs" button and go to "Episode 86, January 8, 2011" for the entire show; OR go to "Kaylynn Mansker and Rachael Seida" for Kaylynn's and Rachael's interview with Brenda only.

# 2011 Texas Honey Princess Report

Hello Texas Beekeepers!

My name is Kellie Lenamond, and I am so thrilled to be your 2011 Texas Honey Princess! I hope all is well with all of your apiaries across the great state of Texas, which I am missing so much during my semester away at college.

While home during Christmas break, I was able to do several fun activities as Texas Honey Princess. One of my very favorites occurred my first day home: I went to see my very dear friends, Mr. Dick Counts and Ms. Vi Bourns. I was delighted to see that Mr. Counts is recovering very nicely! However, as a side note to my other dear beekeeping friends, no one else is allowed to break a bone (or bones!) while I am away!

The following day, I went to pick out my Texas Honey Princess crown. A honey princess'/honey queen's crown is an awfully important part of her wardrobe that I had not yet had the opportunity to select! I was surprised by the many choices available, and it didn't take me too long to choose the one I thought was perfect. You all will get to see it when I am back home again!!

That same day, I went with Texas Honey Queen, Kaylynn Mansker to Glamour Shots at Stonebriar Mall in Frisco, TX, to have our pictures taken by professionals for our brochure. This was definitely a highlight of my break! We had so much fun together as the makeup artists did our make-up, our hair and coordinated our attire for the 44 photographed poses with props. I can hardly wait for you all to see the selected poses!

A week later, I traveled with my mother to Mrs. Shirley's home to meet Queen Kaylynn, Ms. Rachael Seida and Mrs.

by Kellie Lenamond



Shirley for media training. We each brought snacks and had a wonderful time together trying out various important media skills, such as bridging and sound bytes. We learned to control the conversations' content and direction, and what to do in uncomfortable or unusual situations that other experienced queens have encountered. My mother and I brought to the media training a special caramel corn recipe that everyone enjoyed so much. I'd like to share it with you as well! Some say it originated in an Amish cookbook.

I pray that you and your bees are warm and well for the remainder of this winter, and I look forward to seeing all of you again soon!



Kellie's Caramel Corn

 $2\ packages\ of\ microwaveable\ popcorn$ 

1 large paper freezer bag

(we ask the cashier at Brookshire's for a few extra)

1 cup brown sugar

1 stick of butter or margarine

1/4 cup Texas Honey1 tsp salt1/2 tsp baking soda

Pop the packages of popcorn according to directions and pour both into the paper bag. In a small saucepan, heat the honey, brown sugar, butter and salt, stirring constantly until boiling. Let boil for 1 min. and remove from heat. Immediately add the baking soda, stirring quickly until foamy. Pour mixture over popped corn in the bag, roll the top down and shake vigorously. Place the bag in the microwave on high for 90 seconds, remove and shake well. Then replace the bag in the microwave again for 60 seconds, shaking well afterward, and repeat for 40 seconds, and then 30 seconds. After shaking the last time, empty contents onto a large cookie sheet to cool. After hardening, break into pieces and place in a festive container and enjoy with family and beekeeping friends!

Blessings,

# **Winners in the National Competion**

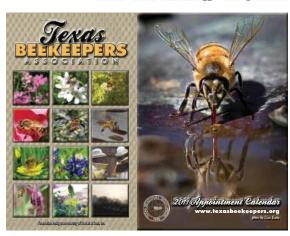
Plano resident, Russell Swinney and wife, J'Neena are pictured with their daughter, Jessica and son, Garrett as they display crystal bowls, first place plaques and ribbons they received for their "extra light" and "dark" honey entries in the 2011 American Honey Show competition at the North American Beekeeping Conference in Galveston, Texas in January 2011.

Janet Rowe of Wylie, Texas was also a winner in the national competition.



# CALEZDARO

# TBA Has 2011 Calendars For Sale



We have taken some of our members' breathtaking photography and put them into a calendar for year long enjoyment.

The cost is \$10 plus \$2.50 for shipping

If you would like to place an order, please contact Joan Coplin coplinlura@aol.com or 409/925-5415

If you purchased a calendar at the TBA Convention, please contact Joan Coplin *coplinlura@aol.com* or 409/925-5415. There is an issue with the calendar. I will send a replacement.

Jack and Betty Thomas owners of Mann Lake, Ltd. in Hackensack, Minnesota were presented with the Annual Friends of the Industry Award, Friday, January 7, 2011 at the 2011 American Honey Producers Banquet and Auction which was held at the Galveston Convention Center in Galveston, Texas during the National Bee Conference and Trade Show.



**Left to right:** Brenda Bray, Graphic Design; Troy Martinson, Sales; Betty Thomas; John Dufner, Sales; Jack Thomas; Stuart Volby, Sales Manager; Duane Swenson, Branch Manager - Woodland, CA and Pat Montaque, Sales Representative



TBA Members gathered for a group photo at the ABF Banquet In Galveston, Saturday, January 8, 2011

1st row: Caryl Adams, Mary Jo Brantley, 2011 American Honey Princess, Allison Adams, Ned Adams, Kaylynn Mansker, Jessica Swinney, Hannah Mansker, Garrett Swinney, Wanda Mansker, Millie Adams.

2<sup>nd</sup> row: Rachael Seida, Janice Walker, Lavada Talbert, Leslee Serna, Margie Coplin, Kay Oakley, Joan Coplin, Stanford Brantley, Rodney Holloway, Caroline Adams, Tabitha Mansker, Shirley Acevedo.

3<sup>rd</sup> row: Domingo Montalbo, Janet Rowe, Clint Walker III, J'Neena Swinney, John G. Thomas, Benton Kastman, John Talbert, Russell Swinney, Clay Adams.

# **Influence of Genomics in Honey Bee Research**

Katherine Aronstein and John Adamczyk USDA-ARS, KSARC Honey Bee Research Unit, Weslaco TX

It is often very difficult to predict future impacts of genomic research on solving immediate problems in the beekeeping industry. Just a few years ago, prior to release of the Honey Bee Genome, some skeptics expressed doubts about the economic effectiveness of this type of research. However, the outcome has exceeded all expectations. A large number of genomic projects have already demonstrated very important achievements that will eventually provide healthier bees and therefore better pollinators. In this column, we would like to illustrate some of the most prominent achievements by the community of scientists who worked together on the Honey Bee Genome Project (HBGP). None of the research described here would be possible without strong collaborative ties developed over the years between scientists in the USDA, universities in the U.S. and bee scientists around the world. Also, we would like to use this opportunity to thank Texas beekeepers for their continued support of our research endeavors.

#### Why Sequencing of the Genome is important

In 2002-2006, genome projects were still labor intensive and required significant funding recourses. Funding for the HBGP was largely provided by the National Human Genome Research Institute with the additional recourses from the USDA and contributions from the Texas beekeepers. This project has become a very timely endeavor, especially in a view of the massive colony losses first reported the same year the HBGP was completed (The Honey Bee Genome Sequencing Consortium, 2006).

To interpret genomic data, scientists had to reveal the deep "grammar," encoded by the genomic "language". Following genome analysis and equipped with an advanced knowledge, researchers are now prepared to respond to the emerging challenges in beekeeping. When benefits of this research are balanced against the costs, this project promises to provide a valuable resource to the world-wide research community.

The HBGP yielded myriads of scientific applications that are already helping to solve problems related to honey bee health, nutrition, development, reproduction and social behavior. However, here we would like to narrow down this field and focus on practical implications of bee genomics. It seems that the most immediate impact of the HBGP may be on the marker-assisted breeding programs, development of the biomarkers for nutritional and immune stressors in bees and development tools to control bee diseases. None of these research areas can be addressed before the genomic data become available.

#### Genomic approach to improving pollination of agricultural crops

Scientists are searching the honey bee genome for

markers that control social behavior, trying to understand and possibly to manipulate activities of bees inside and outside of the bee colony. Having tools that control activities of bees, switching activities from nursing to foraging, may have a direct impact on the colony productivity. Several genomic regions have already been identified that establish a connection between individual and colony behavior. This will help to improve crop pollination through an increased efficiency of foragers. Breeding a better bee

The honey bee displays striking ability to develop into queen or worker castes. Each of these two castes has exactly the same genome, nevertheless developing into totally different organisms. Not only do they differ by their life span, but also by the ability to reproduce and communicate with the other colony members. We now better understand that in addition to information stored in the DNA, the gene activity affected by the environment may have a dramatic effect on the final outcome of the traits (e.g., longevity, ability to reproduce). Genomic research will help find molecular regulators that control bee development, and therefore will improve our ability to breed a better bee. Research in this direction is already underway in Greg Hunt's Lab (Purdue University, IN) and the USDA-ARS Honey Bee Breeding, Genetics and Physiology Research Laboratory (Baton Rouge, LA).

**Improving Bee Health** 

Honey bees have a number of natural pathogens and parasites that, if not controlled, may have devastating effects on colony health and survival. Over the years, we have developed a very strong genomic program at the USDA-ARS Honey Bee Unit at Weslaco, TX. The main focus of our research is to improve the health of bees. We have been involved in the HBGP from the very beginning, and utilize genome information as soon as it becomes available. Genome analysis showed striking differences between the immune system of the honey bee and other sequenced insects. A number of molecules that insects produce when they get sick are missing or substantially reduced in the honey bee genome (Evans et al., 2006). Some of these molecules are similar to well-known antimicrobial substances secreted by the higher animals in response to diseases. Equipped with this new genomic information, we now have an excellent opportunity to better understand how pathogens, parasites and environmental stressors affect health of bees. We have already made substantial progress in this direction by developing diagnostic tools for early detection of bee diseases (Aronstein et al., 2007; Aronstein and Murray, 2010; Aronstein 2010, Aronstein et al., 2011).

Using gene silencing (RNAi) to control diseases. In

Dr. Aeronstein & staff of the Honey Bee Unit - Weslaco, TX









the USDA-ARS Honey Bee Research Unit, in Weslaco, we have learned how to "turn off" specific genes in bees (Aronstein *et al.*, 2006) to study gene function. Since then, this technology has developed in a number of various applications. Other labs are now using the same gene silencing technology to control honey bee diseases and parasites, such as viruses, *Nosema* and *Varroa* mites.

Initial methodology that involved injection of the individual bees has now been developed into a more efficient and less stressful application of a gene silencing technology. We have learned how to deliver a cocktail of genetic reagents (double-stranded RNA) to bees by simply mixing them with the diet. This new method will lower the initially prohibitive costs of the gene silencing technology to levels that can be utilized in colony treatments.

#### Pesticide resistance

Honey bees are extremely susceptible to all kinds of pesticides. Moreover, a combination of insecticides and fungicides can act synergistically, producing even more devastating results. Drug synergism is a well-known fact in pharmacology, but still poorly considered in bee management. After all, the first question your doctor asks is whether or not you are taking other medications. Synergistic effects of different chemicals may do more harm than good when used without proper considerations. Even sub-lethal doses of pesticides combined with residuals often found in beeswax and pollen may produce devastating effects on bee health, the rate of queen supersedures and pollination activity of forages. Recent genome analysis revealed a substantial under-representation of the detoxifying enzymes in the bee genome. That may explain the increased sensitivity of bees to chemicals and serious losses of bee populations due to pesticide overexposure. To avoid adverse effect of pesticides on honey bees, new compounds with target-specific mode of action can be introduced and soon will replace the old type of wide-range chemicals that kill both agricultural pests and beneficial insects.

#### **Nutrition research**

The most critical contribution of the honey bee to the human food supply is crop pollination. Nutritional research at the Weslaco lab is now focused on a number of different objectives, including pollination of specialty crops, dietary supplements and the effects of diseases and parasites on the nutritional and immune status of bees.

#### **Nosema detection**

A new species of *Nosema* has reportedly replaced previously dominant *N. apis* in the U.S. and many other countries around the world. *Nosema ceranae* is an intracellular parasite that is hiding inside the honey bee cells at the initial stages of the disease. It is therefore very difficult to detect infection before *Nosema* spores

(continued on page 15)

# Weslaco Honey Bee Research Lab Host Open House

On November 22-23<sup>rd</sup>, the USDA-ARS, Honey Bee Research Unit in Weslaco, TX hosted an Open House for the beekeepers. Prominent beekeepers who attended were: 1) Richard Adee, 2) Dr. John G. Thomas, 3) John Talbert,

4) Ray Latner and 5) Bill Vanderput.

On the first day, scientists at the Lab gave updated research progress to the group. This consisted of formal presentations from Frank Eischen, Kate Aronstein and William Meikle. Later in the day, the beekeepers were given a formal tour of the laboratory and viewed each scientist's program up close including viewing Nosema spores under the microscope, small-hive beetle development and current varroa mite control strategies. In addition, recent discoveries on the role of nutrition that may be a contributing factor to the CCD phenomena were discussed at length. The evening concluded with south Texas style barbecue with our beekeeper friends and our family members.

The final day started with a roundtable discussion with the beekeepers and scientists about immediate and long-term research needs. Later, the group heard from Ray Prewett of Texas Citrus Mutual, Dale Murden of Rio Farms, Inc. and local watermelon grower, Bob Dyer, about the importance of honey bee pollination for lower Rio Grande Valley agriculture.

Please come down and visit us sometime. These are exciting times for your bee lab! Please look for more "updates from the lab", and we hope to see more of you at the next open house!

John Adamczyk, Research Leader (956-969-4826) john.adamczyk@ars.usda.gov

Frank Eischen, Varroa Mite and Small-Hive Beetle Control and Pollination Expertise (956-969-5007) frank.eischen@ars.usda.gov

Kate Aronstein, Disease Control and Nosema Detection (956-969-5008) <a href="mailto:kate.aronstein@ars.usda.gov">kate.aronstein@ars.usda.gov</a>

William Meikle, Small-Hive Beetle and Varroa Control Strategies (956-969-5019) william.meikle@ars.usda.gov



**A.** Kate Aronstein discusses Nosema detection with Richard Adee and John Talbert

**B.** Richard Adee viewing Nosema spores, while Kate Aronstein, Bill Vanderput and Frank Eischen look on

**C.** Richard Adee and William Meikle discuss small hive beetle biology and control strategies

**D.** Ray Latner, John Talbert, Dr. John G. Thomas and Connie Graham enjoying south Texas barbecue



**From Left to Right:** Bob Dyer, Dale Murden and Ray Prewett all discuss the importance of honey bees for pollination needs for local Rio Grande Valley farmers. Earlier, Mr. Prewett emphasized how important the Research Center and the Honey Bee Research Unit were to all people of Texas.





The Kika de la Garza Subtropical Agricultural Research Center is located in the heart of the Rio Grande Valley of Texas.

# Membership Report '11-1 by Jimmie L. Oakley

Date	Last	First	City/Town/State	Amount	
'11 New Members					
1/5	Geffert	Greg	Spring, TX	20	
1/5	Geffert	Michael	Spring, TX	20	
1/6	Anderson	Mark Bellaire, TX		20	
1/6	Anderson	Ashley Bellaire, TX		20	
1/6	McMullan	Jeff Sugarland, TX		20	
1/7	Gibson	Terry	Pearland, TX	20	
1/7	Dickey	Gloria	Madisonville, TX	20	
1/7	Zimmer	Bill	Allen, TX	20	
1/7	Ash	E. T.	College Station, TX	20	
1/20	Davidson	Jack D.	Glen Rose, TX	20	
1/20	Davidson	Jo Ann	Glen Rose, TX	20	
1/25	Wilson	Lance	Austin, TX	20	
1/29	Groen	Keith	Krum, TX	20	
'11 R	enewing Meml	pers			
12/8	Garrett	Lucas	San Antonio, TX	20	
12/8	Kelling	Michael	Brenham, TX	40	
12/27	Ham	Clarence W.	Richland Springs, TX	X 20	
12/29	Johnson	Don	Winona, TX	20	
12/31	Bounds	Rosanna	Eddy-Bruceville, TX	20	
1/5	<b>Breedlove</b>	Jerry	Wichita Falls, TX	20	
1/5	Duke	Jane	Farmers Branch, TX	20	
1/6	Montalbo	Domingo	Little River, TX	20	
1/6	Butler	Blake	Rogers, TX	20	
1/6	Lane	Travis	San Angelo, TX	20	
1/7	Rankin	Deborah K.	Crockett, TX	20	
1/6	Constanza	Ed	Edgewood, NM	20	
1/6	Constanza	Louella	Edgewood, NM	20	
1/7	Anderson	Jimmie Joyce	Dallas, TX	20	
1/7	Anderson	James L.	Dallas, TX	20	
1/12	Buchanan	Douglas L.	Plano, TX	20	
1/13	Burleson	Tim	Waxahachie, TX	100	
1/13	Eudy	Danny	Bullard, TX	20	
1/13	Eudy	Cecelia	Bullard, TX	20	
1/14	Crenwelge	Jane	San Antonio, TX	20	
1/20	Coplin	Steve	Alvin, TX	20	
1/20	Coplin Poulson	Joan John N	Alvin, TX	20	
1/22 1/22	Paulson Wright	John N. Louise	Plano, TX Bokchito, OK	20 20	
1/25	Wright Barron		Round Rock, TX	20	
1/25	Kohn	David	Florence, TX	20	
1/23	Bronnenberg	Randy	Perry, IA	20	
1/27	Sollenberger	T'Lee	Burleson, TX	20	
1/28	Latham	Jim	Wills Point, TX	20	
	Associations Renewing '11 Membership				
				25	
12/29 1/6	-				
1/0	•	inty Beekeepers		25 25	



Mail All Renewals/Inquiries to:
Jimmie L. Oakley
1799 Goodson Ct.

Round Rock, TX 78664-3706

Phone: 512/388-3630 e-mail: jimmie.oakley.att.net

(continued from page 13)

are formed. When spores are produced, they can be observed using microscopy. Although used by many, this method is of a very limited practical use to the beekeepers. In addition, DNA-based detection methods are routinely used in the laboratories that can detect Nosema at any stage of its development, but they all require sophisticated equipment and trained technicians. A new field detection method could be very useful to beekeepers. It would allow beekeepers to detect Nosema infection and make management decisions without even leaving the apiary. Recently, scientists in Weslaco developed a highly specific antibody-based method for detection of Nosema ceranae. To equip the beekeepers with a simple and reliable field-based tool, we are now working with the USDA-ARS Office of Technology Transfer to find a company that produces this type of device (Aronstein et al., 2011)

Thanks to the HBGP, honey bee genome-based research is now underway in the laboratories around the globe. Sequencing of the Honey Bee Genome already has had, and will continue to have, a huge impact on both basic and applied research that will improve honey bee health and management practices of this important insect. Soon it will provide important tools for breeding a better bee.

(continued on page 17)

# 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

#### **Capitol Area Honey Bee Stewards**

Carol Malcolm - 512/997-9986 8913 Georgian Dr. - Austin, TX 78753

**Meetings:** Intermittent

#### **Central Texas Beekeepers Association**

Michael Kelling - 979/277-0411 michael@kelllingphotography.com

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**

Tom W. Stewart - 361/852-4218 daletoms@aol.com

411 Catalina Place - Corpus Christi, TX 78411

Meetings: Not currently meeting.

#### Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Assn.

John J. Talbert - 972/843-8084 john@sabinecreekhoney.com PO 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

#### **East Texas Beekeepers Association**

Richard Counts - 903/566-6789 dickcounts@bigplanet.com

16239 Audrey Lane - Arp, TX 75750 www.easttexasbeekeepersassociation.com

**Meetings:** 1st Thursday of each month; Room 104, RTDC Building; 1530 NE Lp 323

Tyler @ 6:45 pm

#### El Paso Beekeepers Association

Sarah Downing - 915/859-7725 1030 N. Zaragosa, Ste A; El Paso, TX 79907 Meetings: Not meeting regularly.

#### **Fort Bend Beekeepers Association**

Jeff McMullan - 281/980-2363

cell: 281/615-5346

jeffmcmullan@comcast.net

74 Hessenford St. - Sugar Land, TX 77479 Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of each month (except December) Conference Room, Fort Bend Co. Extension Office, County Fairgrounds

Rosenberg @ 7 pm

#### **Golden Triangle Beekeepers Association**

Wallace Commander - 409/982-0907 2445 Green Avenue - Port Arthur, TX 77642

**Meetings:** Not meeting regularly.

#### **Harris County Beekeepers Association**

George Rodriguez - 713/320-6263 Bossrod2010@att.net

4911 Campbell Dr. - Pearland, TX 77584 www.harriscountybeekeepers.org

Meetings: 4th Tuesday of each month Golden Acres Center - 5001 Oak Avenue

Pasadena @ 7 pm

#### **Heart of Texas Beekeepers Association**

Butch Trigleth - 254/733-1880 combowelder76@aol.com

609 E. Frederick St. - Riesel, TX 76682 Meetings: 4th Tuesday of each month (except December) Mama Baris Restaurant 1201 Hewitt Drive, Hewitt @ 6:30 pm

#### **Houston Beekeepers Association**

Rita Willhite - rwillhite@seitel-inc.com 7611 Fondren Rd - Houston, TX 77074 www.houstonbeekeepers.org

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each month; Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bisonnet St. Houston @ 7:30 pm

#### Metro Area Beekeepers Association

Weldon Hamilton

www.metrobeekeepers.net

PO Box 151222 - Fort Worth, TX 76108 Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month; United Co-op Services Community Room, Bethesda

Rd at I 35 W., Burleson @ 6:30 pm

#### Montgomery County Beekeepers Assn.

Valerie Craft - 936/760-3298 valsherbal@aol.com

116 Gregory Road - Conroe, TX 77304 or contact: Carlos Madruga

936/523-0135 - madrugacarlos@hotmail.com Meetings: 3rd Thursday of each month at

Montgomery County Library on I-45

Conroe @ 7 pm

#### **Permian Basin Beekeepers Association**

J.C. and Dean Brittingham

915/332-2215

2312 N. Adams - Odessa, TX 79761

Meetings: Not meeting reguarly.

#### **Pineywoods Beekeepers Association**

Cecil Hunt - 936/632-5357 clh12@consolidated.net

301 Carriage Dr. - Lufkin, TX 75904 Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month Chamber of Commerce Building, Highway 287

and Highway 58 Intersection

Lufkin @ 7:30 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 - 672/231-5702, Ext. 104 abees@swbell.net

9702 Vinewood Drive - Dallas, TX 75228 www.tvbees.org

Meetings: 1st Wednesday of each month (except August), Science Building Rm S100, Eastfield College; 3737 Motley Drive

Mesquite @ 7 - 9 pm

#### Walker County Area Beekeepers Assn.

Mark Short - 936/291-1879 mshort5150@yahoo.com

34 Davis Road - Huntsville, TX 77320

**Meetings:** Last Thursday of each month at Walker County Extension Office, #1 Tam Rd.

Huntsville @ 7 pm

#### Williamson County Beekeepers Assn.

Jimmie Oakley - 512/388-3630

jimmie.oakley@att.net - www.wcaba.org

1799 Goodson Ct. - Round Rock, TX 78664 **Meetings:** 4th Tuesday of each month (except December) 1st United Methodist Church - 410 E. University Ave

Georgetown, TX 78626 @ 7 pm

# **2011 TBA Membership Application**

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Spouse's Nan	ne		
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Business Nan	ne		
Referred by			
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	Work _		
	Fax		

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(circle one)

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(300 +)(25-99)(0-24)(number of colonies)



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2011

2010

(Nov. 1 thru Oct. 31)

	(11011 1 11114 0011 51)		
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	Member Dues		
	Spouse Dues		
	Member Dues (if unpaid)		
	Spouse Dues (if unpaid)		
	<b>Contibutions:</b>		
	State Fair Honey Booth		
	Nevin Weaver HBEF		
	Honey Bee Research Fund		

Legislative Fund

Cash/Check #( **Total Due** 

Please Remit to: Texas Beekeepers Association - Mr. Jimmie Oakley

1799 Goodson Ct. - Round Rock, TX 78664-3706

Phone: 512/388-3630 e-mail address: jimmie.oakley@att.net

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