



The Texas Beekeepers Association Journal



Bennie Lou Weaver
January 9, 1923 - May 16, 2011
"She was one of a kind"



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1 pound	12	1 (58 mm)	M001962	8	\$8.49
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From the Director's Chair - Area 4

by Randy Johnson

Capitol Area
Heart of Texas
Williamson County



Hello from Northeast Texas,

This has certainly been a wild year in Texas with the drought and all the raging wildfires in West and South Texas. I pray that there were no bees lost in those fires. Also, let's not forget the devastation and destruction from the many tornados that have ravaged our neighboring states. This has indisputably been a year to remember weather wise with all these crazy weather occurrences.

Up here in Northeast Texas, we have been fortunate with all the rain we have had. The vetch and clover are thriving, making us hopeful for a fair honey crop this year. The bees that we sent to California were late coming back due to all the rains out West; however, they looked great. They had made enough honey to come back heavy so that we didn't need to feed. After getting the queens back late, we finally got the bees all split out and ready to go.

I hope that things are looking up for everyone and wish you a prosperous honey crop this year!

Sincerely, Randy Johnson
Johnson Honey and Bee Farm - Paris, Texas



Look for us on the web
@ www.texasbeekeepers.org

Cover Picture of Bennie Lou and Binford Weaver at the ABF Convention in Kansas in 2003

In This Issue

In Memoriam Bennie Lou Weaver.....	4
Legislative Report.....	5
Honey Queen Committee Report.....	6
Texas Honey Princess Report.....	6
Texas Honey Queen Report.....	7
4-H Essay Competition.....	8
Kayla Ackerman Winning Essay.....	9
4-H Essay Competition Rules.....	10
Membership Report.....	12
TBA Membership Application.....	13
Madison Hughes 2nd Place Essay.....	15
Weslaco Names New Scientist.....	17

In Memoriam



Bennie Lou Weaver 1923 - 2011

Bennie Lou Franks Weaver, 88, of Lynn Grove, passed away May 16, 2011 at home in Lynn Grove, with Binford Weaver, her husband of 52 years and 9 months, by her side.

A celebration of her life was held 11:00 am, Friday, May 20, at the First Presbyterian Church, 302 Nolan at Holland in Navasota. Rev. Vic Dindot, retired, and former pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Navasota and Rev. Lacey Largent, former Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Navasota and long time family friend, officiated. Interment followed in Oakland Cemetery. Following the graveside services there was a reception at the First Presbyterian Church Family Life Center.

Bennie Lou was born January 9, 1923, to Robert Ingram and Dovey Lucille Barnett Franks in Del Rio, Texas. Bennie Lou spent her early years ranching in West Texas, losing her father, Bob, to an auto accident in 1930. Bennie Lou and Dovey persevered, ranching a 26-section place between Fort Stockton and Iraan until moving to another large ranch outside McCamey, where Bennie Lou edited the school paper and graduated as Salutatorian of the 1941 class. Bennie Lou entered Baylor University on a scholarship in the fall of 1941, taking a leave of absence during World War II to help her mother on the ranch. There she met Philip Renstrom, then stationed at the nearby Pecos Army Air Corp base, and married him in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, on March 17, 1945. Bennie Lou returned to Baylor and graduated in 1946, majoring in English with a minor in Music. After graduation, she joined Phil in California and taught High School in the San Francisco Bay area, and later at Kearney, Nebraska. Her first marriage ended in divorce, and she returned

to Waco, Texas, teaching English while earning her Master's degree in Guidance and Counseling at Baylor.

Bennie Lou remained close to her former roommate at Baylor, Reba Lou Weaver Campbell, and became friends with Reba's family, especially Reba's brother, Binford. Bennie Lou and Binford were married on August 9, 1958, and afterward she made a loving home in Lynn Grove.

Bennie Lou served as a guidance counselor and teacher at Navasota High School in the late 1960s and early 1970s, where she joyfully influenced the development and success of many young people. Bennie was also a certified Red Cross swimming and lifeguard instructor, and for many years shared responsibilities for the summer swimming program at the Navasota pool with her good friends, Jackie Baker, Carol Coleman, Anne Largent, Diane Moore and others. She supported her husband as an active member and leader of the American Beekeeping Federation (ABF), attending every meeting of the ABF from 1969 until 2009. She was also a long-standing member of the Texas Beekeeping Association. She was active in the Navasota Music Study club and the Navasota Garden club, serving as president of each, and was an avid bridge player. Bennie Lou was a founding member of the Grimes County Republican Party and an early supporter of George H. W. Bush in his campaigns for Congress and the Senate in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Bennie Lou grew up in the Baptist Church, became a member of the Lynn Grove Methodist Church after marriage, and subsequently, the First Presbyterian Church in Navasota, where she remained a faithful attendee until her health failed.

Bennie Lou was preceded in death by her father, Robert (August 30, 1930); her mother, Dovey (March 28, 1972); her adopted sister, Barbara King Robinson, and Bennie Lou's beloved son, Robert Roy Weaver (January 15, 1995). She is survived by her husband, Binford, of Lynn Grove, a son, Daniel Binford Weaver and daughter-in-law, Laura Gregory Weaver, and three grandsons whom she adored, Travis Binford Weaver, Dylan Gregory Weaver and Stone Barnett Weaver, all of Austin, Texas.

Bennie Lou never met a stranger, regardless of origin; could find a fellow Texan in the dark on a new moon anywhere she roamed - but folks from west of the Nueces were her favorites; she was always quick with a smile but ready to speak her mind. Bennie Lou was a master of Southwestern cooking and a lover of Classical, Big Band and Jazz music; a fierce protector of right over might, and compassionate to those in need. Mostly, she was one of a kind.

For those that desire, the family has suggested memorials be made in her name to United Methodist Community on Relief at www.umcor.org or 475 Riverside Drive, room 1520, New York, NY 10115 or a favorite charity.

Legislative Report from Richard Adee, Chairman AHPA Legislative Committee

AHPA President Mark Jensen, Jack Meyer and I were in Washington May 4th & 5th. Our main purpose in going was to testify before the Senate Finance Subcommittee on "International Trade Customs and Global Competitiveness". The Subcommittee was chaired by Senator Ron Wyden along with Ranking Chairman Senator John Thune. The main focus of the meeting was to discuss U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) role in detecting and preventing the trans-shipping of imported goods to avoid duties.

The Toronto, Canada newspaper "The Globe and Mail" ran the following headline: "A growing multi-million dollar laundering scheme designed to keep the endless supply of cheap and often contaminated Chinese honey moving into North America is putting the domestic industry on the verge of crisis." They went on to say this is the largest food fraud in U.S. history. Importantly, it affects all segments of the industry, those crops dependent on pollination and consumers alike. Producers are struggling under the impact of increasingly divergent prices. Ron Phipps describes it best. "A two tier market, one price for legitimate honey and another rock bottom price for trans-shipped honey." He also calls it, "A march to monopoly" where the honest packer is being forced out of business by the dishonest packer. We all know the old saying, "Honest people can't compete with crooks."

Data shows that the United States imported a mere 1.75 million pounds of legal honey from China in 2010. Ten years ago, prior to the 2001 anti-dumping order, China shipped 58.7 million pounds of honey to the U.S. annually.

Since 2001, imports from other countries have risen to replace the import volume from China. Last year, 2010, Malaysia, Taiwan, India and Indonesia exported more than 60 million pounds of honey to the U.S.

In the cases of Malaysia, Taiwan and Indonesia, none of these countries have commercial beekeeping operations capable of producing anywhere near that volume of honey. In fact, according to the admissions of the Malaysian Government, that country has only 25 beekeepers with a capacity to export 45,000 pounds annually, which is what they did in 2001. Last year, 2010, they exported 37 million pounds to the U.S.

According to the USDA, the average price of all the honey sold in the United States in 2010 was \$1.45 per pound. During the same period, trans-shipped Chinese honey was being offered for as low as 75 cents per pound.

Trans-shipping of Chinese origin honey is not the only trade problem facing the domestic industry. Pure honey



*Jack Meyer, Richard Adee and Eric Silva
Senate Finance Committee Hearing*

from China is being entered into the U.S. as a "blend" to avoid duties. If a honey blend is less than 50% honey by weight then no duties are owed. When the original order was drafted, there were no blends so they were not formally considered. Little did we realize the Chinese would use the blend label to circumvent duties. We are in the process of working with Customs to try and change the order to collect duties on the proven portion of a blend that is honey.

In 2008, 2009 and 2010 at least 80 million pounds of Chinese origin honey entered the United States each year without paying the anti-dumping duty. That is equivalent to 35% of all imports in 2008 and 44% of all imports in 2009. Duties of over \$300 million owed to the U.S. Treasury were not collected.

Overall, it was a good hearing.

Senate witnesses were:

The Honorable Sherrod Brown, State of Ohio
The Honorable Claire McCaskill, State of Missouri
The Honorable Roy Blunt, State of Missouri

Industry witnesses were:

Robert L. Mahoney, President, Tubular Products Group,
Northwest Pipe Company, Portland, OR

Richard Adee, Owner, Adee Honey Farms, and Chairman, American Honey Producers Associate Legislative Committee, Bruce, SD

(continued on page 16)

Honey Queen Committee Chair Report

Dear Texas Beekeepers,

Since our last report, our 2011 Texas Honey Queen Kaylynn Mansker has visited several more Texas beekeeping clubs. Of the seventeen clubs that actively meet in our state, Kaylynn has now visited the following,

Pineywoods Beekeepers Association, Lufkin
Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Association,
McKinney
Central Texas Beekeepers Association, Brenham
Montgomery County Beekeepers Association, Conroe
Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association,
Georgetown
Trinity Valley Beekeepers Association, Mesquite
Alamo Area Beekeepers Association, San Antonio,

Our 2011 Texas Honey Princess Kellie Lenamond also visited Alamo Area Beekeepers Association. We are honored to have Kellie back in Texas for the summer.

If you are a beekeeper in Texas, and whether or not you have a local beekeeping club, we can arrange for the Texas Honey Queen and/or our Texas Honey Princess to visit your area. It is helpful if there is a beekeeping family who can host the Queen/Princess for a night or two and defray the cost of a hotel. The Queen/Princess could visit a local school in your area and talk with students about the importance of honey bees, thus possibly increasing your local honey sales and encouraging youth into a beekeeping mentor program. The Honey Queen/Princess could speak to your local civic or garden club about the value of keeping bees. She could attend with you a local event or festival where you sell local honey.

We look forward to hearing from you about an opportunity for Kaylynn and Kellie to visit your area.

We'll see you on Saturday, June 11, at our Texas Honey Princess Kellie Lenamond's home in Wills Point, TX, for the Texas Beekeepers Association 2011 Summer Clinic.

Thank you.

Your Texas Honey Queen Program Co-Chairpersons

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2011 Texas Honey Princess Report

Hello, Texas Beekeepers,

Wow, has another month already flown by? These days have been extremely busy with work, my family, my friends and, of course, new Texas Honey Princess activities!

Just this past week I was able to go to San Antonio's Alamo Area Beekeepers Association monthly meeting with 2011 Texas Honey Queen Kaylynn Mansker and our Texas Honey Queen Program Co-Chairperson Rachel Seida. It was a long, but fun drive down on Tuesday morning, May 17, and we were glad to see our good beekeeping friends upon our arrival. At the meeting, we met a third grader who needed help on her honey bee research project. Beekeepers and Honey Queen & Princess to the rescue. We saw many good friends at the meeting, made some new ones, including chatting with the 2011 scholarship student about his new hive.

The next morning, we drove to Mrs. Sylvia Priest's elementary school. I was able to speak to 116 children that day, ranging from pre-K, all the way through 7th grade. I had a great time, and it was wonderful to finally be speaking about honey bees again after a semester away at college.

On May 20, Kaylynn, Alison Adams and I were able to attend Dobbs Elementary's 20th Annual Greater Outdoor Learning Day in Rockwall, TX, to speak to more school children about honey bees. After some changed plans due to sporadic rain, we were situated in a classroom and ended up seeing about 500 children that day. Elementary schools are my absolute favorite, because the children are always so interested, attentive and have such great questions and guesses. One little girl, upon being asked what she thought a bee veil was used for, replied, "It's to guard the bees from your face." It's a good thing that Allison was speaking with her at the time, because Kaylynn and I couldn't help but muffle a laugh.

I hope that all of you are having a wonderful summer so far and that you all plan on coming out to my home for the 2011 TBA Summer Clinic on June 11th. See you soon, and God bless.



Kellie Lenamond
2011 Texas Honey Princess

2011 Texas Honey Queen Report



Hello, Everyone,

Here we are in spring and I am loving it. This also being swarm season, my family has been busy catching them. We have successfully kept four and are now up to eight hives. We are hoping for a good crop of honey, as I'm sure you all are too. As your Honey Queen I have been moving around quite

bit; let me update you on what I have been up to.

March 22-23, my mom and I flew down to Austin to attend the Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association meeting. We enjoyed a pleasant tour of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, where we were joined by Rebekah Jones (WCABA Honey Queen) and her mother and sister. Then it was off to the State Capital. We had a very informative tour of the capital building and left some honey with our State Representatives. That evening we attended the beekeepers meeting and I had the pleasure to recognize the past year's scholarship students. The new scholarship students were announced and we all sat down on the floor and put equipment together for the rest of the evening. It was so much fun.

The next day, March 23, I helped work the Kids Learning about Bees hosted by WCABA. We had a full day with 200 homeschoolers coming to learn about honey bees. I also gave a presentation to the preschoolers at the church where the KLAB was held. This was a wonderful



*Pre-School Kids at First United Methodist Church,
Georgetown, Texas*

trip and a BIG thank you to Jimmie and Kay Oakley for hosting my mother and me.

April 6, I visited the Trinity Valley Beekeepers in Mesquite, TX. What a great time I had meeting and visiting with the beekeepers there. I was able to share with them about the honey queen program and scholarship programs. They are a growing club and were excited to hear of some ways to reach out to the community to promote beekeeping. I also invited them all to join us at the TBA Summer Clinic on June 11.

April 21, Rachael Seida and I went to Greenhill School in Addison, TX. It was the school's Earth day, and I gave five bee talks. The kids were very attentive and excited to know more about the bees.

April 28, I attended an event with Allison Adams (American Honey Princess) at a Montessori school in Quinlan, TX. It was the school's "Pioneer Day". We had a table set up outside with bees, and the children and their



*TV Bees with Club President Christi Baughman,
Mesquite, Texas*

parents came by to see and ask questions about the bees. We handed out honey sticks to everyone. It was a nice event and everyone was so friendly and helpful.

On May 14, I attended the Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Association Annual Picnic. This is always a great event with lots of food and fun. Apart from the regular festivities, I performed a short skit to help with the entertainment! The Collin County Princesses made our mouths water with amazing cooking with honey demonstrations, and CCHBA Queen Caroline Adams taught everyone how to do the bee dance. Everyone quite enjoyed themselves, and it was a memorable day.

(continued on page 14)

Kayla Ackerman Places Second in National Beekeeping Essay Competition

from Dr. John G. Thomas

Kayla Ackerman placed second in the National Beekeeping Essay Competition. Kayla, from Brazos County, won the Texas essay contest; earning the right to represent us in the National Competition.

Results of the Texas beekeeping Essay competition were:

1st Kayla Ackerman – Brazos County \$100

2nd Madison Hughes – Hood County \$75

3rd Aaron Ackerman – Brazos County \$50

The other Texas entries were (listed alphabetically):

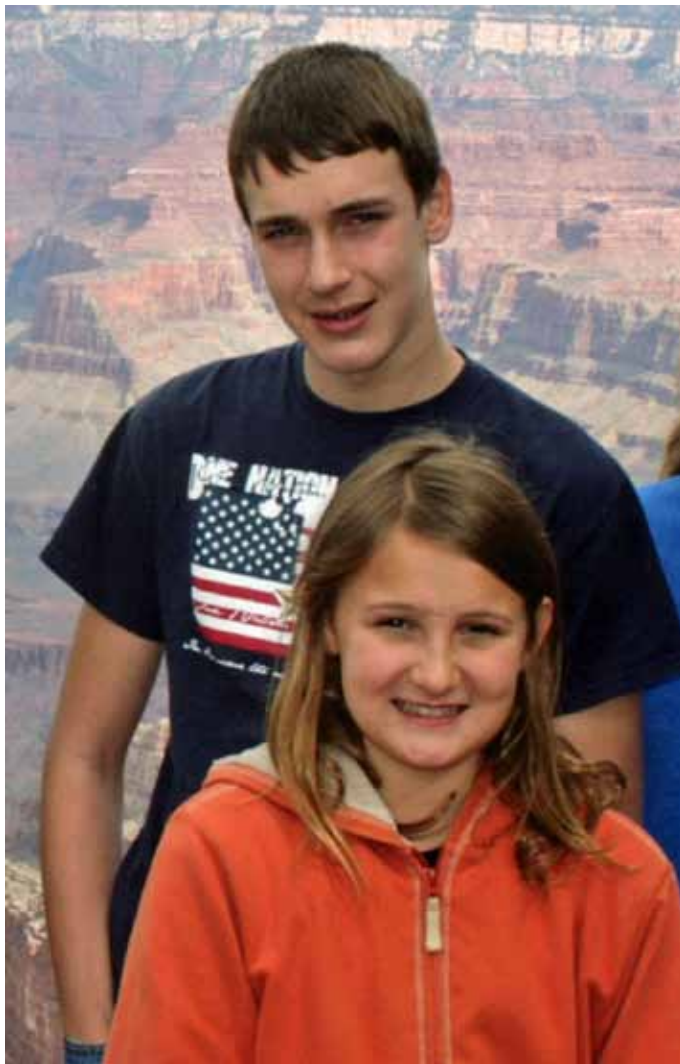
Selah Burnett – Fannin County

Jennifer Daniels – Parker County

Stephanie Frank – Tarrant County

Matthew Liverman – Bastrop County

Rachel Mohr – Denton County



*Kayla and Aaron Ackerman
Brazos County, Texas*

Our congratulations to Kayla, Madison, Aaron and to each of the youth of Texas who invested their effort, time and creativity in preparing for and writing their beekeeping essays. We would certainly encourage each of the 2011 essay writers to enter the essay competition in 2012. Only Miss Ackerman is ineligible to enter this coming year.

We want to recognize and say thanks to the Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Association (CCHBA – John J. Talbert) and Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association (WCABA – Jimmie Oakley) for their sponsorship of the Texas beekeeping Essay Awards program. These two associations have financed the awards for over 20 years.

A New Era in 2012

We made the decision that the Texas beekeepers wanted to support the youth of Texas who were interested in writing about beekeeping. Our support for the Texas beekeeping awards program is reflected in the increased prize awards:

1st place - \$300

2nd place - \$200

3rd place - \$100

We invited our Texas local beekeeper associations to participate in sponsoring the awards for this youth program. We want to thank and compliment the following associations who stepped up and said, “We want to be a part of this program!” The associations who will be sponsors (contact for each association is shown) of the 2012 Texas Awards are:

Alamo Area Beekeepers Assn. (Mr. Bruce Rodie)

Central Texas Beekeepers Assn. (Dr. Jane Packard)

Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Assn. (Mr. John J. Talbert)

Dino-Bee Beekeepers Assn. (Mr. Jack D. Davidson)

East Texas Beekeepers Assn. (Mr. Richard “Dick” Counts)

Trinity Valley Beekeepers Assn. (Dr. Alan J. Eynon)

Williamson County Area Beekeepers Assn. (Mr. Jimmie Oakley)

We would encourage all Texas youth to consider learning more about the important role the honey bee plays in providing food for our human population – nearly 1/3 of

(continued on page 14)

US Honey: A Taste for Every Preference

by Kayla Ackerman

Americans have enjoyed honey since 1622, when European settlers brought honey bees to the United States. In the United States, honey is available in over 300 unique varieties. Honey differs in color and taste depending on the plants from which bees obtain nectar, the soil the plant grows in, the temperature, and even rainfall affecting the plants' growth. There are many sources of nectar for delicious honey flavors and the growing season, as well as soil, affects the honey. Light-colored honey has a mild taste while darker honey has a strong flavor. There are three categories of honey based on nectar: monofloral, predominately from one type of flower, polyfloral, from many wildflowers, and blended, at least two types of honey mixed together. Honey may be in many forms, and is graded based on USDA standards.

Clover honey, the most common type of monofloral honey, has a mild delicious taste and is clear or light in color. Two species of clover grown in the United States are yellow sweet clover (*Melilotus officinalis*) and white sweet clover (*Melilotus alba*), as well as others. Clover improves the quality of the soil, but quality of clover honey depends on how the honey is handled (free of impurities), whether bees collect only clover nectar, and if the honey is made in the late spring or summer. Sage honey, as well, has many varieties of tasty, light honey. The sage plant (*Salvia mellifera*) grows along the California coast. In Florida, California, Arizona, and Texas, orange trees (*Epilobium angustibolium*) bloom in March and April. Honey bees use their nectar to produce a delicious honey with a light amber color and the scent of orange blossoms. Blueberry honey (*Vaccinium* spp.) is made in New England and Michigan where blueberry plants grow. It does not have added flavor, but its taste comes from nectar of the tiny white blueberry flowers. Like clover and orange blossom honey, it is clear and amber, but slightly darker; all are used for cooking or just eating. The alfalfa plant (*Medicago sativa*), is the most important honey plant in Utah, Nevada, Idaho, and Oregon. Alfalfa honey is light amber or even white, and is popular for eating. Tupelo honey, a light, mild honey which rarely crystalizes, is from the tupelo tree (*Nyssa ogeche*) in southeastern US, which is a protected plant. Honey from the eucalyptus plant, which has over 500 species, has a medicinal taste and is used for healing and for malaria (a serious disease from mosquitos). The fireweed (*Epilobium angustibolium*), a tall pink-flowered plant, grows in the northern and pacific states and produces a water white honey. Buckwheat (*Fagopyrum esculentum*) grows in well-drained soil and cool climates in the spring, and can even thrive in infertile soil. Unlike many other popular honeys, buckwheat honey is dark brown with a

strong, rich taste making it a good choice for barbecue sauce. Wildflower honey is also dark, with a strong, sweet flavor, but is polyfloral – the nectar bees use to make this honey changes every year and depends on the type of flowers blooming. Many different forms of honey are used on the table, in foods, and just to eat. Liquid honey, the most popular, is strained or centrifuged so it is easy to cook with or eat. Comb honey is honey taken from the bee hive with the chewy beeswax. Cut comb is liquid honey with honey comb. Spreadable honey, or whipped honey, is honey that has been crystallized by heating, but is different from naturally crystallized honey. Some manufacturers add flavors to whipped honey to give it distinct flavors, such as cinnamon, blueberry, raspberry, or lemon. It is important to store honey in a cool environment, with a sealed lid to maintain its taste and color.⁵

The USDA grades honey color from water white to dark amber based on optical density and the Pfund scale. At stores, consumers buy honey which is graded categories A, B, and C. These categories are determined by water content, flavor, smell, clarity, and presence of defects or particles. Grade A and B honey both have a water content of less than 18.6 % but are different because grade B may contain air bubbles or pollen particles. Grade C honey must be less than 20% water and may have particles, but they do not seriously affect the appearance.

Processing of honey may affect its taste and color. Heating the honey in the pasteurization process kills yeast cells which may ferment and spoil the honey, liquefies crystals, and destroys bacteria; however, it also reduces enzymes and may change the appearance. Raw honey has more pollen and consumers with allergies prefer to eat it, hoping it may help their hay fever or other conditions. Ultrasonification of honey is a process to destroy most yeast cells and crystals without heat.

Americans delight in many varieties of honey from mild, light flavors, to rich, strong tastes. Honey is delicious whether from one flower or many, whether whipped or liquid, and whether raw or pasteurized. From the table to baking, honey is enjoyed day to day.

Kayla Ackerman, born June 9th., 1999 is a home-schooled 6th grader. She enjoys 4H, archery and rabbit clubs, as well as basketball and soccer. Kayla loves to sing, play violin, piano and even Texas fiddle with her brothers, sister and parents.

2012
TEXAS 4-H BEEKEEPING ESSAY CONTEST
RULES AND GUIDELINES

DEADLINE FOR ESSAY
JANUARY 13, 2012

AWARDS:

National Cash Prizes to 3 Top Winners:

1st Place: \$750.00

2nd Place: \$500.00

3rd Place: \$250.00

National Contest Sponsored by: The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc.

Each State Winner, including the national winners, receives an appropriate book about honey bees, beekeeping, or honey.

Texas Cash Prizes to 3 Top Winners

1st Place: \$300.00

2nd Place: \$200.00

3rd Place: \$100.00

Texas Contest Sponsored by: Alamo Area Beekeepers Assn., Central Texas Beekeepers Assn., Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Assn., Dino-Bee Beekeepers Assn., East Texas Beekeepers Assn., Harris County Beekeepers Assn., Trinity Valley Beekeepers Assn., and Williamson County Area Beekeepers Assn.

TOPIC:

For the 2012 essay contest, the essay topic is:

“The Results of Honey Bee Pollination in My Community”

Honey bees pollinate a wide variety of plants. The food crops that benefit from honey bee pollination have been said to contribute one-third of the American diet. In addition, many non-food plantings and natural environmental plants benefit from honey bee pollination. The 4-H'ers are encouraged to investigate the plants in their communities that benefit from honey bee pollination and determine the results of that pollination.

The scope of the research is an essential judging criterion, accounting for 40% of your score. The number of sources consulted, the authority of the sources, and the variety of the sources are all evaluated.

Personal interviews with beekeepers, farmers and others familiar with the subject are valued sources of information and should be documented. Sources, which are not cited in the endnotes, should be listed in a “Resources” or “Bibliography” list.

Note that “honey bee” is properly spelled as two words, even though many otherwise authoritative references spell it as one word.

NOTE: FOR 2012, ONLY ESSAYS SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Kyle J. Merten

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College Station, TX 77845

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<http://texas4-h.tamu.edu>



Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin.
The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

RULES:

1. Contest is open to active 4-H Club members only. 4-H'ers who have previously placed first, second, or third at the national level are not eligible; but other state winners are eligible to re-enter.
2. Requirements (failure to meet any one requirement disqualifies the essay) –
 - Write on the designated subject only.
 - All factual statements must be referenced with bibliographical-style endnotes.
 - A brief biographical sketch of the essayist, including date of birth, gender, complete mailing address, and telephone number, must accompany the essay.
 - Length – the essay proper: 750 to 1000 words.
 - The word count does not include the endnotes, the bibliography or references, nor the essayist's biographical sketch – which should be on a separate page.
 - Preparation for State and National Judging: ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS ONLY. Prepare your essays double-spaced, 12-pt. Times or similar type style, following standard manuscript format. Submit as a Microsoft Word compatible document.
3. Essays will be judged on (a) scope of research - 40%; (b) accuracy - 30%; (c) creativity - 10%; (d) conciseness - 10%; and (e) logical development of the topic - 10%.
4. Individual must send all essays electronically to the Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program by **January 13, 2012**. E-mails should be sent to Kyle Merten at kjmerten@ag.tamu.edu.
5. Each state may submit only one entry for National Competition.
6. Final judging and selection of the State Winner will be made by the Texas 4-H and Youth Development Office, whose decision is final. Final judging and selection of the National Winner will be made by the Foundation's Essay Committee, whose decision is final.
7. State winners will be announced prior to submission to the National Contest. The National Winner will be announced by May 1, 2012.
8. All State and National entries become the property of the Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program and the National Beekeeping Foundation, and may be published or used as it sees fit. No essay will be returned. National winning essays will be posted at: <http://honeybeepreservation.org>.

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College Station, TX 77845

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Membership Report '11-3 *by Jimmie L. Oakley*



Date	Last	First	City/Town/State	Amount
------	------	-------	-----------------	--------

2011 New Members

4/4	Martinez	Richard L.	Austin, TX	20
4/11	Daley Sr.	William "Bill"	Baytown, TX	20
4/20	Wende	Gary Joe	Kyle, TX	20
4/24	Williams	Allen	Burleson, TX	20
4/25	Blackburn	Mark	Lakeway, TX	20
4/30	Holland	Todd	Marble Falls, TX	20
5/20	Siep	Anne	Farmersville, TX	20
5/20	Siep	Tom	Farmersville, TX	20
5/20	Hedley	Mark	Rochelle, TX	20
5/25	Haller	Judith	Austin, TX	20



2011 Renewing Members

5/9	Kristof	Harold	Friendswood, TX	20
5/11	Ethridge	J. W.	Mabank, TX	20
5/20	Wilson	Wm. T. "Bill"	Summit, UT	20

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

Associations Renewing 2011 Membership

4/11	Dino-Bee Beekeepers Association	25
------	--	----

Explanation of Membership Status as shown on label:

***11.....2011 Membership dues paid
***10.....2010 Membership dues paid, but not 2011

If label reads:

Mr. and Mrs. (Name) = Both are members
Mr. (Name) = Only Mr. is member
Mrs. (Name) = Only Mrs. is member

NC.....Non-Commercial	
CEN.....Century Club	COM.....Commercial
COML.....Complimentary Copy	LFM.....Life Member

Beekeeping Classification:

Commercial.....(301 plus colonies)
Sideliner.....(26 to 300 colonies)
Hobby.....(0 to 25 colonies)

Membership Category:

Century Member.....\$100.00
Individual Member.....20.00 (a person)
Beekeeper Association.....25.00 (an organization)
Associate Member.....20.00 (nonbeekeeper person)

Membership Renewal is due January 1 of each year. If the renewal date on your label is not *11, please renew today.**

Please Send All Membership Inquiries to:

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1799 Goodson Court
Round Rock, TX 78664-3706
Phone: 512/388-3630
jimmie.oakley@att.net

2011 TBA Membership Application

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Spouse's Name _____

Address _____

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Email Address _____

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Local Association Affiliation _____

Referred by _____

Phone: Home _____

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Fax _____

Beekeeper Classification
(circle one)

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



Annual Dues:

(Nov. 1 thru Oct. 31)
Century Club.....\$100.00
Individual Beekeeper.....\$ 20.00

2011

Member Dues _____

2010

Spouse Dues _____

Member Dues (if unpaid) _____

Spouse Dues (if unpaid) _____

Contributions:

State Fair Honey Booth _____

Nevin Weaver HBEF _____

Honey Bee Research Fund _____

Legislative Fund _____

Cash/Check #() _____

Total Due \$ _____

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

Advertisement Rates for the Journal

*The Official Publication of the
Texas Beekeepers Association*

Deadline for ads and articles
is the 20th day of the month before
the month the issue comes out.

The following rates are effective as of 1/1/03

Bs. Card.....\$15.00 1/4 page.....\$22.00 1/2 page.....\$30.00 Full Page.....\$50.00

Classified.....\$10.00 1/2 page, inner/outer cover.....\$35.00

Classified ads are for individuals wanting to sell items they may have. (No Business Ads). Rates are: Non TBA members-\$10.00 per issue, TBA members-\$7.50 per issue; maximum length 20 words-10 cents each additional word. Other ads-10% discount for 1/2 page and full page ads pre-paid for 6 issues (full year). Send photo ready copy to: *TBA Journal*, 17726 Elizabeth Rd, Alvin, TX 77511-8430. Deadline for submitting ads or articles is the **20th day of the month before the issue comes out the following month.**

Editorial Policy: The editor of this publication reserves the right to reject or discontinue any advertisement believed to be detrimental to the best interest of the Texas beekeeping industry or our individual members. We shall accept advertising on the same basis as other reputable industry publications; that is, we shall not knowingly permit a dishonest advertisement to appear in *The Journal*, but at the same time, we will not undertake to guarantee the reliability of our advertisers.

National Essay Competition

(continued from page 8)

our diet. Not only is honey bee pollination important, but this social insect is absolutely fascinating, complex and addictive to beekeepers. The Rules, Guidelines, essay topic, deadline, etc for the 2012 essay competition are presented (see p. 10).

National Essay Results – 2011

Kayla Ackerman (Brazos County) earned the right to represent Texas in the National Beekeeping Essay contest. Her essay placed 2nd in competition with 22 other states' essays. Placing 1st in the national competition was the California entry. Tied for 3rd place were the essays from Delaware and New Mexico.

The National Beekeeping Essay Contest is sponsored by the partnership between the Foundation for the Preservation of the Honey Bee (American Beekeeping Federation) and the National 4-H Foundation.

Dr. John G. Thomas

U.S. Honey Production Up 20 % in 2010

Honey production in 2010 from producers with 5 or more colonies totalled 176 million pounds, up 20% from 2009. There were 2.68 million colonies producing honey in 2010, up 7% from 2009. Yield per colony averaged 65.5 pounds, up 12% from the 58.6 pounds in 2009. Colonies which produced honey in more than one state, were counted in each state where the honey was produced. Therefore, at the United States level, yield per colony may be understated, but total production would not be impacted. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 45.3 million pound on December 15th 2010, up 21% from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude those held under the commodity loan program.

Honey prices increased to a record high during 2010 to 160.3 cents, up 9% from 147.3 cents in 2009. US and state level prices reflect the portions of honey sold through cooperative private channels and retail. Prices for each color class are derived by weighting the quantities sold for each marketing channel. Prices for the 2009 crop reflect honey sold in 2009 and 2010. Some 2009 crop honey was sold in 2010 which caused some revisions to the 2009 crop prices.

The complete NASS honey report is available on the ABF website at www.abfnet.org under the 'Education & Events' tab, 'Honey Facts.'

Courtesy American Beekeeping Federation website.

Honey Queen Report

(continued from page 7)

May 17, I headed out to San Antonio along with Kellie (TX Honey Princess) and Rachael Seida to visit the Alamo Area Beekeepers group and do school presentations. We all enjoyed the meeting with the club and appreciated the warm welcome we received. Our school presentations were also a huge success, reaching about 300 students in total. A thank you to Sylvia Priest for setting up the school event for us. Finally on May 20, Kellie, Allison Adams, and I presented at an elementary school in Rockwall, TX. We spoke to 512 students. We took turns speaking during the presentations and answering the children's questions.



San Antonio Bee Talks

There it is. All I have been doing thus far. And we are by no means done with the year. I hope to see everyone at the summer Clinic in Wills Point on June 11. Plan to be there.

See you soon,
Kaylynn Mansker – 2011 Texas Honey Queen



Madison Hughes - 2nd Place Essay in Texas Competition

The Secret Diary of Belinda S. Bee Being a Royal Honey Tester in the Hive of Queen Lucinder

April 13

Today was my first day working for the Royal Honey Testers.

It is a most interesting job, as I get to sample honeys from all over the country and report on the differences between the varieties. I have

decided that I shall

tell about a different

type of honey every

time I write in this

diary. Today I've

chosen orange

blossom honey.

Orange blossom

honey ranges from

clear-white to a

delicate amber color.

It smells faintly of

oranges, and its mild

citrus flavor makes

it excellent on toast

and pancakes. It is a

popular honey source

that is produced

mostly in Texas, California, Arizona, and Florida. However,

many "Orange Blossom" honeys on the market today are, in

fact, artificially flavored, so take care to pick out a true natural

honey when making a purchase. (Personally, this is one of my

favorite honeys to make because of the delicious flavor of the

orange blossom nectar, but I shan't expect humans to care what

a bee thinks.)

April 15

I had a slightly sore throat today and was given some

eucalyptus honey by one of the other testers. Eucalyptus honey

generally has a menthol aftertaste, and can be stirred into tea

to help a host of ailments such as coughs, colds, general aches

and pains, and more. It can also be rubbed on cuts, burns,

and insect bites as an antiseptic. It is primarily produced

in California, and honeys made from different varieties of

eucalyptus can have slightly different flavors. I have heard

rumors that a mysterious creature called a Koala lives off of the

eucalyptus plant, but I am not sure that I believe it.

April 19

I've a terrible cold for the past few days. I'm much better now,

though. Maybe the eucalyptus honey helped? At any rate, today

I'm going to tell you about one of the most popular honeys in

the US: clover honey. Clover honey is very widely produced in

the US, since it is an excellent all purpose honey, good for both

baking and spreading on toast, waffles, etc. It has a pleasant

flowery scent and taste and contains a good deal of Vitamin C.

Many clover honeys available are mixed with other honeys, as



it is difficult to obtain honey made purely from clover nectar. The purer forms tend to be lighter in color, with some being nearly white. The season for producing the very best clover honey is said to be late spring and summer, when the flowers are producing the most nectar, meaning that I will get to test even better honey later this year!

April 20

Most of the honeys that I have written about so far have been what people usually think of as "normal" honey: light colored,

mild, and sweet. Today I decided to do something different and

write about buckwheat honey, which is nearly the opposite.

Buckwheat honey made from the flowers of the buckwheat

plant (obviously), but did you know that buckwheat isn't

actually a wheat? It has acquired that name over the years

because it is often used for many of the same things that wheat

is. The honey made from this plant is very dark, nearly black,

unless mixed with honey made from other nectar sources.

When looking for a more pure buckwheat honey, buy the

darkest you can find. It will have a flavor almost like molasses

and isn't too sweet, with a nice earthy smell to it. The flavor

is much stronger than that of other honeys, making it perfect

for marinades. For a stronger honey flavor in baked goods,

try buckwheat honey! This honey is also said to have strong

antioxidant properties. In one study, it was found to be 30 times

more effective as an antioxidant than the weakest honey in

the test! Perhaps I should give some to my friend Allie for her

scraped knee...

April 23

Today was one of the other worker's birthdays. Someone

brought the most delicious muffins, baked with honey instead

of sugar. Did you know that honey is much better for you than

white sugar? Honey causes your blood sugar to rise and fall

much more slowly than sugar, which means that you won't

experience a sugar "crash", as I have heard the humans call it.

Replacing sugar with honey can extend the shelf life of your

baked goods by helping the product retain moisture, and it also

inhibits mold growth due to its high acidity.³ However, this

same property means that you may need to add a little extra

baking soda to the recipe. Raw honey contains the most nutri-

ents, as it hasn't been extensively heated, but can also contain

some bacteria as well. Any type of honey should not be fed

to infants under age 1, since their immune systems may be

too weak to fight off any bacteria the honey contains. When

substituting honey into baked goods, use 2/3-3/4 cups of honey

per cup of sugar. You may also need to reduce the amount of

liquid in the recipe if you are substituting in a large quantity of

honey. Note that darker honeys (like buckwheat) tend to have a

stronger flavor than light colored honey. Also, you may want to

turn your oven down about 25 degrees and keep a close eye on

your products, because honey will burn easily.

April 25

I have just been informed that I, with some other testers, will

be leaving in the morning on a secret mission. We are not

allowed to bring anything and will be searched before leaving,

so I will have to leave this diary here. I hope to be able to write

soon, since I have barely scratched the surface in the world of

the 300+ honey varieties. However, I have no idea of the length

of this journey, so until next time, I remain,

Belinda S. Bee

Legislative Report

(continued from page 5)

Roger Schagrin, Chairman, Government Affairs Committee, Committee to Support U.S. Trade Laws, Annapolis, MD

Karl Glassman, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officers, Leggett & Platt Incorporated, Carthage, MO

Marguerite E. Trossevin, Jochum Shore & Trossevin on behalf of the Retail Industry Leaders Association, Alexandria, VA

Government Witnesses were:

Allen Gina, Assistant Commissioner of International Trade, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Washington, DC

J. Scott Ballman, Deputy Assistant Director, Homeland Security Investigations, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Washington, DC

Ronald Lorentzen, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Import Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC

Chairman Wyden and Ranking Chairman Thune did an excellent job in questioning the witnesses. Chairman Wyden asked some real tough pointed questions of the Customs Representative.

We stressed the fact that while we were very appreciative of the targeted enforcement, the arrest and indictments made to date, the trans-shipping and blending problems were still very much with us. We strongly urged them to go after the demand side of the equation. I like to say, it is comparable to a chop shop operation. You can catch as many car thieves as possible, but as long as the "chop shop" goes undisturbed, they will simply find another thief and just as many cars will continue to go through the shop. Without certain packer and importer collusion there is no market for trans-shipped honey. Without a market for trans-shipped honey, domestic producers, packers and importers who believe in fair play can flourish.

We also visited with our Legislative friends about the upcoming Farm Bill. We all know money is scarce in Washington. There are those in Congress who are looking at cuts in the farm bill as a way of saving money. The

best we can hope for is to maintain what we have. They said eliminating the Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) for agriculture crops was not being considered seriously as commodity prices were considerably above the loan rate therefore the LDP would not be utilized in the foreseeable future. The honey loan rate is 69 cents so if we ever slip below that price where a LDP kicks in, we're all in trouble. However, it's nice to have the program for cash flow and tax purposes. As we explained to the Senate and House Ag Committees, if we use the program, we pay interest, so the only cost to the government would be administrative.

The Administrations USDA-ARS budget calls for the closing of the Weslaco Research Facility. Honey bees, citrus and cotton all have research units at the facility. They are proposing closing the citrus and cotton units and moving honey bee research to College Station, Texas, where other research units are located. Naturally, they are getting opposition to closing the Research Unit, not only from beekeepers, but from the cotton and citrus farmers. Closing Weslaco is not a done deal yet, so if you'd like to keep the bee research lab in Weslaco, let your Senator and Congressman know.

Have a great summer and make a big honey crop.

Richard Adee
Chairman AHPA Legislative Committee

USDA/AIA Survey Reports 2010/2011 Winter Honey Bee Losses

Report Reveals Average Individual Colony Loss 38.4 Percent. Total losses from managed honey bee colonies nationwide were 30 percent from all causes for the 2010/2011 winter, according to the annual survey conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Apiary Inspectors of America (AIA). This is roughly similar to total losses reported in similar surveys done in the four previous years: 34 percent for the 2009/2010 winter, 29 percent for 2008/2009; 36 percent for 2007/2008, and 32 percent for 2006/2007.

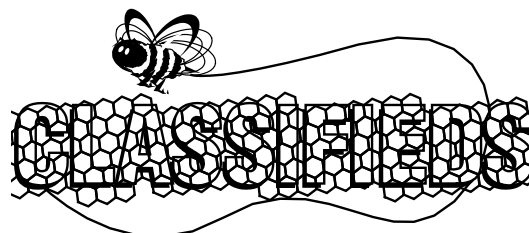
Courtesy American Beekeeping Federation website.

ARS Weslaco Lab Names New Honey Bee Research Scientist

Dr. Steven C. Cook has recently accepted the position of Honey Bee Research Entomologist at the Weslaco Bee Lab in Weslaco, Texas. Cook earned both a B.S. and PhD in Biology from the University of Utah. Prior to accepting his new role, he served as a postdoctoral research associate in the Department of Entomology at Texas A&M University.

"I am very excited to accept a new position as a research entomologist with the USDA-ARS in Weslaco, Texas," says Cook. "There, I will study the importance of nutrition as it relates to improving the health and vitality of honey bee colonies exposed to parasites, toxins and other stressors. I am a relative newcomer to working with bees, both as a beekeeper and a scientist studying honey bee nutritional biology. Nevertheless, I have studied ants for nearly 15 years. Over that time, I have developed successful research methods that have resulted in important insights of social insect nutritional biology, including how both individual and group behaviors together affect colony-level regulation of key nutrients, particularly protein and carbohydrate. These methods and insights can also be applied to studying honey bee nutritional biology. I plan to apply my past experience to investigate regulation of nutrient intake by honey bee colonies in response to changes in the nutritional environment and presence of additional stressors. I hope my research will result in a better understanding of shifts in nutritional demands of honey bee colonies, and help beekeepers improve honey bee health."

"Steve has studied social insects for nearly 15 years, and has aided in groundbreaking research on the nutritional biology and behavior of this incredible group of insects," notes Dr. John Adamczyk, research leader for the Honey Bee Research Unit at Weslaco. "As a new USDA-ARS Honey Bee Research Entomologist in Weslaco, he will apply his expertise to address key issues surrounding the chronic and acute affects of pesticides on honey bee health, as well as developing and improving existing pesticide management strategies to prolong the use of miticides and insecticides to control our key pests."



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