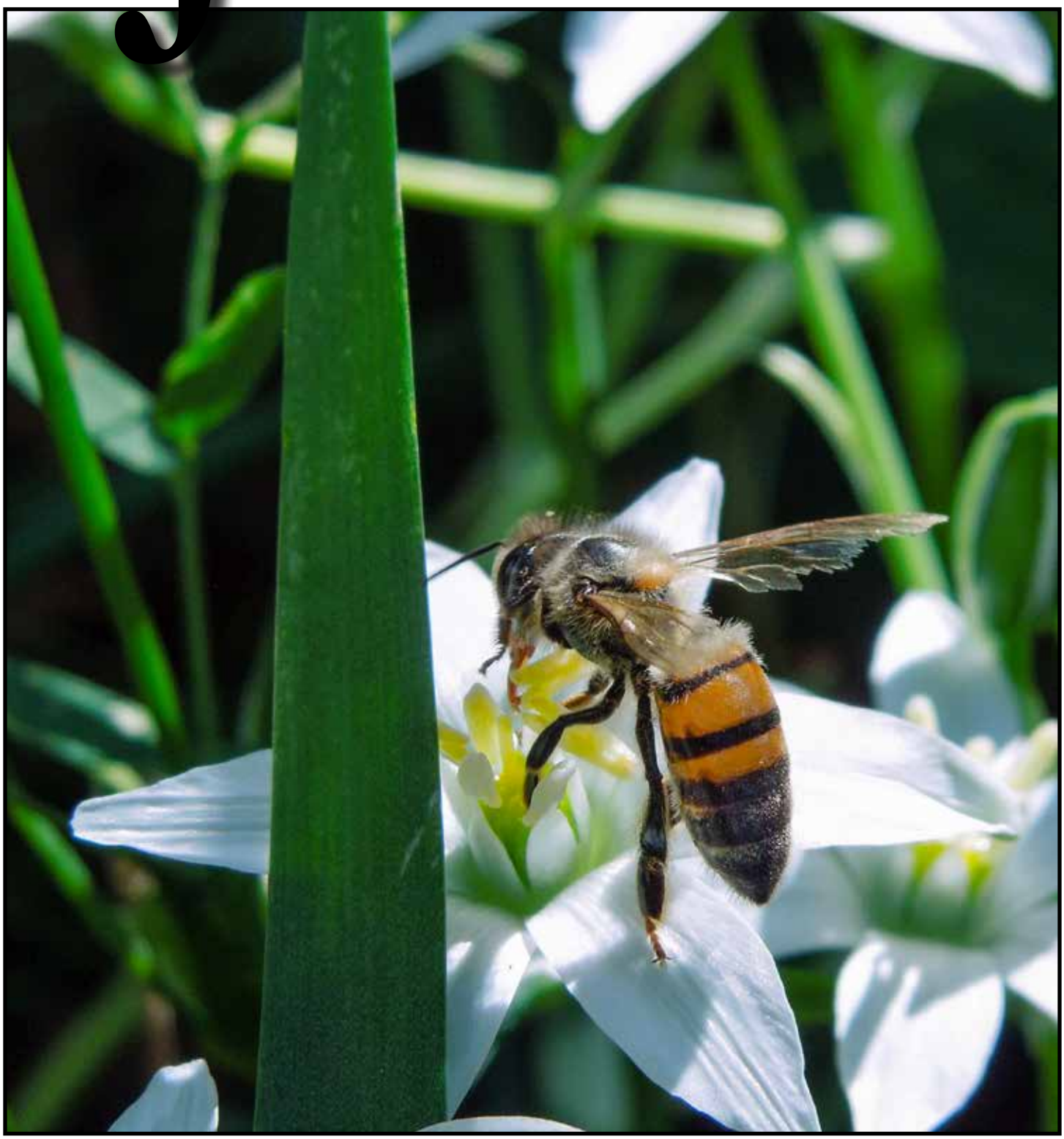
The Texas Beekeepers Association

Journal



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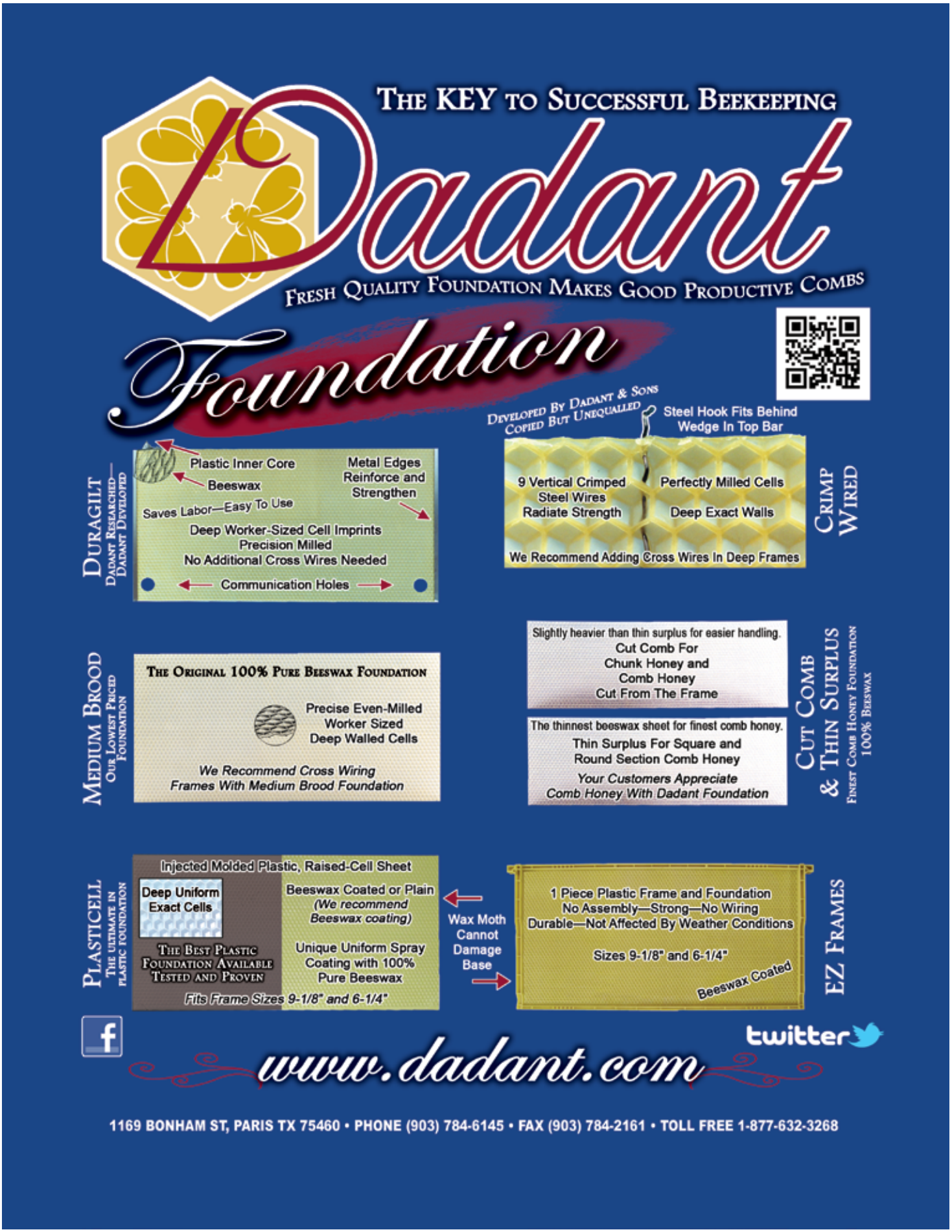
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President's Report

from Blake Shook

What a spring! 80 degrees one day, then snow and ice the next. Our bees don't seem to know what to think. Our honey flows here in Texas seem as though they are going to be a few weeks late like they were in 2012. That can be a good thing if you are trying to get splits made, and build up your hives.

The past few months have been extremely busy for all of us on the TBA Board. Not only are we all very busy with bee work this time of year, but many of our projects are in full swing, and some are actually almost finished. Mark Hedley and Chris Doggett have been working tirelessly on our website, which is essentially completed at this point. Be sure to check out the many new and helpful features, such as the Texas Honey Locator. If you would like to have your information listed on the Texas Honey Locator, simply follow this link:
*https://adobeformscentral.com/?f=dPNBKaLnPYh0p586*pWNxA#*
Fill out the form and you are done!

Don't forget to "Like" TBA on Facebook as well. Our VP's wife, Anita Moore, does a fantastic job at updating the page multiple times a day with a tremendous amount of industry news, tips, and fascinating facts.

We are also excited to introduce our new Chief Apiary Inspector, Mark Dykes. You will be hearing much more about Mark in the days to come. We look forward to working with Mark, and starting a new era for the Apiary Inspection Program in Texas.

TBA recently lost one if its most loved members. Lavada Talbert went home in early February. Don't forget to keep John Talbert and his family in your prayers. She will be greatly missed by all of us at TBA.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our Summer Clinic!

Editor's Notes

from Chris Doggett

We would like to apologize for the print and trim quality of last month's Journal. Our printer, Dreyfus Printing, had equipment problems and the Journal was printed on a color printer in black and white. This led to some very poor quality photographs. Their book trimmer was also out of order and that led to a poor construction of the Journal. We have been assured that this is all now back in order and this edition should be up to their normally excellent standard.

Those of you that receive this Journal as an email get to read it in full color - the cost of a full color printed version would be prohibitive. If you presently receive a printed copy and would be happy to receive it as an email in future, please let us know - it costs almost $20 a year for each member to whom we mail the Journal.

Finally, you will notice some new articles in this issue. Buds and Bees is missing but will be back in the May / June Journal - our thanks to Becky Bender for all the work she puts into this. Cameron Crane has begun a monthly column for the beginning beekeper which will certainly appeal to our new complimentary first year beekeeper members. Please speak to the President of your Association if you are not aware of this new beekeeper program.

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Vice President's Report

from Chris Moore

I guess it is safe to say: I spoke too soon. The following was from my last article:

Spring has sprung. At least today anyway, mid-Jan, my bees are busy carrying pollen just as fast as they can. It is so refreshing and exciting to see them doing well, the fresh pollen stores, the fresh white wax on the frames and full frames of sealed brood. The population explosion has begun.

Well as soon as it started, "Old Man Winter" put the kibosh on Spring. Now, two months later we are finally back to Spring like weather. We never know what Mother Nature is going to throw at us.

Our bees are getting back from California almond pollination as I write this. We are gearing up to make as many splits as we can. It has been such a battle to keep our bees alive and healthy the past 7 years. Commercial beekeepers all over the country are battling to keep their colony count up to sustain their business. Some have given up, others have cut back keeping fewer hives as it now takes more money, time and effort to try to keep bees healthy. Thankfully the honey market is strong, because production all over the world is down.

Now some good news, our new TBA website (http://texasbeekeepers.org) is up and running. If you sell your honey, we want you to sign up for our Texas Honey Locator. The more we have sign up the better. We want the consumer to know where to buy "**Real Local Honey**". A separate email will be going out with additional information. Membership is now online along with some Association merchandise and a blog section. Before the annual convention we will be adding convention registration.

If you have any ideas or suggestions, please let us know.

Moore Good news …. TBA & Texas A&M have hired a new Apiary Inspector, Mr. Mark Dykes. Mark is a former Florida State Bee Inspector. He will be starting on April 1st. TBA will be meeting with Mark, Bill Baxter, and Dr. Juliana Rangel soon to start looking at ways to improve the Texas Apiary Inspection Service, Laws & Regulations.

I hope you all have a great spring honey flow.

Director's Report

from Mark Hedley

Concho Valley, Dino-Bee, Heart of Texas, Williamson County Area

Spring - A New Beginning

During my childhood in Michigan and Ohio we all looked forward to spring as the true beginning of a new year. New Years Eve was great for celebration and football but usually was accompanied by more snow and cold. However, when the birds started chirping again and the trees and flowers began to bloom, well that's a bright sign that spring was here, or coming on fast. New projects and all kinds of activities in the neighborhood could start up again.

Fast-forward about 40 years and I still look at spring in much the same way. The honey bees have started to build up already, pollen is coming in from Algarita, soon to be followed by our wild plum trees and, with a little rain, the bee brush will explode with its beautifully sweet smelling white flowers. Bring on April wildflowers and the mesquite bloom and the "ladies" are gonna go nuts!

With spring comes the necessity to review our management practices. Reversing hives; treating mites; getting queens ordered for splits; or executing procedures for raising your own queens by any one of a number of methods are all top of mind. Equipment readiness should have wrapped up about a month ago, but some of that last minute painting always seems to be there – especially those lids and bases!

I project how much honey our bees will produce by going through all the mathematical formulas and statistical projections comparing my previous year data, hive counts, percentages of productive hives, queen failures and rainfall. Funny how all these gyrations seem silly when you know that only our God above is in control and He will provide as His will allows. Reflections on providing care for His gift to us may necessitate a whole new beginning for some of us. To others it may mean providing a little more attention to the things forgotten. For a few more, perhaps it is the ability to venture into new aspects of beekeeping.

It is a great time of year to get a kid, friend or neighbor involved in beekeeping. What better way to bring that eye-popping fascination to someone than installing a package or nuc, identifying the queen or explaining a little about bee biology with them in tow? Mentoring a new local association member may be a new beginning this spring. Hosting a school field trip, presenting to a local garden club, or doing a presentation for your monthly meeting are all possibilities.

I look forward to visiting with more of you as I venture out into my region. I look forward to learning how you keep bees and the techniques that work in your areas. We're praying for rain out here on the western front. May all your supers be full this year!

Janice and John G Thomas Honey Bee Facility

Texas Beekeepers Association
Summer Clinic 2014
Saturday June 7th, 10 am to 4 pm

Hosted by Dr Juliana Rangel
Assistant Professor of Apiculture
at
Janice and John G Thomas Honey Bee Lab
Texas A&M University
Riverside Campus
3100 State Highway 47
Bryan, TX 77807

Remember to bring your favorite folding chair and bottled water to help you remain comfortable as we eat and enjoy the afternoon.

Cost: $25 Adults, $10 Children (includes catered lunch)

Presentations by Dr. Rangel on Queen Rearing
Presentations from 2 other staff members
Tour of the Honey Bee Lab
Lance Wilson on Varroa, Becky Bender on Beescapes and Flowers
ET Ash on Extracting, Professor Bryant on Pollen
Dean Cook on Top Bar Hives, Chris Moore on Splits
Guadalupe Brewing
Clint Walker Apiaries
Hands on honey bee experience with Mark Dykes, TAIS Chief
(bring bee suits / veils if you wish to participate)
Other presentations

Please RSVP to Jimmie Oakley at *jimmie.oakley@gmail.com* by May 31st., 2014
to allow for food ordering, preparation and setup.

In Memoriam

LAVADA ROSE TALBERT
November 10, 1938 - February 8, 2014

Lavada Rose Talbert, age 75, of Josephine, Texas, passed away February 8, 2014 in Dallas, Texas. She was born November 10, 1938 in Waco, Texas to J.D. and Bennie Willard.

Lavada was preceded in death by her parents; her brother, Dan H. Willard; and her sister, Fayenell Gant.

She is survived by her husband of fifty-four years, John J. Talbert III; son, John W. Talbert and his wife, Amber; daughter, Leslee Talbert Serna; three grandsons, Justin T. Talbert, Brennan C. Talbert and Seth M. Talbert; granddaughter, Sarah G. Talbert; and numerous other family members.

Lavada was an active member of First Baptist Church of Josephine and served as the main secretary for the Sunday School for over 20 years.

Lavada had been a member of TBA for over 20 years and was an avid supporter of the Honey Queen program. She managed the Queens auction item collection at the annual convention and was an active bidder on the annual convention pottery cookie jar. She never put cookies in them but loved supporting the Honey Queens. In 2011 she was honored by the Dr. John Thomas Meritorious Service Award.

Calvin Holman

Calvin Holman, age 82, passed away Monday, February 17, 2014, in Taylor, TX. Calvin was a lifelong resident of Taylor. He graduated from Taylor High School in 1949 and truly enjoyed many years of class reunions with his school friends. He owned and operated H&M Apiaries in Hutto, Tx with his friend and partner Curtis Meier and retired from the State of Texas where he worked as a senior purchaser for the State Purchasing and General Services Department. After retirement, Calvin enjoyed traveling and hunting with friends and family and sharing breakfast tacos with his dog Chauncy.

Lavada Talbert receives the Meritorious Service Award for 2011 from Dr. John G. Thomas at the TBA Annual Convention.

The Talbert Family shows off their awards, John-Beekeeper of the Year, Lavada-Meritorious Service and Leslee-her award winning parents.

Danielle Dale, American Honey Queen, presents John and Lavada Talbert with auctioned honey in support of the Honey Queen Program.

Lavada has the winning bid on the 2013 Commemorative Cookie Jar presented by Hayden Wolf, 2014 Texas Honey Queen.

Lavada and John find the best place to eat at the Summer Clinic.

Texas Honey Locator

from Chris Moore

The Texas Beekeepers Association (TBA) has created a Texas Honey Locator in an effort to educate and assure consumers that the honey that they are purchasing is Real Texas Honey produced by Real Texas Beekeepers, who agree to market their honey using the following definitions.

TBA Honey Definitions

Honey - A sweet substance produced by Honey Bees strictly from plant nectar.

Raw - Honey only slightly warmed to reliquefy for packaging. Not to exceed 120 degrees, which is the maximum temperature inside a beehive.

Unfiltered - Some course straining can be used to remove large particles, but not the extent that it removes nutrients. NO sock filters, plate filters, sand filters, or diatomaceous earth filters.

Pure- 100% Honey, with no additives.

Natural- 100% Honey, with no additives.

Local- Honey that is produced and consumed in the same geographical area. Please see the Texas Honey Locator to find local honey in your area.

Producer- A beekeeper who produces 100% of his own honey

Producer/Packer -A beekeeper who produces 100% of his own packaged product

Packer/Producer - An individual who produces 30% or more of his packaged product

Packer - An individual that buys in bulk and repackages for the consumer

Marketing Co. - A company that buys packaged honey, and resells it

NOTE: The Texas Beekeeper's Association agrees that these definitions are fair and accurate. Anyone not willing to abide by said definitions will be omitted from the Texas Honey Locator. This guide is meant to educate consumers so they can ask more direct questions about how the honey they buy is processed.

To be included in the TBA Honey Locator, you must be a member of TBA. Please go to the new website *www.texasbeekeepers.org/honey-locator/* and complete the application.

Calendar of Events

TBA Summer Clinic
Saturday June 7th
at
Texas A&M Honey Bee Lab
See Page 5

TBA Annual Convention
Crowne Plaza - Reliant
Houston, TX
7,8,9 November 2014

A Tale of a December Bee Tree

by Stanford Brantley

One day in early December, I was in the field working my bees, preparing to be out of town for several days at the Louisiana bee convention.

I arrived back to my house about 6:30 p.m. Darkness had long since fallen. Opening my front door, I could see a small light blinking in the dark kitchen, the answering machine signaling that a message was waiting. I proceeded through the darkened house, hit the light switch, and punched the play button on the machine.

"Hey Bee Man, this is the Tree Man", came roaring out of the answering machine. Now Tree Man knows my name, but he always calls me Bee Man. I guess he does that to get my attention.

The message continued, "It's about 2:30 and I am down here at Caddo Lake at the Dallas Caddo Club, removing some dead trees. We hit a bee hive in one of them and they almost made my nephew jump out of the bucket. They are up about 30 feet. Can you help me?"

You get the picture – message left at 2:30, retrieved at 6:30 – seems a little late for assistance, don't you think? Can't help today but still want to keep the relationship good. Maybe the next one he finds won't be 30 feet in the air. Grabbed the phone book, looked up the number and called him back. He answered, "Hey Bee Man, you didn't help me at all today. I have got other people waiting on me. I need to finish this job!"

"Well, Tree Man, this is the first time you have called me all year long. I am leaving at early tomorrow morning for a bee convention so I guess that you will have to work it out by yourself. If you fell the tree, the comb will probably smash inside and kill all the bees. Can't you rope the section down so it won't harm the bees?"

"I can't rope it down because we have already cut all the limbs off the tree. The ground is really soft from all the rain and I don't think my grapple truck will reach that high anyhow. And I can't afford to get stuck under that tree."

"I don't know how I can help you tomorrow, but if you can work around it, I'll get with you on Monday and do something."

"Well Bee Man, you sure aren't a lot of help and I don't know if I can wait around for you. I'll come up with something." Then the Tree Man hung up on me!

I turned on the weather channel to find information about a cold front coming through the area. I thought maybe if the temperature fell into the twenties, the bees would be sluggish enough that the tall section could be cut and saved.

Early next morning, we hit the road to the convention, traveling with another beekeeper from Mansfield, Louisiana. It was twenty-eight degrees when we left his house. Knowing the Caddo Lake area temperatures are sometimes lower, I hoped the bees would cooperate and allow this section of tree to be removed safely.

The Hive in the Tree Section

About thirty miles south of Natchitoches, we passed through the leading edge of the cold front. Instantly, the truck windows and mirrors fogged up. The temperature reading on the dash went from 33 to 63 in three miles.

I returned from the convention late Sunday afternoon. Turning into my drive, something seemed different. I parked the car, dismounted, and started walking toward the street. There it was, a section of tree at the edge of my drive -- 5 ½ feet tall and 3 ½ feet across at the bottom. The Tree Man had been to my house. I don't know how he got the tree down, but he did, and he placed the tree section on a used pallet, covered the top with a 4 x 4 section of plywood to keep the bees dry, and went on his way. And it was still full of bees!

I have observed that the bees in this tree section seem to fly at 40 degrees on a regular basis. My question for the other beekeepers is this: since the tree was from a low, wet, cold lake area and about 30 feet above the ground, are these bees acclimatized to fly at cooler temperatures? Don't you think it would be an interesting theory to investigate?

By the way, the Tree Man grumbled, "It's about time," when I handed him a gallon of honey for his work to save another feral colony of bees.


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Williamson County Area Beekeepers 2014 Scholarship Winners

from Jimmie Oakley

WCABA President, Chris Doggett, recipients, Cora Schell, Emma Wall, Christian Rogers, Quentin Irey, Elise Gardner, Michael Campbell, and the Texas Honey Queen, Hayden Wolf.

The Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association awarded the Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost Memorial Scholarships for 2014 at their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday evening March 27th. This year's recipients are ten year old Michael Campbell from Round Rock, Texas, fourteen year old Elise Gardner, from Austin, Texas, twelve year old Christian Rogers of Temple, Texas, fifteen year old Quentin Irey of Hutto, Texas, fifteen year old Emma Walls of Leander, Texas and thirteen year old Cora Schell from Round Rock, Texas. The youngsters received their wood ware and protective gear as part of the scholarship and they assembled their bee box and frames at the meeting with assistance from club members and the Honey Queen. They will receive their package of bees the fourth Saturday in April.
For more information on the program visit our website at www.wcaba.org.

East Texas Beekeepers Crown the 2014 Royal Court

from Vi Bourns, ETBA Honey Queen Chair

It is my pleasure to announce East Texas Beekeepers Association's 2014 Honey Queen, 17 year old Miss Carrie Lenamond and 2014 Honey Princess, 15 Year old Miss Willow Lanchester.

On Feb. 6th 2014 Texas Honey Queen, Miss Hayden Wolf, former ETBA Honey Princess and Queen crowned them and former ETBA Honey Princess, Miss Martha Jeske attached their sashes and name tags.

Please say an old fashion Texas "howdy" when you see them at TBA meetings.

80,000+ Beehives Damaged or Dead; Beekeepers Meet With EPA

from the Pollinator Stewardship Council

The last two weeks the Pollinator Stewardship Council has received reports of bee kills at the end of the almond bloom. A meeting with EPA was held by Pollinator Stewardship Council and the American Beekeeping Federation, Monday, March 24 in Los Banos, California to discuss the pollinator losses during almond pollination. More than seventy beekeepers attended in person and on a conference call.

Bees were released from almond pollination, and beekeepers began to see the effects of a tank mix that caused dead adult bees, and dead, dying, and deformed brood. A poll taken of the seventy-five beekeepers at the meeting showed 80,000 colonies damaged: 75% of them severely damaged. Additional reports place an average loss of 60% of hives in almonds were impacted. Of that 60%, 40% lost adult bees and had dying brood, 20% of the hives were dead completely. These losses were experienced by beekeepers who wintered in California, as well as those who brought their bees into almonds from southern states.

The meeting addressed the bee kills in almonds, and the new label language for foliar applications of clothianidin, dinotefuran, imidacloprid, thiamethoxam, and the two new products tolfenpyrad and cyantraniliprole. The majority of the meeting addressed the damages beekeepers suffered from a tank mix that included an insect growth regulator (IGR) and a fungicide. The tank mix was applied "per the label." However, the IGR has decimated the ability of beekeepers to make splits for the next crop pollination, to breed queens, or to make packages of bees. Many beekeepers expressed grave concern that the tank mix was applied in one area, but honey bees from other orchards, under another grower's pollination contract received damaged due to drift, and foraging range. Some of the bee damage was not evident until truckloads of bees returned to their southern homes. The effects of fungicides and IGRs were delayed just enough beekeepers did not realize the impact until their hives were released from pollinating almonds. Research has shown fungicides are detrimental to pollinators. (Fungicides can reduce, hinder pollination potential of honey bees http://westernfarmpress.com/fungicides-can-reduce-hinder-pollination-potential-honey-bees)

Research and experience has shown night applications of pesticides in almonds causes less damage to pollinators. Beekeepers at the Los Banos meeting stated they have been experiencing damage to their bees in almonds for six years. The damages decreased when growers applied products at night, or did not apply any products during the bloom; but this year some practices changed, and bees were heavily impacted. The impact was so great a few beekeepers said they would not return to almonds, as they cannot take these losses to their bees and their business.

The bee kills in almonds at the end of this season were due to products used "per the label." The fungicides, the IGRs were all used per the label. The tank mixing of products were all used per the label. Directions on pesticide labels generally state the herbicide, fungicide, insecticide "is physically and biologically compatible with many registered pesticides, fertilizers or micronutrients . . . If you have no experience with the combination you are considering, you should conduct a test to determine physical compatibility. To determine physical compatibility, add the recommended proportions of each chemical with the same proportion of water as will be present in the chemical supply tank into a suitable container, mix thoroughly, and allow to stand for five minutes. If the combination remains mixed, or can be readily re-mixed, the mixture is considered physically compatible." One beekeeper described tank mixing this way, "The pesticide label basically instructs you to take a quart jar and mix the products you want to use into the jar. If it does not 'blow-up' go ahead and mix the full chemicals and apply to the crop." (Pesticide Mixtures Have Damaging Effects on Bees http://extension.psu.edu/pests/ipm/news/2013/pesticide-mixtures-have-damaging-affects-on-bees)

Last week we reported the EPA stated the new pesticide label language will now only be required for foliar applications of clothianidin, dinotefuran, imidacloprid, thiamethoxam, and the two new products tolfenpyrad and cyantraniliprole. At the Los Banos meeting the representatives from EPA stated they had not seen the letter from Mr. Jim Jones to the bee industry, and they were not aware of the issues the bee industry had concerning the new label language. (Jim Jones' letter was posted on our Newslist and is available here again). EPA listened politely, but made no promise to do anything, stating that changing label wording is a long and drawn out process, and one that cannot be done quickly. Beekeepers on the other hand did make promises: promises to add a pesticide surcharge to pollination contracts next year; promises that if no enforceable change to labels is made before next years' pollination to stay in Georgia or Florida and make honey in a safe environment rather than risk another season of severe hive damage. Beekeepers at the meeting asked EPA for two things: adding a statement on the label instructing applicators when and how to apply pesticides to not damage pollinators; and curtail the use of tank mixing.

Paramount Farms, the largest almond grower in the world, testified at the meeting they use no crop protection products during almond pollination season, and have found their yields improved when they made the decision to better time their pesticide use.

At the Los Banos meeting March 24 the beekeepers did a rough tally of total estimated losses. 1.7M colonies supplied by 1300 commercial beekeepers were needed to pollinate almonds. Even with the drought, all available honey bees were utilized for almond pollination. Of the 1.7M total colonies, it is estimated fifteen to twenty-five percent were damaged (dead, loss of brood, loss of adult foragers in full or in part) which equals 255,000 to 425,000 colonies of honey bees severely impacted in almonds. The conservative value of these losses is $63,750,000 to $106,250,000; however beekeepers are still assessing their damages. This figure does not include the loss of viable colonies to satisfy subsequent pollination contracts. This figure does not take into account the losses in selling bulk packages of honey bees, queens, or frames of brood to establish new hives. With severely damaged hives some beekeepers have been forced to cancel orders.

Almonds are the beginning of the crop pollination season. Almonds are the first crop honey bees pollinate. What happens to honey bees in almonds affects the ability of crop pollination services to apples, cranberries, canola, tangelos, blueberries, squash, watermelon, kiwi, plums, apricots, cherries, seed crops, and so much of our vegetables and fruit. One beekeeper who pollinates Washington apples after almonds was short 1200 hives due to his losses during almond pollination. What happens to honey bees

Winter Delegates Meet in Salado

from Jimmie Oakley

Delegates from various local associations in Texas met for the Winter's meeting on February 15th at the Stage Coach Inn in Salado, Texas to discuss current issues of interest among them, and afford the TBA Executive Committee to conduct a little business also. Thirty-two beekeepers in all attended the noon meeting and enjoyed eating together before business commenced.

While dinner orders were being taken, Dick Counts, Delegates Committee Chair introduced Blake Shook, TBA President, who gave a rundown on some of the initiatives that were taken at the TBA Convention and their progress so far. Chris Doggett, TBA Publications Director reported on the Journal activity and asked that articles of interest be submitted for publication.

Jimmie Oakley reported on membership efforts and commented on the complimentary membership program for first time beekeepers. New TBA Webmaster, Mark Hedley, brought everyone up to date on efforts to revamp the current web page and when to expect the new site to be up and running.

Texas Honey Queen, Hayden Wolf, Collin County Princesss, Hope Pettibon, Texas Honey Princess, Shannon LaGrave and East Texas Honey Princess, Willow Lanchester

East Texas Queen Chair, Vi Bourns, introduced ETBA Honey Princess Willow Lanchester from Tyler. Collin County Queen Chair, Allison Adams, introduced the Collin County Princess, Hope Pettibon from McKinney. The Texas Honey Queen, Hayden Wolf from Big Sandy and Texas Honey Princess, Shannon La Grange, were both introduced by Texas Honey Queen Chair, Rachael Seida. By the time each of the Queens & Princesses present spoke of their activities lunch had arrived and everyone enjoyed. Dick Counts later reminded all that the Summer Clinic this year will be at the Honey Bee Lab in College Station, Texas on Saturday, June 7th. Dr John Thomas and wife Janice of Bryan, Texas were present at the meeting and they were recognized for their part in making the bee lab at Texas A&M happen. At the conclusion of the Delegates Meeting members of the Executive Board present gathered to discuss plans for the TBA Convention scheduled for November in Houston. TBA President Blake Shook, Area 3 Director Mark Hedley and Area 6 Director Jim Rowe, along with Publications Director, Chris Doggett, and Treasurer, Jimmie Oakley reviewed meeting site proposals provided by Cameron Crane from Harris County Beekeepers Association for consideration.

Dick Counts, Delegates Chair

There were two present from Alamo Area, six from Collin County, one from Concho Valley, eleven from East Texas, two from Houston Beekeepers, three from Heart of Texas, and five from Williamson County, plus Dr.& Mrs. Thomas.
Mark Hedley from Concho Valley traveled the farthest.

(Continued from previous page)

in almonds does not stay in almonds; it affects how many bees are available to pollinate other crops, the cost of pollinating those crops, and the cost of the food you buy to feed your family.

The Pollinator Stewardship Council works with beekeepers to collect reports of bee kills across the U.S. in rural, suburban, and urban areas. Please contact the Pollinator Stewardship Council to file your bee kill report at 832-727-9492 or *info@pollinatorstewardship.org* .

The Brantley Column

from S. S. Brantley
East Texas Beekeepers Association

If you have done everything right, you will have a strong hive headed by a young queen, ready to start gathering nectar. If you did not do it right, you may have a strong hive headed by an older queen just looking for an excuse to swarm and take more than half of the nectar gathering bees with her.

There are several things you should do every time you leave your beehives. Watch the landing board activity for two or three minutes. Make a mental note of this activity and store it in your memory. The next time you return to the beeyard, set up a system of actions that you will go through upon arrival.

First, look at the landing board activity before disturbing the hive. Compare it to what you saw on your last visit. If there is no change or if the activity has increased, you can be relatively assured the hive has not swarmed. Second, take the time to closely scan the area around the beeyard. Swarms do not always cluster high in a tree. Many will be from knee-high to head-high in a tree or bush. If the queen has been clipped or her wings damaged, the swarm could even be on the ground or in the grass or weeds. Third, carry a metal garbage can lid and a two-foot stick, or a metal coffee can and your hive tool, or two pieces of metal that will make a ringing sound when banged together. Should a swarm begin to circulate in the air, position yourself under a low hanging limb and start to "beat the drum". The metallic banging will often cause the swarm to settle near you.

Some beekeepers, particularly those who keep bees in single brood box hives, feel it is important to keep lots of room just above the queen excluder to prevent incoming nectar from being stored in the brood nest and initiating the urge to swarm. Add a second super between the first super and the queen excluder, giving the bees a new box in which to store nectar just above the brood nest. This is known as "bottom supering".

The loss of a queen or finding that your hive has a poor queen means a considerable loss in the productivity of the hive until it is successfully requeened. If you have to obtain a queen by mail from a commercial supplier, you may be facing a month or more before a new queen is established in the hive. You even run the risk the queenless hive may develop laying workers, a situation that is sometimes difficult to remedy. An alternative is to start your own queen factory. While the bees are in the spring expansion, start one or more Nucs that will raise a queen for your use, if needed. Pull a frame of open brood with newly layed eggs, or even better, a frame that has some developing queen cells or swarm cells. Put it in a 5-frame Nuc with a frame of honey, a frame of pollen, and one frame of foundation. Leave the nurse bees on the frames when you pull them. Just make sure the queen is not on the frame you pull. This will allow the bees to make their own queen. You can maintain the Nuc until you need the queen. If you don't need to use the queen, allow the hive to grow and expand into a 10-frame box and you have started a new hive.

Let's talk a bit about Top Bar Hives. It is sometimes more difficult to get newly installed bees to stay in the more open TBH than in a Langstroth hive. If you are trying to start a new Top Bar Hive by installing purchased package bees or a captured swarm, some of the knowledgeable Top Bar authors suggest having an upper entrance near the cluster of bees to encourage ease of entering and exiting. Use a feeder with sugar syrup to encourage the bees to build comb rapidly. It is also suggested to use a "follower board" to restrict the bees to a smaller portion of the long Top Bar Hive. Bees naturally demonstrate a preference for certain sized cavities to build nests. Some think that the large open cavity of a Top Bar Hive is part of the reason that newly installed bees will not stay in the larger box. A follower board is basically a board that allows the bees to be confined in a portion of the hive while new and then moved to allow more space as the colony becomes established and expands. Watch and see if the bees are building the new comb in an orderly fashion on the top bars. It is often helpful to have a small strip of foundation attached the top bar to give the bees an incentive to build the comb in the proper orientation.

Visit the New, Modern, Informative TBA Website

www.texasbeekeepers.org

Chief of Aviary Inspection - Texas Apiary Inspection Service

from Mark Dykes

Greetings beekeepers of the great State of Texas, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as your new Chief of Apiary Inspection. My name is Mark Dykes and I am honored to serve as your new Chief Inspector.

Let me start by giving you a little background on myself. I am a graduate of the University of Florida with a degree in Natural Resource Conservation. I have worked with the Nature Conservancy conducting land management in Florida. This is where I first became interested in beekeeping and using habitat restoration as a method of increasing forage for honey bees as well as native bee species. After I left The Nature Conservancy I had the good fortune of landing a technician job at the University of Florida's Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory working for Dr. Jamie Ellis. From there I went on to become the Apiary Manager for the lab and was able to assist Dr. Ellis in conducting groundbreaking research on honey bee health, pesticide interaction and foraging habitat. After several years working for the lab I was offered a position with the Florida Department of Agriculture's Apiary Inspection Service as an area supervisor for South Florida. This was a great opportunity for me to take what I had learned working with Dr. Ellis and help apply it to the apiary industry of Florida. I have to say I very much enjoyed working with the wide array of beekeepers (from hobbyist to large commercial operations) that were in my district. From there I applied and was hired for the position here in Texas. In addition to my beekeeping experience I also served in the US Coast Guard as a radar and weapons technician. I hope that with my unique experiences and my love of beekeeping I can help lead the Texas Apiary Inspection Service (TAIS) in becoming a leader in apiary inspection.

The honey bee currently faces problems of an almost biblical scale. With the introduction of the Varroa mite and the associated viruses it vectors along with the myriad of other maladies that weaken the honey bee it has become paramount to employ the most current knowledge when making management decisions. The Texas Apiary Inspection Service is in a great position to help the industry by providing current information on treatments as well as conducting inspections to help safe guard the apiary industry. I see TAIS as the critical link between the scientist conducting research on the pest and diseases and the Apiary industry. Through the application of science based regulations, education opportunities and open communication with the apiary industry, TAIS is here to serve the beekeepers of Texas.

Mark Dykes

I hope I have the opportunity to meet you all at your bee yard or one of the many speaking engagements we have with the beekeeping clubs throughout the state. If you need to ask me specific questions (or have a good bee joke for me) please feel free to email me at Mark.Dykes@ag.tamu.edu and keep an eye out for a redesigned website coming soon (http://tais.tamu.edu/).

Thank you and keep on keeping bees!

Cover Picture
by
Ginnie Jeske

An Autumn Bee

Its last foraging mission

Broker/Appraiser for the Beekeeping Industry

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BEEGINNERS' BOX

from Cameron Crane, Liberty County Beekeepers

TBA does a wonderful job with The Journal. The Journal covers a wide variety of subjects that interest beekeepers of all levels. TBA has also started a new program that offers a free year's membership to first year beekeepers who join a local association. Membership includes a subscription to The Journal, so I thought it would be good to have a regular article focused on information for the new beekeeper.

If you have been keeping bees for more than a year, you are familiar with the statement: Ask 10 beekeepers a question, and you will get 14 answers. All those answers can be a little overwhelming to a beginner. Therefore, I will endeavor to present some basics for new beekeepers.

TERMINOLOGIES

BEEKEEPER Someone who keeps honey bees. There are two categories: level of beekeeper and type of beekeeper.

Level: TBA defines a small scale (sometimes referred to as hobbyist) beekeeper as someone with 25 or less hives. A sideliner has 26-300 hives, and a commercial beekeeper has over 300 hives There is a lot we can learn from commercial beekeepers and their years of experience. I have often heard, "He's a commercial beekeeper, and he does it this way." One thing a beginner should keep in mind is that commercial beekeepers are running big operations and their practices are geared towards productivity and the fastest way to accomplish tasks with that many hives. Some ways they do things may not be the best practice for success for beginners but are the most practical on a large scale calculated for minimal failure. Commercial beekeepers are not wrong, they are simply trying to run a profitable business by the numbers.

Type: Bee-Haver, Chemical-Free, Organic or Traditional? Warning, I might be opening a can of worms.

A bee-haver is sometimes used in a derogatory sense. It refers to someone who keeps bees with very little or no intervention. In other words, "Just let the bees be bees." However, most beekeepers feel that keeping bees is a responsibility. Caring for those bees is like having a dog or cat. You need to make sure they have food, water and a flea collar.

Chemical-Free Beekeeping: I recently read that 90% of beekeepers treat their hives with chemicals. In recent years, there has been a movement towards chemical free beekeeping. I see two levels to these beekeepers. Some take the approach to not put ANY type of chemical in the hive while others have varying levels of what they will put in the hive. For example, some beekeepers use poisons in a hive beetle trap and some use essential oils. I've heard beekeepers say they are chemical-free beekeepers but use formic or oxalic acids because they are "organic acids." Thus, there are varying levels of being chemical-free. Being chemical-free, at whatever level you decide, requires more active management and more learning. A best practice is to choose a type of honey bee that is more hygienic and can tolerate chemical-free management.

Traditional: refers to beekeepers that typically treat their hives with chemicals for pests and diseases. Many treatments are done in the spring and fall before or after any honey supers are placed in order to not contaminate the honey stores the beekeeper is going to harvest. Keeping bees in a standard Langstroth hive is also considered traditional.

Organic: This is a matter of how one defines organic. It is my understanding that there is no place in the USA that will support a hive where the bees would be isolated from getting into pesticides from neighboring plants and field in their foraging range. Thus it is my opinion that those bees or the honey are not truly "organic" as the general consumer understands what organic farming is. Other definitions vary.

TYPES OF HIVES: There are many types of honey bee hives.. In the USA there are three types that are commonly used. Each has its advantages and disadvantages. Research which one will fit your needs best.

The Langstroth Hive is the most common and almost exclusively used by sideliners and commercial beekeepers for its superior system of harvesting honey and transportability. Langstroth hives, often referred to as box hives, are the traditional route.

Top Bar Hives have gained a lot of interest in recent years with newer beekeepers only wanting a few hives. They are also popular with gardeners who are mostly interested in bees to pollinate their gardens. Top bar hives do not move easily but offer a system of keeping bees that does not require any heavy lifting. There are a few sideliners in Texas running top bar hives.

Warre Hives (pronounced WAR-ray) have some following in the USA. Warre Hives are a French design and comprised of a stack of identical boxes fitted with top-bars but no frames. They have their own system of management.

LANGSTROTH BOXES: In my first year while talking with other beekeepers, I was confused about brood boxes, supers, deeps, mediums, shallows, 8-frame, 10-frame and so on. Some of these terms are sizes of boxes and some are the usage or purpose.

Sizes: Deeps, mediums and shallows are the common sizes; and there are a few others sizes just to confuse things.
All Langstroth boxes are 19 7/8" long. Frames are sized to the height of the box and are all the same length and width.

Number of Frames	Width	Length
5	9 1/4"	19 7/8"
8	13 3/4"	19 7/8"
10	16 1/4"	19 7/8"

Deep	9 ½" tall
Medium	6-5/8" tall
Shallow	5-11/16" tall
Comb Honey	4-13/16" tall

Types of boxes: Brood and supers are the most commonly referred to boxes. The bees use the box for a specific purpose. Bees will raise brood in the lower boxes (brood box) and store honey in the upper boxes (supers.) The size of the box does not matter. The traditional method is to have deep boxes on the bottom for brood and to add medium or shallow boxes for honey supers. You may hear of a beekeeper who "runs all mediums." In this case, the beekeeper will have all medium boxes, the lower ones being brood boxes and the upper ones being supers. On rare occasion, I've heard of a beekeeper having all deeps. A deep filled with just honey is VERY heavy, close to 90 lbs. A medium super full of honey is about 60 lbs. There are some advantages to having all the same sized boxes, but then you need more boxes just for brood. Most commercial beekeepers use deeps for brood and mediums for honey supers. I will go more into the size of a hive in the next Beeginners' Box. As you listen to and read articles by other beekeepers, take terms like deeps, mediums, brood and supers in context. They may say "deep" when they are referring to a brood box.

BUYING BEES: There are three ways to purchase honey bees, packages, nucs and hives.

A package of bees typically comes in a screened box with three pounds of bees and a queen in a cage. The package is added to a hive and the queen cage installed. In a package, the bees are generally not from that queen. Keeping the queen in her cage gives the bees time to get used to her scent so she will be accepted as their queen. The queen cage is plugged with candy that the bees will eat so that the queen is released.

Nuc is short for **nucleus**. It is a colony that is already established but not large enough to be productive. Nucs are often 5 frames of bees, comb with brood and an established queen that is already laying eggs. Nucs come in a temporary cardboard box or a small wooden box and need to be put into a full sized box along with enough frames to fill the box. Nucs give you a good jump-start on establishing a strong hive. Bees from packages or nucs will need to be fed to help build the colony. Packaged bees need more feeding because they have to build comb for the queen to start laying.

In buying a **hive** you get the bees, queen and a full set of equipment (bottom, box, frames and top.) Purchasing hives tends to be a bit more expensive.

SLANG TERMS: While talking to seasoned beekeepers, you may hear some confusing terms.

Nectar flow or flow: A time when several flowers or trees are in bloom that are producing nectar the bees like.

Dinks: a weak or very weak hive. Commercial beekeepers see these of little value.

Dead-outs: A hive that is dead, absconded or such. It was a hive but now just the basic equipment.

Honey-bound or plugged-up: During a heavy nectar flow, bees get super busy bringing in nectar and start filling every available cell with honey to the point where the queen does not have empty cells in which to lay eggs.

Drop-in-a-Queen: They don't mean literally. There is a process for introducing a new queen that needs to be followed.

Split: Making additional hives from a strong hive. As in splitting one hive into two hives. One will need a queen.

Walk-away-split: A split where you make sure the queenless hive has eggs and let the bees raise a new queen on their own.

Double-deep: A hive with two deep boxes of bees and brood, a strong hive. The goal for a good honey harvest.

IPM: Integrated Pest Management. A common sense approach to pest management. IPM is a broad based approach that integrates practices for economic control of pests. IPM can also mean implementing something that combats multiple pests or taking several actions to combat one particular pest.

Bee Informed. That clever comment, "It was on the internet, so it must be true." There is a lot of good information and a lot of bunk that can be found on the internet. I recommend reading a published book or a few published books. With a good foundation of the basics, you can be a better judge of what sounds like a good idea or plain garbage. Don't be afraid to ask seasoned beekeepers questions. This is where the real value is in your local beekeeping association where local beekeepers can answer local questions. Yes, you'll have to decide which of the 14 answers you got, if you asked 10 people the same question, is the best choice for you.

Joyful beekeeping,

Don't Miss the TBA Summer Clinic
Texas A&M Honey Bee Lab
Bryan, TX
Saturday June 7th.
10am - 4 pm

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

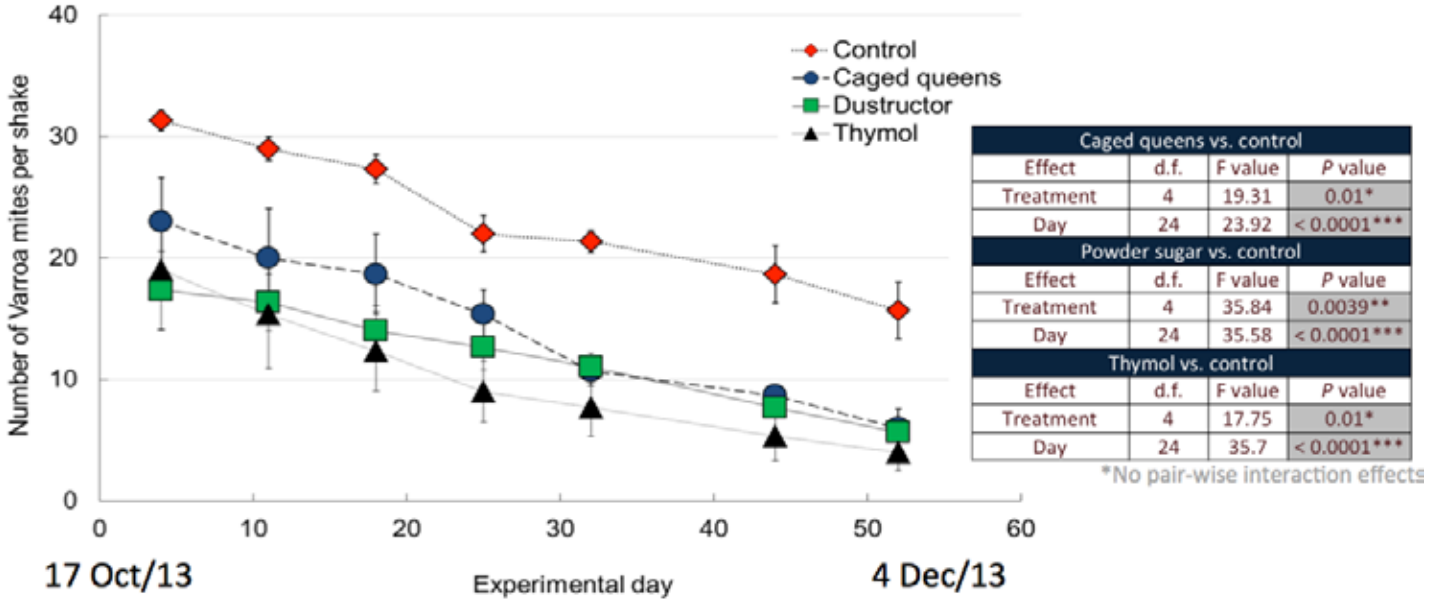
from Dr. Juliana Rangel, Assistant Professor of Apiculture, Department of Entomology

Howdy TBA members!

If you are like us in College Station, spring is slowly coming to our area, and with it some much desired sprouting of bee forage. Sadly, the wet winter and delayed spring also means that we are starting to realize colony wintering mortality, and from I have heard, the numbers are discouraging. Just at our bee lab we had upwards of 50% losses, although keep in mind that most of our colonies are used for research and thus they might go into the winter with small clusters, higher-than-desired Varroa levels, or both. What is the state of your colonies? I would love to hear from you. Please post your Varroa counts and/or colony wintering mortality on our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/TAMUhoneybeelab.

Speaking of Varroa levels, I wanted to share with you some recent data that our undergraduate student Alejandro Martinez obtained last Fall. He looked at the levels of Varroa mites in two different apiaries in our area during the Fall months. Interestingly, after looking at 24 colonies, he observed a decline of approximately 50% in Varroa levels in all colonies from October to December 2013 (see photo attached). He also wanted to test the efficacy in obtaining Varroa counts using either the powder sugar shake method (1/2 cup of bees, 1/5 tablespoons of powder sugar, threshold for treatment >5 mites per shake), or the 24-hour sticky board method (insert Pam-covered sticky board above bottom board, count mite numbers after 24 hours, threshold for treatment >10 mites on board found). He found that his measurements using the powder sugar method were not only more convenient time wise (1 trip vs. 2 trips to the apiary), but also that the numbers obtained were more consistent and "cleaner" (e.g., sticky board counts can be tricky because you can find only mite body parts and other debris that is difficult to identify at first pass). Finally (and most importantly) he wanted to see whether Varroa levels dropped significantly using alternative Integrated Pest Management (IPM) methods compared to untreated controls. His treatments included the caging of queens to disrupt the brood cycle (and thus Varroa numbers in the brood nest), the use of powder sugar using the bellows apparatus known as "dustructor" to get mites to dislodge from the bees and drop outside the hive through IPM mesh bottom boards, and the use of thymol in the product ApiLife Var®. Interestingly, Alex found that ALL IPM methods were efficient in Varroa control, as all significantly decreased Varroa levels in the Fall compared to untreated controls. This is good news for those of you in our area and other regions of Texas who are interested in using these techniques to control mite counts prior to the winter. Another undergraduate student in our lab, Ms. Laura Weller, is now going to look at the same questions but in the spring. If you have any questions about our methodology or treatment thresholds, please email me and I will be happy do discuss the details of this interesting project.

In other news, on the week of 20 March 2014 I had the pleasure of hosting Dr. Marla Spivak, Distinguished McKnight Professor of Apiculture in the Department of Entomology at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul. Dr. Spivak gave a seminar in the Department of Entomology titled "Socialized Medicine in Honey Bee Colonies" in which she discussed her extensive work on the "Minnesota Hygienic" genetic stock of bees that has a



Caged queens vs. control			
Effect	d.f.	F value	*P* value
Treatment	4	19.31	0.01*
Day	24	23.92	< 0.0001***
Powder sugar vs. control			
Effect	d.f.	F value	*P* value
Treatment	4	35.84	0.0039**
Day	24	35.58	< 0.0001***
Thymol vs. control			
Effect	d.f.	F value	*P* value
Treatment	4	17.75	0.01*
Day	24	35.7	< 0.0001***

*No pair-wise interaction effects

Alejandro Martinez' Data on Varroa Levels in the Honey Bee Apiary in College Station

natural higher tendency to discover, uncap, and remove diseased brood, thus decreasing its ability to infect other bees. But the primary focus of her talk was on the recent work that her lab has done on the use of propolis as a means of social immunity. She described recent studies that have shown that honey bee colonies increase propolis collection when brood is inoculated with various levels of Paenibacillus larvae, the bacterium that causes American Foulbrood (AFB) Disease. She also showed that bees collect different types of resins from trees (which are then called "propolis" when they are used to seal crevices in the hive), and now wonders if a colony can prescribe itself certain propolis types based on what ailments the colony is suffering from. These studies certainly show how propolis collection is a novel way of thinking about social immunity. Dr. Spivak also visited with members of the Rangel lab (see photo) and gave us very useful advise regarding beekeeping, undergraduate and graduate studies, and research ideas.

On a different note, I would like you all to give a warm welcome to our new Chief Apiary Inspector, Mr. Mark Dykes, who comes from us from the Florida State Apiary Inspection Service. Mr. Dykes is very excited to be starting his new job on 1 April and will be hitting the ground running by implementing our new computerized inspection data-logging system, which will give all of the beekeeping community in Texas more information about the size and condition of beekeeping operations in our state. Welcome Mark, we are delighted to have you join our community and we look forward to many conversations and future collaborations that will improve the health and productivity of honey bees in Texas!

Lastly I want to remind you that on Saturday 7 June 2014 we will be hosting the Texas Beekeepers Association Summer Clinic at the Janice and John Thomas Honey Bee Facility of Texas A&M University. The TBA organizing committee is working hard to prepare a fully-packed, informative and productive agenda for all attendants. Stay tuned for more information, as it will be a very fun day for us bee-lovers!

That is all for now. If you want more information about our research, please do not hesitate to email me at jrangel@tamu.edu. I look forward to seeing you in June. In the meantime I hope you didn't lose too many colonies and that spring finally sprouts in your neck of the woods!

Happy beekeeping!

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2014 Texas Honey Queen
Hayden Wolf

Neonicotinoids Part 2
and what YOU can do to avoid them

Happy Spring, Beekeepers!

I sure am enjoying this beautiful warm weather, and so are my bees! The elm trees, bradford pear trees, texas wild plums, dandelions, daffodils and a host of other bee forage started blooming a few weeks ago. Unfortunately, we had an ice storm a few days after everything started blooming, killing most of the blooms. Even the bees were completely iced in; a huge chunk of ice lay blocking the entrance of each hive. This is why it's a good idea to keep the lid of the hive tilted back a little, so when it rains the water runs off the back of the hive and doesn't go in the entrance. I had forgotten to do this the last time I checked my bees, so the rain ran into the entrance and froze! Most of the blooms have recovered by now and the bees are out again. I just love sitting by a buzzing tree, bush or the hives themselves and watching the bees go to and fro. It's especially fun to see the pollen the bees are harvesting in such a spectrum of colors.

This month, I'm going to finish up my study of neonicotinoids (neonics) and honey bees. In my last article we looked at what a neonic is, and how bees come in contact with them. This month we'll look at five studies on how neonics affect bees, what you can do to avoid neonics in your own yard and tips for organic gardening.

To start, it's important to know that recent mappings of the bees genome found that a honey bee's ability to detoxify chemicals is much lower than that of other insects. This makes them especially vulnerable to neonics.

The first study we'll look at was a two-year peer reviewed study published in 2012 which was done by scientists from Purdue University. The study showed the presence of two neonicotinoid insecticides, Clothianidin and Thiamethoxam, in dead bees found in and around hives situated near agricultural fields. Other bees at the hives exhibited tremors, uncoordinated movement and convulsions, all of which are signs of insecticide poisoning. The insecticides were consistently found at low levels in the soil — up to two years after treated seed was planted. It was also found on nearby dandelion flowers and in corn pollen gathered by the bees. Tests showed the corn pollen that the bees were bringing back to hives tested positive for neonicotinoids at levels roughly below 100 parts per billion, an amount not acutely toxic, but enough to kill bees if sufficient amounts are consumed.

The next study, released in April of 2012 was led by Chensheng Lu, a professor at Harvard. During the spring of 2010, they set up 20 hives at four locations. They fed all of the hives high fructose corn syrup (HFCS), mimicking a common commercial beekeeping practice. Sixteen of the hives were fed HFCS that was treated with different levels of Imidacloprid. The remaining four hives which were the control in the experiment were fed untreated syrup. After 12 weeks, the 20 hives treated and untreated were alive, although the bees treated with the highest dose of Imidacloprid appeared weaker. By week 23, things had changed drastically: 15 of the 16 hives, or 94 percent of the hives that were treated with Imidacloprid underwent classic CCD. The adult bees had vanished, leaving the empty hives with a few remaining young bees. The hive receiving the largest dose of Imidacloprid was the first to leave. Interestingly enough, the four untreated hives were still healthy. Chensheng Lu, the lead author of the study said, "It doesn't take much to eventually kill the bees…an incredibly small amount (20 parts per billion) of Imidacloprid was enough to lead to Colony Collapse Disorder within 6 months".

Another study released in 2012 looked at how pesticide exposure to honey bees results in increases levels of the gut pathogen Nosema. They exposed honey bee colonies during three brood generations to sub-lethal doses of the widely used pesticide Imidacloprid by feeding them protein supplement patties spiked with the insecticide. Then they challenged newly emerged bees with the gut parasite, Nosema. The pesticide dosages used were below levels demonstrated to cause effects on longevity or foraging in adult honey bees. Nosema infections increased significantly in the bees from pesticide-treated hives when compared to bees from control hives. This demonstrated an indirect effect of pesticides on pathogen growth in honey bees. In other words it appeared to weaken the bee's immune system, making them more susceptible to Nosema.

The last two studies we'll look at were both published in the prestigious journal Science in 2012

The first study was actually done using bumblebees. British scientists exposed wild bumblebees to field-realistic levels of neonics by raising them on a diet of pollen, some of which contained Imidacloprid. They then "allowed them to develop naturally under field conditions." The results: "treated colonies had a significantly reduced growth rate and suffered 85% reduction in production of new queens." And of course bumblebee queens are the most important bees in their colony, since they are the ones that establish new colonies after winter when all the other bees die.

Then, in the second study published by Science, French researchers equipped honey bees with tiny microchips so they

could track their movement. They fed some of the bees sucrose treated with Thiamethoxam a commonly used neonic. Then they let the bees loose to go foraging. Exposed bees were 2 to 3 times less likely to return than the unexposed bees. This study suggests that neonics affects the bees homing ability, causing the bees to get lost rather than return home.

These are just a few of the studies that I've found on the neonicotinoid's effects on honey bees and there are more studies out there.

Small doses of neonics on thousands of bees over time may be affecting the individual bee's ability to work and communicate effectively as part of a colony. In order for a beehive to be successful, the hive relies on the integrity of a nervous system where each synapse is crucial. Because lots of bees in each colony are behaving sub-optimally, this can lead to the sudden, and devastating, outcomes that we've been witnessing in recent years. Neonicotinoids are definitely not helping the bees, but there are quite a few things that you can do to help them and keep neonics out of your own yard.

1. First off, you can buy organic seedlings, bedding plants, ornamentals and trees. A recent study was done using commercial nursery plants sold at garden centers in different locations across the country (including Lowes and Home Depot). The study found that 7 out of 13 samples (54%) were treated with neonicotinoids.

There are quite a few garden centers in Texas that sell organic seedlings and plants, especially in the Dallas and Austin, areas or near larger cities. You can look up organic garden centers in your area online. Don't be afraid to call and ask if they use any conventional pesticides or herbicides. I called around to a bunch of different garden centers around Texas and found a few organic garden centers in various areas of Texas. I've listed them on the "Resources Sheet" on page 19.

2. Now if you can't find organic seedlings you can always grow them from untreated seeds yourself. A lot of seeds are pre-treated so try to buy organic, untreated seeds. I've listed a few places you can buy untreated seeds on the "Resources Sheet". And if you do decide to grow them yourself, plant a few extras to give or sell to a friend! A wonderful organic potting soil to get your plants started can be made using two 5gal buckets of peat moss, one 5gal bucket of composted cow manure, and 1 ½ cup Lime. Just mix it all together! Although it doesn't really affect bees you may also want to get untreated grass seed, as grass seed is also commonly treated with neonics. Again, I've listed our favorite places to buy OG seeds on the resource sheet.

3. Don't use any herbicides or pesticides. There are plenty of natural alternatives that won't harm your bees. The OG gardening websites that I list on the resource sheet have alternatives and recipes for organic weed and pest control. I have also included an "organic herbicide" recipe. My family has NEVER used any pesticides or herbicides in all the years we've been gardening, and we've had great success with the organic alternatives!

4. Next, gardening organically ties in with the last point. Organic gardening can seem a little daunting, however with a few good resources and tips you can have great success. Some of my favorite websites for OG gardening and organic pest control tips are also listed on the "Resource Sheet."

Howard Garrett (the dirt doctor, www.dirtdoctor.com) is the best resource for OG gardening in Texas and has practically all the information you need to have a successful OG garden. Two essential books for OG gardening in Texas, both of which Howard Garrett wrote are: "Texas Gardening the Natural Way, the Complete Handbook" and "Texas Bug Book the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly", the latter of which helps you identify and control insect pests organically. Both books are indispensable resources!

www.naturalgardeneraustin.com, has organic gardening recipes, growing guides and info sheets. They also produce "Lady Bug Natural Brand" soil amendments, and organic weed control products which are available at some garden centers across Texas. Just type in your zip code on the site and it will bring up the places in your area that sell it.

There is a plethora of organic gardening websites, books, videos and info teaching you how to garden organically, many of which can be found on the internet. All this information is at your fingertips, all you have to do is look!

I realize it's not our small gardens that are the big problem; it's the larger use of neonics in agriculture and commercial use. However we can still play our small part and make sure we create a safe environment for our bees at home, even though their contact with neonics is beyond our control.

Really when you think about it, it's as simple as this: Pesticides and Insecticides are meant to kill and harm insects. Honey bees are insects.

As always, if you have an event you would like Princess Shannon or me to help with, contact Texas Honey Queen Chair, Rachael Seida at *texashoneyqueenchair@gmail.com* or (214)-578-3477

Also, don't forget to "like" and "share" the Texas Honey Queen Facebook Page and follow us on Twitter @TxHoneyQandP. It's just one click of a button!

I'm looking forward to seeing most of you in the next couple months as I attend events in your area. Until then, may you and all your bees have a splendid spring!

TBA T-shirts, Polos and Caps
Honey Queen Notelets
ETBA Honey Cooking Book
at www.texasbeekeepers.org

Hayden's Organic Gardening Resources

Organic Garden Centers in Texas:

Natural Gardener Austin, Austin, TX
www.naturalgardeneraustin.com
512-288-6113

Countryside Nursery, Austin, TX
www.countrysideaustin.com
512-249-0100

Bastrop Gardens, Cedar Creek, TX
www.bastropgardens.com
512-303-5672

Gabriel Valley Farms, Georgetown, TX
www.gabrielvalleyfarms.com
512-930-0923

Oma's Garten Pflanzen, Killeen, TX
www.omasgartenfplanzen.com
254-526-8792

Rohde's Nursery/Nature Store, Garland, TX
www.beorganic.com
972-864-1934

Athens Organic Supply, Athens, TX
www.athensorganicsupply.com
903-675-1999

Nature's Way Resources, Houston, TX
www.natureswayresources.com
936-321-6990

Seed websites:

High Mowing Organic Seeds
(802)-472-6174
www.highmowingseeds.com

Bountiful Gardens
(707)-459-6410
www.bountifulgardens.org

Organic Seed People
(541)-632-4577
www.organicseedpeople.com

Territorial Seed Company
(800)-626-0866
www.territorialseed.com

Gardening websites:

www.naturalgardeneraustin.com – OG recipes for your garden, growing guides and info sheets, Lady Bug Natural Brand

www.dirtdoctor.com –Howard Garrett -question/answer forum, organic guides and recipes, virtually everything you need to know about OG gardening in TX

www.Beyondpesticides.org -weed control

www.pesticide.org –insect and lawn/weed control factsheets

Garden center websites are also great resources for OG gardening tips.

Gardening Books:

Both by Howard Garret:
"Texas Gardening the Natural Way, the Complete Handbook"

"Texas Bug Book the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly"-helps you identify and control insect pests organically.

Potting Soil:

A wonderful OG potting soil to get your plants started can be made using two 5gal buckets of peat moss, one 5gal bucket of composted cow manure, and 1 ½ cup Lime. Just mix it all together!

Organic Herbicide Recipe:

1 gallon of 10% (100 grain) vinegar
1 ounce orange oil or d-limonene
1 teaspoon liquid soap or other surfactant
1 tablespoon molasses (optional)

Mix. Shake well before spraying, and spot spray weeds. Keep away from desirable plants, it will injure any plant it touches. This spray works best on warm to hot days. Vinegar sprayed at the bases of trees and woody plants will not hurt the plant at all. Avoid all vinegar products made from glacial acetic acid.

Date	Event	Location	Type	Number of People Reached	Notes
2/6/14	East Texas Beekeepers Meeting	Whitehouse, TX	Bee Meeting	125	Crowned the new ETBA Queen and Princess
2/15/14	TBA Winter Delegates Meeting	Salado, TX		36	Gave report on past and upcoming activities
3/6/14	East Texas Beekeepers Association Meeting	Whitehouse, TX	Bee Meeting	110	Attended general bee meeting
3/13/14	Pineywoods Bee-keepers Association Meeting	Lufkin, TX	Bee Meeting	46	Gave a presentation and cooking with honey demo
3/15/14	Shelby County Today	Shelby County, TX	Online Newspaper Article	About 185 page views	Picture and info on presentation at Pineywoods

Hayden at Pineywoods Beekeepers Association

Hayden giving cooking with honey demonstration at Pineywoods Beekeepers

Hayden at East Texas Beekeepers with new ETBA Honey Princess, Willow Lanchester and Honey Queen, Carrie Lenamond, assisted by Martha Jeske

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for Control of Varroa

HOPGUARD™

SECTION 18 SPECIFIC EXEMPTION
EPA File Symbol 14-TX-03

THIS IS AN UNREGISTERED PRODUCT AND MAY BE USED FOR DISTRIBUTION AND USE ONLY IN THE STATE OF TEXAS. THE EXEMPTION IS EFFECTIVE March 6TH, 2014 AND EXPIRES ON DECEMBER 31ST, 2014.

For use in beehives to control Varroa mites (*Varroa destructor*) on honey bees in all Texas counties.

ACTIVE INGREDIENTS:	BY WEIGHT
Potassium Salt of Hop Beta Acids……	16.0%
INERT INGREDIENTS: ……	84.0%
TOTAL	100.0%

KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN

PRECAUTIONARY STATEMENTS

Product may cause eye irritation – flood eyes with plenty of water if contact is made with eyes. Wearing protective eyewear when handling treated strips will reduce the potential for eye irritation. Avoid contact with skin, eyes or clothing. Wash thoroughly with soap and water after handling and before eating, drinking, chewing gum or smoking tobacco. Remove and wash contaminated clothing before reuse.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Applicators must wear chemical-resistant gloves when handling treated strips.

DIRECTIONS FOR USE

Package - Strips must be applied at the rate of three half strips per 2 lb. or 3 lb. package of adult worker bees. Cut strips in half and attach three half strips to the top of package so that the strips are hanging within the package. Place bees in the package after the strips are attached. The bees should remain in contact with the strips for at least 48 hours.

Colony - Strips must be applied at the rate of one strip per five deep combs covered with bees in each brood super or for example two strips per ten frame brood super (chamber) when all the combs are covered with bees. Strips are to be placed only in the brood chamber (not in the honey super). Folded strips must be opened and hung over one of the center brood frame with one-half of the strip on each side of the frame. If using a second strip, apply it to an adjacent center frame about four inches away from the first strip. Strips must be placed hanging between frames, and within the colony cluster, and not laid on top of the frames. Leave the strips in the colony for four weeks. Retreat, as necessary, up to six times per year.

A maximum of six applications per year (twelve strips or approximately 23.04 grams of potassium salt of hop beta acids) per ten frame brood super (chamber) is allowed. This limit includes all applications to the package (if applicable) and to the colony. Application timing (usually during spring, summer or fall) should be based on the levels of Varroa mites observed in the colony. Users may not take honey and wax from the brood chambers, only from the honey supers. For optimal results, apply HopGuard when little to no brood is present in the hive.

Any adverse effects resulting from the use of HopGuard™ under this emergency exemption must be immediately reported to your State Department of Agriculture.

RESISTANCE MANAGEMENT

Using this product in rotation with another approved miticide with a different mode of action will decrease the potential for Varroa mites to develop resistance. If the strip remains in the hive more than 4 weeks remove.

STORAGE AND DISPOSAL

Unused strips should be stored in a tightly sealed, cool, dark area. Unused, unregistered product must either be returned to the manufacturer or distributor in unopened containers or disposed of in accordance with the Resource Conservation Recovery Act following the expiration of this emergency exemption.

NET CONTENTS

Each HopGuard™ kit contains 50 cardboard strips. Each strip is folded in half and contains 1.92 grams of potassium salt of hop beta acids, and the kit contains 96 grams (3.4 ounces) of potassium salt of hop beta acids.

Manufactured by: BetaTec Hop Products, Inc., A Division of John I. Haas, Inc., 1600 River Rd. Yakima, WA 98902

efficient by nature™

2014 Texas Honey Princess Shannon LaGrave

Bees in Space

In a recent trip to Houston, the American Honey Princess and I had the privilege to tour NASA. While on the tour we were told about an experiment featuring our lovely friend the honey bee.

In the year 1984, NASA's Challenger set off with experiential cargo, including some 3,000 honey bees, a part of the Shuttle Student Involvement Program, the bees were in the care of astronaut James Van Hoften, who holds a Ph.D in Civil and Environmental Engineering. They were looking for any differences between the bees in a micro gravity environment verses a habitat on Earth.

One of the common problems in the space station is that the plants could not be pollinated without human intervention. The easy and natural solution would of course be the honey bee. The question loomed, could they survive in space, would they build comb, and reproduce as they naturally do on earth?

In flight and in movement the bees were unaffected by the lack of gravity. The size, shape and thickness of the comb, compared to the control group on earth were identical. On the seven day mission it seemed that the bees were the perfect solution to the pollination problem.

We who observe bees, can easily see their natural ingenuity, and was not surprised at their consistency in building comb.

In another experiment, bees were placed in a micro gravity greenhouse, designed to develop a food source in space for humans. The honey bees did not do well in the greenhouse environment, as they spent their time trying to get to the light source and escape.

As it turns out, for space pollination studies done in Canada, they have found that bumble bees are more content to operate within a forced parameter. This tends to be a better fit for a self-sustaining space mission. However, NASA has not stopped using the honey bees, in continued experimentation. The surface has only been scratched concerning the usefulness of bees in relation to space.

Date	Event	Location	Type	Number of People Reached	Notes
2/10/14	CCHBA Meeting	McKinney, TX	Beekeeping Meeting	150	Gave report on past and upcoming activities
2/15/14	TBA Winter Delegates Meeting	Salado, TX	Beekeeping Meeting	30	Gave report on Social Media
3/15/14	CCHBA Meeting	McKinney, TX	Beekeeping Meeting	170	Gave report on past and upcoming activities
3/13/14 - 3/18/14	Houston Livestock Show	Houston, TX	Booth Work	242,604 +	Booth Work and Visit to NASA

Note Cards to Raise Funds for the Honey Queen Program

Selected note card designs are shown on the following page.
$10 for a set of 6
Purchase from the honey queens or the TBA website
www.texasbeekeepers.org

Texas Honey Queen Chair
Rachael Seida

Dear Texas Beekeepers,

Thanks so much for your support! To raise funds this year we are selling note cards! Each of the graphics on the cards was designed by our Queen and Princess! They are very beautiful and I have included several pictures of the designs for your enjoyment!

I am thrilled to say that we are almost overbooked for April (of course I can still fit in more events!). Our Queen has several out of town trips and our Princess has six schools already!!

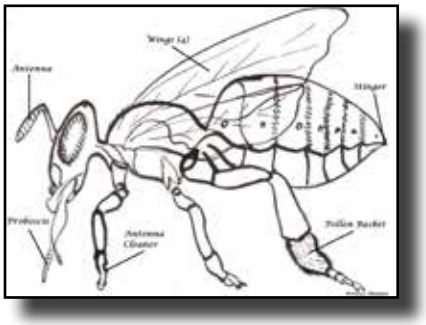
As always – check the Facebook page for updates our promotions this year. Also during the year we are always looking for new promotions across the state. This year we would like to hit some areas that we have not visited much in the past. San Antonio, El Paso, The Valley, Corpus Christi, and Waco all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

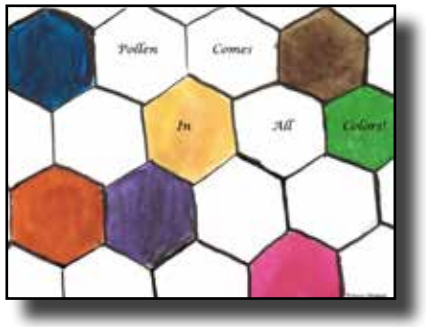
To host the Honey Queen or Princess is very easy: You need an event or events to invite her to promote at (Fair/ Festival, Media, Schools, Civic Groups, etc.) and a host family (or single woman). My contact info is below if you have an event in mind, or more questions.

Since the TBA Convention, I had several persons (locally and nationally) inquire about starting a honey queen program in their club/association. This inspired me to take up, as a goal for 2014, a desire I have had for several years of writing a manual for starting and running a honey queen program. My progress in writing took a great jump since my last article and I am pleased to say that an initial rough draft is being reviewed! I am so excited at the prospect of being able to help promote the program this way!

We look forward to seeing all of you soon.

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



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Bee protests are cute, but .....

from the blog "Insects in the City" by Mike Merchant Ph.D
Texas Agrilife Extension

A recent protest by organic activists outside a Chicago Home Depot highlighted something of the current debate over pesticides and bees. It also reminded me that no one wants to go on record as being "against the bees". See the video posted at *http://insectsinthecity.blogspot.com/2014/03/a-recent-protest-by-organic-activists.html*

The folks in the bee costumes in the above video are protesting the retail sale of "bee-killing" insecticides called neonicotinoids. They represent groups demanding that these insecticides not be sold, and that stores begin selling only nursery plants that have not been treated with these insecticides. I've blogged about this issue in the past, and reported on some recent urban incidents that could affect the pest control industry.

Over the past few days there has been some interesting discussion on this subject in a chat group that I belong to. I thought I would share some of the more interesting comments and new studies on the subject.

- Bee experts are mostly in agreement that Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) in honey bees is not as simple as "bad" pesticides. In fact pesticides may have little to do with bee declines in some areas. Australia may be instructive in this regard. Australia uses neonicotinoid insecticides like the rest of the world, but Australian honey bees are not in decline. A new Australian government report out this month confirms as much, and concludes that take as a whole, neonicotinoid use has led to an "overall reduction in the risks to the agricultural environment from the application of insecticides."
- A recent collaborative paper in the journal mBio, by Chinese and U.S. scientists, found a virus that has been known for many years, tobacco ringspot virus (TRSV), that is infecting honey bees. This virus is the first known plant virus that has mutated and adapted into an animal-infesting virus. It appears to be transmitted to bees via pollen, and also by varroa mite. And its presence in bee colonies appears to be associated with gradual declines in bee colony vitality.
- In fact, varroa mites in combination with viruses are currently under close scrutiny as a major explanation for CCD. According to Dr. Richard Cowles, with the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, "When combined with work on Israeli Acute Paralysis Virus and a demonstration that irradiation of hive equipment from CCD could prevent nukes from succumbing to CCD, the strongest evidence for the cause of CCD is the varroa/viral combination." An interesting side observation is that Australia does not yet have varroa mite, which lends strength to the argument for a mite-vectored virus explanation for the disease.
- Most studies that have found neonicotinoids in pollen have been on herbaceous plants. In one study on red maple trees, a dissertation by Dr. Josephine Johnson at the University of Maryland, no imidacloprid was found in tree nectar and only extremely low levels in pollen (bees feeding on these trees had no evidence of insecticides, nor in hive collected nectar). So if you do neonicotinoid root applications on trees per label instructions, there is no evidence right now that such applications pose any risk to pollinators.
- Two new Washington State University Extension publications are now available on CCD and neonicotinoids. The first publication by Lawrence and Sheppard, provides an overview of the problem with an explanation of the various factors thought to contribute to CCD. How to Reduce Bee Poisoning from Pesticides is a thorough overview of practical ways to reduce the risk of bee poisoning due to pesticides, and includes a table of most commonly used pesticides with their potential risks to bees.

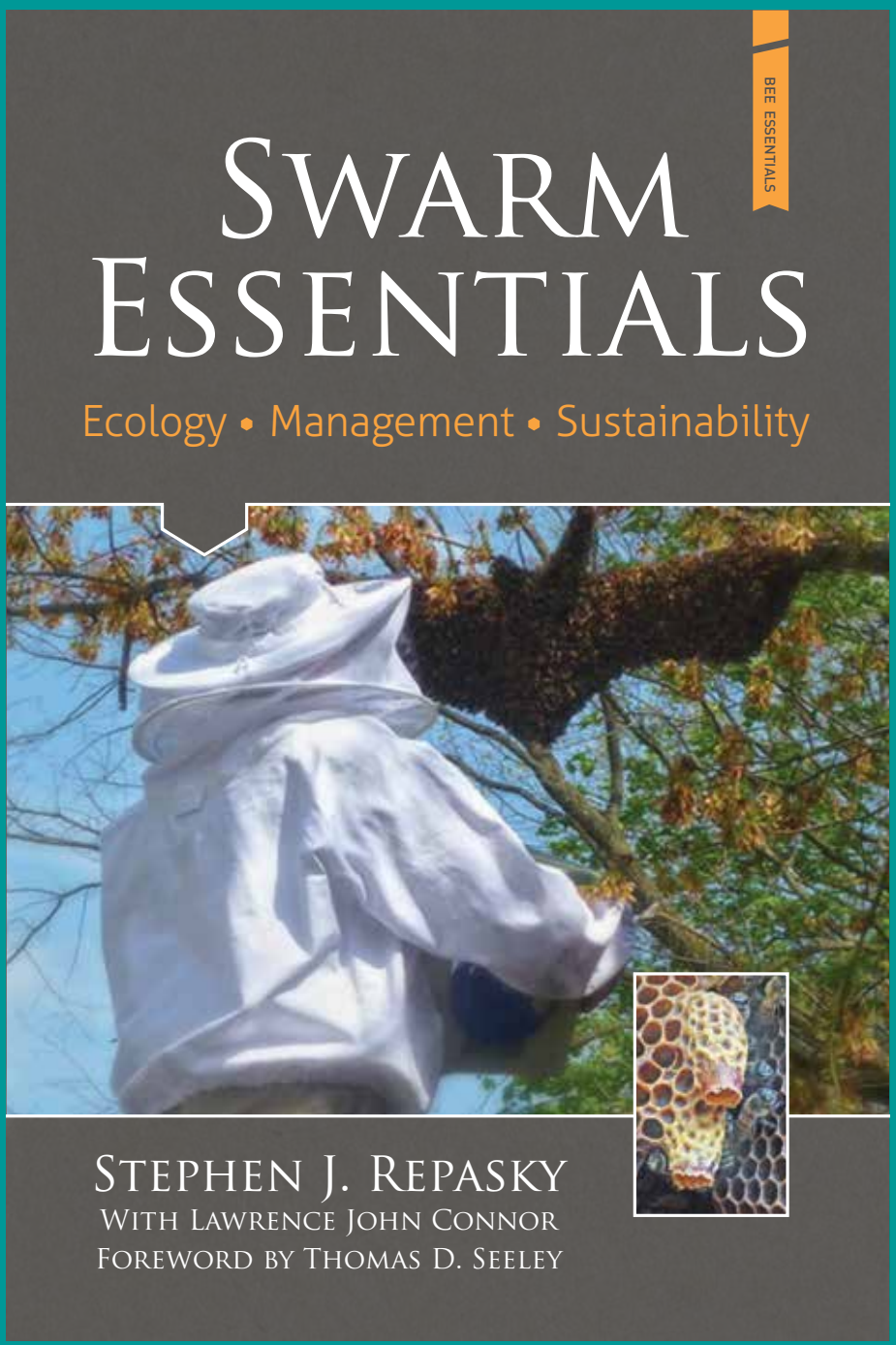
None of this is to say that there are no legitimate concerns about the toxicity of neonicotinoids to pollinators. These products are certainly toxic to bees, and at levels lower than previously recognized. But research in this area is ongoing, and our understanding of the possible factors that might be hurting bee populations is much better than it was a few years ago. Despite what you might hear, both EPA and the pesticide industry is taking pollinator concerns seriously and is acting to make sure that you have safe tools to control pests effectively. After all, who wants to be "against the bees"?

"There is one masterpiece, the hexagonal cell, that touches perfection.

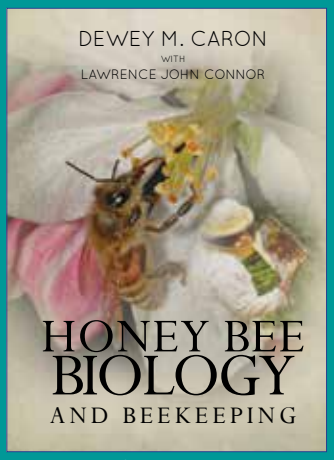
No living creature, not even man, has achieved, in the centre of his sphere, what the bee has achieved in her own: and were some one from another world to descend and ask of the earth the most perfect creation of the logic of life, we should needs have to offer the humble comb of honey."

- Maurice Maeterlinck, The Life Of The Bee, 1924

New Wicwas Essentials



"From the mechanics behind swarming to the strategies for reducing ... and catching swarms, *Swarm Essentials* examines it all in a manner that is fun to read"—Jennifer Berry, Research Professional, University of Georgia. The newest title at Wicwas Press LLC—$23.00



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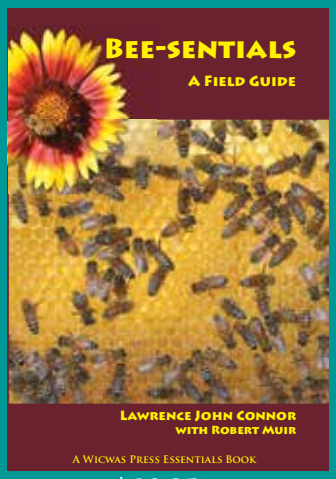

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Listing of Local Beekeepers' Associations in Texas with TBA Delegate and Regular Meeting Information Shown for Each

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

Alamo Area Beekeepers Association
Edward Priest - (210) 722-7380
edward_p@sbcglobal.net
9570 Maidenstone - San Antonio, TX 78250
Meetings: 3rd Tuesday on odd # months; at
Helotes Ind. Baptist Church
15335 Bandera Rd., Helotes @ 7 pm

Brazoria County Beekeepers Association
Larry Hoehne - (979) 848-8780 or (979) 236-1385
233 Crestwood, Clute TX 77531
bcbassociation@gmail.com
www.brazoria-county-beekeepers-association.com
Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month at 7pm;
Brazoria County Extension Office
21017 County Road 171, Angleton TX 77515

Central Texas Beekeepers Association
Michael Kelling - (979) 277-0411
CentralTexasBeekeepers@gmail.com
www.centraltexasbeekeepers.org
1997 Tonckawa Hills Ln - Brenham, TX 77833
Meetings: Monthly on the 4th Thursday
(except November and December) at the
Washington County Fairgrounds
Brenham @ 7 pm

Coastal Bend Beekeepers Association
Pete Hartje - (361) 229-0512
phartje@juno.com
1330 Whispering Sands, Port Aransas, TX 78373
Meetings: First Thursday of each month at 6:30pm;
City of Corpus Garden Senior Center
5325 Greely Dr.,Corpus Christi, TX 78412

Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Assn.
John J. Talbert - (214) 532-9241
john@sabinecreekhoney.com
P O Box 6 - Josephine, TX 75164
www.cchba.org
Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month;
Heard Craig Hall, 306 N. Church St,
McKinney @ 6:30 pm

Concho Valley Beekeepers Association
Mark F Hedley - (325) 463-5319
8247 FM 502, Rochelle, TX 76872
mark@spiralhornapiary.com
Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each month Jan-Nov
Texas A&M Research and Extension Center
7887 US Hwy 87 N, San Angelo @ 7:30 pm

Dino-Beekeepers Association
Lee Burough - (817) 964-0238
dino-beeclub@hotmail.com
www.dinobee.com
Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of month
Glen Rose Citizens Center
209 SW Barnard St, Glen Rose, TX 76043

East Texas Beekeepers Association
Richard Counts - (903) 566-6789
dickcounts@bigplanet.com
16239 Audrey Lane - Arp, TX 75750
www.etba.info
Meetings: 1st Thursday of each month;
Whitehouse United Methodist Church,
405 West Main (Hwy 346), Whitehouse @ 6:45 pm

Fayette County Beekeepers Association
Karolyn Mau - (979) 733-4022
k2isqueenbee@gmail.com
Meetings: First Saturday of the month, Feb, April,
June, August, October and December
Fayette County Agriculture Building
240 Svoboda Lane, La Grange, TX 78945

Fort Bend Beekeepers Association
1402 Band Road, Rosenberg, TX 77471
(281) 633-7029 (during office hours)
Jeff McMullan - Secretary - Treasurer
(281) 980-2363 (home): (281) 615-5346 (cell)
jeffmcmullan@comcast.net
Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of each month (except
December) in the Fort Bend County
Bud O'Shieles Community Center
1330 Band Road, Rosenberg, TX 77471

Harris County Beekeepers Association
Cameron Crane - (409) 658-3800
info@harriscountybeekeepers.org
2300 Belvedere Dr., Baytown, TX 77520
www.harriscountybeekeepers.org
Meetings: 4th Tuesday of each month
Golden Acres Center - 5001 Oak Avenue
Pasadena @ 7 pm

Heart of Texas Beekeepers Association
Gary Bowles - (254) 214-4514
gbowles@peoplepc.com
Meetings: 4th Tuesday of each month
(except December) at A1 Buffet,
301 S. Valley Mills Drive, Waco @ 6:30 pm

Local Beekeepers' Associations in Texas

Houston Beekeepers Association
Rita Willhite - (832) 654-7317
rr.willhite@yahoo.com
7806 Braeburn Valley Dr. - Houston, TX 77074
www.houstonbeekeepers.org
Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each month; Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bisonnet St. Houston @ 7:30 pm

Liberty County Beekeepers Association
Cameron Crane - (409) 658-3800
info@libertycountybeekeepers.org
2300 Belevedere Dr., Baytown, TX 77520
www.libertycountybeekeepers.org
Meetings: 1st Tuesday of each month at 7pm
Business meeting at 6:30pm
Liberty Agrilife Extension Office
501 Palmer Avenue, Liberty TX

Marshall Beekeeping Association
Beth Derr - (936) 591-2399
derrbe@netscape.net
210 Meadowlark Dr. Jefferson, TX 75657
Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month at Harrison County Extension Office
102West HoustonSt, Marshall, TX 75670 @ 5:30 pm

Metro Beekeepers Association
Stan Key, President
stankey.texas@gmail.com
www.metrobeekeepers.net
8413 Castle Creek Rd.,North Richland Hills, TX 76182
Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month; Cana Baptist Church, 2309 East Renfro St. TX 76028 @ 6:30 pm

Montgomery County Beekeepers Assn.
John Hicks - (936) 756-9708
johnhicks12003@yahoo.com
www.mocobees.com
Meetings: 3rd Monday of each month at Montgomery County Extension Office @ 7 pm

Northeast Texas Beekeepers Association
J.B. (Jim) Lathem - (903) 896-7100
netba1@aol.com
PO Box 777, Wills Point, TX 75169
Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of each month; @ 6:45 pm
Russell Memorial United Methodist Church
Deen Building, Classroom 2
201 South 4th Street (Farm Road 47), Wills Point, TX 75169

Pineywoods Beekeepers Association
Terry McFall - (409) 384-3626
tdmcfall@hotmail.com
1700 FM 252, Jasper, TX 75951
Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month
Chamber of Commerce Building,
1615 S Chestnut, Lufkin @ 7:00 pm

Red River Valley Beekeepers Assn.
Doug Hill
1701 Fairfax
Wichita Falls, TX 76301
Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each month (except December) Bolin Science Hall, Room 209
Midwestern St. University
Wichita Falls @ 7 pm

Rio Grande Valley Beekeepers Assn.
Billy Wright - (956) 464-5042
Route 5, Box 74 - Donna, TX 78537
Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each month;
TAMU Res. and Ext. Center, 2401 E. Highway 83
Weslaco @ 7:30 pm

Trinity Valley Beekeepers Association
Alan Eynon - (972) 231-5702, Ext. 104
abees@swbell.net
9702 Vinewood Drive - Dallas, TX 75228
www.tvbees.org
Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of each month (except August), Continuing Education Center, C.C.Young Facility, 4847 West Lawther Dr., Dallas, TX 75214 @ 7 - 9 pm

Walker County Area Beekeepers Assn.
Steve Kelley - (936) 435-2426
shortmd@msn.com
102 Tam Road, Huntsville, TX 77320
Meetings: Last Thursday of each month at Walker County Extension Office, #1 Tam Rd.
Huntsville @ 7 pm

Williamson County Area Beekeepers Assn.
Jimmie Oakley - (512) 388-3630
jimmie.oakley@gmail.com - www.wcaba.org
425 Sapphire Lane, Jarrell, TX 76537
Meetings: 4th Thursday of each month (except December) 1st United Methodist Church - McKinney Ministry Center, 410 E University Ave.
Georgetown , TX 78626 @ 7 pm

Membership Report 14-2 *by Jimmie Oakley*

2014 New Members

1/26	**Gray**	James K.	Stephenville, TX	35	
1/31	**Ebeling**	Carla	San Angelo, TX	35	
2/1	**Frost**	Ken	Corsicana, TX	35	
2/7	**Barr**	Tammy S.	Ft. Davis, TX	35	
2/7	**Crofton**	Harry J.	Houston, TX	35	
2/10	**Vorgert**	Mary & Jim	Celeste, TX	50	Family
2/15	**Scott**	Raymond	Wills Point, TX	35	
2/15	**Bates**	Timothy M.	Dallas, TX	35	
2/20	**Moore**	Leah & Michelle	Wildorado, TX	50	Family
2/21	**Peterman**	Whit	Dallas, TX	35	
3/12	**Snyder**	Kathy & G. Edwards	Dallas, TX	50	Family
3/17	**Ashbaugh**	Elaine	Providence Village, TX	35	
3/17	**Friend**	Janice	Cedar Creek, TX	25	Family
3/17	**Ward**	David	Cedar Creek, TX	25	Family
3/20	**Nelson**	Roger L.	Spring, TX	35	
3/24	**Lockhart**	Mark	Katy. TX	35	

2014 Renewing Members

1/31	**Anderson**	Mark	Bellaire, TX	35	
2/3	**Stubblefield**	Ginny	Round Rock, TX	35	
2/7	**Borntrager**	David	Beeville, TX	35	
2/7	**Sharp**	David W	Burleson, TX	35	
2/7	**Pelham**	Royce	Whitehouse, TX	35	
2/8	**Rogers**	Harrison & Mary	Brookside Village, TX	50	Family
2/12	**Eudy**	Dan	Bullard, TX	35	
2/12	**McClaugherty**	Ralph W.	Raymondville, TX	100	Century
2/18	**Hoehne**	Larry & Norma	Clute, TX	50	Family
2/18	**Ruby**	Doug	Milnor, N.D.	100	Century
2/27	**Ware**	Drue Neel	Georgetown, TX	35	
3/3	**Henley**	Mark O.	Woodway, TX	35	
3/6	**Baldwin**	Christopher M.	Belvidere, S.D.	35	
3/12	**Barnett**	John	Gladewater, TX	35	

Renew your membership at our website:
www.texasbeekeepers.org

Associations Renewing 2014 Membership

1/24	**Montgomery Co Beekeeepes Assoc.**	Montgomery, TX	50	
1/28	**Dino-Bee Beekeepers Association**	Glenrose, TX	50	
2/6	**Central Texas Beekeepers Association**	Brenham, TX	50	
2/6	**Fayette County Beekeepers Association**	LaGrange, TX	50	
2/7	**East Texas Beekeepers Association**	Tyler, TX	50	
2/10	**Walker County Area Beekeepers Assn.**	Huntsville, TX	50	
2/15	**Harris County Beekeepers Association**	Pasadana, TX	50	
3/5	**Metro Beekeepers Association**	Burleson, TX	100	14&15

2014 Complimentary Membership

2/4	**Johnson**	Mike	Fayetteville, TX
2/4	**Krenek**	David	West Point, TX
2/4	**McKinzey**	John	Elgin, TX
2/4	**Schobajsa**	Donald	LaGrange, TX
2/14	**Bass**	Larry	Alba, TX
2/14	**Cole**	Jacob	Malakoff, TX
2/14	**Corley**	Kirk	Palestine, TX

Mail All Renewals/Inquiries to:

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Jarrell, TX 76537

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e-mail: *jimmie.oakley@gmail.com*

2014 Complimentary Membership (contd.)

2/14	**Cox**	David	Kilgore, TX
2/14	**Harvey**	Timothy	Tyler, TX
2/14	**Jaeger**	George	Laneville, TX
2/14	**Jeane**	Kyle	Jacksonville, TX
2/14	**Koll**	Andreas	Kilgore, TX
2/14	**Miller**	Brittany	Gilmer, TX
2/14	**Moser**	Partick	Ore City, TX
2/14	**Robinson**	Anne	Lindale, TX
2/14	**Rowan**	Mary	Van, TX
2/14	**Schaub**	David	Tyler, TX
2/14	**Smith**	Matthew	Tyler, TX
2/14	**Woodard**	Bruce	Frankston, TX
2/14	**Young**	Glenn	Tyler, TX
2/26	**Cutler**	T. D.	San Angelo, TX
2/26	**Drebenstedt**	Shauna	Midland, TX
2/26	**Fuquay**	Ronnie	Junction, TX
2/26	**Gray**	Jonnnie	Mertzon, TX
2/26	**Kaczyk**	John	San Angelo, TX
2/26	**Long**	Ricky L.	Clyde, TX
2/26	**Watson**	Margaret	San Angelo, TX
3/6	**Bahn**	Tracy	Austin, TX
3/6	**Carter**	Jeff	Elgin, TX
3/6	**de Ruiter**	Christian	Elgin, TX
3/6	**Fagala**	Julie	Leander, TX
3/6	**Gagne**	Chris	Leander, TX
3/6	**Kartzmark**	Erik	Cedar Park, TX
3/6	**Owens**	Phil	Georgetown, TX
3/6	**Rector**	Shannon	Leander, TX
3/6	**Schell**	David	Round Rock, TX
3/6	**Smith**	Wesley	Austin, TX
3/6	**Wiley**	Easter	Bastrop, TX
3/22	**Allen**	Bobby	Tolar, TX
3/22	**Aucoin**	Terry	Crosby, TX
3/22	**Bayne**	Karin	Marshall, TX
3/22	**Brawley**	Bonnie	Tolar, TX
3/22	**Carlson**	Donna	Granbury, TX
3/22	**Clark**	Larry	Granbury, TX
3/22	**Cleveland**	Lewis	Granbury, TX
3/22	**Cloud**	Terry	Hallsville, TX
3/22	**Cockerham**	Nelda	Granbury, TX
3/22	**Curtis**	Virgil	Valley Mills, TX
3/22	**Dodson**	Connie	Gilmer, TX
3/22	**Edwards**	John R.	Waskom, TX
3/22	**Elston**	Karla	Stephenville, TX
3/22	**Eubanks**	Mike	Dayton, TX
3/22	**George**	Donald	Marshall, TX
3/22	**Grimm**	Beth	Jefferson, TX
3/22	**Hickey**	Daniel	Glen Rose, TX
3/22	**Hillock**	Earl	Cleburne, TX
3/22	**Hough**	Chip	Granbury, TX
3/22	**Howard**	Theresa	Fort Worth, TX
3/22	**Johnson**	Mark William	Cove, TX
3/22	**Lahti**	Raymond	Dayton, TX
3/22	**Lee**	Denice A.	Marshall, TX
3/22	**Mathews**	Tracy	Houston, TX
3/22	**Mayers**	Craig	Granbury, TX
3/22	**Miller**	Rick	Granbury, TX
3/22	**Murphy**	Caleb	Cleburne, TX
3/22	**Peters**	Donnette	Glen Rose, TX
3/22	**Rainey**	Sharron	Stephenville, TX
3/22	**Richards**	Carol	Hamilton, TX
3/22	**Rouse**	Ronnie	Woodlawn, TX
3/22	**Rowsey**	Randy F.	Linden, TX
3/22	**Rutherford**	Peggy	Purmela, TX
3/22	**Searcy**	Rebecca C.	Marshall, TX
3/22	**Silveria**	Clifford J.	Humble, TX
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3/22	**Smith**	Saundra	Highland Village
3/22	**Smith**	Barry	Hico, TX
3/22	**Steinberger**	Linda	Walnut Springs, TX
3/22	**Taylor**	Teresa M.	Glen Rose, TX
3/22	**Todaro**	John	Marshall, TX
3/22	**Whitehurst**	Abslon Davis	Longview, TX
3/22	**Zueck**	Kim	Granbury, TX
3/24	**Blackwell**	Jim	San Augustine, TX
3/24	**Bryan**	Al	San Augustine, TX
3/24	**Culpepper**	Kay	Trinity, TX
3/24	**Ewart**	Frank O.	Broaddus, TX
3/24	**Freeman**	Bruce	Conroe, TX
3/24	**Hesse**	Yorgen	Kingwood, TX
3/24	**Hesse**	Ansuya	Kingwood, TX
3/24	**Hull**	Stephen	Corpus Christi, TX
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3/24	**Smith**	Josie	Montgomery, TX
3/24	**Spendlove**	Kim	Magnolia, TX
3/24	**Wheeler**	Chris	Shelbyville, TX
3/24	**Woodcock**	Judy	Montgomery, TX
3/26	**Adams**	John S.	Corpus Christi, TX
3/26	**Brimley**	Eileen	San Angelo, TX
3/26	**Burk**	Larry	Corpus Christi, TX
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3/26	**Golden**	Berna	Corpus Christi, TX
3/26	**Gustavus**	Duane	Corpus Christi, TX
3/26	**Hamm**	Matthew	Port Aransas, TX
3/26	**Johnson**	Keely	Christoval, TX
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3/26	**Rohmfeld Jr.**	John Henry	Corpus Christi, TX
3/26	**Stephens**	Bruce	Beeville, TX
3/26	**White**	Bob	San Angelo, TX
3/27	**Ewing**	Robert	Hutto, TX
3/27	**Gardner**	Mary Catherine	Austin, TX
3/27	**Gurgan**	Barbie	Leander, TX
3/27	**Jefferies**	Bruce	Horseshoe Bay, TX
3/27	**Young**	Nancy	Cedar Park, TX

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