

The Texas Beekeepers Association



# Journal



May / Jun 2014

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Issue 14-3





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# President's Report

*from Blake Shook*



## Welcome to summer!

I have often heard it said of Texas that we really don't have seasons. We have early summer, summer, late summer, and almost summer. It seems as though that is typically true! Some areas of the state have received good rains, others are still extremely dry. The honey flow appears to be off to a fair start in most places, but as always, if we don't continue getting rains it could head south really quickly. Keep your fingers crossed!

If you haven't talked to Texas Insurance about Crop Insurance for your operation, it is certainly worth considering. Also be aware that with the passage of the new farm bill, there are relief funds available through ELAP for beekeepers that have had greater than a 17% annual loss of beehives. Contact your local Farm Service Agency for more information.

So many things have happened for TBA in the past few months! Because of the large number of things happening, I want to give you a brief update on several projects:

1. Our new Website/Texas Honey Locator - Our new website is up and running well! If you haven't seen it yet, take a look. It is easily the best looking and most functional beekeeping association website in the country right now. Our Texas Honey Locator is also up and running! If you would like to be listed go to the "Texas Honey Locator" page and fill out a form. We are very careful only to allow legitimate companies on our locator.

2. Chief Apiary Inspector- As most of you know, as I said in

my last article, we have a new chief apiary inspector! Many of you have already met Mark Dykes, who has certainly hit the ground running at College Station. Mark is working very closely with us as an industry to determine our needs and to transform TAIS into an agency that is there for all of us as beekeepers. You will see many new ideas, benefits, and programs in the months and years to come from Mark and TBA. Stay tuned!

3. Texas Bee Laws- This project is starting to gain some steam. Mark Dykes has experience in working to update bee laws, and has volunteered to help with this project. At the moment, a team is being assembled to tackle this project before next year.

4. New Beekeeper Complimentary Membership- As most of you know, TBA approved a measure at our last meeting to allow first year, new beekeepers to join TBA for free for their first year in beekeeping. To date, we have almost 200 new members as a result! This number will continue to grow throughout the year. Our hope is that in the long term we will get many of those folks to renew their membership next year.

That is a quick update on a few of the many projects currently underway. Let us know if you would like to help TBA. There is much to do! I look forward to seeing all of you soon at the TBA Summer Clinic at the Bee Lab! I'm headed back out to super bees.

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*Cover Picture: Shaking Bees from your editor*



## Vice President's Report

*from Chris Moore*



### Late, Late, Late

Down here on the coast we are typically preparing to pull honey by now, but with the cold weather earlier this year, everything is blooming a good 3-4 weeks late. The bees have had a great build up flow on the early brush, but we are finally in our main honey flow. Only time will tell how long the nectar flow will hang on.

Blake and I visited with our new Chief Apiary inspector, Mark Dykes, a few weeks ago. Mark has some good ideas and is looking forward to implementing a new program that will work for us all. Be patient, it will take some time. He has asked for our input on what would be best for all Texas Beekeepers.

Mark will be speaking at the TBA Summer Clinic on

June 7th at The Janice and John G. Thomas Honey Bee Facility located on Texas A&M University's Riverside Campus. Chris Doggett and Juliana Rangel have put together a great program. I hope to see you there.

If you are in a humid area, don't wait too long to pull your honey. Otherwise the small hive beetles may enjoy your honey before you get to.

Be sure to keep checking the new & improved TBA website. Mark Hedley and Chris Doggett are continually adding information. If you have not yet signed up for our Texas Honey locator please do so, we need everyone to participate.



*At the Pasadena, TX Strawberry Fair  
American Honey Queen, Susannah Austin, Elaine  
and Ed Michalek with Texas Honey Princess,  
Shannon LaGrave*



*American Honey Queen, Susannah Austin  
with Elaine Michalek at the Pasadena, TX  
Strawberry Fair*

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# THE BUDS AND THE BEES

## The Waggle Dance of Summer

*by Becky Bender, Texas Master Naturalist*

Whether your current hives were spring splits, a nucleus colony or hearty winter survivors, they're about to cross the finish line of summer. So all is good, right? Well, maybe. But not so fast. According to research on honey bee health at the Laboratory of Apiculture and Social Insects (LASI) at the University of Sussex in the UK, your honey bees still face a risky summer hurdle. The waggle dance of high summer may launch foragers on a longer, more arduous flight than in any other season.

After reading the fascinating article "Where Do Bees Forage? And How Do We Know?" by researcher Margaret Couvillon in *Bee Culture*, August 2013, I began to give more thought to my bee's summer food sources. This ground-breaking research, known as The Sussex Plan for Honey Bee Health and Well Being, is the most complete set of data we have on honey bee foraging in a representative urban-rural landscape. Researchers decoded waggle dances to understand where worker honey bees forage in the British countryside.

While the UK is a long way from Texas, some of the issues hit very close to home. The number of bee hives in the UK has declined by nearly 75 per cent in the past century. Major reasons for this dramatic decline are changes in the way the land is used resulting in fewer flowering plants. Fields of one crop (monocultures) have few weeds. Fields of grass have few wildflowers. Development of the countryside has claimed the once diverse native plants. Sound familiar? Researchers hope to reverse the decline in honey bee populations by understanding how forager bees are using the existing landscape and making recommendations on land-use policies.

### How do we know the distance bees forage?

Foraging distance is important because honey bees are economically savvy foragers. They weigh the cost and benefit of each flight required to collect pollen and nectar. Foragers will risk making long flights only when necessary for colony survival. Successful honey bee foragers perform waggle dances when they return to the hive. These dances tell other foragers the direction and distance of profitable flowers. By decoding these waggle dances with observation hives and video cameras, LASI researchers are discovering which parts of the landscape are good for honey bees and how this varies in different months. They believe this information is valuable for people who want more bee and insect friendly land, including farmers, land managers, parks departments, and gardeners.

### What are the hardest months for bees to find food?

By decoding thousands of waggle dances, LASI researchers found that average foraging distances increased significantly from spring (493 meters or about 1/3 mile) to summer (2156 meters or about 1 1/3 mile), before decreasing in fall (1275 meters or about 3/4 mile). Foraging distance varied significantly month-to-month. The communicated distances were greater in summer (July & August) than in spring (March & April) or in fall (September & October). How far the bees fly in the summer was especially striking when both distance and direction were mapped with communicated vector components. This method showed that bees use a summer area that is 6 times greater than what they use in the fall and 22 times greater than what they use in the spring. **Summer is a harder time for bees to find forage compared to other parts of the foraging year.**

Interestingly, foraging distances were similar whether flights were for nectar or for pollen. And while the bees fly further in summer compared to fall and spring, this is not because they bring back higher quality food. It is known that nectar with higher sugar content is valued more by bees. By studying the nectar returned to the hive, it was found that sugar content was highest in May, September and October. Nectar sugar content was lowest in March, April, June, July and August. **In the summer, bees are flying the furthest and bringing back food that is not necessarily better quality.**

### Flowers for a Texas Summer

We all know that spring flowers are usually abundant. And cooling fall temperatures bring a new variety of blooms. But, as the LASI research indicates, flowers may be scarce in the summer making this a season to target additional forage. Even in Texas, where plants have evolved long roots to tap moisture and nutrients and survive heat stress, a limited number continue to flourish in high summer.

Conserving and protecting bee plants is always easier and cheaper than planting. So consider allowing some weeds to bloom, sow wildflowers in grass fields and allow a variety of brushy vegetation to thrive around ponds, fence lines and under large shade trees. When planting for bees, include summer-blooming perennials (plants that bloom year after year) in addition to those splashy-colored annuals we all buy in April.



Here are a few plants your bees will appreciate during high summer.

Sunflowers are among the toughest of summer blossoms and contain some of the honey bee's favorite pollen and nectar. Sunflower honey is amber-colored and rather strong in flavor.

**Annual or Common Sunflower** (*Helianthus annuus*) puts on a summer show in fields, along roadsides and anywhere it's allowed to raise its bright sunny face. It has large, heart-shaped leaves topped by several stems of small yellow flowers and grows best in full or partial sun in moist soil along ditches and low areas. Considered a brushy weed, this annual flower reproduces readily by seed and can reach a height of 8 feet, so allow them to grow in "no-mow zones." A patch is a welcome sight to birds, butterflies and native bees as well as honey bees. Seeds may be obtained from Native American Seed at [www.seedsource.com](http://www.seedsource.com) and are best planted summer to fall.



*Maximilian Sunflower*

**Flame Acanthus** (*Anisacanthus quadrifidus* var. *wrightii*) is the life of the garden party when summer temperatures hit 100 degrees. Also called hummingbird bush, the bright orange tubular-shaped flowers are better suited for hummingbirds and butterflies than for honey bees. I would never call Flame Acanthus a honey plant, but I had to include it. Dozens of resourceful honey bees visit this shrub in August when most other flowers have faded. They will even work for nectar on the bottom end of those flowers that have fallen away from the stem or been pierced by another pollinator. Flame Acanthus is a perennial shrub native to the Hill Country but thrives as far north as the Red River. It blooms from late summer through fall, is extremely drought and heat tolerant and reaches a height of 5 feet. It is usually available at local native nurseries.



*Flame Acanthus in Landscape*



*Annual or Common Sunflower*

**Maximilian Sunflower** (*Helianthus maximiliani*) creates more enthusiasm than any other sunflower. Starting in the heat of August, many yellow flowers bloom along a strong, straight stem which can reach a height of 8 feet. This perennial prefers full or partial sun in soil that gets some moisture such as where water naturally stands or drains. They return by root and multiply rapidly by seed as well. These sunflowers do well around fences, as background in native wildflower gardens or along hills or drainage areas. They are especially good for erosion control, wetland and wildlife restorations. Seeds and live roots may be purchased from Native American Seed at [www.seedsource.com](http://www.seedsource.com). Seeds are also available from Wildseed Farms at [www.wildseedfarms.com](http://www.wildseedfarms.com) and can be planted any time but fall is best.



*Almond Verbena*

**Almond Verbena** (*Aloysia virgata*) has earned its reputation as a honey bee magnet. It produces a light amber, mild flavored honey. According to Howard Garrett, The Dirt Doctor, this is “the most fragrant and beneficial insect-attracting plant I have ever grown.” A native of Argentina, this plant is well adapted to Texas soil and weather. It puts forth white spikes of flowers from spring through summer and into fall with multiple blooming periods, especially after rainfall. The large, woody shrub thrives in full sun but can take part shade and will reach a height of 10 feet or more and spread to 6 feet or wider.

I tried to grow an Almond verbena two years ago and somehow killed it. I’m determined to try again soon. Equally good native “versions” of this plant are *Aloysia gratissima* (Beebrush or Whitebrush) and *Aloysia wrightii*, (Wright’s Beebrush). But Almond verbena is easier to find in garden centers.

Beekeepers should apply the LASI research findings to our “own backyards” by conserving and planting summer blooms near our beeyards. This just may impact the honey bee’s waggle dance of summer, reducing the risky hurdle of long distance summer flights for food. For more details and updates on this on-going research, go to [www.sussex.ac.uk/lasi](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/lasi)

Your questions, comments and observations are welcome and may be used in future articles.

Send to Becky Bender at [RBenderRN@aol.com](mailto:RBenderRN@aol.com).

## Honey-Brushed Pear Crostinis



### *Ingredients*

- 8 tsps - honey
- 8 - crostini breads
- 2 - Red Anjou pears
- 4 tsps - bleu cheese, crumbled
- 1 tbsp - fresh rosemary, finely diced

### *Directions*

Brush each crostini bread with 1 teaspoon of honey. Next, cut pears into ½-inch slices (about 8). Place a pear slice on each honey-brushed crostini bread. Top with ½ tablespoon of bleu cheese. Garnish with a pinch of diced rosemary.

*From the National Honey Board*





## The Brantley Column

*from S. S. Brantley*  
*East Texas Beekeepers Association*

There is no stored nectar in most of my hives. I should be seeing supers filling with capped honey and be thinking about extracting soon. Instead, when I look at my hives, I see one or two may have seven to the ten wax foundation medium frames drawn out enough to see wax when you look down at the top of the frames, but little capped honey. The second super on top with plastic foundation has no activity at all, they have not even drawn out the comb.

It does not look good for filling those supers this late in the season. Most of the blooming plants have come and gone -- Privet Hedge, Prickly Ash, Crimson Clover, most of the Vetch and Bois D'Ark (or bow dark tree as we say in East Texas) are done. Still to come, I hope, are Sumac and the stand-by in many places, the Chinese Tallow Tree. This week I did see a small patch of Arrowleaf Clover still blooming. A beekeeping friend has some hives on 70 acres of white clover and the bees have been working it very hard.

Apparently I am not the only one with no honey in the supers. Several beekeepers have reported little or no capped honey to date. Others have reported finding honey stored in the top brood box but little in the super. The Baton Rouge Bee Lab researchers are saying that the season is running two weeks late. I guess we will have to wait and see what happens by July before we know if we have honey to extract. As I am writing this article, we are headed in to a cool, wet week. We appreciate the rain but a week of cool, cloudy weather will not help the nectar gathering situation. If it rains for several days, the bees will sit inside the hive and eat the nectar already stored.

How do you tell how many bees are in your hive? Or do you even worry about the number? How do you know when to add another brood box or super? You may often hear that it is time to add another box when you have 8 to 10 frames of bees. What exactly does 8 to 10 frames of bees mean and how do you recognize it? If you have a screened bottom board, it is easy to judge how many frames of bees are in your hive. Remove the Outer and Inner covers and look straight down at the top bars of the frames. If you cannot see the ground between two frames, we would say that was a frame of bees. There are so many bees

working on that frame that you cannot see thorough the gap to the ground. If you look down and see the ground, then do not count that frame as a frame of bees. If you can only see ground between the two outside frames, you have 8 frames of bees and it is time to add another box.

I have been getting reports from the Texas and Louisiana bee clubs about some problems with queens purchased from breeders and installed in local hives. Apparently, some purchased queens are being superseded rather quickly. The queens are accepted by the hive and begin to lay, some looking very productive. Then suddenly the queen is gone. The beekeeper is in a scramble to find a replacement queen. If you follow my column, you can probably guess what I am going to say next. If you have started some Nucs, you have immediate access to a replacement queen. I encourage you one more time to start some Nucs. Pull a couple frames with eggs and nurse bees (make sure you don't get the queen) and place them in a Nuc. You can make 2, 3 or 5 frame Nucs. If you do this in the next couple of weeks before the honey flow ends, there will still be plenty of drones in the hives for a queen to successfully mate.

There appears to have been a lot of swarming this spring. After struggling through the cold winter, bees seemed to expand rapidly when the blooms started to form. Good beekeepers try to manage their hives to prevent swarming but we are not always successful. It is tough to see half your hive gone just at the time you think they should be putting up honey for you! On the other hand, swarming season is the opportunity to capture bees and start some more hives. Another possibility is to hang swarm boxes, often called "bait hives", and try to entice swarming bees to move in. You can now purchase small time-release vials of synthetic pheromone to hang inside the bait hives. The vials can be ordered from the bee suppliers for just a couple bucks each. Swarms caught after the honey flow ends will need supplemental feeding of sugar syrup for the bees to draw out wax and start new brood. The old saying, "A swarm in July is not worth a fly" will be true if you do not feed the captured swarm. Also, remember to close the entrance down to only one bee width to prevent the new hive from being robbed.



# Chief of Apiary Inspection - Texas Apiary Inspection Service

*from Mark Dykes*

Greetings from Texas Apiary Inspection Service. I hope everyone's spring is going well and your bees are still buzzing from the spring honey flow. I'd like to start out with some good news on winter colony loss (been a long time since you've heard those words I bet). Bee Informed Partnership (<http://beeinformed.org/>) has released the preliminary winter loss numbers and the national average is down to 23.2%. That's 6.4% lower than the 8 year average of 29.6%. Let's all hope this is not just a blip but the start of a trend for lower winter loss.

Closer to home things are buzzing over here at the Janice and John G. Thomas Honey bee Facility. After a very successful meeting with your TBA president and vice-president we are moving forward with a reorganization of the Texas Apiary Inspection Service. Part of this reorganization will be to review the current honey bee regulations and make amendments where necessary to better reflect the current state of the industry. It is my hope that we can also include a more robust educational component in the current apiary inspection service. In order to do this we will need to know what areas are a priority in the industry. With this in mind we are creating an industry survey to help gauge the needs of the beekeepers of Texas. This survey is currently in development and should be ready by July, so please keep an eye out for it in your email inbox and fill it out. With your help I know we can make TAIS one of the top apiary inspection services in the US!

Lastly I want to share with you a little about my recent trip to South Africa where I was studying the African and Cape honey bees. I assisted a group of researchers from the University of Florida's Honey Bee Research Lab with collecting bees to help develop the next generation of identification techniques. In our travels we met and collected bees from about 14 different beekeepers throughout South Africa. What was interesting to me was that a majority of the beekeepers listed theft as their number one cause for colony loss (one beekeeper reported losing about 1200 supers in a year). However according to Mike Allsopp, the center manager for the honey bee research section of South



Africa's Agricultural Research Council, American foulbrood is making the rounds in the Western Cape region. This is raising some concern for local beekeepers, however since a majority of colonies are wild caught swarms the impacts on the industry are not as dramatic as they would be here in the States. On another interesting note, during collections we found varroa mites to be throughout a majority of the apiaries we sampled in South Africa. Unlike in the United States and Europe the mites do not seem to be negatively effecting the colonies. This appears to back up the findings of a current paper released on PLOSone (<http://www.plosone.org/>) where the effects of varroa mites were studied in Kenya (Evaluation of the Distribution and Impacts of Parasites, Pathogens, and Pesticides on Honey Bee (*Apis mellifera*) Populations in East Africa; Muil, Patch, Frazier, et al.). All in all it was an eye opening trip (we found rhino dung makes outstanding smoker fuel) and a great learning experience on effective ways to manage African honey bees.

Well I look forward to seeing you all at the TBA summer meeting here in College Station and as always if you have a good bee joke or just have a question please email me at [Mark.Dykes@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Mark.Dykes@ag.tamu.edu).

## *Africa Research Group*

*Left to Right:*

*Tomas Bustamante, Ashley Mortensen,  
Dr. Daniel Schmehl and Mark Dykes  
(Yes, Dr. Schmehl is holding rhino dung  
which is great smoker fuel!)*





# Dino-Beekeepers Association

*by Dwain Cleveland, Founder*

In March 2011 the Dino-Bee club in Glen Rose, TX, held its first meeting. At first, meetings were held monthly in the garden room of Chachi's restaurant. We started out with few attending the meetings but, with word of mouth, our website, Texas Beekeepers Association website, newspapers, etc., the Dino-Bee club had spread its wings and was flying.

We were growing in numbers and finding it absolutely amazing how many people showed an interest in the honey bee.

Beekeepers were checking their hives and finding the bees had simply disappeared! Why was this happening? No one seems to know – there was a lot of speculation – one theory being that it was the neonicotinoids being used to treat seeds for pest control. At this point no one really knows why beekeepers are experiencing Colony Collapse Disorder but hopefully one day soon this epidemic will cease once the cause is found out.

The plight of the honey bee finally sparked interest in the Texas State Capitol as the lawmakers began to see how very important the honey bee is. The loss of our pollinators would affect not only us but generations to come. Thanks to Dennis Herbert and others, a law was passed allowing Texas Beekeepers an agricultural tax exemption on their property depending on their acreage. 2012 was the first year to allow the exemption.

The Dino-Bee club has gone from the garden room to the larger dining room at Chachi's. Needing even more room we are now holding meetings in the roomy Senior Citizen's building.

The club has been fortunate to host the Texas Honey Queen and Princess as speakers. It's always exciting and a pleasure to have these beautiful and very knowledgeable beekeepers visit us.

At the March meeting, Dino-Bee club finished the first session of six classes for beginning beekeepers. The more "seasoned" beekeepers mentored the newcomers by showing films, just talking to them and teaching the very basics such as what a bee hive looks like and what is inside – how to start a smoker –

what is a drone? – etc. etc. – answering lots and lots of questions. There are no "dumb" questions in beekeeping. Even the old timers in this interesting and mysterious step into the world of honey bees do not "know it all". It is a continuous learning and re-learning process.

In the month of April the club is waiting in great anticipation for the arrival of 42 hives of bees ordered by individuals who either wanted to add to their existing bee yard, or the beginner getting his/her first hive of bees. Thanks to Blake Shook of the Collin County Bee Club and owner of Desert Creek Honey for bringing in hives from the California almond growers and selling them at an affordable price. These honey bees will hopefully find an abundance of crops to pollinate and wildflowers to gather nectar.

Many of our members are often called upon to help someone in distress because there are bees hanging in a tree or under the eaves or wherever, causing them not to be able to mow their lawn or even to go outside. They want the bees GONE! The beekeeper dons his white suit and goes out and retrieves the bees, hopefully being able to also retrieve their queen.

The beekeepers is able to relocate the bees – put them in a hive box, making him or herself a new hive of bees.

At Dino-Bee club's last meeting, in March, we were delighted to see an attendance of 75+ members and guests. This has been an amazing growth and we expect to keep moving forward.

As the founder of the Dino-Bee club I want to invite anyone wanting to learn about bees (or maybe someone just likes honey) to please come visit our club. We meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at the Senior Citizens building, 209 SW Barnard St., Glen Rose, TX.

I'm thankful for those that helped me with beekeeping and helped me with things I knew nothing about. Thanks to all of you that helped the Dino-Bee club be a success.

**For so work the honey-bees,  
Creatures that by a rule in nature teach  
The act of order to a peopled kingdom.**

*William Shakespeare  
Henry V*

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# BEGINNERS' BOX

*from Cameron Crane, Liberty County Beekeepers*

## Beekeeping Safety

**The first time** you take the lid off the hive, hear the buzzing, and find yourself surrounded by bees can be a little scary for some, for others it's like "oh wow... cool", but keeping yourself safe is relatively easy. Many tactics for beehive safety involve plain old common sense. Though we have been conditioned to think of them as attackers who live to sting us, bees are by nature defensive and reactive. Bees become defensive only when threatened in some way. They release an alarm pheromone (a smelly chemical that alerts the other bees of an attack), and then the odor gets the hive up in arms and the beekeeper is in for a bad day. One of the keys to beekeeping is doing your best to avoid putting the bees on the defensive.

**What's that smell?** It is advisable not to come to any beekeeping activity wearing perfume, cologne, or scented hair products as bees are attracted to floral and sweet scents. Because scents and pheromones are so important to life in a bee colony, they are also an easy way to cause a defensive response. When you're on the way to visit your bees, avoid fragrances (hair products, perfumes, aftershave or deodorant) and other odors or fumes. For example, you might want to avoid filling your car with gas on the way to your hives.

**See the light** Most bees' natural enemies are dark colored. A beekeeper wearing dark colored clothing may be mistaken for a bear, skunk or raccoon. New blue jeans seem to upset them especially, perhaps it's the smell of the dye, because older jeans are ok. We recommend that you wear light colored clothing. There is a reason most beekeeper clothing is white.

**Make the move** When working closely with bees, particularly bee-hives, move slowly. When handling bees on equipment, be gentle and careful. Dropping a top cover, box or frame of bees is a sure way to upset the bees and a likely way to get stung. Bees are sensitive to movement and light. Remove your jewelry when you work with them. The sunlight glittering off your rings or watch may agitate your bees. Tuck or tie back long hair, both to keep it out of the way and to keep it from moving in the wind.

**Timing is everything** When handling bees, it's important to remember that a hive is moody. Knowing the natural rhythms of your bees is essential for staying safe. If you take the time to consider a few things before working the hive, your next bee encounter is bound to be more enjoyable. If possible, choose a day that is bright, sunny and warm. Rainy or hot, muggy days can make bees more defensive. Thunderclouds or storms are to be avoided, as environmental factors during these times are thought to cause bees to be more irritable.

**Working the hive on a cold day** can be dangerous for the bees. The way bees stay warm is to bunch together in a cluster. Honey bees begin to cluster if the temperature drops below about 57 degrees. If you work the hive after the cluster has formed, you may cause the bees to become disorganized; and they may not get their cluster rebuilt before the temperature drops, causing the hive to be more susceptible to the cold. If you must manipulate them during colder weather, do so in the morning to give them plenty

of time to get their cluster organized again before temperatures plummet. One of my cold weather rules is: If the bees are not flying in and out of the hive, then it's too cold to open it.

You can't always manipulate the hive at the best possible time, so getting to know your bees is essential. The mood of the bees changes from day to day. If you open the hive and the bees seem agitated, you can always close the hive and come back another day.

**Beekeepers protect themselves** by using a smoker and wearing a veil, gloves, long-sleeved shirts and long pants, or a one-piece coverall. Regularly checking a bee hive's progress ensures the hive's strength and health. During these checks, beekeepers look for new brood, storage of pollen and honey, and individual bee health indicators (pest and diseases). They also monitor the space available for the laying queen. Protective equipment is recommended at least until you are familiar with and comfortable with your bees and know your bee's level of aggressiveness. The veil is the most important piece of protective gear. Most beekeepers will not work bees without it. Being stung on the face or neck is more dangerous than other places. A sting to your eye or inside your mouth or throat could be particularly harmful.

Be sure to wash your beekeeping gear regularly. Alarm scents stay in the fabric and can upset the next hive you approach. So even if garments look clean, they should be washed regularly.

**Smoke 'em if you got 'em** One of the great tools of the beekeeping trade is the smoker. Smoke has been used for centuries to help control bees. Remember the alarm pheromone that gets the bees excited and triggers their defensive responses? The smoker masks those scents. Also when the bees smell the smoke, they think their home might be burnt up, so they gorge themselves on honey to have resources to build a new home. When the bees gorge themselves, they are not inclined to sting you. Stinging you would cause the bee to die, and they are holding onto their resources to build a new hive.

A smoker is a relatively simple tool. It consists of a container for fuel (anything from pine needles to cow chips) and a bellows of some type. Using a smoker is often referred to as an art form. It sometimes takes a little practice, but the key seems to be patience. You aren't getting the best result from your smoker if you puff a couple of times and then start working. Most resources agree that waiting at least two minutes after applying smoke to the bees is optimum. Giving the smoke time to take affect can save time in the long run. Don't over smoke them, you want them to smell the smoke not choke on it.

Rev. Langstroth makes a strong point in his book about treating the bees with sugar water instead of stressing them out with smoke. I started this year "smokeless" – only using sugar water spray. My hive kit has both a smoker and sugar water sprayer. My preliminary findings are that on my calmer hives a few sprays of sugar water mist is just fine with the bees and me. Spraying them with sugar water is much easier than firing up



the smoker. On my more aggressive hives, the sugar water is not enough to keep the bees calm. So, I'm back to smoking but only on my hives that are more defensive by nature.

**Unavoidable stings** In the end, however, you will get stung. Prepare yourself for that eventuality. No matter how much protective gear you wear or how much research and planning you do, you will be in close proximity and you will get stung. You will get used to the occasional sting. The sting pain goes away quickly in most cases. Some swelling is normal. If you know that you are deathly allergic to bee stings, beekeeping isn't the right vocation for you.

**Attitude makes all the difference** None of this preparation, protective gear, timing, smoke or lack of deodorant will do you any good if you don't approach the bees with the right attitude. Bees are like dogs, they can smell fear (quite literally.) When working bees, it is imperative that you are calm, cool and collected. Calm, sure movements are best. Stay relaxed. Don't work too fast or with quick, jerky movements. Bees are sensitive to vibrations, so bumping or banging on the hive can set off their defensive response. In the beginning, you may feel awkward and frightened. Don't worry. This will pass with time and practice. Wear more protective gear until you get comfortable. Make sure your equipment is in top form and that your gloves fit you well in order to make manipulating the bees easier. Eventually, you'll be the old hand in the business.

#### **Ensuring Neighbors' Safety**

There are two schools of thought about how to work with

urban neighbors. Some choose not to tell anyone about their hive until or unless there is a complaint. Others are up front about their beekeeping, providing fresh honey and openly addressing misconceptions about honey bees.

A smart beekeeper will take proactive approaches to reduce neighbors' bee concerns. For example, if weather is dry, honey bees will use a neighbor's swimming pool as a water source. Putting a bird bath or other water supply in the area will reduce the likelihood that bees will become a poolside nuisance.

Choosing the bee hive's location carefully will reduce safety concerns as well. For example, bee hives shouldn't be placed near sidewalks or play areas where bee air traffic may pose a threat. Instead, the urban hive should be tucked into the corner of a yard away from regular human activity. If needed, beekeepers can help direct the flight pattern of their honey bees by installing a section of 6 to 8 foot tall privacy fence 6 feet in front of the hive entrance. Bees leaving the hive will fly up and over the fence achieving a height where they will not encounter children playing or a neighbor working in the yard.

Hive swarms are nearly impossible to predict or prevent. Some beekeepers will take precaution and set up a bait hive. A bait hive is an empty hive that can be easily accessed and claimed by a bee swarm, reducing the risk of swarming bees in a neighbor's tree.

Some beekeepers keep an extra pair of gloves, veil and coverall in order to invite curious neighbors for a bee-hive inspection. Creating educational opportunities can go a long way to dispelling safety concerns about honey bees.

Bee Safe and Bee happy

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## **Calendar of Events**

**TBA Summer Clinic  
Saturday June 7th  
at  
Texas A&M Honey Bee Lab**

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



## 2014 Texas Honey Queen Hayden Wolf

### Neonicotinoids Part 3

It's been a very busy two months for me with lots of traveling. I have been immensely enjoying representing you around the state. Check out the table at the end of my article to see what I've been up to.

Our hives are mostly all doing well, but I'm especially pleased with our new top bar hive! It's still small, but growing slowly. My dad and I went on a swarm call a few weeks ago to retrieve a beautiful basketball sized swarm. Only we didn't realize it was quite that big until we got there with only a 5 frame nuc box. We put all the bees in there that would fit anyway, since it was too far to go back home and get a bigger box. We even got the queen in there and were pretty excited about getting a swarm that big. After we got home, we waited a little while to take the cork out of the entrance so the bees could get out; only none came out. Upon opening the hive we found a very sad sight; a 4 inch thick layer of dead bees. We figure they probably didn't even make it home alive due to the heat they created and too much crowding. I tell you this story so that you won't make the same mistake we did. Now whenever we go on a swarm call, we'll be taking a 5 frame and a 10 box with us!

This month's article is a continuation on neonicotinoids and a recent study done on them. I was in the process of researching and writing an article about Roundup/Glyphosate when a new study on Neonicotinoids came out. I woke up one morning to find the news buzzing about this study that "proved neonicotinoids are the cause of Colony Collapse Disorder" (CCD). Of course, I was very interested and decided to write my article on it. The study which was published May 9th in the *Bulletin of Insectology* (an obscure Italian Journal), looked hopeful at first, but turned out to be a bit disappointing. It was led by Chensheng Lu of Harvard. If you'll remember, I mentioned one of his previous studies in my last article.

During the winter of 2012-2013, Lu and other researchers, along with the Worcester County (Massachusetts) Beekeepers Association studied 18 honey bee colonies at three different locations. At each location he gave 1/3 of the colonies high-fructose corn syrup spiked with Imidacloprid (a neonic). Another 1/3 were fed syrup with Clothianidin (a neonic), and the remaining 1/3 (the controls) were fed plain syrup. In six of the twelve colonies that were treated with neonics, bees died at increased rates and left the hives. Of the remaining neonic treated hives Lu states "The honey bee clusters in the six surviving neonicotinoids treated colonies were very small, and were either without queen bees, or had no brood". Only one of the six control

colonies was lost, which was reportedly due to Nosema, though no tests were done to confirm that.

Shortly after Lu's study was released, a plethora of articles and scientists came out discrediting and finding flaws with his study. Some of the articles posed valid points questioning Lu's research methods and calling his attempts to perform bee research "amateurish". Even Randy Oliver ([scientificbeekeeping.com](http://scientificbeekeeping.com)) brought to light some valid problems with Lu's study.

One of the criticisms was the high dosage (non-field realistic levels) of neonics that Lu used to treat the hives. Another question was whether he really simulated CCD.

It's important with all the pros and cons concerning these studies that we don't lose sight of the real question: is there a connection between neonics and CCD?

Just based on its Mode of Action, I still see a correlation between neonic and CCD. If we look at how it affects the targeted insects in comparison to honey bees we might see a similarity between what's happening with the bees. Take the termite, for example. Once they have eaten the neonic based termite bait, they go out to feed and can't find their way back home. This is one of the ways neonics are meant to work so it's no wonder we're seeing similar problems with bees.

Another point to consider is that field bees are exposed to more than just neonics. Combining one or more pesticide can increase the toxicity of the pesticides. Five different hives may go to five different places to work the flowers and be exposed to a broad array of pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides bringing back contaminated pollen and nectar to the hive to feed larvae. A combination of sub-lethal neonicotinoids and a fungicide or herbicide for example could have a much greater effect than originally anticipated, especially in the case of bee larvae which are more sensitive than adult bees to pesticides. I suggest reading this article/study entitled "Common Crop Pesticides Kill Honey Bee Larvae in the Hive: <http://bit.ly/1r6UADh>

Some say that if we ban neonics, we will have to go back to using older pesticides that we know are harmful to the bees. Many of the older pesticides when sprayed kill the bees outright, not giving them a chance to make it back to the hive. Neonics on the other hand are systemic, delivering sub-lethal doses over a long period of time, and compromising the integrity of the entire colony. The question is though, if the older pesticides are worse than neonics, then why didn't we have CCD back then? Has something else changed? There may be a reasonable answer to this but so far I have not run across it. Perhaps something else is going



on here that we haven't yet found.

In my next article I'll be looking at the herbicide Roundup/ glyphosate and how it may effect bees.

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](mailto:texashoneyqueenchair@gmail.com) or (214)-578-3477

And don't forget to **"like"** and **"share"** the Texas Honey Queen Facebook Page and **follow us on Twitter @TxHoneyQandP**.

I will be at the Texas Beekeepers Association Annual Summer

Clinic on June 7th at the Texas A&M Honey Bee Research Lab and I hope many of you will join us there! I will be giving two presentations in the afternoon on the "do's and don'ts of teaching the public (and your neighbors) about honey bees". I will also be selling our new set of cards that Princess Shannon and I designed. The proceeds go to support the Honey Queen Program as we represent YOU across Texas. Be sure to ask me about them if you see me at the clinic. Have a wonderful summer, and may your honey harvest be plentiful!



*Hayden Wolf at the Houston Livestock Show*



*Seaborne Elementary School*



*Earth Day at Camp Tyler with ETBA Honey Princess, Willow Lanchester*



*Speaking on Neonicotinoids  
at Dino-Beekeepers Association*

Date	Event	Location	Type	Number of People Reached	Notes
3/21/14 - 3/23/14	Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo	Houston, TX	Booth Work	400,508	3 days of booth work, rode in the Rodeo's Grand Entry and visited NASA Space Center
3/25/14	Bondy Intermediate	Pasadena, TX	School Talk	163	7th Grade, five 50 minute presentations
3/25/14	Harris County Beekeeper's Mtg.	Pasadena, TX	Bee Meeting	72	Spoke briefly
3/26/14	Bondy Intermediate	Pasadena, TX	School Talk	172	7th - 8th Grade five 50 minute presentations
3/27/14	Texas Capitol	Austin, TX	Lobbying Effort		Left Honey and brochures for my representatives
3/27/14	Williamson County Area Beekeeper's Mtg.	Georgetown, TX	Bee Meeting	118	Awarded Youth Beekeeping Scholarships, spoke briefly, helped students build boxes, frames
3/28/14	Old Town Elementary	Round Rock, TX	School Talk	160	K-3rd Grade, 2 presentations
3/29/14	Central Texas Beekeeping School	Brenham, TX	Beekeeping Classes	450	Assisted with Beekeeping 101 class, manned TBA table and attended classes
4/5/14 - 4/6/14	Montgomery County Fair	Conroe, TX	Booth Work	10,200	With Montgomery County Beekeepers Association
4/7/14	B.B.Rice Elementary	Conroe, TX	School Talk	120	2nd Grade, one 30 min presentation
4/8/14	The Courier of Montgomery County	Conroe, TX	Online Newspaper Article	30,000	Article on MCBA booth at Montgomery Fair and my school talk at B.B. Rice
4/3/14	Glen Rose News	Glen Rose, TX	Newspaper Article		Picture and short paragraph about Dino-Bee Club and my talk on Neonics
4/3/14	Glen Rose Reporter	Glen Rose, TX	Newspaper Article		Picture and article about my trip to Glen Rose and talk on Neonics
4/8/14	Dino-Beekeepers Meeting	Glen Rose, TX	Bee Meeting	70+	Powerpoint on Neon-icotinoids and bees
4/26/14	Earth Day East Texas	Tyler, TX	Booth Work	100+	With ETBA
5/2/14	Flower Mound Elementary	Flower Mound, TX	School Talk	110	2nd Grade, four 20 min presentations
5/2/14	Seabourn Elementary	Mesquite, TX	School Talk	545	Three 25 min presentations
5/17/14	CCHBA Picnic	Wylie, TX	Picnic	77	Helped judge honey dessert contest and auction

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## 2014 Texas Honey Princess Shannon LaGrave

### The Significance of Honey and Beekeeping in Ancient Times

It is common knowledge that beekeeping took place in ancient times, as can be seen in early African cave paintings and Egyptian artwork. The bee was a symbol of Lower Egypt, as it was well



irrigated by the Nile and filled with flowering plants. Egypt was the center of beekeeping in the ancient world. The papyrus Harris reveals that the value of honey to the Egyptians was enormous and came from bees both domestic and wild. The pharaoh sent royal guards with the honey harvesters to protect the golden commodity.

*"I appointed for thee archers and collectors of honey, bearing incense to deliver their yearly impost into thy august treasury"* ~Papyrus Harris

Honey was considered a gift of great value, used to gain passage in foreign lands, it was also used as an ingredient in the making of ointments and for medicinal purposes. Without sugar refining processes, honey was one of the only ways to sweeten the tables of ruling powers. Thutmose III required honey as part of the tribute paid to Egypt, it is recorded that Djahi (part of Canaan) sent 470 "jars" and Syria sent 264 "jars" Honey, a liquid gold, held its value in the ancient world. There were even accounts of honey being stolen due to its valuable nature.

*"Behold, it was the sweetness which has seduced me to do it."*

~Middle Kingdom text translated by I. Hafemann



In Hebrew custom, Canaan was considered the "land of milk and honey". In the Old Testament alone Honey is mentioned 52 times. It was most often used as a description of rich fertile lands as we can see in Ezekiel. *"On that day I swore to them that I would bring them out of the land of Egypt into a land that I had searched out for them, a land flowing with milk and honey, the most glorious of all lands"*. Biblically, honey was also used as a metaphor. Solomon used honey in the book of Proverbs an example of wealth, glory and graciousness.

*"Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body."*

~ Proverbs 16:24

It seems clear that it is in fact actual honey that is referenced in scripture, however only recently have historians acknowledged that these references were to honey and not just a sweet fig juice. Due to discoveries in Tel Rehov in Israel, it has been acknowledged that the Israelites had a large-scale operations in the beekeeping industry. It is assumed that the Israelites brought the practice of beekeeping with them from Egypt as the hives excavated are extremely similar to the hives depicted in Egyptian art. There have been over 100 hives excavated at this location, each hive is a long tube fashioned out of unbaked clay. One end



is a small hole, assumed to be the entrance for the bees. The other end has a lid that was removed by the beekeeper to aid in removing honey. Until this discovery, actual beehives had never been revealed in any archeological endeavor in the near east.

*"While bees and beekeeping are depicted in ancient artwork, nothing similar to the Rehov hives has ever been found before"* ~Amihai Mazar of Jerusalem's Hebrew University.

From the remains of bees, found in the hives it has been learnt that these ancient beekeepers did not utilize the native bee but had them transported from Turkey, the bees native to Israel are known to be less productive while the bees transported from Turkey were mild mannered and strong honey producers. All of these remains were dated to be from the 10th and 9th century B.C, making them about 3000 years old. The resourcefulness and ingenuity of the ancient Biblical beekeepers, shows their depth of understanding on the importance and value of Bees and Honey. *"My son, eat honey, for it is good, and the drippings of the honeycomb are sweet to your taste."* ~ Proverbs 24:13

Date	Event	Location	Type	Number of people reached	Notes
3/24/14	A+ Prep	Plano, TX	School	23	2 presentations
3/29/14	CTBA School	Brenham, TX	Convention - educational	450	
3/31/14	LS&S Preschool	Wylie, TX	School	46	2 presentations
4/1/14	Merryhill School	McKinney, TX	School	25	1 presentation
4/4/14	First Presbyterian Church	Richardson, TX	Monthly Community Gathering	75	3 presentations
4/14/14	Children's Discovery Center	Plano, TX	School	58	1 presentation
4/14/14	CCHBA Meeting	McKinney, TX	Local Club	170	Report of activity
4/26/14	Girl Scouts Earth Day	Carrollton, TX	Community Event	300	20 presentations
5/2/14	Raptor Center Science and Research Day	Lucas, TX	Community Event	188	5 presentations
5/7/14	Kids Connection Preschool	Dallas, TX	School	75	1 presentation
5/8/14	Princeton Elementary School	Princeton, TX	School	97	2 presentations
5/9/14	McGowen Elementary	McKinney, TX	School	122	1 presentation
5/12/14	CCHBA Meeting	McKinney, TX	Local Club	150	Report of activity
5/13/14	Children's Discovery	Plano, TX	School	76	2 presentations
5/14/14 - 5/20/14	Strawberry Festival	Pasadena, TX	Festival	60,000	Booth Work
5/16/14	Jensen Elementary School	Pasadena, TX	School	45	3 presentations
5/19/14	Montessori School		School	31	1 presentation



## Texas Honey Queen Chair Rachael Seida

Dear Texas Beekeepers,

I am thrilled to say that since late March, our Queen and Princess have completed over 20 events (Break that down to more than 2 events per week!) and reached THOUSANDS of people!

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, and Corpus Christi** all come to mind (though certainly not limited to those areas!) For those who would like to invite us to their area: hosting 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 local honey queen program. Progress is being made on the manual, though a bit slow. However, much more exciting is that the Central Texas Beekeepers Association is taking steps to form their own Honey Queen Program! We are very excited for them, and hope everyone will congratulate and encourage any future Honey Queens and Princess's from CTBA.

We look forward to seeing all of you soon.

Rachael Seida, [rachaelseida@hotmail.com](mailto:rachaelseida@hotmail.com)  
(214) 578-3477

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**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/](http://www.texasbeekeepers.org/honey-locator/) and complete the application.**

**TBA T-shirts, Polos and Caps  
Honey Queen Notelets  
ETBA Honey Cooking Book  
at [www.texasbeekeepers.org](http://www.texasbeekeepers.org)**



# USDA Press Release

## Yearly Survey Shows Better Results for Pollinators, but Losses Remain Significant

*USDA Announces Fall Summit on Bee Nutrition and Forage; Launches "Bee Watch" Website to Broadcast Bee Activity and Increase Public Awareness of the Role of Pollinators in Crop Production*

WASHINGTON, May 15, 2014 - A yearly survey of beekeepers, released today, shows fewer colony losses occurred in the United States over the winter of 2013-2014 than in recent years, but beekeepers say losses remain higher than the level that they consider to be sustainable. According to survey results, total losses of managed honey bee colonies from all causes were 23.2 percent nationwide. That number is above the 18.9 percent level of loss that beekeepers say is acceptable for their economic sustainability, but is a marked improvement over the 30.5 percent loss reported for the winter of 2012-2013, and over the eight-year average loss of 29.6 percent.

More than three-fourths of the world's flowering plants rely on pollinators, such as bees, to reproduce, meaning pollinators help produce one out of every three bites of food Americans eat.

"Pollinators, such as bees, birds and other insects are essential partners for farmers and ranchers and help produce much of our food supply. Healthy pollinator populations are critical to the continued economic well-being of agricultural producers," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "While we're glad to see improvement this year, losses are still too high and there is still much more work to be done to stabilize bee populations."

There is no way to tell why the bees did better this year, according to both Pettis and Dennis vanEngelsdorp, a University of Maryland assistant professor who is the leader of the survey and director of the Bee Informed Partnership. Although the survey, conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the University of Maryland Bee Informed Partnership shows improvement, losses remain above the level that beekeepers consider to be economically sustainable. This year, almost two-thirds of the beekeepers responding reported losses greater than the 18.9 percent threshold.

"Yearly fluctuations in the rate of losses like these only demonstrate how complicated the whole issue of honey bee health has become, with factors such as viruses and other pathogens, parasites like varroa mites, problems of nutrition from lack of diversity in pollen sources, and even sublethal effects of pesticides combining to weaken and kill bee colonies," said Jeff Pettis, co-author of the survey and research leader of the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Bee Research Laboratory in Beltsville, Maryland. ARS is USDA's chief intramural scientific research agency.

The winter losses survey covers the period from October 2013 through April 2014. About 7,200 beekeepers responded to the voluntary survey.

A complete analysis of the bee survey data will be published later this year. The summary of the analysis is at <http://beeinformed.org/results-categories/winter-loss-2013-2014/>.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) also announced today that it will hold a summit this fall aimed at addressing the nutrition and forage needs of pollinators. The summit will take place in Washington D.C. on October 20-21 and will be attended by a consortium of public,

private, and non-governmental organizations. Attendees will discuss the most recent research related to pollinator loss and work to identify solutions.

Additionally, today USDA launched the People's Garden Apiary bee cam at the USDA headquarters in Washington, D.C. as an additional effort to increase public awareness about the reduction of bee populations and to inform Americans about actions they can take to support the recovery of pollinator populations. The USDA "Bee Watch" website ([www.usda.gov/beewatch](http://www.usda.gov/beewatch)) will broadcast honey bee hive activity live over the Internet 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Created in 2010, the People's Garden Apiary is home to two beehives. The bees are Italian queens, the most common bee stock and the same used in many honey bee colonies throughout the United States.

In March of 2014, Secretary Vilsack created a Pollinator Working Group, under the leadership of Deputy Secretary Krysta Harden, to better coordinate efforts, leverage resources, and increase focus on pollinator issues across USDA agencies. USDA personnel from ten Department agencies (Agricultural Research Service, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Farm Services Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Economic Research Service, Forest Service, Agricultural Marketing Service, Risk Management Agency and Rural Development) meet regularly to coordinate and evaluate efforts as USDA strives toward improving pollinator health and ensuring our pollinators continuing contributions to our nation's environment and food security.

Earlier this year, USDA made \$3 million available to help agriculture producers in five states (North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan) provide floral forage habitats to benefit pollinating species on working lands. The Honey Bee Pollinator Effort is intended to encourage farmers and ranchers to grow alfalfa, clover and other flowering habitat for bees and other pollinators.

The President's fiscal year 2015 budget proposal provides \$71 million for pollinator health activities through multiple USDA agencies. This includes an increase of \$40 million in combined mandatory and discretionary funds to advance efforts, in consultation with the Environmental Protection Agency and other Federal partners, to respond to the decline in honey bee health and ensure their recovery. This coordinated effort is focused on targeted research that addresses multifactorial stressors, their interaction, and identification and implementation of measures to improve and increase habitat available to pollinators on Federal and private lands. In addition, this initiative will help prevent introductions of invasive bees, bee diseases, and parasites; document the status of honey bee health factors associated with bee losses and honey bee production; and work with stakeholders on best management practices. A coordinated communication strategy, including outreach and education, will engage the public to help solve this important challenge.

# USDA – Focus on Honey Bee Health

*Statement of Jeff Pettis*

*Research Leader USDA - Agricultural Research Service*

*Testimony before the House Committee on Agriculture  
Subcommittee on Horticulture, Research, Biotechnology and Foreign Agriculture  
April 29, 2014*

*from Catch the Buzz*

Chairman Scott, Ranking Member Schrader and members of the subcommittee, I am Dr. Jeff Pettis, Research Leader of the Bee Research Laboratory in Beltsville, Maryland, a research laboratory dedicated to honey bee health and part of the USDA Agricultural Research Service. I am pleased to appear before you to discuss a serious threat to the honey bee and thus our food security in the United States.

Ultimately, if no long-term solutions are developed to slow bee decline, consumers will pay more for the food they buy. The foods that bees are responsible for pollinating tend to be the foods that add vital nutrients, flavor and diversity to our diet: the fruits, nuts and vegetables that maintain health. Bees pollinate more than 90 crops and are responsible for \$15 billion in added crop value. Over half the nation's bees are needed to pollinate almonds alone, a \$3 billion crop with increasing acreage.

One of the biggest problems facing honey bees and beekeepers today is the varroa mite. The varroa mite's full name is Varroa destructor, and it is perhaps the most aptly named parasite ever to enter this country. Varroa destructor is a modern honey bee plague. It has been responsible for the deaths of massive numbers of colonies both within the United States and worldwide. This mite is native to Asia where it normally parasitizes *Apis cerana*, the eastern or Asian honey bee, an entirely different species of honey bee from *Apis mellifera*, or the western honey bee, that was brought to the New World by Europeans, and on which the U.S. now depends for crop pollination. Asian honey bees have some natural defenses against the mite and consequently are rarely seriously affected by the Varroa. European honey bees, on the other hand, have been devastatingly susceptible to varroa mite damage. The simple act of feeding by Varroa, where it pierces the skin of the bee to suck blood, can introduce bacteria and weaken the immune system of bees. Varroa mites also transmit an array of destructive viruses to honey bees, such as deformed wing virus.

When Varroa destructor was first found in the United States in 1987, beekeepers managed more than 3 million colonies for crop pollination and their winter losses were typically about 10 to 15 percent. Today, beekeepers are having trouble maintaining 2.5 million managed colonies, winter losses are averaging over 30 percent a year, and the economic sustainability of beekeeping is at the tipping point. Beekeepers have identified varroa mites as a major problem. The costs of mite controls and replacing hives that only live 1-2 years, as opposed to living 3-5 years before the arrival of Varroa, are all accumulating to the point where varroa mites are making beekeeping no longer financially viable in this country.

For commercial beekeepers, there are currently only three fast-acting treatments for varroa mites: the miticides fluvalinate, coumaphos, and amitraz. While there are also a number of folk remedies and organic treatments, none work as well as these other treatments and all involve more labor and costs to apply. However, varroa mites are adapting and becoming resistant to fluvalinate and coumaphos. Some new treatments are in the pipeline but even a new effective miticide will only provide a short-term solution because it is only a matter of time before the varroa mite will adapt to that miticide as well, continuing the destructive cycle. What beekeepers truly need are long term solutions to varroa mites.

The beekeeper's best hope is research that can build better tools to reduce the size of the varroa mite problem. Researchers at USDA's scientific agencies--the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) are on that trail right now. In ARS, scientists are working with a total budget of approximately \$11 million dollars in FY2014, with approximately \$3 million targeting Varroa specifically. Additional temporary funding of \$1.3 million in 2013 has been provided on bee health through the Areawide Program of ARS. These funds have helped augment the base funds and allow scientists to work closely with commercial beekeepers to try and improve colony survival.

ARS scientists are developing improved best management practices to help beekeepers deal with immediate issues of overcoming varroa mites. By applying microbiological, genomic, physiological, and toxicological approaches, we are creating new tools for beekeepers to build and maintain healthy bee populations. For long-term solutions, ARS is looking to the genetics of both the mite and the honey bee. ARS has an active breeding program designed to increase resistance mechanisms in European honey bees. For example, some bees have a propensity for nest cleaning and grooming behaviors and these have been exploited in breeding programs as control measures. ARS is also working on improving epidemiological nation-wide monitoring of pest and diseases, biochemical disruption and a host of other possibilities.

NIFA is supporting extramural research, extension, and educational programming to scientists, extension specialists and educators to address declines in pollinators. Dozens of competitive and capacity grants are focused on novel strategies to manage the varroa mite, which are expected to better protect pollinators from this devastating pest. Since 2010, NIFA has awarded competitive grants on pollinator health worth an estimated \$13 million dollars,

including approximately \$2.6 million targeting Varroa specifically. Varroa does not act alone on bee health and thus many of these projects take a holistic approach, looking into the multiple factors affecting honey bees and other pollinators. In one NIFA funded project, University of Minnesota extension specialists are assisting honey bee queen breeders in selecting for hygienic behavior, a trait that helps bees defend against varroa mites and other diseases. In another, Cornell scientists are testing the hypothesis that giving colonies smaller hives will provide the mites fewer opportunities to reproduce and this will lower the per capita level of mite infestation of the bees.

The work at USDA is part of a government-wide response to the large and ongoing declines in pollinator populations in the U.S. and world-wide. The President's FY 2015 budget proposes over \$71 million for USDA alone to focus on this issue. This includes a \$25 million initiative to create an Innovation Institute on Pollination and Pollinator Health, a competitive program that will be managed by NIFA. As a measure of the seriousness with which the varroa issue is regarded, USDA hosted a Varroa Summit in February of this year. More than 75 representatives and researchers from beekeeping organizations, agricultural commodity groups, the crop protection industry, universities and federal agencies such as APHIS, ARS, NIFA, NRCS and EPA attended to discuss research needed to solve the problem of varroa mites. The attendees identified numerous specific short-term and long-term research priorities. Most of these concerned the need to develop the underpinnings for new approaches to controlling varroa mites: finding natural biocontrol agents, developing RNA interference as a control measure, developing area-wide management practices and improving best management practices, and identifying genetic markers and breeding for bee traits that will provide varroa survivability. Attendees also recognized the need for more extensive communication between researchers and beekeepers for collection of epidemiological and economic varroa mite data and for transmitting new information from researchers on techniques for controlling varroa. One potential outcome of the Varroa Summit will be an increased level of collaboration between scientists and more public-private and Federal-university partnerships.

But even if the varroa mite problem were solved today, this would not by itself solve all of the problems facing honey bees and beekeepers. In the last 20 years, a whole host of new honey bee pathogens—viruses, bacteria, fungi, mites—have entered the United States. We know that the effects of viruses in particular are significantly exacerbated when coupled with the presence of Varroa. Colony collapse disorder, a syndrome for which scientists still do not have a cause, continues to take a toll on apiaries. Exposure to pesticides in the environment may be weakening bee colonies, possibly making them more susceptible to other stresses. A lack of diversity in nectar and pollen sources may also play a major role in stressing honey bee colonies. The loss of honey bees may also reflect a much larger issue of general pollinator declines, with honey bees acting as an indicator species. The relative contributions of different stressors for CCD is not well understood and solving this problem will take an all hands on deck approach, including research, public education, increased foraging lands and public/private partnerships to address CCD and the larger loss of pollinators.

To meet today's increasing pollination demands, we need well over 3 million managed honey bee colonies in this country. To do that, we need to make beekeeping profitable again and that starts with controlling Varroa destructor.



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**Kevin Rader: [krader@beekeepingins.com](mailto:krader@beekeepingins.com)**

**Noel Epstein: [nepstein@beekeepingins.com](mailto:nepstein@beekeepingins.com)**

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# Pancake Swarm

*from Jeff McMullan, Fort Bend Beekeepers Association*

I got an email (with a photo) asking for help with a swarm of bees:

“Today I found a swarm of bees in my yard and I was wondering if you could help me relocate them. I do enjoy having the bees for my garden but I do not like the idea of having a swarm of them in my yard since I have a 2 and 4 year old. I would like to relocate them versus exterminate them if at all possible. They are in my back yard underneath the largest pecan tree on my property. Feel free to come out anytime to take a look even if I am not home. The back yard is accessible and we have not outside dogs. Let me know if you can help.”



It was a couple days before I responded and it makes a really interesting story. Old-timers call this a “pancake swarm”. It happens when the queen is a very poor flyer and she has landed on the ground, usually very near the nest that the swarm came from. I didn’t see it, but most likely the emitting colony is in the pecan tree there in their back yard. Swarms usually cluster up off the ground on a limb or fence or something while the scout bees search out a new home. The scouts do the familiar honey bee figure-8 dance to guide others to potential nest sites. It was amazing to see all the frantic figure 8’s going on (I wish I’d made a video). But since the queen couldn’t fly, the swarm remained as a “pancake” on the ground with little prospect of survival. To capture the swarm I placed a nuc (baited with old comb) on the ground near the swarm. I scooped up a handful of the bees and dumped them on the front porch. The whole colony quickly marched inside as I lay on my belly to watch hoping to see the queen go inside...no luck.

When I got home with the bees, I gave them a frame of capped brood and a jar of sugar syrup. They were starving! The first quart of syrup was gone in an hour. While the swarm was fairly large (as swarms go), their numbers will increase greatly as

the new baby bees that I gave them start to emerge. In fact, they immediately took to caring for the brood and gathering nectar and pollen to feed the colony. They settled in very well and are now behaving as if they had been in their new home forever.

Of course now I needed to figure out what was wrong with the queen. I made several attempts to take a photo but she refused to sit still for that...scooting around all over the place. Her wings were obviously damaged but I needed a photo to really see what was the matter. I finally succeeded with reluctant help from Joanne...I talked her into holding the frame of brood while I looked for the queen with camera in hand. Success!:



Honey bees are susceptible to a viral disease that causes deformed wings (“deformed wing virus” or DWV...duh?!?). I was worried that she was infected or that her wings had been defective all along. In that case, she would have been unable to make a mating flight and the colony would need a replacement queen. It appears that her wings are tattered (chewed?) and worn, but her full abdomen clearly indicates that she is fertile (fecund in biologist lingo). The foragers are bringing in a lot of pollen now, hopefully an indicator that they need protein to feed new larvae from eggs she has begun to lay. I suspect that the colony will have a problem with her condition and soon begin raising her replacement (a “supercedure” queen).

Pretty cool huh...



# 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](mailto:john@sabinecreekhoney.com)

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## **Alamo Area Beekeepers Association**

Edward Priest - (210) 722-7380  
[edward\\_p@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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](mailto:bcbassociation@gmail.com)  
[www.brazoria-county-beekeepers-association.com](http://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](mailto:CentralTexasBeekeepers@gmail.com)  
[www.centraltexasbeekeepers.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:john@sabinecreekhoney.com)  
P O Box 6 - Josephine, TX 75164  
[www.ccbba.org](http://www.ccbba.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](mailto: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 Burrough - (817) 964-0238  
[dino-beeclub@hotmail.com](mailto:dino-beeclub@hotmail.com)  
[www.dinobee.com](http://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](mailto:dickcounts@bigplanet.com)  
16239 Audrey Lane - Arp, TX 75750  
[www.etba.info](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:info@harriscountybeekeepers.org)  
2300 Belvedere Dr., Baytown, TX 77520  
[www.harriscountybeekeepers.org](http://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](mailto:gbowles@peoplepc.com)  
**Meetings:** 4th Tuesday of each month  
(except December) at A1 Buffet,  
301 S. Valley Mills Drive, Waco @ 6:30 pm



# Local Beekeepers' Associations in Texas

## **Houston Beekeepers Association**

Rita Willhite - (832) 654-7317

*rr.willhite@yahoo.com*

7806 Braeburn Valley Dr. - Houston, TX 77074

*www.houstonbeekeepers.org*

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

## **Liberty County Beekeepers Association**

Cameron Crane - (409) 658-3800

*info@libertycountybeekeepers.org*

2300 Beveledere Dr., Baytown, TX 77520

*www.libertycountybeekeepers.org*

**Meetings:** 1st Tuesday of each month at 7pm  
Business meeting at 6:30pm  
Liberty Agrilife Extension Office  
501 Palmer Avenue, Liberty TX

## **Marshall Beekeeping Association**

Beth Derr - (936) 591-2399

*derrbe@netscape.net*

210 Meadowlark Dr. Jefferson, TX 75657

**Meetings:** 2nd Thursday of each month at Harrison County Extension Office  
102 West Houston St., 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) Latham - (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

## **Travis County Beekeepers Assn.**

Tanya Phillips - (512) 560-3732

*tanyamp@austin.rr.com*

9874 Wier Loop Circle, Austin, TX 78736

**Meetings:** Last Tuesday of the month at 7pm  
Twin Oaks Library, 1800 S 5th St., Austin, TX 78704

## **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 14-3 *by Jimmie Oakley*

## 2014 New Members

4/9	Massaro	Frank	Houston, TX	35	
4/8	Beck	Christina	Denton, TX	35	
4/11	Gaddis	Lee	Marble Falls, TX	35	
4/11	McCutchen	Diane	Brownfield, TX	35	
4/11	Taylor	Russell & Dominique	Irving, TX	50	Family
4/16	Autrey	Roy	New Boston, TX	35	
4/16	Paine	Patrick & Lisa	McKinney, TX	50	Family
4/20	Isbell	Jack & Verna	Killeen, TX	50	Family
4/22	Brouse	Myrta K	Magnolia, TX	35	
4/25	Brown	Tracey	Argyle, TX	35	
4/26	White	Mickey	Goliad, TX	35	
4/26	Taylor	Jackie & Tonya	Haslet, TX	50	Family
4/29	Bierschenk	Ann	Georgetown, TX	35	
5/4	Harman	Robert	Quinlan, TX	35	
5/10	Birdwell	Melissa & Edward Meier	CopperasCove, TX	50	Family
5/10	Rendon	Diana	Florence, TX	35	
5/11	Lanchester	Lanette & Ryan	Tyler, TX	50	Family
5/14	Barron	Whitney	Shallowater, TX	35	
5/14	Phillips	Tanya & Charles Reburn	Austin, TX	50	Family
5/15	Schneider	Mathew	Arlington, TX	35	
5/21	Bonner	Rhonda	Forney, TX	35	
5/21	Scott	Daryl	Richmond, TX	35	
5/22	Schiotis	Cynthia	San Antonio, TX	35	
5/25	Allen	Scott & Jennifer	La Feria, TX	50	Family
5/28	Justis	Charles	Forestburg, TX	35	

## 2014 Renewing Members

4/14	Williams	Allen E.	Burleson, TX	40	
4/21	Herbert	Dennis M.	Saledo, TX	35	
4/24	McCall	Terry D.	Jasper, TX	35	
4/24	Dickey	Gloria	Madisonville, TX	35	13
5/5	Meier	Curtis	Paris, TX	35	
5/14	Fris	Tom	McKinney, TX	100	Century
5/22	Philpott	John & Susan	Gerogetown, TX	50	Family
5/24	Howe	John	Decatur, TX	35	

## Associations Renewing 2014 Membership

4/23	Houston Beekeepers Association	Houston, TX	50	
4/23	Pineywoods Beekeepers Association	Lufkin, TX	50	
4/24	Travis County Beekeepers Association	Austin, TX	50	new assn.

## 2014 Complimentary Membership

4/5	King	Tom	Houston, TX	
4/5	Adams Jr.	John J.	Kingwood, TX	
4/10	Albert	Cody	Cypress, TX	
4/10	Bradley	Duane	Houston, TX	
4/10	Buergers	Nicole	Houston, TX	
4/10	Burnham	Dan	Houston, TX	
4/10	Bush	Don	Alvin, TX	
4/10	Davies	Tom	Houston, TX	
4/10	Dyer	Linda	Houston, TX	
4/10	Eckenfels	Michael	Houston, TX	

## **2014 Complimentary Membership (contd.)**

4/10	Erwin	Ed	Houston, TX	4/18	Hatch	Jeffrey	Lone Oak, TX
4/10	Esco	Linda	New Ulm, TX	4/18	Osborne	Chuck	Gilmer, TX
4/10	Eyster	John	Houston, TX	4/18	Smith	Moody	Tyler, TX
4/10	Fair	Zachery	Pasadena, TX	4/18	Schiller	Pam	Gilmer, TX
4/10	Faris	Shawn	Houston, TX	4/18	Parker	Susan	Mineola, TX
4/10	Fleming	John	Spring, TX	4/18	Kindle	Jack	Quitman, TX
4/10	Hughes	Vicki	Richmond, TX	4/18	Ellis	David	Ben Wheeler, TX
4/10	Kinghorn	Stephanie	Katy, TX	4/18	Baley	Mike	Chandler, TX
4/10	Lee	David R	Katy, TX	4/18	Stone	Chuck	Eustace, TX
4/10	Lemke	Sandra	Houston, TX	4/18	Holladay	John	Athens, TX
4/10	Loeb	Aaron	Houston, TX	4/18	Hunter	Dale	Canton, TX
4/10	McOmie	Diane	Houston, TX	4/24	Bean	John	Belton, TX
4/10	Mores	Harry	Houston, TX	4/24	Stewart	Tina Lim	Austin, TX
4/10	Orr	Rachel	Pearland, TX	4/24	Simmons	Karl	Burnet, TX
4/10	Parsons	Don	Houston, TX	4/24	Wall	Emma	Leander, TX
4/10	Perkins	Wain	Houston, TX	4/24	Jennings	Bart	Austin, TX
4/10	Pfalzer	Henry	Houston, TX	4/24	Messana	Lisa	Liberty Hill, TX
4/10	Pomfret	Laine	Spring, TX	5/22	Horrigian	John	Burnett, TX
4/10	Rench	Craig	Houston, TX	5/22	Keller	Kim & Russell	Smithville, TX
4/10	Ridgeway	Roy	Crosby, TX	5/27	Burns	Pam	Valley View, TX
4/10	Sims	Daryl	Cypress, TX	5/27	De La Cruz	Jesus	Corinth, TX
4/10	Souders	Scott	Houston, TX	5/27	Dickson	Violet	Denton, TX
4/11	Sterling	Michelle Wills	Point, TX	5/27	Comeau	Kim	Vallry View, TX
4/11	Yowell	Robert A	Combine, TX	5/27	Hoops	Patricia	Sherman, TX
4/11	Corley	James S	Canton, TX	5/27	Krell	Beatrix	Flower Mound, TX
4/11	Gray	Chris	Van, TX	5/27	Latham	Katie & Greig	Lucas, TX
4/12	Keats	Samantha	Forney, TX	5/27	Martell	Fred	Rockwall, TX
4/12	Cameron	Diann	Forney, TX	5/27	Peterson	Lindsey	Royce City, TX
4/12	Bryan	Michael	Canton, TX	5/27	Pierce	Pam	Corinth, TX
4/14	Corley	James S	Canton, TX	5/27	Starnater	Greta	Greenville, TX
4/14	Gray	Chris	Van, TX	5/27	Snyder	Kathy & G. Edward	Dallas, TX
4/18	Buchinger	Ken	Whitehouse, TX	5/27	Thielen	Richard Keith	Dallas, TX
4/18	Agee	Dan	Mt. Vernon, TX	5/27	Jordan	Kathy	Corinth, TX
4/18	Sullens	Gabe	Overton, TX				

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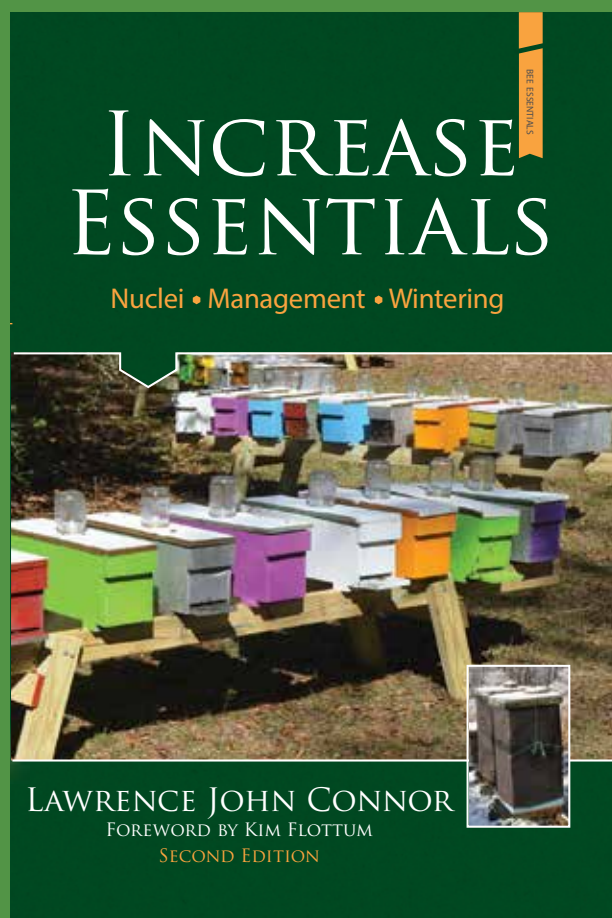
**Jimmie L. Oakley**  
425 Sapphire Lane  
Jarrell, TX 76537

**Phone:** (512) 388-3630

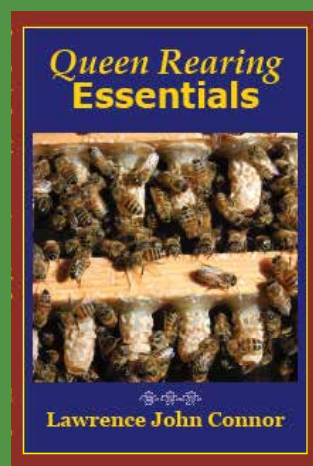
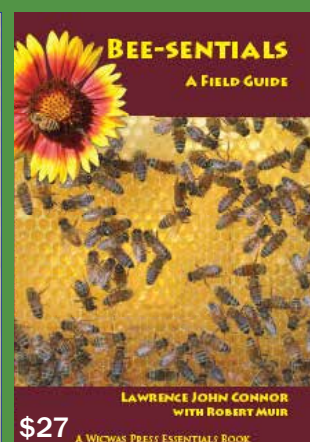
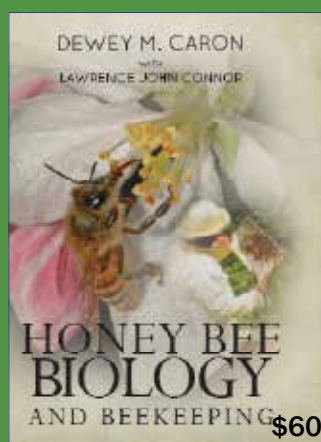
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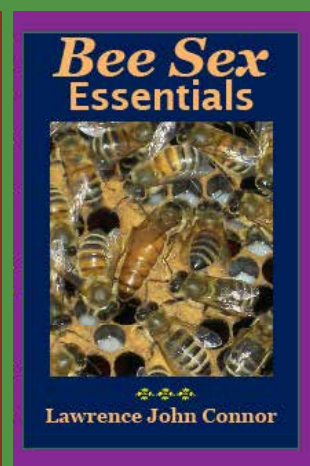
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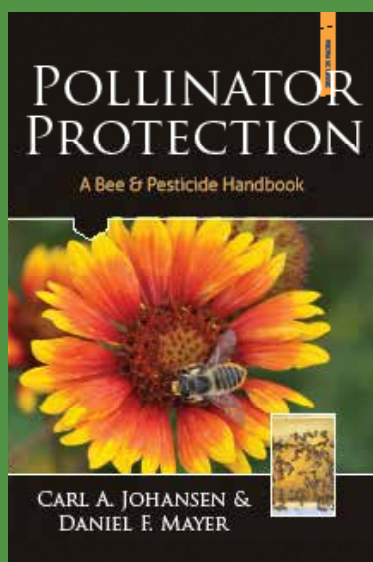
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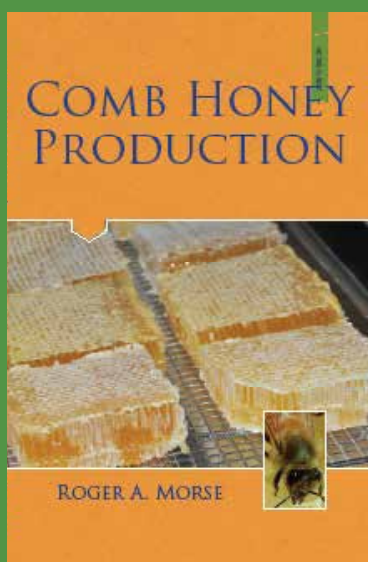
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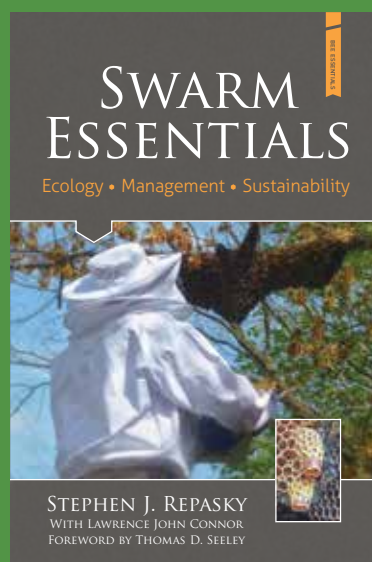
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Chris Doggett, Editor  
400 County Road 440  
Thrall, TX 76578-8701  
Phone: (512) 914-2794  
[ckdoggett@gmail.com](mailto:ckdoggett@gmail.com)

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#### President

Blake Shook  
[blake@desertcreekhoney.com](mailto:blake@desertcreekhoney.com)  
1920 Grassmere Ln #1131  
McKinney, TX 75071  
(214) 886-6899

#### Vice President

Chris Moore  
[chris@moorehoney.com](mailto:chris@moorehoney.com)  
9767 Bevil Blvd.  
Kountze, TX 77625  
(713) 724-7110

#### Past President

Ed Priest  
[edward\\_p@sbcglobal.net](mailto:edward_p@sbcglobal.net)  
9570 Maidenstone  
San Antonio, TX 78250  
(210) 722-7380

#### Executive Secretary

John J. Talbert  
[john@sabinecreekhoney.com](mailto:john@sabinecreekhoney.com)  
P.O. Box 6  
Josephine, TX 75164  
(214) 532-9241

#### Treasurer

Jimmie L. Oakley  
[jimmie.oakley@gmail.com](mailto:jimmie.oakley@gmail.com)  
425 Sapphire Lane  
Jarrell, TX 76537  
(512) 388-3630

#### Publications Director

Chris Doggett  
[ckdoggett@gmail.com](mailto:ckdoggett@gmail.com)  
400 County Road 440  
Thrall, TX 76578  
(512) 914-2794

### Directors -at-Large and Local Associations Served:

#### Wendy Riggs

[stormyderricks@hotmail.com](mailto:stormyderricks@hotmail.com)  
5775 Blackhill Rd.  
Floresville, TX 78114-6078  
(830) 393-2352

Alamo Area  
Brazoria County  
Coastal Bend  
Fayette County  
Rio Grande Valley



#### Russell Swinney

[rswinney@interstructure.net](mailto:rswinney@interstructure.net)  
5960 W Parker 278-125  
Plano, TX 75093  
(214) 619-2050

Collin County  
Metro  
Red River Valley



#### Mark Hedley

[mark@spiralhornapiary.com](mailto:mark@spiralhornapiary.com)  
8247 FM 502  
Rochelle, TX 76872  
(325) 463-5319

Concho Valley  
Dino-Bee  
Heart of Texas  
Williamson County Area



#### Eddie Collins

[eddiecollins@cncfarms.com](mailto:eddiecollins@cncfarms.com)  
10965 Ardis St.  
Whitehouse, TX 75791  
(903) 871-2391

Liberty County  
Montgomery County  
Pineywoods  
Walker County Area



#### Rodney Holloway

[holloway.r@att.net](mailto:holloway.r@att.net)  
10190 Old Hearne Road  
Hearne, TX 77859  
(979) 279-2805

Central Texas  
Fort Bend  
Harris County  
Houston



#### James Rowe

[rowsports@aol.com](mailto:rowsports@aol.com)  
PO Box 1148  
Wylie, TX 75098  
(214) 679-8016

East Texas  
Marshall  
North East Texas  
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