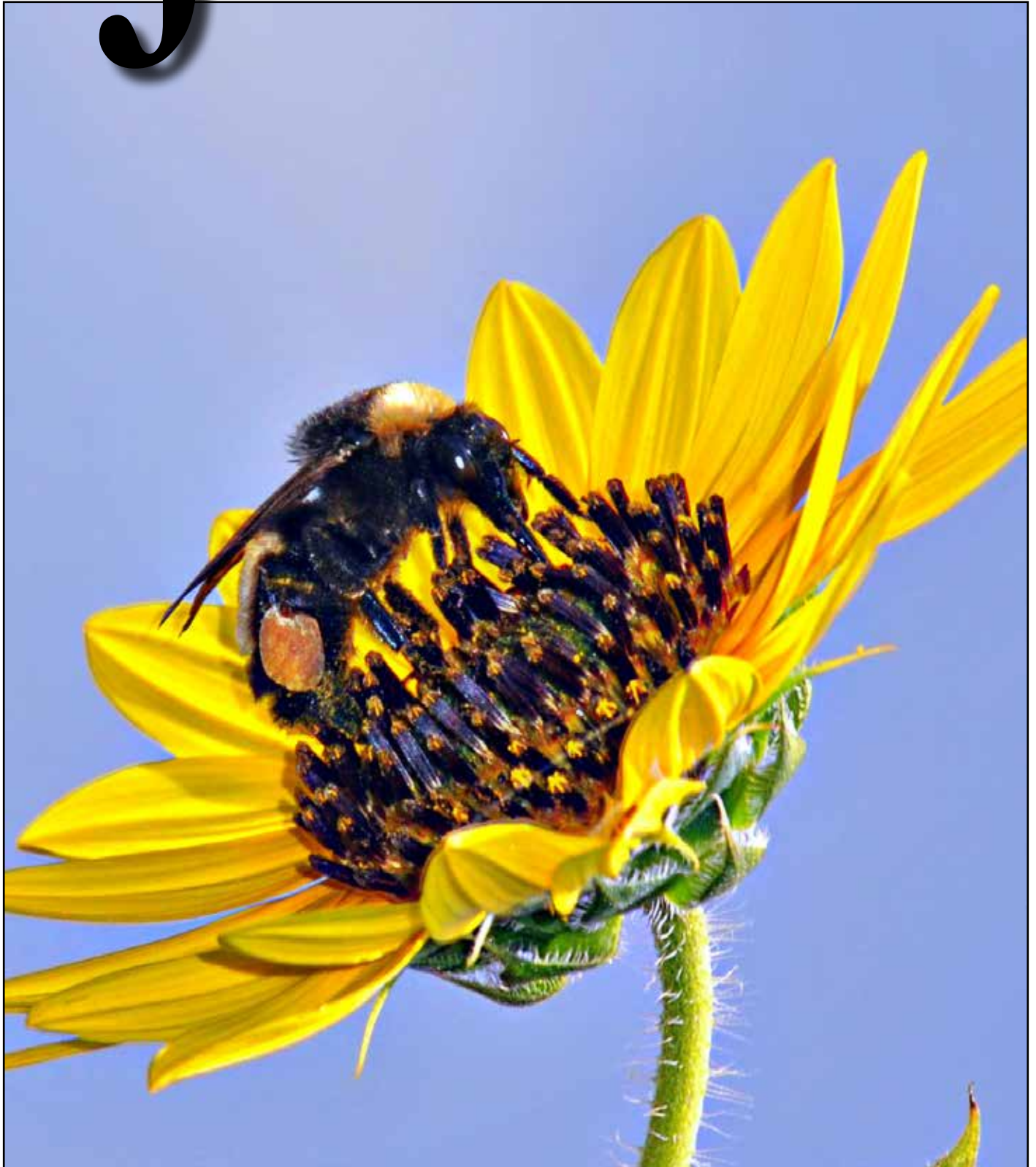


The Texas Beekeepers Association



Journal



Nov / Dec 2014

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Issue 14-6



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President's Report

from Blake Shook



It was wonderful to see many of you during our TBA Convention! I'm honored to serve one final year as your President, and look forward to the many new and exciting projects we have on our plates for 2015! Many of you volunteered to help with many of those projects, and we will be in contact with you soon. Several of the TBA Board members also had a wonderful meeting with delegates from most of the local beekeeping associations in Texas. Many of these club's suggestions became TBA Resolutions, and have become projects for our board to work on for 2015. We value all of your thoughts and opinions, and are eager to hear from you.

As I did in my post-convention article last year, I would like to outline for you a few of the projects we are working on for 2015:

Welcome to TBA Packet

This packet will be designed to welcome any new, or renewing members to TBA. This packet will outline all the member benefits of TBA, have a calendar of events, explain what TBA does, and who we represent. An outline of bee laws & labeling laws and any other pertinent information for a new member will be included as well.

Bottling/Selling Exemption

We plan to finish writing a bill which would exempt small scale beekeepers from having a food manufacturing license, & submit to the state legislature.

Summer Clinic Reorganization

We plan to research having a larger summer clinic, and explore the potential of having a 1 day educational event in a fair ground type facility, with multiple concurrent workshops at a low priced rate.

Speakers List

We hope to compile a list of competent speakers throughout the state of Texas, which can be posted on our website, and communicated to local associations.

Complete Club Resource Packet

Finalize information gathered on local club procedures, and put into a comprehensive packet on how to start a bee club which can be posted to the TBA website, and sent to current clubs.

Recommended AG Exemption Procedures

We will create recommended guidelines for county governments for bees and ag exemptions, as well as guidelines for beekeepers to apply for and receive ag exemptions.

Complimentary Membership Program

We will ensure local clubs understand the process and procedure behind the complimentary membership program, make sure it is being utilized properly, and provide any needed information for local clubs.

Labeling Requirements Project

We plan to locate laws regarding proper labeling of honey and post to the TBA website.

Scholarship Program for Research Students

Dr. Rangel at the TAMU Bee Lab has asked us to consider offering a \$1000 scholarship for a student of her lab each year. An application will be written, and reviewed for this scholarship.

Texas Master Beekeeper Program

We will continue to publicize, and work with TAMU to develop a Master Beekeeper Program for Texas.

Bee Informed Partnership

We will continue to work with BIP to bring this vital service to Texas.

Updated Bee Laws

We will finish updating Texas Bee Laws, and attempt to pass them into Texas law.

I know that is quite a list, but our board is ready for the challenge! If you see areas you would like to help, or have ideas for new things you would like to see TBA do, let us know!

Have a wonderful Christmas,

Blake

Vice President's Report

from Chris Moore



First let me say "Thank You" to all the Houston Area Beekeepers Associations for helping with our conference and providing awesome Center Pieces for the banquet tables. During our Queens Auction these special Bee Smoker Centerpieces were auctioned. We had a friendly competition and the winner of the best centerpiece, judged by the Queens, was Brazoria County Beekeepers Association. Together, we raised over \$11,000 Dollars to help pay travel expenses for our new Texas Honey Queen, Tabitha Mansker. Tabitha will be spending the next year traveling throughout the state promoting and educating thousands of people about honey bees. If there are any events in your area that you would like her to attend, please let her know, I'm sure she would love to be there.

Looking back at the TBA Convention, I am not going to bother saying it was good. I'm a little biased! But talk to someone that did attend. I hope that they would say that they learned a lot and that they heard a great deal of pertinent information that was relevant to all beekeepers.

Now, time for bee work –except Mother Nature threw us a curve ball. January weather in November. Brrrr! 20 degree nights. That's not good for the bees or me. Zaps the lingering

fall flowers – the bees last natural protein source until Spring. Which is why we have already put pollen (protein) patties in our hives. Typically it's not necessary but our goal is to keep our hives healthy and strong so they can make the 1900 mile journey west in February to pollinate California Almonds. Of course keeping them strong and healthy is a good idea especially if you are going to try to increase your numbers by making spring splits. You will have more bees and brood to work with.

So how do bees stay warm ? Well first of all they don't go outside when its cold. Personally, I don't like to either. Then they cluster to keep each other and the brood warm. The colder the temperatures, the tighter the cluster. We install winter entrance reducers in October, ours reduce the size of the entrance from 11 inches to 1 ½ inches. This also helps to protect the entrances from cold wind. We remove screened bottom boards until Spring.

If you are leaving capped honey on your hives for winter feed, it's a good idea to periodically uncap some of that honey. The bees will then relocate that honey closer to the brood nest. That is important because I have seen bees starve to death because it was too cold for them to leave their winter cluster to go just 3 inches to retrieve the nearest honey.

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*Cover Picture is the winning photograph at the Texas Beekeepers Convention in Houston TX.
Photograph by Lauralee Veitch of Richmond, TX*



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Tawny Crazy Ant and Its Impact on Commercial Agriculture

Questions and Concerns

Dr. Danny L. McDonald, Sam Houston State University, Research Scientist

Mr. Bill Ree, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Extension Program Specialist – IPM (Pecan)



The Tawny crazy ant (TCA) *Nylanderia fulva*

The Tawny crazy ant (TCA) *Nylanderia fulva* is an invasive ant species from Brazil that was first discovered in the United States in a Miami hospital in 1990 and with the first Texas infestation in 2002 in Pasadena (Houston). Since the initial Texas discovery, this ant has now spread to 27 Texas counties with most of the spread being attributed to man assisted movement of infested plant material.

Tawny crazy ants (TCA) are considered tramp ants in that they have a close association with humans. TCA colonies can be found under almost any object, such as stumps, concrete, rocks, potted plants or boards and can even find harborage underneath the bark of trees. Nests primarily occur outdoors, but worker ants will forage indoors, into homes and other structures.

Tawny crazy ants are approximately 2mm long, brown and hairy when viewed under magnification but perhaps the best way to identify them in the field is by their enormous populations. Worker ants travel in loose foraging trails and individual ants move erratically which gives rise to the term “crazy” ant. Colonies of TCA will be extremely large, contain multiple queens and will completely dominate the environment. It is not an exaggeration to describe their populations as biblical plague-like proportions.

After the initial detection in Texas, research has centered on understanding the ant’s basic biology and management actions for the urban population. However, as the ants have expanded their range in Texas, the impact of TCA on commercial agriculture operations needs to be examined. In Texas, TCA has been found nesting in ears of corn, hay bales, underneath the bark of pecan trees, and in hollow pecan shells on the orchard floor. In apiaries around Houston, Texas TCA has caused colonies to abscond, and direct predation has been observed.

At this time with limited observations of TCA in commercial agricultural operations in the U.S. we can only guess at potential problems. However, TCA were documented to have deleterious effects on crops such as coffee, cocoa, cassava, plantain and

sugarcane in Columbia in the 1980’s. As with red imported fire ants we do know that TCA will interfere with electrical units; worker ants will tend honeydew producing insects such as aphids so additional insecticide applications may be needed and there



Tawny Crazy Ants in Electrical Unit

could be problems in retaining labor. Unfortunately, the bottom line is that TCA will most likely increase the cost of production in some manner.

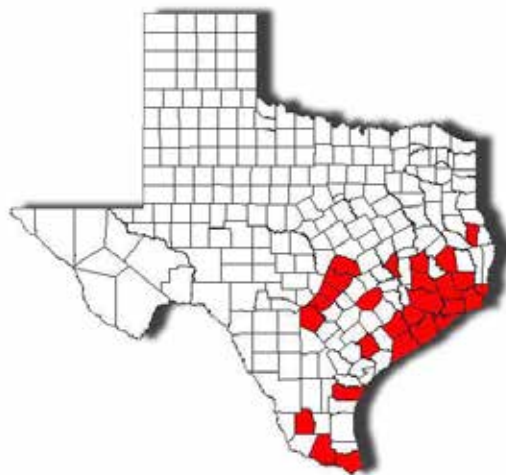
Current research regarding the management and ecology of the tawny crazy ant is moving scientists closer to management strategies for this incredible nuisance species. Unfortunately, most efforts result in only one month’s worth of relief before the ants make a triumphant return. Their colonies are hard to find due to the fact that they nest under objects instead of constructing mounds of soil. They have an extraordinary number of queens



Tawny Crazy Ants Nest Under Objects

that are highly fecund. It is not unlikely to find 20 queens under every dinner-plate-sized stone. Furthermore, tawny crazy ants are not attracted to traditional fire ant baits that use a corn grit carrier and oil as their attractant.

A few basic management options that can be initiated are: any unnecessary objects sitting on the ground, such as rocks, logs and debris should be removed from the area. However, infested articles should not be moved to other locations without insuring that crazy ants have been removed. Tawny crazy ants thrive in high moisture areas, therefore, leaky faucets should be fixed and irrigation should be minimized. Structures should be protected with a professionally applied product, covering all trails and nesting sites. If the entire population is not treated, it is likely that the tawny crazy ant will return within a month. A professional will also have the knowledge of which ant baits to utilize in conjunction with contact treatments.



Distribution of the Tawny Crazy Ant in Texas



Tawny Crazy Ants

At Sam Houston State University and Texas A&M we are dedicated to solving the mysteries of tawny crazy ant ecology and discovering new management strategies. If you suspect that you have tawny crazy ants, contact Dr. Danny McDonald at: 2424 Sam Houston Ave. Suite B8, Huntsville, TX 77341 or Dr. Robert Puckett at: 2143 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843 for information on submitting samples for verification. For more information on TCA please visit: <http://tsusinvvasives.org/database/tawny-crazy-ant.html> or Texas A&M University Center for Urban and Structural Entomology; <http://urbanentomology.tamu.edu/>

Honey Cups with Brie, Walnuts and Cranberries

Ingredients

4 tbsps - honey
1/2 lb - brie cheese
1/2 cup - chopped walnuts
6 tbsps - dehydrated cranberries
1 tbsp - chipotle paste
30 - phyllo pastry shells
Salt and pepper
3 - canned chipotle peppers , For the chipotle paste
1/4 cup - chicken stock or water, For the chipotle paste



Directions

In a small saucepan, lightly heat the honey and mix it with the chipotle paste, salt and pepper. Add the walnuts and cranberries and stir. Remove saucepan from fire.

Cut the brie cheese into 1/2-inch cubes. Preheat oven to 350°F. Place the phyllo cups onto a baking sheet and fill them evenly with the cubed brie. Top them evenly with the honey mixture and bake them in the oven for 5 - 7 minutes or until the cheese melts. Serve them hot.

For the chipotle paste: Clean the chipotles peppers and remove all the seeds. Put them in a blender with the water or chicken stock. Blend until perfectly mixed. It can keep for weeks in the refrigerator and is a good base for preparing chipotle sauce or for flavoring other dishes.

Recipe Courtesy of Coral Bosch, Event Planner and Founder of Zikei Event Design.



THE BUDS AND THE BEES

Love Thy Neighbor as Thy Bees

by Becky Bender, Texas Master Naturalist

How to avoid conflicts and get your neighbors on board with natural, bee-friendly landscapes.

While stuck in traffic recently, I studied a bumper sticker that proclaimed: “We kill all the caterpillars and then complain there are no butterflies.” After thinking about it, the sticker began to take on meaning as deep as the traffic pile-up ahead of me. It spoke volumes about people who are tolerant and well-meaning but ignorant about those little things in nature that have a profound impact on all of us. Does this sound like some of your neighbors when it comes to understanding honey bees?

Honey bees are the current media darlings. Beekeepers are getting lots of questions about why bees are disappearing. We all have an unprecedented opportunity to set an example of good pollinator stewardship for our neighborhoods and communities. One of the most visible examples we can offer is to establish a healthy and diverse, natural pollinator-friendly landscape.

I often hear comments around the state from beekeepers who are worried about their neighbors’ reactions to a more natural approach to landscaping. Peer pressure from neighbors can be discouraging. The community outreach staff for the National Wildlife Federation sees this on a much bigger scale. Their staff routinely receives calls asking for advice about how to attract wildlife to yards without causing conflicts with neighbors.



Before: Flower beds widened for clustering plants

Douglas Tallamy in his compelling book, **Bringing Nature Home**, includes an entire chapter on how to plant yards to blend in with the neighborhood.

Here are a few ways you can begin to create natural, bee-friendly landscapes without alienating your neighbors.

Keep Your Neighbors Informed

First, check out community landscaping regulations which may include weed ordinances, grass height and more. You may find that the drought has relaxed rules to encourage drought-tolerant plants. Secondly, discuss your plans with neighbors. Tell them the reasons you’re adding more natural areas to your landscape. Mention the benefits of not needing pesticides, conserving water and attracting desirable birds and butterflies and other pollinators for more flower, fruit and vegetable production. Though natural landscapes are sometimes referred to as “wildscapes” or “prairies,” you might instead choose the terms “natural” or “native” landscape to avoid resistance.

Develop a Plan and Start Slowly

Whether you work with a professional or create your own plan, it’s important to work from a design or sketch. In her book **Native Texas Plants: Landscaping Region By Region**, Sally Wasowski, describes two basic approaches to native landscape designs. One way is to simply substitute native plants in more traditional landscape designs to reduce the need for water and attract more wildlife. The second way is to imitate nature using woods and meadows. In my own landscape, I combine the two approaches by using native plants in a more traditional design around the house and gradually transitioning to a more natural look as you move away from the house to the surrounding land.

Start slowly at first to give neighbors time to adjust to your new look. Add only a small pollinator garden. Or widen your flower beds to include larger masses of flowers and more plant diversity rather than removing big sections of your lawn at once. As you see results and gain confidence, you can expand your bee habitat. Another idea is to start with the backyard, giving you more time to educate neighbors and learn for yourself what works and what doesn’t.

Consider Posting a Sign

A yard sign can legitimize and lend credibility to your landscape. It lets your neighbors know your efforts are sanctioned by a credible national organization.

The National Wildlife Federation offers a Wildlife Habitat Certification and attractive yard sign that says "Certified Wildlife Habitat". Apply by completing an application online at www.nfw.org/habitatapplication. The application is \$20 and entitles you to other benefits. The sign is an additional cost. Whether you have an apartment, urban home, 10-acre farm, schoolyard or park, anyone can get a wildlife certification. A second sign source is through the The Xerces Society, a pollinator conservation group. There is no certification process. Simply purchase the sign, which says "Pollinator Habitat", through their online store at www.xerces.org. Click on "get involved".



After: Texas sage, Gaura and Red yucca

Select Popular Natives

Convert some of your existing plants to a few of the more popular native perennials. This is something you can do with no changes to your existing landscape design. Or with a little more work, widen your current flower beds to allow room for larger masses of plants. Neighbors may hardly notice these changes. Over time, both you (and your neighbors) will discover the many advantages of native plant gardening such as low water usage, low maintenance, continual bloom, benefit to wildlife and elimination of pesticide use.

Establish a Water Source

Bees require water for two reasons: to dilute brood food and cool the hive. A water source should be reasonably close to the hives to help conserve the bee's energy and time. What is close? In a rural setting, a water source may be ¼ mile from a hive, while water may be a few feet away in an urban setting.

While the beekeeper doesn't always have control over water sources our bees use, we know they typically choose the closest source to the hive. When they collect from a neighbor's birdbath or swimming pool, neighbor relations can get sticky. Usually the



After: Mexican bush sage, Gregg's mistflower and Zexmenia with Lindheimer muhly ornamental grass

number of bees that collect water is not very large. But bees tend to "learn" a source and then continue using it. So prevention is the best good neighbor policy. Set up a water source when you first establish your hives. If your bees collect water from a neighbor's birdbath, a solution is to cover it for a few days and establish a new source on your own property closer to the hives. After bees switch to the new source, the birdbath may be uncovered and refilled. A swimming pool is a more difficult problem to solve. Water sources should be shallow or scattered with stones or other floating objects on which bees can land. There is some evidence that running water is better than stagnant.



Small plot of lawn removed for pollinator garden

Don't Forget the Maintenance

Even natural landscapes need pruning, occasional mowing and the periodic addition of plants to enhance it. Over time you'll learn to identify and remove invasive or alien species to prevent them from choking out the desirable diversity of native plants. In my own natural landscape, I spend more time pulling out invasives like Privet, Asian honeysuckle and Johnson grass than I do on any other maintenance chore.

The Buds and the Bees

(cont'd)

Share Your Bounty

When education doesn't work, bribe the neighbors! Beekeepers around Texas have taught me that sharing honey is the best way to love they neighbor. For many seasons, Tom Fris, a beekeeper in North Central Texas, watched his neighbors mow the carpet of wildflowers beneath their pecan orchard. Once he began sharing his honey the problem was resolved.

At the recent TBA Convention, participants shared an idea to gift their urban neighbors with Bee Happy Wildflower Seed Mix packets to encourage them to expand bee habitat in their own yards. See ordering directions below.

Whether we welcome it or not, every beekeeper is in the spotlight. We are leaders in the trend toward restoring bee habitat. Loving they neighbor as they bees involves setting an example. So don't worry. Your yard will still have beauty – the best kind of beauty – responsible beauty!

Your questions, comments or photos are welcomed. Please send to Becky Bender at RBenderRN@aol.com. More information on bee plants may be found on Becky's website: www.BudsAndTheBees.com.



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The Brantley Column

from S. S. Brantley
East Texas Beekeepers Association

Most East Texas beekeepers are winding down their operation as it seems winter has suddenly arrived. I was recently asked by a local area beekeeper to assist him inspect his two hives. He wanted to be sure they had adequate stores and were ready to survive the winter cold. His hives were both double brood boxes. He had left queen excluders and supers on the hives for the winter. All of the supers were empty of honey or brood.

On the first hive, we removed the telescoping cover and the inner cover to check for moisture accumulation. The preceding nights had been cold enough to cause the bees to form a cluster and generate some moisture that could condense in the hive. I noticed he had about three inches of a paint stirring stick glued to the front rim of the inner cover, allowing good ventilation. We found the hive nice and dry with no signs of moisture accumulation. There were two Small Hive Beetle traps installed in the top super. We saw about 150 bees crawling around on the top bars, moving slowly and reluctant to fly as it was a cool day. There were about 20 beetles on the top bars, also moving sluggishly due to the temperature. We were able to smash most of them with our hive tools.

Next, we removed the supers and the queen excluders and checked the brood boxes. The top bars of the brood chambers were covered in bees but also had about 50 Small Hive Beetles. The bees in the brood chamber were also sluggish and reluctant to fly. A few puffs of smoke and they moved down between the frames. We pulled two frames and found both were heavy with honey and some areas of pollen. Rather than pull more frames and disturb the bees on a cool day, we gave the hive the Two-Finger-Lift test. It was nice and heavy so we decided to close it up and wait until January before considering supplemental feeding.

Inspection of the second hive showed it to be in a similar condition. When we re-assembled the hives, we did put the queen

excluders back on between the top brood chamber and the supers.

Since the supers above the queen excluder were empty, we would not expect the bees to move into them during the winter. When the bees do cluster for the winter, they should form the cluster in the bottom brood chamber. As the winter progresses, the cluster should move upward into the top brood box which currently houses honey and pollen. Since the supers have no stores, there is no reason for the cluster to continue to move upwards through the queen excluder into the empty supers.

We would have taken a different approach if the supers had contained honey. If the super contained honey, the cluster would continue to move upward as they ate through the stores available in the top brood box. When the cluster moved through the queen excluder, the queen would be too large to pass through and would be left behind, most likely becoming chilled and dying.

To prevent damage to the queen, we would remove the queen excluder. If the cluster and the queen did indeed move into the super, the queen may start laying her eggs of early spring in the super. If you find brood in the super during an early spring inspection, puff a generous amount of smoke into the super, close the lid, and wait a few minutes for the queen to move down into the brood box. Then re-install the queen excluder. Nurse bees will quickly move back through the queen excluder into the super and tend to the eggs and brood. Any brood in the super will hatch by the time the honey flow begins. Housekeeping bees will clean the hatched brood cells and they will be ready to be filled with nectar.

Some beekeepers will remove the queen excluders and allow the queen to lay eggs in the super in the early spring. Their theory is that this gives the queen some extra space to lay before smoking her back into the brood box. This extra laying space will hopefully prevent the hive feeling the sense of congestion during the spring's peak laying period, thereby diminishing the urge to swarm.

Veiled in this fragile filigree of wax is the essence of sunshine, golden and limpid, tasting of grassy meadows, mountain wildflowers, lavishly blooming orange trees, or scrubby desert weeds. Honey, even more than wine, is a reflection of place. If the process of grape to glass is alchemy, then the trail from blossom to bottle is one of reflection. The nectar collected by the bee is the spirit and sap of the plant, its sweetest juice.

Honey is the flower transmuted, its scent and beauty transformed into aroma and taste.

Stephanie Rosenbaum

Texas Apiary Inspection Service

from Mary Reed



The Texas Apiary Inspection Service (TAIS) has a new website (txbeeinspection.tamu.edu)! It is full of great resources for both seasoned and new beekeepers alike, as well as general information for the public. First and foremost, beekeepers might be interested in

checking out the new inspection procedures utilized to assess the health of a beekeeping operation. There is also a plethora of information covering the pests and diseases of honey bees, sustainable methods of keeping bees, as well as educational material supplied from renowned sources.

The new website has a page dedicated to testing resources that are provided by universities and government agencies across the country. Here at the Texas Apiary Inspection Service, we are able to receive samples for varroa mite counts and Nosema diagnosis. Currently we are limiting the number of samples from each individual beekeeper to four samples, two for varroa and two for Nosema, per year. Please fill out the submission form that is available on the Testing Resources page of our website and send it in with your samples.

In addition, there is a page that contains printable documents of the written regulations of honey bees and beekeeping practices. Also, there is information regarding bee removals, form applications with the corresponding fees, bottling honey, as well as a historical account of the Inspection Service. Please be sure to read the disclaimer on the Bee Removal page that describes our departmental requirements for a beekeeper to be listed, and states that we do not take responsibility for the bee removals performed. I hope you take a glimpse at the new website and if you have any questions for TAIS, you can contact us using the "Give Us a Buzz" icon at the top of each page.

Texas Beekeepers Association Survey

*from Blake Shook, TBA President
and Rex Moody, Angelo State University*

To better understand the state of beekeeping in Texas and improve and garner more support for the state's apiarist community, the Texas Beekeepers Association (TBA) is asking you to complete a survey about your work as a beekeeper. The information collected through the survey will be useful to both the TBA and the Texas Apiary Inspection Service (TAIS) as they work on behalf of beekeepers of all sizes with the state legislature, other state governmental entities, and various private groups. The overall goals linked to the survey include increased funding for beekeeping-related activities, reduced governmental burdens for beekeepers, and growth in the Texas beekeeping community.

The survey is being conducted independently of TBA by a research class at Angelo State University (ASU) and should take no more than 15-20 minutes of your time to complete.

ASU students wrote the survey with input from both the TBA and the TAIS. The data collected can be seen in its original form only by the students and their faculty supervisor at ASU. A final report based on all the survey data collected will be provided by the research class to the TBA and TAIS. Please be assured that your responses will remain anonymous and your individual data will never be shared with any one or any organization.

While your participation in this data collection effort is completely voluntary, in order to have a complete final report we need all Texas beekeepers to participate by completing the survey.

Please complete the survey only once per beekeeping operation.

We are using all means possible to reach out to all beekeepers in the state. To that end, if you know of other beekeepers who you think may not have received this survey as a member of the TBA or a local beekeeping association and will contact them and share the link to this survey, we would appreciate it greatly.

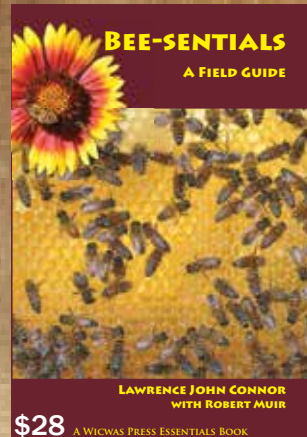
Thank you in advance for completing this survey to support this important initiative by the TBA.

To complete the survey please go to <http://bit.ly/1unK5H6>

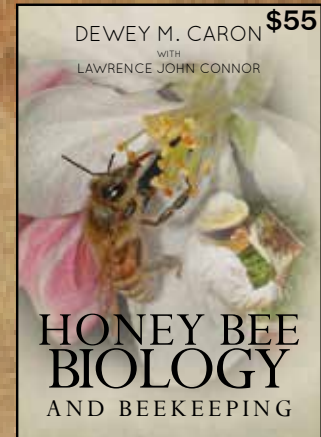
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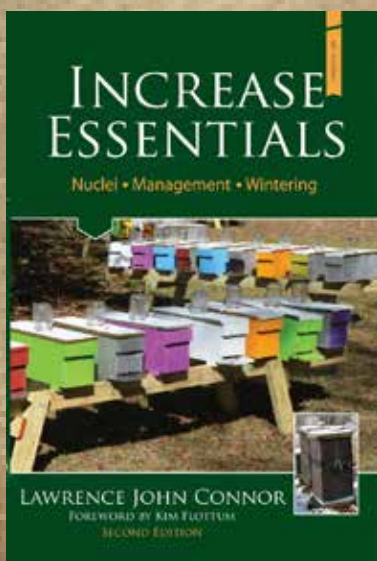
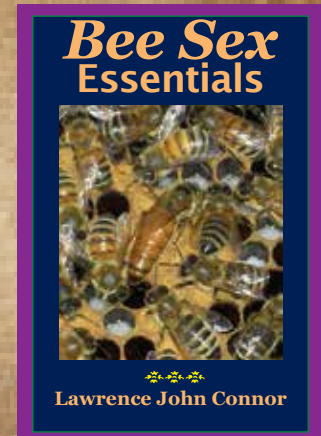
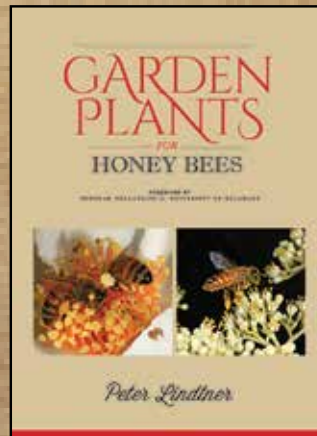
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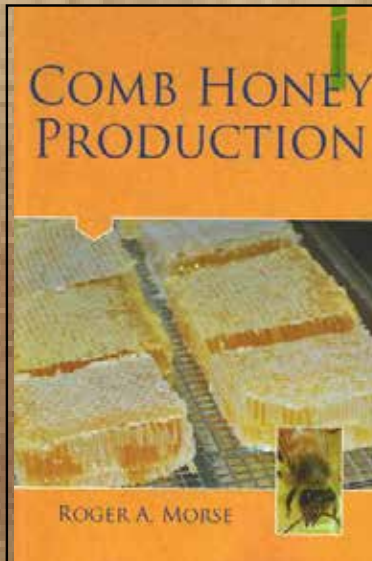
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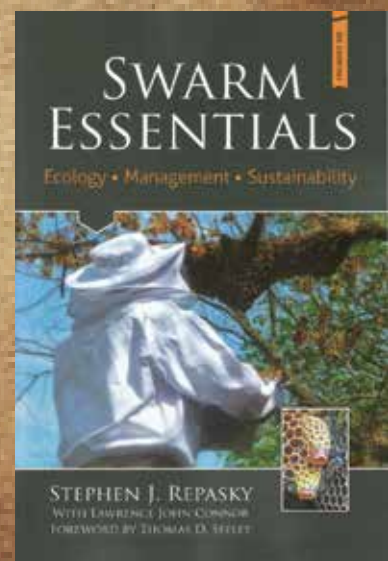
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Changes in Queen & Package Bee Production & Shipping

from Morris Weaver



Changes in queen and package bee production and shipping began in the early 1960's with the development of better highways and vehicles. Before this time many, if not most, package bees were sent via what we called in the United States "Railway Express". Railway Express was part of the railroad system and package bee orders of one hundred or more were placed on freight trains for efficient fast delivery to all points in the lower forty eight states and Canada. Also, the United States Postal Service delivered bees and queens in an efficient manner. At some point in the 1960's the railroad quit handling package bees and the postal service became less reliable. The then postal service quit insuring queens and package bees beyond the 4th zone (about 400 miles).

With the development of the interstate highway system and more reliable vehicles commercial beekeepers in the US first bought more package bees for themselves and neighbors and transported bees themselves. The larger beekeepers soon figured out they could bring their own bees south, produce their own queens or queen cells, divide the colonies they brought south three or more times and then take their own bees back north to produce a good honey crop. Not only did this utilize their labor force better, but gave them better control of the bees they depended on for honey and/or pollination income.

Next came the development of shipping queens and packages long distance via air express. Some airlines refused to carry live bees. Queens were much easier to ship. Smaller queen orders were shipped international express mail while larger quantities were best sent via air express. First, package bees were shipped with queen candy rather than syrup. Problems were the airlines would sometimes leave the bees out in the hot sun and they would perish before they were even loaded on the plane. The shipper always had to make sure the product was placed in a pressurized, temperature controlled compartment. Changing planes during transit, or even changing airports, was a challenge. Today's methods of instant communication have improved resolution of issues that arise during shipment.

The tracheal mite (*Acarapis woodi*) was found in the US via Weslaco, TX on July 3rd 1984. First attempts were made to destroy the colonies where the mites were found and quarantine the area. It did not take long to discover that this effort was fruitless. Canada closed its border to package bees from the US. In the beginning some states refused shipments where tracheal mites were known to exist. Queen and package producers scrambled to find new customers to fill the void. A surplus of

queens and packages had a negative effect on prices.

Varroa mites (*Varroa jacobsoni*) were first found in the US in 1987. They were found in Wisconsin in colonies transported from Florida. Fortunately beekeepers and regulators had learned that quarantines were ineffective. Varroa greatly increased the cost of production. Producers were required to put fluvante strips in all queen and package shipments. Due to the migratory nature of commercial beekeeping in the US, varroa spread rapidly across the lower 48 states. The number of colonies declined and demand for queens and packages increased. Queen and package producers were not able to fill the demand as their colony numbers declined and did not build up as expected.

Established queen and package producers had increased labor and treatment cost to manage their colonies and queen mating nucs. Queen breeders began selecting for good housekeeping traits and other traits known to keep down varroa. This is an ongoing project that has met with some success. In 1992 John Harbo of the United States Department of Agriculture Honey Bee Laboratory in Baton Rouge and Dr. Roger Hoopingarner of Michigan State University discovered the Varroa Sensitive Hygiene (VSH) trait. This is a trait, not a breed or a line of bees, that has shown resistance to varroa. They claim this trait can be found and bred for in any line or breed of bee. To learn more about it go to Dr. Harbo's website; www.harbobeeeco.com. Also, some beekeepers in northern areas began to produce their own queens and nucs. This enabled them to select for traits they desired and worked best in their locality. Some of these beekeepers were able to produce a surplus to sell. Those beekeepers who were unable or unwilling to change went out of business.

In October 1990 in the southern tip of Texas an Africana honey bee swarm was found near the small town of Hidalgo. Conventional thinking was that they would spread east, following the gulf coast, eventually arriving in Florida. Instead they followed the rivers northwest going into New Mexico, Arizona, California and Nevada. They entered Florida and other east coast states through ports of entry by hitchhiking on planes and ships. The states mentioned are not the only ones where Africana bees have been found. They are more of a public relations problem than a beekeeper problem. Successful queen producers have long saturated the area surrounding their queen mating yards with colonies headed with queens that produce drones they want their virgin queens to mate with. Queen producers became more diligent in selecting European queens to head their colonies.

Now, along comes the small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*) first found in the US in 1997. These pests are a nuisance. If the beekeeper maintains strong colonies and nuclei the bees will keep them under control. Therefore, queen producers must now maintain stronger nucs. When establishing nucs it was common practice not to remove the first round of queens until 14 days after hatching. This ensured the queen nucs would be able to survive the queen producing season. Now it requires 21 days to ensure the strength of the nuc to survive the season. Of course, this lowers the number of queens produced per nuc per season.

I know of no statistics on queen and package bee production in the US. Common thought has been that one half of all production is in California and the other half is in Texas and the southeastern states that border the Gulf of Mexico. This equation changed in the mid 1970's when one company began to produce queens for sale in the state of Hawaii. This company grew into what is probably the world's largest queen producer. Currently there are several queen producers in Hawaii where queens can be produced all year. Comparing April 2013 to April 1983 in one major American bee publication there were 58% fewer display ads selling queens and package bees. My guess is that there are 1.25 million queens sold in the US and exported each year and another 2 million or more produced by beekeepers for their own use. Those beekeepers who are willing to accept change in their colony management are much better beekeepers today that they were before. Those who did not change are no longer in business, their colonies absorbed by the more progressive beekeepers, or new and younger individuals entering into beekeeping.

My crystal ball tells me that genetics will solve many of today's beekeeping problems. In the United States we have some fine USDA and State University bee research scientists. However, they cannot solve these problems alone. They simply don't have all the resources necessary to solve all of the problems. It is my opinion that we need a beekeeper driven research program to develop bees that are varroa resistant, good honey producers and have good temperament. Maybe 50 to 100 beekeepers across the US that dedicate 50 to 100 colonies each to work with a selected group of bee research scientists.



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*TBA Queens and Princesses at the State Fair of Texas
In Front of the TBA Honey Booth*



*Hayden Wolf at Family Trades Day
International ALERT Academy*



*Shannon LaGrave at Flowermound School,
Sugar Hill*

BEGINNERS' BOX

from Cameron Crane, Liberty County Beekeepers

Wow another beekeeping season in wrapping up very soon but the next year will be upon us soon. I hope by the time you are reading this that you have prepared your hives for winter. I know most of the local beekeeping associations and clubs have covered winterizing in the last month or two. I've removed all my screen inner covers and replaced them with solid board inner covers. As autumn sets in the bees don't need too much cool or cold air flowing up through the hive. Remember warm air rises and the bees are trying to keep warm. If the top of the hive has too much ventilation all the warm air will rise on out of the hive making the bees work harder to stay warm. I've heard several people in Texas say they winter their hives on screened bottom boards and they do just fine. I do worry about cold air blowing up into the hive on windy days. I've collected a good stack of corrugated plastic (political signs) and will be cutting those down to slide in over the screened bottoms on my hives. Also be sure to put entrance reducers on your hives. The smaller opening helps the bees protect their stores, keeps cold air from blowing in and should be small enough to keep mice out that are looking for a warm place to winter. Don't open your hives if it is too cool outside. The bees are trying to keep it 92-93 degrees- if you remove the top all the warm air rushed out and cold air replaces it. When it is below 60 degrees that 30+ degree difference in temperature is quite a shock to them.

Remember the hives are also sizing down for the winter. You will see very little or no brood being raised, this is normal for this time of year. Most all the hives I've looked in the last several weeks have no drones in them either. I was surprised to see quite a few in a hive I saw last Sunday. There are always exceptions.

Be sure your hives have enough stores of honey for the bees to live through the winter. This can vary between how far north or south you live in Texas. Ask some of your local beekeepers how many frames the bees should have full of honey. Here in the middle of the state I like to see at least 6 full frames. If you are not seeing the better part of the upper box full of honey you should continue to feed them and watch them close in the early spring. As the hive builds up its numbers in the early spring it will need a good amount of honey to feed the larva. Those young bees will be the main workforce as the strong spring flow come on.

The past year of being involved and seeing other people's hives, rescuing hives that have been neglected and mentoring new beekeepers has taught me a number of valuable lessons. I'll go over a few that stick in my mind.

First: I've seen a few situations where someone had several hives and was not tending to them. What I found was that the bees had become very defensive and aggressive because they were having such a hard time fighting off pests- primarily Hive Beetles and Wax Moths. In the worst of them, there were two dead hives that had been taken over by hive beetles and then became a big breeding ground for wax moths. These two double deeps produced thousands of pest that were then invading the other two live hives. Both dead-out were totally filled with wax moth cocoons. The owner was getting out of beekeeping because even after re-queening twice his bees were still so mean that he didn't

want them. Once I moved them to my property and destroyed the dead hives they calmed down tremendously! Lessons learned: 1- remove the equipment and clean up any hive that dies, don't just leave it out to breed more pests. 2- When bees are struggling with a hard life they become much more aggressive. If your bees seem to be getting more aggressive see if you can figure out what is stressing them out.

Second: Get your boxes stacked on straight. I saw this twice the past year- one box one another that left a gap on one end and an over-lap on the other. Again the bees were rather aggressive. The bees had so much more area to protect from pest or other bees wanting to rob their precious honey. The other big issue is that when it rains the water is running inside the hive. The bees like a dry home. In a good storm it could be a lot of water flowing through the hive.

Third: Maintain bee space. I've seen this issue the most often. Frames are designed to have 3/8" (bee space) between the combs when they are drawn out with comb and the end boards are together. If the frames are not pushed up against each other then it creates too much of a gap between the comb. The bees don't like that and will try to fill in the extra space- with comb or with propolis. I've developed a habit when I'm done inspecting a hive or adding a new box to use my hive tool to push all the frames tightly together. Some beekeepers push them all to one side, I push then together and center them- either seems to be just fine. When there is a gap between the end boards of the frames the bees propolis that small space making it harder to pull frames apart on the next inspection. The bees are also wasting energy either filling in small spaces with propolis or building comb in larger spaces. It is easier on the bees and on you to keep those frames pushed together.

The Annual Convention was awesome. I picked up a lot from most every speaker I got to attend. Dr. Larry Connor hit on a lot of things I've learning about queens and breeding. One of the best break-out sessions I attended was Greg Hammond's class on truth about chemical free beekeeping. Not at all what I expected but he a very informative presentation that centered on chemical free beekeeping as a goal. It went right along with what I've learned in the last two years: Chemical free beekeeping is not the easy choice and requires a lot more monitoring and combined efforts.

Now is the time to start planning your next year of beekeeping. Grab every opportunity to learn as much about beekeeping as you can. Attend your local beekeeping meetings, talk to other beekeepers in the area, go to beekeeping classes and school where you can. I'll be in Austin for the Austin Area Beekeepers Seminar on Jan 17th, in Brenham for the Central Texas Beekeepers School on March 28th and the TBA Summer Clinic in May or June. TBA Summer Clinic will be a one day full of classes and programs.

I hope to meet you at one of the event in 2015.

Joyful Beekeeping,

Austin 4th Annual Beekeeping Seminar



Date: Jan. 17th 2015

What: Austin 4th Annual Beekeeping Seminar

Who: Sponsored by The Austin Area Beekeepers Association

Where: *Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center*

4801 La Crosse Ave, Austin, TX 78739

Cost: \$40 Pre-registration

Why: The mission of this daylong seminar is to educate people of all experience levels in sustainable bee husbandry and to provide funding for The Texas A&M Honey Bee Lab.

Description:

This is a daylong seminar offering 3 different educational presentations running concurrently in each time slot throughout the day. This will provide many beginning or advanced subjects to choose from. Morning sessions will include two separate and thorough presentations on Beginning Beekeeping and Advanced Beekeeping Management.

Afternoon sessions will include many different presentations including:

- Honey Bee Foraging
- Varroa Management
- Brood Disease Control
- Swarm Capture Techniques
- Taking Advantage of the Texas Beekeeping Tax Exemption
- Colony Examination and Frame Reading for Beginners
- Learn Honey Extraction Techniques and Alternative Hive Products
- Beneficial Bee Flowers
- Queen Finding and Requeening Techniques
- The Latest in the Texas Bee Lab Research
- Colony Supersedure and Management
- Keeping Bees in an Africanized Zone
- Nutrition Management
- Spring Management

Presenters:

- Professor Juliana Rangel- Posada Entomology Texas A&M
- Mark Dykes- Chief Texas Apiary Inspector
- Karl Acuri- Austin Area Beekeepers Assoc. (Co-organizer) and natural beekeeper.
- Dennis Herbert- Author of original bee tax exemption bill.
- Fred Hall- Williamson Co. Extension Specialist and 2nd generation beekeeper
- Lily Rosenman- Austin Area Beekeepers Assoc. (Co-organizer) and natural beekeeper
- Becky Bender-TX Master Naturalist
- Brandon Fehrenkamp- Natural Beekeeper Activist and owner of Austin Bees (formerly Eastside Honey Co.)
- Lance Wilson- Certified Master Beekeeper GMBP

For more info and to register for this event go to <https://aabaseminar.eventbrite.com>

For additional information you can email Lance Wilson..... lance@beekeepinghelp.com.

This organization is non-profit and all proceeds of this event will be used to promote sustainable beekeeping practices and provide support to our much appreciated Texas A&M Honey Bee Lab. This should be a lot of fun, everyone please come out and see us.



2014 Texas Honey Queen Hayden Wolf

Beekeepers,

With all this cold weather recently I've been wanting to imitate my bees and stay inside bundled up with some tea and honey, and shiver to keep warm! I've had a busy two months with State Fair in October, and the TBA Convention in November, both of which were a great success. It was SO good to see those of you who were at Convention and re-connect with everyone who I had the privilege of working with this past year. Thank you to everyone who helped put the Convention on!

I just can't believe that it's already been a year since I was crowned as your Honey Queen. As I write this last article and reflect on this past year and all the new experiences it held for me, I can't help but feel a twinge of sadness in knowing that my year of representing you is coming to a close. This has been the best opportunity of my life, and has been one great, big, growing experience for me, stretching me in so many ways. The lessons, experiences and new skills that I've learned while doing this are invaluable and will be taken with me throughout my life wherever I may go. It has been an honor to represent this great association and I'm proud to be a part of it.

I've had great experiences this year some of which were: getting to meet and become friends with so many amazing people and working alongside such a talented young lady as Princess Shannon. Traveling to different areas of Texas and visiting historic land marks and pieces of Texas history have made me fall even more in love with this state. Through it all I've grown in my public speaking skills and have enjoyed educating and helping people to appreciate the honey bee.

To give you a summary of my year, I was able to attend 78 events and reached over 721,000 people through fairs, schools, civic organizations, news media, social media and other events.

School presentations:

School groups have always been one of my favorites and this year I spoke to 18 schools, gave 49 presentations and reached 2,785 students. I love seeing the transformation in students from them being scared of bees when you first get there, to then loving, appreciating, and desiring to help bees! It's so important to educate the youth about honey bees and beekeeping since they are the next generation!

Fairs, Festivals, Farmers Markets Etc.

I was able to reach 431,600 people at 9 fairs, festivals, farmers markets and similar events. It's been exciting to see the interest in

beekeeping grow this year; I've had many people ask about how they can get started in beekeeping!

Civic Groups and Misc. Presentations:

I spoke at a total of 10 civic groups including Rotary, Lions, and Garden clubs, as well as other miscellaneous events and reached over 215 people. This includes attending 2 political campaign dinners at which I was able to meet and speak with State Representatives, and Congressmen (including Louie Gohmert) and bring awareness to honey bees.

Beekeepers Clubs:

I had the privilege of visiting and speaking at a total of 14 Beekeepers Clubs which is 1/2 of the clubs in TX! I loved getting to meet everyone at each of the clubs and am going to miss all of the amazing beekeepers I've met this year. Thanks to each of the clubs who invited me to speak!

News Media:

One of my goals this year was to have 10 media interviews/news articles and I'm excited to report that I had 17 newspaper articles as well as 12 online articles, reaching over 248,250. I was even on the home page of the Texas Department of Agriculture's Website for over 1 month!

Social Media:

Our social media has really taken off this year! We now have over 500 likes on Facebook, and our most popular post reached over 9,000 people! Likewise our Twitter (@TxHoneyQandP) which we started last December has 149 followers (just one away from my goal of 150) who are from over 50 different countries!

My very last event will be the 2015 American Beekeeping Federation Conference and Trade Show. It will be held January 6th-10th in Anaheim California and I am excited to be representing TBA by running for American Honey Queen!

I just want to say a great big "THANK YOU!" for all your support. Whether it was donations, buying a set of notecards, finding promotions for me in your area, hosting me in your home, words of encouragement, or even just liking or sharing posts from our Facebook page. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

May our Heavenly Father bless each one of you for your love and kindness to me, and may you all have a very joyful Christmas and New Year!

Date	Event	Location	Type	Number of People Reached	Notes
9/25/14	Marshal Rotary Club	Marshal, TX	Civic Meeting	40	Gave power point on bees & beekeeping
9/28/14	Marshal News Messenger	Marshal, TX	Newspaper and Online Article	7,238	Article and picture on my talk at Marshal Rotary Club
9/26/14	East Texas State Fair	Tyler, TX	Booth Work and Bee Talks	50	Spoke to school groups, helped at booth, sold honey
10/2/14	East Texas Beekeepers Association Mtg.	Whitehouse, TX	Bee Meeting	100	
10/7/14	Family Camp Trades Day at ALERT Academy	Big Sandy, TX	Booth Work	150+	Spoke to children & adults that stopped by my beekeeping table & observation hive
10/8/14	Family Camp Homesteading Panel at ALERT Academy	Big Sandy, TX	Beekeeping talk	35	Gave power point on beekeeping & how to get started
10/10/14	Forest Awareness Tour @ Eastman: Christian Heritage School	Longview, TX	School talk	28	1 presentation
10/10/14	Political campaign dinner	Gilmer, TX	Social outreach		Met & spoke with state reps. about TBA, bees importance to agriculture etc.
10/11/14	Winnsboro Farmers Market	Winnsboro, TX	Farmers Market Booth Work	100+	Spoke to children & adults abt. bees/honey, helped sell honey
10/13/14	Caddo Trace Beekeepers Mtg.	Mount Pleasant, TX	Bee Meeting	30	Gave talk on neonicotinoids and bees
10/17-19/14	Texas State Fair	Dallas, TX	Cooking Demonstrations	17,000	3 days, 6 cooking demos, booth work, rode in parade twice
10/25/14	Morris Master Gardeners Expo	Dangerfield, TX	Bee talk	28	Gave power point on bees and gardening/flowers
10/28/14	1 st Presbyterian Children's Center	Longview, TX	School talk	30	1 presentation to PreK-Kindergarten w/ ETBA Honey Princess
10/30/14	Political Campaign Dinner	Mount Pleasant, TX	Social outreach		Met & spoke with state reps. & congressmen Louie Gohmert, and others abt. TBA, bees importance to agriculture etc.
10/6/14	Old Settlers Elementary School	Flower Mound, TX	School talk	32	3 presentations w/ TX Honey Princess
11/7-9/14	Texas Beekeepers Association Convention	Houston, TX	Beekeepers Convention	200	Power point on presenting abt. bees w/ TX honey Princess, end of year review, other speeches/updates, judged honey, helped w/ auction, participated in Queens Quiz Bowl and Bee Buzz,.
11/13/14	Athens Rotary Club	Athens, TX	Civic Meeting	35	Gave power point on bees & beekeeping
11/20/14	Forest Awareness Tour @ Eastman: Broadway Elementary School	Longview, TX	Outdoor School Talk	162	6 presentations to 3 rd graders & parents/teachers

Date	Event	Location	Type	Number of People Reached	Notes
01/29	Premier Learning Center	Wylie, TX	School		
2/15	Winter Delegates Meeting	Saledo, TX	Club Delegates		Attended, Met Delegates
3/13-3/18	Houston Rodeo and Livestock Show	Houston	Rodeo and Livestock Show	383,335	Total year attendance was 2,485,271
3/24	A+ Prep	Plano, TX	School	23	2 presentations
3-29	Central Texas Beekeepers School	Brenham, TX	Convention educational		
3-31	LS&S Preschool	Wylie . TX	School	46	2 Presentations
4-1	Merryhill School	McKinney, TX	School	25	1 Presentation
4-4	First Presbyterian Church	Richardson, TX	Monthly Community gathering	75	3 presentations
4-14	Children's Discovery Center	Plano, TX	School	58	One presentation
4-14	CCHBA Meeting	McKinney, TX	Local club	170	Report of activity
4-26	Girl Scouts Earth Day	Carrollton, TX	Community Event	300	20 presentations
5-2	Raptor Center Science and Research Day	Lucas, TX	Community Event	188	5 Presentations
5-07	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	CCHBA Meeting	McKinney, TX	Local Club	150	Report of Activity
5-13	Children's Discovery	Plano, TX	School	76	2 presentations. We were asked back from last month for different classes.
5-14-5-20	Strawberry Festival	Pasadena, TX	Festival	60,000	Last year's attendance – expected higher
5-16	Jensen Elementary School	Pasadena, TX	School	45	3 presentations
5-19	Montessori School		School	31	1 presentation
6-09	CCHBA	McKinney TX	Local club	170	Keynote Speaker
7/30	Homestead Group	Plano, TX		13	
9/7	Esther Horowitz Chatbad	Plano, TX	Hebrew School	120	1 Presentation
9/21	Jewish School	Arlington, TX	Jewish School	20	1 Presentation
9/27	Booth, Texas State Fair	Dallas, TX	Texas State Fair		All Day
10/12	Children's Garden Festival	Waco, TX	Master Gardener's		All Day
10/13	CCHBA	McKinney, TX	Local Club	180?	Activities report
10/15	Girl Scout Troop	Frisco, TX	Civic Group	24	



2014 Texas Honey Princess Shannon LaGrave

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your 2014 Texas Honey Princess. During the course of the year I have encountered many fresh challenges and opportunities for growth. The Texas Honey Queen Program has given me the gift of a unique opportunity to meet and learn from beekeepers across this incredible state.

The experiences gained here were, for me, meeting people through the state and making some friendships that I cherish. Along this path, I have been introduced to the remarkable places that make me even more proud of our vast state.

The beekeeping community is, as a whole, very enterprising and creative. From the professional beekeepers to the hobbyist, those I have met were outstandingly original in their methods and their knowledge and vision for the future of the industry.

The Honey Queen Program spends a great deal of time with children. These kids are an inspiration and working with them keeps everything fresh as they constantly express the wonder and

delight at all this little insect, the bee, is capable of. It reminds you to notice the joys of being a beekeeper.

The Honey Program spends time focused on the young in 4-H meetings and events, livestock shows, children's fairs, Girl Scouts and Schools of all levels and types. Serving here is one of my greatest privileges. To be able to open up the marvelous world of the bee, and those who care for them, to the children who hold a place in the future of the industry was an honor to me.

It was a joy to serve as your princess in so many ways. This position has provided a venue for the public speaking that I have found the greatest joy in. The training provided while I have been in this position has been a highlight and I will carry these skills into any profession that I pursue in the future. That brings me last but not least to the Texas Beekeepers Association and the many of you who supported me and carried me on.

Thank you TBA.

10/17-10-19	Texas State Fair	Dallas	Texas State Fair	20,000	Cooking Demos, Public relations, Parade
10/20	Sugar Hill 4-H	Farmersville	Civic Group	45	I presentation
10/20-10/26	Harris County Beekeepers	Houston	Bee Club		Honey Judging and Banquet
10/22	Raul Yzaguirre School	Houston	School	158	4 hour and a half presentations
11/06	Old Settlers Rd School	Flowermound	School	102	With Hayden 5 presentations total

Farmer Wanted for Mars Mission

Responsibilities include farm management, operating farm equipment, procuring inputs and supplies, managing outside contractors, and "other duties as assigned". Basic qualifications include 10 years of row cropping experience in Central Texas, experience in repair and maintenance of John Deere equipment, and a High school diploma or GED. For farmers used to working 80-hour+ work weeks they'll be happy to know that this is more of a part-time job, requiring a minimum of 50 hours per week.

The candidate will be working for SpaceX's "Texas Rocket Development & Test" group, so it's not exactly sure what our farmer will be doing, or on what planet he will be doing it on. Today's combines are more sophisticated than a spaceships, so maybe a farmer is the only one who will be able to fly these ships? And most importantly, will this farmer get 40 acres and a space tractor to colonize Mars?

Earlier this year Elon Musk, the founder of both SpaceX and Tesla, said that he was hoping that humans will fly to the red planet by 2026 to start building a fully functioning city, so it makes sense that they'll need to understand how to grow their own food. There is still a lot of development to be done, but SpaceX is well funded, and was recently awarded a \$1.6 billion contract from NASA to use SpaceX's Falcon Rocket and Dragon space capsule to shuttle astronauts to and from space. The Falcon 9/Dragon made history in 2012 when it was the first commercial ship to dock the international space station. Musk estimated that a round trip would costs \$500,000 per person, and take 200 days each way. (From CATCH THE BUZZ 12/5/2014)

Greetings from Dr. Juliana Rangel at Texas A&M University

Assistant Professor of Apiculture, Department of Entomology, Texas A&M University

Howdy TBA members!

The end of 2014 is approaching and we need to be thankful for such a productive year at the Honey Bee Lab. Many new people have joined the lab, we have obtained multiple sources of funding for our ongoing research projects, we have a successful business model with the ever popular Aggie Honey and our students and lab members simply rock!

First, the TBA convention in Houston was a success and it was a pleasure presenting and interacting with all the participants. I am particularly thankful to the TBA board for having included myself and the honey bee research program in the list of resolutions during the business meeting, which was passed unanimously by the membership. In the resolution, the TBA thanked Texas A&M University for the honey bee program and the apiary inspection service. This demonstration of trust is invaluable and I want to thank you for these two first years of communication, hard work and visible results in projects that directly benefit the beekeepers of Texas.

I am also glad that Liana Teigen from the Tech Transfer Team in Florida was able to join us. During her presentation, Liana reminded us that along with the Bee Informed Partnership (BIP), we are working on the development of a Tech Transfer Team (TTT) in Texas, which will be organized and partially funded by grants received by the BIP, led by Dr. Dennis vanEngelsdorp from the University of Maryland. I encourage you to visit their website at <http://beeinformed.org/team-2/tech-transfer-teams/>. The Texas TTT will be looking for one to two beekeepers to manage the team, so be on the lookout for job advertisements coming up sometime around February 2015. One of the TTT leaders will be attending and presenting at this year's TBA convention in Houston, so you will have plenty of opportunities to ask questions regarding requirements for participation.

Second, I had the pleasure to attend and present at this year's meeting of the Entomological Society of America (ESA) in Portland, OR. I gave a total of 3 scientific talks, organized a symposium and witnessed the TAMU Graduate Linnaean Team beat OK State University (our regional archenemies) in the quarterfinals, obtaining 3rd place at the national competition of the Linnaean Games. I am proud to be the coach of the TAMU student team, consisting of graduate students Lauren Ward, James Tracy, Adrian Fisher and Suhas Vyavhare, with alternates Pierre Lau and Carl Hjelman. The team competed against several other universities in the quiz-bowl style competition between universities during the meeting.

According to the ESA website, the Linnaean Games is a lively question and answer quiz-bowl style competition between university-sponsored teams that tests the students' general entomological knowledge. Each team is comprised of four players with two alternates. Scoring is done by correctly answering questions asked by the moderator. The team that answers the highest number of questions correctly moves to the next round. Our performance at the national Linnaean Games was stellar, especially because we beat three teams during the elimination rounds, including beating Oklahoma State in the quarter-

finals, a great victory considering that we lost first place to them at the Southwestern Branch of ESA annual meeting earlier in San Antonio.

Third, you might not know that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced a 60-day comment period on the "Benefits of Neonicotinoid Seed Treatments to Soybean Production," closing December 22. Anyone can leave a comment during this time. Make your voice heard, leave a comment! Here is the site to post comments to the EPA:

<http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0737>



Dr. Rangel with the TAMU Linnaean Team winning 3rd place in Portland, Oregon

Last, but not least, we are proud to announce that our student Liz Walsh received one of the five Student Research Awards of the American Beekeeping Federation. This award, which includes a monetary prize, will enable Liz to travel (all expenses paid!) to the 2015 ABF convention in Anaheim, CA, 6-10 January, where we will be able to present her research and academic/beekeeping interests. Next time you see Liz, congratulate her on a job well done!

I am truly honored to serve the beekeeping community of Texas, and I thank you for the support you have provided to me and members of the lab this year. 2014 was a wonderful year and



The Honey Bee Lab Members celebrating Thanksgiving. Happy Holidays TBA!!

a testament to our hard work. Here's to hoping that 2015 is even more productive and fun.

Happy holidays, and as always, if you want to contact me, please email me at jrangel@tamu.edu.



2014 Honey Princess Shannon LaGrave with Dr. John Thomas

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2015 Texas Honey Queen Tabitha Mansker

Hello my name is Tabitha Mansker, I am proud to be your 2015 Texas Honey Queen. I am honored to be selected for this position and cannot wait to represent such a great organization. I want to say a huge THANK YOU to each of you. The support and friendship you have shown me and my family through the years is greatly appreciated. Now I'm going to share a little bit about myself and how I got started in beekeeping.

I am 18 years old, I live on a small farm in Nevada, Texas. My parents are Gary and Wanda Mansker. I have two brothers, James, and Matthew and two sisters Kaylynn and Hannah. Along with honey bees we raise many different animals on our farm, (the number varies year to year). I am currently raising two pigs, whom I am hoping to breed soon (and to enjoy some delicious bacon, sssshhh..... don't tell them). Some things I enjoy are, playing piano, photography, working on the farm, baby sitting and serving in my church.

I was first introduced to beekeeping in 2007 when my older brother James received a scholarship from the Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Association. I have to admit, I was excited for my brother but I wanted nothing to do with bees. I had never been stung by a honey bee, so it was nothing personal - I just wasn't interested in them. I did attend all of the monthly meetings, learned a lot of information and met many great people. Beekeeping was a family thing from the beginning. James and my Dad attended the classes and we were all excited when his bees came in the spring. I remember them asking if I

would like to help move the bees or go through them. I would quickly remind everyone that I was strictly the photographer. By July though I was ready to help with the honey extracting. We all took turns scratching, loading and cranking the three frame extractor. Straining the honey became my job. I also discovered I love entering our honey in contests. (There is just something about a perfect jar of honey). Well by the third year I had moved from just photographer, to head honey bottler at our home. I had made my first trips into the bee hive and was starting to understand how important these little insects were to our world. We bought more equipment and our garage turned into a wooden ware building facility, with no heating (we worked on the boxes November-January).



The next year was one of the most exciting years in my entire life (all 14 years of it). I got my first summer job, and guess where it was?.....A Honey House! There was (and still is) a commercial beekeeper who lived just down the road from us. Some of you may know him, his name is Mr. John Talbert.

Every summer he and his wife, bravely hired about eight to ten teenagers to come work for them. My brothers, sisters and I were among those teens. We worked long days extracting honey, trying to keep more in the barrels than on the floor. Working in the honey house there were always lots of bees flying around and I soon lost my fear of them. At this honey house the long days came with many perks, like..... ice cream breaks, honey fights, and some of the best sweet tea in the south (Mrs. Laveda's specialty). And of course at the end of the day, cleanup (a.k.a. all out water fights).

Through the years I learned how each machine works, how to run them and how to replace parts. I have been awarded, "The Scratcher" title, at multiple commercial beekeeping operations (honey houses). This may mean nothing to you, but if you have ever had the amazing privilege of helping to uncap (scratch)



millions of frames using a plastic handle with nails poking through it, (Dadant scratcher), you too would be proud of this title. I have worked extracting honey on a commercial scale every summer since and I love it!

In 2009, my sister Kaylynn, became the Collin County Honey Princess. As I watched and helped her at events, I had a growing desire to do the same thing for our industry and the public. She went on to be the 2010 Collin County Queen, and 2011 Texas Honey Queen. My interest continued to grow, and in 2014 I was selected as the Collin County Honey Queen. I have enjoyed my year tremendously. Being able to attend and present at all the schools, fairs and other events has been a experience of a life time. I have grown so much, in my public speaking, presentation skills and knowledge of the beekeeping industry.

I would like to say thanks again for giving me this terrific opportunity to be your spokesperson. I'm looking forward to serving you this year and can't wait to meet all of you.

Have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Tabitha Mansker

Texas Beekeepers Association

2015

Honey Queen

2015
TEXAS 4-H BEEKEEPING ESSAY CONTEST
RULES AND GUIDELINES

DEADLINE FOR ESSAY

JANUARY 9, 2015

AWARDS:

National Cash Prizes to 3 Top Winners:

1st Place: \$750.00

2nd Place: \$500.00

3rd Place: \$250.00

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

Texas Cash Prizes to 3 Top Winners

1st Place: \$300.00

2nd Place: \$200.00

3rd Place: \$100.00

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

TOPIC: For the 2015 essay contest, the essay topic is:

“Reducing the Usage of Bee-Killing Pesticides in my Community”

Beekeeping has become difficult due to a lack of native plants for forage. In this essay, you will be required to discuss ways that habitats can be modified to become “bee friendly.” Does your community allow roadsides and open land to grow wildflowers and encourage native planting of bee friendly plants?

Survey your community to see what is being done to help honeybees. Include your state in your survey to see if there is a wildflower planting program available or any other program that could aid the honey bee.

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

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

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

NOTE: FOR 2015 ONLY ESSAYS SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Amy L. Dromgoole

4180 State Highway 6
College Station, TX 77845

Tel. 979.845.6533

Fax. 979.845.6495

Amy.dromgoole@tamu.edu

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



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

RULES:

1. Contest is open to active 4-H Club members only. 4-H'ers who have previously placed first, second, or third at the national level are not eligible; but other state winners are eligible to re-enter.
2. Requirements (failure to meet any one requirement disqualifies the essay) –
 - Write on the designated subject only.
 - All factual statements must be referenced with bibliographical-style endnotes.
 - A brief biographical sketch of the essayist, including date of birth, gender, complete mailing address, and telephone number, must accompany the essay.
 - Length – the essay proper: 750 to 1000 words.
 - The word count does not include the endnotes, the bibliography or references, nor the essayist's biographical sketch – which should be on a separate page.
 - Preparation for National Judging: Typewritten or computer-generated double-spaced, 12pt. Times or similar type style, on one side of white paper following standard manuscript format.
3. Essays will be judged on (a) scope of research - 40%; (b) accuracy - 30%; (c) creativity - 10%; (d) conciseness - 10%; and (e) logical development of the topic - 10%.
4. Individual **must** send all essays electronically to the Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program by **January 9, 2015**. E-mails should be sent to Amy Dromgoole at amy.dromgoole@tamu.edu.
5. Final judging and selection of the National Winner will be made by the Foundation's Essay Committee, whose decision is final.
6. The National Winner will be announced by May 1, 2015.
7. All National entries become the property of the Foundation and may be published or used as it sees fit. No essay will be returned. National winning essays will be posted at: <http://honeybeepreservation.org>.

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CERTIFICATION FORM

Houston Chefs Judge Texas Honey

from Mark Hedley

We Texas Beekeepers gathered last week in Houston for our Association's Annual Convention, held this year at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. One of the highlights is the Annual Honey Competition which, this year, featured a "Black Jar" honey competition where judging is based on flavor profile and taste.

Judges were:

Chef Jamie Zelco, Owner and Executive Chef, Zelco Bistro, 705 E 11th St., Houston TX 77008

Dalia Zelco, Owner and Partner, Zelco Bistro, 705 E 11th St., Houston TX 77008

Chef Jody Stevens, Owner and Executive Chef, Jodycakes, Fondren Southwest, Houston, TX

Chef Jackie Alejo, Private Personal Chef, 3415 Havenbrook Dr., Humble, TX 77339



Chef Jackie Alejo



Chef Jamie Zelco



Chef Jody Stevens

Beekeepers submit jars of their honey, without labels, that are coded by contest administrators. Contest Director, Mark Hedley, Spiral Horn Apiary, Rochelle, TX, and Administrators, Texas Honey Queen Hayden Wolf, American Honey Princess Elena Hoffman, and Local Association Honey Queens provided "blind" samples on black straws to the Celebrity Chefs to further disguise physical characteristics of the honey samples. Color, an indication of source and flavor, cannot be seen on a black straw. In contrast to traditional honey competitions this method allowed for honey "straight from the hive" and not filtered or heated in any way.

Honey produced this way "unfiltered, raw" is believed to be much more efficacious than the shiny, clear honey most often available in grocery stores.

Our celebrity chefs' sophisticated palates and sense of smell provided the sensory perspectives of floral sources, and even location of hives by railroad tracks. Their amazing commentary

included comments such as "raspberries", "peaches", "woody", "great depth of flavor", "rosemary flowers", "this hive was by a railroad track".

Winners were:

Local Blend

First Place – James and Chari Elam, Montgomery County Beekeepers Association.

Second Place - Gary Mansker, Collin County Beekeepers Association

Third Place – Dwain Cleveland, Dino-Beekeepers Association

Local Varietal

First Place – Jim Willingham – Uvalde TX

Second Place – Chris Moore – Vice President, Texas Beekeepers Association

Non-Local Blend

First Place – Chris Moore – Vice President, Texas Beekeepers Association

Texas Beekeepers Association 2014 Annual Convention

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Houston, TX

Some 200 folks, who were either beekeepers or interested in joining that profession, descended on the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Houston, early in November, for their annual convention. The line up of speakers was first class and allowed for interest at all levels, from the commercial beekeeper with a few thousand hives, to the hobbyist with just a few.

General sessions gathered everyone for topics affecting all, and break out groups allowed for more in depth presentations on specific subjects.

On Thursday, Dr Larry Connor hosted a class on "Practical Backyard Beekeeping", while Melody Seida and friends held a KLAB - Kids Learning About Bees - for local children.

The Queen's Buzz Bowl on Friday night was great entertainment as well as a learning experience and almost all the Texas Queens and Princesses were there. They do an excellent job throughout the year educating schools and special interest groups about the honey bee and beekeeping.

Saturday night was the annual fund raising banquet where over \$11,000 was collected for the support of the Honey Queen program. The feature of the evening was the Cookie Jar, donated every year by Stanford Brantley, which raised some \$1800 from the Talbert family. They then began a new tradition by presenting the jar to the outgoing Texas Honey Queen, Hayden Wolf.



*Stanford Brantley confers with
Dr. Larry Connor*



*Decorated Smoker Table Arrangements for the
Banquet*



*Jennie Mann assists Shirley Doggett at
Registration*



*Chris Moore and Texas Honey Queen Hayden
Wolf discuss the program*



Children at KLAB with Honey Bear



Central Texas Honey Queen Caroline Boozar



Blake Shook, TBA President begins the Convention



Texas Honey Princess, Shannon LaGrave



Roger Farr and Mark Dykes talk with Willow Lanchester, East Texas Honey Princess



American Honey Princess Elena Hoffman



Mark Hedley and the Black Honey Judging Team



The Royal Court



Queens and Princesses in Banquet Dress



Chris Doggett Receives the Dr. John G Thomas Meritorious Service Award from John Talbert



Mark Hedley Receives the President's Award from Blake Shook



Chris Moore Receives the Jim Petty Memorial Award - Beekeeper of the Year - to Chris Moore



*Jimmy Oakley, Retiring Treasurer, receives
Special Award for 18 years of Service*



*Miss Tabitha Mansker Crowned
Texas Honey Queen 2015*



*John Talbert Wins the Bid for
Walker Honey Farms Mead*



*Tabitha Mansker with Stanford Brantley's
Donated Cookie Jar*



*Texas Beekeepers Association's Intrepid Auctioneer
Weldon Riggs*



*Auctioneer's Assistant, Mark Dykes,
Chief Apiary Inspector*

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

Rick Fink - (210) 872-4569

president@alamobees.org

www.alamobees.org

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday on odd # months; at

Helotes Ind. Baptist Church

15335 Bandera Rd., Helotes @ 7 pm

Austin Area Beekeepers Association

Lance Wilson - (512) 619-3700

lw@ausapts.com

8701 North Mopac Expressway #150, Austin TX 78759

www.meetup.com/Austin-Urban-Beekeeping/

Meeting: 3rd Monday of each month

Old Quarry Library, 7051 Village Center Dr., Austin TX 78731 @ 7pm

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

Brazos Valley Beekeepers Association

Chris Barnes - (979) 220-0004

info@bvbeeks.org

5105 Wallis Rd., Bryan, TX 77808

Meetings: 3rd. Tuesday of each month at 7pm

Caddo Trace Beekeepers Association

Roger Farr - (979) 436-5310

6073 Farm Road 2348, Mount Pleasant, TX 75455

rdfarr@gmail.com

Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month at 7pm

Titus County Agrilife Extension Bldg, 1708 Industrial Rd.,

Mount Pleasant, TX 75455

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;

Collin College Conference Center, (Central Park Campus)

2200 West University Drive, McKinney, TX 75071 @ 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

Ron Chess - (979) 525-9254

ragsdale@industryinet.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

Fredericksburg Beekeepers Association

Joe Bader - (830) 537-4040

joebees@gmail.com

724 Cypress Bend Dr., Boerne, TX 78006

Meetings: Third Thursday of even number months (excl. Dec)

Gillespie County AgriLife Extension Office

95 Frederick Rd., Fredericksburg, TX 78624 @ 6:30 pm

Harris County Beekeepers Association

David DeLong - (832) 347-8989

info@harriscountybeekeepers.org

133 Mulberry, Lake Jackson, TX 77566

www.harriscountybeekeepers.org

Meetings: 4th Tuesday of each month

Golden Acres Center - 5001 Oak Avenue

Pasadena @ 7 pm

Local Beekeepers' Associations in Texas

Heart of Texas Beekeepers Association

Gary Bowles - (254) 214-4514

gbowles@peoplepc.com

Meetings: 4th Tuesday of each month
(except December) at Vegas Buffet,
505 N. Valley Mills Dr., Waco, TX 76710
Dinner at 6 pm, Meeting at 7 pm

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 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 5:30 pm
Centrall Marshall Fire Station
601 S Grove St., Marshall, TX 75670

Metro Beekeepers Association

Roger Evarrt, President

evarttrog@yahoo.com

www.metrobeekeepers.net

344 NW King St., Burleson, TX 76028

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

David Oliver - (817) 992-4517

david.oliver@utsouthwestern.edu

631 VZ CR 4124, Canton, TX 75103

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of each month; @ 6:45 pm
Russell Memorial United Methodist Church
Deen Building, George Hall
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

info@traviscountybeekeepers.org

9874 Wier Loop Circle, Austin, TX 78736

www.traviscountybeekeepers.org

Meetings: First Monday of the month at 7pm
Zilker Botanical Garden, 2220 Barton Springs Rd., 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

Directors -at-Large and Local Associations Served:

Area 1	Lisa Dittfurth <i>dittfurths@gmail.com</i> 12992 CR 577 Anna, TX 75409 (972) 542-4419	Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Association Metro Beekeepers Association Trinity Valley Beekeepers Association Red River Beekeepers Association
Area 2	Leesa Hyder <i>lhyder@swbell.net</i> 82 Sandpebble Dr. The Woodlands, TX 77381 (281) 460-0344	Central Texas Beekeepers Association Montgomery County Beekeepers Association Walker County Beekeepers Association Brazos Valley Beekeepers Association
Area 3	Mark Hedley <i>mark@spiralhornapiary.com</i> 8247 FM 502 Rochelle, TX 76872 (325) 463-5319	Concho Valley Beekeepers Association Dino-Beekeepers Association Heart of Texas Beekeepers Association Rio Grande Valley Beekeepers Association Coastal Bend Beekeepers Association
Area 4	Eddie Collins <i>eddiecollins@brookshires.com</i> 10965 Ardis St. Whitehouse, TX 75791 (903) 871-2391	Caddo Trace Beekeepers Association Marshall Beekeepers Association Northeast Texas Beekeepers Association Pineywoods Beekeepers Association East Texas Beekeepers Association
Area 5	Cameron Crane <i>cameron@cameroncrane.com</i> 2300 Belvedere Dr. Baytown, TX 77520 (409) 658-3800	Liberty County Beekeepers Association Harris County Beekeepers Association Fort Bend Beekeepers Association Brazoria County Beekeepers Association Houston Beekeepers Association
Area 6	Tammy Barr <i>tammybarrbrands@hotmail.com</i> 216 N Painted Trees Rd. Fort Davis, TX 79734 (325) 642-2012	Concho Valley Beekeepers Association Dino-Beekeepers Association Heart of Texas Beekeepers Association Rio Grande Valley Beekeepers Association Coastal Bend Beekeepers Association
Special Advisor to TBA Board	Lance Wilson <i>lance@apartmentexperts.com</i> 17021 Conway Springs Court Austin, TX 78717 (512) 619-3700	Alamo Area Beekeepers Association Austin Area Beekeepers Association Travis County Beekeepers Association Fayette County Beekeepers Association Fredricksburg Beekeepers Association Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association

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Texas Beekeepers Association

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TBA Officers-2014



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