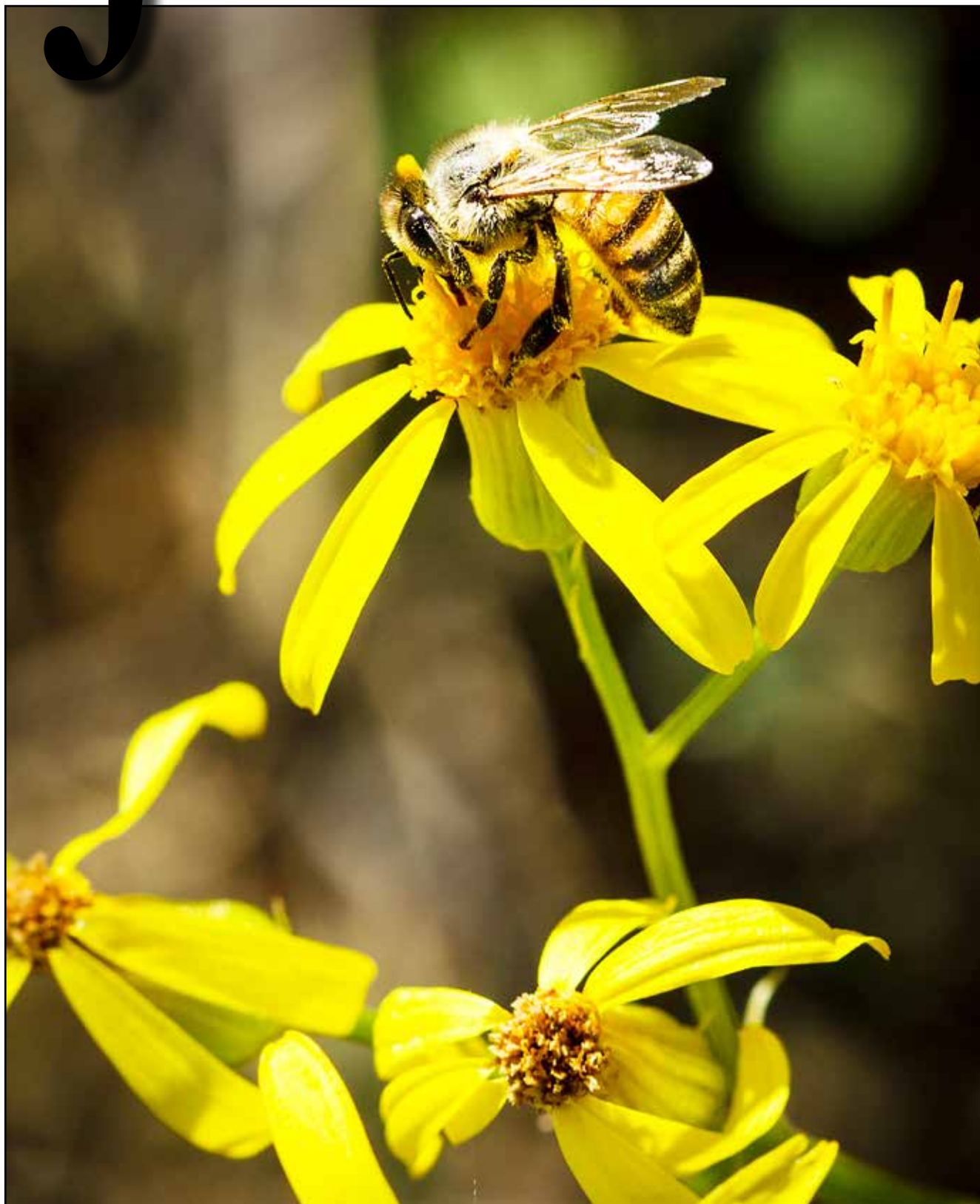


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Journal



Mar / Apr 2015

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Issue 15-2



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President's Report

from Blake Shook



Summer Clinic, Small Scale Honey Exemption and More ...

Hello Texas Beekeepers!

I never imagined I would say it, but I think I am ready for it to stop raining! I wish we could postpone some of it for August. In the past few days we have gotten 3 semis of bees stuck as they tried to bring our bees back from pollination in California. While I am wishing, I wish we could send some of this moisture to California. The drought is very severe, with only 1 more year of water left in reserves, and yet again, they are experiencing a record dry spring. It will be interesting to see what the future holds, especially when so many beekeepers depend on almond pollination for a substantial portion of their income. On a positive note, as a commercial beekeeper, I am very excited about the Bee Informed Partnership coming to Texas, which I believe will be a tremendous help to beekeepers across the state.

As we are all busy making splits, and working with our bees this spring, there are many exciting things happening within TBA! There are so many things going on, it is tough to narrow down which ones to talk about.

1. Our summer clinic committee has been hard at work to bring to you a whole new clinic, packed with dozens of speakers, live bee demonstrations, extracting demos, vendors, and much more, located at the Montgomery County Fair Grounds. We will continue to send you information on the clinic. For only \$40, it will be a day you won't want to miss!

2. We will keep you posted on updates, but we are continuing to work on a pollinator protection plan to be put in place in Texas, which will protect bees from pesticide sprays. We are very optimistic about being able to help greatly reduce the occurrence of hives being sprayed by harmful pesticides whether they are in an apiary, or pollinating a crop.

3. We also had the pleasure of hosting an event at the A&M bee lab, where representatives from 28 of the 30 bee clubs in Texas attended. We want to have an open dialogue with all local bee clubs as we try to work together and make sure we all are helping each other as much as possible. It was great to hear many ideas and thoughts and get to know so many people from across the state. I look forward to next years meeting!

4. One of the final projects I wanted to mention was a scholarship we are creating, with the help of Dr. Rangel, for entomology students. Our current goal is to award at least 1 scholarship each year for a grad student who is working on a bee related project. We have already received so much support for this scholarship, that I would not be surprised if this scholarship quickly grows in the amount, and number of recipients.

5. As most of you also know, the TBA Legislative team has been hard at work. Most of you have seen the letter we sent out a few weeks ago updating all of you on our progress. After asking for all of your input on updating Ag Code 131, many of you voiced concerns about the current law, and the changes. Some concerns were valid, and we are working to make those changes, but for the time being, 131 has been tabled until the next legislative session in 2017. Please continue to read the current 131, and let us know of changes you would like to see moving forward.

6. We received overwhelmingly positive support on the legislation to exempt small-scale beekeepers from the need to obtain a food manufacturer's license to bottle and sell their honey. Based upon comments we received, we were able to incorporate several suggested changes into the draft prior to the filing deadline. We are pleased to report that on March 13, identical bills were filed in the House by Rep. Will Metcalf (H.B. 3746) and in the Senate by Sen. Brandon Creighton (S.B. 1766). We hope that you will take the time to contact your representative and your senator and ask them to support these bills. I'm sure our sponsors would appreciate a short note or email thanking them for the work they have done on behalf of Texas beekeepers in preparing and filing these bills. Small scale and hobby beekeepers are an important part of the industry and their numbers are growing in Texas. Current laws are an unnecessary discouragement to the hobby beekeeper and these bills are an important step in encouraging the continued growth of small scale beekeeping in our state.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Summer Clinic, where we will also have a Q&A session about legislative issues.

Have a great spring,



Vice President's Report

from Chris Moore



Legislative Frustration Texas Ag Code 131

I knew that you had to be an idiot to keep bees, but OMG I had no idea that was so true.

For the past 87 years we have had the same chief apiary inspector in Texas regulating our bees. Paul Jackson was "The Man" for 37 anyway. Paul ran TAIS – Texas Apiary Inspection Service. He enforced current law that actually originated back in 1911 and was last updated back in the 80's. Yes, Texas Agricultural code 131 has been our current bee laws for years.

In 2013, after an extended medical leave, Paul retired due to health issues and I am sad to say just recently passed away. Mark Dykes was hired and started last May to take his place.

TBA has known for quite some time (years & years) that the current law, 131, needed to be updated. So in August last year we assembled a committee of all sizes of beekeepers to review and make suggested changes. We knew it would be a tough job to complete the process for the 2015 Legislative session. We met several times and painfully went through everything word by word. We did get a draft written in Austin and submitted it to everyone for review and that's when things went astray. 95% of the comments we received were not even about the proposed changes, they were either about the Current Law or just Regulation haters. Thus my frustration and my fore mentioned

comment. My apologies if that actually offends anyone. We did, however, get some good feedback and suggestions. So we are going to revisit our suggested changes and try to get them updated in Jan 2017. We will have more time to look at the proposed changes and some other suggestions about improving current law.

I encourage you to look at our current bee laws, if you actually read them you will see they need some work, one of the last updates was in relation to Foul Brood. Our goal is to simplify, update, and give TAIS the ability to combat whatever potential bee hazard shows up next, such as the Cape Bee. We live in a global society; ships carry goods from all over the world into our ports, such as pipe - that might happen to have a swarm of bees in it with a new pest from who know where.

We are also proposing that TAIS role expand into education and extension roles, such as the Master Beekeeper program and help beekeepers with IPM models.

Everyone needs to understand, TAIS is not the Bee Police !!!! They are helping us by protecting and serving our Industry.

If you would like to help with this Legislative process, please let us know.

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Cover Picture from Dan Eudy



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Saturday June 6th, 10am - 4pm

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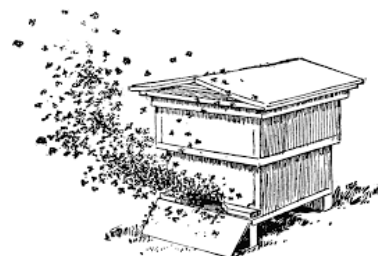
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Drones
Marketing your Honey
And more...*



See Page 7 for more details

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and Fun Facts you never knew**

Summer Clinic Registration Form

Use this form or register online at www.texasbeekeepers.org



Summer Clinic Registration June 6th., 2015

Name (s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Please indicate # of attendees

_____ \$40- Individual (\$50 after 5/25, before 6/1)

_____ \$70- 2 Adults same household (\$80 after 5/25, before 6/1)

_____ \$15 - Child 16 and under

_____ Total Paid

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Early Registration ends May 25, 2015

At the Door Registration (Day of Event) \$60, Individual - \$90, 2 Adults same household

Calendar of Events
Keep these dates free

Summer Clinic
Montgomery County Fairgrounds
June 6th., 2015

Annual Convention
Belton Expo Center
October 29th - 31st., 2015

Summer Clinic 2015 **Register Early Please**

Early Registration ends May 25th 2015

\$40 per person, \$70 per couple

Registration 5/26 through 6/1

\$50 per person, \$80 per couple

Registration at event

\$60 per person, \$90 per couple

Children under 16

\$15

Summer Clinic

June 6th., 2015 - Montgomery County Fairgrounds

NEW BEEKEEPERS

(0-1 YEARS EXPERIENCE)

Honey Bee Biology and Behavior
How to Get Started - Equipment Essentials
Buying Bees, Installation and Apiary Setup
Annual Management

INTERMEDIATE

(2 OR MORE YEARS EXPERIENCE)

Honey Bee Biology and Behavior
Nutrition Management
General Management (Part 1)
General Management (Part 2)
Effective Varroa Management Through IPM
Bottling and Marketing
How to Turn Your Hobby into a Business
Maximising Honey Production

ALL BEEKEEPERS

Honey Extraction
Top Bar Hives
Swarm Prevention
Splitting Hives
131 (Discussion)
Beescapes
Growing Pains - Hobby to Sideliner
Building a Hobbyist/Sideliner Honey House

2-4 PM OPEN TO PUBLIC AND SCHOOL AGED

CHILDREN ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

All Aspects of Beekeeping

BEGINNER

(1 OR MORE YEARS EXPERIENCE)

Feeding Basics
Varroa Monitoring
Queen Finding and Requeening
Swarm Capture

ADVANCED

(3 OR MORE YEARS EXPERIENCE)

African and Africanized Bees
Oxalic Acid
Pest Management
IPM Varroa
Raising Queens
IPM Varroa
Drones
Pollen

ASK THE EXPERTS

A Panel of Experts available to answer questions on all Honey Bee matters

KIDS TEACHING KIDS

Honey Bee Biology and Behavior
How to Get Started
Annual Management





THE BUDS AND THE BEES

Flowers That Leave a Bad Taste in Your Mouth

by Becky Bender, Texas Master Naturalist

While the list is short, some Texas plants do yield bad-tasting honey.

My grandson, Cole, is our family's chief honey enthusiast and annual taste judge. He proclaims our 2009 harvest as "best in show". Cole aspires to go to college at MIT, an institution known for world-changing inventions (World Wide Web, Human Genome, Technicolor and Nuclear Fission to name a few). We have challenged him with the task of inventing the first "honey bee app" which would direct bees toward the tastiest flowers and away from the bad-tasting ones. Until he gets accepted to MIT, however, we must all face the reality that a few Texas plants can produce bad-tasting honey.

Most of us produce honey that varies somewhat in flavor from year-to-year depending on the weather and what the bees had to choose from. Most of us produce a tasty Mixed Wildflower Honey. Some of us produce a unique Unifloral Honey that is primarily from one plant, such as Tallow, Mesquite or Rattan Vine. Fortunately, most of us can brag about our honey. However, there are a small number of plants that produce bad-tasting honey in Texas. Here are those plants that can leave a bad taste in your mouth.

SNOW-ON-THE-PRAIRIE (*Euphorbia bicolor*) and **SNOW-ON-THE-MOUNTAIN** (*Euphorbia marginata*) are probably the most infamous "honey plants" in Texas. Snow-on-the-Prairie is abundant in the northern and eastern regions of Texas, Houston and along the coast. A similar species, Snow-on-the-Mountain occurs in the western half of Texas. Both species may grow in the central regions of Texas. The plant often grows in masses of white, showy flowers that mimic snow. They are common in dry fields, prairies and along roadsides beginning in early August.

These plants give honey a hot taste which beekeepers refer to it as "jalapeno honey". Flowers bloom early August through October, forcing beekeepers to harvest honey before bees discover them.

On August 15, 2014, beekeeper John Paulson extracted honey from hives in St. Paul, Texas (Collin County), for analysis at the Texas A&M Laboratory of Palynology. John notified the lab team that the honey "left his throat feeling raspy and sore". Dr. Bryant, Director of the Lab, responded that neither he nor his graduate students believed John's complaints. So each of them ate less than a teaspoon of the honey and, to their surprise, ended up complaining of "sore throats that lasted an hour or more". The



*Snow on the Prairie
Euphorbia bicolor*

amount of Snow-on-the-prairie pollen, and by inference nectar, that was detected in John's honey was only 3% of the total nectar. This story illustrates why Texas beekeepers harvest honey prior to the bloom of this plant. On the more entrepreneurial side, Clint Walker III, of Walker Honey Farm in Rogers, Texas, reports that "some Texas beekeepers routinely harvest Snow-on-the-Mountain honey and market its heat!" Sopapillas, anyone?

ANNUAL or COMMON BROOMWEED, also called **SLAKEWEED** (*Gutierrezia dracunculoides*) is an annual Texas pasture or prairie plant in the Aster Family that grows throughout Texas in clay, sand and limestone. Broomweed is hard to miss – just look for mounds of scrubby yellow flowers from August to October, often covering acres of over-grazed pastures. Another species is the perennial Broomweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*) which grows through south and west Texas in rugged, dry, open plains, disturbed areas and is occasionally used in native landscapes.

Broomweed can cause gastrointestinal upsets in cattle. Livestock avoid it, thus leaving it in massive displays in pastures. Broomweed may give honey a "strong" taste but is usually not terribly distasteful. Since it blooms in fall, it contributes to winter stores for our honey bees and rarely interferes with the honey which is already in our buckets, barrels or bottles.



Broomweed
Gutierrezia dracunculoides

Not all species of **BITTERWEED**, also called **SNEEZEWEED**, produce bad-tasting honey. However, some do. In south-east, east and west-central Texas, the Bitterweed species, *Helenium amarum*, is known to produce a very bitter honey. The bright yellow flowers bloom in open woods, fields, over-grazed pastures and disturbed areas from May to November.



Bitterweed
Helenium amarum

Clint Walker III of Walker Honey Farms in Rogers, Texas, calls Bitterweed honey “definitely unpalatable” and observes that “cows grazing Bitterweed produce nearly undrinkable milk”. In July, 2010, Commercial beekeeper Blake Shook of Desert Creek Honey, harvested honey in July of 2010 in Fannin County that he described as “dreadful tasting”. He suspected Bitterweed as the culprit.

LIGUSTRUM, commonly called Wax-leaf Ligustrum and Privet, is a genus of 40 species native to Europe, Africa and Asia. Most of us know Ligustrum as an evergreen shrub widely used as landscape hedges. The small white clusters of flowers have a heavy fragrance some describe as pleasant but others call foul-smelling. The berries may be poisonous to people and the leaves can poison livestock. Wildlife ingests the berries and then deposits them in



Ligustrum

diverse native plants. In the wild, especially in moist wooded areas, it can quickly spread out of control.

While Ligustrum does not harm our bees, it can give a bad-tasting or bitter flavor to honey. Bees gather the nectar when flowers appear in late spring and summer. Some beekeepers consider Ligustrum to be a good bee plant; however, if enough gets mixed with the major honey flow, it can lower honey quality. If feasible, you may keep shrubs pruned so flowers don’t appear. And when planting, substitute evergreen shrubs such Hollies, Abelia, Wax Myrtle, evergreen Sumac or Texas Sage.

A FEW OTHER FLOWERS are occasionally accused of making honey taste bad, but do they deserve the bad rap? **Rattan vine** (*Berchemia scandens*) is one. I’ve seen several honey analyses showing a content of Rattan vine as high as 93% of the total nectar. Every honey had a good taste. **Goldenrod** (*Solidago*) may get an undeserved reputation because it blooms in the fall at the same time as Snow-on-the-Mountain and Broomweed, both known to adversely affect honey. Commercial beekeeper Clint Walker III recalls that his Dad, also a commercial beekeeper, suspected the wildflower **Horsemint** or **Lemon Beebalm** (a *Monarda*) may give honey an “acid whang.” But he felt it rarely affected honey since it was always mixed with the nectar of other wildflowers such as **Indian Blankets** that bloomed at the same time.

If (rather WHEN) my grandson invents something to change the world at MIT, let’s hope he takes pity on hard-working honey producers and engineers a honey bee app for foraging. Until then, there’s no app for that. So watch out for flowers that leave a bad taste in your mouth.

*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.*

Tales of a Texas Beekeeper

From Joe Bader, Fredericksburg Beekeepers Association

Bob Kager has been keeping bees for over 65 years. He and his wife Paula have a German boutique and gift store near the outskirts of Fredericksburg in the Texas hill country.



Kuckuck's Nest Store

Bob got his start as a beekeeper in Germany. As a boy he knew an old beekeeper who had several hives. Noticing Bob's interest, the beekeeper took him under his wing and taught him the art of beekeeping. He has been fascinated with bees ever since. In 1948, as a teenager, he bought his first hive. That quickly turned into four hives. Near his village, there was a flour mill. The mill owner had 16 hives. When the mill owner decided to sell those hives, Bob was an eager buyer. He kept those new hives in a bee-house. It was common for the beekeepers in his area to build a room or shed to keep bees inside out of the cold of winter. The bee-house had glass windows with openings below the glass for the bees to come and go.

The hives that he used were different from what we are familiar with today. They had removable frames, but the frame size was about eight inches by eight inches. He described the hive box as having two levels, with several frames on the top and several on the bottom and a hinged door on the side of the hive box. He would open the hive like we would open a kitchen cabinet. Instead of lifting the frames out, you slid them out from the side. He remembers that his bees would build burr comb along with propolis on the small frames and he would really have to work to pull some of those frames out of the hive body.

As an occupation, Bob took up the trade of machinist. While he was an apprentice, he learned that the master machinist was also a beekeeper. As it worked out, the apprentice learned a lot about the machinist trade from the master and the master learned a lot about bees from Bob.

In 1964 he moved his family to Long Island New York. Once he bought a house, he began to accumulate a few beehives. It wasn't long until his neighbors learned about his beekeeping skills and there were times when he would get calls and capture three swarms in one day. He bought some metal working machines and began doing machinist work in his garage. Soon he had a thriving business not only doing very fine machining work, but importing and selling milling machinery from Germany.



Bob's Swarm Trap in a Cradle

In 1982 he moved his machining business to Fredericksburg Texas. He has built five metal working operations in the Fredericksburg area. His children and grandchildren own and actively manage many parts of the business. Bob loves his machinist work and he loves the German import business and boutique store, but if you want to really get him excited, ask him about his bees and beekeeping. He can talk for hours in his rich German accent about his life time experiences with the hobby he loves.



Checking Top Feeder Box

Most of us would keep bees a little distance from our house, but on the Kager's balcony, just outside of their second story bedroom sit four beehives. On the day I visited, it was too cold to go through the hives, but the bees were flying and returning with some beautiful red pollen.

Bob attends the Fredericksburg Area Beekeepers meeting and it is not unusual for him to walk in with a new idea or device that he has built for making beekeeping easier. He was having a challenge with ants invading one of his weakest hives. He designed and built a cradle for a standard Langstroth hive that suspends the hive body on threaded rods through cups that create a water moat that blocks ants. He brings creative thinking and machinist skills to beekeeping.

If you are in the Fredericksburg area, drop by and see Bob and Paula at their Kuckucks Nest store. But be careful about asking him about his bees unless you have an hour or so to listen to his fascinating stories and ideas about beekeeping.

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This article explores two European countries, Ukraine and Slovenia each rich in their own beekeeping lore and traditions. It shows how the Carniolan, Carpathian, Russian and other hybrid bee subspecies developed and how and why some of these bees made their way to apiaries in the United States. Tourism sites which show the history of different bee institutes, and historical figures in the industry of beekeeping are visited and explained.

Where do some beekeepers go on vacation? Well, if they are interested in honey bees, they could find some in just about every country of the world today. But, that was not always the case. The Americas only had solitary and stingless bees before the settlers came from Europe, but the familiar “commercial” varieties of honey bees that we have today in the United States came from European varieties (Caron & Connor, 2013, p 29). If it wasn't for those early settlers and their foresight, we would not have the business of beekeeping that we know today. So I tip my hat to them for bringing the “commercial” bees to the New World.

Nevertheless, as global trade expanded, not only have beekeepers experienced the joy of bees, but now many are experiencing the pain of parasites like Tracheal mites (*Acarapis woodi*) (Stitzinger, 2015), *Varroa destructor* and *V. jacobsoni* Oudemans mites (Ellis, J. & Zettel Nalen, C. Rev. June 2013) and hive beetles (*Aethina tunida* SHB) being transferred from other parts of the world to bee colonies here. In 1922, the Honey Bee Act (U.S. Code, Title 7,

Chapter 11, 281 – 286 Honeybee importation) was passed to help curtail the influx of these problems (Stitzinger). Unfortunately, the African bees couldn't read the law and they came anyway. Now with our bee borders closed for beekeepers to bring in fresh stock (with the exception of a few USDA scientists bringing in drone semen and queens from specific areas) the diversity of our country's bee gene pool is dwindling (Magnus, R. Tripodi, A & Szalanski, A., Tripodi, 2010).

That is why I feel it is so important for apiculturists to be aware of what other beekeepers are doing not only in their own backyard, but nationally, and internationally, too. I didn't realize this until my husband and I took a trip to Slovenia in 2006 and discovered the Apicultural Museum in Radovljica (<http://www.slovenia.info/?muzej=10115>). One can see from the picture below how beekeepers used to carry their hives before the age of the car. I wouldn't be caught dead transporting Africanized hives that way. I literally would be caught dead.

My curiosity was roused after that visit and I decided to investigate other European countries that may be important to beekeeping. That is how this article got started. I have not yet traveled to the Ukraine or to the Republic of Georgia but my research into beekeeping tourism hopefully will result in future travel there.

The following beehive pictures (on page 13) were taken by American-Ukrainian photographer Tania D'Avignon in the Carpathian Mountains of Western Ukraine and posted in a website article Travel West Ukraine by Maria Zawaski, who is

a native of western Ukraine. <http://www.travelwestukraine.net/2009/01/ukrainian-beehives-so-colorful.html>.

Exploring countries rich in bee traditions and seeing what other beekeepers are doing to solve their problems will in my humble opinion help U.S. beekeepers improve their own bee industry.

This article will hopefully explain the important apiculture traditions of two European countries, Ukraine and Slovenia which I feel have contributed so much to beekeeping in the United States. Unfortunately, due to safety concerns with the ongoing conflict between Russia and the Eastern Provinces of Ukraine, one should check with the U.S. government's State Department site (<http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/alertswarnings/ukraine-travel-warning.html>) to see if a

BEEKEEPING TOURISM - THE APICULTURE TRADITIONS OF THE UKRAINE AND SLOVENIA - PART I

*from Cynthia Schiotis - Alamo Area Beekeepers Association
Bees for Biodiversity*



*Slovenia Beekeeper with Hive Backpack
The Apiculture Museum of Radovljica*

trip there, even with all its beekeeping lore and beauty is worth it for you and your family.

Happily, most of the beekeeping areas are located in the center of Ukraine close to Kiev and in the western provinces of the country rather than where all the fighting is taking place.

Slovenia on the other hand, is still a tourist's paradise.

Overview of Western European Honey Bee Varieties

Ashleigh Milner (2011) of the Bee Improvement and Bee Breeders' Association, has written in her online article "*What are honey bees, anyway?*" that within the four species of the genus *Apis*, there exists only two out of four "suitable" for apiculture in modern, moveable hives: *cerana* the Asian honey bee and *mellifera*, the Western Honey bee (<http://bibba.com/honeybee-orgins/>).

The Western Honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) is a species of bee that has at least two dozen subspecies or races identified. Some of the most popular in Europe and the United States are or have been:

1) the original Dark (or German) European Honey Bee (*Apis mellifera mellifera*) whose range extends (but has been mostly been replaced with other subspecies where possible) from the island of Corsica and from the Pyrenees north of the Alps to the Ural Mountains in the East and Great Britain, Ireland, and Sweden in the north

2) the Caucasian Bee subspecies (*Apis m caucasica*) and the Mountain Grey Caucasian honeybees (both are Grey in color but the Caucasian has stripes while the Mountain Bee doesn't) which are found in the mountains and southern valleys of the modern day Republic of Georgia (on the east end of the Black Sea and south to Anatolia in modern day Turkey)

3) the Italian or Ligurian Honey Bee (*Apis m ligustica*) adapted to the warmer central Mediterranean region, and

4) the Carniolan (*Apis m carnica*) bee of Slovenia and Austria.

Ukrainian Geography

Ukraine is one of the largest countries in Europe. Ukraine has been known for centuries as the "breadbasket" of Europe for their fabulous wheat and agricultural production.



*Beehives in Carpathian Mountains
West Ukraine*



Beehives, Kolomyia, Ukraine



Beehives, Outside Ternopil, Ukraine



*Country of Ukraine
from*

<http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/alertswarnings/ukraine-travel-warning.html>

With more than thirty thousand different kinds of plants it is no wonder that the Ukraine is one of the world's top ten producers of honey. The country has a climate with temperatures that vary between 104 degrees Fahrenheit in the south during the summer to 22 degrees below zero in the northern regions during the winter.

For much of Ukraine's history, it has been part of Russia and the people have had a close but somewhat turbulent relationship with Russia. The capital of Ukraine is Kiev. Ukraine is surrounded by seven countries, Belarus to the north, Poland to the northwest and west, Slovakia and Hungary to the west, Romania and Moldova to the southwest and Russian to the east and northeast. With the takeover by Russia of the Crimean region in 2014, some of the southern coastline on the Black Sea now belongs to Russia.

Chernobyl Disaster

You might also remember that about 30 years ago, another catastrophic nuclear accident that occurred on April 26, 1986 in Ukraine (which was then officially called the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) under the direct jurisdiction of the central authorities of the Soviet Union. The Chernobyl disaster was the worst nuclear power plant accident in history in terms of cost and casualties (Chernobyl disaster. n.d. In Wikipedia. Retrieved. March 16, 2015 from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chernobyl_disaster). The battle to contain the contamination and avert a greater catastrophe ultimately involved over 500,000 workers and cost an estimated 18 billion rubles. During the accident itself, 31 people died and long-term effects such as cancers are still being investigated. Chernobyl is located not very far away to the northwest of the capital Kiev. (I also wonder how this disaster affected the bees and honey production, but I have not been able to find any articles on this subject).

Prokopovych Beekeeping Institute

Even with the conflict in the east and a nuclear catastrophe in the center of the country, no can seem to keep Ukrainian beekeepers away from their bees. There are continual seminars and educational forums being held at the Prokopovych Bee Institute on bee culture and scientific research on such subjects as "Apitherapy in the treatment of the musculoskeletal system," etc. (http://beekeeping.com.ua/html_en/about_en.html). Today, there are seven institutes which offer advanced level specialization in bees.

Beekeeping became an important part of Ukrainian culture because of the influence of several men, but the Ukrainian beekeeper, Petro Prokopovych (1775-1850) was the most important. He is considered to be the Founder of Rational Beekeeping. After a successful career in the military, he retired and decided in 1799 to dedicate the rest of his life to bees. He lived in the north central province of Chernihiv, just northeast of modern day city of Kiev.

By 1808, Prokopovych already had 580 bee-families (they call them families instead of colonies). At that time, there was no way of collecting honey without destroying the bee-families and the hive. So in 1814, he invented the first dismountable frame beehive together with the wooden partition and apertures passable only

for workable bees, which is what we refer to today as the queen excluder. At last, pure honey in the frames could be obtained without destroying the whole bee colony.

Prokopovych also founded a school for beekeepers. This school existed for 53 years and trained 700 beekeepers with the latest technology. He also published more than 60 articles in newspapers and magazines. He discovered a method of foul brood treatment without chemicals by driving bees to a new hive. Prokopovych is also considered the first commercial beekeeper because he ended up growing his original 580 bee-families to 6600 wooden framed beehives. What an amazing beekeeper! Remember, there was no electricity for honey extractors or lights, and there were no gasoline powered vehicles at this time. The Ukrainian Institute of Beekeeping is named after him and I believe rightly so.

A contemporary beekeeper of Prokopovych was Mykola Vitvicky (1764-1853). He was a famous Ukrainian scientist and author of fundamental manuals on beekeeping and the inventor of a "Bell-hive" which imitated the vertical structure of bee hives in the wild. After Prokopovych and Vitvicky came Vasyl Waschenko (1850-1918) who elaborated original anti-swarmer methods and modernized the beehive.

The bee has been considered sacred since ancient times in the Ukraine. There are sayings about the bees that reflect their resoluteness, their diligence and how they protect their home from invaders. When bees were finally domesticated in the fifteenth century, two Eastern Orthodox monks (St. Ambrose is the Roman Catholic Patron Saint of beekeepers) who lived during the time were chosen to be the patron saints of bee keepers. Icons depicting the Saints Zosima and Savantij removing a swarm from a tree with a ladder, rope and an axe or knife are common. In times past, every apiary had at the entrance an icon dedicated to these Saints, and the beekeeper would only start his work after praying to them. Out of respect for this tradition, it is still considered unfitting to enter an apiary with dirty hands, dirty clothes or dirty thoughts.

Beekeeping is so important in the life of the people that two postage stamps have been dedicated to it. One is a bee on a cherry flower, and the other shows scenes from life of bee and beekeepers in the ancient times including a typical "bell" beehive Vitvicky construction.

Ukrainian Beekeeping

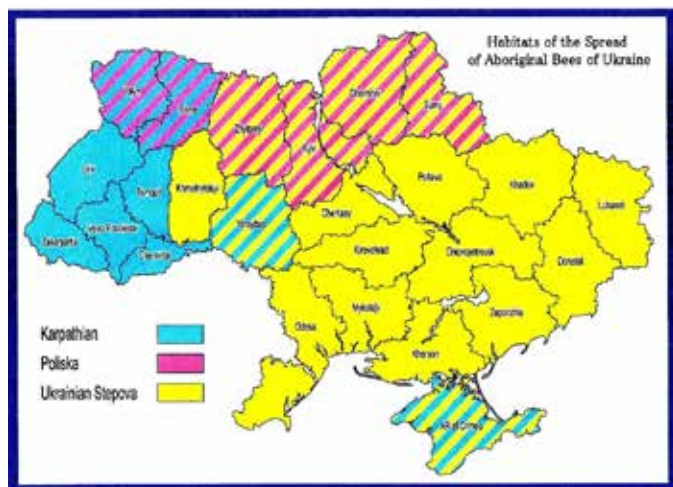
The Ukrainian beekeepers are credited with developing two main hybrids of these four subspecies of bees:

1) the Carpathian bees which are a hybrid mixture of varying percentages of Carnica, Mellifera, Ligustica and Caucasia bred in the western Ukrainian Carpathian mountain range, and

2) the Primorsky Russian Hybrid Bee which is a mix of the same subspecies but may also include the Macedonia bee (*Apis mellifera macedonica*).

Viktor Papp of the Prokopovich Bee Institute presented to the 2013 Apimondia Congress (www.apimondia.com/congresses/2013/Biology/Symposia/Differentiation)..., a Powerpoint presentation on the four different types of Carpathian

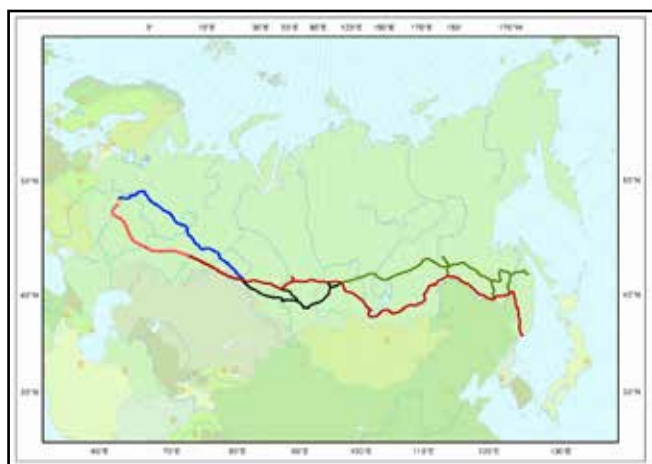
bees the Institute is focusing on in the western part of the Ukraine (see light blue Karpathian areas in diagram below. They are trying to build up a good amount of Carpathian stock bees for beekeepers.



Habitats of the Spread of Aboriginal Bees of Ukraine from

<http://www.apimondia.com/congresses/2013/Biology/Symposia/Differentiation%20Of%20Types%20Created%20Carpathian%20Bees%20-%20Viktor%20Papp.pdf>

However, one of the most interesting stories I have ever heard of in beekeeping is how the Primorsky Russian Hybrid bees got from the Ukraine to the Far East of Russia. The Russian beekeeping institute, Boyarka Technical School was established in Kiev in 1902 under the leadership of Alexi Andriyashev (Horn, T, 2012 p. 65). From 1891 to 1916, the Tsars Alexander III and his son, Nicholas II, built the Trans-Siberian railway which connected Moscow and Europe with branch lines to Mongolia, China and North Korea



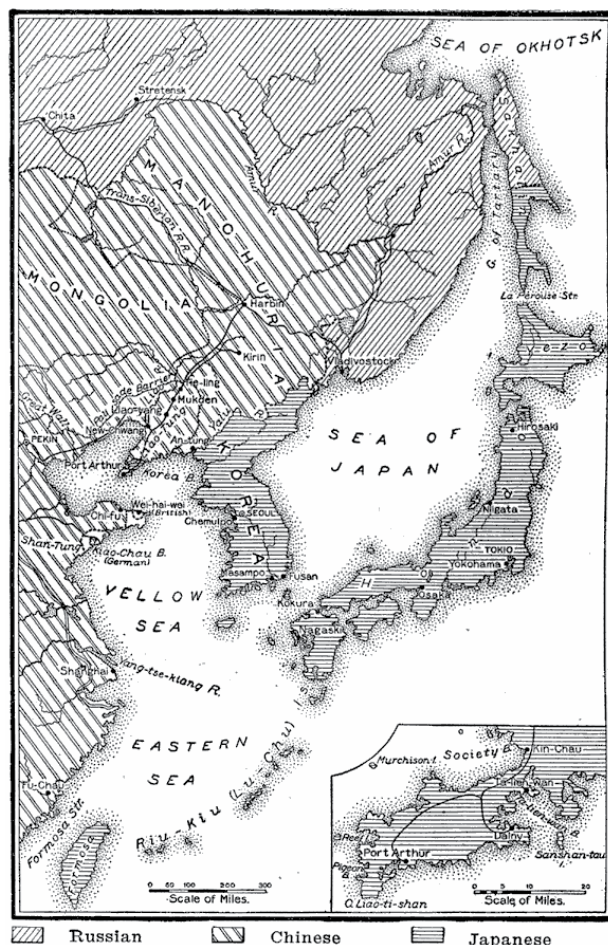
*Map of Trans-Siberian Line in Red
Baikal-Amur Mainline in Green*

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trans-Siberian_Railway

In February of 1904, the "Russo-Japanese War began between Russia and Japan ending in September, 1905. According to Foster, 1921, p. 3147:

"The chief cause of the conflict was Russia's attempt to gain control of Manchuria and Korea, and thus make its position in the Far East so strong that it could dominate Japan." At the close of the war between China and Japan in 1895, Japan had won control of Formosa and Liao-tung Peninsula, including Port Arthur. The leading European nations, however, forced Japan to cede Liao-tung to China and Russia immediately leased this peninsula. Russia had already gained control of Sakhalin Island, had completed the Trans-Siberia Railway and established ports at Vladivostok and Port Arthur, notwithstanding the repeated protests of Japan, which saw its very existence threatened by these movements.

The Far East peninsula of Russia is called the Primorsky Krai which means a "Maritime Territory" (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Primorsky_Krai). I wonder if the Ukrainian beekeepers knew how important a role they were going to play in the settlement and development of the Russian Siberian region of Nikolsk-Ussuriysky after the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-1905.



Russo-Japanese War

<http://etc.usf.edu/maps/pages/11600/22656/22656.htm>

In 1905, right after the Russo-Japanese War, the Ukrainian beekeepers were most probably ordered by the Tsar to carry their bees in backpacks on the recently completed Russian Trans-Siberian railway all the way to the Russian Far East. It was a distance (not including the trip from Kiev to Moscow) of 5,772 miles from Moscow to Ussuriysk (Milner, A. p. 11), a town 61 miles north of Vladivostok in eastern Russia. This city was originally founded in 1866 as Nikolskoy, named after St. Nicholas.

Located in a fertile valley and at the crossroads of transportation lines, the village experienced rapid growth during the 1870s. After the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-1905, Nikolsk-Ussuriysky or Primorsk became one of the most important commercial and economic centers of the Russian Far East. In 1913, it ranked fourth after Vladivostok, Blagoveshchensk and Khabarovsk in terms of population. There were many agricultural products processed in the region. Today it ranks second only to Vladivostok as a theatrical and higher-educational center. (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ussuriysk>).

Which bees did the Ukrainians take with them? There is some debate about this issue. Most believe they took a hybrid bee mixed with Carniolans, originally from the country of Slovenia and Austria. However, Ashleigh Milner (2011) and Rustem Illyasov of the Ufa Scientific Center of the Russian Academy of Science (Ilyasov, R. Komissar, A. Poskryakov, and Nikolenko, A. Jan. 2008) have presented evidence that the Ukrainians took the Macedonian honey bee (*Apis mellifera macedonica*) or at least a mixture of the Carpathian bee (hybrid of four races already) with the Macedonian bee, instead.

Whichever variety actually arrived in the Far East, the Ukrainian bees made contact with the Asian bee on the China/Korean/Russian border in the summer months. The Asian bee is the natural host to the Varroa mite and has resistance to it, but the Ukrainian bee did not have resistance at first. From 1905 until

1997, the bees had 92 years "to do or die," that is, adapt to the Varroa mites and develop resistance to them or die. Losses were high for a while.

Before genetic tests were conducted on varroa mites in the year 2000 by Anderson and Trueman (Ellis, J. & Zettel Nalen, C), it was thought that there was only one species of varroa mites. Now we know that there are actually over 20 types of varroa mites, but only two main subspecies affect honey bees negatively (Ellis, J. & Zettel Nalen, C). The *V. destructor* and the *V. jacobsoni* have ranges that overlap, but *V. destructor* is found more on the Asian mainland whereas, *V. jacobsoni* is more at home on the Indonesian archipelago. The Korean and Japanese/Thailand genotypes of *V. destructor* are the ones that can reproduce in the colonies of honey bees. The *V. jacobsoni* Oudemans mite will enter the brood cells but will not reproduce there.

Cold winters would reduce down the bee population and starve out the mites giving the bees another chance to reproduce in the spring. During this time of coexistence with varroa mites, the Primorsky Russian hybrid bees developed the ability to survive alongside the mites. The hybrid Primorsky Russian bee was then brought to the U.S. in 1997, by American scientists including Dr. Tom Rinderer with the help of a Russian scientist, Dr. Viktor Kuznetsov and a group of Russian and U.S. beekeepers (USDA Agriculture Research Service. A USDA-ARS Project to Evaluate Resistance to *Varroa jacobsoni* by Honey Bees of Far Eastern Russia. <http://www.ars.usda.gov/Services/docs.htm?docid=2744&page=2>).

Some say that when the Russian Bees were brought back to Europe they brought the Varroa mites back with them and infected all the other European bees, but others say the Varroa mites were brought to the U.S. from Asian bees raised with other bees in the Philippines. In any case, now we have the Varroa mites and they seem pretty determined to stay.

That is my take on the Ukrainian bee keeping traditions.



Crunchy Honey-Yogurt Breakfast Parfait

1 large - banana, sliced, divided

1/3 cup - honey, divided

1/2 cup - plain yogurt, divided

1/2 cup - crunchy granola, divided

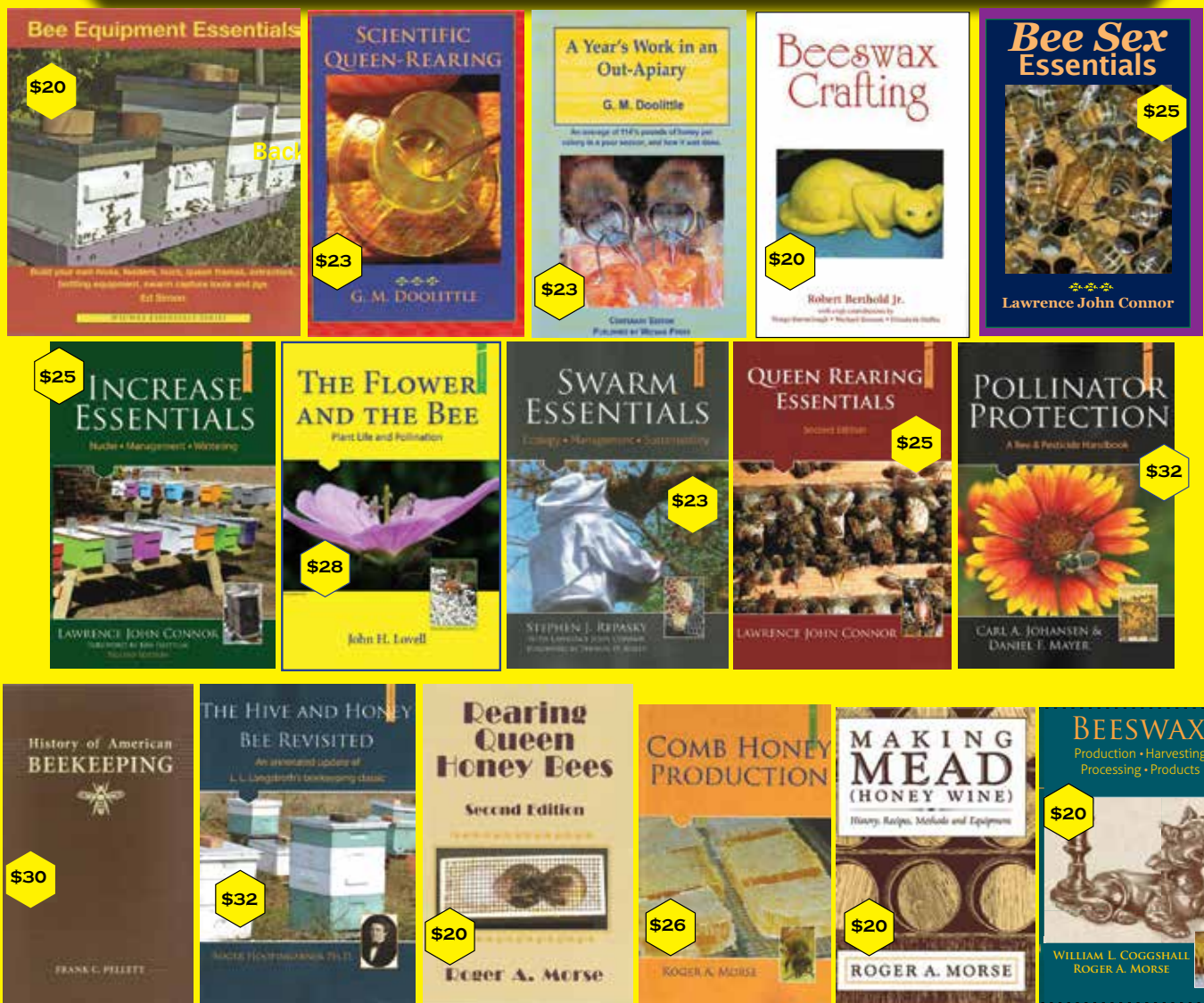
Reserve several slices of banana for garnish. Layer 1 Tablespoon honey, 1/4 of the pre-sliced banana, 2 Tablespoons yogurt, 2 Tablespoons granola, 1/4 of the sliced banana, 2 Tablespoons yogurt, 1 Tablespoon honey and 2 Tablespoons granola in parfait glass. Repeat for second parfait. Garnish with reserved banana and honey.

from the National Honey Board



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A Visit to the Honey Bee Lab

from Willow Lanchester, East Texas Beekeepers Honey Queen

My visit to the Texas A&M Bee Lab was so much more than I expected. My family and I were excited to be welcomed by not only Mark Dykes, Mary Reed, and Bill Baxter, but also Shirley and Chris Doggett who were present to set up for the Winter Delegates meeting the following day. While we were there we received a private tour of the facility from Mark Dykes, the Texas Chief Apiary Inspector. Also while we were there, my family and I were able to attend the 2015 Winter Delegates Meeting, which was hosted at the Texas A&M Bee Lab.

On February 20st my family and I drove to College Station to visit the Bee Lab. Soon after we arrived Mr. Dykes gave us a tour, he showed us their labs, equipment, the observation hives, as well as their offices, and I must not forget Mr. Dykes' beloved bacon calendar. My favorite part of the tour was their collection of vintage beekeeping books. Some of them dated back to the 1800s! The turn of the century art work in the books was amazing and inspiring to me for my own art. While visiting, Mark Dykes filled me in on some of their upcoming projects. The one that I am most excited about is the Texas Master Beekeeper Program. It is a great way for beekeepers to expand their knowledge of bees as well as a way of reaching out to the public about the honey bee. During the interview, Mr. Dykes also urged people to stay vigilant for varroa mites and make sure they do not develop a foothold in any of our hives. After this we were invited to the 2015 Winter Delegates meeting the next day.

The Winter Delegates meeting was a wonderful occasion to visit with beekeepers from local associations all around the state. There were several presentations held on how to start a scholarship program, how to start a mentor program, and how

to start a queen program. In addition, Local Clubs were able to share their needs and their successful experiences with each other. I found these very educational and inspiring. There were presentations held on the Texas Master Beekeeper Program which raised much interest with those who attended. There were several legislative changes discussed, that are designed to help beekeepers attain Ag exemptions. We also began planning TBA events for 2015 such as the Summer Clinic and the TBA convention. It was an engaging opportunity to get involved with TBA events and to get to know beekeepers from around the state, as well as visit friends.



Pierre Lau, Liz Walsh, Willow Lanchester, Juliana Rangel, Adrian Fisher, Lance Wilson, Mark Dykes and Mary Reed

I love attending these events because of all the support that I receive. It is always an enjoyable time to visit with Rachel and Queen Tabitha who are always so supportive of our queen program, and so ready to offer advice. Likewise, everyone from the Bee Lab are forever ready to help you succeed. As well as all of the beekeepers such as Shirley and Chris Doggett, Jimmie Oakley, John Talbert, and Stan Brantley who are always there with a bright smile and supportive words. They make you feel like you can do anything.



A selfie with Pierre Lau, Juliana Rangel, Liz Walsh, Mark Dykes and Mary Reed



Texas Honey Queen Tabitha Mansker, Mary Reed from TAIS and Willow Lanchester

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H.B. 3764 and S.B 1766

Not Just About Selling Honey...

from Leesa Hyder

Beekeepers have been selling honey in Texas as long as there have been beekeepers in Texas. Growing up in the 50's, it wasn't unusual for my family to take a Sunday afternoon drive up Highway 59 to the "country" and to see a wooden table out by the side of the road with quart jars of honey sitting on top of it. My dad could rarely pass one by without stopping. Not only did you get a jar of sweet, glistening honey, with a slice of comb in it, but you usually got about 30 minutes of "bee talk" from the old guy selling the honey. I don't remember buying honey at the grocery store back then. You got your honey from a beekeeper. And I bet the beekeeper didn't have a food manufacturer's license or a honey house inspected by the health department! A lot of things have changed since then.

In fact, a lot of things have changed since I started beekeeping 14 years ago. I've been a member of the Montgomery County Beekeepers Association for nearly 15 years. I've been to a lot of workshops, bee schools, and a few conventions. I've talked to a lot of beekeepers over those 15 years and it wasn't until about a year ago that I even heard anyone hint about a beekeeper needing a license to sell a bottle of his/her own honey.

But that changed last August when I was sent a copy of an email that had been widely disseminated, from a compliance officer at the Department of State Health Services ("DSHS") in Austin. She stated that "Anyone that bottles honey currently falls under the Manufactured Foods regulations and is required to hold a Manufactured Foods license." She gave the chapters from the Texas Codes to back it up. She further stated that "There is no distinction between hobbyist, and large manufacturers if the honey is sold." Wow! That got my attention. So did the two page publication by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension service titled "Selling Honey in Texas" (http://fcs.tamu.edu/food_and_nutrition/), and the FAQ page from the DSHS website regarding selling honey at farmers' markets. (<https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/farmersmarkets/>).

As I spoke with more people about this I began to hear stories. Beekeepers at a farmers' market in Houston had their honey "quarantined" by a local health inspector because they did not have the proper license. A beekeeper selling honey at a church fair in west Harris county was told by the visiting health inspector to pack up his honey because he didn't have a license. (He was rather embarrassed, to say the least.) A beekeeper in Sante Fe was selling his honey on the wooden table in his driveway, like he had been doing for 30 years. A health inspector just happened to be driving down the road in front of his house, stopped, and told him - no more honey sales without getting a license! Now, I'm not sounding the alarm that the "honey police" are out in force, because I don't believe that's the case. However, after talking to a lot of people about this, it is clear that many beekeepers from different parts of the state are running into problems selling their honey. Some beekeepers have stopped selling their honey

altogether, now that they know they are violating the law.

Texas isn't the first state to deal with this issue. Many states have passed laws exempting small honey producers from regulation and inspection by state health departments. All states that border Texas have exemptions for small honey producers. Would so many states be willing to permit an exemption from licensing and inspection for small scale beekeepers if there were public safety concerns? No! There are no public safety concerns when it comes to small scale beekeepers selling their honey. The University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture stated that an exemption for small scale beekeepers is appropriate "Due to honey's low risk to the public, the limited size and scope of a hobbyist operation, and the limited number of impacted individuals..." Many other states have expressed the same view. We all know that honey is a safe food product for everyone, with the exception of infants under 12 months of age, who should not be given honey, whether processed in an inspected honey house or not. Are there any documented cases of honey-caused illness in Texas? I haven't found any.

A bill has been introduced in both the Texas House and Senate to provide an exemption under which, a small scale beekeeper in Texas (defined as a beekeeper who produces less than 2500 pounds of honey annually), may sell his/her honey legally, without a food manufacturers license, direct to consumers at the beekeeper's home, a farmer's market, a farm stand, or a municipal, county, or nonprofit fair, festival, or event. This bill is similar to laws that have been passed in recent years in many other states. This bill was written after consultation with industry experts, lawyers, beekeepers of all scales and even compliance officers with the DSHS.

But, it's not just about selling honey! More importantly, it's about continuing to promote and encourage the growth of the small scale and hobby beekeepers that we have been experiencing in Texas. This is about doing what's good, not only for hobby beekeepers, but for bees and the Texas beekeeping industry. Increasing enforcement of current laws will discourage small scale beekeepers from taking up the hobby and that will mean fewer beekeepers and fewer populations of the bees that are so vital to our ecosystem.

TBA supports H.B. 3764 and S.B 1766. Many individuals within TBA, who have nothing to gain directly from passage of this bill because they already have a license, have spent a lot of hours working to get this bill written and filed in this legislative session. They know that this is good for bees and good for beekeeping in Texas. We hope that TBA members will let their representatives and senators know that they support this bill as well. It's about all beekeepers, commercial, sideliners and hobbyist, young and old, experienced and novice, from all over the state, working together to promote beekeeping in Texas!



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The Brantley Column

from S. S. Brantley
East Texas Beekeepers Association

Most commercial bee suppliers sell their Nucs in a Deep configuration. A question was recently asked about moving bees from a Deep Nuc to a Medium brood box. As with most things in beekeeping, there are multiple ways to accomplish this task. Here is one technique that has worked well for me.

Cut a piece of $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$ inch plywood to be about an inch larger than the outside dimensions of your Medium box. Cut a section from the middle of the plywood that is slightly smaller than the inside dimensions of the Nuc. Remove the lid from the Nuc box and place the plywood carefully on the Nuc, making sure the cut-out area is centered over the Nuc. Then set the Medium box on top of the plywood. You will note this is not the most stable stack of boxes. It is a good idea to add some support to the sides of the plywood that hang over the Nuc. You don't want the stack to tip over.

The queen's natural tendency will be to move up into the Medium box. If you have some drawn comb in the Medium box, it will help encourage her to make that move. If you do not have drawn comb, add foundation and give the bees time to draw out the wax. Eventually the queen will move up into the Medium. Once the queen is in the Medium, you can place a Queen Excluder between the Medium box and the plywood to prevent her from moving back into the Nuc. After the brood in the Nuc hatches, you can lift the Medium and set it on a bottom board. Any bees remaining in the Nuc can be added to the Medium hive. You can pour the bees on the ground and let them walk in or dump them into the top of the hive.

Unless you are in the middle of a strong honey flow, be sure to feed the relocated bees. Now that your bees are happily established in a Medium box, add another Medium super to complete your "all Medium hive".

If you are not planning to immediately re-use the Nuc, be sure to protect the combs. Let the bees clean any residual honey, then place the frames in the freezer for a couple days. After removing from the freezer, store with paramoth crystals to keep out beetles and wax moths.

Let's talk a bit about hive inspections. If not done properly and carefully, hive inspections can create problems in the hive,

including damaging, killing or losing the queen. I encourage novice beekeepers to develop a standard practice for their hive inspections and to follow the routine each time.

My first step is to lightly apply a puff of smoke directly at the hive entrance. Then raise one edge of the Outer Cover and apply 4-5 puffs directly under the Outer Cover. Lower the cover and wait about a minute. Remove the Outer Cover and add a puff through the hole in the Inner Cover before lifting it off the hive. Lay the Outer Cover upside down beside the hive. You can use it as a base for the frames you remove during the inspection.

Once the hive is open, my first step is to move the outside frame as close to the wall as possible. Slip the short end of the hive tool between the first and second frame, right at the end of the frame. Twist the hive tool sideways to create space between the two frames. Do the same thing on the other end of that frame. Once the first frame is moved close to the wall, repeat the process between the other frames to break them loose from the end rest. After all the frames are loose, gently push them to one side leaving room between the first and second frames. Move the first frame away from the wall and center it in the space you created, then lift it out with your frame lifter. After observing the condition of the frame, stand it on the Outer Cover, tilted against the hive stand so you do not crush the bees. Move Frame 2 into the open space, then lift out with the frame lifter. After observing, place it on the Outer Cover by Frame 1. You now have an open space two frames wide. You can move the remaining frames into the open space, remove and observe the frame, then place it back in the hive. Repeat for the remaining frames. After inspecting all frames, push them gently to one side, replace Frame 2 and then Frame 1. Using your hive tool, correct the space between the frames. Use the hive tool to push the outside frames slightly away from the wall, pushing on the end of the frame, not in the middle of the frame. This helps prevent the outside frames from becoming glued to the wall with propolis, making removal easier on your next inspection. What is the purpose of all of this? It is to prevent accidentally crushing the queen when removing or inserting a frame.



USA Beekeeper to Bid for Hosting 2019 Apimondia

We, here in the USA, have the unparalleled opportunity to bring the worldwide beekeeping community to our United States. Winning the bid for the Apimondia Worldwide Beekeeping Congress in 2019 is the perfect way to showcase the USA's beekeeping industry as never before. In September, 2015 representatives from our chosen host city, Minneapolis, MN will be joining us in Daejeon, South Korea to support us in our efforts to acquaint the world with the many advantages of the United States hosting Apimondia 2019.

Apimondia is the International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations and related organizations working together for the benefit of apiculture. Since its beginning in 1949, the Apimondia has worked to promote scientific, technical, ecological, social and economic apicultural development in all countries. Every two years Apimondia organizes an International Apimondia Congress where beekeepers, scientists, educators, industry representatives and government representatives come together to share ideas and learn from one another. Along with the international program of science and technology, there is the ApiExpo, the largest Beekeeping Trade show in North America, the World Honey Show competition and a World Honey Queen contest.

The bid process, which includes site inspection by Apimondia representatives, meetings with the local organizing committee and with scientific and beekeeping representatives, and review of technical tours that may be available, is outlined in the official guidelines for hosting an Apimondia Congress. Canada and South Africa have already announced their intentions to vie for the 2019 Apimondia bid.

Just as every club and organization is important, every donation is important and appreciated. We ask that you help us to achieve our goal of bringing the worldwide beekeeping community to the USA for Apimondia XLVI in 2019. Donating is as easy as visiting our website www.apimondiausabidfor2019.org/support-us. If you prefer you can send a check to:

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WCABA Announces 2015 Scholarship Recipients and Recognizes 2014 Accomplishment

From Jimmie Oakley



2014 Certificate Recipients: Emma Wall, Daniel Morris, Christian Rogers, Cora Schell, and Elise Gardner.

Not pictured: Quentin Irely

The Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association awarded the Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost Memorial Scholarships for 2015 at their regular monthly meeting on Thursday evening March 26th.

This year's recipients are seventeen year old Annelisa Martinez from Georgetown, Texas, fifteen year old Jeffery Whitworth, from Bastrop, Texas, and ten year old Claire Birdwell of Copperas Cove, Texas.

The youngsters received their wood ware and protective gear as part of the scholarship and they assembled their bee box and frames at the meeting with assistance from former recipients.

In addition, last year's recipients were recognized for their accomplishments in the program and were presented certificates by the Texas Honey Queen, Tabitha Mansker, granting them ownership of their hives and equipment.

Making Increase

*The Continuing Journey of Two Second-Year Beekeepers
from Roger and Sue Farr, Caddo Trace Beekeeping Association*



We like to see people and things grow to achieve their fullest potential. Our beekeeping is no exception.



We started with three hives in April of 2014. We learned so much during our first year! As I write this in early March it looks like all three of the hives will come through the winter with flying (pun intended) colors. We took advantage of a few sunny hours to visit them just yesterday, when the weather in northeast Texas was 67 degrees F. We found “everybody” from all three hives out and about on cleansing flights, orientation flights, and doing their undertaker duties. There were more bees in the air than we had ever seen before. They seemed happy to be out of “that box” and enjoying the taste of warm weather. However, a freeze is coming tonight, so it will be back into the cluster for them.

We bought Dr. John Conner’s book, *Increase Essentials*, at the TBA Convention in November as a part of his beekeeping course. As we read the book we began to be fascinated by the subject of bee increase. The thought of taking our three “starter” hives and reproducing them seemed like a great, but doable, challenge. We were also excited about the potential to give us more hive products (bees and queens) to share with friends and neighbors, and perhaps to recoup equipment expenses. We continually have friends that are interested in starting a hobby beekeeping operation.

Our “increase” journey began in earnest during December of 2014 when we began to think about expanding to six hives in our apiary and selling a few nucs to some of the NewBees in our bee club. This became serious when we had Mr. Mark Dykes, the Texas Chief Apiary Inspector, come out to inspect our hives so that we might be able to legally sell bees. With a clean bill of health and a few nuc boxes, we were all set to make increase, right? All we had to do was wait for some

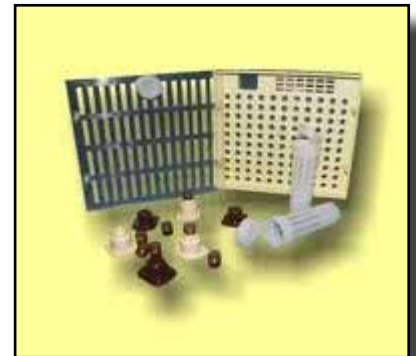
swarm queen cells to show up, split the bees, and we would be off to making our increase, right? Well not so fast...we had some additional learning to do.

The first thing we did was do a bit more reading and research on making increase. In addition to Conner’s book on *Increase Essentials*, we also read *The Beekeeper’s Handbook*, by Sammartaro and Avitabile, and *Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping* by Dewey Caron. Both of these additional books are on the reading list for the Apprentice level of the new Texas Master Beekeeping Program; they provided the background we needed to make wise equipment and timing decisions.

We considered these factors in getting ready to “produce increase” in our apiary:

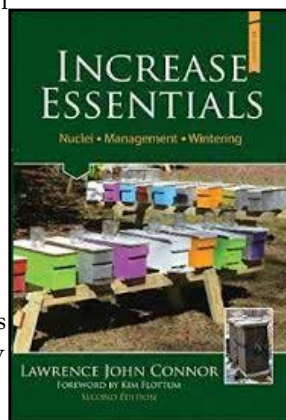
- Equipment size - We are an all Medium, or Illinois Super, size box operation, so our “increase equipment” would also need to be Medium sized. We found Medium nuc boxes and equipment at Brushy Mountain Bee Farm (<http://www.brushymountainbeefarm.com/>) including nuc-sized hive-top feeders! We also purchased a Medium sized “Queen Castle” to start our bees in.

- Queen rearing process - Neither of us liked the idea of grafting larvae to produce queens. It seemed a lot of trouble to find the right age larvae and to not chill the larvae during the transfer operation. The idea of “waiting” for queen cells to appear in our hives so that we might harvest them seemed a bit hit or miss. Finally we settled on the Nicot system for producing queens (<http://www.brushymountainbeefarm.com/Nicot-Queen-System/productinfo/176/>). It seemed simple and logical to us. We watched a few YouTube videos and a DVD from a Canadian expert, David Eyre, (www.beeworks.com) on using the system and we were hooked. It arrived today for us to learn and practice before placing the equipment into our strongest hive.



- Equipment in general - We decided to go slow on this whole “making increase” process to see if we could do it and if we even liked it. We share our “final” shopping list in hope that it may be of help to you. This would allow us to make seven new colonies if we were entirely successful.

- o complete, medium, wood, nucs, with IPM features and hive-top feeders (2)



- o four-opening, medium, queen castle with medium frame in-hive feeders (1)
- o complete new medium hive with IPM features and hive-top feeder(1 and may need to increase to 3)
- o Nicot queen rearing system with queen cell protectors, and plastic queen cages (1 complete kit)
- o wood-framed, metal, queen excluder - modified for the Doolittle increase method (to allow nuc to be placed on top of existing hive) (1)
- o hive stand to hold all the new equipment (we build a stationery in-ground stand to hold 12 hives)
- o protein supplement (Bee-Pro from www.mannlakeltd.com, feeding stimulant (Honey-B Healthy), and Nosema treatment (Fumagilin®-B)

One thing all of this preparation has made us realize is that God is in control. The weather is completely under His control and entirely not under ours!. Weather dictates when, or if, we can begin the process of making increase, so we must wait to begin the process. While we wait we will continue to read and learn. Also, given the up and down of our weather we decided to feed the bees heavily so they are strong when it comes time for us to make the "increase."

By the time this article is due, we will not have completed making our nucs or rearing our queens. However, here is the process we will be using when God decides the time for spring has come to northeast Texas. We plan to:

- Install the Nicot system in the strongest of our three hives. We like the productivity and hygienic characteristics of this queen and so will use her as our breeding stock. We will probably start with 20 queen cups even though the system can produce 110 at a time.
- Kill our weakest queen, and split the two stronger hives to create our starter and cell-builder hives.
- Create our increase hives, using the Doolittle method advocated by John Conner in Increase Essentials. Each of these will receive a queen cell; we're still working on the best way to "bank" the other queens we produces so we can get them to other club members as queens for their apiary.
- Create hives to expand our apiary, depending upon the demand for nucs and the availability of bees and brood from our two strongest hives and the newly requeened hive.
- Produce another batch of queens in mid-year to give us queens we can use to make further increase or to use in requeening in the fall.

Next issue we'll report on how the increase actually went. We'll share what we learned, our successes and failures, and report on our production of hive products! Thanks for joining us on the adventure that is beekeeping!

*You may contact Roger or Sue Farr at
rdfarr@gmail.com
sue.farr@gmail.com*

Summer Clinic Montgomery County Fairgrounds June 6th., 2015

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See Pages 5,6 & 7

or

www.texasbeekeepers.org

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

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

Howdy TBA members!

I am writing this report a bit late after my deadline, and for a couple of reasons it seems to have been a good idea to wait! If I had written the column last week, I would have reported from a cold and wet office. Instead, the sun has finally shown its face in College Station, and this week we have been out and about working with students and bees and finally welcoming Spring, the Indian paint brush, the blue bonnets, and the many other wonderful wild flowers in our area!

I have fantastic updates to report. The other reason why it was worth waiting to write the column is that I just heard that our student Liz Walsh received this afternoon the 2nd place award for a graduate student oral talk at TAMU's Ecological Integrated Symposium, in which all three of my grad students (Liz, Adrian Fisher and Pierre Lau) presented their research. Not only did they rock their talks, they each presented twice this week, giving their presentations during TAMU's Student Research Week as well. So congratulations to all of them, and especially to Liz for her award.

Not only did the students do a good job presenting their research, but they are now getting ready to deliver honey bees to the Brenham Fairgrounds, where we are holding the FIRST EVER Texas Master Beekeeper Program (TMBP) Apprentice testing session on Friday 27 March. This will mark a milestone, as some of the 70+ people that registered to take the exam will be the first graduating class for our new program.

On Saturday, 28 March, all the Honey Bee Lab crew will be in Brenham for the Central Texas Beekeepers Association Bee School. This year we will not only be part of the teaching staff, but our lab will have a table in the vendor section with information about our upcoming events so come by and pay us a visit. Certificates for those who passed the Apprentice exam for the TMBP will be distributed during the lunch break.

We were happy to host this year's Delegates Meeting of the TBA at the Janice and John G. Thomas Honey Bee Facility on

21 February. During this all day event, representatives from many of our regional beekeepers associations participated in open discussions about what activities will be carried out by TBA and each club in 2015.

We also broke into working groups to assess priorities for the upcoming year, and brain stormed regarding troubleshooting issues faced by the associations.

During the delegates meeting we had the pleasure to announce that the Austin Area Beekeepers Association generously donated beekeeping equipment for the amount of \$3,000 to our research program. We could not be more excited for



Honey Bee Lab members with Lance Wilson showcasing some of AABA's donations



Selfie of TAMU's honey bee crew with Honey Queen Royalty at the TBA Winter Meeting

this invaluable contribution to our teaching and research efforts, and we hope to continue this practice of having a lab "wish list" of equipment that perhaps other organizations can help us procure. I could not be teaching the new Introduction to Beekeeping laboratory course this semester without this generous donation, so THANK YOU AUSTIN BEEKEEPERS for believing in us!

In a separate section of this month's journal you will find information on the upcoming Queen Rearing Workshop at the Honey Bee Facility on Saturday, 2 May. Participants will have the privilege of learning how to raise queens by one of the world's experts in Instrumental Insemination, the wonderful Sue Cobey. I managed to twist Sue's arm into co-instructing this activity (done for the first time at TAMU) because she has been visiting our laboratory in the last couple of years for research purposes. So if you are interested in observing Sue inseminate queens, or make a Cloake board, or raise queens successfully like she has

done for so many years, join us in May for an all-day event. The registration fee will cover lunch, educational material, and the opportunity to play with bees in our research apiary. But hurry, we can only accommodate the first 30 people that register by 20 April and pay the \$100 workshop fee. (See pages 24 and 25 for the syllabus and registration form)



Sue Cobey inseminating honey bee queens at the TAMU Honey Bee Facility

Finally I want to close with one comment. I can honestly say that I feel incredibly lucky to have the staff we have in our lab, I truly do. I am very grateful for their dedication and hard work, especially during the busy bee season. If you see any of these folks, thank them for all the work they do!

That is all for now. If you want more information about our research, please do not hesitate to email me at jrangel@tamu.edu. In the meantime, enjoy your Spring and happy beekeeping!

Study Finds Imidacloprid one synergistic factor among several to blame for colony declines.

from Catch The Buzz

Honey bee colony declines are a major threat worldwide. Among the lineup of possible causes — including parasites, disease, climate stress, and malnutrition — many have pointed the finger squarely at insecticides as a prime suspect, especially at a class of pesticides known as neonicotinoids.

However, a new study from the University of Maryland shows that the world's most common insecticide — imidacloprid — does not significantly harm honey bee colonies at real-world dosage levels.

"Everyone is pointing the finger at these insecticides," said Galen Dively, emeritus professor of entomology at UMD and lead author of the study. "If you pull up a search on the Internet, that's practically all anyone is talking about. This paper says no, it's not the sole cause. It contributes, but there is a bigger picture."

The study, which was published in the journal PLOS ONE, looked at the effects of imidacloprid on honey bee colonies over a three-year period. Insecticides in the neonicotinoid class are chemically derived from nicotine. In tobacco and other related plants, nicotine acts as a deterrent by poisoning insects that bite the plants. In fact, nicotine used to be commonly used as an insecticide, but it has fallen out of favor because it is highly toxic to humans and breaks down rapidly in sunlight. Neonicotinoids have been engineered specifically to address these shortcomings.

"Imidacloprid is the most widely used insecticide in the world. It's not restricted because it is very safe — an order of magnitude safer than organophosphates," Dively said, drawing a comparison with a class of chemicals known to be highly toxic to nearly all living things. For the study, Dively and his colleagues fed pollen dosed with imidacloprid to honey bee colonies. The team purposely constructed a worst-case scenario, even at lower exposure levels. For example, they fed the colonies tainted food for up to 12 continuous weeks. This is a much longer exposure than bee colonies would experience in real-world scenarios, because most crops do not bloom for such an extended period of time.

Even at these longer exposure periods, realistic dosage levels of imidacloprid did not cause significant effects in the honey bee colonies. Only at higher levels did the colonies start to have trouble producing healthy offspring and surviving through the winter. "A lot of attention has been paid to neonicotinoids, but there isn't a lot of field data," said Dennis vanEngelsdorp, an assistant professor of entomology at UMD who was not involved in the study. "This study is among the first to address that gap. It's not surprising that higher levels will hurt insects. They're insecticides after all. But this study is saying that neonicotinoids probably aren't the sole culprit at lower, real-world doses."

Dively and vanEngelsdorp both agree that a synergistic combination of many factors is most likely to blame for colony declines. Climate stress could be taking a toll, and malnutrition could be a factor as well. The latter is a particular concern for industrial bee colonies that are rented to large-scale agricultural operations. These bees spend much of their time eating pollen from one or two crops, which throws their diet out of balance.

"Except for the imidacloprid exposure, our test colonies were treated well," said coauthor David Hawthorne, associate professor of entomology at UMD and director of education at the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center. "They weren't exposed to additional real-world stressors such as malnourishment or multiple pesticides. Colonies coping with these additional pressures may be more sensitive to imidacloprid."

Dively, Hawthorne, and their colleagues found some evidence for at least one synergistic combination. At the highest dosage levels — 20 times the realistic dosage — colonies became more susceptible to Varroa mites, parasites that target honey bee colonies. A mite infestation can cause a whole variety of problems, including viral infections and an increased need for other pesticides to control the mites.

"It's a multifactorial issue, with lots of stress factors," Dively said. "Honey bees have a lot of pests and diseases to deal with. Insecticide

THE ART OF QUEEN REARING COURSE SYLLABUS

2 May 2015

Janice and John G. Thomas Honey Bee Facility, College Station, TX

Head Instructor: Sue Cobey

Co-Instructors: Dr. Juliana Rangel, ET Ash, Liz Walsh, Adrian Fisher, Pierre Lau, Mary Reed

9:00a - 9:30a	Coffee and Introductions
9:30a - 11:00a	Lecture - Principals of Queen & Drone Rearing
11:00a - 12:00p	Field - Setting Up Cell Builders, Queen-Less & Queen-Right
12:00p - 1:00p	Field - Banking, Incubating Queen Cells
1:00p - 2:00p	Lunch
2:00p - 4:00p	Lab: Grafting Queen Cells, Instrumental Insemination Demonstration & Practice

Concurrent Sessions

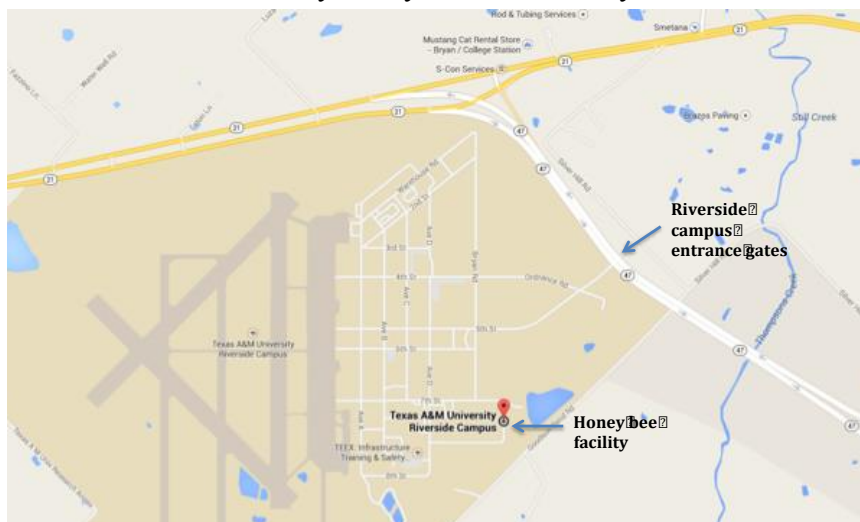
- **Sessions 1:** Establishing Nucleus Colonies, Celling Nucs
- **Session 2:** Handling, Candling & Cutting Queen Cells
- **Session 3:** Finding, Marking & Clipping Queens
- **Session 4:** Evaluating Drone Maturity & Queen Mating Status

4:00p - 5:00p	Classroom Discussion - Exploring CB Systems, Situations & Troubleshooting Wrap Up & Question & Answers
---------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Directions to the **Janice and John G. Thomas Honey Bee Facility:**

Address: 3100 State Highway 47
Bryan, TX 77807

Once you enter the gates of the campus, make a left on Bryan Rd., then a left on 7th Avenue, and follow the road all the way until you find the honey bee lab.



THE ART OF QUEEN REARING

2 May 2015

Janice and John G. Thomas Honey Bee Facility, College Station, TX

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____
E-mail: _____
Phone: _____

Lunch preference: ☐ Meat ☐ Vegetarian

Instructions for registration:

1. Send email of intent as soon as possible to Dr. Rangel at: jrangel@tamu.edu
2. Once you receive a confirmation e-mail, send this registration form and payment to secure spot
3. Send payment and this registration form to secure your spot by 20 April 2015
4. Only the first 30 paid registrants will be able to participate in this year's workshop
5. Late registration, or registration by those that were not confirmed via email might not be able to attend and their checks will be returned. We can only accept the first 30 people that pay.

Payment: ☐ Enclosed is a check for \$100

Make payment payable to: Department of Entomology, Texas AgriLife Research

Please send payment, along with this registration form BY 20 APRIL 2015 to:

Ms. Sherry Boyd
Department of Entomology, Texas A&M University
412 Heep, 2475 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843

Chief of Apiary Inspection - Texas Apiary Inspection Service

from Mark Dykes



Greetings from the Texas Apiary Inspection Service (TAIS).

With the weather finally breaking and temperatures increasing we have begun our spring inspections. From initial reports we have received the bees seem to be building up quickly, let's hope there are plenty of spring flowers for them!

Recently the Texas Beekeepers Association sent out proposed changes to the current apiary law (131 for short). As I'm sure you know by now those changes were not picked up by the legislature, thus no changes will be enacted to the current 131 this legislative session. During the comment period it became apparent that there was much confusion as to what the current laws were. In the next few journal articles I will attempt to clarify the current laws regarding beekeeping in the great state of Texas.

For those of you who have not had a chance to read over the current 131 the full text can be found on our website txbeeinspection.tamu.edu and simply click under the "Regulations" section. In this section you will find two documents, the first is "Texas Agriculture Code Chapter 131" and the second is "Texas Admin Code Chapter 71". Chapter 131 is the legislative authority that TAIS operates under. In 131 the duties and power of TAIS are laid out. Chapter 71 is the administrative code in which rules adopted by TAIS are published. To put it simply 131 is the law and Chapter 71 are the rules. As beekeepers it would greatly benefit you to familiarize yourself with the laws and rules. By doing this you will be able to see what is required of you as a beekeeper. These laws are designed to protect the industry from American Foulbrood and from other pests and diseases. Though they may seem restrictive at times the goal of them overall is to protect the apiary industry of Texas and allow it to thrive for many generations to come.

To begin with I would like to go over the powers of my position, Chief of Apiary Inspection. Under section 131.021 these powers are clearly laid out:

Sec. 131.021. POWERS AND DUTIES OF CHIEF APIARY INSPECTOR.

(a) For the purpose of enforcing this chapter, the chief apiary inspector may:

- (1) adopt rules and act as necessary to control, eradicate, or prevent the introduction, spread, or dissemination of contagious or infectious diseases of bees;
- (2) prohibit the shipment or entry into this state of bees, honey, combs, pollen, or other items capable of transmitting diseases of bees from another state, territory, or foreign country except in accordance with rules adopted by the inspector; and
- (3) seize and order the destruction, treatment, or sale of a colony of bees, equipment, pollen, or honey that is determined to be diseased, infectious, abandoned, or in violation of this chapter or a rule or quarantine adopted under this chapter.

(b) For purposes of this section, apiaries, equipment, or bees are considered infectious if:

- (1) the bees are not hived with movable frames or stored so as to prevent the possible spread of disease; or
- (2) the bees, equipment, or apiary generally comprise a hazard or threat to disease control in the beekeeping industry.

This section clearly lays out that my office has the duty to do our best to help prevent the introduction of pest and pathogens, what the law refers to as disease. Disease is defined in the law as: "means American foulbrood, European foulbrood, any other contagious or infectious disease of honeybees, or parasites or pests that affect bees or brood." In the past this office has used these powers to attempt to control the spread of various introduced pests in Texas. Unfortunately most of these pests were not able to be contained. As with any operation we recognize the efforts made, with the information that was available at the time, and we learn from the results. The powers laid out in this section, though they may seem severe, are what is necessary to accomplish the goal.

I would like to point out that the law states bees must be hived with "movable frames". There was some confusion that this meant that top bar hives were prohibited. This is not the case. Well managed top bar hives provide the same access for inspection that well managed Langstroth hives provide and are thus perfectly legal in Texas. Another misconception about the current law was that it prohibited (or discouraged) treatment free beekeeping practices. This is also not the case. All operations are treated the same under

the law. Our primary focus is disease prevention. We DO NOT focus our efforts on one segment of the beekeeping industry over any other for its management practices. That being said when we conduct public outreach we do stress the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). This method of treatment does include the use of chemicals, but only after all other efforts are made to reduce or eliminate the pest.

I hope this little insight into 131 was helpful and I encourage you to read the full text. Next time I will go over the permitting sections of the law. My goal with these articles is to help educate you, the beekeeper, on the laws that govern the apiary industry. As always I am here to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to email me at mark.dykes@ag.tamu.edu and I will be happy to answer your question.

In Memoriam - Paul Jackson

from Bill Baxter and Stanford Brantley

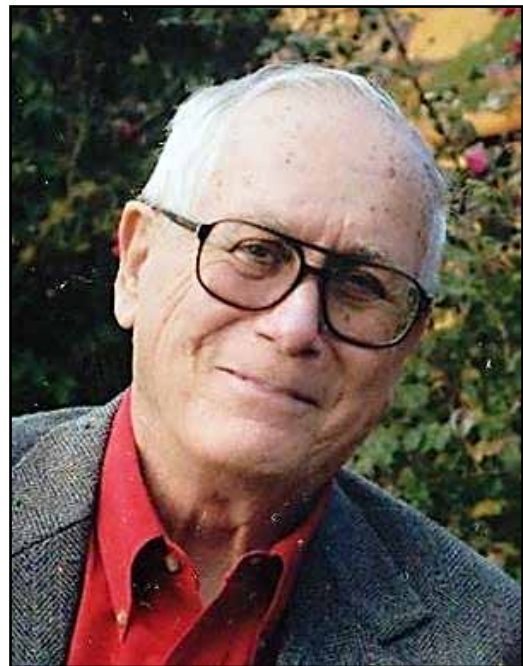
Paul Jackson was born May 3rd., 1942 in Memphis, TN. He passed away on February 19th., 2015 in Bryan, TX at the age of 72. He received his Bachelor's Degree from the University of Arkansas and his Master's Degree from Texas A&M, class of 1971.

Paul first worked for Texas A&M at their research station in Stephenville, later coming to College Station, becoming the chief apiary inspector in late 1975 after the retirement of Claud Burgin. Paul was the chief for about 38 years, retiring in 2013 after a series of medical issues. The honey bee industry in Texas went through several drastic changes during Mr. Jackson's tenure. In 1983, the tracheal mite first entered the US through south Texas, requiring Paul to try to balance Texas, beekeepers, and the USDA-APHIS programs in order to lessen the impact of the tracheal mite. The varroa mite arrived in Texas in 1987, causing a huge impact on shipments of package bees and movement of bees to other states. Paul worked hard with other states' inspectors to ease this crisis in beekeeping.

In the fall of 1990, the Africanized Honey Bee (AHB) first arrived in the US through south Texas. This major event required Paul to work with the public, beekeepers, the media, and governmental officials to alleviate another beekeeping crisis in Texas. The Texas Apiary Inspection Service, under his guidance, established Africanized Bee Protocol to quarantine known areas of AHB. The famous "Blue Nuc Box" traps were hung every two miles along hundreds of highway miles to determine A.H.B. movement. Once the number of AHB in Texas overcame the trap line, that era faded into the history of TAIS.

As an interesting sidelight of his military service in the European theater, he used his beekeeping skills in removing swarms of bees from the barrels of guns on tanks. Like many of his generation, Paul was faced with Vietnam. Honey bees in Germany saved him from that duty assignment. While serving in the US Army in Germany as a medical entomologist, Paul, having bee experience, removed a swarm of bees from the barrel of a tank. Paul's superior made sure Paul remained there in case of more army tank bees.

He was known for his collection of smokers and authored a book about them. He was also passionate about Coca Cola boxes and would travel miles to check out a box to possibly add to his



Paul Jackson, 1942 - 2015

collection. He is the only beekeeper that had four specially made granite hive boxes, which he proceeded to fill with frames of bees.

Paul served the Apiary Inspectors of America for several years. He was a frequent presenter at the Texas Beekeepers Convention and around the country. He was assisted by several loyal TAIS staff members throughout his years of service. He was a sought after speaker on the international scene as well.

Looking back, Paul served through every major event that hit Texas in the last 40 years in beekeeping. He will be missed.

The family requests that memorials be made in Mr. Jackson's name to the Bryan Rotary Scholarship Fund, P. O. Box 2760, Bryan, TX 77805 or to the First United Methodist Church Music Ministry, 506 E. 28th Street, Bryan, TX 77803

BEGINNERS' BOX

from Cameron Crane, Liberty County Beekeepers

A new beekeeping season is well underway. I'm hoping by now you've been getting your equipment ready. In this issue I want to talk about frames in your hives. Your frames are the foundation of the hive.

Frames come in two basic choices: wood and plastic. I very strongly recommend going with wood frames. I think the all plastic frames may be fine for beekeepers living further north where they do not have the problems and issues with hive beetles that we have here in Texas, especially the southern and eastern parts of the state. The plastic frames have little slots in the plastic along the sides. As I help other new beekeepers, the few times I have seen some that have purchased and installed the all plastic frame, those hives appeared to be battling with hive beetles much more. Those few cases where I've seen all plastic frames, every one of them had numerous hive beetles hiding along the side in those frames. The slots in the edges of the frames are too small for the bees to chase the beetles out, but plenty big enough for the beetles to hide in. I've come to view the all plastic frames as hive beetle condominiums and you don't want to provide such adequate housing for hive beetles. Do yourself and the bees a favor, stick with wooden frames.

Foundation: Wax or plastic? This becomes a tough choice to make. There are pros and cons on each side. My first years in beekeeping, I was using wax. I got a good friend into beekeeping and he was using plastic. As we were building our number of hives from removals and swarms, I saw in hive after hive just how much the bees preferred wax foundation. As the bees worked at drawing out the comb on wax, they would start drawing out over a much larger area. On the plastic, the bees would only draw out the area where they were working and not draw out comb any further away. This convinced me that wax was the way to go because it was best for the bees. I always bought the wax with the vertical wires in the foundation but I did not add the cross wires as that chore was very time consuming. I found that not adding cross wires wasn't much of a problem if those frames went into a hive very soon. If I had frames done ahead of time and stored them in the garage after a few weeks of the summer heat the wax foundation would warp- sometimes badly. I quickly got to where I didn't put the foundation in until I had a hive ready for those frames. Other experienced beekeepers tell me you will have trouble extracting frames with wax foundation if you don't have the cross wires. I'm fortunate to have a larger radial extractor and have not had a problem with frames "blowing out". I can see that it would be a problem in a smaller tangential extractor (one where you have to spin one side then flip the frame and spin for the other side). Best practice would be to add the cross wires if you

choose to go with wax.

Plastic foundation's advantages are for the beekeeper. They offer a considerable saving in time and are much easier to install in a frame. Frames with plastic foundation don't have to be handled as carefully as wax foundation. Once drawn out with comb, care should be taken in handling frames, wax or plastic foundation. Another advantage to plastic foundation is that the larva of hive beetles and wax moths cannot chew through it. This greatly slows the spread if an area of the hive becomes infected with hive beetles or wax moth larva. If caught really enough through inspections, remove the infected frame(s) and replace them. Did I mention that bees don't like plastic foundation? I've read quite a few articles on overcoming the bees' dislike to draw comb on plastic foundation. The top recommendations include starting a new package of bees on wax foundation, introduce new frames with plastic foundation only when the bees really need it. Crowded hives (lots of bees) will draw out plastic foundation quicker, but then you are also creating the same conditions that encourage the hive to swarm making this option a careful balancing act. Many people report that adding additional wax to the plastic foundation eliminates the bees' dislike of the plastic. Adding additional wax to the plastic increases the time to prepare those frames. Most new beekeepers don't have the extra wax. I tried to add extra wax to the plastic with a small trim paint roller as the recommended method. I found the very cheap and inexpensive trim roller I got at a box store was too flimsy and the roller part didn't hold much if any wax except in the center core that dripped everywhere- it was an in-effective disaster! Having the wax melted, I grabbed a small cheap paint brush and was able to coat 20 frames with extra wax in about an hour. Be careful working with melted wax. Wax can be messy and is hard to clean up. I have a buffet warmer with double pans that barely gets hot enough to melt the wax- IF I wrap the sides and keep it covered it will melt wax enough to use. What I like about the buffet warmer is that it will not get too hot to burn the wax or ignite it. Wouldn't it be nice if the manufacturers of plastic foundation were adding enough wax for the bees to like it?

My recommendation is that if you have a few hives to stay with wax foundation. If you are growing into a larger operation, then plastic foundation has some advantages to consider. As always, find what works best for you. Beekeeping is about making choices.

TBA Summer Clinic is shaping up to be a fantastic event! The planners and Montgomery County Beekeepers have put together a line-up of classes sure to provide learning opportunities for every level of beekeeper.

There are certain pursuits which, if not wholly poetic and true, do at least suggest a nobler and finer relation to nature than we know. The keeping of bees, for instance.

Henry David Thoreau

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2015 Texas Honey Queen Tabitha Mansker

Hi everyone! I hope you are doing well. I'm sure your bees are loving the benefits of all this rain we have had and are finally able to do their spring cleaning. I feel like, for three weeks (at least), our house was sitting in a complete mud pit. As some of you know, we have a lot of animals and among those I have two very big pigs. Every morning going out to feed them in their muddy swamp, was an adventure. It is bad if even the pigs are getting tired of the mud. But all this rain has brought some of the most beautiful flowers and helped our grass to turn green again. (At least for a little bit)

Earlier in March, I competed in some cooking competitions through 4-H. One of them was an individual competition. How it works is you find a recipe (I made up my own) prepare it, figure out as much information about your ingredients (lots of research). Then memorize a speech which includes all the nutritional information of each of your ingredients, health and safety precautions taken in making your dish, the process of making it, cost analysis, and how this dish helps our Texas economy. (Supports local famers, good cash crops, etc.) So the recipe I used was Hearty Texas Cornbread. One of my key ingredients in the dish was Texas honey. I was able to share with the judges the extreme importance of honey bees, not just in Texas but our whole world. They were very interested in the steps taken when cooking with honey. Like lowering the temperature 25 degrees (to help prevent over browning), reducing the water content $\frac{1}{4}$ cup for every 1 cup of honey, etc. I was very excited to be able to share the information I have learned through the years to teach even my judges about honey bees and cooking with honey. While we were waiting for the awards ceremony I was able to talk to several other kids about honey bees and what it was like being a Honey Queen. All together the competition was great and I received 4th place in my District. Another competition was a team one doing almost the same thing but actually preparing the food and speeches there, all in 40 minutes. This was also a super fun competition and we received 1st place in our district. (Which means we will move on to State and compete in June.)

As I was outside the other day, enjoying the sunshine, I was thinking about my article and what I should write about. The Bradford Pear trees were buzzing with thousands of bees collecting their much needed protein source, pollen. Then....it hit me like a block of wax, I should talk about pollen. I thought I knew quite a bit about pollen, but I have learned far more now from researching it just a little. So I am going to share with you some of the information I found. By the way there are some really

good articles on this subject.

The Benefits of Honey Bee Pollen.

Well first what is bee pollen? Bee pollen is the male seed of a flower blossom which are collected by the honey bees and mixed with the bees' digestive enzymes. It's a blend of sticky pollen granules that could contain up to five million pollen spores each. Many scientists say it has complete nutrition. A super nutritious, perfect food, these tiny pollens contain almost all the nutrients required by the human body and are enormously rich in proteins, vitamins, minerals, beneficial fatty acids, carotenoids, and bioflavonoids. Which are anti-viral, antibacterial and helpful in lowering cholesterol, stabilizing and strengthening capillaries. Pollen is the only plant source that contains the exclusive vitamin B12.

Fresh pollens contain a wide spectrum of at least 20 amino acids which are the building blocks of protein needed to build every cell in the body, from blood cell to the cells in the skin, organs and bones. There are also more than 100 active enzymes present in fresh and unheated pollens. Eating foods that contain enzymes helps the body prevent and fight diseases such as cancer and arthritis and saves the body from having to make enzymes. (A process that depletes energy) Applied to the skin, these pollens are also believed to be helpful in healing wounds and acne. It has been used for years as an excellent weight control. Bee pollen is low in calories and contains natural Phenylalanine which acts as appetite suppressant and Lecithin that helps dissolve and flush fat from the body, that is, detoxification and cleansing.

So basically it is good for the following:

1. Energy enhancer – the carbohydrates and protein give you stamina and help to fight off fatigue
2. Treating allergies- helps get your body immune to the pollens
3. Skin soother- the amino acids and vitamins help to protect the skin also helps to treat skin irritations like psoriasis and eczema
4. Digestive system- contains enzymes that help digest your food and absorb the nutrients.
5. Immune system booster- pollen is good for your intestinal flora.
6. Helps treat addictions- inhibits cravings by suppressing impulses.
7. Supports the Cardiovascular system- contains

large amounts of Rutin: an antioxidant bioflavonoid that helps strengthen capillaries, blood vessels, assists with circulatory problems and corrects cholesterol levels

Again these are just a few of the uses for bee pollen, it is good for many, many other things. I encourage you to try and collect some pollen from your bees this year. (If it's a strong hive) And if you are struggling in one of these areas above (or if you are completely healthy) you can try taking a teaspoon of bee pollen a day, and continue eating your raw honey. (unheated) You may be

surprised at what it will do for you. Even if its just for the Energy Booster-I think we could all use a little more energy.

Well I hope you found this interesting and helpful, I know I did. Do some research yourself and please share with me what you find. I would love to hear about. Looking forward to seeing some of you at my events these next months. Don't forget to keep up with what I'm doing on Facebook and Twitter.

Get in your bees, stay healthy, and enjoy SPRING!

Date	Event	Location	Type	Number of People Reached	Notes
2/15	Linden Garden Club	Linden	Garden club	25	Presentation and lunch
2/9	Collin County Meeting	McKinney	Bee club	200	Short presentation
2/18	Allen 4-H	Allen (near Dallas)	4-H club	53	1 presentation
2/25-27	San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo	San Antonio	Booth	2,000	Talked at an observation hive

Texas Beekeepers Association Membership Application

New / Renewal (circle one)

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Membership category:	Century Club	\$100	_____
	Individual	\$ 35	_____
	Family	\$ 50	_____
	Association	\$ 50	_____

Donation:	Honey Bee Research Fund	_____
	Texas Honey Queen Fund	_____
	Legislative Fund	_____
	Stae Fair Honey Booth Fund	_____

Total Enclosed _____

Remit to: Shirley Doggett
Membership Coordinator, 400 County Road 440, Thrall. TX 76578

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

bcbaassociation@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

Mel Williams - (325) 668-5080

honeybeemanwilliams@gmail.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@botmail.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

ragdale@industryinet.com

Meetings: Second 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

honeybee@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

Lakes Area Beekeepers Association

James Laughlin - (936) 368-7188

jaycl161@yahoo.com

1299 FM 3017, San Augustine, TX 75972

Meetings: 1st Tuesday of each month
San Augustine Chamber of Commerce Building
San Augustine, TX 75972

Liberty County Beekeepers Association

Cameron Crane - (409) 658-3800

info@libertycountybeekeepers.org

2300 Belevvedere 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; Southside Preservation Hall,
1519 Lipscomb St., Fort Worth TX

Montgomery County Beekeepers Assn.

Anita Stepp

mocobees@gmail.com

www.mocobees.com

Meetings: 3rd Monday of each month at
Montgomery County Extension Office, 9020 FM 1484,
Conroe TX @ 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

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

Bob Richie - (214) 793-1516

rgrichie@sbcglobal.net

8266 Barbaree Blvd., 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.

Ginger Plummer - (936) 435-2426

jgplummer1211@windstream.net

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 Lakes Area 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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