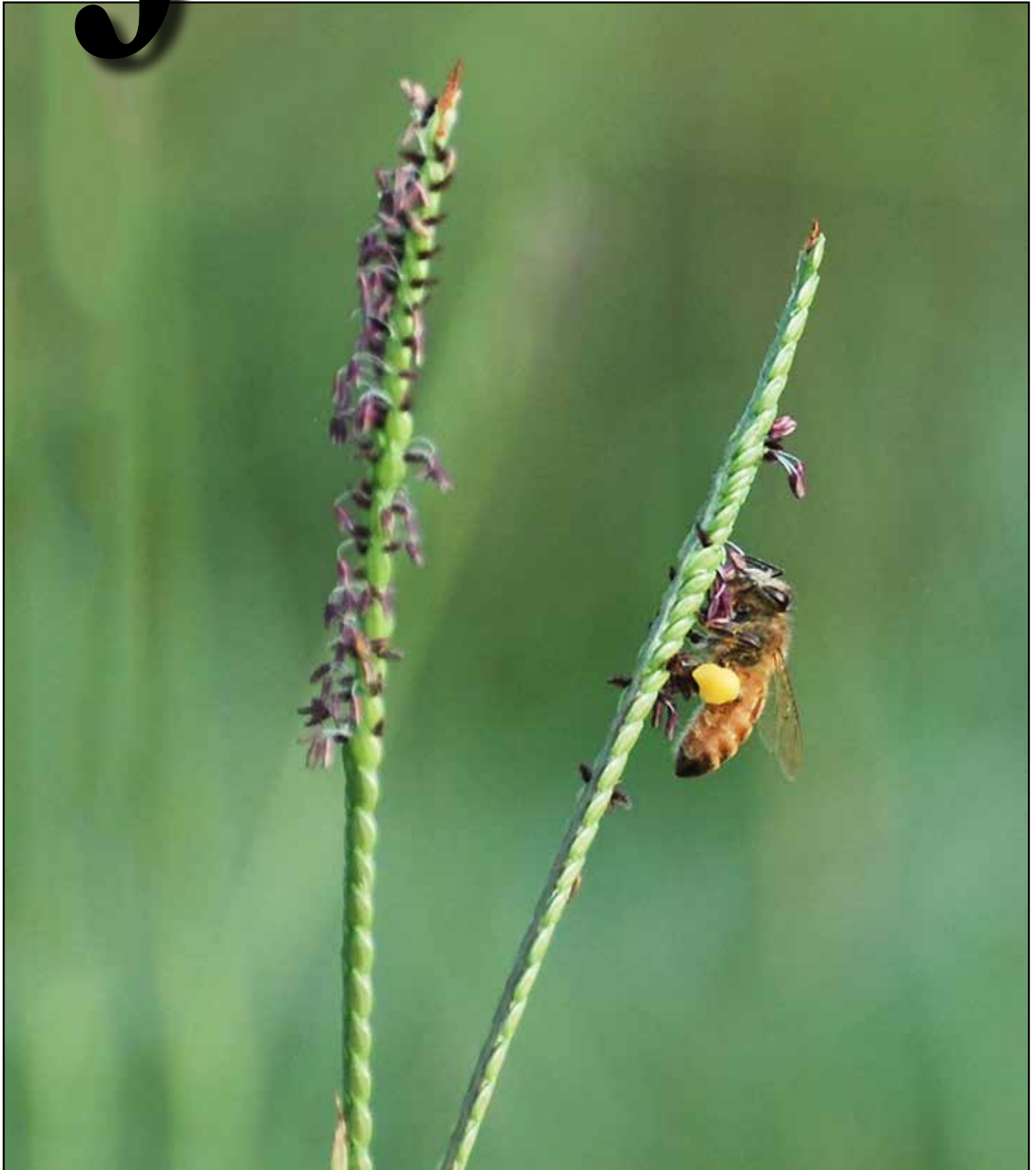


The Texas Beekeepers Association

# Journal



Jul / Aug 2015

[www.texasbeekeepers.org](http://www.texasbeekeepers.org)

Issue 15-4

# *Don't Let Your Colonies Fall Victim to Varroa Mites and the Viruses They Spread*

*Treat with Apiguard or Apivar  
Two Effective Varroa Mite controls for your bees!*



**APIGUARD**

A Vita-Europe Ltd. product  
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An effective Varroa mite control strip

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# President's Report

*from Blake Shook*



Hello Fellow Beekeepers!

Who would have thought our honey flow would be hampered by too much rain? I have not spoken to a Texas beekeeper this year who has made a good crop. I have heard reports ranging from no crop at all, to half of a normal crop. I suppose if it were easy everyone would do it. Unfortunately for Texas beekeepers, despite our poor crop, the honey market has softened somewhat. This is largely due to the amount of honey being dumped onto our market from overseas. I spoke to one packer who said over 25 million pounds of foreign honey was brought into the USA in just two weeks. It is unfortunate that good quality American honey sells for almost the same price as foreign honey. It is especially frustrating when you have several brands of honey in Texas grocery stores claiming to sell "Local Texas Honey" when that is often far from the truth. I bought a bottle the other day, and it was pure clover honey, obviously not from Texas. This is an issue we plan to pursue soon as an organization. We will share much more on that in the near future.

In more positive news, what a summer clinic we had!! As I'm sure you will read in other reports, we had over 500 people in attendance! The Montgomery County Beekeepers, Chari and

James, Lance, and Lisa Dittfurth, along with a host of other volunteers did an outstanding job putting everything together. There are so many people who did so much, I simply can't thank them all. I've been to at least a hundred beekeeping meetings, conventions, field days, etc, and I have never seen one run so smoothly, with as many smiling and helpful volunteers. With over 30 different sessions, and 500 people moving through the lunch line in 15 minutes, I am about ready to turn the reigns of TBA over to the crew that planned the clinic! We hope to see you next year at our next summer clinic!

The TBA Convention program is well underway, and I look forward to seeing all of you there. Chris is doing a great job at building a wonderful program! As my 3 year tenure as President comes to a close I couldn't ask for a better board and group of volunteers to continue building TBA into the best and most progressive state club in the country. But, more of that in my next, and final president's report.

With the majority of our projects completed for the year, I hope to spend my final report summarizing all of our projects, and laying out some exciting new projects for the future. But, for now, I've got to go super bees. I'm hoping for a better crop in North Dakota than I had in Texas!

***Look for Details of the 2015 Texas Beekeepers Annual Convention on Pages 4 - 11. We have a great line-up of Speakers from 8am Friday through 5pm on Saturday at the Bell County Expo Center. Make this our Most Successful Annual Event Ever!***

## In This Issue

President's Report.....	3
Vice President's Report.....	4
TBA Convention 2015.....	4 - 11
Texas State Fair.....	12 - 14
The Brantley Column.....	15
The Buds and the Bees.....	16 - 17
Remove the Feeders and Harvest the Honey.....	18 - 20
Tales of a Texas Beekeeper.....	22 - 23

TAIS Report.....	24
Texas A&M Bee Lab.....	26
Texas Honey Queen Report.....	28
Louisiana State Field Day.....	30
Honey Queen Chair Report.....	30
Beekeeping Tourism - Slovenia - Final Part.....	32 - 34
Assocation Listing.....	36
Directors Listing.....	38

*Cover Picture: Bee on Bahia Grass from Isabella Crawford. ETBA*



## Vice President's Report

*from Chris Moore*



In 1849 **Benzene** began being produced on an industrial scale. Some of its many uses include being used as an after-shave lotion, an industrial solvent, an additive in gasoline and even used to decaffeinate coffee. It was not until the 1940's, **after 100 years of use, it's adverse health effects were realized.**

Makes you think, what are the unknown consequences of today's chemicals ?

Bees are an indicator and I believe are reaching their threshold. The impact of today's many common chemicals + Varroa + Small Hive Beetle + many other factors, means today's beekeeping is harder than ever before. Beekeeping has drastically changed in the past 25 years. I remember, not that long ago, many commercial beekeepers used to kill half their colonies in the Fall so they did not have to feed them over the winter. It was easier and more effective for them to split the remaining bees the following spring. So what has changed ? Today's Common Chemicals.

### Today's environmental impact on our Bees

Jim & Maryann Frazier, both from Penn State, have each spent their careers studying the effects of today's chemicals on our bees. I'm so very excited the Fraziers will be with us this year at our annual convention to share their work on this very important issue.

This year's convention will be held at the Bell County Expo in Belton, TX. This is new for TBA. In the past we have always held our convention at a hotel. In an effort to lower the convention price, after feedback from our membership, we are going to try this type of venue.

**Put it on your calendar, Oct 30th & 31st and book your room early. Hope to see you there.**

### Texas Beekeepers Association Annual Convention at Bell County Expo Center 29th - 31st October 2015

**La Quinta Inn and Suites  
229 West Loop 121, Belton, TX 76513  
(254) 939-2772**

**Room Rate \$99  
Call before Monday September 30th**

**Conference from 8am Friday 30th through 5pm on Saturday 31st  
Annual Banquet Saturday 31st October 6pm - 10pm**

**Dr. Larry Connor - all day Thursday**

# Texas Beekeepers Association

## 2015 Annual Convention Key Speakers



**James L. Frazier** - Dr. Frazier received his PhD in Entomology with a specialty in insect physiology at the Ohio State University in 1970. He went through the academic ranks at Mississippi State University from 1970 – 1980, was a Senior Scientist at DuPont Agricultural Products from 1981-89, and served for 10 years as Department Head at Penn State. Dr. Frazier has done research on the chemical ecology of herbivorous insects for most of his career, but has concentrated on the impacts of pesticides on honey bees for the last 8 years together with Chris Mullin, Insect Toxicologist and Maryann Frazier, Senior Honeybee Extension Specialist at Penn State. He has served on several national level policy bodies, including the USDA-APHIS-EPA National Stakeholder Conference on Bee Health (2011), the Pellston Conference on Pollinator Risk Assessment (2010), and has been science advisor to the National Honey Bee Advisory Board since 2009. Dr. Frazier recently received the Friend of the Industry Award from the National Honey Producers Association (2014), and the Presidents Award and the Hoopengartner Award from the National Beekeeping Federation (2015). Dr Frazier retired from Penn State in July, 2014 and is now Professor Emeritus in the department.

**Maryann Frazier** - Maryann received her B. S. in Agriculture Education from Penn State University in 1980. In 1983 she completed a Masters of Agriculture in Entomology, specializing in apiculture. She has worked as the assistant state apiary inspector in Maryland and for two years as a beekeeping specialist in Sudan and later in Central America. For the past 25 years she has held the position of Senior Extension Associate in the Department of Entomology at Penn State and is responsible for honey bee extension throughout the state and cooperatively across the Mid-Atlantic region. She is working collaboratively with other members of PSU Department of Entomology to understand how pesticides are impacting honey bees and other pollinators. In addition she is working with a team of U.S. and Kenyan researchers to understand the impacts of newly introduced Varroa mites on East African honey bee subspecies and helping Kenyan beekeepers become more productive. She has taught courses in beekeeping, general entomology and teacher education and is involved with the Entomology Department's innovative public outreach program.



**Phil Craft** - Phil served as the Kentucky State Apiarist from 1999 through 2011. He is a graduate of Oberlin College in Ohio (BA in biology), and of the University of Kentucky. Phil continues to communicate with beekeepers through his "Ask Phil" question/answer column which appears monthly in Bee Culture magazine, and through his webpage, [Philcrafthivecraft.com](http://Philcrafthivecraft.com). He is also the U.S. technical adviser for Veto-pharma, the maker of Apivar. A native of the mountains of Eastern Kentucky, he now lives out in the sticks in the Bluegrass region of Kentucky near Lexington with his family, a very old dog, and some bee hives. You may send questions to Phil at [phil@philcrafthivecraft.com](mailto:phil@philcrafthivecraft.com).

**Megan Mahoney** - Megan fell in love with bees over 12 years ago the first time she looked inside of a hive and has been working with bees ever since! She had the good fortune to be introduced to bees and the bee industry through the University of Minnesota and Marla Spivak's lab, and went on to run a small bee business in Albuquerque, NM. About 5 years ago, she decided she wanted a more commercial experience and a better understanding of the industry, so she went to the California Central Valley where she has been commercially raising queens in the springtime. She currently works for the Midwest Tech-Transfer team and is looking forward to starting the Texas Tech-Transfer team! She loves the opportunity to meet beekeepers and their bees all around the country.





**Texas Beekeepers Association  
Annual Convention  
29th - 31st October 2015**

**Bell County Expo Center  
301 West Loop 121, Belton, TX 76513  
*www.bellcountyexpo.com***

*The Annual Convention this year features:*



*General Sessions Friday morning through Saturday afternoon  
Texas Master Beekeeper Testing on Thursday  
“Building a Sustainable Apiary” with Dr. Larry Connor on Thursday*

**Speakers**

**James L Frazier** - Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Entomology, Penn. State University

**Dying Bees: Harbingers of the End of Times or Opportunity Buzzing  
Managing Honey Bee Maladies by Letting Them Be**

**Maryann Frazier** - Senior Extension Associate, Penn. State University

**Toxic House: pesticide exposure and impacts on honey bee colonies used for  
commercial pollination  
So You Think You Can't Graft.....Try This!**

**Phil Craft** - former Kentucky State Apiarist, “Ask Phil” column in Bee Culture Magazine

**Varroa Treatments - a Review of Effective Varroa Control Options**

**Clint Walker** - Walker Honey Farm

**From the Extractor to the Shelf - Processing Honey**

**Blake Shook** - President, TBA - Desert Creek Honey

**Creative Ways to Market Honey, and Fresh New Ideas**



# Fall Testing for the Texas Master Beekeeper Program

**When:** Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup> 2015

**Where:** Bell County Expo Center, Belton, TX

**Registration:** Online registration begins on  
September 1<sup>st</sup>

**Website:** <http://masterbeekeeper.tamu.edu/>

**Questions:** Email us at [TAIS@TAMU.edu](mailto:TAIS@TAMU.edu)

# Entry Form for Honey and Photo Contest

## By Mail or at Convention

### Competition Entry Form

*One Form Required Per Contest Entry, Bring Entries and Fees to Registration Table at Convention*

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City / State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Entry Category (Check All That Apply: \$5.00 Fee Per Honey Entry, \$3.00 Per Photography Entry.  
Only One Entry Per Category)

- ☐ Honey - Extracted Honey \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Honey - "Black Jar" (note below) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Photography - Our Glorious Honey Bee \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

"Black Jar Categories"

Local Blend \_\_\_\_ Local Varietal \_\_\_\_ Non-Local Blend \_\_\_\_ Non-Local Varietal \_\_\_\_ Exotic \_\_\_\_

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

## Building a Sustainable Apiary

## Growing Your Beekeeping Operation

## Thursday October 29th, 2015

For Small-Scale (Hobby) and Serious Sideline Beekeepers

DR. LARRY CONNOR, INSTRUCTOR

REGISTRATION \$90 PER PERSON, Includes \$25 credit toward a Wicwas Press book  
Or \$150 per couple (only one book credit). Includes Lunch

### PROGRAM

- 9:00 REGISTRATION
- 9:15 Apiary Expansion and Colony Maintenance Simplified
- 10:30 BREAK
- 11:00 Selecting Hive Products Suitable for Your Operation
- 12:00 LUNCH
- 1:30 Obtaining and Using Mite Tolerant Bee Stock
- 2:30 BREAK
- 3:00 What to do When You are too Busy to work bees: Setting Priorities
- 4:00 Wrap-up and evaluations



# 2015 Texas Beekeepers Association Convention Registration

**Please register for the annual convention on-line at**  
[www.texasbeekeepers.org/annual-convention-2015](http://www.texasbeekeepers.org/annual-convention-2015)

**Make Sure you are Logged in to get Membership Rates**

## Registration Form for Mail Registration

	Register by Oct. 22nd	Register at Convention	Number	Total
TBA Member - Full Conference Friday 30th and Saturday 31st October	\$60	\$80		
TBA Family Membership - Full Conference Friday 30th and Saturday 31st October	\$100	\$120		
TBA Member - Single Day (Friday or Saturday)	\$40	\$60		
TBA Non-member - Full Conference	\$80	\$100		
TBA Non-Member - Single Day (Friday or Saturday)	\$60	\$80		
Building a Sustainable Apiary Dr. Larry Connor - Thursday 29th October Individual - includes lunch and book credit	\$90	\$110		
Building a Sustainable Apiary Dr. Larry Connor - Thursday 29th Octobe Couple - includes lunch and book credit	\$150	\$170		
Queen's Luncheon Friday 30th October	\$19	Not available		
Annual Awards Banquet Saturday 31st October	\$38	\$58		
Total				

**Please list attendees if you register for Family Membership**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL REGISTRATION FORM  
AND CHECK PAYABLE TO  
TEXAS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION to:**

**SHIRLEY DOGGETT  
MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR  
400 COUNTY ROAD 440  
THRALL, TX 76578**

# 2015 Annual TBA Convention Honey and Photography Rules

*from Mark Hedley*

The Texas Beekeepers Association will conduct the honey and photo contest during the Annual Convention in Belton on October 29 - 31. Judging will take place beginning Saturday morning with results presented on Saturday evening at the Awards Banquet.

## **General Entry Requirements:**

1. You may register and pay by credit card or PayPal on-line at [texasbeekeepers.org](http://texasbeekeepers.org) while registering for the convention. Bring your Honey and Photo contest entry ticket(s) with your entry/entries to the registration table. Alternatively, remove (or print) the newsletter entry form below if you do not have Internet access. We accept photocopies.
2. When registering on-line, purchase one ticket per entry in the honey or photo contest. Alternatively, use one manual form for each contest entry. Only one entry per category allowed per contestant.
3. Remove identifying label or markers from entry, with the exception of the two additional containers required for a "Black Jar" entry (See Black Jar Entry Requirements)
4. Contest administrators will affix coded tabs to entries upon submission.
5. Entry deadline: At the convention contest headquarters, 1:00 pm Friday, October 30, 2015. Contest Entry Fees: Honey \$5.00 per entry, Photo \$3.00 per entry.
6. Disposition of Entries: Winning entries will be retained by the Texas Beekeepers Association and sold during our fund-raising event. Owners of non-winning entries may donate their entries to the fundraiser, or retain them at the end of the competition.

## **Polished Honey Entry Requirements:**

1. Submit extracted honey entries in one-pound Queenline glass jars.
2. Contestants may only submit honey entries produced in their own apiary or by bees that they manage in a different state for honey production or pollination (see also Black Jar – Non Local Category).
3. If donating entries to the Fund Raising Auction, submit any labels and floral source information desired in a separate envelope for attachment at contest conclusion.

## **"Black Jar" Honey Entry Requirements:**

1. Entries must be submitted by a beekeeper and be pure unadulterated honey produced by his or her own bees.
2. An "Entry" consists of three (3) containers of any style (8 ounces or more) of the same honey.
3. Submit one of the three entry samples in a container without any identifying marks; while the other two must have the beekeeper's label attached as he or she would when offering their honey for sale. None of the three entries will be returned. The labeled containers will be sold as a fund-raiser for the Texas Beekeepers Association while promoting the individual beekeeper or apiary.

## **Photo Entry Requirements:**

1. TBA may retain digital copies of entries for permanent TBA archives. Photographer submitting an entry retains all legal copyrights. Contest administrators will return all entries at the convention upon completion of archiving process. The first place photo entry will be featured on a 2016 TBA Journal cover.
2. Judges will evaluate all entries in a class, regardless of black and white, color, or slide format. Photographers may submit any size entry with a maximum size of 8"x10".
3. Entries in "Our Glorious Honey Bee" should depict honey bees in their natural environment depicting some element of honey bee behavior, science, or history or any aspect of beekeeping that contains a honey bee in the photo.
4. Photographers may only submit photos taken personally.

## **Contest Judging – General**

1. Contest judges will evaluate and score entries on Saturday, October 31st, 2015.
2. Contest Committee Chairman will announce awards Saturday, October 31st, at the Awards Banquet.

# 2015 Annual Convention Honey and Photography Contest Rules (contd.)

*from Mark Hedley*

## HONEY JUDGING CRITERIA

**Contest Judging – Polished Honey** - Judges may award points to entries in the following categories for a possible 100 points:

Polished Honey	
Container Appearance	10
Level of Fill	10
Free of Foreign Matter	10
Brightness	10
Free of Air Bubbles and Foam	20
Flavor	40
Total Points	100

**Contest Judging – “Black Jar”** – Judges will award First, Second, and Third place to entries in categories based on blind tastings. Judges will not see the color, clarity, or any visual appeal of the honey. It is a contest based on flavor profile and taste alone. A panel of judges will taste test and score the honey entries individually, awarding points to each entry. Total Points determine placement.

Best Local Blend	(example blend: wildflower, mesquite, native brush, tallow, etc)
Best Local Varietal	(example at least 45% from one source: tallow, cotton, native brush, wildflower, etc)
Best Non-Local Blend	(example: Clover, Canola, Orange, Sourwood, etc blends)
Best Non-Local Varietal	(example: at least 45% from one source: Clover, Canola, Orange, Sourwood, etc.)
Exotic	(It still has to come from your own bees, and really be honey)

## PHOTOGRAPHY JUDGING CRITERIA

**Contest Judging – Photography** – Our Glorious Honey Bee - Judges may award points to entries in the following categories for a possible 100 points:

Photography – Our Glorious Honey Bee	
Relevancy to Topic	25
Composition / Arrangement	15
Focus / Sharpness	20
Lighting	15
Creativity	25
Total Points	100

## AWARDS & PRESENTATIONS

TBA will present awards ribbons and a check to First (\$50), Second (\$25), and Third Place (\$15) winners in each black jar honey category based on total points earned. TBA will present award ribbons to First, Second, and Third place winners in each Polished and Photography category. Contest administrators may segregate Polished honey by color categories based on volume of contest entries.

**All First, Second and Third place entries** will be displayed on the top tier of our special display platform after judging and awards presentation and will remain in view for convention attendees.

**Convention Grand Champion:** A special award will be presented to the contestant with the highest total points across all entries.

**Convention Reserve Champion:** A special award will be presented to the contestant with the second highest total points across all entries.



## State Fair Honey Booth

*from John Talbert, TBA Executive Secretary*

Summer is here and it has been a roller coaster. Cool Winter and record wet spring. All that rain we were wanting for the past couple of years came in two months. If your bees are like mine, you are wondering what happened to the honey crop. The rain has stopped and the weather has turned off hot. Flowers withered. Don't have a clue what the weather will be by the time for the State Fair of Texas and the Honey Booth.

There continues to be considerable interest in the honey bee by the media. I have been interviewed several times this year about the honey bee and her impact on the food supply. We have endeavored to present a very positive image about beekeepers and their importance too. If you have any suggestions for telling the story of pollination, please send them to me.

As always, your help is needed to provide the honey and funding for the booth. We need more honey than ever and we will need your financial support to be able to tell the story. We are asking the commercial beekeepers to lead the way with \$200 donations and the hobbyists \$25 or more if possible. We had a ten percent increase in the booth space cost. We expect to have some new videos to use in the booth this year.

The TBA Honey Booth at the State Fair of Texas provides the best opportunity to get our story to the public. Over 1 million consumers of the 3 million that attend the Fair pass by the booth each year according to the numbers furnished by the Texas Department of Agriculture. Exposure to each consumer costs less than 4 tenths of a cent. That is very inexpensive. Honey and bees have been the news a lot lately. This has increased the demand for

honey. Help us make the Texas consumer realize that they need to purchase TEXAS HONEY.

Our Honey Queens do a great job with the cooking demonstrations that make the public aware of what a wonderful ingredient honey can be in the kitchen. Please help them tell the story. Honey will again be showcased by the Honey Queens. We are fortunate that we have more Queens sponsored by local clubs than in quite a while. Having that many presentations will make for a really busy last weekend of the Fair.

There is a new activity at the State Fair of Texas featuring honey. We have been successful in getting the Arts and Crafts division to set aside Monday October 5 for cooking with honey. We also will be represented in some of the other contests in Arts and Crafts. If the winning homemade ice cream has honey as the sweetener, there will be an extra \$50 cash award. In the photography contest, if the winning photo features a honey bee, there will be an extra \$50 cash award. There will also be a standard honey contest and the new black jar contest. To win any of these contests you have to be registered thru the State Fair of Texas.

Can you donate a case of honey with your label, or even a jar? Contact John Talbert at 214-532-9241 or [john@sabinecreekhoney.com](mailto:john@sabinecreekhoney.com) if you can.

Can you be a volunteer in the booth to help tell the story of bees and honey? We need you to sign up for a date and we need your honey before September 20.

**Can you donate a case of honey with your label, or even a jar?**

**Contact John Talbert at (214) 532-9241 if you can.**

**Can you be a volunteer in the booth to help tell the story of honey bees and honey?**

**Please sign up for a date!**

**Call or email John Talbert at [john@sabinecreekhoney.com](mailto:john@sabinecreekhoney.com)**



# 2015 STATE FAIR OF TEXAS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>TEXAS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION HONEY BOOTH VOLUNTEERS</b>					<u>25-Sep</u> AM (10:00-2:30)  PM (2:30-7:00)	<u>26-Sep</u> AM (10:00-2:30)  PM (2:30-7:00)
<u>27-Sep</u> AM (10:00-2:30)  PM (2:30-7:00)	<u>28-Sep</u> AM (10:00-2:30)  PM (2:30-7:00)	<u>29-Sep</u> AM (10:00-2:30)  PM (2:30-7:00)	<u>30-Sep</u> AM (10:00-2:30)  PM (2:30-7:00)	<u>1-Oct</u> AM (10:00-2:30)  PM (2:30-7:00)	<u>2-Oct</u> AM (10:00-2:30)  PM (2:30-7:00)	<u>3-Oct</u> AM (10:00-2:30)  PM (2:30-7:00)
<u>4-Oct</u> AM (10:00-2:30)  PM (2:30-7:00)	<u>5-Oct</u> AM (10:00-2:30)  PM (2:30-7:00)	<u>6-Oct</u> AM (10:00-2:30)  PM (2:30-7:00)	<u>7-Oct</u> AM (10:00-2:30)  PM (2:30-7:00)	<u>8-Oct</u> AM (10:00-2:30)  PM (2:30-7:00)	<u>9-Oct</u> AM (10:00-2:30)  PM (2:30-7:00)	<u>10-Oct</u> AM (10:00-2:30)  PM (2:30-7:00)
<u>11-Oct</u> AM (10:00-2:30)  PM (2:30-7:00)	<u>12-Oct</u> AM (10:00-2:30)  PM (2:30-7:00)	<u>13-Oct</u> AM (10:00-2:30)  PM (2:30-7:00)	<u>14-Oct</u> AM (10:00-2:30)  PM (2:30-7:00)	<u>15-Oct</u> AM (10:00-2:30)  PM (2:30-7:00)	<u>16-Oct</u> AM (10:00-2:30)  PM (2:30-7:00)	<u>17-Oct</u> AM (10:00-2:30)  PM (2:30-7:00)
<u>18-Oct</u> AM (10:00-2:30)  PM (2:30-7:00)	<b>John T (C) 214-532-9241</b> <a href="mailto:John@sabinecreekhoney.com">John@sabinecreekhoney.com</a>					

## 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

# Texas State Fair

## Honey, The Magic Ingredient Contest

*Monday October 5th., 2015*

STATE FAIR OF TEXAS, CREATIVE ARTS HANDBOOK — 2015 93

STATE FAIR OF TEXAS  
and  
TEXAS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



PRESENTS  
HONEY, THE MAGIC INGREDIENT  
CONTEST

Check-In Monday, Oct. 5, 2015 – 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.  
Judging 10:30 a.m.  
State Fair Contest Kitchen, Creative Arts Department

**NO ENTRY FEE**

Contestants must be Age 18 or older  
**AMATEURS ONLY**

- Do not pre-register for this contest.
- Bring completed entry form with you when you come to the contest.
- Contestants may enter only one entry in this contest.
- **NO MIXES ALLOWED.**
- **RECIPE MUST CONTAIN HONEY AS THE ONLY SWEETENER.**
- Contestants **MUST TURN IN** completed entry by 10:30 am & absolutely no preparation will be allowed after 10:30 am unless approved by the Director of Creative Arts.
- Entries will be judged on **TASTE, CREATIVITY** and **PRESENTATION.**

**RECIPES: MUST BE TYPED on an 8 1/2 "x 11" sheet of white paper and must accompany your entry.** Contestant's name, address and phone number must be printed on **back side of recipe.** **ALL RECIPES BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE STATE FAIR OF TEXAS AND MAY BE USED IN THE NEXT PRIZE WINNING RECIPES COOKBOOK.**

**AWARDS**

**1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE-\$200.00    2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE-\$100.00    3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE-\$50.00**

**CLASS:**

24-01. Any dish, using Honey, the Magic Ingredient

94 STATE FAIR OF TEXAS, CREATIVE ARTS HANDBOOK — 2015

STATE FAIR OF TEXAS  
ENTRY FORM



**HONEY, THE MAGIC INGREDIENT CONTEST**

Check-In Monday, Oct. 5, 2015 – 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.  
Judging 10:30 a.m.  
State Fair Contest Kitchen, Creative Arts Department

**NO ENTRY FEE**  
**AMATEURS ONLY**

**Do not pre-register for this contest. Bring completed entry form with you when you come to the contest.**  
**Each contestant may enter only one entry.**

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Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Did you enter Creative Arts in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 or previously this year? (circle one)    YES    NO    NEW

If YES, give your Exhibitor Number \_\_\_\_\_

Circle number you are entering: \_\_\_\_\_

**CLASS:**

24-01. Any dish, using Honey, the Magic Ingredient

Texas Beekeepers Association  
Annual Convention

29th - 31st October 2015

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## The Brantley Column

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

It is August in Texas. It is hot and dry. The local weatherman likes to show how hot it is all over the state. But what do you expect? It is August in Texas. If you have lived here any length of time, you expect it to be hot and dry. Your bees also know it is hot and dry. They find little forage and feel the rising temperature inside the hive. Their temperament may change, becoming cranky and more aggressive. Be cautious when opening the hive, moving slowly and making use of your smoker. Be careful in your grounds maintenance because they may not tolerate mowers or weed eaters near the hive. You may see large numbers of bees collecting on the face of the hive, called "bearding" and thought to be a mechanism to move body heat out of the hive on the hottest parts of the day. Bees will need increasing amounts of water in these hot weeks. If you do not have a natural water source nearby, bees will search for the nearest one, and it may be your neighbor's swimming pool or fountain.

If you do not have a reliable natural water source, be sure to provide water for your bees in or near the apiary. You long-time ETBA members may remember Jesse Adams, my friend and mentor for many years. Jesse often came up with practical solutions to many beekeeping problems. He made a water source for his bees from a large plastic container (about 2 by 2 feet square and 18-24 inches deep), a length of 2x6, and a piece of burlap sack. The burlap sack was wrapped around a 2x6 that was inserted into the container at an angle, one end on the bottom and one end on the edge, making a sloped ramp down to the water. The burlap acted like a wick and stayed moist several inches above the water line. The bees could land on the rough burlap and walk safely down the wet area for water. He kept this in the shade near his hives and added water when the level got low. You can look on the Internet and find a variety of ways to ensure your bees have water. One thing to think about -- other animals may be attracted to your water source, especially raccoons at night. Be sure to check it daily and make sure it does not get dumped or evaporate.

I have received several calls from beekeepers reporting their hives overrun by Small Hive Beetles or Wax Moths. Our unusually wet spring may have created optimum conditions for beetles and moths to hatch a bumper crop, I am certainly hearing more reports of problems than usual. I am also concerned that the usually wet weather adversely effected the mating of queens. Hives that started the season well seem to be failing as the summer progresses. The queen may not have mated well enough to have a sufficient supply of sperm to keep producing brood.

The hive may have started the spring well, maybe even produced a honey crop, but is now starting to fail. As the population decreases, the bees begin to lose the battle against beetles and moths. Once the beetle or moth is able to start laying eggs in the hive, the hatching larvae quickly create conditions that are intolerable to the bees. Eventually the bees will be forced to leave and the hive is ruined.

Be attentive to the activity at the landing board. If you notice a decline in the number of bees coming and going, your hive's population may be declining. Take a look inside and determine if you have a large enough population of bees to occupy all of the boxes. Check the brood pattern to see if the queen is still laying. Look for signs of beetle or moth larvae.

If you find slimed comb in the hive, disassemble the hive and wash the slimed comb with running water. Use a strong enough flow to remove the slime and fecal matter but not so much as to damage the wax. Wash the frames until all evidence of slime is gone. Check the ground for any white larvae and kill them so they will not burrow into the soil and pupate into adult beetles. Place the frames where bees can rob out any stored honey. After the bees clean the frames, put them in the freezer for a few days to kill any beetle adults, eggs or larvae that might be hiding the comb. If you need to remove them from the freezer for longer term storage, be sure to store them under Paradichlorobenzene crystals, known to beekeepers as ParaMoth. Paramoth is sold at Wal-Mart in a blue canister (looks like a shorter Pringles can) under the brand name of Enoz Ice Crystals (do not buy Enoz Old Fashion Moth Balls). Do not confuse this with regular moth balls which are made of Naphthalene, a chemical that is absorbed by the wax and will kill bees. Frames stored under ParaMoth need to be aired for a couple of days before being put back in a hive. Otherwise, the evaporating ParaMoth fumes may cause the bees to leave.

An easy way to store frames under ParaMoth is to place them in a hive body and stack them on several thicknesses of newspaper or a piece of cardboard. You can stack them up to ten high. On the top of every third box and also on the top box, place an 8x8 inch piece of paper and cover with a ¼ cup of ParaMoth crystals. Cover the stack with an Outer Cover. Taping or shrink wrapping the joints between the boxes helps keep the ParaMoth fumes from escaping so quickly. Check the crystals every few days until you get an idea how fast they are evaporating. Replace with fresh crystals before they all evaporate. Remember, the hotter it is the faster they evaporate.



# THE BUDS AND THE BEES

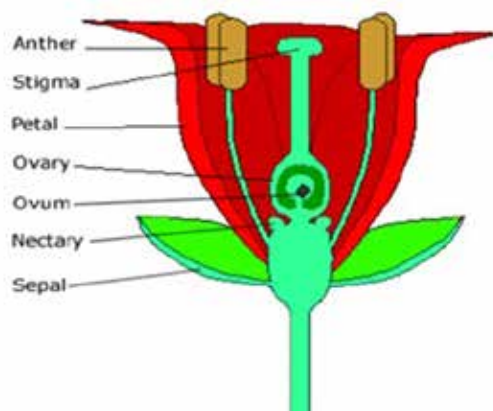
## Forecast, Flowers and Foraging

by Becky Bender, Texas Master Naturalist

### *How extreme weather patterns may affect honey flow*

Have you ever noticed how folk wisdom contains a pearl of scientific truth? Here's an example: *"If bees stay at home, rain will soon come; if they fly away, fine will be the day."* People have long claimed that animal behavior can predict weather and, alternately, weather can predict animal behavior. Texas weather provides a unique, if unwelcome, opportunity to witness this. Can you think of a topic that beekeepers are talking about more than weather this year?

How and when weather patterns will affect honey production is as unpredictable as.....well, as Texas weather. Nectar secretion is sensitive to weather conditions including sunlight, temperature, rain and soil quality. But all of these weather factors are interrelated making it difficult to make a statement about the effects of one without considering the others. In addition, weather conditions affect different plant species in different ways. Despite the complexity of our topic, let's look at what is known about the impact of extreme weather patterns on nectar production.



*A Flower Nectary*

### Flower Nectaries

Weather can affect how and when flowers produce nectar. Nectar production is associated with the circulation of nutrients and water through a plant. Plants excrete their nectar from nectaries, glands that are usually hidden and vary widely in appearance and location in different plant species. Flower nectaries are generally located at the base of the flower so pollinators will brush the flower's reproductive structures, anthers and pistil, while accessing the nectar. Depending on the type of flower, nectar may be released through nectaries located not only

at the base of the flower but also in its petals, sepals, stamens or pistil. Some plants even have "extrafloral nectaries" which occur on the leaves or stalks and not on the flower. Nectar is basically sugar-water and may range from 8 percent to 76 percent sugar. Most nectar is about 40 percent sugar and includes minor amounts of minerals, proteins, fats.

### Temperature

Temperature may have the greatest overall impact on nectar flow since it drives many of the individual processes involved in producing nectar. Many studies have shown a direct correlation between warmer temperatures and honey production. Minimum temperatures for nectar secretion are reported for various species. For example, flowers of the Basswood tree (*Tilia americana*) begin secretion at about 65 degrees. Several cultivars of soybeans secrete at about 70 degrees. Mark Hedley of Spiral Horn Apiary in Rochelle, Texas, has observed that 90 degrees is an optimum (not minimum) for a good bloom on Bee-brush or White brush (*Aloysia gratissima*).

Temperature and soil moisture work together. Prolonged high temperatures without adequate soil moisture can stress plants, resulting in either a poorer quality of nectar or ceasing production all together. But when moisture is plentiful, persistent hot weather may accelerate flower development resulting in a shorter bloom period but more intense nectar flow.

### Drought

Drought stresses most plants and limits the available moisture to dedicate to nectar production. Flowers need an abundant supply of water for nectaries to produce. But even in drought, if full sun and warm temperatures prevail, that lower volume of nectar may be more concentrated and higher quality for the bees. Evidence that drought is stressful on the environment and thus on our bees is seen in some of our Texas honey pollen analyses. In severe drought years, the bees collect from a far smaller variety of plant species. This means beekeepers may produce more unifloral honey in which at least 45% of nectar is from one plant source. Rattan Vine and Mesquite are examples of unifloral honey produced in recent drought years in Texas. Chris Moore of Moore Honey Farm in southeast Texas produces from Tallow trees, a tree he calls hearty and quick to rebound and deliver nectar even during a drought such as in 2011.





*Buckwheat Flower*

## Rain and Soil Moisture

Moisture is a major factor in good nectar production. Too much rain, however, can have the opposite effect as we've all witnessed during the record-breaking Texas rainfall of May 2015.

According to Chris Moore of Moore Honey Farm in southeast Texas, after periods of rain, some plants can rebound fairly quickly and deliver their nectar. This spring, however, Chris says that the persistent and driving rain not only washed nectar away from the flower blossoms but destroyed some of the flowers. And in some cases, the entire plant was destroyed so there was nothing to rebound. On the other hand, Chris observes that the rains and lower temperatures have extended the production of clover well into July this year. And beekeepers with hives near Mesquite trees report a prolonged bloom and honey flow on that plant as well.

Typically, by mid-July, John Talbert of Sabine Creek Honey Farm in Josephine, Texas, has a full schedule of honey extraction reservations at his Honey House. But John reports beekeepers are scheduling later this year. They are hoping to capture summer honey flow to make up for losses caused by persistent spring rains that washed away May and June nectar. John explains that May and June nectar usually contributes a large portion of our state's annual honey harvest.

The highly scented Buckwheat flower - a magnet to honey bees - has a flat, open structure that makes it the type of flower that is more susceptible to having its nectar washed away in hard rain. Another way excessive rain may affect nectar is by increasing the volume of nectar produced by a plant but diluting out the sugar content and thus providing lower quality nectar for the bees. And of course bees cannot fly in rain.

The condition of soil - moisture, temperature and aeration - has a big impact on the health of our plants and crops. Light soils tend to be well drained and are ideal when rainfall is good but dry out quickly in dry years. Heavy soils retain water better in drought years but have poorer drainage which hurts aeration and root health in wet years. Prolonged, excessive moisture can kill a plant by impairing the plant's oxygen absorption from the soil. Even the Texas sage (*Leucophyllum frutescens*), a drought-hardy native, was a victim to rain this year.



*Bee-Brush*

According to Mark Hedley of Spiral Horn Apiary in Rochelle, Texas, "It has been a very weird year for us here in the dead middle of Texas." Mark reports that blooms, honey flow and build-up are all delayed about a month due to steady rain through May and June. The early rains of March and April extended the wildflower bloom and even the Horsemint bloomed until the end of June which has not been seen in years. On the other hand, Mesquite, which normally blooms at the end of March, was delayed until the end of June and is still coming out for the first time in July in some areas. Mark also observes that due to lower temperatures than normal, Bee-brush or White-brush (*Aloysia gratissima*), typically a frequent and long bloomer and a major source of nectar and nutrition for the bees throughout the hot summer, has been an infrequent and weak bloomer this year.

Chris Moore of Moore Honey Farm summarizes the effects of Texas weather on honey production this way: "It's hard to tell about honey production until the honey is in the barrel." So what's a beekeeper to do? No one has been able to formulate a product or program that appreciably increases nectar flow or neutralizes the effects of adverse weather conditions. But here are a few things to consider. When planting, select flowers, shrubs and trees that are native or well-adapted to your own climate and soil. Establish a good variety of plants so bees have a better chance of finding nectar if some plants are not producing. Remain resilient and resourceful. Mark Hedley says he doesn't feed syrup after supers are in place, but he does feed a lot of protein substitute to help the bees build strength into the fall for a second harvest in November. This year Mark anticipates delaying his July harvest and his summer splits until August. Then he'll build up his hives again for a November harvest after the fall rains bring blooms on Bee-brush, Broomweed and Goldenrod.

Yesterday, July 12, while working in my bee yard, an emerging sea of plants caught my eye in a neighbor's field just a few yards away. Snow-on-the-Prairie! Acres of it! Emerging earlier and more abundantly than in past years! Threatening my honey crop with its hot, unpleasant tasting nectar! Another consequence of this crazy weather. I'm off to harvest several weeks earlier than planned because, as we know, weather can predict animal behavior!

# Remove the Feeders and Harvest the Honey

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



Second-year beekeepers face special challenges because we know just enough to get into trouble! As first-year beekeepers, we followed the book, did everything according to a schedule and did not deviate from the norm, regardless of what the bees did. We ended the year with three hives, 30 pounds of honey, and a great satisfaction with the hobby.

Then, one of our hives starved and froze during a March snow, and another one absconded. Our remaining hive was strong and healthy, so we continued adding honey supers through the spring. We used that productive queen to raise 8 new queens with the Nicot system, and we produced and sold two strong hives to friends. A friend gave us another hive, and we made two splits, so we were back to four hives. We took two giant steps backward and several steps forward, but we felt like we were learning. Then, we saw something in two hives that we had only read about: our bees built comb on their feeders.

## Removing the Feeders



*Wild Comb on the Bottom of our Feeders*

We planned to extract on the weekend, so we did our regular hive inspection midweek. The strong hive looked like it had 20-25 frames capped and ready to harvest. The new queens in two of the hives were laying beautiful brood patterns, and there were lots of active bees.

We felt pretty good about our beekeeping methods...until we opened the third hive and smelled fermented sugar syrup. The bees had not taken much of the syrup during the week, and there were only a few bees near the feeder. Our spirits dropped as we expected a weakened hive or worse a dead one. We tried to lift off the feeder to reach the brood box, but the boxes were stuck together. We finally pried them apart and discovered that the bees had stopped storing honey in the frames and had, instead, built comb on the bottom of the plastic feeder and placed cupfuls of comb and honey there!

We had apparently left the feeder on the hive too long. We fed the bees during spring rains, and they used it well. We kept the feeder on for another two weeks while Roger went on a medical mission trip to Haiti. Sue checked the level and added syrup during rainy weeks, but the bees obviously did not need it. They ignored the syrup, allowed it to ferment in the heat, and incorporated the feeder into their hive. It was a mess! We thought about tying this wild comb to empty frames and setting them back in the hive, but the wax was very soft in the June sun, and the uncapped honey was flowing. We located the queen, who was walking around on the bottom of the feeder and gently



*The Removed Comb Placed on the Top Bars  
for the Girls to Reuse*

escorted her to a safe frame. We then scraped the wild comb and honey off the feeder and placed the globs of the wax/honey mixture on top of the frames below. We added a new super in place of the feed to give the girls room to draw out new comb on the frames and place honey there. Perhaps they will clean up some of the wax and honey mess, and we'll only have to do a minor amount of clean up on our next inspection. We finished the third hive, opened the fourth, found a similar situation, and had a similar mess to clean up.

It was important to feed these two new hives we had made in April from supercedure cells, and we were correct when we fed them during the weeks of rain in May. However, we should have stopped feeding them in early June and removed the feeder trays. Our inaction allowed the bees to produce and place wax in useless places, and this set two entire hives back. Next year, when we are third-year beekeepers, we won't make that same mistake again. We will make new mistakes, because beekeeping learning never ends!



## Harvesting the Honey



*Getting Equipment to the Beeyard*



*"Bee Quick" and a Fume Board*



*5 Squirts did the Trick*

## Harvesting the Honey

Harvest day dawned bright, sunny, and hot. We borrowed a hand-cranked extractor from an experienced beekeeper and mentor. We cleaned the honey processing area in our garage and laid down plastic on the floor to keep everything from getting sticky. We had clean, dry plastic boxes, the blue ones in the pictures, to hold the frames we would remove from our strong honey hive, and off to the hive we went with all the equipment in our Tacoma pickup.

To get the bees to leave the honey supers we decided to use Fisher's "Bee Quick," a pleasant smell to humans but obnoxious to bees. Spraying this on the fume board worked like a charm, as the direct sunlight hit the aluminum top and quickly vaporized the liquid.

As we started to remove the frames from the three honey supers, our hearts sank. What we thought were full frames of capped honey were, in fact, capped only on the top and sides; the centers of most of the frames were still uncapped. During our past two inspections we had looked down on the frames, but we did not think it necessary to pull out each frame. We thought, "Surely this hot dry weather has allowed the bees to cure the honey!" Not so! We chalked up another learning lesson when working with bees, or nations, "Trust but verify."

We did not have the 25 frames of beautifully capped honey we had anticipated; instead, we only pulled six frames. We could have waited another week or two for all of the frames to be finished, but, by golly, we were going to extract honey today! The rest will come out another day.

The borrowed extractor is a four-frame, tangential extractor, so we spun the frames for a few minutes on one side and then flipped the four frames over and spun out the other side. Everything went smoothly.

We strained the honey through a sieve and then through a 200 mesh nylon filter to remove the particles and clarify the honey. We let the honey sit for a day to further clarify it and bottled and labeled it, ready to give to friends and neighbors.

We won't be able to legally sell any of the honey produced from our operation until September 1, 2015 when the newly passed legislation allows sellers of less than 2500 pounds per year of honey to process and bottle the honey without a certificate and/or inspection from the Texas Department of Health.

Our honey "marketing" plan is pretty simple. We decided to



*Place the Fume Board directly on the Super; the warmer the weather the better it works*



*A nice frame of Capped Honey: Wish they were all that way!*



*Our Uncapping Station in the Garage*



*Proper positioning of the heated uncapping knife*



*Uncapping the Last Cells with a Scratcher*

sell only 1 lb inverted deco clear plastic bottles with black dripless lids. We believe that honey produced by hobbyist beekeepers like ourselves is a specialty product, so we decided to package and market it that way. We print the labels on our inkjet printer since the print run doesn't justify commercially produced labels. We put the harvest date of the honey since we are educating our customers about the different honeys produced from the different nectar sources. One day we'll probably do a pollen analysis when our honey crop is larger. Right now, as soon as people find out we are beekeepers, they ask two questions: "Have you ever been stung?" and "Do you have any honey for sale?" Yes and no. Our bee hives are really the marketing tool to sell the honey, so all we have to do is to put a quality product in an attractive package, and we have ready customers. This spring honey is light in color and much sweeter than what we produced in fall 2014.

We scraped the remaining honey from the equipment with a spatula; when everything was clean, we tasted the first honey of the season by licking the spatula! It brought back memories of our mothers who gave us mixing beaters with bits of chocolate chip cookie dough attached to clean up with our tongues! We completed the extraction process by replacing the frames back in the hive for the bees to clean and reuse, setting out the extraction equipment on the grass near the hives for the bees to finish the clean up job, and debriefing on what went well and what didn't go so well. We want to learn.

So what's next for us? We plan to complete our summer extraction in July. Then, we will research and buy wildflower and clover seeds for fall planting. We want to increase our pollen and nectar sources for 2016 honey. We will also be reading up on how to make sure we have "fat" bees ready to go into the winter. We understand, now, that the beekeeping year really does start in September; proper preparations then will help our colonies come out of winter strong and ready to hit the short spring honey flow. In our next article we will share with you more lessons we're learning as second year beekeepers and our plans and preparations for 2016.

Thanks for joining us on the adventure that is beekeeping!



*Our First Honey of the 2015 Season*



*Placing Frames in borrowed tangential extractor*



*Hand Cranking is Fine for Small Quantities*



*Cappings and our First Wax Harvest for 2015*



*The First Honey Runs from the extractor into a metal sieve*



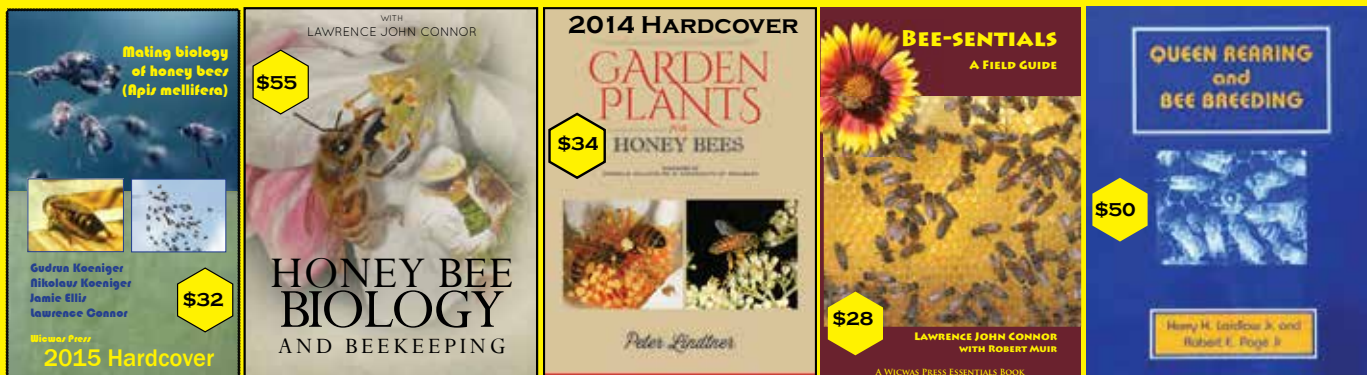
*Putting the Frames back in the Hive for the Bees to clean*

*Extraction equipment in the Bee Yard for the Bees to do final cleaning*



*Our Packaged Honey ready to sell or give away*





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# Tales of a Texas Beekeeper

*From Joe Bader, Fredericksburg Beekeepers Association*

## BRICKS FOR BEES

Jim Willingham won a first and second place in this year's Alamo Area Beekeepers Association honey contest. Then at the Texas Beekeepers Association convention won first place in the extracted honey category and second place in the black jar category and then took the grand champion over-all for the state this year. He knows a thing or two about bees and honey.

When Jim was 15 years old, he can remember seeing a jar of white guajillo honey that was as clear as water in Sabinal Texas. He decided he would like to work with bees and produce honey like that. He started keeping bees when he was in high school and through his college years, selling honey was an extra income source. After he graduated from A & M and began ranching, the bees took too much time and he sold the beekeeping business for a nice profit.

Jim lives in Uvalde Texas on the family ranch passed down from generation to generation since the 1800s. He raises cattle and goats and has a limestone quarry on the property. Uvalde is known as "the honey capital of the world" because of the world tasting competition in France around 1900 and also for its guajillo honey.

Four years ago, Jim cut down several bee trees on his ranch and ended up with 15 hives. He bought a couple of packages of bees and by the end of his first year he had 50 colonies. He doubled the next year to 100 hives and doubled again to 200. This spring with nucs he is still growing with nearly 200 working colonies and 100 nucs.

If you have more than two or three hives and don't have a photographic memory, you've probably found that keeping records on each hive is a challenge. With almost three hundred hives, Jim has developed a system using painted bricks placed on the top of his hives to quickly record what he sees and what he is doing in that colony.

Some of us use bricks to keep the top of a hive from blowing off in a gust of wind. On most of his hives, Jim has two bricks, one in front and one in back, that also give him a quick read for that colony. Before he removes the top, he knows what to expect.



*Jim Willingham speaking to Alamo Area Beekeepers Association*

If there is nothing wrong with the bees, the front brick nearest the front of the hive will have the red side down, and the green side facing forward. If there is a problem like the queen not laying right, the front brick will have the yellow side facing forward with red on top.

The back brick is also painted red on one wide side, but is blue on one long edge and white on the other long edge. The bottom is not painted.

If he is not feeding, the blue side will face forward and the red side will be down. For sugar syrup, Jim uses frame feeders with a cap and ladder system. If he is feeding syrup, this brick will be turned sideways, parallel to the hive with the white side up and the red side out sitting on one side of the hive over the feeder. This way he knows which boxes are being fed and how to slide the lid or supers to easily get to the feeder. This brick when not used to identify feeding location is used to identify when hive was last worked. It is laid on its side the 1st time the hive is worked with bare side and blue side showing to front of hive. The 2nd time it is worked it's stood on edge with blue and bare sides showing to front. This way if you are interrupted or have to leave an apiary before finishing, you know what hives need to be worked when you come back.

There are two more bricks used for special situations. They are also placed on the top of the hive. The first brick is the bumblebee brick. It has a yellow wide side, but with a black stripe down the center. The sides and bottom of this brick are left unpainted. When this brick is on the top of the hive it means caution. This hive is "protective" and will stir up trouble. Jim is not politically correct. He argues that some of his hives are not "protective" they are "down right mean". Whatever you want to call them, work the bumblebee boxes last in an Africanized area.

The final brick is the Halloween brick. It is orange on one flat side and black on the other flat side. This is the queen's brick. The





black side means that the queen is laying well and the orange side is the signal for a weak, nonexistent queen or that need marking.

Jim keeps a pile of the bricks at each of his apiaries so that he can quickly add a special situation brick when he needs one.

He also keeps a roll of white gorilla tape and often has a piece of it on a hive top. He uses a Testors paint pen to make notes about when he introduced the queen and where she came from or any other notes needed.

When Jim introduced me to the brick hive marking idea, I went to Home Depot and Lowes and was surprised to find they don't carry utility bricks. On the other hand, most lumber yards do carry them. If you like this idea, check with your local lumber dealer. Utility bricks should cost around 40 cents each.

A "bricks for bees" system is a simple way to keep track of what you want to know about a hive. It is inexpensive and gives you a quick read without having to keep and refer to notes in a journal. You might decide what you want to record and what you need to know and design your own brick system, but Jim Willingham's color scheme is ready to use. With a few bricks and a little paint you will be keeping better track of your colonies.



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# Chief of Apiary Inspection - Texas Apiary Inspection Service

*from Mark Dykes*



## Greetings from the Texas Apiary Inspection Service (TAIS).

We hope everyone is finding some relief from the heat that has set in. With the poor spring honey crops please check your hive's honey stores to make sure they have enough to get them through the hot summer. Also providing a close by water source is important to help keep the hive cool. Remember to make sure there is something for the bees to hold onto in the water; wine corks, sponges, and rocks work well. Change the water often if you can to help prevent mosquitos from breeding in it. Most importantly remember to keep yourself well hydrated out in the bee yard!

I want to start out by giving a big thumbs up to the TBA members that helped make the summer clinic a resounding success. The event went very smoothly and I've heard nothing but positive feedback from everyone I've spoken to. I enjoyed speaking to the many beekeepers who were there. I am always invigorated by the level of enthusiasm shown by the beekeepers at these events. I am looking forward to the annual meeting in October and can't wait to see everyone again! If you haven't already made plans to attend I would encourage you to do so.

I would like to bring the TBA members up to date on a few projects happening here at TAIS to help ensure the safety of the apiary industry of Texas. First, thanks to a grant from the USDA we are setting up swarm traps in 4 deep water ports throughout Texas. The reason behind this project is to monitor for any new unwanted bee species or pest. I want to make it clear that this project is a way in which the USDA and TAIS are being proactive in response to possible new introductions. Our hopes are that by placing traps at these locations if an introduction were to occur we would be able to quickly identify it and take necessary science based measure to contain or control it. My hope is that we never have another event like this but as they say "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure".

Next we are upgrading our diagnostic lab here at TAIS. Thanks again to a USDA grant and other funds we have purchased new equipment and much needed lab supplies. In preparation for this upgrade Mary Reed and I spent a week in Maryland in July. We worked with the USDA lab in Beltsville and the University of Maryland's honey bee lab learning the latest diagnostic techniques. I have to admit I felt like a student again and very much enjoyed learning the new techniques! With this education and upgrade to our lab we hope TAIS can provide more diagnostic services to the beekeepers of Texas to help them with the management of their hives.

Speaking of hive management if you are a commercial beekeeper and are interested in learning what the Bee Informed Partnership's Tech Transfer Team can do for your operation please contact Megan Mahoney at [mahoneyapiariesnm@gmail.com](mailto:mahoneyapiariesnm@gmail.com) or by phone at (505) 681-5662. Megan is currently seeking operations in Texas to work with. If you would like more information about the Tech Transfer teams please look at the Bee Informed Partnership's website: <http://beeinformed.org/team-2/tech-transfer-teams/> or contact Dr. Juliana Rangel ([Juliana.Rangel-Posada@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Juliana.Rangel-Posada@ag.tamu.edu)).

Finally I am pleased to announce the fall testing for the Texas Master Beekeepers Program (TMBP). We will hold the testing at the Bell County Expo Center in Belton, TX on Thursday October 29th (the day before the TBA conference). We will open registration September 1st on the TMBP website (<http://masterbeekeeper.tamu.edu/>). If you have any questions please contact us by using the "Give Us a Buzz" link on the page or by calling the office at (979) 845-9713.

As always if you have any questions feel free to contact me at [mark.dykes@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:mark.dykes@ag.tamu.edu) or at (979) 845-9713 and keep on keeping those bees!

***Renew your Membership, or Join Us.***

*[www.texasbeekeepers.org](http://www.texasbeekeepers.org)*

***Register for the 2015 Annual Convention.***

***(make sure you are logged in to get membership rates)***

***Look for the Honey Locator and Events Calendar***



*Who we are:*

The **Bee Informed Partnership** is a 5 year effort funded by USDA/NIFA (U.S. Department of Agriculture/National Institute of Food and Agriculture). It is a large collaboration with research institutions, Universities, and beekeepers from all over the country.



## Be Included. Be Involved. Bee Informed.

One of the core aims of the **Bee Informed Partnership** is to *collect information from beekeepers about what management practices they use* and to measure related colony survivorship. We then try to *get that information back to beekeepers* as quickly as possible in ways that permit *beekeepers to make informed management decisions*.

### Bee Informed Tech Teams

Our five current tech teams are in the field year round working with commercial beekeepers throughout the country to provide them with critical diagnostic health data to help them make management decisions that will effect beekeepers nationwide. Our tech teams include our northern California team who work with queen breeders in that area, Midwest honey producers, Florida migratory beekeepers (including Georgia queen breeders), Pacific northwest migratory beekeepers and seed pollinators, and Hawaii queen producers.



**Bee Informed Partnership** is proud to announce that we will begin a **Texas Technical Transfer Team** this year.

*We are honored to be speaking at the Texas State Beekeepers Association in November*



*For Questions or Interest in Joining Contact:*

**Megan Mahoney**

Texas Tech Transfer Team  
magdamiel@gmail.com  
(505)681-5662

Please Visit Our Website

**www.BeeInformed.org**

### What is a Tech Transfer Team

Tech teams are composed of highly trained honey bee health consultants. Each team interacts with a select group of beekeepers, regularly sampling and evaluating colonies in order to provide near real time data on colony health. This data permits participating beekeepers to make data informed management decisions within their operation. Confidentiality is a primary tenet on which tech teams are founded, so while beekeepers participating in the program are able to compare their colony health measures with other participants, these comparisons are presented in a way that ensures confidentiality.



## WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH COMMERCIAL TEXAN BEEKEEPERS!



# 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 from the country of Colombia, where I'm from! I am enjoying a family reunion with relatives that I have not seen in over 8 years, so this has definitely been a very important trip that has allowed the 40+ participants to go down memory lane! Because of this trip and the poor internet reception we have here, I am going to write a short report for this issue of the TBA journal. I have a couple of items to bring to your attention.

First, I am on the board for the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History located in Bryan. One of my duties as a board member is to help coordinate and raise funds for planned activities, with all of the proceeds going toward maintaining this non-profit organization. My lab and I will be involved in an outreach activity they hold every year called "Wish Upon a Butterfly" during which people of all ages that want to support the museum and biodiversity go to the museum and make a donation of \$25 to receive a butterfly trapped in a little envelope. There is a "releasing ceremony" during which all of those who donated funds to receive a butterfly release theirs in unison, all while making a wish. This annual fundraiser will allow folks to pay homage and well-wishes to celebration, childhood wonder, the memory and presence of loved ones, fallen or deployed service members, new beginnings and more. Following the light reception at check-in, guests will complete their written wishes—as a personal keepsake, for public display or both—and prepare to receive their purchased butterflies for the 10am-release. During this time, guests will enjoy live music by Joey McGee and free admission to the Museum's exhibits including the observation bee hive and butterfly displays. Following the release, a variety of brunch-style refreshments will be served for the remainder of the event. This year's activity will be even more worthy because of the recent White House Strategy for the Protection of Pollinators, including bees and butterflies. Therefore the activity will help raise awareness on the importance of insect pollinators for all of society. The event will be held at the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History on Saturday, 25 July 2015, from 9am to 12 noon. We will have a blast and celebrate with people of all ages, so come join us if you are in the Bryan/College Station area. And thank you so much in advance for supporting the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History!

Second, our lab members will be involved as instructors and will have a booth at the first annual Brazos Valley Beekeepers

Association Fall Beekeeping School. As their website (<http://www.bvbeeks.org/fall-beekeeping-school.html>) indicates, the event will be held on Saturday, 10 October from 8:30am until 4:00pm. Note that this is a "Bye" week for the Aggie football team, which means that traffic

and hotel availability will not be an issue. The event will be held at the Sam Rayburn Middle School, off of Hwy 6 in Bryan. The address is 1048 N Earl Rudder Fwy, Bryan, TX 77802. Registration for the school is \$50 for an individual, \$80 for a couple, and children from ages 8 to 17 may attend for \$15 each. Late registrations (after 26 September) will be \$10/person higher. Lunch is included with your registration. If you need help with the registration, you may email [beeschool@bvbeeks.org](mailto:beeschool@bvbeeks.org) or call 979-220-2790 and speak to the Registration Secretary, Dalene Barnes. We hope to see you all there!

Finally, Megan Mahoney will be joining our lab as the leader of the Texas A&M University Tech Transfer Team this September. I will write more about Megan and the program in the next issue of the TBA Journal, but I want to let you know that she will be working with commercial beekeepers in Texas, the Bee Informed Partnership, and the Texas A&M Honey Bee Lab to sample colonies from participants to check for levels of Varroa, Nosema, viruses, and other pathogens, as well as general beekeeping practices and overall colony health. Please help me in welcoming Megan to our team, and we hope to have her present preliminary data at the annual TBA convention in October.

Thank you all for your continuing support, we are quite busy this summer and it is so fulfilling to see the students working hard at the bee lab. If you have any questions, please email me at [jrangel@tamu.edu](mailto:jrangel@tamu.edu). Or, for up to date information regarding our program, please visit us on Facebook at [facebook.com/TAMUhoneebeeelab](https://www.facebook.com/TAMUhoneebeeelab). Happy beekeeping!



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## 2015 Texas Honey Queen Tabitha Mansker

Hi everyone! Summer is in full swing. Everything is looking all green and beautiful. Finally the mud, has turned to lush grass and even some wildflowers are blooming. We are truly beginning to see all the benefits this rain has brought. I know many of you are still trying to clean up from the flooding and water damage your home and operations received. This has been such a crazy year weather wise. But it's so great to see (and hear) about the good spirit and Texas type 'get-r-done' attitude with cleaning up the damage. I've had many 'proud to be a Texan moments' through all the struggles we've come through this year.

Well anyways, earlier this month, my sister Hannah and I, went out to check on our bees to see how much honey (if any) we had to extract. Our bees were looking good. Not extremely strong. But they were not weak. It was sad to see that out of our 8 hives, we had all of about 3 frames of honey to extract. And yes you guessed it, we were a little depressed. It got us thinking. What could have caused such a 'poor' honey crop? Obviously, the rain caused everything to bloom later. Once things did start blooming, more rain came and washed the flowers away. Which left hardly anything for the bees to forage on. Not to mention, all the cloudy and rainy days when they couldn't get out and fly. We are feeding them and giving pollen substitute to hopefully get them stronger for winter. Around us Milo (maize or grain sorghum) is in bloom. So this along with corn, are some of what my bees are gathering pollen from. These crops are doing well but have suffered from the odd weather pattern. Speaking to some farmers around my area, and getting a feel for their crops, I found the affects to be a little devastating. One farmer, who farms many crops that grow around my home town, took the time to tell me what they have experienced this year so far.

Montgomery Farm is a family owned and operated farm. The owner Mr. Montgomery, has been farming since right out of highschool, when he took over his father's farming operation. He, his wife, and two sons work the farm along with one other employee and a few seasonal workers. They maintain about 5,500 acres of farm land. Mrs. Montgomery was gracious enough to do an interview with me about what they have experienced this year.

For Montgomery Farms it started off looking like a great year. Wheat was in the ground as of last October and rain was falling by February. The Wheat sprouted and was looking good. This looked like the start to a great year. But there was a huge blessing and what turned into a kind of curse. The rain. It started to rain, continued to rain .....and then rained some more. It came time to fertilize the crops, but with all the rain it was almost impossible to get the equipment out. The wheat was saturated and still sitting in fields of water. Then the wheat got Rust (a fungus). This lead to more expenses. In this case it's quite accurate to say, when it rains it pours! Because of the wet fields they had to hire a plane to apply the fungicide. Acre after acre of farm land was being ruined by all the flooding. On top of that some of the wheat was at 35% sprouting.

(not a good thing) so in the end they were able to get it all harvested but ended up having over 500 acres of unmarketable wheat. A huge loss. That was just the wheat! In April they managed to get half of the grain sorghum (also called maize, milo) planted. But more rain was to prevent them from getting the other half in the ground until the beginning of May. (Which is extremely late in the season). At this point the first half needed to be sprayed. Problem was it was too wet for the equipment to get into the fields. (Boats would have torn up the crops too much, but it was a legitimate idea) This delayed the spraying. As if we hadn't received enough rain, we had a lovely tropical storm roll in. Referred to as Bill. The good thing is, since Bill left town, God has decided to bless Texas with its beautiful sun and hot weather to dry up His land a little. Meanwhile the second half of the grain sorghum is doing quite well, but the harvest date will be later. Which in turn will determine when the 2016 wheat crop can be planted. (They use the same fields to farm multiple crops). Again this is only small parts of the many issues these and other farmers have faced this year. We can see the lasting effects of this rain, when talking to these farmers. They are just trying to provide for their families and are playing the best they can with the cards they're dealt. Let's not forget we've prayed for rain and God sent it. Continue to be thankful and try to see the 'sun through the storm.'

Moving on into June... Honey Extraction time!!! I had the opportunity to work with a commercial beekeeping operation, as I've done every year for the past 5 years. As always it's a lot of hard work and tons of fun. These operations were greatly affected by the weather as well. Just as in all agriculture you have your good years and your bad years. For me as young adult, in this busy world, it brings me back to reality. Remembering that just like farmers growing their crops, Ranchers with their livestock, and Beekeepers keeping honey bees for a living, they are all just doing what they love. Doing the best they can to provide for their families. This is what is important. And we need to maintain this for the next generations. We must work together to do what we can to better each other. Communication is a huge part, and can go a long ways in our agricultural industries. I want to encourage and challenge you this month to get out and talk to you neighbor, local farmer, rancher, gardener and other beekeepers. Discuss each other's operations and what they have experienced this year. You will be amazed at the things you never thought of and things you will learn. I know I was. So get involved in your communities!

Coming up my schedule is packed. I'm excited at all the events I will be attending. And getting ready for the many presentations I will be giving. State Fair will be here before you know it so go ahead and get it on your calendar. Can't wait to tell y'all about all my upcoming events. Make sure to keep up with all I'm doing by following me on Facebook and Twitter. Looking forward to seeing some of you at my many events around the state! Y'all have a blessed day!

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# 19th Annual Field Day at the USDA Honey Bee Lab in Baton Rouge

The USDA Honey Bee Breeding, Genetics and Physiology Laboratory and the Louisiana State Beekeepers Association will hold the 19th Annual Field Day on Saturday, October 10, 2015. The event will be held at the laboratory, located at 1157 Ben Hur Rd. This is near the intersection of Nicholson Drive (Hwy 30) and Brightside Dr., which is about two miles south of the LSU football stadium.

Gates will open at 9:30 a.m.; activities are scheduled from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. A nonrefundable pre-registration fee of \$30.00 is required for attendees 12 years of age and above. Children eleven and under, must stay with their parents at all times. You must pre-register by October 1, 2015. You may register online at [labeekeepers.org](http://labeekeepers.org) and pay through PayPal or credit card or you may mail your registration form that is located on the [labeekeepers.org](http://labeekeepers.org) web site and your check payable to the Louisiana Beekeepers Association to: David Ferguson, P.O. Box 716, Brusly, LA 70719. If you do not pre-register by October 1, 2015, the cost will be \$40.00 per person.

The registration fee covers expenses including coffee, pastries and a great catered lunch that includes smoked pork in gravy, white rice, green peas, whole kernel corn, and garden salad with choice of 4 dressings, fresh baked honey wheat rolls, mixed emotions pudding and coke products.

The Field Day will include courses for beginners and more

experienced beekeepers as well as workshops for those interested in a variety of topics. The beginning beekeeper course will begin with how to get started for those who do not yet own bees, then will progress to how to manage a few colonies. Topics will include equipment needs for the beginner, nectar producing plants, maintenance of colonies, pests, safety and etiquette in beekeeping, and hands on training in an active colony. The intermediate beekeeping course was a hit last year and it will be offered again with a variety of topics focused on the beekeeper with a moderate amount of experience that is now ready to take it to the next level. Topics will include bee removal, making splits and swarm catching. There will be a variety of focused workshops for those not attending the courses (typically the more advanced beekeepers), i.e., queen rearing, instrumental insemination and breeding basics. These workshops will represent both the USDA-ARS Bee Lab's research and beekeeper experiences. Both the Intermediate and Advanced groups will come together at the end of the day to learn about breeding basics and a round table question and answer session.

For additional information please contact Dr. Lanie Bourgeois (225-767-9299), Sandra Hineman (225-767-9280) or Joe Sanroma (318-346-2805). For questions regarding online registration, please contact David Ferguson (225-726-1664) or Robert Taylor (985-386-4647).



**Texas Honey Queen Chair  
Rachael Seida**

Dear Texas Beekeepers,

Blessing to you all and I hope your honey harvests are bountiful!

As I write this, Tabitha is in San Angelo giving presentations at the Concho Valley Beekeepers Meeting. The year has been pretty busy and we are looking ahead to the busiest time of our year! Our calendar is almost full for the year, so if you want to get any last minute events scheduled with us make sure that you email me ASAP! [texas-honeyqueenchair@gmail.com](mailto:texas-honeyqueenchair@gmail.com)

Don't forget to sign up to work the State Fair and register for the convention! We are planning some wonderfully fun and educational events this year. ALSO, we have a little surprise planned for the Quiz Bowl on Friday night – so make plans to join us!

As a reminder - Check us out on Facebook and Twitter to follow Tabitha's journey across Texas this year.

We look forward to seeing all of you soon.



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The **Apiculture Museum Krapje** was established in 1997 by beekeeper Drago Šalamun. As the previous owner, over the course of many years of collecting beekeeping exhibits, in 1996 he also acquired an original octagonal apiary which dates from the late 19th century. The apiary has a skylight for ventilation and lighting and contains 84 hives, joined in units of 6 hives each, that is the old NASIER System. It was made by joiner master Pok from Tišina for landowner and teacher Evgen Antauer from Tropovec. In 1945 it was bought by farmer Alojz Šeruga. Drago Šalamun, who bought it in a bad state, renovated it and established a museum. After his death his wife Marta inherited it. The museum is now managed by Jožef and Dragica Tigeli.

By appointment, visitors can watch the activities in a beehive through glass sections. Fifty bee families are contained in the museum. The oldest beehive in the collection is supposed to be around 300 years old. It is an open air museum where visitors can follow the process of beekeeping, see the collection, and participate in bee wax sculpting or crafting workshops. There also various products, all sorts of honey, bee wax products, propolis, honey wine and spirits. The museum has won many prestigious awards for honey making on international fairs in Slovenia, a territory known for its tough competition.

## Comparing the goals of Slovenian Beekeepers to U.S. Beekeepers?

This is a quote from the Slovenia Minister of Agriculture and the Environment, Dejan Žldan in their Api tourism brochure:

Just how important apiculture is in Slovenia is revealed through the statistics, we have more than 9,600 beekeepers, some 12,500 apiaries and nearly 170,000 hive colonies... [in a country the size of New Jersey]. Certainly the single most significant environmental impact has been pollination, which in itself is a factor in agricultural production as well as maintaining ecological balance and the quality of the environment.... In symbiosis with beekeeping is an opportunity for apiarists to realize their entrepreneurial ideas and to create employment opportunities. Over recent years our Ministry has witnessed the realization and development of untapped potentials in relation to apiculture, including the production and processing of hive-related products. Such

value-added activities have been discernible not just with regard to honey, but also in relation to dietary, healthcare and cosmetic products, as well as in the integration of beekeeping in such complementary activities as apitherapy and tourism. Through the development of new paradigms and activities in Slovenian apiculture, beekeeping continues to contribute ensuring the vitality and visibility of this nation's rural economy.

Farming and beekeeping in the U.S. is geared towards big business because of the large average size of our farms and better profit to cost margins. In Slovenia, agriculture is a small business in a small country. "The traditional primary industries of agriculture, forestry, and fishing comprise a comparatively low 2.5 percent of GDP and engage only 6 percent of the population. The average farm is only 5.5 hectares.

On the other hand, in New Jersey, the average farm size is 81 acres. In Texas, it is 564 acres. Sometimes you just can't compare apples to oranges.

Part of Slovenia lies in the Alpe-Adria bioregion, which is currently involved in a major initiative in organic farming. Between 1998 and 2003, the organic sector grew from less than 0.1% of Slovenian agriculture to roughly the European Union average of 3.3%."

Compare this to U.S. statistics. "The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced today [April 15, 2015] that the organic industry continues to show remarkable growth domestically and globally, with 19,474 certified organic operations in the United States and a total of 27,814 certified organic operations around the world. According to data released by the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) National Organic Program (NOP), the number of domestic certified organic operations increased by more than 5 percent over the last year. Since the count began in 2002, the number of domestic organic operations has increased by over 250 percent. Perhaps, we are also starting to concentrate more on quality, not quantity. The recent bee losses in the U.S. is making beekeepers think twice about our current business model, that's for sure.

I can't imagine the U.S. going back to small family farms, but with the losses in beekeeping that U.S. beekeepers are sustaining, it might not be long before we have to change our direction and find other viable ways of adding value to our beekeeping activities. Slovenia as part of the European Union is trying to eliminate the pesticides and chemical treatments so that the bee products they offer for health and well-being purposes are as untainted and pure as possible. That is what the government and the clients are demanding no matter what other private chemical companies are trying to sell. I think we will also be in the same position before too long, if we still have bee hives left to manage.

## Apitourism in Slovenia

In 2003, the 38th World Beekeeping Congress, Apimondia was hosted in the capitol of Slovenia, Ljubljana. Today, many groups of beekeepers continue to visit Slovenia, not just for the beekeeping activities but also for the apitherapy events and other sightseeing opportunities that exist in the country.

With the creation of the Apimondia working group on Apitourism in 2012, Slovenia was ready to set up their own

combined government-beekeepers-tourist agent group. Today they have accomplished their goal.

The President of the Slovenian Beekeepers' Association, Mr. Boštjan Noč and the 7,500 apiarists connected through their local organizations to the Slovenian Beekeepers' Association, and Ms. Tanja Arih Korošec, Director of Apitours travel agency, Api Routes, have collaborated to develop and promote api-tourism, establishing a unique certification system of api-tourism and apitherapy service providers. "ApiRoutes are created for those who respect, nature and cultural diversity, as well as travel to enrich their life. Formulated as a fusion of apiculture and travel, the environmentally and socially responsible tours presented... have been developed through a long-term partnership with experts from the fields of beekeeping and tourism." Feel Api, Api Experiences Beyond Beekeeping Retrieved from <http://www.authentic-routes.com/docs/default-source/programs/apiroutes-brochure.pdf?sfvrsn=0>.

## BEEKEEPING TOURISM - THE APICULTURE TRADITIONS OF THE UKRAINE AND SLOVENIA - PART III

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

Not only has this group helped bring tourism business to Slovenia and Slovenian beekeepers, but they also arrange trips for other beekeeping organizations. They developed an API Excursion Programme to help other European beekeepers leaving from Frankfurt or Bulgaria be able to travel to the Apimondia Congress in South Korea on September 7-17 ([www.apiroutes.com](http://www.apiroutes.com)). It is a wonderful excursion with a well-planned out itinerary for beekeepers to see the beekeeping and cultural activities of South Korea before the Apimondia Congress begins. [http://www.authentic-routes.com/docs/default-source/programs/travel\\_to\\_korea\\_apimondia-2015.pdf?sfvrsn=2](http://www.authentic-routes.com/docs/default-source/programs/travel_to_korea_apimondia-2015.pdf?sfvrsn=2)

To see a complete description of the tours they offer in Slovenia, you can download their brochure at <http://www.authentic-routes.com/>. They have designed different api excursions for the beekeeping professional, the semi-professional, or just a short Api experience with a Slovenia tour. For spouses who do not want to attend the professional events, they have organized specialized activities for the ladies (or gents) who "can treat themselves with spa treatments, by visiting a herb farm, different workshops such as making products of honey dough, pottery, bread-making, shopping..."

An important event this year that the consortium of Apitourism members in Slovenia is preparing for is the Apitherapy Symposium which will be held in Lukovica and Maribor on October 23-24th 2015. If you are into the Apitherapy treatments, you can also try out Api Well Being Tours, <http://www.authentic-routes.com/apiroutes/apipackages/api-well-being>.

### What makes Slovenia so easy to visit?

For me, a country has to have more than great scenery, lots of things to do (bees and other wise) and good food to be a great

tourism destination. So what else does Slovenia have to make it one of my favorite places?

First, the Slovenes appreciate tourists and they love to show off their country, but in a humble way. Their economy is two-thirds based on service industries and so tourism represents good income for them. Slovenia also exports more than they import and hence they are open-minded to other cultures.

The people of Slovenia suffered a lot during the world wars from their neighbors the Austrians, the Germans, the Italians, etc., but they are ready to move forward and put their differences behind them. Slovenia became a member of the European Union on May 1, 2004 and most of the foreign tourists to Slovenia come from the key European markets: Italy, Austria, Germany, Croatia, Benelux, Serbia, Russia and Ukraine, followed by UK and Ireland. European tourists create more than 90% of Slovenia's tourist income.

They use the Euro as the medium of exchange and their economy is one of the richest of the Slavic countries but still the cost of a

vacation in Slovenia is less than other European vacation spots. Secondly, Slovenia has one of the most highly educated population in

the world. Their education system ranks 12th best in the world and 4th best in the European Union compared to the U.S. which ranked 28th this year.

Thirdly, regarding the knowledge of foreign languages, Slovenia is ranked among the top European countries. The most taught foreign languages are English, German, Italian, French and Spanish. As of 2007, 92% of the population between the age of 25 and 64 spoke at least one foreign language and around 71.8% spoke at least two foreign languages (trilingual brains?), which is the highest percentage in the European Union. That means wherever you go in Slovenia you will find someone who can speak English. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slovenia>

Fourthly, after a somewhat turbulent past, Slovenia is one of the most peaceful countries in Europe. They have a parliamentary democracy republic and a multi-party system. Political stability is important for tourism. The population is for the most part, a fairly homogenous group, although originally they come from many different backgrounds. Religion is also not a dividing factor, at least for now. 57.8% of the population declares themselves Roman Catholic, 2.4% are Slovenian Muslims who came from Bosnia, 2.2% are Orthodox Christians from the Serbian Orthodox Church, less than 1% are Lutheran, and a small minority are of Jewish descent left after the Nazi's sent most of the Jews to concentration camps during World War II. They Jews attend the sole remaining active synagogue in Ljubljana.

Fifth, they have a decent road transportation system although it is getting more congested and therefore could be updated. Most people prefer to use private cars rather than public transportation. You can get around the country easily in a rental car. Their train system needs a major overhaul. Koper is the main commercial seaport, but the smaller ports of Izola and Piran are used for international passenger transport to Italy and Croatia.



The Ljubljana Jože Pučnik Airport has connections to many major European destinations. You can also rent a car (with an International License that you can get at AAA).

Finally, the country of Slovenia which is about the size of New Jersey (7,820 square miles) has only about two million people. With 262 inhabitants per square mile, Slovenia ranks low among the European countries in population density compared to 1042/sq. mi for the Netherlands or 505/sq. mi for Italy. The largest town of Ljubljana has only 274,826 people and Maribor has only 94,809 people.

There has been no large-scale tourism and no acute environmental pressures. That leaves lots of alpine forests, meadows and mountains for people and bees to enjoy in the summer months and winter sports to do in the cold months. If you want a laid back vacation, this is the place to go. Does this sound like an HGTV advertisement for a retirement home location? I am making the disclaimer here and now that no one paid me to do this spiel. I guess by now you can tell that I really like this country, a lot!



## Slovenian cuisine and Slovenian wine

I can't leave without telling you how good the food is. Slovenian cuisine is a mixture of the Central European cuisine (especially Austrian and Hungarian), the Mediterranean cuisine and the Balkan cuisine. Historically, Slovenian cuisine was divided into town, farmhouse, cottage, castle, parsonage and monastic cuisine. Due to the variety of Slovenian cultural and natural landscapes, there are more than 40 distinct regional cuisines.

Ethnologically most characteristic Slovene dishes were one-pot dishes, such as ričet, Istrian stew (jota), minestrone (mineštra), and žgancibuckwheat spoonbread; in the Prekmurje region there is also bujta repa, and prekmurska gibanica pastry. Pršut prosciutto is known (pršut) in the Slovene Littoral. The nut roll (potica) has become a trademark and symbol of Slovenia especially among Slovene diaspora in America. Soups were added to the traditional one-pot meals and various kinds of porridge and stew only in relatively recent history.

Each year since 2000, the Festival of Roasted Potatoes is organized by the Society for the Recognition of Roasted Potatoes



as a Distinct Dish, attracting thousands of visitors. The roasted potatoes, which have been traditionally served in most Slovenian families only on Sundays—preceded by a meat-based soup, such as beef or chicken soup—have been depicted on a special edition of post marks by the Post of Slovenia on 23 November 2012. The best known sausage is kranjska klobasa.

Slovenia's rich history, beautiful landscape, many outdoor hiking, rafting and winter sport activities, great foods, sparkling honey meads and liquors, and friendly people make it a hidden jewel for any tourist.



Our trip only barely touched the surface of the many places to see and things to do in Slovenia. Actually this country was one of surprises of our trip, along with the Plitvice Falls in Croatia, but that is another trip. Hopefully you found some activities among these suggestions to help you plan a memorable apitourism excursion to Slovenia.







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

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

Please forward any changes and/or additions to  
John J. Talbert, Executive Secretary, [john@sabinecreekhoney.com](mailto:john@sabinecreekhoney.com)

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## **Alamo Area Beekeepers Association**

Rick Fink - (210) 872-4569

[president@alamobees.org](mailto:president@alamobees.org)

[www.alamobees.org](http://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](mailto:lw@ausapts.com)

8701 North Mopac Expressway #150, Austin TX 78759  
[www.meetup.com/Austin-Urban-Beekeeping/](http://www.meetup.com/Austin-Urban-Beekeeping/)

**Meeting:** 3rd Monday of each month  
Old Quarry Library, 7051 Village Center Dr., Austin TX 78731 @ 7pm

## **Brazoria County Beekeepers Association**

Larry Hoehne - (979) 848-8780 or (979) 236-1385

233 Crestwood, Clute TX 77531

[bcbassociation@gmail.com](mailto:bcbassociation@gmail.com)

[www.brazoria-county-beekeepers-association.com](http://www.brazoria-county-beekeepers-association.com)

**Meetings:** 2nd Monday of each month at 7pm;  
Brazoria County Extension Office  
21017 County Road 171, Angleton TX 77515

## **Brazos Valley Beekeepers Association**

Chris Barnes - (979) 220-0004

[info@bvbeeks.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:CentralTexasBeekeepers@gmail.com)

[www.centraltexasbeekeepers.org](http://www.centraltexasbeekeepers.org)

1997 Tonckawa Hills Ln - Brenham, TX 77833

**Meetings:** Monthly on the 4th Thursday  
(except November and December) at the  
Washington County Fairgrounds  
Brenham @ 7 pm

## **Coastal Bend Beekeepers Association**

Pete Hartje - (361) 229-0512

[phartje@juno.com](mailto:phartje@juno.com)

1330 Whispering Sands, Port Aransas, TX 78373

**Meetings:** First Thursday of each month at 6:30pm;  
City of Corpus Garden Senior Center  
5325 Greely Dr., Corpus Christi, TX 78412

## **Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Assn.**

John J. Talbert - (214) 532-9241

[john@sabinecreekhoney.com](mailto:john@sabinecreekhoney.com)

P O Box 6 - Josephine, TX 75164

[www.cchba.org](http://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](mailto: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@hotmail.com](mailto:dino-beeclub@hotmail.com)

[www.dinobee.com](http://www.dinobee.com)

**Meetings:** 2nd Tuesday of month  
Glen Rose Citizens Center  
209 SW Barnard St, Glen Rose, TX 76043

## **East Texas Beekeepers Association**

Richard Counts - (903) 566-6789

[dickcounts@bigplanet.com](mailto:dickcounts@bigplanet.com)

16239 Audrey Lane - Arp, TX 75750

[www.etba.info](http://www.etba.info)

**Meetings:** 1st Thursday of each month;  
Whitehouse United Methodist Church,  
405 West Main (Hwy 346), Whitehouse @ 6:45 pm

## **Erath County Beekeepers Association**

James K Gray - (254) 485-3238

[grayjamesk@jkggray.com](mailto:grayjamesk@jkggray.com)

675 Turkey Ridge Road, Stephenville, TX 76401

**Meetings:**

## **Fayette County Beekeepers Association**

Ron Chess - (979) 525-9254

[ragsdale@industryinet.com](mailto:ragsdale@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](mailto:jeffmcmullan@comcast.net)

**Meetings:** 2nd Tuesday of each month (except  
December) in the Fort Bend County  
Bud O'Shieles Community Center  
1330 Band Road, Rosenberg, TX 77471

## **Fredericksburg Beekeepers Association**

Joe Bader - (830) 537-4040

[joebees@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:honeybee@harriscountybeekeepers.org)

133 Mulberry, Lake Jackson, TX 77566

[www.harriscountybeekeepers.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:rr.willhite@yahoo.com)

7806 Braeburn Valley Dr. - Houston, TX 77074

[www.houstonbeekeepers.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:info@libertycountybeekeepers.org)

2300 Belevvedere Dr., Baytown, TX 77520

[www.libertycountybeekeepers.org](http://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

[marshallbeekeeping@gmail.com](mailto:marshallbeekeeping@gmail.com)

210 Meadowlark Dr. Jefferson, TX 75657

**Meetings:** 2nd Thursday of each month at 5:30 pm  
Cumberland Presbyterian Church  
501 Indian Springs Drive  
Marshall, TX 75670

## Metro Beekeepers Association

Roger Evarrt, President

[evarttrog@yahoo.com](mailto:evarttrog@yahoo.com)

[www.metrobeekeepers.net](http://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](mailto:mocobees@gmail.com)

[www.mocobees.com](http://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

[netbacantontexas@outlook.com](mailto:netbacantontexas@outlook.com)

631 VZ CR 4124, Canton, TX 75103

**Meetings:** 2nd Tuesday of each month; @ 6:30 pm  
The Farm Bureau Building,  
281 Hwy 243, Canton, TX 75103

## Pineywoods Beekeepers Association

Terry McFall - (409) 384-3626

[tdmcfall@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:info@traviscountybeekeepers.org)

9874 Wier Loop Circle, Austin, TX 78736

[www.traviscountybeekeepers.org](http://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](mailto:rgrichie@sbcglobal.net)

8266 Barbaree Blvd., Dallas, TX 75228

[www.tvbees.org](http://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.

Mark Short - (281) 387-8124

[mshort5150@yahoo.com](mailto:mshort5150@yahoo.com)

34 Davis 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](mailto:jimmie.oakley@gmail.com) - [www.wcaba.org](http://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:

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<b>Area 1</b>	<b>Lisa Dittfurth</b> <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
<b>Area 2</b>	<b>Leesa Hyder</b> <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
<b>Area 3</b>	<b>Mark Hedley</b> <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 Erath County Beekeepers Association
<b>Area 4</b>	<b>Eddie Collins</b> <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
<b>Area 5</b>	<b>Cameron Crane</b> <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
<b>Area 6</b>	<b>Tammy Barr</b> <i>tammybarrbrands@hotmail.com</i> 182 Cardinal Lane Fredericksburg, TX 78624 (325) 642-2012	Concho Valley Beekeepers Association Dino-Beekeepers Association Heart of Texas Beekeepers Association Rio Grande Valley Beekeepers Association Coastal Bend Beekeepers Association
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McKinney, TX 75071  
(214) 886-6899

#### Vice President

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

#### Past President

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

#### Executive Secretary

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

#### Treasurer

Holly Medina  
[tbtatresure@gmail.com](mailto:tbtatresure@gmail.com)  
1522 Natural Bridge Lane  
Pflugerville, TX 78660  
(512) 921-1521

#### Publications Director

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

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#### Membership Coordinator

Shirley Doggett [sdoggett@mindspring.com](mailto:sdoggett@mindspring.com)  
400 County Road 440, Thrall, TX 76578  
(512) 924-5051

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