

The Texas Beekeepers Association

# Journal



Sept/ Oct 2015

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

Issue 15-5





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# President's Report

*from Blake Shook*



As I try to summarize my last 3 years as President for TBA, I find this quote by George Patton very fitting as it relates to my experience with the members and board of TBA: "Don't tell people how to do things, tell them what to do and stand back and let them surprise you with their results". I think in many ways being President is one of the easier jobs within TBA. The board and volunteers who have surrounded me during the last 3 years have been phenomenal. All I've had to do is provide some minor direction, and everyone has taken the initiative and run with projects and ideas. I would like to write a paragraph thanking each one of them, but I simply don't have the space. I've thoroughly enjoyed working with everyone on the board, and am truly going to miss each one of them. I greatly appreciate Chris Moore, our VP, who has put up with me for 3 years, and has honestly put way more work into TBA than I have. I certainly couldn't have done this without him! I also have to thank my wife, and employees for letting me take the time to hold this position for 3 years.

But, I look forward to continue serving TBA behind the scenes, continuing being involved in national organizations, and focusing a little more time on my own company. Leaving this position is certainly bittersweet. The position requires a tremendous amount of work, but it has been a wonderful honor to work alongside all of you, and serve the Texas Beekeeping Industry. I hope I've left it better than when I started. I have a huge amount of confidence in the current board, and have no doubt they will continue moving TBA in a positive direction.

In regards to what TBA will be doing for 2016, please come to our annual convention, and tell us what you would like us to do. TBA is your association, and the board acts upon what you want. Let us know! I wanted to share with all of you a list of a few things we accomplished for 2015:

Bottling and Selling Exemption - Small Scale Beekeepers can now sell honey legally!

Summer Clinic Reorganization - It was huge! 500+ in attendance, and 30+ speakers!

Speakers List - A comprehensive list of speakers for local clubs to draw from is now available

Complimentary Membership - New beekeepers can still join TBA for free

Label Requirements - You can now view what has to be on your honey labels on our website

Scholarship Program for Grad Students - We have successfully launched a scholarship for students studying beekeeping topics! Texas Master Beekeeping Program- Now fully up and running, we are excited to see a successful program already educating dozens of beekeepers!

Bee Informed Partnership - BIP is now up and running for commercial/sideline beekeepers in Texas

Pollinator Protection Plan - a plan to protect bees from harmful pesticides is almost in effect.

Membership Growth - We are approaching 1500 members!

Thank-you to the board, and the many volunteers who made all of these projects (and many more) possible! I look forward to seeing what the board plans for 2016. Thank-you again for the opportunity to serve all of you...it has certainly taught me a tremendous amount! I will see all of you in October!

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*Cover Picture: Stanford Brantley by Rebecca Searcy of Marshall Beekeepers Association*



## Vice President's Report *from Chris Moore*



Texas Honey production down considerably this year

"There's always next year" The proverbial statement after a disappointing year in Agriculture, of course usually followed by "if I make it 'til then"

I often explain to people beekeeping is like playing cards; each year you never know what cards you will be dealt. Weather is one of those major cards, especially rain. In a perfect world, the ground would be saturated just before the start of the honey flow. Then every day would be sunny so the bees could fly and about once a week a nice slow rain would fall at night.

I'm always glad to see rain, but this spring it just seemed to never stop. It even rained so hard at times it obliterated the nectar producing flowers. For us, our production was down a good 40%. I have heard many reports much worse. To make matters worse for commercial producers, honey packers are able to buy honey considerably cheaper from South America this year. So many packers were either not buying domestic honey at all or offered really low prices.

Way to support US beekeepers guys!

The best thing is to market your honey locally. If you think you need more than you produce yourself, ask a nearby reputable commercial producer to sell you some. Now that small Texas producers have an exemption from obtaining a Food Mfg. License you may now advertise and sell without worrying about the Health Dept. TBA has created a Texas Honey Locator for members to advertise and so consumers can find the nearest "Real Beekeeper" to get "Real Local Honey."

The emphasis on "Real" is because, as you know, honey in stores is often severely mis-labeled.

The other big issue we continue to fight is queens going bad (sterile). We have had a large percentage of queens go bad within just two months. They start out great and then go queenless. I am looking forward to listening to the researchers at the convention this year, several are working on this very issue.

I hope to see you there.

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BEEKEEPERS**

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## Texas Honey Queen Auction Fund Raiser

Most of our TBA Members are aware of how the Texas Honey Queen Program is financed. At the Convention each year, interested members bring beekeeping related items to be auctioned off, with the proceeds providing the funds to keep your Honey Queen Program going. This has proven to be a fun time at the Annual Banquet with many members having the opportunity to contribute to one of the best programs of any state.

Texas has had much success in providing very strong competitors in the selection for the American Honey Queen. It would not be so without your support. Your funds provide the ability for the Texas Honey Queen to travel extensively in Texas promoting honey. Most of our Queens travel 4,000 to 6,000 miles each year in the State of Texas and make presentations nearly every week.

This strong promotional schedule provides a good training ground and the opportunity for many local clubs and individual beekeepers to have first class promotional help with their only cost being the hosting of the Queen.

Your help is needed. With the continued increase in the cost of motor fuel and increased airfares, the travel budget gets tighter. If you are planning to attend the Annual Convention in Belton, October 30th - 31st, please bring a special beekeeping related item to contribute to the auction.

Bring your pocketbook also to bid on an item or two donated by someone else. If you are unable to attend, please send a contribution to the Treasurer, Holly Medina, for the Honey Queen Program. It will be very much appreciated.

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 October 5th

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

Greg Hannaford, Tulsa Urban Bee Co. - all day Thursday

**Building a Sustainable Apiary**  
**Growing Your Beekeeping Operation**  
**Thursday October 29th, 2015**

For Small-Scale (Hobby) and Serious Sideline Beekeepers

GREG HANNAFORD, INSTRUCTOR

REGISTRATION \$90 PER PERSON, Includes \$10 credit towards Tulsa Urban Bee Co.  
Or \$150 per couple (only one \$10 credit). Includes Lunch

**PROGRAM**

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| 9:00  | REGISTRATION  |
| 9:15  | What is a Sustainable Apiary and Becoming a Sustainable Beekeeper   |
| 10:00 | Choosing Apiary Equipment to Suit Your Style                        |
| 10:30 | BREAK   |
| 11:00 | Apiary Expansion and Colony Maintenance                             |
| 11:30 | Mites, Disease and What To Do About It, Part 1                      |
| 12:00 | LUNCH   |
| 2:30  | Mites, Disease and What To Do About It, Part 2                      |
| 3:00  | Making All This Work For You  |
| 4:00  | Becoming A Better, More Intuitive Beekeeper / Questions and Answers |

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

*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***

# Texas Beekeepers Association

## 2015 Annual Convention Program

### October 29th - 31st

#### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29TH,

8:00 am - 5:00 pm	Texas Master Beekeeping Program - Mark Dykes
9:15 am - 5:00 pm	Building a Sustainable Apiary - Greg Hannaford, Tulsa Urban Bee Co.
10:00 am	Executive Committee Meeting - Blake Shook, TBA President
2:00 pm	2013 Convention Registration Opens - Shirley Doggett, Membership Coordinator
7:00 pm	Bee Buzz Social and Honey Queen Reception - Rachael Seida, Texas Honey Queen Chair

#### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30TH, 2015

##### MORNING

8:00 am	Opening Ceremonies Invocation - Welcome to Belton - Blake Shook
8:30 am	The Diverse Landscapes of Texas - Clint Walker, Walker Honey Farm
8:45 am	Dying Bees: Harbingers of the End of Time or Opportunity Buzzing - Jim Frazier, Professor Emeritus, Penn. State University
9:45 am	Break
10:15 am	Tech Transfer Teams, How They Can Help You - Megan Mahoney, Bee Informed Partnership
10:45 am	Texas A&M Honey Bee Lab Update The Effects of Miticides on Queens - Liz Walsh An Analysis of Pollen Collected by Honey Bees in Developed Areas - Pierre Lau The Effects of Select Pesticides on Drones and Workers - Adrian Fisher
12:00 noon	Queen's Luncheon or Lunch on Your Own

##### AFTERNOON

1:15 pm	Better Beekeeping: Becoming an Intuitive Beekeeper - Greg Hannaford, Tulsa Urban Bee Co.
2:15 pm	The Toxic House Bees Live In and What We Can Do - Maryanne Frazier, Penn. State University
3:00 pm	Break
3:15 pm	Honey Queen Report - Rachael Seida, Tabitha Mansker
3:45 pm	Bee Law Review - Mark Dykes, Chief Apiary Inspector
4:15 pm	Open Discussion on Future Changes to Bee Laws - Blake Shook, TBA President and Chris Moore, TBA Vice President
5:00 pm	Dinner on your own



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30TH, 2015

EVENING

7:00 pm                      Queen's Auction  
Queen's Quiz Bowl - Rachael Seida, Honey Queen Committee Chair

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31ST, 2015

MORNING

8:00 am                      Introduction - Blake Shook, TBA President and Chris Moore, TBA Vice President  
8:15 am                      Effective Varroa Treatments - Clint Walker, Walker Honey Farm and Phil Craft  
9:15 am                      Creative Ways to Market Honey - Blake Shook, TBA President  
10:00 am                      Break  
10:15 am                      Overwintering Management - Lance Wilson  
11:00 am                      Grafting and Raising Queens - Maryanne Frazier  
12:00 noon                      Lunch on Your Own

AFTERNOON

1:00 pm                      From the Extractor to the Shelf - Processing Honey - Clint Walker  
2:00 pm                      The A Bee C's of Beekeepers as Educators: Foraging, Pollinating, Harvesting - Jim Frazier  
3:00 pm                      Break  
3:15 pm                      You Can Now Sell Honey Legally, New Exemption Explained- Leesa Hyder  
3:45 pm - 5:00 pm              Texas Beekeepers Association Business Meeting - Blake Shook, TBA President

EVENING

6:30 pm                      Reception and Awards Banquet  
                                    Dr. John G. Thomas Meritorious Service Award  
                                    President's Award  
                                    Jim Petty Memorial Award - Texas Beekeeper of the Year  
                                    2016 Honey Queen Coronation  
                                    Queen's Auction

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST, 2015

8:00 am                      Executive Committee Meeting - 2016 TBA President

## 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

### Texas Beekeepers Association Membership Application

or Join Us at [www.texasbeekeepers.org](http://www.texasbeekeepers.org)

*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

# 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



## THE BUDS AND THE BEES

### The Royal Family of Bee Flowers: Asters

*by Becky Bender, Texas Master Naturalist*

*More than likely your bees are foraging asters now*

What do the following bee flowers have in common: Sunflower, Dandelion, Aster, Daisy, Goldenrod, Thistle, Broomweed, Coneflower, Frostweed and Indian Blanket? Yes, our bees do love them all. But they have something else in common. They belong to the same plant family called the Asters or Asteraceae (pronounced as-ter-AY-see-ee). And just as people in a family have common genetic traits even though they may not look alike, plants of a common family do too. Flowers in the Aster family share the trait of having “composite” flowers that look like a single flower but are really a cluster of many tiny flowers called florets.

Also referred to as the Sunflower or Daisy Family, the Aster Family is the largest family of flowering plants. In fact, some say a prairie should be called an “asterland” rather than a grassland because 25% of the species in a prairie may be asters while only about 10% are grasses! Asters are one of the honey bee’s favorite and most beneficial family of plants which must be why I see them so often on state-wide honey analyses. Let’s take a look at a few members of this royal family of bee flowers.



*Blue Fall Aster and Tall Goldenrod*

**BLUE FALL ASTER** (*Aster oblongifolius* or *Symphotrichum oblongifolium*)

This easy-care Texas perennial presents a dazzling mound of lavender-blue flowers from September through November. They reach a foot in height, thrive in a variety of well-drained soils and bloom in sun and part shade. You can find this flower stocked in nurseries around Texas in the fall, sometimes labeled Aromatic Aster or Hill Country Aster.

**TALL GOLDENROD** (*Solidago altissima*)

Goldenrod is a native fall perennial found throughout Texas. It grows to a height of 2 to 7 feet and is gorgeous in a fall prairie mixed with Blue Fall Asters, purple Eryngo, Sunflowers and Indiangrass. Goldenrod may be hard to find in nurseries because it can be difficult to manage in a small flowerbed. It’s best conserved or seeded in fields and meadows where it provides honey bees with fall food stores.



*Indian Blanket*

**INDIAN BLANKET OR FIREWHEEL** (*Gailardia pulchella*)

Perhaps the most recognized Texas wildflower in the Aster Family is our eye-catching red and yellow Indian Blanket. This is one of the easiest wildflowers to establish and grows best mixed with native grasses. Honey bees work this flower from May until July where it blooms throughout every region of Texas. This flower is an annual which means it spreads by seed and not by roots. Don’t mow it until the blooms are spent and seeds are mature to ensure it seeds for the following year.





*Cutleaf Daisy*

CUTLEAF DAISY (*Engelmannia pinnatifida* or *persistens*) Also called Engelmann Daisy, this lovely perennial flower is the one you see covering roadsides as you drive across Texas in May. Because of its long tap root, it can bloom whether it has rained or not. Give it plenty of space in your landscape or mix it with native grasses and sunflowers in a wildscaped yard or meadow where it attracts sparrows, painted buntings and finches as well as honey bees.



*Maximilian Sunflower*

MAXIMILIAN SUNFLOWER (*Helianthus maximiliani*) These majestic fall perennial flowers bloom all along a stem that reaches 6 feet or higher through September and October. They occur naturally in open fields and prairies in a variety of soils, including limestone, clay and sand. When used in landscape, seed or plant bare roots in sun or part shade in an area with good drainage. These sunflowers are beautiful used as a background in a flower garden. Find these flowers at local native plant sales or purchase seed or bare roots through Native American Seed.

Go ahead. Treat your honey bees to a few members of the royal family of bee flowers! Fall is the best time to plant perennials and to seed wildflowers; so look for these plants now at native nurseries or plant sales sponsored by public gardens and nature centers. One of my personal favorite seed sources is Native American Seed ([www.seedsources.com](http://www.seedsources.com)) because they specialize in preserving the native genetics of plants that benefit Texas pollinators and wildlife. They also mail order some flowers by the bare root which is a quicker way to establish them than by seed. And don't forget our Bee Happy Mix, a seed mix developed specifically for honey bees in a partnership between the Texas Beekeepers Association and Native American Seed. It may be ordered at [www.texasbeekeepers.org](http://www.texasbeekeepers.org). Click on "shop". Flowers mentioned in this article are in the mix.

Your questions, comments and photos are welcome and may be used in future articles. Please send to Becky Bender at [RBenderRN@aol.com](mailto:RBenderRN@aol.com) or [www.BudsAndTheBees.com](http://www.BudsAndTheBees.com).



*Bee Happy Seed Mix*  
Available from [www.seedsources.com](http://www.seedsources.com)  
or [www.texasbeekeepers.org](http://www.texasbeekeepers.org)  
or at the TBA Annual Conference  
October 30th and 31st  
Bell County Expo Center

# What "Summer Dearth"?

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## "The Continuing Journey of Two Second-Year Beekeepers"

TBA Journal Article - September 2015

by Roger and Sue Farr, Caddo Trace Beekeeping Association, Mount Pleasant, Texas



Our mentor told us in spring 2014, "Beekeeping in northeast Texas is like nowhere else. You will probably have to FEED your bees in July and August because, while pollen is plentiful, nectar is not. We call that the 'Summer Dearth.'" Webster's defines a dearth as "a scarcity that makes dear or inadequate supply." We listened to his counsel and fed our bees last summer as they were growing from their nucleus origins. However this summer is different for us; we did not experience a "summer dearth" either with our bees or in our own lives! We'd like to share with you some ways we have kept ourselves and our bees busy this summer:

- Weekly monitoring,
- Varroa watch,
- Wax harvest and products, and
- Sharing bees and beekeeping

### Weekly Monitoring

Back in January we wrote down our beekeeping goals for 2015: we wanted to double our hives, from three to six, for our own production; extract approximately 200 pounds of honey; and sell at least four nucleus hives to new beekeepers by raising our own queens. As a wise, older beekeeper told us, "Be careful what you promise, because the bees will make liars out of you!" How true!

Spring and summer 2015 were not "normal," as all of us Texas beekeepers know. We've experienced these events in our apiary in just two short months since our last article:

1. Two of our hives went queenless for no apparent reason. We saw both queens and new brood during a weekly inspection; the next time, both queens were gone. We combined one of the queenless hives with a strong hive and used a queen cell to requeen the other. So now we had three queenright hives.
2. One of these queenright hives superseded its queen for no apparent reason. Just two weeks earlier we observed our



Figure 1 - A "normal" frame showing the crescent pattern of a healthy queen.



own raised and marked queen doing her job admirably; now there was a new unmarked queen walking around in the hive.

3. Our strongest hive is still producing honey and ripening nectar at a strong rate; however, the girls are very slow to cap it off. We have three supers full of honey that is 70% capped and unharvestable.

We harvested twelve frames of honey, about 40 pounds, so far this season and sold two nucleus hives. So much for our January goals!

We checked our bees again at the end of August and were pleasantly surprised to find them all with good stores of pollen AND of nectar. All three queens seem to be ramping up their brood nests with four to six full frames of brood in each hive. We might be looking at a good fall honey flow if we get rain in September and October. Already there are goldenrod, goat weed, passion vine, and many other flowers in bloom for the bees to forage and even the Bahia grass. Yes, we know this will make a dark and strong honey that many do not like. However, we, and our customers and friends, like honey with some taste and character to it. Several are already asking us if we have some of that "dark and strong" honey for sale! To each his own!

### Varroa Watch

We began preparations for the coming winter in July and August as we made sure our bees were healthy. We employed the "brood break" method of varroa control this year, not by choice, but by reason of queenless hives: no brood for three plus weeks will definitely equal fewer varroa.

We did a powdered sugar roll in the constantly-queened hive and found the mites to be below the 2% economic threshold. We continue to monitor all the hives. We know that healthy bees now will raise healthy fall bees that will in turn raise healthy bees to go through winter.

### Wax Harvest and Products

Bees are definitely not domesticated creatures, and our bees do not do what we desire them to do! So, while we dealt with queenlessness and low honey production, we were successful with our wax products this summer. Yes, we produced some beautiful butter-yellow wax from our uncapping of honey frames, but the bulk of the wax this year came from rendering two seasons worth of stored scrapings of burr comb out of our hives. Each time we inspect a hive, we carry a plastic coffee container in which to put the burr



Figure 2 - Most of our honey frames look like this one, about 70% capped.



Figure 3 - Shaking the mites into a water bath for counting.



Figure 4 - Repurposing a coffee can to collect wax scrapings from our hives.

comb. We were frankly surprised that we have collected four, 3-pound coffee containers full of "trash wax". We were skeptical that this wax could actually be useable, but we decided to give it a try. We water washed it, sorted out the trash, melted the wax, and ran it through a t-shirt over a sieve. The final product produced from our stored "trash wax" was only a few shades darker than our butter yellow cappings wax. Oh, we of little faith!

Last year we collected only 100 grams of wax from extraction, and we used that to make lotion bars. They were a big hit with family and friends. This year we rendered over 600 grams of wax; we know that is not a lot for you top-bar folks! We produced two different sizes of lotion bars using this recipe:

- Beeswax –three parts by weight
- Cocoa butter –three parts by weight
- Sweet almond oil –two parts by weight

Use a double boiler or a heat-proof container over a pan of boiling water to heat the mixture. Never leave melting wax unattended! Combine all ingredients and heat until the beeswax and cocoa butter is melted, stirring constantly. Do not heat any further after complete melting, as you could possibly damage the plastic molds. If you are concerned about overheating the molds, place them on a shallow pan filled with water. Immediately pour the mixture into molds and let cool. When cool and set, about 30 minutes, place the mold trays in the freezer for 30 minutes for easy removal.

We packaged our lotion bars in 3" x 4" clear plastic jewelry bags and put a nice paper label on them from our new Brother QL-700 label maker, which we love! (By the way, we plan to produce our fall honey labels using the same label maker but with clear plastic film labels cut by the machine to fit our 1 lb Queenline inverted clear plastic bottles.)

We gave away small lotion bars to the attendees at a recent bee presentation, and the folks enjoyed the gift. They also purchased many of the larger size we had there for sale. And, yes, they did ask to buy honey, but we did not have any to sell from our small summer harvest after giving most of it to family and neighbors.

### Sharing Bees and Beekeeping

We recently hosted Hayden Wolf, the 2014 TBA Queen and 2015 American Honey Princess, at our club's monthly meeting. Before and after the club meeting, Hayden made presentations about bees and beekeeping to parents and children. First we were at a local library story hour and then with two high school science teachers and their students who are interested in setting up an apiary near their school. As



Figure 5 - Molds sitting in a water bath to keep them cool. Notice the two different sizes of bars.



Figure 6 - Packaged lotion bars ready for customers and friends. We really like our new label printer!



Figure 7 - Hayden Wolf sharing with the next generation of beekeepers!



always, the demonstration hive and the bee suit are the most interesting to those passing by!

Hayden shared with our club several tips she uses in putting together impactful presentations for groups. Here are her tips:

- Use a basic presentation outline like this:
  - The role of the beekeeper and what he/she does
  - The hive and the three castes of bees
  - Honey - how it's made and how we can use it
  - Pollination - importance to all of us and the crops that benefit from bee pollination
  - How you can help the bees
- For younger children a simple "bees by the numbers" presentation is appropriate:
  - 1 stinger - sting once, die, how to avoid.
  - 2 pollen baskets - pollination
  - 3 main body parts - head, thorax, and abdomen.
  - 4 wings - fly 15-20 mph, cooling the hive, evaporating water from nectar to make honey.
  - 5 eyes - what to wear around bees, can see colors and markings of flowers that we cannot.
  - 6 legs - makes them an insect and the only insect that makes food for humans, honey.
- Always leave time for questions and be ready to answer these:
  - What can I personally do to "help the bees?"
  - Do you have a list of pollinator friendly plants for our area?
  - What should I do if there is a swarm of bees in my yard or a colony living at my home?
  - What should I do if I am stung?
  - Where can I buy local honey?

We recently made a bees, plants, and pollination presentation to our local Texas Master Gardener group. We put together a simple presentation using Hayden's outline. When we talked about the products from the hive, we gave all 50 listeners a hand lotion bar as a gift and a plastic spoon. They used the spoon to take a sample of honey straight from the comb on a frame and into their mouths; what a treat since most had never actually seen nor eaten fresh honey!

Presentations like these have several benefits:

- youth learn at an early age about bees and can gather resources to begin their own beekeeping adventures



Figure 8 - Hayden Wolf's day at the library and our display booth.



Figure 9 - Sue sharing beekeeping with children from the community. The observation hive and bee suit are always favorites!



Figure 10 - Our presentation to the Cypress Basin Master Gardener group.

- non-beekeepers learn about bees and find out how to encourage bees to visit their gardens
- beekeepers understand the concerns of the public regarding bees and can correct misinformation
- those working on their Texas Master Beekeeper recognition can use these presentations to fulfill some of their community service requirements



Figure 11 - Eating honey straight from the frame was a first for most all of the Master Gardeners!

We have not experienced a summer dearth in the Farr Family Apiary. It has been an active summer, and we are actively preparing for fall and winter. We will go into the winter with three hives, and we want to make them as strong and healthy as we can during the fall.

We're thinking about 2016 goals: we would like to have six full hives, which again will depend upon an early nectar flow and a successful queen rearing activity. We'd also like to sell bees, so we plan to get our hives inspected by Mary Reid



Figure 12 - Children and bees naturally go together!

when she comes to visit our club, in October. Also, while the requests for our honey exceed our ability to produce, we'd like to ramp up honey production to encourage customer growth and to share good Northeast Texas honey with our friends.

Looking ahead, we are off to research wildflower mixes and clover species for our part of Texas. A fellow beekeeper and Master Gardener introduced us to *Garden Plants for Honey Bees* (Wicwas Press), so we use it as a guide. This handy book includes a rating guide for each plant based upon nectar and pollen production/quality using a one to five star rating system. It is not a Texas-only guide, but the photos are great! Last year as a test, and before we had this book, we planted a small portion of our acreage with wildflowers and clover. We now want to plant one acre each of wildflowers and mixed clover using the new information we've gleaned!

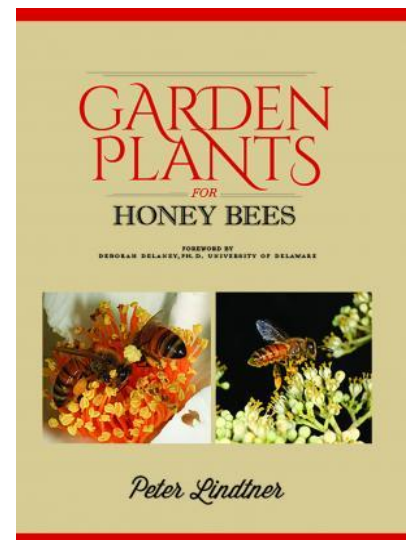


Figure 13 - The most helpful part of this book is the relative amount of nectar and pollen produced by each species thus giving a guide to their suitability for bees.

We'll also test our soil again in early 2016. Was soil pH was 4.8 to 5.4 pH in January 2015! To fix the acidity problem we have limed the entire property and then spread the ashes around from our three large burn piles; we'll give this time to work before we sample again. Judging from how well the plants are growing this year, we are on our way to having a pH of 6.0 to 6.5, which would be ideal for us. We like growing blueberries and azaleas, both of which require somewhat acidic soil.

So, what are your plans for 2016, and what are you doing now to help those plans become reality? We'd love to hear from you about your beekeeping adventures!

Roger and Sue Farr; rdfarr@gmail.com; sue.farr1@gmail.com

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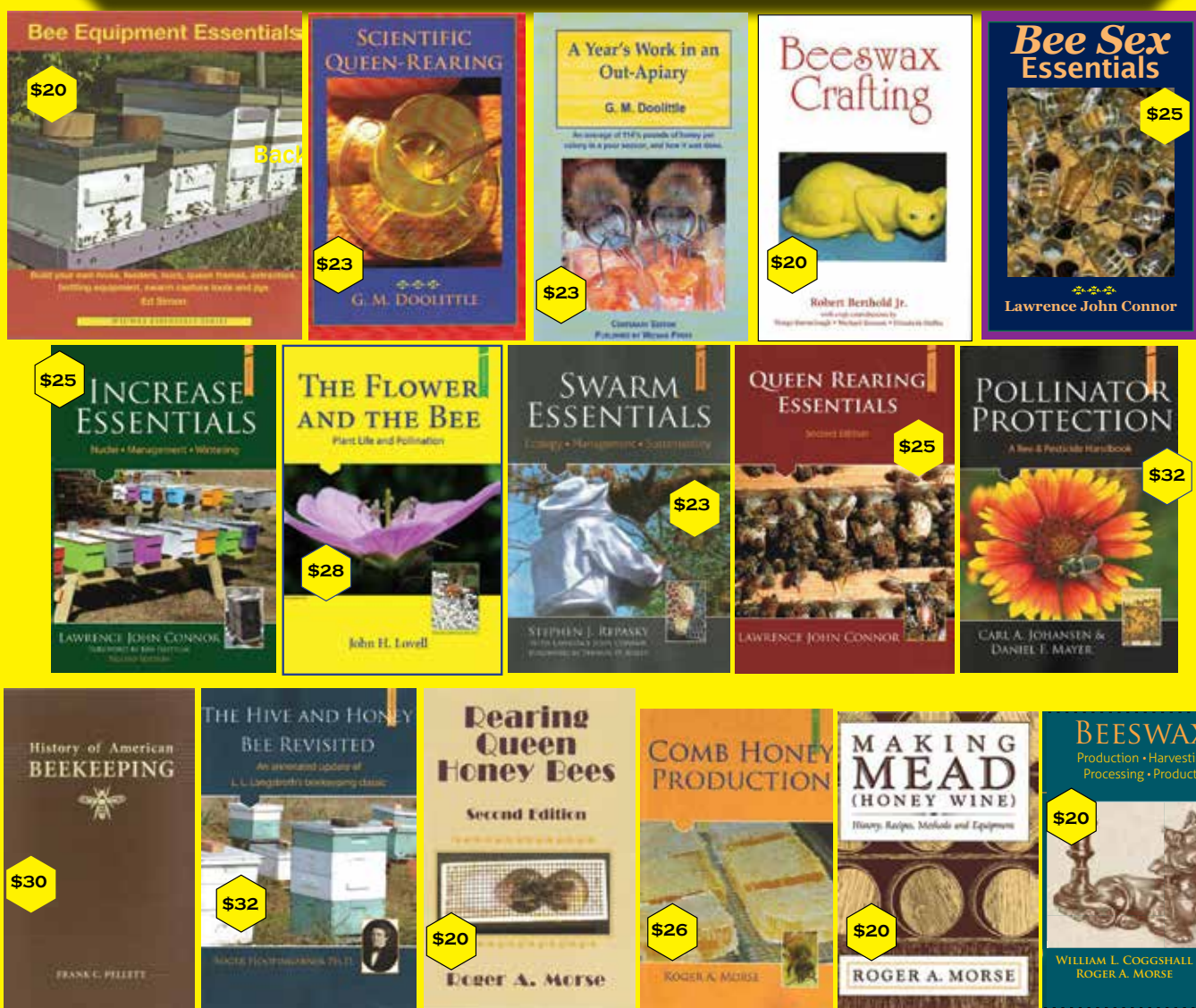
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## The Brantley Column

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

There are signs of fall in the air even though the afternoon temperatures still feel more like summer. Goldenrod is starting to bloom around Jefferson fields and roadsides. If you have not already done so, it is time to install entrance reducers. There is a lot of competition for food sources and robbing can be common this time of the year. Entrance reducers help the guard bees defend the hive against robber bees or other opportunistic insects such as wasps and yellow jackets. I found one of my single-brood hives with the entrance about half propolized where the bees had made their own entrance reducer.



Last month's article left the couch full of bees sitting on my front porch. As Paul Harvey said, it is time for the rest of the story. On the 4th of September, with the help of very active Marshall beekeeper Rebecca Searcy, we removed the bees from inside of the couch. With a smoker, a five frame Nuc box, empty frames and rubber bands for comb, and my favorite Rapala fillet knife, we attacked the fabric under the arm of the couch. In addition to bees, we found several other prizes – a TV remote control, a small blue flashlight that no longer worked, a phone book, two pairs of socks, and a letter to apply for health care. There was also a lot of foam rubber dust where the bees had chewed the cushions. And then "What is that"? The blade of the fillet knife went under what looked like a twig and gently lifted the petrified body of a large rat! It was so dry that a breeze blew the carcass off the blade and it floated about ten feet before hitting the ground. With the fabric removed, we saw nine beautiful natural combs and a lot of bees. The bees did not seem to be disturbed by our removing the fabric and exposing their home.

We cut the comb loose and trimmed it to fit, two pieces to each of four frames. (When you do this, limit the honey you put in the frames and try to cut off the rounded bottoms of the comb, if possible.) Since we did not find the queen, we placed the four



frames of cut-out comb and a frame of drawn comb in the Nuc box. Bees were all over the couch. We turned it upside down, removed more fabric and tried unsuccessfully to smoke the bees into the Nuc box. We took a lunch break to give the bees an hour to settle down. After lunch, the bees were clustered inside the couch. So we turned the couch back upright, removed a cushion and placed the Nuc box in the cushion hole. We applied a generous amount of smoke to the inside of the couch. Within five minutes, the bees started into the Nuc box door like the queen was inside. A bit later we checked the frames but could not find the queen. I got a working flashlight out of the truck and looked inside the couch. There was a walnut sized ball of bees about half way up the wall of the Nuc box. Using the hive tool, I lifted the ball off the box and put it on a flat surface, then gently tried to separate the bees. That did not work so I put the entire ball inside my Kelly queen cage. As I blew on the cage, the bees began to move around and I saw a flash of reddish orange – the underside of the queen's legs. We transferred the queen to one of my homemade queen cages and hung it inside the Nuc box. A long task but successfully one completed. Time to settle back on the couch for a mint julip and contemplate a job well done. I checked the Nuc after three days and released the queen from her cage. Ten days later, four of the frames were half full of eggs and all seemed well. When I looked again the last week of September, there was large ovals of larvae and capped brood.

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

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

Greetings from South Korea! I am writing from the city of Daejeon, where the 44th Apimondia International Apicultural Congress took place from 15-19 September. Let me first tell you about this wonderful congress. There were a total of 51 member associations present, with 54 countries from around the world. The opening closing ceremonies had a very colorful array of performances to show the typical music and cultural practices of this beautiful country, including neon-lit street performers, traditional singers, and drum players. The congress had the participation of over 10,000 people, and had a full program with plenary talks by world-renown experts, multi-disciplinary scientific symposia, working groups, round tables, and social gatherings. The USA (represented by the American Beekeeping Federation) was competing against Canada (represented by the Canadian Honey Producers Council) to hold the 2019 Apimondia Congress. After a very exhausting process, and despite all their hard work to bring Apimondia to Minneapolis,



*Dr. Rangel about to present at the 44th Apimondia International Apicultural Congress in Daejeon*

MN for the first time, the Canadians won the bid and the 2019 meeting will be held in Montréal. If you have never been to an Apimondia Congress, I highly encourage you attend one of these meetings. It is full of very interesting science, beekeeping practices, networking and cultural exchanges with beekeepers from around the world. So start saving for the next one, to be held in September in Istanbul, Turkey!

Second, our lab had a huge turnout at this year's summer honey harvest, which was held on August 29th at the Janice and John G. Thomas Honey Bee Facility. We had over 20 people, including lab staff and volunteers, that were either experienced and just wanted to help, or were "newbees" interested in learning how to harvest honey. We harvested, bottled, and labeled over 1,000 bottles of the first batch of 2015 Aggie Honey, which will be launched at the TAMU Football Tailgate event of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences on 17 October 2015. Thank you to all the volunteers that made this event fun and very productive.

Remember that all proceeds from the sales of Aggie Honey go back directly into our research program!

Finally, I want to remind ya'll that our lab staff will be involved as instructors and will have a booth at the first annual Brazos Valley Beekeepers Association Fall

Beekeeping School. The event will be held on Saturday, 10 October from 8:30am until 4:00pm. Note that this is an away 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. For more information, visit the event's website at <http://www.bvbeeks.org/fall-beekeeping-school.html>. Don't delay your registration, we hope to see you all there!



*The USA Bid for Apimondia 2019 Booth with ABF VP Gene Brandt*

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 <https://www.facebook.com/TAMUhon-eybeelab>

Thank you all for your continuing support, or as they say in Korean, "Gan-saham-nida!!".



# Chief of Apiary Inspection - Texas Apiary Inspection Service

*from Mark Dykes*



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

I hope everyone has found a way to stay cool as you prepare your bees for the approaching winter. Here at TAIS we have been busy conducting inspections and continuing the port trapping project we discussed in a previous article. September started the new fiscal year which means that it is time to renew your Intrastate Permits and Bee Removal Transportation Permits. You can find the permits on our website ([txbeeinspection.tamu.edu](http://txbeeinspection.tamu.edu)) under the Forms/Fees section. If you have any questions about these, or any other permits, please give our office a call at 979-845-9713 or email us at [TAIS@tamu.edu](mailto:TAIS@tamu.edu).

Recently the Honey Bee Health Coalition released a document outlining treatment recommendations for varroa mite control called: TOOLS FOR VARROA MANAGEMENT. This document is an exhaustive guide that I'm sure will be a huge benefit to the beekeeping industry. What sets this document apart from other information sources is that it will be updated as new information becomes available. This document was created by a very distinguished working group that includes researchers, industry experts, professors, inspection services, and others. The document can be found on our website or at: <http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/Varroa/>

For those interested in taking the Apprentice Master Beekeeper exam on October 29th please register ASAP. Your payment must be postmarked no later than October 15th. Please see our website for more information and to register (<http://masterbeekeeper.tamu.edu/2015-spring-exam-registration/>)

Finally I'm pleased to announce that I will be speaking at the annual American Beekeeping Federation meeting in January. We plan to present a comprehensive pest and disease identification and treatment workshop with an emphasis on the small scale beekeeper. I encourage you to attend the conference and our workshop. More information on the conference can be found at: <http://abfconference.com/>

That's all for now. I hope everyone has a good fall and we look forward to seeing you at the Texas Beekeeper Association meeting in October. The keynote speaker is not one to miss! As always if you have any questions or have a good bee joke please do not hesitate to contact us at [TAIS@tamu.edu](mailto:TAIS@tamu.edu) or 979-845-9713 and keep on keeping those bees!

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## 2015 Texas Honey Queen Tabitha Mansker

I hope you and your bees are doing well! My bees are still recovering from the rains we received earlier this year. I have been feeding my bees and cleaning up my equipment trying to get a head start on next year. I've had a wonderful opportunity these past few months, to travel to many of the new Hobby Beekeeper clubs that have started up around Texas. Seeing all the growth first hand has been so much fun and very encouraging. It's exciting to see how our industry is growing so rapidly. I know the effects are going to be great! I love the change in weather and having cooler nights, which means that Fall is almost here. As the Texas Honey Queen I have given quite a few presentations, on number of various topics throughout my year, and it still never ceases to amaze me the most when I talk about the benefits of pollination. (My favorite topic)



Starting off with what pumpkin pollination means to or our great state: Texas is the fourth leading state in commercial pumpkin production, and generates more than \$2.4 million for farmers, with an economic impact of \$7.4 million in the state. 5,000 to 8,000 acres are planted annually in Texas. And 90% of those are in the west Texas region. This crop not only produces a lot of revenue for our state, but it is also a fairly 'easy' crop to grow. The pumpkin is a cucurbit, over 90% are produced for seasonal ornamental use. Pumpkin plants (*Cucurbita pepo*) grow easily throughout North America. These annuals thrive anywhere that offers about 90 to 120 sunny, frost-free days from planting time to harvest. Each pumpkin plant produces both male and female flowers. Insects transfer pollen from male blooms to female blooms, and that process sets fruit. Commercial growers rely heavily upon bees to pollinate their pumpkin crops for the best yields, with pollination typically occurring the first three weeks in July. A female pumpkin flower requires roughly 15 visits from pollen-carrying bees for successful pollination and quality fruit development. As you can see honey bees are the best choice for pollinating this crop because of the large number of visits each flower needs to reproduce. Many times I fail to see how something such as pumpkins, being widely available to us, would not be that way if it wasn't for the honey bee's pollination.

Now for eating or decorating! Pumpkins can be readily available in the market year around. When buying, buy completely developed, whole pumpkin fruit instead of its sections. Look for mature fruit that features a fine woody note on tapping, heavy in hand and stout stem. Avoid the one with wrinkled surface, cuts and bruises. Once at home, ripe, mature pumpkin may be stored for many weeks to come under cool, well-ventilated place at room temperature. However, cut sections should be placed inside the refrigerator where it can keep well for a few days. Some hybrid varieties are usually subjected to insecticide



As you know, the honey bees main job and contribution to man, is pollination. Over 90 different food crops in the United States are pollinated by honey bees. And many being grown here in Texas. One of these specifically, is pumpkins! It's fall and of course what do you see everywhere? Pumpkins! Whether it's on the sometimes scary decorating aisle at Walmart, baking aisle at H-E-B or at a high-end decorating store, you will find this orange fruit. Pumpkins are a huge 'symbol' that fall is here. We see them everywhere, we eat them in many different delicious recipes, and we carve them out with family as a fun activity, but what are the real benefits of the pollination of pumpkins to our State and to us personally? Let's see...





powder or spray. Therefore, wash them thoroughly in running water in order to remove dirt, soil and any residual insecticides/fungicides. Cut the stem end and slice the whole fruit into two equal halves. Remove central net like structure and set aside seeds. Then cut the flesh into desired sizes. In general, small cubes are preferred in cooking preparations.

Almost all the parts of the pumpkin plant; fruit, leaves, flowers and seeds, are edible. Which I thought was very interesting. Still, the real treasure is in the seeds. One ounce (about 140 seeds) is packed with protein, magnesium, potassium, and zinc. Studies suggest pumpkin seeds provide a number of health benefits—such as blocking the enlargement of the prostate gland, lowering the risk of bladder stones, and helping to prevent depression. Plus, they contain high levels of phytosterols, which research suggests can reduce cholesterol and even help prevent some types of cancers. Wow! We need to be taking care of our bodies and eating food rich in these nutrients. So don't think of pumpkins just as a 'fall decoration', but really look more into the benefits they can have on our bodies when consumed.



Thanksgiving and Christmas are fast approaching, which means you and your family will be making and enjoying recipes like your Grandmas famous pumpkin pie or some warm delicious pumpkin soups. I hope you found some of this information useful for when you are buying or eating your pumpkins. As I stated earlier Texas is the 5th leading state in pumpkin production, so try to buy from a local farmer. Not only do you know where it's coming from, what chemicals were used, etc., but you are

supporting that farmer and his business. This a huge part of what makes Texas so great! So buy some pumpkins this fall and get ready to grow some in your garden next year!

Coming up my schedule is booked with many exciting events. One of these being the State Fair of Texas! Please come out and see, or even work a couple hours in the Texas Beekeepers booth. This is a great way to spread the importance of honey bees and beekeeping to the public. I encourage you all to get involved in this fun event.

Can't wait to see you all at convention! Be careful and have a blessed Fall! See you soon



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## Texas Honey Queen Chair Rachael Seida

Dear Texas Beekeepers,

Tabitha has been really busy this year and we can't thank the Beekeepers of Texas enough for inviting her to events and to the special people that open up their homes for her to stay with them!! This program would not be what it is without you all!!

This year has really flown by and by and we are preparing for the Convention! Please make plans to join us! ALSO, we have a little surprise planned for the Quiz Bowl on Friday night – so make sure to be there!

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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# 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
<b>Special Advisor to TBA Board</b>	<b>Lance Wilson</b> <i>lance@apartmentexperts.com</i> 17021 Conway Springs Court Austin, TX 78717 (512) 619-3700	Alamo Area Beekeepers Association Austin Area Beekeepers Association Travis County Beekeepers Association Fayette County Beekeepers Association Fredricksburg Beekeepers Association Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association

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