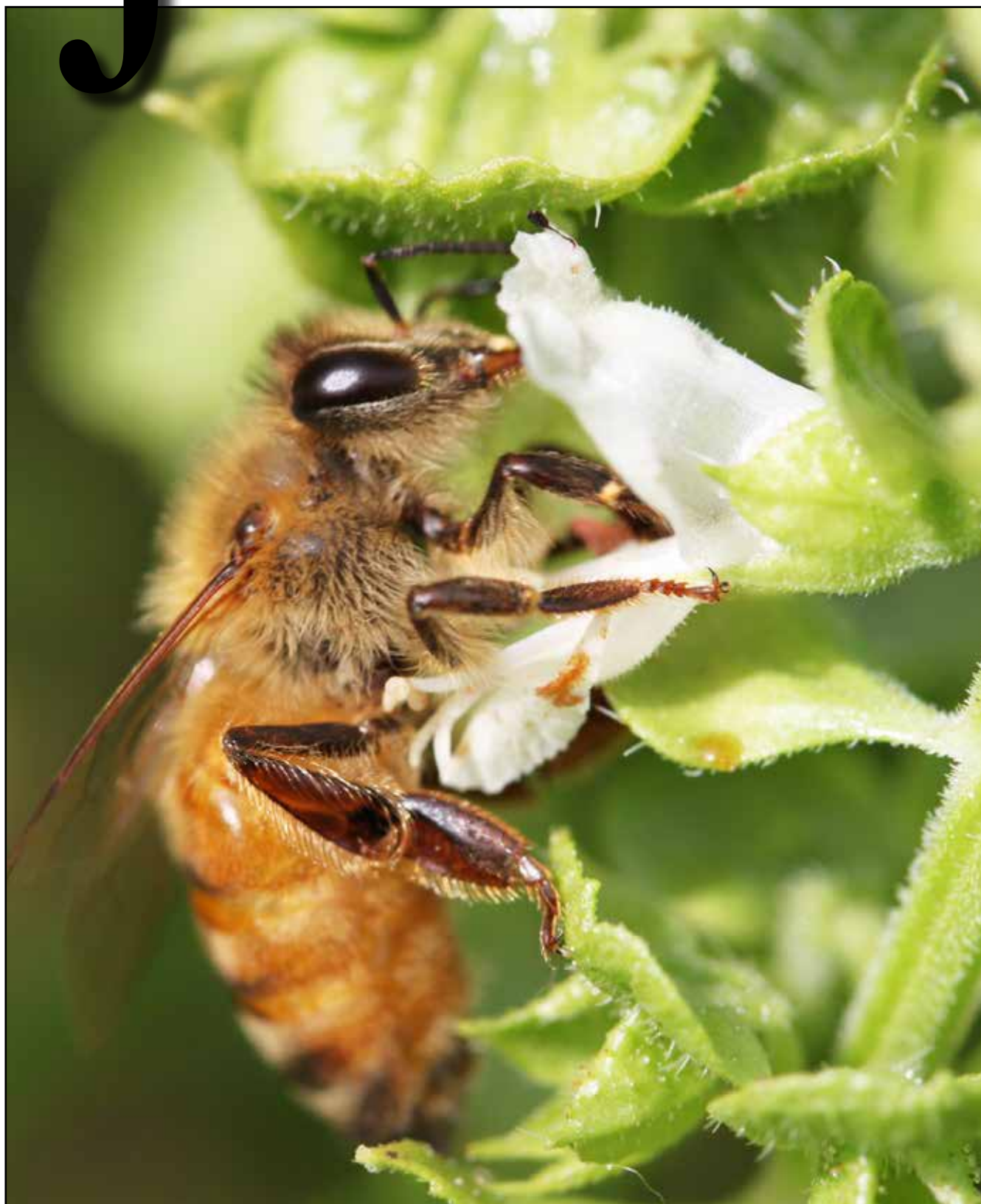


The

Texas Beekeepers Association



# Journal

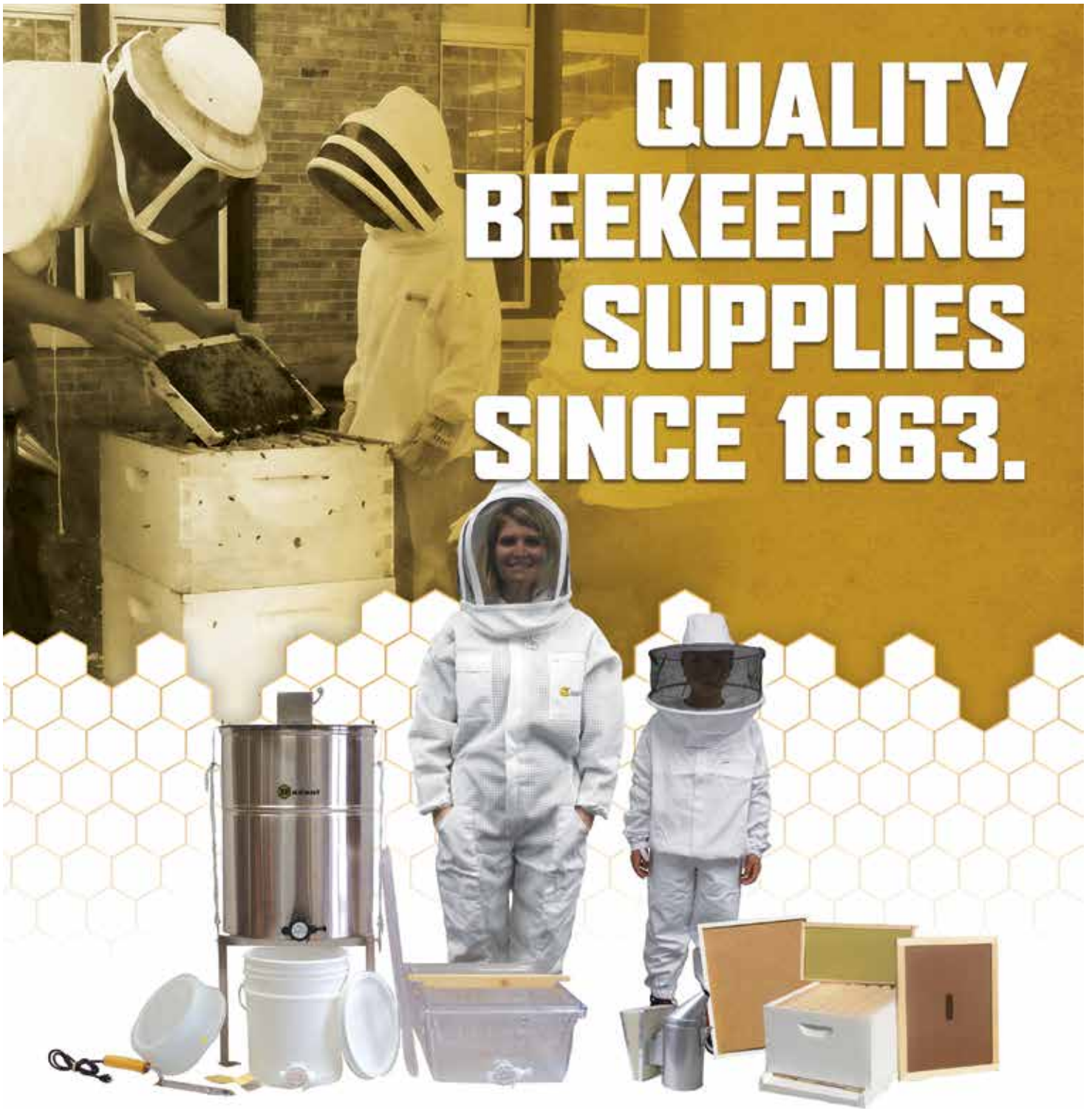


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Issue 15-6

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# President's Report

*from Chris Moore*



Yes, I'm concerned about the choice of the Nominating Committee for TBA President. I am not real politically correct and really a guy that prefers to be at the back of the room, not the front. But I guess it's my turn to step up. Y'all bear with me.

First, I would like to take the opportunity and thank Blake for leading TBA for the past three years. He did a great job, and will be difficult to follow.

Next, I would like to thank all those who are on the TBA board and volunteer their time to serve Texas Beekeepers. They are all passionate about beekeeping, have a desire to help others and share what they know about the amazing honey bee.

Over the past 30 years or so, beekeeping in Texas has evolved from hundreds of smaller commercial beekeepers to currently hundreds of small-scale beekeepers and only a handful of larger commercial beekeepers. TBA membership has also evolved and changed to better help and represent that demographic. This past year, TBA expanded the summer clinic into a huge event with numerous classes and had a record turn out. TBA also just had a fantastic annual convention in Belton with eye-opening research data on the effects of today's common pesticides presented by Jim & Maryann Frazier from the Penn State Bee Lab.

New local bee clubs are starting up throughout Texas – TBA is working to be a resource for these clubs, from sample by-laws to a guest speaker list. Beekeeping is not easy. Beekeepers need a support/educational network to cuss and discuss bee issues that will arise. These local clubs are a great resource, which

work together with state associations, which work together with national associations. So, together, we can share the best management practices for beekeeping as new issues arise.

Beekeeping is expensive. Beekeepers main monetary return is through the sale of honey. Unfortunately, right now the Texas honey market is inundated with mis-represented honey. There are numerous companies, both large and small, claiming to be selling "Local", "Texas", "Raw", "Unfiltered" honey. The fact is most of this honey is not what they claim. How do they get away with it? USDA has no definitions for such terms. It's unfortunate that some people and companies are taking advantage of consumers.

TBA would like to help Texas Beekeepers maximize their monetary return on their honey. TBA has started a campaign to promote "Real Texas Honey". It is for "Real Texas Beekeepers" to advertise their products so consumers can buy Real Texas Honey from a reputable source, straight from you, the beekeeper. The customer will get exactly what they want & the beekeeper will get a premium price. To be listed Texas beekeepers must agree to the terms and definitions as stated by TBA. Sign up today at [www.RealTexasHoney.com](http://www.RealTexasHoney.com).

Stay tuned as we will soon announce 2016 goals and events, including promoting "Real Texas Honey".

Yes, I am all over the place. That's the way my brain works most of the time. Way too many irons in the fire. I hope we can all work together this next year to accomplish our goals to help improve beekeeping in Texas.

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*Cover Picture: 2015 Conference Winning Picture by Robin Young*

## Vice President's Report *from Mark Hedley*



### Winterizing.....It's not just for your pipes!

The annual convention proved an awesome close to a rather peculiar beekeeping year. For most of us, it was a year of too much rain, not enough rain, or rain all at the wrong time. The rains of the last few weeks in my area of Central Texas brought on a White Brush (*alloysia gratissima*) bloom. With temps in the mid 60s almost every day, we won't see much more than a little added winter stores. If it only would have come in September....

Starting in September and working through November we conduct our annual winterizing exercises and I hope that you were too. We are an 8-Frame double deep commercial operation but I think you can extrapolate tasks or metrics for your operation:

- Fall queen replacements take place in early late August/early September so the new queens have enough time to prove themselves with a couple of brood cycles.
- Fall varroa mite testing and treatments occurred in late September/early October and all treatment strips or other delivery mechanisms are removed per label requirements.

- Dinks (less than 5 frames of bees/brood) not in our double nursery nuc configuration get combined or added to larger colonies in mid November.
- Each colony is fed syrup and protein sub from October to end of November to back-fill any deficits of winter stores.
- Supers are stored and protected from wax-moths

Winterizing also includes a final inventory of all stored equipment. Spring expansion planning happens in November and new equipment orders are placed. It's now time to bring out those barn space heaters and begin construction of frames (yes, we still build them!), boxes, bottom boards, migratory covers, and pallets though winter.

TBA has already started planning the 2016 Summer Clinic to be held at the Lone Star Convention Center in Conroe on June 18th 2016. We believe this new venue, being an AIR CONDITIONED facility will provide a comfortable day of beekeeping education and networking for all of our members.

We hope that you have a festive holiday season with your loved ones!

---

### CALL FOR SPEAKERS / PRESENTATIONS

Would you like to speak at our Summer Clinic or Annual Convention? We have begun program development for both these 2016 events and invite you to submit your presentation for program inclusion! Summer Clinic will be on June 18th at the Lone Star Expo Center in Conroe, TX. Please forward presentation/information to Mark Hedley via email [mark@spiralhornapiary.com](mailto:mark@spiralhornapiary.com).

### TBA Calender for 2016 - Keep These Dates Free

**Winter Association Representatives Meeting February 20th A&M Bee Lab**

**Summer Clinic June 18th The Lone Star Convention & Expo Center**

**Annual Conference November 3rd - 5th Bell County Expo Center**

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## THE BUDS AND THE BEES

### When The Student Is Ready

*by Becky Bender, Texas Master Naturalist*

*What I've learned about bee plants from our Texas Beekeepers*

There's an old saying I've believed for many years: "When the student is ready, the teacher will appear." For me, the best part of teaching is the opportunity to learn from my students. As this year draws to a close, I'd like to share a few lessons I've learned from my teachers - our incredibly skilled and observant Texas beekeepers!

#### **What I learned from Lance Wilson about Mesquite Nectar**

After my article, "Hunting Mesquite", was published in this Journal in 2013, I received my most challenging question to date. My article asserted that Mesquite was documented as one of our state's top honey plants. Yet I was surprised to get this question from Lance Wilson, one of our state's respected Certified Master Beekeepers.

This was Lance's question:

*"I enjoyed your article on the mesquite tree. I have spoken to commercial beekeepers in my area in central Texas and they seem to maintain that the bees largely ignore the mesquite. If that is true I would assume it is because other more sweet nectars are competing at the same time during the mesquite bloom. Any ideas?"*

Lance Wilson

Challenged by this opportunity to become the student, I contacted Dr. George Diggs, Professor of Biology at Austin College in Sherman, Texas, a well-known plant expert and an author of Illustrated Flora of North Central Texas. I relayed Lance's question, inquiring how honey bees could ignore Mesquite when it was known to be one of our top honey producers in Texas.

This was Dr. Diggs response:

*"You raised a very interesting question regarding honey mesquite (Prosopis glandulosa). It turns out that this species is complicated. It has very unusual pollination biology (at least in the Mexican populations where research on its pollination biology was done). The species does have a dimorphic pollination system—some individuals are "full nectar" (and produce lots of nectar) and some are "nectar-less" (and produce no nectar). There is debate about how this system evolved and exactly how it works, but the bottom line is that there are two different forms of honey mesquite plants in the same population. Whether a plant produces nectar or not seems to be genetically determined. My suspicion is that the members of your (beekeeping) association have seen this in action. In some cases a beekeeper may have had more nectar-less individuals near their hives, while in a different beekeeper's case there may have been more "nectar full" individuals."*

Dr. George Diggs



*Flower of the Honey Mesquite Tree*

#### **What I learned about Deer-Resistant Plants from Williamson County Beekeeping Association**

Little did I know, when I agreed to give a program on bee plants for Williamson County Beekeeping Association in Georgetown, they would be one of the most enthusiastic and engaged groups I've encountered. I left with a small pile of requests for additional information, the majority being about deer-resistant plants! I learned my lesson from these teachers: never speak to a group of beekeepers near Austin without information on deer-resistant bee plants! Here is what I have since learned about the topic.

Unfortunately, very few plants are completely deer-resistant. Factors that influence whether deer will browse a plant include the density of the deer population, weather conditions such as drought and how attractive a plant is to deer at any given time. Deer may avoid plants that have a strong scent, those that have tough, leathery, hairy or prickly leaves and those with milky liquid or sap.

Here are a few deer-resistant nectar and pollen plants that

will usually minimize deer damage. *Acacia rigidula* (Catclaw), *Agarita*, Cenizo or Texas sage, Paloverde, *Ageratina havanensis* (White mistflower), *Aloysia gratissima* (Whitebrush or Beebrush), Sumacs (good pollen source), many of the milkweed plants, Prickly pear cactus, *Callirhoe involucrata* (Winecup) and other poppy mallow species, Eastern, Mexican and Texas Redbud trees, *Cephalanthus occidentalis* (Buttonbush), *Chilopsis linearis* (Desert willow), *Monarda citriodora* – Lemon mint or horsemint, *Cleome serrulata* – Rocky Mountain beeplant, *Clematis texensis*, *Dalea frutescens*, *Dalea greggii* or *Dalea aurea*, *Gaura*, *Gaillardia pulchella* or Indian Blanket, Honey Mesquite, Texas persimmon, Texas kidneywood, *Monarda fistulosa* – Wild bergamot or Beebalm, Passionflower or Maypop, Virginia creeper, *Rubus trivialis* (Dewberry), Frostweed, Goldenrod, and *Mimosa borealis*.



*Bermudagrass Seed*



*Wildflowers with Native Grasses*

## What I learned about Planting Wildflowers from students in John and Skip Talbert's "Mastering the Art of Beekeeping" Course

When I began talking with groups about planting wildflowers for honey bees, I mistakenly assumed that everybody's rural fields were like my own – full of native Texas grasses that accommodate wildflowers. It took "newbees" in a beginning beekeeping course to teach me the obvious! Most of our rural beekeepers have fields of Bermudagrass which will compete with wildflowers and eventually crowd them out.

The biggest challenge to planting wildflowers is getting rid of Bermudagrass that covers so much of our land in Texas. Bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon*) is a durable "Old World" perennial turf and forage grass with extensive creeping rhizomes, stolons and seeds. Coastal Bermuda is a hybrid form and is one of our best pasture and hay grasses. Dealing with Bermudagrass may be summarized in two sentences. First, make it a priority to get rid of Bermudagrass before you establish wildflowers. Second, remain hopeful because it is possible but will require time, persistence and energy. Most folks will try to mow Bermudagrass short, remove the thatch and then till wildflower seeds into the soil. Flowers may grow for a year or two; however, the grass will eventually form a thick thatch and crowd out the flowers. Read more about the invasive nature of this grass at [http://texasinvasives.org/plant\\_database/](http://texasinvasives.org/plant_database/).

A realistic approach to eliminating Bermudagrass depends on one's goals and resources. For an article on "Bermuda Management Guidelines", go to <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7453.html>. If you choose to eradicate this grass either with herbicides or hand digging, it's important to know that one treatment alone will not be sufficient. Once you decide to get rid of it, stick with it. Disturbing it may temporarily make it more resistant. If you can't handle a large field, define boundaries in a smaller area. After you are certain the grass is gone, you'll have a great opportunity to seed a diverse plot of wildflowers and native grasses which live peacefully together. Cover crops such as vetch or winter rye are an inexpensive way to prevent soil from eroding away while adding nitrogen to the soil during the process. Once you've eradicated Bermuda, continually monitor for a recurrence and remove it quickly before it begins to invade again.

As this year comes to a close, I'm feeling grateful for what Texas beekeepers have taught me with your stories, your photos and your tough questions! This student is always ready, and you have been great teachers to me. I can't wait to see what you teach me next year!

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).





## The Brantley Column

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

As I write this article, the north wind is howling and the temperature is dropping, headed toward freezing for the next two mornings. This is the first seriously cold weather of the fall and winter. If I have done my job right, my bees are in a cluster with plenty of stores packed away. Any remaining fall forage will now be gone and the bees will be dependent on their internal stores or on supplemental feed that I give them.

December is the month for planning the next year's beekeeping activities. The first order of business is to decide if you are going to be a "responsible beekeeper". A responsible beekeeper has great respect for the wondrous insect that we need to care for during the coming year. A goal I establish for myself each year is, "I will strive to do the best I can to prevent any of my hives from being destroyed by parasites." Most years, I do pretty well, except for late season Nucs that have to struggle to not fall prey to hive beetles. Another goal is to ensure that none of my hives starve to death. Success with this goal requires being aware of forage conditions and paying close attention to the stores available in the hive. If I work diligently to achieve these goals, not only do my bees thrive but I become a "responsible beekeeper". Consider setting your own goals for the 2016 bee season and develop a plan to accomplish them.

December is also the time to plan and make purchases of the beekeeping equipment you will need to accomplish your 2016 goals. Are you going to expand your apiary? Do you have the woodenware to do so? If not, get your orders in now before the spring rush. Are you planning to expand by catching swarms this spring and summer? Do you have the necessary equipment to capture, transport and raise the bees you catch? Need a catch box? Need Nuc boxes? Have you put your name on the swarm call list with your local county agent or police or fire department? Are you planning on doing bee removal this summer? Do you have the appropriate tools and skills to open a wall, remove bees and comb, and repair the wall? Got a bee vac? Got buckets or bins to carry away the removed comb? Will you need some queens this spring? Better get those ordered right away unless you want to wait till mid-summer to receive your new queens. I hope to cause

you to think through your goals and plans for the coming spring and then act with a sense of urgency to obtain the equipment and supplies you will need, ensuring that you have enough time to have everything assembled, painted, and ready to use when that first spring swarm issues. If you are not ready then, it is too late!

You have now had another year of beekeeping experiences. For new beekeepers, you have completed your first season. Your knowledge level should have increased over the past months. Hopefully, your experiences have shown you what you "did not know" and what you now need to improve. You should be anticipating improving your beekeeping skills and knowledge even more through the coming season. Your plans for improvement should include attending and participating in local bee club meetings. Notice that I said attending and participating -- get to know your fellow beekeepers, ask questions, offer suggestions for topics to be discussed, even volunteer to moderate a discussion or sit on a Q&A panel. You do not have to be an expert to start a discussion that will lead to answers and ideas from your fellow members. You will learn so much more if you participate rather than just come and sit! While at the meetings, find and introduce yourself to other beekeepers from your area. You may find there is a more seasoned beekeeper that can help you with your local issues. Start a practice of reading the beekeeping publications such as Bee Culture and the American Bee Journal. You can go online and purchase a subscription to these magazines. You can also get the Kelly Beekeeping newsletter free each month by subscribing on the Walter Kelly beekeeping supply company's website.

Christmas is coming soon and you could add some of your beekeeping needs to your wish list. You could also consider donating to the charities that support beekeeping in other less fortunate countries. I recently gave a bee presentation at a garden club. I was later pleased to learn that the members made a donation in my name to Heifer International, a program that includes sustainable beekeeping in its donations of agricultural animals and plants to less fortunate peoples.

The bee is more honored than other animals, not because she labors,  
 but because she labors for others.

- St. John Chrysostom



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# Bedding Down and Boning Up

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



Our second year as beekeepers is winding down, but there are two important topics on our minds: keeping our bees alive through the winter and preparing for a busy spring. We think of this as “bedding down and boning up.”

## Bedding Down

We’re “fixin’ to” bed down our bees for the winter. We’ve done lots of reading on what to do and when, and that knowledge is helpful. However, we know that the most important thing to beekeepers, as Tulsa’s Greg Hannaford so eloquently said at the October TBA conference, is to HAVE LIVE BEES! We’re working in three areas to ensure that we will have live bees in spring:

- diseases and pests,
- stocking the pantry, and
- preparing the hive.



*Sue is in Charge of the Smoker*



*Healthy Brood in October*

**Diseases and pests** - Every beekeeper is concerned about their varroa mite levels. We sampled again in October and found that we had crossed the economic threshold of 2%, so treatment was necessary. We chose the Apivar product to really knock out the mites and give our bees the best opportunity to head into winter relatively pest free. We knew that it was a bit late to apply the product since it requires a minimum of 42 days to be totally effective, but we were in trains across Canada for most of September. The temperatures were also getting too low to use a fumigant-type product such as Apiguard. We will be feeding our bees a grease and sugar patty in November to combat tracheal mites and prevent a potential problem. Hive beetles have been a non-issue for us; we saw only one in each hive on our last inspection, and the between frame oil traps were mostly empty.



*Apivar Strips Placed in the Brood Nest*

**Stocking the pantry** - We checked to make sure that our bees have adequate food supplies for winter. Last year, we had to feed a 2:1 (sugar to water by weight) syrup, but this year is different. Each hive has between 10 and 15 frames of partially capped honey, so we will not provide additional carbohydrate sources. You may remember in our last article that we were complaining that our bees had not completely capped the abundant honey in the supers. We did not get a fall harvest, but the bees will have the partially capped honey as one of their favorite foods. They also have at least one frame per hive of processed (bee bread) pollen, so that should be adequate to last the winter. We’ll check on them again in February to see if we need to feed a pollen-substitute patty as brood rearing starts up.

**Preparing the hives** - We are an all medium box operation, so we normally run two brood boxes most of the year. Our queens have slowed down their brood production, so we were able to take the two partially full brood boxes from each hive and combine them into one full box. We stored the removed frames and boxes



in a large plastic bag and added para-dichlorobenzene crystals to keep away the wax moths. We removed and cleaned the queen excluders from each hive so that each winter cluster can take their queen with them as they move up in the hive. Our three hives are now all set up as one brood box on the bottom with two honey supers on top. Lastly, we propped the telescoping cover up about 3/8 inch with a piece of wood to allow more air flow through the hive. We read about this last year and implemented the idea. We did not have any problems with condensation, and subsequently



*Final Configuration  
- one brood and two  
honey*

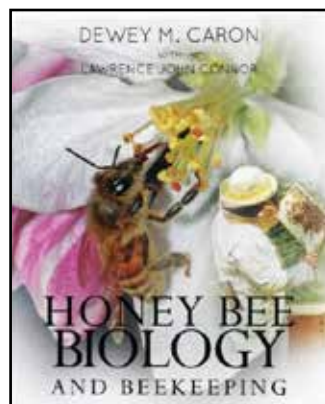
rain, inside the hive, when the warm moist air from the cluster hits the cold inner cover. We also left open the screened bottom board to allow appropriate ventilation. As temperatures and bee populations drop, we will reduce the hive entrance to about two inches. That will complete our bedding down preparations for winter.

## Boning Up

We look forward to cold weather, as it is a great time for learning and preparing. Dewey Caron, in *Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping*, Revised Edition, wrote, "Beekeeping is simply applied bee biology." We couldn't have said it better!

We have several items on our learning list: attending the TBA conference ranks first. Roger picked up three morsels from this year's conference that were worth the price of admission:

- Effective varroa testing - We all know that there are two "bee roll" methods, one using powdered sugar, which saves the bees, and the other using iso-propanol (rubbing) alcohol, which kills the bees. However, did you know that using the alcohol wash will remove 1.5 to 2.5 times as many mites as using the powdered sugar method? This means that when we use the powdered sugar roll to "save the bees," we have been underestimating our mite load by approximately a factor of two...and therefore not treating our bees when they required it. Try it yourself to confirm your results.
- Varroa treatment - One of the TBA speakers drew an analogy which really hit home. If you had a dog or cat with fleas, would you treat the fleas or choose to not treat and allow the animal to fend for itself to see if it would survive? Most puppies and kittens would surely die without the flea treatment. The same logic applies to beekeeping. Since being beekeepers requires us to have live bees, we determined that treating our bees for varroa becomes non-optional. Our only decisions are how we will treat for varroa and when.



*A Useful Book for  
Every Beekeeper's  
Library*

- The beekeeping question - This question has surely been around a long time, but it really hit us this year: "Are you a beekeeper or just keeping bees?" We have all heard stories about the bee colony that the someone ignores 364 days each year but then robs once a year for honey. That person is simply keeping bees, and we wonder how long the bees will cooperate. We decided to become beekeepers instead of simply keeping bees. We encourage every beekeeper we meet to continue to learn about bees. We have had the privilege to mentor several NewBee couples this year, and we challenge each to continue the learning.

The final boning up task for the Farrs is that of preparing. We're preparing to expand our apiary from three hives to six, and that means more of everything. It's better to buy equipment on sale now with free standard shipping than in February with regular prices and our need for express shipping to house our expanding bee population! We'll assemble and paint all the equipment when it arrives and store it in our garden shed. We have moved the tractor out of the shed and into a new Shelter Logic structure to keep it out of the weather.

We're considering expanding our product line from simply selling honey in one-pound inverted deco bottles to selling a creamed honey. We will not add any flavor or spice to the honey, so we can still sell it under the recently approved small-scale honey producer exemption to the Texas health laws, Senate Bill 1766. We're also considering expanding our packaging offerings for our beeswax lotion bars. We've recently purchased Petra Ahnert's book "Beeswax Alchemy" to assist us in expanding our beeswax products and packaging.

We will help teach beginner beekeeping classes in January, with other Caddo Trace Beekeepers, and that means that we have to understand the subject matter so well, we can explain it to novices. Course instruction requires a lot of preparation, and we know that it is important. All of this requires preparation, and now is the time to get it done!

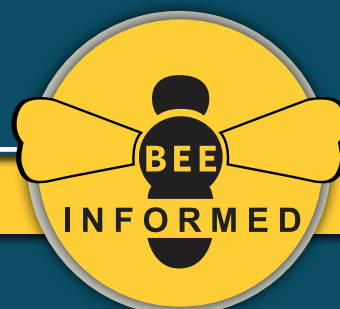
Finally, the editor of the TBA Journal asked us to write in 2016 about our continuing journey as "third-year beekeepers," and we gladly accepted. We look forward to sharing with you what our bees - and our NewBees - teach us.

So, what are your beekeeping 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](mailto:rdfarr@gmail.com); [sue.farr1@gmail.com](mailto:sue.farr1@gmail.com)

*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 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 the Texas Technical Transfer Team began this summer.*

**+Plus we will be Speaking at the Texas State Beekeepers Association in November**



*For Questions or Interest in Joining Contact:*

**Megan Mahoney**

*Texas Honey Bee Tech Transfer Team  
m-mahoney@tamu.edu  
(505) 681-5662*

Please Visit Our Website

**[www.BeeInformed.org](http://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!



# Chief of Apiary Inspection - Texas Apiary Inspection Service

*from Mark Dykes*



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

First off I want to say what a great time we had at the Texas Beekeepers Association conference last month. The talks by Dr. Jim and Maryann Frazier were informative and inspirational as always. I know a lot of work went into planning and executing the conference and I would like to thank those who put in the long hours for all their hard work! I know I speak for the entire staff here at TAIS when I say we appreciate your efforts to bring such a fantastic resource to the beekeepers of our great state.

Second I would like to congratulate the new class of Apprentice Texas Master Beekeepers. The program is continuing to go and we are now preparing for the next round of testing that will coincide with the Central Texas Bee School in Brenham this spring. I want to give a special thank you to Mary Reed for all her hard work with the program and also to the students and staff of the Rangel Bee Lab for helping out on the test day!

As I'm sure many of you are aware this year has been a roller-coaster as far as the weather is concerned. The massive amounts of rain we've had brought a fair bit of flooding in several different parts of Texas. So far I've heard reports of at least 3,000 hives lost due to flooding. Between this and the rough spring we had I know beekeepers have had to work double time to keep the population numbers up. That being said I want to remind everyone to make sure your hives have enough stores to make it through the winter. If you haven't checked already, please do so now and start feeding if need be.

Also now would be a good time to start building new equipment and to place your orders for packages and queens for the spring. It's best not to wait till the last minute to ensure availability. Also use the down time to plan out your pest treatment for next year. If you haven't seen it yet the Honey Bee Health Coalition has published the "Tools for Varroa Management" (<http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/Varroa/>) that is free to download. Arguably varroa mite control is one of the best things you can do to ensure the health of your hive. Remember, try to incorporate Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques into your plan and not rely solely on chemicals. Monitoring is key to pest control, so make sure you have the right equipment to monitor for varroa mites. We have a good video on our website (<http://txbeeinspection.tamu.edu/varroa-mites/>) that will walk you through the different techniques. If you have any questions, please let us know. We can be reached at [TAIS@tamu.edu](mailto:TAIS@tamu.edu) or you can use the "Give us a buzz" link on our website.

That's all for now. Myself and the staff here at TAIS wish everyone a happy holidays and hope this next year brings you healthy bees and full supers. We will be in Austin on January 16th 2016 for the 5th Annual Austin Beekeeping Seminar and we hope to see you there too. As always if you have any questions or 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 wonderful bees!

## Calling all TBA Association Representatives

Our Winter Representatives meeting will be held at the Texas A&M Bee Lab in College Station on Saturday February 20th, 2016

This meeting is designed to update TBA associate clubs on the action items the Board and Directors have put as priority for the year and to seek input on both these issues and others that may be of concern.

We encourage all representatives to speak to their club members and bring their questions or concerns so that we can work together to have these items addressed. As always, suggestions for future programs, legislative and otherwise are welcome!

We ask that up to 2 members from each association attend. Please limit to two as space is at a premium.

Please contact Shirley Doggett ([sdoggett@mindspring.com](mailto:sdoggett@mindspring.com)) by 31st January 2016 with names of who will be attending ensuring a name tag and lunch will be available to them.

See you in February!

Chari & James Elam



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# Austin 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Beekeeping Seminar



**Date:** Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> 2016  
**What:** Austin 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Beekeeping Seminar  
**Who:** Sponsored by the Austin Area Beekeepers Assoc.  
**Where:** J.J. Pickle Research Campus  
10100 Burnet Road, Austin, TX 78758  
**Cost:** \$40 pre-registration for the first 100  
**To Register:** <http://aabaseminar2016.eventbrite.com>

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

## Description:

This is a daylong seminar offering 4 different educational presentations running concurrently in each time slot throughout the day. This will provide many beginning and advanced subjects to choose from. A separate beginner's track has been formatted covering a variety of startup topics for soon to be or very new beekeepers.

## Afternoon sessions will include many different presentations including:

- Honey Bee Management 1 and 2
- Honey Bee Biology and Behavior
- Top Bar Management 1 and 2
- Varroa Management
- Brood Disease Control
- Swarm Capture Techniques
- Raising Queens
- Learn Honey Extraction Techniques
- Beneficial Bee Flowers
- Queen Finding and Requeening Techniques
- The Latest in the Texas Bee Lab Research
- Colony Supersedure and Management
- Keeping Bees in an Africanized Zone
- Nutrition Management
- Spring Management
- Cut Outs
- Honey Extraction Techniques

## Presenters:

- Professor Juliana Rangel-Posada – Dept. of Entomology Texas A&M.
- Mark Dykes- Chief Texas Apiary Inspector.
- Mark Hedley- Commercial beekeeper and owner of Spiral Horn Apiary.
- Chris Doggett- President of the Williamson County Area Beekeepers Assoc.
- Tanya Phillips- President of the Travis County Beekeepers Assoc.
- Dean Cook-Top Bar hive management advocate.
- Karl Acuri- Austin Area Beekeepers Assoc. (Co-organizer) and natural beekeeper.
- Mary Reed- Texas Apiary Inspector.
- Cameron Crane-Area Director Texas Beekeepers Association.
- Lily Rosenman- Austin Area Beekeepers Assoc. (Co-organizer) and natural beekeeper.
- Becky Bender-TX Master Naturalist.
- Brandon Fehrenkamp- Natural beekeeper advocate and owner of Austin Bees.
- Lance Wilson- Certified Master Beekeeper GMBP.

For more info and to register for this event go to <http://aabaseminar2016.eventbrite.com>

For additional information you can email Lance Wilson..... [lance@beekeepinghelp.com](mailto:lance@beekeepinghelp.com).

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

# Tales of a Texas Beekeeper

*From Joe Bader, Fredericksburg Beekeepers Association*

## Blake Shook - with thanks for the past three years as president of TBA

Blake Shook is a very unusual young man. Most of us know he is immediate past president of our Texas Beekeepers Association, but many don't know his story.



When Blake was 13, he applied for and won a youth program scholarship from the Collin County Beekeepers Association. The program gave kids between 12 and 17 one beehive and a beekeeping course. John Talbert, a man with many years of experience and an in-depth knowledge of beekeeping, was the teacher of the course. John says he

can remember the day, somewhere around the third session of the class, he saw the spark in Blake's eyes. Blake was hooked on beekeeping and through the class a special relationship emerged between the two.

Not only was he enthusiastic about the fun of beekeeping, but Blake saw the business John had built and could see a potential for building a career as a beekeeper. To learn more, he took a job working with John. On the side, he began catching swarms and making splits. Within a couple of years Blake had 50 to 100 hives. He was now a high school student making extra money as a young businessman by selling honey. Working with John and through the Collin County Association, he met and connected with other knowledgeable beekeepers. One of those connections led to the opportunity to send some of his bees to California for pollination. He and John worked closely. Together they took bees to Houston and Blake used John's facility to extract and bottle his honey.



*Extracting Honey*

By the time Blake was 18 or 19, he had over 600 hives which was approximately the number John Talbert had. His relationship transitioned from working for, to working with John as a team. When he graduated high school he had to make a tough decision. He would lose the momentum he had built up in the beekeeping business if he went to college. Blake chose a career in beekeeping. Soon after, Blake also made another important decision. He married his lovely wife Kathleen whom he met at church.



*Loading the Bees*

He continued building John's business and building up his own number of hives. In order to process the growing amount of honey his bees were producing, Blake built a 5000 square foot honey processing facility. His momentum continued. Within two years, he outgrew the first honey house and built another one. Last year he needed more space and built a larger processing facility which is still expanding. It will soon be over 16,000 square feet which is just for processing and storage, not a store front. He has plans to open a retail store, but for now he is busy taking care of his wholesale customers.

Blake still bottles pretty much all of the Texas honey he produces all while running bees in Texas, California, North Dakota and Wisconsin for pollination. Today Blake owns more than 3000 hives and is managing another 1000 hives for other people. His usual growth is 500 to 1000 hives per year.

Commercial beekeeping has its challenges. The amount of knowledge needed to successfully keep bees alive and thriving over a long period of time is massive. Learning is an ongoing, never ending process. It is important to know about bees, but for the person who is depending on bees for their living, there is even more to know. They have to know people who will need bees in their almond orchards or blueberry fields. They have to know how to safely move bees across the country, hopefully without any accidents like those we sometimes read about with bees all over an interstate highway. They have to know about marketing their honey in effective ways to create enough revenue to keep make the business successful. Knowledge is key and Blake is one of the top in his field on using and teaching practical information





*Safely Unloaded for Pollination*

small and large beekeepers can use to grow their business. Some of the best educational sessions I've seen are on the American Beekeeping Federation website where Blake teaches beekeeping skills. John Talbert says "Blake is unusually skilled at listening to ideas, assimilating the information and making quick decisions based on that information".

Blake, like all of us, has made plenty of 'not so good' decisions along the way. In the last five years he has built five different honey houses for bottling and processing. He outgrows them, but building and then having to re-build is not the most economical thing to do. He once bought 100 hives from a beekeeper in the fall and they all died over the winter. To add insult to injury, the boxes weren't worth keeping so he ended up burning them. The road to wisdom is often paved with costly mistakes.

Knowledge is important, but not enough. Commercial beekeeping is hard work. Loading supers full of honey all day long in 100 degree heat, continuous hive inspections, loading bees on trucks all night long and driving across country to take bees to their next assignment, splitting hives, re-queening, monitoring and treating bees so the colonies continue to thrive



*Desert Creek Honey*

and the business can expand... I only have a dozen hives and thinking about managing 4000 hives makes my bones hurt, but Blake is very unusual. One could not accomplish what he has accomplished without consistent hard work.

In watching Blake and talking to him, two other character traits are evident. He is focused. He learns what he needs to do and goes directly at it. Blake is enthusiastic about his career, but enthusiastic is probably not the right word. You cannot do what he has done without a passion for the business. Jim Rowe has known and worked closely with Blake for 10 years. "One thing that immediately comes to mind about Blake is his extreme focus on the business of beekeeping. Next to his belief in God and his family, he is setting business goals and taking the steps to achieve them. Blake is not casual when it comes to beekeeping."

Good business skills are essential to any commercial or sideline beekeeper. Blake has created an excellent marketing webinar video on the American Federation of Beekeepers website. "Blake is one of those people that are just naturally blessed with business savvy. He has a good work ethic, the desire to continually learn and try new things, the desire to be successful and grow his business, and is intelligent and level headed." Chris Moore, our current TBA President.

This article is about Blake as a person and a beekeeper, but he has also presided over a tremendous amount of progress for the Texas Beekeeping Association. "Membership of TBA has grown rapidly under his leadership, both individuals and Associations, Directors are much more involved with our Associations and other activities and a great deal has been accomplished in the past year - highlight being the legislative change to help the small scale beekeeper. Our Summer Clinic attendance climbed to a



*Beekeeping is Fun, Isn't It?*

record 500 folks. Our meeting in February for representatives of our associations was very well received and the Convention in Belton was one of the best ever." Christopher Doggett, TBA Publications Director.

At 25 years of age, Blake Shook is an exceptional young man. To emulate his success, it would take hard work, extensive beekeeping experience, a good mentor, hard work, knowledge, business skills, leadership skills and a lot of hard work.

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

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

Dear TBA members, this last couple of months have been quite hectic at the Apiculture Lab, with many meetings, conferences and events going on. And with the end of the year, there is even more business to attend to, so here is an update of some of them, past and future.

I hope you were able to attend the annual TBA convention this past October. If you did, you probably heard the research updates from the members of the Rangel Lab. You probably also heard that thanks to the generosity of the TBA membership, all three of the graduate students in my lab, Adrian Fisher, Pierre Lau, and Liz Walsh, received one of the first TBA Student Research Scholarships. You have no idea how proud it makes me not only to see that a grassroots effort to reward hard work in ways of creating a scholarship was positively received by the



*Pierre Lau*

TBA board of directors, but that my students were awarded a scholarship this year. To all of you that were involved, THANK YOU! I really hope that this new scholarship program continues in the future and that more students apply to the program in 2016.

If you attended the meeting you also got to hear a presentation from Megan Mahoney, the new Texas A&M University Tech Transfer Team Leader. In collaboration with the Bee Informed Partnership, Megan is working with commercial beekeepers from around the state and STILL LOOKING FOR MORE PARTICIPANTS! During her visits, Megan samples their apiaries, gives them up-to-date reports on the levels of Nosema, Varroa, and viruses, and follows them throughout the year to have a “bill of health” that is informative, and best of all FREE OF CHARGE the first year!! And by the way, Megan was just featured in the New Mexico State Beekeepers newsletter, as she comes from Albuquerque. Check it out at: <http://nmbeekeepers.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/December-2015-newsletter-WEB.pdf>

I am sorry I missed the TBA annual convention. But I have a good excuse. I was invited almost a year ago as one of the two guest speakers at the National Honey Show in the UK! I was there for the last week of October, and spoke to the Harrow and Chalfonts Beekeepers Societies (different counties outside

of London), as well as giving four lectures at the National Honey Show at St. George's College in Weybridge, UK. My co-instructor was my dear friend and colleague, Dr. Debbie Delaney from the University of Delaware. She also gave great talks and like me, enjoyed talking to the beekeepers of the UK about their practices, their “national” hives (which I learned are a different size than the Langstroth hive), and their beloved honey. Videos of the lectures are free to the public, and are now available online at:

<http://www.honeyshow.co.uk/lecture-videos.php>.

Over the last couple of weeks we have super busy traveling to different meetings. Most members of our lab traveled to Minneapolis, MN for the annual Entomological Society of America (ESA) meeting. Pierre Lau and myself co-organized a symposium titled “Pollen Analysis in Bee Research: Sharing Discoveries, Methods, and Resources.” Pierre gave a great talk about his urban bee and pollen analysis study (including some preliminary results from Texas!) and I talked about preliminary results of the pesticide residues found in the urban sites we have collected pollen and nectar from over the last year. The symposium was a great success, as we had a total of 11 presenters. We dedicated the symposium to Dr. Vaughn Bryant from Texas A&M University, as he has been a pioneer in bee pollen identification. He gave the keynote presentation on his long work with pollen coefficient work in honey. Adrian and Liz gave talks in the 10-min student presentation competition for graduate students in the bee section. They gave great talks, and I am proud to say that Liz was awarded second place in such a competitive



*Adrian Fisher*

atmosphere, so CONGRATULATIONS LIZ!

After the ESA meeting I went straight to Sacramento, CA, to present an invited talk during the last day of the California State Beekeepers Association Annual Convention. The conference had an amazing roster of presenters, including Dr. Marla Spivak, Dr. Jim Frazer, Dr. David Tarpy, among others. There were very informative talks from the Almond Board of California, informing us that the value of pollination services on almonds is predicted to increase next year, and that the increase in almond demand does not seem to be ending any time soon, even if some international markets seem to be slowing down.

On a side note, I want to congratulate Lauren Ward, Apiary Manager and Instructor at the Honey Bee Lab, just got awarded a TAMU Neuhaus-SHepardson Faculty Development Grant from the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, to attend a teaching workshop next spring. Lauren is among other things, instructor for the online Honey Bee Biology Course at TAMU, which just got accepted as a Core Curriculum course starting Fall 2016 thanks in great part to Lauren's efforts. CONGRATULATIONS LAUREN!!!!

Finally I want to invite all of you to attend the annual meeting of the American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL on 5-9 January 2016. More information on the schedule can be found at: <http://abfconference.com/schedule-2016> The ABF meeting is full of hands-on training,




Liz Walsh

workshops, and best of all, lectures! And during this meeting, we will have our own scientific meeting organized by the American Association of Professional Apiculturists. The American Bee Research Conference will be held on 8 and 9 January at the same venue as the ABF meeting. Don't delay your registration, which closes on 9 December 2015!

Speaking of ABF, our own Adrian Fisher was named one of this year's Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees Scholars. Besides receiving a nice stipend, he will also be presenting his work at the ABF conference, so join us in Florida!! We hope to see you all there!


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, or for new and interesting posts regarding bees and beekeeping, please visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/TAMUhoneybeelab> Our page has OVER 1,700 LIKES and counting! Thank you all for your continuing support and happy holidays!!!



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## 2016 Texas Honey Queen Hope Pettibon

Hello everyone! This is my first newsletter as the new 2016 Texas Honey Queen. I cannot tell you how honored and excited I am to be able to serve you this year as the spokesperson for the honey bee industry in the great state of Texas!

Some of you may remember my sister Nicole Pettibon. She was the 2009 Texas Honey Queen. As a little girl, I can remember watching her speak at different events and talk about the honey bee. I knew right then that I wanted to serve as a honey queen when I got older! I understood that it was a privilege to help the community by sharing the importance of the honey bee. At age 17, I had the privilege of serving as the Collin County Honey Princess in 2014, and then as the Collin County Honey Queen in 2015.

My family has been raising honey bees since 2004 when my older brother and sister received a scholarship from our home club, Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Association. I am now 19 years old, the fifth of 10 siblings (7 girls and 4 boys). I will be attending Bible College in January. During my free time, I enjoy reading, playing the piano, cooking, and crafts. I also love spending time outside gardening, farming, and helping my family raise honey bees. We now have 3 hives that are doing very well and provide delicious honey for our family and friends. Also, I entered my honey in the black jar tasting contest at the Texas State Fair this year and it won 3rd place!



*2016 Honey Princess, Willow Lanchester,  
2015 Honey Queen, Tabitha Mansker and  
2016 Honey Queen, Hope Pettibon*



*Hope Pettibon with Stanford Brantley  
and her Parents Christie and Patrick Pettibon*



*Hope Pettibon with Membership Coordinator  
Shirley Doggett*

I had a great time at the TBA conference meeting many of you and helping run the TBA table. I enjoy learning about the different products in the hive and how this amazing insect benefits our world. I am available for interviews, personal appearances, and love to give presentations. Please let me know if you would like to arrange for me to visit in your area by contacting the Honey Queen Chair: Rachael Seida at [texashoneyqueenchair@gmail.com](mailto:texashoneyqueenchair@gmail.com).



## 2016 Texas Honey Princess Willow Lanchester

Hello Everyone,

At the Tyler Museum of Art on the campus of my local junior college there is an art exhibit of the art work of Ansel Adams. Adams was a renowned photographer and environmentalist from the early 1900s, who has become a great inspiration to me. In his time, Adams was a self-described photographer, lecturer, and writer, and he received the Presidential Award of Freedom for his work. His most renowned work came from Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada mountains, where his work captured the emotional and spiritual qualities of nature. The photography of Ansel Adams changed the face of America. Now, I know it may seem like I am way off topic but I have a point, I swear.

Setting that aside for a moment, my name is Willow Lanchester, and I have the honor of representing you as the 2016 Texas Honey Princess. For a little bit about me, I live in the North Texas area with my family, and I am the oldest of two children. I am a member of the East Texas Beekeepers Association and I began beekeeping in 2013 through the ETBA Youth Scholarship Program. I have enjoyed beekeeping ever since and love sharing my knowledge about honey bees with those around me. As a result of this I had the pleasure of serving as the 2014 ETBA Honey Princess and the 2015 ETBA Honey Queen. Aside from beekeeping I am a student at my local junior college and plan to one day pursue a law degree. I am also an artist and I use my artwork to promote the honey bee as well as other social issues.

I have learned in my studies about bees that bees are a blessing and their effects on social issues can be astounding. While researching an article last summer I stumbled across several charities that are combating poverty through beekeeping. I was extremely impressed by these charities because not only are they improving the lives of those who are directly benefiting by becoming beekeepers, but also aiding the entire community by improving the environment. What I found even more amazing was that two weeks after I wrote my article on beekeeping charities, I was contacted by a friend of mine who moved to Uganda last year only to find out that she was starting her very own beekeeping charity in her community. I honestly can say that these charities have earned a special place in my heart.

My artwork really means a lot to me and has come to mean more to me ever since I began incorporating bees in my artwork. Art is a form of communication that is able to reach many thousands of people. I spend most of my time on campus in the art department and have been able to present to both of our art clubs. In that time, I have come to the realization that art students are activists simply waiting for a cause. In fact, this semester the TJC Art Club was able to host a Honey Bee Art Show. It was



*Original Art by Willow Lanchester*

amazing and we exhibited art from students and faculty as well as having informative material available for viewers. It was a great show and we were able to reach hundreds of people who are now honey bee supporters. It just goes to show that art can have an impact even in our own communities.

Finally, I promised I had a point in telling you about Ansel Adams. The work of Ansel Adams is stunning and strikes a deep emotional cord with me, because he conveys through his work how much his subject matter meant to him, and how much he enjoyed capturing it. In the time he was doing this work there were motions to obliterate Yosemite and to cut down the redwoods. It was because of his work and through his efforts that Yosemite was preserved and made a national park, and that the redwoods still stand. His passion of capturing the beauty of nature served his calling to save it. That is my goal for my time serving you, I want my passion to serve my calling. I cannot thank you enough for this opportunity to serve all of you, the beekeeping industry, and the bees themselves. Ansel Adams saved the trees, now it is our turn to save the bees.



## Texas Honey Queen Chair Rachael Seida

### Reaching your Local Community! Part 1: Schools

Hello!

The holidays are coming and we are thrilled to be cooking up honey recipes and events for the coming year! We would love to come to an event in your area! Not sure what to invite us out for? For my next several articles I am going to do a series on reaching your local community and setting up events. This month, we will discuss schools.

These are wonderful opportunities in your community! Many schools are just looking for the chance to invite in a beekeeper. You can talk to teachers that you know or you can send the school a letter (I have included a sample letter in this article). Or you can send a press release to your local paper to let everyone know that the Honey Queen is coming (more on press releases in a later article).

That's all for this time! As always, if you would like to schedule the Texas Honey Queen or Princess, email me at [texashoneyqueenchair@gmail.com](mailto:texashoneyqueenchair@gmail.com).

#### Tips:

When looking for schools, don't forget Public, Private and Home School Groups are all great avenues for setting up presentations. Day care facilities can also work well, but aim for the older children – at least 4-5 years old.

When setting up with the schools, make sure that they school knows that we would be happy to talk to the entire school, not just one class.

The standard presentation is about 20 minutes with question and answer time afterwards, but this is flexible and can be adjusted to meet the schools needs.

If you can, bring an observation hive. This really makes the experience memorable for everyone.



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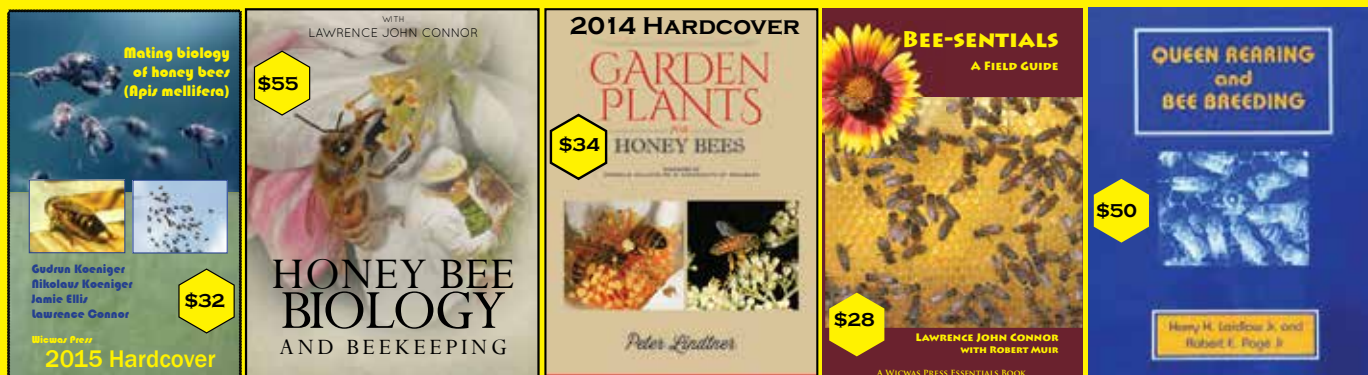
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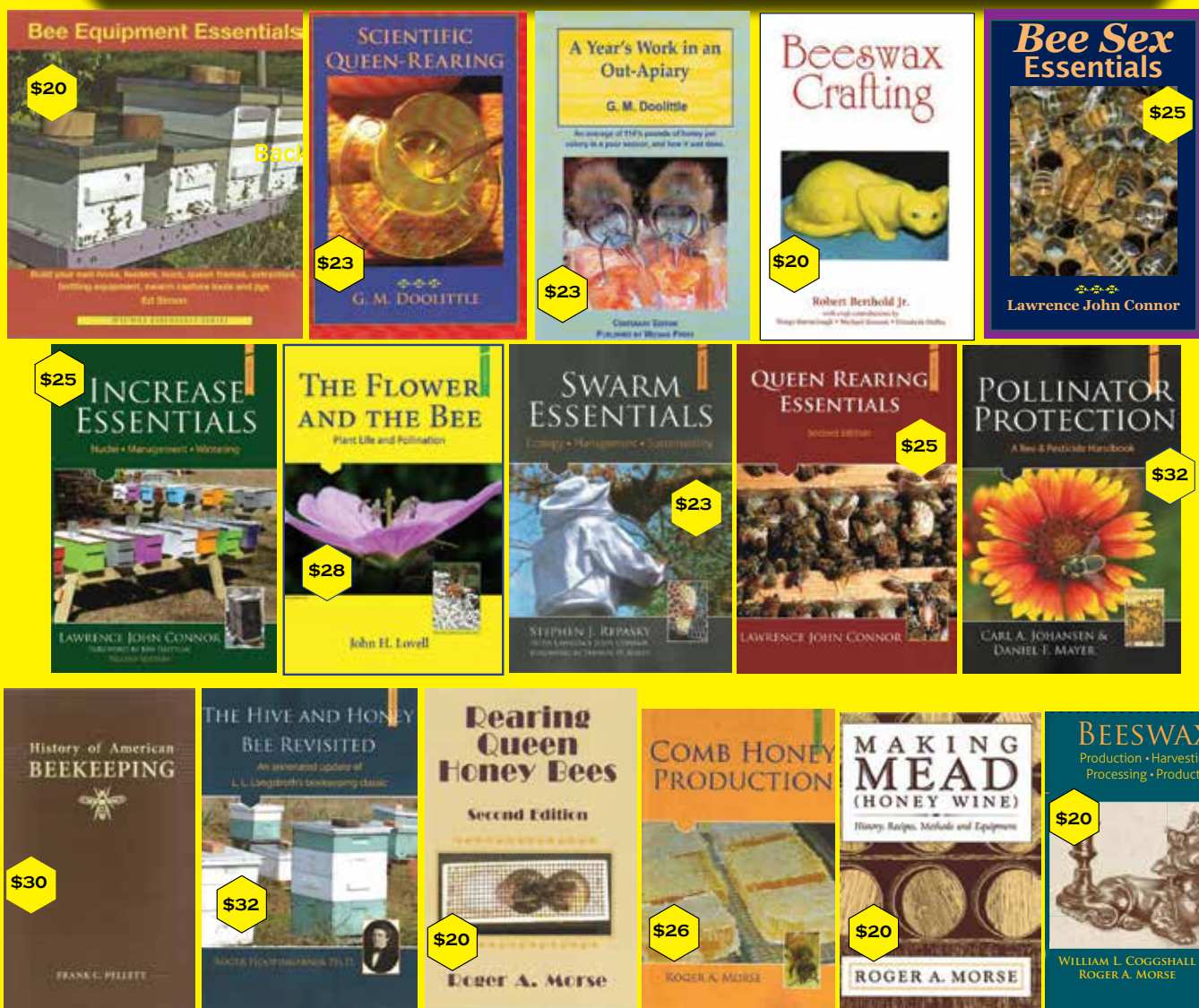
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## 2015 Texas Honey Queen Tabitha Mansker

It's hard to believe I am writing my last article as your 2015 Texas Honey Queen! I want to start off by just saying THANK YOU.

This year has been such an amazing opportunity and has flown by so quickly. It seems like just yesterday when I was being crowned the 2015 Texas Honey Queen, in Houston last November. Then in January boarding my FIRST FLIGHT EVER on my way to the American Beekeeping Federation Convention, in Anaheim California. It was the start of a life changing journey and truly a once in a life time experience for me. From seeing the World's Largest Strawberry Shortcake in Pasadena, to working the Houston Livestock Show. Participating in many spring and fall festivals, working many hours by an observation hive answering questions about these amazing insects. Speaking at community groups, schools and to students all across the state. Along with having the opportunity to present at many local bee clubs around Texas and getting to meet so many of you personally. Also the privilege this summer visiting the Texas State Capital in Austin, as I represented the Texas Beekeepers Association. Speaking in front of the House and Senate Cabinets was an opportunity very, very few people my age ever get the chance to experience.

As my year is coming to an end I look back over all the things I have been able to be a part of and all the wonderful people I have had the opportunity to meet through this program. I am just in awe. Traveling around the State of Texas in itself has been so amazing! Not only did I enjoy seeing different places and historical sites while presenting, but it grew my respect even more for the Great State I live in. Getting to see firsthand the beekeeping industry in our state of Texas has been inspiring. We truly do have one of the strongest associations and group of individuals dedicated to this industry in the United States. Being a part of furthering and bettering this program has been a neat experience. I was also evaluating how I have changed or improved personally. I was looking back on what I have accomplished and what I've learned throughout this whole year. Starting out I was lacking some confidence in my ability to do public speaking. It's not that I couldn't give speeches well, but I really lacked the confidence that only comes with practice. And practice is what I got! Plenty of it, and in so many different areas. Weather it was dancing and pretending to be a honey bee trying to keep a class of two year olds interested for half an hour, or speaking for two

hours on the Basics of Beekeeping to a local bee club. Learning to adjust and present accurately to my audience has been such an invaluable tool. I feel confident when I walk into a room whether I am there to listen or there to present. This program has given me tools that will help me when in almost any situation, for the rest of my life! The Texas Honey Queen Program gives a girl the ability to grow and learn. It stretches her in ways that she herself didn't know she was capable of. Some days I was a little stressed or nervous and really didn't feel like giving another presentation, but then I would hear such encouraging words from beekeepers or just others at the events, and they gave me an extra push and boost of confidence. For all these experiences I am truly grateful!

I would like to publicly thank my parents. They have supported me my entire life and especially throughout this past year. My Mom especially took days and weeks out of her schedule to drive me to events and sit through my same presentations, again and again. Her patience, advice, and dedication to me and this program are truly the foundation for my success this year. I would also like to say a big thank you to the Texas Beekeepers Associations officers and the Texas Honey Queen Program chairperson. You have taken the time and invested into the lives of each of us girls and this program. And then finally to YOU... THANK YOU for your support of me. I truly appreciate all that each of you have given and invested in me. It was so great to see many of you at the convention a few weeks ago. The convention was very enjoyable and I think we had a great turn out. At the banquet, Saturday night, I was given the LAST cookie jar by a man that has been as a grandfather to me, Mr. John Talbert. He along with many others of you have become family. And that's something no other organization I have been a part of has ever done or meant to me. Beekeepers are just such a special group of people! Also that night, I had the pleasure of crowning the new 2016 Texas Honey Queen Hope Pettibon and the 2016 Texas Honey Princess Willow Lanchester. I know these girls are going to do a fantastic job serving this organization. And I'm sure you will continue to give your support as you have done for me. I do have one last event coming up in January...I will be representing Texas as the 2015 Texas Honey Queen in the American Honey Queen Competition. I am very excited and so humbled for this opportunity. Wish me luck!! THANK YOU again for EVERYTHING! Have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!



# TBA Convention Returns to Central Texas

*from Jimmie Oakley*

The Texas Beekeepers Association met the last weekend in October at the Bell County Exposition Center in Belton, Texas. After meeting the previous two years in Dallas and Houston, the group returned to central Texas, this time to a different venue than before. Choosing the EXPO Center right on IH-35 rather than a hotel, meeting space for the event was abundant and the facility touted its own executive chef for breaks, luncheon, and banquet needs. Fortunately, there was a major hotel and an RV park adjacent to the Center providing lodging options for attendees. The Convention ran from Thursday October 29th to Sunday November 1st.

Thursday morning opened bright and early as candidates in the Texas Master Beekeeping Program gathered to review and take the Apprentice level test conducted by the Texas Apiary Inspection Service (TAIS) under the direction of Chief Apiary Inspector, Mark Dykes.



Shortly after 9am an all day seminar for small scale and serious sideline beekeepers got under way. Greg Hannaford of Tulsa Urban Bee Company conducted the course which covered topics like, "What is a Sustainable Apiary/Beekeeper", "Apiary Expansion and Colony Maintenance", "Diseases" and "Becoming a Better, More Intuitive Beekeeper."

The TBA Executive Committee Meeting chaired by President Blake Shook started at 10am.

The Convention Trade Show set up on Thursday with eighteen vendors signed up covering products from bee supplies to seeds to bangles & beads. Dadant & Sons Inc, Mann Lake Ltd, Walter T. Kelly Co, Busy Bee Supplies and R Weaver Apiaries offered



*Walter T Kelley at TBA Annual Conference*

beekeeping supplies. Tulsa Urban Bee Company, Walker Honey Farm and BeesWax Co. all offered honey, wax or other hive products. Veto-Pharma and Complete Bee

offered bee meds, while Thrive and Henson Farm presented healthy offerings to beekeepers. Seeds, books and beads were



*Jonathan Walker and Domingo Montalbo  
Walker Honey Farm*

offered by Native American Seeds, Sweet Dreams, and Busy Beads. Finally, Al Ford offered protection for beekeepers through Texas Insurance and Financial Services.

The annual "Bee Buzz Social and Honey Queen Reception" was hosted Thursday evening upstairs in the Special Events area by American Honey Princess, Hayden Wolf; Texas Honey Queen, Tabitha Mansker; Collin County Honey Queen, Hope Pettibon; East Texas Honey Queen, Willow Lanchester; Collin County Honey Princess, Hanna Mansker; East Texas Honey Princess, Brittany Miller, and Williamson County Honey Princess, Elise Gardner. Each of the ladies decorated a table with items that represented their interest and accomplishments, and displayed their scrapbooks. Platters of veggies, fruits, and cheese were provided by the Convention Gold Sponsors. The Queens supplied honey based sweets for desert to all who visited their display tables.

Friday morning was the opening session of the Convention. John Talbert offered the Invocation and President Blake Shook welcomed the attendees to Belton. Next Rachael Seida introduced the Honey Queens and Princesses present and each



gave a few remarks. Clint Walker of Walker Honey Farm was the first speaker on the program and his subject was "Diverse Landscapes of Texas". He made a few remarks and spent the rest of his time giving background and providing a great introduction for the keynote speaker, Dr. James Frazier, Professor Emeritus at Penn State University. Dr Frazier gave a forceful slide presentation entitled "Dying Bees: Harbinger of the End of Time



*Dr. James Frazier  
Penn State  
University*

or Opportunity Buzzing" where he covered past history, current conditions and offered a list of things that needed to be addressed to change the future in a positive way for our grandchildren.

After the morning coffee break, provided compliments of the TBA Silver Sponsors, Megan Mahoney of the Bee Informed Partnership spoke of the start up of a Tech-Transfer Team in Texas, how it would work and what it would do for bees and beekeepers. The morning closed out with presentations from Texas A&M Honey Bee Lab graduate students, Liz Walsh on "The Effect of Miticides On Queens"; from Pierre Lau on "Analysis of Pollen Collected by Honey Bees in Developed Areas" and finally from Adrian Fisher on "The Effects of Select Pesticides on Drones and Workers". Each explained their hypothesis, methods, and conclusions.

After the completion of their presentations, it was announced by Blake Shook that the TBA was providing scholarship assistance to each of \$1,000 and would cover expenses of up to \$750 for them to attend the next Convention to report on their findings.

The annual Queen's Luncheon was held at noon upstairs in the Special Events area, and was attended by 92 folks purchasing tickets for the meal. The Queen Program supporters were served a Croissant sandwich with pasta and a mixed fruit cup. The event was hosted by Honey Queen Chair Rachael Seida and Honey Queen Tabitha Mansker. East Texas Honey Queen Willow Lanchester gave a slide presentation on a humanitarian program that was special to her.

In the afternoon session Greg Hannaford of Tulsa Urban Bee gave a presentation titled: "Quantitative Analysis of Bee Populations," posing the question, what constitutes "a lot of bees?" He gave specific examples of ways to estimate the number of bees or brood or honey in a given hive and emphasized using his technique enables a beekeeper to be able to keep abreast of bee population and their overall health, diagnose potential problems, and effectively communicate to others when they need assistance. He was followed by Maryann Frazier of Penn State University on her topic entitled: "The Toxic House Bees Live in and What We Can Do." Her work was collaborated by

much of the earlier presentation of Dr. James Frazier as she dealt with pesticides, lethal and sub-lethal effects, neonicotinoids, and the other pressures on bees like pathogens, parasites and poor nutrition. Her conclusion was similar; change will not come easily or quickly, but with understanding, the support of legislation and research, pollinators can be protected and change the way our food is produced.

The afternoon concluded with Hayden Wolf, American Honey Princess, talking about the upcoming ABF Convention in January in Jacksonville, Florida. Texas Honey Queen, Tabitha Mansker gave her 2015 Queen Report, and Mark Dykes, Chief Apiary Inspector, gave his review on bee laws and what to expect from TAIS.

Finally there was an open discussion period about future changes to the bee laws. There was some conversation on the part of the commercial beekeepers in the room regarding their desire to simplify what is currently a cumbersome permitting process for transporting their hives, about labeling of imported honey as "Go Texan" or "local" and how that is negatively affecting sales of honey from independent beekeepers. John Talbert and Blake Shook, in their positions as representatives of TBA, explained that they have attempted to address these issues with the state agencies, but there is very little interest or funding available on the part of these government agencies to intervene to keep the industry clean. It is up to the individual beekeeper to educate the public and the potential customer as to the differences and advantages of buying truly local raw honey.



*Greg & Shelly Hannaford  
with Blake Shook*

Immediately after the conclusion of the general session, Blake Shook convened a meeting of representatives of all the local associations present to discuss issues important to them. Topics were varied and discussion was lively.

On the agenda for the evening was the Honey Queen Quiz Bowl which was followed by a fund raising auction conducted by Weldon Riggs. Veggies, fruits, and cheese were served, provided for by the TBA Gold Sponsors: Kelly Bees, Mark Brady Bees and Honey, Rice's Lucky Clover Honey and Shastina Millworks. Two teams of contestants vied for position in answering tough questions from Honey Queen Chair, Rachael Seida. One team was made up of ABF Princess, Hayden Wolf; Honey Queen

Hope Pettibon, and Princess Hanna Mansker. The other team consisted of Honey Queen Tabitha Mansker, Queen Willow Lanchester, Queen Emma Wall, and Princess Elise Gardner. The auction was successful in raising over \$1,300 for the program.

Saturday morning's first presentation in the general session was on "Effective Varroa Treatments" from Clint Walker of Walker Apiaries on his experience in the field, and Phil Craft, a technical advisor of Veto-pharma, maker of Apivar. Blake Shook next spoke on "Creative Ways to Market Honey" based on his personal experience as owner and operator of Desert Creek Honey.

After the morning break Chris Moore, Moore Honey Farm, spoke on "Overwinter Management", and Maryann Frazier presented a program on "Grafting and Rearing Queens" giving us some very interesting observations on experiments with experienced vs. novice grafters.

Clint Walker was again at the podium after lunch speaking on his company's experience in production and marketing in "From the Extractor to the Shelf - Processing Honey."

Dr. James Frazier was on the program one more time in the afternoon speaking to beekeepers as educators in "A Bee C's of Beekeepers as Educators:" covering foraging, pollinating and harvesting.



*Clint Walker -  
Walker Honey Farm*

Leesa Hyder, a Montgomery County Beekeeper and Area 2 Director, was the last scheduled to present. She explained the new exemptions in the law in "You Can Now Sell Honey Legally..."

TBA President Blake Shook called the 2015 Texas Beekeepers Business Meeting to order to hear reports, pass resolutions, and elect officers for the coming year. As is the custom, John Thomas called for a remembrance of beekeepers that passed away during the year and offered a moment of silence for them. Clint Walker was asked to serve as Parliamentarian, and John Talbert served as the Secretary, reading the Minutes from the 2014 Business Meeting.

Committee Reports were given. Holly Medina gave the Treasurer Report. Chris Doggett gave reports on the TBA Journal, Association Membership, and the Convention. Rachael Seida reported on the Texas Honey Queen Program and John Talbert reported on the State Fair Honey Booth. Blake Shook finished the reporting by numerating the accomplishments of 2015 and highlighted several goals set for 2016. All of the reports were accepted as read and approved on a motion and second.

As chair of the Resolutions Committee, Blake Shook read the list of continuing Resolutions and received approval, and then



*2016 Texas Honey Queen  
Hope Pettibon*

read nine more Resolutions outlining the direction and intent of the Association for the coming year, including a list of planned initiatives that the Board considered to promote beekeeping and the industry in Texas. With some slight changes in wording, all nine Resolutions passed.

John Talbert led the Nominations Committee which presented Chris Moore as the nominee for President and Mark Hedley as Vice President. Also Directors for Areas 1, 3, and 5 were to be chosen and the nominees presented were Tammy Barr from Fredericksburg, Lance Wilson from Austin, and Harrison Rogers from Brazoria. After nominations were called for from the floor, the slate was elected by acclamation. The meeting adjourned in order.

On the final evening of the Convention in Belton the Annual Awards Banquet and Honey Queen Coronation took place in the Special Events area upstairs from the Assembly Hall and Trade Show. There were one hundred twenty-three that purchased tickets to the Banquet, and Executive Chief Samantha Kittle did not disappoint the attendees with a meal of a grilled pear salad and choice of beef or pork entrée and delicious slice of cheesecake for desert. As the meal was being enjoyed, Auctioneer Weldon Riggs started fund raising early by auctioning off several "chilled" bottles of specialty wine presented by Clint Walker of Dancing Bee Winery in Rogers, Texas. The winners of the bids were served the product at their table by Mr. Walker.

Awards and Recognition began with the announcement of the winners of the Honey and Photo Contest by the new Vice President, Mark Hedley. Receiving the Grand Champion plaque was Robin S Young of Denton, Texas winner of all three places in the photo contest. The Reserve Champion plaque went to Doug Stanley a Montgomery County Beekeeper from Kingwood with a 1st place in Black Jar virtual and 2nd in Black Jar blended.

Next John Talbert announced that the Dr. John G. Thomas Meritorious Service Award this year would go to Shirley Doggett for her exemplary service as Association Membership



Coordinator and Convention Registrar. Outgoing President Blake Shook called Shirley to the front again as he could think of no one else he would rather present the President's Award than her. She was moved by both presentations.

With the awards presentation completed, the program was turned over to Rachael Seida, Honey Queen Program Chair, and the Honey Queen Coronation proceeded as 2015 Texas Honey Queen, Tabatha Mansker, crowned East Texas Honey Princess, Willow Lanchester the 2016 Texas Honey Princess. Next she crowned Collin County Honey Queen, Hope Pettibon the 2016 Texas Honey Queen. She was assisted in the ceremony by American Honey Princess, Hayden Wolf who presented each of the ladies with a bouquet of roses. After the new Honey Queen and Princess addressed those present, it was time for the auction. Weldon Riggs generously served as charity auctioneer and conducted an entertaining and successful auction. With the Honey Queens & Princesses presenting the items, the TBA members generously raised over \$10,000 to fund the Honey Queen Program and provide educational scholarships. Coupled with the Quiz Bowl and Silent Auction held earlier, a total



*2016 Texas Honey Princess  
Willow Lanchester*

of over \$13,000 was raised. The Commemorative Cookie Jar, donated by Stanford Brantley was to be the last one ever, and it went to John Talbert. It was announced by John and his son Skip that the Cookie Jar would be given to the outgoing Honey Queen Tabatha Mansker.

The Executive Committee held a final meeting on Sunday morning to welcome the new Directors and attend to final Convention business.

By the numbers, once again there were over 200 registered to attend, 235 to be exact. There were eighteen (18) vendors signed up for the Trade Show and nine sponsors, five Silver and four Gold. Ninety-two bought tickets to the Queen's Luncheon and 123 for the Banquet.

Thanks to all who worked to make the Convention a success and to all those who attended.



*American Honey Princess, Hayden Wolf with  
TBA President, Chris Moore*



*Dr. John Thomas*











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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

## **Denton County Beekeepers Association**

Christina Beck - (940) 765-6845

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

2217 Denison, Denton, TX 76201

**Meetings:** 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm  
2216 Bolivar St., Denton, TX 76201

## **Dino-Beekeepers Association**

Chip Hough (817) 559-0564

[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

[ragdale@industryinet.com](mailto:ragdale@industryinet.com)

**Meetings:** Second Saturday of the month, Feb, April,  
June, August, October and December  
Fayette County Agriculture Building  
240 Svoboda Lane, La Grange, TX 78945

## **Fort Bend Beekeepers Association**

1402 Band Road, Rosenberg, TX 77471

(281) 633-7029 (during office hours)

Jeff McMullan - Secretary - Treasurer

(281) 980-2363 (home): (281) 615-5346 (cell)

[jeffmcmullan@comcast.net](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



# Local Beekeepers' Associations in Texas

## 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

## 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

Ellen Reeder - (936) 368-7188  
[ellenswartz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ellenswartz@sbcglobal.net)  
1299 Farm Road 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 Beveledere 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>Tammy Barr</b> <i>tammybarrbrands@hotmail.com</i> 182 Cardinal Lane Fredericksburg, TX 78624 (325) 642-2012	Alamo Area Beekeepers Association Concho Valley Beekeepers Association Erath County Beekeepers Association Dino-Beekeepers Association Fredericksburg Beekeepers Association Metro Beekeepers Association
<b>Area 2</b>	<b>Lisa Dittfurth</b> <i>dittfurths@gmail.com</i> 12992 CR 577 Anna, TX 75409 (972) 542-4419	Caddo Trace Beekeepers Association Collin County Beekeepers Association Denton County Beekeepers Association North East Texas Beekeepers Association Red River Beekeepers Association Trinity Valley Beekeepers Association
<b>Area 3</b>	<b>Lance Wilson</b> <i>lance@apartmentexperts.com</i> 17021 Conway Springs Court Austin, TX 78717 (512) 619-3700	Austin Area Beekeepers Association Fayette County Beekeepers Association Heart of Texas Beekeepers Association Travis County Beekeepers Association Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association
<b>Area 4</b>	<b>Leesa Hyder</b> <i>lhyder@swbell.net</i> 82 Sandpebble Dr. The Woodlands, TX 77381 (281) 460-0344	Brazos County Beekeepers Association Central Texas Beekeepers Association Hillsboro Beekeepers Association Montgomery County Beekeepers Association Walker County Beekeepers Association
<b>Area 5</b>	<b>Harrison Rogers</b> <i>h-rogers@comcast.net</i> 5402 Greenhill Road Brookside Village, TX 77581 (281) 468-0019	Brazoria County Beekeepers Association Coastal Bend Beekeepers Association Fort Bend Beekeepers Association Harris County Beekeepers Association Houston Beekeepers Association
<b>Area 6</b>	<b>Cameron Crane</b> <i>cameron@cameroncrane.com</i> 2300 Belvedere Dr. Baytown, TX 77520 (409) 658-3800	East Texas Beekeepers Association Lakes Area Beekeepers Association Liberty County Beekeepers Association Marshall Beekeepers Association Piney Woods Beekeepers Association



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

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9767 Bevil Blvd.  
Kountze, TX 77625  
(713) 724-7110

#### Vice President

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

#### Past President

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

#### 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

#### Communications Coordinators

Chari & James Elam [jcelamservices@gmail.com](mailto:jcelamservices@gmail.com)  
11900 Seven Coves Rd., Willis, TX 77378  
(936) 520-4669



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