

The Texas Beekeepers Association

Journal



May/Jun 2016

www.texasbeekeepers.org

Issue 16-3



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President's Report

from Chris Moore



I hope your bees have made, or are busy making, lots of honey. We are still adding supers, as needed, even though we only have a few weeks of honey flow left. Then the fun begins; Pulling honey, shipping bees to their next pollination destination, and extracting honey.

For commercial beekeepers, the bulk honey market has gone down due to an influx of cheap imported honey. But for us, the Real Texas Beekeepers, we should not be worried. The following data supports why.

USDA has published 2015 Honey figures:

US Honey Totals for 2015 **

Total -	543,100,000 lbs.
Imports -	387,900,000 lbs. 71%
US Production -	155,200,000 lbs. 29%

2015 Average consumption 1.51 lbs. x

2015 Texas population 26,956,958 =

Total consumed in TX ~40,705,006 lbs.

Texas Honey Production 8,316,000 lbs. only 20%

~80% of honey in Texas is imported.

Texas Beekeepers only produce 20% of the honey consumed in Texas. Our honey we produce here in Texas is a specialty crop. Our market should not be affected by cheap imports. Consumers want Local honey. Sell it as a specialty crop, educate your customers about the above data and that many Texas honey companies and beekeepers are selling imported or out of state honey as Local or Texas Honey. The more people we educate about the issues with the current honey market, the better our sales and our fellow Texas beekeepers will be.

If you produce 50 lbs or 150,000 lbs TBA wants to help you market your honey, sign up at www.RealTexasHoney.com

** data from <http://www.beeeculture.com/catch-buzz-u-s-per-capita-consum.../>

In This Issue

President's Report.....	3
Vice President's Report.....	4
Honey Bees in the Rain.....	4
Summer Clinic Info and Registration.....	6 - 8
The Buds and the Bees.....	10 - 11
TAIS Report.....	12 - 13
Agricultural Land Value.....	15
The Brantley Column.....	16
Taking Proper Care of your Queens.....	18
Basic Lotion Bar.....	19
Dr. Juliana Rangel Report.....	20 - 21
Club Buzz.....	23

Cross Comb in the Top Bar Hive.....	24 - 25
Texas Honey Queen Article.....	26-27
Texas Honey Princess Article.....	28-29
Texas Honey Queen Chair.....	30
Keeping the Bees at Home.....	32-33
Chinese Honey Illegally Imported.....	34
WCABA Scholarship Program.....	35
Nation's Beekeepers Lost 44% of Bees.....	37
Director's Listing.....	40
Association Listing.....	42-43

Cover Photo by Dan Eudy, East Texas Beekeepers Association

Vice President's Report

from Mark Hedley



It's Raining, It's Pouring, The Old Man is Snoring

Well, I haven't bumped my head (although I am about to bang it on the wall), and actually, I had to get up really early this morning. It was another Nuc pick-up day.

We have had a very interesting few weeks around Spiral Horn Apiary. Equipment breakdowns have plagued us. Right at the most critical time and you need everything to be at its best. Yep, no bee truck for two weeks. That means hives didn't get moved out onto ranches when they needed to and all the nucs got fed the old fashioned way - by the five-gallon bucket delivery method. I have always been a believer in "no single point of failure" but when it comes to equipment, it is costly, so back-up bee trucks were in the luxury column. Used trucks always cost less than new, in the short term. But this time I think "cost of ownership" has surpassed "cost of acquisition". I now know how hard it is to run a small commercial beekeeping operation without a "bee truck" and am making adjustments to the business plan.

It has been a blessing to receive all the rains. Our spring has been one for the record books. Literally everything has bloomed, in succession, and the bees have been feasting on a smorgasbord of pollen and more samples of nectar than a tourist in a wine tasting room. And the rains just keep coming. Another 2.5 inches here, another .40 inches there, and yet 2 more inches forecast for next week. We are receiving this after a beautifully rainy April. WOW. Even though it makes getting to our ranch-based

bee yards impossible for at least 3 to 4 days after it stops, I don't mind. So what does one do in the lull? Schedule Nuc pick-ups that necessitate a 4 am wake up call (hence why I was snoring at 10am during a light nap - no recordings indicating proof, just accusations from Michelle); bottling some honey for customers; or how about building some equipment for those summer splits? In the realm of beekeeping, there is always something that needs to be done.

Are you ready to add more supers, or put your first ones on the hives? I receive a lot of questions as to "when do I add my supers"? My first answer is: when your previous box is 85% full - whether it is a brood chamber, or a honey super. Bees will "stove-pipe" your boxes if you provide too many box resources at once. Most of the time honey bees will fill your brood chambers with brood, pollen, and nectar before they utilize the honey supers. New hives and nucs can "plug" a deep (assuming you run double deeps) with nectar during a heavy flow. The downside is that the queen runs out of places to lay eggs. Keep an eye on your box resources during the nectar flows so they can build both brood nests and fill honey supers!

Since it is raining again all day, think I'll just get back to that back-up bee truck research, then perhaps another little nap. Not used to bee-free Saturdays in the spring.

Weird.

Honey Bees in the Rain

*from a post by Kim Kester
and Tabitha Mansker*

Imagine trying to run across a yard with giant bowling balls falling from the sky all around you. That is what it would be like for a bee to try to fly in heavy rain. When it rains hard, honey bees are unable to fly because the rain drops knock them out of the sky. Honey bees are unable to swim, so if they get knocked into a puddle, they will die. During a light rain, honeybees may be able to fly, but the cold will chill their flight muscles and make the job more difficult. Honey bees that get too cold may lose their ability to move. For these reasons, honey bees prefer to stay in the hive when rain is on the way. Luckily, honey bees can sense when it is about to rain because the pressure in the air changes. Honey bees that are away from home and sense rain coming will do their best to return home before the rain begins. Back at the hive, forager honey bees will take on new tasks or rest until the



rain clears up. Some may become guard bees and stand at the entrance of the hive watching for intruders. Others may use their bodies to generate heat throughout the chill of the storm. The important thing to remember is that honey bees all work for the better of the hive. Just because the foragers can't complete their job of leaving the hive, doesn't mean they'll give up on work all together. Instead, they will change their plan for the day and help their siblings within the hive.

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Summer Clinic

June 18, 2016

Session Classrooms, Tracks & Schedule

CLASS ROOM	Track	9:00 – 9:50	10:00 – 10:50	11:00 – 11:50	1:30 – 2:20	2:30 – 3:20
6	New Beekeeper (yrs. 0-1)	*Key Note* Address Ross Conrad In <i>Bluebonnet Main Room</i> “General Assembly Room”	Honey Bee Biology & Behavior (Lance Wilson). Honey Bee Biology and Behavior. The basis of all hive management. We'll start with... -What is a honey bee? -Honey bee anatomy -The super organism -Occupants of the colony and contributions -Mating/DCAs -Worker tasks -Sex determination -Caste determination -Brood development -Queen replacement/reproduction -Swarming -Communication Honey Bee Nutrition and Feeding Basics (Chris Doggett)	How to Get Started: Beekeeping Equipment Essentials (Chris Doggett) -Equipment You Will Need (Langstroth) -Equipment you will need overall -Protective gear and smoker -Lighting a smoker -Langstroth components -Choices in brood configuration -Other woodenware -Foundation choices -Extraction equipment -Choices in purchasing and approximate cost -Colony Inspection	Buying bees, installation and apiary set up (Chris Doggett) Where Do I Get Bees? -Buying bees, Installation and Apiary Setup -Where to get bees and costs -Package and Nuc installation -Where to locate your apiary? -Requeening	Annual Management (John Talbert) -Annual Management -Feeding -Basic swarm prevention -Superting -Extraction -Winter management
1	Beginner Beekeeper (yrs. 1 or more)			Splits for Beginners (James & Chari Elam)	Brood Diseases and Pest Management (Bill Baxter - TAIS)	Catching and Keeping Swarms (Jay Poindexter)
8	Intermediate Beekeeper (yrs. 2 or more)		General Management (Mark Dykes)	Queen Rearing Basics (Jay Poindexter)	The Making of Meade (Mark Todd)	The Making of Meade- (Mark Todd)
7	Intermediate Beekeeper (yrs. 2 or more)		IPM Varroa (Lauren Ward - A&M Bee Lab)	Honey Bee Biology and Behavior (John Talbert)	Pesticide Management through Comb Rotation (Lance Wilson)	Varroa Monitoring (Mary Reed & Bill Baxter)
5	Advanced Beekeepers (yrs.3 or more)		Products of the Hive (Michelle Kerr Pankonie)	Beekeeping From a Unique Perspective-S. Africa (Mark Dykes)	Sales (Bottling) and Marketing (Mark Hedley)	Oxalic Acid (Mark Hedley)
4	Advanced Beekeepers (yrs.3 or more)		The Effects of In-Hive Miticides on Honey Bee Queens" (Liz Walsh)	Splitting Hives (Chris Moore)	PollenNation (Pierre Lau - Rangel Grad Student)	Splitting Hives (Chris Moore)
3	All Beekeepers-Natural Beekeeping		Natural Beekeeping (Ross Conrad)	Apitherapy (Ross Conrad)	Top Bar1 - Beginner (Les Crowder)	Top Bar2 - Intermediate (Les Crowder)
9	All Beekeepers		Ag Exemption (Dennis Herbert, Joe Bader)	Live Hive Inspection Basics (Cameron Crane)	Queen Finding and Requeening Techniques- (Liz Walsh)	Beescapes (Lauren Ward)
2	All Beekeepers		Encaustic Painting (Janet Reynolds)	What is the TX Master Beekeeping Program? (Mary Reed)	Ask an Expert (Mark Dykes, Liz Walsh, Chris Moore)	Honey Extraction (Cameron Crane)
General Assem. Room	Queens, Princesses & Ambassador		Various presentations throughout the day on Center Stage “General Assembly Room”			
Lunch 12:00 – 1:20 (Shop Vendor/Exhibitors)						
Business meeting at end of day 3:30 – 4:30 (TBA updates and Door Prizes)						

Summer Clinic Registration Form

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



Summer Clinic Registration June 18th., 2016

Name (s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Please indicate # of attendees

_____ \$50- Individual (\$65 after 6/5, before 6/16)

_____ \$90- 2 Adults same household (\$120 after 6/5, before 6/16)

_____ \$25 - Child 16 and under

_____ Total Paid

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Calendar of Events
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Summer Clinic
Montgomery County Fairgrounds
June 18th., 2016

Annual Convention
Belton Expo Center
November 3rd - 5th, 2016

Summer Clinic 2016 **Register Early Please**

Early Registration ends June 5th 2016

\$50 per person, \$90 per couple

Registration 6/6 through 6/16
\$65 per person, \$120 per couple

Registration at event
\$70 per person, \$130 per couple

Children under 16
\$25



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THE BUDS AND THE BEES

Native Plants for Bees: Fad or Fact?

by Becky Bender, Texas Master Naturalist

Why choosing native Texas plants may make a lot of sense – and honey!

During my nursing career, I counseled hundreds of people on wellness and fitness. One of the biggest challenges my patients faced was the constant deluge of quick-fix health fads with short-term results but no lasting benefits. My reaction to health fads such as dieting and marathon running was always this: “What counts are the benefits over time, not over-night.” Landscape plants go through similar fad phases. Many plants are popular for a short while, typically because of their eye-catching color. Native plants, on the other hand, host benefits that may be less visible to the human eye but are critically important to pollinators and have long term landscape benefits.

Honey bees are not even native to North America so why use native plants?

For millions of years plants discouraged insects from eating them. But eventually plants evolved to be noticed by using scent, color, shape and eventually – nectar! This win-win relationship ensured that the plant reproduced and the insect was nourished. To carry out their part of the deal, plants had to adapt to their native soils and climates even in extreme years (sound familiar in Texas?). There is scientific evidence that native plants are healthier plants and thus produce more nectar than exotic, non-native plants which evolved in different conditions. Unlike some pollinators, honey bees are “generalists” when foraging flowers. That means they’ll collect from many different flowers, the same flowers our native pollinators use. So it’s clear how native plants that evolved to nourish our native pollinators also benefit honey bees.

Since bees need a variety of plants, why limit them to mostly natives?

Texans are lucky to have almost 5,000 species of native plants that thrive in our various regions resulting in lots of variety for bees. And consider this conundrum: The use of exotic and alien plant species can actually limit – not multiply – variety of plant life. Sometimes the plants we “import” get bossy and take over surrounding plants. You’ve probably heard about some of our most notorious invasives such as Japanese honeysuckle vines that take over moist wooded areas, Tallow trees that have invaded the Texas coast and Bermudagrass that suppresses wildflowers. Good plant diversity ensures that bees get multiple pollen types which

they combine for high quality protein and also ensures blooms in all seasons and weather conditions.

Here are a few native plants that bees love. Interestingly, all three have tiny, inconspicuous flowers but their pollen is commonly detected in Texas honey analyses. Sometimes the plants we import (called invasives or aliens) get bossy and take over



Carolina Buckthorn



Inconspicuous Spring Blooms of Buckthorn

Try This Small Tree: Carolina Buckthorn (*Rhamnus caroliniana*) is a small versatile tree with rich green leaves that turn bright yellow in fall. Tiny, inconspicuous white blooms attract large numbers of honey bees in the spring and berries feed birds in fall. Because this buckthorn likes a little shade, it's attractive under a larger tree where it becomes shaped more like a large arching shrub. Buckthorns are very common in Texas honey analyses. While many of us landscape with Crape Myrtles, Magnolias and Mimosas, why not include a Buckthorn in the mix? Crape Myrtle appears in honey analyses; however there is evidence that the nectaries (nectar producing organs) of this flower may not be developed indicating its value for pollen but not nectar.



Virginia Creeper
at Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center, Austin

Try This Vine: Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*). Quinquefolia means five leaves. And that's how you can tell this vine from three-leaf poison ivy! This high climbing deciduous vine thrives in sun or shade in north, central and eastern Texas. The lush green leaves turn brilliant red in the fall and berries feed song birds. On rural land the vine is seen climbing and wrapping trees. I choose to let it climb on a few of my Hackberry and Bodark trees. For use in landscape, this vine is lovely climbing a stone wall as shown in the photo taken at Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin. The vine can also be used as groundcover in wooded areas although you may want to keep it pulled off of trees. You may never see the tiny greenish white flowers but the bees do. Large quantities of this nectar appear commonly in Texas honey analyses. While limited in its landscape use, Virginia creeper may in some situations be substituted for invasive vines such as Asian honeysuckles. Or try it in your landscape mix with more popular Trumpet Vine, Coral Honeysuckle and Crossvine. These three native vines have tubular shaped flowers which are more accessible to butterflies, hummingbirds and moths than to honey bees.



Yaupon Holly Hedge

Try This Evergreen Hedge: Yaupon Holly (*Ilex vomitoria*) is one of the most commonly used native plants in Texas landscapes. This small tree has a dense growing habit that can take severe hedging and pruning. It tolerates dry or wet soil and thrives in shade or sun. Tiny white flowers appear in April and May attracting honey bees and other beneficial insects. Female trees produce berries for birds. The dwarf variety makes an excellent lush green border in flower beds. This holly is detected in honey analyses, especially in urban areas. Yaupon holly is a good substitute for Privet, a Ligustrum on the Texas invasive list. Or consider using Yaupon rather than Red Tip Photinia which is vulnerable to fungal disease and was recently added to the Texas Invasive List.

Aren't native plants hard to find and expensive?

Yes, they can be hard to find but are becoming more available. To find a source near you, go to Native Plant Society of Texas website at www.NPSOT.org; click on Resources; then click on Finding Native Plants. Natives are not more expensive over time – in fact they can be cheaper. Folks with native flower beds don't have to buy flats of flowers every year – they simply do a light pruning on their long-lived perennials (plants that grow back from roots every year) and enjoy the new years' blooms! In addition, many good native bee plants are large flowering shrubs which means a few will cover a large area. Natives attract good bugs which saves not only money for chemicals but bee exposure to pesticides. And since natives are drought-tolerant, they require less water and can survive extreme weather patterns with just a light bruising.

What do you call a plant that has grown on our land without human interference for hundreds of years? A plant that has sustained beneficial insect populations over time, not over-night? A plant that survives extreme weather years? A plant that has flowers so undetectable to our eye that landscape books neglect to even describe them as blooming plants? Are native plants for honey bees fad or fact? You decide.

Your questions, comments and photos are welcome and may be used in future articles. Please send to Becky Bender at RBenderRN@aol.com or www.BudsAndTheBees.com.

Chief of Apiary Inspection - Texas Apiary Inspection Service

from Mark Dykes



Greetings from the Texas Apiary Inspection Service (TAIS)

I hope everyone had a good spring and is reaping the benefits of the rains. We have been getting some reports of flooded hives, but thankfully not on the scale it was last year.

Here at TAIS we have so exciting changes happening. First, join me in congratulating Mary Reed on her promotion to Lab Manager of the new TAIS Honey Bee Diagnostics Lab. The main focus of the lab will be to process samples from inspections. In an effort to better understand the health of the honey bee populations here in Texas we have begun sampling for varroa mites and Nosema. At the current time varroa is not a regulated pest, however it is arguably one of the most serious pest of the industry. It is our hope that by providing this information to the beekeeper and by aggregating the yearly results we will be able to get a better understand of this pest. The monitoring will mainly be done on commercial operations and the individual results will only be available to the beekeeper. We will also offer this service as part of our paid inspection for a health certificate. Mary will still conduct some inspections and give talks however her primary focus will be maintaining the lab. With that being said I am happy to announce that TAIS is in the process of hiring two part- time lab technicians and a new full time inspector. We hope that this

expansion in our staffing will help to increase our ability to assist and safeguard the apiary industry.

Hopefully everyone was able to significantly reduce their varroa mites in the early spring to manageable levels. If you have any questions on treatments I would encourage you to look at the Tools for Varroa Management published by the Honey Bee Health Coalition (<http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/Varroa/>). This guide is free to download and contains current information about all types of legal varroa treatments from organic to synthetic chemicals and also a guide on how to monitor. If you have any questions about monitoring for varroa mites, please let us know and we will do our best to help.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the new Apprentice Master Beekeepers and Advanced Master Beekeepers. The Texas Master Beekeeper Program (TMBP) had the spring testing in April. I know I speak for the entire board of the TMBP when I say great job and we look forward to seeing you advance through the program! In order to recognize their achievement the Texas Beekeepers Association has asked to showcase them in the journal.

So without any further ado I present the graduates of the Texas Master Beekeeper Program:

Texas Master Beekeepers - Advanced Level

Jerry Alcorn
Lolita Bader
Joe Bader
Konrad Bouffard
Doyle Burchett
Cameron Crane
Timothy Elliott
Roger Farr
Brandon Fehrenkamp
Michael Kelling

Michelle Kerr-Pankonien
Scott Martin
Jesse McDaniel
Harry Morse
Brian Muldrow
Nick Ottensman
Tanya Phillips
Robert Rabuck
Chuck Reburn
Harrison Rogers

Rachael Seida
Steven Seida
Rex Smith
David Stalker
Douglas Stanley
Dodie Stillman
Richard Threlkeld
Len VanMarion
Robin Young
Bill Zimmer



Texas Master Beekeepers - Apprentice Level

Philip	Ainslie	Nanette	Davis	Donovan	Johns	Hope	Pettibon
Cody	Albert	Mark	de Kiewiet	Tyler	Johnson	Abigail	Pettibon
Tex	Allen	Stephen	DePizzo	David	Kattes	Megan	Pettibon
Deb	Anderson	Beth	Derr	John	Kirkland	Joshua	Pettibon
Martin	Anderson	Mike	Dibble	Lanette	Lanchester	Christie	Pettibon
Leta	Armstrong	Keith	Dibble	Willow	Lanchester	Gary	Rankin
Tracy	Bahm	Lo-Ra	Dick	Jeffery	Lavine	Karen	Reimann
Zane	Baird	Lisa	Dittfurth	Paul	Lemoine	Shelley	Rice
Chris	Barnes	Russell	Dittfurth	Chris	Mainka	Scott	Rippel
Karin	Bayne	Chuck	Durham	Sharon	Mainka	John	Robinson
Christina	Beck	Hilary	Dyer	J S	Marlin	Cynthia	Schiotis
Barbi	Benjamin	James	Edwards	Phyllis	Martin	Carl	Seagren
Melissa	Birdwell	George	Franklin	Fernando	Martinez	Anna	Seida
John	Birdwell	Janice	Friend	Fernando	R. Martinez Jr.	Melody	Seida
Elizabeth	Birkinshaw	Thomas	Fris	John	Mason	Samantha	Sepe
Mike	Birkinshaw	Nora	Garcia	Terry	McFall	Luis	Slayton
Chelsea	Blakely	Elise	Gardner	Cory	McKinstry	Jason	Smith
Nicole	Blakes Glin	Ryan	Giesecke	Daniel	McLaughlin	Claire	Smith
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Ron	Couch	Verna	Isbell	Gary	Parks	Judy	Woodcock
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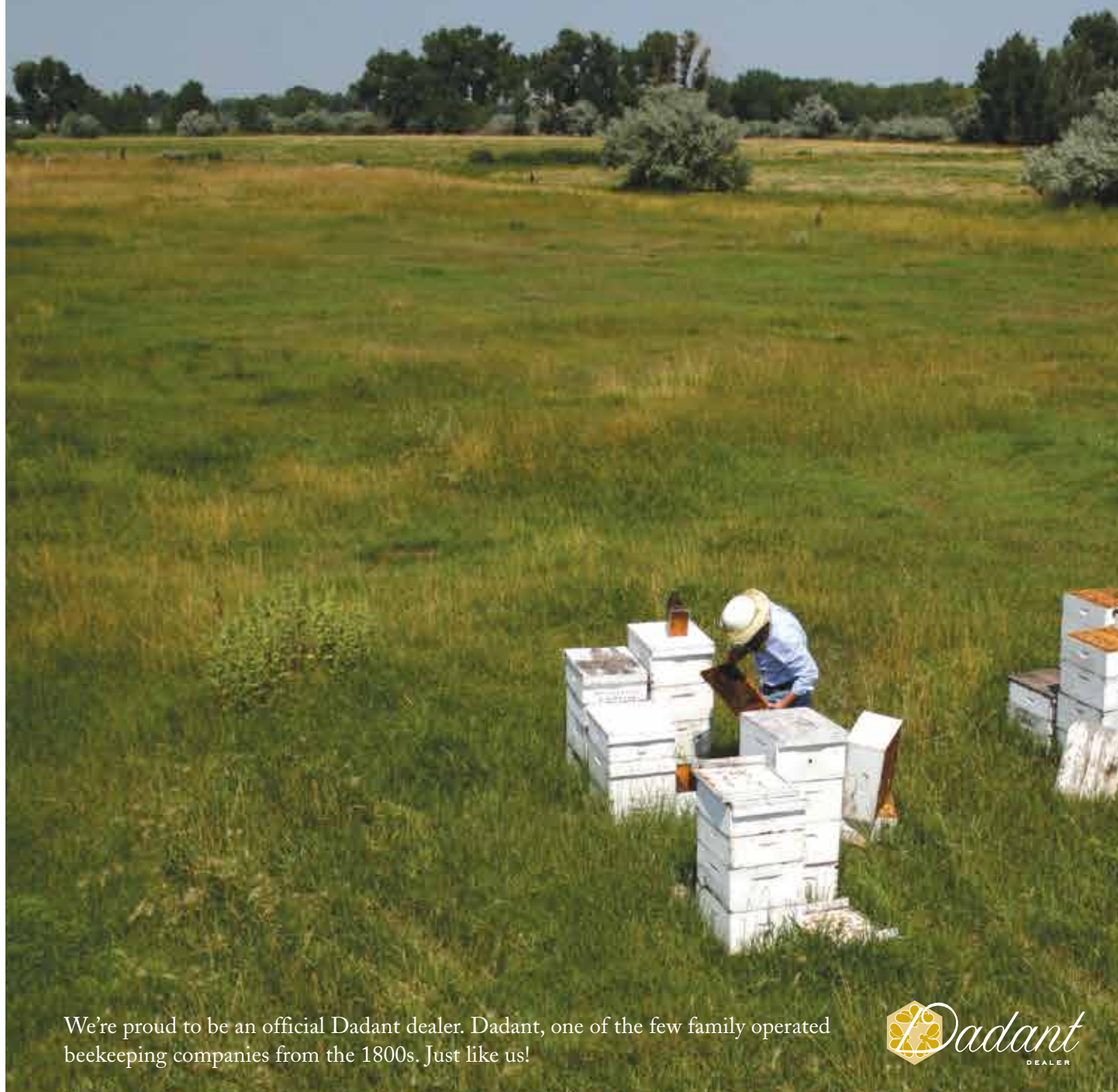


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Agricultural Land Value for Beekeepers

Part One - Income

from Joe Bader, Fredericksburg Beekeepers Association

In 2012, Texas law allowed beekeepers with between 5 and 20 acres to potentially qualify for agricultural special valuation for property taxes, commonly called 'ag exempt'. Different types of agricultural land uses are taxed at different rates per acre. Value is usually derived from land lease rates. For instance, a hay producer will lease a field for a price per acre. There is sometimes 30 years of history of hay field lease price per acre to use to determine value. The state comptroller does not have a history of lease values for beekeeping. It will be advantageous for beekeepers who are seeking the special valuation for property taxes to understand how the county calculates value.

If you are considering 'ag exemption' or working toward building your five year history, this article begins to cover some of the details you may want to understand. Talking to a county tax appraiser can be intimidating. I have found ag appraisers as a group, to be pretty down to earth. The goal of this article is to begin to explain agricultural land valuation and to help you on your way.

I am not a property tax expert, so do your own research and due diligence. My information comes from talking to county tax appraisers, individuals that work for tax protest firms, reading Texas law and the Texas State Comptroller's guidelines for chief appraisers. My goal is to help you on your way.

Each county appraisal district is autonomous, but still must comply with the law. They each have considerable leeway in the rules they set and in how they interpret the law.

The most commonly used 'model' for determining beekeeping land value comes from Harris County. Compared to most other agricultural land values, the Harris County model appears to value beekeeping land relatively high. In that model it is estimated that the average Texas hive will produce 74 pounds of honey per year. That may or may not be correct. The average price of wholesale honey is assumed to be \$3.78. That does appear to be high. These two factors make up the lion's share of income that appraisers use to value our land. If these factors are in fact lower than the Harris County model assumes, it could dramatically lower the appraised value of beekeepers land.

There is a perception that we will not have to show profit or even income to qualify for the 'ag exemption' and I believe that is true. On the other hand, the appraisal district values agricultural land based on an income approach. It sounds confusing. Let's look at it from an appraiser's viewpoint.

The appraiser is determining the value of the land, not the business. They separate income and expenses that go to the land, from other income and expenses that go to the business. Another way to say that is, they separate production from processing. If we are considering honey, production covers everything through extraction. Processing covers bottling, labeling, brochures, farmer's market booth fees and sales and everything after dividing the bucket of filtered honey into smaller units. This is very different

from what you might report to the IRS if you sell honey as a sideline business. Production income is relevant to the appraiser, and processing income is not.

There are only two primary sources of income 'to the land' for anyone with 12 hives or less. 12 hives is the maximum recommendation from the Harris County model. One income source would be honey and another might be the production of queens or bees. Either of these is reported at wholesale value. With 12 hives, you are not going to produce much wax, pollen or propolis. For instance, if you buy wax and make lip balm to sell, that profit is irrelevant to the appraisal district. It is business profit, not land profit. If you do cutouts and charge a service fee, and sell the bees, it is also irrelevant to the value of the land. If you pull frames of honey and hold them in refrigeration so that you can feed them to your bees during a dearth, it is not relevant to the land appraisal. If, on the other hand, you split a hive and at the end of the year it adds to your hive count, that would be income to the land. You have added value to your production.

Both honey and bee production would be valued at wholesale. The USDA provides a wholesale price for Texas Honey at <https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/fvmhoney.pdf>. Texas honey wholesales at \$1.70 per pound. If I were going to talk to my ag appraiser, I would take this USDA report to him. The retail price of honey is irrelevant to the appraisal district, but the average is \$6.72 per pound found here: <http://www.honey.com/honey-industry/honey-industry-statistics/unit-honey-prices-by-month-retail>. In the US, small beekeepers extract a little more than half of what large scale beekeepers extract. While large beekeepers extracted more than 58 pounds per hive last year, beekeepers with 5 hives or less extracted only 31.3 pounds per hive. The reason for this is probably easily understandable. Commercial beekeepers make money from pollination and move their hives to chase the honey flow. They have trucks and forklifts to move pallets of bees across the state or across the country. Small scale beekeepers can't afford the equipment or have the economy of scale to move hives. Their hives will produce much less honey. The report is here: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/Hone/Hone-03-22-2016.pdf>.

If you sell bees, you are probably not selling wholesale. I am unaware of any wholesale price list available, but would it be fair to say the wholesale would be 50 to 70 percent of retail? It is the wholesale price you will be asked to use at the appraisers office.

As beekeepers, we may be able to provide more accurate numbers to the appraisal district to hopefully lower our tax. My wife and I have taken on the project of a survey of Texas beekeepers who have less than 20 hives, to better define how much honey is extracted per hive by county and by region. The survey will also consider other income and expenses that apply to land value. If you would be interested in learning more or be willing to participate, please email us at tx.bee.ag@gmail.com.



The Brantley Column

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

June will be the start of honey extraction for most East Texas beekeepers. If you have strong hives and large amounts of Privet Hedge blooming nearby, you may have collected honey from the privet. According to the Beekeepers Bible, the most undesirable honey is – you guessed it—Privet Hedge honey. I was surprised. The Privet honey I have tasted was good. I would have thought the strong and bitter honey from Buckwheat or Goldenrod would have been listed as the most undesirable.

In planning for your honey extraction, make sure the frames are 80-90 per cent capped before you extract the honey from them. Uncapped cells of honey will have moisture content at levels that will cause the honey to ferment in storage. Moisture content of 23 % or above will cause honey to ferment. Bees circulate air over the cells causing the moisture in the honey to evaporate. They will not cap cells of honey until they have reduced the moisture content to the 17-18% level. Properly capped honey is safe to extract and store indefinitely.

If your frames are not almost completely capped and you just can't wait, you can use the "shake test" to determine if it is OK to extract. Hold the frame by each end bar, with the top bar pointing down. Give the frame a couple of hard downward shakes. If the honey "rains" out when you give the hard shake, it is too wet and should not be extracted. Place it back in the hive and let the bees continue to reduce the water content. If no honey shakes out, it is generally safe to extract and bottle.

Many bee club members do not own an extractor. One of the perks of ETBA membership is the invitation to use Dick Counts' honey house to extract your honey. Dick schedules "Extraction Days" where you show up at the appointed time with your frames and extract at his facilities using his large radial extractor. Radial extractors are designed to remove honey from both sides of the frame at the same time. They are quick, effective and can be rather expensive.

Many hobbyist beekeepers have their own smaller extractor, often a hand-cranked two- or four-frame Tangential Extractor. Tangential extractors are smaller and much more affordable but extract only one side of the frame at a time. Remember to load a

tangential extractor so the bottom bar leads into the direction of the spin. Why does it matter? When bees build comb, the cells are tilted about 13 degrees toward the top bar. Think of it as a slight upward tilt to keep the nectar from spilling out of the cell. In the tangential extractor, if your frames lead with the bottom bar, you are spinning the honey out of downward-tilted cells.

Nucs can be started in June but will need to be fed in order to produce enough bees and comb to thrive. If you are going to let them raise their own queens, you need to be aware of the availability of drones. This late in the season, hives will not be producing as many drones. In order to be properly mated, the virgin queen will need enough drones in the area to join her mating flight. Studies now indicate that a queen can mate with up to 40 drones during the mating flight. Check the hives in the immediate area to see if there is a good population of drones available. What you see in your hives is a reasonable representation of other hives in your area. If you see at minimum around a 100 drones per hive, there are probably enough drones in the area to mate your virgin queen. If you see very few drones in the hives, the probability of successful mating is reduced. You may need to consider trying to obtain a mated queen to install in your Nuc.

The Texas Beekeepers Association Summer Clinic is Saturday, June 18 in Conroe, Texas. Over 600 people attended last year's Summer Clinic. This year's featured speaker is Ross Conrad. Ross is a monthly contributor to the American Bee Journal and author of books and articles on beekeeping, including "Natural Beekeeping: Organic Approaches to Modern Apiculture". There will also be numerous breakout sessions covering a variety of beekeeping issues. Some of the interesting breakout topics include Splits for Beginners, Honey Bee Nutrition and Feeding Basics, Queen Finding and Rearing Techniques, and Effect of In-Hive Miticides on Queens. Come and join us, we will be inside an air conditioned facility! For more information and registration forms, see the TBA website: <http://texasbeekeepers.org/summer-clinic-2016/>

For so work the honey bees, creatures that by a rule in nature teach the act of order
to a peopled kingdom.

William Shakespeare

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Taking Proper Care of Your Queens!

from Robin Young, Metro Beekeepers Association



For the past 3 years we have been purchasing packaged bees with a queen in order to grow our apiaries faster to meet demand. We have learned much from purchasing and placing over 85 packaged beehives in this way. Here are a few ways queens have died and ways to avoid losing them before the hive is established:



- 1) Always check to be sure your queen is alive in her queen cage before hanging her in the hive. If she is dead contact the seller ASAP, or even better take a picture with your phone and send it straight to them. If done within 24 hours of purchase, most sellers will replace them for free. If you got them in the mail, I put 1 DROP of sugar water on the screen so they can have a drink. You must be very careful not to drown them. Honey bees breath through little tubes in their body called trachea.



- 2) Double check the fondant (white sugar substance) at the bottom of the queen cage to be sure there is a full circle of it blocking the bottom entrance. I have checked back on the queen several days later only to find her dead because the worker bees got to her and killed her before they had bonded to her. If there is not enough fondant don't worry just leave the bottom cork in and come back in 3 days and remove the cork.
- 3) When installing packaged bees I try to have a piece of empty comb from another hive that I have kept stored in my deep freezer for at least a week. The deep freezer can kill many possible contaminants that might damage the new hive. Having the empty honey comb helps a new hive smell like home for the bees. Also, it gives the hive a huge head start. When comparing hives that had the comb to start out with and those that did not, I found that the hives with comb were twice as big by the end of the year as to those that did not. If you don't have any beeswax comb you can take a chunk of bees wax and rub in against the hive walls to get a new hive smelling like home.



- 4) After 5 days, if the queen has not been released by the worker bees you will need to release her. To do this, I place my thumb over the location of circle that the fondant is in. I use a flat head screwdriver to remove the bottom staple. This allows me to keep the cage closed with my thumb over the screen, and keeps me from injuring the queen by working out the staple. I then put the cage low and close to the bottom of the hive. With my other hand I pull back the screen and let the queen climb onto nearby comb.



I find myself holding my breath when doing this because once one queen almost got away.



Needless to say, don't get distracted taking pictures while releasing the queen. I managed to brush this one back in to the hive just in the nick of time.



Now that you have your queen safe in her new home it's time to take care of the queen in your home.

This is the perfect fun recipe for your dry skin. Till next time Bee Friends, keep an eye on those queens.

Basic Lotion Bar

Ingredients:

3 ounces beeswax
2 ounces cocoa butter
3 ounces sweet almond oil

Melt and mix all ingredients thoroughly on low heat. (I stir continuously with a new unused wooded kabob square.) When everything is melted together I pour the mixture into molds.



I sell two sizes, a \$3 and \$6. You can find the paper doily for pennies at Hobby Lobby and the black cup with a clear domed lid at ACE-Mart restaurant supply. They are fun and lovely eye catchers for your high end customer.



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

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

Howdy, TBA members! If you are in Central Texas, you have probably been swamped with constant rain and mild temperatures in the last two months, correct? That has been the case for us here in College Station... at first we were glad to see some moisture in early Spring... but then the hard rains came down upon us and have not stopped! So the moist soil turned into swampy, inundated land and flowers without much nectar to offer the bees. For us, this means that the swarming season was either delayed or totally curtailed by the rain, and thus some of our experiments with queens and drones have not gone as productively as we had hoped. Things are looking up now toward the end of May, so we remain hopeful that we will still get some mating before it's too late. Anyway, if you have had similar issues with poorly mated queens, or virgins that did not survive and/or did not mate, let me know, I'd love to hear about your situation! And trust me, you are not alone!

Anyway, but enough complaining about the weather. Let's go for some cool updates. We were lucky enough to line up Sue Cobey again this year to hold the 2nd Annual "Art of Queen Rearing" workshop at our research apiary, which took place on Saturday, 7 May 2016. Over 50 participants received a goodie bag with queen rearing supplies, and a binder with printouts from all materials covered in the sections, and a full day with classroom and hands-on classes on queen and drone rearing and biology. We covered lectures on queen rearing, queen handling, queen banks, queen nutrition, drone reproductive biology, commercial queen rearing, grafting and more. The event received rave reviews and participants were really thrilled to have Sue and the entire Rangel Lab instructing folks on the challenges and wonders of rearing local queens and drones!

We moved right along after the meeting by hosting our collaborator Dr. Alexander (Sasha) Mikheyev, Associate Professor in the Unit of Ecology and Evolution of the Okinawa Institute for Science and Technology in Okinawa, Japan. Sasha was here from 8 to 24 May, working along with myself and our staff on multiple collaborative projects that focus on the genetics of feral Africanized honey bees. He also gave a special seminar in our department titled "Evolutionary response by a wild honey bees to Varroa" that was incredibly interesting. Part of his stay involved a one-week field trip to the Welder Wildlife Refuge near Sinton, TX, where we sampled 115 trees in a 5 Km² area looking for active feral honey bee colonies. We found a total of 35 colonies and sampled bees from them for our genetic studies. Our crew of 8 enjoyed the bonding experience while combatting mosquitoes, rain, humidity, and of course, bee stings! The trip was a complete success, and we expect Sasha to lead in the writing of a couple of

very interesting scientific articles regarding the ecology of feral honey bees in Texas!

On 7-29 June 2016 I will be instructor of the TAMU Study Abroad Course of Tropical Conservation Biology in the Caribbean Island of Dominica, West Indies. This intensive course allows students to get first-hand experience on conducting independent and group research while learning about the natural history of this wonderful island. Unfortunately because of this teaching commitment I will not be able to attend the TBA Summer Clinic this year, and neither will Adrian Fisher, as he is our course TA. But some of our staff will represent the lab and will be present at the clinic. Have a successful event, I can't wait to hear how it goes!

Finally I want to let you know that on 2 May I presented my midterm review seminar titled "Factors that affect the health of honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) colonies in Texas and beyond." I had to present all the work that myself and our staff have been doing in the last three years since I started my position as Assistant Professor of Apiculture at Texas A&M University. I received great reviews afterwards and I am confident about the abilities and talents of our research group, which will allow us to move forward serving the beekeeping community in Texas and the U.S., as well as the honey bee scientific community at large. Thank you very much for all the help you have provided me and our staff for the last three years, and let's hope for many more exciting collaborations in the years to come!

That is all for now folks! If you have any questions, it is best for you to email me at jrangel@tamu.edu, as my schedule is very variable and I am often out of my office and away from my phone. For the most up-to-date information regarding Rangel Lab news and activities, and interesting research that comes out of our lab and from others around the world, please visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/TAMUhoneebeeelab>. Thank you all for your continuing support, and we hope to see you in Brenham or at our queen rearing workshop!

Happy Spring and prosperous beekeeping!





Participants of the 2nd annual "Art of Queen Rearing" workshop with Sue Cobey and Rangel Lab staff. The event took place at the Janice and John G. Thomas Honey Bee Facility.

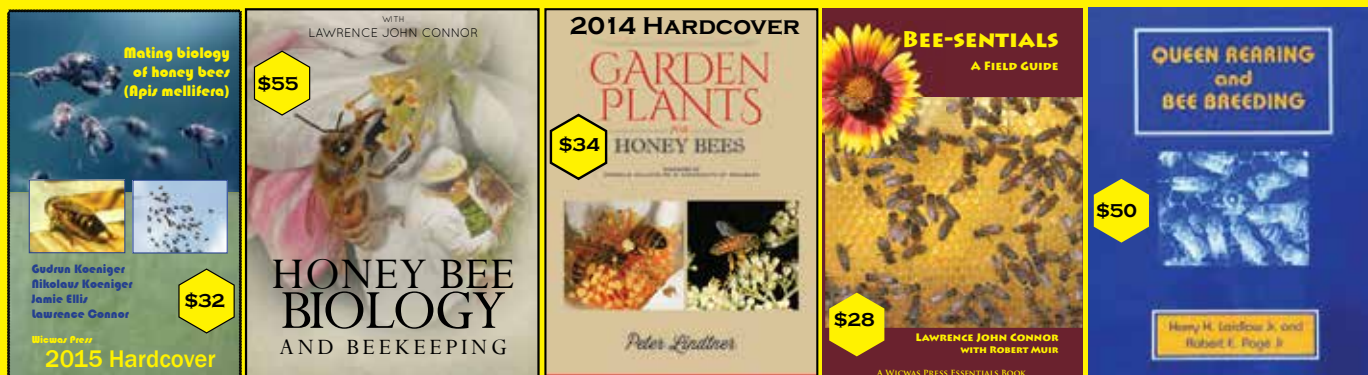


Sue Cobey inseminating honey bee queens. We used a state-of-the-art video capture equipment that allowed for people to observe on a large screen while Sue manipulated the bees.



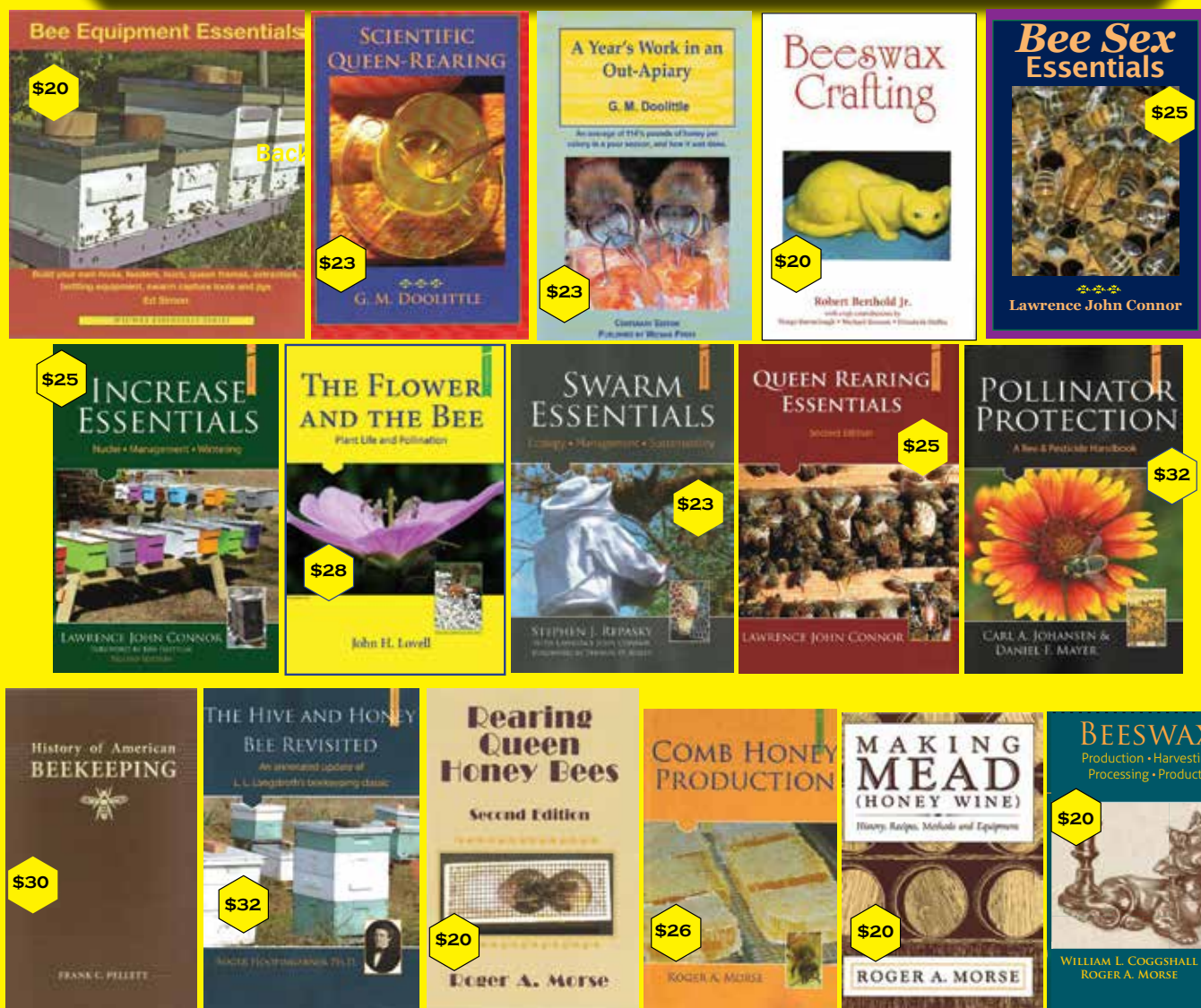
From Left to Right: Pierre Lau, Alex Paine, Dr Rangel, Max the dog, Juan Varela, Adrian Fisher, James Tracey and Sasha Mikhayev, during our feral honey bee collection trip to the Welder Wildlife Refuge near Sinton, TX.





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Texas Beekeeper Association's Club "Buzz"

from Chari Elam, Communications Coordinator

It's that time of year again! Time for the **2016 TBA Summer Clinic (June 18th 2016)**! Last year was such a huge success with over 500 in attendance; the TBA chose to hold

it once again in Conroe. An added bonus from last year... Air Conditioning! The Lone Star Convention and Expo Center, located at 9055 Airport Rd. Conroe, TX 77303 www.thelonestar.org is a top rated facility hosting many 5 star events. It has 56,000 square feet of classrooms, general assembly and vendor/exhibitor space. They are prepared for a full house!

The **Montgomery County Beekeepers Association** is more than thrilled to be the host club for the 2nd year in a row! With a membership exceeding 200 families, they sure have the man/woman power to pull it off!

Doug Stanley, MoCo President is confident his group is up for the task. "We have over 50 club members volunteering as well as spear heading some of the major impact components of the event", says Doug. "I have the honor of being escort to our esteemed guest speaker, Ross Conrad. I'm picking him up from the airport and plan on showing him how Texans treat our guest! He'll have a choice of great seafood or the best Mexican food anywhere! This Clinic assembled by the TBA will be one of the best Texas has put together, and we are excited to be a part. From the world class keynote speaker, Ross Conrad, to all of the pros in the industry speaking on each of their specialties... large scale commercial operators, to the Texas Apiary Inspection Service staff, members of the TBA Board, to numerous experts at the Texas A&M Honey Bee Lab. How can MoCo not be proud to be a part of that group!" Doug exclaimed.

1st Vice President, Michelle Gasaway is over the TBA Member Clubs promotional tables. "Each TBA member club

is invited to have a table with club information, banners and beekeeping literature. This will be a benefit to every club to promote themselves to the state." said Michelle. "With such a huge audience and so many new beekeepers needing information on bee clubs, it'll be a great resource for them! We currently have 4 clubs signed up for tables. One club is even doing a drawing to give away 2 Nuc boxes!" says Michelle. Any clubs still interested in having a promotional table FREE of charge can contact her at mocobees1stvicepresident@gmail.com or show up early the morning of the event (June 18th) and find Michelle Gasaway, she'll be proud to get you fixed up!

Phyllis Martin (MoCo 2nd Vice President) is heading up the Vendor/Exhibitors for this year's Summer Clinic. "With so many beekeepers in one location it's a prime opportunity for suppliers and exhibitors to sell and promote the latest and greatest in the Beekeeping Industry" Phyllis said. "I have close to 20 Vendors and Exhibitors committed to attend. Large Beekeeping Suppliers like Dadant & Son's, Mann Lake and Bluebonnet Beekeeping Supplies (a Kelley & Pigeon Mountain Dealer) are included... Bees Wax companies, honey extraction companies, jewelry as well as Native American Seed!" says Phyllis. Anyone wanting a booth space contact Phyllis Martin at pmartin353@yahoo.com right away so she can fit you in!

Those who attended last year can attest to the streamline lunch service. Over 500 folks were served in less than 20 minutes. That just doesn't happen every day! MoCo Past President Anita Stepp and her awesome group of volunteers were the reason! She is at the helm again this year and plans to repeat the same service. Once again the lunch will include BBQ and sides, with ice tea, water and dessert! Oh and a morning treat ... Hot Coffee!

Montgomery County Beekeepers Association has devoted countless hours helping Lisa Dittfurth and the TBA Summer Clinic Planning Committee make this year's Summer Clinic one that everyone will walk away from having learned a lot and had a great time doing it!

**The happiness of the bee and the dolphin
is to exist. For man it is to know that and
to wonder at it.**

Jacques Yves Cousteau

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Cross Comb in the Top Bar Hive

from Micheal Mathews, Fayette County Beekeepers



The Sunday after the Central Texas Beekeeper's annual bee school promised rain, something that would limit our time in the bee yard that week. The school had been a good opportunity to visit with other beekeepers and catch up with people we had not seen for some time. One of those beekeepers had once mentioned that top bar owners seemed to enjoy working bees for the sake of working bees. I cannot claim that we enjoy working our bees any more than other beekeepers, but I can say we certainly do enjoy the time and techniques needed to keep top bar hives. Missing that Sunday in the bee yard meant that we would be missing more than just a day with our bees, it would mean be coming back to a problem the following week.

All bees will cross comb given the time and in a top bar hive without a frame and foundation they will cross comb almost as readily as they will follow the guide on the bar. We have found that our bees will begin cross comb within a week and leaving them on their own for more than two weeks is asking for trouble. Cross combing is natural for bees because it makes for a stronger and more stable comb structure. Along with cross combing, bees will also anchor comb to the sides of the hive. When left with too much space between bars, bees will naturally build burr comb to take advantage of whatever small space may be available. The solution to these problems is to pay attention to bee space and to keep moving the bars.

Bees will build relatively straight brood comb with a little help from the beekeeper. When a colony is first establishing itself in a hive we will allow them a few days to start building out comb

before we inspect the hive. During inspections any cross combing is quickly cut away and any new comb that is straight on the guide is left in the hive. As the bees build out new bars we shift each bar's position so that newer, smaller comb is between full size comb on nearby bars. This takes a lot of attention in early weeks, but once the comb is established the task is not too difficult. The photo below shows a bar with new comb placed next to a full bar to encourage the bees to build straight. Note that the full bar has been attached to the sides.

During the summer, working with the wider, more irregular honeycomb is more of a problem. Despite our best efforts to control the size and shape of honeycomb on the bars we always end up with the bars that are wider at the top than at the bottom and burr comb forming to fill the additional space. Any bar we find with burr comb or that has been attached to the sides of the hive is placed in a stand and trimmed with a knife. Then the order of the bars is changed to encourage a straight build out of comb.



Small Comb



Stand

Later in the summer, as the bees build out their winter stores, we reduce the frequency of inspections. By the end of the season we become more tolerant of honeycomb that is not perfectly straight or may be cross combed with another bar. As long as we can remove single bars, or at most, two bars together for inspection, we will leave the bars in order and not take the bees' winter stores. Out of shape comb will be removed and processed into beeswax the following spring.



To control bee space we use shims of various sizes. Many experienced top bar beekeepers use one size bar for brood comb and wider bar for honeycomb and try to limit the use of shims. This is a practical method when the bee keeper can work the hives frequently. We have embraced shims and use them in conjunction with a single bar size to control bee space regardless of the type of comb we are working. Early on shims are fussy, but once the bees have sealed them to the bar with propolis they become much easier to handle. I will admit that shims are not always the best solution for working with bad comb, but for those beekeepers who may not be able to inspect on a regular basis, it is a good alternative to leaving the bees alone to build irregular comb.



Shims

In our bee yard, the key to controlling comb has been to use a combination of techniques and consistent inspections. Most of these ideas discussed above have been in use long before we started keeping bees and are likely familiar to many experienced top bar beekeepers. My thanks to those authors and individuals who have shared their techniques with us. I would like to encourage new top bar beekeepers to read, experiment and discuss their experiences with other top bar beekeepers. One good community resource is the Facebook group Top Bar Beekeepers that includes a number of experienced TBA members as participants.



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2016 Texas Honey Queen Hope Pettibon

Propolis - Bee Glue

It has been fun sharing about the different products of the hive with you this year. We have talked about bees wax and honey, and now I would like to share with you some information about propolis. I have enjoyed learning about propolis and what we can use it for, and how the bees use and gather this amazing substance.

Propolis is a gum-like material that comes from trees. The honey bees find propolis mostly in the blossoms of cone trees, or from sap flows. The honey bees gather the propolis from the buds, mix it with a little bees wax and pollen, and store it in their pollen baskets located on their back legs. When they get back to their hive, they then place the propolis on any rough areas, holes, or cracks, and around the inner cover to seal it down so that no insects can get into their hive and to help keep out the weather. It also helps keep their hive clean. Propolis works similar to an all-purpose cleaner and is very antibacterial. The name propolis comes from the Greek meaning "defense of the city." One thing I did not know about propolis is that it comes in many different colors such as green, red, black and white.

Propolis has been used for many years by humans. The Egyptians, Greeks, and Assyrians would use it for mummifying abscesses, wounds and tumors all the way back to 350 B.C. One of the reasons behind propolis' popularity is that it's thought to have antibacterial, antiviral, antifungal, and anti-inflammatory properties. Many people will make it into a tincture to help with cancers, colds, flu, burns, cuts, and inflammation. Some people would put propolis right on their skin to speed up the healing process of wounds or cuts. Propolis has also been used to make gum and is called propolis gum.

Propolis is a lot like glue and is sticky, so when we try to make it into a tincture, we have to work hard to make it do what we want. But, it works great and is worth the effort at the end. So to get propolis from your bee hive to your home, here is a recipe to use for making a propolis tincture:

<https://beepothecary.wordpress.com/2013/04/17/how-we-make-propolis-oil-and-tincture/comment-page-1/>

Propolis Infused Oil

- .3 oz. or 10 grams propolis (about 1 TBS)
- 6.7 fl oz. or 200 ml olive oil (any healthy vegetable oil is okay to use)
- (We made a big batch, so we used 2.25 oz. (7 1/2 TBS) raw propolis and 50 fl. oz. olive oil)

Heated Method

Mix the propolis and olive oil together in the top of a double boiler. (Small sauce pot in a larger pot partly filled with water). This helps control the temperature of the oil, which you do not want to get too hot because this would destroy the beneficial properties of the propolis. Use a candy thermometer to monitor the temperature and heat the oil to no higher than 122 degrees F. Stir and heat for about 10 minutes. (Or longer if you wish). The propolis will not all dissolve.

Strain this mixture through cheesecloth (coarser, goes faster, but might require a second straining) or a paper coffee filter (finer, goes slower, but you end up with a cleaner oil). The propolis that remains in the filter can be used again to make more oil! (Freeze it for another time). Store it in a sealed jar in a dark place.

2 Week Unheated Method

Mix the same quantities/ratio of oil and propolis as above in a container with a sealing lid. We use canning jars. Shake up and store in a dark place. Shake 2-3 times a day, for 2 weeks. Then proceed as above, to strain.

A great tip to know is that propolis dissolves better in alcohol. I hope that this was helpful and that you have as much fun as I did learning about propolis. It's great to be able to use one more thing that this amazing insect, the honey bee, gives to us.

TBA Calender for 2016 - Keep These Dates Free

Summer Clinic June 18th The Lone Star Convention & Expo Center
Annual Conference November 3rd - 5th Bell County Expo Center



*Hope Pettibon with WCABA Honey Princess,
Elise Gardner at the Lady Bird Johnson
Wildflower Center*



*Hope Pettibon and Elise Gardner at the State
Capitol*



Montgomery County Fair



Alamo Area Beekeepers Association Meeting



Hope at the Montgomery County Fair

2016 Texas Honey Princess Willow Lanchester

Honey bees are so incredibly important to humans agriculturally, economically, and some might argue spiritually, but they are also important to us artistically. As awareness about honey bees has spread and they have become a larger part in mainstream culture, bees have become a major theme in art. More and more artists are choosing bees as a subject or are using themes of bees in their work, even if it is just subliminal.

But including bees in art is not a new notion. Bees have been a major theme since ancient times. For instance, what I want to share with you today is encaustic painting. Encaustic is a technique that uses melted and pigmented beeswax to paint. This method is not new by any stretch of the imagination. In fact, it has been around for thousands of years. Thousands of years ago, honey bees provided a medium for an enduring art form that has resurfaced in modern times.

Encaustic painting originated in ancient Greece and the word encaustic comes from the Greek word Enkaustikos, meaning to “burn in”. None of the original Greek encaustic works have survived to this day due to wars and natural disasters. In fact, all of our knowledge of Greek encaustic work comes from ancient Greek manuscripts describing the process and its applications. According to their accounts, encaustic was used in three main ways, waterproofing boats, painting, and coating statues. The literature shows that the Greeks mixed beeswax with resin to seal and waterproof their ships. They also eventually began adding pigment to the beeswax to decorate their warships. This led to painting murals and smaller paintings on smaller wooden boards with this new method. Encaustic was more difficult to work with in their time than other techniques, but would often yield a better product because the painting would not be damaged by humidity. They also used their encaustic medium to add color to their statues while simultaneously providing a protective layer that would prevent the statues from chipping [1]. Encaustic painting continued to develop and eventually spread to other cultures.

Between 100 and 400 A.D. encaustic painting spread to Egypt as the Fayum mummy portraits. These relics were found around the Fayum basin in Egypt, west of the Nile [2]. These portraits were the result of a blending of cultures. Encaustic painting was brought to Egypt during the Greco-Roman occupation, when the Roman Empire overthrew the last Pharaoh, Cleopatra and annexed the kingdom of Egypt. When Greek artists were attempting to blend Greek art with the Egyptian tradition of mummification, the mummy portraits were born. In place of the Egyptian funerary mask those in the Greek community would commission encaustic portraits of their deceased loved ones to be affixed to the sarcophagus. These portraits are extremely lifelike

and some of them look as if they could have been painted yesterday. After this, encaustic painting fell out of favor because of its difficulty and only a select few byzantine icons used encaustic in the years that followed.

Encaustic painting met a major resurgence in the 20th century. It is interesting that such an ancient form of art would become popular once again in modern times. This was largely because working with the melted beeswax became a much easier task, as a result of modern tools and technology. As encaustic has become easier to work with, it has become increasingly popular with contemporary artists. In recent years encaustic has gained so much traction that the IEA was formed. The IEA stands for International Encaustic Artists, and they are a global organization that brings artists together from all over the world, including chapters in San Antonio and Austin. The IEA provides a global community filled with resources and opportunities. They also support the growth of artists at all stages of their careers, whether they are still in school and just getting started or if they have been working in encaustic for twenty plus years. They do this by providing grants that go toward supporting the artist in the completion of their body of work, and preparing for and exhibition, and, or installation of their work [3]. This is yet again another example of how bees bring people together from all over the world.

Honey bees have provided us with food, income, and art for thousands of years. Bees are everywhere you look, in ancient times, in modern times, and this might be especially true for beekeepers because we are actually looking for them. Personally for me, both art and bees are a huge part of my life and studying these works has shown me how bees will draw such an incredible creative side out of people. I personally would give anything to see the original Greek artworks and their painted warships. I actually was able to see some of the Fayum mummy portraits in person. It left me speechless, it was absolutely awe-inspiring to see these works from feet away. It has been fascinating to me observing the various beekeepers associations this year and how beekeeping has brought all of these people together, and to see it yet again in art was amazing. It really goes to show that honey bees really are remarkable.



[1] <http://uncw.edu/csurf/Explorations/documents/gallagerkristen.pdf>

[2] <http://www.visual-arts-cork.com/painting/encaustic.htm#fayum>

[3] <https://iea.wildapricot.org/>



Willow presenting to the Tyler Junior College Art Club



North Elementary Presentation



Tyler Junior College Art Club



Hillsboro Farmers Market



Derrick White, Tyler Junior College Art Department Chair, modeling the Veil



Texas Honey Queen Chair Rachael Seida

Reaching your Local Community! Part 4: What Can a Honey Queen or Princess Do?

Hello everyone!
We would love to come to an event in your area this year.

Not sure what to invite us out for? For the next several articles I am going to do a series on reaching your local community and setting up events. This article is going to focus on the different types of promotions that a Honey Queen/Princess does on a regular basis. Keep in mind: they do a LOT more types of events, but these are the most common.

- **Bee Talks:** Typically a 30 minute (20 mins + Q&A) presentation about the Queen/Drone/Worker, Honey and Pollination, and being a beekeeper. These talks are often used for schools and civic groups and are modified based on the age/demographics and size of the group.
- **Booth Work:** This style of presentation is more than just sitting in a booth, it is reaching out to the people passing by and encouraging them to come over and "see the bees". And when they step up to the booth, offering them information about bees and what they are seeing in the observation hive (not just waiting for them to ask questions).
- **Cooking Demos:** Usually presented to civic groups or at fairs/festivals. This is a chance for the Honey Queen/Princess to show the audience different ways to use honey, while sprinkling in different

facts about honey bees, like: "Did you know that almost 1/3 of your food comes from honey bees?"

- **Media Interviews:** the Honey Queen/Princess is a spokesperson for our industry. They are given specialized training to help be able to deliver the messages that we want the public to know, such as "Did you know that honey never spoils?" This is especially important in interviews and thousands of people may see the article/video clip and we want to leave a lasting impression on them.
- **Specialty Talk:** Honey Queen/Princesses can speak on many different topics, some Queens and Princesses have specialized abilities or interests (Scientific knowledge, able to present in a different language, honey bees in Art or History). Here are some of the standard Specialty topics:
 - o Products of the Hive (beeswax, pollen, etc.)
 - o Honey and it's uses
 - o Basic Beekeeping (Beekeeping 101 and 201)
 - o Starting a Honey Queen or Scholarship Program
 - o Honey bees and Plants

That's all for this time! As always, if you would like to schedule the Texas Honey Queen or Princess, email me at texas-honeyqueenchair@gmail.com.

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Keeping the Bees at Home

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



Our early spring queen rearing was successful, and we created four new colonies from splits. We've also been busy handling some of the many swarms in our area, averaging three per week. We've also sold several nucleus hives to beginning beekeepers and mentored them through the first two hive inspections. Our apiary is strong, and we should reach our goal of six strong hives to go into winter. We may even make some honey to sell or give away to our neighbors and friends!



Lavender

Roger studied for and successfully passed the Advanced Level exam for the Texas Master Beekeeper Program. He will now begin work to achieve the Master Level next April. He had to choose a "major" to focus his future learning and expertise; he has chosen to focus on "pollination ecology and bee botany." In light of this focus, we wanted to talk, in this article, about the plants we keep in our garden that keep our girls closer to home.

The maturing of our acreage

Most of us are aware that honey bees will forage up to two mile radius around their hives. (In very bad conditions they can go up to six miles to find forage, but that is where the energy expended equals the energy contained in the foraged nectar.) However, if the bees can find good sources of pollen and nectar closer to home, they will frequent those sources first; bees are opportunists.

The logic then goes that if the bees find food closer to home, they can make many more shopping trips per day and store more resources faster than if they had to travel miles away. Therefore, the more bee-friendly plants we can put on our 6.4 acres, the better. (Our 6.4 acres is equivalent to a foraging circle 0.06 miles

in diameter!) We can keep more colonies in our fixed apiary and not need to expand to other apiaries. Yes, we understand the bees will forage much further away than our property lines!

Many of you have followed our beekeeping and master



Blackberry

gardening journeys over the last two years as chronicled in this column. You might be aware that we have systematically worked and improved our Northeast Texas property to be more bee-friendly.

To review, over the last four years, we've planted:

- one acre of wildflowers under our power line easement,
- our two-acre "front lawn" in crimson clover,
- 50 fruit and nut trees, including almonds,
- 40 thorn-less blackberry vines,
- 15 raspberry vines (alas, they do have thorns),
- 30 blueberry bushes, and
- approximately 100 different flowering, bee-friendly, plants and trees in the various beds around our house.

We have begun to see the payoff of our planting labor! In late-April many things were in bloom. As the spring progressed many other flowers bloomed to provide continued bee forage. Of course, the real test will be whether we have enough July and August forage to alleviate some of the nectar drought we usually experience. Roger took all of the pictures in this article during April and May to demonstrate the variety of bee forage currently available on our property.

We enjoy and work in our gardens almost every day, and we see many honey bees, solitary bees, and other pollinators at work. We've also experienced the fruit, literally, of our efforts in increased yields on our fruit trees and especially on our blue- and



Mexican Sage



Wildflower - Aster

black-berry bushes. They are loaded and straining at the wires on our trellis system. June will be a fun month to harvest those berries!

We're also looking forward to a great honey harvest. The bees began capping honey in late April, and we are adding supers weekly. Last spring's rain resulted in little capped honey and lots of uncapped ripening nectar, so our 2015 honey harvest was pitiful. This year, we expect to fulfill the promises we made to our friends on a waiting list for "local" honey.

Our next project is to sow White Dutch clover seed in our pecan orchard in the fall. The White Dutch clover will bloom after the crimson clover and will stay four to six inches high so will require very little mowing. The White Dutch is a great nectar plant for bees, blooming in May and June, as they go into the summer dearth in July and August.



Holly Tree



Crimson Clover

Yes, we like our honey bees, and we're working hard to provide them great resources. As hobby beekeepers, we're seeing our efforts pay many benefits. What are you doing to keep your honey bees near their hives and productive? Also, what are you reading or learning that will help you to become a better beekeeper? Sue is enjoying an extending grandmother duty out of state, so Roger is the temporary sole beekeeper. He just finished reading

Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping, third edition, by Caron and Connor, and he recommends it highly. The new edition has color photos and is worth the investment. Keep learning, reading, and resourcing!

We'll be at the TBA summer clinic in June and hope to see you there!

As always, we enjoy hearing from you about your beekeeping exploits.

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



Mexican Blanket

Chinese Honey Illegally Imported, Again, Labeled as from Vietnam

from Catch The Buzz, by Alan Harman

Federal agents in Chicago seized nearly 60 tons of illegally imported Chinese honey valued at more than \$200,000.

The 195 barrels of bulk honey found in three shipping container were falsely declared as originating from Vietnam to evade anti-dumping duties applicable to Chinese-origin honey.

Special agents with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) acted after being told of the suspect honey by a domestic honey packer located in the Midwest.

Laboratory reports provided to the honey packer appeared fraudulently altered. HSI sent honey samples to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) laboratory in Savannah, Georgia, for analysis.

CBP determined that the honey had a greater than 99% probability match with Chinese-origin honey.

HSI, which seized the illicit honey April 28, says the domestic honey packer who notified HSI of the suspect honey and the private laboratory whose reports were fraudulently altered are fully cooperating and are not targets in this investigation.

The investigation continues to determine where in the supply chain the private laboratory reports were altered for the honey.

"Ensuring a safe food supply is a crucial component of border security," says James M. Gibbons, acting special agent in charge of HSI Chicago.

"HSI and our law enforcement partners are committed to protecting the domestic honey market and U.S. consumers by aggressively investigating deceptive and illicit import schemes."

The U.S. Commerce Department imposed anti-dumping duties in 2001 after determining that Chinese-origin honey was being sold in the U.S. at less than fair-market value. The duties first imposed were as high as 221% of the declared value. Later these duties were assessed against the entered net weight, now at \$2.63 a kilogram, in addition to a honey assessment fee of 1.5¢ a pound on all honey.

In 2008, federal authorities in Chicago began investigating allegations of organizations circumventing anti-dumping duties through illegal imports, including transshipment and mislabeling, on the supply side of the honey industry.

The second phase of the investigation involved the illegal buying, processing and trading of honey that illegally entered the U.S. on the demand side of the industry.

In these multi-year investigations, HSI Chicago and the Department of Justice together convicted nine individuals (not



The barrels of Chinese bulk honey falsely declared as originating from Vietnam to evade anti-dumping duties. (ICE photo)

including 10 remaining foreign fugitives) in a series of global schemes which evaded nearly \$260 million in anti-dumping duties on honey from China and which also involved honey containing antibiotics prohibited in food.

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Williamson County Area Beekeepers Scholarship Program

Every year, WCABA awards up to six scholarships to young people who have submitted an essay, with a supporting narrative from their parents, on why they wish to keep bees. In 2016, WCABA purchase some 200+ packages from R Weaver on behalf of its members.

The picture is of 12 year old Mia Koepp, one of the WCABA Scholarship Recipients, from Leander, Texas.

This shows a frame from her hive where the queen was installed 3 weeks ago.

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Nation's Beekeepers Lost 44 Percent of Bees in 2015-16 – BIP

from Catch the Buzz

Summer losses rival winter losses for the second year running.

Beekeepers across the United States lost 44 percent of their honey bee colonies during the year spanning April 2015 to April 2016, according to the latest preliminary results of an annual nationwide survey. Rates of both winter loss and summer loss—and consequently, total annual losses—worsened compared with last year. This marks the second consecutive survey year that summer loss rates rivaled winter loss rates.

The survey, which asks both commercial and small-scale beekeepers to track the health and survival rates of their honey bee colonies, is conducted each year by the Bee Informed Partnership in collaboration with the Apiary Inspectors of America, with funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Survey results for this year and all previous years are publicly available on the Bee Informed website.

“We’re now in the second year of high rates of summer loss, which is cause for serious concern,” said Dennis vanEngelsdorp, an assistant professor of entomology at the University of Maryland and project director for the Bee Informed Partnership. “Some winter losses are normal and expected. But the fact that beekeepers are losing bees in the summer, when bees should be at their healthiest, is quite alarming.”

Beekeepers who responded to the survey lost a total of 44.1 percent of their colonies over the course of the year. This marks an increase of 3.5 percent over the previous study year (2014-15), when loss rates were found to be 40.6 percent. Winter loss rates increased from 22.3 percent in the previous winter to 28.1 percent this past winter, while summer loss rates increased from 25.3 percent to 28.1 percent.

The researchers note that many factors are contributing to colony losses. A clear culprit is the varroa mite, a lethal parasite that can easily spread between colonies. Pesticides and malnutrition caused by changing land use patterns are also likely taking a toll, especially among commercial beekeepers.

A recent study, published online in the journal *Apidologie* on April 20, 2016, provided the first multi-year assessment of honey bee parasites and disease in both commercial and backyard beekeeping operations. Among other findings (summarized in a recent University of Maryland press release), that study found that the varroa mite is far more abundant than previous estimates indicate and is closely linked to several damaging viruses.

Varroa is a particularly challenging problem among backyard

beekeepers (defined as those who manage fewer than 50 colonies).

“Many backyard beekeepers don’t have any varroa control strategies in place. We think this results in colonies collapsing and spreading mites to neighboring colonies that are otherwise well-managed for mites,” said Nathalie Steinhauer, a graduate student in the UMD Department of Entomology who leads the data collection efforts for the annual survey. “We are seeing more evidence to suggest that good beekeepers who take the right steps to control mites are losing colonies in this way, through no fault of their own.”

This is the tenth year of the winter loss survey, and the sixth year to include summer and annual losses in addition to winter loss data. More than 5,700 beekeepers from 48 states responded to this year’s survey. All told, these beekeepers are responsible for about 15 percent of the nation’s estimated 2.66 million managed honey bee colonies.

The survey is part of a larger research effort to understand why honey bee colonies are in such poor health, and what can be done to manage the situation. Some crops, such as almonds, depend entirely on honey bees for pollination. Estimates of the total economic value of honey bee pollination services range between \$10 billion and \$15 billion annually.

“The high rate of loss over the entire year means that beekeepers are working overtime to constantly replace their losses,” said Jeffery Pettis, a senior entomologist at the USDA and a co-coordinator of the survey. “These losses cost the beekeeper time and money. More importantly, the industry needs these bees to meet the growing demand for pollination services. We urgently need solutions to slow the rate of both winter and summer colony losses.”

###

This survey was conducted by the Bee Informed Partnership, which receives a majority of its funding from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) (Award No. 2011-67007-20017). The content of this article does not necessarily reflect the views of the USDA.

A summary of the 2015-2016 survey results is available upon request prior to May 10, 2016; thereafter the results will be added to previous years’ results publicly available on the Bee Informed Partnership’s website.

Join Texas Beekeepers Association
at *texasbeekeepers.org*
or contact Shirley Doggett at
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Directors -at-Large and Local Associations Served:

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Area 2	Lisa Dittfurth <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 Johnson County Beekeepers Association North East Texas Beekeepers Association Red River Beekeepers Association Trinity Valley Beekeepers Association
Area 3	Lance Wilson <i>lance@apartmentexperts.com</i> 17021 Conway Springs Court Austin, TX 78717 (512) 619-3700	Austin Area Beekeepers Association Bell/Coryell County Beekeepers Association Fayette County Beekeepers Association Heart of Texas Beekeepers Association Travis County Beekeepers Association Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association
Area 4	Leesa Hyder <i>lhyder@swbell.net</i> 82 Sandpebble Dr. The Woodlands, TX 77381 (281) 460-0344	Brazos Valley Beekeepers Association Central Texas Beekeepers Association Hill County Beekeepers Association Montgomery County Beekeepers Association Walker County Beekeepers Association
Area 5	Harrison Rogers <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
Area 6	Cameron Crane <i>cameron@cameroncrane.com</i> 2300 Belvedere Dr. Baytown, TX 77520 (409) 658-3800	East Texas Beekeepers Association Deep East Texas Beekeepers Association Liberty County Beekeepers Association Marshall Beekeepers Association Piney Woods Beekeepers Association Lamar County Beekeepers Association Wood County Beekeepers Association

Elise Gardner, WCABA Honey Princess, did an amazing job of representing the WCABA at the Garden Fair. Our table won as most outstanding because of everything she brought for display. There were almost 600 attendees and ALL of them wanted to talk with Elise about bees. She worked at the Fair from 9:00 till 2:00 in high heels! I can't tell you how happy I am that we have a Honey Princess who represents us so well.

from Ginny Stubblefield



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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

Alamo Area Beekeepers Association

Rick Fink - (210) 872-4569

president@alamobees.org

www.alamobees.org

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday on odd # months; at

Helotes Ind. Baptist Church

15335 Bandera Rd., Helotes @ 7 pm

Austin Area Beekeepers Association

Lance Wilson - (512) 619-3700

lww@ausapts.com

8701 North Mopac Expressway #150, Austin TX 78759

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

Meeting: 3rd Monday of each month

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

Bell/Coryell Beekeepers Association

Dennis Herbert - (254) 947-8633

conservation1@earthlink.net

Meetings: 3rd Thursday of each month (except Dec.)

Trinity Worship Center, 1802 MLK Dr., Copperas Cove, TX 76522 at 7pm

Brazoria County Beekeepers Association

Kenneth Nugent - (979) 922-9725

418 CR 243, Angleton, TX 77515

knugent@gmail.com

bcbba@brazoria-county-beekeepers-association.com

www.brazoria-county-beekeepers-association.com

Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month at 6:45pm;

Brazoria County Extension Office

21017 County Road 171, Angleton TX 77515

Brazos Valley Beekeepers Association

Alvin Dean - (325) 668-7753

info@bubeeks.org

www.bubeeks.org

4705 Brompton Lane, Bryan, TX 77802

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each month (except Dec.) at 7pm

First Christian Church, 900 S. Ennis St., Bryan, TX 77802

Caddo Trace Beekeepers Association

Roger Farr - (979) 436-5310

6073 Farm Road 2348, Mount Pleasant, TX 75455

rdjarr@gmail.com

Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month at 7pm

Titus County Agrilife Extension Bldg, 1708 Industrial Rd.,

Mount Pleasant, TX 75455

Central Texas Beekeepers Association

Michael Kelling - (979) 277-0411

CentralTexasBeekeepers@gmail.com

www.centraltexasbeekeepers.org

1997 Tonckawa Hills Ln - Brenham, TX 77833

Meetings: Monthly on the 4th Thursday

(except November and December) at the

Washington County Fairgrounds

Brenham @ 7 pm

Coastal Bend Beekeepers Association

Dennis Gray (361) 877-2440

CoastalBendBeekeepers@gmail.com

Meetings: First Thursday of each month at 6:30pm;

City of Corpus Garden Senior Center

5325 Greely Dr., Corpus Christi, TX 78412

Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Assn.

John J. Talbert - (214) 532-9241

john@sabinecreekhoney.com

P O Box 6 - Josephine, TX 75164

www.ccbba.org

Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month;

Collin College Conference Center, (Central Park Campus)

2200 West University Drive, McKinney, TX 75071 @ 6:30 pm

Concho Valley Beekeepers Association

Mel Williams - (325) 668-5080

honeybeemanwilliams@gmail.com

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each month Jan-Nov

Texas A&M Research and Extension Center

7887 US Hwy 87 N, San Angelo @ 7:30 pm

Deep East Texas Beekeepers Association

Ellen Reeder - (337) 499-6826

ellenswartz@sbcglobal.net

1299 Farm Road 3017, San Augustine, TX 75972

Meetings: 1st Tuesday of each month

San Augustine Chamber of Commerce Building, 611 West Columbia Street,

San Augustine, TX 75972 @ 6 pm

Denton County Beekeepers Association

Christina Beck - (940) 765-6845

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

www.dinobee.com

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of month

Glen Rose Citizens Center

209 SW Barnard St, Glen Rose, TX 76043

East Texas Beekeepers Association

Richard Counts - (903) 566-6789

dickcounts@bigplanet.com

16239 Audrey Lane - Arp, TX 75750

www.etba.info

Meetings: 1st Thursday of each month;

Whitehouse United Methodist Church,

405 West Main (Hwy 346), Whitehouse @ 6:45 pm

Erath County Beekeepers Association

James K Gray - (254) 485-3238

grayjamesk@jkgray.com

675 Turkey Ridge Road, Stephenville, TX 76401

Meetings:

Fayette County Beekeepers Association

Ron Chess - (979) 525-9254

ragdale@industryinet.com

Meetings: First Saturday of the month, Feb, April,

June, August, October and December at 5:00pm

Fayette County Agriculture Building

240 Svoboda Lane, La Grange, TX 78945

Fort Bend Beekeepers Association

1402 Band Road, Rosenberg, TX 77471

(281) 633-7029 (during office hours)

Jeff McMullan - Secretary - Treasurer

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

jeffmcmullan@comcast.net

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of each month (except

December) in the Fort Bend County

Bud O'Shieles Community Center

1330 Band Road, Rosenberg, TX 77471

Fredericksburg Beekeepers Association

Joe Bader - (830) 537-4040

joebees@gmail.com

724 Cypress Bend Dr., Boerne, TX 78006

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

Gillespie County AgriLife Extension Office

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

Local Beekeepers' Associations in Texas

Harris County Beekeepers Association

Gary Parks (713) 906-1805

gparks@geparksllaw.com

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

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

Hill County Beekeepers Association

Art Wharton (254) 221-5325

obyoutgotit@aim.com

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of the month
at Hill County Court House Annex
126 S. Covington Street, Hillsboro, TX 76645
Social at 6pm, Meeting at 7pm

Houston Beekeepers Association

Hank Hilliard - (713) 828-7247

hank.hilliard@houstonbees.club

3822 Piping Rock Lane, Houston, TX 77027

www.houstonbeekeepers.org

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each month; Bayland
Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet St.
Houston @ 7:30 pm

Johnson County Beekeepers Association

Scott Crowe, Don Russell

boatshop6@yahoo.com - jcbeekeepers.org

Meetings: Cattle Guard Cafe, 901 S Parkway Dr.
Alvarado, TX. 2nd Tuesday of each month @ 6:30 pm

Lamar County Beekeepers Association

Scott Brinker - (501) 307-5111

lamarcobra@gmail.com

Meetings: 1st Thursday of the month: Lamar County Fairgrounds
570 E Center Street, Paris, TX 75460 @ 6pm
(First Mtg April 7th 2016)

Liberty County Beekeepers Association

Cameron Crane - (409) 658-3800

info@libertycountybeekeepers.org

2300 Belevedere Dr., Baytown, TX 77520

www.libertycountybeekeepers.org

Meetings: 1st Tuesday of each month at 7pm
Business meeting at 6:30pm
Liberty Agrilife Extension Office
501 Palmer Avenue, Liberty TX

Marshall Beekeeping Association

Beth Derr - (936) 591-2399

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

Keegan Olsen, President - (682) 225-0862

keeganolson@yahoo.com

www.metrobeekeepers.net

Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month; Southside Preservation Hall,
1519 Lipscomb St., Fort Worth TX 76104

Montgomery County Beekeepers Assn.

Doug Stanley

mocobees@gmail.com

www.mocobees.com

Meetings: 3rd Monday of each month at
Montgomery County Extension Office, 9020 Airport Road,
Conroe TX @ 7 pm (NewBee at 6:30pm)

Northeast Texas Beekeepers Association

Jim Burt - (469) 371-4542

burt.b@sbcglobal.net

netbacantontexas@outlook.com

14158 Rainbow Dr., Forney, TX 75126

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

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.

Kerry Roach (940) 249-0947

kerrysbees43@gmail.com

PO Box 8445, Wichita Falls, TX 76301

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each month
(except December) Bolin Science Hall, Room 209
Midwestern St. University
Wichita Falls @ 7 pm

Travis County Beekeepers Assn.

Tanya Phillips - (512) 560-3732

info@traviscountybeekeepers.org

9874 Wier Loop Circle, Austin, TX 78736

www.traviscountybeekeepers.org

Meetings: First Monday of the month at 7pm
Zilker Botanical Garden, 2220 Barton Springs Rd., Austin, TX 78704

Trinity Valley Beekeepers Association

Bob Richie - (214) 793-1516

rgrichie@sbcglobal.net

8266 Barbaree Blvd., Dallas, TX 75228

www.tvbees.org

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of each month
(except August), Continuing Education Center,
C.C.Young Facility, 4847 West Lawther Dr.,
Dallas, TX 75214 @ 7 - 9 pm

Walker County Area Beekeepers Assn.

Mark Short - (281) 387-8124

mshort5150@yahoo.com

PO Box 9535, Huntsville, TX 77340

Meetings: Last Thursday of each month
at Walker Education Center, 1402 19th St.,
Huntsville, TX 77320 @ 7 pm

Williamson County Area Beekeepers Assn.

Jimmie Oakley - (512) 388-3630

jimmie.oakley@gmail.com - www.wcaba.org

425 Sapphire Lane, Jarrell, TX 76537

Meetings: 4th Thursday of each month
(except December) 1st United Methodist Church -
McKinney Ministry Center, 410 E University Ave.
Georgetown, TX 78626 @ 7 pm

Wood County Beekeepers Association

Mary M Smith - (903) 342-3438

woodcountybeekeepers@gmail.com

720 South Walnut St., Winnsboro, TX 75494

Meetings: First Tuesday of every month
BTH Bank, 210 South Main St., Winnsboro, TX 75494
at 6:30 pm

Texas Beekeepers Association

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