

The Texas Beekeepers Association

# Journal







*Quality that can't be beat anywhere in the industry*

**AP23®**  
Artificial Pollen 23  
**WINTER PATTIES**

WITH **HONEY-B-HEALTHY**  
**M0016040PHW**  
1 CTN - 40 PATTIES



Ask about  
Quantity Pricing!

**AP23®**  
**POLLEN SUPPLEMENT**

**M0016040PH** **M0016040**  
**AP23 PATTIES** **AP23**  
**40 LB BOX** **40 LB BAG**



**Premium  
Smokers**

**Apiguard for  
Varroa Mite  
Control**  
**M01480**



**A Complete Line of Containers**



**Tools**

**Assembled  
Starter Kit**



**M00010**

**New 2015  
Edition of  
The Hive and  
the Honey-Bee**

**A complete line of  
quality woodenware  
& foundations**

**C52201P**

**Full Line of Honey  
House Equipment**



**Little Wonder  
Hand-Extractor Kits**  
**M00396KIT - Hand**  
**M00403KIT - Power**

**Many styles from  
which to choose**

**Economy  
Vent Suit**  
**V01260(size)**  
**Suit**



**WWW.DADANT.COM**

**CHECK WITH YOUR NEAREST DADANT BRANCH FOR PRICING AND THE BEST SHIPPING RATES**

**• 1169 BONHAM STREET, PARIS, TX 75460 PH (877) 632-3268 •**

# President's Report

*from Chris Moore*

## Mosquito Spraying Babies v Bees



As of September 14th CDC has recorded 181 confirmed cases of ZICA in Texas. As of September 21st the Texas Department of Health and Human Services has reported 195 cases of the disease. None of these was contracted here in Texas from mosquitos. However mosquito bites are the primary way that the Zika virus is transmitted. The public, through politicians and health departments are pushing for better mosquito control. Therefore, mosquito control departments all over Texas are developing plans or have implemented plans to better control mosquitos.

We are all concerned about protecting our bees, but we must understand that **human lives and health take precedence**. States/ Counties/Cities must protect the public. Politicians and every health department in Texas want to protect mothers and their babies from this disease.

Befriend your local mosquito control office, take them some honey, let them know you understand that they have a job to do, but that you have beneficial honey bees that you would like to protect. Better yet, get your local beekeepers association involved. Most mosquito control departments want to work with us, but they have limited personnel to contact numerous beekeepers. Setting up a line of communications through our local clubs or social media can be effective for everyone.

If your area is controlled by truck, that's good news as they typically spray after dusk and your bees will most likely not be affected. Arial spraying done at the correct time will also not be detrimental. However some pilots prefer to spray late afternoon while the bees are flying and that's when we can have substantial losses. Ask your department about their application and schedule. If you are still concerned or have no other options, then, unfortunately, I would suggest moving your bees to a rural area not sprayed.

This is one of the many challenges we face as beekeepers.

In an effort to educate the public about Texas honey and help beekeepers market their honey. TBA is continuing to work on, and hopes to have great news soon, about our Real Texas Honey campaign to promote Real Texas Honey from Real Texas Beekeepers. I will discuss this at our November Convention in Belton and hopefully have an exciting announcement. Hope to see you there.

---

## In This Issue

President's Report.....	3
Vice President's Report.....	4
TBA Convention 2015.....	6 - 15
State Fair of Texas.....	16
Revision to By-Laws.....	17
Texas A&M Bee Lab.....	18-19
The Brantley Column.....	20
Thinking About Winter.. ..	22
New Member Club - Tyler County.....	23
Getting Ready for Winter.....	26
Williamson County Honey Judging.....	27
The Buds and the Bees.....	28-29

Do You Know This Man.....	30-31
Money and Medicine - Mosquitoes and Monsanto.....	32-33
TAIS Update.....	34
Honey Queen Report.....	36
Marshall Beekeepers.....	37
Honey Princess Report.....	39
Louisiana Beekeepers Association.....	41
My Gloves are Stiff and Icky.....	42-43
USDA is Working for Pollinators.....	46
A Look Into The Cell.....	47
Association Listing.....	48-49
Directors Listing.....	50



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



### Winter is Coming

Well it took nearly six seasons for the famous TV show “Game of Thrones” for that statement to become a reality, but for us, it will be a matter of a few months. Are you ready? Do you have your winter prep schedule in order?

About this time of year most of the peak beekeeping season tasks have concluded. You may have split hives in the spring; had hives build up; produced, extracted, and bottled honey. You tested and treated for mites in the spring and possibly late summer. However, the bees still need your attention for “winter is coming”!

September through November remain critical months for your bees. Many of the emerging bees in October and November will support your colony over the winter. Winter is the only time of year that our glorious honey bee lives beyond its normal 35 day period. Guess all that loafing around the hive keeps them from wearing themselves out searching for nectar and pollen.

You need to have 40-60 pounds of honey and pollen – collectively “stores” in your hive and a strong population of bees to carry a colony through winter. Is your collection of hives at that state? If not, start feeding, or combine weak colonies (newspaper technique works well) onto stronger ones to at least save resources. Don't forget to protect those extra frames of drawn comb with Paramoth or other methods to keep those wax moths away.

September and early October is the last chance to test and treat for mites before your bees begin to cluster in early December. Several mite treatments require 40+ days of “hive time” to do their job. Many beekeepers lose hives in early spring due to high Varroa Mite counts going into winter.

Our annual convention in Belton this year provides us an opportunity to get one of our last honey bee education injections for the year. We enjoy the opportunity to network with other beekeepers, listen to some great speakers, and even crown a new royal court for 2017. Our Thursday workshop led by Mike Palmer, his keynote address, and all of the convention speaker presentations will be fantastic. I believe we have a great program for all levels of beekeepers.

If you have an opportunity to attend the joint ABF/AHPA January convention in Galveston, it will be worth the trip. Why? Normally ABF and AHPA conventions are separate events and change venues (city/state) every year. 2017 marks one of the few times that the conventions have been combined. It is also in Texas for the first time in almost a decade. Educational tracks are available for all levels and presented by the best speakers.

Winter is coming....are you ready?

**TEXAS**  
**BEEKEEPERS**  
*RealTexasHoney.com*



# TEXAS BEE SUPPLY

Visit our Showroom outside McKinney, TX!

**FULL LINE OF ALL BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES**

**QUEENS, HIVES AND NUCS** April-September

**GRAND  
OPENING**  
JANUARY 16,  
2017

We carry a full line of competitively priced Mann Lake products! We are also offering single story hives, double deep hives, nucs, queens, and much more! We look forward to seeing you! – **Blake, Tammy & Lyndon Shook**

WE SELL  
**SYRUP AND  
SUGAR!**

COMPLETE HIVES  
WITH BEES FROM  
**\$229.00** EACH!

**SPECIAL  
PROMOTION**  
• FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY •



10 Frame 9 5/8" Unassembled  
Hive Kit with Foundation.....~~\$48.25~~  
**\$42.95**

**SPECIAL  
PROMOTION**  
• FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY •



5 Frame Nuc  
with Bees.....~~\$185.00~~ ea  
**\$175.00** ea

See more information and hours at [www.texasbeesupply.com](http://www.texasbeesupply.com)

**BOOK YOUR HIVES & QUEENS NOW!**



**TEXAS BEE SUPPLY**

**(469) 500-1473**  
[www.texasbeesupply.com](http://www.texasbeesupply.com)

14665 County Road 633  
Blue Ridge, TX 75424

## Texas Honey Queen Auction Fund Raiser

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

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

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

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

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

Texas Beekeepers Association  
Annual Convention at Bell County Expo Center  
3rd - 5th November 2016

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

Room Rate \$99  
Call before Monday October 17th

Conference from 8am Friday 4th through 5pm on Saturday 5th  
Annual Banquet Saturday 5th November 6pm - 10pm

Mike Palmer, French Hill Apiaries - all day Thursday

Texas Beekeepers Association Membership Application

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

*New / Renewal (circle one)*

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

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

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

*www.texasbeekeepers.org*

***Register for the 2016 Annual Convention.***

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

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

# Texas Beekeepers Association

## 2016 Annual Convention Program

### November 3rd - 5th

#### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD, 2016

8:00 am - 5:00 pm	Texas Master Beekeeping Program - Mark Dykes
9:15 am - 5:00 pm	Sustainable Apiary Workshop - Mike Palmer
10:00 am	Executive Committee Meeting - Chris Moore, TBA President
2:00 pm	2013 Convention Registration Opens - Shirley Doggett, Membership Coordinator
7:00 pm	Bee Buzz Social and Honey Queen Reception - Rachael Seida, Texas Honey Queen Chair

#### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH, 2016

##### MORNING

8:00 am	Opening Ceremonies Invocation Welcome to Belton - Chris Moore
8:20 am	Mark Hedley - Welcome / Intro and Bio - Mike Palmer
8:30 am	Mike Palmer - Keynote Address - The Sustainable Apiary
9:45 am	Break
10:15 am	ABF Presentation - Blake Shook
10:45 am	Bee Law Review - Mark Dykes
11:05 am	Ag Code 131 Panel Discussion / Q&A - Chris Moore, Leesa Hyder, Mark Dykes, Mark Hedley
12:00 noon	Queen's Luncheon or Lunch on Your Own

##### AFTERNOON

1:15 pm	Managing Bees in an Africanized Zone - Texas! - Lance Wilson, Master Beekeeper
2:15 pm	Honey: Care, Storage, Beneficial Ingredients, Marketing and Sales - Chris Moore, TBA President
3:00 pm	Break
3:15 pm	Honey Queen Report - Rachael Seida, Hope Pettibon, Willow Lanchester
3:45 pm	Texas A&M Honey Bee Lab Update/ Scholarship Award Recipients Liz Walsh - The effects of agrochemicals on honey bee queen behavior and physiology Pierre Lau - Palynological analysis of pollen collected by honey bees ( <i>Apis Mellifera</i> ) in developed areas in four regions of the USA Adrian Fisher - Assessing the effects of pesticides on honey bee health
5:00 pm	Dinner on your own



## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH, 2016

### EVENING

7:00 pm                      Queen's Auction  
Queen's Quiz Bowl - Rachael Seida, Honey Queen Committee Chair  
  
Light Refreshments will be served

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH, 2016

### MORNING

8:00 am                      Introduction - Chris Moore, TBA President  
Honey/ Photo Entry Close  
  
8:15 am                      Queen Rearing in the Sustainable Apiary - Mike Palmer  
  
9:15 am                      Top Bar Hives for the Backyard Beekeeper - Megan Mahoney  
  
10:00 am                      Break  
  
10:15 am                      What Every Beekeeper Should Know About Foraging - Lance Wilson  
  
11:00 am                      Chari Elam Session - Inside the TBA  
  
12:00 noon                      TBA Box Lunch Option or Lunch on your own

### AFTERNOON

1:00 pm                      How to be a Full-time Beekeeper on the side - Eddie Collins, CNC Farms  
  
2:00 pm                      Latest Developments at the Texas A&M Honey Bee Lab - Dr. Juliana Rangel  
  
3:00 pm                      Break  
  
3:15 pm                      New Varroa Resources - Mark Dykes  
  
3:45 pm - 5:00 pm                      Texas Beekeepers Association Business Meeting - Chris Moore, TBA President

### EVENING

6:30 pm                      Reception and Awards Banquet  
Dr. John G. Thomas Meritorious Service Award  
President's Award  
Jim Petty Memorial Award - Texas Beekeeper of the Year  
2017 Honey Queen Coronation  
Queen's Auction

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH, 2016

8:00 am                      Executive Committee Meeting - 2017 TBA President

## Entry Form for Honey and Photo Contest

### By Mail or at Convention

#### Competition Entry Form

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Black Jar Categories"

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

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

## 2016 Convention Registration Form

Please list attendees if you register as a Family

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

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

SHIRLEY DOGETT  
MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR  
400 COUNTY ROAD 440  
THRALL, TX 76578

\* Family Membership means members who have a family membership and up to 6 children living at the same address

# 2016 Texas Beekeepers Association Convention Registration

**Please register for the annual convention on-line at  
[www.texasbeekeepers.org/annual-convention-2016](http://www.texasbeekeepers.org/annual-convention-2016)**

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

## Registration Form for Mail Registration

	Register by Oct. 22nd	Register at Conference	Number	Total
TBA Member - Full Conference Friday 4th November and Saturday 5th November	\$80	\$100		
TBA Family Membership - Full Conference Friday 4th November and Saturday 5th November	\$130	\$150		
TBA Member - Single day (Friday or Saturday)	\$50	\$70		
Non-Member - Full Conference	\$100	\$120		
Non-Member Family - Full Conference	\$140	\$160		
Non-Member - Single Day (Friday or Saturday)	\$75	\$90		
Mike Palmer - Thursday Workshop - Single TBA Member	\$90	\$110		
Mike Palmer - Thursday Workshop - Couple TBA Member	\$150	\$170		
Mike Palmer - Thursday Workshop - Single Non-Member	\$110	\$140		
Mike Palmer - Thursday Workshop - Couple Non-Member	\$170	\$190		
Lunch Ticket for Saturday 5th November	\$10	\$12		
Queen's Luncheon - Friday 4th November	\$20	\$25		
Annual Banquet - Saturday 5th November TBA Member	\$40	\$60		
Annual Banquet - Saturday 5th November Non-Member	\$50	\$75		
<b>TOTAL</b>				





## Fall Testing for the Texas Master Beekeeper Program

**When:** Thursday, November 3rd 2016

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

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

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

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

**Building a Sustainable Apiary**  
**Growing Your Beekeeping Operation**  
**Thursday November 3rd, 2016**

For Small-Scale (Hobby) and Serious Sideline Beekeepers

MICHAEL PALMER, INSTRUCTOR

REGISTRATION \$90 PER PERSON, \$150 PER COUPLE, Includes Lunch

**PROGRAM**

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| 9:00  | REGISTRATION   |
| 9:15  | French Hill Apiaries abd the Beginnings of a Sustainable Apiary<br>Colony Management at French Hill Apiaries |
| 9:45  | Spring Management - From First Peek to Main Flow   |
| 10:30 | BREAK  |
| 11:00 | Main Flow Management - Summer?   |
| 11:30 | After the Flow - Winter?   |
| 12:00 | LUNCH  |
| 1:30  | Nucleus Colonies in My Apiary  |
| 2:45  | Raising the Queens   |
| 4:00  | Summary of the Day - Where Do You Go From Here?  |

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

*www.texasbeekeepers.org*

***Register for the 2016 Annual Convention.***

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

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

# 2016 Annual TBA Convention Honey and Photography Contest Rules

*from Znobia Wootan*

The Texas Beekeepers Association will conduct the honey and photo contest during the Annual Convention in Belton on Nov. 3-5. Judging will take place beginning Saturday morning with results presented on Saturday evening at the banquet. Our thanks go out to the participants for their hard work with the finest entries in Texas.

## **General Entry Requirements:**

1. You may register and pay by credit card or PayPal on-line at [texasbeekeepers.org](http://texasbeekeepers.org) while registering for the convention. Bring your Honey and Photo contest entry ticket(s) with your entry/entries to the registration table. Alternatively, remove (or print) the newsletter entry form below if you do not have Internet access. We accept photocopies.
2. When registering on-line, purchase one ticket per entry in the honey or photo contest. Alternatively, use one manual form for each contest entry. Only one entry per category allowed per contestant.
3. Remove identifying label or markers from entry, with the exception of the two additional containers required for a "Black Jar" entry (See Black Jar Entry Requirements)
4. Contest administrators will affix coded tabs to entries upon submission.
5. Entry deadline: At the convention contest headquarters, 8:00 am Saturday, Nov. 5, 2016. Contest Entry Fees: Honey \$5.00 per entry, Photo \$3.00 per entry.
6. Disposition of Entries: Winning entries will be retained by the Texas Beekeepers Association and sold during our fund-raising event. Owners of non-winning entries may donate their entries to the fundraiser, or retain them at the end of the competition.

## **Polished Honey Entry Requirements:**

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

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

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

## **Photo Entry Requirements:**

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

## **Contest Judging – General**

1. Contest judges will evaluate and score entries on Saturday, Nov. 5, 2016
2. Contest Committee Chairman will announce awards Saturday, November 5, at Awards Banquet.



## **On-Line Registration:**

www.texasbeekeepers.org Follow the menu path: Events; 2016 Convention; Honey and Photo Contest Entry. One ticket required per entry. Tickets are emailed directly from the website after payment / checkout.

## **HONEYJUDGING CRITERIA**

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

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

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

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

## **PHOTOGRAPYJUDGING CRITERIA**

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

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

## **AWARDS & PRESENTATIONS**

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

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

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

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



## **State Fair Honey Booth**

*from John Talbert, TBA Executive Secretary*

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

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

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

The TBA Honey Booth at the State Fair of Texas provides the best opportunity to get our story to the public. Over 1 million

consumers of the 3 million that attend the Fair pass by the booth each year according to the numbers furnished by the Texas Department of Agriculture. Exposure to each consumer costs less than 4 tenths of a cent. That is very inexpensive. Honey and bees have been the news a lot lately. This has increased the demand for honey. Help us make the Texas consumer realize that they need to purchase REAL TEXAS HONEY.

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

We have expanded our activity at the State Fair of Texas featuring honey. We have been successful in getting the Arts and Crafts division to set aside Monday October 17 for cooking with honey. We also will be represented in some of the other contests in Arts and Crafts. If the winning homemade ice cream has honey as the sweetener, there will be an extra \$50 cash award. Beeswax sculpture and encaustic painting have been added. In the photography contest, if the winning photo features a honey bee, there will be an extra \$50 cash award. There will also be a standard honey contest and the black jar contest. To win any of these contests you have to be registered thru the State Fair of Texas.

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

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

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

**Please sign up for a date!**

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

*From John Talbert  
TBA Executive Secretary*

## **Proposed ByLaws Revisions**

The Executive Committee in accordance with ByLaw Article VIII submits the following revisions for consideration and approval at the Annual Meeting of The Texas Beekeepers Association meeting in Belton Texas November 5, 2016.

### **ARTICLE VII FISCAL YEAR**

*The fiscal year of the Association shall commence on the 1st day of October  
and shall end on the 30th day of September.*

**Revised to**

*The fiscal year of the Association shall commence on the 1st day of January  
and shall end on the 31st day of December.*

**The following to be added to Article II Officers Section 4.1**

*The President shall appoint three at large members of the Association to perform an annual audit of the financial records at the end of the each fiscal year. The results and any completed or planned corrective actions required will be reported at the annual meeting.*

**These will be implemented effective in the calendar year of 2017 if approved.**

**These changes are needed to provide better and more timely reporting of the financial affairs of the Association. It currently is very difficult to properly report on the financial results due to the timing of the annual meeting and the end of the fiscal year. The addition of a mandatory audit is a reflection of the need for transparency and the additional financial controls driven by the growth of the association and the associated increased cash flow.**



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

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

Greetings TBA members!

Where did the summer go? A couple of days ago we welcomed the first official day of fall. But... if you live in Central Texas like we do, you cannot help but wonder when the 90-degree heat will subside! In any case, our bees and their parasites “know” that it’s fall, and Varroa numbers will be going up dramatically this time of year. Therefore, it is time to check for mite levels! We did so this week at the TAMU research lab. If you haven’t already done so, you should definitely assess mite levels in ALL your hives, be it with the powder sugar shake method, the alcohol or ether roll method, or the sticky board method. There will be no excuse for those of us who claim high overwintering colony mortality if we did not know mite levels in the fall and treat colonies with numbers above threshold (about 2 mites per 100 bees). I highly encourage all of you to join the Bee Informed Partnership’s new website MITE CHECK, which gives information on how to check for mites, how to report mite levels in your area, and even get mite check reminders! Visit [www.mitecheck.com](http://www.mitecheck.com) and see the latest test results from your area and across the country. Please consider joining us in this important effort to monitor varroa mite levels monthly during the management season. Thank you for being a part of MiteCheck! For more information about Varroa destructor, visit <https://www.beelab.umn.edu/bee-squad/resources-beekeepers/varroa>. *MiteCheck is a collaboration between the Bee Informed Partnership, Michigan State University, University of Minnesota and the University of Maryland, College Park.*

Now for Rangel honey bee lab updates. I have a few exciting pieces of news. The first one is that Ph. D. student Pierre Lau placed third in the oral presentation competition of the Texas A&M University Entomology Graduate Research Forum in August 2016 for his presentation “Analysis of pollen collected by honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) in developed areas.” Congratulations to Pierre!



*Pierre Lau (left) received third place at the highly competitive TAMU Entomology Graduate Research Forum in August 2016.*

Next, I would like to introduce to you the newest member of the Rangel honey bee lab: Alexandria (“Alex”) Payne. We are extremely lucky to have Alex in our laboratory, and we are looking forward to seeing her research flourish over the next few years. Feel free to say hi to Alex (as well as all our lab members) at the TBA Annual Convention in November!



*Alexandria (“Alex”) Payne just joined the Rangel Lab as a Ph. D. student to work on the ecological relationships between invasive ants and honey bees in Texas. She received the prestigious National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship and the Texas A&M University Graduate Diversity Fellowship.*

Also, our postdoctoral research associate, Dr. Alejandra Gonzalez, presented a 3-minute “flash talk” titled “How can spermatozoa remain viable for such a long time inside a honey bee queen’s spermatheca?” at the Inaugural Texas A&M Postdoctoral Research Symposium: *Reproducibility and Transparency in Scientific Discovery* on 21 September 2016.

Finally I want to report that I am this year's recipient of the *Texas A&M University College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Outstanding Award for Early Career Research*. The awards ceremony will be on 29 September (I won't attend because we'll be in Orlando), and will receive a plaque and an award letter. I am honored with this competitive award that shows the hard work that our entire lab has been undertaking in the last 3+ years!

Our lab participated at this year's Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History Butterfly Release event on 31 July 2016. During this fundraising event, where folks purchase and then release butterflies in the air while making a wish, we talked about the importance of pollinators to the general public. We had many children as well as adults of all ages participate, and our table was staffed by three members of the Texas Master Beekeeper Program. It was a blast!



*Texas Master Beekeeper program members volunteered at this year's Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History Butterfly Release event on 31 July 2016. During this fundraising event, where folks purchase and then release butterflies in the air while making a wish, we talked about the importance of pollinators to the general public.*

I encourage you to visit us during this year's TBA convention in Denton, TX. On Friday, 4 November, we will have the Texas A&M Honey Bee Lab Update / Scholarship Award Recipient presentations at 3:45pm. Liz Walsh will present "The effects of agrochemicals on honey bee queen behavior and physiology." Pierre Lau will present "Palynological analysis of pollen collected by honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) in developed areas in four regions of the United States." And Adrian Fisher will present "Assessing the effects of pesticides on honey bee health." Then on Saturday 5 November at 2:00pm I will be presenting an update on our latest happenings and research findings.

I am finishing up this report from Orlando, FL, where I am attending the USDA's National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Project Director meeting. As a recipient of a NIFA award in 2015, I am giving a report on our ongoing work regarding the effects of agrochemicals on queen and drone reproductive quality. From 25-30 September 2016 the entire



*Future Beekeepers?*

Rangel honey bee lab will convene here in Orlando to participate in the International Congress of Entomology (ICE), which, with about 7,000 participants, will be the largest gathering of entomologists ever in history! For more information on the conference's lineup, which will feature hundreds of bee-related talks, visit the website <http://ice2016orlando.org/>

That is all for now folks! If you have any questions, it is best for you to email me at [jrangel@tamu.edu](mailto: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/TAMUhoneybeelab>, which now has more than 2,300 followers!

Thank you all for your continuing support, and we'll see you at the TBA Annual Convention, where myself and most of our students will be giving a report in November!

Happy fall and prosperous beekeeping!

Sincerely yours,

Juliana Rangel





## The Brantley Column

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

October means, or at least should mean, cooler weather. According to the calendar, it should be Autumn on September 22 though we are still seeing afternoon temperatures in the 90s.

Honey that you wanted to harvest should by now be extracted and stored for later bottling. If you store it in bulk for too long, it may crystalize before you can bottle it. You may have to find a way to warm the larger containers of honey to make it flow into the bottles.

If your bottled honey has solidified, here is a trick to liquefy it. Find an insulated box or build a wooden box large enough to cover several bottles of honey. Add a 60 watt light bulb and place the lighted box over the honey container. The heat from the light bulb should make the box warm enough to liquefy the honey in a day or two. If you are using plastic containers, check frequently on the progress until you are comfortable that the heat will not build up too high and melt the plastic containers. I have actually used an insulated Omaha Steak shipping box to do this.

Late summer/early fall in East Texas has one last burst of forage plants for our Honey bees. Goldenrod, Bitterweed and Asters give the bees one last chance to store nectar and pollen for winter feed. We often mention that Goldenrod and Bitterweed produce honey that most people do not like. While it may not taste good to us, to the Honey Bee, it tastes like Honey! Leave any late-season honey in the hive for the bees to eat during the winter.

Pay attention the fall forage plants. As they begin to diminish later in the month, check the stores in your hive and determine if you need to feed sugar syrup to help the bees build sufficient winter stores. If you do not see your bees bringing in forage now, check the stores. You may need to begin feeding right away. Your goal is to have at least 8-10 frames of honey (or sugar syrup) in each hive before the winter arrives. Consider "equalizing" stores if you have some hives with an abundance of nectar and pollen and some in need. This also helps ensure the queen has room to lay in those pollen packed hives. These next few weeks are your last chance to make "fat bees" heading into the winter season. If your bees enter winter as underfed "skinny" bees, they will limp into spring even skinnier!

Check your hives for a laying queen. Ensure that she has

ample drawn comb for laying. If necessary, replace some pollen-packed comb with empty drawn comb. You can use the pollen-packed comb in hives that have fewer stores in the same manner as we talked about "equalizing" in the previous paragraph. Brood layed and hatched in the next few weeks are the bees that will sustain the hive through the winter and be ready to spring into foraging action at the first sign of next January/February's tree pollens. If you find hives without a laying queen, start searching for replacement queens immediately. They may be difficult to find at this time of the year. If you are unable to find a replacement queen, consider combining with a queen-right hive.

Now is a good time to install your entrance reducers. All flying forager's are looking for extra food to store for the winter just as are your bees. Wasps, yellow jackets and even other bees will be attracted to the honey stored in your hives. The entrance reducer helps bees defend the hive entrance from robbers by reducing the amount of area the guard bees have to protect. If you are using a commercial entrance reducer, install it so the small entrance is open. If you are using a homemade reducer or just a length of board, leave about  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch open. Entrance reducers also help prevent rats and mice from getting in the hive, particularly if your hive entrance is near the ground.

In my area around Jefferson/Marshall, we are hearing reports of softball sized swarms in the trees or on the edge of the Outer Cover. Each small swarm seems to have a wedge-shaped queen (not quite ready to start laying). Beekeepers are not having much luck getting these small swarms to stay in the hive or Nuc. They seem to stay two or three days, then disappear. Small swarms placed in a Nuc can draw a lot of hive beetles. There are just not enough bees in the small swarm to fight off the beetles. One evening around dusk, I watched the beetles begin to attack the hive. Beetles flew in and landed on the entrance. Bees would fight the beetles for a few seconds, then let it go. The beetles would then run into the hive. If you have never watched this nightly battle, try to be at your hives just before sundown. You will be amazed how many Small Hive Beetles fly in from somewhere and try to enter the hive. This battle probably goes on all night long. You can understand how the sheer number of beetles can overwhelm a small hive.





We have everything  
**YOU NEED**  
**FOR**  
**KEEPING**  
**BEEES!**

**Order now for 2017!**



*4-Frame Honey Extractor*

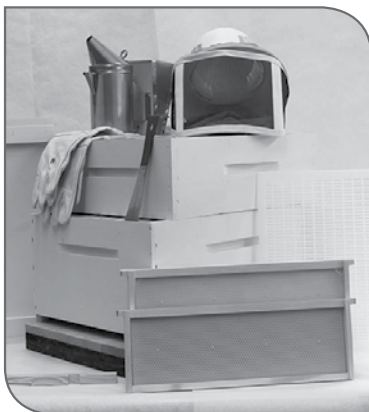
Assembled Beginner's Kits  
3# Package Bees  
4-Frame Nucs with Feeder  
1-Story Established Colonies  
All-American & Buckfast Queens

**SHIPPING & CUSTOMER PICKUP AVAILABLE**

**Store Hours:** Mon-Fri: 8am-Noon & 2-4pm · Sat: 8am-2pm (April ONLY)

BEE SUPPLIES ARE  
IN STOCK AND  
READY TO SHIP OR  
VISIT OUR STORE!

**ASK ABOUT  
OUR MARCH  
3# PACKAGE BEES!**



*Deluxe Beginner's Kit*



*Super Standard Cedar Beginner's Kit w/Copper Top*



**THE R. WEAVER APIARIES, INC.**

16495 C.R. 319 · NAVASOTA, TX 77868 · [rweaver@rweaver.com](mailto:rweaver@rweaver.com)

**936.825.2333 · [rweaver.com](http://rweaver.com)**

# Thinking About Winter

*from Micheal Mathews, Fayette County Beekeepers*



High in the rafters of our barn is an experiment from our early days of top bar beekeeping. The experiment consisted of several carefully cut and labeled pieces of foam insulation board that we used to insulate our hives during our first winter as beekeepers. In hindsight, other than the practice gained in measuring and cutting foam board, the exercise was mostly a waste of time.

Compared to much of the nation, Texas enjoys generally mild winters. Most of the state is in the USDA hardiness zones 7 and 8 with the upper tip of the Panhandle in hardiness zone 6 and most of the coast in hardiness zone 9. This translates into minimum low temperatures of close to -5 degrees in the Panhandle and a very mild 25 degrees along the coast. For the rest of the state minimum temperatures are somewhere between 10 and 20 degrees. Average temperatures are higher and well within the range that a healthy honey bee colony can endure in a top bar hive.

As hobbyists we are anything but meticulous record keepers, but this time of year we begin to carefully track how much honey is in each hive. As with Langstroth hives, this is a simple process of counting frames, or in this case bars, and estimating total honey available to the bees. All of our hives are a standard size and the bees can attach comb on roughly 13 inches of each bar. The average weight for a full bar of honey is 7 pounds.

The amount of honey needed to see a colony through the winter will vary according to location and weather. Top bar hives in hardiness zone 6 will certainly need more than our hives will in 8b. I like to have a minimum of 7 full bars of honey in each hive to start the winter, plus whatever honey the bees have stored on the brood bars. Bars that contain honey along with brood are tallied as partial, but not considered in the overall count of available winter stores. This adds a safety margin to our estimates.

Because we needed to manage some aggressive cross combing, we harvested more honey than usual this year. None of the hives are completely full so we will remove some bars and place a follower board with a Boardman feeder behind it in each hive. While we would prefer not to feed over the winter, installing the follower board and feeder now will give us more flexibility in coming months.

Checking the condition of each hive is relatively straight forward. We check to insure that the top is not damaged and is still watertight. Fasteners are tested and tightened if necessary. Areas of damage and dry rot to the body of the hive that may



*Bar with Honey*

cause problems over the winter are repaired. An important area to check is the bottom of the legs, especially if they are in direct contact with the ground. So far all but one of our hives have withstood several years of weather without any problems. The one exception is our oldest hive which is in need of a new cover. That will be replaced before the first freeze in November.

Finally, most of our top bar hives have a hinged bottom board that is left open in the summer. I am not convinced this provides much benefit since one of our stronger colonies is in a hive with a permanently closed bottom. Time will tell. We will close the bottom boards when the temperatures begin to drop into the low 60s at night.

As winter approaches, we will continue weekly inspections for as long as the weather allows. Pastures in the area are covered with fall broom weed and golden rod and the bees continue to put up stores. We are fortunate to have strong colonies this year. Knowing that the bees are ready for winter, we can begin to think about spring.



## Texas Beekeeper Association's Club "Buzz"

*from Chari Elam, Communications Coordinator*

### TBA New Member Club Tyler County Bee Club

Just when I was focusing on TBA's newest member club, up popped another one! Longview Beekeepers Association! If you're keeping tabs... That's 39 member clubs folks... WOW. I think we ought to have a celebration for #40... what do you think?

For this article's sake and to give them the proper "Welcome", I'm staying focused on TBA member club #38 and that is Tyler County Bee Club. This club was started recently by Scott Martin and Terry McFall out of east Texas. For those of you that aren't familiar with the area... Tyler County is between Livingston and Jasper with Woodville right smack dab in the middle. James and I recently camped in the area at Martin Dies Jr. State Park and can attest that the entire countryside there is just beautiful. No doubt a honey bee paradise!

Currently the club is having attendances around 20-25 which is admirable when you know they've only been around for a short time. Scott and Terry both aren't just playing bees either... They both have history in beekeeping and are both in the Texas Master Beekeeper Program. Scott is on the 3rd level of becoming a Master Beekeeper and Terry on the 2nd level. A requirement for the 3rd level in the TMBP is to choose a major so Scott has really stepped up and is in the process of becoming a Texas Master Naturalist. When you read Scott's bio it's really no surprise - he is a Master Plumber by trade. Speaking as a child of that industry... there is a lot required to acquiring that distinction too!

**Scott's background in beekeeping...** I could have paraphrased this, but he did such a good job telling me about it that I'm going to just quote him here:

"I started beekeeping by helping the Commercial Beekeepers load, unload, congregate, and set out their bee yards back in the late 70's while still in school. Just like everything else, technology took that job from me with the use of forklifts and pallets. Not sure how many years I did that... In 2012 Michelle and I decided that we would like to have a hive just to get some honey. After doing some research from family, friends and some of the Commercial Beekeepers I had worked for in the past, we decided to start with three hives. But, when we went to pick up our hives from an old commercial beekeeping friend we brought 14 hives home!

It didn't take long for me to learn what the small hive beetle can do to your hives and from that experience, learned how to make splits and do recoveries. At present we have built up to 75 hives. With the experience I have congregating bees, I know best to not do that by hand anymore, so I build trailers with anywhere from 20 to 24 hives on them and it makes life a lot easier. That way I can send them to the yards and then easily bring them to the house during the winter. This makes it a little easier to feed and they are more secure than in the yards."

Scott says getting involved in the TMBP is hopefully going to "shorten the learning curve about bee husbandry" which is the direction he's wanting to take. He has plans to "change professions" after 35 years and make bees his living as well as his passion.

Scott and his wife Michelle recently attended and spoke at the Texas Extension Education Association convention on the topic "Bees and Honey". Scott was able to use this as a qualifying speaking PSC credit (state level or higher convention) towards his Master Beekeeper Program requirements. He tells me he was really proud of Michelle for giving her very first presentation - a program on "By-Products of the Hive". I'm sure it won't be her last...

I enjoyed my visit with Scott and came away with a clear understanding that he is dedicated to beekeeping and the success of the new club. If you have any questions about the club or bees, Scott would be happy to talk to you, just give him a buzz!

Tyler County Bee Club  
Meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of every month  
Where: Nutrition Center  
201 Veterans Way  
Woodville, TX 75979  
Contact Scott by club email:  
tcbclub16@gmail.com  
or feel free to call him:  
(409) 283-4507







# WICWAS QUALITY BEE BOOKS

Prices include postage within the USA. Request quote for international orders.



ON LINE PAYPAL STORE:  
[WWW.WICWAS.COM](http://WWW.WICWAS.COM)



MAIL ORDERS:  
WICWAS PRESS, 1620 MILLER RD,  
KALAMAZOO, MI 49001





We Sell Honey Any Way You Need It  
Bulk in Drum or Bucket

Let Us Custom Pack Honey For You

Apply for a Wholesale Account at [WalkerHoneyFarm.com/wholesale/](http://WalkerHoneyFarm.com/wholesale/)

Tired of Putting Synthetic Chemicals in Your Hives?

Use an Organic Acid Instead

Best Prices on Mite Away Quick Strips (MAQS)

We Carry a Full Line of Containers

Texas Distributors for Gamber Container



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

# Getting Ready for Winter

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



“Take care of the bees that take care of the bees that go into winter.” - Kim Flottum, *The Backyard Beekeeper*, 3rd Edition. Mr. Flottum caused us to learn to care for our bees and to rethink our fall beekeeping practices. We were taught that a beekeeper needed healthy “fat” bees to go through the winter. However, we didn’t know how to make fat bees, and we reckoned that we wouldn’t have to do anything until mid-November here in northeast Texas. How wrong we were, and that is the subject of this article.

## What exactly are “fat” or “winter” bees?

The Beekeeper’s Handbook, fourth edition, defines them this way:

(I)n northern latitudes, cues such as poor pollen forage (fewer resources), shorter days, and cooler temperatures transform workers into “winter bees.” These winter bees often live longer (up to 12 months has been recorded), a direct result of fewer pollen reserves and decreased brood rearing. They also have lower levels of hormones, more fat bodies, higher levels of fats and sugars in their blood, and enlarged food glands (but with lower protein synthesis).

Bottom line, due to environmental clues, God causes the rearing of winter bees that are very different internally than normal workers and capable of surviving harsh winters. However, if the winter bees’ “parents” and “grandparents” were diseased or compromised by varroa, then these winter bees will not be all they were designed to be, and they will probably not make it through the winter.

So, we set out to learn how to produce healthy, fat winter bees. We want our hives to come out of the winter strong and ready to produce brood and honey for us in the spring. We went back to Flottum’s statement and did some figuring:

- We need to have our winter bees in place by November 1, well before the first frost.
- This means that the winter bees were larvae in early October.
- We want the “parents” of our winter bees, the ones who are going to feed them as larvae, to be healthy. These parent bees were produced in early September.
- The “grandparents” of the winter bees were produced in August.
- Therefore: We must start preparing for harsh winter in the middle of scorching July!

## What’s a beekeeper to do?

We hope that you are convinced that you must start early to have a good opportunity to have healthy hives going into winter. A last-minute requeening or a late-October varroa treatment will just not get the job done!

Texas beekeepers have direct control over three factors that will positively influence our winter colony survivability rates:

1. **Varroa Control** - This is THE number one thing to do on the beekeeper’s list to produce healthy winter bees. We tested and treated our hives for varroa mites in July, after we removed our spring honey supers, and again in August. We tested again at the beginning of September, and mite counts in all our hives were less than 2 mites per 100 bees. This means that the grandparents of our winter bees were developing in a relatively disease and varroa-free environment and should raise good “parent” bees.

**Test your hives for varroa mites in July and at least, again in October. If mite counts are greater than the recommended 2-3 mites per 100 bees, treat before heading into winter.**

2. **Ample Quality Food** - Healthy, fat winter bees - and their parents and grandparents - need abundant quality food. We knew that the August nectar dearth - followed by September starvation - could occur in northeast Texas, so we checked our bees’ stores of capped honey, ripening nectar, and pollen. Since protein is the main component of the brood food produced by nurse bees from their hypopharyngeal glands, pollen stores are key. Starving bees do not produce healthy offspring. Each hive should have 40-50 pounds (a medium super full) of capped honey.

**Check your hives for adequate stocks of honey, nectar, and pollen in September and October. Feed, if necessary.**

3. **Equipment Optimization** - Prepare your wooden ware for winter clusters. Honey bees will begin to cluster when the temperature drops to near 50 degrees F. Honey bees want to maintain a temperature of high 80s-low 90s degrees at the center of the cluster where the queen and any brood are located, so, the lower the temperature, the tighter the cluster. Check your hives in October and position brood, nectar, honey, and pollen frames correctly in the hive so that the cluster can reach the resources it needs to survive.

Store removed hive equipment carefully to prevent damage from pests. A simple way to store a small number of drawn comb frames is to put a super, full of frames, in a plastic trash bag, add para-dichlorobenzene (PDB) crystals, and tie the bag closed.

#### One last consideration – Consider your queens

We purposefully did not touch on the large issues of queen genetics or queen health in this short discussion on producing healthy winter bees. We all recognize how vital strong queens are to the production of viable and healthy eggs at any time; it's even more important as you raise all three generations of bees in the winter bee line.

Some beekeepers choose to requeen in the fall; we requeen in spring. Spring virgin queens from our own hives, healthy nurse bees, numerous drones, and readily available abundant food usually produce strong queens. There is a slight risk, in a fall requeening, that locally produced virgin queens will not find enough drones to be properly mated. You can pay the price for mated queens and alleviate the risk.

#### Your action plan

Keep healthy queens in your hives year-round. Then, do three simple things: Control varroa, ensure ample and healthy feed, and organize hive equipment for successful overwintering.

We will enter winter with six strong, healthy hives, and we plan to have six good hives in February, with nucleus hives and queens for sale in April. We can accomplish this because of the work we did – beginning in July – to give our bees the tools and resources they need to thrive during winter.

How about you? Are your bees set up for success because of your intentional actions? Or are you a beekeeper who only hopes your bees will make it through the winter? A senior executive once told Roger during a project review, "Hope is not a strategy, Mr. Farr!" Well, Sir, we have learned...to take care of our bees!

See you next issue when we will report on fall honey extraction and experiments with creamed honey!

Let's hear from you:

[rdfarr@gmail.com](mailto:rdfarr@gmail.com) or [sue.farr1@gmail.com](mailto:sue.farr1@gmail.com)



## Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association

### *Annual Honey Judging and Honey Tasting*

*from Jimmie Oakley*



*WCABA Honey Queen Emma Wall, Jimmie Oakley, William Janke, Mary Bost, Chris Doggett, Sebastian Urban, Mia Koppe, Barbara Lisinger, Medina, Dodie Stillman, Michael Wheeler, Gary Bible, Ann Bierschenk, Steve Hoskins Jim Colbert, WCABA Honey Princes Elise Gardner.*

September is Honey Judging and Honey tasting month at WCABA. Members bring 2lb jars of honey to be judged after which that honey is sent to the Texas State Fair for the Texas Beekeepers Association booth.

In addition 43 members brought in small containers of honey for members to taste, colors varying from some dark to some very light. Some of our new members., tasting honey for the first time, were a joy to watch!



*Honey Judges, Dodie Stillman, Gary Bible and Elise Gardner*





# THE BUDS AND THE BEES

## IT'S FALL Y'ALL. HOW FIT ARE YOUR BEES?

*by Becky Bender, Texas Master Naturalist*

Just about the time we beekeepers are avoiding pollen or taking allergy medication to defend against it, our bees are seeking it out. The fall season may seem like the time our bees are “winding down” for winter; but they are actually busy building the colony’s overall fitness level.

### Basic Bee Nutrition

Honey bees, like all animals including humans, require essential ingredients for good health. We’ve all heard of carbohydrates, proteins, fats, vitamins and minerals. Honey bees need all of these ingredients to reproduce, endure stress and thrive. Honey bees obtain carbohydrates from the sugar in nectar. When digested, these carbohydrates are broken down into simple sugars and used as energy or converted to fats and stored. After harvesting honey, many of us boost our colonies with valuable carbohydrates in the form of sugar syrup. But let’s take a closer look at the valuable role of protein in our bee’s fall diet.

### The Importance of Protein from Pollen

Protein is literally the “muscle” of honeybee fitness. Much of the real nutrition for the colony comes from the protein in pollen. Honey bees have no other source of protein other than pollen. In addition to protein, pollen provides the majority of lipids, vitamins and minerals bees need for optimal health. The development of body tissue, muscles and glands depends on adequate amounts and high quality sources of protein. Studies have shown that when bees consume insufficient pollen, brood rearing decreases, workers have shorter lives and colonies are more vulnerable to pests such as varroa mites. Very young bees need mass amounts of pollen in the first few days of their life. And fall is the time colonies are rearing those bees that will take the colony through the winter and emerge as the early foragers in spring. Another important role of pollen is to “fatten up” all of the bees that will over-winter in the colony.

Honey bees need the same 10 amino acids (the building blocks of a complete protein) in their bodies as humans and other animals do. They need all 10 amino acids to make a complete protein their body can use. But that can be a challenge because different plant pollens have different numbers of these amino acids. So in the fall, when there are fewer pollen plants in bloom than in the spring, bees must collect from a greater number and diversity of plants to meet their complete protein needs. Another challenge is that in natural habitats of the past, bees used to collect from a vast diversity of plants in the wild which ensured

they would obtain all of the building blocks of a protein. But now, with many bees near monocultures (agriculture with many acres of one crop) or in urban areas, they have a more limited palette of plants from which to collect. And while it may seem there’s plenty of fall pollen in the air (ACHOO!), it’s largely from wind-pollinated plants like ragweed and grasses. Wind-pollinated plants offer no nectar and only a weak quality of pollen since they don’t need insects to reproduce.

Randy Oliver, author of [ScientificBeekeeping.com](http://ScientificBeekeeping.com), believes that “successful wintering is dependent upon the last round of bees emerging in the late summer and fall having adequate pollen available in the broodnest.” Blake Shook of Desert Creek Honey recommends that beekeepers “look for at least one full frame of pollen (or the equivalent of a full frame on multiple frames) in each colony in the fall.” Commercial beekeepers have a special economic interest in supplementing pollen in the fall to ensure winter bees have the necessary nutrition, especially if pollinating almonds in February. Commercial and many hobby beekeepers benefit from feeding pollen substitutes in the fall even though bees do not store it in cells for the winter. Bees may, however, store natural pollen for the winter by covering it with honey to be used in the Spring for rearing new bees. The timing of a diet rich in pollen – whether natural or substitute – is most advantageous prior to over-wintering. The focus of this article, however, is on plant-based pollen.

### Valuable Fall Pollen Plants

Fall is the best time to plant perennials and to seed wildflowers. The following table includes some valuable pollen-producing flowers that bloom in Texas in the fall. Only published qualitative and quantitative data on plant pollen and nectar has been included here. There are many other fall blooming plants in Texas – Heath asters, Gayfeather, Broomweed, herbs and more – which are not included here but are known to provide valuable pollen and nectar for bees.

It’s fall y’all! While you’re suffering the wrath of fall pollen, let it be a timely reminder that your bees need it for optimal fitness and survival.

*Special thanks to Blake Shook of Desert Creek Honey for inspiring and contributing to this article. 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).*

## Values of FALL Pollen Plants for Honey Bees in Texas

COMMON NAME	BOTANICAL NAME	BLOOM TIME & DURATION	POLLEN COLOR	POLLEN VALUE 1 lowest 5 highest	NECTAR VALUE 1 lowest 5 highest	ADDITIONAL INFO
Common Sunflower (Annual)	<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	Aug – Sept Blooms 2-3 weeks	Bright yellow	4	3	Wild in fields and roadsides
Maximillian Sunflower (Perennial)	<i>Helianthus maximiliani</i>	Sept – Oct Blooms 2-3 weeks	Orange	3	2	www.seed-source.com
Mexican Bush Sage (Perennial)	<i>Salvia leucantha</i>	Oct Blooms about 3-4 weeks	unknown	3	3	Use in gardens & landscapes
Goldenrod (Perennial)	<i>Solidago rugosa</i>	Sept – Oct Blooms about 2 weeks	Dark yellow	3	4	Wild in fields but also at garden centers
Crape Myrtle (Deciduous small tree)	<i>Lagerstroemia</i>	May – Sept Blooms several months	Bright yellow	3	2 or less	Many varieties; pollen varies
Coneflower (Perennial)	<i>Rudbeckia</i>	Aug Blooms about 3 weeks	Orange	3	1-2	Several varieties; pollen varies
Blue Fall Asters (Perennial)	<i>Aster oblongifolius</i>	Oct - Nov Blooms about 3 weeks	Yellow	2-3 varieties vary	2-3 varieties vary	Use in gardens & landscapes
Snow -on-the-Mountain/ Prairie (Annual)	<i>Euphorbia marginata/bicolor</i>	Aug - September about 6 weeks	White	1	1	Fields and prairies; “mountain” used in gardens
BEE HAPPY SEED MIX	<i>Includes Sunflowers listed above, Goldenrod, Coneflower &amp; other fall blooms like Frostweed</i>	Blooms in all seasons; Best time to plant is fall.				Developed with input of TBA beekeepers; order at <a href="http://texasbeekeepers.org">texasbeekeepers.org</a>

Table compiled by Becky Bender using the following resources: Garden Plants for Honey Bees by P. Lindtner, 2014 and Honey Plants of North America by J. Lovell, 1926.





## Do You Know This Man?

*from Chari Elam,  
Communications Coordinator*

Odds are you've seen him around even if you don't know him...Stanford Brantley has made more front covers of the TBA Journal than probably any other single individual since it began! Mr. Brantley has been a fixture in the TBA for many years. Ask most anyone and they'll tell you he's been here forever...more realistically about 45 years. In those 45 years he has attended "most" every annual convention held. "I believe the first TBA Convention I attended was at the Menger Hotel in San Antonio and I think I've been to most all of them, except I missed the one in Ft. Worth" says Mr. Brantley.

Stanford Brantley was born on a Tuesday, April 16th 1929 and grew up in Hack Lane Community just 4 miles north of Jefferson Texas. He attended Jefferson schools behind his 5 older sisters... His only brother passed away from TB the year Mr. Brantley was born. "I was the baby of the family...my sisters wanted to call me 'box-car' because I was the end", Mr. Brantley tells me as he chuckled.

He recalls;

"When I was 6 years old my Dad captured a swarm in a Chinaberry tree and hived it in an old apple crate. He removed 1 side of the crate, cut three notches with a hand saw for an entrance and put a cross inside made up of two sticks, one cross ways and one up and down. The bees clustered in the middle and started building wax and honey in the cross! We never opened it up again! It was for pollinating our garden and peach orchard. He was a farmer and had one of the first peach orchards around. He grew okra, watermelons, peas, cucumbers, sweet potatoes, just about anything you can think of! See, he was a peddler...He'd load up his wagon and go around and sell it to folks."

As did most people, his Dad raised their own meat in the form of pigs. "He didn't think he had a pig until it weighed about 400lbs", says Mr. Brantley. "He would salt the meat and hang it in a smoke house on sticks with a wire in the top part of the ham and wrap the wire around the stick... the rats couldn't go down the wire to get to the meat."



Mr. Brantley's Dad passed away when he was about 13 years old. He soon learned how to drive and helped support his mother. After graduating from Jefferson High School in 1947, Mr. Brantley's oldest sister who was a teacher in the Irving School system talked his mother into moving out there to live with her. He stayed with her for two years while he attended North Texas Agricultural College. (Now the University of Texas at Arlington.) He majored in Petroleum Engineering but later switched to agriculture.

In '49 they moved back to Jefferson. He was working in a grocery store when he was drafted into the army. He tells of being stationed "all over" - Japan, Austria, Turkey, Korea (after the fighting) and Vietnam. He was in Vietnam in 1968 which was the year of The Tet Offensive. For those who don't know...In late January, 1968, during the lunar new year (or "Tet") holiday, North Vietnamese and communist Viet Cong forces launched a coordinated attack against a number of targets in South Vietnam. I asked Mr. Brantley what he thought of that war...he replied, "I saw things that were incomprehensible and thought that nobody would believe it."



*Mr. Brantley with John and Shirley Knight on John's 102nd birthday (John now passed away)*

In 1971 Mr. Brantley retired from the army and came home to his wife, Mary Jo and three boys. His sister, H.R., a retired nurse in the US Army burn ward at Brook Army Hospital, didn't waste any time in telling him "We gotta get some bees!"

His grandmother lived in Dangerfield and was a beekeeper. When she kept bees, there were no mites, no small hive beetles, no tracheal mites..."they just sat there making honey and swarming!" Mr. Brantley said. She passed away in 1938-39 and these bees had sat there unattended all that time. He picked up 5 colonies of bees from her farm and carried them to a friend's house in the country. "They were in boxes like I've never seen before," he said, "They had wooden garden top covers on them. They would stack them up and put a piece of oil cloth across the top bars on the last box and they put peat on top of that. The frames in there were no more than 3/4 inch wide. It was a pretty small box, would probably fit inside an eight frame modern box of today."

"My friend George Baxter helped me, he was sorta in charge

and like a couple of stupid guys we tore those boxes completely apart and moved the bees into 10 frame Langstroth hives, not even thinking about how interesting those boxes were and how long they'd been full of bees!"

As the years went on Mr. Brantley delivered the US Mail for a living and his sister H.R. was an RN. They reached 50 colonies at one point. H.R. peddled honey... She always had honey in her car. She would hive swarms while he delivered mail! They got \$5 a quart for a long time and finally he had to talk her into going up to \$8 a quart.

H. R. has since passed as well as his "support troop" Mary Jo (married 59 years 7 months and 1 day) but Mr. Brantley still loves his bees. He currently has about 3 colonies and enjoys greatly helping folks capture swarms. He formed the Marshall Beekeepers Association in 2013 and it currently has about 80 members.

He is also a Board Member of the Louisiana State Beekeepers Association (an honor bestowed on him years ago) and has been a proud member of the Texas Beekeepers Association for 45 years. Asked how the TBA has changed over the years...he told me that he has seen it go up and down in membership several times. He said, "When I joined the TBA the year before the convention at the Menger we had about 130 or so that attended then. You had a couple of Weavers, a couple of Stroops and two or three Youngbloods and some others from Houston. I watched attendance decline as folks died off and people got out of the business. With honey 6 or 7 cents a pound you couldn't make any money." He is really impressed with the attendance at TBA events over the last couple of years.

As beekeepers come and go through our great organization, it's because of people like Stanford Brantley that Texas Beekeepers Association is what it is. His countless articles in the Journal will be read, re-read and truly enjoyed for generations to come.

Thank you Mr. Brantley for sharing your story...he is the true meaning of a Bee-Keeper.



*Mr. Brantley at East Texas State Fair*



*Mr Brantley with Cecelia Eudy and Ms. Alta Porter of Athens, TX*



# Money & Medicine; Mosquitoes & Monsanto: Minefields the Beekeeper Must Navigate.

by Mary C. Gardner

As a beekeeper, I have been following several bee related current event stories with great interest. I have to say, it is confusing, frustrating, and sometimes just plain infuriating trying to make heads or tails of the issues. Deciphering the underlying truths behind these issues can be a challenge when each source seems to have its own agenda, with complex angles - money, power, and politics. I try to balance my environmental and honey bee related concerns with my concerns for the health of my friends and family, try to examine both sides of the issues, and then try to figure out what I can do to make a difference and have a positive impact on my little corner of the world.

The news coverage about Zika virus has exploded since the tragic incident that reportedly decimated honey bee populations on August 28, 2016, in Dorchester County, South Carolina. County officials ramped up their usual ground-based mosquito control methods and opted, for the very first time, to conduct aerial spraying for mosquitoes that could bear the Zika virus. They dispensed an insecticide containing the ingredient called Naled, which kills mosquitoes (and bees) on contact. They claimed to have given the general public plenty of warning with a newspaper announcement and Facebook post a couple of days beforehand. However, local beekeepers, many of whom did not see the announcements, believe the county did not do enough to get the word out. Numerous beekeepers reported suffering devastating losses of all their hives, counting their honey bee death tolls in the millions. They said that, given sufficient warning, they could have taken steps to try and prevent bee exposure such as shielding their hives and the bees' food and water sources. The county has apologized, but the affected beekeepers say this does little to make up for the loss of their hives and hardware. The full extent of the damage caused by this incident, both monetarily and environmentally, will be difficult to calculate, but hopefully the media attention it is getting will allow other counties to make note of the impact and realize the importance of clear communication with local beekeepers.

In Texas, mosquito surveillance and control methods vary by county, but many Texas counties seem to reference the guidelines and tools for Zika prevention put forth by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

These guidelines state, "Aerial spraying is not likely to be an appropriate control approach given the [mosquitoes'] vector habitat and behavior."

A search of both the Williamson County and Travis County Health Services websites finds that these counties seem to support Integrated Pest Management type solutions and they provide a number of educational materials available for download.

Deb Strahler, the Williamson County and Cities Health District Marketing and Community Engagement Director, explains that Zika is not yet present in Texas, but that West Nile has been a problem for numerous years. Williamson County makes its decisions on when and where to spray for West Nile based on a system that determines trigger points, such as finding a positive mosquito sample in a trap, or confirming a positive human case of West Nile. When the trigger points indicate a need to treat, Williamson County contracts a company out of Dallas for truck spraying. The treated area typically is limited to about a 1 mile radius from the source epicenter. Businesses and homeowners are notified by a variety of means: including printed materials such as letters, door hangers, and staked signs; and by social media outlets. Beekeepers should contact their local county health services agency for information on the mosquito control policies in that area and ask them how the public will be notified in the event they decide to spray.

We Texas beekeepers need to make sure we are not caught unaware and unprepared.

Concerns about Zika virus hit the mainstream media in the United States last Spring. Headlines are blaming Zika for the dramatic increase in cases of microcephaly birth defects in Brazil. Microcephaly is a congenital condition in which a baby's head develops abnormally small. A report by television personality, Dr. Mehmet Oz, highlights the need for more funding to fight the Zika virus. Mosquitoes carrying the disease have been found on the U.S. mainland and 16 infants have been born with Zika in the U.S., so far. With the problem becoming more urgent every day, Congress is embroiled in a political battle over funding and has failed to pass a \$1.1 billion bill (down from the \$1.9 billion proposed by the White House in March) to help fight the spread of the virus. Meanwhile, public health agencies, including the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the National Institute for Allergies and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), are running out of money and desperately need the funding to come through so they can continue their efforts to test people for Zika, track pregnant women with Zika, learn more about the disease, develop vaccines for Zika, and control mosquito populations.

In an opposing viewpoint, the article, "It's not the Zika Virus - Doctors Expose Monsanto Linked Pesticide as Cause of Birth Defects," by Jay Symopoulos for "The Free Thought Project," states, "In spite of all the media hype surrounding the mosquito-borne Zika virus and microcephaly, there has yet to be a scientific link proven between the two." Mr. Symopoulos cites a recent report, by the Physicians in the Crop-Sprayed Towns (PCST), that revealed that most of the afflicted people in Brazil lived in an area that had been sprayed with SumiLarv, a larvicide known to cause birth defects. This larvicide is manufactured by Sumitomo Chemical, a Japanese subsidiary of Monsanto. In addition, The Brazilian Association for Collective Health has raised questions about Brazil's Ministry of Health linking the congenital malformations to Zika, citing the fact that the widespread Zika epidemic in the Pacific and the current epidemic in Colombia, resulted in no cases of malformations, much less microcephaly. The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared Zika a global health emergency, but has also been careful not to link microcephaly directly to Zika.

(continued on next page)

The views and opinions expressed in this editorial article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official views of WCABA or TBA.



## Money & Medicine; Mosquitoes & Monsanto continued...

WHO General Director Margaret Chan stated, "Although a causal link between Zika infection in pregnancy and microcephaly has not, and I must emphasize, has not been established, the circumstantial evidence is suggestive and extremely worrisome." Scientists are racing to develop a vaccine for Zika, but, once again, are dependent on funding in order to be successful.

Zika news has recently overshadowed reports of an equally important issue affecting beekeepers and non-beekeepers – the skyrocketing price of EpiPens. This issue is also affected by money, power, and politics. The CEO at the center of the price hike controversy is Senator Joe Manchin's daughter, Heather Bresch. According to the Washington Post, Mylan pharmaceuticals has raised the price of the epinephrine auto-injector nearly 500% over the course of 7 years. The device now costs more than \$600 per dose, compared to only \$100 per dose in 2004, and accounts for nearly 40% of Mylan's operating profits. To put this in even greater perspective, the dose of epinephrine contained in an EpiPen is worth about \$1.

In addition to acquiring the EpiPen product in 2007, creating a huge market for it, and successfully selling it for top dollar, in 2014, CEO Heather Bresch also took advantage of a tax loophole and moved Mylan's company headquarters to the Netherlands in order to lower its tax bill. Mrs. Bresch is quoted as saying, "We have given out 700,000 free EpiPens. We stocked 65,000 public schools in this country. ... We're now passing legislation, in 30 states to have them in restaurants, hotels. ... We want everyone who needs an EpiPen to have one." The problem is, this legislation is much better for Mylan than for people who rely on epinephrine for life-saving measures. Mylan not only increases its customer base through this legislation that makes EpiPens available to anyone (not just those with dangerous allergies) and requires schools, and soon restaurants and hotels, to stock the EpiPen, but they also receive a generous tax break for all those EpiPen donations, on top of their much lower tax rate from their move to the Netherlands.

On top of this, the Senator's daughter's salary has risen 671% since 2007! According to NBC News, CEO Heather Bresch earned \$2.45 million in 2007, the year of the EpiPen acquisition. In 2015, her total compensation was \$18.9 million, and she is listed on *Forbes*'s 2016 World's 100 Most Powerful Women list. Her *Forbes* bio states she has earned over \$38.9 million in the past two years. Emily Willingham points out, in an article for *Forbes*, that Mrs. Bresch has an "...optics problem, especially if those increases have the appearance of coming on the backs of people who struggle to afford lifesaving interventions for their children." I'll say she has an "optics problem"! I was outraged when I saw these statistics! Healthcare costs are confusing enough without having to wade through this minefield of political jockeying and corporate greed.

This is yet another issue that hits close to home for me. My daughter, needs to have an EpiPen on hand now, due to a scary experience with an allergic reaction to bee stings. I have found a solution I would like to share in case some of you, like me, might want an alternative to buying from Mylan. Dr. Marcus Romanello, Chief Medical Officer and the Emergency Medicine Physician at Ft. Hamilton Hospital, took note of the rising cost of EpiPens, and wants people to know they can purchase a bottle of epinephrine for as little as \$6 with no insurance required. With a bottle of epinephrine, an Altoid tin, and a syringe, you've got a DIY epinephrine injector kit for under \$10. Dr. Romanello says, "Attach the needle. Pop the top and draw up the prescribed amount. ... It does require some degree of medical comfort with a needle and syringe, drawing up the appropriate dose. If someone were to draw up a little too much, not an issue. In a setting of anaphylactic reaction, too much is not going to hurt." I say, it couldn't hurt for most beekeepers to have one of these "Do-It-Yourself" kits on hand, and I fully intend to pursue it as a backup emergency first aid option in our household.



"Fight the Bite" informational flyer available for download from the Austin/Travis County Health & Human Services Department. [www.austintexas.gov/health](http://www.austintexas.gov/health)

There is much you can do to get involved and play a role in shaping the way these current events play out: Contact your Congressmen and your local county health services agency to make your opinions known; Start or sign a petition in your own town, like the following at **Change.org**: "Save Humanity & Save the Bees": <https://www.change.org/p/dorchester-county-and-the-town-of-summerville-save-humanity-save-the-bees> "Open an Investigation into Mylan Pharmaceuticals Price Gouging Practices Around the EpiPen": <https://www.change.org/p/ron-johnson-open-an-investigation-into-mylan-pharmaceuticals-price-gouging-practices-around-the-epipen> Revisit my "Do you Smell Garlic? Mosquitoes vs. Honey Bees" article, in the July issue of both the WCABA Newsletter and the TBA Journal, to find some natural, bee safe solutions for mosquito control; and spread the word about the importance of honey bees to our environment: No Bees = No Food! No matter what your views of these issues, remember, at the end of the day, what's good for the bees is good for the people!



Do-It-Yourself Epinephrine injection kit.

Image courtesy of abc22now.com

*The views and opinions expressed in this editorial article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official views of WCABA or TBA.*



# Chief of Apiary Inspection - Texas Apiary Inspection Service

*from Mark Dykes*



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

Hard to believe that fall is already upon us, well at least according to the calendar! We hope everyone's bees made it through the summer and are getting ready for the winter. Here at TAIS we've been busy remodeling our new diagnostic lab and preparing for the Texas Master Beekeeper Program examinations in Belton. If you are interested in signing up there is still time. Please see our website for program information and registration details (<http://masterbeekeeper.tamu.edu/>).

The last few months have been a rollercoaster in the bee world. As I'm sure many of you have heard we now have another serious virus that mosquitos are vectors for. The Zika virus has been verified in several counties around the US and unfortunately there has been some bee casualties as a result of control efforts. While the incident was unfortunate, generally speaking mosquito control districts do their best to minimize the impact on pollinators. In cases of public health threats, such as the Zika virus, they are allowed by law to spray as needed to control and eradicate the outbreaks. That being said as a beekeeper there are a few things you can do to minimize the possible impacts on your bees:

### 1. **Contact your local mosquito control district or appropriate county agency.**

Open lines of communication are the best tool to minimize the impacts of spraying. Many district and counties have a notification list that will inform beekeepers of upcoming spraying. Some smaller districts may not have the resources to maintain such list. In these cases, beekeepers, or better yet bee clubs, should take it upon themselves to contact the districts on a regular basis and find out about spray schedules and then share this information with other beekeepers in the area.

### 2. **Move your hives out of affected areas.**

If your hives are located in areas where mosquito control efforts are ongoing move them to areas where spraying is not occurring. This is a surefire way to make sure the hives are not affected.

### 3. **Help in the mosquito control process.**

Do not provide artificial habitats for mosquitos to breed in. This includes old tires, bird baths, buckets, gutters, planters, and any other areas where standing water can occur. When you contact your district or county ask what other ways you can help. Encourage your neighbors to do the same. As simple as these measures are they can go a long way to reducing chemical control of mosquitos.

Finally, keep in mind that mosquito control is a public safety issue. In Texas mosquitos are the vector for several very nasty viruses, and control is very important to reduce the impact on the population. I know the above steps are not a fool proof way to ensure that your bee hives are not affected by mosquito control efforts, but they are a good start. For more information on mosquito control please see the following AgriLife Extension article (<http://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/solutions/controlling-mosquitoes-reduce-spread-zika-virus/>)

On a different note if you haven't monitored for varroa mites lately now is a good time to do so. Remember mite control is the single most important thing you can do as a beekeeper to help promote good hive health. For more information on monitoring methods and varroa control please see the Honey Bee Health Coalition's Tools for Varroa Management (<http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/Varroa/>) or visit our website to learn more (<http://txbeeinspection.tamu.edu/beekeepers/pests-diseases/>) or simply call or email TAIS and we will be happy to help.

Well that's about it for this issue, we look forward to seeing everyone at the TBA conference in November. As always if you have any questions or know a good bee joke please don't hesitate to contact us ([TAIS@tamu.edu](mailto:TAIS@tamu.edu)) and keep on keeping those wonderful bees!





# **OPEN IN TEXAS**

## **FOR YOUR BEEKEEPING NEEDS**

Seasons change, but our service remains the same! Visit our fully-stocked Texas location with Pro-Sweet 77 and supplies for all your feed and fall beekeeping needs!

### **Pro-Sweet 77**

- Won't crystallize or ferment
- Helps bees put on weight
- Stimulates bees
- Pick-up and delivery available

### **LIQUID SUCROSE**

- Stimulates egg laying
- Builds bees quickly
- Easy for bees to handle
- Delivery available

### **55 HFCS**

- Ready for feeding
- Resistant to fermentation
- Helps put weight on hives
- Delivery available

**MANN LAKE**  
WE KNOW BEES

An Employee Owned Company



### **STORE HOURS**

**MONDAY-FRIDAY**  
**8 AM - 5 PM**

**SATURDAY**  
**8 AM - 4 PM**

**1600 COMMERCE STREET**  
**MARSHALL, TX 75672**

**800-880-7694**  
**[www.mannlakeltd.com](http://www.mannlakeltd.com)**



## 2016 Texas Honey Queen Hope Pettibon

### Royal Jelly

Growing up I had always heard about royal jelly, but all I could tell you about it was that it was used to make a queen bee. The more I have learned about honey bees, the more I have realized that royal jelly is not only for the queens, but can be used for much more.

Royal jelly is a pearl colored substance that is used in the nutrition of larvae, as well as adult queens. It is secreted from the glands in the hypopharynx of the worker bee, and fed to all larvae in the colony, regardless of sex or caste. Unlike honey, royal jelly usually has about 60% to 70% water, 12% to 15% proteins, 10% to 16% sugar, 3% to 6% fats, and 2% to 3% vitamins, salts, and amino acids. These numbers will go up and down depending on geography and climate. If a queen is weak or dead, the worker bees will decide to make a new queen by taking an egg that is 1 to 3 days old and feeding it large amounts of royal jelly while it grows in the cell. This type of feeding will trigger the development of the queen's body and ovaries, which are needed to lay eggs. After three days, the drone and worker larvae are no longer fed with royal jelly, but queen larvae continue to be fed this special substance throughout their development. Some people use royal jelly as medicine, but don't confuse royal jelly with bee pollen or bee venom.

Royal jelly can be used for many different things such as asthma, hay fever, liver disease, pancreatitis, sleep troubles

(insomnia), premenstrual syndrome (PMS), stomach ulcers, kidney disease, bone fractures, menopausal symptoms, skin disorders, and high cholesterol. It is also used for boosting the immune system. There are many different ways to use and take royal jelly. Some people apply royal jelly right on the skin as a tonic or to the scalp to encourage hair growth. You can also take it by the mouth.

Royal jelly is probably safe for most people when taken by mouth correctly. It is also probably safe when applied to the skin appropriately. However, in some cases it has caused inflammation and allergic rash when applied to the scalp. Royal jelly might cause serious allergic reactions including asthma, swelling of the throat, and death. Although there are many things royal jelly can help with, I would suggest researching it before you start taking it because there are too many possible side effects and dosages depending on the use. Royal jelly has a lot of good health benefits if taken correctly.

The reason royal jelly is so expensive is because it takes a lot of work as a beekeeper to extract it. It is collected from queen cells because these are the only cells in which large amounts of royal jelly can be found. When royal jelly is fed to worker larvae, it is fed directly to them, and they eat it as it is produced, while the cells of queen larvae are "stocked" with royal jelly much faster than the larvae can consume it. Therefore, only in queen cells is the harvest of royal jelly practical. First, the beekeeper will take a frame with rows and rows of queen cells that are about four days old. They will brush the bees off and then cut the top of the capping's off of the cells. They will then take a pair of tweezers and pick each queen egg out of the cell. Then, with a little spatula, they scoop out the royal jelly from the bottom of the cells and put it in a bowl, or they can use a machine that will suck the royal jelly out of each cell. The beekeeper can use it himself or sell it to others.

Royal jelly is an amazing product of the hive. It can only be made by worker bees, and can help with many different medical issues. It is very time consuming to collect, but as we can see it is worth it. Many people are willing to pay good money for this wonderful product because of its great benefits.



Queen Egg and Royal Jelly



*Hope and her Sister Megan at the Honey Expo*



*Hope at the Corpus Christie Farmer's Market*



*Kid's Garden Club in Corpus Christie*

## Marshall Beekeeping Association

*from Myra Smith*



*Marshall Beekeeping Association exhibiting at the Harris County 4-H Round-Up. Some 70 to 80 children visited the exhibit*







## Queens and Bees for 2017

With pick ups across Texas, we're the only destination for all bee lovers. Beekeeping lessons, apiary equipment, protective gear, hive management and bees available. Be assured, all our BeeWeaver bees are still chemical-free and varroa/virus-resistant. Since 1888!

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

2017 Spring  
Pick Up Locations

Navasota, TX  
Dripping Springs, TX  
Dallas, TX  
San Antonio, TX  
Brenham, TX  
Roswell, NM



## Visit us Onsite and Online

BeeGoods Mercantile's Honey Tasting Bar and Beekeeping Shop opens October 15th! In the heart of Lynn Grove and our commercial beekeeping operation, we converted our 1930's Honey Packing Plant into a unique destination perfect for any bee lover. You will find equipment for bees, protective gear for beekeepers, and bee themed gifts! Visit us anytime at [beegoodsmercantile.com](http://beegoodsmercantile.com).

**Mention this Ad and Receive 10% Off Storewide Oct 15 - Dec 31, 2016**

Limit 1 use per customer



# 2016 Texas Honey Princess Willow Lanchester

## Scholarships and Mentors



Throughout this year I have been able to observe how honey bees can be an instrument to change lives. I have seen many charities that are using bees to fight poverty, aid those with PTSD, and benefit youth. These are all amazing charities that are changing lives around the world, but there is one thing much closer to home that is also changing lives, and that is our very own beekeeping scholarship programs. The scholarship programs within our own clubs are changing lives all the time. I got started in beekeeping through the East Texas Beekeepers Association Scholarship Program in 2013. Many clubs throughout Texas have scholarship programs, and many of my friends got started in beekeeping through those very programs. Not only do the scholarship recipients benefit from these awards, but also the club as a whole. The scholarship programs have a way of creating community, spreading the club's reach, and pulling in a new generation of beekeepers.

The objective of the scholarship programs are to draw in young beekeepers. As a result many of the scholarship programs are structured similarly. Students are selected through an application process that will often supplement the application itself with an essay and interview to best determine who will receive the award. Those who are eligible typically fall in between the ages of 12-18 and come from non-beekeeping families. Those who have been selected will be supplied with a beehive of their own, all of the equipment they will need, and beekeeping classes. The students are required to attend the classes before they receive their hive. The classes typically cover the basics of beekeeping and honey bee biology, and involve both classroom and apiary work. The students will even learn how to build and paint the woodenware themselves. The different clubs have different requirements for the students in that first year. Some of these requirements include attending all or the majority of the club meetings. Sometimes the students will have to keep a journal of their hive throughout the year. In some clubs the students even get to put together a presentation on a beekeeping related topic to present to the club. The common factors that all the clubs share in their requirements are that the students are active beekeepers and active club members.

Another great part of the scholarship program that some clubs use is the mentorship program. As part of the mentor program the students are given a mentor who is an experienced beekeeper

from their club who will help guide them through their first year as beekeepers. The students have access to their mentors by phone and can call them about any questions they may have about their bees. The mentors will also help the students inspect the hive several times throughout the year and give pointers on managing the bees.

These scholarships don't just benefit the students, but the clubs as well. The youth beekeeping Scholarships open new door ways to many new beekeepers and club members who may or may not have been able to get involved with bees otherwise. These scholarship students become the next generation of beekeepers. This grows the beekeeping community and expands the club's reach to new demographics. Along with bringing in new members the scholarship program creates young beekeepers who love their clubs. The youth scholarships help to usher in the future of the club, bringing in new ideas and creating future club leaders and outreach members, such as Queens and Ambassadors.

One major added benefit of the youth beekeeping scholarships is club growth. One of the reasons for this is because many of those receiving their hives do not yet have their driver's licenses and have to be driven by their families. As a result of this many parents of the students become beekeepers as well. This brings in more and more families, who in turn will often bring in other families. This snowball effect brings in more and more beekeepers and creates community by bringing people with a common interest together. The scholarship program brings in children and families who all care about bees, creating an atmosphere for learning.

The beekeeping scholarships are an incredible opportunity for both clubs and students. I profited from the scholarship program so much when I when through it that I decided to serve my club in our Queen Program and today with the TBA Queen Program. I can't see my life anywhere near what it is today without it. This offers the opportunity for so many youth in our own communities to fall in love with bees. If you are interested in offering a beekeeping scholarship in your own club I would encourage you to visit an association that already has one.

Honeybees are an amazing blessing to our community and sharing the knowledge of honey bees and the opportunity to work with them is a rich blessing for our youth and greater community.



# Kelley Beekeeping

SERVING THE BEEKEEPER SINCE 1924



*No matter what season we are here for  
all your beekeeping needs!*

**-PROTECTIVE CLOTHING -COMPLETE HIVES -TOOLS  
-SMOKERS -QUEENS -EXTRACTORS -BEES -JARS  
& MUCH MUCH MORE**



For Volume pricing call or email Ashley  
270-242-2019 ext. 213 or  
[aconstant@kelleybees.com](mailto:aconstant@kelleybees.com)

**1-800-233-2899**



**Kelley Beekeeping**  
SERVING THE BEEKEEPER SINCE 1924

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

We accept all major credit cards



CONNECT WITH US!



# PREMIUM QUALITY QUEENS

AVAILABLE YEAR ROUND

HEALTHY = HEALTHY  
QUEENS HIVES



**OLIVAREZ HONEY BEES**

OH B has been raising queens for more than 50 years. We raise Italian, Carniolan and Saskatraz queens and bees in the heart of Northern California and on Hawaii's Big Island. These carefully chosen locations allow us to provide our bees with the purest environments and the best food sources, and to offer our customers premium quality queens and bees year round.



**BIG ISLAND QUEENS**

A division of Olivarez Honey Bees, Inc.

**CALIFORNIA (530) 865-0298**

**HAWAII (808) 328-9249**

**TOLL FREE (877) 865-0298**

**OHBEEES.COM**

## LOUISIANA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION 55th ANNUAL CONVENTION DECEMBER 2-3, 2016

The Louisiana Beekeepers Association (LBA) will hold their 55th Annual Convention on Friday, December 2nd and Saturday, December 3rd at the Holiday Inn South, 9940 Airline Hwy, Baton Rouge. A block of rooms will be held for LBA guests at a rate of \$99.95/night+tax, double or king. Please make your reservations by calling ph. 225.924.7021. Remember to mention the Louisiana Beekeepers Association to get the special rate.

Please join us for the latest research information from the USDA/ARS Honey Bee Breeding, Genetics & Physiology Lab. The LBA will host guest speaker Sam Comfort, Anarchy Apiaries, and well known researchers Marla Spivak and Sue Cobey. Beekeeping basics, pest management, queening, and many more topics will be discussed. There will be something for everyone from the small scale beekeeper to the lifetime beekeeper as well as the commercial beekeeper, so please join us in Baton Rouge.

Pre-registration will be open November 1st through the 15th. You may pre-register online at the LBA website, [labeekeepers.org](http://labeekeepers.org), by using your credit card or PayPal, or you may mail in the pre-registration form that is located on the website. After the November 15th cut-off date, registration will be available at the door only. Please note changes in the pre-registration and registration pricing.

Please contact Joe Sanroma, ph.318.308.5000, or Jennifer Brown, ph.601.493.3447, for additional information.



# “My Gloves are Stiff and Icky!” = Bee Hive Bonfire

*from Robin Young, Metro Beekeepers Association*



You are about to go out to your hives and you slip on your glove and you can't even move your fingers. Don't feel bad we have all been there. Last year, 2015 at the TBA convention, a few of us beekeepers were talking about the best way to clean and soften our gloves. After a lengthy discussion we all agreed on these simple points:

- 1) With your glove on, wash your hands in warm water.
- 2) Use a gentle soap to lather and wash your hands the way you normally do without gloves except with your gloves on (I like anything with a winter green scent that seems to stay with the gloves and mask the scent of the stinging pheromone).
- 3) Then rinse your gloves/hands.
- 4) Do not dry your gloves yet, go straight to the Castor Oil and rub your gloved hands together like you would if applying lotion. Castor Oil or Vegetable Oil is safe to use. You can find Castor oil for a few dollars in any pharmacy or Walmart next to the mineral oil.
- 5) Then lay your gloves out to dry.



In 2017, the FDA will be requiring a prescription from a veterinarian for Agrimycin, Citratet, Medamycin, Oxymarine, Oxymycin, Oxy-Sol, Oxytet, Oxytetracycline, Oxytetracycline HCL, Oxy WS, Pennox, Terramycin, Terra-Vet, Tetravet-CA, Tetroxy, Tetroxy Aquatic, Tetroxy HCA. This family of drugs is used in treating American Foul Brood. You may ask yourself, “How does this affect me? I don't use this stuff anyway!” This could very well lead to more outbreaks of American Foul Brood resulting in a lot more hive burnings. As a beekeeping society, we are going to have to put in a little more effort in keeping our equipment clean. Throw your hive tool and bee brush into your hand washing procedure and you may very well save us all from a bee hive bonfire.

The recipe I'm about to share with you was given to everyone at the “The Queen's Luncheon” a few years back. Every year when we go to the TBA Annual Convention, we so look forward to the “Queen's Luncheon”. We get a chance to talk with other beekeepers over a nice meal and then we are treated to the latest news on what the young ladies have been up to. They travel all over the US and sometimes other countries to educate people of all ages about honey bees. They also hand out pamphlets with various recipes for us to take home. If you use this recipe I would ask that you consider going to the Luncheon or dropping \$20 in the mail to them or go to: <https://texasbeekeepers.org/donation/> and donate to the “Texas Honey Queen Fund”.

## Warm Vanilla and Honey Lip Balm

(Only the best recipe ever!)

### Supplies:

- 15-18 standard lip balm tubes or 3-1oz tins
- a small digital kitchen scale
- small pot or double boiler

### Ingredients

- 1 oz (approximant 2 tbsp) sweet almond oil
- 1 oz (approximant 2 tbsp.) shea butter (I prefer unrefined)
- 1/2 oz. (approximant 3 tsp.) beeswax
- 1/4 oz. (approximant 1 ½ tsp.) raw honey
- 1/4 to ½ teaspoon vanilla oil



## Method:

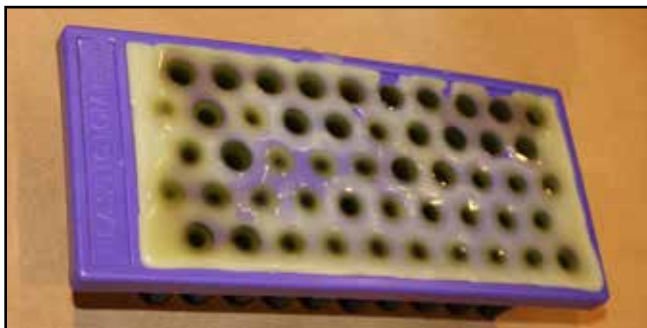
1) In a small pot – or double boiler – over low heat melt the almond oil, shae butter, and beeswax. Stir continuously until all is melted and well blended.



2) Remove the pot from the heat and add raw honey and vanilla oil. Whisk well –this can be done by using a small whisk, fork, or with a chopstick – and attempt to distribute the honey throughout the oil. (Note: This can be rather challenging. So don't be discouraged if a bit of the honey remains un-distributed. The trick is to stir and pour, repeat. I have also discovered if I use honey that is a bit crystalized it helps.



3) Pour the mixture into lip balm tubes and/or tins. (I triple the recipe. That is what is represented in the photos.)



4) Let it cool on the counter until hard.



5) Cap and Label.



6) Store as you would any other lip balm. Keep away from extreme heat.

7) Use within 2 years.

\*This recipe will make enough to fill approximately 15-18 standard lip balm tubes or 3-1 oz. tins.

I order my labels from vista print. They are address labels. I cut the tips of the labels so they cover the tub, but make sure you keep your writing to the left so that when it is opened your information is not torn. Then place 2 strips of clear tape: one all the way to the left, but not covering the turning knob, and the second to the right as seen in this picture. Be sure the second piece does not cover the cap or it will be difficult to open.

I charge \$3 a tube.





*So far in 2012  
we have delivered over  
\$2,000,000 to beekeepers  
around the country!*

# **BEEKEEPING INSURANCE SERVICES**

## **APICULTURE INSURANCE PROGRAM A Subsidized Program for Beekeepers**

*Available Nationwide*

### **Offering All Forms of Insurance Including:**

- \* **USDA Apiculture**
- \* **Property**
- \* **General Liability**
- \* **Automobile**
- \* **Life Insurance**
- \* **Home & Farm Insurance**

### **We are Proud Members & Supporters of:**

- \* **American Beekeeping Federation**
- \* **American Honey Producers Association**
- \* **California State Beekeepers Association**
- \* **Florida State Beekeepers Association**
- \* **Texas Beekeepers Association**
- \* **North Dakota Beekeepers Association**

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

**Noel Epstein: [nepstein@beekeepingins.com](mailto:nepstein@beekeepingins.com)**

**[www.beekeepingins.com](http://www.beekeepingins.com)  
888-537-7088**



# THE REVOLUTION BOX

Everything  
Except  
Bees

## SHASTINA MILLWORK

SUPERIOR  
DURABILITY

- \* Ask about our unique GUARANTEE
- \* Ponderosa Pine Products (kiln dried)

1<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>"

Top  
Box  
Joint

- \* Any Size
- \* Any Quantity

Now  
Making  
Frames

- \* Manufacturer direct
- \* Nationwide shipping
- \* Assembly, paint, branding optional

877-789-7526 Toll Free  
[www.shastinamillwork.com](http://www.shastinamillwork.com)



# USDA Is Working For Pollinators

*from Catch the Buzz*

A refresher from the DC folks. Under the President's National Strategy, as well as through other existing efforts, USDA is working to build healthy habitat for pollinators, conduct research to better understand the causes of their population declines, and raise public awareness about steps that all of us can take that will help to boost their numbers.

## **Improving pollinator habitat and forage:**

Through the Farm Service Agency's Conservation Reserve Program, 15 million acres of privately owned land are enrolled in conservation practices that benefit pollinators. Of these, 269,000 acres are enrolled in a special pollinator-specific initiative, but these creatures are also helped by several other Conservation Reserve Program practices on private land.

USDA is collaborating with the U.S. Geological Survey to measure honey bees' use of conservation covers and assess the effectiveness of conservation efforts to help honey bees.

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offers more than three dozen conservation practices that can benefit pollinator habitat. In early FY 2016 NRCS announced the Monarch Butterfly Habitat Development Project and up to \$4 million to establish and improve habitat. This monarch effort builds on a similar targeted honey bee effort in the Midwest/Northern Plains, and will lead to other natural resource benefits, such as improved water quality, healthier soils and more productive working lands.

The U.S. Forest Service is restoring and improving pollinator habitat on national forests and grasslands, as well as working with nations with which we share a border, and conducting research on pollinators.

USDA has distributed 375,500 pollinator-friendly seed packets across the country increase pollinator habitat in both urban and rural areas.

## **Conducting and supporting research into pollinator health:**

Over the past six years, the USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) alone has invested more than \$82 million in cutting-edge pollinator research and over the past decade has published nearly 200 journal articles about pollinators. ARS maintains a list of these articles online.

The Agricultural Research Service maintains four laboratories that conduct research into bee genetics, breeding, biology and physiology, with special focus on bee nutrition, pathogens and

parasites, the effects of pesticide exposure and the interactions between each of these factors.

Researchers at ARS' Beltsville Bee Lab have just "swapped" bees with a West Virginia beekeeper to try to replicate successful management practices to lower overwintering mortality rates. ARS researchers will study the borrowed bees' basic biology and genetics to try to pinpoint whether their increased survival is due to better genetics, better management, or both.

ARS is organizing a new National Bee Genebank to ensure that the genetic diversity of honey bees, especially for traits such as resistance to pests or diseases and pollination efficiency is preserved.

USDA's National Institutes of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) has funded research by the University of Nevada to identify a treatment for American foulbrood, a bacterial disease that affects honey bees.

Michigan State University is also using a grant from NIFA to research sustainable pollination strategies and evaluate the effects of farm wildflower enhancements to increase wild bee diversity and crop yields. NIFA is currently seeking applications for a total of \$16.8 million in grant funding for additional research projects with an emphasis on pollinator health.

In May, USDA's National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS) released the results of its first ever Honey Bee Colony Loss survey, which will provide statistically strong baseline information about honey bee losses and can help guide honey bee management decisions in the United States. NASS created the survey questions with input from beekeepers and researchers, and other stakeholders. The results will allow USDA and other federal departments and agencies to create a more unified and complementary approach to implementing the National Strategy.

Since 2007 the National Science Laboratories (NSL), a part of the Agricultural Marketing Service, has provided pesticide residue testing services to honey bee stakeholders, supporting research into honey bee health issues. As part of the long-term efforts focusing on the causes of honey bee decline, the NSL tests a broad range of pesticide residues in honey bee products—including pollen, beeswax, honey, nectar, royal jelly and the bees themselves.

## **Connecting people and pollinators:**

As a member of the Pollinator Health Task Force, USDA's People's Garden Initiative has launched a number of efforts to expand pollinator public education programs and outreach

including: engaging youth and families with the interactive online tool Plant a Window Box for Pollinators, disseminating best practices and resources for planting a pollinator-friendly garden, and supporting a unified campaign for National Pollinator Week by hosting the annual Pollinator Week Festival.

Two beehives were installed on the roof of the Jamie L. Whitten Building in 2010. Beekeepers from USDA's Agricultural Research Service, Bee Research Laboratory in Beltsville, Maryland care for the 80,000 honey bees. The foraging bees pollinate The People's Garden as well as the surrounding landscapes and have produced 22 gallons or approximately 264 lbs. of honey since 2010. Anyone with access to a computer can watch the USDA bees through our livestreaming bee cam.

USDA has installed 20,740 square feet of pollinator-friendly landscaping at the USDA Headquarters complex since 2009 with more to come.

2,512 community gardens located in all 50 states, three U.S. territories and twelve foreign countries are registered as People's Gardens and directly support pollinators.

USDA is hosted its seventh annual Pollinator Week Festival on Friday, June 24 to highlight the work of USDA agencies, other federal departments and partners to save pollinators.

ARS is cooperating in teaching beekeeping workshops to veterans and about-to-transition from-active-service personnel, who find working with honey bees to be therapeutic and stress relieving as well as offering job potential.

## A Look Into The Cell: There's a Lot More to Honey Storage Than You Thought

*from Catch the Buzz and Plos One*

Honey bees, *Apis* species, obtain carbohydrates from nectar and honeydew. These resources are ripened into honey in wax cells that are capped for long-term storage. These stores are used to overcome dearth periods when foraging is not possible. Despite the economic and ecological importance of honey, little is known about the processes of its production by workers. Here, we monitored the usage of storage cells and the ripening process of honey in free-flying *A. mellifera* colonies. We provided the colonies with solutions of different sugar concentrations to reflect the natural influx of nectar with varying quality. Since the amount of carbohydrates in a solution affects its density, we used computer tomography to measure the sugar concentration of cell content over time. The data show the occurrence of two cohorts of cells with different provisioning and ripening dynamics. The relocation of the content of many cells before final storage was part of the ripening process, because sugar concentration of the content removed was lower than that of content deposited. The results confirm the mixing of solutions of different concentrations in cells and show that honey is an inhomogeneous matrix. The last stage of ripening occurred when cell capping had already started, indicating a race against water absorption. The storage and ripening processes as well as resource use were context dependent because their dynamics changed with sugar concentration of the food. Our results support hypotheses regarding honey production proposed in earlier studies and provide new insights into the mechanisms involved.

For the rest of this Plos One Article goto:

<http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0161059>



**Your partner in helping maintain the  
intestinal Well-Being and Integrity of  
your honeybee Colonies**

**Contains:**

- All Natural Plant Polyphenols
- Phytonutrients
- 3 Essential Oils
- Complete Amino Acids
- Vitamins and Minerals



**NO GMO  
or HFCS!**

**AS LITTLE AS \$27 PER USE.**

**Simple, Effective and Economical.  
Apply early Spring and late Fall  
via drench or in feeder. Add to protein patties.**



**Dadant.com**  
**eKoBeekeeping.com**  
For more information - ( 907 ) 727-8200

### BROKER/APPRaiser FOR THE BEEKEEPING INDUSTRY

#### MORRIS WEAVER ENTERPRISES



**11625 Princess Margaret Ct.  
Montgomery, TX 77317**

**Phone/Fax 936.448.8061  
Mobile 936.825.4738**

**[www.morrisweaver.com](http://www.morrisweaver.com)  
[rmorrisweaver@gmail.com](mailto:rmorrisweaver@gmail.com)**

# 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)

---

## **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

[lzw@ausapts.com](mailto:lzw@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

## **Bell/Coryell Beekeepers Association**

Kirby Lack - (254) 290-0942

[klack@bot.rr.com](mailto:klack@bot.rr.com)

**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](mailto:knugent@gmail.com)

[bcbba@brazoria-county-beekeepers-association.com](mailto:bcbba@brazoria-county-beekeepers-association.com)

[www.brazoria-county-beekeepers-association.com](http://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@bvbeeks.org](mailto:info@bvbeeks.org)

[www.bvbeeks.org](http://www.bvbeeks.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**

Glynn Smith - (903) 639-2910

PO Box 37, Hughes Springs, TX 75656

[myrac29@gmail.com](mailto:myrac29@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**

Dennis Gray (361) 877-2440

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

P O Box 6 - Josephine, TX 75164

[www.ccbba.org](http://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**

Rex Moody - (325) 650-6360

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

**Meetings:** 3rd Tuesday of each month Jan-Nov  
Texas A&M Research and Extension Center  
7887 US Hwy 87 N, San Angelo @ 6:30 pm

## **Deep East Texas Beekeepers Association**

Ellen Reeder - (337) 499-6826

[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, 611 West Columbia Street,  
San Augustine, TX 75972 @ 6 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  
Cross Church, 1100 Dallas Drive #106, Denton, TX 76205

## **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

[dick.counts4450@gmail.com](mailto:dick.counts4450@gmail.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

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

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

## **Fredericksburg Beekeepers Association**

Joe Bader - (830) 537-4040

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

724 Cypress Bend Dr., Boerne, TX 78006

**Meetings:** Third Thursday of even number months (excl. Dec)  
Gillespie County AgriLife Extension Office  
95 Frederick Rd., Fredericksburg, TX 78624 @ 6:30 pm

## **Harris County Beekeepers Association**

Gary Parks (713) 906-1805

[gparks@geparkslaw.com](mailto:gparks@geparkslaw.com)

[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*

**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

*bank.hilliard@houstonbees.club*

3822 Piping Rock Lane, Houston, TX 77027

*www.houstonbeekeepers.org*

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

**Houston Natural Beekeepers Association**

Dean Cook

*houstonnaturalbeekeepers@gmail.com*

**Meetings:** 1702 Rothwell, Bldg. C, Houston, TX 77020  
Second Saturday of the month, 10am - Noon

**Johnson County Beekeepers Association**

Scott Crowe, Don Russell

*boatshop6@yahoo.com - jcbkeepers.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

*lamarcoba@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

**Longview Beekeepers Association**

Gus Wolf - (903) 746-9256

3464 Almond Rd, Big Sandy, TX 75755

*ghwolf@gmail.com*

**Meetings:** 4th Thursday of each month at 6pm  
Texas Agrilife Extension Office, 405 E Marshall St., Longview, TX 75601

**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@sbglobal.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@sbglobal.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

**Tyler County Bee Club**

Scott Martin - (409) 283-4507

*tcclub16@gmail.com*

308 Miles Loop, Colmesneil, TX 75938

**Meetings:** 4th Tuesday of each month at 6pm  
Nutrition Center, 201 Veterans Way, Woodville, TX 75979

**Walker County Area Beekeepers Assn.**

Mark Short - (281) 387-8124

*walkercountybeekeepers@gmail.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

## Directors -at-Large and Local Associations Served:

<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 Johnson 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 Bell/Coryell County 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 Valley Beekeepers Association Central Texas Beekeepers Association Hill County 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 Houston Natural Beekeepers Association
<b>Area 6</b>	<b>Cameron Crane</b> <i>cameron@camerocrane.com</i> 2300 Belvedere Dr. Baytown, TX 77520 (409) 658-3800	East Texas Beekeepers Association Deep East Texas Beekeepers Association Liberty County Beekeepers Association Longview Beekeepers Association Marshall Beekeepers Association Piney Woods Beekeepers Association Lamar County Beekeepers Association Tyler County Bee Club Wood County Beekeepers Association

---

**Join Texas Beekeepers Association**  
**at *texasbeekeepers.org***  
**or contact Shirley Doggett at**  
**(512) 924-5051**

# You Know Bees. We Know Beekeepers Insurance.

*Your*  
**TRUSTED ADVOCATE**  
*for*  
**BEEKEEPING  
OPERATIONS**  
*Large and Small*

- ★ Licensed in more than 40 states
- ★ Customized coverage for all areas of your business

National Agent of Choice for the  
American Beekeeping Federation  
 **Trusted Choice®**  
Independent Insurance Agent

**TEXAS INSURANCE &  
FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.**

**800-541-9849 • [www.txins.com](http://www.txins.com)**

**Contact us today to schedule your FREE insurance review.**



## Texas Beekeepers Association

Chris Doggett, Editor  
400 County Road 440  
Thrall, TX 76578-8701  
Phone: (512) 914-2794  
[ckdoggett@gmail.com](mailto:ckdoggett@gmail.com)

Return Service Requested

PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Webster, TX  
Permit No. 184

---

### TBA Officers-2016



#### President

Chris Moore  
[moorehoneyfarm@gmail.com](mailto:moorehoneyfarm@gmail.com)  
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)  
575 County Road 5010  
Blue Ridge, TX 75424  
(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  
[tbatreasure@gmail.com](mailto:tbatreasure@gmail.com)  
PO Box 2026  
Cedar Park, TX 78630  
(512) 921-1521

#### Publications Director

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

---

#### 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



*Dreyfus* PRINTING/110 W Sealy/Alvin, TX 77511/email: [info@dreyfusprinting.com](mailto:info@dreyfusprinting.com)/Phone: 281/331-3381 Fax: 281/331-0466