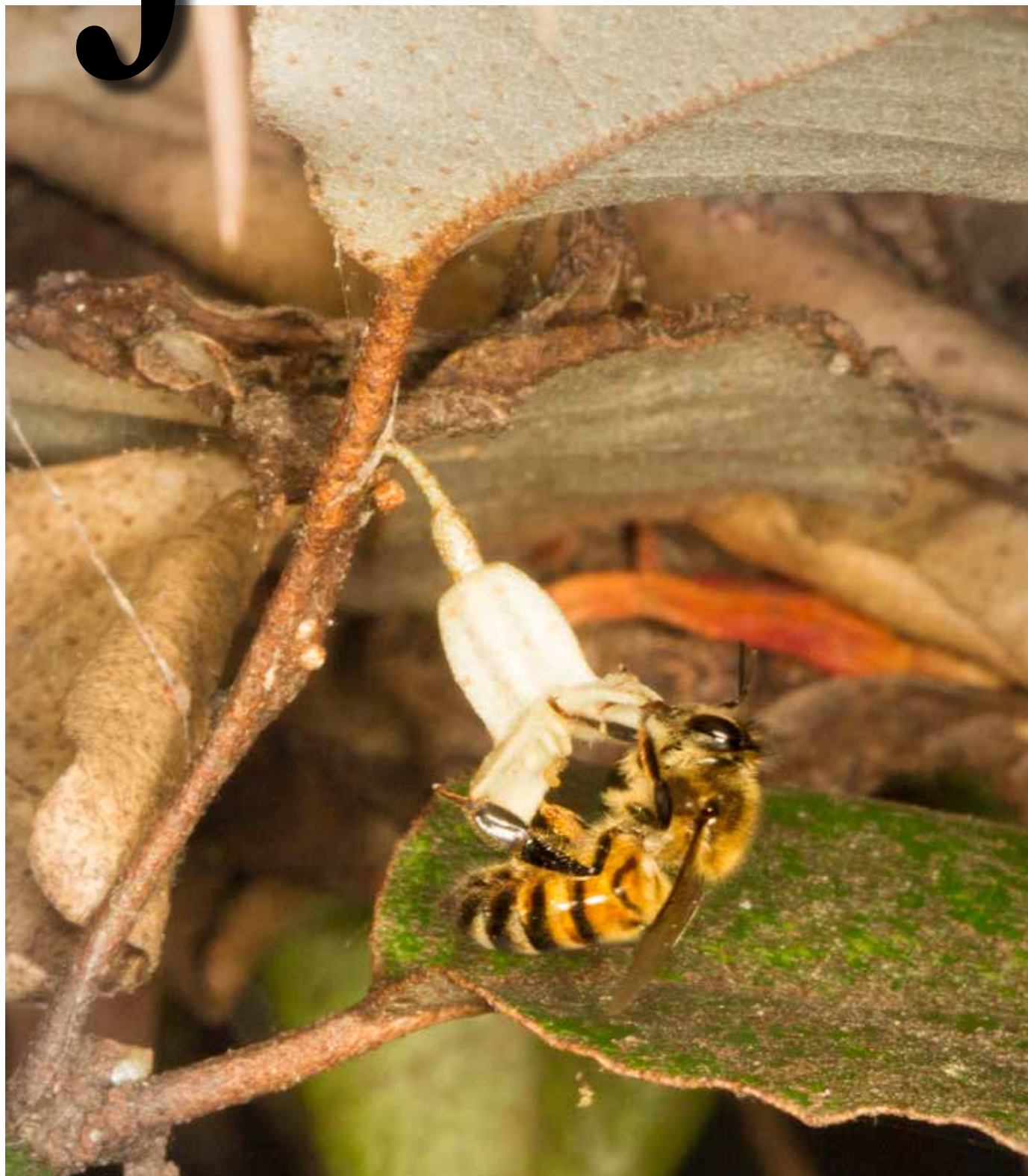


The Texas Beekeepers Association

# Journal







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# President's Report

*from Chris Moore*



Who is TBA ?

You are. Anyone supporting or keeping honey bees in Texas.

Texas Beekeepers Association ( TBA ) has grown substantially in the past 4 years from having ~300 members and a dozen or so local clubs to currently ~1650 members and ~42 local clubs and growing.

I would like to introduce the new TBA Board

Leesa Hyder – Executive Secretary  
Holy Medina – Treasurer  
Chris Doggett – Publications Director  
Shirley Doggett – Membership Coordinator  
John Talbert – Special Advisor  
Lisa Ditfurth – Events coordinator  
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Harrison Rogers – Director  
Roger Farr – Director  
Lance Wilson – Director  
Tanya Phillips – Director  
Blake Shook – Past President  
Mark Hedley – Vice President

I would like to personally thank everyone on the board for serving and for all their hard work to help benefit us all. This is a very active board that is working on several projects to help improve beekeeping and the honey market here in Texas.

Exciting news, TBA has been awarded a USDA specialty crop grant. Texas Beekeepers only produce ~20% of the honey consumed in Texas. Our Honey is a specialty crop and we will be working to help market it as such for the benefit of all Real Texas Beekeepers. TBA will also be working to educate consumers about the current issues in the unregulated Texas honey market.

TBA has also just started a tax-deductible non-profit. Texas Honey Bee Education Association. This will be the educational arm of the TBA.

Speaking of....

TBA has scheduled the 2017 Summer Clinic for June 10th at UT Arlington Student Center. Randy Oliver will be our guest speaker. [www.scientificbeekeeping.com](http://www.scientificbeekeeping.com)

Texas is also hosting the 2017 North American Trade Conference in Galveston, Jan 10-14th. Info & registration may be found at <http://nabeekeepingconference.com> TBA Members receive a \$60 discount. Enter code **TBAMEM**.

A quick note about beekeeping, make sure your bees have plenty of food reserves the next few months.

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## In This Issue

President's Report.....	3
Vice President's Report.....	4
Texas Honey Bee Education Assn.....	6
The Brantley Column.....	7
A Late Season Swarm.....	8
A Teaching Bee Hive.....	12
What's in a Name.....	18
Queen Development in Honey Bees.....	19
2016 Honey Queen Report.....	21
Texas A&M Bee Lab.....	22

Club Buzz.....	24
2016 Honey Princess Report.....	27
2017 Honey Queen Report.....	28
TBA Convention Report.....	30-35
TAIS Update.....	38
What Do You Want to be When You Grow Up.....	40
Bees Foraging for Pollen.....	41
Bees in Space.....	43
Association Listing.....	44-45
Directors Listing.....	46

*Cover Picture: Bee Foraging on an Elaeagnus Shrub in December by Dan Eudy*

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



### Ch-ch-ch-ch-Changes

Turn and face the strange. That's about all I remember from that David Bowie classic but those lyrics seem appropriate with all the changes we are about to experience. Soon we will have a new U.S. President, a new year, and a continually renewing TBA. We all are faced with changes, some seem so strange at first, however, as we embrace these changes and allow ourselves to "face the strange" perhaps good things will come as well.

TBA has grown rapidly over the last two years. Our Coordinators, Directors at Large, and Officers have all contributed in so many ways to that growth and success. With that success came more changes in how we operate; report financials; even adhere to internal controls, policies, and procedures. We are making these changes because we owe it to you, our members. Over the course of the next year we will be administering a \$150,000 USDA grant; develop integration between our website and financial reporting system; and possibly implement an integrated point of sale system. We will refresh the website again to keep up with current Internet trends while providing compelling content to serve you better. These projects will usher in a lot of changes and hard work over the next year.

As a beekeeper, I am also looking at changes in how my operation functions in 2017. As we have grown into a commercial apiary, we have realized that rains don't always cooperate and nectar doesn't always flow when you want it to. It only takes one season (thanks

2015!) to make you realize that welfare bees don't pay the bills. We expanded our business goals to include pollination work as we continue growing. We will send our first full truckload of bees to California almonds at the beginning of 2017 and have a pollination deal for another agricultural crop in Texas in March. This is a big change for our operation and has required a lot of planning.

Historically, I have had a lot of seemingly scary changes in my personal life – going to college; getting that first real job; getting married (now 30 years strong!); having kids; relocating for work; retiring; becoming a rancher; and BECOMING A BEEKEEPER. Each time I embraced any change with an open mind, open heart, and sought guidance from God, everything turned out great. Each change brought an opportunity to exchange ideas with others and solve problems along the way. Each change was a learning experience that strengthened me as a human being, friend, husband, father, and business associate.

I thank all of our Members, Coordinators, Directors at Large, and Officers for shaping TBA into what it has become and will be in the future. I thank you all for allowing me to serve again as your Vice President. I am looking forward to embracing the changes that are to come in 2017 for our country, our organization, and my beekeeping operation. Let's embrace each other while learning from, and strengthening, each other along the way.

---

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

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**Shirley Doggett at *[sdoggett@mindspring.com](mailto:sdoggett@mindspring.com)***

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**Texas Beekeepers Association announces the formation of:**

## **Texas Honey Bee Education Association**



We wanted to clearly separate the organization and corporate structure that is TBA from the desire to have a purely “educational” association which can receive tax-deductable contributions and can focus on the needs of beekeepers and the beekeeping industry. The desires of TBA members and others to give charitable contributions that would benefit beekeeping and would give them a tax deduction, required that we form a separate organization.

Texas Honey Bee Education Association, (THBEA), a 501(c)3 corporation, is organized to:

- **enhance and expand the awareness of the contribution of honey bees to agriculture and to society,**
- **create additional appreciation and interest in the profession of beekeeping through studies in technical and scientific subjects,**
- **strengthen beekeepers’ skills through education programs,**
- **provide resources for continuing bee research particularly in areas that will advance bee culture, improve pollination, and conserve biodiversity, and**
- **engage in any lawful business or activities related thereto.**

THBEA is open for business! We have had several organizing meetings, received our tax-exempt status ruling from the IRS, and received the first contribution! The members of the governing board of THBEA are Blake Shook as Chairperson, Chris Doggett, Roger Farr, Mark Hedley, Larry Hoehne, Leesa Hyder, Holly Medina, and Chris Moore. This board is hard at work to develop materials to solicit contributions to THBEA and to identify projects to fund that will advance the purposes of THBEA.

The THBEA Update in the TBA Journal will be a regular feature where we will keep you up-to-date with the progress we are making. We will also share with you THBEA’s financial statistics and progress reports on the projects we are funding or seeking to fund.

In the meantime, if you’d like to donate to THBEA you may send your contribution to THBEA, P.O. Box 2026, Cedar Park, TX 78630. You will receive a receipt for your tax records. We are also able to accept contributions of marketable securities in publically traded entities.





## The Brantley Column

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

December – it should be cold enough, even in East Texas, to put our bees into winter mode. There should not be too many demands in the beeyard this month, especially if you have made sure your hives have adequate stores. It is a good month for us as beekeepers to re-think our actions through the past bee season, analyze what we did that worked and what we could have done to improve our apiary. Our goal each year is increase honey production, reduce swarming, have fewer dead-outs, and have healthier bees. How did you do this past season?

As I am writing this article, the weatherman is promising our first significant cold weather for the weekend. Temps are expected to drop into the 30's, possibly even near freezing in some places. If you were conscientious about your fall inspections, your hives should now be ready to survive the winter. If you are concerned about their status, try to check for stores and feed if necessary before the weather becomes consistently cold.

However, October and November have been unusually mild, with many days reaching the 80's. Taking advantage of the warm days to do some late season inspections, a fellow beekeeper and I looked inside of a double-brood hive. The top brood box had ten full frames of honey. Solid capped honey from the top bar to the bottom bar on all ten frames. All that honey made us concerned that the hive did not have a queen. However, we found eggs and capped brood in the bottom box. We added two Apistan strips to the bottom box and closed up the hive for 42 days per the Apistan instructions. That means we will need a late December day with calm winds and temps around 60 to open the hive and remove the Apistan strips.

We were pleased to find a queen in that hive. At this time of the year, what do you do if you find a hive that has no queen? Unless you just happen to have some extra mated queens on hand, I believe you have only two options -- freeze or consolidate. These frozen frames will do wonders when it is time to make several spring splits. Add them to a few frames of fresh brood and a new queen. The bees in the split will clean out the old frozen brood and the queen will lay in the clean cells.

The second option is to set the brood boxes on top of other queen-right hives. You will end up with some three-brood-box hives for the winter. However, by spring, most of the stored honey should be eaten, leaving clean drawn comb. You have the possibility that the queen may start laying in that comb in early spring, giving you capped brood for bigger and better spring splits.

In late September, I started a trap-out from a forked cedar tree with the hive entrance near the ground. While observing the activity at the entrance, I did notice a large number of drones in the nest. I took a frame of eggs and capped brood from a hive that had a Wooten Golden Queen and placed it in a 10-frame box with some really sorry drawn comb. I installed my wire cone over the tree entrance and set this box next to it. I made a couple of visits to the trap-out but did not see any promising signs until 21 days later. I did not see a queen then but some of the frames had been cleaned in the center of the comb. It was the 28th day before I was able to check again. This time, I found eggs and young brood on several frames. I also saw a plump, bright yellow queen walking the cells looking for a place to lay. The house bees were not attempting to draw new wax on the poor comb but all of the cells that were completed had an egg or larva in the bottom. I closed the trap and found better drawn comb from the freezer to replace the poorly drawn comb I had first placed in the box. I also added a two-frame black plastic internal feeder. The hive has subsequently taken and stored three gallons of syrup. Time will tell if the queen was able to mate well enough to still be viable this spring. I am hoping the continued mild weather and the availability of drones allowed her to mate well.

For our novice beekeepers, as the weather cools, the hive will eject the drones. Their usefulness is finished for this season. The workers will not allow them to remain and consume stores throughout the winter. Don't be alarmed if you see dead bees on the ground outside the hive entrance. It is just the natural order of things in the bee world.



# A Late Season Swarm

*from Micheal Mathews, Fayette County Beekeepers*



I guess I'm a sucker for lost causes, especially when it comes to bees. When my wife found a small swarm at the bottom of a gum bumelia my first thoughts were it is too late in the year, the swarm is too small to survive and we need to get a hive ready.

For several weeks we have been watching our colonies and preparing our hives for winter. Most are in good shape with full stores and there is only one weak colony that will need to be fed over the winter. The colonies have expelled their drones and with the exception of one very strong colony, the queens are not laying at any great rate. Although we cannot be sure where this swarm originated, our strongest colony could be the source.

Catching swarms with a top bar is relatively straight forward. In the past we have successfully left a hive near the swarm, poured in as many bees as we could catch on the first attempt and waited to see if the others followed. Generally we catch the queen on the first try and within an hour the rest of the swarm has moved in to the new box. Then it is an easy task to close the entrance holes and relocate the hive the next morning. Fortunately, we had two empty hives so one was available for the swarm.

We had some work to prepare a hive. First, open any hive that has been sitting with caution. In the past we have found everything from mud daubers and paper wasps to a nesting Carolina wren occupying an empty hive. This one had a green tree frog that needed to be evicted and lots of spider webs. In the past we have used split corks for entrance reducers, but I have come to prefer the circular kind available from many suppliers. These offer various entrance sizes and are more convenient with splits, swarms and package installations, so one was added this hive.



*Circular Entrance Reducer*

After chipping away the old propolis, the hive was swept and blown clean with a can of compressed air.

With the hive cleaned we added a follower block with a slot for a Boardman feeder to reduce the interior size of the hive by roughly half. Used bars with wax on them were placed in one end of the hive and the other was sealed with boards we cut to cover the feeders. Since the swarm was only fifty feet from the bee yard we decided not to bring the hive to the bees. Rather, we hurriedly prepared footings in the bee yard and set the hive in place. Then we added a feeder, corked the open holes and set the entrance reducer to the smallest opening.



*Reducing the size of the Hive and adding Boardman Feeder*

If it were a spring swarm we would not add any comb and let the colony build out their own comb. Since this is a late year swarm, we took one honey comb and one empty brood comb from our two strongest hives. Adding these bars emphasizes an important point for top bar bee keepers. While top bar hive design is often free form, it is beneficial if all of the hives in a bee yard use the same size bar. With a single size bar, the bee keeper can use empty bars in any hive or move bars between hives for swarms and splits.

With everything prepared the swarm was caught in a box and then placed in the hive. After closing the hive, the remaining workers were collected from the tree and set beneath the hive to find their way home. Soon those workers were searching for the





*Adding Honey and Empty Brood Comb*




*Placing the Swarm in the Hive*

entrance and by the end of the day all were inside. After five days we checked to see that the bees are using the feeder. After two weeks, over Thanksgiving, we will open the hive for the first time to see if they have adopted their new home. If they have, we may add another honey comb and brood comb from one of the other hives.

I know several bee keepers who would have passed on this swarm. It seems that a late season swarm, like top bar bee keeping, requires a little more effort as well as a certain amount of cautious optimism. Watching the bees this afternoon those first thoughts return, it is too late in the season and the swarm is too small. Still, with some help they may make it.






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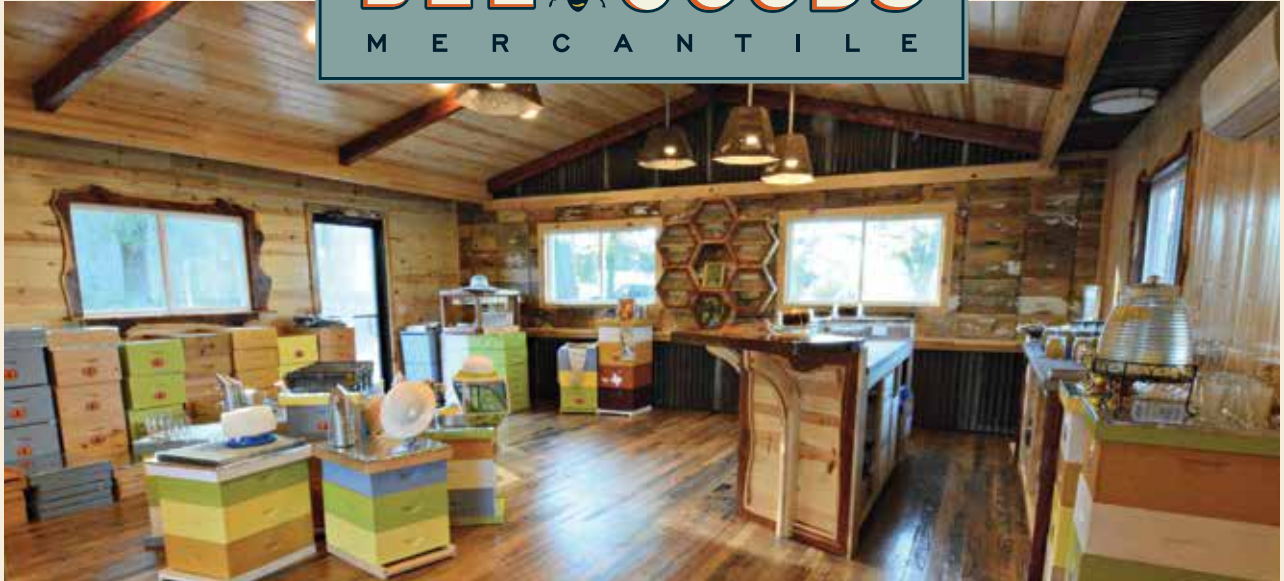


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Temporary / Part Time. \$12/hr - 10 hrs/ week, (57 weeks, Dec 2016 to March 2018). No insurance. No benefits.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

Performs complex work in compliance with a specialty crop block grant seeking to increase Consumer Awareness of the Economic and Health Benefits of “Real Texas Honey” through a Multi-Stage Research and Marketing Campaign across the State of Texas. The position will be responsible for developing, planning and organizing a marketing campaign, arranging booth, fair and other outreach promotions. Specialist will present program findings and results to Texas beekeepers in routine public speaking engagements.

**ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS**

Evaluates expenditure and/or performance data and makes projections to ensure appropriate use of funds and continuous improvement of business processes. Communicates guidance and reports information to both internal and external stakeholders regarding project progress and findings.

Performs related work as assigned. Maintains relevant knowledge of the beekeeping industry necessary to perform essential job functions. Attends work regularly in compliance with agreed-upon work schedule. Ensures security and confidentiality of sensitive and/or protected information

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS**

Education: Graduation from high school or equivalent

Experience: Five or more years of experience keeping multiple bee hives. Four or more years performing presentations to beekeepers and the public on honey bees, beekeeping, and industry related topics.

Knowledge of office practices and administrative procedures.

Knowledge of organizational behavior, including assuming and sharing responsibility.

Skill in gathering and analyzing facts, solving problems.

Skill in computer applications including Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

Skill in producing promotional layouts, publications and multimedia presentations.

Skill in producing media presentations for Radio, TV, Newspaper, and/or Periodicals.

Skill in handling multiple tasks, prioritizing, and meeting deadlines.

Skill in effective oral and written communication.

Skill in exercising sound judgment and effective decision making.

Ability to receive and respond positively to constructive feedback.

Ability to work cooperatively with others in a professional office environment.

Ability to provide excellent customer service.

Ability to arrange for personal transportation for business-related travel.

Ability to work flexible hours as needed.

Ability to lift and relocate 30 lbs.

Ability to travel (including overnight travel) up to 35%.

**PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS**

Experience working in a nonprofit organizational environment.

Experience in contract compliance.

Ability to earn Texas Master Beekeeper Accreditation.

**TRAVEL**

35%

**TBA** has been awarded a “Specialty Crop Block Grant” the Texas Department of Agriculture (the “Grant”). This is a temporary, part-time position and will be funded only through funds provided by the Grant. Employment will not extend beyond the term of the Grant.

**Email Resume** to Chris Moore, Project Manager, at [president@texasbeekeepers.org](mailto:president@texasbeekeepers.org) by December 15, 2016  
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# A Teaching Bee Hive at a Community Garden

from Dennis Gray, Jr., Coastal Bend Beekeepers

Grow Local South Texas is a non-profit in Corpus Christi, TX that seeks to support the local production of food within the community. Their goals are to provide resources to local producers and bring those producers to market within 200 miles of production. They operate a local Farmer's Market and a "Learning Garden" in the heart of town. The Learning Garden began as an Adopt a Park program and has grown into a very permanent part of the community. Here they have three paid staff who maintain the large exhibits and manage the other space. Garden apprentices can earn their own gardening space with which to teach themselves, or to experiment with techniques.

The group reached out to me in April, 2015 to add a honey bee colony to the Learning Garden. They took the initiative to build an enclosure and pollinator garden and added insurance provisions for a hive. I recommended a nuc for the garden because of its small size and flexibility. Brushy Mountain donated a 5-frame medium nuc for the project and we installed the hive July 13, 2015. It began as a five frame split with a purchased queen.



The garden itself is about 2 acres with about half of that space inside a fence. The pollinator space they built is about 8 by 12 feet and is fenced with cattle panels and cedar posts. Initially, one of their talented and eager gardeners made considerable investments in planting inside the fence. This pollinator garden was beautiful and productive, attracting not just honey bees but local native pollinators such as the Mexican Honey Wasp (*Brachygastra mellifica*) and sweat bees (*Halictinae*). In time, however, many of these plantings congested the space around the hive. The bees did not complain, but as a classroom, it required some scaling back.

The hive consists of 4 medium 5-frame boxes, a screened bottom board, inner cover and telescoping top. Frames are Brushy Mountain black superframes. The hive began with five medium frames of bees and five blanks. We provided no feed or other supplements.

After the installation party with garden staff and a few garden apprentices, our next inspection was August 10. At this time, we confirmed that we had indeed gotten a good take with the queen and they were beginning to build on the new frames. It was handy that a certain amount of burr comb was present for taste testing!

September 22 was the first big teaching event for the hive. They signed up ten students to take the first official (public) look at the new hive. It was a spectacular success! By this time the hive had finished their ten frames and taken an additional five. And we made sure there was plenty of comb laying out for tasting. Students were able to identify all the castes of bees, each stage of brood development, and all the resources stored in the hive. At this event we saw that the hive was full and in danger of casting a late season swarm, so we moved early into another goal of the hive.



The Learning Garden seeks to send apprentices out into the community to grow their own food, not just maintain a community garden, and this is one reason we decided to keep a nuc at the garden. Nucs are small, but easily scaled. As a teaching tool, the hive is easy to examine and learn from. The queen is easily accessible without long hunts, the perfect format for hour-long classes. But one added benefit of the nuc is that it must be frequently split to avoid swarming. This excessive splitting is usually a nuisance to beekeepers, but it combines quite nicely with the Garden's goal of sending growers home to continue what they learn there.

On October 3 we split the hive. The apprentice beekeepers who took the hive were able to get a mated queen and install her. In much of the country an October split sounds absurd, but our climate (Zone 9) makes this late season splitting achievable. A small amount of feeding and they can be set for winter in a month. This split is still going strong today!

The Teaching Hive made it through the winter and on February 10 we had another inspection event. The hive was strong and confident enough to raise large numbers of drones. Indeed,



2016 was a warm and early spring (caught my first swarm of the year on Jan 14) and the hive was approaching the time to split again.

The Learning Garden works with an after-school program to teach kids gardening and work skills. On February 18 we brought those kids to the hive to learn the basics of pollination. The following week we robbed the hive of 8 frames of honey that we processed with the kids back at their recreation center. They had a great time and got sufficiently sticky as to say they accomplished something themselves.

We used the empty honey combs to split the hive that same day, bringing our split count to two.

Spring is a busy time for beekeepers and gardeners and we didn't have another hive event until May 30 when we offered an introduction to beekeeping class. We increased our class size to 20 for this event. We split the hive again just a few days before the event so they'd be more manageable for beginners. Our best work was on Jun 26 when we provided IPM training to beekeepers. This critical skill is often covered in power point presentations that never do it justice.

We set up three stations. The first station was for pest identification and we provided specimens to examine of all the major pests in our area. Each stage of wax moth and small hive beetles and adult varroa mites were available for viewing on the dissecting scope. At the second station students studied the cultural and mechanical controls of each pest. The third station was at the hive where students counted mites and dissected drone brood. Following the IPM class we split the hive and sent our fourth apprentice home with a new colony.

The Learning Garden only teaches by hands-on methods, and their teaching hive is the perfect tool for making competent beekeepers. This 100% hands-on approach to training beekeepers is unusual because of the overhead in managing a hive. Most beekeeper training is conducted seminar style in single-day events that draw attendance from the whole region. Other training is conducted in short classes and is driven almost entirely by bee farms seeking to sell colonies and gear.

The slow, methodical, and hands-on training we conduct is also very effective. While overall colony losses hover around 40%, and beginner losses often much higher, we're seeing beginners who spend considerable time in our hive before they venture out alone. And while the splits we have sent home with students are still young, the results so far are promising. Not only have all the splits built into robust and productive hives, but those new beekeepers remain engaged with the teaching hive and bring relevant lessons to and from their own hives. The splits they brought home have naturally produced other colonies through splitting (and at least one swarm). As best we can determine, our project is responsible for about a dozen additional managed colonies in the first full year of operation.

## Hive Management

Managing a permanent nucleus colony can be challenging. The bees obviously do not observe our schedule at the Learning Garden, so we must carefully monitor the hive and make contingency plans around weather and other hive inputs.

We decided a nuc would be appropriate because it is small, and unlikely to ever become overly aggressive, even if they managed to raise a new queen (we are deep inside AHB territory and see

much more aggression than normal). The small numbers also mean the queen is easy to spot, and that really keeps the interest of students.

Obviously we manage the hive for bee production instead of honey production. The frequent splitting keeps the population low (10,000-23000), which limits their ability to pack on large amounts of honey, but they still manage to make honey regularly. Our first harvest was just prior to the growing season here and yielded about 30 pounds of honey, mostly made in 2015. Honey production is also important to teach honey processing.

Any hive that is deliberately kept small is subjected to higher risk from pests. The Learning Garden does not allow any chemical treatments at all, so IPM is important. In addition to teaching IPM, we also depend on it to keep the colony in good shape. We run a screened bottom on the hive and use the IPM board to close it off in the winter to reduce drafts. We do not normally reduce the entrance and mice have never been a problem at the garden site. Mite counts on the hive have not yet exceeded 2%. This year we will add drone brood harvesting to remove additional mites.

Splitting a hive is an important skill in managing this small hive. The colony is already small with never more than 15 medium frames in brood boxes so splitting must carefully observe "bee math." We ask apprentices to choose their own frames in a final demonstration that they know what it takes to make a strong colony – capped brood for fresh nurse bees, open brood to support colony cohesiveness, and an adult population that can support and defend the colony. Some apprentices have added purchased queens to their splits soon after placing them and a few allowed their split to raise a queen.



The overall set up of the hive is ideally suited to teaching and splitting. I consider the core hive to be the ten frames in the lower two boxes and we try to split the hive when they fill the third. Anything over three boxes is excluded and devoted to honey production. This scheme works well, but sometimes local conditions force us to be flexible. Our third split was made when the hive had barely 8 frames of brood and we split it because they were making honey in the third box and we needed the space.

## Beekeeper Apprentices

The Learning Garden draws from a diverse pool of people in the community. Some are interested in beekeeping for small farms and large gardens of their own, but many will be hobby keepers or folks looking to “save the bees.” The community at large consists of an industrial and chemical processing base. The neighborhood where the Learning Garden is located is a lower income area that we struggle to engage. While the neighborhood is welcoming and interested, getting their participation is sometimes difficult.

In 2015, we started three beekeeper apprentices and we managed to “graduate” those this spring, sending a split home with each. Those three were already engaged in various food production endeavors and are closely involved with wildlife management graduate studies at Texas A&M-Kingsville. Other interested candidates this year include people from a variety of careers. To date, no beekeeper apprentice has been drawn from the existing garden apprentice pool.

Certain aspects of beekeeping do not lend themselves to our approach. Swarm management and control is a natural part of our hive, and so is not a topic that is well illustrated by our frequent splitting. We emphasize the signs and warnings of swarming, but our apprentices do not get to see it first hand. The delicate balance of too much-not enough space is difficult to demonstrate with a small hive, where “a lot” of space is the addition of five medium frames, which a healthy colony can fill in just a few days. The tempo of Spring beekeeping is necessarily quite high.

### The Results

This project has brought beekeeping to more people in a single year of operation than our local bee club. Significantly, the Coastal Bend Beekeepers was invited to participate in the fall of 2014. Initially, the club agreed, but later was unable to deliver the necessary support for the project. Grow Local contacted me after they had made significant investments in the beekeeping project



and were unwilling to halt the project when the club wasn't able to continue with it. Nevertheless, the beekeeping community supported this project from the start, with Brushy Mountain's generous contributions providing a needed boost.

The mission of Grow Local is to cultivate a healthy community by growing the local food system and improving access to nutritious, affordable foods. The Teaching Hive served this mission by adding local food producers to the local area. In addition, the presence of the hive also supports the production of flowering crop plants in the Learning Garden, and illustrates the importance of healthy pollinator communities in such production operations. It provides an opportunity to talk with garden apprentices about other important members of this pollinator community.

The results of the project are undeniable. It added local food producers. It made local honey for the participants and select members of the Farmer's Market community. It increased the number of managed honey bee colonies in the area by reducing the barriers to entry for new beekeepers.

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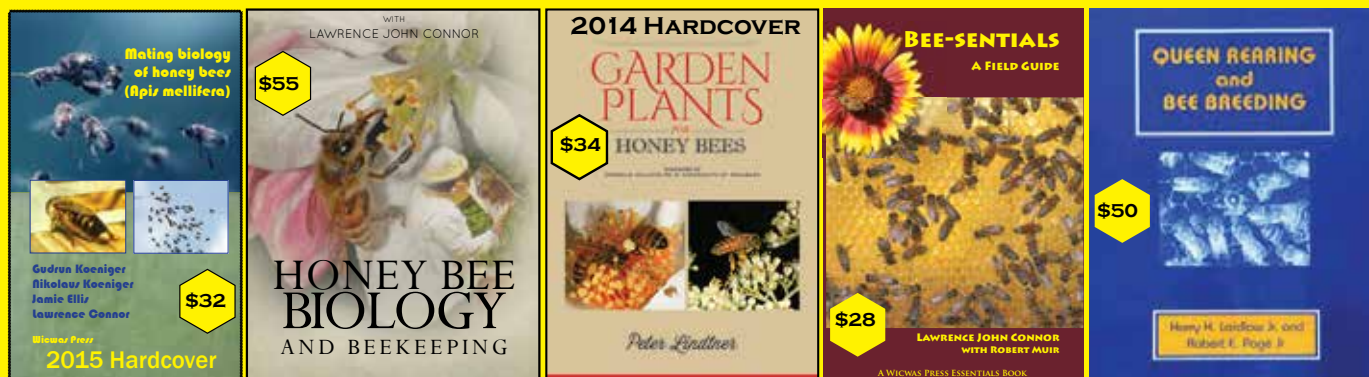
## Upcoming Texas Beekeepers Association Events

**Delegates Meeting - Honey Bee Lab - February 18th 2017**

**Summer Clinic - UT Arlington Student Center - June 10th 2017**

**Annual Convention - Frank W Mayborn Civic and Convention Center  
Temple, TX - November 9th - 11th 2017**





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# Austin 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Beekeeping Seminar

Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> 2017

**What:** Austin 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Beekeeping Seminar

**Who:** Sponsored by

The Austin Area Beekeepers Association

**Where:** *J.J. Pickle Research Campus*

10100 Burnet Road, Austin, TX 78758

**Cost:** \$50 pre-reg. until 11/30/16. \$60 normal reg.

## **Why:**

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

## **Description:**

This is a daylong seminar offering 6 different educational presentations running concurrently in each time slot throughout the day. This will provide many beginning and advanced subjects to choose from. A separate beginner track has been formatted covering a variety of startup topics for soon to be or very new beekeepers.

## ***Afternoon sessions will include many different presentations including:***

- Honey Bee Management 1 and 2
- Honey Bee Biology and Behavior
- Top Bar Management 1 and 2
- Varroa Management
- Brood Disease Control
- Swarm Capture Techniques
- Raising Queens
- Learn Honey Extraction Techniques
- Harvest Economics
- Beneficial Bee Flowers
- Texas Ag Exemption
- Ask an Expert
- Queen Finding and Requeening
- Honey Bee Reproductive Biology
- Colony Supersedure and Management
- Making Splits
- Nutrition Management
- Spring Management
- Cut-Outs
- Products of the Hive
- Equipment Building Workshops
- Increasing Hive Productivity
- Mead Making

### **Presenters:**

- Professor Juliana Rangel- Posada Entomology Texas A&M
- Mark Dykes- Chief Texas Apiary Inspector
- Mary Reed- Texas Apiary Inspector
- Mark Hedley- Vice President Texas Beekeepers Assoc.
- Chris Doggett- TBA Publications Director
- Tanya Phillips – Owner Bee Friendly Austin
- Elizabeth Walsh-Entomology Texas A&M
- Jay Poindexter-Owner of Poindexter Family Apiary
- Karl Acuri- Austin Area Beekeepers Assoc. (Co-organizer)
- Cameron Crane-Area Director Texas Beekeepers Assoc.
- Becky Bender-TX Master Naturalist
- Brandon Fehrenkamp- Owner of Austin Bees (formerly Eastside Honey Co.)
- Lance Wilson- Certified Master Beekeeper GMBP
- Chuck Reburn-Owner Bee Friendly Austin
- James and Chari Elam-Owners of Bluebonnet Beekeeping Supplies.
- Joe Bader- President of the Fredericksburg Beekeepers Assoc.
- Dennis Herbert-President of the Bell-Coryell Beekeepers Assoc.
- Dodie Stillman-Texas Master Beekeeper candidate

For more info and to register for this event <http://aabaseminar2017.eventbrite.com>

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

This organization is non-profit and all proceeds of this event will be used to promote sustainable beekeeping practices and provide support to our much appreciated Texas A&M Honey Bee Lab.

This should be a lot of fun, everyone please come out and see us!

# What's in a Name?

## “That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet” - *Shakespeare, Romeo and Juliet*

*from Robin Young, Metro Beekeepers Association*



It's time. I know you have been putting it off, but you're ready. You are getting steady harvests, have now tried a few recipes that you like and it's time to put a name to your new budding business. Where to start? There are really 2 options:

A Name that is recognizable right off as a honey product or,

A name that has nothing even remotely sounding like honey.

There is no wrong answer here, but there are some considerations for both sides. If you choose a recognizable name like mine, Soul Honey, with the actual name “Honey” in it, chances are you will have to spend a little money from time to time defending your copyrighted name. If you choose a more obscure name like “Super Awesome Sweet”, you are going to have to spend some money on product recognition.

Soul Honey was not my first choice for my little business. I wanted to call it “Young Honey”. First thing I did was a search on line to see if anyone else was using the name. To my horror, the name I had loved lead me straight to a porn site. Every variation I tried that had the words “Honey” or “Young” took me straight to a porn site. After about 10 hours of searching, I was determined to find an unused name. A week later I was talking to my mother-in-law, who has a few businesses of her own, and she told me to look in the bible for inspiration. That is where I found “Soul Honey”.

Here is a process I would recommend trying on your own before you start to spend any money on this endeavor.

Make a list of possible names and realize you may not get your first one.

Do a search for each name until you find one that is not being used.

Here are just a few locations to start searching:

Facebook

[www.google.com](http://www.google.com) search engine

Bing's search engine

The United States Patent and Trademark Office

<https://www.uspto.gov/patents-application-process/search-patents>

[www.wix.com](http://www.wix.com) or

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

Do not purchase the domain name yet because you are looking to see if the name is not taken in either the .com version or the .org version. Once, you are as sure as you can be that no one is using your name, feel free to purchase your domain name with any company you want to have a web site with. I have mine with [www.wix.com](http://www.wix.com) but there are many out there to use.

After you have done these searches and have found a name that no one is using, stake your claim. If you do not want to spend money at first, get a Facebook page with that name. Also, get a Twitter account with the same name and any other social media accounts under that same name. You may not even be using these accounts at first, but you are keeping someone else from getting them and using your name for their purpose. The next step is to get your **Tax Identification Number**. While doing this you can go through an attorney and set up your company or work as a “Sole Proprietor/Individual”. You are going to need to do some reading and research on this. <http://www.taxid-gov.us>

Get your “**Texas Sales and Use Tax ID Number**”. As a beekeeper, you do not have to pay sales tax if all you are doing is selling honey because it is considered a raw food source, but if you sell anything else you will need one. Also, many markets require you to have a sales tax number in order to be a vendor in their market. It's a “CYA” thing.

If you don't have it all ready, get your “**Agricultural and Timber Exemptions**”. <https://www.comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/ag-timber/> This is a number you can use at Home Depo, Tractor Supply, Dadant, and other companies where you buy your equipment. This exemption allows you to not have to pay sales tax on bee hive items such as honey jars, lumber and paint to make your beehives...etc.

Go to your county court house and fill out paper work for: “**Doing Business As**”. This is yet another way to stake your name claim.

Finally, my little ace up my sleeve is filing for a **U.S. Customs and Border Protection Trademark**. It only costs \$190 per International Class of goods, but it lasts for 20 years.

Be aware when you first file for a trade mark you will start getting letters in the mail from companies offering to trade mark your name worldwide for a few thousand dollars. Most of these companies are scams because trademarking is different in other countries. Unless you think you are going to become Walmart do not fall for this mess. The U.S. Customs and Border Protection will stop anyone from outside the country from bringing a product into the US with your name on it.



## NO SINGLE PROTEIN DETERMINES QUEEN DEVELOPMENT IN HONEY BEES

*from Catch The Buzz*

So by this time you are asking yourself, "Why in the world would I want to do all of this???" The answer is in the title, "What's in a name?" Truth be told, what is in your name depends on how you represent yourself as a business person. For me at least, I don't want to be associated with a porn site. My name is my brand, what I want people to feel and think when they hear the name. I don't want years of building up a reputation to be destroyed by some other company.

When you are working on your own name, you don't have to do all these steps. I started out with just a few and as I have found new businesses trying to use the same name, I have fought to get them to stop before they have spent too much money on labeling and such. You have to remember, for the most part, the other new business owner is trying to start a dream as well. The sooner you notify them the better for both parties. To date Soul Honey has had two infringements and has won both cases.

While our sweet honey bees are nuzzled up together in their hive this winter, take time and start reading up on ways to secure your new business name. Most applications can be submitted with a simple small fee that you can do yourself. As always, I must mention that I am not an attorney and that trade marking a name can be helped by having an attorney at your service.

Till next time Bee Friends, may your business be a sweet one.



### Proverbs 16:24

Pleasant words are a honeycomb sweet to the soul and healing to the bone.



In the first few days after they hatch, honey bee larvae feed on royal jelly secreted by the hypopharyngeal glands of adult honey bees. "It is a highly nutritious food comprising sugars, proteins and amino acids," says Robin Moritz, Professor of Molecular Ecology at MLU. After a few days, most larvae start to receive honey and pollen in their food. These will develop into worker bees. Only the larvae that are destined to become queens continue to be fed exclusively on royal jelly. The queen is the only sexually reproductive female responsible for the production of all offspring in the colony.

"Scientists have spent a long time looking for a specific substance in royal jelly that makes the larvae grow into queens," says Dr Anja Buttstedt, a research associate with Professor Moritz and lead author of the new study. As far back as the late 1970s, German biochemist Heinz Rembold already showed that no single substance was responsible for queen determination – rather, the right mix of nutrients was supposed to be essential. "The special royal diet makes the larvae eat more, stimulating their metabolism and the larval development. Other genes are expressed, and this all results in entirely different developments inside the bees' bodies," says Buttstedt. The royal diet is also essential for the queen to develop fully activated ovaries – in contrast to the sterile worker bees. At least, this was the scientific consensus for many decades, as Buttstedt explains.

In 2011, however, Japanese scientist Masaki Kamakura caused a stir when Nature published a study in which he presented a royal jelly protein, royalactin, that supposedly could turn larvae into queens. "The study surprised bee researchers around the world," says Robin Moritz. Hence the two MLU biologists decided to repeat Kamakura's experiments. They received support from two MLU pharmacists: Dr Christian Ihling and Professor Markus Pietzsch. The group exactly followed Kamakura's approach by producing a royal jelly that contained no royalactin and feeding it to larvae in the laboratory. A control group received the same food that was artificially re-enriched with royalactin. Describing the results, Buttstedt says, "Neither the royalactin-free nor the enriched larval food produced any differences in queen caste determination." Larvae that received no royalactin developed into perfect queens, while feeding the larvae with royalactin-enriched food did not increase the number of queens.

Unlike Kamakura's study, the MLU experiments produced numerous so-called intercastes – bees with characteristics of both workers and queens. Buttstedt says that, while this is very rare in nature, it is most common in laboratory experiments and methodologically inevitable. The MLU results confirm the suite of older studies on caste development by many other research groups. Therefore, for now, royalactin's role in royal jelly remains rather unspectacular: one of many protein sources in the larval food.

### Publication

Buttstedt, C. H. Ihling, M. Pietzsch & R. F. A. Moritz.  
"Royalactin is not a royal making of a queen", Nature 537 (2016)  
DOI: 10.1038/nature19349



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## 2016 Texas Honey Queen Hope Pettibon

Hello Everyone!

I am writing my last newsletter article to y'all, and I'm thinking over the year and how fast it went by. I feel like I was just crowned to be your 2016 Texas Honey Queen! But last month, I had the amazing opportunity to pass my position on to the new 2017 Texas Honey Queen, Megan Pettibon, my sister. She did such a great job representing Collin County and I loved watching her throughout the year. She has grown so much in her knowledge of honey bees and her love for them. I love you very much Megan and can't wait to see what this year holds for you.

I have loved working with Willow and Rachael this last year. Without them we would have not reached as many people as we did. They have helped me grow in so many ways and I love them for that. They truly love what they do and it makes me love serving people even more.

In media alone, I have reached over 460,940 people through radio interviews, newspapers, and TV. I learned so much while doing this, but it would not have been possible without Rachael who did media training with us at the beginning of the year. She taught us how to present ourselves on TV, how to change a conversation back to honey bees and off the "beauty pageant" comments and how to answer one question in 30 seconds or in 5 minutes.

Throughout the whole year, I was able to reach over 670,900 people through schools, garden clubs, media, civic organizations, and bee clubs. My favorite was the beekeeping clubs because I didn't only speak but I learned as well. Everyone was very willing to teach me easier ways to explain things and do things in beekeeping. I would like to thank everyone for that.

I would like to thank all of the different host families I stayed with throughout the year. You have blessed me and the queen program in so many ways. This year would not have gone as smooth as it did without you. Thank you for being there to drive me, give me meals, and let me stay in your home. I have made some wonderful friends this year!

I'm looking forward to running for American Queen in January at ABF. I hope to see many of you there with me in Galveston. I can't wait!

I love you so much!

Hope



*The Pettibon Family*



*Abby Pettibon, Megan Pettibon, Tabitha Mansker,  
Elise Gardner, Jacob Cole, Hope Pettibon,  
Brittany Miller and Willow Lanchester*



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

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

Howdy, TBA members! This will be my last column for 2016, and it's full of exciting news to report. This year we have had significant growth in our research program in terms of staff, funding and projects. I could not be more proud of the accomplishments of all the people involved in the Rangel Lab. Here are a few of the latest things I am most proud of as a principal investigator.

In the last couple of months I have been super busy attending beekeeping meetings and conferences, as well as submitting grants on our program's behalf. On 22 October I was the invited speaker at the Harris County Beekeepers Association Annual Banquet in La Porte, TX. Harrison Rogers and his fellow board members did a terrific job organizing an evening full of touching moments when the association awarded plaques to those members that have worked hard to increase the visibility of bees and beekeeping around the Houston area.

If you were able to attend the TBA Annual Convention in Belton, TX on 4-6 November, you probably saw the research updates from our graduate students Adrian Fisher, Pierre Lau, and Liz Walsh, who last year received one of the first TBA Student Research Scholarships. They gave brief presentations on their ongoing research and their plans for the future year, and I heard really good feedback from folks in the audience. Furthermore, I am happy to report that Pierre Lau was this year's winner of the first TBA Student Research Grant, which comes with a research stipend that will be used to procure supplies and equipment for Pierre's work on the effects of pollen nutrition on honey bee health. Congratulations Pierre, well done! If you attended the meeting you also got to interact with Megan Mahoney, the Texas A&M University Tech Transfer Team Leader. In collaboration with the Bee Informed Partnership, Megan has spent the last year working REALLY HARD with and for commercial beekeepers from around the state. During her visits, Megan samples their apiaries, gives them up-to-date reports on the levels of Nosema, Varroa, and viruses, and follows them throughout the year to have a "bill of health" that is informative, and best of all, free of charge the first year!! Unfortunately I have to report that Megan will be leaving her job with the BIP as she embarks on a new adventure working for a commercial queen producer in Hawaii starting in Spring 2017. We will definitely miss Megan, and wish her the best of luck in her new career path!

After the TBA convention I had the pleasure of hosting my Ph. D. advisor and mentor, Dr. Tom Seeley (Professor of Neurobiology and Behavior at Cornell University) during the weekly seminar of Texas A&M University's Ecology and Evolutionary Biology program. As a core member of the EEB program, it was a pleasure to have someone of Dr. Seeley's stature come and talk to us about group decision making in honey bees, particularly the work he's done in the last three decades on house hunting by honey bee swarms.

The next weekend I went to State College, PA to present at the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association Annual

Conference. I was one of the invited speakers, along with Dr. Zach Huang, Dr. Christina Grozinger, Dr. Margarita Lopez Uribe, and many more bee scientists. The meeting was held on 11 and 12 November and had a terrific lineup of speakers and attendees.

The following week I flew to San Diego, CA, to present an invited talk during the last day of the California State Beekeepers Association Annual Convention. On 17 November I gave a report on the results we have obtained thus far on the effects of amitraz on the reproductive health of queens and drones, a project that has been funded in part by the CSBA. The conference had an amazing roster of presenters, including Sue Cobey, Dr. Steve Shepard, Dr. Elina Niño, among others. There were very informative talks from the Almond Board of California, informing us that the value of pollination services on almonds is predicted to increase next year, and that the increase in almond demand does not seem to be ending any time soon, even if some international markets seem to be slowing down.

Are you ready for acronyms? All starting with the letter A? Ok good. Because I want to invite all of you to attend the 2017 North American Beekeeping Conference and Tradeshow, which is the joint meeting of the American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) and the American Honey Producers Association (AHPA) at the San Luis Resort & Galveston Island Convention Center in Galveston, TX on 10-14 January 2017. More information on the venue and schedule of events can be found at <http://na-beekeepingconference.com/>. The ABF-AHPA meeting is full of hands-on training, workshops, and best of all, lectures! And during this meeting, we will have what is, in my opinion, the best scientific meeting for bee scientists, organized by the American Association of Professional Apiculturists (AAPA). The AAPA's American Bee Research Conference (ABRC) is held during the ABF-AHPA meeting at the same location. Next year it will be on 12 and 13 January. All of our students will be presenting research talks at the ABRC, and could become winners of the student talk award! Information on the meeting can be found at <http://aapa.cyberbee.net/events/>. Our keynote speakers will be Dr. Jeff Pettis, Institute of Bee Health, University of Bern, Switzerland, and Dr. Steve Pernal, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Beaverlodge, AB, Canada.

Finally I want to invite you to attend the 6th Annual Beekeeping Seminar organized by the Austin Area Beekeepers Association on 21 January 2017. The event will be held at the J. J. Pickle Research Campus, 10100 Burnet Rd. Austin, TX 78758.



Liz Walsh and I will be presenting during the event. And importantly, some of the proceeds from the meeting are generously donated by the Austin Area Beekeepers Association to our research program, so you are directly supporting us by attending the event! Registration is \$60 for the all-day event, which includes six different educational presentations running concurrently in each time slot throughout the day, including information for beginner and advanced beekeepers. For more information and to register, visit <https://aabaseminar2017.eventbrite.com>

We are sad to see Megan go... but we are excited that we have our new graduate student Alex Payne and most recently, we hired Ms. Ashley Jones, who came all the way from Maryland to take on several roles at the Rangel Lab. Ashley is the new Apiary Manager and Instructor at the Honey Bee Lab, and will be the instructor for the online Honey Bee Biology Course at TAMU. She will also develop a "Bee College" for intermediate and advanced beekeepers next year, so be on the lookout for this exciting new program we are developing to serve the beekeeping community in Texas and beyond! Welcome aboard Ashley!

If you have any questions, please email me at [jrange1@tamu.edu](mailto:jrange1@tamu.edu). Or, for up to date information regarding our program, or for new and interesting posts regarding bees and beekeeping, please visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/TAMUhonee-beelab> Our page has OVER 2,400 LIKES and counting!

Thank you all for your continuing support. We truly appreciate how welcome and embraced you have made myself and our staff feel over the last four years. I could not be happier in any other job. THANK YOU, and happy holidays!!!



*Please help us welcome Ms. Ashley Jones, the newest member of the Rangel Lab. She will be wearing many hats, acting as Apiary Manager and Instructor at the Honey Bee Lab, as well as developing and carrying out educational events including our annual queen rearing workshop and a new bee college for intermediate and advanced beekeepers.*

**The Rangel Lab staff wishes all the Texas Beekeepers a wonderful 2016 holiday season and a prosperous 2017!!!!!!**



*Texas A&M University's Tech Transfer Team Leader Megan Mahoney, celebrating her birthday with a surprise cake given to her by TBA board members during the annual convention on 4 November 2016. We will miss you Megan!*





## Texas Beekeeper Association's Club "Buzz"

*from Chari Elam, Communications Coordinator*

### Texas Beekeepers Association The Beginnings

What a great year!

We began this year with 33 TBA Member Clubs and finished with a whopping 40! Our overall membership is now up to over 1500! That's a long way from our beginnings.

Speaking of our beginnings...

I had the pleasure of putting together a program for this year's "2016 TBA Conference" entitled "Inside the TBA". When I began researching our past and the individuals that laid the groundwork for where we are as an organization and in the industry, I had no idea what I was in store for.

The history of the TBA is truly one of the most interesting stories ever told. I feel the need to give an overview of it here for those who were not able to attend and for those who did but wouldn't mind hearing it again.

The first real record of bee clubs in Texas start showing up around 1874. The Southland Queen (a publication "Devoted to the best interest of Bee-keepers everywhere"), turns out to be the "history book" of Texas beekeeping. I doubt very seriously Ms. Jennie Atchley (publisher and successful beekeeper of the time), had any idea her magazine would go down in history as a document of historical facts. She used her publication for promoting and teaching beekeeping. Her success and impact on the industry is tied directly to this magazine.

The Southland Queen chronicles meetings and events of 3 bee clubs...starting around 1896. I did find other periodicals that date these clubs (1 in particular) to the previously mentioned date of 1874; and the other 2 shortly thereafter. These 3 clubs were:

The Central Texas Beekeepers Association - (Temple) Date of beginning unknown

Texas State Bee-keepers Association - (North Texas - Greenville) Records show starting date of 1874

Southwest Bee-keepers Association (Beeville) Records indicate starting around 1880

On April 24th 1901 these three clubs joined at Texas A & M in College Station for a "Proceedings of the General Session". At this meeting, minutes were taken and accounted for the following in detail...

Convention called to order by President J.B. Salyer, at 2 o'clock.

The first business attended to was the report of the committee on constitution and by-laws, and Secretary Scholl read the following constitution, which was adopted.

#### CONSTITUTION,

##### ARTICLE 1, - NAME.,

This organization shall be known as the Texas Bee-keepers' Association.

##### ARTICLE 2 - OBJECTS.,

Its objects shall be to promote the interests of the bee-keepers; exchange of thoughts; experiments etc., in apiculture, through the meetings of this association, and maintain a closer relation of its members.



I believe it stands to reason, that day had to be a turning point in our Texas beekeeping history. The industry and it's body of beekeepers were now all working together under the same common goal of making beekeeping a respected, profitable business. One where Texas was a driving force in the industry of which the entire nation would take notice.



In an industry where little has changed in equipment, but environmental impacts have been great...I believe we as Texas Beekeepers Association members can all feel proud that we have carried on our forefathers and passion of bees and beekeeping and hopefully will leave it better than we found it.

As your club grows and creates its own history, please be conscientious of keeping good records. Begin now writing down the history of your club...its officers, members, activities and goings on. If not for Ms Jennie Atchley and sparse publications here and there, we would have no idea of TBA beginnings.

I am very excited to be Committee Chair for the first TBA Historical Committee. If you signed up to be a part of the research and record team, I thank you and will be reaching out soon...if you didn't and would like to, feel free to contact me and join in the "tracing our steps" to better understanding where we've been and give recognition to those who got us where we are today.

I would like to leave you all with this...The following was recorded in minutes at the meeting on April 24th, 1901 - General Session.

**Every bee-keeper in Texas ought to be a member of "The Texas Bee-keepers' Association," .....**

**The only thing these officers ask for is the co-operation, help and assistance of the bee keepers, and with that the association could make a stride forward as it has never done; we need and must have that help and co-operation.**

**Every bee-keeper of our great state ought to take pride in helping to build up an association that will surpass all others, and this can only be done by their giving their assistance.**

**Put your shoulders to the wheel and keep it going. The greater our association, and the more members it has, the more can be done."**

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## 2016 Texas Honey Princess Willow Lanchester



This past year as the Texas Honey Princess has been truly phenomenal. I was able to meet so many new people and visit so many places. I have had the opportunity to grow, become a better presenter, learn to speak to media, and even become an Apprentice Master Beekeeper. Working with Rachael Seida, an amazing Queen Chair who has taught me, guided me and been there for me whenever I needed her was a rare gift. I have gotten to work alongside Hope Pettibon, who has been a remarkable Texas Honey Queen. This year has been a dream come true and would not have been possible without all of the support I have received. The support of the Texas Beekeepers has been overwhelming, and I have been honored to represent you this year.

This year I set out to be the best representative of the beekeeping industry that I could possibly be. I started out with little to no media training, and I was still not entirely confident in my presentation skills. This year has given me the skills and confidence to speak to anyone. I have been able to share my love of bees with over 64 thousand people. I was able to reach over 18 thousand people through presentations and booth work alone. If you had asked me several years ago I would have never thought I would speak to so many people in my entire life, let alone in one year. This year has been an incredible learning experience for me, through the support and guidance of so many people.

I have given presentations and traveled all over Texas and have had a fantastic time doing it. It has been my pleasure presenting to all kinds of groups and have had audiences who were so receptive and excited to learn about bees. One of my favorite presentations was in Houston at a school, where I presented alongside Hope Pettibon and Kim Kester, the American Honey Queen. We had a class of hearing impaired students, and it was a joy to present to them through an interpreter. Their reactions to the bees were wonderful. Some of my other favorite presentations were to my very own Art Club at Tyler Junior College. I now routinely get messages or see posts from classmates about them saving bees, fishing them out of fountains, telling friends about bees, or incorporating them in their art work.

The most delightful part of this year has been the beekeepers themselves. I have met so many amazing beekeepers this year, whether they were brand new beekeepers or have been beekeeping their entire lives. People from all walks of life who

all share a common love of bees have helped me in my work throughout this year. Hearing their stories that are hilarious, joyous, heart wrenching, and inspiring have given me a new perspective on my life, and given me new hopes and dreams. I have been continuously surprised and amazed at the roles that bees play in our lives and how they bring us together. Thank you so much for encouraging me, sharing with me, and some of you even inviting me into your homes. It has meant so much to me and has altered my life forever.

Thank you all for giving me this opportunity to represent the beekeeping industry. I have loved this past year so much. You will never know how much this year has meant to me. The support I have been blessed with from the Texas Beekeepers Association and its members has granted me new confidence in myself and has helped me to grow into a new person. I have met many wonderful people and made many irreplaceable friends. I am so excited to see our new Texas Honey Queen Megan Pettibon grow as well. I know she will be remarkable. Thank you so much for all you have given me.

Thanks to you I am ready to take on the world.



*Handing out samples at the Texas State Fair*



# 2017 Texas Honey Queen

## Miss Megan Pettibon

Hello everyone!

I am so excited to get started on this new year as your 2017 Texas Honey Queen. But before I do, I wanted to tell you all a little bit about myself. My name is Megan Pettibon and I live on a small hobby farm in North Texas with my two wonderful parents and 10 adventurous siblings. I have been beekeeping for about 13 years of my life and love it. We sell our own honey from our home, and we take every opportunity to spread the word about beekeeping to our customers. Being able to educate other people about a topic that I am passionate about was such a joy as the Collin County Honey Queen, and I'm excited to continue. I am 18 years old and currently getting a four-year business degree in Organizational Leadership through an online program with Texas A&M.

Some hobbies that I enjoy doing on the side include drawing, reading, baking, video editing, playing sports, singing, running, and working my bees.

I also wanted to share with you all some different things about my year as the Collin County Honey Queen. I spoke for a large variety of events, as well as teaching the CCHBA Beekeeping 101 class. My favorite event was joining the other queens/princesses at the Texas State Fair and working the bee booth, as well as giving several cooking demos. I made a Honey Butter Cream, which you can find on the Texas Honey Queen & Princess Program Facebook page. A couple of times I was given the opportunity to join the 2016 Texas Honey Queen, my sister Hope Pettibon, for some of her events around Texas. The overall number of events that I was able to do during the year of 2016 totals around 65, and I was able to reach about 42,607 people.



I wouldn't change this past year for the world, and I'm sure this coming year will be filled with just as many blessings.

I had a wonderful time at the TBA convention and getting to meet many of you. If you have an event that you would like for me to attend, please don't hesitate to contact the Honey Queen Chair: Ruth Ramos at [texashoneyqueenchair@gmail.com](mailto:texashoneyqueenchair@gmail.com).

Nature has unlimited time in which to travel along tortuous paths to an unknown destination. The mind of man is too feeble to discern whence or whither the path runs and has to be content if it can discern only portions of the track, however small.

-Karl von Frisch, Noted entomologist and beekeeper

Won the Noble Prize for cracking the code to the dance language of honey bees



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# Texas Beekeepers Association 2016 Convention

*from Ashley Ralph – pictures from Jimmie Oakley, Cameron Crane and Chris Doggett*

Day one of the Texas Beekeepers Association Annual Convention hosted in Belton was technically, Thursday, November 3rd. It was a cool, rainy day and, for me (and about 40 others), was partially taken up by an Apprentice level test for the Master Beekeeping Program. Which, in addition to a written exam, also includes an in-hive portion. So, after barely getting my smoker to light, I managed to irritate a few thousand little ladies to kick-off a fun filled weekend.

While this testing was underway, Mike Palmer led a full day seminar on the Sustainable Apiary, attended by over 50 folks.

Friday morning started with a bustling of excited beekeepers gathered in the Bell County Expo center, meandering through silent auction donations as well as an impressive list of vendors sharing knowledge, beekeeping tools and products, delicious honey, beautiful jewelry, lotions, and paintings.

After a brief welcome from Chris Moore and Mark Hedley, Michael Palmer, the legendary beekeeper of French Hill Apiaries in Vermont discussed how to create a “self sustaining apiary”.



*Mike Palmer of French Hill Apiaries*

Touching on theories dating back to Buckfast Abbey, his method of splitting 10 frame boxes into double-sided nucleus colonies by way of a divider board allows the bees to cluster together in the middle to share warmth throughout the winter. The amazing thing is that he is able to successfully do this, up North, with the hives completely covered in snow! Although, thankfully, we have much more mild winters, the benefits to managing bees in this manner also include strong, compact colonies that seem to draw out comb more quickly when given the more vertical orientation. He called some his stacked nucleus colonies “brood factories” where he could re-distribute resources from these nucleus colonies to his strong, production hives. This helps boost bee populations right before the nectar flow so that the bees can immediately begin to forage - producing higher yields of honey.

It's impossible to do justice to the information provided in Mike Palmer's lectures - luckily, he reminded us we could catch the bulk of this talk on YouTube under “The Sustainable Apiary”.



*Over 260 folks attended the Convention*

Blake Shook gave a quick presentation about the benefits of the American Beekeeping Federation. He encouraged everyone to join the ABF and to attend the North American Beekeeping Conference and Tradeshow at the San Luis Resort in Galveston January 10-14. This will be a rare, joint conference with the American Beekeeping Federation, the American Honey Producers Association and the Canadian Honey Council all in attendance.

Chris Moore, Mark Hedley, Leesa Hyder, and Mark Dykes discussed Agricultural Code 131 and the efforts that TBA and beekeepers are taking to get better (lower) land values. This includes working to lobby and review possible new legislature that would help beekeepers across Texas. Mark Dykes also reviewed laws beekeepers must follow such as permitting and fees for importing/exporting bees over state lines as well as how to register as a beekeeper through TAIS.

Lance Wilson discussed “Managing Bees in an Africanized Zone - Texas!” The review of these unique characteristics such as their tendency to swarm, their tolerance of smaller/tighter spaces, their slightly smaller body size, and even the fact that Africanized queens take less time to fully mature and emerge. One of the most interesting topics was the act of an Africanized swarm usurping your healthy hives. The queen would sneak into the hive with the help of her workers and ninja assassin your queen. This made marking queens sound like a pretty great idea. Lance also talked about how AHB populations haven't been prominent along the gulf coast leading to the belief that moisture/humidity may play a role in AHB habitats.

President, Chris Moore discussed TBA accepting a \$150,000+ grant to promote “Real Texas Honey” and will first use the funds to conduct a study to create a comprehensive profile of





*TBA President, Chris Moore*

“Real Texas Honey” through the TAMU bee lab. This is the first step in helping us build a better brand, classify the honey traits throughout the state, and to better understand what the consumer wants. With our honey more clearly defined we will not only have the ability to educate consumers, but also have a basic profile to test imposters. This specialty crops grant can be renewed each year. Chris showed a video of his 120 frame extractor and discussed how to use crystallization to your benefit (to help retain the original color) while storing honey. Chris encouraged the marketing and packaging of your own honey (rather than selling it to bottlers in bulk) as the most financially profitable.

Juliana Rangel and the TAMU Bee Lab students gave updates on the research taking place at the Bee Lab. Juliana and the students discussed their research topics with my favorite being their work on studying affects of pesticides and miticides on fertility of drones and queens. This will help us all be better, more informed beekeepers on what effects chemicals have on our bees especially for bees in pollination services.



*Past President Blake Shook*

On day 2 of mega-learning, Michael Palmer had another practical discussion on “Queen Rearing in the Sustainable Apiary”. Mike outlined what goes into making a great queen (royal jelly and more royal jelly) and shared how to put the bees natural, emergency response to work for you to create queen cells. Since he believes that “swarm” queens are the best queens (with the exception of supercedure but those are less numerous and therefore less practical) and discussed mimicking that swarm response in a cell builder colony. Mike closed his presentation saying that queen rearing is probably not for everybody, but the next best thing is to support your local queen breeders as they have queens that are genetically selected to do well in your area.

Megan Mahoney proudly talked about the Bee Informed Partnership and a funding campaign they have going on right now to help build their tech team and ultimately help more bees as well as commercial beekeepers. She also had tips for managing top bar hives such as keeping one blank bar near the entrance, monitoring the balance between brood, pollen, and honey stores to see what state the hive is in. Also, it was her birthday - yay!

Lance Wilson took the stage again to discuss foraging habits and what to look for as a beekeeper on behalf of your working



*TBA Executive Secretary, John Talbert*

ladies. For example, monitoring your hive for multi-color pollen coming into the hive ensures pollen diversity. Not only are these multi-colored pollen frames beautiful, but they're filled with all the essential amino acids that keep the bees full and healthy with protein. I learned that if bees are short on protein sources they will eat their brood - I guess that's pragmatic but it's also something I'm sure we'd all like to avoid.

Eddie Collins of CNC Farms discussed how to be a “Full-time Beekeepers on the Side”. His discussion about making life easier in the apiary was filled with practical applications such as utilizing a fork lift for easier maneuverability of hives on pallets.

Closing up the conference, Chari Elam shared some history about the Texas Beekeepers Association and the many influential beekeepers that have shaped the organization. Then, Mark Dykes discussed Integrated Pest Management (resources and handouts available on the TAIS website).

I wish I could write down everything to share but I am limited by the amount of space in this article and my brain for that matter. So, if you missed it, be sure to catch the Summer Clinic as well as next years Conference. I know I wasn't the only one that was extremely thankful for the opportunity to meet, socialize and learn from so many great beekeepers.

## More 2016 Convention Photos

*from Jimmie Oakley, Cameron Crane and Chris Doggett*



*Lisa Dittfurth Receives the John G Thomas Meritorious Service Award*



*James and Chari Elam Receive the President's Award*



*Life Memberships Awarded to James Garner, S.S.Brantley, John and Janice Thomas, John Talbert and Chris and Shirley Doggett*





*TBA Newly Appointed Executive Secretary  
Leesa Hyder*



*2017 Texas Honey Queen  
Megan Pettibon*



*Honey Queen Chair 2010 - 2016  
Rachael Seida*



*2016 Texas Honey Queen  
Hope Pettibon*



*Rachael Seida with TBA Treasurer Holly Medina*

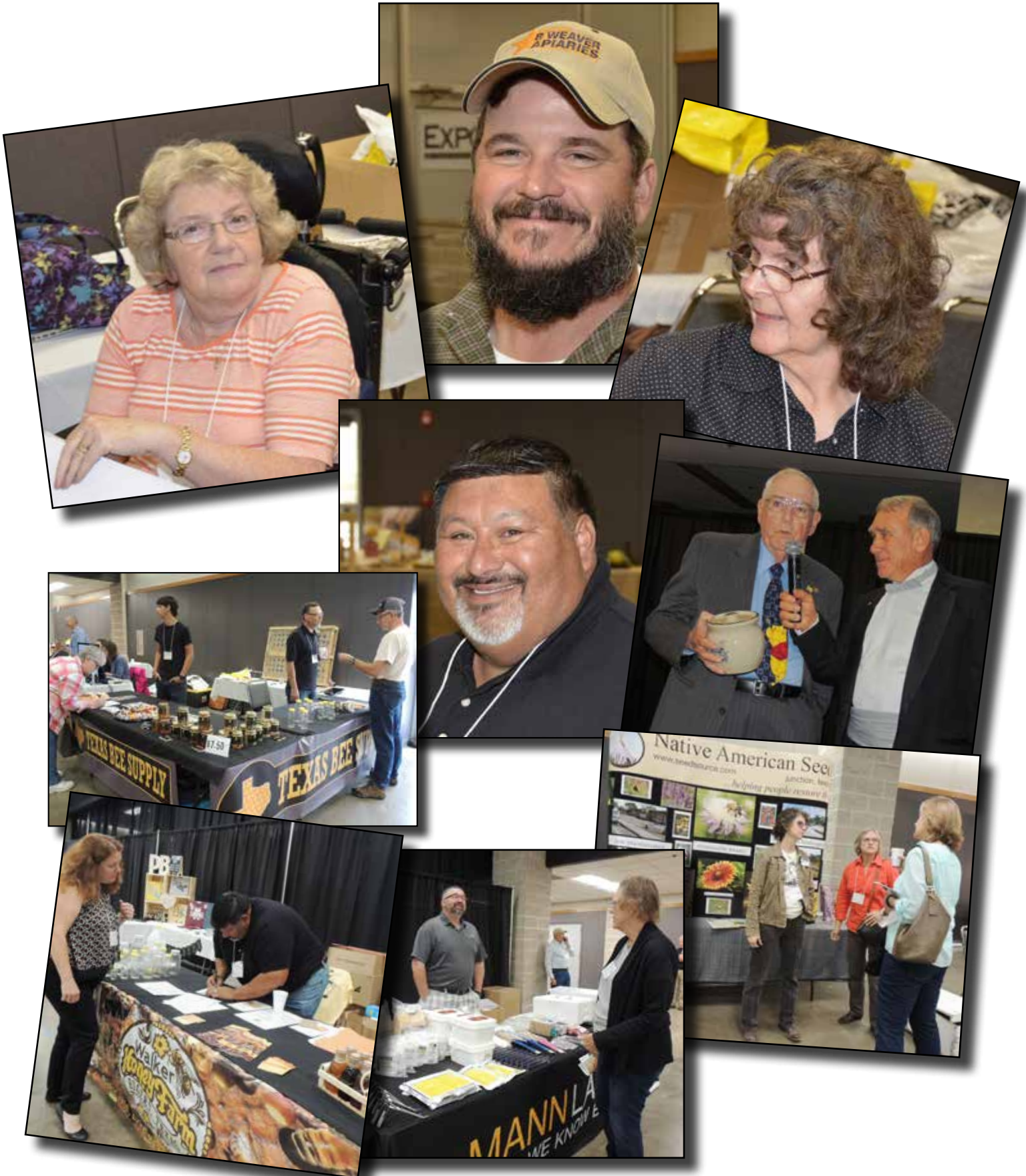


*2016 Texas Honey Princess  
Willow Lanchester*

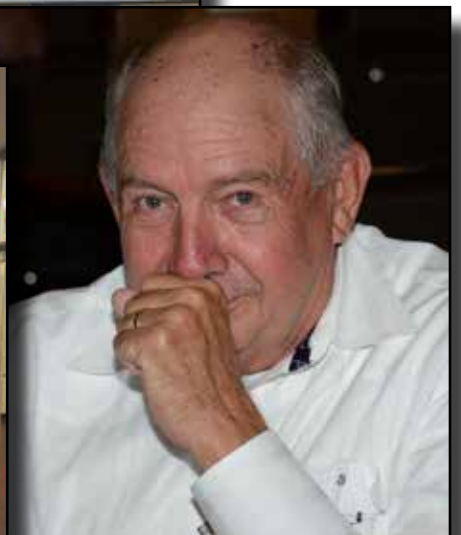


## Other Convention Pictures

*from Jimmie Oakley, Cameron Crane and Chris Doggett*







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# Chief of Apiary Inspection - Texas Apiary Inspection Service

*from Mark Dykes*

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



Well the bee year is wrapping up, where did the time go? We hope everyone had a great time at the TBA convention, the TAIS staff sure did. With winter fast approaching now is the time to start looking ahead. If you're planning on buying nucs or packages in the spring start putting in your orders soon to ensure availability. Also now is a great time to purchase and build equipment for next season. Take advantage of the cool weather to put that fresh coat of paint on your supers and build your new frames and don't forget to continue to feed your hives as needed. Here at TAIS we are keeping our fingers crossed for a mild winter and a plentiful spring.

In conjunction with the TBA conference the testing for the Texas Master Beekeeper Program (TMBP) was conducted on November 3. We are proud to announce that we now have 17 new Advances Master Beekeepers and 33 Apprentice Master Beekeeper here in Texas. Congratulations to the recent graduates from the TMBP board! If you are interested in learning how you can join the ranks of the Texas Master Beekeepers please check out the website for program requirements and information <http://masterbeekeeper.tamu.edu/>. As always we thank the TBA for its continued support of this wonderful program.

At the TBA conference president Chris Moore spoke about TBA's efforts to update the existing bee laws here in Texas. I would like to let you know that the current laws can be found on our website at <http://txbeeinspection.tamu.edu/regulations/>. Here you can download a copy of the current laws. If you have any questions about the current laws please feel free to contact us at [TAIS@tamu.edu](mailto:TAIS@tamu.edu) and we will be happy to help.

Next I'd like to follow up on an exciting new program that Dr. Rangel spoke about in the last journal. MiteCheck is a new citizen science project where the public can help to further Varroa mite research by participating in the survey. It is easy to do, just sign up for the survey and enter your mite counts in as directed. They have even come out with a simple sampling kit available through their website or at the Mann Lake retail store. MiteCheck is a collaboration with the Bee Informed Partnership, Michigan State University and the University of Maryland, College Park. You can find more information about MiteCheck on their webpage <https://www.beelab.umn.edu/bee-squad/resources-beekeepers/varroa/mitecheck>

Finally, I am happy to announce the release of the Honey Bee Health Coalition's Tools for Varroa Management Guide video series. These videos walk you through all the labeled treatments for Varroa control as well as monitoring and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies. These videos compliment the published Tools for Varroa Management also available on the website. Varroa control is one of the most important thing you as a beekeeper can do to help your bees. You can find the guide and videos at <http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroa/#videos>. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the TAIS staff and we will be happy to help.

Well that's about all for this issue. From everyone here at TAIS we wish you a happy holidays and a prosperous new year. Just a reminder that the TAIS offices will be closed for the winter break from December 26th through the 30th. As always if you have a question or a good bee joke please let us know and keep on keeping those wonderful bees.

### **Congratulations to the Advanced Level Master Beekeepers from the Fall 2016 testing.**

Judge Christian, Jacob Cole, Robert Cole, Ron Couch  
Nanette Davis, Beth Derr, Larry Hoehne, John Hunter  
Donovan Johns, John Kirkland, Phyllis Martin, Terry McFall  
Gary Rankin, Karen Reimann, Cynthia Schiotis  
John Swan, Pamela Yeamans

### **Congratulations to the Apprentice Level Master Beekeepers from the Fall 2016 testing.**

James Bills, David Boatcallie, Paul Brunner, John Byerly  
Peter Cole, Verle Coon, Krysti Davis, Joe Dorn  
Susan Fairchild, Kay Freund, Tom Greene, Jennifer Harbour  
Jay Hinton, Brandon Huey, Marshall Huston  
William Janke, Stephanie Kinghorn, Konstantin Litvinov  
Howard Mims, Janeil Mitchell, Barry Nguyen  
Gary Novosad, Michael Olson, Rachel Payne, Clark Powers  
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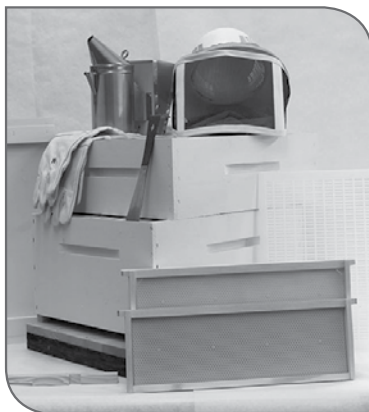
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# What Do You Want to Bee When You Grow Up?

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



Grandma Kate asked in 1961, "What do you want to be when you grow up, Roger?" Her question struck fear in that child's heart and elicited the "stock" answer, "fireman or policeman."

Maturity brings wisdom. Now we know that we need to set the end before we even begin.

In beekeeping, deciding on the endpoint of your beekeeping endeavors, even before you start or in your first year, has definite blessings. That is the subject of this article: helping you and us decide what we want our apiary and bee business to look like when we and they, the bees, grow up. We'll do this by asking a series of questions.

## **The First Question - "How much time do you want to devote to your bees?"**

You may have thought, "How many hives do you want to end up with?" would have been the obvious first question. However, we've found that time is really the limiting factor for us, and probably will be for you as well.

We decided at the beginning that we did not want our bees to be "work" that we dreaded doing. We knew there would be times of high activity, such as spring splits, queen rearing, varroa testing and treatment, and honey harvesting. We decided that one to two hours per week was a good number for us and would allow us to do the other good things in life without tying us down to our hives and bees.



Using the one to two hours number we've found that six hives is about the right number for us. That will go up and down based on bee sales, deadouts, and success in maintaining a sustainable apiary. You can see our current hive set up in the picture. We are completing our winter preparations to reduce the production hives to two boxes for overwintering, and will overwinter a nucleus hive as well.

## **The Second Question - "Why are you into beekeeping at all?"**

This question deals with your motivation for keeping stinging insects on your property or even being intentionally around them. It also helps when convincing your friends that you are not crazy!

There are many reasons people get into beekeeping:

- "I'm retired and my husband thought I needed something to occupy my time."
- "I like honey!"
- "I want lots of wax to make candles, lotions, and lip balms."
- "I'm handy and it makes me happy to make my own equipment from my scrap lumber pile."
- "I want a great garden."
- "I want to 'save the bees.'"
- "I need a supplemental income."
- "I inherited the equipment from my grandfather."
- "I like people and want to meet new friends."

Let us challenge you to consider, and then write it out, exactly why you are keeping bees. This motivation will ultimately come out in your beekeeping decisions, so we think it is best to be explicit about why you really are in the bee business.

We started in beekeeping because we had food crops on our property. We saw very few if any pollinators doing the important job of pollinating our crops. During our first beekeeping year we realized that great people are beekeepers and that we could become friends with many of them not only in northeast Texas but all around the state. We are both teachers so as we became more experienced, we added mentoring and bee education to our list of reasons.

These reasons caused us to assist in forming our local bee association and then taking an active part in the leadership and education components of the group. We mentor one to three couples each year, meeting with them at their apiary about once per month. Are these actions "economically" sensible? No. However, our desire to meet new people, see them succeed, and share what we've learned, takes precedence, for us, over dollars.

## **The Third Question - "What equipment should we buy or build and where should we put it?"**

This question is last because the right answer is a direct result of answering the first two questions we've posed.

Bee equipment catalogues multiply every year; equipment choices are endless. Criteria for apiary and bee equipment storage locations are limited only by imagination.

Since we want to spend one to two hours a week on bees and are in beekeeping for the people and not necessarily the products,

we've made the following choices regarding equipment and locating it.

- We run only Langstroth hives.
- We use all medium boxes for both brood and honey supers.
- We buy nearly all the equipment via mail order and put it together ourselves.
- We have 10-frame equipment since we are both strong enough to handle 50-pound honey loaded boxes.
- We have fixed, in-ground, hive stands set at a height that is ergonomically correct for both of our six-foot frames.
- We run only one apiary, on the back side of our 6-acre piece of northeast Texas. This minimizes our time investment in the bees at the potential loss of some honey production.
- We have a supply of "extra" equipment, including medium sized nucleus equipment, to handle our splits and bee sales.
- We have four bee suits and plenty of other protective equipment to outfit visitors and NewBees who visit our apiary.
- We sell some of our honey, mostly by word-of-mouth, and give some away to family and friends. We only bottle it in 3, 1.5, and 1 pound containers. Our fall 2016 extraction yielded 150 pounds of honey and three pounds of wax.
- We make some wax products and sell or give these away as well.

**Your action plan – "What do you want to be when you grow up, as a beekeeper?"**

Take some time during the December and January beekeeping downtime to seriously consider the three questions and then write out your answer to "What do you want to be?". Make some adjustments to your beekeeping practices or equipment so that 2017 will be a successful beekeeping year, no matter the weather or the honey harvest!

When you know why you are in beekeeping it becomes easier to say "No." to the siren calls you hear at every convention, summer clinic, or bee school, to go beyond the boundaries you have set for your time, resources, and apiary. From our experience when we have violated our boundaries, our beekeeping went from fun and energizing to being work!

Know why you keep bees, set your boundaries, and enjoy the beekeeping journey!

Let's hear from you:

*rdfarr@gmail.com or sue.farr1@gmail.com*

## BEES USE A VARIETY OF SENSES AND MEMORY OF PREVIOUS EXPERIENCES WHEN DECIDING WHERE TO FORAGE FOR POLLEN, RESEARCH SUGGESTS.

*from Catch The Buzz*

Bees use a variety of senses and memory of previous experiences when deciding where to forage for pollen, research by the University of Exeter suggests.

The researchers believe pollen-collecting bees do not base their foraging decisions on taste alone, but instead make an "overall sensory assessment" of their experience at a particular flower.

Bees typically do not eat pollen when they collect it from flowers, but carry it back to the nest via special "sacs" on their legs or hairs on their body.

This makes it difficult to understand how bees judge whether the pollen a flower produces is nutritious enough for their young.

Indeed, researchers have been puzzled for a long time as to what exactly bees look for when they collect pollen from flowers.

Co-author Dr Natalie Hempel de Ibarra, expert in insect neuroethology at Exeter's Center for Research in Animal Behavior, said: "It seems that bees don't just respond to a single nutritional compound in pollen, such as crude protein content, but to a range of sensory cues in pollen and flowers.

"They also form memories for locations and types of flowers that they have visited which affect their foraging decisions.

"We need more research that considers the behavior and neurobiology of bees to understand when and why they prefer some plants and some pollen over others.

"A breakthrough in this area could advance our efforts in both biodiversity conservation and crop production."

The review, published in the journal *Functional Ecology*, examines existing evidence on how bees use their senses, previous experience and — in the case of social bees — feedback from the nest to decide where to gather pollen.

First author Dr Elizabeth Nicholls, a former PhD student at the University of Exeter and now a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Sussex, said: "Our review is unique in considering pollen foraging from an individual bee's perspective, asking which senses bees use to decide which flowers are worth visiting.

"In our review we suggest that although bees may taste pollen during collection and use this nutritional information to guide their choices, they are also likely to pay attention to the strong odor and visual appearance of both pollen and the flower itself.

"For bees that live together in colonies, information passed on from the other bees in the nest, either via chemical cues or even special 'dances', may also be important in influencing their pollen-collecting behavior."

The University of Exeter is a major hub for bee and pollination research and currently advertising several postgraduate research projects.



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# Honey Bees in Space

*from Doug Stanley, Montgomery County Beekeepers*

Twice honey bees, *Apis mellifera*, have been rocketed to Space aboard a Space Shuttle, once in March 22-30 1982, and again in April 6-13 1984. Both these missions were a part of the Shuttle Student Involvement Project (SSIP).

The First Study aboard STS-4 was to obtain data and research on insect flight behavior during an extended period of zero-gravity. Only 14 Honey bees were used, and the researchers had to have the stingers clipped, just in case they got loose from their Bee Enclosure Module, (BEM) , to protect the Astronauts! There was minimal research time with minimal exposure to light and the bees did not fly, and all were dead upon the arrival back to the Johnson Space Center. (3)

The second mission was titled, 'Survival, behavior and comb construction by honey bees, *Apis mellifera*, in zero gravity aboard NASA shuttle mission STS-13'. The objectives of this study was to monitor survival and behavior of bees in zero gravity and to compare the geometry of comb built in zero gravity with that of comb built by bees at one gravity. (1) The Researchers and Nasa learned from the first mission, and made many changes to the BEM and procedures of having bees in Space.

Being involved with a NASA Mission means having strict adherence to scientist method. Also very important was attention to details, including control groups, issues not normally addressed in labs and research on earth, including, weight limitations, lack of resources in the shuttle, time limitation, no backup supplies (or bees), and the primary researchers not being a part of the experiment! Since time is of the essence in a Shuttle mission, most of the research was observational and reporting.

This mission used 3400 adult worker bees, ( with no stingers clipped) and a mated queen. They were placed in a newly designed BEM. Crew members of the space shuttle observed the BEM four times during the mission.- The new BEM (construction and feeding of the bees were changed and improved from the 1st mission). The basic time line for this experiment included, nine hours after launch the bees were observed, ( one reason was to make sure they survive the acceleration of lift off) three days later, video recordings and observations of the bees and their behavior was done. More video recordings of the bees and behavior was done 2 days later and finally after additional 2 days – final visual observation. The ground control bees were removed and studied from their BEM on April 12, the orbiter BEM bees were removed April 14.(1)

Several observations were contributed by the flight crew. The bees were flying! Worker bees were observed crawling on some sugar syrup mixture and feeding directly from it. They were observed fanning their wings in a group near the air inlet. The few dead bees were removed from the cluster and deposited in

the fan area.

The most important information was that the bees produced comb ( graphic) , and the queen laid 35 eggs. (1) Of this comb. 2 pieces were attached to the Lexan plastic top of the BEM. Other pieces were attached to wooden frames (provided in the BEM). Of interest, the Lexan comb was built with cells on each side angled in the same directions, but on the frames in some occasions, one side angled up and the other side angled down ( and at different angles). Overall, the cell thickness, angles, and diameters were in close agreement to known perimeters, (1,2,4,5) but several pieces of comb had geometry differences out of the normal variance, ( thought to be attributed to disorientation of the bees in zero gravity).

Success of this mission included; the workers built comb, stored sugar syrup and the queen laid 35 eggs, ( once on earth the eggs were placed in a hive but did not mature, reasons unknown). – also interesting to note the ground BEM control bees did not build comb ( to cold) . The comb built in space had variances of cell depth, thickness and density, but within tolerances. 120 dead bees were recovered from the STS-13 mission's BEM, where- 350 were found in the BEM at Johnson Space Center control group.(1)

These fascinating facts again show what an amazing creature our honey bee is and how they are so adaptable to extreme conditions, so quickly!



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1. J.D. Vandenburg, D. R. Massie, H. Shimanuki, J. R. Peterson, D.M. Poskevich. SURVIVAL, BEHAVIOUR AND COMB CONSTRUCTION BY HONEY BEES, *APIS MELLIFERA*, IN ZERO GRAVITY ABOARD NASA SHUTTLE MISSION STS-13 (1). *Apidologie*, Springer Verlag, 1985, 16 (4) , pp.369-384. <hal-00890665>

2. Morse R. A., 1983 – Cell orientation and comb strength in honeybee colonies. *Gleanings in Bee Culture*, 111, 10, 14, 16, 18, 19.

3. Nelson, Todd and James R. Peterson. Experiment Results: Insect Flight Observation at Zero Gravity. NASA. 1982

4. Taber S., III Owens C. D., 1970 – Colony founding and initial nest designs of honey bees, *Apis mellifera*. *Anim. Behav.*, 18, 625-632.

5. Vogt H., - Geometrie und Okonomie der Bienenzelle. Breslau : Trewendt und Granier.

# 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  
Leesa Hyder, Executive Secretary, [lhyder@swbell.net](mailto:lhyder@swbell.net)

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## **Alamo Area Beekeepers Association**

Rick Fink - (210) 872-4569

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

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

**Meetings:** 3rd Tuesday on odd # months

## **Austin Area Beekeepers Association**

Lance Wilson - (512) 619-3700

[lw@ausapts.com](mailto:lw@ausapts.com)

8701 North Mopac Expressway #150, Austin TX 78759

[www.meetup.com/Austin-Urban-Beekeeping/](http://www.meetup.com/Austin-Urban-Beekeeping/)

**Meeting:** 3rd Monday of each month

## **Bell/Coryell Beekeepers Association**

Kirby Lack - (254) 290-0942

[klack@hotmail.com](mailto:klack@hotmail.com)

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

## **Brazoria County Beekeepers Association**

Kenneth Nugent - (979) 922-9725

418 CR 243, Angleton, TX 77515

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

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

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

**Meetings:** 2nd Monday of each month

## **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.)

## **Caddo Trace Beekeepers Association**

Glynn Smith - (903) 639-2910

PO Box 37, Hughes Springs, TX 75656

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

**Meetings:** 2nd Monday of each month

## **Caprock Beekeepers Association**

David Naughter - (806) 787-7698

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

6118 Nashville Ave. Lubbock, TX 79413

## **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)

## **Coastal Bend Beekeepers Association**

Dennis Gray (361) 877-2440

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

**Meetings:** First Thursday of each month

## **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;

## **Concho Valley Beekeepers Association**

Rex Moody - (325) 650-6360

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

**Meetings:** 3rd Tuesday of each month Jan-Nov

## **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

## **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

## **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

## **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;

## **Erath County Beekeepers Association**

James K Gray - (254) 485-3238

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

675 Turkey Ridge Road, Stephenville, TX 76401

**Meetings:**

## **Fayette County Beekeepers Association**

Ron Chess - (979) 525-9254

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

**Meetings:** First Saturday of the month, Feb, April,  
June, August, October and December

## **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)

## **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)

## **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

**Heart of Texas Beekeepers Association**

Gary Bowles - (254) 214-4514

*gbowles@peoplepc.com*

**Meetings:** 4th Tuesday of each month  
(except December)

**Hill County Beekeepers Association**

Art Wharton (254) 221-5325

*ohyougotit@aim.com*

**Meetings:** 3rd Tuesday of the month

**Houston Beekeepers Association**

Hank Hilliard - (713) 828-7247

*hank.hilliard@houstonbees.club*

3822 Piping Rock Lane, Houston, TX 77027

*www.houstonbeekeepers.org*

**Meetings:** 3rd Tuesday of each month;

**Houston Natural Beekeepers Association**

Dean Cook

*houstonnaturalbeekeepers@gmail.com*

**Meetings:** Second Saturday of the month

**Johnson County Beekeepers Association**

Scott Crowe, Don Russell

*boatshop6@yahoo.com - jcbeekeepers.org*

**Meetings:** 2nd Tuesday of each month

**Lamar County Beekeepers Association**

Scott Brinker - (501) 307-5111

*lamarcoba@gmail.com*

**Meetings:** 1st Thursday of the month

**Liberty County Beekeepers Association**

Cameron Crane - (409) 658-3800

*info@libertycountybeekeepers.org*

2300 Beveledere Dr., Baytown, TX 77520

*www.libertycountybeekeepers.org*

**Meetings:** 1st Tuesday of each month

**Longview Beekeepers Association**

Gus Wolf - (903) 746-9256

3464 Almond Rd, Big Sandy, TX 75755

*glwolf@gmail.com*

**Meetings:** 4th Thursday of each month

**Marshall Beekeeping Association**

Beth Derr - (936) 591-2399

*marshallbeekeeping@gmail.com*

210 Meadowlark Dr. Jefferson, TX 75657

**Meetings:** 2nd Thursday of each month

**Metro Beekeepers Association**

Keegan Olsen, President - (682) 225-0862

*keeganolson@yahoo.com*

*www.metrobeekeepers.net*

**Meetings:** 2nd Monday of each month

**Montgomery County Beekeepers Assn.**

Doug Stanley

*mocobees@gmail.com*

*www.mocobees.com*

**Meetings:** 3rd Monday of each month

**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

**Pineywoods Beekeepers Association**

Terry McFall - (409) 384-3626

*tdmcfall@hotmail.com*

1700 FM 252, Jasper, TX 75951

**Meetings:** 2nd Thursday of each month

**Red River Valley Beekeepers Assn.**

Kerry Roach (940) 249-0957

*kerrysbees43@gmail.com*

PO Box 9782, Wichita Falls, TX 76308

**Meetings:** 3rd Tuesday of each month

(except December)

**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

**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)

**Tyler County Bee Club**

Scott Martin - (409) 283-4507

*tcbclub16@gmail.com*

308 Miles Loop, Colmesneil, TX 75938

**Meetings:** 4th Tuesday of each month

**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

**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)

**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



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*2nd place photograph at TBA 2016 Convention  
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