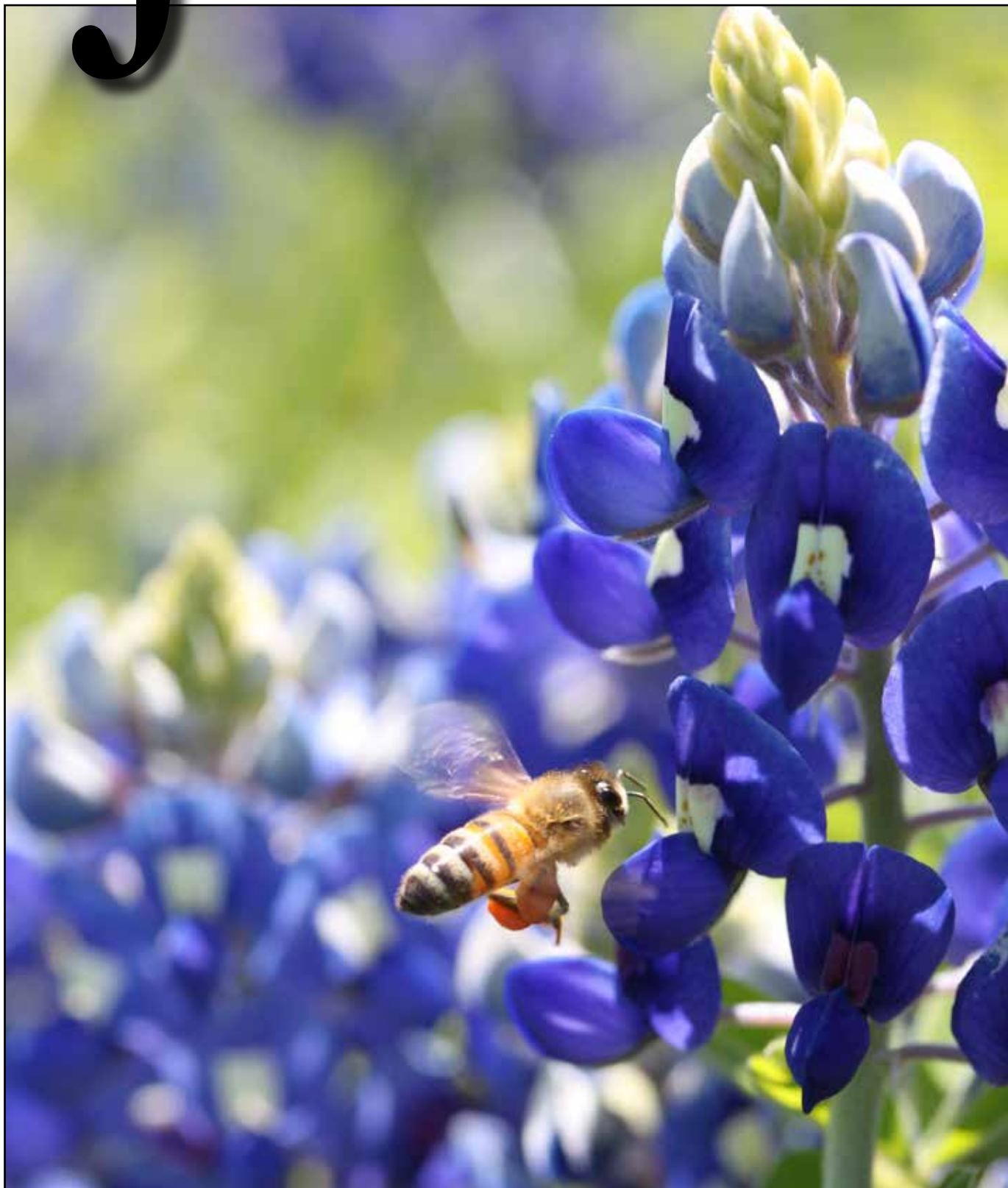


The Texas Beekeepers Association

Journal



Jan / Feb 2017

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Issue 17-1



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Come on Spring !



President's Report

from Chris Moore

Even before my beekeeping career, I have always enjoyed springtime. Now I love spring even more with Easter and the season of all things new. Of course, it means beekeeping work is about to get crazy busy.

It's a great time to be a part of TBA. This is going to be an exciting year. We are in the beginning stages of our specialty crop grant. Our goal - promote Real Texas Honey and educate the public that only 20% of the honey consumed in Texas is actually produced in Texas. I'm very thankful for the many skilled volunteers that are helping us implement this grant.

Texas was the host state for the North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow in Galveston Jan 10-14th. It's always good to have both the American Beekeeping Federation & the American Honey Producers Association agree to a unified Conference. (The way I think it should always be). There was a great turnout, great speakers, & great vendors. It was good to see, visit and meet fellow beekeepers from all over the country.

I hope your bees have made it through the winter. The day after winter solstice, it was like turning on a light switch. Our bees started working like crazy. Remember, they grow rapidly in the spring and consume a lot of stored honey. Make sure to keep your bees fed.



2017 Texas Honey Queen

Megan Pettibon

with

Shirley Doggett, Membership Coordinator

and

Tanya Phillips, TBA Director

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Cover is Prizewinning Picture by Robin Young, Metro Beekeepers



Vice President's Report *from Mark Hedley*

I'm Praying

Talk about crazy Texas weather, one day we are in the 40's, the next in the 70's. I'm confused, and I think my bees are too. We are in the final preparation stage to send our bees out to almond pollination. As weather allows we grade, equalize, and feed a bit to help get them through the journey. Then comes that gut wrenching feeling you get when sending a child off to college or away on their first travel excursion by themselves. You've done all you can for them. Now it is up to them and their creator. I'm praying.

We will soon be into spring. We clean up bee yards, get new yards established, paint boxes, install foundation into frames or complete other miscellaneous equipment builds. I'm already getting excited for what the new season will bring. Hopefully we receive good rains at the right times at the right temps. All the sunshine we can get along with the former is great too. I'm praying.

The North American Beekeepers Conference in Galveston was a huge success. Over 1,600 attendees attended which included members of the American Beekeeping Federation, The American Honey Producers Association, and the Canadian Honey Council. I think the exhibitors were amazed at the turn out and even some were a bit overwhelmed with the volume. Of course the speakers presented all the newest science, technologies, and beekeeping management methodologies. Of particular interest, I found the use of nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) to detect fraudulent honey absolutely fascinating. Hopefully the companies and scientists can start bringing this horrible activity to an end by using these technologies. I'm praying.

I hope that y'all have a good spring and that winter preparations for your bees were successful. Mites are still one of our biggest challenges and even though the scientists are diligently working on new or better methods to treat for mites, nothing has come to fruition quite yet. Avoiding treatments (going "all natural") may be the desire for some beekeepers, but it is a danger to other beekeepers. Mites travel. Please don't create a varroa bomb by avoiding treatments. Even VSH, Russian Bees, and Ankle Biters can't get all the mites. A small-scale beekeeper is not far from one of my yards and my initial discussions with him last year revealed his lack of varroa mite treatments. Discussions were positive and after the debate concluded I think he saw the value in treating for varroa. I'm praying.

We are into a new year now. The U.S.A. has a new President and many challenges ahead. It is interesting to see that the political discourse still remains sharp amongst some folks. We can do much more good when we come together than standing on ideology. We all can benefit from listening to a different point of view instead of shutting down a discussion when someone doesn't agree. Different thoughts and views can lead to creative solutions. Perhaps our contributions in society need to start with a look in the mirror and then with more practice at listening, people can come together. I'm praying!

Renew your Membership, or Join Us.

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If you change your address or email please contact

Shirley Doggett at *sdoggett@mindspring.com*

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Look for the Honey Locator and Events Calendar

January 2017

Fellow Texas beekeepers,

Recognizing the many issues facing the beekeeping industry in Texas, TBA has made it a priority to update Chapter 131 of the Texas Agriculture Code, to better address the needs of the Texas beekeeping industry, today and in the future.



There have been laws regulating beekeeping in Texas since 1903. The last substantive revisions to Chapter 131 were made in 1983. There have been significant changes in the beekeeping industry in the past 30 plus years, and we believe that Chapter 131 must be updated to address these changes. Further, the growth of small-scale beekeepers in Texas has been tremendous over the past several years, and Chapter 131 fails in many ways to deal with the issues related to the needs of this important group.

TBA has been working on this process for more than two years. In July 2016, a meeting was held in College Station, where over twenty TBA members from all over the state, representing commercial, side-liner and small-scale beekeepers, came together in an advisory capacity. This diverse group was given the task of going through every section of the current law, analyzing current versus proposed changes, and discussing alternatives. Following that meeting, a smaller Committee was charged with incorporating the consensus of this advisory group into a document that could be presented to a legislator for drafting of a bill to be considered in the 2017 legislative session. House Bill 1293, sponsored by Representative Tracy King of Uvalde, has been filed and is available for your review on the TBA website. <http://texasbeekeepers.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/2017-Proposed-AG131-for-2017-AGRICULTURE-CODE-2017-January-16.pdf>

Many of the changes proposed in HB 1293 simplify and update the current code. We believe other, more substantive changes, are positive for both Texas beekeepers and the Texas Apiary Inspection Service ("TAIS"), which is the agency responsible for safeguarding the apiary industry of Texas through health inspections and monitoring for new pests and diseases. Texas presents an especially challenging situation with 18 sea ports and a long border with Mexico through which potentially devastating bee pests, diseases, and unwanted species of bees may be brought into our state. The proposed changes will allow TAIS to better provide its essential functions of protecting the beekeeping industry, without imposing unnecessary burdens on beekeepers, and will allow TAIS to have greater ability to be pro-active in the education of Texas beekeepers with respect to identification, monitoring, mitigation, and treatment of bee diseases and pests. Simplifying and clarifying many provisions of the current law will make it much easier for beekeepers to understand and comply with the law, while allowances for small-scale and hobby beekeepers will bring the current law more in line with their needs and practices.

We want you to be fully informed about the proposed changes. In the coming weeks, TBA will make available a summary of the current law and the proposed changes to the law. Local TBA affiliated associations will be given additional information and a short presentation to provide additional explanation of the proposed changes. If you have questions or comments, please e-mail them to "131questions@texasbeekeepers.org." You will receive a prompt reply. Visit the TBA website at "texasbeekeepers.org" to download materials from the blog and read the latest news on HB 1293. Click on "subscribe" to be notified immediately when new updates are posted.

We solicit your support for HB 1293. As your state association, TBA strives to represent all Texas beekeepers – commercial, side-liners, small-scale, hobbyist, migratory, rural, and urban. That is a big challenge in a state as diverse as Texas. TBA's goal is to protect beekeepers and the beekeeping industry in Texas, not only in 2017, but well into the foreseeable future. We believe that passage of HB 1293 will be a positive step toward that reaching that goal.

Regards,

Chris Moore, President

Mark Hedley, Vice President

Leesa Hyder, Executive Secretary

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

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

Howdy, TBA members! Happy new year to all of you, especially those that read this column!! If you read my last article, you learned about all the latest accomplishments we are proud of in my lab. 2017 started off with a great footing for us, as you can see below.

Most of the Rangel Bee Lab staff attended 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. The ABF-AHPA meeting was full of hands-on training, workshops, and best of all, lectures! And during this meeting, we had the best scientific meeting for bee scientists, organized by the American Association of Professional Apiculturists (AAPA). The AAPA's American Bee Research Conference (ABRC) was held during the ABF-AHPA meeting at the same location on 12 and 13 January. All of our students presented research talks at the ABRC, and I am VERY PROUD to announce that our own Alex Payne received one of 3 student paper competition awards out of 18 student talks!!!! So proud of you Alex, congratulations!!!! Information on the meeting can be found at <http://aapa.cyberbee.net/events/>. The keynote speakers were Dr. Jeff Pettis, Institute of Bee Health, University of Bern, Switzerland, and Dr. Steve Pernal, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Beaverlodge, AB, Canada. There were over 40 talks, over 15 posters, and lots of good information about honey bees and their status around the US and Canada!!

As in previous years, Liz Walsh and myself presented two talks each at the 6th Annual Beekeeping Seminar organized by the Austin Area Beekeepers Association on 21 January 2017. The event was held at the J. J. Pickle Research Campus, 10100 Burnet Rd. Austin, TX 78758. And as in the past, some of the proceeds from the meeting will be generously donated by the Austin



Dr. Rangel presenting a talk on Africanized Honey Bees at the 6th Annual Beekeeping Seminar organized by the Austin Area Beekeepers Association on 21 January 2017 in Austin, TX. Thank you to the organization (and Lance Wilson in particular) for your continuing support of our research program!!!

Area Beekeepers Association to our research program, so ALL OF THOSE WHO ATTENDED DIRECTLY SUPPORTED US us by attending the event! THANK YOU!!! The all-day event, which includes four

different educational presentations running concurrently in each time slot throughout the day, contained information for beginner and advanced beekeepers, as well as vendors and information booths. It was definitely the place to BEE in Austin on Saturday.

On some important bee-related news, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced in early January that the rusty patched bumble bee (*Bombus affinis*) is “now balancing on the brink of extinction,” with a population that once was thriving



*The rusty patched bumble bee (*Bombus affinis*) is the first bumble bee to be placed in the Endangered Species Act in the United States. Photo credit by Alamy: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2017/01/bumblebees-endangered-species-rusty-patched/>*

having declined 87%, according to the announcement. This news comes only a few months after the first ever bees were placed on the endangered species list in the U.S. In September 2016, seven species of the solitary yellow-faced bees in the genus *Hylaeus* received protection in their native land of Hawaii under the Endangered Species Act. In the official reports issued by the Fish and Wildlife Service's Federal Registry, the Endangered Species

Act can determine that a species is endangered or threatened based on any of five factors:

- (A) The present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range;
- (B) overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes;
- (C) disease or predation;
- (D) the inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; or
- (E) other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence.


"They determined that these bee species are experiencing population declines as a result of the following threats:

- "Habitat loss and degradation due to urbanization; nonnative feral ungulates (hoofed mammals, e.g., pigs, goats, axis deer, black-tailed deer, mouflon, and cattle); nonnative plants; wildfire; and water extraction.
- Predation or herbivory by nonnative feral ungulates, rats, slugs, bullfrogs, Jackson's chameleons, ants, and wasps.
- Stochastic events such as landslides, flooding, drought, tsunami, and hurricanes.
- Human activities such as recreational use of anchialine pools, dumping of nonnative fish and trash into anchialine pools, and manmade structures and artificial lighting.
- Vulnerability to extinction due to small numbers of individuals and occurrences and lack of regeneration.
- Competition with nonnative plants and nonnative invertebrates."

Likewise, the Fish and Wildlife Service listed ways in which the public can help to stop the bees' decline, including planting native flowers, limiting or avoiding the use of pesticides, and fostering "native landscapes and leave grass and garden plants uncut after summer to provide habitat for overwintering bees." One small step toward helping to preserve our bee diversity, which will naturally also help the health of managed honey bees around the country.

Lastly, I want to let you know that I will be going on maternity leave in late January-early February and thus will not be available for at least 6-8 weeks. I will still be communicating with my staff, and hope to be able to contribute to the journal's next issue, health permitting. In the meantime, if you have laboratory-related questions, please email Dr. Alejandra Gonzalez at alejandracula@tamu.edu or call 979-8454-1079. If you have apiculture-related questions, please email Ms. Ashley Jones at ashleyj@tamu.edu or call 979-8454-1079. 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/TAMUhoneebeeelab> Our page has OVER 2,490 LIKES and counting!


Thank you for your continuing support, have a productive 2017 season, and we will see you around this coming spring!!!



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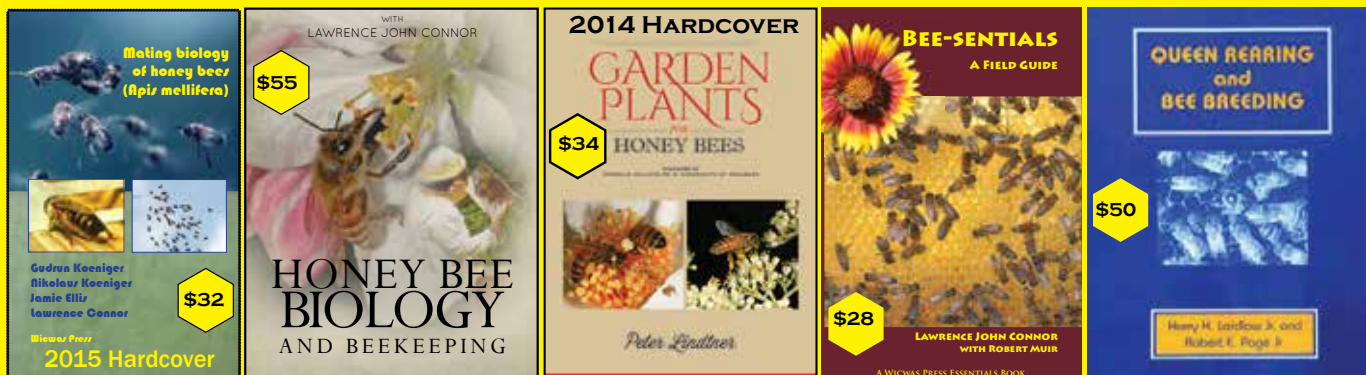
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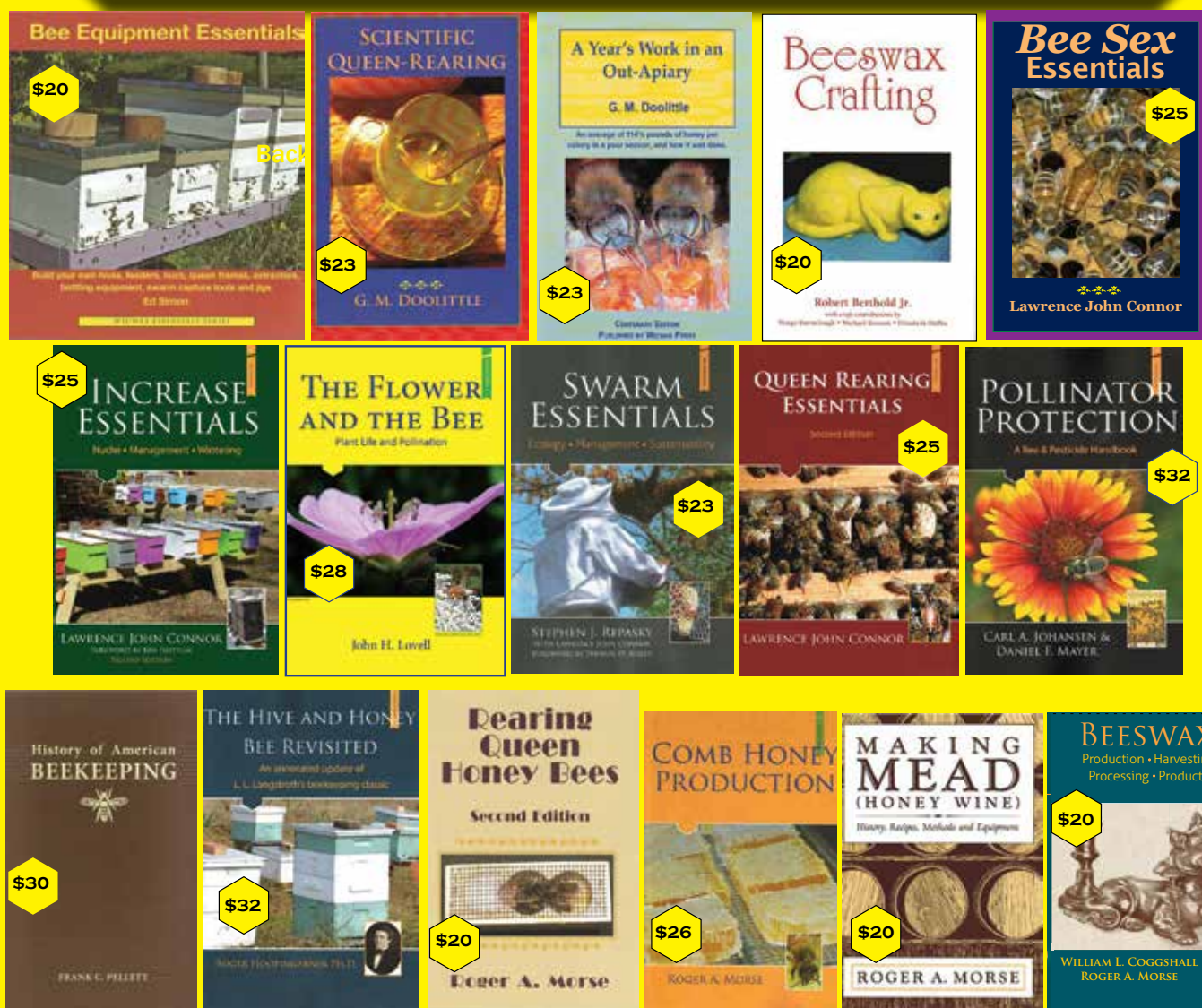
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The Brantley Column

from S. S. Brantley
East Texas Beekeepers Association

January and early February in East Texas are always a challenge for beekeepers. It is supposed to be winter and some days are indeed bitterly cold. But those cold snaps are often followed by surprisingly warm days. Then the next blast of Canadian air comes roaring through. Our honeybees respond to these swings in temperature and can become confused about what they should be doing. It can be a dangerous time of the year for our hives. One of my fellow beekeepers in the Marshall area found one hive with two full frames of brood from a queen that was fooled into the spring laying activity on a series of warm days.

Periods of daytime temperatures in the upper 60s and 70s can cause the bees to break their winter cluster. The queen sometimes starts to lay eggs, thinking that spring is right around the corner. The new larvae need to be kept warm, fed beebread, honey and pollen. This increased demand for stores can cause the hive to run short before trees and flowers begin to bloom and provide new forage. With the next round of cold, the bees return to winter cluster, possibly leaving the brood exposed to the cold. Brood not kept warm by the cluster will most likely die. When the cold spell passes and it again becomes warm enough for the bees to break cluster, housekeeping bees will pull the dead larvae from the cells and carry them out of the hive.

For novice beekeepers, there are several things to think about during this period. First, be aware that bees can starve this time of the year. They have been surviving on their stores since the first major frost. Check the food stores in each hive to make sure they are not depleted. Give the back of the hive the "two-finger lift" and feed syrup to any hive that feels light. Try to do this on a warmer day but still get in and out of the hive quickly.

It is also a good time to add a small piece of pollen patty, particularly if the hive does not have a good amount of stored pollen. Cut a full-sized patty into pieces about an inch wide. Place one of the small pieces on the topbars or on the inner cover. If the bees quickly eat that piece, you can add another.

We discourage placing a full patty, or even large pieces that take too long to be eaten, to help prevent hive beetles from laying under the patty. You may not see beetles when you open the hive because they are also dormant in the cold. However, they are present and will move around on warmer days. Beetles seem to be fond of laying eggs underneath pollen patties where the bees cannot reach them.

One final comment about pollen patties. For novice beekeepers – place the patty in the hive with the paper on. The bees will eat the patty and either leave the paper or carry it out of the hive. I remember one novice beekeeper, talking with me after installing pollen patties for the first time, comment about how messy and difficult it was to peel the paper off the patty.

Secondly for novice beekeepers, be aware that "too early" brood can chill, die, and be ejected from the hive. If you find dead larvae on the ground in front of the hive, do not think the hive is diseased. You are seeing the natural housekeeping actions of bees. Be aware that this can happen at any time during periods of widely fluctuating temperatures this time of the year.

Water is important to bees at this time of year as it is in the hot summer period. On days warm enough to fly, bees will leave the hive in search of water. Just as a bottle of honey will crystallize on your pantry shelf, honey will crystallize in the cells inside of the hive. Bees fetch water on warmer days and use it to liquefy the crystallized honey. This has been such a wet period that the availability of water may not be a problem. However, if your bees are located where fresh water is not available, try to provide them with a source.

As we move into the new bee season, I like to encourage fellow beekeepers to commit to starting some Nucs in their apiary. The Nuc can be the solution to future problems. Lose a queen – get a new one from the Nuc. Need some capped brood – it's in the Nuc. Need a new or replacement hive – it's in the Nuc.

Give it a try, it could save one of your hives this year!

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**

The Best Honey? “It’s Elementary, my dear Watson”

Sherlock Holmes created by: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

From Robin Young, Metro Beekeepers Association

When I was seven years old, my mom introduced me to “Sherlock Holmes”. There were many things I learned and “deduced” from that well spent time. One of those deductions was that “smart people”, I mean really really smart people, are beekeepers. I also understood that if I wanted to be smart and wise I needed to hang around people that were smarter and wiser than me.

Recently, we were honored with a first place ribbon for our honey at the 2016 Texas State Beekeeping Convention. I thought I understood how and why we won. Yet a presentation the day before had me rethinking everything:

Honey: Care, Storage, Beneficial Ingredients, Marketing & Sales by Chris Moore, TBA President

There was a lot in the presentation, but I’m going to focus on what I did not know: Harvesting and Honey Storage. We currently have top-bar hives, little time, and no room to store honey. We have de-capping tanks that we use to harvest our honey. We usually take our 3 tanks, 2 for honey and one for pretty honey comb for selling chunk honey.



Here is the breakdown of how we harvest and bottle our honey:

- 1) The night before, we make up sugar jars and load up our truck with all the harvesting gear.

- 2) The next morning after dropping the kids off to school, we then harvest hives until the 3 de-capping tanks are full. Then we head home.



- 3) We place the tanks on the Island in our kitchen, turn all the lights off, leave the lids off so that any bees that may have hitched a ride can fly to the nearest window, and we go have lunch.
- 4) After lunch we come home and use a cup and shish kabob skewer to get out any bees that did not leave on their own.
- 5) Next, we cut out the best pieces of comb honey and place them in clean jars.



- 6) We then take a potato masher and mash up the rest of the honey comb.



The Best Honey? “It’s Elementary, my dear Watson”

Sherlock Holmes created by: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

- 7) We go do other things and when we pass the de-capping tanks throughout the day, we mash and turn the comb.
- 8) After the kids go to bed, around 8:30pm, we start bottling up the honey. It has had time for any beeswax and such to float to the top.



- 9) When the floating beeswax gets too close to the opening, we get out our filter set that we have improved from information we got from Chris Moore's 2015 TBA Convention presentation.



- 10) We bag up the bees wax and let it continue to drain the last bit over night.

One harvest usually gives us enough honey to sell for a month. Before we run out, we go harvest again.

- By harvesting honey every month we offere current sources of pollen.
- We never heat our honey because we sell it before it crystalizes.
- At the Convention, Chris Moore talked about Saccharose degradation over time and what

his business does to protect the taste and quality of his honey. In short he flash freezes the honey dropping the temperatures and putting some crystalized honey in 55 gallon drums. By storing his honey in a crystalized form, he is protecting the quality of the honey. (I charge \$1 an ounce)

The Best Honey? is fresh honey. If you harvest once a year try and crystalize a portion of your honey to help maintain it’s quality and flavor.

Pure Monoi de Tahiti Lotion Bar

My husband and I went to Hawaii a few years back and I discovered Monoi de Tahiti oil. Every year I try and come up with new products for my regular customers to try. This one was a big hit when we introduced it in 2016.

Ingredients:

- 2.6 oz Beeswax
- 2oz Monoi de Tahiti
- 4oz Coconut Oil
- A mold that can handle some heat. I usually double that batch and use a 3 oz mold

Directions:

Melt the beeswax, add the Monoi de Tahiti and Coconut Oil, pour into molds, and let it harden. (I charge one bar for \$8 or two bars for \$12.)



Proverbs 16-24 Pleasant words are a honeycomb sweet to the soul and healing to the bone.

Chief of Apiary Inspection - Texas Apiary Inspection Service

from Mark Dykes

Greetings from the Texas Apiary Inspection Service (TAIS)



We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and a happy new year. With the relatively mild winter we have had there has been almost no break in beekeeping this year here in Texas. This is an important time for preparing your bees for the fast approaching spring. As the weather permits check and make sure your bees still have plenty of honey stored. If they are running low, and the temperatures will be above 60 for a few days, put some heavy syrup on them. Be careful to not give them too much if there is going to be a freeze before they can pack it away. Also it would be a good time to check for mites with a sugar shake or alcohol wash. If you find your mite counts to be high consult the Tools for Varroa Management guide for treatment recommendations. The guide can be found here: <http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/Varroa/> Remember many of the treatments have specific temperature ranges they work best in, so be sure to check the labels before applying.

As many of you know this year's national meeting was held right down the road in Galveston. This meeting was particularly special because it was the first time in several years that the American Beekeeping Federation (ABF), Canadian Honey Council (CHC), and the American Honey Producers Association (AHPA) meet jointly. In addition to these groups several other honey bee industry related groups meet, including the American Association of Professional Apiculturist (AAPA), Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturist (CAPA), and the Apiary Inspectors of America (AIA). All in all the conference had many great talks, with the highlights being the keynote address of Dr. Jeff Pettis and the crowning of Hope Pettibon as the 2017 National Honey Princess. We are very proud of Hope and all she has accomplished.

I am happy to announce that at this year's AIA meeting our very own Mary Reed was reelected as the secretary of AIA and I was reelected as the president. To give you a little background on the AIA we are an organization made up primarily of State Apiarists who work together on bee health issues. Given the migratory nature of the beekeeping industry the AIA serves an important role by bringing the State Apiarists together to discuss national issues. This year we discussed exotic pests that could possibly come into the US and cause problems for honey bees. AIA worked together with the USDA to provide this education for the members. The meeting included a workshop on wasp identification and a discussion on other pests and possible points of entry into the US. This type of coordinated effort is an important and proactive step we can take to safeguard the apiary industry in the US. TAIS is currently involved in a multistate Farm Bill sponsored project that includes monitoring ports here in Texas. This is a coordinated effort with several other AIA members and I am happy to announce that we have received funding to keep the project going into 2018. In addition to this grant, TAIS was also awarded a grant to develop informational materials to educate both port employees and beekeepers. Keep an eye out for these materials in months to come.

Well that's about it for this issue, as we begin to move forward into spring the TAIS staff hopes that everyone has a successful beekeeping year with plentiful brood, lots of honey, and low mite counts. As always if you have any questions or know a good bee joke please don't hesitate to contact us (TAIS@tamu.edu) and keep on keeping those wonderful bees!





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Getting Off to a Good Start in 2017

"The Continuing Journey of Two Fourth-Year Hobby Beekeepers"
TBA Journal Article - February 2017

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



December 2016 and January 2017 were relatively quiet months for us with respect to beekeeping. That's wonderful, because we were busy in other arenas. The winter months, while life and bees are relatively quiet, are good for us to reevaluate why we are in beekeeping, plan goals for what we will do in the coming year, and begin to implement toward those goals. Last issue we discussed why we are in beekeeping and encouraged you to do the same. In this article we'll cover goal setting and implementation to make your dreams a reality. We expect 2017 to be a great year!

In 2017, God willing, we will accomplish the following in the bee world:

- Personal - beekeeper-improvement oriented (Roger)
 - attend one single-day learning clinic
 - read three beekeeping books
 - achievement of the Master-level of the Texas Master Beekeeping Program
- Personal - apiary oriented
 - produce five, 10-frame medium, nucleus hives for sale
 - produce an average of 70 pounds of honey from each production hive
 - end the year with six production hives and two nucleus hives
- Personal - others oriented
 - teach a NewBee class
 - give at least three presentations on bees and beekeeping to community groups
 - give at least two presentations on pollination and pollinators to community groups
 - mentor two NewBee couples or families into beekeeping
- Industry - TBA oriented (Roger)
 - successfully complete the duties as a TBA Area Director
 - visit five TBA member beekeeping associations in my area
 - execute the communications plan for the expected bee law update bill
 - complete other TBA duties as assigned by the President

As you may have guessed from this, setting goals is a de facto part of being in the Farr family. We've found goals to be helpful to guide us during the year and to gauge our success at the end of the year.

You may have noticed that three-fourths of our goals have nothing to do with bees' performance. Rather, they are about improving ourselves as beekeepers, helping others around us to improve, and assisting the leadership of TBA to accomplish their goals. One of our main reasons for beekeeping is to bring us in contact with a wide range of people and thus these people oriented goals.

Our production goals are simple and clear. We have seven hives, so the goals are reasonable, achievable, and honorable. This level of cash flow from our beekeeping activities will allow our hobby to be self-sustaining and should provide a profit for our little LLC business.

OK - great on the goals, but how will we actually get this done in 2017?

Create nucleus hives – Last year's main speaker at the TBA convention, Mike Palmer, challenged us to consider hives in two separate categories: nucleus hives and production hives. The job of nucleus hives is to make resources to supplement the production hives so that the production hives make their maximum potential of honey. If we are going to achieve our goals, we will need to create additional nucleus hives, over and above what we plan to sell, to insure that our production hives are operating at their maximums. We've ordered additional nucleus equipment to do this and are planning apiary space.

Produce quality queens – We will again use the Nicot system to produce queens. This year, however, we will apply an important lesson learned from 2016, the need to have an overstuffed cell-builder colony to in which to place the developing queen larvae. Our previous queens were not over-the-top-successful. They did not have the luxury of an over-abundance of royal jelly because we did not give them an over-abundance of nurse bees during their larval development. We may again have early queen failures, but it won't be because they were not raised in luxury!

Keep learning – We both read deeply, frequently, and widely. Roger has already read Beekeeping at Buckfast Abby by Brother Adam and the FFA produced "The Beginner's Guide to Beekeeping" which a friend gave to us for Christmas. Up next for him is Honey Bee Democracy and a re-reading of Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping by Caron and Connor to prepare for the Master-level test of the Texas Master Beekeeper Program. Sue just completed Donald Rumsfeld's memoir Known and Unknown and has two books on her table that were recommended for parents of missionaries, Help! My Halo's Slipping by Dinkins and Parents of Missionaries by Savageau and Stortz. A northeast Texas horticulture book, Heirloom Gardening in the South, is also pulling her attention.

Put others second – Roger has already taught at a NewBee class, and we have two new beekeepers to mentor. We've made three presentations to Master Gardeners this year on landscape design, Texas Superstar® plants, and pollinators/pollination. We have two more presentations scheduled for later in the year, one on rainwater harvesting and the other on blackberries, pecans, and blueberries, so we are enjoying the research, photography, and questions. We're meeting lots of Texans interested in bees.

Share skills – Roger was elected as an Area Director for TBA and then asked to be a part of the newly formed non-profit "Texas Honey Bee Education Association" that will raise funds to support on-going education and research for the beekeeping industry. We both look forward to visiting local beekeeping associations, having Roger make presentations to represent TBA, and meeting lots of new beekeeping friends.

Enjoy the weather – For the Farrs' property, 2017 is already shaping up to be a good year. January's cold weather portends a good start so that our fruit trees can get their required chill hours. The crimson and white Dutch clovers have germinated, and our wildflower patch is peaking up. We'll check on our bees' food stores during the next warm day, and we are ready to feed them, if necessary. We won't be surprised to see that they have already begun producing brood, since pollen is already being foraged. We are ready to supplement with pollen powder to provide enough protein for the developing brood.

What to make 2017 be even more memorable? Try this: Create, Produce, Keep Learning, Put Others Second, Share, and Enjoy. Let's meet here in northeast Texas or at one the TBA-sponsored events during the year and share stories.

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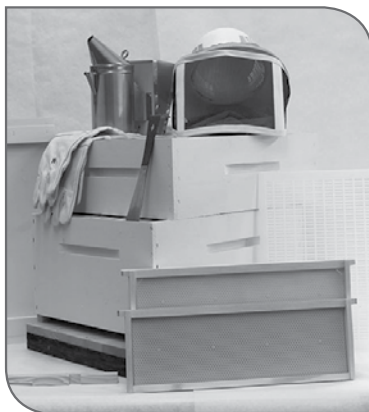
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2017 Texas Honey Queen

Megan Pettibon

Beekeeping in South Texas



Did you know that beekeeping varies greatly in different regions of Texas? The number of beekeepers in your city, the different pests and animals, the climate or temperature, and the different nectar sources all contribute to this fact. Why is it good to know these variances? In this article we will explore the region of South Texas and discover exactly why beekeepers plan ahead before getting into their hives.

South Texas includes Corpus Christi, Brownsville, Laredo, Del Rio, etc. The clubs and communities down there are brought together with an obvious enthusiasm for this insect. These clubs may include the Rio Grande Valley Beekeepers Association, as well as the Coastal Bend Beekeepers Association. Many people may wonder why these clubs have such a love for honeybees. According to a member of CCBA, "You have to love bees to be a beekeeper down here." Why is this?

While the most popular honey bee in Texas is the Italian (*Apis Mellifera Ligustica*), the south also deals with Africanized honey bees. People usually try to stray away from bringing up these hearty insects in a conversation, but it is actually a very common topic in this region of Texas. The Africanized honey bee was first discovered in Hidalgo, Texas in 1990. They very soon became the hot topic for the media, and people learned the term "Africanized" rather quickly. So the beekeepers started switching to the word "aggressive" honey bees. While this word may inevitably cause a non-beekeeper to think of a belligerent insect, it also helps prevent their minds from immediately focusing on the well-known Africanized honey bee. Hold on a second! Don't let this scare you off from beekeeping down in South Texas. This insect may feel compelled to protect its personal space, but it is also loved for its willingness to build wax and bring in a bountiful amount of honey. With much exertion of energy and zeal, a honey super could be completely filled with comb in as little as a week. Learning and knowing how to get in and work these hives is key to success to beekeepers in the South.

Living in these circumstance, beekeepers know to tape around their hands and feet as a normal routine. They know to try and get in their hives during dusk, so as to have the night sky eventually help the bees go back inside their hive. They have also learned to simply stand under some form of shelter, which the bees appear to dislike, and wait patiently for them to calm. A shelter could vary from a barn, a porch, or even a car. It is not an uncommon routine to use your vehicle to drive a couple miles

away from your hive with opened windows, wait for the bees to leave, and then return after a couple hours. Keep in mind that this is only if you are dealing with "aggressive" honeybees. If your hive is calm, there is no need to drive away from them.

Beekeepers are also constantly bringing in new Italian queens, as are other regions of Texas. At first, you may assume this is the case because their queens stop laying eggs or simply die at an early age. However, the main purpose for the continuous purchasing of new queens merely result from 'aggressive' colonies capturing hives. While this is one of the main issues the South is dealing with today, it is thankfully not always the case. A beekeeper can have a strong, gentle, and healthy hive for years. That being said, it is still highly encouraged that you paint your new queen and check her immediately when entering your hive that she is the same one you painted originally.

The weather in the South has a high humidity rate, and the sky can be very cloudy at times. While this may appear hot or gloomy, it is actually perfect weather for the Africanized bee, in that they do not like the sun. This makes it easier for both the honey bee and beekeeper.

Honey bees in South Texas are always searching for a good source of sweet nectar. Some favorite plants that provide this source include the beautiful sunflower, wild sage, chaparral, mesquite, and wild lavender. Honeybees also love the palm tree blossoms. These magnificent flowers are hardly seen without a honeybee on it. The yucca plant is another favorite of the South. This cactus displays large yellow blossoms and produce a delicious honey.

While South Texas has many differences and similarities to other regions of Texas, knowing these can greatly benefit you when teaching classes. Being aware of your audience and which region of Texas they came from, can help you instruct more accurately and directly. It can also help you when communicating with other beekeepers on the side. Yes, there can be ten answers for one question, but knowing the situation that your friend works in is just one more step to successfully informing and even chatting. Beekeeping is a joy to many people, and is greatly loved in the South. Who wouldn't enjoy watching this incredible insect build brilliant golden comb or gather delicious food for your supper table? The joy of beekeeping is spreading rapidly throughout South Texas, and is no doubt a favorite.



*Megan Pettibon with her sister Abby Pettibon
CCHBA Honey Queen*



*Megan Pettibon at the 6th Annual
Austin Seminar*



*Barbi Rose, WCABA, Liz Walsh and Shirley Doggett
at 6th Annual Austin Seminar*



*Elise Gardner, WCABA Honey Queen
with Megan Pettibon
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The Start of a New Bee Association

from Dennis Gray, Jr., Coastal Bend Beekeepers

Photos by Dr. Orlando Villareal

Local bee clubs can be a great resource for beekeepers. Beginners can get help from more experienced beekeepers, and experienced beekeepers can share tips and complain about the weather. If you're a member of your local club, you may not know all the details behind the scenes. Even if you run a local club, you probably inherited a basic organizational format for it. But every now and then, new clubs form, and old clubs re-form from inactivity.

In the Texas Rio Grande Valley (RGV), just such a resurrection is happening to a local bee club. Local beekeeper Jimmy Lawrence found just this opportunity. "We've built up from structural removals and started selling bees in 2016. It was clear from those sales that we need a local association to support new beekeepers," says Lawrence. And the rebirth of the Rio Grande Valley Beekeepers Assn was begun. A customer hired Lawrence to requeen an aggressive hive for her. She took the time to follow along and learn the process, and after that work was finished, they decided to collaborate on restarting the local bee association.

The Rio Grande Valley is part of Texas with a great need for bees. Not only is hobby and backyard beekeeping on the rise, the region grows substantial amounts of produce – melons, citrus, peppers, cukes, squashes, etc. The region is a growing consumer market too. With UTRGV adding a medical school and many industries expanding into the area, the demand for bees will follow this rise in activities.

And that's a problem for new beekeepers. Lawrence reports that, "There is literally no one to call for help as a beekeeper here."

The quest for a local association begins by identifying what resources are already available. The Rio Grande Valley Beekeepers Association existed in the past, and Lawrence was able to locate Bill Wright, a past organizer of the group. Wright reported that the group existed, but that much of the documentation of the group was lost in a residential fire.

In some ways, it may be easier to start fresh with a group that has been idle for a long time. The IRS may purge the EIN of an inactive group, but they may also reactivate the old number if requested. In the case of RGV Beekeepers, there was also a bank account. The banks are more forgiving about inactivity, but after 5 years of inactivity may send an account the state unclaimed property unit.

So far, Lawrence has identified the resources he will need early in this process. The key leadership roles will be filled by Lawrence and his customer Kristy Davis. They have contacted the Texas Beekeepers Association for help, and Shirley Doggett responded with help setting up the basic structure of the group. Much work remains, of course, but the rebirth of the group is official. TBA provides new clubs with their first year club dues waived. This is a critical courtesy for a new club, where funding is not yet started or available.



Every club needs a home, and a place to meet. Meeting spaces are not hard to find, but a meeting space at the right time and day, well, that's often a big challenge. Lawrence turned to the Agrilife extension service in Weslaco. Extension offices are common meeting places for local beekeepers and other groups.

The service of a beekeepers association is education. They provide this service to local beekeepers and the local community at large. "We want to provide more hands-on beekeeping than just pictures and slide shows," says Lawrence. "We want to focus on kids and teens who want to start early."

To be sure, people drive local associations. Currently RGV Beekeepers Association has 15 members and will meet the last Friday of the month. The group plans to expand its membership by being available to speak to anyone who asks for help, and help



them in their journey into beekeeping. A significant obstacle in the RGV is the presence of African hybrid honey bees in the feral stocks. Overcoming this stigma is a challenge for the group. Their hands-on approach to teaching will help them show people that honeybees can be managed, even deep inside hybrid territories.

Lawrence started with 25 colonies purchased from the late Bill Vanderput of Magic Valley Honey. From there, he relied on structural removals and swarm collection to build up to 120 hives. He currently rents hives for pollination and produces honey, of course. He runs a successful bee removal business in the area, and began selling hives in 2016. His company, The Iron Bee Apiary, started in 2014, began with a dream of opening a Meadery in the Rio Grande Valley. "At the time," says Lawrence, "we had no idea what we were getting ourselves into, but immediately fell in love with bees and the craft of beekeeping. We forgot all about brewing and changed our focus to the beekeeping community."

Every local beekeepers association is unique in order to answer the particular needs of their own community. The future holds several challenges for the Rio Grande Valley Beekeepers, but none is so important as finding their role in the community. The core leadership of each club must remain agile and manage their group so as to provide answers that are needed throughout their community.

TBA supports local beekeepers association, of course. By providing organizational support, we hope to smooth the way through administrative hurdles for local leaders. But there's a bigger network of support. Lawrence's efforts have already gained him an invitation (maybe even an insistence) to the Austin Area Beekeepers Seminar in late January. These seminars are a



networking resource for local leaders to share ideas and perhaps arrange speakers from other areas to visit.

If you find yourself in the Rio Grande Valley on the last Friday of the month, be sure to drop in on the newest addition to the TBA family of beekeepers. They will really appreciate your support.



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Megan Pettibon, Texas Honey Queen

with

Tanya Phillips, Director TBA

First Package in a Top Bar Hive

from Micheal Mathews, Fayette County Beekeepers



One of my most vivid beekeeping memories was going to pick up our first packages of bees. We found ourselves at a rural warehouse stacked high with packages and bees buzzing everywhere. Rather than workmen suited in white, a woman in shorts and carrying a clipboard casually walked through the cloud of bees calling out the names of waiting customers. The ride home was unnerving since we had an SUV and there was nothing between us and those two packages with bees clinging to the outside. We had read that package bees were docile but that learning had to overcome years of practiced fear. At home and geared up we proceeded to make a Keystone Cops effort to get our packages into our new hives. After some minutes of dumping and sweeping and who knows how many escaped bees we had our colonies in place. We were little worse for wear and a lot more experienced. We would do it differently the next time.

A package is a good way for first time beekeeper to get their start, especially since I do not know of any Texas apiaries sell top bar nucs. Many of the general conditions for starting a package in a top bar hive are the same as for a Langstroth hive. Other conditions, like location, are important to get right in the beginning. It seems that most resources published for new beekeepers are focused on Langstroth hives. Take time to review them, basic beekeeping still applies. And for those interested and dedicated to starting with a top bar hive here is a short recap of some basics instructions a new beekeeper should consider.

A Place to Put Your Hive

Much can be read about site selection and there are a number of opinions on how much sun and how much shade honey bees need. The fact that there is a debate proves that honey bees are more flexible than we are. For the first time beekeeper take some time and get it right, sleep on it overnight before deciding that spot between the driveway and the back door is perfect. Moving a top bar hive in midsummer risks breaking honey comb inside the hive and that is a mess no one wants to face. There is some latitude in site selection so do not worry if everything is not perfect.

After trying different locations on our farm my preference is for a location that is flat, well drained, has a wind break to the north, good morning sun, and a big deciduous tree providing cooling afternoon shade in the summer and warming sun in the winter. Convenient access to your hive will make inspections easier and more likely. At the same time be sure to locate your hive out of the way of common areas where there is a lot of traffic.

If the site is wooded look up and survey the bee yard for potential problem trees. That hackberry may be reasonably small

and balanced today, but ask if in the future it will be large enough to be a problem.

A single storm may cause a weak tree to split and become a dangerous threat to the bee yard. Cleaning the bee yard of unwanted vegetation will be an ongoing effort and taking down a large tree after the fact will be difficult at best. Ask if one hive is going to be enough or if two, four or six is are in the future and plan accordingly.

Hive setup is straight forward. We begin by closely cutting the grass. Top bar hives need to be as level as possible so even on the flattest ground some excavation will be necessary to level the site. Once the site is reasonably level we place landscape cloth down to control the grass and then place pavers to keep the legs of the hive away from the moist ground. Finally we cover the landscape cloth with pea gravel to secure it. Over the years we have found good preparation saves a lot of work in the long run, but there are a lot of successful top bar hives out there resting on barrels or cinder blocks. It is the beekeeper's choice.



Bee Yard

Installing the Package

Once the hive is in place gather the corks, bars, spacers, a 6x6 piece of cardboard, follow block, feeder and some beeswax. Rather than using bars, we prefer to cover the feeders and package with boards because they are easier to remove. A bee brush, pliers and flat head screw driver are the minimum tools you need. Despite the associated photos, new beekeepers should wear their bee suits for their first install. The suit will remove any concern about being stung and a first install will have enough uncertainty without the additional distraction.

Begin by plugging all of the holes in the hive with corks except one near an end. That one will get a half cork for an entrance. Install the follow block and feeder at the end of the hive away from the entrance. Our follow block has a slot for a Boardman feeder but a simple hole drilled in a follow block may serve just as well. Cover the feeder with a board using bars and shims to fill the space.



Getting Ready

If two or more packages were ordered, chances are they will be tacked together with battens. Start by removing or cutting the battens. Then place the entire package in the hive if it is deep enough to fit and still have bee space at the top. (In short hives the process of freeing the queen is completed outside the hive as it would be with a Langstroth.) Place the package at the back of the hive next to the feeder leaving about an inch of space. The bees will want to gather on the bars close to the entrance and a package in the front of the hive will disturb them.

Next install bars at the front of the hive leaving enough room to work on the package. New bars should get a coating of wax before they are put into the hive to encourage the bees to start building comb. Leave one open slot just before the end of the package. This will be for the "queen bar."

Using the screwdriver pry up the edge of the syrup can and lift it out of the hole, covering the opening with the cardboard cap. Set the syrup aside to be put in the feeder later. Next pry up the staple that hold the strap going to the queen cage. Slide back the cardboard just enough to remove the queen cage, then gently replace the cardboard before too many bees have a chance to escape.



Package Install

With the queen out of the package, remove the plug from the candy end of the queen cage. Next thumb tack or staple the queen cage to a bar so that it will hang down into the hive. This is the queen bar. Place the bar in the space between the package and the front of the hive.

Finally add bars and spacers leaving just enough space for the cover board over the package. Remove the cardboard and quickly set the cover board in place. Place a cover board over the feeder and replace the top to the hive.

Recovering the Package and Releasing the Queen

Over the next day or two remove the package. This should be a simple matter of removing the board and lifting the package from the hive. The queen should still be in her cage, but carefully check the package for her just the same. Sweep any bees on the outside of the package back into the hive. Gently shake out any that are inside and fill the cover board space with bars and spacers. Replace the top and leave the package on the top of the hive. Any bees inside will find their way back to the colony.

Monitor the hive from the outside, but don't disturb them. Bees should come and go. A quick peak at the feeder on day three will tell if the bees need any attention. Expect to see some of the sugar water gone, the more the better.

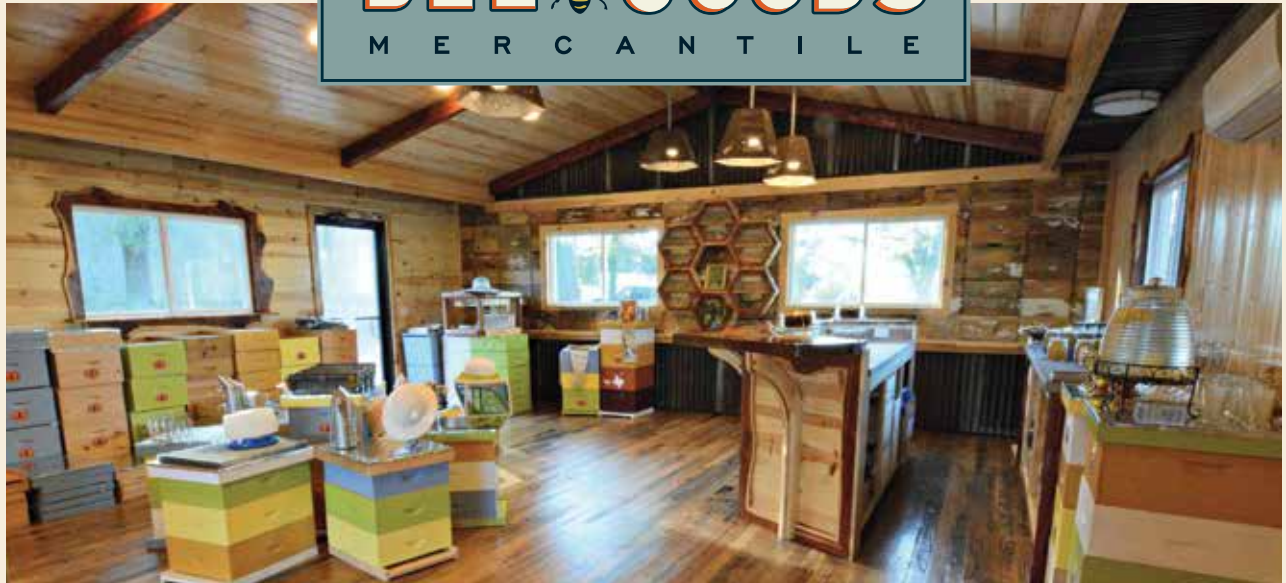
After five days lift the queen bar to make sure she has escaped. If not, remove what is left of the candy plug and put the queen bar back in the hive. In most cases the queen will be out of the queen cage and the bees will be hard at work building a small comb near the entrance. If the queen is out remove the queen cage and put a waxed bar back in its place.

In another few days take a look inside to establish that the bees are building more comb. A full inspection is not necessary. Removing a few bars at the back will allow the beekeeper to look toward the entrance and see how much comb is being built. Keep an eye on the feeder and refill it until the bees begin to lose interest in the sugar water.

That is about it. Some beekeepers like to use a queen excluder on the entrance hole or a cork with only a quarter removed. This forces the colony to build in their new home. Once they have established some comb and the queen is laying they are unlikely to abscond. Enjoy your new bees.



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2017 North American Beekeeping Conference and Tradeshow

from Dodie Stillman, Williamson County Area Beekeepers

photos from Jimmie Oakley

This is starting out to be a great year to be a beekeeper in Texas! Last week I had the wonderful opportunity to experience the North American Beekeeping Conference and Tradeshow right down the road in Galveston. After a short drive south, I got to spend four days surrounded by people that share my obsession with honey bees.

"The event was a great blend of opportunities to learn, create friendships and serve the overall community of beekeepers" noted fellow beekeeper and presenter James Elam.

This year was a joint conference between the American Beekeeping Federation, the American Honey Producers Association and the Canadian Honey Council. And if that wasn't enough, you could get your science on at the American Association of Professional Apiculturists presented the American Bee Research Conference (ABRC)

This conference had something for everyone, from the hobbyist to the commercial beekeeper. Plus, the biggest tradeshow, with more beekeeping equipment and new products than I've ever seen in one place. There was a whole honey house on wheels! Yes, International Honey Products Limited had their Mobile Honey Extracting trailer in the driveway for everyone to walk through and dream about.

The opening session on Wednesday was keynote speaker Dr. Jonathan Lundgren's presentation of "Beyond the Bees: Why 'Solving the Bee Problem' Isn't Going to Work". The day continued with a presentation on "Fraudulent Imports of Adulterated Honey" and the introduction of the 2017 Honey Queen and Princess. Legislative updates, the first of many talks on Varroa and information from the Bee Informed team completed the day.

There were breakout sessions on Thursday with tracks for beginner beekeepers, serious sideliners and a third track for the commercial beekeepers. It was so awesome to realize what a wealth of knowledge we have here in Texas, six of the presentation were given by beekeepers from the Lone Star State!

Over at the ABRC, Texas was well represented also, with 6 different presentations by Texas authors from both Texas A&M and the University of Texas.

Friday's highlight was the presentation of the Founders Award from The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees to Dr. James Frazier by Mr. Dave Hackenberg. The plaque was inscribed "In recognition of your many outstanding contributions to apiculture education and research."

Dr. Frazier works at the Center for Pollinator health at Penn State, where his research focuses on synergistic and sublethal effects of multiple pesticides on the chemical senses and chemically mediated behaviors of honeybees in relation to honeybee health and CCD in collaboration with Chris Mullin and Maryann Frazier. He also researches chemical ecology: specifically, the structure and function of insect chemosensory systems and the impact of sensory systems on chemically mediated behavior. Penn State's Pollinator health center is a



*Dr. Johnathan Lundgren, Keynote Speaker
Blue Dasher Farm, Estelline, SD*



*ABF Princess Tabitha Mansker, Iowa Queen Maia Jaycox, Texas Queen Hope Pettibon and
ABF Queen Kim Kester*

leading institution in research on rapid pollinator population decline.

There were 15 workshops on Saturday. I was pretty sure I would never artificially inseminate a queen bee, and now that I watched and listened to Sue Cobey's presentation, I'm 100% sure I won't be doing this!! Listening to Mr. Yong Park speak about honey bee morphology and anatomy and then getting to use dissecting microscopes to look at honey bees up close was very informative. One of my favorite classes of the day was listening in to Dr. Jerry Hayes in The Classroom, it was my favorite American Bee Journal column come to life!

The kids and bee's area was a blast! I loved looking at a bee wing under a microscope, but my favorite was to turn on an ultraviolet light to get a "bees eye view" of a bunch of flowers. It was interesting to see how many different activities they had for the kids! The first thing I learned was that they started the activities with each child getting a small white paper bag, at the end they could count the remaining bags and determine how many kids went through the event. Of course, the honey bee was there, kids could dress up and take photos with the honey bee. There was face painting, as well as finger puppet and headband making where the kids could add antennae. The kids could roll up a bee's wax candle, sign a pledge banner, and get a package of wildflower seeds.



Kids & Bees, Youngsters Look at Bees Under a Microscope

There were many opportunities to network during the conference. The Thursday night social at Moody Gardens included a tour of the Rainforest Pyramid, dinner, a 3D movie. Real Texas cowboy songs and a trick roper completed the evening. Groups got together to enjoy a good meal and fellowship every day for lunch and dinner... with places like Gaido's Seafood and Bubba Gump's Seafood just minutes away delicious food was on every menu. Of course, there was also a commercial beekeepers' breakfasts, foundation luncheon's, and banquets Friday and Saturday evenings.

"It was a great experience; very glad I went. Meeting beeks from all over the country was the best part, as well as listening to different knowledgeable speakers was quite refreshing." Commented Michelle Ker-Pankonien

My most exciting moment was being able to shake hands and say thank you to Mr. David Hackenberg for all the work he has put in to making the plight of the honey bee known. Mr. Hackenberg is the beekeeper who first discovered the mysterious disappearance of honeybees now known as Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). He is featured in the films *Vanishing of the Bees* and *Nicotine Bees*, as well as this 60 Minutes segment. Mr. Hackenberg founded Hackenberg Apiaries in 1962 as a high school vo-ag project. Today, he and his son operate approximately 3,000 hives of bees in 5 states for pollination and honey. David has served as president of the American Beekeeping Federation. He currently sits as co-chair on the National Honey Bee Advisory Board.



David Hackenberg

My friend Chari Elam also had an exciting meeting "That moment when you realize "Randy Oliver"...yes, Randy Oliver is standing just feet away from you...What do you do? You stalk him of course...The picture is thanks to my wonderful husband who knew I really wanted to meet him!

Another friend who got to attend the convention this year, Tim Elliott, said, "it was wonderful being able to talk to some of the superstars of the beekeeping world. It was particularly enjoyable to spend some time with Jerry Hayes in the classroom section."

James Elam summed it up wonderfully when he made this comparison, "The 2017 NABC in Galveston played out as the Super Bowl of beekeeping events. The winning team of volunteers, educators, attendees, and suppliers worked together for the common goals of beekeepers from around the world. The conference was simply the Best Super Bowl Ever! It was everything we imagined and more and we are humbled to have been able to serve as both classroom presenters and volunteers."

Are you making plans for the 2018 ABF Conference & Tradeshow? It will be January 10-13, at the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, Nevada. I hope to see you there!!

More from the Noth American Beekeeping Conference

Pictures from Jimmie Oakley



Kaye and Jimmie Oakley with Newly Crowned Hope Pettibon and Rachael Seida

At the end of the ABF Convention Banquet in Galveston, after the crowing of yet another Queen or Princess out of the Texas Honey Queen Program, the Honey Queen Committee chose to honor Ms. Rachael Seida with a Texas plaque to recognize of her years of service.

The plaque read: Presented to Rachael Seida Texas Honey Queen Chair in Recognition and Appreciation for your Dedication to Excellence in the Texas Honey Queen Program 2010 – 2016.



Ruth Ramos, TX Honey Queen Chair with Mark Hedley TBA Vice-President



*James Frazier
from
Penn State*



TBA Communications Coordinator Chari Elam with Randy Oliver



Morris and Charlene Weaver



*ABF Honey Princess Tabitha Mansker with
Best Of Show Wax Sculpture*



*S S Brantley from Texas with
Randy Fair from Louisiana*



Jerry Hayers, "In the Classroom"



*The Reserved (Royal) table: Megan, Abby, Patrick,
Christi (Queen Mom) Pettibon, and Juli Jaycox
(Iowa Queen Mom) and her friend from Texas.*



Volunteers help kids roll wax candles



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Listing of Local Beekeepers' Associations in Texas with TBA Delegate and Regular Meeting Information Shown for Each

Please forward any changes and/or additions to
Leesa Hyder, Executive Secretary, execsec@texasbeekeepers.org

Alamo Area Beekeepers Association

Rick Fink - (210) 872-4569

president@alamobees.org

www.alamobees.org

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday on odd # months

Helotes Ind. Baptist Church

15335 Bandera Rd., Helotes at 7 pm

Austin Area Beekeepers Association

Lance Wilson - (512) 619-3700

lw@ausapts.com

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

Meeting: 3rd Monday of each month

Old Quarry Library, 7051 Village Center Dr., Austin at 7pm

Bell/Coryell Beekeepers Association

Kirby Lack - (254) 290-0942

klack@hot.rr.com

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

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

Brazoria County Beekeepers Association

Kenneth Nugent - (979) 922-9725

knugent@gmail.com

bcba@brazoria-county-beekeepers-association.com

www.brazoria-county-beekeepers-association.com

Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month

Brazoria County Extension Office, 21017 CR 171, Angleton at 6:45 pm

Brazos Valley Beekeepers Association

Alvin Dean - (325) 668-7753

info@bvbeeks.org

www.bvbeeks.org

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

First Christian Church, 900 S Ennis St., Bryan at 7pm

Caddo Trace Beekeepers Association

Glynn Smith - (903) 639-2910

caddotracebeekeepersassn@gmail.com

Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month

Titus County Agrilife Ext. Bldg., 1708 Industrial Rd., Mount Pleasant at 7 pm

Caprock Beekeepers Association

David Naughter - (806) 787-7698

caprockbeekeepers@gmail.com

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm

Beyer Plant Science Bldg., Texas Tech Univ. Campus, E of Flint Ave on 15th St

Central Texas Beekeepers Association

Michael Kelling - (979) 277-0411

CentralTexasBeekeepers@gmail.com

www.centraltexasbeekeepers.org

Meetings: Monthly on the 4th Thursday (except November and December)

Washington County Fairgrounds, 1305 E Bluebell Rd., Brenham at 7pm

Coastal Bend Beekeepers Association

Dennis Gray (361) 877-2440

CoastalBendBeekeepers@gmail.com

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

City of Corpus Garden Senior Center, 53256 Greely Dr., Corpus Christi

Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Assn.

John J. Talbert - (214) 532-9241

john@sabinecreekhoney.com

www.cchba.org

Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30 pm

Collin College Conference Center, (Central Park Campus)

2400 CommunityDr., McKinney

Concho Valley Beekeepers Association

Rex Moody - (325) 650-6360

cobeekeeper@gmail.com

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each month Jan-Nov at 6:30 pm

Texas A&M res. & Ext. Center, 7887 US Hwy 87 N, San Angelo

Deep East Texas Beekeepers Association

Ellen Reeder - (337) 499-6826

ellenswartz@sbcbglobal.net

Meetings: 1st Tuesday of each month @6pm

San Augustine Cof C Bldg, 611 West Columbia St., San Augustine

Denton County Beekeepers Association

Christina Beck - (940) 765-6845

christinadbeck@gmail.com

Meetings: 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm

701 Kimberly, Denton

Dino-Beekeepers Association

Chip Hough (817) 559-0564

dino-beeclub@hotmail.com

www.dinobee.com

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of month at 6:30 pm

Glen Rose Citizens Center, 209 SW Barnard St., Glen Rose

East Texas Beekeepers Association

Richard Counts - (903) 566-6789

dick.counts4450@gmail.com

www.etba.info

Meetings: 1st Thursday of each month at 6:45 pm;

Whitehouse Methodist Ch., 405 W Main (Hwy 346), Whitehouse

Elgin Beekeepers Association

Sarah Jones - (512) 567-1410

sarah@campsunflower.com

Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7 pm

Various Locations

Erath County Beekeepers Association

James K Gray - (254) 485-3238

grayjamesk@jkggray.com

Meetings:

Fayette County Beekeepers Association

Ron Chess - (979) 525-9254

ragsdale@industryinet.com

Meetings: First Saturday of the month, Feb, April, June, August, October and December at 5 pm

Fayette County Ag. Bldg., 240 Svoboda Ln., La Grange

Fort Bend Beekeepers Association

(281) 633-7029 (during office hours)

Jeff McMullan - Secretary - Treasurer

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

jeffmcmullan@comcast.net

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of each month (except December) at 7:30 pm

Bud O'Shicles Community Center, 1330 Band Rd., Rosenberg

Fredericksburg Beekeepers Association

Joe Bader - (830) 537-4040

joebees@gmail.com

Meetings: Third Thursday of even number months (excl. Dec) at 6:30 pm

Gillespie County Ext. Off., 95 Frederick Rd., Fredericksburg

Harris County Beekeepers Association

Gary Parks (713) 906-1805

gparks@geparkslaw.com

www.harriscountybeekeepers.org

Meetings: 4th Tuesday of each month at 7pm

Golden Acres Center, 5001 Oak Ave., Pasadena

Heart of Texas Beekeepers Association

Gary Bowles - (254) 214-4514

gbowles@peoplepc.com

Meetings: 4th Tuesday of each month (except December) at 6 pm

Vegas Buffet, 505 N Valley Mills Dr., Waco

Hill County Beekeepers Association

Art Wharton (254) 221-5325

ohyougotit@aim.com

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6 pm

Hill County Courthouse Annex, 126 S Covington St., Hillsboro

Hopkins County Beekeepers Association

Rolanda Hasten - (903) 450-7580

rolandahasten@gmail.com

Meetings: 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm

Hopkins County Agrilife Bldg., 1200 W Houston St., Sulphur Springs

Houston Beekeepers Association

Hank Hilliard - (713) 828-7247

hank.hilliard@houstonbees.club

www.houstonbeekeepers.org

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm

Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston

Houston Natural Beekeepers Association

Dean Cook

houstonnaturalbeekeepers@gmail.com

Meetings: Second Saturday of the month at 11 am

1702 Rothwell, Bldg C, Houston

Johnson County Beekeepers Association

Scott Crowe, Don Russell

boatshop6@yahoo.com - jcbeekeepers.org

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm

Cattleguard Cafe, 901 S Parkway Dr., Alvarado

Lamar County Beekeepers Association

Scott Brinker - (501) 307-5111

lamarcobra@gmail.com

Meetings: 1st Thursday of the month at 6 pm

Lamar County Fairgrounds, 570 E Center St., Paris

Liberty County Beekeepers Association

Cameron Crane - (409) 658-3800

info@libertycountybeekeepers.org

www.libertycountybeekeepers.org

Meetings: 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm

Liberty Agrilife Extension Office, 501 Palmer Ave., Liberty

Longview Beekeepers Association

Gus Wolf - (903) 746-9256

ghwolf@gmail.com

Meetings: 4th Thursday of each month at 6 pm

Texas Agrilife Extension Office, 405 E Marshall St., Longview

Marshall Beekeeping Association

Beth Derr - (936) 591-2399

marshallbeekeeping@gmail.com

Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month at 5:30 pm

Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 501 Indian Springs Dr., Marshall

Metro Beekeepers Association

Keegan Olsen, President - (682) 225-0862

keeganolson@yahoo.com

www.metrobeekeepers.net

Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month

Southside Preservation Hall, 1519 Lipscomb St., Fort Worth

Montgomery County Beekeepers Assn.

Doug Stanley

mocobees@gmail.com

www.mocobees.com

Meetings: 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30 pm

Montgomery County Extension Office, Tom Leroy Education Bldg.,

9020 Airport Road, Conroe

Northeast Texas Beekeepers Association

Jim Burt - (469) 371-4542

burt.b@sbglobal.net

netbacanton@outlook.com

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm

Farm Bureau Bldg., 281 Hwy 243, Canton

Pineywoods Beekeepers Association

Terry McFall - (409) 384-3626

tdmcfall@hotmail.com

Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month at 7 pm

Chamber of Commerce Bldg., 1615 S Chestnut, Lufkin

Red River Valley Beekeepers Assn.

Kerry Roach (940) 249-0957

kerrysbees43@gmail.com

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

Bolin Science Hall Room 209, Mid West State University,

310 Taft Blvd., Wichita Falls

Rio Grande Valley Beekeepers Assn.

Jimmy Jack Lawrence

jimmymj@theironbee.com

Meetings: Last Saturday of each month at 8 am

Weslaco Agrilife Center, 2415 E Business 83, Weslaco

Travis County Beekeepers Assn.

Tanya Phillips - (512) 560-3732

info@traviscountybeekeepers.org

www.traviscountybeekeepers.org

Meetings: First Monday of the month at 7 pm

Zilker Botanical Gdns., 2220 Barton Springs Rd., Austin

Trinity Valley Beekeepers Association

Bob Richie - (214) 793-1516

rgrichie@sbglobal.net

www.tvbees.org

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of each month (except August) at 7 pm

C C Young Facility, Continuing Education Center, 4847 W Lawther Dr., Dallas

Tyler County Bee Club

Scott Martin - (409) 283-4507

tcbclub16@gmail.com

Meetings: 4th Tuesday of each month at 6 pm

Nutrition Center, 201 Veterans Way, Woodville

Walker County Area Beekeepers Assn.

Mark Short - (281) 387-8124

walkercountybeekeepers@gmail.com

Meetings: Last Thursday of each month at 7 pm

Walker Education Center, 1402 19th St., Huntsville

Williamson County Area Beekeepers Assn.

Jimmie Oakley - (512) 388-3630

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

Meetings: 4th Thursday of each month at 7 pm (except December)

First United Methodist Church, McKinney Ministry Center,

410 E University Avenue, Georgetown

Wood County Beekeepers Association

Mary M Smith - (903) 342-3438

woodcountybeekeepers@gmail.com

Meetings: First Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm

8th Bank, 210 S Main, Winnsboro

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*Over 500 folks attended the
6th Annual Austin Seminar
organized by Lance Wilson,
Director TBA, and Carl
Acuri, leaders of the Austin
Beekeepers Association*

