

The Texas Beekeepers Association

# Journal



Mar / Apr 2017

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

Issue 17-2



THE ULTIMATE IN PROTECTION  
& COMFORT

*Suits*

SEE OUR 2017 CATALOG  
FOR A FULL LINE OF  
PROTECTIVE GEAR.

**DADANT ZIPPER  
VEIL SUIT**

MO1103 SMALL  
MO1105 MEDIUM  
MO1107 LARGE  
MO1203 X-LARGE

**\$73.65**

MO1203X XX-LARGE

**\$76.74**

HELMET NOT INCLUDED

VENTILATED  
SUN HELMET  
MO1087W

**\$19.99**

TAN ALSO AVAILABLE



**ECONOMY VENT  
SUIT AND  
JACKET**



**ECONOMY VENT  
JACKET  
ALL SIZES**

**ECONOMY VENT  
SUIT  
ALL SIZES**

**\$124.95 each**

**\$99.95**

VO1260S SMALL  
VO1260M MEDIUM  
VO1260L LARGE  
VO1260XL X-LARGE  
VO1260XXL 2X-LARGE

VO1261S SMALL  
VO1261M MEDIUM  
VO1261L LARGE  
VO1261XL X-LARGE  
VO1261XXL 2X-LARGE

**NEW GOATSKIN GLOVES**

These mid weight goatskin gloves are  
perfect for your day in the apiary.  
Cotton gauntlet fits most half way  
between the wrist and elbow. Perfect  
for those with large forearms.

ALL SIZES

**\$19.95**

MO1096 SMALL  
MO1097 MEDIUM  
MO1098 LARGE  
MO1099 X-LARGE  
MO1100 2X-LARGE



*www.dadant.com*



• 1169 BONHAM STREET, PARIS, TX 75460  
PH (903) 784-6145 TOLL FREE (877) 632-3268 FAX (903) 784-2161 •





## President's Report

*from Chris Moore*

Wow, did spring come in like a lion. We are looking at our honey flow being two weeks early this year. I hope you're ready. Mother Nature is good at throwing us a curve ball periodically.

Which raises the question. Should I split ? Why should I split ?

When you split you are preventing your bees from swarming by creating a controlled swarm. You are taking brood and bees from parent colonies to start additional colonies. If you do not want additional colonies, at least consider re-queening. Younger queens are more productive and less likely to swarm.

I will be discussing this more at the TBA Summer Clinic in Arlington on June 10th. This will be the biggest Beekeeping event ever held in the DFW area. If you can make it, you will not be disappointed. I hope to see you there.

TBA will also be discussing the Real Texas Honey program at the Summer Clinic. This program is to promote your Texas produced honey and help educate the consumer to buy local honey from a local beekeeper, a win-win for everyone.

Make sure you get your honey supers on early this year, hopefully our girls will make us lots of honey.



*Dr. John and Janice Thomas, Honey Bee Lab Founders. attend the Delgates Meeting on February 18th 2017*

*Picture by Jimmie Oakley*

## In This Issue

President's Report.....	3
Vice President's Report.....	4
Summer Clinic.....	6 - 9
Texas Master Beekeeper Report.....	8
The Brantley Column.....	11
Texas Invasive Species Institute.....	12 - 14
Springing Forward.....	16 - 17
Texas A&M Bee Lab Update.....	20
Queen Rearing Workshop.....	22 - 23

The Buzz at Brooke.....	24 - 26
Spring Preparation.....	28 - 29
Honey Queen Report.....	30
When Sugar is not just bad for your hips.....	32 - 33
The Start of Another Bee Club.....	34 - 35
Defyant Hive Stands.....	37
Association Listing.....	40
Directors Listing.....	42

*Cover Picture by T.S.Gallant of Cape Coral, Florida*



*from Mark Hedley*

### **Ah.....Spring**

I don't know if you are as confused as I am, but I think it is spring. I know the time changed at least. The high temperatures and rains at the end of February and early March kicked off a lot of blooms in my area. Then temps dropped down to the 40s/50s for a week and everything, and everyone, got a bit confused. I am glad that I wasn't trudging through two feet of snow as a lot of folks were recently in the northeast. I never think its springtime in Texas for sure until after Easter.

We pulled out of our opportunity to take bees to almonds at the last minute this year. It was a difficult choice. Months of planning, work, and expense went into getting our bees ready for the trip. Mother Nature dealt California almond growers and beekeepers a pretty tough hand this year. After years of

drought the rains finally came. Well, the rain just kept coming. Trucks of bees buried, forklifts buried to the seats, hives under water, and even dam spillways threatened failure. I was told it was the worst conditions seen (by those more experienced than myself) in 17 years. Of course all that extra rain brought additional "i-cide" spraying to protect the trees from fungus and rot. Our broker released us from the contract having concerns for our business and our bees. Although we are all in business to make a profit, the potential losses have to always be considered. I think we made a good choice. I do hope those that went to almonds return with their bees safely and that the bees do well after the pollination experience. We will be ready again next year. We have bees on Texas canola now and will be heading to watermelons in another month or so.

We are looking forward to a great season and I hope you are as well. We are rapidly approaching swarming season. Splitting hives in the spring may help alleviate some of the swarming pressure you may experience. Creating this artificial swarm yourself helps recover from winter losses; expand your apiary; and perhaps help fund your beekeeping venture through nuc sales. In my area our flows are consistent and steady in the spring, but not "fire hose" style. We make the choice of splitting or producing honey. Understanding your environment helps you make the choice. We split a small amount of production hives in the spring for expansion and nuc sales while producing honey with most all others. Summer splits provides for our greatest expansion each year. Be prepared to feed if you engage in summer split activity.

Summer Clinic will be held on June 10th at the UTA E.H. Hereford Center in Arlington, TX. Please reserve the date on your calendar. On line registration is now open on the TBA website. Click on the banner ad featuring Randy Oliver on the homepage. Our speaker and track based educational sessions will be worth your time. Hope to see you there!

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

*www.texasbeekeepers.org*

**If you change your address or email please contact**

**Shirley Doggett at *sdoggett@mindspring.com***

**or call (512) 924-5051**

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



# TEXAS BEE SUPPLY

Visit our Showroom outside McKinney, TX!

**FULL LINE OF ALL BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES**

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

**GRAND  
OPENING**  
JANUARY 16,  
2017

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

WE SELL  
**SYRUP AND  
SUGAR!**

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

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



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

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



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

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

**BOOK YOUR HIVES & QUEENS NOW!**



**TEXAS BEE SUPPLY**

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

14665 County Road 633  
Blue Ridge, TX 75424

## Summer Clinic Registration Form

Use this form to register by mail or register online at [www.texasbeekeepers.org](http://www.texasbeekeepers.org)



Summer Clinic Registration  
June 10th., 2017

Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Please indicate # of attendees

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50- TBA Member Adult

\_\_\_\_\_ \$60- TBA Non-Member Adult

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25 - Child 16 and under

\_\_\_\_\_ Total Paid

Check made payable to: TBA

Mail to:

Shirley Doggett

400 County Road 440

Thrall, Texas 76578

Includes Lunch

Calendar of Events  
Keep these dates free

Summer Clinic  
University of Texas, Arlington  
June 10th., 2016  
9 am - 5 pm

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

Summer Clinic 2017  
**Register Early Please**

\$50 per TBA Member  
\$60 per TBA Non-Member  
Child under 16 \$25  
(Includes Lunch)

9 am - 5 pm  
University of Texas, Arlington  
E H Hereford University Center  
300 W First Street, Arlington, TX



# Texas Beekeepers Association

## 2017 Summer Clinic - 9am to 5pm

### June 10th - University of Texas, Arlington

**Keynote Speaker**  
**Randy Oliver**  
*scientificbeekeeping.com*



**Opening Session - 'The Times They Are A Changin'**  
**Closing Session - A New Era in Varroa Management**

#### Over 40 Classes to Choose From

##### New Beekeepers (0 - 1 year experience)

Honey Bee Biology and Behavior  
How to Get Started - Equipment Essentials  
Buying Bees, Installation and Apiary Setup  
Annual Management

##### Products of the Hive

Mead Making  
Apitherapy  
Processing Wax  
Candle Making  
Production of Hive Products  
Harvesting and Utilizing Propolis

##### Advanced Topics

Increase Hive Productivity  
Swarm Capture  
Queen Rearing  
Equipment Workshop  
Varroa Monitoring  
General Management  
Honey Bee Biology and Behavior

Pollination and Pollinators  
10 Best Practices  
Top Bar Beekeeping  
Splitting Hives  
Sales and Marketing  
Nutrition Management  
Honey Extraction  
Autopsy of a Hive

Ag Exemption  
Cut-outs  
Planting Beescapes  
Texas Master Beekeeping Program  
Pest and Brood Disease Management  
Supersedure  
Feeding Basics

**Register On-line Now at *www.texasbeekeepers.org***  
**\$50 per Adult TBA Member, \$60 for Adult Non-Member, \$25 for Child**  
**or Contact Shirley Doggett at (512) 924-5051, *sdoggett@mindspring.com***  
***University of Texas at Arlington, 300 W First Street, Arlington, TX 76019***  
***E H Hereford University Center***

# **Texas Master Beekeeper Program**

*from Lance Wilson, TBA Director and Mark Dykes, Chief Apiary Inspector*

We congratulate those members who recently passed the Texas Master Beekeeper Program at various levels.



## **Master Level**

**Tim Elliott, Roger Farr, Michelle Kerr-Pankonien, Tanya Phillips, Chuck Reburn, Dodie Stillman, Len VanMarion and Robin Young.**

## **Advanced Level**

**Daniel Brantner, Myrta Kaye Brouse, Dennis Burns, Mark de Kiewiet, Stephen DePizzo, Janice Friend, Nora Garcia, Ryan Gisecke and Austin Megason.**

## **Apprentice Level**

**Elisa Breuer, Berada Carruba, Hayden Chrisman, Jason Chrisman, Gary Coombs, Christopher Davenport, Joseph Derzapf, Paul Drake, Matthew Fuller, Byron Godard, David Hawa, Steven Hoskins, Kellie Jensen, Nathan Krueger, Chris Michel, Sandra Murray, Vandell Norwood, Jason Oliver, Mason Rasti, John Rhodes, Debbie Rhodes, Mary Smith, Toby Vyyjala and Valerie Wisniewski**

---

## **Texas Honey Bee Education Association**

**Are you purchasing from Amazon.com?  
You can benefit the Texas Honey Bee Education Association by  
purchasing from smile.amazon.com  
and specifying Texas Honey Bee Education Association as  
your preferred charity!**

**Please help us this way!**



# Texas Beekeepers Association Summer Clinic

*from Lisa Dittfurth, TBA Event Coordinator*

Greetings Beekeepers:

It's that time of year that all beekeepers eagerly anticipate! Our hives are awakening; After the dearth of winter, worker bee foragers are once again returning to the hive with natural pollen and nectar; Queens are increasing their egg laying to build up their colonies in order to maximize their honey production and food stores for the upcoming winter; Drones are emerging to ensure continued reproduction of our beloved '*Apis mellifera*'; and of course, Beekeepers are enthusiastically awaiting the Texas Beekeepers Association's (TBA) annual educational extravaganza, called the 'TBA Summer Clinic'. If you're new to beekeeping, or new to the TBA, or have just been too busy working your hives to take a day off to enhance your beekeeping knowledge, you really should take a few minutes to investigate this unique event developed specifically for Texas Beekeepers.

The TBA Summer Clinic is a one-day educational event facilitated by the Texas Beekeepers Association to provide an opportunity for those interested in learning how to keep bees, to those wanting to enhance their beekeeping knowledge or to those who simply want to enjoy the fellowship of other beekeepers from across Texas, and beyond. Each year, the Planning Committee strives to provide essential education for beekeepers

of all levels, knowledgeable instructors; new session topics each year for our returning attendees and nationally renowned speakers presenting on the latest industry trends. This year the TBA has engaged Beekeeper, Author and Researcher Randy Oliver ([www.scientificbeekeeping.com](http://www.scientificbeekeeping.com)), who will share his insights on two topics of interest to all beekeepers during two general sessions. In addition to Randy Oliver, each attendee can attend four 50 minute break-out sessions selected from 40 topics. There should be something for everyone!

The venue for the 2017 Summer Clinic will be the University of Texas at Arlington in the heart of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. The maximum capacity of the facility is 940 with large classrooms for the break-out sessions. The event will also include: a vendor trade-show with multiple beekeeping supply companies; other interesting vendors, an information booth on the Texas Master Beekeeping Program and information on Beekeeping Clubs from around the state. Lunch is included in the registration fee: Adult (member) \$50; Adult (non-member) \$60; Children (16 & under) \$25. You can register online at [www.texasbeekeepers.org](http://www.texasbeekeepers.org).

This year's TBA Summer Clinic will be an event that you won't want to miss. We hope to see you there!

---

## Other Events Near Arlington

Arlington Visitor's Bureau - Calendar of Events filtered on 6/1 - 6/4

<https://www.arlington.org/things-to-do/events/?startDate=06%2F01%2F2017&endDate=06%2F04%2F2017&categories=>

Texas Rangers Baseball:

The Rangers are in town the weekend of the clinic with games scheduled for Fri night, Sat night and Sun afternoon.

<https://www.mlb.com/rangers>

Six Flags Over Texas:

<https://www.sixflags.com/overtexas>

Six Flags Hurricane Harbor:

<https://www.sixflags.com/hurricaneharbortexas>

Lone Star Park - Horse Racing

<http://www.lonestarpark.com/Racing/RacingCalendar/>

Nationally Renowned Fort Worth Zoo:

<https://www.fortworthzoo.org>

Fort Worth Historic Stockyards:

<http://www.fortworthstockyards.org>

Fort Worth Cultural District:

<https://www.fortworth.com/about/neighborhoods-districts/cultural-district/>

Dallas Zoo:

<http://www.dallaszoo.com>

Dallas Arts District:

<http://www.dallasartsdistrict.org>

**Register for the Summer Clinic**

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

**or**

**Contact Shirley Doggett**

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

# NOW OPEN IN MARSHALL

Come visit our fully-stocked Marshall, Texas location for all your beekeeping needs. From high quality bee suits and woodenware to our industry acclaimed feeds like Pro-Sweet 77 and Ultra Bee, we proudly serve beekeepers year-round across the world.



**STORE  
HOURS**

**MONDAY-FRIDAY  
8 AM - 5 PM  
SATURDAY  
8 AM - 4 PM**

**1600 COMMERCE STREET  
MARSHALL, TX 75672**

**MANN LAKE**  
**WE KNOW BEES**

An Employee Owned Company

## Pro-Sweet 77

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

## LIQUID SUCROSE

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

## 55 HFCS

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

**844-433-6033**  
**[www.mannlakeltd.com](http://www.mannlakeltd.com)**



## The Brantley Column

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

Purchasing packaged bees is another method to start new hives. Since packaged bees are shipped from commercial suppliers to almost anywhere in the U.S., they are an alternative for beekeepers who do not have a local supplier of nucs. Suppliers have developed reliable methods of packaging and shipping with high success rates.

When you receive your package of bees, immediately inspect the package for dead bees in the bottom. A few dead bees are to be expected. However, if the bottom is covered with an inch or greater layer of dead bees, there may be a problem. Immediately call the supplier and describe what you see.

If all looks good, spray both sides of the screened shipping package liberally with sugar-water mixture and place the package in a cool, dark place until you can install them in your hive. Make sure your hive is set in its permanent location – you do not want to move it after the bees are installed. It is best to install the bees late in the day, if possible.



*A Package of Honey Bees*

To install the package, bring the package, your hive tool, a sprayer of sugar water, a pair of needle-nosed pliers and several thumbtacks. Make sure your permanent hive is ready to receive the packaged bees. You want everything ready to receive the bees as soon as you open the package. Remove the Outer Cover, Inner Cover, and five frames (five adjacent frames starting from one wall), setting them against the side of the hive in easy reach.

Begin by spraying both sides of the package heavily with sugar-water. Bounce the bottom of the package on the ground to get the bees down into the bottom. Use your hive tool to pry the wood or cardboard cover that is over the metal can of syrup inside the box. Quickly grasp the rim of the can with the needle-nosed pliers and pull it out of the box. Cover the hole in the box to keep the bees from escaping. Set the syrup can aside and bounce the package on the ground again to settle the bees back into the bottom.

Lift the cover and quickly remove the queen cage from the package. Again, quickly replace the cover to keep the bees contained. Inspect the queen cage to make sure she is active. If the queen is not alive, contact the supplier. Remove another frame from the hive and attach the queen cell to the center of the top bar, using a thumb tack through the tab on the queen cage. Place this frame back into the hive, making sure the screen of the queen cage is pointed toward the entrance of the hive – not toward the back or toward the adjacent frames. You now have five frames in the hive with the queen cell between frames number 4 and 5.

Spray the bees in package lightly with sugar water and bounce them down to the bottom again. Remove the package cover and start pouring about a third of the bees into the hive over the top bars where the queen cage is located. Shake the rest of the bees into the space that has no frames. If some do not shake out easily, place the can on the ground at the hive entrance, open top up, and the bees will crawl out and into the hive. Place four of the five removed frames back into the hive – gently and without crowding. Bees underneath the frames will begin to crawl out and the frames will settle down on the frame rests. **DO NOT FORCE THEM DOWN OR YOU WILL SQUASH THE BEES UNDERNEATH.**

After the frames are settled, reinstall the Inner Cover and Outer Cover. Feed the bees sugar syrup on the top of the Inner cover, using your favorite method.

Go away and leave the bees at least five days to claim their new home. When you return for your first inspection, make sure the queen has been released from the queen cage. Remove the queen cage. Properly space the nine frames and add the tenth frame that you had removed.

If the queen was still in the cage, you can release her into the hive. Carefully remove the screen on her cage, holding the opening pointed down into the frames so she can run out of the cage between two frames. Do this carefully and gently, holding the cage close to the frames so she will not fly away.



# An Interview with Dr. Autumn Smith-Herron from the Texas State University System's Texas Invasive Species Institute

*by Matt Fuller Ph.D., Montgomery County Beekeepers Association*



In Early February, I had the pleasure of interviewing Dr. Autumn Smith-Herron, renowned expert in parasitology and invasive species. Her specific research interests include the ecology and epidemiology associated with parasitic diseases that are transmitted from invasive species to native species and vice versa. Dr. Smith-Herron, along with others at the Texas Invasive Species Institute out of the Texas State University System, is leading innovative research on surveying, documenting and potential control measures of a number of invasive species. The problems that her team face read like a hit list of major maladies to anyone that enjoys Texas' outdoors or the agricultural scene: Feral Hogs, Zebra Mussels, Giant Salvinia, Asian Carp, Emerald Ash Borers, Tawny "Crazy" Ants, Fire Ants, Asian Beetles, wood boring beetles and... HONEY BEES. Yes, honey bees—along with the organisms that beekeepers consider pests of honey bees—are invasive species in the United States! The research Dr. Smith-Herron is doing will help in addressing many problems. Below is a transcript of our interview and a brief overview of the work of the Texas Invasive Species Institute.

**Fuller:** Hello Dr. Smith-Herron. Thank you for your time. Could you tell me more about the Texas Invasive Species Institute?

**Smith-Herron:** The Texas Invasive Species Institute (TISI) is an initiative formed by Texas State University System Chancellor Brian McCall in November 2011. We are the first comprehensive effort in Texas that is focused on research and coordinating effective early detection and rapid response to multiple new invasive species that currently impact, or have the potential to impact Texas. Our Institute draws from the experience of over 40 Ph.D. level experts throughout The Texas State University System to address the challenges that the introduction of an invasive species might pose for Texas. We have an informative website where you can read about our experts, see what their up to, and even research a specific invasive species through informative datasheets. Our website is: <http://www.tsusinvasives.org/home/experts/>. We have also worked to make information on invasive species in general available to the public via presentations and our website. Our homepage is <http://www.tsusinvasives.org/home/> and from there you will find an "Invasive 101" tab as well as infographics outlining the top 10 invasive species in Texas. You can also read about new alerts, recent invasive species discoveries, and find out ways to reach out to our rapid response team via the website or email. Our Institute is determined to research best practice measures for early detection and rapid response. We are studying everything from Zebra Mussels, several aquatic plant and fish species, feral hogs, Tawny "Crazy" Ants, and many others.

Our Institute has many success stories in the short time it has been in operation. For example, the Emerald Ash Borer was found in Harrison County last May. We have been taking steps to study this species to help prevent its spread and help draft policies the state can implement to prevent its spread as much as possible. In addition, in 2013 and 2014 we began working with the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center to develop a seed bank of several subspecies of ash trees from across Texas. In case ash trees are wiped out by this invasive species, we will have a repository of seeds from which to repopulate the trees and our forests. We also work with several federal, state, and local entities

to meet our goals of early detection and rapid response. Some programs that we have been or are actively involved with include Lionfish disease and ecology research with NOAA, diseases and parasites of migratory waterfowl through the USGS. We conduct aquatic invasive and endangered species surveys for the Texas Army National Guard, and collaborate with neighboring universities in native decline studies. Our group also offers an exceptional Education, Outreach, and Citizen Science Program. We offer workshops, attend and cohost conferences and conduct classroom outreach programs to engage youth and interested / concerned citizens about the importance of invasive species on our environment.

**Fuller:** What can you tell me about the research you and other Institute researchers have done on honey bees?

**Smith-Herron:** Honey bees are just one of those species that many in the public have heard a great deal about lately. Many people know that the European honey bee *Apis mellifera* is a beneficial invasive species that was imported from Europe in the 1600's. It is considered beneficial to us now because it is one of our most important pollinators. The Institute's efforts on honey bee research focuses primarily on colony declines due to parasites and diseases. We also survey and study the rapid hybridization and spread of Africanized Bees. This year we found that there are more subspecies of *Apis* than we originally thought. Through molecular analysis, to date, we have identified seven subspecies of the European derived honey bee in Texas.

We are entering our third year of honey bee research, and have visited nearly 60 apiaries across all ten Texas ecoregions. In addition, we work with pest control companies and collect feral swarms to study and compare domesticated and non-domesticated honeybee populations. We have a specific goal when visiting each apiary. First, we note the general health of the colony; look for signs of Varroa Mites, Wax Moths, and Small Hive Beetles. Next, we request a small subsample of bees (50-100) to take back to the laboratory for examination. Our laboratory examinations serve to answer a number of questions about the overall health of the colony. First, we look at each bee



*Dr. Autumn Smith-Herron*

under a dissection microscope and pull off all Varroa Mites. We also collect and count them from the bottom of our sample jar, as some may have released from the bee during transportation. During this time, we also inspect the wings of each bee to check for deformities that result from viruses. We also examine the intestines of about ½ of the bees for parasitic and Nosema infections. The remainder of the bees are divided in ½ again; half are curated for and deposited into our insect museum and the other half submitted for DNA analysis. We rely on ecology, biology, and the history of that hive given to us by the beekeeper so our efforts have very much been a partnership with local beekeeping networks.



*Source: Texas Invasive Species Institute (2017).  
Honey Bee Pest and Parasite Survey (2015-2016).  
Retrieved from <http://www.tsusinvasives.org/home/edrr/honeybees.html>*

I'd like to point out that we have a page devoted specifically to honeybees and the parasites and health issues they face on our website: <http://www.tsusinvasives.org/home/edrr/honeybees.html>. Here you will find pictures of small hive beetles, wax moths, varroa mites, even microscopic pictures of tracheal mites. It's a great resource covering what we've done at the Institute, but also to help beekeepers compare what they are seeing in their hives with what we are seeing in our field work.

**Fuller:** Let's talk about each of those areas. I've heard a lot about deformed wing virus and other viruses? What roles do viruses play in reducing hive health?

**Smith-Herron:** There are actually over 22 known viruses and pathogens that infect social bees in the hive. There is, as you mentioned, deformed wing virus, which results in a pathology where the bees' wings become shriveled or crumpled. There are viruses that express themselves by effectively paralyzing or slowing down the bees, or viruses that result in a distended honey bee stomach.

K-wing is a sign of either tracheal mites or Nosema and causes the wings of honey bees to become separated and disjointed, resembling the shape of the letter "K." Just like in humans, viruses can be very contagious if given the right vector for transferring between individuals. Varroa Mites serve as one such vector of viruses around the hive. That is what makes the many issues bees face so challenging. The effects of one disease are often compounded or mediated by the presence of another disease. In some sense that is good news because mitigating one problem could significantly reduce other problems. So, for example, working to control Varroa mites will likely reduce viral levels in the hive as well.

**Fuller:** The Varroa Mite certainly commands a lot of beekeepers' attention these days. What have you learned about Varroa destructor in your studies?

**Smith-Herron:** Anything with the species name destructor surely deserves our attention! Varroa Mites are small parasitic mites equipped with two tubules, called spiracles; they use to latch on to a bee and suck the hemolymph or blood right out of the bee. Of course, this is bad for the bee. However, it is also bad for the hive in that viruses and other diseases are shared between bees as the mites move from bee to bee. Some of the research you will see from us next will include DNA sequencing of Varroa Mites and the viruses transmitted by them to study what makes those viruses so lethal for bees.

In our fieldwork, 76% of the hives we inspected had high levels of Varroa mites. However, some hives, especially those examined in west Texas were not infected at all. This may be due to the specific ecoregion, their feral nature, and the lack of a suitable dispersal pathway for the mite.

**Fuller:** I recently learned of some of your work with small hive beetles. They drive me crazy. What do you know about these little bugs?

**Smith-Herron:** First of all, they too are an invasive species, brought to the U.S. via Africa. Interestingly, only about 20 percent of the hives we inspected were infested with small hive

beetles. However, when the small hive beetle was present, it was found in very high numbers, which can be devastating to a hive. We noticed a relationship between small hive beetles and the ecoregion we were studying. In west Texas, where the ground is hard, dry, sandy, and hot, we noticed far fewer numbers of infested hives. In the eastern parts of the state, the ground is more fertile, soft, and moist; and small hive beetles were more prevalent.

Those data lead us to think of ways to interrupt the beetles' lifecycle. When studying control methods for invasive species, it becomes important to research their reproductive potential, and find a way to weaken it. For small hive beetle control, something as small as placing a barrier or plastic film underneath and around your hive stand can have a big impact. Think about it like this. Many beekeepers use a screened bottom board. Mites and smaller, developing beetles fall out of the hive where the female beetles lay their eggs. The developing larvae are protected from the hot sun and complete development to adulthood in the soil beneath the hive. All the new adults need to do is find a new home and climb straight back up to the bottom of the hive. Putting down a barrier, such as a plastic or some other form of sheet can interrupt their lifecycle and offer one means of keeping beetle populations in check.

**Fuller:** Thank you for that tip. I will be making that upgrade to my apiary this spring! Anyone who has lost a hive to wax moths knows how devastating that can be. What advice can you offer in controlling wax moths?

**Smith-Herron:** We too have seen how devastating wax moths, *Galleria mellonella*, can be. They are an invasive species (from Asia and Europe), but one that is new, at least relative to Varroa Mites and Small Hive Beetles. Like the Small Hive Beetles, there seemed to be a greater presence in the eastern half of the state, east of I-35, rather than out west. The most challenging things about wax moths is that their larvae can go through a hive fast and with devastating effects. Also, the adults build large webs in the hive that the bees get tangled in. There are a number of commercial treatments to kill the larvae. Freezing temperatures do help keep them in check, so if we have a mild winter expect to see strong wax moth populations in the following seasons.

**Fuller:** Nosema...it's the dysentery of the hive. What have you learned about this disease?

**Smith-Herron:** Well, our recent field work has shown that Nosema is widespread. In fact, all of the hives but 1 that we sampled had some level of nosema in them. Nosema is caused by a microsporidian infection that results in severe diarrhea. This means the bees are unable to produce royal jelly needed to keep brood numbers high. However, a strong, healthy hive is able to handle low to moderate levels of nosema and a strong laying queen is able to keep the colony one step ahead of this and other diseases. Problems arise when the colony is stressed, or the queen starts to fail and she gets behind. Also, Nosema seems to be more prevalent in the spring, just before the major honey flows hit Texas. So, maintaining strong levels of established brood, good nutrition, and general hive health throughout the winter may aid in preventing devastation caused by Nosema.

**Fuller:** What has the scientific community learned about

Colony Collapse Disorder since it was first discovered years back? What seems to be its cause and what can be done?

**Smith-Herron:** There are still a lot of unanswered questions about CCD that we need to look into. There are a few running hypotheses, though. First, we've had to put some parameters and definitions around what CCD really is. Generally, CCD is defined as a case where the majority if not all of a colony's working bee population simply disappears, leaving behind honey, pollen stores, and usually the queen with a few attendant bees. Immature larvae will remain as well so you can imagine that the departure is quite quick and abrupt. Of course, pollination and nectar collection stops, so this is a major concern for crops and farmers.

Second, there are a number of theories around why CCD occurs. Pesticides may be part of the problem, but then again so could the problems and pressures that mites and other hive pests and pathogens pose. Genetic issues could be part of the problem. As could loss of habitat or mono-cultural habitat wherein bees are forced to draw pollen and nectar from one or only a handful of crops.

Many scientists are starting to argue that bees are facing this challenge not because of any one of these problems but because of a combination of these pressures. Bees are very resilient creatures and could likely face these issues on their own as they have for millennia. But taken together, these pressures are difficult for bees to overcome.

**Fuller:** Thank you for that insight. Beekeepers obviously benefit greatly from the research the Center is doing. What can beekeepers do to help the Institute?

**Smith-Herron:** Thanks are due to the many partnerships already in place, we've learned a lot already. In fact, at the 2016 Texas Beekeepers' Association Summer Clinic we were able to give beekeepers small hive beetle traps that they would let sit in their hives for 3 to 4 weeks before returning via the mail. This partnership is leading to some important discoveries about bee health, and we are excited to share these in the coming months. I would encourage beekeepers to look over our site and, as we see each other at local or state meetings, come talk with our staff. We are in this together and love to talk with beekeepers. One thing we are excited about is a program we will begin in the coming months where we will ask beekeepers to provide us with a sample of bees from their hive. We will provide them with a bottle pre-fill with laboratory grade alcohol. We will ask them to donate about 50-100 bees to our research by placing the bees in the bottle and returning the bottle to our lab with latitude and longitude coordinates or an address. Our staff will use these samples to conduct DNA and viral studies on the bees. We will also provide the beekeepers with mite counts to aid in determining a course of action for treatments as well as information pertaining to their bee lineage (its subspecies and where it came from). As this project begins, we will reach out to the Texas Beekeepers' Association to spread the word about the research.

**Fuller:** Dr. Smith-Herron, thank you for your time and all you are doing for honey bees as well as invasive species in Texas. I appreciate you sharing your expertise with the beekeeping community.





ORDER NOW

## Queens & Bees for Spring 2017

*NEW WEBSITE WITH EASY STEP-BY-STEP ORDERING!*

---

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

---

*2017 Spring Pick Up Locations*

NAVASOTA, TX • DRIPPING SPRINGS, TX • DALLAS, TX

SAN ANTONIO, TX • BRENHAM, TX • ROSWELL, NM

[BEEWEAVER.COM](http://BEEWEAVER.COM)

BEES • EQUIPMENT • LESSONS

# Springing Forward!

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

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



Spring has apparently come early to northeast Texas, or at least the bees think so. At the end of January our queens were producing brood in limited quantities. Two weeks later, all were going full blast with a veritable brood explosion. Our Menthly and Bruce plum trees were in

full bloom, and the bees worked them diligently (photo). We quickly fed sugar syrup to some of our hives, set out the communal pollen feeder, and watched them work. We successfully wintered all seven of our colonies!



This early start also meant it was time to start raising queens and preparing nucleus hives. We successfully gained orders for all of our still-to-be-produced nucleus colonies! We had ordered new five-frame medium sized nucleus hive equipment for the splits, but still needed to put them together and paint it (photo).



Spring's early arrival challenged us to move our queen-rearing timetable forward to start in February instead of March. Our queen requirements are small, so using the Nicot queen-rearing system and equipment is faster and easier for us than traditional grafting methods. We selected



our queen mother and confined her in the Nicot cassette (with its 110 cell cups in place) for one day to force her to lay eggs only in the Nicot cell cups. After the eggs hatched and were floating in royal



jelly, Roger transferred 50 of the the 90+ cell cups with one-day-old larvae from the Nicot



cassette and placed ten on each frame (photos). We placed these frames into cell builder colonies from which we had removed the

queens, loaded them with resource frames, and packed in the nurse bees to luxuriously feed the developing queens.

We decided to keep three hives of our seven as full production hives to produce a honey crop. We used the remaining four colonies to make up new nucleus hives. We would like to make an increase of eight colonies for sale and retain four colonies as nucleus hives to supplement the production hives with bees and brood. Mike Palmer's talk at the last TBA convention made real sense to us as we considered the dual task of making bees for sale and of making honey.

Sue did some spring cleaning around our temporary nucleus apiary to provide a clear path around all our hives. We planted viburnum and possum haw holly behind our permanent hives to provide additional flower sources for our bees and a bit of cover from curious on-lookers.



We have found Texas Master Gardeners to be very receptive audiences. We've taught the new Master Gardener interns about plant reproduction, pollination, and pollinators. Many are interested to add beekeeping to their gardening efforts to increase the pollination of their own crops and those of their neighbors. Several will also be customers for our nucleus hives. We've settled on a one-day "fire hose" method of introducing would-be beekeepers to the biology and mechanics of beekeeping using Kim Flottum's *The Backyard Beekeeper* as our text book. We provide free one-year mentoring for those who purchase bees from us.

Next up for us is Roger's preparation for the Master level exam for the Texas Master Beekeeper Program. He looked at the recently published "study" list; there will be a considerable amount of time invested reading, viewing videos, and writing out prepared answers to 20 essay questions! When, not if, Roger succeeds, he will really have accomplished, for him, a hard thing.

We have also been actively involved in assisting beekeepers to understand the proposed changes to the beekeeping laws in Texas contained in HB 1293 before the Texas legislature. We encourage you to read the bill, go to the TBA website to read the blog on HB 1293, and then contact your Texas representative and senator to voice your support.

Thanks for sharing the adventure that is beekeeping in northeast Texas! Keep springing forward!

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

---

**BROKER/APPRaiser FOR THE BEEKEEPING INDUSTRY**



**MORRIS WEAVER ENTERPRISES**

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

**Phone/Fax 936.448.8061  
Mobile 936.825.4738**

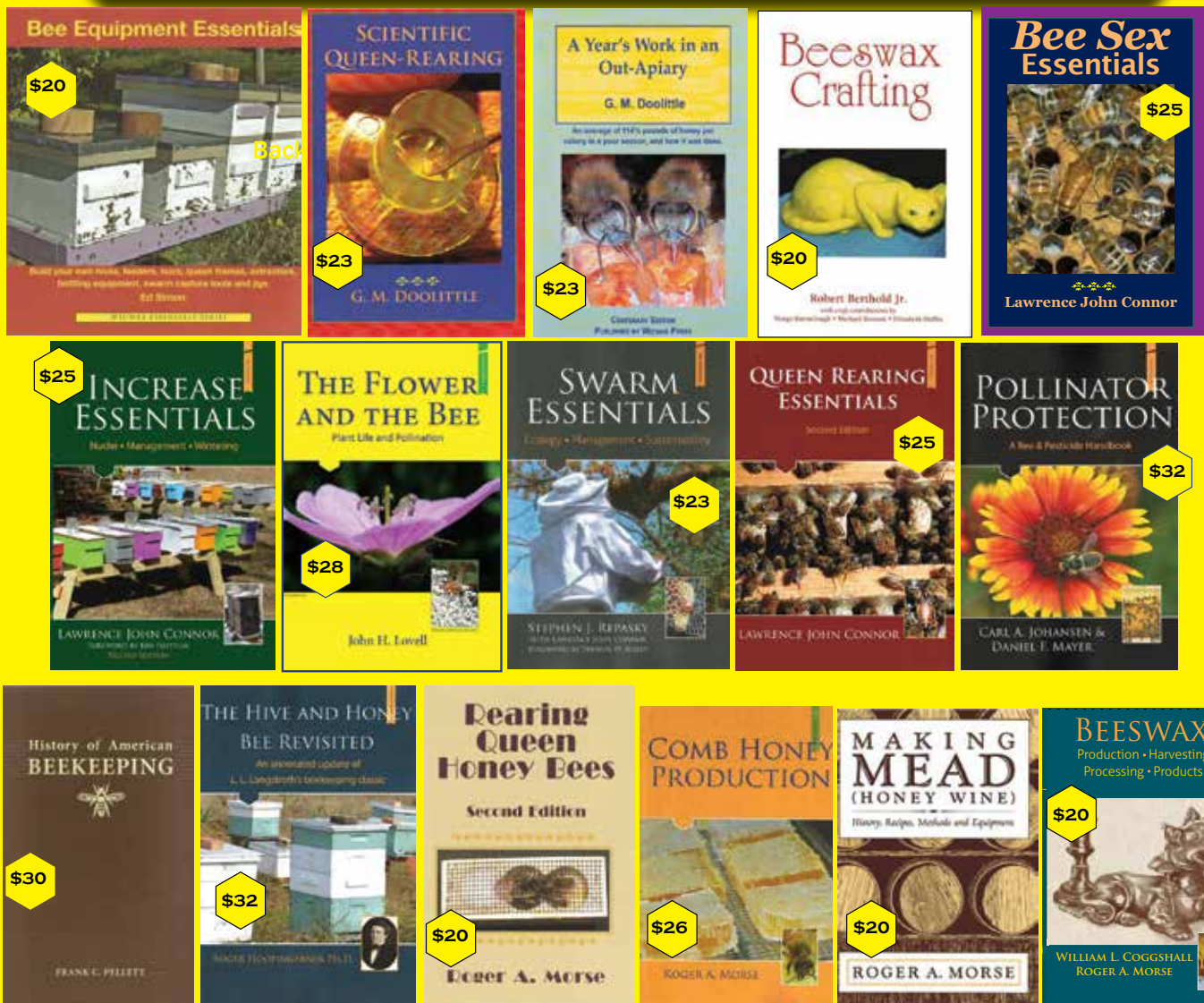
***www.morrisweaver.com  
rmorrisweaver@gmail.com***





# WICWAS QUALITY BEE BOOKS

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



**ON LINE PAYPAL STORE:**  
**WWW.WICWAS.COM**



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



[illegible]

**www.BrushyMountainBeeFarm.com | 1-800-233-7929**

**MOST COST EFFECTIVE  
VARROA TREATMENT  
ON THE MARKET**

## Swarms • Packages • Clean Splits

**FREE SHIPPING** ON MOST ORDERS OVER \$150\* SOME RESTRICITONS APPLY



*Serving Beekeepers the Best for 40 YEARS*

BEST QUALITY | BEST SERVICE | BEST SUPPORT

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

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

Howdy, TBA members! I am happy to say that I am back from maternity leave working part time for the first two weeks in April. My son Samuel was born on January 31st and he and I are doing great. Sami is a beautiful boy and is growing like weeds. My husband and I could not be happier with our growing family. Thank you to all of you who sent us good wishes and even gifts for the baby, we truly appreciate you thinking of us!

Needless to say because I was away for 7 weeks, I have a lot of backed up work that I am now starting to take care of. Most importantly, I have tried to keep our lab staff, especially students, on the right "path" while I was away. As you may recall, I have four graduate students: Adrian, Pierre, Liz, and Alex. They all lead projects that require a lot of field work with bees and since the spring season has arrived, they are on full operation mode right now. Liz started grafting our first batches of experimental queens, Adrian has started rearing experimental drones on special frames, Pierre continues to analyze pollen samples, and Alex is collecting ants from apiaries to look for deformed wing virus. Ashley is busy managing the apiary, teaching courses and organizing our upcoming queen rearing workshop in May. And I am gearing up to write long federal grant proposals due this summer, so life is VERY busy right now at the Rangel Lab.

I had the pleasure to be an instructor at the 9th annual Beekeeping School organized by the Central Texas Beekeepers Association in Brenham, TX on March 25th. Our lab was able to help out again this year in several ways. I gave lectures on honey bee reproductive biology, Liz Walsh gave lectures on IPM, Adrian, Pierre and Alex were busy helping with the demonstrations out at the apiary and answering questions at our display booth. With over 500 participants, I am continuously impressed by the continued interest from the community around Central Texas regarding honey bees and beekeeping. A big shout out to the organizers and volunteers for putting together a successful bee school once more.

On another note, our latest paper on the effects of fungicides used for almond tree protection on honey bee forager survival, led by my student Adrian Fisher, just came out in the Journal of Economic Entomology. I encourage you to read the attached press release done by the Entomological Society of America Blog on the study ("Entomology Today"). Our study shows that iprodione, alone and in combination with other fungicides, significantly affects forager mortality. Congratulations Adrian for a study that is getting a lot of publicity in the entomological and apicultural media outlets.

Finally in this issue of the TBA journal we are also advertising the **3rd annual "Art of Queen Rearing Workshop," which will be held on Saturday, 13 May 2017. Registration closes on Friday, 28 April 2017 and will work on a first-come, first-serve basis for PAID registrants.** This all-day workshop is organized

and delivered by the Rangel Honey Bee Lab, and led by world-renown Sue Cobey, who will be sharing with us her expertise on queen rearing and giving a demonstration on instrumental insemination of

queens and apiary queen-rearing recommendations as time and weather permit. The cost of registration is \$125. Payment includes lunch, binder with notes, and queen rearing goodies!! Space is limited to the first 50 people that register and pay by Friday, 28 April 2017.



## Instructions for registration:

1. Send email of intent as soon as possible to Apiary Manager, Ms. Ashley Jones at: [ashleyj@tamu.edu](mailto:ashleyj@tamu.edu)
2. Once you receive a confirmation e-mail, send this registration form and payment to Ms. Jones to secure your spot. You can find the registration form in this issue of the TBA journal or on our website at [www.honeybeelab.tamu.edu](http://www.honeybeelab.tamu.edu)
3. Send payment and this registration form to secure your spot by Friday, 28 April 2017 to: Ms. Ashley Jones, Ref: Dr. Rangel's queen rearing workshop, Department of Entomology, Texas A&M University, 412 Heep, 2475 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843
4. Only the first 50 paid registrants will be able to participate in this year's workshop
5. Late registration, or registration by those that were not confirmed via email might not be able to attend and their checks might be returned.
6. Those that have taken this course before do not qualify.

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 2,600 LIKES and counting! Thank you all for your continuing support. We wish you a happy and fruitful beekeeping season this spring!



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

**Order now for 2017!**



*4-Frame Honey Extractor*

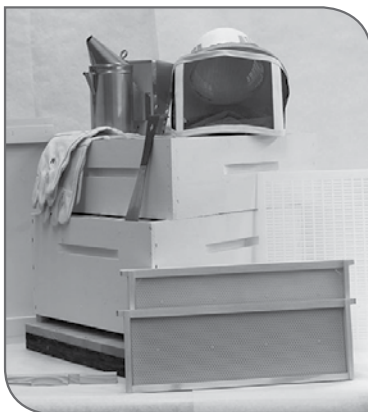
Assembled Beginner's Kits  
3# Package Bees  
4-Frame Nucs with Feeder  
1-Story Established Colonies  
All-American & Buckfast Queens

**SHIPPING & CUSTOMER PICKUP AVAILABLE**

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

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

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



*Deluxe Beginner's Kit*



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



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

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

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

**13 May 2017**

**Head Instructor: Sue Cobey**

## WORKSHOP AGENDA

9:00a - 9:15a	Coffee and Introductions
9:15a – 10:15a	<b>Keynote Speaker: Sue Cobey.</b> “ <i>The Art of Queen Rearing</i> ”
10:15a – 11:00p	Lecture: Dr. Juliana Rangel. “ <i>Queen Rearing Mini Workshop</i> ”
11:30p – 1:00p	Concurrent lectures and field sessions
1:00p – 2:00p	Boxed Lunch
2:00p – 4:00p	Concurrent lectures and field sessions

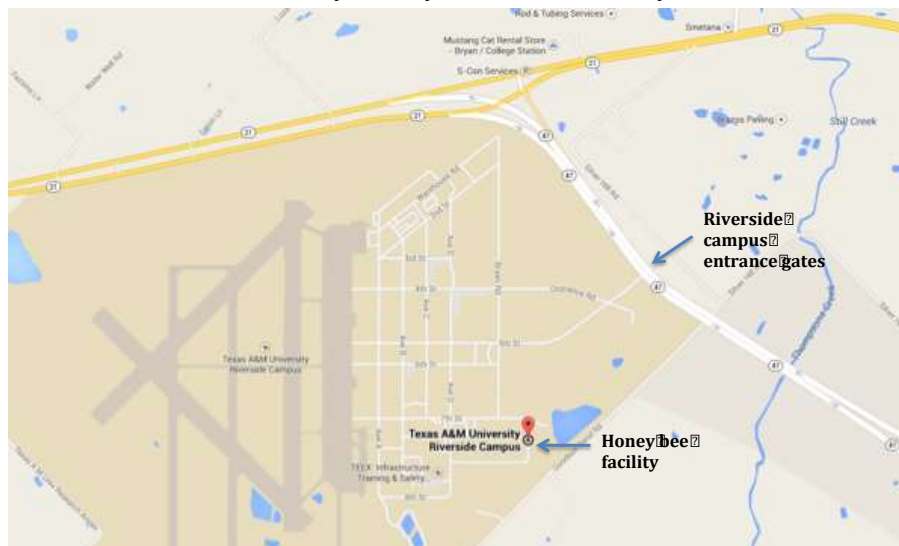
- **Lecture 1:** Liz Walsh: “*Queen Rearing Basics*”
- **Lecture 2:** Pierre Lau: “*Queen Nutrition*”
- **Lecture 3:** Adrian Fisher: “*Drone Biology*”
- **Lecture 4:** Ashley Jones: “*Splitting Colonies*”

- **Field Session 1:** Sue Cobey and Dr. Rangel: “*Queen Maintenance*”
- **Field Session 2:** Adrian Fisher and Pierre Lau: “*Drone Assessment*”
- **Field Session 3:** Sue Cobey: “***Demonstration: Queen Instrumental Insemination***”
- **Field Session 4:** Liz Walsh and Alex Payne: “*Doolittle Grafting Method*”

4:00p – 4:15p	Break, move to main classroom for wrap-up session.
4:15p – 5:00p	Wrap-up, Q&A, Ask the Experts.

**Address:** 3100 State Highway 47, Bryan, TX 77807

Once you enter the gates of the campus, make a left on Bryan Rd., then a left on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and follow the road all the way until you find the Honey Bee Lab.



**3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL “THE ART OF QUEEN REARING” WORKSHOP**  
**13 May 2017**

Janice and John G. Thomas Honey Bee Facility, College Station, TX

**REGISTRATION FORM (please write legibly)**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Lunch preference:** ☐ Meat ☐ Vegetarian

**Instructions for registration:**

1. Send email of intent as soon as possible to Ms. Ashley Jones at: [ashlevj@tamu.edu](mailto:ashlevj@tamu.edu)
2. Once you receive a confirmation e-mail, send this registration form and payment to secure your spot.
3. Send payment and this registration form to secure your spot by Friday, 28 April 2017
4. Only the first 50 paid registrants will be able to participate in this year's workshop
5. Late registration, or registration by those that were not confirmed via email might not be able to attend and their checks will be returned
6. Those that have taken this course before do not qualify

**Payment:** ☐ Enclosed is a check for \$125

**Please Note: Payment includes lunch, binder with notes, and queen rearing goodies!!**

**Make payment payable to:** Texas AgriLife Research, Department of Entomology

**Please send payment, along with this registration form by Friday, 28 April 2017 to:**

Ms. Ashley Jones  
Ref: Dr. Rangel's queen rearing workshop  
Department of Entomology, Texas A&M University  
412 Heep, 2475 TAMU  
College Station, TX 77843



# The Buzz at Brooke: An Elementary School's Program for Honey Bee Education

*from Pamela Yeamans, Small Scale Beekeeper*

Honey bees are generating the latest educational buzz as Brooke Elementary in East Austin takes advantage of their terrain with gardens and their honey bee apiary. Like the 1850s cattle ranch where the school sits today, it is a crossroads as a central meeting place that hosts intersecting activities in education for 4-H after school and the Texas Master Beekeeper service. Their policies and dedication to agriculture frame a mission to teach bee education to a student body of Hispanic and African-American students who are from low economic status households that mostly live in apartments and depend on the school for their outdoor experiences.



*Brook Elementary School*

Last year, principal of Brooke, Griselda Galindo-Vargas, with her husband Tony, built a wooden fenced corral for bees and rescued two abandoned hives on nearby Boggy Creek to house them at the school. She was joined by Sam DeSanto, a veteran teacher, who planted extensive butterfly gardens on the campus for habitat, teaches after school classes in gardening and has become the school's beekeeper.

DeSanto is an experienced educator with a patient demeanor that makes it easy to work around him. His movements are slow and gentle, which helps a good deal when working with bees.

"You can't learn about growing fruits and vegetables without learning about bees," he says, "Bees are as important as sun and water."

Through Galindo-Vargas's vision for a "green school" that promotes environmental sciences, the bees were removed from the path of urban development and given a safe haven at Brooke. Her background growing up on a dairy farm along with a specialization in behavior and special education inspires her to provide varied learning environments for children. She had the corral's wooden fence painted in vibrant blue and green with apiary images by students from every grade level as a project during Art class. The hives placed in the Brooke Bee Corral are now happy, producing babies and honey for the school.

"Mr. DeSanto has been the cultivator of the butterfly garden,



*Sam DeSanto, Brooke Elementary Beekeeper*

the fruit trees, shade trees and other plants. I was lucky to find a committed group of educators who wanted to provide children with varied opportunities to learn about being a productive citizen and being part of the global focus of sustainability."



*Kids listen to Pamela at the Bee Corral Beekeeping*

A generous grant from the Ecorise foundation allowed the school to purchase bee suits for children so they can get valuable hands-on experiences working directly with the bees. One 3rd grader named Freddy, while working with the hives, astutely observed how the buzzing of the bees changed when the box was opened.

"It's like they're talking to each other. You can hear them getting mad."

Freddy is usually shy and reserved but lately, his mother said, "He talks about the bees a lot. It's great to see how excited he is about them." After several times of working with the hives Freddy now wants to raise bees himself.

These types of real world experiences provide enthusiasm for

bee education and will nurture a future generation of beekeepers.

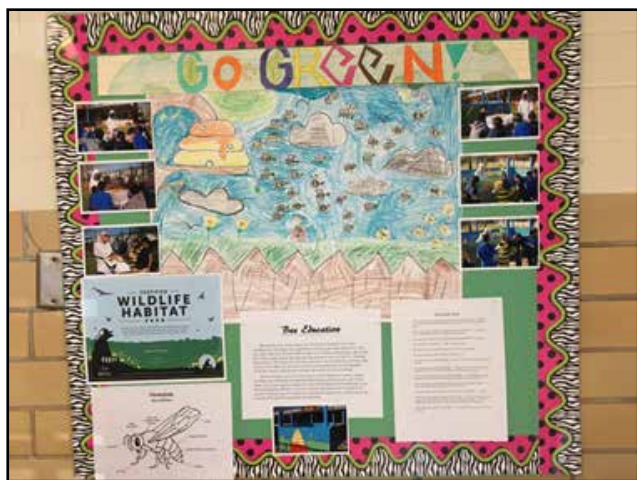
Brooke through its gardens, orchards, and water ponds, has been certified by the City of Austin as a Wildlife Habitat. The campus' "green team" welcomes students to learn about life cycles through working in vegetable and butterfly gardens, and caring for chickens. Students from ages 5 to 11 learn about the critical role honey bees play in growing food and feeding the world.

#### 4-H in Urban Austin

Nathan Tucker is a tall, quiet man with a Masters in linguistics; the study of human speech. He knows how to listen and his experience with Ag Extension comes forth as he promotes the 4-H program to diverse and low-resource audiences in Travis County. One of our first email exchanges, he wrote me with the suggestion to meet with the after school group he conducts at Brooke. He approved of me teaching an introduction to beekeeping for students. The school has two hives and he thought a visiting beekeeper could explain to the afterschool kids what goes on unseen inside the wooden boxes. He also invited me to speak to another larger 4-H Club that meets on Saturdays in East Austin.

My first visit to Brooke Elementary turned into a whole lot of fun with my Dadant bee posters, hive tools and "hands on" teaching from within the bee corral. Towards the end of the day it became a bit wild with bees flying around the school yard and kids running in divergent directions from the corral shrieking "bees" and yelling about the "Bee Lady." A management moment no beekeeper ever wants to admit, but nevertheless it remains captured in an oversized crayon drawing that is the front centerpiece of the bee bulletin board located in the entrance, opposite the school office.

"It's all right; it gives them stories to tell." says DeSanto. I look at him dubiously.



*Brooke - Bee Bulletin Board*

*Meeting Needs, Changing Lives* is the slogan of the Cooperative Extension Program (CEP) at Prairie View A&M University and Tucker is the CEP 4-H Agent for Travis County. 4-H adds value to children's lives. It exists to provide meaningful opportunities for youth and adults to work together to create sustainable community change. The 4-H youth development program is

a change agent with in-school and after-school education for limited resource youth and in my experience it does indeed meet current needs and can change lives.

After working with Tucker a half a dozen times, he shares that to grow the 4-H program in urban areas like Austin he considers many avenues of learning.

He states "It's a good idea to include agriculture education conducive to city settings, such as beekeeping." The science of agriculture has been identified as a key resource for the positive, productive development of youth. This includes beekeeping and the public service of beekeepers through volunteerism.

#### Govalle, the Land

The Bee Corral at Brooke is located in the school's front yard and can be seen from the street. Brooke's close location to downtown and Lady Bird Lake is the cause for it changing from a traditionally Hispanic population to the new more professional affluent residents. Brooke plans to change with the neighborhood by transforming into a Green Tech Academy that will draw from an open enrollment for transfer students. The emphasis on Environmental Sciences and Technology will allow the school to become viable for future generations and address a pressing concern parents have for their children's education.

The neighborhood, situated in the Govalle basin, started as a cattle ranch and has black soil which is rich in nutrients from undulations of the Colorado River. It is different than most of the rocky alkaline limestone of Travis County. The deep, well-drained acid soils gently slope along high terraces supporting lots of scattered pecan, oak, and other over-story trees. The forage is good for honey bees with abundant fruit trees and native plants that thrive along the banks of the lake.

Swedish entrepreneur Swen Swenson used his ranch as a way to help more Swedes settle in Texas. He paid fellow countrymen to come to the U.S., and in exchange they would work on his ranch. The ranch is named "Ga Valla" in Swedish which translates as "good grazing land." Today Govalle (which is pronounced goh-VAL-ee) has a number of urban farms and plant nurseries.

The Boggy Creek Farm <http://www.boggycreekfarm.com/> is a five-acre farm first established in 1992 and Springdale Farm <http://www.springdalefarmaustin.com/about-springdale-farm/> sits on 4.83 acres just 3 miles east from the State Capitol and grows 75 types of seasonal vegetables. HausBar Urban Farm & GuestHaus <http://www.hausbarfarms.com/> is a sustainable urban farm in East Austin raising vegetables.

Down the street from Brooke elementary are the Tillery Street Plant Company <http://www.tillerystreetplantcompany.com/> and East Austin Succulents <http://www.eastaustinsucculents.com/>

#### Value for Children

DeSanto's goal is to produce jars of honey for a farmers market sponsored by the school. His goal is for kids to learn through experience how the environment works all around us to produce life. Children benefit if they know that honey bees are different from hornets, wasps and yellow jackets. Education about honey bees and tending to hives and observing bee activity provides kids with vital lessons about biology, agriculture, ecology, nutrition and math. Besides understanding that bees make honey, children learn



that pollination increases the size of plants, fruits, flowers and overall crop yield.

### Texas Master Beekeepers Role

Texas beekeepers develop relationships with 4-H in order to educate our next generation about honey bees, pollination, bee language, and honey. At the intro to beekeeping session all kids are given pollinator seed packets provided by Bayer AG that I staple to a honey bee anatomy drawing and fun facts paper.

The Texas Apiary Inspection Service created the Texas Master Beekeepers Program with the goal to increase the overall health of the apiary industry. The program accomplishes this by producing knowledgeable beekeepers to help lead the industry and act as honey bee ambassadors to the general public. The well-designed program increases the knowledge base of beekeepers and helps to educate the general public about beekeeping. Public service is a requirement of the program.



*Nathan Tucker, Sam DeSanto & Pamela Yeamans*



*Brooke Bee Brood*

### Next Steps

The kids will get up close and personal with the bees, wearing beekeeper suits and with DeSanto's oversight a group will open the hives. A generous grant from EcoRise, the youth sustainability non-profit, allowed DeSanto to order five full bee suits in kid sizes from Laura Weaver, Queen Bee at BeeWeavers BeeGoods Mercantile. Third and fifth graders will learn to inspect hives, identify bee castes, and differentiate brood and comb contents.

A goal is to pull Spring frames to harvest honey with the schools' purchased extractor and bottle honey for sale as part of the school garden program. Producing Brooke private label honey will show kids direct results of farming and Real Texas Honey. Simply speaking, honey produced by bees residing in Texas, and extracted and packaged in Texas, by a real Texas beekeeper is Texas honey. A result of all this activity is that it spreads throughout the Brooke community and people become accustomed to hearing about bees, children, and gardening in their neighborhood.

Folks are keeping in mind and look forward to the 2018 4-H Beekeeping Essay Contest and the Travis County Beekeepers Association Scholarship Program.



*Sam DeSanto, Brooke Beekeeper*



*Brooke Bee Corral*



# THE REVOLUTION BOX

Everything  
Except  
Bees

## SHASTINA MILLWORK

SUPERIOR  
DURABILITY

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

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

Top  
Box  
Joint

- \* Any Size
- \* Any Quantity

Now  
Making  
Frames

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

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

# Spring Preparation

*from Micheal Mathews, Fayette County Beekeepers*



## Spring Inspection

By any measure this was the warmest winter we have experienced since we began beekeeping. Spring like temperatures, and rainfall, have been the norm since November. Over the winter we continued to feed about a gallon of sugar water per week in a chicken feeder removed far from the bee yard, mainly because we like watching the bees. The bees continued to forage and were returning with pollen as early as January. Despite the warm weather we did not give in to the urge to open the hives for inspection from December until late-February.

Over the past two weeks we have been completing our initial hive inspections for the year. The purpose of this inspection was to determine the health of each colony and see if any hive repair was needed. We took time going through each hive checking stores and looking for evidence of a laying queen. Specifically is there a mix of new worker brood at various stages of development along with drones? We also wanted to make sure that they were building out new comb where necessary and check to see if any action was needed to control pests. Finally we made some last minute preparations for upcoming splits which, as luck would have it, turned out to be just in time.



*Brood Check*

## Spring Cleaning, Removing Old Comb

We were not in our hives as frequently as we should have been last fall and this led to some late season cross combing. We decided to leave those bars in place over the winter and remove them in spring once the bees had taken most of the honey. Once the spring honey flow starts, the cross comb and other damaged comb can be removed regardless of how much honey is left.

To remove comb like the one shown below, begin by brushing

as many bees as possible back into the hive. A number of bees will hide between the folds in the comb so be prepared to for them during processing. Separate empty comb from the small amount that still has honey. We cut any comb with honey was into squares. Our friends seem to prefer honey in the comb, so we saved a few pieces for gifts. The rest we place in a plastic bag to be crushed and suspended over a funnel to drain. Cheese cloth is an effective filter when capturing raw honey this way. One tip when collecting late season honey is to taste it before mixing different combs. Some late season honey may be too tart for some tastes.



*Bad Comb*

## Moving Comb

When a beekeeper takes honey from a top bar they must take comb which the bees must replace. This need for additional comb building is considered one of the weaknesses of the top bar hive. Compounding this problem is removing additional comb that is uneven or does not following the guide. This early in the year the bees are building out new comb quite quickly and in less than a week the bees can make a mess of a top bar hive. It is very important to be inspecting top bar hives frequently and arranging the comb to discourage cross combing or curved comb. By rearranging bars so new comb is between two straight ones, the bees will continue to build out the comb along the guide.

At times the bees will build comb that cannot be corrected by simply moving it between two straight pieces of comb. Some top bar beekeepers are more aggressive than others and will remove this comb, and indeed any burr comb, in an attempt to keep





*Moving Comb*

perfectly straight comb in the hive. While straight comb is much easier for the top bar beekeeper to work, removing all bad comb is not always necessary. An alternative is to remove comb that is not following the guide and then reattach it using hair clips fastened to the bar. While this is not the most attractive alternative, the bees will quickly secure the comb and continue building along the guide as if the clips are not there. In the photo below the bees have started two angled combs on a single bar.



*More Bad Comb*

## Easy Splits

Now is the time to finish preparation for splits or package bees that may be on order. We had lost two hives over the winter, one that was a small late season swarm that was not expected to survive and an older colony which came as a surprise. Both of these hives had been cleaned and moved to another area of the bee yard along with another new hive in preparation for splits. After arranging the hives we added a follower board and a Boardman feeder inside each hive.

Any top bar beekeeper can have good success with simple

walk away splits. As the bees prepare to swarm they add queen cells. These are generally found along the edges of the comb, but may be found on the face as well. We look for closed queen cells and cells with nurse bee activity. A healthy colony will produce as many as four top bar combs with two or more queen cells. These bars are the basis for a split.

To complete a split take one or two bars with queen cells along with two honey bars to a new hive. Leave one or two bars with queen cells behind in case the queen has been accidentally moved to the new hive. It is important to select bars with plenty of nurse bees to tend the brood. Cork the hive leaving one hole open to make the hive easier for the small colony to defend. As a last step we place a feeder with 1:1 in the hive for the first two weeks to reduce the bees' need to forage. Our early preparation paid off as we have already split one colony this spring.

## Controlling Ants

It seems that all of nature's little beings are at work this time of the year. Our inspection found that one of our top bars had been invaded by wood ants that were trying to nest between the bars. There was no damage to the hive and no ants were in with the bees. Ants are by far our biggest problem followed by hive beetles which will become more prevalent in the warmer months. Though the best defense against all pests is always a strong colony, there are steps the beekeeper can take to keep ants out of the hive. [



*Ants*

Controlling ants is a matter of controlling access to the hive. There are a number of methods from standing the legs in pans of water to treatments like diatomaceous earth. Over the years we have used a combination of double stick tape and Tangle Trap Sticky Coat because it creates a long lasting barrier that does not need the constant attention during wet weather that some ground treatments require. Application is easy since all of our top bar hives have legs or sit on a trestle. Each leg is first wrapped in double stick tape two layers wide. The tape is placed high up on the legs because the height places the tape directly under the shelter of the hive. Also there is less chance of grass growing above the tape and providing a bridge for ants to bypass the barrier. Once the tape is in place a coat of Tangle Trap is applied. We inspect the tape each week and generally have to replace or recoat it one a month during the spring and summer.

Those are the basic steps we follow at the beginning of each season. As always, let the bees be your guide and allow time to give a few new ideas a try. Early preparation can save a lot of work later.



# 2017 Texas Honey Queen

Megan Pettibon

## Beekeeping in North Texas



When we look at beekeeping in all the regions of Texas, North Texas has many characteristics that uniquely set it apart. Several factors are involved in beekeeping, and we can see this through the different pests and animals, climate changes, variety of nectar sources, etc. While there are many beekeepers in Texas, if you are speaking to someone from a different region than yourself, it is good to understand how their experience varies from your own.

North Texas has over 7 clubs, some of which include Metro Beekeepers Association, Trinity Valley Beekeepers Association, Denton County Beekeepers, Red River Valley Beekeepers Association, and Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Association. I have visited a few of these, and am always amazed at the sense of family they all display. If you are having any problems with your apiary or equipment, people are always so eager to jump in and help. I know this is the case for many clubs in Texas, and it makes me love the beekeeping world all the more. I have been a beekeeper in North Texas for 14 years now, but I promise I am not biased when I say that beekeeping here has been one of the best experiences of my life. Beekeepers are just one big family all interested in the same insect.

North Texas has many variances within its weather patterns, nectar sources, bees, etc. But one of the bigger topics going around the region right now are pests. The varroa mite can easily become a nightmare to either commercial or hobbyist beekeepers. If you have a weak hive, this little 8-legged insect will find its way in, attach itself to an adult or baby bee, and begin sucking the bee's hemolymph. Hemolymph is a fluid, analogous to the blood in vertebrates, that circulates in the interior of the bee's body. Viruses and diseases can be transmitted this way. The varroa mite can wipe out a hive in less than a week. Another pest that the guard bees are always on the lookout for is the black and white striped skunk, who is a cunning pest that knows her business. While you may not think of pests as funny, I do find her entertaining. She will walk up to a hive and scratch the front entrance to irritate them. Before the bees come pouring out, she will stick her tail up in front of the entrance, and all the bees will get stuck in it. She can then eat the bees out of her tail! Pests like these are the reason beekeepers like to put their hive boxes up on a stand.

If you live in North Texas, you could explain the weather as "unpredictable". One day it will be 90 degrees and sunny outside, and the next day it will be 20 degrees and raining. This fluctuation in the weather can be tricky for a beekeeper in North Texas. In

2015, it rained constantly over the spring, which resulted in a constant flushing of nectar from the flowers. The bees were unable to find much nectar, thus resulting in a small honey crop. On the other hand, if there is a large drought, the flowers will dry out and the nectar will be slim. Even though I say this focused on the north region of Texas, this can easily be the case for other regions as well.

As in other regions of Texas, bees are constantly looking for good nectar sources during the different seasons. And usually when people think of honey bees, they think of them foraging for flowers on the ground. But we have to remember that bees can fly. She is gathering nectar from trees, vines, bushes, etc. She usually tries to look for large sections of one kind of flower, because she likes to stay with one kind before unloading her pollen baskets. The Rattan Vine is excellent for providing many flowers for the bees to forage in one flight. Other North Texas sources include the Sunflower, Dalea (prairie clover), Willow Tree, and Mesquite tree. But not all nectar sources are good for both the bees and the beekeepers. In North Texas, beekeepers deal with a flower called Snow on the Mountain/Prairie. This is a beautiful white flower with many tiny balls of buds. But even though it is very pleasing to the eye, it is not pleasing to the throat. The bees might be crazy about this flower, but when you eat a spoon full of it's honey, it will taste good at first, but then later burn your throat. If a beekeeper waits too late in the season to harvest his or her honey, they can easily end up with a super full of Snow on the Mountain honey. If this does happen, North Texas beekeepers will sometimes leave it for the bees to eat during winter, because for some strange reason it doesn't bother them at all.

North Texas is an exciting place for beekeepers, and is growing with them as the months go by. Being able to teach all around North Texas last year as the Collin County Honey Queen was incredible. I was amazed at how many people were truly interested in beekeeping and later showed up for club meetings. Yes, beekeeping does differ from region to region, but learning the variances between the cities this year has helped me teach more effectively and reach my audience on a more personal level. When I show that I am aware of the incredible weather or differences a specific region is dealing with in regards to keeping bees, it opens doors to more effective conversations and allows the audience to have a voice. But no matter the differences, beekeeping is a joy.

And that is what brings Texas together as a whole.



LIVE BEES & QUEENS • BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES • HONEY TASTINGS • LESSONS • BEE BLING

*TEXAS' ONLY*

## FULL SERVICE BEEKEEPING SUPPLIER

We offer all the gear you need to get started beekeeping and fun bee themed merchandise you can only find at BeeGoods Mercantile. Our store is set in the midst of our commercial beekeeping operation that was established over 125 years ago by the BeeWeaver family.



[BEEWEAVER.COM/BEEGOODS-MERCANTILE](http://BEEWEAVER.COM/BEEGOODS-MERCANTILE)

**LOCATION** 16481 CR 319, Navasota, Texas 77868 *Coordinates* 30.284934 -96.032460 **HOURS VARY** Please check our website

## “When Sugar or Corn Syrup is Not Just Bad for Your Hips!”

*From Robin Young, Metro Beekeepers Association*

I’m going to apologize up front for this one, but it cleans up in the end. This past Fall, 2016, I had just made up 80 sugar jars when I got the phone call. My sister was on the line telling me my grandmother had passed. I was upset, but knew my grandmother was with Jesus and was ok. I was more worried about my dad. We dropped everything and loaded up the kids and drove to Missouri not giving my 80 sugar jars a second thought.

Time passes fast at our house: Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years, and before I knew it Valentine’s Day was here; bee season begins. First thing I did was check my gear. No moth holes in sight. Then I got to my sugar Jars...whoops.



It smelled like I was brewing my own moonshine. There was nothing to do but dump it down the drain and clean it all up.

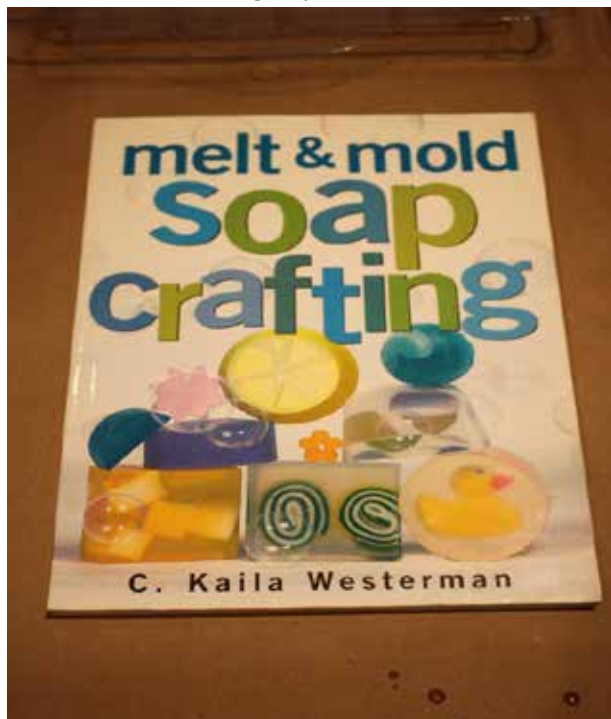


Here are some of the tips to avoid this:

- 1) Just don’t make any up until you need it.
- 2) If you’re going to have extra sugar water made up, keep it in your refrigerator for best storage or room temperature.
- 3) Do not store your sugar water in a Texas summer hot garage.
- 4) Do the old “smell” test. If it smells like alcohol dump it. “No moonshine for the ladies.”
- 5) Clean your sugar jars every time you make up a new batch. I know it takes time but it will help cut down on the passing of diseases from hive to hive.
- 6) When in doubt throw it out.

Corn syrup has a whole other set of issues. Corn syrup can break down over time and give your bees dysentery and possibly kill them. If you use corn syrup, don’t be afraid, just try and keep it at room temperature and keep an eye on it’s color and odor. If it starts to get darker, you might not want to use it. Just know that any boiled sugar such as Molasses will give your bees dysentery and possibly kill them.

Your clean ending as promised.



Every week I would go to the Denton Community Market and a new vendor had a chemical burn from



trying to make homemade soap. There was no way I was going to be able to make such dangerous soaps with little kids running around me. I found this book: "Melt & Mold Soap Crafting" by C. Kaila Westerman. As I worked my way through the book I found on page 77 a recipe that I could modify and make my own. Here is my modified version.



#### Ingredients for Honey Oat Soap:

- \* 1lb. Honey Soap Base from "Bulk Apothecary" \*
- \* 1/2 Cup old-fashioned Quaker Oats (Not the instant kind) ground up
- \* 1 table spoon raw honey
- \* 1 table spoon %100 pure "Oatmeal Milk & Honey" Fragrance Oil
- \* 2 teaspoons grapefruit seed extract
- \* Molds of your choice

1) Get your double boiler and melt a 1lb bar of Honey Soap Base. I use a wooden skewer to stir as it melts.



2) Once the soap base is melted, add in the honey, fragrance oil, and grapefruit seed extract.

3) Grind up the oat meal and mix it in last.



4) Pour melted soap into your molds. If the oats start to settle give them a quick whisking as you pour the mixture.



5) A little trick to get rid of the bubbles. Put some Rubbing alcohol into a spray bottle and pray it over the molds after you are done pouring. The alcohol will make the bubbles in the soap disappear.



I only sell this soap for \$3 a bar or \$3 gift pack to both men and Ladies. I only make pennies on it, but the smell draws people to my booth and when I mail out an online order I put one in each box. When a customer opens the box a wonderful smell hits them. When you have the best you don't need anything else. Enjoy!

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

# The Start of a Another New Bee Association

*from Dennis Gray, Jr., Coastal Bend Beekeepers*

Last edition we told you about the new start-up club in the Rio Grande Valley. On March 1, a delegation from my group (Coastal Bend Beekeepers), visited Victoria, TX to meet with a group forming there. In case you hadn't noticed, beekeeping is quite popular these days!

Paul Hamilton, the organizer in Victoria, led the discussion. His goals were simply to get the group together, meet beekeepers in the area and formulate a plan to move forward. In addition to me, our association's Membership Director and another member came to support the group. Chris Barnes, Brazos Valley Beekeepers, also drove down to share his support for the group. Stephen Biles, an entomologist from Texas AgriLife Extension Service attended the meeting.

What resources are available for new clubs? Plenty. Let's examine some provided by Texas Beekeepers Association (TBA) and other groups across the state.

## Texas Beekeepers Association

TBA gives new clubs the first year free. Annual club dues are \$50 after the first year. Membership provides listing of your club on the TBA web site, and enables your first year beekeeper members to also join TBA for the first year free.

In 2015, TBA launched a web hosting service for member clubs. This service alone pays for the cost of membership, and it makes keeping a web page easy.

The TBA runs three events that local leaders should consider important. First, there's a TBA delegates meeting, which brings together club leaders from across the state. Here, they keep abreast of goings-on at the state level. Next, the TBA Summer Clinic is an event geared toward your membership, but club leaders benefit from networking with presenters and other club leaders. Finally, the TBA Annual Conference, usually in November, is the official gathering. This is a particularly important chance to meet and hear from big names drawn from across the continent.

The TBA also operates the Texas Honey Queen Program. The Honey Queen program is a scholarship given to selected young lady beekeepers. The Texas Honey Queen and Honey Princess are the official public voice of the TBA. In 2015, Texas Honey Queen Hope Pettibon spoke to the state legislature and lobbied for the passage of the Small Honey Producer Exemption. Opportunities to speak to the legislature are not that common, but the Queen and Princess stay busy with speaking engagements across the state. Later this year, the new Queen, Megan Pettibon, will likely speak again in support of HB1293.

TBA also provides ready to present PowerPoint shows that members may download from the web site. Most any beekeeper can study the material and present the show to your local meeting.

Local beekeepers can put them to work too! In 2016, the Coastal Bend Beekeepers brought the Texas Honey Queen to town in order to promote the local association. The visit put Ms. Pettibon in front of more than 1100 people, ranging from

home-school kids, to Farmers Market visitors, and of course the monthly meeting of the association. The trip forged media relationships between the Beekeepers and three local TV stations. It put them on the map of the local glossy magazine and the local paper. It started a relationship with local businesses who now reach out to the association for more collaboration (more on this later). Travel expenses are covered by the Honey Queen program. Don't overlook this valuable resource.

## Media

The media is your friend. Honey bees get a lot of press these days, so put that to work for you. The media is a willing accomplice in promoting the plight of the honey bees, and they're likely to pick up any reasonably pitched story you can throw them about local beekeeping.

Here are just a few ways to put the media to work for your local association. Reach out to the public. Focus a regular meeting on something for the public. Consider teaching them about swarm season early in the year. Your presentation can include how to deal with swarms, why they're not aggressive, and which beekeepers they can call for help. Have a honey tasting event and invite the whole town.

Announce everything. If you have a membership drive, if you seek sponsorships, if you sponsor a school project, if you form a partnership, if you do anything interesting at all, announce it with a press release. The media will eventually start to automatically expect to hear from your group.

## Partner with People

I said earlier that the Texas Honey Queen helped the Coastal Bend Beekeepers form partnerships with local groups. We took the Honey Queen visit as an opportunity to partner with a local nursery, which hosted a talk with us. They've since reached out to us for more talks, and these benefit everyone involved of course.

We also reached out to the city, which operates a nature preserve in town, to partner with them for the relocation of Mexican Honey Wasp nests to the preserve. Some cities have Adopt-a-Park programs, which may allow you to keep a community bee hive from which you can teach. Universities also seek beekeeper partners for various projects. The state bee lab sometimes seeks sources (recently sources of pollen for studies) from other regions. The Texas Invasive Species Institute (currently) seeks beekeepers who can provide help with their research.

Partner with local garden clubs. Trade speakers between the groups. Sponsor essay contests. Use your imagination, and announce everything.

## Make People Work for You

State agencies are responsible for making the final rules

the legislature passes. They also do the enforcement activities associated with those rules, and so, they provide outreach to the industries they serve.

The Texas Department of Health Services is responsible for monitoring food safety issues and oversees the processing facilities for honey. They can send a compliance officer to present the rules to your beekeepers. The Food Manufacture's License is important to sideliners and larger honey producers, but the Foods Group (where compliance is handled) also covers the recently implemented Small Honey Producer's Exemption requirements. They may also answer questions regarding Farmers Markets and other venues for sales.

The Comptroller's office administers state taxes (for members who sell wax products and such). Local agencies may also have something to offer. It sounds odd, I know, but reach out to the Vector Control folks. If your town has a beekeeping ordinance, they can explain trouble they have and your group can forge a good relationship to help them help you. We convinced them to hand out "swarm cards" in our area for residents who did not want the city to kill the bees. Consider also, the local applicators, particularly aerial applicators. They don't want to spray your bees any more than you want them sprayed, so open a dialog with them and see how you can work together.

## Make People Pay for Your Stuff

When Hope Pettibon came to visit, we gained a dozen or so members, people who had no real interest in beekeeping. They just wanted to help us out, so they joined the club.

Make sure your tax status is correct and then write formal proposals and ask for funding and sponsorship. Many companies, particularly those who will benefit directly, will support your projects by funding. Ask a nursery to sponsor a speaker that overlaps with their business. Bee supply houses are very generous with local groups. I've never been told no by them. They may donate a hive if you want to have a raffle or door prizes to liven up your meetings.

If you have a big project, seek more sponsors. Let's say you want a community hive and the city will allow you some space in a park. A bee supply house may donate the wooden ware. A local bee supplier may donate a Nuc or Package. Insurance is an issue with a project like this, and you may find a few big-name outlets that will help. HEB, for example, is very generous in supporting anything you can tie directly to education. Wal-Mart and Lowes are other names, but don't be afraid to approach local businesses and ask for their support. By bringing together multiple sponsors, you may be able to cover big-ticket items like insurance. Our local Garden Council provides us with some limited insurance coverage too.

You don't get anything, if you don't ask.

So whether you're a newly elected association President or if you are an officer supporting someone in that role, be flexible in your approach. Ask for help from everyone, and be prepared to see a great deal of help pile up on your local group.

# nozevit<sup>TM</sup>

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

**Contains:**

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



**NO GMO  
or HFCS!**

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

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



**Dadant.com**



**eKoBeekeeping.com**

For more information - ( 907 ) 727-8200



**DefyAnt  
Stands**

**Keep ants out of your hives!**



Patent pending

**Set your hive on all-steel stand.  
Oil-filled "moat" feet stop ants.  
Deflectors keep out rain & debris.**

Fits Langstroth: 10-frame stand \$68,  
8-frame \$65, 5-frame \$63.

**Defyantstands.com (903)799-8748**





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

# **BEEKEEPING INSURANCE SERVICES**

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

*Available Nationwide*

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

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

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

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

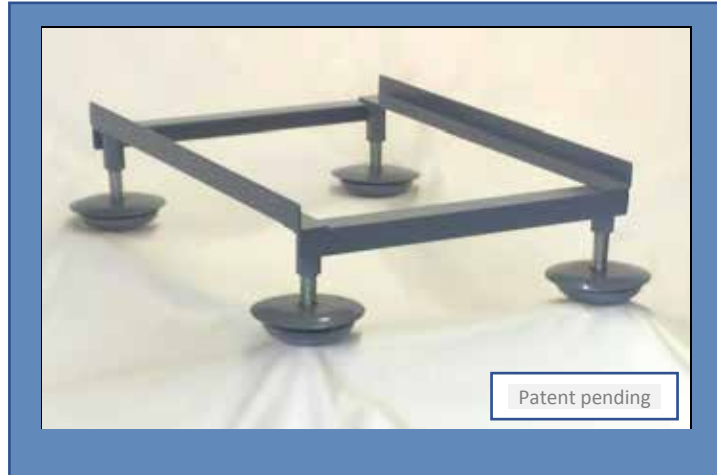
**Kevin Rader: [krader@beekeepingins.com](mailto:krader@beekeepingins.com)**

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

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

# Defyant Hive Stands

*from Billie Hiatt*



A few years ago when Keith Hiatt started keeping honeybees again, he faced what many beekeepers in Texas face – an invasion of ants in his hives. Being a creative sort of guy, he began looking for solutions. And there are a lot of suggestions out there for how to deal with ants, but he wanted something more durable and sure-fire. Something that wouldn't break down quickly in the hot Texas sun, require frequent refilling and constant fiddling with.

Drawing from his background in metal forming, he designed a much-improved version of the old "moat" concept used in various forms by beekeepers. When the feet of the stand are filled with oil, ants can't climb up into the hives. The rain and debris deflectors prevent the oil from getting washed out by rain, consumed by passing animals, and they also keep bees out of the oil.

In addition to being extremely sturdy – made of steel painted with good quality commercial/agricultural grade paint and galvanized threaded rods- the stands are easily moved, and have some adjustability. That comes in handy for leveling purposes and for lowering the front of the hive slightly for good drainage. The stands are designed to hold 10-frame, 8-frame or 5-frame Langstroth-style hives. They are available at [Defyantstands.com](http://Defyantstands.com) for \$68, \$65 and \$63.

Keith and his wife, Billie, live in the far NE corner of Texas, where they make and market their Defyant stands. They may also be contacted at [Defyantstands@gmail.com](mailto:Defyantstands@gmail.com) or (903)799-8748.





# Kelley Beekeeping

SERVING THE BEEKEEPER SINCE 1924



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

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



For Volume pricing call or email Ashley  
270-242-2019 ext. 213 or  
aconstant@kelleybees.com

**1-800-233-2899**



**Kelley Beekeeping**  
SERVING THE BEEKEEPER SINCE 1924

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





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

Let Us Custom Pack Honey For You

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

Tired of Putting Synthetic Chemicals in Your Hives?

Use an Organic Acid Instead

Best Prices on Mite Away Quick Strips (MAQS)

We Carry a Full Line of Containers

Texas Distributors for Gamber Container



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

# 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](mailto:execsec@texasbeekeepers.org)

---

## **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

Helotes Ind. Baptist Church

15335 Bandera Rd., Helotes at 7 pm

## **Austin Area Beekeepers Association**

Lance Wilson - (512) 619-3700

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

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

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

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

## **Bell/Coryell Beekeepers Association**

Club President - (254) 206-0184

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

**Meetings:** 5:30 pm

## **Brazoria County Beekeepers Association**

Kenneth Nugent - (979) 922-9725

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

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

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

[www.bvbeeks.org](http://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](mailto: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 Naugher - (806) 787-7698

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

**Meetings:** 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm

Farmer's Pantry, 50th St. and Wayne Ave., Lubbock

## **Central Texas Beekeepers Association**

Michael Kelling - (979) 277-0411

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

[www.centraltexasbeekeepers.org](http://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](mailto: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.**

Gary Mansker - (214) 687-6433

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

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

[cvbeekeeper@gmail.com](mailto:cvbeekeeper@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@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ellenswartz@sbcglobal.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](mailto: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](mailto:dino-beeclub@hotmail.com)

[www.dinobee.com](http://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](mailto:dick.counts4450@gmail.com)

[www.etba.info](http://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](mailto: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@jkgray.com](mailto:grayjamesk@jkgray.com)

**Meetings:**

## **Fayette County Beekeepers Association**

Ron Chess - (979) 525-9254

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

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

June, August, October and December at 5 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](mailto:jeffmcmullan@comcast.net)

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

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

## **Fredericksburg Beekeepers Association**

Joe Bader - (830) 537-4040

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

[www.harriscountybeekeepers.org](http://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

*gw.bowles@yahoo.com*

**Meetings:** 4th Tuesday of each month (except December) at 7 pm in Lecture Hall  
MCC Emergency Services Education Center, 7601 Steinbeck Bend Road, Waco, Texas

**Henderson County Beekeepers Association**

Elizabeth Hudson - (330) 881-8008

*bushyonmouth55@gmail.com*

**Meetings:** 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm  
Faith Fellowship Church, 5330 Highway 175, Athens, TX 75762

**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

*bank.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

*lamarcoba@gmail.com*

**Meetings:** 1st Thursday of the month at 6:30 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.**

Brian Stroud

*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@sbcglobal.net*

*netbacanton.texas@outlook.com*

**Meetings:** 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm  
Cross Roads Church, 1930 S Trade Days Blvd., 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

*jimmyl@theironbee.com*

**Meetings:** Last Saturday of each month at 8 am  
Weslaco Agrilife Center, 2415 E Business 83, Weslaco

**Texas Hill Country Beekeepers Association**

Elaine McMurray - (830) 777-7845

*texashillcountrybeekeepers@gmail.com*

**Meetings:** 4th Tuesday of odd months at 6:30 pm  
Wild Birds Unlimited, Nature Education Center,  
857 Junction Hwy., Kerrville

**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**

Ryan Giesecke - (214) 577-9562

*info@tvbees.org*

*www.tvbees.org*

**Meetings:** 2nd Tuesday of each month (except August) at 6:45 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



## Directors -at-Large

### Area 1

#### Roger Farr

*rdfarr@gmail.com*

6073 Farm Road 2348

Mount Pleasant, TX 75455

(979) 436-5310

### Area 5

#### Harrison Rogers

*brooksidebees@gmail.com*

5402 Greenhill Road

Brookside Village, TX 77581

(281) 468-0019

### Area 2

#### Tanya Phillips

*tanya@beefriendlyaustin.com*

9874 Wier Loop Circle

Austin, TX 78736

(512) 560-3732

### Area 6

#### Cameron Crane

*cameron@cameroncrane.com*

2300 Belvedere Dr.

Baytown, TX 77520

(409) 658-3800

### Area 3

#### Lance Wilson

*lance@apartmentexperts.com*

17021 Conway Springs Court

Austin, TX 78717

We accept all major credit cards



CONNECT WITH US!



PREMIUM QUALITY



# QUEENS

AVAILABLE YEAR ROUND

HEALTHY = HEALTHY  
QUEENS HIVES



**OLIVAREZ HONEY BEES**

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



**BIG ISLAND QUEENS**

A division of Olivarez Honey Bees, Inc.

CALIFORNIA (530) 865-0298

HAWAII (808) 328-9249

TOLL FREE (877) 865-0298

OHBEES.COM

# You Know Bees. We Know Beekeepers Insurance.

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

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

National Agent of Choice for the  
American Beekeeping Federation  
 **Trusted Choice**<sup>®</sup>  
Independent Insurance Agent

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

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

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

## Texas Beekeepers Association

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

Return Service Requested

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

---

### TBA Officers-2016



#### President

Chris Moore  
[chris@moorehoney.com](mailto:chris@moorehoney.com)  
9767 Bevil Blvd.  
Kountze, TX 77625  
(713) 724-7110

#### Past President

Blake Shook  
[blake@desertcreekhoney.com](mailto:blake@desertcreekhoney.com)  
575 County Road 5010  
Blue Ridge, TX 75424  
(214) 886-6899

#### Executive Secretary

Leesa Hyder  
[execsec@texasbeekeepers.org](mailto:execsec@texasbeekeepers.org)  
82 Sandpebble Drive  
The Woodlands, TX 77381  
(281) 460-0344

#### Treasurer

Holly Medina  
[tbatreasure@gmail.com](mailto:tbatreasure@gmail.com)  
PO Box 2026  
Cedar Park, TX 78630  
(512) 921-1521

#### Publications Director

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

---

#### Membership Coordinator

Shirley Doggett [sdoggett@mindspring.com](mailto:sdoggett@mindspring.com)  
400 County Road 440, Thrall, TX 76578  
(512) 924-5051

---

*Cameron Crane, Director,  
meeting with Local Associations at the  
Annual Delegates Meeting  
to discuss issues of importance to their  
members*

