The Texas Beekeepers Association
Journal

May / Jun 2017 ***www.texasbeekeepers.org*** **Issue 17-3**

President's Report

from Chris Moore

I would like to thank all the great people we have volunteering to help support you, and helping make the Texas Beekeepers Association what it is today. An association is only as good as it's members. We have some great members doing some great work for you. TBA has some really outstanding programs on the horizon.

The Summer Clinic at UT Arlington is going to be the biggest beekeeping event ever in the DFW area. You will be able to learn about numerous aspects of beekeeping, bring your notebook. The Real Texas Honey program is progressing to promote your honey, and the November convention is right around the corner.

Stay connected, stay informed. Beekeeping evolves – we have quality expert speakers from all over the US to help us all stay connected in the latest ways to help us help our bees. I hope to see you at these events, there is always something to learn.

Our honey flow this year has just been "weird". After not having much of a winter, we had plants blooming early, but not producing the typical amount of nectar. Here on the coast we have also had numerous fronts keeping our temps moderate and humidity levels low, very pleasant but not helping to produce nectar. Some plants need a cold winter then warm weather to produce nectar. That's beekeeping, you never know what is going to happen. I hope your area has been more productive.

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

In This Issue

Cover Picture by Wally Schmerheim

Keynote Speaker

Randy Oliver

scientificbeekeeping.com

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

We are pleased to announce that session presenters will also include:

Dr. Deborah Delaney, University of Delaware, Dept of Entomology
Dr. Juliana Rangel, Texas A&M, Dept of Entomology

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How to Get Started - Equipment Essentials
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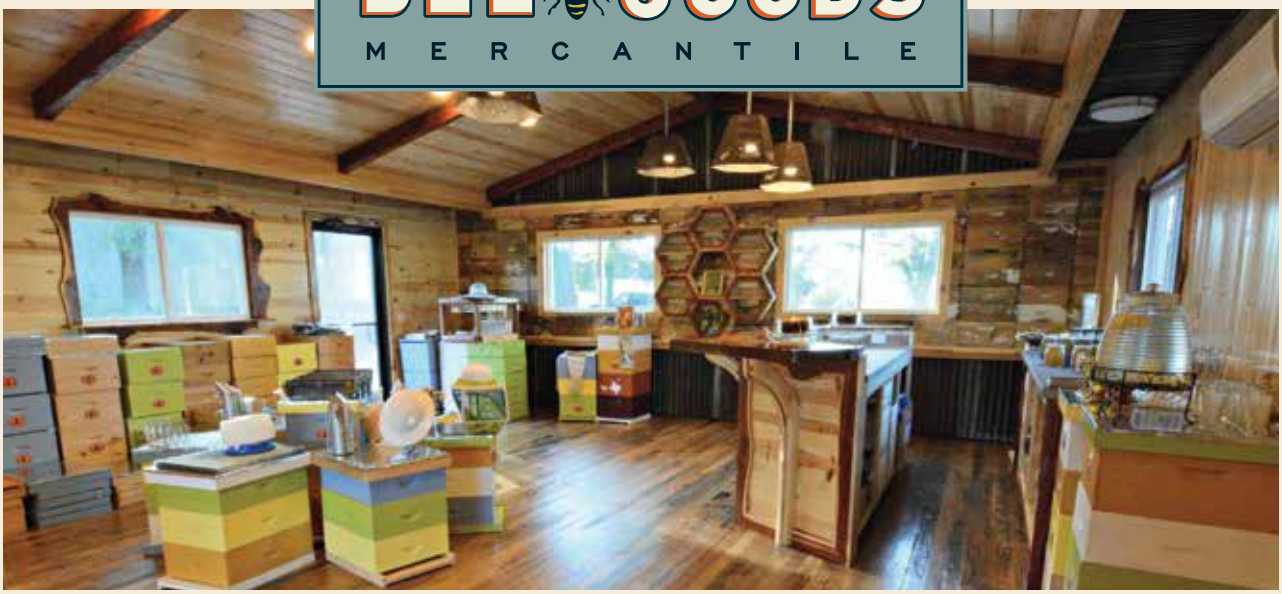

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THE BUDS AND THE BEES

Love the Soil You're With

by Becky Bender, Texas Master Naturalist

How to make the best of the land your bees call home.

This article was inspired by the iconic lyrics of Stephen Stills of Crosby, Stills and Nash. The refrain of their hit 1970's song "Love The One You're With" is a perfect fit for our topic on Texas soils: **"If you can't be with the one you love, honey, love the one you're with."**

Texas boasts as many as 10 different eco-regions, each with unique soils and vegetation. Many beekeepers wonder if they are blessed or cursed when it comes to the land their bees forage. The answer is yes and yes. Most of us are blessed because there are good nectar and pollen plants that grow in various regions. And yet we are cursed because all regions present challenges – albeit surmountable challenges.

For the purpose of this article, we won't worry about precise definitions of soil and vegetation regions in Texas. It's too confusing. Indeed, many of our major cities are right on the edge of where different types of soils meet. For example, four different eco-regions converge around San Antonio: the dark clay from the north, sandy soils from the northeast, thin limestone from the western hill country and marshes from the southern coast. What's most useful is to recognize that, despite a few challenges, most soils offer vast opportunities for planting and conserving habitat that nourishes bees and contributes to honey production. Here's how to love the soil you're with.

Hill Country:

Do your bees forage in beautiful, rugged, oak and juniper-covered land with thin soils that barely cover caliche or limestone? This describes areas around Austin, San Antonio, Waco, Abilene and even parts of Dallas and Fort Worth. While thin, rocky soil will inhibit some vegetation, many of our state's most beautiful blooming plants prefer these conditions –some even grow out of rock and gravel with almost no soil. Naturally occurring plants for bees in this region include: Texas Persimmon, Texas and Mexican Redbud, Frostweed, Pavonia (Rock Rose), Whitebrush, Prickly Pear, Sumacs, Agarito, Yaupon Holly, Senna, Mesquite, Guajillo, Viburnum, Desert Willow, White Mistflower, Gayfeather and many wildflowers including Lemon Mint, a honey bee favorite. Landscaping may require simply adding bee plants to enhance existing forage and learning to refrain from mowing until wildflowers have seeded out for the next year.

Blacklands:

Perhaps your bees are at home with alkaline black clay, buzzing amidst open fields with dense areas of large trees? This describes much of the soil around Dallas, Ft. Worth, Sherman,

Horsemint, Austin

Paris, Waco, Bryan, and parts of Austin and San Antonio. This compact soil shrinks and swells with alternating rainfall and drought which can create large cracks on the surface. However, the rich soil is ideal for a diversity of our native plants bees favor such as: Mexican Plum, Viburnum, Sumacs, Carolina Buckthorn, Roughleaf Dogwood, Common Persimmon, Virginia Creeper, Black Willow and wildflowers including Purple Prairie Clover, Indian Blanket and Sunflowers. Landscaping in the Blacklands soil often requires adding soil amendments to the clay for better drainage and using plants that can survive drought periods typical of this region.

Crimson Clover, East Texas

Piney Woods:

It's possible your bees forage well-drained, acidic soils that are light in color, red or dark gray sands, or sandy loams with some clay. These rolling hills dotted with pines and post oaks run through Tyler, Texarkana, Houston, Beaumont and Longview. Trees here may dominate landscapes. And while pines don't provide much for bees, the canopies of other tree species may shelter a diversity of honey bee habitat. The tree itself may provide spring pollen; nectar-rich blooming vines may climb the tree; understory shrubs sheltered by the tree may provide nectar; and flowering groundcovers can provide additional forage. Nature has provided the following bee plants for East Texas soils: Tupelo or Sweetgum trees, Maples, Flowering Dogwood, Viburnum, Mexican Plum, Carolina Buckthorn, Black Willow, New Jersey Tea, Clovers and Rattan Vine. Landscaping choices are endless in this region and the acidic soil favors clovers such as White clover and Crimson clover.

Parkinsonia wasowski

West Texas:

Do your bees buzz about the red rolling plains where low rainfall exposes dry red soil and an invasion of mesquite? If so, your bees may live around Midland-Odessa, Wichita Falls, Abilene or San Angelo. Soils here may be sand or clay. Sand allows rain to soak in easily thus supporting more vegetation while tight clay may prevent water from soaking in. But far from boring and inhospitable, this area supports plant life for bees. Though rainfall is low, it is likely to rain in May and September, promoting timely honey-making blooms. Some of the naturally occurring plants that make West Texas honey-worthy are: Sumacs, Mesquite, Catclaw Acacia, Prickly Pear and Indian Blanket. Others that add value to forage are Gayfeather, Desert Willow and Cenizo (Texas sage). Landscaping often includes wildflowers and shrubs like Cenizo planted under groves of Mesquite trees. Wildflowers thrive here though smaller due to the arid climate. Coastal Prairies and Marshes: If your bees forage flat, swampy land with heavy, wet gumbo, your hives may be in the Houston or Galveston area. Once a tallgrass prairie with wildflowers, this area is now dotted with mesquites and live oaks. Bee plants native to this area include: Viburnum, Parsley Hawthorn, Buttonbush, Magnolia and Swamp Sunflower. Further south near Corpus Christie the Retama and Huisache prevail as honey plants. The challenge of landscaping in this region is to prevent plants from standing in water too long; even native plants here differ in the number of days they can tolerate "wet feet". This can be overcome by creating swales to carry water away on your land or by building berms or raised beds in landscape.

Regardless of the soil your bees call home, consider the following tip when planting for them. (As a sort of disclaimer, let me say this tip is just my own observation over years of planting failures, successes and surprises!) If there's a plant suitable to your area that you're eager to establish, plant it in three different places around your yard or land. There's a good chance that one or two out of the three locations will be a good host. I think this works because there are "invisible microclimates" underground – areas that deviate from prevailing soil properties and can either ensure or sabotage a plant's survival. Some of these microclimates are related to moisture retention or soil quality and composition. In addition, subtle differences in sun or shade exposure may also play a role in whether a plant struggles or thrives. Planting in three places is sort of like giving the plant a vote on the place it prefers to live. And since healthier plants tend to produce more nectar, the result is not only a happier bee but a happier beekeeper!

Soils…If you can't be with the one you love, honey, love the one you're with.

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

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

The Brantley Column

from S. S. Brantley
East Texas Beekeepers Association

I cannot tell you what to expect in June 2017. In most areas of East Texas, vegetation bloomed earlier than usual this spring. Several beekeepers told me that the usually great nectar production from the privet hedge did not happen this year. The privet hedge seemed to bloom one limb at a time.

In the Jefferson area, the Chinese Tallow began to bloom around the 13th of May. I hope the predicted wet weather will cause the blooms to continue to produce nectar for a longer duration. For many beekeepers, Tallow represents a large portion of their honey harvest.

If things are anywhere close to normal and your bees found a good nectar flow, by the latter part of June you should be able to start extracting honey.

Here are some things to consider:

Make sure the honey is capped and ready to be harvested. Uncapped honey often has too high of a moisture content and will ferment in the bottle. If the bees have done their job, the moisture content should be down to about 18% and the cells covered with beautiful white cappings.

The general rule of a beekeeper's thumb is that honey is ready to extract if at least 80 per cent of the cells are capped. If the frame is not solidly capped, if possible, leave the frame in the hive for another month to see if the bees are going to continue to dry the honey and cap the cells.

If you have frames that are not well capped but you prefer to extract them now, there is a simple field test that will give you an idea if it is safe to harvest the frame. Take the frame out of the super, grasp the end bars with the frame turned upside down (top bar facing down), and give it a quick jerk downward. If the honey rains out of the frame, it is considered too wet to extract and will probably ferment in the bottle.

Let's talk about extractors and extracting. There are two types of extractors, Radial and Tangential. Radial extractors cost more, hold more frames, and extract both sides of a frame at the same time. Commercial radial extractors can extract sixty to a hundred frames per load. Some hobbyist beekeepers use the smaller, hand-cranked six to nine frame radial extractors that cost $500-700 dollars.

Many hobbyist beekeepers use the less expensive two to four frame Tangential Extractors. They are smaller, less expensive, and easier to move and store. Tangential Extractors extract honey from only one side of the frame at a time. The frame must be turned over and honey extracted from the other side. In other words, each frame goes through the extractor twice. When loading the tangential extractor, insert the frames to lead with the bottom bar when the basket spins. Why?? Remember the cells are built with an upward slope toward the top bar of about eight degrees. Leading with the frame's bottom bar allows the honey to flow up and out of the cells.

The best technique for extracting with a Tangential Extractor is to insert the frames and spin until about half of the honey is extracted from the first side. Reverse the frames, then extract all of the honey from the opposite side. Reverse the frames again and finish spinning out the remaining honey on the initial side. Initially extracting only half the honey on the first side helps keep the extractor from getting out of balance and wobbling around. While extracting, do not let the honey level rise above the pivot point or bearing that the spindle spins on. Open the gate on the extractor and let the honey flow into your catch bucket as you continue to uncap and spin out your harvest.

Allow the honey to sit in your container for at least a couple of days before bottling. This is not absolutely necessary but will make your honey look prettier in the jar. As the honey sits in the bucket, the tiny air bubbles trapped in the honey during the extraction process rise to the top and form a film of foam. You can skim off the foam before bottling. Otherwise you will see the foam form in the tops of your bottled honey. It is not a problem but just a cosmetic detraction.

Update from Texas Apiary Inspection Service

from Mary Reed, Apiary Inspector

Greetings fellow beekeepers!

Hopefully you have been enjoying this spring and are taking every opportunity to go say 'hello' to your bees. Tis the season to regularly pop your head into your hives to make sure the queen is laying, the bees are bringing in nectar and pollen, and the pest and disease levels are low. TAIS is available to answer any questions you may have, especially if you spot something mysterious in one of your hives. If you are interested in requesting an inspection, you can either email or call our office and one of the inspectors will be happy to work with you to set up a date and time for the inspection. There is a $75 fee that covers the entire inspection and will provide you with a Health Certificate valid for one year.

Here at TAIS the staff has been busy with inspections as beekeepers prepare to move towards the Chinese Tallow or up to the Dakotas for the next nectar flow. Our lab has also been busy processing honey bee samples to test for Varroa mite and Nosema levels. This has become a customary service in any inspection we conduct in the hopes that it will provide the beekeeper with a glimpse at how their operation is doing. We also welcome any beekeeper to send in samples if they would like to have their bees tested for either of these two pests. There is no fee for submitting samples (except for postage) and you can send in as many samples as you would like. I only ask that you collect a sample of approximately 300 bees (about a ½ cup) from a brood frame and place it in a sealable jar with 70% isopropyl alcohol. For more information on sample collection techniques I encourage you to check out the videos available on the Honey Bee Health Coalition's website (honeybeehealthcoalition.org/Varroa/). If you would like the results to reflect which hive they came from, please distinguish that on each sample and we will make sure to make those distinctions on your sample report. Also take special care when packaging the samples so our wonderful postal workers don't end up with a mess! If you have any questions about sending in samples, please contact me at my office number (979-845-9713) or via email (*mary.reed@tamu.edu*).

I would like to take a moment to personally congratulate the participants who attended the most recent Texas Master Beekeeper exam. You all did a great job! I would also like to recognize every beekeeper who has gone through the program thus far. Since the first testing date in the spring of 2015, there have been 225 beekeepers participate in the program, many of which who have chosen to continue through the higher levels of the program. As of today, these beekeepers have reached 1,261,852 people through educational and outreach opportunities. Way to go Texas beekeepers! In addition, the program's website (masterbeekeeper.tamu.edu) has received over 100,000 views since its inception. On the website you can find a list of narrated presentations under the Apprentice section that are open to the public for viewing. If you are just starting out in beekeeping, feel free to check out these videos if you're looking for additional basic beekeeping information. There is also an email listserv you can sign up for that is used to send out information and updates about the program, as well as other major beekeeping events that are happening around Texas. If you have any questions about the program, don't hesitate to contact any of the program's board members (Mary Reed, Mark Dykes, and Lance Wilson).

Hopefully I will see you at the TBA Summer Clinic in Arlington this year! Please come by our table to say hello or share one of your beekeeping stories.

As always, happy beekeeping!

Texas Honey Bee Education Association

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Teaching the Next Generation of Beekeepers

from Ashley Ralph, Prime Bees

We had an amazing opportunity to work with the Houston Zoo Teen Program on their Spring Break adventure. They loaded up and headed to our bee farm to learn about beekeeping, pollinators, and wildflowers. This particular group was a pretty cool bunch of Jr. High aged boys.

Teenagers are especially fun because they're at the age where they are really defining who they are or who they're going to be. Several of the kids we met were taking entomology classes and were considering going to Texas A&M or other great schools to focus on science based majors. They had a natural curiosity and love for wildlife which made teaching them especially fun. In fact, we found out that many of them had already had an introduction to beekeeping through a hive that is kept at their school – Junior High and High School are apparently way cooler now.

The tremendous amount of media surrounding honeybees and native bees encouraged them to ask questions and learn how their environments and choices affect our favorite little creatures. Prior to showing up on the farm, many of the young men had seen a swarm in real life and had already watched bee documentaries to gain more knowledge about bees, CCD, and the plight of the honey bee.

Our day consisted of a presentation about bees and pollinators, the history of humans and bees, and some practical knowledge about beekeeping. We played a fun "I spy" type game and a few rounds of virtual queen spotting to help them prepare for what they'd be seeing inside the hives. Our friend, Steve Butler of Company Bee talked about how he rescues bees from homes and structures to relocate to ours and other bee yards.

The conversations ranged from how bees pollinate and mating flights to pesticides and varroa mites. After suiting up, lighting the smokers, and playing with the live bees, we sat down to taste some honey - just in time to get them back on the bus with plenty of energy. For one of the boys who was admittedly "less adventurous", we plucked a drone for him to hold, explaining that he was a harmless, stinger-less bee. They were so surprised and excited to taste the huge differences between the seasonal collection of honey we keep on hand ranging from light, Spring honey to dark, Fall honey - they planned many different ways honey could be shared with their friends and family and argued over which was best.

Although it's always fun to hear the "oohs" and "ahhs" as we share any jaw dropping honey bee facts we can muster,it's even more rewarding to think these guys will go home with new knowledge to share with their friends and family. At the very least, we feel confident they'll encourage their parents to buy Real Texas Honey.

The passion they had for the environment, conservation, learning, and bees was so inspiring. After a full day of activities with these young men, I would say we're in great hands with this next generation of beekeepers. They were kind, curious, smart, polite and so eager to learn. Something about teaching children can cause you to raise the bar for yourself. While we work towards becoming commercial beekeepers, we try to make decisions that will have a positive and lasting impact on our apiary. We try to live by the standards we're teaching the children we mentor and yet, at the end of the day, it always feels like they're the ones teaching us.

In Beekeeping for the Beekeepers

"The Continuing Journey of Two Fourth-Year Small-Scale Beekeepers"
TBA Journal Article - May 2017

by Roger and Sue Farr, Caddo Trace Beekeeping Association (CTBA), Mount Pleasant, Texas;
Master Level Beekeeper - Texas Master Beekeeper Program (Roger)

(Photos courtesy of the authors and Google Images)

We are in the bee business for the beekeepers. Yes, our bees' honey is great, pollinated plants produce more and better fruit, and it's fun to raise good queens, but we know that people really are more important than bees!

We sold twelve nucleus colonies this year, and that means that we have five new beekeepers (NewBees) to care about, too. When we sell a nucleus colony to a NewBee, we provide, at no additional cost, mentoring for the first year, including monthly visits to the NewBee's apiary.

One thing has become painfully clear to us is as we work with NewBees: a one-day, eight-hour beekeeping class "does not a beekeeper make!" Our own four years of beekeeping also does not automatically make us beekeepers, so we continue to study, observe, listen, and learn. Here are some "how- to" lessons we emphasize with our NewBees and diligently practice ourselves.

1. How to properly light a smoker

This has to be at the top of the list. A functioning smoker is, in our opinion, not a luxury but a required safety device. We know this, but, unfortunately, we have placed ourselves in our apiary for "just a quick manipulation" only to find clouds of unhappy bees with plenty of alarm pheromone in the air. Oh, for that smoker sitting back in the shed!

A properly lit smoker will stay lit for 10-30 minutes without further puffing and will provide cool smoke for 30-45 minutes when fully charged with fuel. Too many of our NewBees struggled with selecting proper fuel and providing enough quantity to be useful. Our northeast Texas pine trees – and their needles – abound, and pine needles work well as smoker fuel. We have learned to export pine needles to our NewBees to give them an easy-to-light, effective, and cheap source of fuel. We do not let the smoker go out, even if it means prematurely closing up a hive!

Producing a well-lit smoker starts with a small handful of pine needles, well lit, at the bottom of the smoker and continual puffing of the bellows. The information at this URL may be of help to you if you or a NewBee struggle with your smoker. (http://caes2.caes.uga.edu/bees/get-started/light-a-smoker.html)

2. How to "read" a frame

“Reading” a frame is the whole reason we teach NewBees to do weekly inspections their first year. If they can "read" the frame, then they know what is going on in the hive before drastic beekeeper intervention is necessary.

Recently, we watched a NewBee moving through the frames very quickly. She was *looking* at the frames and properly identifying the different types of cells and bees on the frame, but she did not comprehend the story that the frames were telling her.

She saw lots nectar and pollen, frames of capped brood, and even some capped honey. She thought everything was fine. We stopped the inspection, quizzed her on what she was seeing, and asked if she had seen any larvae. The lack of eggs or larvae could indicate that the hive was queenless starting approximately nine days ago. This was a startling revelation for our NewBee. We continued into the second brood box, ultimately found eggs, larvae, and the queen, and all was right with the world. She will not forget next inspection to "read" the frames.

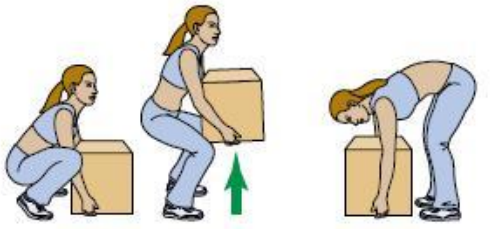
3. How to properly lift and move bee equipment

The old joke is that there are two kinds of beekeepers, those who have bad backs and those who will have bad backs! We do not want this to be true of us or of any of the NewBees we mentor. Proper loads and good lifting mechanics are the keys to keeping preventing injuries – even when it’s hot, the bees are everywhere, and we’re tired.

We start by making sure that the NewBee has properly fitting protective equipment and stable shoes or boots. Some of our NewBees have exchanged their protective equipment after just one hive inspection because they could not see out of the veiled helmet or grasp with their gloves. We work to ensure that the bee yard is level, free of obstacles, and freshly mown or mulched. We then encourage EVERY NewBee to place their hives on stands at a height appropriate to their stature. For us six-footers, boxes beginning 24 inches above ground height is the right height for working the hive.

Next, we make sure that the beekeeper is capable of handling the loads to be moved. This is simply a strength issue. In some cases we use a three cubic foot bale of peat moss, weighing about 55 pounds, to simulate a medium super full of honey. It’s a whole lot easier to have to drop a bale of peat moss than a box of bees! If lifting this is a problem, then some trips to the gym may be in the NewBee's future or perhaps a change of equipment.

Finally, we make sure that the NewBee knows proper lifting mechanics. We emphasize two basics: lift with the knees and not with the back, and keep the feet in line with the hands. Lifting without twisting is the key to not creating twisting torque forces that can cause back problems.



Proper lifting technique A very bad idea

4. How to make sure you are prepared in the bee yard

This may seem simple, but lack of preparation is the source of endless frustration for NewBees. We teach NewBees to think about what they might find in their hives, what the bees are currently doing, and what the bees might need from the beekeeper. Planning and preparation allows the beekeeper to have the proper equipment at hand when the hive is open and minimizes the need to run back to the shed for items.

We ask each NewBee before we sell them bees to consider what treatment they will use when (not if) they find varroa levels above the threshold guidelines. Recently, we taught our NewBees to do varroa testing using the powdered sugar roll as recommended by the Honey Bee Health Coalition's varroa guide. Unfortunately, usually as a result of wishful thinking, our NewBees did not have a varroa control product available when a few hives showed higher mite counts. We referred them to class notes, instructed them to do their own research, and asked them to purchase a control product – quickly!

Lastly, we instruct each NewBee to have a 5-gallon bucket or other means to carry their equipment to the bee yard, including the all important record book. Sue diligently instructs them in how to take quick and effective notes on what they find on each frame of each box. One NewBee recognized the wisdom of this thorough note-taking when she discovered that one of her hives was queenless. She consulted her notes and knew that her other hive had adequate resources to help; she also knew exactly where those resource frames were in the hive. She decided to give the queenless hive three frames of eggs, larvae, capped brood, and nurse bees from her other hive so that the queenless hive could raise an emergency supercedure queen.

5. How to take care of the beekeeper

It's hot and muggy, and this is only the beginning of Texas hot. Several of our NewBees reported that they felt dizzy during inspections, and we closed the hives so that they could take a break. We provided bottled water to those who did not have some, and, later, we discussed taking care of the beekeeper as both a health *and* a safety concern.

Personally, we eat a light snack and drink a quart of fluids before we head to the apiary in order to maintain proper hydration and blood sugar levels. We ALWAYS bring apiary three quart-size lightweight and practically indestructible Nalgene® bottles of water or Gatorade® to our aviary. Two are for the beekeepers, and the third, always the same dark red one, is filled with water to put out the smoker.

We remind the NewBees that they can't properly care for their bees unless they care for themselves. We are in this for the long-haul.

So, there you have it: five tips to consider every time you go out to your apiary and to share whenever you mentor NewBees. We wish you a productive spring, a great honey harvest, and a rich lifetime of helping beekeepers.

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

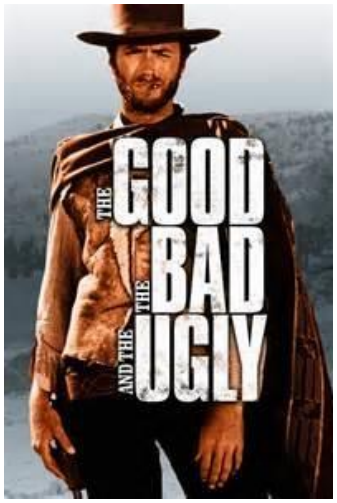
"The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly"…
"The Magnificent Seven" and me.

from Robin Young, Metro Beekeepers Association

It's been a strange year so far. It's Mother's Day, I've only mowed my yard three times and it looks like it will not need mowing until Fall. Everything's burned dry and it looks like a scene from an old western. I called one of my apprentices to see if they were seeing dead drones outside of their hives like I am. He confirmed as much and we both discussed how we are going to have to feed all throughout the summer to keep them from starving. He told me congrats on making "Master Beekeeper" and then asked me a question. "Why do the master beekeeping program?"

I was taken off guard. My first thought was "bragging rights" and the cool patches. Thank God! Before I blurted out that childish seven year old answer the Tim McGraw song, "Humble and Kind", went through my head. "When the work you put in is realized, let yourself feel the pride but always stay humble and kind".

It has taken me several weeks to really answer the question: Why do the Texas Master Beekeeping Program? So here it is, "The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly"(Not in that order)



by: MGM

The Ugly: When I was finally ready in my life to become a beekeeper, I started reading books and doing research online. Every book I came across had information for beekeeping up north or tropical areas. There were recommendations for things like: wrap your hives in insulation during the winter to protect from snow, you can harvest year around. As a cowgirl and farmer I knew so much of what I was finding would not work here in Texas. One article would tell me one thing and the next article would tell me the opposite. The one good advice in most books was joining a local bee club and finding a mentor. My husband found Jake at www.Sustainlife.org . I took their 2 day class but also knew I needed more so I joined the Texas State Beekeepers Association. The following years I would go to each State Convention and ask questions to my heart content. I owe them all so much.

The Bad: At the 2014 Texas State Beekeepers Convention it was announced that Texas A & M AgriLife Extension was going to offer a "Texas Master Beekeeping Program". I was giddy. The chance to become a better beekeeper with the help of experts from Texas…thank God! When the website went up my jaw drooped.
http://masterbeekeeper.tamu.edu/

I printed off all the information and started to check off the few…very few…things I thought I could do. I called Jake, from whom I had taken my beekeeping classes from. We both just kind of marveled at it. It was like looking at a Mississippi Mud Pie, all chocolate through and through with real homemade whip cream and if that wasn't enough shaved chocolate on top, and you had to eat it all by yourself. You wanted to but…THE WHOLE PIE! That's when it hit me: one piece, one bite, and one year at a time.

The Good/The AWESOME!!!: First I got on the internet and purchased all the books on the reading list. After they came in I had to figure out how to read them all. What I discovered was that every few pages I had to stop and let the ideas and concepts run through my head a day or two before I could move on. I started trying to find things my husband did not know and when we would go for lunch every day I would have something new to share. Whether he knew it or not, he was learning right along with me.

The public service credits: I added a new page to my business website that offered free beekeeping presentations and free apprenticeship offers.

John and Kelly McGill (Above)

This is when I started really getting into taking picture of my honey bees. I wanted something to show kids.

We ordered two flavors of honey sticks so that children and adults could taste the range of honey flavors, brought empty comb so they could feel how delicate it is, different sets of bee's wax to show different scents they can have, and much more (items people could touch, taste, see and smell).

UNT students started writing articles about what we were doing. UNT received the designation of a "Bee Friendly University". Documentary film students came out to do a documentary about us.

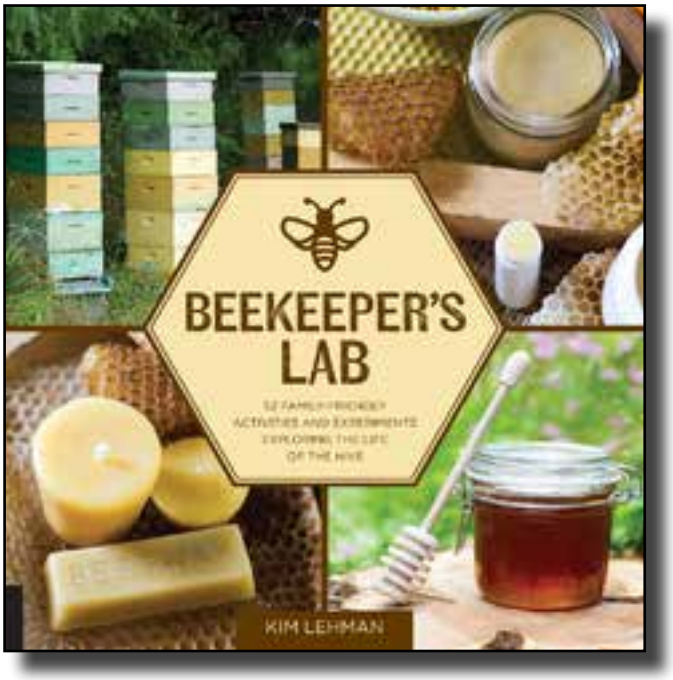
Children were being educated on bee safety, people were becoming bee keepers two by two, documentary students were building courage and getting out of their comfort zone. Thousands of people were learning not to fear bees and how to help them where they live. It has been a transforming experience. I know that the other seven "Bee Wranglers" that passed the master level have touched as many lives if not more. One of them even wrote a book that has been published. I have not even mentioned all the cool learning opportunities like the "Queen Rearing" class I got to attend and so much more. A Big Thankyou from the Magnificent Seven and me to the real heroes of this journey.

The real hero in all of this is the group of people that run the program and worked tirelessly to make us better, not just as bee keepers but as stewards helping our fellow man. Last but not least: "The patches really are cool!

"

"Help the next ones in line. Always bee humble and kind." Tim McGraw

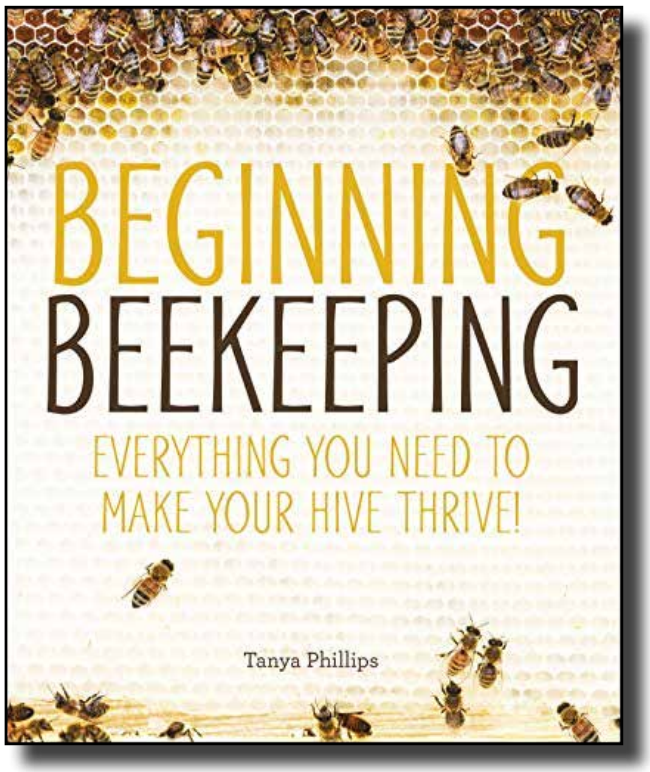
Two New Books for Your Library



Fill the year ahead with weekly activities from around and about the hive, including art projects, recipes, experiments, garden activities, and more!

If you keep bees or are interested in keeping bees, Beekeeper'sLab is the book for you. Filled with 52 beekeeping and hive-inspired projects to keep you involved with your bees and hive all year long. The tutorials are brief, accomplishable, and rewarding. Try a new technique each week with how-tos and sidebars with tips that are perfect for including the whole family. wo decades! Beekeeping a fun and educational for the whole family to enjoy and is a highly impressive skill to possess!

Kim Lehman has worked for over 25 years as a honey bee educator, teacher, professional storyteller, musician, workshop presenter, and author. Children have gained a greater understanding of the honey bee, natures tiny treasure, through the hundreds of programs and workshops Kim has presented at schools, libraries, museums, nature centers, and festivals. As part of her children's column for Bee Culture Magazine, Kim began the Bee Buddies Club which now has members in every state. Years ago she founded the American Beekeeping Federation Kids and Bees Program and directed this educational service about honey bees for the public at their annual conferences in 15 states.



Beginning Beekeeping is a simple, straightforward approach that gives you the basics to get started with beekeeping, while following a balanced, objective approach that weighs the pros and cons of conventional and organic methodologies. Featuring more than 120 beautiful color photos, this guide will help you will learn how to foster and maintain healthy, vibrant hive colonies, as well as to incorporate the various techniques and practices for keeping bees using conventional as well as more natural practices. In addition, you will learn how to troubleshoot and treat potential hive issues such as swarming, combating common pests, and alleviating other potentially destructive hive conditions. This helpful guide also explores how to create hives that are self-sustaining, with minimal intervention from the keeper. Additional content also covers how to maximize the benefits of a backyard hive for a more vibrant garden as well as rich, bountiful honey harvests.

Tanya Phillips, owner of Bee Friendly Austin, is a sideliner beekeeper in Central Texas managing up to 150 colonies. Utilizing her BA in Education, she teaches classes at her apiary in SW Austin and sells raw honey and hive products in several boutique shops in Austin and surrounding Hill Country locations. Her interest in bees started out of simple curiosity and grew to sharing her passion, knowledge, and skills with others through education, community outreach, fundraising for research development, and generating increased public awareness for her beloved bees. Her husband Chuck shares that passion and together they founded a nonprofit that hosts an annual 'Tour de Hives' event to help fund bee research and education.

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

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

Howdy, TBA members! Time flies, and I have been back on the job for about two months since my son Samuel was born. We have been super busy this spring, with all students (and myself) having a few projects running on full steam.

First, some news on the bee lab front: Adrian Fisher II will be defending his Ph. D. dissertation on June 7th. The title of his defense seminar will be "Assessing the potential threat of widely used agrochemicals to honey bee (Apis mellifera L.) drones and workers." If it all goes well (I'm pretty sure it will!), Adrian will be graduating in August with a doctorate from Texas A&M University, a feat that will make a lot of us incredibly proud!

Also we want to welcome Dan Aurell to the Rangel Bee Lab. Dan is the new leader of the Texas A&M University Tech Transfer Team, which is put together by the Bee Informed Partnership. Dan is replacing Megan Mahoney who left at the end of last year. He is already quite busy sampling commercial beekeeping operations for Varroa, Nosema and other aspects of colony health. We wish Dan, a native of Canada, a good tenure here in Texas!

Dan Aurell is the new leader of the Texas A&M University Tech Transfer Team

We had the pleasure of hosting 3rd annual Art of Queen Rearing Workshop at the Janice and John G. Thomas Honey Bee Facility (i.e., the Rangel Bee Lab) on Saturday, 13 May 2017. We had about 45 participants and almost 10 volunteers this year. Sue Cobey was once again the star of the show, and gave wonderful demonstrations of honey bee queen the instrumental insemination technique. We also had presentations and workshops led by Adrian Fisher, Pierre Lau, Liz Walsh, Alexandria Payne, and Dan Aurell. And we had the great help of Nicola Simcock, Makaylee Crone, Jane Packard and ET Ash with all the logistics and organization, so thanks to all the volunteers who helped. I am continuously impressed by the continued interest from the beekeeping community about our workshop. We had very positive responses in our exit questionnaires, and we hope we can provide this service again next year.

We have also been busy this May creating and installing packages for a new study sponsored by Project Apis m. and the National Honey Board. The project, titled "Synergistic effects of in-hive miticides and agro-chemicals on honey bee (Apis mellifera) queen survival, colony growth, and honey production" will help us determine if contamination with agrochemicals of the wax that colonies use to start off new comb production, negatively affects queen survival and colony growth.

We are looking forward to participating at the Texas Beekeepers Association Summer Clinic in Arlington, TX on Saturday, 10 June. I will be presenting a workshop on queen rearing, Liz Walsh will be talking about IPM methods for mite control, and Pierre Lau will be talking honey testing for our grant. In particular during Pierre's presentation, the audience will learn about the honey testing that will be performed in the Texas A&M University Honey Bee Lab as part of the research goals of the Texas Department of Agriculture grant that was obtained by the Texas Beekeepers Association and by my lab as a subcontractor. The title of the grant is: "Increasing consumer awareness of the economic and health benefits of "Real Texas Honey" through a multi-stage research and marketing campaign across the state". Participants in the program will get a better idea of how to send samples to our lab, and what kind of analysis will be possible based on the honey sent to us. We will also have the pleasure of seeing a couple of presentations by Dr. Deborah Delaney, Assistant Professor of Apiculture at the University of Delaware, who is also involved in the grant and will talk about the attributes that increase the consumer's willingness to pay for honey at the local level.

I am always incredibly proud of all members of the lab. But I was deeply touched and reminded about the value of having such an amazing group of people working with me when I watched a video recorded by Kade Flynn and Daniel Carrasco, students at the A&M Consolidated High School in College Station, TX. The video, simply titled "Bee People" is a short documentary of very high quality (for the level of expertise of the students) and interesting content about honey bees and the people that keep them either as a business

Group picture of all participants, the 3rd annual Art of Queen Rearing Workshop at the John & Janice Thomas Honey Bee Lab, Saturday, 13 May 2017

avenue, or for the love of the honey bee, or a combination of both. You can watch the video at https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B5M1DTLMuQWockpYa3NWRmZ1Sms/view I really recommend you watch it, it will move you to the core!

Lastly I want to let you know that Ashley Jones is no longer working with us, as she took a position as a forester back in the state of Maryland, where she is from. We only had her for about six months but she was very helpful to keep the bee lab running, and we wish her the best. As usual our savior, ET Ash, will be taking care of our apiary for the time being. We could not survive without his help, support and mentorship.

As usual, please email me at *jrangel@tamu.edu* if you have any questions. 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/TAMUhoneybeelab Our page has over 2,700 LIKES and counting.

Thank you all for your continuing support and happy beekeeping!

Sue Cobey demonstrating the queen insemination techniques to workshop participants

Rangel Lab staff creating packages for our 2017 Pam study

Insect Pollinators Contribute $29 billion to U.S. Farm Income

from Cornell Chronicle by Krishna Ramanujan

Bees and other insects that pollinate plants in the United States have suffered in recent decades from mites, pesticides, pathogens, land development and habitat fragmentation. Nevertheless, production of insect-pollinated crops has mostly increased this century. Now, new research shows that insect pollinators' value to farmers may be hard to replace.

According to a Cornell study published in the May 22 issue of the journal Public Library of Science ONE, crops pollinated by honeybees and other insects contributed $29 billion to farm income in 2010.

The study analyzed the economic value of honeybees and other insect pollinators for 58 crops, including species that are directly dependent on insects for pollination, such as apples, almonds, blueberries, cherries, oranges and squash, and species that are indirectly dependent on insects, such as alfalfa, sugar beets, asparagus, broccoli, carrots and onions. Directly dependent crops require pollinators to produce a fruit, while indirectly dependent crops require pollinators to create seeds, but not the crop itself.

The findings show that in 2010, the value of directly pollinated crops was $16.35 billion, while the value of indirectly dependent crops was $12.65 billion.

More specifically, honey bees pollinated $12.4 billion worth of directly dependent crops and $6.8 billion worth of indirectly dependent crops in 2010.

Other insects, including alfalfa leaf cutter bees, bumblebees, horn-faced bees and orchard bees, added $4 billion and $5.9 billion in directly and indirectly dependent crops, respectively.

"This lets people for the first time look at a peer-reviewed paper that says here are the revenues derived from these crops, and if we want to keep producing [these crops], we have to recognize the importance of insect pollinators," said Nicholas Calderone, associate professor of entomology and the paper's author.

The paper also analyzed trends in various metrics from 1992 to 2009 for crops that depend on pollinators. For directly dependent crops, production, cultivated area and revenues increased steadily over the course of the study period, with some slowing over the past few years. Recently, growth in the U.S. population has outpaced the production of these crops, suggesting a growing dependence on imported food, but also, a possible opportunity for U.S. growers.

Over this same period, the number of managed honey bee colonies in the United States has gradually declined, reaching a low in 2008 with 2.3 million colonies, with increases of roughly 200,000 new colonies each year in 2009 and 2010.

The trends show that any shortfall in managed or wild pollinators could seriously threaten production levels of directly and indirectly pollinated crops, according to the paper.

In the mid-1980s, parasitic mites that had infected eastern honey bees in Southeast Asia began infecting western honey bees in the United States. In 2006-07, beekeepers experienced heavy losses to their colonies. While mites appear to be the cause of roughly 70 percent of the losses, the remaining losses (referred to as colony collapse disorder) are not fully understood, with possible explanations including pesticide use, beekeeper management practices, climate change and other pathogens, reports the paper.

As a hedge, U.S. growers are working to increase the number of non-honeybee pollinators, including horn-faced bees and orchard bees, Calderone said.

Crop, insect pollinator and economic data were provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service, whose website is run through Cornell's Mann Library.

The study was funded in part by a grant from the National Honey Board.

Mites Down but Bee Losses Unsustainable

from Michele Colopy, Bee Informed Partnership

The Bee Informed Partnership released its survey of annual honey bee losses for the 2016-2017 winter season. Beekeepers voluntarily reported on the health of 13% of the total bee colonies in the U.S. Of the reported hives "beekeepers lost 33.2% of their colonies between April 2016 and March 2017. The acceptable and "sustainable" loss rate of bee colonies is 10-15%. While there was a decrease in losses from the previous year, even Dr. Dennis vanEngelsdorp of the University of Maryland and Project Director for the Bee Informed Partnership (BIP) stated he "would stop short of calling this 'good' news.

Commercial beekeeper, Jeff Anderson says his colony losses are "changing when they occur." Last year his end of summer losses were 50%, and his over winter losses were only 8%. "I started the year with 3050 colonies, and went into winter with 1240 colonies. At the end of summer I lost 1566 colonies, and I only lost 244 colonies over winter." The impact of pesticides upon honey bees as they pollinate crops, and as they interact in the ecosystem with pesticides on bee forage is changing the dynamic of colony losses.

Honey bees experience four stressors which increase the impact of each other and create the health crisis of honey bees. With the introduction of newly registered oxalic acid to help control varroa mites, this main pest to honey bees did decrease last year. Continued education of beekeepers by local and state beekeeping groups, and the educational contribution of the Honey Bee Health Coalition Varroa Guide and instructional videos (http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/Varroa/) helped beekeepers attack the varroa mites with new and diverse tools: chemical and non-chemical.

The BIP survey needs to be reviewed, as with all survey data, when the full report is released, and examined for the total number of beekeepers who voluntarily completed the report, where most of the reporting beekeepers are located, the number of hives they own, and the additional data the full report will provide. The beekeepers who responded to this survey only represent 13% of the honey bee colonies in the U.S. The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will publish its annual survey of honey bees, typically before the next quarter. The NASS survey data and the BIP survey data are best reviewed together for a broader examination of honey bee health in the U.S. Beekeepers are pleased varroa mite levels have decreased per these survey results, but this also points out that this one pest is not the sole issue with honey bee health. The ecosystem which honey bees sample daily includes exposure to pesticides, acutely toxic pesticides as well as sublethal effects of pesticides, pesticides drifting onto pollinator forage and water, and an overall lack of diverse pollinator forage due to weed eradication programs, climate change, development, and land use changes.

The BIP survey and the NASS honey bee health surveys are samples of the bees' environment. Pollinators contribute more than $29B of pollination value to U.S. agricultural production. Honey bees and native pollinators are a very important ecosystem service provided to our environment, and are responsible for pollinating human food crops, food for wildlife, and sustaining native plants. Healthy honey bees, and native pollinators benefit humans; and we are responsible for ensuring a healthy ecosystem for honey bees and the crops and native plants they pollinate.

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

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

Alamo Area Beekeepers Association
Rick Fink - (210) 872-4569
president@alamobees.org
www.alamobees.org
Meetings: 3rd Tuesday on odd # months
Helotes Ind. Baptist Church
15335 Bandera Rd., Helotes at 7 pm

Austin Area Beekeepers Association
Lance Wilson - (512) 619-3700
lw@ausapts.com
www.meetup.com/Austin-Urban-Beekeeping/.
Meeting: 3rd Monday of each month
Old Quarry Library, 7051 Village Center Dr., Austin at 7pm

Bell/Coryell Beekeepers Association
Club President - (254) 206-0184
bellcoryellbeeclub@gmail.com
Meetings: 5:30 pm

Brazoria County Beekeepers Association
Kenneth Nugent - (979) 922-9725
knugent@gmail.com
bcba@brazoria-county-beekeepers-association.com
www.brazoria-county-beekeepers-association.com
Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month
Brazoria County Extension Office, 21017 CR 171, Angleton at 6:45 pm

Brazos Valley Beekeepers Association
Alvin Dean - (325) 668-7753
info@bvbeeks.org
www.bvbeeks.org
Meetings: 3rd. Tuesday of each month (except Dec.)
First Christian Church, 900 S Ennis St., Bryan at 7pm

Caddo Trace Beekeepers Association
Glynn Smith - (903) 639-2910
caddotracebeekeepersassn@gmail.com
Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month
Titus County Agrilife Ext. Bldg., 1708 Industrial Rd., Mount Pleasant at 7 pm

Caprock Beekeepers Association
David Naugher - (806) 787-7698
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
www.centraltexasbeekeepers.org
Meetings: Monthly on the 4th Thursday (except November and December)
Washington County Fairgrounds, 1305 E Bluebell Rd., Brenham at 7pm

Coastal Bend Beekeepers Association
Dennis Gray (361) 877-2440
CoastalBendBeekeepers@gmail.com
Meetings: First Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm
City of Corpus Garden Senior Center, 53256 Greely Dr., Corpus Christi

Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Assn.
Gary Mansker - (214) 687-6433
president@cchba.org
www.cchba.org
Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30 pm
Collin College Conference Center, (Central Park Campus)
2400 CommunityDr. , McKinney

Concho Valley Beekeepers Association
Rex Moody - (325) 650-6360
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
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
www.dentoncountybeekeepersassociation.com
Meetings: 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm
Denton County Elections Building, 701 Kimberly Dr., Denton

Dino-Beekeepers Association
Chip Hough (817) 559-0564
dino-beeclub@hotmail.com
www.dinobee.com
Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of month at 6:30 pm
Glen Rose Citizens Center, 209 SW Barnard St., Glen Rose

East Texas Beekeepers Association
Richard Counts - (903) 566-6789
dick.counts4450@gmail.com
www.etba.info
Meetings: 1st Thursday of each month at 6:45 pm;
Whitehouse Methodist Ch., 405 W Main (Hwy 346), Whitehouse

Elgin Beekeepers Association
Sarah Jones - (512) 567-1410
sarah@campsunflower.com
Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7 pm
Various Locations

Erath County Beekeepers Association
James K Gray - (254) 485-3238
grayjamesk@jkgray.com
Meetings:

Fayette County Beekeepers Association
Ron Chess - (979) 525-9254
ragsdale@industryinet.com
Meetings: First Saturday of the month, Feb, April, June, August, October and December at 5 pm
Fayette County Ag. Bldg., 240 Svoboda Ln., La Grange

Fort Bend Beekeepers Association
(281) 633-7029 (during office hours)
Jeff McMullan - Secretary - Treasurer
(281) 980-2363 (home): (281) 615-5346 (cell)
jeffmcmullan@comcast.net
Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of each month (except December) at 7:30 pm
Bud O'Shieles Community Center, 1330 Band Rd., Rosenberg

Fredericksburg Beekeepers Association
Joe Bader - (830) 537-4040
joebeees@gmail.com
Meetings: Third Thursday of even number months (excl. Dec) at 6:30 pm
Gillespie County Ext. Off., 95 Frederick Rd., Fredericksburg

Golden Crescent Beekeepers Association
Paul Hamilton (361) 549-1084
pmhamilton@gmail.com
Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month at 7pm
Victoria County 4H Activity Center,
459 Bachelor Dr., Victoria

Harris County Beekeepers Association
Gary Parks (713) 906-1805
gparks@geparkslaw.com
www.harriscountybeekeepers.org
Meetings: 4th Tuesday of each month at 7pm
Golden Acres Center, 5001 Oak Ave., Pasadena

Heart of Texas Beekeepers Association
Gary Bowles - (254) 214-4514
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
hushyonmouth55@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
hank.hilliard@houstonbeekeepers.org
www.houstonbeekeepers.org
Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm
Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bisonnet 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
glwolf@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
netbacantontexas@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

Temple Area Beekeepers Association
Jim Billings (254) 760-2053
holly21351@aol.com
Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month at 7pm
Troy Community Center, 201 East Main Street, Troy

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.
Jim Colbert - (512) 569-7573
colbertj@hotmail.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
First National Bank, 315 North Main St., Winnsboro

Upcoming Events

Texas Beekeepers Annual Convention	**November 9th - 11th**
Brazos Valley Bee School	**September 23rd**
Tour d'Hives	**August 18th - 20th**

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