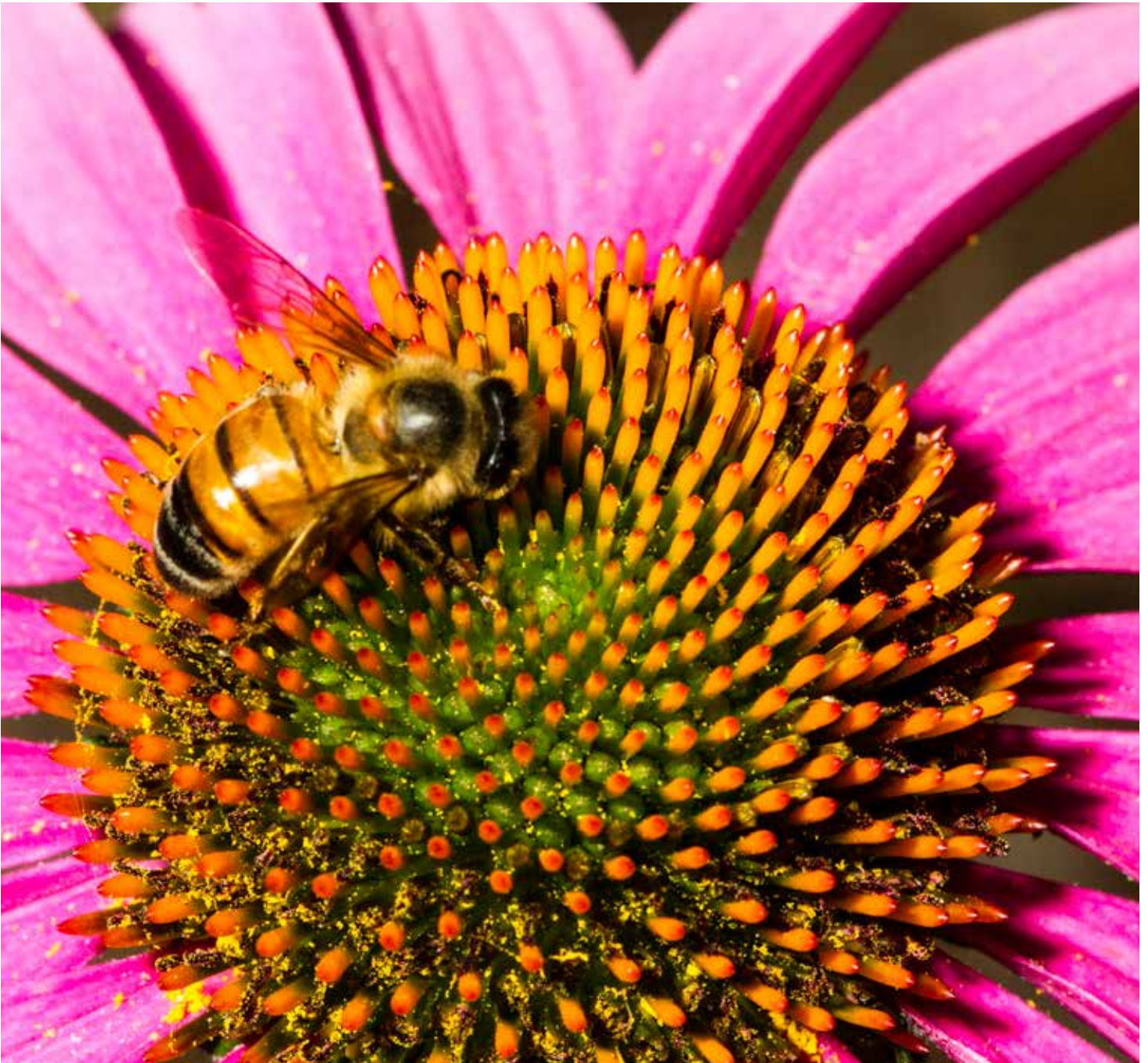


The Texas Beekeepers Association

# Journal



Jul / Aug 2017

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

Issue 17-4



# *Don't Let Your Colonies Fall Victim to Varroa Mites and the Viruses They Spread*

*Treat with Apiguard or Apivar  
Two Effective Varroa Mite controls for your bees!*



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## President's Report

*from Chris Moore*

To improve is to change;  
To be perfect is to change often  
Winston Churchill

TBA is now planning improvements to our annual convention in November. We have booked several national speakers and are also having concurrent beekeeping sessions so beekeepers can choose what they want to learn. We have also shorted the event to run from Friday morning to Saturday afternoon.

Change. TBA has changed over the years just as beekeeping has. Beekeeping is not stagnant. Beekeeping practices evolve as we face issues, such as Varroa, Small Hive Beetle, EFB, Pesticides, Fungicides, Viruses, etc.

Therefore, Beekeeping practices & management tend to evolve over time. Keep yourself educated/updated on the best management practices for your bees. After another successful Summer Clinic it is clear that beekeepers need/want to learn.

We are blessed to have some awesome volunteers that are putting together a convention program to benefit all beekeepers.

Hope to see you there.

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*Front Cover Picture - Dan Eudy*

*Summer Clinic 2017 Pictures - Jimmie Oakley*





## Vice President's Report

*from Lisa Dittfurth*

Greetings Fellow Beekeepers:

I'm sure some readers are wondering why I am writing the Vice-President's message in this edition of the TBA Journal. At the request of the TBA Nominations Committee and TBA Officers, I have agreed to step in and serve as the interim TBA Vice-President up to the TBA elections at the Annual Convention in November, with Mark Hedley's departure. I am honored to support the Texas Beekeepers Association wherever I am needed. I have gone from my previous role of TBA Events Coordinator to TBA Vice-President. As fate would have it, the primary role of the Vice-President is to provide oversight for TBA events. Therefore, I will continue assisting with the planning and implementation of TBA Events.

Speaking of events, planning is well underway for this year's Annual Convention in Temple, Texas November 9 – 11, 2017. The Convention Planning Committee has arranged a high-octane agenda beginning with the workshop titled "Keeping Bees Alive" presented by Dr. Jennifer Berry, which starts Thursday morning, November 9 through to the convention wrap up Saturday, Nov 11. If you've attended past TBA conventions, you will notice quite a few changes this year. Check out the 2017 convention agenda in this issue of the TBA Journal for the timeline, speaker names and presentation topics. The Convention Committee has engaged several nationally renowned speakers including Dr. Jennifer Berry, Jerry Hayes and Dr. Dewey Caron. Their biographies are included in this issue. The Honey judging competition has been totally revamped and a new category, Mead Judging has been added to the judging competitions. Finally, we are bringing back breakout sessions with five time slots on Saturday with 5 topics to choose

from in each time slot. This year's convention will be totally different than past conventions and you won't want to miss it. Online registration will start soon. There are a limited number of hotel rooms available so be sure to register early!

The survey results are in and according to the responses from attendees; this year's Summer Clinic was a huge success! We are glad the majority of the ~650 attendees liked the topics, the speakers, the location and the venue. We will use the feedback we received to make next year's Summer Clinic even better. Last, but not least, I want to thank the many volunteers that gave their time and effort to make the Summer Clinic such a success. It would not be possible to facilitate an event the size of the Summer Clinic without the help of our amazing volunteers! Thank you volunteers for invaluable contributions!!

By the time you read this issue of the TBA Journal, most Texas Beekeepers will have completed their honey harvest. I've heard scattered reports that honey production is down for 2017. My husband Russell and I harvested our honey on July 30th and can attest to a reduction in our production. Our harvest average this year was about 33 pounds per hive. Disappointing, but we're thankful for the honey we made. We immediately started testing to determine our Varroa Mite loads. After listening to Randy Oliver talk about Varroa Mite testing at the Summer Clinic, we have stopped using the sugar roll test and started using the alcohol wash test to ensure we get an accurate mite load count. Our mite count was higher with the alcohol wash than with out previous sugar roll tests. We are now treating and feeding our hives to give them the best chance for survival and strong hives for almond pollination in the spring. We will split our stronger hives as we keep working toward our current goal of 100 hives.



# Texas Honey Queen Auction Fund Raiser

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

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

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

Your help is needed. With the continued increase in the cost of motor fuel and increased airfares, the travel budget gets tighter. If you are planning to attend the Annual Convention in Temple, November 10th - 11th, please bring a special beekeeping related item to contribute to the auction.

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

## Texas Beekeepers Association Membership Application or Join Us at [www.texasbeekeepers.org](http://www.texasbeekeepers.org) *New / Renewal (circle one)*

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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



**TEXAS**  
**BEEKEEPERS**  
ASSOCIATION

## 2017 Annual Convention

November 9th -11th

Frank Mayborn Event & Convention Center

Temple, TX \* 9 am to 5

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

### Conference Schedule

**Thursday (All Day) “Keeping Bees Alive” by Jennifer Berry**

**Friday**

Keynote Speakers:

**Dr. Dewey M. Caron**

**Jerry Hayes, Jennifer Berry**

**Friday Evening**

Awards Dinner

**Saturday**

Breakout Education Sessions

**Break out educational sessions will include beginning beekeeping, advanced beekeeping and hive product topics.**

***There’s something for everyone!***

Breakout topics include:

Ag Exemption  
Africanized Bees  
Honey Bee Biology and Behaviour  
Beescapes  
Splits  
Varroa Sampling  
Equipment Building  
Top Bar Hives

Honey Extraction  
Mead  
Varietal Harvesting  
Texas Master Bee Program  
Queen Rearing  
Encaustic Painting  
Pollination  
Equipment Building



*Don’t forget to enter the 2017 Honey Show! Ribbons and cash prizes will be awarded. Rules and registration available on the Texas Beekeepers website.*



# 2017 Annual Conference

## Speaker Bios

**Dr. Dewey M. Caron** is Emeritus Professor of Entomology & Wildlife Ecology, Univ of Delaware, & Affiliate Professor, Dept Horticulture, Oregon State University. He spent 40+ years teaching, doing bee extension and bee/pollination research at Cornell (1967-70), University of MD, College Park (1970-1981) and University of DE, Newark DE (1981-2009).



With retirement in 2009, he moved from Newark, DE to Portland, Oregon to be closer to 5 grandkids. He spends 4-6 months each year in Bolivia (spouse's family), where he keeps Africanized bees and teaches beekeeping (in Spanish). The rest of the year he is in the northern hemisphere. He has 5 backyard colonies in Tigard OR of docile European bees..

He continues his passion of paying forward bee knowledge giving Bee Short Courses and lectures to various bee clubs and state organizations in the U.S. and Europe. He is active in both WAS and EAS and currently is Advisor for EAS Master Beekeeper program and the OR Master Beekeeper program. He represents WAS on the Honey Bee Health Coalition.

---

**Jerry Hayes** writes the column "The Classroom: Beekeeping Questions and Answers" for the American Bee Journal, is a graduate from Ohio State University, Agricultural and Technical Institute-Apiary major, has worked at Dadant, a leading national beekeeping supply company and publisher of The American Bee Journal and was the Chief of the Apiary Inspection Section of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, from 2004 to 2012.



For over 17 years, **Jennifer Berry** has been the Apicultural Research Professional and Lab Manager for the University of Georgia Honey Bee Program. Her research objectives have focused on queen breeding, keeping bees alive, the sub-lethal effects of pesticides on beneficial insects and IPM techniques for varroa and small hive beetle control. Jennifer's extension duties include teaching beekeeping to people from all walks of life, including those in

Central and South America, to those imprisoned in Georgia's maximum security prisons. She is also passionate about educating the public about the importance of beneficial insects and is somewhat of a regular columnist for Bee Culture magazine. On weekends and nights she operates Honey Pond Farm, a honey bee venture that sells quality nucleus colonies and teaches how to raise superior queens at her farm in Georgia.



### Thursday Workshop

“Keeping Bees Alive”. I cover it all, from location to varroa, SHB’s to starvation, queen selection to management.

For over 17 years, Jennifer Berry has been the Apicultural Research Professional and Lab Manager for the University of Georgia Honey Bee Program. Her research objectives have focused on queen breeding, improving honey bee health, the sub-lethal effects of pesticides on beneficial insects and IPM techniques for varroa and small hive beetle control.

More recently, Jennifer has undertaken several ambitious campaigns to educate people from all walks of life. She volunteers in Central and South America to teach women and young teens the art of beekeeping in order to start their own businesses or enhance opportunities for better employment. Jennifer has also been instrumental in launching the Georgia Beekeeping Prison Program by certifying inmates through the University of Georgia Master Beekeeper Program. In little over a year, 5 prisons have been added to the fold and are now teaching beekeeping behind bars. She is also dutifully educating the public about the importance of pollinators and other beneficial insects and how to encourage their populations.

Jennifer is a regular columnist for Bee Culture magazine and occasionally for other publications across the pond. She travels extensively to speak to local, state, national and international students, groups and beekeeping associations. On weekends and evenings, Jennifer operates Honey Pond Farm, a honey bee venture which strives on rearing healthy bees and selecting queens for varroa tolerance, brood production, gentleness, and longevity. Several times a year she sells nucleus colonies and teaches how to rear superior queens at her farm in Georgia.

## 2017 Convention Registration Form

Please list attendees

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TBA Member Family means members who have a family membership and up to 6 children living at the same address



# 2017 Texas Beekeepers Association Convention Registration

**Please register for the annual convention on-line at  
[www.texasbeekeepers.org/annual-convention-2017](http://www.texasbeekeepers.org/annual-convention-2017)**

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

## Registration Form for Mail Registration

	Register by November 3rd	Register at Conference	Number	Total
TBA Member – Full Conference Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> November & Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	\$80	\$95		
TBA Member Family – Full Conference Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> November & Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	\$140	\$160		
TBA Member – Single Day – Friday or Saturday	\$45	\$60		
Non-Member – Full Conference Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> November & Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	\$110	\$125		
Non-Member Family – Full Conference Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> November & Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	\$160	\$180		
Non-Member – Single Day – Friday or Saturday	\$60	\$75		
Jennifer Berry – Thursday Workshop November 9 <sup>th</sup> TBA Member	\$60	\$75		
Jennifer Berry – Thursday Workshop November 9 <sup>th</sup> Non-Member	\$75	\$90		
Lunch Ticket – Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> November Queen's Quiz Bowl	\$11	\$16		
Queen's Luncheon – Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	\$19	\$24		
Awards Dinner – Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	\$32	\$40		



**Friday, November 10, 2017**  
**At TBA Convention in Temple, Texas**  
 Rules at [texasbeekeepers.org](http://texasbeekeepers.org)

#### Friday Honey Show

Extracted Honey

- Light
- Light Amber
- Amber
- Dark

•Creamed Honey

•Chunk Honey

•Black Jar Honey

•Beeswax

Arts and Crafts

Photography

Beekeeping Gadgets

Mead Competition

#### Saturday Honey Related Education

- |                               |              |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| •Preparing for the Honey Show | Ann Harman   |
| •Varietal Honey Harvesting    | Clint Walker |
| •Marketing Honey Commercially | Tim Tucker   |
| •Encaustic Painting           | Kim Lehman   |
| •Mead Making Demonstration    | Mike Simmons |

#### Sunday Tour

Walker Honey Farm  
 Dancing Bee Winery

**No entry fee** For TBA members or Convention attendees. If neither: \$5 per entry.

#### Trophies

- Best of Honey Division
- Best Small Scale Honey
- Best Sideline Honey
- Best Commercial Honey
- Best of Non-Honey Division
- Best of Mead Division
- Sweepstakes

#### Sponsors

- Dadant
- Dancing Bee Winery
- Moore Honey
- R. Weaver Apiaries
- Sabine Creek Honey
- Walker Honey Farm





## Fall Testing for the Texas Master Beekeeper Program

**When:** Thursday November 9th, 2017

**Where:** Frank Mayborn Event & Convention Center, Temple, TX

**Registration:** Online registration begins on September 1st

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

**Questions:** Email us at *TAIS@TAMU.edu*





## TEXAS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION CONVENTION-BLOCK CODE

1) Call: **254-773-0200**

2) Provide Group Code: **TXBEE**

3) **November 8 - 11, 2017**

King Rooms \$107 includes Breakfast for 2 ppl

Queen Double Rooms \$ 117 includes Breakfast up to 4 ppl

Suite \$125 includes Breakfast up to 4ppl

### To Make Your Group Reservation Online

1) **Copy and Paste** the following link into your Web Browser

[https://secure3.hilton.com/en\\_US/gi/reservation/book.  
htm?ctyhocn=TPLGIGI&groupCode=TXBEE](https://secure3.hilton.com/en_US/gi/reservation/book.htm?ctyhocn=TPLGIGI&groupCode=TXBEE)

2) Insert your travel Dates

3) Select Room Type

4) Insert Personal and Payment Information

5) Upon completing the reservation, you will receive your confirmation number

6) Note that your credit card will be authorized for your full stay the day of your check in date.

## TBA Convention 2017 Hotels

The Hilton Garden Inn, 1740 Scott Blvd., Temple, TX 76504

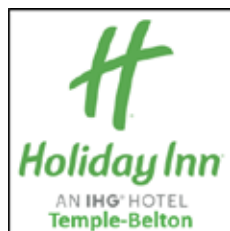
See Booking details on Page 12 and note cutoff date of 10/18/2017

OR

Holiday Inn Temple-Belton, 5247 S General Bruce Dr., Temple, TX 76502

See Below and note cutoff date of 10/24/2017

### Holiday Inn Temple-Belton



- 1) Call 254-778-5511
- 2) Provide Group Code: **TBA**
- 3) November 8 - 11, 2017

King Standard or Double Queen Standard \$96 (incl. Breakfast)

To Book Online, copy and paste the following link into your web browser:

[https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/temple/tpltl/hotel-detail?qAdlt=1&qBrs=6c.hi.ex.rs.ic.cp.in.sb.cw.cv.ul.vn.ki.sp.nd.ct&qChld=0&qFRA=1&qGRM=0&qGrpCd=TBA&qIta=99801505&qP-St=0&qRRSrt=rt&qRef=df&qRms=1&qRpn=1&qRpp=20&qSH-p=1&qSmP=3&qSrt=sBR&qWch=0&srb\\_u=1&icdv=99801505](https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/temple/tpltl/hotel-detail?qAdlt=1&qBrs=6c.hi.ex.rs.ic.cp.in.sb.cw.cv.ul.vn.ki.sp.nd.ct&qChld=0&qFRA=1&qGRM=0&qGrpCd=TBA&qIta=99801505&qP-St=0&qRRSrt=rt&qRef=df&qRms=1&qRpn=1&qRpp=20&qSH-p=1&qSmP=3&qSrt=sBR&qWch=0&srb_u=1&icdv=99801505)

Insert dates and Group Code

Cutoff Date 10/24/2017



*James Leon Garner*  
*December 14, 1919 - May 31, 2017*

## In Memoriam

James Leon Garner went home to be with the Lord on Wednesday May 31st, 2017 at the age of 97 years. He worked with the Civilian Conservation Corp for 2 years at Camp Garner State Park, around 1938. James served during world war II with the Marine Corp and briefly with the United States Air Force. He retired from the civil service at Kelley AFB where he worked for over 30 years. James went back to work for ten years at Alamo Aircraft after being retired for 20 years. He was a beekeeper for over 30 years. James built his home in the late 1940's never having a mortgage payment. He never lived in any other home. James was preceded in death by his wife Tressie Lou Hartman Garner and daughter Sherry Easley. He is survived by his children Larry (Jackie) Garner, Janice (Charles) Culpepper, Wayne (Jerri) Garner; son-in-law Charles Easley; ten grandchildren and twenty four great grandchildren.

**Editor's Note:** Texas Beekeepers Association awarded James Garner a lifetime membership at our Convention in 2016. He was able to attend and we were very glad to have him there. TBA sent a contribution to Wounded Warriors in his memory.

***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***



## **21st Annual Field Day at the USDA Honey Bee Lab in Baton Rouge**

The USDA Honey Bee Breeding, Genetics and Physiology Laboratory and the Louisiana State Beekeepers Association will hold the 21st Annual Field Day on Saturday, October 21, 2017. The event will be held at the laboratory, located at 1157 Ben Hur Rd, Baton Rouge LA 70820. This is near the intersection of Nicholson Drive (Hwy 30) and Brightside Dr., which is about two miles south of the LSU football stadium.

Gates will open at 9:30 a.m. with presentations and activities scheduled from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The Field Day will include a series of talks in the morning from members of the Louisiana Beekeepers Association and the USDA-ARS staff about Louisiana beekeeping and research being conducted at USDA lab. The afternoon features break-out sessions for beginners and more experienced beekeepers. The beginning beekeeper course is directed to those who have little to no beekeeping experience. Topics will include basic bee biology as well as necessary beekeeping equipment and management techniques. A question and answer session precedes a practical demonstration in honey bee colonies. The intermediate beekeeping course is focused on the beekeeper with a moderate amount of experience that is now ready to take it to the next level. Topics will include making splits, swarm catching, monitoring techniques and treatment options for Varroa mites and small hive beetle, followed by a final field session examining open colonies. This session will address the major problems in colony health and include discussion and guidance on the primary pests and pathogens affecting honey bee colonies. There will be also be a 2-hour focused workshop on selective breeding followed by a final session on queen rearing techniques.

A nonrefundable pre-registration fee of \$30.00 is required for attendees 12 years of age and above. Children 11 and under must stay with their parents at all times. Pre-registration will open August 15, 2017. You may pre-register (and submit payment) at [labeekeepers.org](http://labeekeepers.org) with the option to pay by credit card or PayPal. A printable pre-registration form will be located at [labeekeepers.org](http://labeekeepers.org) that may be mailed to Beth Derr, 210 Meadowlark Dr, Jefferson, TX 75657 and must be postmarked by October 11th. Pre-registration will close October 11th. All other registration will be collected at the door for the increased fee of \$40 per person.

For additional information please visit [labeekeepers.org](http://labeekeepers.org) or contact Dr. Frank Rinkevich (225-276-3998 or [frank.rinkevich@ars.usda.gov](mailto:frank.rinkevich@ars.usda.gov)), Sandra Hineman (225-767-9280) or Joe Sanroma (318-346-2805). For questions regarding online registration, Jennifer Brown (601-493-3447).

---

## **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](http://smile.amazon.com)  
and specifying Texas Honey Bee Education Association as  
your preferred charity!**

**Please help us this way!**

# Getting the Bees Ready for Winter... in July?!?

"The Continuing Journey of Two Fourth-Year Small-Scale Beekeepers"

TBA Journal Article - July 2017



Photo - Hudson Old, East Texas Journal Photography

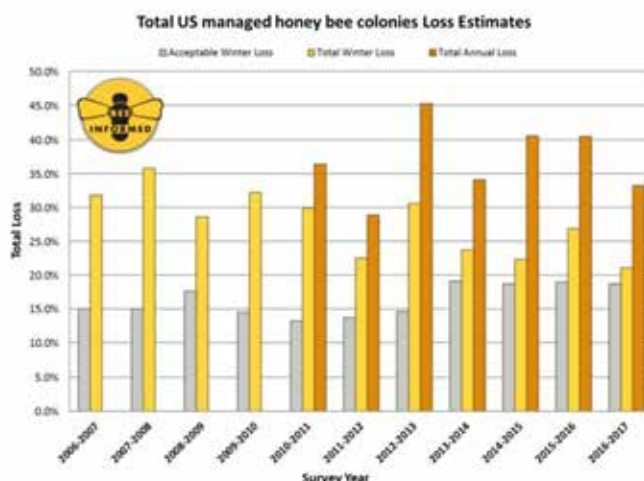
by Roger and Sue Farr, Caddo Trace Beekeeping Association (CTBA), Mount Pleasant, Texas;  
Master Level Beekeeper - Texas Master Beekeeper Program (Roger)

*(Photos and charts courtesy of the authors and Google Images)*

We are approaching our fifth winter on our beekeeping journey. We've done a lot of learning along the way, both educationally and experientially. We'd like to share with you what we've learned in hopes that you will have even greater success at overwintering your bees. We've even created a 45-minute workshop which we are giving to bee associations in the northeast Texas area where we live.

You can successfully overwinter your bees!

**First, you must believe that you can impact your winter losses.** The chart at right is from the Bee Informed Partnership winter loss survey just completed. Note the far right side of the chart for the 2017 data; there are three bars. The first bar, in gray, shows what US beekeepers believe is an "acceptable" winter loss rate. Note how this has gone up from the 10-15% level of years past to now consistently 15-20%. Also note that the actual winter loss, the center yellow bar, is above 20%, and the yearly loss, the far right orange bar, is 33%.



As small-scale beekeepers, losing one-third of our hives every year would really put a dent in our honey harvest and nucleus hive sales; and in our confidence! But what if it did not have to be this way? What if actually losing a hive during winter was an anomaly and not something to be expected? Keep that thought in mind as you read the remainder of this article.

**Second, you must create an environment so your "winter" bees are able to overwinter properly.** Kim Flottum, author of *The Backyard Beekeeper*, says it this way, "You must take care of the bees that will take care of the bees that will go through winter." This represents three generations of bees and is equivalent to a three month period before winter when you, the beekeeper, have the opportunity to set your bees up for success.

The learning we've done and the experience we've had quickly points to two factors that are paramount to succeeding in our usually mild Texas winters.

- **Varroa Control** - Varroa parasitize developing larvae so that the emerging bee is compromised. She is compromised in terms of viruses that she may now carry, and certainly in the vitellogenin stores she has to rear the next generation of bees.



Fat bodies in the abdomen of a forager (left) and nurse or winter bee (right). From Keller (2005).

Healthy nurse bees have high levels of vitellogenin, a highly proteinaceous compound stored in the bee's abdomen. The picture at right shows the difference in vitellogenin reserves between a forager bee and a nurse bee. Nurse bees use this store to create the brood food, royal jelly or worker jelly to feed the next generation of bees. When a bee is compromised by varroa she is not able to produce her normal level of brood food and what she does produce is not nearly as nutritious to the developing larvae.

- **Resource Abundance** - The goal here is to have "fat" bees, those raised in a healthy environment, with all the resources they need to develop as God designed them to. We are all aware of the need to have adequate nectar and honey stores in the hive to make it through the winter. For most of us that will be about 50 pounds of equivalent honey, or one full medium super. However, have you considered the pollen requirement? Bees continue to consume small amounts of pollen throughout their lifetimes, and not only when they are raising brood. Pollen supplies protein, necessary for making all the parts of a bee, but also calcium, magnesium, and many other micronutrients necessary to maintain bee health and fight disease. We suggest keeping at least two frames of pollen available in the hive throughout the overwintering period, increasing this as brood rearing begins in early spring.

**Lastly, you must be prepared to come out of winter successfully.** During our first winter we conducted a late-winter hive inspection. All three of our hives seemed to be doing well and were beginning to raise brood. One month later, in one of our hives, we saw a situation similar to the picture at right, that of honey bees who have starved to death! Our bees died because of beekeeper error. We were right to inspect them on a warm mid-winter day, but we did nothing about their dwindling resource situation, either carbohydrate or protein. We vowed to never let that happen again.





Your bees will be prepared to successfully come out of winter if they have, at a minimum, six frames of honey/nectar and four frames of pollen. Bees need these resources in abundance when brood rearing starts in early spring, usually well before the nectar and pollen flows have started in earnest. This means we must start the winter with adequate stores and then supplement when required throughout the winter. We have nectar (sugar water) feeders ready for those warmer days (above 57 °F) when the bees can break cluster, and we offer a pollen substitute for feeding in early spring. We prefer open dry feeding, as in the picture, over putting a pollen patty in the hive; small hive beetles love to hide and breed under the patties.



So what were our results in 2017 with overwintering? We were able to successfully overwinter seven out of seven hives, including one nucleus hive, as shown at right in their winter configuration. This then allowed us to increase our nucleus hive sales from a planned five to twelve as the result of having healthy, productive hives we could split more than once. More bees equal more beekeepers we can meet, influence, and learn with!



We're monitoring varroa and resource levels now, in July, to get us ready for the winter of 2017/8. Two of our hives were over the recommended treatment level of 3% in May, so we treated them; our July monthly varroa check revealed one additional hive that needed treatment. Our other hives have a mite count of less than 1%. All of the hives have 10 or more frames of nectar/honey and several equivalent frames of pollen. These mite levels and an abundance of resources should mean "fat" healthy bees that will produce healthy winter bees full of vitellogenin ready to overwinter.

We look forward to hearing about your overwintering successes in early 2018!

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



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# Ann Harman

## Worker Bee Extraordinaire

— Dewey Caron

A bee colony has to have many worker bees to get all the tasks done. So too does an organization, as does a bee journal like *Bee Culture*. Ann Harman is the archetypical 'worker bee,' best described as the 'energizer bee.'

Ann has been a tireless worker on behalf of the Eastern Apiculture Society along with Virginia and Maryland bee groups. She is a Master Beekeeper, getting certified in the very first group to earn the EAS MB certificate (1981 at Rutgers). The same year she gave an EAS workshop on Honey cookery. One year earlier Ann gave her first talk to EAS (UVM, 1980) on studies testing bee venom on arthritic dog and horses, after bees, her other favorite animals.

In 1982 Ann was again on the EAS Short Course and conference programs. She also began to help proctor, then grade, the EAS MB Exam. In addition she was a Honey Show judge. During subsequent conferences, her presentations varied from topics as diverse as batik, chemistry of honey, honey cookery, judging honey quality and apitherapy. She has also continued her honey show judging and once again this year at the EAS meeting at the University of Delaware July 31-August 4, she will be assisting and exam grading for the EAS MB examinations.

Ann dates her beekeeping to 1978. We sent her on a "swarm" call from the University of Maryland and told her to keep it – it was hers. She attended her first short course that year at the University of Maryland; later she was part of the instruction. At that time she was Head of Science Department, Georgetown Day School in Washington, DC. Her science specialty was Chemistry and before teaching was a Research Physical Chemist, National Institute for Science & Technology in Gaithersburg, Maryland. She would eventually be assistant research apiculturist for me and then as our honey bee Extension Specialist in Maryland.

In 1987 Ann was elected as EAS Director from Maryland. The next year she took on the EAS Board liaison to the Awards Committee – continuing in that function for 15 years. She was on our Awards selection committee and when EAS added the Divelbiss award in 1988, Ann took on the annual task of finding and evaluating candidates for the Divelbiss award. We had the chance to surprise Ann with the award in 2010.



Ann was President of the 1990 EAS Conference in Salisbury, Maryland. In 1996 she was Vice-President of the EAS meeting at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA. She has been both Maryland Association Vice-President and honey show chairman and Treasurer, VP and President of the VA State beekeepers.

As Maryland EAS Director, Ann had taken on the task of standardizing the EAS Honey Show and judging criteria (each state was responsible for the EAS honey show so rules sometimes varied from one year to the next to the consternation of entrants). In this role, she wrote virtually every state that had a honey show to obtain and compare their show rules and judging score system. She became EAS Honey Show Chairman

the following year (1991), continuing over 10 subsequent shows in that role.

At about the same time she helped ABF rewrite their show rules and judging criteria. She was an ABF Honey Show judge for several years and an alternative to the National Honey Board (2004-2008). Over the years she has judged numerous honey shows in New Jersey, Delaware, and Pennsylvania and has continued as judge for many of the annual EAS honey shows. She is a Welsh Certified Honey Judge.

In 1992 I asked Ann to become vice-chair to the EAS, a new position created that year. Ann filled the Vice-Chair with excellence. While away on sabbatical in Panama (1995 Ohio meeting), she was the acting Board chair. She would continue as Vice Board chair until 2008, serving three different Board Chairmen.

*"Ann Harman has been there and done that!"*





bee school and is a mentor of one or more 'newbees' each year (her neighboring farmer is a current mentee). She has been newsletter editor for her local association, the North Piedmont beekeepers, for 20 years.

As author of a monthly *Bee Culture* column, Ann is a well-recognized voice of beekeeping. Her first *Bee Culture* article was in May 1980 (twine suitability as smoker fuel). When Kim Flottum became editor she became a monthly columnist (honey cookery). Although she will occasionally still write about this topic, her columns now cover a wide range of topics. She is a very careful proofreader and has assisted with many of the popular bee books such as *Beekeepers Handbook*, my *Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping* and as Co-editor of *ABC & XYZ of Beekeeping*.

Ann is a frequent overseas traveler. Her record is five continents, 29 countries with 54 total assignments. She has represented Agricultural Cooperative Development, International/Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance (ACDI/VOCA), Partners of the Americas (PoA),

Farmer to Farmer (FTF), and Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs (CNFA), Land O'Lakes International, Citizens Democracy Corp, and Winrock International.

In addition to *Bee Culture*, she is frequent contributor to *Beekeepers Quarterly* and *Bee Craft* (both from England) and with me was co-editor of digital *Bee Craft America* (no longer offered).

We are blessed to have such an energetic worker bee for EAS and local and regional bee groups. As the saying goes, **Ann Harman has been there and done that.** Be sure to come up to Ann and greet her at EAS 2017 in Delaware July 31-August 4. She will be at the *Bee Craft* vendor booth, giving MB exams or look for her in the honey show area. **BC**

Ann Harman and Dewey Caron are both great friends to *Bee Culture*. *We'll all be at EAS this year in Delaware. Hope to see a bunch of you there.*

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## The Brantley Column

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

August will soon be here and bring with it the 100 degree days that we have mostly avoided this summer. With August, we will enter the hot dry period known as the "summer dearth". Little or no nectar will be available for our honey bees. Brood production will decrease and Small Hive Beetle activity will increase. Activities in the hive will change. Fewer bees will be bringing in forage and more bees will be bringing water to help cool the hive in the hot afternoon temperatures.

The hive will be congested with bees who are not as busy and not as happy as during a good nectar flow. This can cause a change in a hive's temperament. Bees that are normally well mannered can become cranky and less tolerant of disturbance. Take care and pay attention to the bees' reaction when you need to work in the hive. If the bees become agitated and start buzzing loudly, you may wish to close the hive and come back another time.

Bees may gather in large numbers on the outside of the hive in the hot afternoons. Known as bearding, this is a normal bee activity and not a sign of a problem in the hive. The bees are trying to move body heat outside the hive and lessen the congestion inside the hive, allowing for better air flow in the hot part of the day. You can help increase ventilation by propping the front edge of the Outer Cover with a small stick or by setting the front edge on the top of the box below it. I like to do this on the front of the hive so the slope is to the back, allowing any moisture to run off the back and not on the landing board. You may not want to do this for weak hives as it does increase the opportunity for robbers to get inside the hive.

Make sure the bees have access to water for cooling the hive. If you are finished extracting for this year, you may want to start feeding sugar syrup. Thin syrup, one part sugar to one part water, is good for this period of dearth. The bees use the sugar for food and the water to help cool the hive. I do not usually recommend feeding pollen patties till later in the fall. If you do add a pollen patty, add only a small piece so the bees can eat it rapidly. Beetles like to lay eggs under pieces of pollen patty that remain in the hive too long.

Now that you have extracted your honey, the question is "Are you proud of your product?" I have seen some beautiful jars of very light honey shown at recent bee club meetings, particularly from some of our first-time beekeepers. Let me encourage you

to put aside a few jars to display and to enter in honey swaps or in honey judging or honey tasting contests. Many local bee clubs have honey contests, awarding ribbons and bragging rights to those whose honey is picked as local favorites. TBA sponsors honey swaps and honey judging at their Summer Clinics or State Conventions. For 2017, TBA is working on revised honey contest rules designed to encourage more beekeepers to participate and enter their honey at the next State Convention. Some of the changes include dropping the entry fee and not requiring TBA membership to enter. Ann Harmon, who, among many honey bee



and educational ventures, writes for Bee Culture magazine, will be present and working with local members to assist the judging of honey entries.

As you attend the various Bee Club meetings, get acquainted with the new beekeepers in your area. Many new or novice beekeepers can learn a lot from more experienced beekeepers in your club. Your assistance could help alleviate a lot of the frustration that new beekeepers find when trying to develop a routine of managing their bees in the field. Some expert advice at the right time can alleviate a lot of frustration and maybe even prevent some catastrophic mistakes. There are a lot of benefits to mentoring other beekeepers. Not only do the "newbees" learn from you, but you may be stretched a bit in properly understanding their problems and answering their questions. I always like to say that mentoring another beekeeper makes you a better beekeeper also. Let me encourage you to become a mentor -- you never know when you might need that new beekeeper to help you move hives or pull supers!



## State Fair Honey Booth *from John Talbert*

Summer is here and it has been a roller coaster. Cool/warm winter and a wet/dry spring. If your bees are like mine, you are wondering what happened to the honey crop. The rain has stopped and the weather has turned off hot. Flowers withered. Don't have a clue what the weather will be by the time for the State Fair of Texas and the Honey Booth.

There continues to be considerable interest in the honey bee by the media. The last years' arrival of the Zika Virus and the associated control challenges have increased the media interest in the effect on honey bees and other beneficial insects. We have endeavored to present a very positive image about beekeepers and their importance too. If you have any suggestions for telling the story of pollination, please send them to me.

As always, your help is needed to provide the honey and funding for the booth. We need more honey than ever and we will need your financial support to be able to tell the story. We are asking the commercial beekeepers to lead the way with \$200 donations and the hobbyists \$25 or more if possible. We expect to have some recent videos to use in the booth this year and we will be adding the promotion of REAL TEXAS HONEY.

The TBA Honey Booth at the State Fair of Texas provides the best opportunity to get our story to the public. Over 1 million consumers of the 3 million that attend the Fair pass by the booth each year according to the numbers furnished by the Texas Department of Agriculture. Exposure to each consumer costs less than 4 tenths of a cent. That is very inexpensive. Honey and bees have been the news a lot lately. This has increased the demand for honey. Help us make the Texas consumer realize that they need to purchase REAL TEXAS HONEY.

Our Honey Queens do a fantastic job with the cooking demonstrations that make the public aware of what a wonderful ingredient honey can be in the kitchen. Please help them tell the story. Honey will again be showcased by the Honey Queens. Having their presentations will make for a very busy last weekend of the Fair.

We have continued our activity with the Creative Arts Department of the State Fair of Texas featuring honey. This will be the third year to enter polished honey, black jar honey, honey bee photography, encaustic art, beeswax sculpture, and a cooking contest with honey as the "magic ingredient".

These contests take place in the Creative Arts Building. Polished honey and black jar honey entrants may bring their honey to the kitchen area of the building on October 16, 2017 by 10:30 am with an entry form or fill out one that morning at the turn in desk. The cooking with honey is limited to amateur cooks and does not require a pre-fair entry. Entry forms and rules can be found on pages 108-110 of the Creative Arts Handbook at BigTex.com. All other contests must be entered at BIGTEX.COM/creativearts as per associated deadlines.

We need lots of honey for the Honey Booth, can you donate a case of honey with your label, or even a jar? Contact John Talbert at 214-532-9241 or [john@sabinecreekhoney.com](mailto:john@sabinecreekhoney.com) if you can. Can you be a volunteer in the booth to help tell the story of bees and honey? We need you to sign up for a date and we need your honey before September 20.

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

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

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

**Please sign up for a date!**

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



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
TEXAS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION HONEY BOOTH VOLUNTEERS						
<u>1-Oct</u> AM (10:00-2:30)	<u>2-Oct</u> AM (10:00-2:30)	<u>3-Oct</u> AM (10:00-2:30)	<u>4-Oct</u> AM (10:00-2:30)	<u>5-Oct</u> AM (10:00-2:30)	<u>29-Sep</u> AM (10:00-2:30)	<u>30-Sep</u> AM (10:00-2:30)
PM (2:30-7:00)	PM (2:30-7:00)	PM (2:30-7:00)	PM (2:30-7:00)	PM (2:30-7:00)	PM (2:30-7:00)	PM (2:30-7:00)
<u>8-Oct</u> AM (10:00-2:30)	<u>9-Oct</u> AM (10:00-2:30)	<u>10-Oct</u> AM (10:00-2:30)	<u>11-Oct</u> AM (10:00-2:30)	<u>12-Oct</u> AM (10:00-2:30)	<u>13-Oct</u> AM (10:00-2:30)	<u>14-Oct</u> AM (10:00-2:30)
PM (2:30-7:00)	PM (2:30-7:00)	PM (2:30-7:00)	PM (2:30-7:00)	PM (2:30-7:00)	PM (2:30-7:00)	PM (2:30-7:00)
<u>15-Oct</u> AM (10:00-2:30)	<u>16-Oct</u> AM (10:00-2:30)	<u>17-Oct</u> AM (10:00-2:30)	<u>18-Oct</u> AM (10:00-2:30)	<u>19-Oct</u> AM (10:00-2:30)	<u>20-Oct</u> AM (10:00-2:30)	<u>21-Oct</u> AM (10:00-2:30)
PM (2:30-7:00)	PM (2:30-7:00)	PM (2:30-7:00)	PM (2:30-7:00)	PM (2:30-7:00)	PM (2:30-7:00)	PM (2:30-7:00)
<u>22-Oct</u> AM (10:00-2:30)						
PM (2:30-7:00)						
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# THE BUDS AND THE BEES

## Bee-Plus Landscapes

*by Becky Bender, Texas Master Naturalist*

*What's good for honey bees is good for our native pollinators too.*

I'm writing this on National Emoji Day. But if you're not crazy about smiley faces and red hearts, you'll definitely be on board with the recently celebrated National Pollinator Week! Evidence is mounting that many native pollinators, as well as honey bees, are in serious decline. The honey bee, seemingly the pollinator poster child, has done a good job of prompting a deeper appreciation and urgency for conserving all bees and pollinators. So in recognition of National Pollinator Week, consider a "Bee-Plus" approach to landscapes in an effort to create places where all bees and pollinators can thrive.

The great majority of pollinators are native insects such as bees, wasps, flies, beetles, ants, butterflies and moths. North America is host to 4,000 species of native bees. Many of our native bees are efficient crop pollinators and a keystone species in maintaining biodiversity. But evidence suggests that native bees are experiencing population declines similar to or even more severe than honey bees. The honey bee was brought to North America from Europe in the 17th century for honey and wax. Though not native, the honey bee is critical to our agricultural economy, especially since hives can be transported long distances for crop pollination. In addition, honey production is an important industry. The honey bee plays a major role in sustainability and food production as well as pollinating plant communities. So how does the "introduced" honey bee affect our native pollinators and native plants which evolved together?

Leading organizations and journals, such as The Society for Conservation Biology, The Xerces Society, The Ecological Society of America and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department are publishing research and suggesting ways in which honey bees and native pollinators might affect one another. Some of these groups are beginning to form policies on how best to support the role of all pollinator species for biodiversity, land management and agriculture. Among those issues being studied are nectar and pollen competition and native and invasive plant pollination. While research is sparse and the significance of findings not yet fully understood, beekeepers are in a good position to take an objective look at the issues and participate in solutions.

A 2017 Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) position statement entitled "European Honey Bees On Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Lands Managed for Native Biodiversity", outlines a review of the literature to date. Included in the review is research which compares life cycles and resource use among honey bees and solitary native bees. In some cases honey bees out-compete solitary native bees. Honey bees are capable of traveling longer distances than many other pollinators

and may visit a hundred or more different plant species within a given area. In addition, they require large amounts of nectar and pollen for colonies which are sustained for several years. Solitary native bee species, on the other hand, forage in smaller numbers, visit fewer plant species, fly less distance – sometimes only 200 yards from their nest – and have a one year life cycle. Furthermore, if honey bees monopolize food resources, native bees can be displaced to less preferred plant species which can diminish their reproductive success. For example, bumble bees may compensate for a lack of pollen by increasing nectar foraging which results in fewer larvae and reduced adult bee size.



*Bumble bee's efficient buzz pollination*

In addition to food competition, another leading controversy is the honey bee's impact on biodiversity – specifically the pollination of both native and invasive plants. Honey bees are "generalist" foragers and pollinate many different species of plants, both native and non-native, thus spreading some invasive plants which invade native ecosystems. While examples in North America are vague, there are examples of honey bees playing a critical role in pollinating, and thus perpetuating, the invasive yellow star thistle in California and a problematic species of lantana in Australia. This type of data has led TPWD to discourage the placement of managed honey bee colonies on TPWD lands that are managed wholly or in part for native biodiversity.

Beekeepers are well positioned to be on the front line of pollinator conservation. We already practice it in countless ways. So it's not a big leap to embrace all pollinators in our practices and in our landscapes. Consider the following tips.



## Bee-Plus Landscapes

- Plant and conserve nectar sources for all pollinators. A few top choices for bees, butterflies, birds, bats and more include Buttonbush, Kidneywood, Sunflowers and Gregg's Mistflower.
- Include butterfly host plants in your landscape. Senna, Hackberry trees, Passionvine and Milkweed are a few plants that support our native butterflies.
- Provide nesting sites. Most native bees nest alone in small holes on open ground or in brush piles or tree snags. Don't over mulch to provide some bare ground.
- Don't overpopulate rural, native or public lands with honey bee colonies, especially where vulnerable native pollinators or plant communities exist.
- Eliminate insecticides which can kill pollinators directly and herbicides when possible which kill plants they depend on.
- Spread the word about pollinator initiatives that support habitat biodiversity since they lead to richer plant communities that also benefit honey bees. One example is the Mayor's Monarch Pledge, a tri-national initiative launched by the National Wildlife Federation in 2015.
- Educate neighbors that keeping honey bees is not necessarily the best way to help "save them" since they require proper care and can create a host for pests. But everyone can help by planting for pollinators, allowing natural areas to bloom and eliminating pesticides.



*Native butterflies on Gregg's Mistflower*

Of course beekeepers already practice many of these Bee-Plus Landscape tips. But we can take a step further by participating in fund-raising, research and collaboration with other organizations to broaden knowledge on issues that threaten all pollinators and solutions that benefit all pollinators. After all, we've had good teachers when it comes to working as a community -- the honey bee herself.

For a list of references used in this article, or if you have questions or comments, contact Becky Bender at [RBenderRN@aol.com](mailto:RBenderRN@aol.com) or [www.BudsAndTheBees.com](http://www.BudsAndTheBees.com)

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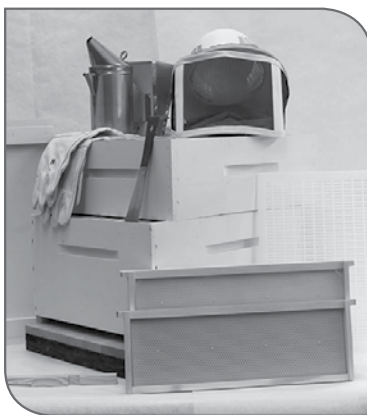
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# Chief of Apiary Inspection - Texas Apiary Inspection Service

*from Mark Dykes*

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



We hope everyone is staying cool out there in the dog days of summer! Make sure your hives are doing the same by providing a good, close by, fresh water source for them (don't forget to drain and replace it regularly to prevent mosquitos breeding). Also continue to check for stores during the summer and provide supplemental feed as necessary. Lastly make sure to monitor for Varroa mites and other pest and disease in preparation for winter. Keeping ahead of pest and disease pressures is the best way to ensure a healthy hive for winter. Remember if you need help controlling Varroa mites check out the Honey Bee Health Coalition's Tools for Varroa Management guide and videos, all free to download (<http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/Varroa/>). If you have specific question on pest and disease control you can contact TAIS at [TAIS@TAMU.edu](mailto:TAIS@TAMU.edu) or give us a call at 979-845-9713. We are here to help!

I am happy to announce a few projects we have been working on here at TAIS this summer. First you may notice a new logo on the website and on permits. We worked with the communication department at Texas A&M and came up with this great logo design!



Second, TAIS worked with our partner agencies around the country to create a Best Management Practices (BMP) document for Texas. For some time, our office has fielded many questions

from both beekeepers and the general public on BMPs for honey bees. We then compiled those questions and spoke with other states about what practices worked best for them. From there we wrote a BMP for Texas beekeepers. The document will be published on our website and a copy will follow this article. We intend this to be a "living" document and will update it as needed to account for current pertinent pollinator research. We encourage all beekeepers to follow the recommendation to help keep their hives healthy and be good stewards of honey bees.

In Texas Master Beekeeper Program (TMBP) news, we now have a page on Facebook! Just type in Texas Master Beekeeper Program into the search and you will find it. We intend to use this page to provide educational resources, program news, public service credit opportunities, and keep you up to date on major beekeeping events in Texas and beyond. The page will be open to both current program members and the general public so please let your friends know about it. Also just as a reminder the fall testing for the TMBP will be on November 9th in Temple Texas. As always we will hold it the day before the Texas Beekeepers Association winter meeting. Registration will start on September 1st on our website (<http://masterbeekeeper.tamu.edu/>). We look forward to seeing new and returning TMBP members!

If you conduct bee removals and/or move bees across county lines this is a reminder that all Bee Removal Transportation Permits and Intrastate Permits expire on August 31st and need to be renewed. Please make sure to fill out the appropriate application, available at our website, and mail them with the payment to ensure that your permits do not lapse and to keep your name on the bee removal list. The forms can be found at <http://txbeeinspection.tamu.edu/forms-fees/>.

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





# Texas Apiary Inspection Service

## Best Management Practices for Honey Bee Health

### Disclaimer

These voluntary best management practices should be used by beekeepers as a tool to promote honey bee health and responsible beekeeping in Texas. This document is not legally binding, and is intended merely as a guide for Texas beekeepers. Regulations and rules regarding beekeeping in Texas can be found in Section 131 of the Texas Agricultural Code and Chapter 71 of the Texas Administrative Code, which can be accessed at <http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/>.

### General Management

- Manage all colonies to promote bee health and prevent suffering due to pests and diseases.
- Abide by all beekeeping rules and regulations set forth by the State of Texas.<sup>1</sup>
- Check hives periodically, at least once a month, and keep good records to improve practices.<sup>2</sup>
- Properly dispose of any hive products removed during management (i.e. wax or propolis) after each inspection.
- Control tall vegetation around colonies and keep apiaries clean.
- Replace frames and comb every 3-5 years.
- Practice fire safety when the bee smoker is in use.
- Post a honey bee caution sign in or near apiary.
- Put unused equipment in a bee-proof location or seal your unused hives so that bees cannot enter.
- Requeen all overly defensive colonies with a European honey bee queen.
- Work with landowners to choose hive locations, and be cognizant of neighboring landowners when placing and moving hives.
- Take appropriate care when transporting hives of honey bees. Bees being transported should have entrance screens or be secured under netting. Maintain consistent temperature, ventilation, and hydration.
- Be aware of crop pest control practices near your apiary.
- Have a communication plan in place with nearby growers and applicators
- When possible, choose apiary sites that are relatively isolated from potential insecticide applications and drift.
- Work constructively with applicators when notified of upcoming pesticide applications.
- Report all suspected pesticide-related bee kills to the Texas Department of Agriculture Pesticide Program immediately at 1-800-TELL-TDA.

### Nutrition

- Ensure honey bee hives have sufficient resources throughout the year.
- Unless there are natural water sources adjacent to the apiary, establish a perpetual water sources near the apiary.
- Supplemental feeding of sugar syrup and/or protein may be necessary if natural resources are limited.

### Pest Management

- Use an integrated pest management (IPM) approach to pest and disease control.<sup>3</sup>
- Regularly conduct sampling of hives and document any pest sampling results and treatments.<sup>2</sup>
- Cull weak, collapsing colonies. Do not combine weak colonies with healthy ones as this may spread pests and diseases.
- Never switch frames from a hive that is suspected to have a pest or pathogen problem to a hive that is healthy.



- Check brood comb for symptoms of American Foulbrood, other pests and diseases, and the presence of a laying queen at least once a month.
- Varroa control should be a primary activity in your beekeeping operation. Monitor and control for Varroa mites using methods found in the [Honey Bee Health Coalition's Tools for Varroa Management guide](#).
- If American Foulbrood is suspected, contact the Texas Apiary Inspection Service at (979) 845-9713.
- Practice good hygiene with hands, gloves, and other equipment to reduce transmission of pathogens between colonies. Tools should be scrubbed with a sterilizing agent (i.e. isopropyl alcohol, bleach solution, etc.) and/or sterilized with flame before taken to another beekeeper's apiary.
- Do not purchase or accept used frames, boxes, or other beekeeping equipment unless you are certain they are free of disease.
- Requeen with pest and disease resistant genetic lines of honey bees.
- When pesticide use is necessary to manage pests within hives, use registered pesticides and comply with all restrictions, precautions, and directions found on the pesticide label. Failure to comply with label directions may decrease the efficacy of pesticides, increase the risk of adverse effects to bees, cause pesticide residues in honey and other products, and potentially lead to pesticide resistance.
- After in-hive pesticide application, resample to measure efficacy; don't assume your treatments are working.

## Urban Beekeeping

- Comply with all local municipality ordinances regarding beekeeping.<sup>4</sup>
- Do not place colonies in proximity of tethered or confined animals, children, the elderly, general public, drivers on public roadways, or next to utility right-of-ways (power lines, pipelines, or underground cables).
- Be neighborly. If you are considering keeping hives near property lines, communicate your intentions with neighbors and be sensitive to their concerns.
- If hives are located in an area where neighbors may be outdoors, be mindful of neighbors' activities when deciding when to open a hive.
- If water sources are limited, ensure bees are not watering at or near locations that could be bothersome for neighbors (i.e. visiting swimming pools, water features, or hot tubs that may be nearby).
- When placing hives on small lots or at locations within 200 feet of any developing portion of property, a solid fence, wall, or dense vegetative barrier should be used to redirect the bee's flight pattern and prevent a direct line of flight from the hives into neighboring properties. The flyway barrier should start at the ground, be a minimum of six feet in height, and should extend beyond the direct line of sight from the entrance of the hive to the neighboring or adjacent property.
- All properties, or portions thereof, where honey bee colonies are located should be fenced, or have a barrier to prevent access, and have a gated controlled entrance to help prevent unintended disturbance of the colonies.
- Honey bee colonies are recommended to be limited to the following colony per acre density in urban areas:
  - ¼ acre or less tract = 3 colonies. Colony numbers may be increased up to 6 colonies as a swarm control measure for not more than 60-day period of time.
  - ¼ - ½ acre tract = 6 colonies. Colony numbers may be increased up to 12 colonies as swarm control measure for not more than a 60-day period of time.
  - ½ - 1 acre tract = 10 colonies. Colony numbers may be increased up to 20 colonies as a swarm control measure for not more than a 60-day period of time.
  - 1 - 2 ½ acres = 15 colonies. Colony numbers may be increased up to 30 colonies as a swarm control measure for not more than a 60-day period of time.
  - 2 ½ - 5 acres = 25 colonies. Colony numbers may be increased up to 50 colonies as a swarm control measure for not more than a 60-day period of time.
  - 5- 10 acres = 50 colonies. Colony numbers may be increased up to 100 colonies as a swarm control measure for not more than a 60-day period of time.
  - 10+ acres = 100 colonies. The number of colonies shall be unlimited provided all colonies are at least 150 feet from property lines.

<sup>1</sup> Texas Agriculture Code Chapter 131 and Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 1951, Structural Pest Control, Section 1951.056

<sup>2</sup> An example of a record sheet can be found in the [Honey Bee Health Coalition's Tools for Varroa Management guide](http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/Varroa/#videos).

<sup>3</sup> A basic introduction to IPM can be found in the Honey Bee Health Coalition's Varroa Videos at: <http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/Varroa/#videos> or on the Texas Apiary Inspection Service Website at <http://txbeeinspection.tamu.edu/beekeepers/integrated-pest-management/>

<sup>4</sup> Check with your local Code Enforcement Department, Animal Control Department, or Sheriff Department about local honey bee regulations.

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## 2017 Texas Honey Queen

**Megan Pettibon**

### Beekeeping in West Texas



West Texas is full of surprises. This wonderful region is a combination of friends and family, where everyone helps each other out. This sense of community that is shared between people overflows into the beekeeping world as well. Whether you have been a beekeeper for many years, or a completely “newbee”, the experienced keepers quickly jump in to educate the youth and beginners.

Clubs in this area include the El Paso Beekeepers Association and the Permian Basin Beekeepers Association. I had the privilege of speaking at Concho Valley Beekeepers Association this year, and was interviewed with K-San TV station in San Angelo. They welcomed me with open arms, and were eager to learn different topics related to beekeeping.

The weather in west Texas is as you would expect, dry. Much depends on how much rain they get. This hot weather also adds a dilemma when thinking about becoming commercial. It is hard to provide a large nectar source for hundreds of hives at a time. Not saying that people haven't tried or succeeded, but it does add a level of difficulty when relying heavily on the weather for a good floral crop. Wind also plays a factor into raising honey bees. It can vary between 50-60 mph some days. Making sure that your hive lids are weighed down with a large brick or stone is important to prevent the wind from blowing it off and causing damage to your hive.

While interviewing some beekeepers during my visit to west Texas, a common pest that was brought up in conversations were skunks. Like I explained in my previous article about the North Region of Texas, skunks scratch the hive boxes to irritate the bees. The bees then fly out into the skunk's tail, and she will begin eating them from her tail with no hesitation. This simple performance for obtaining a meal can greatly weaken or destroy a hive box in one night. Again, make sure you put your hives up on a stand of some sort to prevent the skunks and other pests from reaching your bees. Varroa Mites are extremely common in this region as well.

Beekeepers are constantly keeping their eyes open while inspecting their hives, so as to treat for the varroa mites as soon as they appear. It takes tough bees and determined beekeepers to make it in west Texas.

Throughout most of this region, especially the Midland area, Mesquite trees provide a large supply of nectar. Bees also like to work yucca, catclaw, and smartweed. Another common nectar source is the yellow canola flower. Many beekeepers transfer their bees to canola fields for a great honey crop. But these aren't the only fields beekeepers run too.

Think about your favorite shirt made of cotton. Without the honey bees, we wouldn't have half the clothes we do today. The cotton fields are full of honey bees, who diligently pollinate and gather nectar from each blossom. Many beekeepers take their hives to these crops during its season, because cotton is completely reliable on honey bee pollination. In 2006, Texas beekeepers produced about \$5 million worth of honey. It ranked eighth for domestic production with 5.7 million pounds of the golden liquid. About 2.7 million pounds of that was estimated from cotton nectar.

West Texas beekeepers are brought together by their love for honey bees and love for each other. It was so fun to see how contagious their enthusiasm was and is. With weather playing such a large toll on honey production, the decision to keep bees takes understanding and patience. Skunks and other pests add to the importance of education, but the clubs that have formed in this region of Texas are doing an excellent job at educating their members and the public on the care of their bees. The different nectar sources are unique and treasured. Not only are cotton and canola oil in such demand, but bees are essential in the production of countless plants and herbs. Understanding how important this insect is to the world has brought west Texas together, and continues to do so.



# The 5th Annual Central Texas Tour de Hives

*The 5th Annual Central Texas Tour de Hives is coming up soon and we have lots of cool stuff planned for everyone to enjoy!*

**Event Location:**  
Zilker Botanical Gardens  
2220 Barton Springs Rd.  
Austin, Texas

Learn more about beekeeping and related topics such as planting native bee friendly plants, how to make a solar wax melter, mead making, and more. We have 3 days with event stuff happening!!!

All events take place indoors at the Zilker Botanical Gardens  
2220 Barton Springs Rd, Austin, TX  
(Hive touring is offsite Saturday from 9am-12pm only)

**Beeswax Maker Workshop:**  
**Friday, August 18th**  
**from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.**

**\$25** - Learn how to make lip balm and tea light candles, get some easy recipes, and more. Hands on and you will take products home!(Class is limited to 50 participants, MUST pre-register by August 16th). Workshop Sponsor: The Beeswax Co.



Come search for the queen bee! At the Annual Tour de Hives event families can get a closer look via the indoor observation hive with a live colony.

*The 2017 Tour de Hives is sponsored by:*  
**Travis County Beekeepers and Bee Friendly Foundation.**  
This event is a yearly fundraiser with proceeds donated to nonprofit(s) dedicated to helping bees, beekeeper and public education, and bee research.

Please make checks or donations to:  
**Bee Friendly Foundation**



**5th Annual Tour de Hives - Public Event:**  
**Saturday, August 19th**  
**from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

A day full of speakers in the Auditorium, Vendors with products in the Greene Room, an observation hive with a live colony, Honey Queens & Princesses, Learn about REAL Texas Honey, Honey Tasting, Silent Auction, & Raffle Prizes - something will be happening all day, check the schedule on the tour website.

There will also be lots of bee yards to tour from Dripping Springs to Georgetown and more! Admission to the event is **\$5** per group of up to 5 people and **\$1** for any extras traveling in same group! (1 tour map per group) - Buy tickets and

sign waivers online or in person, on day of event, at Zilker Botanical Gardens. <http://www.TourdeHives.org>

**Beekeeping Educational Seminar:**  
**Sunday, August 20th**  
**from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**\$55** Early Registration by August 18th or **\$65** at the door. Beekeeping 101 Classes for those interested in learning how to get started, what to buy and where, setting up the bee yard, getting & installing your bees, and more!

Beekeeping 201 Advanced track includes a top bar hive session with Les Crowder, mead making, beeswax making, and swarm collection. Schedules & Speakers will be posted on the event website!(Registration includes lunch from Rudy's BBQ or a vegetarian selection; must PRE-PAY)

<http://www.TourdeHives.org>

Travis County Beekeepers Association (TCBA) was founded in 2014 and exists to promote common interest and general welfare of beekeeping, to protect honey bees, to educate beekeepers, encourage good bee management practices, and to encourage good relations between beekeepers and the public. Travis County Beekeepers Association is a non-profit organization serving the beekeeping community in the greater Austin and Travis County areas. Travis County Beekeepers Association is a member of the Texas Beekeepers Association and the Austin Area Garden Council.

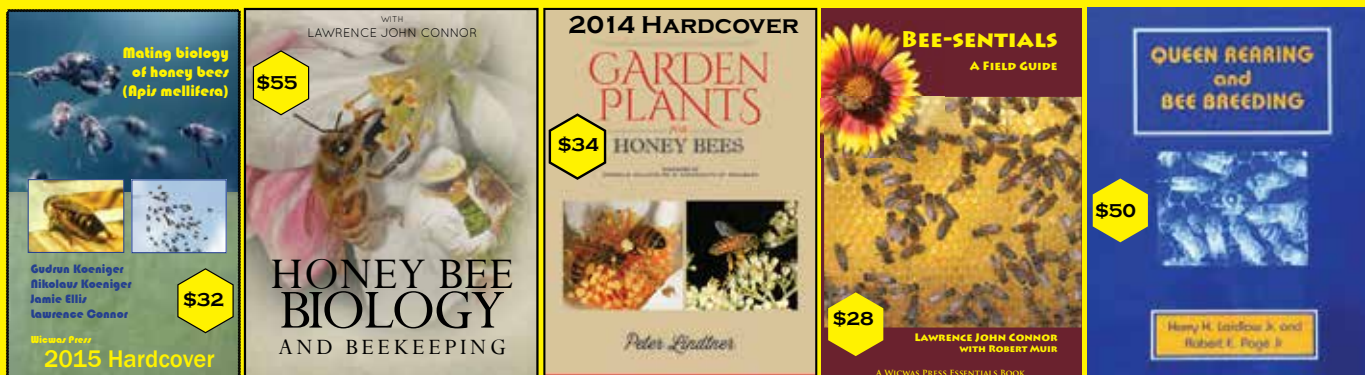
Tanya Phillips, Master Beekeeper  
[www.BeeFriendlyAustin.com](http://www.BeeFriendlyAustin.com)  
512-560-3732  
[tanya333@me.com](mailto:tanya333@me.com)



Ava Kirkland, 2017 Youth Scholarship recipient with Travis County Beekeepers, tells Tour de Hives attendees about the honey she is selling from her family's beehives!

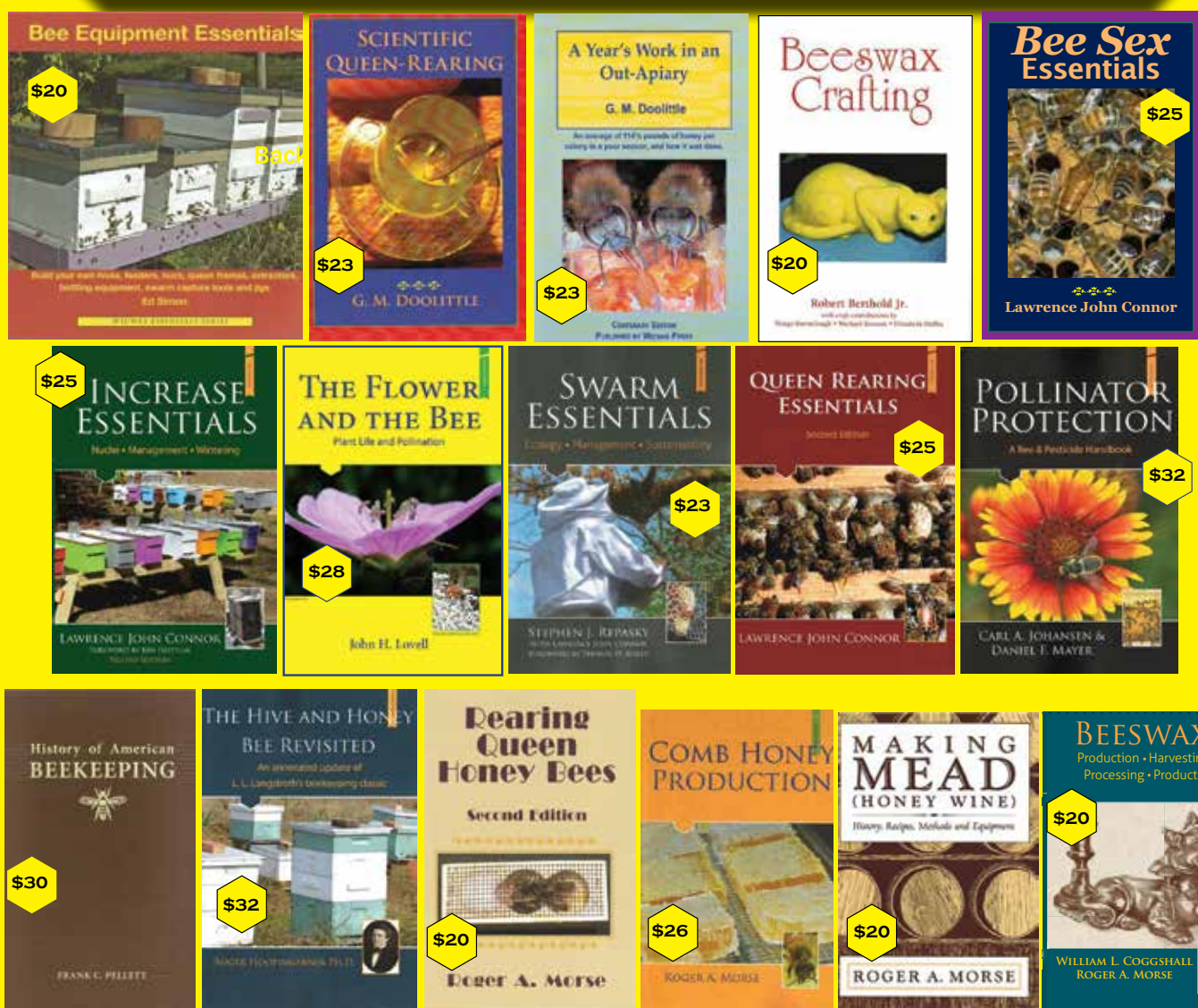
\*Please note that there is an additional parking/admission fee charged upon entry to the Botanical Gardens by the City of Austin.





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# 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 have been on leave for the last couple of weeks recharging energy and visiting my relatives in Colombia, South America. Nevertheless, I found a little bit of time to write a short column for the TBA journal, so as to keep with tradition, and to give you a couple of updates.

First, some excellent news on the bee lab front: Adrian Fisher II successfully defended his Ph. D. dissertation on June 7th. The title of his defense seminar was "Assessing the potential threat of widely used agrochemicals to honey bee (*Apis mellifera* L.) drones and workers." He passed his final exam with flying colors and gave a wonderful talk about his work at the bee lab for the last four and a half years... he sincerely made me very proud to be his advisor. Adrian will be graduating on Friday, August 11th and will continue to work in the lab until the first week of September, when he will be moving to Tempe, AZ to start a postdoctoral research appointment at Arizona State University. Under the supervision of Drs. Jennifer Fewell and Jon Harrison, Adrian will be working on a large, collaborative project looking at the physiological effects of fungicides on honey bees, a topic very well aligned with Adrian's work on the effect of pesticides on worker longevity. Adrian has been an integral part of our research program, always offering his help with other people's projects, or with all our outreach and education activities. Although he will be dearly missed, we are very excited for him as he embarks on the new chapter of his professional life. Congratulations, Dr. Fisher!!!

As the academic life goes, research programs always welcome new members and say good bye to those that move on to other projects. We recently welcomed Dr. Tonya Shepherd to our lab. Dr. Shepherd got her Ph. D. in Microbiology from Texas A&M University's Health Science Center and was a lecturer at Blinn College in Bryan, TX. Her new position as our molecular laboratory manager, research associate, and instructor, fits our needs and her career goals perfectly. She will be conducting genetics research and managing all the logistical needs of our molecular lab on the main campus, and will be the instructor of the ENTO 320 Honey Bee Biology course online in the

fall, spring, and summer, and face-to-face in the fall. Tonya is very knowledgeable in microbiology and genetics techniques, and has a passion for teaching, so her addition to the lab has been invaluable. Welcome Dr. Shepherd to the Rangel Honey Bee Lab!!!



With Adrian Fisher leaving, and Dr. Shepherd arriving, our lab will be comprised of the following people: Three Ph. D. Students—Liz Walsh, Pierre Lau, and Alex Payne; Dr. Shepherd; Dan Aurell, the leader of the Texas A&M University Tech Transfer Team, which is put together by the Bee Informed Partnership; Gene Ash, our apiary manager; and a team of undergraduate students that conduct independent research for credit each semester. Once our fall semester starts, I will give you updates on two projects in particular that are being led by undergraduate students in our lab.

Liz Walsh has been in her native state of Wisconsin over the summer for the second year in a row. Because the queen rearing season in our neck of the woods is early in the year and not terribly long, we are taking advantage of the fact that she still has colonies in WI to work with, and that the queen rearing season is later in the year in that part of the country, to rear more queens and gather more data for her Ph. D. She recently gave a talk to the WI honey producers, and was very well received, as usual. We look forward to having Liz back in Texas, where she will use the queens she reared throughout this season to determine the effects of miticides and insecticides on queen reproductive quality.

Alex Payne is leading our project sponsored by Project Apis m. and the National Honey Board titled "Synergistic effects of in-hive miticides and agro-chemicals on honey bee (*Apis mellifera*)



*Dr. Tonya Shepherd is the new molecular laboratory manager at the Rangel Lab and will also be the instructor for the online ENTO 320 Honey Bee Biology course at Texas A&M University*



*Rangel Lab staff creating packages for our 2017 Project Apis mellifera*



queen survival, colony growth, and honey production.” This study will shed light on whether contamination with agrochemicals (miticides, insect growth regulators, etc.) of the wax that colonies use to start off new comb production negatively affects queen survival and colony growth. The nucs that were started in May are now in one or two Langstrogh hive bodies, and although we have had some colony mortality, some colonies are very strong. We look forward to concluding this study in the fall to analyze the results and determine if the level of contamination we used to coat the wax foundation for the nucs was sufficient to cause significant effects on colony growth and survival.

Pierre Lau is currently working on a project for his Ph. D. that looks at the pollen preferences of honey bee workers when they are confined to a space with a limited selection of protein sources. He has already found some interesting results and is conducting his second trial of this large project. Hopefully by the end of this year he will have enough data to definitively determine if and how honey bee workers select their pollen sources (presumably) based on the protein content of the pollen.

We loved being a part of the Texas Beekeepers Association Summer Clinic in Arlington, TX on Saturday, 10 June. We had the pleasure of having Dr. Deborah Delaney, Assistant Professor of Apiculture at the University of Delaware, give a couple of presentation about the attributes that increase the consumer’s willingness to pay for honey at the local level. I presented two workshops on queen rearing, Liz Walsh gave a talk about IPM methods for mite control, and Pierre Lau gave an excellent talk on the honey testing we will be performing as part of our grant with the Texas Beekeepers Association (TBA). During Pierre’s presentation the audience learned about the honey testing that will be performed our lab as part of the research goals of the Texas Department of Agriculture grant that was obtained by the TBA 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.

Finally, I want to invite all of you to the Fall Bee School organized by the Brazos Valley Beekeepers Association, and for the first time, co-sponsored by the Rangel Honey Bee Lab. The event will be on Saturday, 23 September at the AgriLife Center and AGLS buildings of the Texas A&M University Main Campus from 7:30am to 5:30pm. Registration will be \$50 for individuals, \$80 for couples, and \$15 for children from ages 10-17 (free for kids 9 and under). Registration is limited to 450 people, and we DO expect to sell out, so get your tickets soon! We will have courses on many aspects of beekeeping at the beginner and intermediate level. For information, visit <http://www.bvbeeks.org/> or contact the event secretary Ashley Ralph at [beeschool@bvbeeks.org](mailto:beeschool@bvbeeks.org). Of course our students will be giving lectures, as well as myself, so hope to see you there!

I will be back from leave on 7 August and will reply to email as time permits upon my return. If you have any questions, please email me at [jrangel@tamu.edu](mailto:jrangel@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/TAMUhoneebeeclub>. Thank you all for your support and happy beekeeping!



*Juan Varela with his Leather products  
Summer Clinic 2017*



*Clint Weaver with Randy Oakley  
Summer Clinic 2017*



*Anita Moore of Moore Honey Farm  
with Real Texas Honey  
Summer Clinic 2017*



## The Apprenticeship Pre-Nuptial

*from Robin Young, Metro Beekeepers Association*



This past May, my husband and I celebrated our 20<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. We had been planning a trip to Alaska for a few years, secretly I had been planning to go since the 80's when my grandparents went to celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. We were packed up and heading out for our 2 week trip, the 1<sup>st</sup> week by land across the Canada Rocky Mountain National Parks and the second week we were meeting up with 2 other couples for the Princess Glacier Cruise. I was ready...all 4 of our kids were going to spend 2 weeks with their aunt Elizabeth and Granny Reva in Colorado having their own vacation. While on the plane to Canada I was running through my ideas for the next couple of journal articles: "The Honey Bees and the Canada/Alaska flowers they love". You guessed it, I had my camera bag in tow and was excited to get pictures of all the honey bees and the exotic flowers they love.



From my title, you can see I did not get a single honey bee picture. No matter where we were there were no honey bees to be found. I was feeling alone on an ice berg.



This was a reminder of how important what we do as bee keepers is and how even more important it is that we teach others. My next 2 articles are going to be on Apprenticeships and things you can do to protect yourself (The Mentor), your student, and make a lifelong friend in the process. (I'm not a lawyer and do not play one on TV...with any contract it is always good to run it by your attorney.)

I put this contract together not just for the student, but for me also. I have to sign each one and it reminds me not to over commit. It really does take about 40 hours. To date, we all become good friends and if anyone of us are in a pinch and need help we are there for each other. This contract also acknowledges that I understand they are spending hard earned money and that they need me to "show up" for them to be a success. There are ways that I help that I don't put in the agreement because I want to know their level of commitment. The agreement is a show of understanding that time

is valuable and both parties respect each other's time and money.

### **CONTRACT OF APPRENTICESHIP/MENTOR:**

This contract is between "Soul Honey" owner Robin L Young and

\_\_\_\_\_:

Learn to Split a hive:

- 1) 2 combs of honey for a top bar hive
- 2) 1 comb of capped brood for a top bar hive
- 3) 1 comb with "c" larva visible to grow a queen for a top bar hive

The purpose of this document is so that you can participate in the splitting of a hive into a top bar hive. In this agreement Ms. Young will help and teach how to grow a queen from the larva state to a mated and laying state. Guidance will be offered if you chose to establish your own hives and advice on seasonal beekeepers duties to the hive will be offered. The apprentice's responsibilities:

- 1) Will keep in communication with Ms. Young .
- 2) Will try and coordinate meetings with Ms. Young at least 2 times during the "flower"/honey flow/Spring & Fall season in order to assess the progress of a hive and to treat for any attacks on the hive.
- 3) Will supply their own protective bee suit, gloves, smoker and hive tool after 1<sup>st</sup> onsite beekeeping session. (Do not make any purchases until after you have come out and had your 1<sup>st</sup> lesson.)
- 4) Will plan to spend your own money on setting up 2 bee hives. (Prices vary, but most bee hive boxes run \$250 and a pack of bees with a queen run around \$175.)
- 5) Will commit to feeding and maintaining your own hives so they have the best start on their first year.

- 6) Will not have a problem with Ms. Young coming on your property to assist you in setting up your hives. You will spend 20 to 40 hours with Ms. Young during the year roughly.

### **(Lines for Contact information and signatures)**

This is a copy of my 1<sup>st</sup> year student's agreement. Some students take a little longer to go through all of these activities and I keep them on another year. Often I get texts of activity that my apprentices see in their hive and can address them. Occasionally a house call is required.

I truly cherish these times with new bee keepers. There is a thrill you get when they find their first queen running around on a comb, or when they harvest their honey for the first time.

I know that for some of you the thought of taking someone along with you on your hive checks is a bit unnerving. Next Issue I will talk about my "Wavier of Liability" document I have each person sign before they come on my property. It's always good to practice on a close friend or family member, but hold off until the next issue. You are going to want that "Wavier of Liability" form.

So here's to pulling a few more people on to the iceberg with us. I promise the view is awesome from up here.



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

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- *Delivery only*

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## Brazos Valley Beekeepers Association **BEE SCHOOL**

**When: Sat, September 23, 2017**  
**7:30am – 5:30pm**

**Where: Agrilife Center / AGLS Building**  
**Texas A&M Campus**  
**College Station, TX**

Registration for the school is \$50 for an individual, \$80 for a couple; children from age 10 to 17 may attend for \$15 each. Lunch is included with your registration.

Note that we are limiting registrations to 450 people this year, and we **DO** expect to sell out. You should plan to register early.

This full-day event has multiple classes covering virtually every aspect of beekeeping: from the very basics of getting started, expanding an existing apiary, landscaping using "bee-friendly" plants, how to get an Ag exemption on your property taxes by keeping bees. And much, MUCH more.

<http://www.bvbeeks.org/>

Visit the website above to register, view class schedule and details or you can contact the event secretary, Ashley Ralph at:

979-777-2529 or [beeschool@bvbeeks.org](mailto:beeschool@bvbeeks.org).





# What the Declining Bee Population Means for You

Ms. Erickson is an amateur beekeeper and gardener. She hopes to raise awareness about both hobbies via her site, [SavingOurBees.org](http://SavingOurBees.org).

By now, you've almost certainly heard about bees dying off in large numbers across North America. Perhaps you're wondering, "So what?" After all, how could the death of a small insect possibly affect us? But bees play a bigger role in our world than many people realize. Here's what's happening to the world's bees, and what you can do to help.

## Are bees really dying?

Yes. Over **40 percent** of honeybee hives in the U.S. died in 2015, preceded by 23 percent in 2014 and an average of 30 percent each year from 2005 to 2013. Considering that the historical death rate has ranged from 10 to 15 percent, these numbers are a frightening jump.

## What is causing bees to die?

The reasons behind bee death aren't fully understood, but there are a few known culprits along with a few suspected contributors. You may have heard the term Colony Collapse Disorder to refer to the death of entire hives of honeybees, but the cause behind CCD isn't entirely clear. **Scientists believe** that the overuse of pesticides in agriculture is a primary contributor, along with a parasite known as the varroa mite that attacks beehives.

**Climate change** also affects the health of bee populations. Changing weather patterns cause flowers to bloom earlier than usual, leaving less food for the bees when they emerge from hibernation. And as our world continues to be developed, with green spaces transformed into housing developments and shopping centers, there's less space for bees to inhabit and fewer plants for them to forage.

## How does bee death affect the environment?

The humble bee plays a big role in the environment. Bees pollinate crops, with 84 percent of our food crops relying on pollinators like bees in order to produce a healthy yield. And the plants that bees pollinate don't only feed humans: Every animal that relies on seeds, fruits, and berries for its nutrition could be affected by bee die-off. Without bees, wildflowers will disappear, and global biodiversity will take a big hit.

## How does bee death affect me?

Bees play a big role in our food supply. They pollinate not only the crops we eat, but also the crops that livestock animals like cows, pigs, and sheep eat. Without bees to pollinate them, many crops could disappear completely. That means you won't see as much variety at the grocery store — no more almonds, strawberries, apples, or peaches — and what is available will be a lot more expensive. And the honey you love to put in your tea? Don't expect to find it on your grocery store shelves, or at least not at a price you can afford.

Bee die-off also has big implications for the global economy. Plants pollinated by bees and other birds and insects contribute **\$577 billion** to the global economy every year, and the production, harvest, transport, and sale of those plants creates countless jobs in the U.S. and beyond.

## What can I do to help bees?

Everyday people like you can help protect our pollinators. One of the easiest ways to support bees is to plant a pollinator garden in your own backyard. Dedicate part of your lawn to flowering plants that are native to your area. Opt for a wide variety of plants that flower at different times so pollinators will have a food source throughout the year.

However, be careful when buying plants for your pollinator garden. Some plants sold as bee-friendly may actually be contaminated with neonicotinoids, the very pesticide behind Colony Collapse Disorder. Researchers found that more than half of the flowers and vegetable plants sold at big-box home and garden stores **contained neonicotinoids**. To make sure you're buying plants that are truly bee-friendly, shop at local garden stores that use organic practices. Here are some basic tips to follow when creating a home garden.

Another easy way to help bees is to build them homes. If becoming a backyard bee keeper sounds like a lot of work, don't worry: Honey bees aren't the only buzzing pollinator in need of protection, and other bee varieties are much more low-maintenance. Mason bees are effective pollinators, rarely ever sting, and only need a patch of bare ground and a **simple house** to settle in.

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# Raising a Honey Queen

*from Ruth Ramos, Texas Honey Queen Chair*

Honey bees have finally been given their due. In recent years interest in honey bees and beekeeping has increased across the nation and in particular, Texas. Beekeeping associations, local clubs affiliated with the Texas Beekeepers Association (TBA), grew from twenty-two in 2015 to forty-seven associations in 2017. This increase has local associations also expressing an interest in developing youth beekeeping programs in their communities. The Honey Queen Program is one such program that offers experiences and opportunities to both young women and the hosting association. These Honey Queen Programs at the local level are the start for raising a Texas Honey Queen. Every year at the TBA State conference held in November, a young woman is chosen from a local association to represent the Texas Beekeepers Association as an official spokesperson to educate the public on and promote all aspects of the beekeeping industry. For a full year the Texas Honey Queen promotes and represents the state's honey and beekeeping industry through promotions at schools, festivals, rodeos, conventions and social media.

Selecting a Texas Honey Queen though actually starts with the local associations and their Honey Queen Programs. These programs provide the opportunity for young women to experience the enjoyment and responsibility that is the craft of beekeeping. The Honey Queen programs promote a better understanding of the value of honey bees to our environment, the food chain and to the agricultural industry with the possibility of a future vocation in beekeeping as a sideline or full-time business.

As a Honey Queen the young woman represents her association by giving presentations in the community regarding general beekeeping, cooking demonstrations with honey, working beekeeping booths at festivals and rodeos, and giving media interviews on bees and beekeeping. A young woman benefits as a Honey Queen through development of public speaking skills, confidence building and, with many associations, scholarships.

Associations benefit in establishing a Honey Queen Program by increased attention from the local community about their presence. The presentations that the Honey Queen gives, help develop appreciation and understanding of honey bees in the community, further developing interest in bees, beekeeping and the benefits of honey.



*Texas Honey Queen, Megan Pettibon with Ruth Ramos, Texas Honey Queen Chair*

Developing a Honey Queen Program consists of:

- Establishing rules and guidelines through a chair/committee. The Committee develops the paperwork and executes the program.
- Finding applicants for the program through the offer of youth scholarship programs, local schools, or reaching out to the community.
- Selecting a representative through competitions, interviews or judging processes.
- Choosing mentors and trainers of beekeeping and the industry along with instructors in public speaking skills and media interaction including social media.
- Finding and determining appropriate events to be scheduled.
- Funding of the program through sponsors, auctions, or raffles.
- Preparation for State Honey Queen Competition.
- Official recognition and rewards with an end-of-the year review.



*American Honey Princess, Hope Pettibon, Texas Honey Queen, Megan Pettibom, Janeil Mitchell, Collin County Honey Queen Abby Pettibon, Collin County Honey Princess, Mary Reisinger*

Establishing a Honey Queen Program for your association need not be overwhelming. Consider the development of your program as a work-in-progress and embrace simplicity. Establish a Committee, determine rules for eligibility and establish guidelines. Reach out to other associations with long-standing Honey Queen Programs for suggestions and guidance.

The Texas Beekeepers Association welcomes associations to develop Honey Queen Programs and looks to the associations to raise the next State of Texas Honey Queen.

# Wood County Beekeepers Association Hive Painting Contest

*from Mary Smith, President*



*Jim Smith explaining a Top Bar Hive*



*Marilyn Arnaud, Queen Bee and 2nd Place Winner, Margit Iguchi*



*1st Place Winner*



*Mary Smith, Phillip Conner & Jim Smith demonstrating Extraction*





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We were contacted by Kerri Miller about this group of young people who were selling lemonade for a good cause. They donated \$175 to the Texas Honey Bee Education Association resulting from their great efforts.

Texas Beekeepers Association thanks all the young people for helping to promote the Honey Bee.





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

Please forward any changes and/or additions to  
Leesa Hyder, Executive Secretary, [execsec@texasbeekeepers.org](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@cchba.org](mailto:president@cchba.org)

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

[www.dentoncountybeekeepersassociation.com](http://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](mailto:dino-beeclub@hotmail.com)

[www.dino-bee.com](http://www.dino-bee.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

*ragdale@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

*joebees@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

*hushyomouth55@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 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

*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 Monday 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

*jimmymj@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

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## Upcoming Events

**Texas Beekeepers Annual Convention**  
**Brazos Valley Bee School**  
**Tour d'Hives**

**November 9th - 11th**  
**September 23rd**  
**August 18th - 20th**



## 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*

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Brookside Village, TX 77581

(281) 468-0019

### Area 2

#### **Tanya Phillips**

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Austin, TX 78736

(512) 560-3732

### Area 6

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## Texas Beekeepers Association

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