

The Texas Beekeepers Association

Journal



CONVENTION NOV 9TH - 11TH

FULL PROGRAM PAGE 10 & 11

THURSDAY WORKSHOP PAGE 17

HOTELS PAGE 14 & 15

HONEY SHOW PAGE 8 & 9

SPEAKERS PAGE 4 & 5



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President's Report

from Chris Moore

September has been an eye opener. Hurricane Harvey was devastating to most of us here on the Texas coast. While some of us had small losses, and others without any loss, thousands upon thousands lost everything. I've lost count on how many flood victims that we have helped gut their homes down to the studs. It's absolutely gut-wrenching to have to haul families' lifelong possessions to the street. At the end of the day, their entire front yard filled with flooded debris.

But I can say through all that, it has been absolutely uplifting and utterly amazing to see the outpouring of support from all over the country. I have seen countless Churches, Companies and individuals that have stopped everything in their everyday lives. Then, taking the form of a servant, load trucks and trailers with much needed supplies and headed to the coast. Some not even knowing where they were going, just knowing that they were moved and wanted to help others in need. They have been such a blessing to soo many people.

As far as colony losses..... TBD. There are those of us that the water got so high the boxes simply floated away, bees and all. While others had nasty flood water enter the bottom brood boxes. Will those colonies survive? Will they rebound this time of year? It's too soon to tell what the losses will be. Thankfully, most commercial beekeepers did not have all their colonies on the coast at the time Harvey hit. But there were a few, and they had some substantial losses.

Through all this, I have neglected my job both as beekeeper and TBA president. I am so thankful to those on the board that have helped me while I focused on recovery and helping others. Some of whom have been working hard on putting together an informative TBA Convention in November.

I really hope to see you there.

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The 2017 Texas Beekeepers Association Annual Convention

at

Mayborn Convention Center
3303 N 3rd St., Temple TX 76501
November 9th - 11th, 2017

Cover Picture by Liz Walsh



Vice President's Report

from Lisa Dittfurth

Greetings Fellow Beekeepers:

I hope everyone managed to produce some honey this year and has successfully harvested the honey their hives made. Honey production was definitely down this year for many beekeepers in North Texas. Our beekeeping friends along the Texas Coast faced the unimaginable catastrophe that was Hurricane Harvey. Water in homes and hives or worse, homes and hives washed away! Hopefully beekeepers in the rest of the state fared better with their hive management and honey harvests. Those affected by Harvey will be working for some time to come to recover and restore what was lost. I ask you to join me in praying for our fellow Texans that were affected by the hurricane and flooding and to continue to support them in any way we can.

The 2017 TBA Convention, scheduled for November 9 – 11, is just around the corner and the Convention Planning Committee continues working hard to finalize the details for this annual multi-day event. If you're new to the TBA or you've never attended a Convention, you might be wondering what it's all about. There are many components of the TBA Annual Convention but the primary objective of the event is to comply with the TBA By-Laws which prescribe 'an annual membership meeting of the Association during the month of November, for the election of Officers, for receiving the annual reports and the transaction of other business.' It's also an opportunity to meet beekeepers from around the state, get up-to-date information on industry news, learn about hive management best practices and shop at the vendor trade show. Another very important objective of the TBA Annual Convention is to bring the membership together to support the TBA Queen Program and to coronate the next year's Queen. You'll notice events scattered throughout

the Convention that are conducted with or for the Queen Program. The Queen's Social, which is scheduled for Thursday, Nov 9 at 6:00 pm is a long-standing tradition where Queens, Princesses and Ambassadors from local clubs around the state display memorabilia they've collected and scrapbooks they've created which chronicle their activities while serving as their clubs' representatives. Attendees are invited to visit each table, get to know each club's 'royalty' and learn about their efforts to promote all aspects of the Beekeeping Industry. One of the young ladies at the Queen's Social will become the next Texas Beekeepers Association's Honey Queen. On Friday, Convention attendees are invited to purchase a ticket to have lunch with the current TBA Honey Queen and the local clubs' queens, princesses and ambassadors. There will be two auctions over the course of the Convention: a live auction during the Awards Ceremony Friday night and a silent auction that will conclude on Saturday. The proceeds of both auctions help fund the Queen Program. Attendees can also purchase a ticket for a box lunch on Saturday and eat while observing the Queen's Quiz Bowl, a fun event in which all of the Queens, Princesses and Ambassadors must put their beekeeping knowledge to the test. And of course, a special highlight of the Convention is the coronation of the next Honey Queen during the Awards Ceremony on Friday night. We hope all TBA members will appreciate the benefits of the TBA Queen Program and if you are able, plan to attend this year's Convention and show your support.

As winter approaches, be sure that your bees have enough food to survive through the winter months. If you haven't tested for Varroa mites since your honey harvest you should do so as soon as possible. If your mite count exceeds three mites in one hundred bees you need to apply Varroa treatment immediately or your hive will probably not survive.



Tim Tucker began beekeeping in 1990 with two hives of bees and over the period of 10 years worked up to a commercial beekeeper with as many as 800 hives. Tim has served in Kansas as the president of the Kansas honey producers Association. He became involved with the American Beekeeping Federation about 15 years ago and has served on the board of directors for over 10 years. He served as president of the ABF in 2014 and 15. Tim remains active with the ABF as editor of the ABF E Buzz as well as serving on several committees and representing ABF to the Environmental Protection Agency. Tim has made dozens of trips to Washington DC over the years to represent the interests of beekeepers and our honey bees all across the country

2017 Texas Beekeepers Association Convention Speakers



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 is the Honey Bee Health lead for Monsanto's newly formed BioDirect business unit. Before joining Monsanto he was the Chief of the Apiary Section for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. In the role he was responsible for the regulatory health of the 350,000 colonies in the State of Florida, a State highly dependent on Honey Bee pollination for agricultural success. For the past 30 years Jerry has written a monthly column in the American Bee Journal called The Classroom and a book by the same name. Jerry is a founding member of the Colony Collapse Working Group, a science advisory board member for Project Apis mellifera (PAm), the Bee Informed Partnership, and he serves on the Steering Committee of the Honey Bee Health Coalition. He has been author and co-author on multiple research papers that delve into how to understand and preserve honey bee health.



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.

Dr. Deborah Delaney is Associate Professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware where she mentors graduate and undergraduate students working on various aspects of pollinator health and productivity. She teaches Insects and Society and Apiculture and Pollination Ecology. She has over 20 years of experience working with pollinators, specifically honey bees, and maintains between 25-60 colonies in the teaching apiary at UD's Newark farm. Her research program has four main focal areas: genetic identity and diversity of US honey bees, temporal stability of pollinator populations, best management solutions for creating sustainable managed pollinator populations and pollinator nutrition and forage mapping.



Ann Harman's lifelong interest in honey bees turned her career as a research chemist to beekeeping. With her background in apiculture, from being a student of Dr. Dewey Caron, she became a volunteer to teach beekeeping skills in Third-World Countries for 54 assignments in 29 countries and received 4 Presidential Awards. She also writes monthly articles for Bee Culture, each issue of Beekeepers Quarterly and occasionally for BeeCraft. She is an Eastern Apicultural Society Master Beekeeper and teaches beekeeping in the U.S. She is a member, and has been an officer, of numerous beekeeping associations. She has been a Honey Show organizer and judge for national, regional, state and local honey shows. Most recently she was a honey judge at Apimondia 2015 in Seoul, South Korea.

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 Annual Banquet 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 9th - 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 Membership Coordinator, 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

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



Fall Testing for the Texas Master Beekeeper Program

When: Thursday November 9th, 2017

Where: Mayborn Convention Center, Temple, TX

Registration: Online registration begins on September 1st

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

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



Friday, November 10, 2017
At TBA Convention in Temple, Texas
 Rules at 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

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



Texas Beekeepers Association

As of Sep 15, 2017

Serving beekeepers since 1880.

Annual Convention at Mayborn Civic and Convention Center in Temple, Texas
Convention: November 10-12, 2017 Honey Show: Friday, November 10, 2017

Texas Honey Show Entry Form

Name: Email:.....

Cell phone: City or Bee Club:.....

Number of colonies: (Small-Scale fewer than 25 colonies, Sideliner 25 to 300 colonies, Commercial over 300 colonies.

Class	Entry Qty	\$5 fee if NOT TBA member or registered for Conference	Entry number assigned by Show Secretary
Class 1: Extracted Honey, one jar of LIGHT	_____	_____	_____
Class 2: Extracted Honey, one jar of LIGHT AMBER	_____	_____	_____
Class 3: Extracted Honey, one jars of AMBER	_____	_____	_____
Class 4: Extracted Honey, one jars of DARK	_____	_____	_____
Class 5: Creamed Honey, one jar	_____	_____	_____
Class 6: Chunk Honey, one jar	_____	_____	_____
Class 7: "Black Jar" Honey, one jar	_____	_____	_____
Class 8: Wax Plain Block (no fancy mold) weight min 1LB	_____	_____	_____
Class 9: Beekeeping Arts and Crafts	_____	_____	_____
Class 10: Photography Close-up	_____	_____	_____
Class 11: Photography Scenic	_____	_____	_____
Class 12: Photography Portrait	_____	_____	_____
Class 13: Beekeeping Gadgets	_____	_____	_____
M1. Traditional Mead	_____	_____	_____
M2. Fruit Mead	_____	_____	_____
M3. Spiced Mead	_____	_____	_____
M4. Specialty Mead	_____	_____	_____

Total Number of Entries _____

Total Cost _____

\$ _____

**Texas Beekeepers Association
2017 Annual Convention Program
November 9th - 11th**

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH, 2017

8:00 am - 5:00 pm **Texas Master Beekeeping Program Testing** - Mary Reed

9:15 am - 5:00 pm **Workshop - Keeping Bees Alive** - Jennifer Berry - University of Georgia Honey Bee Program

10:00 am **Executive Committee Meeting** - Chris Moore, TBA President

2:00 pm **2017 Convention Registration Opens** - Shirley Doggett, Membership Coordinator

6:00 pm **Bee Buzz Social and Honey Queen Reception** - Ruth Ramos, Texas Honey Queen Chair

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH, 2017

MORNING

9:00 am **Welcome to Belton** - Chris Moore, President

9:10 am **Announcements** - Lisa Dittfurth, Vice-President

9:15 am **TBA Grant Recipient's Report** - Pierre Lau

9:35 am **Best Practices in Successful Beekeeping** - Jerry Hayes

10:35 am **Break**

10:50 am **Anticipatory Beekeeping** - Dewey Caron

11:50 am **Let's Talk Oxalic** - Jennifer Berry

12:50 pm **Queen's Luncheon or Lunch on Your Own**

AFTERNOON

2:00 pm **The Beekeeping Classroom Q & A** - Jerry Hayes

3:00 pm **Bee Math** - Dewey Caron

4:00 pm **Break**

4:15 pm **American Bee Federation Update** - Blake Shook

4:30 pm **Genetics of Honey Bee Populations** - Debbie Delaney

6:15 pm **Awards Dinner**
 Dr. John G. Thomas Meritorious Service Award
 President's Award
 Jim Petty Memorial Award - Texas Beekeeper of the Year
 Lifetime Membership Awards
 Honey Show Awards
 2018 Honey Queen Coronation
 Queen's Auction

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH, 2017

MORNING

- 7:30 am **Texas Beekeepers Association Business Meeting**
- 9:00 am **Honey Bee Biogeography** - Debbie Delaney
Mead Making 101 - Mike Simmons
Beescapes: Choosing Honey Plants for Texas Landscapes and Rural Land - Becky Bender
Making Splits and Nucs - Tanya Phillips
Varroa Monitoring - Mary Reed
- 10:00 am **African Bees** - Ann Harman
Honey Bee Biology and Behavior - Megan Pettibon
Research Update on Honey Testing by Texas A&M University's Bee Lab - Juliana Rangel & Debbie Delaney

Producing Varietal honeys - Clint Walker
Texas Master Beekeeping Program - Mary Reed
- 11:00 am **Queen Rearing Workshop** - Juliana Rangel
Encaustic Painting Part 1 - Kim Lehman
Effective Varroa Management Through IPM - Lance Wilson
Beginning Beekeeping - Blake Shook
Creamed Honey - Tim Tucker
- 12:00 pm **Box Lunch & Queen's Quiz Bowl**
- 1:30 pm **Preparing for the Honey Show** - Ann Harman
Encaustic Painting Part 2 - Kim Lehman
How to Expand Into Pollination Services - Blake Shook
Queen Management for Robust Populations - Lance Wilson
Equipment Building Workshop - Chuck Reburn
- 2:30 pm **Nutrition & How Dramatically It Affects Your Hive** - Blake Shook
Beekeeping Management I - Mark Hedley
Bees as Your Ag. Qualifier - Dennis Herbert
Apitherapy - Robin Young
An Introduction to Top Bar Hives - John Swan
- 3:30 pm **Marketing Honey Commercially** - Tim Tucker
Beekeeping Management II - Mark Hedley
Reducing Stressors on Bees - Ann Harman
Honey Bee Nutrition and Feeding - Tanya Phillips
Advanced Top Bar Hive Techniques - John Swan
- 4:30 pm **Raffle & Wrap Up**
- 5:30 pm **Executive Committee Meeting**

**The 2017 Texas Beekeepers Association
Annual Convention
at
Mayborn Convention Center
3303 N 3rd St., Temple TX 76501
November 9th - 11th, 2017**

2017 Convention Registration Form

Please list attendees if you register as a Family

Name _____ Email _____

Spouse Name _____

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

* Family Membership 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

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



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

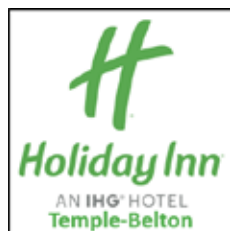
See Booking details on Page 14 and note cutoff date of 10/18/2017

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

Insert dates and Group Code

Cutoff Date 10/24/2017



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Blue Ridge, TX 75424

Workshop - Keeping Bees Alive Thursday November 9th, 2017

For Small-Scale (Hobby) and Serious Sideline Beekeepers

JENNIFER BERRY, INSTRUCTOR

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA HONEY BEE PROGRAM

REGISTRATION \$60 PER PERSON, Includes Lunch

Workshop Description:

Keeping bees alive today can be challenging, but with the right information, it's not that difficult. We will discuss all aspects of how to keep our bees healthy and happy, from proper hive placement and nutrition to keeping Varroa populations down. It is about time that our honey bees thrive instead of the pests that have parasitized them for so long.

PROGRAM

9:00	REGISTRATION
9:15	Neiman Marcus v WalMart Queens
10:15	Location and Equipment
10:30	BREAK
11:00	Hive Inspection and Disease Management
11:30	Small Hive Beetles
12:00	LUNCH
1:30	Varroa Control
2:45	Break
3:15	Honey Bee Nutrition and Feeding
4:00	Summary of the Day

Our After-Action Report

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

TBA Journal Article - September 2017

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



Photo - Hudson Old, *East Texas Journal Photography*

A pithy phrase is currently making the rounds: "Nothing changes if nothing changes." We are wrapping up our fourth beekeeping year. Our bees are now producing the bees that will take care of the bees that will go through winter. It's time for us to evaluate our apiary results, procedures, goals, equipment, and beekeeping knowledge levels. We know that some things need to change, so we evaluate everything.

We use the "AAR," the After-Action Report, probably first developed by military leaders. The AAR is a tool that thousands of organizations, companies, and individuals use after a battle, a difficult time, or a big push to look back over and evaluate their performance so that they can take necessary corrective action. It only takes about 30 minutes to complete the AAR. We ask ourselves and answer three simple questions:

- What went well?
- What did not go well?
- What will we do differently next time?

We may not like the answers to these three questions, but "Nothing changes if nothing changes." We answer the questions honestly, deal with everything that comes up, and seek for improvement.

Here is the Farrs' 2017 apiary After-Action Report.

What went well?

Three things went really well in our apiary: overwintering, queens, and splits.

We successfully overwintered all seven of our hives. We attribute the success to a mild winter, good nutrition availability from our pollen feeder and in the environment, adequate fall honey and pollen stores, and good fall 2016 management. These are all things we want to repeat for the 2017/18 beekeeping year.

We chose to begin raising queens early in February using the Nicot system. The mild weather allowed us to produce plenty of quality queens for our use and to sell to others. We split four of our hives to produce nuclei for sale. We expected to split the four hives into eight; however, they were so strong coming out of winter that we were able to split the four hives into 14 hives, 12 of which we sold. This was a tremendous bonus to our operation, and we want to repeat the queen rearing and the splits.

What did not go well?

Two things really did not go well in our apiary, both involving varroa control. We tested our hives on the first warm day in early January 2017; the counts were 1% or one mite per 100 bees, well below the action threshold of 3%. We sent our daughter off to Africa, became busy with life, and did not take another mite count until March; the mite counts were then 3-5%. We had to take immediate action. We chose to use *ApiLifeVar*, a thymol-based product, since the March temperatures were appropriate for this product to be effective. Normally, we have had good success with this "soft chemical," but we later saw no decline in mites in our April samples. We needed to do something else.

We had honey supers on, so researched our options and chose to use a thymol-based mite control product. We understood that the chemical requires a minimum of two weeks to clear the hive, so we recognized that we were not going to take the spring honey in the hives. We applied the varroa chemical, bought honey from a good friend, and told our customers that we would not have honey from our bees until fall. This was not a great way to run our little beekeeping business!

What will we do differently next time?

Our "what did not go well" issues were really a varroa control issue that was probably there in December 2016. Our bees were broodless in December, and we should have treated them then since mite levels will double every 30 days. We had 1% Varroa count in January, (probably 2% in February), and by the 3-5% levels in March. We thought we were okay in January, but we definitely were not!

Roger did research on using the recently approved chemical oxalic acid. We plan to use oxalic acid in our hives during the 2017-18 winter broodless period. This seems to be the best strategy for us to get very low mite counts coming out of winter so that varroa treatments should not be necessary until summer, after we have removed the honey supers.

We now have all the necessary equipment to safely treat our hives with oxalic acid in December 2017, including the oxalic acid vaporizer pictured and an additional organic chemical breathing mask to supplement our personal protective equipment when vaporizing the chemical in the hives.



We did not expect to go this route, but the After-Action-Report helped us secure reliable data to reach solid conclusions. Again, "Nothing changes if nothing changes." No spring honey is not a good result, so we are making changes!

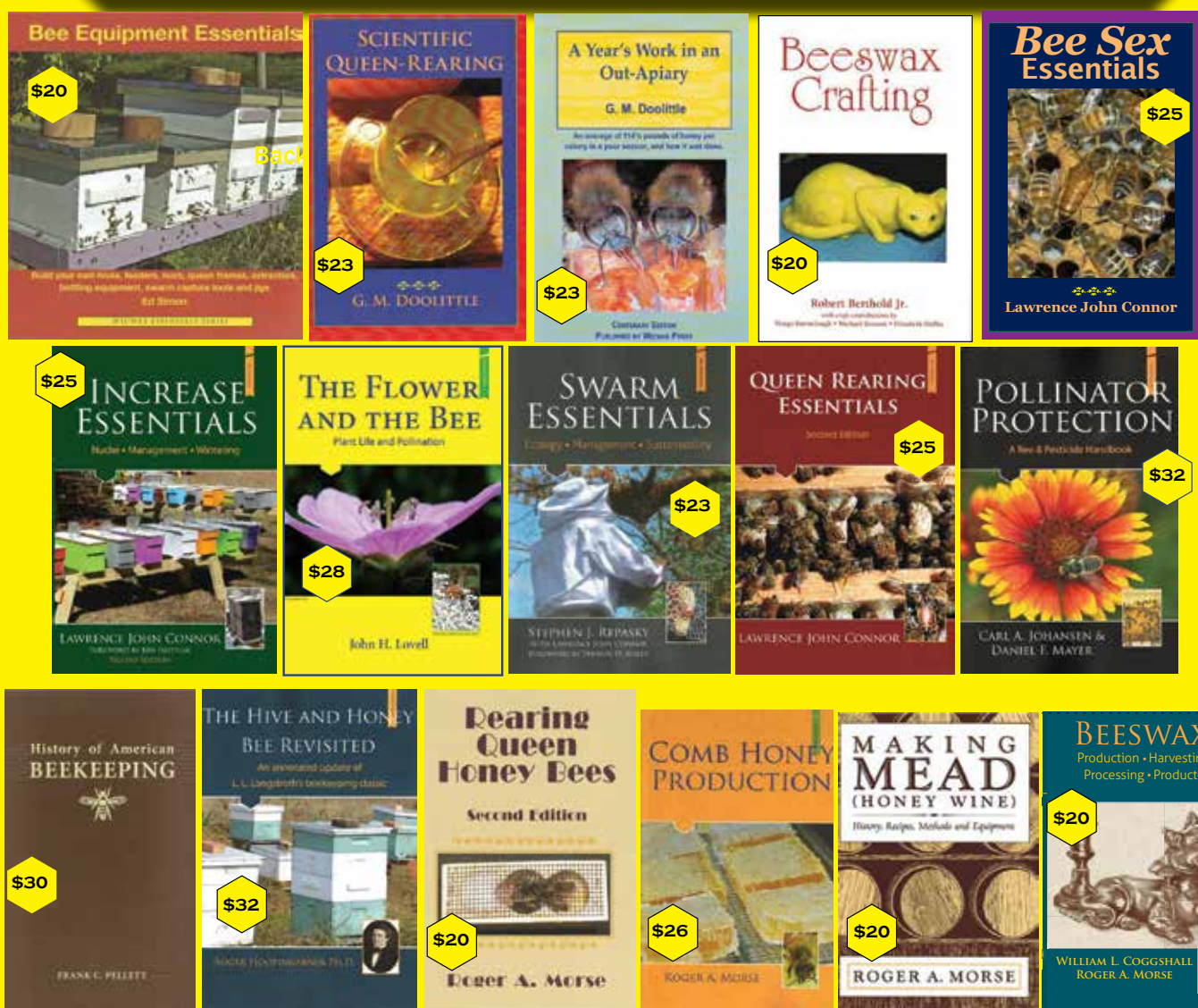
Please consider using the AAR to evaluate your operation. Make necessary changes and continually make progress on this adventure called beekeeping! We look forward to hearing about your AARs. Please write us at the e-mails below to share your story.

Roger and Sue Farr
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August & September Pollen and Nectar

From Frogfruit (*Phyla nodiflora*)

By Fred Richter

Williamson County Area
Beekeepers Association

As you know, it is difficult for honey bees to find natural pollen and nectar during the dearth of summer. Since moving to Central Texas (eastern Williamson County between Thrall and Thorndale) in 2014 and becoming beginner beekeepers, I have noted our bees feasting on the Frogfruit blooms during the months of August and September. Frogfruit is a ground cover which grows 6 inches tall in full sun or partial shade and produces small flowers about half the size of a honey bee. But despite its small size, it is a good source of both pollen and nectar.



Pollen seems to be more abundant in the morning, and like the bee seen in the picture above, I see many bees jumping from one flower to another gathering up the golden prize.



The bee in the above picture is extracting nectar from the flower which occurs during the afternoon hours.



This bee has been gathering pollen seen in her pollen press; but note that her tongue is inserted in the flower and is extracting nectar. I conclude that the pollen has become less abundant due to their harvest and the bees switch from pollen to nectar harvest or perhaps the hive needs the nectar more than the pollen. The girls resume with pollen harvest the next morning and then nectar in the afternoon.

“The way humanity manages or mismanages its nature based assets, including pollinators, will in part define our collective future in the 21st century The fact is that of the 100 crop species that provide 90% of the world’s food, over 70 are pollinated by bees”

Achim Steiner, Executive Director UN Environment Program



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CATCH THE BUZZ – FlowHive, A Method That’s Supposed To Make Beekeeping Simpler For Novices, Has Drawn Criticism From Some Experts. Honey On Tap? It’s Not Quite That Simple



A method that’s supposed to make beekeeping simpler for novices by providing honey on tap has drawn criticism from some experts, who say it may encourage casual beekeepers to set up an apiary but not put in the hard work needed to maintain it.

The FlowHive, created by Australian father-son duo Stuart and Cedar Anderson in 2015, earned nearly 40,000 backers and raised over \$13 million (U.S.) becoming the top all-time campaign on crowdfunding site Indiegogo.

The product is renowned for skipping many steps in the usually multifaceted honey extraction process with the simple turn of a lever.

In a traditional hive, beekeepers have to sedate the bees, remove the wooden frames from the hive, “decap” the honey from the frames, process it in a centrifuge, and then filter it.

In the FlowHive, the bees do their work inside the hive, and a few cranks of a lever split the comb, allowing pure, ready-to-eat honey to travel through tubes and into a bottle.

Instead of taking several hours, the FlowHive can extract its honey in about 15 minutes in the ideal warm and dry conditions, said Ian Baird, owner of Terre Bleu, a lavender farm in Milton that also produces honey.

Bees at work in the FlowHive at Terre Bleu Lavender Farm in Milton.

It’s supposed to make beekeeping simpler for novices by providing honey on tap.

The FlowHive, which costs nearly \$1,000 — traditional hives cost \$200 and less — could make urban beekeeping and small-scale operations more feasible, Baird said.

“Buying stainless centrifuges and mechanical devices to harvest and extract and clean honey (in the traditional method) certainly is not economical when you’ve only got a couple of hives,” he said.

Amid concern for a decreasing honey bee population in recent years, more people are pitching in part-time to keep the honey flowing. One in every three bites of food we eat also relies on bees for pollination, experts say.

But some beekeepers are concerned that adopting the FlowHive for small-scale beekeeping could do more harm than good for bees.

“Many people have gotten into beekeeping because of the FlowHive, but don’t know how to bee keep,” said Peter Chorabik, a Toronto beekeeper who runs over 250 hives.

The FlowHive, said Chorabik, can make new beekeepers think that the process is much less involved that it actually is, which puts the bees at risk of being attacked by pests and contracting diseases.

“You have to be responsible and know. . . what you’re signing up for when you get your own bees,” Chorabik said. “If you’re a farmer of cattle, and your cattle were sick and they all died in the winter, that wouldn’t be acceptable. But when you have honey bees and they all die in the winter because you

can't take care of them properly, it's accepted."

Shawn Caza, a long-time Toronto beekeeper, said he knew of aspiring beekeepers who bought a FlowHive and bees, but "planned a vacation during the time of the year when one would normally start a new colony."

"The honey harvest is really the tip of the iceberg in terms of what a beekeeper needs to do maintain healthy hives," Caza said.

Stuart Anderson, the co-creator of the FlowHive, said his company educates new beekeepers.

"We provide material on colony health and pests and diseases on our website and lots of educational videos and other content," Anderson said in an email statement. "We actively encourage aspiring beekeepers to join a bee club and/or to connect with a mentor beekeeper."

"Our stand is that beekeepers are responsible for the health of their bees and this requires knowledge, skill and care. . . (I) am very proud that the invention of the FlowHive has brought tens of thousands more people into beekeeping."

For all the speed and utility the FlowHive has to offer, professional beekeepers also have critiques of the product.

One concern is that the FlowHive produces a lower yield than a traditional hive, a pattern that Baird has noticed in his operation. Baird will stick with the traditional hives for the bulk of his honey-producing operation.

Sometimes, getting the honey from a FlowHive can be an

issue, according to Caza.

"Others had the honey spill out of the comb within the hive and subsequently leak out the bottom," he said. "I also heard from people with the opposite problem, the honey came out through the intended path, but was extremely slow."

Fred Davis, a Toronto-based beekeeper, said a really hot summer is needed for the honey to flow well.

"Last year, it was scorching hot, which helped," he said.

Davis also believes that bees do not like the plastic frames used in the FlowHive as much as the wood frames in traditional hives.

"Would I use it again? I'd probably say no," he said.

For all his criticisms, Davis said the FlowHive has no effect on the honey's flavour.

"The taste is the same, honey is honey," he said.

Anderson stands by his product, saying that the FlowHive has been tested in Canada and it's been found to work successfully in colder climates.

"People in every region of the U.S.A. are harvesting successfully with the FlowHive," he said.

The beekeepers the Star talked to may disagree with Anderson, but they do see the FlowHive as a useful educational tool.

"Our farm is an agritourism ecotourism farm and we thought it would be also very educational to show the public," Baird said.

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The Brantley Column

from S. S. Brantley
East Texas Beekeepers Association

August 2017 in many areas was wet to say the least. I did not count the number of rainy days but I believe we had about twenty days of moisture. We were all looking forward to a strong fall forage to take our bees into winter. September has been another story. Unless you had an isolated thunderstorm pass your way, it has become very dry. Entering October, it is so dry around Jefferson that dust flies when I mow the yard. Fall flowers should begin to bloom on the roadsides and in the fields. We would normally expect this to provide nectar and pollen for the fall forage. Unless we receive a good rain soon, the fall forage may not be very good. I suggest you spend some time watching the activity at the landing boards of your hives. This will give you an indication of what and how much your bees are collecting. We are accustomed to seeing bees with pollen on their legs, indicating that they are finding a good pollen forage.

We do not usually talk about how to tell if bees are bringing in nectar. You cannot look at an incoming bee and easily see if she has a liquid load, which could be nectar or water. Bees carry nectar and water in their honey stomach. In times of heavy nectar flow, they may also have nectar coating the outside of their abdomen from crawling in the flower. Bee scientists tell us her abdomen will be extended by the load in her honey stomach. However, I have not been able to notice this while watching bees at the landing board. They just do not stand still long enough or allow me to get close enough to see if the abdomen is distended. However, bees carrying a liquid load are heavy and often clumsy in landing, sometimes landing hard or even missing the landing board. If you observed bees making a clumsy landing but have no pollen on their legs, it is a good indicator they are bringing nectar or water. Later in the day in hot weather, it is probable that more of these bees are carrying water to cool the hive.

Let's talk a little about Varroa mites. Prior to the 1990s, most East Texas beekeepers had never heard of Varroa mites. Even through the next decade, we prided ourselves

on raising "chemical free" hives. However, by 2000, concern about increasing mortality in bees, and the eventual coining of the term "Colony Collapse Disorder" in 2007, had many beekeepers and researchers looking at apiary conditions in a new light. Subsequently, we all became aware of the Varroa mite. In today's environment, there is a lot of focus on controlling Varroa as a part of hive health.

The September 2017 issue of American Bee Journal has an article by Randy Oliver about doing mite counts using the alcohol wash method. The article includes excellent photos showing how easy it is to use the alcohol wash count. The results of the count help you determine if the hive needs treatment. If you are not doing mite counts, then you are "hoping" your hive will survive the coming winter on its own.

This is your last chance to treat for mites before the coming winter. Follow manufacturer's instructions carefully in applying the treatment to the hive. This includes removing the application media, whether it be strips, tins or other devices, in the time frames specified in the instructions. Do not leave the miticide application in the hive longer than specified. Timely removal helps prevent the mites from developing a tolerance to the miticide.

After completing the treatment and removing the miticide, do a second mite count to see if the treatment was effective. Varroa are tough and adaptive pests. Your treatment may not have been as effective as you hoped. If the mite count is still too high, consider using a different product for your next treatment.

Keep checking the hive weight while you are treating for Varroa. Make sure the bees are still collecting and storing food for winter. Feel the weight using the two-finger lift at the back of the hive. If you find a light hive, provide supplemental sugar syrup to help build up stores.

Reminder -- If you have not yet installed entrance reducers, now is the time to do so. Fall is a time for robbing by wasps and other bees.



Waiver of Liability...

from Robin Young, Metro Beekeepers Association



Jack Young & Ronnie Young (age 5)

In my last article: “The Apprenticeship Pre-Nuptial” I discussed the contract between Apprentice and Mentor. This issue, as promised, I am sharing the “Waiver of Liability” document I use. Here it is. Read it and then I will explain it’s importance. As always, I am not a lawyer and it is always a good idea to consult one.

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To cover the liability issues of possible injury while participating in all aspects and/or phases of Soul Honey queen rearing and bee keeping lessons, participants are required to sign a Waiver of Liability.

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others, assume full responsibility for my participation; and,

- 3) I willingly agree to comply with the stated and customary terms and conditions for participation. I willingly agree to follow all safety rules for the activates and instructions by Soul Honey and it’s representative. If, However, I observe any unusual significant hazard during my presence or participation that may cause injury to myself to others I will remove myself from the participation and bring such to the attention of the nearest instructor or Soul Honey Representative Immediately; and
- 4) For myself, and on behalf of my heirs, assigns, personal representatives and next of kin, HEREBY RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS Soul Honey, Robin Young, J Young Land & Cattle Ltd., their officers, other participants and if applicable, owners, and lessors of the premises used to conduct the bee keeping activates (“RELEASEES”), WITH RESPECT TO ANY AND ALL INJURY, DISABILITY, DEATH, or loss or damage to person or property, TO THE FULLEST EXTENT OF THE LAW WHEATHER ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES OR OTHERWISE.

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND IT’S TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND SIGN IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT.

Participant’s Signature:

Printed Name:

DATE SIGNED:

Address:

MEDICAL INFORMATION: To my knowledge participant is _____/ is not _____allergic (subject to anaphylactic shock) to honey bee stings.

List other allergies:

Rough stuff! This document, that I make everyone sign, that comes on my place, is the number one reason we have not had any situations. After they read this and sign it, the apprentice understands without a doubt that bees can kill you so they better listen up. I don't want them to have fear. I want them to **PAY ATTENTION**. The next thing I do is explain to them what to do if they start to freak out about all the bees flying around them.

- 1.) Don't panic! You're wearing a massive protective bee suit.
- 2.) If you get a few bees that persist, hold your breath a few seconds and walk into the wind. Bees find you through your breath. So if you are not breathing out for a few seconds they can lose track of you. Also, it's harder for them to find you and sting you when they are fighting the wind.
- 3) I always keep a pickup truck running near the hives. Hold your breath walk to the truck and get in. I have even done a circle around the truck and then gotten in.



Jesse (age 7) & Jack



Robin & Janet (age 7)

- 4.) Keep your truck or car's air-conditioning running around 65 degrees. Bees have two muscles that pull in different directions that

cause their wings to vibrate. That's how they fly. Like runners, when it's cold they have a hard time working their muscles. They will forget about you and fly to the window for warmth.

- 5.) If you get stung, the bee leaves a death smell that tells the other bees where to sting you. In a given outing at the hives, if I get stung three times it's time to call it a day. Because of the smell you are only going to get more stings.

- 6.) Don't work your bees when it's humid or above 80 degrees. I don't know any other way to describe it except to say humidity and warmer temperatures make even the sweetest hives aggressive.

- 7.) Remember they can only sting you once and then they die. Also, remember they have friends.

- 8.) Don't stand in front of the entrance.



Robin & Janet (age 7) applying sugar jars for the first time.

This past Spring I had an apprentice ask me, "What is the most important thing I need to take away from today?" It took me a few minutes to boil it down to just one thing. I realized the truth and it's an answer that is the key to most success in life: "Know where to stand". Until next time bee friends. 'Know when to hold 'em, know when to fold 'em, know when to walk away, know when to run!'...Kenny Rodgers "The Gambler"

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

2017 Texas Honey Queen

Megan Pettibon

Beekeeping in East Texas



East Texas is so gorgeous with its golden rod and honeysuckles. And needless to say, these blossoms are always covered in our favorite insect, the honey bee. They never cease to amaze and fascinate people all over East Texas, and many clubs have developed over the years. Some of these clubs include the Deep East Texas Beekeepers Association, Marshall Beekeeping Association, East Texas Beekeepers Association, Wood County Beekeepers' Association, etc. Most of these clubs are very open with each other and collaborate easily on different topics, issues, or events. East Texas is like every other region, in that they deal with pest/predators, different nectar sources and variety in climate/weather. But let's take a closer look at exactly how this region varies from others.

Beginning with pests, the small hive Beetle is one that East Texas has dealt with for many years. With its fast population, it is important to constantly watch and treat for these tiny black bugs. Sometimes the bees will use propolis to create a fence like cage that will trap the small hive beetles in. Some people like to joke and say that they are the bee pet in these scenarios, but they are definitely not a pet for long. The small hive beetle can damage comb, stored honey and pollen. This eventually causes the bees to abandon their home. But not only are the adult beetles destructive, the beetle larvae all tends to tunnel through combs of honey, feeding and defecating, causing discoloration and fermentation of the honey. Larger predators also enjoy this sweet fragrance of liquid candy. Like many other regions of Texas, East Texas deals with raccoons and skunks. We have learned to place a large weighted block on the top of the lid, to prevent predators from getting inside. Thankfully East Texas doesn't have a huge problem with ants, but the wax moths thrive in their humidity. Weather plays a much larger factor for the beekeeper than mere physical comfort or levels of insect population.

For the most part, East Texas tends to be a region of humidity. This summer especially was very high in humidity, making it hard for the bees to cap their honey. The nectar needs to be a certain percentage of moisture content before they cover it, so as not to ferment the honey. Being closer to water, the hurricane this year greatly impacted the honey bees. The President of Deep East Texas Beekeepers Association

stated that they got twenty inches of rain from the hurricane. This being the case, the honey bees' nectar source drastically decreases. Rain flushes the nectar out of the flower, leaving the flower empty for either hours or days. Many times the rain will also take the pollen with it, leaving the bees with little protein or energy to build up their colony before the winter. It has definitely been a wet year for East Texas, but the flowers are standing their ground and trying to blossom once more before the cold weather hits.

One of the main blossoms the honey bees are attracted to in East Texas can be found on the tallow trees. This tiny white bloom produces a good amount of nectar, and makes a delicious tasting honey. While this is the case, most people call the tallow tree a "trash tree", because it can be invasive and grow along fence lines. Golden rod, honey suckles, and fruit trees are also a favorite for the honey bee, as well as many native plants along the lakes. East Texas is full of gardens, which provides a variety of protein for the bee's diet. This results in a healthier, happier, and more helpful honey bee.

Thankfully East Texas does not deal with many aggressive bees. Instead, they have the Italian honey bee and a small native bee. Many times this native bee cross breeds with the Italians, creating a bee that is much smaller in size, heartier, and more resistant to disease. While some beekeepers aren't excited about this cross breeding, they appreciate the bee's longevity.

East Texas is a region of beekeepers who have joined together to experience the joys and excitements of beekeeping. The clubs help educate beginners on the importance of protection from pests and predators. They teach everyone to watch the weather and climate change, and how it can be beneficial when making inspection or harvesting plans. Knowing the side effects of rain storms or dry weather is essential to keeping stable bees. Do they have nectar available? Do they have the proteins they need to build comb or rear brood? Is it time to feed? Being a beekeeper involves time and care to the honey bees, and East Texas does just that. They are truly peaceful and organized insects that have brought Texas together as a family and educated us to share our knowledge with one another to better impact the world around us.

FIGHT THE MITES

Now is the best time of year to keep an eye on your varroa mite count. Running a Mite Count is a simple, yet significant, way to help keep your hives healthy for the remainder of the season and into the winter.

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Securing Hives for Bad Weather

from Micheal Mathews, Fayette County Beekeepers



I was the brunt of the joke at dinner recently. Both my wife and our best friends were surprised that a storm was brewing in the Gulf and that I had missed the news completely. For some time I have been a sailor and an avid student of tropical weather. I knew of Harvey, but the unlikely idea that a storm would pass over the Yucatan and reform in the Bay of Campeche was something that caught me by surprise. In the following days it became clear that the Texas Coast was in the path of Hurricane Harvey. Torrential rain was promised, rain like Houston had experienced during Tropical Storm Allison in 2001. Unlike Allison though, Harvey promised to be a significant wind event as well. As the days passed and the storm grew closer it became clear that our bee yard would be in the path of the windstorm, so I drove to the country to secure our hives.

Despite the seasonal news accounts warning coastal residents that it is hurricane season, serious tropical weather is not a common event. In fact, Texas coastal areas can go years between significant tropical storms. But tropical weather is not the only weather threat that beekeepers need to prepare for. High winds can be an issue almost any time of the year with spring thunderstorms and winter northers as two predictable examples. Last year we lost a colony when a bottom board blew open during a December storm. Harvey promised winds that were high enough to force open a bottom board, blow off a top or even turn over a hive.

An advantage of the top bar hive is the ability to place it at an easy work height. Whether the hive has legs of its own or is placed on a table, trestle or other support, most I have seen are two feet or more off of the ground. Also, since the top bar design allows for easy inspection without moving heavy supers, it seems an oxymoron to create a heavy top. Our tops are a light pine frame with a corrugated plastic top to keep the sun from shining directly on the bars. The light weight makes them easy to lift for inspection but also easily lifted in a breeze.

A common method for securing a Langstroth hive is to simply place a concrete block on top. We used this technique on an empty top bar hive, but we were not too concerned if it toppled. For our occupied hives with attached legs we chose to sink a single earth anchor beneath each hive and use a ratchet strap to secure the hive and the top. For our top bar and Langstroth hives on trestles, we used the ratchet strap to secure the hive to the trestle and then anchored the trestle to the ground with an earth anchor or by weighting the bottom of the trestle.



Anchored Top Bars

Screw type earth anchors can be purchased from most home stores, Tractor Supply or even pet stores. Installing an anchor is a simple matter of starting it with a hammer and then turning it with a lever to screw it into the ground. There were a few anchors that I could not sink as deeply as I would have liked due to time and rocky ground. Those were weighted to increase their holding power.

Anchors are not too expensive. Prices range from \$5.00 to \$12.00 dollars. All of our future hives will have an anchor installed before we put the hive in place. Although I have mentioned ratchet straps to secure our hives, a length of nylon rope and truckers hitch would be a more frugal solution.

Anchoring is only one problem that beekeepers face during heavy weather. Our bee yard, indeed all of our pasture, holds standing water after a few inches of rain. As a result we have used paving stones to keep the legs off of the wet ground. Because of these pavers we did not need to take any new measures for our hives, but some action will need to be taken for those hives without a firm footing. Adding paver is one option, although spacing and leveling pavers is time consuming and will require moving the hive.

A fast, temporary method to improve stability is to add two by fours, or any long boards, to the bottom of each set of legs



Anchor and Strap



Anchored Hives

even with the ground. This increases the amount of material against the ground and reduced the risk of the legs sinking. At the same time it broadens the stance and prevents the hive from turning over in the wind making an anchor unnecessary. This option has the advantage that it is quick to deploy with a few screws and a power drill and can be easily removed after the storm.

The bees stores may also be an issue. Since several days of solid rain were expected, days where the bees would not have any chance to forage, adding feeders was simple insurance. We have a few new colonies we started this summer from splits and we added an internal feeder to each. Our established hives had enough stores of their own.

Since Harvey promised several hours of sustained high winds we closed all bottom boards and placed corks in all but one of the lower holes in each hive. Then we took the extra step of safety wiring each of the bottom boards closed. The safety wire is a step that we will follow when preparing our hives for the winter. It is cheap insurance against a latch failure like the one we experienced last December and all it takes is a twist tie.

As soon as the storm lessened enough to check on our bee yard I went outside to find the bee yard in good shape. Fortunately there were only few fallen branches, one broken top and no toppled hives. As soon as the wind lessened we opened the bottom boards and removed the corks. Later we removed the ratchet straps. Not surprisingly it took the ants no time to find their way up the ratchet and into the hives. On the other hand, the bees stayed in their hives for the next day.

With Harvey out of the way we moved on to our first fall inspection. We intentionally waited until the next weekend to allow the bees to return to their routine. By this time the bees were foraging the flowers brought by the rain.

We replaced a few bars that had warped and removed the feeders. The top of an empty hive suffered some damage and will need to be rebuilt. We also replaced all of the moth traps we had taken down prior to the storm. During this inspection we took a notes on each colony's stores as we do each fall. We like to keep seven full bars in each hive going into November

and the winter. Extra bars with honey were marked and will be pulled and processed into comb honey in the coming weeks.

Overall the bees weathered Harvey well, maybe better than we did. Just today the bees were busy bringing in goldenrod and were ever present on the partridge pea. We were lucky that all of our colonies survived because many did not. A number of colonies in the area were displaced by the storm. Neighboring beekeepers are reporting swarms and a new colony moved into an owl box that we have on a pole behind our home. In the next few days we will pull that down and move them into an empty top bar. Normally we just number our colonies, but we may call this one Harvey.



Homeless Bees



Update from Texas Apiary Inspection Service

from Mary Reed, Apiary Inspector



It's hard to believe, but in the blink of an eye we've entered the fall season! Although, the weather seems to have a different opinion. This time of year you will want to really focus on monitoring for Varroa mites in your colonies, and implementing methods of control if your numbers are too high. For information about how to monitor and different methods of control, please check out the Honey Bee Health Coalitions Tools for Varroa Management (<https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/Varroa/>). I want to give a quick 'thank you' to those of you that participated in Mite-A-Thon! Your contribution has added greatly to understanding the Varroa situation across the United States.

The TAIS office has been gearing up to start our fall inspections, as well as preparing for the upcoming Texas Master Beekeeper exam that will take place in Temple, TX in coordination with the TBA Fall Convention. If you are interested in becoming a Texas Master Beekeeper, please check out the program website (<https://masterbeekeeper.tamu.edu/>) for more information, and the new Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/TXMasterbeekeeperprogram/>) for updates about the program. If you have any questions, please contact either myself (mary.reed@tamu.edu) or Lance Wilson (lw@ausapts.com) at any time.

In the past few months there have been some major impacts on beekeeping in Texas, most notably Hurricane Harvey. As a consequence, there were many beekeepers that lost a significant portion of their operation to the storm. If you know of any beekeeper that was affected, please consider helping them recover their losses in any way you can. With all the rain from Harvey came the perfect breeding niches for mosquitos that have the potential for vectoring harmful diseases. As a result, there has been heavy aerial spraying in certain counties in Texas in the effort to reduce the mosquito populations. Although the majority of spraying has subsided, there are methods that beekeepers can utilize to protect hives in future events:

1. **Move your hives out of the affected area**

This method is the most effective measure a beekeeper can take to prevent a hive from being exposed to any type of spraying. If this is not an option, consider temporarily closing the entrance with screen mesh, and/or draping the colony with a wet sheet. Remember to open the entrance as soon as possible to prevent bees from over-heating.

2. **Do your part in reducing and controlling mosquito populations**

There are steps you can take to control mosquito breeding areas, such as, reduce the amount of standing water in your yard (old tires, empty containers, bird baths, gutters, etc.). In addition, encourage your neighbors to do so as well. These simple measures can go a long way to mitigate the mosquito issue in your area.

3. **Contact your local mosquito district or appropriate county agency**

Open and cordial lines of communication are an effective measure for accomplishing any task. Many counties keep a list of beekeepers that are notified when spraying will occur in their area, however some counties do not have these lines of communication set up. Beekeepers (and local beekeeping associations) are encouraged to work with their county agencies to develop a method of communication that works best in their area.

Please keep in mind that mosquito spraying is necessary to control the spread of diseases that can affect both humans and animals. These steps listed above are not completely foolproof, but they will go a long way in protecting honey bee colonies in addition to protecting public safety. For more information on how you can protect yourself and your home from mosquitos, please check out the following link from the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension: <https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/browse/mosquito-control/>.

As a final note, I would like to mention that Mark Dykes has stepped down as Chief Apiary Inspector for Texas. He has made the great leap to the northeast for future endeavors and fortunately will still be putting all his efforts into protecting pollinators. All of us here at TAIS wish him well and hope that he keeps on keeping bees!

Well, that's about it for this time, but if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact our office at any time (tais@tamu.edu, 979-845-9713). In the meantime, I will look forward to seeing you at the TBA Fall Convention!

Happy Beekeeping!

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Chaotic Beekeeping!

from Ashley Ralph, Prime Bees

As we continue to grow in our apiary it seems like the work never ceases (I'm positive there are some of you out there that can relate to that). This year has been a pivotal year for us as we inch towards the 300 mark on our number of hives while working full time jobs. We're in that category of sideliners that are too big to quit and too busy to always work our hives during PC times - meaning, sometimes the sun is setting and we're halfway through the feeding. It always makes for an interesting evening and I'm always thankful for a full suit while my husband starts to get stung through his jeans.

It's hard to believe that the end of the summer season is here and we're heading into the Fall flow already. But, here we are, and there's still so much to do! As we continue to grow our business, I have to laugh at the organized chaos that is sideline beekeeping.

We've been lucky to learn quickly (and continue learning) by making plenty of mistakes and learning from the mistakes of others when possible. As sideline beekeepers, we have our sights set on making a truck of bees and becoming commercial beekeepers... then, we'll decide how big to get later.

The biggest lesson this year for us, so far, is that you can't force it. You can put in the time, and an absolute ton of effort but at the end of the day, you've got to do what's right for the bees and grow at whatever pace keeps things in balance. For us it's a constant dance of make money, spend money as we build up to our goals and bootstrap ourselves into a more commercial status.



Flooding Hives

The rain and floods that the hurricane season brought with it were for some a blessing and for others a total disaster. We've seen beekeeper friends lose hives this year due to weather and we've been lucky enough to keep steadily building.

I feel like it's already time to reflect on what this year has been, and what it will likely continue to be - make honey, make bees, buy our first 30 frame extractor, combine hives, attempt to raise queens, fail at raising queens, build boxes, make pallets, build lids, paint everything, order jars, design labels, sell honey, sell bees, succeed at raising queens, paint boxes, split hives, requeen, monitor mites, hive inspections, order and install queens into splits, build a ridiculous amount of frames, prepare for storms, pray that the storm blows over quickly, and be thankful for rain - preferably in appropriate quantities.



Splits

In all reality, I think my husband, Justin, has a much more organized version of beekeeping in his head than I do - I'm often flying by the seat of my pants between appointments for work and often don't know if I'll make it out to the bee yard until right before we leave. Justin seems to have everything planned out weeks in advance and is just waiting for the right weather day or enough time to complete each task depending on the day of the week. We hired our first part time helper this past month and with that came a little more planning ahead so we can make sure we're utilizing the help we have. It sure makes feeding a lot easier. We handed out pollen patties and a bit of sugar syrup out to 96 of our hives in 90 minutes



Honey Production

including prep time and it felt like we conquered the world. The best news is that I think we came up with a few strategies to speed things up even more next time. You've got to celebrate the little wins, learn from the mistakes and keep growing - that's basically what sideliner beekeeping is for us right now.

Our adventure is unique and yet, somebody has been here before and yet another will be here again. I hope to look back at these small reflections and laugh at our adventures in chaotic beekeeping - of course, it will be even better if we've learned enough to have less chaos.



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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

Dear, TBA members, I hope the summer months have treated you well. The devastation caused by hurricane Harvey likely affected many of you, and potentially some of your apiaries. I have already seen photos of hives up to their entrances with water, which makes me ache for the bees therein and their owners. I hope that those of you that suffered colony losses due to the storm are getting the appropriate support and advice to get state and federal support in a timely manner.

On the news front, I first want to congratulate Alex Payne, who won third place at this year's Entomology Graduate Student Forum on 24 August. She gave a talk on our preliminary data for the Project Apis m. (PAm) study. As a reminder, the project, titled "Synergistic effects of in-hive miticides and agro-chemicals on honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) queen survival, colony growth, and honey production," will 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. Congratulations Alex!



Alex Payne receiving her Graduate Student Forum award from Entomology Department Head, Dr. David Ragsdale

You may have heard that Texas A&M University is now hiring a Chief Inspector for the Texas Apiary Inspection Service, as Mark Dykes left his post last week for a new job in Maryland. We wish him well, and hope that the position can be filled before the end of the year so that the remaining

inspectors can get all the help they need. If you know of anyone interested in the position, please email me and I will send you details.

The Rangel Honey Bee Lab and the Brazos Valley Beekeepers Association co-hosted this year's "Fall Beekeeping School" on Saturday, 23 September 2017. The all-day event took place at TAMU's AgriLife Center and the Agricultural and Life Sciences (AGLS) Building. My students and I were part of the instructor roster. Alex taught a class on Honey Bee Basics, Pierre gave a lecture on Pollen Preferences in Urban Settings, Liz gave a talk on IPM Strategies for Varroa Control, and I gave a lecture on Queen Finding and Requeening. We had around 350 participants including registered students and volunteers/instructors! There were multiple classes going on at once covering most aspects of beekeeping, from basics on how to get started, to how to expand an existing apiary, to landscaping with "bee-friendly" plants, to how to get an Ag exemption on your property taxes by keeping bees. Thank you all for participating and especially to the organizers who made the event a great success, we had a great time!



Participants at the Brazos Valley Beekeepers Association Bee School on 23rd Sept. 2017

Liz Walsh just recently led the writing of a paper that will be coming out in the journal *Bee World* soon! The article is titled "**Queen pheromones and mandibular gland dissection**," in which we take you step by step in the process of dissecting queen mandibular glands for extraction of

their contents. She explains the types of research for which these extractions are needed, and talks about how she is analyzing the glands' contents using gas chromatography-mass spectrometry, which is a technique in chemistry that identifies the chemicals and their relative amounts in each set of glands. So be on the lookout for the paper in Bee World! On a side note, Liz took on a friend's dare to write any scientific discovery in a limerick, and she did so for her own research. Here it is, with her permission:

A dissertation chapter in a limerick:
Honey bee queens need to lay
eggs all night and day.
Their attendants must tend every queenly need
for a colony to succeed,
but some workers say "nay!"



The Youngest member of the Rangel Lab., Sami, with Liz Walsh at the Brazos Valley Bee School

Lastly, most of us in the lab will be traveling to Denver November 4th through 8th for the annual meeting of the Entomological Society of America, where every year thousands of entomologists convene to share research findings, network, and come up with new ideas. If you want to know more information about the meeting visit their website at <http://www.entsoc.org/events/annual-meeting> where you can find all the bee-related talks already scheduled! I will write a report about the meeting on the next issue of this journal.

Thank you for reading my column! As usual if you have any questions, please email me at 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/TAMUhoneybeelab>.

Thank you all for your support and happy beekeeping!

Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association Honey Queen



On Thursday September 28th., Megan Pettibon, Texas Honey Queen, crowned Jordan Heivilin as Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association Honey Queen.



Profile of a Beekeeper - Steve Butler

from Dennis Gray, Jr., Coastal Bend Beekeepers

Back in January, I was standing at the doorway during a meeting of the Travis County Beekeepers when I heard a voice I vaguely recognized. "Hey, you want a nuc?" I felt like I'd just been offered drugs in some shady back alley. I turned to meet, for the first time in person, Steve Butler, one of the more prolific bee removers in the state.

He wasn't joking. I departed that night with a nuc! Not a cardboard nuc. A real nuc, with real wood and an entrance wheel.



Steve Butler is an electrician by trade, but saving feral bee colonies is his real passion. "I approach bee keeping as a learning experience. They are the teachers and I am the student," he says. His main income is now from removals and relocations, but he also sells honey and bees on the side to supplement that income.

You might bump into Steve anywhere within a 2-1/2 hour drive from his home base in Franklin. That's roughly bounded by Houston, southern parts of Dallas, and nearly to San Antonio. "I've been as far as Cherokee, TX for a three day removal," he says. "I enjoy meeting the people that I help when doing removals and relocations. People that want to save bees are very caring kind, hearted folks, who care about our environment. I think this is the biggest reward in doing what I do." In short, his customers share his passion for bees.

When asked about his favorite removal, he says his favorites are when the homeowner wants to keep the bees, not just in their house. "I have gotten many people started into beekeeping this way."

Steve made his debut in bee removing when a "bee tree" in his mother's yard fell. They wanted to save the bees, so "I studied up on how to go about it, built a bee vac and it never

slowed down from there." Since that time, he's developed his own bee vac design and keeps about 35 boxes for his vac so he can "stay on top of removals during the busy season." That's a lot of removals! His biggest obstacle? "There's just so many hours in a day!"

Saving feral bees is not Steve's only job. As I learned that day, he's also an enabler! In fact, Steve supports many beekeepers of every experience level.



"We met Steve when he spoke at the Brazos Valley Beekeepers Association and my husband and I shadowed him on removals shortly after. I've watched him patiently wait as the bees fill up between puffs of smoke from the smoker so that they have a better chance of survival during their stressful relocation. He can spot a queen in a sea of bees with the best of them, and he is always thoughtful in the way that he does removals whether they're in a brick wall or an old tree. This thoughtfulness is what drew us to him originally - he doesn't just take information as it's handed to him, he truly thinks about it and often times can improve upon it. He often encourages beginners, and even intermediate beekeepers, to experiment and try new things and takes a very practical approach to beekeeping. If it works - keep doing it. If it doesn't - stop."

"Steve has helped us to make connections that get us closer to accomplishing our goals and continues to offer support to us as a couple of beekeepers trying to make beekeeping a business as well as a hobby. His passion for the bees and beekeepers is contagious. He



is a world class tinker-er and has one of the best bee vacuums for doing removals on the market.

"What can't Steve do? I've really enjoyed getting to know Steve over the past year and I can't imagine a day when we won't bounce beekeeping ideas off of him. He'll always be a valuable resource and friend in our bee adventures."

-Ashley Ralph

TBA regional Director Tanya Phillips describes Steve as a generous beekeeper who just loves the people he works with. "I once described an antique smoker I saw in a shop. A few weeks later, it just showed up on the back step. A thoughtful



gift from a gifted and wonderful man."

Jodi Zachmann has been keeping bees for four years, but last year she met Steve and referred him for a tree removal job. Of course, Jodi was invited to watch the job, and a friendship was born! "He's the nicest beekeeper I've ever met," she says, "It has been an amazing experience working with him." Many times, she refers Steve to a job and he drops off bees at her farm. "He has really spoiled me with his mentorship and knowledge," she says.

Steve Butler knows I raise queens, and I'm always on the lookout for new inputs, so the people who know Steve aren't surprised that he insisted I take home a promising queen he'd just acquired. His generosity with his time, his experience, and his stuff marks him as a true stand-out beekeeper. If you're ever in need, look up Steve Butler. If he can't help, he'll find a way for you.

Catch the Buzz

A Protein produced by Honey Bees Could Inspire the First New Antibiotic in 30 Years

Health officials are desperate for new antibiotics as dangerous bacterial strains strengthen their resistance against long-used drugs.

Every year in the United States, 2 million people are infected with drug-resistant bacteria. For 23,000 people, the infection and related complications prove fatal.

Researchers are constantly scanning nature for compounds and molecules that might inspire new antibiotics. Recent studies have identified potential compounds in sponges and Komodo dragons.

In a new study published this week in the journal *Nature Structural & Molecular Biology*, researchers highlight the promising Api137, a protein capable of blocking protein production in harmful bacteria.

The protein is produced naturally by bees, wasps and hornets, and helps keep the insects infection-free.

Most antibiotics disrupt protein production by targeting the ribosome inside bacterial cells. The ribosome is responsible for synthesizing the proteins that allow bacteria cells to function.

Api137 — an antibacterial peptide, or small protein — works by thwarting DNA translation, the genomic process that sees genetic instructions read and translated into fresh proteins.

The latest analysis of Api137 — carried out by researchers at the University of Illinois at Chicago — has helped scientists better understand exactly how the protein works. Now, scientists are working to replicate, or synthesize, the peptide in the lab.

"This project was a result of an excellent collaboration of our team," researcher Vázquez-Laslop said in a news release. "We can now harness the knowledge of how Api137 works in order to make new drugs that would kill bad bacteria using a similar mechanism of action."



National Honey Board Partners with Project Apis M. to Invest \$10 million to Aid Bee Health

from Bee Culture – Catch the Buzz



The National Honey Board and Project Apis m. are reinforcing their commitment to the future of bees through an investment of \$10 million by 2020 in bee health research. In addition to producing honey, bees are an important contributor to our food supply. Pollinator foods, including those pollinated by bees, represent one in every three bites of food that we eat.

The initiatives will seek to improve the well-being of nearly 2.9 million American bee colonies, with a specific focus on the main threats to bee health:

Pesticides, some of which, may kill the bee immediately once they've made contact, or when the bee brings small amounts of the pesticide, on its body or in contaminated nectar, back to the hive.⁴ There are also many sub lethal effects which appear slowly or synergisms of multiple exposure.

Pathogens and parasites, such as Nosema and Varroa mites, infect bees with diseases that can destroy entire colonies. All parasites directly or indirectly feed on the honey bees.

Limited quality and quantity of forage for bees results in poor nutrition.⁵

"The National Honey Board depends upon the hard-working honey bee to produce the honey that many of us enjoy, and celebrate every September during National Honey Month. We feel a strong responsibility to help protect the bees, which is why we've been funding production research since 2004, funding for CCD research since early 2007 and began allocating five percent of our annual budget to all honey bee health research in 2008," said Margaret Lombard, Chief Executive Officer, National Honey Board. "We're so pleased to be working alongside partners, such as Project Apis m., who share our commitment to improving and maintaining bee health, during a time when it is needed most."

In addition to these efforts, there are several, simple changes that people can make to help improve the health of bees, such as:

Provide forage and habitat for bees by planting pollinator-friendly flowers and flowering herbs in the garden. Find plant species that are native to your area and also beneficial non-native plants by visiting the Pollinator Partnership website. <http://pollinator.org/guides>

Allow dandelions and other flowering weeds to grow to provide more nectar and pollen sources for the bees. If you must control them, consider waiting until bloom is over, and using natural alternatives to chemical and pesticides, such as releasing natural pest predators or pulling weeds by hand. If you apply a chemical, do so in the evening after pollinator flight periods.

Donate to an organization dedicated to helping protect and provide habitat for honey bees and other pollinators

Eat more honey. Supporting the honey industry makes beekeeping possible, and will continue to fund bee health research that will help our pollinator friends to thrive.

"Without bees, we wouldn't have some of the world's most nutrient-rich foods,"⁶ said Danielle Downey, Executive Director, Project Apis m. "Thanks to previous research and funding, we've been making progress towards better bee health, however, we still have a long road ahead. We're pleased to join our partners and the National Honey Board to commit to funding vital research to continue to improve bee health."

To educate people about the importance of bees to our food supply and honey production, the National Honey Board has created a virtual reality (VR) video that takes viewers on a hive-to-table journey, seen from the point of view of a bee. The video can be viewed as a 360 video or as a more immersive experience using a VR viewing headset. It is available online at <https://youtu.be/YGM2-ql6jX4>.

After experiencing the point of view of a bee in VR, people can also celebrate the hard work of bees and the pure, natural flavor of honey during September's National Honey Month by creating honey-infused meals, found on Honey.com.



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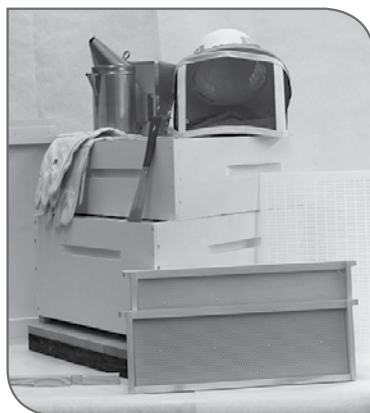
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Listing of Local Beekeepers' Associations in Texas with TBA Delegate and Regular Meeting Information Shown for Each

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

Alamo Area Beekeepers Association

Rick Fink - (210) 872-4569

president@alamobees.org

www.alamobees.org

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday on odd # months

Helotes Ind. Baptist Church

15335 Bandera Rd., Helotes at 7 pm

Austin Area Beekeepers Association

Lance Wilson - (512) 619-3700

lw@ausapts.com

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

Meeting: 3rd Monday of each month

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

Bell/Coryell Beekeepers Association

Club President - (254) 206-0184

bellcoryellbeeclub@gmail.com

Meetings: 5:30 pm

Brazoria County Beekeepers Association

Kenneth Nugent - (979) 922-9725

knugent@gmail.com

bcbba@brazoria-county-beekeepers-association.com

www.brazoria-county-beekeepers-association.com

Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month

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

Brazos Valley Beekeepers Association

Alvin Dean - (325) 668-7753

info@bvbeeks.org

www.bvbeeks.org

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

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

Caddo Trace Beekeepers Association

Glynn Smith - (903) 639-2910

caddotracebeekeepersassn@gmail.com

Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month

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

Caprock Beekeepers Association

David Naugher - (806) 787-7698

caprockbeekeepers@gmail.com

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

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

Central Texas Beekeepers Association

Michael Kelling - (979) 277-0411

CentralTexasBeekeepers@gmail.com

www.centraltexasbeekeepers.org

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

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

Coastal Bend Beekeepers Association

Dennis Gray (361) 877-2440

CoastalBendBeekeepers@gmail.com

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

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

Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Assn.

Gary Mansker - (214) 687-6433

president@cchba.org

www.cchba.org

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

Collin College Conference Center, (Central Park Campus)

2400 CommunityDr. , McKinney

Concho Valley Beekeepers Association

Rex Moody - (325) 650-6360

cvbeekeeper@gmail.com

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

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

Deep East Texas Beekeepers Association

Ellen Reeder - (337) 499-6826

ellenswartz@sbcglobal.net

Meetings: 1st Tuesday of each month @6pm

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

Denton County Beekeepers Association

Christina Beck - (940) 765-6845

christinadbeck@gmail.com

www.dentoncountybeekeepersassociation.com

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

Denton County Elections Building, 701 Kimberly Dr., Denton

Dino-Beekeepers Association

Chip Hough (817) 559-0564

dino-beeclub@hotmail.com

www.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

www.etba.info

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

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

Elgin Beekeepers Association

Sarah Jones - (512) 567-1410

sarah@campsunflower.com

Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7 pm

Various Locations

Erath County Beekeepers Association

James K Gray - (254) 485-3238

grayjamesk@jkgray.com

Meetings:

Fayette County Beekeepers Association

Ron Chess - (979) 525-9254

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

Hays County Beekeepers Association

Nathalie Misserey (512) 699-0605

nathalie@liveinfrench.org

Meetings: 3rd Wednesday of each month at

Driftwood Volunteer Fire Station, 15850 FM 1826, Austin, TX 78737

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

bushyomouth55@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

ghwolf@gmail.com

Meetings: 4th Thursday of each month at 6 pm

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

Marshall Beekeeping Association

Beth Derr - (936) 591-2399

marshallbeekeeping@gmail.com

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

Cumberland Presbyterian Church. 501 Indian Springs Dr., Marshall

Metro Beekeepers Association

Keegan Olsen, President - (682) 225-0862

keeganolson@yahoo.com

www.metrobeekeepers.net

Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month

Southside Preservation Hall, 1519 Lipscomb St., Fort Worth

Montgomery County Beekeepers Assn.

Brian Stroud

mocobees@gmail.com

www.mocobees.com

Meetings: 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30 pm
Montgomery County Extension Office, Tom Leroy Education
Bldg., 9020 Airport Road, Conroe

Northeast Texas Beekeepers Association

Jim Burt - (469) 371-4542

burt.b@sbcglobal.net

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

jimmyl@theironbee.com

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

Temple Area Beekeepers Association

Jim Billings (254) 760-2053

holly21351@aol.com

Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month at 7pm
Troy Community Center, 201 East Main Street, Troy

Texas Hill Country Beekeepers Association

Elaine McMurray - (830) 777-7845

texashillcountrybeekeepers@gmail.com

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

Travis County Beekeepers Assn.

Tanya Phillips - (512) 560-3732

info@traviscountybeekeepers.org

www.traviscountybeekeepers.org

Meetings: First Monday of the month at 7 pm
Zilker Botanical Gdns., 2220 Barton Springs Rd., Austin

Tri County Beekeepers Association

Erin Davis - (903) 389-3436

erin.davis@ag.tamu.edu

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each month at 5:30pm
Sam's Restaurant, Fairfield, TX

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 Decem-
ber)
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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LOUISIANA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION 56th ANNUAL CONVENTION November 30 - December 2, 2017

The Louisiana Beekeepers Association will hold its 56th Annual Convention on November 30 through December 2, 2017 at the Country Inn and Suites in Pineville, LA. The convention begins Thursday afternoon with a special welcome and a social hour that evening for commercial beekeepers that is sponsored by Mann Lake. Planned convention guests and speakers include Sam Comfort, National Science Educator, Tom Dadant, Dr. Kristen Healy of LSU, Texas A&M researcher, Pierre Lau, among many others. Specific presenters, topics and times could still change and will be finalized as the convention dates draw closer.

Online pre-registration for this convention runs from November 1 through November 14. Pre-registration can be completed at the Louisiana Beekeepers website: www.labeekeepers.org. Changes in convention prices occur after the end of the pre-registration period on November 14. Room reservations may be made at any time. The Country Inn and Suites is located at 2727 Monroe Hwy 165, Pineville, LA 71360, and their telephone contact number is (844) 507-9486.

We encourage you to join us in Pineville for informative presentations on beekeeping basics, pollen research, mycology and bee health, and many other topics of interest for every level of beekeeping. For additional convention-related information, please contact Jennifer Brown, LBA Vice-President, at (601) 493-3447.

Texas Beekeepers Association

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