

The Texas Beekeepers Association

Journal





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President's Report

from Chris Moore

I hope you all had a Happy Thanksgiving and you are looking forward to the Christmas season. As I reflect on the past year, I am very thankful for the TBA board for all their efforts. The time and expense they sacrifice (despite having jobs, family, and having bees of their own) to help fellow beekeepers is impressive and does not go unnoticed. We are blessed to have such volunteers.

I was honored at the TBA convention to present two TBA members with honorary TBA Lifetime memberships, Dick Counts and Weldon Riggs. They have served as volunteers for years with both TBA and their local associations. Their dedication over the years more than merits this award and we look forward to continuing to work with them in the coming years.

I was also honored to present the TBA Lifetime membership to Bill Baxter. Bill has been helping protect our industry for years traveling the state inspecting & taking samples for Texas Apiary Inspection Service. His knowledge

of Texas beekeepers and Texas Beekeeping is unprecedented.

It was a further honor to present Leesa Hyder with the President's Award. As we have grown our association significantly in the past two or three years, Leesa has been working quietly in the background to update all our procedures, financial reporting and structure.

The TBA Convention was very successful this year with some well known speakers (thanks to Lance Wilson) and a different format from past years, with a very well attended Awards Dinner on the Friday evening, followed by a variety of breakout sessions on the Saturday. Thanks to Lisa Dittfurth and her team who organized the event.

The Honey Show, led by Pamela Yeamans, was very successful with a record number of entries in classes from honey through mead, photography and gadgets. Congratulations to all who participated.

let me wish you all Happy Christmas and look forward to another great beekeeping year.

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Cover Picture by Tanya Phillips - Best Of Non-Honey Photo 2017 Convention



Vice President's Report

from Lisa Dittfurth

Greetings Fellow Beekeepers:

The 2017 TBA Convention is in the books and I think it is safe to say it was a success! Attendance was up across the board over last year's numbers for the various Convention events. Attendance for the Thursday Workshop "Keeping Bees Alive", presented by Jennifer Berry, was more than twice the attendance of last year's workshop; Participation in the all new Honey Show was higher than previous years and the overall Convention attendance was also higher than last year's numbers. Co-Event Coordinators Chris Doggett and Lance Wilson along with the Convention Planning Committee worked tirelessly for months to plan every detail. The Convention Sub-Committees were equally diligent in planning their areas of the event to ensure everything was ready for 'show-time'. All of the many volunteers supporting the convention came together beautifully to deliver an outstanding event! Each new event venue poses new challenges for TBA event planners and Temple was no different. The I-35 construction was particularly frustrating but TBA attendees were up to the challenge. The varying room sizes in the facility used for the Saturday breakout sessions also presented a challenge and again TBA attendees rolled with the punches! All in All, it was a great Convention and we are looking forward to next year! I wanted to say 'Thank You' to ALL of the volunteers that helped plan and facilitate this year's Convention. Thanks also to the Convention attendees that chose to spend their valuable time and money at the 2017 TBA Convention!!

A required component of the TBA Annual Convention is the TBA Business Meeting where the TBA Officers share the TBA's financial status, accomplishments for the previous year, objectives for the upcoming year and election of new Board members to fill open positions. It was exciting to see so many people interested in serving as a TBA Director during

the Business Meeting early Saturday morning. Normally the Election Nomination Committee has to work hard to find qualified members willing to serve on the TBA Board. This year there were numerous members running to fill the three open Director-At-Large positions. You will find all of the election results published in this edition of the TBA Journal. I would encourage those that did not win in this year's election to continue to remain involved in TBA initiatives and events and to also run again during next year's election. We value your input and participation! TBA is currently seeking volunteers for various appointed positions: Bookkeeper, Accountant, Event Planner (Project Manager) and Website & Facebook Content Manager. There may be additional volunteer roles identified as the TBA grows and our needs increase. Volunteering in the TBA is a great way to get to know other beekeepers from around the state. Anyone interested in volunteering for the current available positions should use the link below to access the TBA Volunteer Sign-Up site, select a volunteer role, provide your contact and experience information and submit your information and you will be contacted by a TBA Officer.

TBA Volunteer Sign-Up Website: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090848aba92aa2f49-tbaworker>

Be sure to check your hives regularly throughout the late fall and winter to ensure the bees have adequate food stores. Continue to provide honey, sugar water or corn syrup and pollen substitute, as needed. Take into consideration periods of wet and / or cold weather, which will keep the bees from flying and foraging. The bees will go through their stored food quickly when they are forced to stay in the hive. Keep in mind that brood-less periods are the best time to treat with oxalic acid, which has proven to be an effective treatment for Varroa mites. Wintertime is also a great time to continue studying honeybees and beekeeping!

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Hurricane Harvey Impacts Texas Beekeeping

from Dennis Gray, President, Coastal Bend Beekeepers Association

August 26, 2017 is a date that coastal Texans will not soon forget. In the early hours that Saturday Hurricane Harvey began its long and costly assault on the coast of Texas from Mustang Island all the way to Louisiana. The category 4 storm made landfall on San Jose Island, just north of Port Aransas. At “ground zero” were the quiet coastal resort towns of Aransas Pass and Rockport.

Harvey continued inland and swept other small communities: Tivoli, Bayside, Refugio, and into Victoria. Beginning in the Guadalupe River basin, Harvey brought flooding as far north as Goliad and Cuero. But the flooding didn't stop there. Indeed, the remnants of Harvey drifted across a host of the estuaries and river basins along the coast. The historic flooding in the greater Houston area was stunning in its intensity and duration.

Texas beekeepers were not spared the wrath of the storm. Dozens of hives were included in the rubble at landfall. Coastal Bend beekeepers suffered modest losses from surge and wind. The storm did not only affect managed hives. Michael Leidner, a bee remover in the Coastal Bend and Vice President of the local association, explained “Harvey upset many feral colonies that needed attention. With structural damages, the colonies started looking for new accommodations.” Many colonies absconded in the aftermath and set off a flood of calls for help with bee problems that interrupted recovery crews' work.

The only silver lining that we saw in the Coastal Bend was a long-overdue honey flow kicked off by the rain. The remaining palms started an unseasonal bloom that the bees greatly benefited from. The local Retama trees decided to bloom out of season too.

The Golden Crescent Beekeepers Association suffered several colony losses but escaped the worst of the storm. Long, drenching rains flooded areas expected to flood, and a few beekeepers reported scattered losses. The group's meeting space suffered roof damage, forcing the group to seek temporary accommodations.

Southeast Texas is no stranger to flooding. The watersheds from the San Bernard to the Sabine River are notoriously flat. Harvey delivered 100-year floods to every basin in that area, and 500-year floods to more than one.

The Brazoria County Beekeepers Association (BCBA) was the only group to organize a formal count of colony losses. Their survey data includes nearly 1200 colonies lost by their members.

Jack Berry, BCBA Treasurer, was happy to report minimal damage to their infrastructure. BCBA keeps hives on retention pond berms in the area and those areas remained safe for those colonies. The group has an ambitious queen rearing program that should remain on track for 2018, and the group did not cancel any meetings.

The San Jacinto River and its tributary Caney Creek claimed “dozens” of colonies in southeast Montgomery County and Liberty County according to beekeepers in the area.

Several commercial beekeepers, with hives from the Katy prairies across to Beaumont were able to move their bees from the path of some flooding. Nevertheless, significant numbers of bees were lost, with one commercial operator reporting about 800 hives lost. One small commercial operation lost about 70 colonies in Galveston and Harris counties. Those colonies succumbed to drenching rains, rather than rising rivers and creeks.

One unlucky commercial beekeeper lost hives to simple bad luck. “One tree fell straight down a line of hives, and another tree fell straight down another line of hives,” they said. These fortunately insured, so they will recover at least some of what they lost.

Major suppliers of bees in the state reported increased calls from people looking to replace their Harvey losses.

Adding insult to injury, and before the flood water completely receded, the state began massive aerial spraying for mosquitoes. On September 6, Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) announced the commencement of aerial spraying, beginning in Aransas, Bee, Nueces, Refugio and San Patricio counties. The DSHS new release stated that the spraying would be conducted in accordance with the label instructions and in ways that minimized the impact to bees:

Spraying is also done to minimize any effects on beneficial insects like bees. Applications will be done starting around dusk when mosquitoes are most active and after bees have returned to their hives for the night. The insecticides dissipate and break down quickly in the environment, and when bees emerge in daylight, they are not affected. Although this type of application will not cause a significant exposure for bees, beekeepers may choose to cover their colonies and prevent bees from exiting during treatment.

Beekeepers across the state turned to their local clubs for better information. Club leaders turned to state and local officials for advice, but reported limited response to their questions. The standard advice was to cover hives if possible, a task made somewhat cumbersome by the sporadic or absent announcements of which counties would be sprayed on which nights.

The scale of spraying was indeed massive. Initially, the environmental contractor, Clarke, used three twin engine Beechcraft planes for the work, but the U.S. Air Force Reserve's 910th Airlift Wing sent two specially equipped C-130H to help out. A third C-130 was later added to the operations.

By September 13, about 2 million acres had been sprayed in Aransas, Bee, Brazoria, Calhoun, Chambers, DeWitt, Jackson, Jefferson, Lavaca, Nueces, Orange, Refugio and San Patricio counties. With the addition of a third C-130 and an additional private contractor, spraying expanded to Harris, Hardin, Wharton, Austin, Waller, Montgomery, and Liberty counties. In total, 20 counties saw extensive spraying.

Colony losses from spraying are difficult to quantify with

confidence. According to the Brazoria County Beekeepers' survey, about 2.5% of losses were attributed to spraying. However, one beekeeper complained that the losses were more from truck spraying than the county historically conducts without due regard for the label instructions.

Texas Beekeepers Association is currently examining an organized response to Harvey losses. A combination of monetary donations and negotiated discounts with suppliers will be announced as soon as the plan is finalized. We hope to

offer beekeepers who experienced losses at least some help in recovery. Watch for upcoming announcements about the plan.

Harvey recovery will take years, of course. Colony losses in Texas and Florida will certainly impact the annual colony loss surveys, and that data may provide a more complete picture of the impacts of the storms of 2017. In the meantime, beekeepers are looking to build back to their pre-storm numbers and hoping for the best from mother nature in the Spring.



*Texas Beekeepers Association 2018 Texas Honey Queen
Abby Pettibon*

Finishing to Begin Again

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

TBA Journal Article - November 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

Pictures by the authors unless otherwise indicated.

"When the weather turns rainy and cold, it is time to sharpen the saw." - Anonymous

We have officially finished the 2017 beekeeping year. We harvested fall honey, helped first-year beekeepers extract their first honey, winterized our hives, stored equipment, and made presentations to youth and adult bee groups. We will treat for varroa in a few weeks when our colonies are broodless. Each of our "finishing well projects" helps us prepare well for the 2018 beekeeping year.

Abundant Fall Honey Harvests

We did not harvest honey in the spring because we used miticides in our hives with the honey supers on. However, once varroa were under control, our bees worked the abundant nectar sources and produced a prodigious amount of honey. We harvested in late October and had 265 pounds of honey from four very large hives, or about 65 pounds per hive. This was our largest and best-tasting honey harvest, well worth the wait.



We invited three husband and wife NewBees teams to our home to extract their first honey. This was a great learning experience for all, and we had a wonderful group lunch together to celebrate! The laughter reminded us that we really are in beekeeping for beekeepers. Each of the NewBees families had a harvest of honey and wax from their own hives large enough to meet their personal goal to share the beekeeping bounty at Christmas with their friends and family.



Wintering Our Hives

We replaced the extracted wet comb supers on our hives for a few days for a final cleaning and wax repair after our honey extraction. We took advantage of an 80°F day in early November to prepare the hives for winter. Our goals with each hive were to:

- pull off the empty and clean drawn comb frames and supers,
- remove any frames that contained only foundation,
- throw out frames with brood comb that was three or more years old,
- redistribute resources to ensure that each had abundant resources for winter, and
- consolidate each hive to two or three boxes.

Wintering can be a stressful and exciting day because it involves taking apart—and rebuilding—each hive. We removed every box, examined every frame, sorted frames into one of four different boxes (brood resources, honey, drawn comb, and empty foundation), cleaned boxes of propolis, and prepared boxes with winter resources. We then reassembled each hive with brood resources on the bottom and at least one box of honey/nectar stores on the top.

There were many bees in the air as we worked each hive. They were not aggressive, but they were definitely disturbed. We worked quickly and modified our methods according to conditions. We were always on the lookout for robbing behavior since there was only a small nectar flow available to the bees. We moved extra resource frames into a separate bee-proof container and placed entrance reduces on all the hives. This worked very well for us, and we did not experience robbing, and the attendant bee death, as we had in the past.

There was no brood present in any of our four large hives. This means either that all of our hives are queenless since last week, which we doubt, or that the queens have shut down brood rearing for the

winter. We will treat our hives for varroa with our new oxalic acid vaporization equipment on the next warm day. That will be the final step in wintering our hives and setting them up for success.

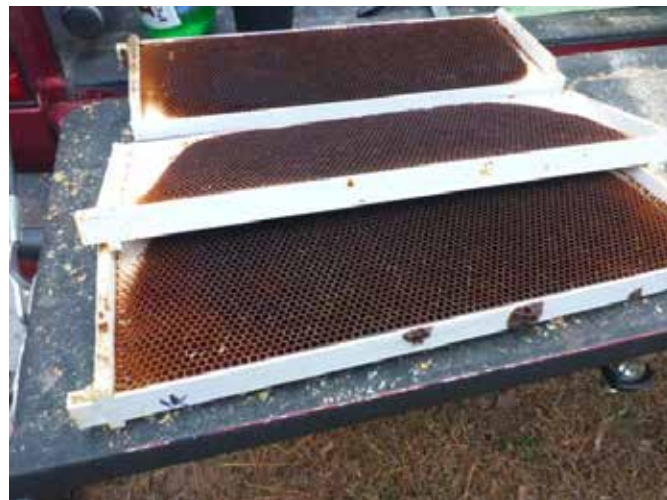
Storing Equipment

We had 12 boxes of frames to clean, cull, repair, and sort after we winterized our hives. Equipment maintenance is the kind of hard work that no one but the beekeeper will ever know took place. This is the "saw sharpening" we referred to earlier. We like to set up our pickup truck tailgate as a work area next to the bee equipment storage shed at our home.



As we worked each individual frame and box, we assessed the following:

- Is the wooden frame structure in good repair, or is it irreparable and needing to be discarded?
- Is there propolis that needs removing, especially from the frame top bar ends?
- Is there drawn comb on the foundation?
 - If no, then we will simply store the frame where the mud daubers cannot get to it.
 - If yes, then we will store the frame in a super box. We then stack the supers on top of one another, add paradichlorobenzene (moth crystals) to the stack, and put a telescoping cover on top. This will form a somewhat air-tight chamber filled with the moth crystal vapor which will keep out the wax moths and their destructive larvae.
- Is the comb dark and old? We date each of our frames on the top bar so that we know when that particular frame went into service in a hive. When the frames are three years or older, we examine them. If the comb is dark, and the cells are shrinking in diameter, we discard the foundation with the old wax and replace it with a new sheet of plastic foundation.
- Lastly, is the hive body (super) in good repair? Usually we need to clean the top bar rests of propolis and sometimes the top and bottom of the box as well. Our equipment is now five years



old and is beginning to show signs of wear; a new paint job on the exterior may be needed early next spring.

We checked our queen rearing equipment and made sure that the Nicot system is in good shape, with all the required pieces to do the job. The only consumables are the smoke-colored cell cups which cost \$4 per 100 cups. We have used the Nicot system for the past three years with good success and will use it again in 2018.



Speaking about Bees

We're always ready to talk with new and prospective beekeepers about honey bees. We gave a presentation entitled "Honey Bees by the Numbers" to a group of homeschoolers studying botany and pollination. We shared our experiences with a nearby bee club about raising queens using the Nicot system. It is great fun to talk bees with like-minded people!

2017 will go down as a fantastic year for the Farris and our beekeeping enterprise. We have much for which to be thankful. The greatest gifts we've received are the new friendships we've made with other beekeepers, both those in the business for 50-plus years and those just getting started. There really is something special about the individuals who willingly choose to keep stinging insects in order to enjoy their sweet rewards. We'll report back in 2018 as we learn more about bees and beekeeping in Texas!

Our best wishes to you and your family for the coming Christmas season.

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



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

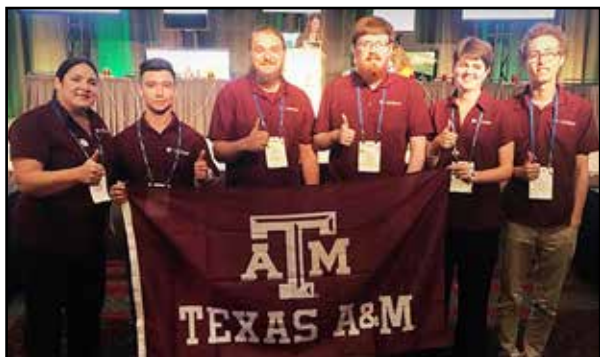
Assistant Professor of Apiculture, Department of Entomology, Texas A&M University

Howdy TBA members!

As the end of the year quickly sneaks up on us, I have a lot of good news to share with you, mostly coming from the hard work of students in my lab. First, I want to share with you that a lot of members from the Rangel Lab traveled to Denver, CO, from 4 to 8 November the annual meeting of the Entomological Society of America (ESA), where we met with a few thousand entomologists to share our research and do some networking. There were some great bee talks, as usual, and it is great to hear the latest developments on the apiculture and pollination front. Most importantly, though, is how extremely well our lab did at the meeting.

For starters, ALL of the five Rangel Lab students that presented an oral talk at the conference won either 1st or 2nd place in their section's competition! Pierre Lau won 1st place in the Ph.D. oral competition in the Apiculture section. Alex Payne won 1st place and Liz Walsh won 2nd place in the Ph.D. oral competition in the Pollinators section. And in the undergraduate oral presentation competition, Emily Hildinger won 1st place in her section and Makaylee Crone won 2nd place in her section. This is remarkable... there were about 11 student awards from Texas A&M University (TAMU) in the entire conference, five of which came from our lab!

After the student awards ceremony, we still had some more celebration to do. I am the coach of the Department of Entomology's teams for the regional and national Linnaean Games, a quiz bowl type of competition that tests students on their general knowledge in entomology, including topics such as toxicology, physiology, morphology, ecology, culture, history, pest control, etc. For the first time in the history of the Linnaean Games, an undergraduate team won the entire National Linnaean Games... and that team was our undergraduate students from TAMU!!! This is also the second time that a TAMU team places 1st in the history of the games.

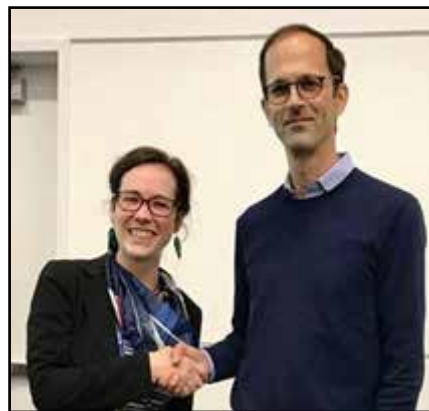


1st Place Linnaean Team: Rangel, Barbosa, Nash, Shook, Kilpatrick, and Adams

I still can't believe it... all that studying and practicing we did several times a week paid off, and the students won 1st place!!!! The team was made up by Jeffrey Barbosa, Bret Nash, Sam Shook, Dayvion Adams, and someone you may know, Shelby

Kilpatrick (past TX Honey Queen). The competition was thrilling, and winning feels great!

That same night we attended the meeting of the North American Section of the International Union for the Study of Social Insects (IUSSI), and learned that Liz was awarded the 2017 Jeffery P. Lafage Graduate Student Award for Applied Research on Social Insect Pests. Award nights cannot get better than that... this was the BEST ESA meeting I have had in the 10 years that I have been a member... I could not be more proud of all the students and the awards they received. Well done!



Liz Walsh with IUSSI President Stephen Pratt, celebrating that she became this year's Jeff Lafage Award Winner

Right after the ESA meeting, Pierre and I traveled to Temple for the TBA Annual Convention. Pierre gave an update on his current research, since he was last year's winner of the TBA Student Research Award. I presented an update on our part of the TBA's Real Texas Honey grant with the TX Department of Agriculture and talked about the project that, along with Dr. Marco Palma from TAMU's Agricultural Economics Department and Dr. Deborah Delaney from the University of Delaware, will investigate the attributes that general consumers find most important when choosing to

buy Real Texas Honey at the grocery stores. This will be a very interesting set of data for sure, and we hope to get some preliminary results by next year's TBA Summer Clinic. We are now back in College Station, busy with the end of the semester. The students are working hard to get some more data for their research, which they will present between January 9th and 12th at the joint meeting of the American Beekeeping Federation and the American Association of Professional Apiculturists (AAPA) in Reno, NV. During this meeting, the AAPA puts together the American Bee Research Conference, which this year will have dozens of student speakers presenting their research and competing for a presentation award. But on top of that distinction, the AAPA selects one student applicant for their research grant, and this year Liz Walsh was selected as the AAPA student award winner! So we have more to celebrate, just fantastic news all around.



1st place award winner Pierre Lau with ESA outgoing president Susan Weller (left) and incoming President Michael Parella (right).

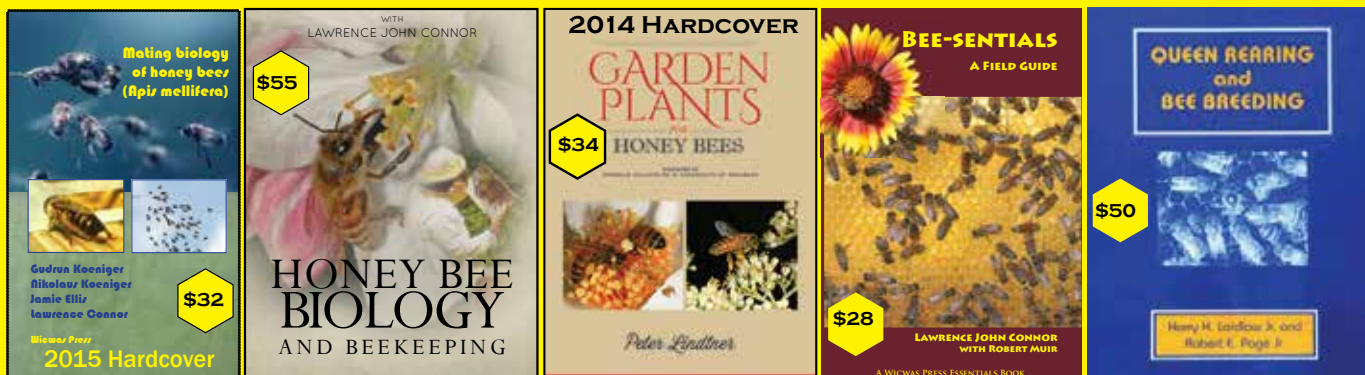
Lastly, congratulations to former Rangel Lab member, Dr. Adrian Fisher II (and collaborators), on their new paper accepted in the Journal of Economic Entomology, titled "The Effects of the Insect Growth Regulators Methoxyfenozide and Pyriproxyfen and the Acaricide Bifenazate on Honey Bee (Hymenoptera: Apidae) Forager Survival" (In press), GREAT JOB!

Boy, oh boy, what an incredible year this has been! By the end of this year I will have been in Texas for five years. Five incredible years... I have SO much to be thankful for. I got married to Juan, a wonderful, loving husband and father. I gave birth to my first child, Sami, who is now 10 months old and is my raison d'être. I am grateful for having such an amazing group of students and staff working with me. Thank you to ET (Gene) Ash for his mentorship and aid in keeping our bees. Thanks to Jane Packard for offering her time to mentor and guide me and my students. Thanks to Tonya Shepherd for agreeing to switch fields and moving from microbiology to working with bees... you have been an incredibly positive addition to our team in terms of managing the molecular laboratory and being a great teacher of our honey bee biology courses. I am very grateful for having such a great and committed group of students. Thanks to Dr. Adrian Fisher II, who graduated in August and is now a Postdoctoral Researcher at Arizona State University... we miss you. Thank you to Pierre Lau, Liz Walsh and Alex Payne for being awesome and dedicated students. I thank Makaylee Crone, Jakalynne Gosnell, Emily Hildinger and Ola Falokun, Betty Hernandez and Kyle Zhu for their willingness to participate in our endeavors as undergraduate student research assistants. Thanks to the staff in the Entomology Department for their administrative and logistical help every day.

Lastly, I want to thank you, TBA members, for your continuous support, for reading my column, and for making

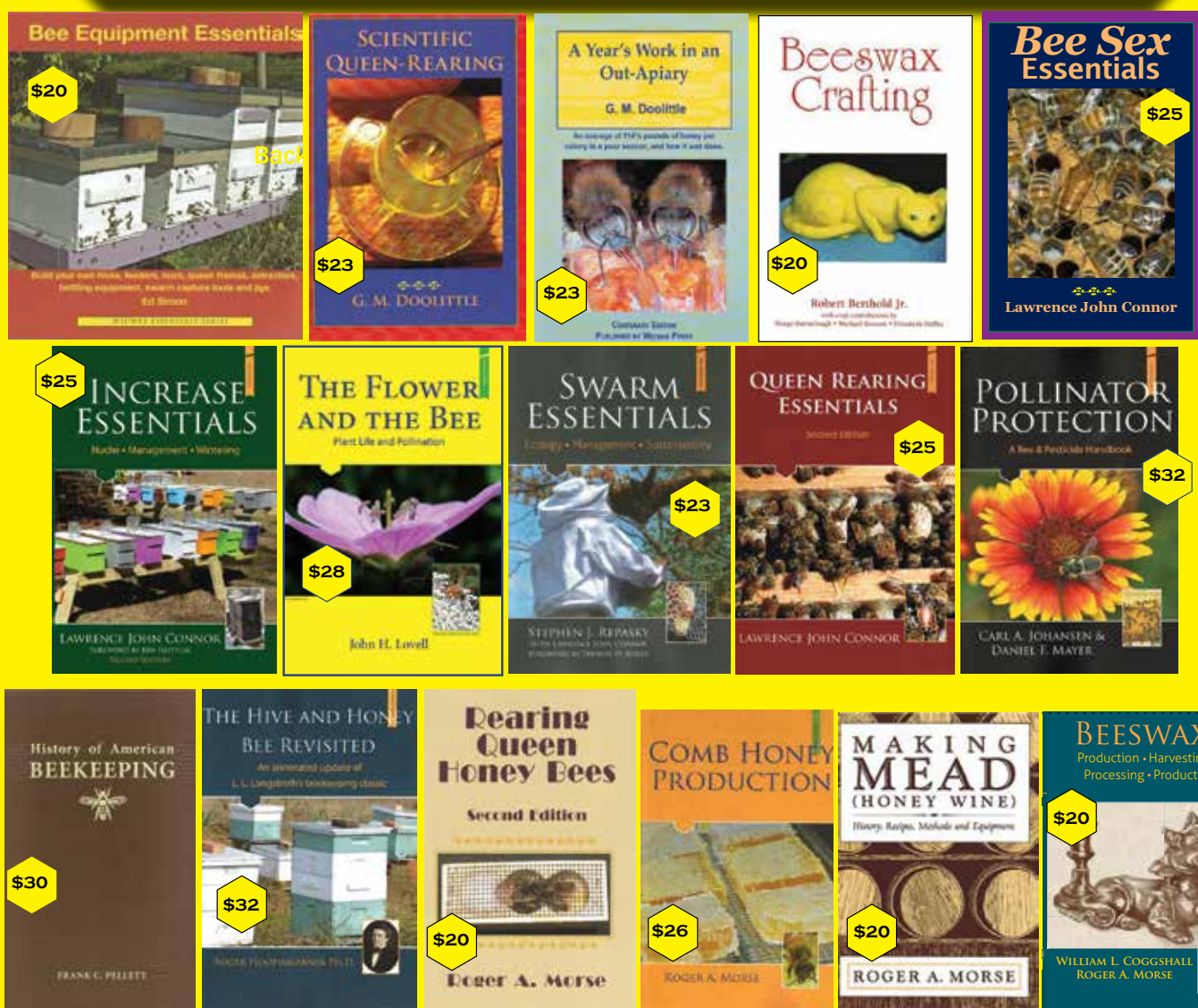


Dr. John and Janice Thomas at the Honey Bee Lab in February 2017



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EATBETA (Evangelize Africa Through Business Empowerment and Transformation of Agriculture)

EATBETA Campaign and Proposal to Improve Beekeeping Among Rural Farmers in Uganda

from Julius Sonko

EATBETA has embarked on efforts to improve and transform beekeeping into a profitable and sustainable activity that would enhance rural smallholder farmers' livelihoods

Background to the campaign

Besides traditional crop farming, which a majority of Ugandan rural farmers have engaged in for hundreds of years, alternative ways of farming are becoming popular and are being introduced into mainstream farming. The main reason why alternatives to traditional farming are now being emphasized, is that they help rural farmers to have a diversity of farm products and to boost farming revenue. Prior to introducing alternatives to traditional farming, rural farmers often engaged in growing and cultivating a limited selection of crops which were primarily staple to their region. For instance, in eastern Uganda, millet is the primary staple food and as a result, a majority of farmers in that region concentrated on growing mostly millet. EATBETA believes that if rural farmers' livelihoods were to improve, there must be some more diverse and supplementary farming activities besides the traditional staple-farming. The mission of EATBETA is transform rural livelihoods by alleviating unemployment and food shortage. During EATBETA's Summer 2017 training mission in Uganda, our team visited with rural beekeepers and advised them on beekeeping best-practices (watch video clip at https://youtu.be/wz1OHSbV_Go). Although beekeeping is gaining ground in rural Uganda, a majority of rural farmers lack both experience and modern techniques to beekeeping. During the training session with rural beekeepers, several of them indicated that they were losing their bee colonies to beehive invaders—especially ants and moths (see Picture 2). While at the site of one of the beekeepers, our team realized why farmers were losing their bee colonies; apparently, as shown in Picture 1, the way how traditional beehives are constructed makes them very vulnerable to beehive invaders.

The beehive-kit campaign

During EATBETA's Summer 2017 training program on beekeeping, a modern beehive-kit was demonstrated. However, beehive-kits are beyond the financial means of rural beekeepers in Uganda; a modern beehive-kit costs \$150. EATBETA has identified some serious rural beekeepers who will be sponsored and empowered to receive modern beehive-kits. Once sponsored, the sponsored bee-farms will be used as our training bases for other rural beekeepers. We humbly appeal to you to join our beehive-kit campaign, as we endeavor to improve beekeeping among rural farmers in Uganda. This



Picture 1: Traditional Beehive Used by Most Rural Beekeepers in Uganda

campaign resonates with EATBETA's overarching mission of transforming rural livelihoods by alleviating unemployment and food shortage. Moreover, beekeeping comes hand in hand with some additional benefits to the rural farmers; for example, bees are a good pollinator of plants and crops. It is a known fact that pollination plays a critical role in facilitating and increasing the production of crops, fruits and vegetables.

The opportunity

Bee honey has become a 'hot' commodity that could lead to improved incomes among Ugandan rural farmers, however, this opportunity has not been fully exploited to its potential. According to an article titled: Untapped potential for Ugandan beekeepers, "rural beekeepers could make even more income from honey if they would be provided with more on-going training, equipment and support in using the modern beehives" (ScienceDaily.com). And according to a news report in The Agriculturist, "a few beekeepers have modern honey presses but, more commonly, honeycombs are pressed by hand. Much of the honey produced has impurities, including wax and bee parts. Those who have invested in pressing machines produce better quality honey. Honey from honeycomb is extracted, warmed, strained and bottled. Some is sold to clinics to be used for medicinal applications. Some beekeepers salvage the comb to use its wax for candles or mixed with maize flour to make ice-cream cones" (New-ag.info).

Seizing the opportunity

EATBETA is seizing the opportunity to improve beekeeping among Ugandan rural farmers and consequently helping to boost rural incomes and livelihoods. Importantly, we are providing training—in beekeeping best-practices, to rural beekeepers and also providing—to those who cannot afford, modern beehive starter kits. Eventually, quality beekeeping—as a result of training, and increased output—as a result of using modern beehives, would be realized. Secondly, EATBETA is strategizing to take on the task of processing products from beekeeping, especially honey, to meet international standards and to consequently attract local and international markets.

Cutting the middlemen

With a mission to transform rural livelihoods by alleviating unemployment and food shortage, EATBETA would be doing a disservice to the rural farmers if it trains them in good beekeeping practices and not provide them with complementary services; such as processing and marketing the products from beekeeping activities. Rural farmers in Uganda are weary of the middlemen who do not care about farmers' livelihoods and plight. Farmers are paid just a fraction for their farm outputs—after toiling day and night. EATBETA espouses values and ethics which do not condone unfair treatment and abuse of rural farmers; thus, we want to ensure that rural farmers get a fair share of their labor. Middlemen are partly the reason why many rural farmers in Uganda, and in sub-Saharan Africa at large, have remained in a vicious cycle of poverty. By cutting the middlemen out, farmers will have a fair return from their farming and thereby be able to afford basic needs and to provide for their children's education.

Be part of the opportunity

The opportunity to train rural farmers in beekeeping is exciting but challenging at the same time. For example, once the farmers become experts in beekeeping, there will be improvement in quality and output—which will then call for expansion of the complementary services associated with beekeeping; such services including processing and marketing. EATBETA is strategizing to take on the task of processing beekeeping products, especially honey, to meet international standards and to consequently attract local and international markets. However, this strategy will require a sizeable investment in the equipment and machinery needed for processing and packaging. This is where we call upon you to be part of the opportunity. In the long run, this might turn out to be an investment that could potentially return tangible dividends to you as well!

Some notable statistics on beekeeping in Uganda

Cultivating honey is a huge potential export opportunity for Uganda, where it could inject \$500 million at conservative estimates—much needed sustainable development for the rural locale where 40 percent of the population lives on \$1.25 a day. Uganda has the potential to produce about 500,000 metric



Picture 2: A Rural Beekeeper Inspecting a Beehive that was invaded and Lost it's Colony

tons of honey but it is producing only about 26,000 metric tons.

Source: Thestar.com/news/world

EATBETA's commitment

EATBETA is passionately committed to its mission of transforming rural livelihoods by alleviating unemployment and food shortage. Poor traditional farming practices have caused rural farmers in sub-Saharan Africa to lag behind their counterparts in other continents (North America, Europe, and Asia)—who have adopted modern farming techniques and have also diversified into novel farming alternatives. While it could be, at the moment, expensive to implement modern farming techniques—which largely involve mechanization, there are rather cheaper and easier to implement options that can quickly be introduced and adopted by rural farmers in sub-Saharan Africa. EATBETA believes that beekeeping is a potential alternative which can inexpensively be adopted by rural farmers if they receive proper training and support services.

Contact us

For more information about EATBETA's beekeeping campaign, please contact us:

mail: P.O. Box 1190, Euless, TX 76039, USA

website: www.eatbeta.org

email: info@eatbeta.org

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- * **Tennessee State Beekeepers Association**
- * **Wisconsin Honey Producers Association, Inc.**
- * **American Honey Producers Association**
- * **Florida State Beekeepers Association**
- * **Minnesota Honey Producers Association**
- * **North Dakota Beekeepers Association**
- * **Texas Beekeepers Association**
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2017 Texas Honey Queen

Megan Pettibon

My Year as Texas Honey Queen



The TBA Convention was a success! It was truly incredible to watch how beekeepers from all around Texas could join together and discuss the topic of honey bees. There was a large variety of classes to attend, as well as many booths set up with neat beekeeping products. The county, state, and U.S. Honey Queens/Princesses and Ambassadors worked hard all week selling raffle tickets to support the Honey Queen Program, and participated in different events set up for them. I want to personally thank all of you who generously bought tickets from us. While your name may not have been the one that was drawn, we truly appreciate the financial support to the program.

The Bee Buzz Social and Honey Queen Reception was an evening where each queen set up a table that explained their hobbies, interests, and personalities. It was a nice evening with desserts on each table and the traditional delicious honey ice cream provided by the Collin County Honey Queen! For the Queen's Luncheon, we each gave a short speech that let everyone know a little bit about ourselves and ways that the Honey Queen Program has impacted our lives. That evening was the Awards Dinner, where we crown your new 2018 Texas Honey Queen, Abby Pettibon! I couldn't be more proud of my sister for what she has accomplished as the Collin County Honey Princess and Queen these past two years, and I know she will accomplish much more as the official spokesperson for the Texas Beekeepers Association.

The next day was the Queen's Quiz Bowl, where all of our knowledge was put to the test. A nasty mixture of honey and different ingredients for the losers was quite the motivation to win.

Needless to say, the 2017 TBA Convention was fantastic, and I hope you are able to come again next year.

I wouldn't change this year as your 2017 Texas Honey for the world. I have learned and experienced so much. It has

truly been incredible to fly/drive around Texas, staying with host families, and speaking at a large variety of events. Types of events include civic, promotional, schools, bee meetings, cooking demos, newspaper interviews, and a TV interview. I was able to reach over 261,600 people solely through social media. The overall total number of people I was able to reach this year as your spokesperson was 837,117 people. This number is the result of 58 events around Texas, which is about 5 events per month.

While I am no longer the Honey Queen for Texas, I am currently preparing to compete for the American Honey Queen position at the 2018 American Beekeeping Federation Conference and Tradeshow. It will be held in Reno, Nevada next month on January 9th through 13th, 2018. I hope to see many of you there.

This being my last article, I was to give a sincere thank you to everyone who has made this experience possible for me. Thank you to the host families who generously provided their homes and time. You all are an extremely important aspect of the Honey Queen Program, and I'm so grateful for the time I was able to spend with each other you. I also want to thank the TBA Board for trusting me as your spokesperson for this year. I take pride in representing the Texas Beekeepers Association at every event I speak at. A big special thank you to Ruth Ramos. You have been an excellent Texas Honey Queen Chair, and you are truly the backbone of my year. You have spent hours and hours scheduling, calling, and planning each event. What a blessing! Last but not least, thank you to all the beekeepers in Texas! I have made many lifelong friends, and hope to see many of you in Reno.

God bless,



Resolutions Passed at 2017 Texas Beekeepers Convention

1. **Whereas** the 2017 Texas Beekeepers Association's ("TBA") Annual Conference was informative and entertaining; now therefore,

Be it Resolved that TBA thank the many volunteers who made it possible.

2. **Whereas** TBA recognizes and appreciates the dedication and efforts of so many of its members involved in TBA work and activities throughout the entire year,

Be it Resolved that TBA expresses special appreciation to John Talbert, Brandon Pollard, Skip Talbert, Ryan Giesecke, Ed Snyder and Justin Talbert for their efforts in erecting the TBA Honey Booth, and to the more than 100 volunteers who manned the TBA Honey Booth at the 2017 State Fair of Texas.

3. **Whereas** TBA continues to recognize the importance of increasing membership, and the benefits and success of its complimentary membership program,

Be it Resolved that TBA will continue its complimentary first year membership program; and

Be it Further Resolved that the complimentary membership shall extend to any beekeeper who has not previously been a member of TBA.

4. **Whereas** TBA also recognizes the importance of reaching out to the many new local beekeeping associations being formed throughout Texas,

Be it Resolved that TBA will offer a complimentary first-year membership for local associations who have not previously been members of TBA.

5. **Whereas** TBA strongly encourages the honest and ethical marketing of honey, and the promotion of pure Texas honey,

Be it Resolved that TBA will continue to promote the Real Texas Honey Program and the Texas Honey Locator.

6. **Whereas** TBA recognizes the continued support of Texas apiculture by Texas A&M University's ("TAMU") agricultural administration, and its department of entomology under the leadership of Dr. David Ragsdale,

Be it Resolved that TBA will continue to support and work with TAMU to enhance their research and education about honey bees in Texas.

7. **Whereas** TBA recognizes that the current Texas apiary regulations under Chapter 131 of the Texas Agriculture code are outdated and in need of updating,

Be it Resolved that TBA will continue to pursue updates to Chapter 131 to the 2019 Texas Legislature for their implementation.

Continued on Page 22



Austin 7th Annual Beekeeping Seminar

Register at: <https://aabaseminar2018.eventbrite.com>

When: Jan. 27, 2018
Who: Austin Area Beekeepers Association
Where: Norris Conference Centers, 2525 W Anderson Ln #365, Austin, TX 78757
Cost: \$60

Why:

The mission of this daylong seminar is to educate people of all experience levels in sustainable science-based bee husbandry and to provide support to worthy bee charities. The lion's share of the proceeds are donated to the Texas A&M Honey Bee Lab, the Texas Beekeepers Association Queen's Program, the Texas Master Beekeeping Program and other bee charities.

Description:

This is a daylong seminar offering 5 different educational presentations running concurrently every hour throughout the day. This will provide many beginning and advanced subjects to choose from. A **separate beginner track** has been formatted covering a variety of startup topics for soon-to-be or very-new beekeepers. A beginner beekeeper will learn the fundamentals of honey bee biology and behavior, how to select the equipment you will need, where to buy bees, how to set up your apiary, how to light a smoker, feeding, the fundamentals of honey extraction, queen finding, requeening and annual management.

Other Sessions will include:

- Honey Bee Management 1 and 2
- Nutrition Management
- Honey Bee Biology and Behavior
- Top Bar Management 1 and 2
- Effective Varroa Management for Robust Populations
- Brood Disease and Pest Control
- Swarm Capture Techniques
- Raising Queens
- Simple Queen Cell Production
- Learn Honey Extraction Techniques
- How to Grow Your Apiary Business
- Successful Sales and Marketing
- How to plant Beescapes
- Bees as an Ag. Exemption
- Queen Finding and Requeening
- Honey Bee Reproductive Biology
- Making Splits
- Cut-Outs
- Equipment Building Workshop
- Smoker Lighting Demo
- What Every Beekeeper Should Know About Foraging
- Impact of Miticides on QMP
- Varroa Monitoring Workshop
- Honey Bee Health and Nutrition
- Preparing for a Honey Show

Presenters:

- Professor Juliana Rangel – Entomology at Texas A&M
- Mary Reed - Texas Apiary Inspector
- Mark Hedley - Owner of Spiral Horn Apiary
- Dan Aurell - Texas A&M Tech Transfer Team
- Ryan Giesecke - Trinity Valley Beekeepers President
- James & Chari Elam - Owners of Bluebonnet Beekeeping Supplies
- Dodie Stillman - Certified Texas Master Beekeeper
- Elizabeth Walsh - Ph.D. Student of Entomology at Texas A&M
- Tanya Phillips - Certified Texas Master Beekeeper
- Karl Acuri - Austin Area Beekeepers Assoc. (Co-Organizer)
- Becky Bender - Texas Master Naturalist
- Brandon Fehrenkamp - Owner of Austin Bees
- Pamela Yeamans – Certified Advanced Level Beekeeper (TMBP)
- Chuck Reburn - Certified Texas Master Beekeeper
- Ashley Ralph - Area Director Texas Beekeepers Assoc.
- Steve Butler - Owner of Company Bee
- John Swan - Owner of Wicked Bee Apiary
- Dennis Herbert - Past Pres. of the Bell-Coryell Beekeeping Assoc.
- Lance Wilson - Certified Master Craftsman Beekeeper (GMBP)

For additional information you can email Lance Wilson at lance@beekeepinghelp.com



The Brantley Column

from S. S. Brantley
East Texas Beekeepers Association

The work with bees is winding down to “wait until next year” for many beekeepers. However, we in East Texas may yet see some 80 degree days before the year is done. There are still tasks needing your attention -- checking hives for stores, ordering or repairing woodenware, enrolling in beginners beekeeping classes, and making your orders for queens and hives. But December is also the month to think about the past eleven months, evaluating what you did and what you were not able to do. It may also be the month to think “How did I ever believe I could keep honeybees alive!” Let’s hope not! Think about all of the things you did that turned out great. How you found the best spot to put your hives. How they made so much honey you did not know how to get rid of all of it. This means your decision about when to put on supers worked out just right. Think about all of the time you spent checking your hive to be sure the queen was still producing the most eggs possible. Think about the mite checks you made to determine your hive mite count and the type of control you used when you found the count too high. Think about the mite check you did after completing treatment and found only one mite. Think about the programs your bee club provided throughout the year that helped you produce the honey you have on hand

right now. Think about how you can become more active in the club to help others by training to become a mentor. Think about the beekeeper that asked so many questions you wondered what they were doing at a bee meeting. Think about how you felt when you finally introduced yourself and found that they were your neighbor just down the road. Think how much they would enjoy your help in learning how to inspect their hives. I have found that when you try to help another beekeeper, you also increase your own knowledge about bees. Think about how you are going to do more reading to expand your knowledge base. Think about how you are going to join a second bee club to get different ideas from different beekeepers. Think about participating in next year’s state bee conventions, excellent opportunities to share with beekeepers from all over the area and to learn from some of the nationally recognized bee scientists, authors and researchers who are there to present programs. Beekeeping is what you put into it. Put in a lot, get substantial knowledge and experiences out of it. This year is almost gone. Our beekeeping accomplishments for 2017 are almost history. They were what they were. Next year is what you make it. I am eagerly looking forward to a great beekeeping year in 2018! Hope to see you with me on the journey

2017 Convention Resolutions (contd.)

8. **Whereas** TBA recognizes that the Texas Master Beekeeping Program (“TMBP”) is greatly benefiting Texas beekeepers,

Be it Resolved that TBA wholeheartedly appreciates the endeavors of all of those involved in the TMBP, and pledges our continued support.
9. **Whereas** the art of beekeeping has rapidly gained exposure in the state of Texas,

Be it Resolved that the TBA continue to request and support the creation of a State Apiary Extension Agent.
10. **Whereas** TBA strives to promote beekeeping,

Be it Resolved, that TBA supports and will pursue a “Save the Honey Bee” specialty license plate.

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The Adventures Continue From Sideliner to Commercial - Selling Honey

from Ashley Ralph, TBA Director, Prime Bees

As I continue to talk to beekeepers around Texas that are earnestly building their businesses from Sideliner to Commercial or Hobbyist to Sideliner, I realized a glimpse at our lessons learned may (hopefully) help someone who's on a similar journey. I'll also use this opportunity to say we are absolutely willing to listen to any and all advice that you're willing to give - we've been very lucky to have the guidance of more experienced beekeepers and businessmen and women along the way.

The idea of growing your apiary is a common trend and the vast majority of us are doing it on a budget and in a slow and steady fashion. For my husband and I, this is definitely the approach. Although we often think how much easier it would be to buy a truck coming out of almonds to push our numbers up by the hundreds in one stop, we've taken the slow and painful road of building it through splits and small acquisitions up to this point.

The biggest step we've taken at the end of the year was beginning to sell at the farmer's market as well as getting our Food Manufacturer's License so we can begin to sell in retail. Here are a few tips for success at the farmer's market:

- Study up on labeling laws and get it right the first time.
- Pack everything - every time. This includes a tent, weights for the tent, tables, a chair if you need it, a little more than you know you'll sell of all your products, business cards and contact information, easy to read pricing signs, your credit card reader and cell phone, extra labels, a bank of \$1s and \$5s, and whatever else you think is necessary.
- Consider having back up for working your booth. Everybody likes to meet the beekeeper, so ideally this person has first hand knowledge of your bees and operation.
- Constantly Improve. Listen and invite feedback from your customers. They'll even give you great ideas for what products you should add to your booth.
- Give samples. People love to try your honey first and will appreciate your willingness to share.
- Make your booth stand out. Simple is best, but make sure you've got an attractive and clean booth that invites visitors to ask questions.
- Use the opportunity to educate the consumer about local products, bees, and your brand. Every conversation can lead to opportunities for you and your business.

As we seek out more places to sell our honey, we've made great relationships with local restaurants and stores. This can be a great way to sell more product and create a better brand

awareness for your honey. A few things to consider before you go this route are time, energy, and ease. Keep these things in mind:

- Retailers may purchase outright or have you sell on consignment.
- They may ask you to restock crystallized honey.
- You'll need to deliver more product once they've sold out so have a game plan for communication and timelines for restocking.
- You'll obviously sell your product at wholesale - pick a number that works for you and the retailer. You may consider what you sell your product for direct to consumer. Are you going to offer it for more, less or the same amount that your retailer will sell your honey for?
- You can create great relationships with feed stores, coffee shops, boutiques, restaurants, and just about anything in between so be creative.

We've enjoyed learning along the way and being creative with our products. You may find that you can easily make a product that fits one of your retail partners - keep your eyes open to possibilities and take time to be intentionally creative to help build your business.

As we head into 2018, I'm excited to see how the Real Texas Honey grant continues to mature over the next year. Working to educate people about Texas Honey and learning more about what consumers want will help us all to sell our honey for a higher, fair price. As a beekeeper you have a valuable and useful product that can be marketed in so many different ways. You can use your honey and wax in cosmetics, beverages, baked goods, household products and although it's probably smart to start with a niche or two, the diversity allows us to build solid businesses and get more money for our honey.

Bulk, barrel pricing scares me at this point, but I know that sold honey is better than sitting on a stockpile for obvious reasons. So far we've been lucky to keep up with the demand and putting our honey to work in ways that get us retail or better pricing (which was said to be \$9 per pound in the Regional Honey Price Report published earlier this year by Bee Culture). I've met a few beekeepers that feel like any more than \$12 a pound is "just too much". I struggle with this - the reality is that beekeeping is a tough profession, our bees work hard and so do we. I'd love to see everybody getting closer to \$1 per ounce for quality, local honey. I realize that at a large scale commercial level, that's a bit optimistic, but a girl can dream.



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Texas Honey Show Huge Success!

If you harvest more than one flavor of honey in the same day from bee yards 40 miles apart, you may live in Texas.

The Texas Honey Show was a complete Blow-Out with 81 exhibitors entering 153 entries. And, yes, we had lots of different tasting honeys. It was held during the 2017 Texas Beekeeping Conference in Temple, Texas. It was a prime opportunity to showcase our bees' abilities to produce the purest honey. There are at least 300 varieties of honey in the United States, and many are produced here because of Texas' size, vegetation and climates.

It showcased the best examples of honey and beeswax. It included seventeen (17) classes seven (7) for honey, one (1) for beeswax and four (4) for mead.



The score sheets were property of the exhibitor and the feedback was appreciated by many exhibitors, like the quote below:

Liked the professional honey judges at show. Helping to up the bar of Texas honey quality. Honey show is much better now with score sheets. We should always bring in professional judges so Texas Honey is judged at the international level.

	1 st Place	2 nd Place	3 rd Place
Extracted Honey LIGHT	David Sebastian	James Willingham	Lance Hawvermale
Extracted Honey LIGHT AMBER	Jason Gamble	Terry McGehey	Jimmie Oakley
Extracted Honey AMBER	Daniel Brantner	Tanya Phillips	Jean Jeff
Extracted Honey DARK	Tanya Phillips	Michael Tenbrook	Blake Shook
CREAMED Honey	Monica Siwiak	Bill Zimmer	Randy Oakley
Black Jar, Ann Harman, Judge	Lance Wilson		
Black Jar PEOPLE'S CHOICE	David Abshier		
Wax Plain Block	Doug Stanley	Tanya Phillips	Jean Jeff
Arts & Crafts	Jane Smith	Larry Rose	Hope Pettibon
Photo Close-Up	Tanya Phillips	Kim Townsend	Glenn Kveton
Photo Scenic	Kim Townsend	Chari Elam	Tanya Phillips
Photo Portrait	Amelia Bryant	Kim Townsend	Tanya Phillips
Gadgets	Art Thomas	Tomo Curanovic	Hope Pettibon
Traditional Mead	James Tiemann	James Tiemann	Rachel Payne
Fruit Mead	Tanya Phillips	David Abshier	Stephen Johnson
Spice/Herb/Veg Mead	Chuck Reburn	Stephen Johnson	James Tiemann
Braggot/Historical Mead	Howard Elan	Howard Eland	Stephen Johnson
Best of Honey	David Sebastian		
Best of non-Honey	Tanya Phillips		
Best of Mead	Tanya Phillips		
Best Small-Scale	David Sebastian		
Best Sideliner	Tanya Phillips		
Best Commercial	Blake Shook		
Sweepstakes	Tanya Phillips		

This year, Ann Harman, a national, regional, state and local honey show judge, was the senior judge for the Texas Honey Show. Tim Tucker, past ABF president, was the honey judge. Kevin Stillman and Cameron Crane were the photography judges. Kim Lehman was the Arts & Crafts judge. Ann's valuable input catapulted the show to a national competition level and it was a great success. Her honey judging skills made sure that the show was professional from start to finish; open and honest.

There is interest within the TBA to promote “painting with wax” and to develop those artistic skills in Texans. The winners of the beekeeping arts and crafts category all went to encaustic artists. Jane Cornish Smith, from the Dallas area, won first place with her black, white, and gray traditional encaustic piece beautifully presented in a gray frame. Jane does offer encaustic art classes. To see more of Jane’s work or contact her for classes go to www.janecornishsmithart.com.



Second place went to Larry Rose from Wimberley. His artwork consisted of a colored photo printed on fabric with some added color and embedded with beeswax.

View his gallery at www.larrylrosedigitalart.com.

Hope Pettibon, American Honey Princess, took third place with her abstract work of colored multilayered beeswax.

Interested in learning more about encaustic art? There are a number of encaustic art classes around Texas. A good place to begin is the Encaustic Art Center in the Dallas area, theencausticcenter.com. The creative possibilities for beeswax and bee themed art are endless!

Kim Lehman, Arts & Crafts Judge



This is the first Texas Honey Show to have a mead competition. Mead is an alcoholic beverage created by fermenting honey with water, sometimes with various fruits, spices, grains, or hops. It is the fastest growing segment of the wine industry. It is up and coming at honey shows worldwide. Texas beekeepers have interest in this area because honey flavor determines the overarching taste of mead. Eric Lowe, Operations Director of Meridian Hive Meadery joined the TBA Honey Show as organizer and judge of the Mead classes. Meridian Hive Meadery is an award-winning mead maker in Austin, Texas.



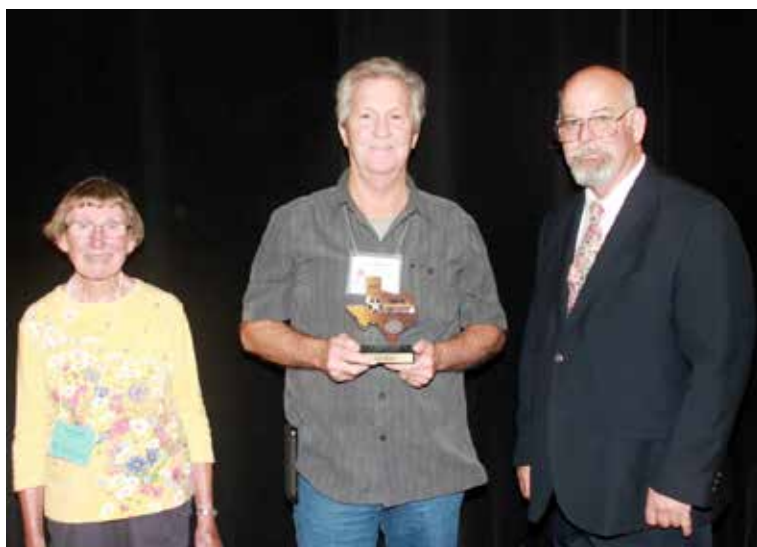
2017 Honey Show Entries (all classes)



2017 Awards sponsored by Dadant, Dancing Bee Winery, Moore Honey, R.Weaver Apiaries, Sabine Creek Honey Farm, Walker Honey Farm, and Sweet River Honey Company. Photo Jimmie Oakley.

Best of Honey - Sponsor: Walker Honey Farm

Best of non-Honey - Sponsor: Dadant & Sons



David Sebastian with Ann Harmon and Tim Tucker



Tanya Phillips with Ann Harmon and Tim Tucker

Best of Commercial - Sponsor: Moore Honey Co.



Blake Shook with John Talbert

Best of Sideline - Sponsor: Sabine Creek Honey

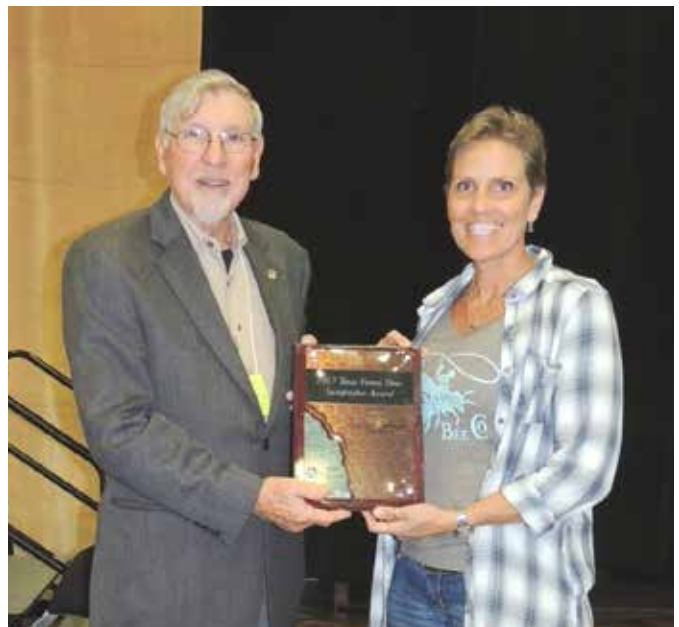


Tanya Phillips with John Talbert

Best of Mead - Sponsor: Dancing Bee Winery



Sweepstakes Award - Sweet River Honey Co



Tanya Phillips with John Talbert - Honey Show Committee Chair



THE BUDS AND THE BEES

Lawn Gone

by Becky Bender, Texas Master Naturalist

Green lawns are one of the least “green things” we do.

Several years ago a lady approached me at the Central Texas Beekeepers School in Brenham and told me something I'll never forget. She said, “When I was a little girl, I remember playing in my yard alongside flowers and bees. But there are no bees in yards anymore because lawns are too perfect.”

She was right. There are more perfect acres of lawn in the U.S. than there are acres of the eight largest irrigated crops combined! In a study published in Environmental Management in 2005, researchers estimated there are 40 million acres of turf grass in the U.S. covering almost 2 percent of the land. Turf lawns may be the U.S.'s largest and thirstiest irrigated crop. The typical American lawn sucks up 10,000 gallons of supplemental water (non-rainwater) annually which accounts for 50-75 % of all residential water use. Furthermore, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates about 80 million U.S. households dump nearly 90 million pounds of herbicides and pesticides on lawns every year. Lawn care may be approaching a risk to our health and the environment similar to that of conventional agriculture though it provides no food for humans or wildlife!

So what are practical ways we beekeepers can begin transforming a monoculture of turf grass into safe, diverse, bee-friendly habitat without evoking the wrath of neighbors and homeowners' associations? Here are a few things most of us can do.



Wide flower beds allow for diverse masses of blooms

Increase the width of flower beds around your house.

Bees prefer to forage large masses of one species of flower before taking that type of pollen back to the hive. For that reason, larger masses of the same species of plant are best for bees. But with the width of a typical landscaped flower bed – about 3 feet wide – bees often don't have the mass of blooms they need. So consider incorporating some grass lawn into your flower beds. Beds that are 6 feet wide or greater will accommodate some of our most beautiful, hearty and beneficial bee plants. Some of my own flower beds are 10 feet wide in some areas. A few of the many bee plants that are suited for large areas of mass blooms are Texas sage (Cenizo), Sumacs, Blue fall asters and Pavonia (Rock Rose). Over time such plants will spread into near-by garden spaces creating even larger masses of the plant without additional work or cost.

Something blooming along your fence line?

When birds perch on fences, their droppings from prior meals of berries and seeds spread plants to new places. This can be discouraging if it's invasive Japanese honeysuckle but beneficial if it's a desirable pollinator plant. If you discover Dogwood, Wild plum thickets, Baccharis, Buckthorns, Hollies



or Persimmons along your fence, you may want to thank the birds rather than weed eating.

Create a “pocket prairie.”

A prairie the size of a pocket? Why not! Here's your chance to give a legitimate label to a parcel of land you designate as diverse wildlife habitat. Locate these pockets on the edges or rear of a manicured yard, park or golf course. Keep in mind that introduced wildflowers may survive for a while in exotic



A Pocket Prairie is a mixture of flowers and grasses that provides food for wildlife

turf grasses like Bermuda grass but will eventually be strangled out. Native grasses, however, will welcome wildflowers.

Redefine “weed.”

Set your mower at a height of 3-4 inches and allow Clovers, Dandelions, Blue eyed grass, Asters, Wild garlic, Grape hyacinth and other grass-loving “weeds” to bloom in your grass in various seasons.

Introduce a ground cover.

Try establishing a flowering ground cover to replace grass in transition areas where sun-loving turf grass meets tree shade. Two low-growing, bee-friendly groundcovers that thrive in this “dappled-shade” are Frog fruit and Southern dewberry. Horse Herb does best with more shade and can even outcompete grass.

Take advantage of tree shelter.

The structure and sheltering arms of a large tree create not only a canopy of potential pollen and a climbing surface for vines but also a place below its canopy for diverse bee habitat. The “understory” of a large tree is perfect for smaller trees, shrubs and flowers that thrive in partial shade. If you identify Rattan vine or Virginia creeper climbing on a tree, leave it for your bees. Also try planting ground covers mentioned

above under the tree as well as understory nectar plants such as Frostweed, Hollies, Sumacs, Dogwood and more. This will replace a rather large area of grass with diverse bee forage.

Create a gradual transition from manicured lawn near your house to a “wildscape” as you move further from the house.

Most of us want a civilized living area for our family, pets and guests when we open our front or back doors. So consider a more manicured approach close to the house while allowing



Dewberry allowed to mingle with grasses on the edge of woods

your yard or property to become more diverse and natural as it extends away from the house. This idea was given to me by Michael Parkey (www.michaelparkey.com), a registered landscape architect specializing in native Texas landscapes. It's worked well for my property and honey bees for many years!

Are you ready for a lawn that's not perfect but is alive with flowers that provide food for your bees? In agreement with the notion that lawns are one of the least green things we do, John Talbert, former TBA President and founder of Sabine Creek Honey, says it best this way: “We must expand our horizons and begin to see the blackberry blooms instead of the bramble bush and thorns. There is so much more joy in the unmanicured natural acreage than in the exquisitely trimmed lawn.”

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

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**Bee Hive Thermal Industries,
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Organically**

**John Hicks
936.756.9708**

john@beehivethermalindustries.com

An organic and noninvasive solution targeting and killing *Varroa* mite infestations, that are killing honey bees, developed by joined forces of, Bee Hive Thermal Industries (www.beehivethermalindustries.com) and OVEN Industries (www.ovenind.com), experts in temperature control.

You may have heard that "honey bees are in trouble". There are a few reasons we could list in this dilemma and most experts will most likely agree that the *Varroa* mite is at the top of that list. **Bee Hive Thermal Industries** designed this **Thermal System** utilizing an industrial grade heater blanket and electronic controls which are easily installed and removed from the hive. The end goal of the product is to raise the temperature of the hive to a programmed temperature, killing the mites without harming the bees based on studies done in Europe. To see the game changing product in action, click the link and view the video. <https://youtu.be/D3I4G2Ws91o>

In the fight against today's *Varroa* mites, beekeepers are often, if not always, resorting to pesticides as the solution. Bees have many other predators and hardships to endure, including weather related issues such as cold temperatures, moisture and diseases. The effect of the *Varroa* on the overall colony is paralyzing to both general activity and honey production within the hive. This revolutionary product is showing positive results in killing and controlling mites and hive beetles, with only a few applications annually.

Bee Hive Thermal Industries, located in beautiful Pageland, SC, is recognized as a global leader in the design, development and distribution of organically suitable products for the bee industry globally. The company strives daily to provide unique and safe solutions for beekeepers everywhere, providing them with high quality, value and reliability. Caring for our bees is very important to the mission of **Bee Hive Thermal Industries**. Visit our website www.beehivethermalindustries.com



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Pests

from Micheal Mathews, Fayette County Beekeepers



The end of the year and our colonies are prepared for winter. All have enough stores and we have internal feeders in place, just in case. The bottom boards are closed and, unlike last year, safety wired to prevent one from accidentally open in a winter storm. Now we can reflect on a challenging year with our top bars, but one that was ultimately successful.

Early in June we had a chance to get away and explore the Canadian Rockies. It was some well enjoyed time off after months filled with seemingly constant beekeeping. With most of our spring beekeeping plans wrapped up, we thought we could skip hive inspection for three weeks. In retrospect, maybe we were gone from the bee yard too long. When we arrived home we found pest problems with several of our colonies.

Of all the pests that affect bees, wax moths and ants are the most common pests that we face. This year we have been particularly busy dealing with both. Early in the spring, we found a few moths in a colony that had been split. We cleaned those, made sure our traps were in good order and then moved on. This was also a good spring for Lovebugs (*plecia nearctica*) and they carpeted everything in our bee yard, including the sticky tape traps we set for ants on our top bar hives, rendering them useless.

The common adage that 'the best prevention for pests is a strong colony' is true, but splits, unexpected swarms and other problems, even those as innocuous as Lovebugs, can make a colony vulnerable. Below are some of the steps we take to keep our top bar hives safe from wax moths and ants.

Wax Moths

Some beekeepers may argue that it is beneficial to leave some empty comb inside of a top bar hive so that a weak colony does not need to build out, but I find this to be too hold for wax moth invasion. Any unused comb only increases the amount of comb that needs to be protected. Once the wax moths begin laying the beekeeper has to act within a week to remove any damaged comb and larva. Any questionable comb we find is removed and frozen to kill the larva. Then we attempt to process as much of the damaged comb as we can into wax with the rest going into the trash. As a normal rule we do not use follower boards, but in weakened hives we will add a follower board to decrease the space the bees must protect and make it more difficult for wax moths to breed.



Wax Moth Infestation

This year we have been experimenting with keeping some of the bottom boards closed during the summer. The infested colony was in one of those experimental hives. We found wax moth larva between the bottom screen and the closed bottom board as well as in the hive proper. This was the first time we have seen moth larva outside of the mesh bottom.



Wax Moths in the Bottom Board

A common method for preventing wax moth infestations is a wax moth trap. Most experienced beekeepers will know the formula of one part sugar, one part water, half part mild vinegar and a few banana peels. Let the mix ferment inside a two liter plastic drink bottle, then cut a quarter size hole near the top and the trap is made. We made a few of these traps, but found ourselves searching for drink bottles since we do not drink soft drinks. Cleaning them for recycling was not practical, so the traps ended up in the trash, something we prefer not to do with plastics that can otherwise be recycled.

The solution was a standard 32 ounce square rice container. Since the rice container does not have the volume of the drink bottle it needs to be refilled more frequently and fortunately the large opening lid makes cleaning and refilling these containers easy. During Texas summers these traps can evaporate in two weeks, so to keep them charged we make up formula in 32 ounce plastic food containers like those used for take out soup. As a trap evaporates we dump out any old banana peels, bees and moths, then simply recharge it with the ready made mix.



Wax Moth Trap in Place

We will normally leave two or three traps spaced around the bee yard. When we have a weak colony we will also place one under the hive. All wax moth traps will catch a few bees and to date, we have not noticed the traps placed below the hives catching more bees than the ones in the open yard.



Wax Moth Trap Under Hive

Ants

Anyone searching for “ants and beekeeping” on the internet will find a score of ingenious ways to protect a hive from these invaders. Some people use pans of water or oil under the stand to create a barrier. Others use diatomaceous earth or a pesticide on the ground around the hive to keep insects from reaching the legs. Of all of the methods, none are fool proof or work one hundred percent.

We initially considered diatomaceous earth since we used it around the foundation of our home. One of our early beekeeping mentors argued that diatomaceous earth was as hard on the bees as it was on the ants. While I’m not sure that is true, we have never tried diatomaceous earth around our hives. Likewise we avoid insecticides with one exception, fire ants. Fire ants often nest under the pavers we use as footing supports for the top bar hives and we will bait these ants. We have never noticed them in the hives, but having them at your feet does make hive inspections a challenge.

We have not had ants in our Langstroth hives, but in our top bar hives ants come in two varieties, squatters and raiders. It seems that each spring we will find a colony of ants have moved into one of our hives. These are carpenter ants and they are quick to build their nests under the lid and between the bars, especially if the bars are damaged or have some imperfection where the ants can begin a nest.



Carpenter Ants

The slight gap between spacers and bars serves as a perfect nursery for Carpenter ants. Fortunately they arrive in the spring and are generally found during an early hive inspection. Once their brood is swept away and the hive is clean, they do not return.



Carpenter Ant Nursery

Whether the problem is squatters or raiders, all ant colonies have to send workers between the ground and the hive. The key to controlling ants is stopping this movement. Every solution requires regular maintenance and we have opted for carpet tape and Tangle Foot. Tangle Foot or Tangle Trap are trade names for a non-toxic insect barrier used by arborists to control pests on trees. Application is simple, apply a two inch strip of tape and then apply the barrier to the tape. After several applications the old tape can be removed and new tape applied to provide a clean start.



Tape Barrier

We have used several types of tapes including painter's tape, packing tape and regular masking tape, but find double sided carpet tape is easiest to apply while wearing gloves and lasts longer than painter's tape. Once the tape is applied follow the instruction on the Tangle Foot can and apply a thin coat of barrier. The amount of insects and dirt the trap collects will determine when tape will need to be recoated. As a general rule expect to get two to three applications of Tangle Foot to each tape wrap. Applying the tape high on the legs and close to the hive will provide some protection from the elements. Placing tape high on the legs also reduces the risk of high grass touching the hive above the tape and providing a pathway for the ants to reach the hive.

Earlier this fall we were discussing Varroa mites with another beekeeper. During our first year we lost a colony to varroa, but in the years since, neither varroa nor hive beetles have been much of a problem. This could be caused by our moving the bees into full sun, buying varroa resistant queens or leaving the bottom boards open. We may answer at least one of these questions if our closed hives develop varroa infestations in the future.

Sadly one of our colonies did not survive the spring wax moth invasion, but we still ended the year with more successful colonies than when we started. As while, the best defense against pests is a strong colony, there are a few simple steps can go a long way to controlling these common pests.



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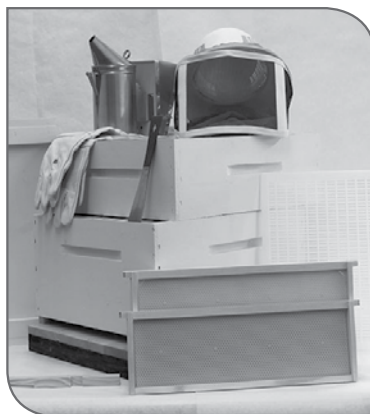
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"A Tale of Two Queen Rearing Programs"

With much respect and gratitude to Charles Dickens article by: Robin L-S Young, Metro Beekeepers Association

"It was the best of times, it was the..." Wait a minute! This is queen rearing. Awesome times does not even come close. As a Texas Master Beekeeper majoring in Queen rearing, I wanted to give you an up close look into the two queen rearing course available here in Texas to the public.



In 2014, Sue Cobey (Head Instructor pictured above in blue), Dr. Juliana Rangel, ET Ash, Liz Walsh, Adrian Fisher, Pierre Lau, and Mary Reed put together their first **"The Art of Queen Rearing Course"**. I was lucky to attend both the 2014 & 2015 eight hour courses all of which were completely full.

The Day, a Saturday, started at the "Janice and John G. Thomas Honey Bee Facility", **College Station, TX**. Dr. Rangel introduced Sue Cobey and we were treated to a slide presentation on basic queen and drone rearing. We then broke up into groups and went outside. Every minute was filled with information on setting up cell builders, banking, and incubating queen cells. We each took a turn at "popping" drones and identifying their maturity level.



We also practiced marking queens by picking up drones and marking them. At the 2014 Course, we were shown how to extract the spermatheca and were able to compare a mated queen and a virgin queen (availability of queens play a role). We also got to do some grafting and wound the day up with a demonstration of artificial insemination of a queen honey bee (pictured below).



What an incredible day and learning experience.

The second **Queen Rearing Course** was offered for the first time (September 16-17, 2017) **by Bee Weavers Apiaries**. The class was led by bee and queen experts: Dan Weaver, Roosevelt Roberson (beekeeper for 50 years), Lauran Ward (Board Certified Entomologist and an A&M graduate) and Ana Rosa Hernandez (pictured below). This class was also limited and we had around 8 students some of which had flown in from out of state.



We started in the class room at the Bee Weaver's store front in Navasota, TX on a Saturday morning. From the very beginning it was obvious this class was a "hands on" course. There we all were sitting in a room with a person dare I say a family that risked their entire multi-generational family business on developing a queen that is varroa resistant and needs no chemicals to maintain. Dan Weaver discussed, "I

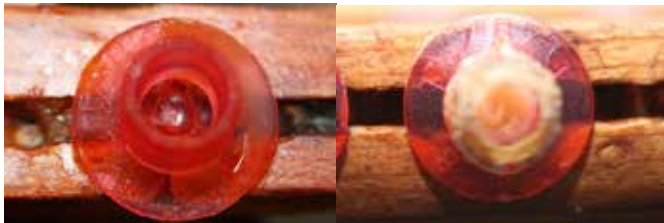
"A Tale of Two Queen Rearing Programs"

With much respect and gratitude to Charles Dickens article by: Robin L-S Young, Metro Beekeepers Association

had lost over 2,000 hives and my dad asked me if we were going to make it without losing the business." Thank goodness they stuck with it. We all wanted to know how he did it. Dan told us that "you can't just take a small group of hives and breed for traits you want and have a lasting quality queen. It leads to inbreeding. You have to take the whole honey bee society with you." He repeated numerous times that if you really wanted a lasting breed of desirable queens you needed to take between 300 and 400 hives and pull from them (more than 400 does not really affect success) according to Dan Weaver. What you are trying to do is hone in on qualities you want in a queen but keep the diversity in the gene pool. The fewer traits you hone in on the better your success. The Weavers queen breeding program focuses on a suite of traits associated with varroa resistance along with, high production of honey, and a docile behavior. This was just in the first 30 minutes of the class. (below 1st in-star larva)



We got to spend hours grafting with their best grafter on staff guiding us to whether that was the right in-star or not. With it being a 2 day class we were able to come back the second day and see if our grafts took.



On the second day we worked on queen nucs picking up the queen, marking her, clipping her, and adding attendants in her box. We would follow up with a queen cell that was about to emerge and we would also add more nurse bees if the nuc needed it. We all got to work and learn, hands on, in a continuous queen rearing program. As a testament to the Weaver's family success, by the end of day two we were all

only wearing our veils, if that, for protection.



Dan Weaver and Roosevelt Roberson banking queens

Bee Friends, I have barely scratched the surface on these two queen rearing programs. There was a fee for both the classes, but I assure you it was worth every penny. The one day course put on by Dr. Rangel and Sue Cobey cost from \$100 to \$200 any given year and the two day course put on by Bee Weavers was \$595 (price may vary in coming years). I recommend taking the A&M course first. Think of the A&M course as the 101 class and the Bee Weaver class as 102 & 103 class. (Below, Dan Weaver holding a queen in her final pupa stage.)



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

Update from Texas Apiary Inspection Service

from Mary Reed, Apiary Inspector

Greetings fellow beekeepers!

I hope all of you are enjoying some cooler weather in your area at the moment. As I'm writing this article there is rain pouring from the heavens, so I know cool temperatures are in our future. Earlier in November the Texas Apiary Inspection Service (TAIS) held the sixth session of the Texas Master Beekeeper Program (TMBP) exam in collaboration with the Texas Beekeepers Association (TBA). We had 45 beekeepers participate in the Apprentice exam, 9 beekeepers attend the Advanced exam, and 4 beekeepers roll up their sleeves for the Master exam. I am happy to say that everyone did a great job and I am proud to add so many new beekeepers to the TMBP family!

The next couple of days following the exam, our office attended the TBA Annual Convention in Temple. We had a great time attending talks and interacting with beekeepers. One of the benefits we gain from attending these events is that we get to speak in person with beekeepers about issues they are having with their colonies. One issue that has been popping up recently over the past couple of years is the overwhelming infestations of small hive beetles (SHB) that some beekeepers have been noticing in their hives. Although SHB is largely considered to be a secondary pest, many of these beekeepers have experience colony loss due to high infestations while maintaining low Varroa mite levels and low disease prevalence. Even though there is no one conclusive explanation for these losses, I would like to take the opportunity to refresh your knowledge about SHBs and offer some suggestions on how to control them in your colonies.

The small hive beetle is originally from Sub-Saharan Africa and was found in the southeastern United States in the mid-1990's. The adult beetles are about 1/3-inch in length and have a dark-brown to black coloration. The adults are attracted to the smell of pollen, nectar, and the alarm pheromones of honey bee colonies. A SHB adult inside a colony will produce a yeast that, when mixed with pollen, will smell like the honey bee alarm pheromone, therefore attracting other adult SHBs to the hive. A strong colony will work to confine the SHB adults in cracks and crevices, however the SHB adults will use these crevices to lay their eggs. In 3 to 5 days the eggs will hatch into larvae. The larvae can easily be identified by the presence of prolegs near the head and two rows of spines down their back. The larvae will feed on nectar and pollen in the colony, causing fermentation of these products and the characteristic sliming of the frames. After 10-14 days the larvae will move outside of the hive and will burrow into the ground to pupate

and transform into the adult form.

There are several methods for controlling small hive beetle populations in a honey bee colony. Small hive beetles thrive in cool, damp environments, so keeping colonies in direct sunlight for the majority of the day will help keep SHB populations low. Currently there are multiple mechanical controls that beekeepers can implement into their colonies to control SHB populations. The two most popular methods are Beetle Blasters and fabric sheets. Recently beekeepers seem to have had positive results implementing fabric sheets into their colonies. Some have used dry Swiffer pads, used dryer sheets, and the sheets sold by beekeeping suppliers. Honey bees will chew on the sheets, therefore fluffing them up so that when a beetle crawls across the sheet they get caught in the threads. However, as with any method of control, use what seems to be most effective in your colonies while ensuring the health and safety of the bees.

Since temperatures are starting to cool down, controlling small hive beetle populations shouldn't be your only concern. This time of year focus on ensuring that your colonies are ready for cold snaps and nutritional dearths. That means feeding your colonies if they don't have enough resources. I usually like to leave at least one full super for the bees and depending on your area that may mean feeding them some sugar syrup to fill up the boxes. As always, keep monitoring for Varroa mites in your colonies as long as the temperatures are warm enough. My rule of thumb for opening hives is that as long as it's warmer than 55 degrees Fahrenheit, then the hive can be opened. However, you may choose to wait until it's a little bit warmer before cracking a lid. If you find that your Varroa mite levels are a little high, the winter season is the perfect time to treat since there will be very little brood for the mites to reproduce in. I encourage you to consult the Honey Bee Health Coalition's Varroa Management Guide for assessing Varroa mite thresholds as well as guidance on which treatment option will work best for your colony.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about your colonies please don't hesitate to contact our office (979-845-9713, tais@tamu.edu).

Everyone here at TAIS wishes you Happy Holidays and we can't wait to see you in the new year!



List of New Texas Master Beekeepers

Apprentice

Charles Agar	Rachelle Mullins
Neal Armstrong	Paige Nester
Diego Berry	George Nester
Robyn Cherry	Walter Parsons
Nick Coker	Stephen Pooler
Byron Compton	Peter Reisinger
Rick Dorazil	Mary Reisinger
Gary Hamilton	Thom Russo
Lance Hawvermale	Danette Russo
Teresa Hefley	Allison Ruzicka
David Hillberry	Monica Siwiak
Nedda Japon	Joanna Sollinger
Daniel Johnson	Harry Speake
Carol Lynne Jones	Joe Stephens
Daniel Jones	Daniel Stewart
Shannon LaGrave	Patrick Tickel
Steve McAnally	Kim Townsend
Heather McBride	Harold Troxel
Greyson McMurray	Clinton White
Michael Mendez	Randy Young
Nathalie Misserey-Biggie	

Advanced

David Boatcallie
Peter Cole
Christopher Davenport
Jennifer Harbour
Gregory Oermann
Rachel Payne
Ashley Ralph
Justin Russell
Linda Williams

Master

Ron Couch
Nanette Davis
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Pictures from the 2017 Convention

from Jimmie Oakley



*2018 Texas Honey Queen
Abby Pettibon*



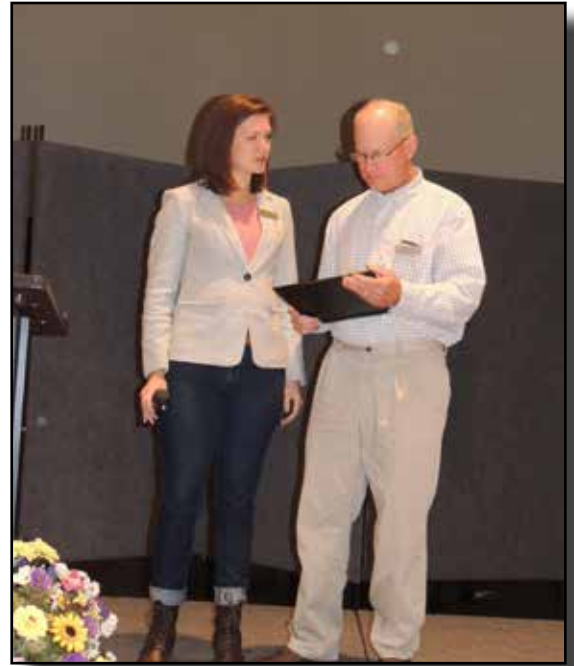
*Harrison Rogers Receives the
John Thomas Meritorius Service Award*



*A Busy Registration Desk with Shirley Doggett assisted by
Jennie Mann and Cecilia*



Dick Counts Receives his Lifetime Membership Award from S S Brantley



Bill Baxter Receives his Lifetime Membership Award from Mary Reed



The Presidents Award went to Leesa Hyder from President Chris Moore



Dr. John and Janice Thomas at the Auction with Hope Pettibon, American Honey Princess



The Royal Court escorted by East Texas Beekeepers Ambassadors Peter and Jacob Cole. Megan Pettibon, Katie Speen, Mary Resinger, Abby Pettibon, Hope Pettibon and Jordan Heivilin



Laura Weaver at BeeWeaver Apiaries



Julie Norman with her Skeps



*Dadant from Paris, TX
with Kacy Cole in hiding*



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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

Dodie Stillman

austinareabeekeepers@gmail.com

facebook.com/groups/Austin/AreaBeekeeperAssociation

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

Meeting: 3rd Monday of each month at 7pm

Norris Conference center, 2525 W Anderson Lane, Austin TX 78757

Bell/Coryell Beekeepers Association

Frank Morgan - (254) 423-2579

bellcoryellbeeclub@gmail.com

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

Refuge Ministries, 2602 S. FM 116, Copperas Cove - 7pm

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

Ashley Ralph - (979) 777-2529

info@bvbeeks.org

www.bvbeeks.org

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

First Christian Church, 900 S Ennis St., Bryan from 6pm

Caddo Trace Beekeepers Association

Terry Wright - (903) 856-8005

caddotracebeekeepersassociation@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 at 7pm

Heart of Texas Beekeepers Association

Gary Bowles - (254) 214-4514

gw.bowles@yahoo.com

Meetings: 4th Tuesday of each month (except December) at 7 pm in Lecture Hall

MCC Emergency Services Education Center, 7601 Steinbeck Bend Road, Waco, Texas

Henderson County Beekeepers Association

Elizabeth Hudson - (330) 881-8008

hushyomouth55@gmail.com

Meetings: 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm

Faith Fellowship Church, 5330 Highway 175, Athens, TX 75762

Hill County Beekeepers Association

Art Wharton (254) 221-5325

obyougotit@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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