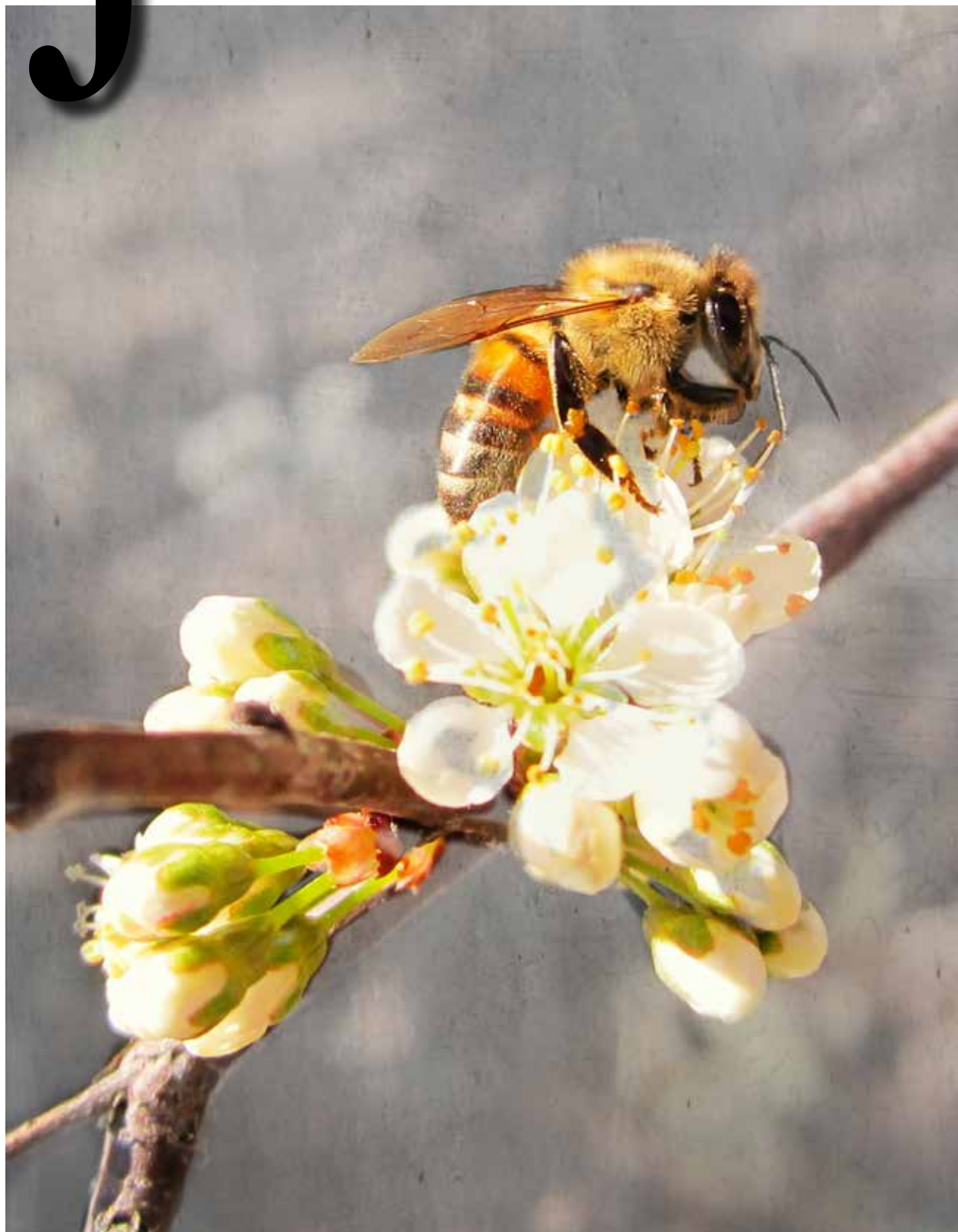


The Texas Beekeepers Association

Journal



Jan / Feb 2018

www.texasbeekeepers.org

Issue 18-1



Beekeeping & Honey Bees

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President's Report

from Chris Moore

Friends & Fellow Beekeepers,

We hope this letter finds you well. We wanted to take a moment to update you on a pressing issue regarding the pending release of the invasive Chinese Flea Beetle. The intent of the release is to eliminate or severely damage the Tallow tree. As some of you are aware, the tallow tree is a non-native species, which has been in the USA since the late 1700s. In the past several decades it has rapidly spread along the Gulf Coast, providing one of the most valuable and relied upon nectar sources in the country for bees and beekeepers.

In Texas alone, it is estimated the loss or severe damage of the Tallow tree would have an immense impact on over 1,000 beekeepers, representing 135,000 beehives, producing an estimated 6 million pounds of the 8 million pounds of honey produced in the state. And, Texas is just one out of 10 states in which Tallow is a major nectar source. The Tallow flow is used for more than just honey production. Thousands of beekeepers along the Gulf Coast also use the tallow flow to build up their hive strength before moving bees to pollinate various crops or for a summer honey flow.

A few argue that the Tallow tree is damaging to the environment, native plant species, and crowding out natural forests. In some regions, that is true. However, we believe that preserving the health of bees, which provide or contribute to the majority of food production, outweighs those risks. We need to look at the big picture. Many do not understand the severity of the honey bee health crisis, and the importance of such a major source of nectar and pollen for nationwide bee health. We are also concerned about purposely releasing a highly invasive foreign insect species.

An estimated 15% of all domestic honey in the country is produced from Tallow trees. Yet, the value of that honey dwarfs in comparison to the estimated value of the 25-35% of all US hives that travel to Gulf Coast states to take advantage, in part, of the tallow flow. With nowhere else left in the USA to go, many of these operations would be forced to go out of business, or travel to already overcrowded areas. Either option would have a severe impact on already poor national bee health and national food production.

We hope as beekeepers and individuals concerned about our food supply, that you will join with us in fighting the release of the Chinese Flea Beetle. For now, we encourage you to contact your state and local representatives and voice your concerns, however this is a Federal USDA initiative. In the next few months there will be a comment period on the proposed release, and we will certainly be in touch with those details. Thank you for your support and concern!

Sincerely
TBA Board

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Cover Picture by Dan Eudy - Honey Bee on Pear Blossom



Vice President's Report

from Lisa Dittfurth

Greetings Fellow Beekeepers:

I can't speak for beekeepers in the rest of the state but North Texas Beekeepers are experiencing a rare 'true winter' this year, having had a couple of cold spells consisting of multiple, consecutive days of sub-freezing temperatures all before the 15th of January. Usually, our winter 'cold spell' arrives in late January to mid February. We are hoping this year's extended sub-freezing cold weather will help mitigate Honey Bee pests, set the wildflower seeds and result in a bountiful nectar flow this spring. Our fingers are crossed! Why is it that Beekeepers just can't seem to catch a break? As if the dwindling Honey Bee foraging sources, the increased use of pesticides, the decimation caused by the Varroa Mite (*Varroa destructor*) and ultimately Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) hasn't cost us enough time, money, honey and heartache, United States Beekeepers that rely on the Chinese tallow tree (*Triadica sebifera*) for nectar and pollen are facing a new potential threat. Colony Collapse Disorder has been linked to a number of problems that affect Honey Bee health, but notably the disappearance of critical pollinator habitat. To add insult to injury, this extensive threat is the result of research conducted jointly by two U.S. government agencies: the U.S. Forestry Service and the USDA. In an attempt to control and possibly eradicate the Chinese tallow tree (*Triadica sebifera*), which both agencies have classified as a "super invader", the research recommends in a plan to intentionally release an insect called the non-native flea beetle (*Bikasha collaris*) in areas of the US where the tallow tree is reportedly choking out all other tree species. U.S. Forest Service data show tallow now spreading across 10 states. Populations also are up along the Atlantic coast, from Florida to the Carolinas. Its growth nearly tripled in Texas in the last two decades, and increased 500 percent in Louisiana.

The flea beetle, which is considered a bio-control agent and a natural enemy of the Chinese tallow tree from the tallow's native region of eastern China, is expected to eat the tree's roots and leaves but ignore other plants and trees. In her article on "DailyMail.com" titled "Super Invader Tree Hits South but flea beetle may be hero" Associated Press reporter STACEY PLAISANCE states "The USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has been working on an environmental impact, which will include a public comment period. If approved, the bugs could be released sometime in 2018. Meanwhile, researchers in Louisiana Audubon Nature Center are studying tallows to gain a better understanding

of the beetle's effectiveness once they are let loose." As in all biological control agents, there are no guaranteed ways to contain them and the USDA has a questionable record with this approach.

While efforts to reduce or worse, eliminate the presence of the Chinese tallow tree in the United States will undoubtedly provide financial relief to the lumber industry, this proposed 'solution' will have a devastating impact on already poor Honey Bee health, reductions in honey production in previous years and reductions in national food production due to a decrease in pollinators. I was unable to confirm reported losses of \$300 Million to the lumber industry in one of my sources. However, there is considerable supporting information on the financial benefit of Chinese tallow tree nectar and pollen on the Beekeeping and Honey Production industries. For example, according to an economic research report from the Cornell University in May 2012, "honeybees pollinated \$12.4 billion worth of directly dependent crops and \$6.8 billion worth of indirectly dependent crops in 2010." An estimated 15% of all domestic honey in the country is produced from tallow trees. Yet, the value of that honey dwarfs in comparison to the estimated value of the 25-35% of all US hives that travel to Gulf Coast states to take advantage, in part, of the tallow flow. With nowhere else left in the USA to go, many of these operations would be forced to go out of business, or travel to already overcrowded areas. Either option would have a severe impact on already poor national bee health and national food production.

In response to the challenges to commercial beekeeping, former President Obama's 2016 Pollinator Health Initiative providing funding and a list of actions to be implemented to protect pollinators, including Honey Bees. Included an a lengthy list of recommendations, the initiative recommended the USDA: enhance research at the USDA and through public-private grants to strengthen pollinator habitat in core areas, double the number of acres in the Conservation Reserve Program that are dedicated to pollinator health, and increase funding for surveys to determine the impacts on pollinator losses. It would seem that the release of the Chinese flea beetle directly contradicts the stated objectives of former President Obama's Pollinator Health Initiative.

Continued on Page 21



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In Memoriam

Howard Binford Weaver

“A heartfelt thank you to Binford’s friends in the TBA for decades of solidarity in supporting honey bees and beekeeping in Texas.”

Laura and Daniel Weaver

Howard Binford Weaver, 89, of Navasota, died Friday evening, December 29, 2017 at A Cedar Park Personal Care Home.

Howard Binford Weaver was born March 25, 1928 to Roy Stanley and Lela Binford Weaver in Lynn Grove, south of Navasota. He was known the rest of his life by his mother’s maiden name. Growing up a child of the Great Depression, he attended school at Binford Corner, donated to Grimes County by his mother’s family. He grew up in the Lynn Grove Methodist Church, established by his grandfather and others across the road from his home.. The importance of family and his deep religious convictions were evident in his lifetime of service to his fellow man and devotion to family.

He graduated from Navasota High School during World War II at 15. Because of the important role of apiculture in the war effort, Binford assumed full-time responsibility for queen rearing and beekeeping at Weaver Apiaries for the duration of the War. Later he attended Southwestern University and graduated from Texas Christian University.

He served in the U.S. Army after the conclusion of World War II, where he reached the rank of Sergeant Major. His most important duty was managing the quartermaster depot at Desert Rock, Nevada, where he was exposed at close range to the effects of multiple blasts from the first atomic bomb tests involving US troops.

After service and college, he rejoined Weaver Apiaries and became an expert beekeeper of vast knowledge and experience. He was respected by all and loved by many, especially the proteges he mentored. His apicultural talents were recognized around the world, receiving honors from organizations in the US, Australia, Europe, Central America and South America. Binford’s service to the beekeeping industry remains legendary. His political skills, industry respect and influence with Congress benefited beekeepers in the US; with those programs he helped build here impelling similar efforts abroad.

He was as a Trustee of Lynn Grove Methodist Church, where he taught Sunday School and sometimes preached; and was an Elder of the First Presbyterian Church, Navasota, where he sang in the choir and often provided lay ministry services. He was a member and President of the Navasota School Board. He was a founding Director and Chairman of the Bank of Navasota, and a former Director of the Security State Bank. He served as President and member of the Executive Committee and Director of the American Beekeeping Federation for many years, he had been a member since its inception 75 years ago. He was Chairman a member of the Board and an organizer of the National Honey Board. He served on multiple councils, task forces and special committees advising the Secretaries of US Congressional Committees, State Governors and Foreign Governments.

Among his notable apicultural accomplishments, he founded Kona Queen Company in Hawaii with partners, and established Bee Weaver Apiaries, the successor to Weaver Apiaries, with his son Daniel. While at Bee Weaver, he helped surmount the challenges of the Africanized bee invasion and the introduction of Varroa mites. Binford helped select and breed the first managed population of honey bees naturally able to survive and thrive despite Varroa mites and the viruses they vector.

Binford was preceded in death by his adored wife, Bennie Lou Franks Weaver, his son Robert Roy Weaver, and brothers, Roy Stanley Weaver, Jr. and James Nevin Weaver. He is survived by his son Daniel Weaver and wife Laura Gregory Weaver; his grandsons, Travis Binford, Dylan Gregory and Stone Barnett Weaver, all of Austin; his sisters, Lynette Allen of San Antonio, Reba Lou Campbell of Waco and many nieces, nephews, cousins and their families.

God Showed Binford what was required of him, and he did it. Micah 6:8

In lieu of usual remembrance, please consider a memorial in Binford’s name to one of the following: United Methodist Committee on Relief at UMCOR.org or 458 Ponce De Leon Ave., NE, Atlanta, GA 30308, Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees at preservationofhoneybees.org or 3525 Piedmont Rd., Bldg. 5, STE 300, Atlanta, GA 30305 or [Bee Research, Education and Apiculture Development Foundation](http://BeeResearchEducationandApicultureDevelopmentFoundation.org), a charitable organization to be established pursuant to Binford’s wishes in furtherance of those aims, C/O Daniel Weaver, 6301 Highland Hills Dr., Austin, TX 78731.

Texas Honey Bee Education Association

from Roger Farr, Chairman



Howdy fellow beekeepers!

I'm delighted to be a part of our Texas Beekeepers Association (TBA) as we work to promote and improve Texas beekeeping. One of the ways we do this is with the Texas Honey Bee Education Association (THBEA).

I'm sure all of us remember the first day our bees arrived and we suddenly, ready or not, became beekeepers. In my case I had a great teacher and mentor to answer my questions, share with me good beekeeping practices, and take me to educational seminars and events such as TBA's summer clinic. I'm grateful for Jesse's support and encouragement. I'm also grateful to the educational opportunities I've had; that's why I am involved with THBEA.

THBEA began in 2016 and is organized as a non-profit entity organized under section 501(c) (3) of the IRS tax code. THBEA in its founding documents is organized exclusively to:

- enhance and expand the awareness of the contribution of honey bees to agriculture and to society,
- create additional appreciation and interest in the profession of beekeeping through studies in technical and scientific subjects,
- strengthen beekeepers' skills through education programs,
- provide resources for continuing bee research particularly in areas that will advance bee culture, improve pollination, and conserve biodiversity, and
- engage in any lawful business or activities related thereto.

You may ask, "Why did TBA create this organization?" The simple answer is that the TBA officers wanted to clearly separate the organization and corporate structure that is TBA from the desire to have a purely "educational" association supported by tax-deductible contributions. Many TBA members already donate their funds to the work of TBA. Having a separate organization like THBEA now allows these members, and others, to receive tax-deductible receipts for their contribution.

As a 501(c) (3) entity THBEA must, of necessity, limit the scope of what it supports to primarily education topics.

THBEA is also limited in who may receive the funds that it gives. THBEA may give grants to other 501(c) (3) organizations and it may give grants to individuals to fund activities consistent with THBEA's purposes. THBEA is charged by the IRS with keeping appropriate records, on who receives grant money, the activities undertaken, and an accounting of how the money is spent. This requires appropriate systems and procedures not usually required of other tax-exempt organizations under the 501(c) chapter.

THBEA began setting up shop late in 2016 and the process continues. As those of you who have served on boards of 501(c) (3) organizations have experienced, there is a considerable record keeping and reporting requirement with the IRS. THBEA is currently adopting policies and procedures which will allow it to receive, manage, and distribute funds in compliance with law and THBEA's desired objectives. THBEA's policies will soon be posted to the in-development website, and we'll keep you informed in the TBA Journal of its URL.

In the meantime, THBEA has a gift receipt policy and is ready and able to receive tax-deductible contributions! To make a donation and to receive a tax-deductible receipt, mail your cash contribution, by check made out to the Texas Honey Bee Education Association, to THBEA, Box 2026, Cedar Park, TX 78050. Soon THBEA will be able to receive gifts of marketable securities, such as publically traded stocks, bonds, or mutual fund shares.

THBEA is a non-member organization, governed by a Board of Directors. THBEA's current directors, appointed by the TBA Executive Committee are Lisa Dittfurth, Chris Doggett, Roger Farr, Larry Hoehne, Leesa Hyder, Chris Moore and Blake Shook.

The THBEA Update will be a regular feature in the TBA Journal where Board members, will keep you up-to-date with the progress we are making. We will also share with you THBEA's financial statistics and progress reports on the projects we are funding or seeking to fund.

I hope you will join me, and our board, in making THBEA a success for beekeeping and beekeepers' education in Texas! You can contact me at rdffarr@gmail.com or 979.436.5310.



The Brantley Column

from S. S. Brantley
East Texas Beekeepers Association

I hope you will set as one goal for your beekeeping in this New Year of 2018 to do your best to NOT lose a hive to varroa or small hive beetles. Accomplishing this goal will require your attention to what the bees are telling you. Strong hives will help keep the SHB under control and diligent mite checks will tell you if a treatment is needed to control varroa. Randy Oliver's articles in the American Beekeeping Journal are good resources for "Best Practices" to monitor and manage mite populations.

If your hive over-wintered well, you should be in pretty good shape until you harvest honey in late June and July. At that time, do another mite check to determine if it is time to treat again. Do not use the same medication to preclude a possible resistance buildup which could result in developing your own type of super varroa strain. Varying the choice of medication helps minimize mites becoming tolerant of a given treatment.

January is the time to finish preparing for the new beekeeping season. Clean and scrape old boxes and frames to remove excess wax, propolis or moth cocoons. If necessary, a propane torch can be used to melt hardened wax that is difficult to scrape. It can also be used to scorch any frames or boxes that had a moth infestation to ensure that all eggs are killed.

It is also a good time to build or buy new frames. New frames are the ongoing need in beekeeping. You need new frames for splits, for Nucs, for honey supers, and to replace old or damaged frames in your hives. It is sound beekeeping practice to have new frames on-hand and ready to use. When you find one is needed, you usually do not have time to build or buy it — you need it then.

If you build your own frames, use either 1 ¼ inch long 17 gauge nails or 1 ¼ to 1 ½ inch staples. Add a bit of waterproof glue at each joint. This will give you a sturdy frame that should not pull apart when you have to pry it out of the box.

I recommend using ten nails or six staples in building your frames. Some instructions recommend only eight nails or only four staples. The difference is the addition of a nail or staple in the upper side of the the frame. This extra fastener is perpendicular to the plane of force when you pry up on the frames, helping to ensure that the topbar does not pull away from the side. Here is a link and a picture from that link to a clear demonstration of the nail placement: <https://www.beverlybees.com/assemble-frame-beginner-beekeepers-guide/>



If you do not have the time or workspace to assemble frames, bee suppliers also sell preassembled frames. It is a good idea to purchase frames that you know will fit well in your brand of boxes. While all bee boxes are theoretically made to the same dimensions, tolerance can vary among manufactures. If you have any concerns, check with the supplier or with a more experienced beekeeper in your local bee club.

We can expect to see some significantly colder days and nights during January. Your bees will consume their stores at a higher rate during the cold weather. Be sure to check them next time you are in the apiary. You can quickly use the two-finger lift to feel of the weight of stores. If the hives feel light, add some thick sugar syrup (2 parts sugar to 1 part water). Position the syrup inside the hive, close to the cluster. You can also add a bit of pollen patty or other pollen supplement.

If you are unsure of the amount of stores in a hive and need to look inside, try to do so on warmer days, 60 degrees or above. Try to avoid opening the hive on cooler days. Disturbing the cluster on cold days can result in death of the queen. If the hive has an Inner Cover, you can open the Outer Cover and add syrup and pollen supplement without disturbing the cluster on cold days. However, be as quick as possible and do not keep the Outer Cover off very long.

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

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

Howdy, TBA members, and Happy New Year!

I hope all of you had a great end-of-year celebrations surrounded by family and loved ones. I can honestly say that 2017 went by too fast, but was also one of the most eventful and wonderful years of my life. My son Sami was born in late January (he's getting ready to turn one at the end of this month already), I got married to Juan, a wonderful life partner and father, and my lab and research program grew in many productive ways so professionally it was also a very productive year. For those of you who read my column, you have read all the accomplishments of my students (and former students), so I will not repeat those here. But I look forward to another exciting year full of accomplishments.

In terms of recent events, I attended the annual American Beekeeping Research Federation (ABF) Conference in Reno, NV 10-13 January of this year. I presented a talk on the effects of pesticides on queen, drone and worker health in the room for commercial beekeepers. Within the ABF meeting, the American Association of Professional Apiculturists (AAPA) conducted its annual American Bee Research Conference (ABRC), which is the scientific conference dedicated to university and industry scientists to share results from important and cutting-edge studies with *Apis mellifera*. There were 18 student presentations and another 25+ talks from bee scientists. Liz, Alex, Adrian (former lab member), Pierre and I presented research talks and had the opportunity to network with colleagues and notorious beekeepers. It was fun to reunite with old friends.

In terms of events coming up this first quarter, Liz Walsh, Dan Aurell and I will be teaching at the 7th Annual Beekeeping Seminar put together by the Austin Area Beekeepers Association on Saturday, 27 January. The event will be at the Norris Conference Centers (2525 W Anderson Ln #365, Austin, TX 78757), and for \$60 you will get to attend bee husbandry lectures from several speakers. Besides, some of the proceeds will go toward supporting our research program. Online registration is available at <https://aabaseminar2018.eventbrite.com>, we hope to see you there!

I also look forward to presenting and participating with a booth at the Central Texas Beekeepers Association (CTBA) Bee School on Saturday, 17 March at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Brenham, TX. There will be classes for beginners and intermediate-level beekeepers, demonstrations on hive assembly, equipment handling, installing bees, and honey extraction. Registration is \$65 and includes lunch. For more information, visit the CTBA website at <http://centraltexasbeekeepers.org/index.html> or you can register directly online at <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eepdzalg0c3316e7&dlr=iqmq76iab>

After not teaching last spring due to my maternity leave, I am back teaching two courses this semester: the Honey Bee Biology lecture-based course, and the Introduction to Beekeeping laboratory. I am excited to be teaching again this

year, and I can't wait to start teaching basic beekeeping techniques to a group of 16 students in the lab course. The class is heavily subsidized by donations from the Austin Area Beekeepers Association, which donates funds to purchase the bee packages and equipment needed for each student in the course to build their own 5-frame nuc hive, install a package of bees, and follow their hives throughout the semester. We will also have help from Liz Walsh as the Teaching Assistant for the course, and ET Ash will be helping in all aspects of beekeeping. Finally, on 10 April we will again have the pleasure of having Dean Cook give a lecture on Top Bar Hives. I will share pictures of the students in the beekeeping class later on in the semester.

Finally I am very happy to report that I am the guest speaker at this year's Ulster Beekeepers Association annual meeting in Greenmount College, Antrim, Northern Ireland! I will be giving five lectures in a span of three days in mid March, and I will get to see how Irish beekeepers keep their colonies. I am very excited about this invitation and I cannot wait to travel to the UK. More information about that meeting can be found at <https://www.ubka.org/conference/>

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to email me at jrangel@tamu.edu. I am more easily reached via email than the phone. For up to date information regarding our program, or for new and interesting posts regarding bees and beekeeping, please visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/TAMUhoneybeelab>. Our page has over 2,900 followers and counting! Thank you all for your continuing support and happy beekeeping!



"End of Year" gathering at the Rangel / Varela residence



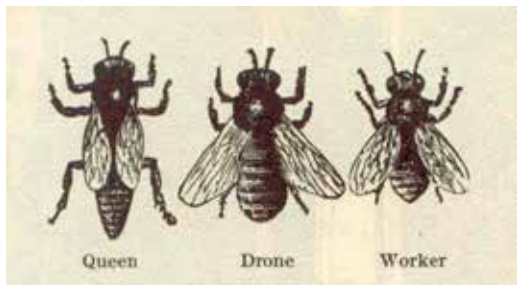
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Visit us on Facebook at CentralTexasBeekeepersAssociationandFriends



THE BUDS AND THE BEES

A New Year's Goal You Can Really Dig!

by Becky Bender, Texas Master Naturalist

Resolve to set a goal for a healthier diet this year.....for your bees!

I'm embarrassed to say I was a beekeeper for years before it finally occurred to me that pollen and nectar are my bee's sole source of nutrition and not just the fuel for MY honey! Just as our own bodies reap the benefits of eating healthier food, honey bees benefit from the nectar and pollen of healthier plants.

Honey bees require good nutrition for survival and reproduction. They require carbohydrates which they get from sugar in the nectar of flowers and honey. They require protein which they can get only from pollen. In addition, pollen furnishes essential fats, vitamins and minerals. But there is mounting evidence that poor nutrition due to the loss of plant habitat may be a major factor contributing to Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). Studies support the belief that an abundance of nutritious plants have a bearing on honey bee health, longevity and better honey production. Some plant pollens, Baccharis and Dandelion for example, have shown to slightly improve worker longevity. Other pollens, such as Ragweed, decreased worker longevity. A few of the healthiest pollens for bees were from plants including Blackberry, Mesquite and Cottonwood. (Huang, 2010). However, there's little current research on plant species that have the greatest impact on honey bee health. But we do know that healthier plants in general produce more and better quality nectar and pollen. *Here are a few tips for growing healthier bee plants – a goal a beekeeper can really dig!*

Where you shop for plants makes a difference.

Your locally-owned nurseries are a good source for new landscape plants. Ask for native or well-adapted plants that will not only thrive in your climate and soil but survive adversity like droughts. Also, beware of hidden pesticides when you purchase plants. Credible evidence now links the class of pesticides called Neonicotinoids or Neonics to the harm and death of bees. Neonics hide in garden center plants, sprays, granules, tree injections, soil drenches and even seeds. A beekeeper I know recently bought a bee plant at a big-box store only to find a tag on it when he got home with a consumer warning that Neonics had been used by the grower. Thanks to horticultural research and pollinator conservation groups, independent garden centers and growers have started to eliminate Neonic use. And more recently, big-box stores have pledged to begin eliminating its use in the next year

or two. Home Depot has pledged to label those plants that contain Neonics. Another way to ensure your new plants are healthy and safe is to shop at seasonal plant sales such as The Heard Museum in McKinney or Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin. They typically have lots of selections for pollinators. For more resources, check out the Native Plant Society of Texas website (www.NPSOT.org) for a list of nurseries and community plant sales near you.

Keep your soil alive.

Think of your soil as the building blocks for bee nutrition and keep it alive to support healthy plants. Instead of using synthetic fertilizers, add organic compost to your soil. When planting, add about 3 inches of organic compost on top of existing soil and till it in. After planting, cover your soil with organic wood mulch that will continue to provide organic matter and oxygen to the soil as it breaks down.



Mulch and Compost Promote Healthy Growth to White Mistflower (Eupatorium wrightii)

Give plants a vote in where they want to live.

There's nothing more frustrating than planting something in the perfect spot only to later discover the plant doesn't share your opinion. Lurking under the soil may be "microclimates"



Autumn Sage (Salvia greggii)
Newly planted perennial in SLEEP phase



Autumn Sage
4 Years Later in LEAP phase

that we cannot detect. These may be rocky areas, places where water accumulates or other conditions that may either favor or undermine the plant's health. One way to ensure that a favored plant thrives is to buy 2 or 3 and plant them in different areas. Often one or more locations will be that perfect spot.

Give perennials time to establish – it's worth it.

"Annuals" are plants that die and must be re-planted every year. Pansies are an example of annuals. "Perennials" are plants that regrow from their roots every year and bloom for several years. My own landscape is about 95% perennials, and there's always something in bloom for my bees without the yearly cost and work of new planting. But establishing perennials may take time. In fact, there's an adage for gardeners that reminds us to be patient: "Sleep, Creep, Leap." The first year new plants appear to "sleep" as they put all of their energy into strong root systems underground. The second year they appear to "creep" as more energy goes into stems and leaves above ground. The

third year they "leap" as the roots are now developed and the plant spreads and blooms above ground. Many perennials, such as Blue Fall Asters, fill in large areas of the flower bed over time, giving bees a mass of flowers to forage.

This year try reaching your health goals by getting outdoors for some gardening exercise, calorie burning and soaking up that Vitamin D in the sunshine – for the health of both you and your bees!

Further Reading:

Huang, Zachary. Sept 2010. *Honey Bee Nutrition (a review of research literature)*. Bee Culture, Sept 2010

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.

Editor's Note

My apologies for an error in the Resolutions passed at the TBA Convention published on page 20 of the Nov/Dec 2017 issue.

Item 7 should read:

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

The Best and Worst Quotes From the Movie Star Wars: The Last Jedi by Disney

from Robin Young, Metro Beekeepers Association

I finally made it: my one moment of peace during the holiday season. My four young children sitting between me and Jack with sodas, popcorn, and box of chicken with fries in hand for each, and the movie starts: "A Long Time Ago in a Galaxy Far Far Away..."

Kylo Ren: *"The Empire, your parents, the Resistance, the Sith, the Jedi... let the past die. Kill it, if you have to. That's the only way to become what you are meant to be."*

I glance over at my husband, Jack, thinking, "Is this the dumbest thing you have ever heard??" He looks across four enthralled kids with the expression, "Did you just hear that??"

By now, Bee Friend, you are wondering, "Umm this is a bee keeping article right?" The answer is yes.

I have spent several years now talking to you about starting your own bee keeping business. What do you do when you have a year (2017) like I had when you could only harvest once, April 2017, and spent the rest of the year just trying to keep your bees alive yet still suffering high losses? I usually only lose five hives a year and they are easily replaced by random swarms along the way. This past year was so bad even the beekeeping Facebook sites had literally no cries out for wild bee hive removals.

Yoda: *"The greatest teacher, failure is."*

You can easily find yourself sitting in your booth at the market with two candles to sell and nothing else. You quickly realize that a bigger variety of stock is needed. Then a whole new set of questions come along. What else do I have to offer that anyone would actually buy? What can I make? How can I connect it to Bee Keeping? You may be freaking out.

Luke Skywalker: *"I failed you, Ben. I'm sorry."*

My grandmother taught me to crochet when I was four years old. She would make blankets, mittens, scarves and much more. She always had scraps of yarn that she would turn into the best hot pads you have ever laid your hands on. To this day, I believe she lived to the age of 96 with a sharp mind and a happy spirit because she crocheted, watched "Wheel-A-Fortune", and "3's Company". I draw strength, inspiration, and knowledge from my past and those that came before me. The idea of "letting it die" is disturbing to me.

A few summers ago, I was crocheting hot pads from scrap yarn and my cousin told me she wanted to see my honey bee hot pad. I was

confused and told her I did not have one. She just smile and said ok. The next day I met her and my mom for lunch and she had a bag with 15 of the cutest honey bee hot pads.

I dedicate this article to: my clever cousin Stacy Glidwell and my Grandma Kuper with much admiration for both. Many thanks to George Lucas and Disney for giving my family much to look forward to at Christmas and to you my bee Friends in times of struggle:

Kylo Ren: *"You're not alone."*

Rey: *"Neither are you."*

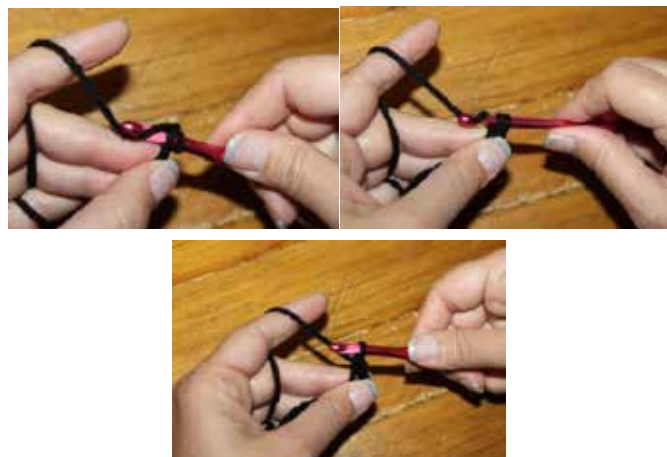
The Cutest Crochet Honey Bee Hot Pad Ever



Materials: #16 Canvas Needle, I9 - 5.5mm Crochet Hook, Scissors, and #4 Medium Yarn Colors: Black, Yellow, & White.

NOTE: Synthetic Yarn (100%Acrylic) can handle heat above 104Degrees for a few seconds without melting such as picking up a pan out of the hot oven and setting it on the counter. Synthetic Yarn is great for taking things out of the microwave or resting a hot cut of coffee on it. If you are going to leave the hot pad under a dish that came out of a 350 degree oven, it is best to make your hot pads out of 100% Cotton.

FIRST: Chain 40 to form a long black spine, Chain one more to use as a turn, single crochet into a single strand reversing back on the chain 40 +1 chain.



The Best and Worst Quotes From the Movie Star Wars: The Last Jedi by Disney

from Robin Young, Metro Beekeepers Association

SECOND: Continue to Single Crochet into a single strand all the way back to the beginning of your 40 Chain. Then tuck the excess starting sting into your crochet as you turn again while continuing to single crochet another 40 times down the other side in a single stand of each single crochet.



THRID: Once you have 2 connected rows of single crochet it's time to change your yarn to Yellow. **TIP:** On the last single crochet, I leave a half inch for the knot and cut the black yarn. Then I unravel the last single crochet to give my fingers room to tie the knot. After the knot is tied, I redo the last black double crochet and continue on with the next color.



FOURTH: From here on out, ALL single crochets will be done in 2 strands of yearn.



You will do 2 rows down and back in black and yellow colors until you have 4 rows of yellow and 4 rows of black without counting the middle starter row of black. Every time you change color it will be a different place in your work to make the patter come out. See picture below. Tie knots in the bends of hot pad.



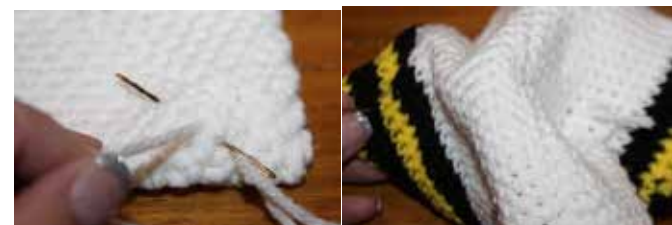
FITH: Continue single crocheting round and round checking from time to time to see if the pattern has met in the middle. When it does pull the yearn all the way through the last single crochet and thread your needle. You will need 4 times the length of the hot pad in white string to have enough to lace up the hot pad.



SIXTH: Start to lace up the hot pad like you would a tennis-shoe. Come from inside the hot pad to the out, then across to the other side looping from inside to out all the way to the end of the hot pad going through 2 strands each time.



SEVENTH: Pull the string all the way through the final lacing. You want to hide your work so loop back into the same color with your needle several times and then pull your needle out of the yarns leavening it inside the hot pad.



I sell these hot pads in tea mugs with a jar of honey, in box sets and in pairs. Feel free to add them to your sales catalog/table to add quality and eye catching color. More to come...

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2018 Texas Honey Queen

Abby Pettibon

Thank You and an Introduction



This is going to be a wonderful year! I am excited to meet you all and serve you as your new Texas Honey Queen for 2018. My name is Abby Pettibon, and this past November I was chosen to represent you as your official spokesperson. I will do my best to promote the beekeeping industry and share the importance of honey bees in the great state of Texas. I cannot thank you enough for being at the Texas Beekeepers Association convention last November with your support, hugs and smiles.

Just to tell you a little bit about myself ~ I personally became involved in beekeeping about five years ago, but my family has been keeping bees for 15 years. Through the years of my family keeping bees, I learned little tips and facts about beekeeping. When I started the Honey Queen program I was thankful for the knowledge that I had acquired from my family, helping me to pass the apprentice level Texas Master Beekeepers exam in 2016. It has been wonderful sharing information about honey bees these past two years as the Collin County Princess and Queen. I reached over 62,500

people at 98 events. When I am not at a bee keeping event, I enjoy traveling, spending quality time with friends and family, going shopping and drinking coffee. One of my favorite parts of this program is being able to meet people.

Getting to see so many familiar faces at the American Beekeeping Federation Conference and Tradeshow in January was a great way to begin the year! While I was there, I had the opportunity to meet a large number of beekeepers from all over the world. This year, the convention took place in Reno, Nevada at the Grand Sierra Resort. I had a blast attending the conference with two of my sisters and my mom. During the conference, we participated in a class titled, "How to Taste and Evaluate Honey: Matching Flowers to Flavors". I learned how to identify a few different varieties of honey, and was surprised to taste a cinnamon flavor inside clover honey.

My next event will be at the Austin Area Beekeepers Seminar this January. I look forward to seeing many of you there. And once again, I want to thank you for the opportunity to represent you as your new 2018 Texas Honey Queen.

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The Adventures Continue From Sideline to Commercial - Selling Honey

from Ashley Ralph, TBA Director, Prime Bees

As a new Director, I wanted to take some time and reflect on what it means to be involved in an organization like Texas Beekeepers Association. It's been a whirlwind as I get my bearings and learn where I can be the most help. If you attended the Convention this Fall, you know TBA is growing and that we're working on putting things into place that make that growth easier and more beneficial to the members. From forming a nonprofit subsidiary of TBA for educational & research purposes to moving in the direction to take more action to protect bees and beekeepers in legislation, we are growing up as an organization and we're in a unique position to watch and realize the potential of that growth.

Hang with me while I share a story - I attended a talk at the beginning of this year that changed the direction of my heart this year. It was given by a Texas A&M professor, Dr. Henry Musoma, who was recently brought onto The Ellen Show for what, to him, was a simple act of kindness. One of his students, a single mother, emailed him because she couldn't find childcare. He enthusiastically asked his student to bring her son to class and proceeded to teach the lecture with the child in his arms. Maybe you've seen the video, but if you haven't - it was a simple act of kindness and understanding that changed this professor's life. He went from a meeting with his Dean in which they discussed his frustrations with feeling limited in his capacity as a professor, to an internationally recognized figure for kindness by treating his student like a human, like an equal. This message by itself was inspiring, however, the message that followed was even better. Dr. Musoma discussed the challenges and setbacks he had leading up to this life changing event for him. He pointed out that with every challenge, every set back, every "no", we have a choice - a choice to be "bitter" or "better". It's surprising how similar these words are, only different by one letter. The impact you have on yourself and those around you by choosing to do better rather than stay bitter is remarkably impactful.

It may seem like this article has absolutely nothing to do with bees, and that wouldn't be far from the truth, but I felt like this message was worth writing about as we approach a new year together - we have big goals as an organization. We want to impact lives and teach about bees, we want to get HB 131 in shape, we have hive losses from Harvey to recover from, we have events to plan and new members to meet and we have a new honey show record to beat.

I've met TBA members who have been members for 30+ years and members who are on their complimentary first



year membership. Our members are executives, farmers, teachers, students, researchers and business owners. We are all so different but we come together to put on events, build TBA, and move the beekeeping industry forward. So, now that TBA has 1500+ individual members and 51 clubs, I want to invite you to get involved if you feel called to do so. If you see something that is broken, offer suggestions on how to fix it, if you see something that is working, praise the people who are putting in hard work to make it so. While it may be challenging and frustrating, I promise you it's also fun and extremely rewarding.

I'm excited for my new involvement in the Texas Beekeepers Association Board and I'm even more excited to play a small role in the continued growth of the organization. I'm inspired by those that came before me and encouraged by those serving with me. So, while we all work bees and get them through this last hump of what has so far been a fairly warm "winter", I challenge you to get involved in your local organizations, volunteer for committees and make a difference. Work through your challenges and become better for them - whether that's in beekeeping or in life. I challenge myself to do the same.

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Update from Texas Apiary Inspection Service

from Mary Reed, Chief Apiary Inspector

Greetings fellow beekeepers and Happy New Year!

I hope you all had an enjoyable holiday season and are as anxious as I am to get back into the bee yard. The Texas Apiary Inspection Service has been going through some changes as we move into the new year. As many of you are aware, Mark Dykes, our previous Chief Inspector, has moved on to new adventures. At the beginning of this year I was promoted to the Chief position and I'm excited to continue working with all of you to improve honey bee health and the apiary industry as a whole. Our office also started off the year by attending the annual Apiary Inspectors of America meeting in Davis, CA and the American Beekeeping Federation's conference in Reno, NV. I always relish the opportunity to collaborate with other state inspectors, as well as interact with researchers and learn more about the current research. The keynote speaker this year was Dr. Jamie Ellis who is the Apiculture professor at the University of Florida. He spoke primarily about the key issues that honey bees and beekeepers are facing today in the industry and how scientists need to be better stewards to the industry. He concluded emphatically that the future of honey bee health and beekeeping is positive, which left the audience with a sense of encouragement for the upcoming year.

Although Dr. Ellis's talk emphasized primarily on necessary improvements in scientific research, I feel that having healthy bees is a two-way street. Beekeepers should also strive to be better stewards for the bees. Many factors play into the beekeeper stewardship: understanding honey bee behaviors, regular inspection of colonies, and management style just to name a few. Although every beekeeper you talk to is going to have their own techniques, I like to start every new beekeeper off with Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

This management style is commonly used in other areas of agriculture and is an effective way of mitigating pests

and diseases while reducing the overall stress of the organism. In IPM you will often hear the term "IPM pyramid" which is used to describe

the different levels of management. When implementing IPM you start off with the least invasive technique (the base of the pyramid) to control a pest or disease, and, through regular monitoring, move up the pyramid to more invasive techniques as needed. I want to emphasize that the success of IPM lies heavily upon regularly monitoring the pest levels and understanding the pest-host relationship. Without understanding these two elements you will not be able to effectively manage pest issues in a honey bee colony. For more information on IPM, I encourage you to take a look at the Honey Bee Health Coalition's website (<https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/Varroa/>) as well as our new IPM document for Honey Bee Health (<https://txbeeinspection.tamu.edu/beekeepers/integrated-pest-management/>).

As we start 2018 I encourage you to not only think about what kind of queens to purchase or what beekeeping gadgets you're going to try out, but to also think about the ups and downs a honey bee colony can experience throughout the season. Prepare yourself for a potential strong honey flow, as well as a possible surge in Varroa mite population. A strong and successful colony will be your reward for your proactive and attentive stewardship.

As always, if you have any questions about your hives or have a good bee story, please don't hesitate to contact our office (979-845-9713; tais@tamu.edu).



continued from page 4

It is easy to sympathize with the folks in the lumber industry and the financial impact that the infiltration of the Chinese tallow tree has caused them. But, a short-sighted solution to protect the lumber industry will result in devastation to the Beekeeping industry by eliminating a prolific nectar source, further reducing the US Honey Bee population resulting in fewer hives for agriculture pollination and diminished honey production across the US. Obviously, the Texas Beekeepers Association (TBA) along with many Beekeeping organizations throughout the affected states are alarmed about the USDA's and the US Forestry Service's plans. Nectar and pollen from the Chinese tallow are of substantial economic value to commercial beekeepers and the beekeeping industry. Protection of this pollinator habitat needs to be secured. To ensure that the USDA hears the opinions of Texas Beekeepers loud and clear, TBA will notify its members and the public of the dates for the USDA's comment period as soon as that information has been published and how to provide feedback regarding the proposed release of the flea beetle. Until the comment period begins, if you want to voice your opinions and concerns now, I've included the links below to identify and contact your state and federal elected representatives. I've also included links to the information that I utilized to write my article.

If like the TBA Board of Directors and many other beekeepers, you disagree with the use of the flea beetle to control Chinese tallow trees, please let your voice be heard.

I'm looking forward to the 2018 Delegate's Meeting with member beekeeping clubs in February. It will be good to hear from our member clubs to learn more about their clubs and understand how TBA can better support them.

DailyMail.com (<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-5080581/Super-invader-tree-hits-South-flea-beetle-hero.html>)

Cornell University: (<http://news.cornell.edu/stories/2012/05/insect-pollinators-contribute-29b-us-farm-income>).

USDA Website: <https://www.usda.gov>

US Forestry Website: <https://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/tree/triseb/all.html>

White House Pollinator Health Initiative:

<https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/blog/2015/05/19/announcing-new-steps-promote-pollinator-health>

White House Blog:

<https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2014/06/20/fact-sheet-economic-challenge-posed-declining-pollinator-populations>

Find your state and federal representatives by zip code:

<http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us/Zip.aspx>

How to contact your member of Congress:

<https://www.congress.gov/contact-us>

For the love of bees!!



Honeybee Democracy

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

TBA Journal Article - January 2018

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 are by the authors unless otherwise indicated.

The winter months for beekeepers are usually months of preparation. We are using the winter months to learn. We've read Grant Gillard's *Nicot Queen Rearing* to improve our queen-rearing skills, revisited Ken Flottum's *The Backyard Beekeeper* to bone up for a newbies' class, and Thomas Seeley's *Honey Bee Democracy* to gain insight into this marvelous superorganism, a honeybee colony.

Honey Bee Democracy is about how bees make decisions. Dr. Seeley wrote the book in 2010 and gave a summary talk in a Master Beekeeper video from 2011, <https://masterbeekeeper.tamu.edu/study-materials/>. Many beekeepers – us included – know some things about *what* the bees do, like signs that they are ready to swarm, but we don't often know *why* those actions occur. That is the topic of this article: four specific areas of honeybee decision making.

Unifying Purpose

Honeybees have one overriding purpose in mind when they swarm, the reproduction of the superorganism. This is one of the reasons they swarm in the spring, so that the new colony can produce the resources it needs to successfully overwinter. Top priority for a swarm is the location of a new home. Every bee in the hive knows that purpose and lives it. The super-organism makes a decision, and the individual bees take action. They all know that once they decide to swarm, the clock begins to tick. They have a lot of work to do before they can raise brood in a new place, so the honeybees are unified in purpose.

Agreed Upon Objective

The bees, immediately after swarming from the mother hive, will usually gather on a tree limb or fence post and then begin to send out scouts to find a new home. God has built into each honeybee the specifications for their new home. Research shows that they use these characteristics to find the ideal home:

- 40 liters of total cavity volume
- 15 cm² entrance hole
- 10 meters above the ground

Every scout bee that goes out is looking for the exact same thing; they are all agreed upon the objective of the next few days.

Truthful Reporting

Most beekeepers and school children are familiar with the waggle dance which the field bees use to communicate distance and direction to a pollen or nectar source. The intensity of the dance also communicates the quality of the nutrition source.

In a swarm, the returning scout bees utilize the same communication mechanism by dancing on the surface of the swarm ball. They communicate truthfully how well the found location meets the agreed upon objective for volume, opening, and elevation. They do this by the intensity and length of the dance. It is in everyone's best interest that each individual bee accurately report what they have found. Their lives and the survival of the superorganism, depend upon truthful reporting.

Altruism for the Good of the Superorganism

Scout bees return to the hive and dance, and they recruit additional bees to visit their "advertized" site location. When these bees return, they also dance. This proceeds, sometimes over the course of days, until the colony reaches consensus. If there are bees that persist in advertizing their location which is clearly inferior, other bees will head-butt them and chirp at them to stop them. The bees keep the ultimate purpose in mind, in this case to find a new home quickly, and so after everyone has been heard they begin to silence those who are slowing the decision making process with their own agenda. They demonstrate altruism by giving up individual preferences for the good of the whole.

All this is nice, but you might ask, "What does it have to do with beekeepers?" We think there are huge implications in our lives. Dr. Seeley, in the video, relates an incident from a departmental meeting at his university. The department was considering a particularly thorny issue when the department head turned to Dr. Seeley and asked, "Tom, how would the bees make this decision?" Dr. Seeley replied (our paraphrase) that there were some things about how the bees make decisions that are not necessarily true of humans.

- Humans do not usually work together as a superorganism with a singularity of purpose, except under extreme conditions, such as the 9/11 attacks or a world war.
- Humans do not always agree on what the objective is, so they each have their vision of what the right answer is to a given issue.
- Humans do not always report the full truth. Each may have their own individual agenda which they are reluctant to give up and so may exclude some facts in their report or embellish others.
- Humans do not always stop their advertising when a better solution presents itself. They find it hard to say, "I don't agree, but I know that you heard me. I can live with the group's answer."

We have been in many organizations—corporate, governmental, faith-based, and volunteer – with their own issues, important decisions, and no clear consensus amongst members. Our encouragement to you as beekeepers is to consider the ways honeybees make decisions: seek unifying purpose, agreed-upon objectives, truthful reporting, and altruism. Remember the group's unifying purpose, or "This is why this group exists." Set up agree-upon objectives. Commit to truthful reporting of all the facts. Favor the group over the individual because, together, we will all make better decisions and experience less frustration. With one tiny exception, the world is made up of other people.

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



**Bee Hive Thermal Industries,
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John Hicks

936.718.3471

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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/D3l4G2Ws91o>

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.

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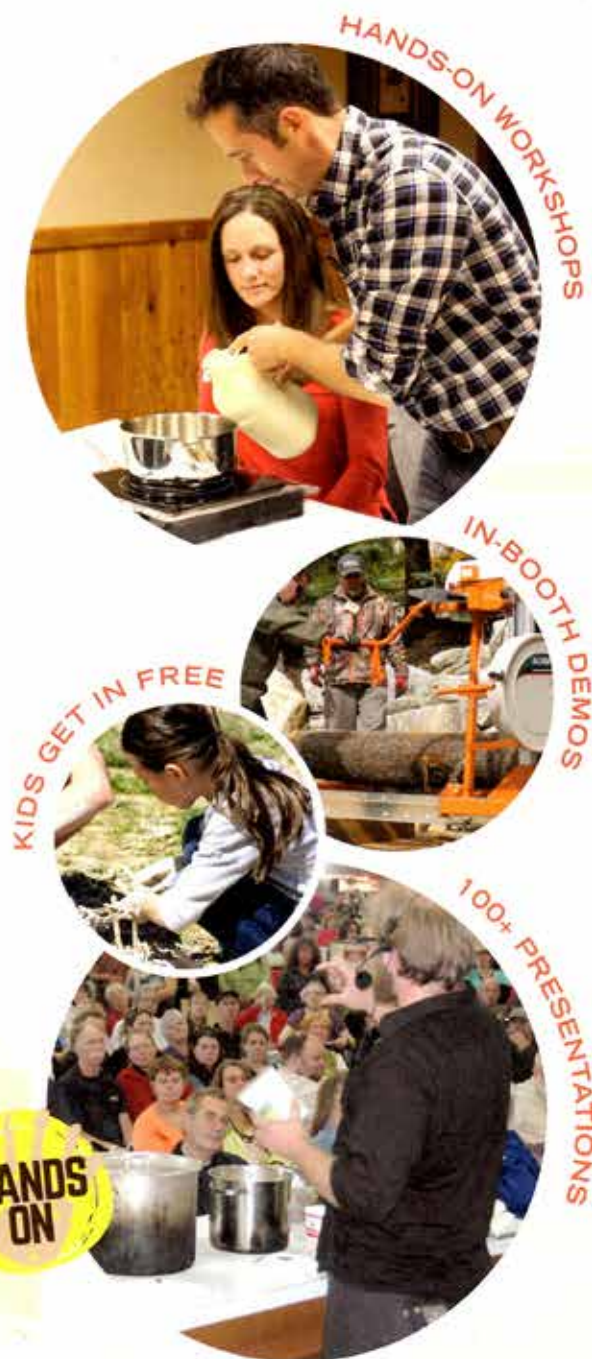
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Lawrence John Connor, PhD

A regular contributor to Bee Culture and the American Bee Journal, Dr. Larry Connor is an expert in bees, beekeeping, queen rearing and pollination. He is the author of numerous books including "Increase Essentials", "Queen Rearing Essentials" and "Bee Sex Essentials".

Mail Registration Form w/check to:

Northeast Texas Beekeepers' Conference
c/o Beth Derr, Treasurer
210 Meadowlark Dr.
Jefferson, TX 75657

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Winter Work

from Micheal Mathews, Fayette County Beekeepers



Winter has arrived and despite the buzzing of bees on our porch, work in the bee yard is slow. Here, close to the coast, we have experienced a handful of days with freezing weather, but with each warm day the bees send out scouts to forage the mistletoe. During this part of the year my wife and I spend our time making sure our bees have sufficient stores to see them through the winter. We also spend our time in the shop cleaning tools, building hives, making bars and generally preparing for the coming spring.

Our method for caring for bees during the winter is fairly straight forward. In the fall we count the bars with stores, careful to leave at 7 bars or more in each hive over the winter. Next we add a follower block with a slot for a Boardman feeder to all but the most robust hives. This partition allows us to feed throughout the winter without disturbing the bees. If a colony has been cross combing late in the year, we intentionally leave those bars for the bees' winter stores. We can clean up the cross combed bars in early spring when they are empty of honey.



Winterized Entrance

I am always amazed at the way the bees winterize a top bar hive. The photo above is an example of how the bees reduce the size of the entrance. We often cork half the holes, but the bees will close those that remain open.

From late December until mid February we are reluctant to directly inspect the hives and disturb the bees efforts to seal the hive for winter. Instead we gauge their needs by keeping a track on any sugar water or bee candy left in the hive. A recent email from Bluebonnet Beekeeping reminded beekeepers that they can check stores through a simple tip test. Lift the end of the hive and see how much it weighs. A light hive needs close attention and additional food. This is an easy test to perform with top bar hives.

On average we place 24 ounces of sugar water to each hive per week when we feel we need to feed. If the feeder is close to empty after a week we will add another 24 ounces. If less is used then we will reduce the amount of sugar water. This year we have begun putting candy in the hives as well. If the feeder is empty then the candy supplements the bees until we can return.

As the cliché goes Texas is BIG. Conditions can vary across the state. I encourage anyone new to bee keeping to get in touch with your local club and learn how experience beekeepers in your area are feeding during the winter.

Another Top Bar Super?

Anyone following top bar beekeeping will have seen a number of variations on a top bar super. Generally these are added to the top or the side of a top bar hive to increase honey production. Room for more honey production has not been an issue for us since we begin to take honey before the hive becomes crowded. What has become an issue is splits.

Each spring we split some of our hives. During the first few years of keeping top bars splits were as simple as moving a few brood bars with queen cells and workers over to a new hive, adding some stores and giving the new hive a few weeks to establish itself. Making all of our tops bar hives to the same dimensions made this kind of split easy to do.

Over the past two years we have begun to keep Langstroth as well, so now we want to include Langstroth in our splits. Splitting from a Langstroth to a top bar is as easy as setting the frames in the hive lengthwise, but our Langstroth hives will not accommodate a full top bar with comb. One option is to cut out some brood comb and rubber band it into a frame as we do during removals. Another solution that we will try this spring is a top bar super designed to fit our Langstroth hives.

In an earlier article I wrote about using a simple jig to easily make inexpensive hive bodies from standard dimensional lumber (Build or Buy, TBA Journal March/April 2016.) This top bar super is made using this same jig which is 16 inches between stops with a 10 ¾ inches long standard 1x6 (5 ½ inch width) centered to create the correct angle. There are only a few changes needed to make a super from the basic plans used to make a complete hive. The instructions below outline the basic steps and includes the measures to make a top bar supers that fit our hives.

Begin by measuring the exterior dimensions of an existing Langstroth super. The longer dimension will be the length of



Jig

the end boards. Measure and cut two 1x12s to this length. Then subtract 1 ½ inches from the width of the super to arrive at the length of the side boards. Set the board in the jig and secure them one end at a time. Unlike a hive, the ends of the super need to be very close to square. Use a framing square to complete this step.



Squaring the Super

Once both ends are attached a piece has to be made to fit open sections between the end boards. A simple way to get the correct angle is to use a T Bevel to measure the angle and transfer it to a table saw. The next step is to cut two pieces to length and width, in our case 6 inches by 12 ¼ inches, with the bevel along the long side.

As mentioned in the earlier article my wife chides me for not being the craftsman that my father-in-law was. Do be discouraged if joint is not perfect. As long as there are no large gaps in construction it will make no difference to the bees. As the photo shows the end boards will extend below the side board and need to be shaved. Use sandpaper, a wood rasp or a plane to trim any edges that need to be cleaned up.

Finally apply a good coat of paint to the exterior and the top bar super is ready to go. We are going to add this over a medium super when we do our first split. In a future article I will report on the success, or failure, of doing splits this way.



Measuring Angle



Trimming



Finished Super

Of course, this super can be use I place of a regular super on any Langstroth. I made two samples for a friend of ours who keeps bees in several locations throughout Colorado county. We started too late this year, but we hope this super does offer Langstroth owners a way to experiment with top bar without the need for a full top bar hive.

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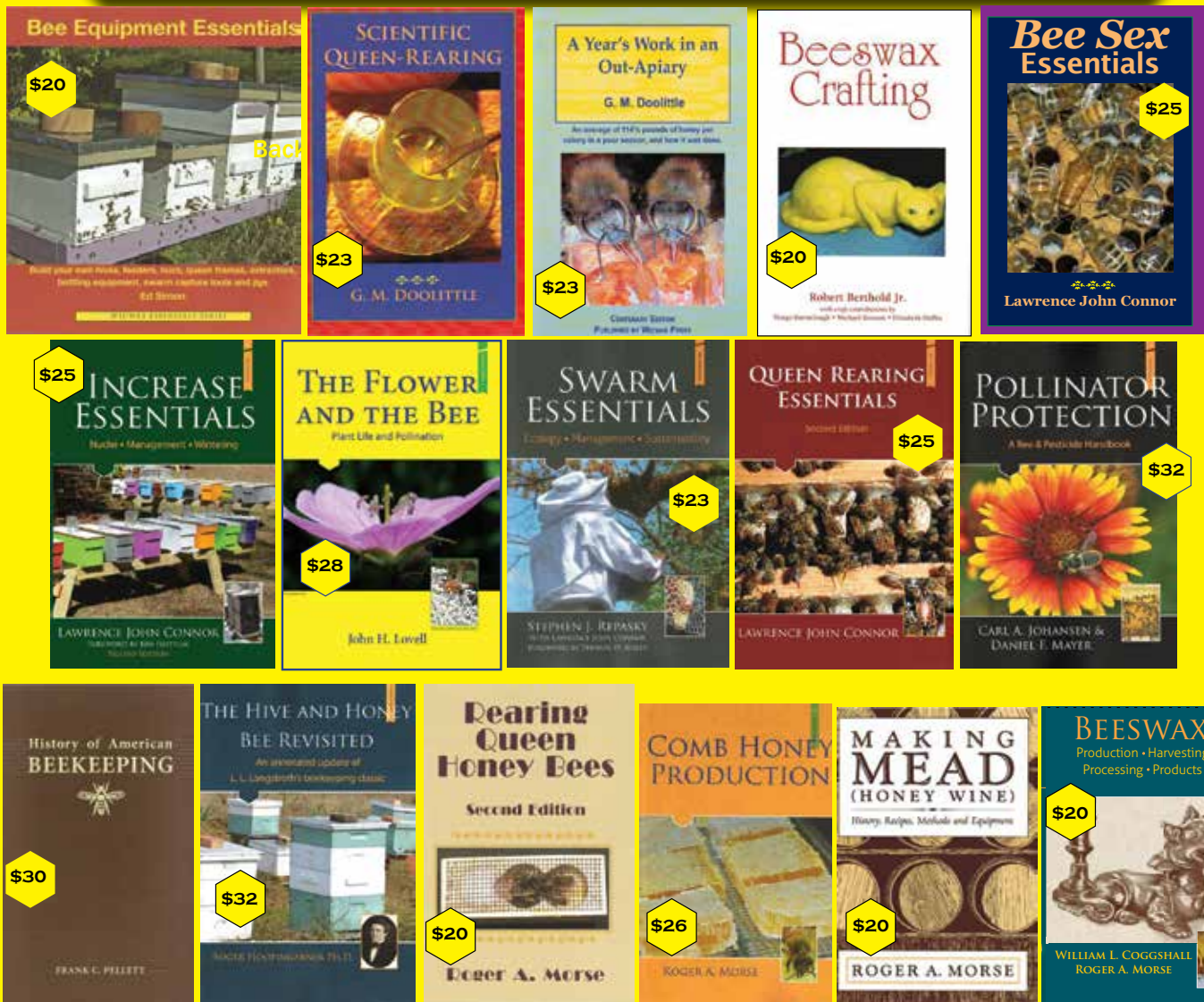
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Costs Associated with Bee Removals (and the Need to Educate the Public)

from Matthew Fuller, Ph.D., Owner, Fuller Farm



Like many beekeepers, I got my first beehive when a friend and mentor said “Hey, would you like to do a bee removal with me?” My first hives came from a water meter box and a plywood chicken coop near Houston, TX. Since that day, I have done hundreds of removals for citizens across Southeast Texas, government agencies, and businesses, large and small. Like many beekeepers, I started out doing many removals as a courtesy to help neighbors or because someone was in need. After a few years, I started realizing (with some help from my wife) that I was losing money every time I went to remove bees. I also started realizing that, as word of my services spread, I was getting more and more calls for removals and more of these calls entailed complex situations. So, a few years ago, I “hung my shingle out” and began circulating business cards as someone who could help with bee removals. I had dreams of growing my apiary with a diverse pool of wild-gened bees. And, for the most part, I have had some small success in growing my apiary, though removals have not led to as much growth as splits.

As I think back on bee removals, I have seen a disturbing trend on social media and in the phone calls I received this past year. There seems to be an expectation in the public that beekeepers ought to conduct bee removals, free of charge. I have even had a fair number of people call me adamant that I should pay them for the bees in their attic, eaves, or tree! I routinely see requests on social media of a local citizen looking for someone “to get bees out of my house for free,” or “remove bees for free or low cost; must repair wall,” or “remove bees at my ranch” (in the middle of nowhere).

I think this trend is really an outgrowth of much misunderstanding about what we as a community of beekeepers do and what goes into beekeeping. Years ago, when I first began removing bees, I was only able to handle small, easy jobs. Mentors and colleagues (Mario Chapa, James and Chari Elam, Phyllis Martin, Jerry and Janelle Ronquille, and Brian Stroud to name a few) have taught me a lot and my small team is now able to handle many complex removals. As I think about the past year and get ready for another busy season, I wanted to share a few thoughts about what beekeepers could do to help the public learn about the value of bees and the value beekeepers bring to our local communities.

So, if you’ve read this far, you are probably wondering why anyone would write such an article in a beekeepers’ journal. When I sat down to write this article, I really saw the main audience not as beekeepers but as the general public.

Beekeepers surely can learn from this work and may develop their skills in bee removals. But, my primary aim in writing this article was to arm beekeepers with knowledge they could share with their communities the next time someone asks for a free bee removal. So, I took a question and answer approach to reviewing many of the questions I get when someone calls me asking for help with their bee problem. No one can train you for all of the challenges a “housed bee hive” can throw at you. What follows is really just a representation of my approach to bee removals. If you see better ways to respond to these questions or engage in the removals, please email me at fuller.farm.tx@gmail.com.

Question from a Customer: Why do you charge for bee removals?

If you read the introduction, even that basic overview of a bee removal business reveals a number of costs associated with the work. As with all service jobs, there is fuel cost driving to a site. There are costs in communicating with customers, be it via phone, email, or websites. There are costs associated with advertising, such as business cards, signs, websites, or paid marketing agencies (like Angie’s list). It’s really tough to transport bees inside of a car, so your bee removal professional needs a truck. And, that’s where a long list of really specialized equipment comes into play. Of course you’ll need all of the equipment associated with beekeeping, like a smoker, a suit, a deep hive body (at least one, often more), frames, inner cover, top cover, bottom board, etc. Think of it like this: When you are driving down the road and see a hive of bees out in a field, you, as a home owner, have one of those inside your attic, your eaves, or your favorite old oak tree out back. So, all of the normal equipment associated with keeping bees are in play for your removal as well. As any beekeeper will tell you, we often run out of hive bodies (boxes) as the bees we take care of are growing their colonies. So any box I have to divert into doing a bee removal is equipment I could be using in my apiary and that I have to replace.

But, we still have not talked about specialized equipment for bee removals. If I can gain access to the hive, I will be able to cut the bees’ comb out of your house, barn, or tree, and use rubber bands (\$) to temporarily wedge the comb into an empty frame (\$\$) that will then slide into my hive box (\$\$\$). This can be accomplished in conjunction with a specialized bee trap box, a bee vacuum, or any other specialized equipment.

All of these services—and others like trap outs or forced absconds—have associated costs.

How are you going to get access to the bees?

Well, it all depends on where they are. Let's suppose they are building a colony in the eaves of your house (which, second to swarms, is the most frequent kind of call I get). Of course, there is a ladder which, even on sale is still very expensive these days. (In fact, to be able to handle all of the types of bee removals at different sizes and styles of houses, with different heights, I actually have 4 different ladders, and occasionally have to rent a cherry picker or man lift for tough, high-level jobs). As the homeowner, do you want me to just start hitting on the eaves of your house, punching holes in the eaves with a hammer, or, would you rather I use a small endoscopic camera (\$\$\$) to look inside the hive before cutting your house open? And, when I cut your house open do you want someone who knows how houses are constructed, where electrical lines or utilities are located and how to avoid them? Or, do you want someone who is going to just start ripping stuff down or someone who will know how to gauge the size of a hive so as to not remove too much of your structure?

There are costs (\$) associated with being listed on the Texas Apiary Inspection Services' list of beekeepers eligible to transport bees across county lines and listed on their website (<https://txbeeinspection.tamu.edu/bee-removal/>). Also, I guarantee my work for a year, meaning I will return to remove any bees from the site if they return within a year. This kind of guarantee can only be made if there is sufficient payment to cover any return trips across all removals I do in a year.

Is Insurance all that important?

While we are on the topic of cutting open your house, let's suppose you had a tree to cut down or a house repair you wanted done. You would not hire someone who was not insured to work on your house, would you? The same is often true for bee removals. I bought a general liability insurance policy that covers my work on your house once a significant number of customers started calling who had bees in their house. I remember thinking "The moment I crack open someone's home, I need coverage." This coverage protects me, but it also protects homeowners. In the off chance that I do something stupid and break your house or something else on your property (which, for the record has not happened yet, knock on wood), this policy means you can have your house repaired through my policy—not yours—and are not left high and dry. (For beekeepers, I highly recommend getting an insurance policy if you are going to cut open a customer's house, work in trees, or drive on anyone's property).

We have a party at our house later tonight. Can you take all of the bees away today?

Unfortunately, no one can control 20,000 angry bees that well. And, often bee removal professionals charge a premium fee for "emergency calls." Even in a normal removal, there

will be a lot of bee activity in the area for a few days after the removal. While I am removing the bees from your house or structure, there are thousands of bees out foraging. When they return I am hoping they will go into a hive I will leave there overnight and pick up during the evening hours. Even after that, there still are bees that just do not want to leave their old home. And, there will be a number of "neighborhood bees" who are coming to the smell of honey. If you have specific plans, let's wait until after your plans.

What will you do if the bees are in a tree and I don't want to have it cut down? Since you aren't cutting down the tree can't you just take the bees out of there with your vacuum?

Sucking the bees out with a vacuum does not work since the vacuum is very low power so as to not hurt the bees. Bee vacuums are specialized tools and you cannot simply suck the bees out with your shop vacuum. There is a special way I can remove the bees from a space without having to cut down a tree or a structure called a trap out. This process will take a few weeks, and the bees will be forced to move out of their old hive in your tree or structure, and into a hive (\$\$\$) I place next to their existing hive. The wax comb is left behind so it is typically not a good option for homes and structures. The trap out process entails fixing a wire mesh cone (\$) to the front of a bee hive and since the bees can't see the hole of the mesh cone, they are eventually "evicted" from the old hive across 3 to 6 weeks. During that time, your homeowners insurance and my insurance policy often require the posting of a warning sign (\$\$) of some sort to avoid "attractive nuisance lawsuits" from anyone stung by the bees. I may have to smoke the bees out of the old hive via another, man-made hole, which means I may have to drill (\$\$) through the other side of a tree with a long drill bit (\$\$). Finally I might spray a chemical (\$\$) that the bees hate smelling to help drive them out across the course of a few weeks. This entire process will typically entail a few checks of the bee hive as it is progressing (increasing fuel costs again).

Do you repair my house? Will it be messy?

I am a beekeeper; not a house builder. For my business I do not repair your house or structures once I remove the bees (and my prices reflect this). I make this clear before I begin any work. I also recommend services for colleagues who also repair houses along with bee removals. I have found it next to impossible to repair a structure precisely as you'd like it, match paint colors and caulk, etc., and do it all in one day. Also, I have found it useful to leave the old hive open to "air out" for a few days. There will be dripping honey and potentially old comb that needs to be cleaned up. Leaving the hive open a few days lets bees pick the old hive clean of honey leaving it cleaner than I can get it. However, if you leave the old space open too long, it might induce a new colony to take up residence. So, I suggest homeowners be prepared to make repairs on their own or with a contractor about 1 week after the removal is done.

I want some honey from this hive. Can you give it a jar of honey?

I would be glad to sell you some honey from my hive, but honey has to be extracted from comb, spun in a honey extractor, strained, and bottled, all in a clean environment. When I do the removal, there may be contaminants like insulation, dust, or any other number of things. Also, I can't guarantee the quality of this honey. If I get a very clean piece of capped honey comb, I might give you some of that. However, I can't make any promises.

Can I keep the bees here? Can you teach me about bees?

I will be glad to help you get started with beekeeping. However, you have to understand that there are costs associated with buying a hive and other beekeeping equipment. Also, there is no guarantee that a bee colony will "take" to their new home, though I can do some things to tip the odds in our favor. If customers buy a beehive from me, offer to return their money if the bees do not adopt their new home within a few days (provided I get all of the equipment back in good condition). As for teaching opportunities, I would like to connect you with the local beekeeper's club.

Well, you've going to get bees out of it? Won't you just turn around and sell the bees and get money? Shouldn't you do the removal for free then? Or split the income with me?

Actually, there is no guarantee that a bee removal professional will get bees out of any removal. The entire process of tearing open a beehive, removing, and relocating typically only results in a strong, viable hive a little more than half of the time. Sometimes, I am only left with a hive box full of hive beetle maggots. Even if I did get a viable hive out of the removal, I would not resell them. Instead, I'd likely incorporate them into my family's apiary operation.

This request hits on a personal pet peeve for me. Homeowners often expect me to remove bees, sell them, and split the cost with them. I once had an hour long conversation with a realtor who had a large beehive in the eave of a rental house she owned. After 5 years of knowing about the problem, the tenants of the home complained so much that she "finally had to" call me out to do something about it." Although the request was coming to me in the middle of January (when I couldn't do anything to save the hive because of cold temperature), she was adamant that I come "later today to get the bees and then once you sell them we can split the profits." When I explained why this would not be an equitable deal and the removal would have to wait until the spring she was frustrated and asked for the names of my competitors, which I gladly gave her. Later that day she called me back and said I was actually the most "even keeled" person. I explained to her that she has bees in her house and she is not in a position to

negotiate. This was the language she was used to speaking and seemed to resonate. I completed the removal the following April to her satisfaction).

Why shouldn't I just call the local beekeepers club and find someone who will do it for free for me?

You should! In fact, I usually tell all of my customers to do so before we sign a service agreement. I even give them the number of the local beekeeper's club or the aforementioned TAIS website. I also tell them to make sure that their job does not require complex deconstruction of a house or structure or climbing up a ladder, things that would be risky. I know my services are not for everyone. Also, many beekeepers know their limits and know what they can or cannot do 30 feet up on a ladder with angry bees all around them. Several times I have actually referred a potential customer to a colleague or a beekeeper's club only to have them call me back because I can handle high-risk, challenging jobs most beekeepers don't want to mess with.

What other factors do you consider in setting the price for your services?

The aforementioned factors just scratch the surface of costs associated bee removals. Each bee removal is unique and I believe in not setting standard rates, so I can offer the most cost effective service for everyone to suit their needs. Certainly, a swarm capture that takes only a few minutes (if I charge anything) will be less than a removal from a brick wall 20 feet up a ladder. In all removals, the biggest cost to me has to do with my family. Each removal I conduct is 2 to 3 hours I could be spending with my family or working on my farm. So, I have to make a little bit of profit in order to justify the time away from my family. Also, if I need the assistance of a helper, my cost increases. Certainly the distance to your site will increase my cost, so I might refer you to another local bee removal expert. Also, there are all sorts of professional development opportunities, like the Texas Master Beekeepers' Certification or conferences, or house deconstruction workshops, a bee removal specialist should attend. These also cost us money.

Why can't you or I just spray the bees and kill them?

I am not an exterminator. Exterminators in the State actually have to be licensed, attend training, and learn about exterminating bees. You will see a lot of advertisements on Craigs List and other social media sites for exterminators willing to kill the bees for you. I want to caution against that. First, they often cost more than a good, effective bee removal professional. Second, bee populations are in decline. Shouldn't we work together to give them a fitting chance? Finally, and perhaps most importantly for homeowners, killing the bees inside of your house or structure is only inviting an infestation of other pests, like rodents. Rats, mice, possums, squirrels, and roaches are all drawn to the smell of honey and wax and

with no bees to defend the hive, it is free game for pests to take up residence in your walls. Bees are plagued by a number of pests even when the hive is strong. With a bunch of dead bees and old honey and wax inside of your walls, you can only imagine the slimy, writhing mess of maggots and oozing honey dripping down the inside of your wall. Only once in my life have I seen it necessary for bees to be killed (inside of a concrete light pole on a railroad track where the pole could not be taken down). Give a bee removal professional a chance to help you and the bees out. I'm not going to tell you what to do at your house, but spraying the bees with wasp spray only kills the guard bees at the entrance. After a few minutes you will have hundreds of upset bees outside, hundreds of dead bees inside your wall, and a hive that I cannot touch for a few weeks without risking equipment contamination.

I have some land out here and I want you to set your bee hives up on my land so I can get “the Ag Exemption.” You should do this for free for me because you’ll get the space for your bees.

That kind of agreement might work for some beekeepers, but I have plenty of land for apiaries already and between pollination services and my own bee hives I keep for enjoyment, I've got enough work of this sort. You might consider contacting a beekeeper's club to see if any of their members need more space. However, realize that you, as the land owner, are asking a beekeeper to devote equipment, bees, fuel, and time to setting up and checking the hives regularly. You are asking the beekeeper to “go into the hole” for your gain. Could an agreement wherein you pay a beekeeper a small service fee or a portion of your tax savings for a year be considered?

(For beekeepers, I have actually balked at engaging in this kind of agreement for a number of legal reasons. It's not clear who is responsible for the bees, when you can have access to the bees, and what kinds of operations occur on the land that might be affected by the bees. Certainly you and the landowner should check with them about this arrangement. I highly encourage you to have all of these conversations with any landowners documented in writing, perhaps even via a contract. I also do not engage in these kinds of arrangements because often, they come from businesses and real estate agencies looking to save on taxes. I tend to err on the side of keeping the county tax office happy.)

Conclusion

These are just a few of the costs associated with bee removals. Certainly many more might popup. This article was designed to educate members of the public about the costs associated with bee removal to help homeowners understand that free or even low cost bee removals are not ideal for homeowners, bee removal professionals, and bees. Beekeepers interested in doing bee removals need to have a working knowledge of construction, safety, customer service, finances, and, or course, bees. It's not easy work, often occurs in the hot days of summer, high up on a ladder, and with customers who have high expectations. However, it is a rewarding job that

can help you meet tons of great people from all walks of life, save a few bees in the process, and perhaps even pick up a few extra colonies. You will undoubtedly meet families in doing removals and if so, take some time to teach your neighbors about bees. If you can trap a queen in a plastic queen clip and knock all the bees off you, it makes for a great teaching moment for kids of all ages. I often take print materials from my beekeeper's club or flower seed packets to give to kids. This small gesture can hook a youngster on beekeeping for a lifetime to come.



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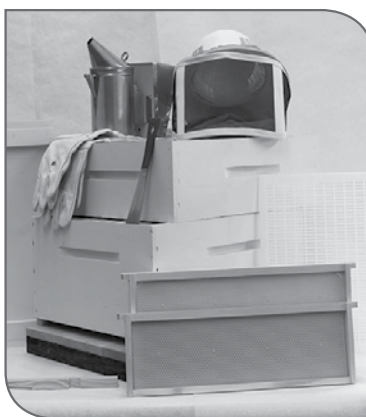
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Keep the Date - Registration Opens Soon

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

Bees in the East Club

Mark de Kiewiet (210) 863-8024

beesintbeeast@att.net

Meetings 4th Saturday of each month at 10am

Water Garden Gems, 3230 Bolton Road, Marion,

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

bcba@brazoria-county-beekeepers-association.com

www.brazoria-county-beekeepers-association.com

Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month

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

Brazos Valley Beekeepers Association

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

tcwright7021@yahoo.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

Lubbock Memorial Arboretum, 4111 University 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, 5325 Greely Dr., Corpus Christi

Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Assn.

Mary-Ann Allen (214) 543-5597

president@cchba.org

www.cchba.org

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

Collin College Conference Center, (Central Park Campus)

2400 Community Dr., McKinney

Concho Valley Beekeepers Association

Rex Moody - (325) 650-6360

cvbbeekeeper@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

Mike Mathews (713) 805-9673

failmail53@yahoo.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

Joe Swaney (361) 296-0472

cgswaney@sbcglobal.net

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

bushyomouth55@gmail.com

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

Hill County Beekeepers Association

Art Wharton (254) 221-5325

ohyougotit@aim.com

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6 pm
Hill County Courthouse Annex, 126 S Covington St., Hillsboro

Hopkins County Beekeepers Association

Rolanda Hasten - (903) 450-7580

rolandahasten@gmail.com

Meetings: 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm
Hopkins County Agrilife Bldg., 1200 W Houston St., Sulphur
Springs

Houston Beekeepers Association

Hank Hilliard - (713) 828-7247

hank.hilliard@houstonbeekeepers.org

www.houstonbeekeepers.org

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm
Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston

Houston Natural Beekeepers Association

Dean Cook

houstonnaturalbeekeepers@gmail.com

Meetings: Second Saturday of the month at 11 am
1702 Rothwell, Bldg C, Houston

Johnson County Beekeepers Association

Don Russell or Bruce Watts, Jr.

boatshop6@yahoo.com or bruce.jr@sbcglobal.net

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm
Seven Day Adventist Church, 1912 Conveyor Dr., Joshua

Lamar County Beekeepers Association

Scott Brinker - (501) 307-5111

lamarcoba@gmail.com

Meetings: 1st Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm
Lamar County Fairgrounds, 570 E Center St., Paris

Liberty County Beekeepers Association

Cameron Crane - (409) 658-3800

info@libertycountybeekeepers.org

www.libertycountybeekeepers.org

Meetings: 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm
Liberty Agrilife Extension Office, 501 Palmer Ave., Liberty

Longview Beekeepers Association

Gus Wolf - (903) 746-9256

glwolf@gmail.com

Meetings: 4th Thursday of each month at 6 pm
Texas Agrilife Extension Office, 405 E Marshall St., Longview

Marshall Beekeeping Association

Beth Derr - (936) 591-2399

marshallbeekeeping@gmail.com

Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month at 5:30 pm
Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 501 Indian Springs Dr., Marshall

Metro Beekeepers Association

Keegan Olsen, President - (682) 225-0862

keeganolsen@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

North East 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

Southwest Texas Beekeepers Association

Cynthia Schiotis (210) 317-5596

swtexasbeekeepers@gmail.com

Meetings: 3rd Thursday of odd numbered months at 6pm
Sutton County Public Library, 306 E Mulberry St., Sonora

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 December)
First United Methodist Church, McKinney Ministry Center, 410 E University Avenue, Georgetown

Wood County Beekeepers Association

Mary M Smith - (903) 342-3438

woodcountybeekeepers@gmail.com

Meetings: First Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm
First National Bank, 315 North Main St., Winnsboro

Directors -at-Large

Area 1

Chris Doggett

ckdoggett@gmail.com
400 County Road 440
Thrall, TX 76578
(512) 914-2794

Elgin Beekeepers Association
Bell/Coryell Beekeepers Association
Fayette County Beekeepers Association
Williamson County Beekeepers Association
Heart of Texas Beekeepers Association
Dino-Beekeepers Association
Hill County Beekeepers Association
Temple Area Beekeepers Association
Southwest Texas Beekeepers Association
Bees in the East Club

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Tanya Phillips

tanya@beefriendlyaustin.com
9874 Wier Loop Circle
Austin, TX 78736
(512) 560-3732

Travis County Beekeepers Association
Coastal Bend Beekeepers Association
Alamo Area Beekeepers Association
Fredericksburg Beekeepers Association
Texas Hill Country Beekeepers Association
Austin Area Beekeepers Association
Hays County Beekeepers Association
Erath County Beekeepers Association

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Ashley Ralph

ashley@primebees.com
3605 Midwest Drive
Bryan, TX 77802
(979) 777-2529

Montgomery County Beekeepers Association
Central Texas Beekeepers Association
Walker County Beekeepers Association
Brazos Valley Beekeepers Association
Concho Valley Beekeepers Association
Caprock Beekeepers Association
Trinity Valley Beekeepers Association
Johnson County Beekeepers Association
Tri County Beekeepers Association

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Roger Farr

rdfarr@gmail.com
6073 Farm Road 2348
Mount Pleasant, TX 75455
(979) 436-5310

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Hopkins County Beekeepers Association
Lamar County Beekeepers Association
North East Texas Beekeepers Association
Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Association
Denton County Beekeepers Association
Metro Beekeepers Association
East Texas Beekeepers Association

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brooksidebees@gmail.com
5402 Greenhill Road
Brookside Village, TX 77581
(281) 468-0019

Harris County Beekeepers Association
Houston Beekeepers Association
Houston Natural Beekeepers Association
Fort Bend Beekeepers Association
Brazoria County Beekeepers Association
Red River Valley Beekeepers Association
Golden Crescent Beekeepers Association

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Cameron Crane

cameron@cameroncrane.com
2300 Belvedere Dr.
Baytown, TX 77520
(409) 658-3800

Liberty County Beekeepers Association
Longview Beekeepers Association
Pineywoods Beekeepers Association
Tyler County Beekeepers Association
Wood County Beekeepers Association
Marshall Beekeeping Association
Deep East Texas Beekeepers Association
Henderson County Beekeepers Association

Texas Beekeepers Association

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