

The

Texas Beekeepers Association



# Journal



Mar / Apr 2018

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

Issue 18-2





# Beekeeping & Honey Bees

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## President's Report

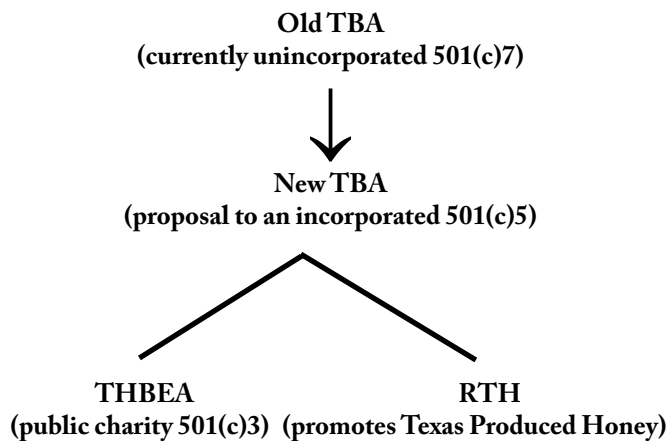
*from Chris Moore*

Dear TBA member,

The TBA board has been busy the past few years working on several items as requested by TBA membership. TBA was formally started over 100 years ago as a social organization. In the past 5 years TBA has experienced explosive growth and has been presented with new opportunities. Given the size of TBA and goals expressed by the members, we believe a change in TBA's organizational structure and tax-exempt status is in the best interest of TBA and our membership.

We discussed this at the Annual Convention this past November, and shared the progress in greater detail with local club leaders at the Delegates Meeting in February. As we continue down this path, it's important to me and to the TBA Board to share with the membership the steps and reasons for this change. Our focus will remain on bees and beekeeping, and although these changes will not have a noticeable effect on individual memberships, they will help to position TBA into an organization that can advocate for beekeepers in Texas.

Below, I've created a more visual outline of Texas Beekeepers Association, Texas Honey Bee Educational Association, and Real Texas Honey.



**TBA** – New TBA (proposed for 2019) will only see a change to the legal structure and tax exempt status of TBA.

**THBEA** – “Texas Honey Bee Educational Association” was formed in 2016. Established as a 501c3, donors may receive a tax deduction for their donations.

**RTH** – “Real Texas Honey” was formed in 2017. It is in response to members wanting TBA to help them promote their locally produced Honey.

**TBA** - The TBA board is proposing to change TBA's tax exempt status from that of a “social club”, to one more suited to its present mission, that of promoting the common interests, the betterment of conditions, and general welfare of the beekeeping industry. In IRS-language this means changing from a 501(c)(7) tax exempt organization to a 501(c)(5) tax exempt organization. At the same time, TBA would formally incorporate as a Texas nonprofit. These changes, proposed for 2019, will need to be approved by TBA's membership.

**THBEA** - The Texas Honey Bee Education Association is an incorporated Texas nonprofit educational and research organization, under the control of TBA. Contributions to THBEA are used to support individuals and/or organizations that accomplish the purposes of THBEA. For example – the Texas Honey Queen program has been an important part of TBA for many years and has been well-supported by TBA members. Donations made to TBA to support the Texas Honey Queen program can still be made to TBA, but donations through TBA are not tax deductible to the donor. Since the Texas Honey Queen Program meets the purposes of THBEA, the program can also be supported by donations to THBEA. Donors contributing to the Texas Honey Queen program through THBEA may receive a tax deduction for their donation, since THBEA is a 501(c)(3) public charity.

**RTH** - Real Texas Honey™, an incorporated nonprofit under the control of TBA, was created as a result of TBA members frustrated with honey sold in their market as local or Texas honey that was actually produced or purchased elsewhere, or even imported. RTH has been set up to be managed by a board of directors and will have member participants who are Texas Beekeepers interested in promoting their honey as Real Texas Honey. The Honey Locator, an interactive map linked to the TBA website, has existed for some time to allow customers to find local beekeepers. As we go forward, RTH rules will be revised to strengthen the integrity of honey for sale. Participants in the program that meet the rules will be allowed to display a unique RTH seal on their honey products. Our intention is that real Texas honey will be recognized as a premium product in the marketplace, and consumers will be able to easily find a local beekeeper with that product.

*(continued on page 4)*

We're looking forward to formalizing these changes at our Annual Meeting this November. As with any growing organization, changes can be challenging. My desire is to be as open and transparent - both personally and for TBA as an organization - as I can. Misinformation and disinformation can cause dissention and difficulties for TBA and Texas beekeeping. Please keep in mind that those of us associated with the TBA leadership are volunteers and are not professional executives. This means that we need to take the necessary time to learn, consider and deliberate over the proper course of action for TBA with the best interest of the membership in mind. These discussions and deliberations are, by necessity, confidential to the TBA officers and board until informed decisions can be made. Keeping this timeline in

mind, it has always been my goal and that of the TBA officers and board members, to convey information and decisions directly to TBA members soon after we reach them. If you have an interest in serving on the board of THBEA or RTH, please let me know.

When you have a question about TBA, please contact me at [chris@moorehoneyfarm.com](mailto:chris@moorehoneyfarm.com) or the TBA officers and board at [beekeeper@texasbeekeepers.org](mailto:beekeeper@texasbeekeepers.org) to get a straight, factual answer in a timely fashion. We are here to serve Texas beekeeping and our membership, so we appreciate the trust you've put in us as your TBA Board.

I wish you a great 2018 beekeeping season!

## Texas Beekeepers Association Summer Clinic

**June 30th, 2018**

**Lone Star Convention Center, Conroe TX**

**See Pages 6 and 7**

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### In This Issue

President's Report.....	3
Summer Clinic.....	6-7
Honey Queen Report.....	9
Mastering Beekeeping.....	10
Beekeeper Education in Texas.....	12-15
The Brantley Column.....	16
Honey Bee Lab Update.....	18-19
Queen Rearing Workshop.....	20-21
TAIS Update.....	22

Ag. Valuation in Texas.....	24-26
Encaustic Art.....	28-29
Flow Hive Redesigned.....	31
Delegates Meeting Report.....	32-33
Insecticide Treated Cornfields.....	33
Pictures from Associations.....	34-35
THBEA.....	36-37
Association Listing.....	40-42
Directors.....	43

*Cover Picture by Dan Eudy*





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TEXAS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

# Summer Clinic

June 30, 2018 9am - 5pm Conroe, TX

Lone Star Convention Center



## Keynote Speaker

Dr. Jamie Ellis

Jamie Ellis is the Gahan Endowed Associate Professor of Entomology in the Department of Entomology and Nematology at the University of Florida and a PhD in Entomology from Rhodes University in South Africa. Dr. Ellis created the AFBEE program (African Bee Extension and Education Program), the UF, South Florida, Caribbean Bee Colleges, and the U of F Master Beekeeping Program.

Whether you're an aspiring beekeeper, a new beekeeper or an experienced beekeeper, there's a topic for you!

Getting Started With Bees: Hive Types  
Managing Bees for Your Backyard Apiary  
Common Pests and How to Cope  
Honey Bee Health & Nutrition  
Splitting Hives to Grow Your Apiary  
Brood Diseases & Management  
Utilizing Products of the Hive  
Swarm Management and Capture  
Pollen, Propolis, and Wax

Beekeeping as a Business: Honey Sales, Bee Removals, & Ag Exemptions  
Honey Bee Hive Autopsy: How to Avoid Making the Same Mistake Twice

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[sdoggett@mindspring.com](mailto:sdoggett@mindspring.com), 400 County Road 440, Thrall, TX 76578

# Texas Beekeepers Association Summer Clinic - June 30th 2018

*from Ashley Ralph, Prime Bees, Event Coordinator*

We're so excited to announce our annual Summer Clinic this year in Conroe, Texas. The event will be held at the Lone Star Convention Center in Conroe and will feature a number of great speakers from around the state as well as keynote speaker and one of my personal favorite educators - Dr. Jamie Ellis. Jamie has a great way of offering advanced content in an easy to digest and understand way.

We'll have other great speakers and topics to look forward to as well for all different interest and experience levels. Check out some of these topics!

## **Just getting started? Some of these classes may be exactly what you need:**

- Simply Begin Beekeeping
- Virtual Hive Inspection - What Am I Looking At and What Do I Do About It? - Recognizing Problems Within The Hive
- Annual Management - What Happens In a Beekeeper Year
- Managing Your Apiary Size - How to Maintain or Grow to your Needs
- Capturing and Keeping Swarms
- Pest Management

## **If you've been beekeeping and want to continue to learn new tricks of the trade - you may want to check out some of these classes.**

- Hive Autopsy: How to Avoid Making the Same Mistake Twice
- Advanced Bee Biology - Organs, Sensory, Pheromones
- "The Birds & The Bees" - Pollination Ecology & Bee Botany
- Pollinator Gardens and Planting for Bees
- Fights About Mites - Complete Varroa Destructor Discussion
- Hive Management for Honey Production Strength Colonies
- "Organic" Treatments in Beekeeping

## **Looking for something unique and different - a way to expand your bee knowledge into other areas of bees and beekeeping? Check these out:**

- Bees Improving Lives in 3rd World Countries - Reflections from a Beekeeping Mission in Malawi, Africa
- Beekeeping History - Bee Genetics, Humans and Bees, Evolution of Beekeeping
- Apitherapy & The Science Behind It
- The Art and Science of Mead Making
- Competing in Honey Shows, Judging Honey

## **Are you building a beekeeping empire? We even have some classes for you:**

- Laws Affecting Beekeepers in Texas
- Selling Bees and Nucs in Texas
- Agricultural Exemptions and Bees - Business Models and Rules of the Road
- Bee Removals - Equipment Needs, Tips, and How To Keep The Bees Alive

As beekeepers we know that we'll never stop learning - the bees teach us something new every day and continue to surprise us. You won't want to miss this learning opportunity and we can't wait to see you there!



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# 2018 Texas Honey Queen

**Abby Pettibon**

**Texas Beekeepers**



We all have a passion for honey bees, and each person's story plays a very special part in the history of beekeeping. Remembering a few people's experiences and their beginnings of beekeeping is something I would love to try to capture and share with everyone. The way in which beekeepers raise honey bees varies greatly in the state of Texas. This year, I would like to share the story of a few beekeepers to see what made them interested in beekeeping, how they got started, and why they have such a passion for honey bees.

Ed and Elaine Michalik have been beekeepers in Texas since 2003. Their story began when Ed was a young man in the little town of Palacios, Texas, where at the age of sixteen, he lived with his family on a small farm. Fields and fields of Hubam Clover grew all around his childhood home. Ed said, "One day, a friend drove by the place there and asked my dad, 'Hey, can I bring some bees over here? I got a bunch of bees in Bay City.' And dad said, 'Sure! Take them over there and also put them out here by the clover.'" Their friend brought over one hundred hives and that was the day when it all began for the Michalik family.

Every Saturday, Ed and his beekeeper friend would extract a few supers of golden, sweet honey. Ed remarked, "That was my job; cranking, while he was uncapping with a steam knife. You don't see those as often anymore. Well, then I put them in the extractor, and that was when you had to take them and turn them over, spin one side out first and then the other. We'd then put it in a square five-gallon metal bucket." Ever since then, the Michalik's have been eating honey that has been extracted from their personal hives or from another beekeeper. I guess you could say, they were "stuck" on honey.

Years later, Ed and his wife Elaine were living near Houston when Ed exclaimed, "We had this garden, and I looked around and said, 'I don't see one bee in this whole garden. I need to get me a beehive here.'" It was around 1987 when Ed met a man by the name of Emil Balusek, who ended up placing two of his own hives in Ed's backyard. After Ed retired in 1997, they became interested in raising honey bees again. It was in 2003 when the Michaliks captured their first swarm. Ed placed the swarm in an apple box and later moved the bees into a hive box. Elaine told me with a smile that their apiary has been growing ever since. They currently have around twenty hives on their property.

The Michaliks have been members of the Harris County Beekeepers Association for fifteen years. For the past six years, Elaine has been Treasurer for the club. They also help out by hosting a beekeeping workshop once a year, where they teach people how to build their hives from scratch. Not only have Ed and Elaine been involved with their county association, but they are also hugely involved with the Honey Queen Program. They have hosted queens and princesses over thirty different occasions, and some of the girls more than once. Their desire to share their love of honey bees with others has played a major part in their story of beekeeping.

I'm thankful for people like the Michaliks who have a memorable history in Texas beekeeping. I know that there are many beekeepers in Texas, who have a story to tell, and I am looking forward to uncovering a few more this year. There is a special Texas pride that goes along with beekeeping, and it is an honor to learn from each other's experiences. Let's continue to remember our Texas beekeepers.





## Mastering Beekeeping

*from Michelle Boerst, Denton Beekeepers Association*

Boy, that's a joke. The more I learn about beekeeping the more I realize how little I know and that I'm probably never going to be the master of my apiary.

However, I continue to strive toward the classification of Master Craftsman Beekeeper in the Texas A & M Agrilife Extension Master Beekeeper Program because it forces me to continue educating myself long after I would probably have given up on my own.

I started this journey with my son four years ago. We were armed with two hives, some equipment, lessons from the great beekeeper John Talbert and a lot of curiosity. My son's FFA project of beekeeping was soon over as the summer break hit, but I was still hooked.

I drove an hour one way to club meetings, I read books, I played with my bees and I showed them off to anyone who wanted to come over to my house.

Then I heard about a woman who wanted to start a beekeepers club in my backyard of Denton, TX. I called Christina Beck of Hippie Hollow Honey and said "How can I help?". And we were off!

The next month was our first meeting and the Denton County Beekeepers Association became a thriving bee club.

I started hanging around with beekeepers and they were all talking about the Master Program at Texas A & M. All you had to be was registered with the state of Texas and have been a beekeeper for one year. Encouraged by fellow DCBA officers, three of us trekked down state and took the exam.

Surprisingly, I passed the test. Then realized I had four more levels to go. Had I really paid attention to the work load I probably would never have taken that first test!

I was already doing a lot of speaking to the public at events about beekeeping so five public service credits were easy. I mentored new club members. I collected swarms. I did a cutout. I spent six weeks doing a trap out at the house of some very nice people. I met tons of new friends. And I did a little studying, went to Brenham and took the second year test.

And failed miserably. I cried. I was devastated. And I didn't give up. I watched videos, I read articles, I made flashcards, I took online tests. I had my friends texting me bee questions randomly all day long. I STRUGGLED.

And then I took the test again. I sweated for a week

waiting to hear the results. Finally, I heard the news. I passed and was now an advanced beekeeper.

Only three more levels to go and I realized I was still excited about bees, beekeeping, and becoming a master craftsman beekeeper.

I chose a major of Beekeeping for International Rural Development because I love to travel. I call it the Beekeeping Peace Corps.

I am spending the next two years on building my apiary and earning my eight core credits for the next level. Core credits for beekeeping are tasks such as: learn a foreign language, become a Master Gardener, plant and maintain a pollinator garden, win first or second place in a state or higher honey show. I talk about bees with everyone. I make videos in my apiary. I ask everyone where I can put a pollinator garden. I annoy all my co-workers on Mondays with my talk about a weekend of bee tasks. I get random calls and emails from strangers about bees.

And I'm still not tired of bees.

What have I learned in the process so far? That I'll never master beekeeping.

And that there's no right answer, just the right answer for my bees at that moment. I've learned a lot of information that I'm not sure is useful, (it's like taking algebra in high school), but the main thing I have learned is to experiment and research. I've learned to take new knowledge and filter it through the experience and experimentation of my bees. I'm willing to try new things because I better understand bee behavior and how this could improve the health and happiness of my bees.

I'm willing to try new techniques because I better understand how beekeeping processes work and see where improvements are needed.

I know my bees, I understand the processes of beekeeping and I can take all this new information and apply it, document it and be a better beekeeper.

Will a Master Craftsman Beekeeper designation allow me to master bees? It will not. It will make me a better student and that will benefit myself, my bees and my friends; both beekeepers and bee admirers and maybe even some bee haters.

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# The State of Beekeeper Education in Texas

*from Dennis Gray, President,  
Coastal Bend Beekeepers Association*

In November, 2017, the Texas Beekeepers Association passed two resolutions concerning beekeeper education in Texas. First, in Resolution #8 the group pledged continued support to those involved in the Texas Master Beekeeper Program. It's no secret that TBA considers the Master Beekeeper Program, a project initiated by our past Chief Apiary Inspector Mark Dykes, a valuable source of beekeeper education. Second, in Resolution #9, the TBA renewed a less commonly known desire, to add an Apiary Extension Agent to the AgriLife Extension Service.

Generally, colony loss rates directly reflect the education of the category of beekeepers. Commercial beekeepers, professionals who keep thousands of colonies, consistently report the lowest colony losses. Sideline beekeepers, though who keep substantial numbers of bees as a side business to their regular jobs, experience higher colony losses. And backyard beekeepers, generally newer beekeepers and those with modest investments in their bees, report the highest colony losses. This is a general, nation-wide trend as described in the management survey data by the Bee Informed Partnership, and it presumes that each level of beekeeping represents progressively higher education exposure and longer experience times in the business (<https://bip2.beeinformed.org/survey/>). So it's easy to see why the Texas Master Beekeeper Program is valuable to Texas beekeepers.

Significantly, the Master Beekeeper Program does not conduct any actual education itself. This is consistent with other "master" programs around the state. Instead, the program defines a framework of curriculum that candidates pursue through existing education infrastructure, and through the use of online resources for self-study. Most candidates seek opportunities in the state, but a few have reached outside Texas for special opportunities. Texas Master Beekeeper Program candidates are required to deliver a certain amount of training content, but that delivery is represented here by the various training venues we address below.

## The Big Events

We enjoy five day-long, concurrent seminar formats in Texas. Texas Beekeepers Association provides its annual conference and a "Summer Clinic" that follow this model, with the conference offering additional lecture series prior to the seminar day. These events each draw approximately 350 and 600 attendees respectively and offer 30 or so 1-hour seminars. For ten years now, Central Texas Beekeepers Association (Brenham) produces the biggest show and draws more than 600 people from around the state. Brazos Valley Beekeepers Association (College Station) puts on a smaller event in the fall with approximately the 400 attendees. In January, Austin Area Beekeepers Association attracts about 400.

The day-long concurrent seminar event is obviously popular across the state, but it's not without drawbacks. With formats that limit lectures to 50 minutes, these seminars eliminate the possibility of delivering intermediate or advanced training. Brazos Valley Beekeepers has taken steps to abate this limitation by extending the time allotment to 90 minutes for a few lectures, and building in "extra time" between lectures which allows a speaker to "run long." This is a significant improvement over the rigorous 50 minute lecture-10 minute room set up that is always a scramble.

The format notwithstanding, some "intermediate topics" are always listed on the schedules. Consider, however, queen rearing. Raising top quality queens is no joke, and it takes time to learn. The state bee lab spends an entire day (in May) on just this very topic. If you've ever sat in on a 50 minute queen rearing workshop, you know it is necessarily limited. The topic is so important, and so varied and complicated, that it's often a train wreck to compress it into just 50 minutes. IPM techniques, Nutrition, Pest Management, and other topics suffer the same trouble. The topics are breezed through, questions are cast aside, and the schedule pushed hard and



Let us take a stroll through the beekeeper education currently available in our great state. We'll look first at the in-person education that happens around the state, which consists of local club sponsored, day-long concurrent seminar events. Next, we'll examine the bulk of beekeeper education in the state that takes place at regularly scheduled monthly club meetings. Most, if not all, of these educational activities focus on introductory material for beginner beekeepers. A small but growing number of private businesses have entered the market of intermediate and advanced beekeeper education, and we'll take a close look at offerings and opportunities. Finally, we'll crunch these numbers and attempt to quantify each category of education in Texas, and then take a look at what the future might hold.

fast - indeed, the next class starts as a speaker is sometimes wrapping up. The result of the format is that an “intermediate” topic like queen rearing, becomes an introductory or survey lecture on a far deeper subject than could ever be covered in the time allotted.

It goes without saying that this format provides almost no hands-on experience. The Brazos Valley school offers some field experience at their school, and recently partnered with the bee lab to expand upon that experiential learning opportunity.

Despite these criticisms, these events are wildly successful and very highly regarded by beekeepers, as they should be. The vast majority of attendees at these events are beginners, sent by their local club leaders. And the events are ideally suited to these learners. Each seminar does an excellent job of catering to the beekeeper who is just beginning on a long journey. Short topics from colony organization, basic biology and behavior, basic skills, and installing a colony provide exactly the guidance needed at this critical stage in beekeeping.

We must not overlook that these events are primary fund raising efforts too. Together they generate tens of thousands of dollars in income, and this income in turn goes to support further programming. Most events provide funding to other groups, ranging from the Honey Queen to the Texas A&M Honey Bee Lab. We'll consider this important funding more in the next section.

## Some Small Events

The state bee lab, as mentioned already, offers a single, day-long seminar, “The Art of Queen Rearing”. Invited guest Sue Cobey, certainly an expert in production of the best queens, visits to help with this important workshop. Still, attendees have said that the presentations made at the workshop are often repeats of those made at the seminars, or are not about queen rearing at all (e.g. “Queen Introduction”). Obviously exposure to Cobey is a special treat for beekeepers, and the seminar is an incredible bargain at it's current price. The day-long seminar is conducted at a comfortable pace and includes a small amount of hands-on activities out in the apiary.

In addition, the state bee lab provides speakers to events around the state. Their staff appear on the seminar schedules on a great variety of topics, including updating on the activity of the lab itself. Beginning in 2017, the lab also served as co-organizers of the Brazos Valley Beekeepers fall seminar.

As mentioned above, some regional events donate a portion of their proceeds to the bee lab. These range from \$500 to a reported \$8,000. These funds enable the lab to offer university courses that serve a few dozen students each year (TBA Journal, 18-1, p. 10) and support graduate studies.

2018 promises an influx of collaborative events and to further expand beekeeper education. In March, Texas will see the first Northeast Texas Beekeepers Conference in Longview. This event is a collaboration between six local clubs and the Gregg County AgriLife Extension Service. The costs of putting together an event such as this are high, estimated at \$5000. Such a significant commitment from small local clubs is courageous indeed.

In October, a collaboration between Trinity Valley Beekeepers (Dallas) and Metro Beekeepers (Fort Worth) will add another seminar event to the roster of education. The

event, to be held in Southlake, already has a venue reserved and is starting to lay out the plan for speakers and programs.

Each of these two new events faces the challenges of financing the plans. Most local clubs move less than \$5000 through their club in a whole year. This may be an area where another group could step in to assist in the initial start up of such projects. Rather than fund the projects outright, another group could back a start-up event with the promise of a loan. We already know these events generate surplus revenue, so the offering of a loan carries little risk, while delivering to the sponsored groups the financial surety to pull off a big event. In the end, the “lending group” would be repaid if indeed the loan was used. It's likely that the loan would not ever be tapped because of the revenue generated. It would provide only initial funding for expenses that must be paid in advance of registration, and because it's a loan and not a gift, the sponsored group(s) are encouraged to remain thrifty.

## Private Business Offerings

Private industry conducts significant education delivery in Texas. All, or nearly all, beekeeping supply houses in the state provide regular training, usually weekly or monthly. The great benefit of these, usually brief, trainings is their ability to reflect exactly what is happening in local apiaries, and provide quick answers by local beekeepers. It's difficult to quantify this training, because it's generally advertised to local beekeepers only. However, it is usually also limited to relatively soft-ball topics in beekeeping.

Bee Weaver is an exception to this rule. Their apiary offers a two day seminar on queen rearing that provides large portions of their curriculum as hands-on training. The queen rearing staff at Bee Weaver is legendary, and the quality of the course speaks for itself.

Gretchen Bee Ranch is preparing to offer up to three intermediate level training courses, including a familiarization with Instrumental Insemination. They expect these courses to be four or five hours each and provide the majority of the time as hands-on experience. Details are not yet released for these exciting additions.

Bluebonnet Beekeeping Supplies also delivers more advanced training by offering a series of courses. They recently rolled out a program series on Queen Grafting and Rearing. The program currently has 3 groups of 6-7 beekeepers looking forward to the 4 week hands on course. Course study covers all aspects from creating a Drone yard to perfecting mating Nucs. Students will be able to perform and supervise their grafts all the way to emergence and mating then gain ownership of the queens they made to use in their own apiaries.

As already stated, firm data on privately offered education is not generally available. We will not venture even a guess about attendance and performance of these offerings, but it's significant that most or all advanced beekeeper education is offered privately.

## The Numbers

The data in this section is reported by club leaders in general, but some of the data is estimates based on experience.

For example, seminar attendance numbers are fairly firm, but we estimate here the number of hours each club spends delivering training. Some clubs meet for an hour a month, but many provide much more. For example, some clubs offer two programs, youth programs, etc. The data is clear however. Clubs are a powerful tool for providing education to beekeepers, and they must not be ignored as critical links in this important mission.

You may disagree with these estimates, and we encourage you to copy this table into Excel and play with the numbers. You will simply not be able to make estimates that tell a different story, even by wildly overestimating the seminars, and underestimating the club programs. Nevertheless, you can learn much from examining the data as you see fit, and we encourage you to examine it closely.

Training	Attendance	Seminars	Max PP Contact	Training Hours
Austin ABA	500	25	7	3,500
Brazos Valley BA	400	45	7	2,800
Central Texas BA	652	36	7	4,564
TBA Conference	350	30	6	3,750
TBA Summer Clinic	625	32	6	2,100
<b>Total Training Hours</b>				<b>16,714</b>

Number	Attendance	Hours	Monthly Training Hours
Local Bee Clubs	51	45	2
Annual Training Hours			55,080

## Table Notes

1. Attendance data provided by clubs. CTBA is the average of five years. AABA and TBA events are general estimates provided by organizers. BVBA is an average.
2. "Seminars" means the total number of offerings. "Max pp Contact" means the greatest number of seminars a single attendee could possibly attend and is derived from published seminar schedules.
3. Local bee club data is estimated. Attendance varies widely as does club size and meeting duration. Meeting formats include youth programs, field days, etc. We believe the estimates in the table are conservative.
4. In this table we use TBA-reported total of 51 local clubs. We know this to be untrue, but use it as a guide because active club operation is difficult to track or verify. A few new clubs pop up occasionally and a few drop into inactivity too.

## Quality and Efficiency

We have already considered the fact that quality is important in curriculum format, however, we must also take a sober look at the type of training we deliver too. At least some of the seminars and no doubt many local meetings might be considered "fluff" by experienced beekeepers. While encaustic

painting is interesting, it does little for "keeping bees alive." We make no effort here to differentiate this judgement and leave it to the reader.

There exists a clear benefit to seminars in that beekeepers make a selection of which "track" to follow across the day's offerings. This is enormously beneficial to attendees who do not live near robust local clubs, and provides the chance to experience a wider array of training than can be delivered by a single club across the course of a year. Further, it provides a beginner with the chance to partake in several important seminars at one time, rather than waiting on the delivery of individual topics at the local club. At the same time, local clubs deliver a staggering 3 times the total training.

The format at the local level is also problematic. A club's mission must be to support all local beekeepers, and so the mix of training offered must reflect the several levels of member abilities. At the Coastal Bend Beekeepers, for example, four meetings are devoted to beginning beekeeping, with four devoted to more advanced beekeeping. At least one is aimed at the general public, and the other three fall somewhere in between beginner and expert. For a beginner, it's a risk that they will miss a key meeting, or that some skill will be delivered after it is needed.

It must not be overlooked that the seminar events are largely fundraising events. Each collects large sums to fund its own programming, and each sends sizable portions to support other programs ranging from TBA to the state lab. The events are extremely successful in each of their intended purposes: education, social opportunity, and fundraising. And of course, fundraising empowers the sponsoring group to provide that much more education in the following year or operation.

## Conclusion

The data above suggest that local beekeeper clubs provide the most opportunity for new and growing beekeepers to learn the craft. We must consider the opportunities to deliver critical training "at home." Local club leaders bear a great responsibility to manage programming as a priority. Too often, club leaders beg the membership to provide programming suggestions. While member input is certainly important, this approach neglects the idea that beginners may simply not know the right questions to ask. So the task falls to us to step up and provide the leadership for which we were elected. Let the club guide intermediate and advanced topics, but never forget the basics that enable beginners to keep up and grow.

Our deficiencies are few. Texas does an excellent job of offering training to new beekeepers. The Master Beekeeper Program encourages a track of learning for beginners that they can follow for their critical first few years. The annual seminar events are popular for good reasons. Our local club meetings provide a powerful state-wide force to foster fellowship among beekeepers who live nearby. They connect those beekeepers who share a common experience in the local climate.

Though we did not examine it directly, you must conclude from this too that each of these educational programs build relationships that are incredibly valuable, perhaps more valuable than the training itself. New beekeepers can meet experienced folks and forge learning connections that last many years. We also did not directly examine the powerful



social media tools that allow beekeepers to share questions for experience in near real-time. The connection of people might be our highest achievement in beekeeper education. It is what local club leaders use to drive their own program choices and it greatly expands the pool of talent available to inject outside influences into local groups.

The greatest conclusion from this is simply that Texas enjoys excellent beekeeper education. Together, we deliver a combined 72,000 training "person-hours" to beekeepers of all levels. That is a Texas sized number for sure!

## The Future

The popularity of beekeeping in Texas has risen dramatically in the last few years. Although each club must ultimately make their way into the world on their own, beekeepers across Texas should support the efforts of other groups where possible. Already, TBA offers a speakers list from which local clubs can draw for program additions. TBA also offers a small handful of ready-made programs that clubs can download, study, and deliver at meetings. Club leaders are usually willing to chat with other groups about their success and struggles.

But running a club is sometimes tough. The skills that make a successful club leader are beyond what makes a successful beekeeper. Managing a club's business is critically important. Issues such as banking, state and federal filings, arranging venues, programming, and financing are real challenges for many club leaders. Leadership development is conspicuously absent in Texas beekeeping.

Even established clubs face challenges. The new seminar event in Southlake is a prime example of a program that could potentially benefit from financial backing. Beekeeper education in Texas has now reached a maturity that demands better organization and support of local efforts, regional collaborations, and new events.

Indeed, the numbers suggest that the reach of local clubs is greater than one might expect. Contributing to this is the fact that three of the major regional beekeeping education events, soon to be five, are run by local clubs. Those local clubs send money out of their events to various causes: the Honey Queen Program, the state lab, etc., but there's a real question of whether the local clubs might put those funds to better use themselves, or apply them to jump starting a neighboring club or event.

We aren't talking about small amounts of money. These events produce many thousands of dollars for education. Texas beekeepers should carefully consider the effectiveness of the programs they support and consider what the numbers say about reach.

The Texas Honey Bee Education Association (THBEA) is a recent development from TBA. According to Roger Farr, Chairman of the group, "THBEA was founded to solicit funds, pool them, and then distribute them in support of beekeeper education, informing the general public about honey bees, and supporting honey bee research, among other [projects]." THBEA is currently involved with just one project, distributing a \$7,000 grant to Texas beekeepers for hurricane Harvey relief. (For details refer to <http://texasbeekeepers.org/thbea/apply-for-a-grant/>.) THBEA is ready to receive

donations by check or Pay Pal and is actively seeking suggested projects. It's important to note that THBEA has been formalized just a short time now, so their impact will be in the future of beekeeper education in Texas. We are hopeful for their success and encourage beekeepers to contact THBEA directly to lend support or offer suggestions.

One thing is certain. Beekeeper education is firmly rooted in Texas and must continue. While the survey data suggest that beekeepers are making progress in colony losses, that progress appears painfully slow. We must continue to work at providing quality training to new and intermediate beekeepers. We must focus our efforts on improving the quality of training and continue to devote resources to this important mission.

### TBA Summer Clinic

June 30th, 2018

Lone Star Convention Center  
Conroe, TX

See pages 6 & 7

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## The Brantley Column

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

The possibility of a good honey production this year is looking better and better. Privet is blooming much better than last year's poor showing. Cherry Laurel, Redbud and Black Locust are adding to the forage mix. The Bradford Pear has already burst into snow white blossoms and then to slick green leaves. The Crimson Clover along the highways are beginning to bloom. White and Crimson Clover will be seen in hayfields and pastures in about another week.

Swarm calls are now coming at regular rates, an indication that hives are expanding and feeling the need to swarm. When you enter the area of your bee hives, be observant for swarms. Remember to look up and all around the area because swarms do not always settle less than head high and within a few feet of the hive. They also settle in the high branches and often a long way from the hive. Here is a trick that may help you capture a swarm settled high in a tree. Using a short fishing rod, cast a weighted line over the limb and pull up a rope. Attached a Nuc box to the rope and pull it up to the swarm. The Nuc must touch the bees for them to migrate inside. If you do not have a Nuc handy, you can use plastic bucket with two or three drawn combs inside and a little lemongrass oil added for that "come hither" effect.

During this period of rapid hive expansion, your job as beekeeper is to try your best to prevent your queen from swarming. One approach could be to add two or three supers above the brood chamber without a queen excluder between. This allows the queen to lay eggs anywhere she chooses, eliminating that sense of crowding that often starts the swarming urge. As the flow continues to increase and the brood begins to hatch in the supers, workers will clean the cells and begin to store honey in them, causing the queen to move back down into the brood chamber. At some point, you can

install the queen excluder under the supers – just make sure the queen is below the excluder. The excluder will also prevent any drones trapped above it from exiting the hive. Open the hive occasionally to let the drones escape or you will find lots of dead drones stuck in the excluder when you harvest your honey.

Another method of supering is to add one at a time, adding that next super when the one on the hive has about six frames full of nectar. In most hives, wax drawing or nectar storage will begin at the rear of the hive in the center frame and move toward the front of the frame and toward the side frames. The last frames to be drawn or filled will be the outside frames. Some beekeepers will move the completed middle frames to the outside, shifting the edge frames to the center to encourage the bees to draw and fill all nine or ten frames.

If you are starting a package or a Nuc, feed the bees to help them produce wax and draw comb. Even if you used drawn comb in the new hive, go ahead and give them a gallon of sugar syrup so they do not have to leave the hive to collect food. This will greatly speed the process of drawing the comb, allowing the queen to have plenty of room to lay.

I encourage you to spend time watching your hive to see what the bees are doing. Around four o'clock to five o'clock in the afternoon, the drones return to the hive from their mating flights. As dusk approaches, you may see hive beetles trying to fly into the hive. Guard bees will gather at the entrance and attempt to prevent the beetles from entering the hive. You can sometimes tell if there is a problem in the hive by large numbers of beetles attracted by the "hive alarm pheromone" coming out of the hive. If you see a lot of beetles going into the hive, do a hive inspection as soon as possible and make sure the queen is viable and laying.

*Hive Beetle at  
 entrance to hive*

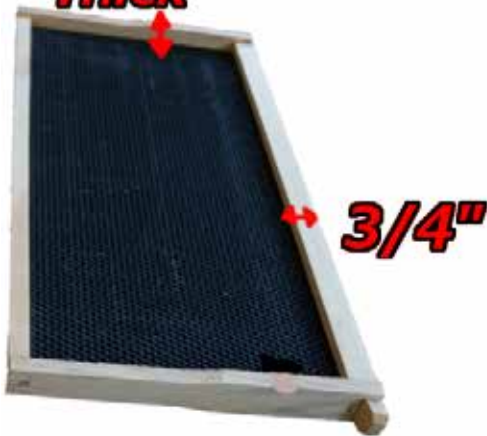




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# Greetings from Dr. Juliana Rangel at Texas A&M University

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

Dear TBA members,

I hope your beekeeping season is off to a great start. We are certainly happy that the rain has somewhat subsided here in the Bryan-College Station area, and we now have the blue bonnets and the Indian paintbrush blooming, which is a delight. This is my favorite time of year, although it is also the busiest.

I have the pleasure of telling you that in the last couple of months my lab has received four different research grants, which together total almost \$200,000 in funding. Hopefully we will be able to recruit another Ph. D. student to conduct some of this work, so I will keep you updated on that!

As we do every year, Liz Walsh and I participated as speakers at the 7th annual Austin Area Beekeepers Association (AABA) Bee School on Saturday, January 27th. The event was again a huge success, drawing hundreds of people to Austin for a full day of lectures on bees and beekeeping. A few weeks later, the AABA once again generously donated \$3,000 worth of beekeeping supplies to be used by students in the Introduction to Beekeeping laboratory that I am teaching this spring. There are 13 students in the course, and thanks to this generous contribution, each student in the course has been able to build nucleus hives and corresponding frames from scratch, and just this week they each introduced a 3-Lb package of bees (plus a caged queen) into the hives they built. Liz Walsh is the Teaching Assistant for the course, and ET Ash is helping a great deal in all aspects of beekeeping. Without the AABA we would not be able to allow students to do so much hands-on work, so thank you again to Lance Wilson and the entire AABA for their generosity and support! On 10 April we will again have the pleasure of having Dean Cook lecturing and demonstrating on Top Bar Hives.



*E.T. Ash helping out at the Lab Booth during the CTBA Bee School, March 17th*

I had the distinguished pleasure of being the guest speaker at this year's Ulster Beekeepers Association annual meeting in Greenmount College, Antrim, Northern Ireland. I

gave a total of five lectures on March 9th and 10th, and met a lot of wonderful and influential beekeepers from NI and other parts of the UK. My hosts, Dr. John and Susie Hill, are avid beekeepers and have been involved with this organization for years. They were incredibly kind and hospitable, and we became good friends. This was a wonderful trip that I will cherish forever. More information about that meeting can be found at <https://www.ubka.org/conference/> My mentor and friend, Dr. Marla Spivak from the University of Minnesota will be next year's guest speaker, and my Ph. D. advisor Dr. Tom Seeley was last year's speaker. I feel honored to be included in this group of knowledgeable individuals!



*Ulster Beekeepers Association Apiary at Shanes Castle, near Antrim, Northern Ireland where they filmed some of the scenes for the TV show, Game of Thrones*

The Honey Bee Lab also participated with lecture presentations and a booth at the 10th annual Central Texas Beekeepers Association (CTBA) Bee School on Saturday, March 17th at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Brenham, TX. There were over 630 participants (including instructors and volunteers) and classes for beginners and

intermediate-level beekeepers, demonstrations on hive assembly, equipment handling, installing bees, and honey extraction. It is always a great pleasure to be involved in this popular event, especially because the organizers generously allow students in my undergraduate courses to participate as volunteers for extra credit, so it is a win-win situation for all of us!



*Students in the 'Introduction to Beekeeping' laboratory course learning to install a package of bees*

Finally, registration is now open for the 4th annual Art of Queen Rearing Workshop, to be held at the Janice and John G. Thomas Honey Bee Facility on Saturday, 5 May 2018. Registration will close on Friday, 27 April 2018 and will be handled on a first-come, first-serve basis for PAID registrants. This all-day workshop is organized and delivered by the Rangel Honey Bee Lab staff who will be sharing their expertise on queen rearing. PLEASE NOTE that, unfortunately, Sue Cobey will NOT be able to attend the event this year, so there will NOT be a demonstration on

instrumental insemination of queens. In exchange, we will have longer hands-on activities than in the past, so we hope you will still join us for this fun and educational event. The cost of registration is \$125. Payment includes lunch, binder with notes, and queen rearing goodies!! Space is limited to the first 50 people that register and pay by the deadline.

#### **Instructions for registration:**

1. Send email of intent as soon as possible to Alex Payne at: [arekkusu@tamu.edu](mailto:arekkusu@tamu.edu)
2. Once you receive a confirmation e-mail, send this registration form and payment to Ms. Payne to secure your spot. You can find the registration form in this issue of the TBA journal or on our website at [www.honeybeelab.tamu.edu](http://www.honeybeelab.tamu.edu)
3. Send payment and this registration form to secure your spot by Friday, 27 April 2018 to:  
Ms. Alex Payne  
Ref: Dr. Rangel's queen rearing workshop  
Department of Entomology, Texas A&M University  
412 Heep, 2475 TAMU  
College Station, TX 77843
4. Only the first 50 paid registrants will be able to participate in this year's workshop
5. Late registration, or registration by those that were not confirmed via email might not be able to attend and their checks might be returned.
6. Those that have taken this course before do not qualify.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to email me at [jrangel@tamu.edu](mailto: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 almost 3,000 followers and counting! Thank you all for your continuing support. We wish you a happy and fruitful beekeeping season this spring!

**See Registration Form and Agenda for the Queen Rearing Workshop  
on Pages 20 and 21**



## 4<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL “ART OF QUEEN REARING” WORKSHOP

Saturday, 5 May 2018

Janice and John G. Thomas Honey Bee Facility, College Station, TX

Head Instructor: Dr. Juliana Rangel

Co-Instructors: ET Ash, Dan Aurell, Pierre Lau, Alex Payne, Liz Walsh, Special Guest

**Registration is now open for the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Art of Queen Rearing Workshop, to be held at the Janice and John G. Thomas Honey Bee Facility on Saturday, 5 May 2018. Registration will close on Friday, 27 April 2018 and will be handled on a first-come, first-serve basis for PAID registrants.** This all-day workshop is organized and delivered by the Rangel Honey Bee Lab staff, who will be sharing their expertise on queen rearing. PLEASE NOTE that, unfortunately, *Sue Cobey will NOT be able to attend the event this year*, so there will NOT be a demonstration on instrumental insemination of queens. In lieu of this we will have longer hands-on activities than in the past, so we hope you will still join us for this fun and educational event. Registration is \$125. Payment includes lunch, binder with notes, and queen rearing supplies!! Space is limited to 50 people.

### REGISTRATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you attended any of our queen rearing workshop? ☐ Yes ☐ No  
Previous queen rearing experience: None ☐ Some ☐  
Do you currently rear queens or plan to rear queens in 2018? Yes ☐ No ☐  
Lunch preference: Meat ☐ Vegetarian ☐  
Payment: ☐ Enclosed is a check for \$125

#### Instructions for registration:

1. Send email of intent as soon as possible to Alex Payne at: [arekkusu@tamu.edu](mailto:arekkusu@tamu.edu)
2. Once you receive confirmation e-mail, send this registration form and payment to Ms. Payne to secure your spot. You can find the registration form or on our website at [www.honeybeelab.tamu.edu](http://www.honeybeelab.tamu.edu)
3. **Send payment and registration form to secure your spot by Friday, 27 April 2018 to:**  
Ms. Alex Payne  
Ref: Dr. Rangel's queen rearing workshop  
Department of Entomology, Texas A&M University  
412 Heep, 2475 TAMU  
College Station, TX 77843
4. Only the first 50 paid registrants will be able to participate in this year's workshop
5. Late registration, or registration by those that were not confirmed via email might not be able to attend and their checks might be returned
6. Those that have taken this course before may not qualify depending on how many people register

***Please Note: Payment includes lunch, binder with notes, and queen rearing goodies!!***

**Make payment payable to:** Department of Entomology, Texas AgriLife Research



## 4<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL “*ART OF QUEEN REARING*” WORKSHOP

Saturday, 5 May 2018

Janice and John G. Thomas Honey Bee Facility, College Station, TX

Head Instructor: Dr. Juliana Rangel

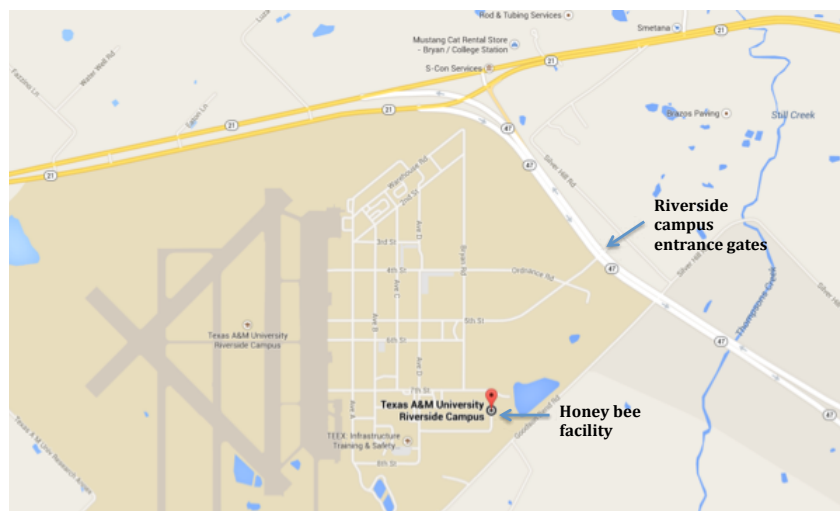
Co-Instructors: ET Ash, Dan Aurell, Pierre Lau, Alex Payne, Liz Walsh, Special Guest

### WORKSHOP AGENDA

08:30 – 09:00	Registration, coffee and introductions
09:00 – 10:15	<b>Lecture 1:</b> Dr. Juliana Rangel. “ <i>Queen Rearing Mini Workshop</i> ”
10:15 – 11:00	<b>Lecture 2:</b> Pierre Lau: “ <i>Queen and Drone Nutrition</i> ”
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee break
11:15 – 12:00	<b>Lecture 3:</b> Liz Walsh: “ <i>Queen Rearing Basics</i> ”
12:00 – 12:45	<b>Lecture 4:</b> Alex Payne: “ <i>Drone Biology</i> ”
12:45 – 13:30	Boxed lunch
13:30 – 14:30	Concurrent field sessions (Group A: sessions 1 and 2. Group B: session 3)
14:30 – 15:30	Concurrent field sessions (Group B: sessions 1 and 2. Group A: session 3)
	<b>Concurrent Field Sessions</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Field Session 1:</b> Dr. Rangel: “<i>Queen Maintenance</i>”</li><li>• <b>Field Session 2:</b> Pierre Lau and ET Ash: “<i>Drone Assessment</i>”</li><li>• <b>Field Session 3:</b> Liz Walsh and Alex Payne: “<i>Grafting Methods</i>”</li></ul>
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee break
15:45 – 16:30	<b>Lecture 5:</b> Dan Aurell: “ <i>Commercial Queen Rearing</i> ”
16:30 – 17:00	Wrap-up, Q&A, exit survey, ask the experts
17:00	End of workshop, drive safe!

### **Directions to the Janice and John G. Thomas Honey Bee Facility of Texas A&M University (TAMU):**

**Address:** 3100 State Highway 47, Bryan, TX 77807, RELLIS (aka “RIVERSIDE”) campus of TAMU  
Once you enter the gates of the RELLIS campus, make a left on Bryan Rd., then a left on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and follow the road all the way until you find the Honey Bee Facility. Park anywhere.



# Update from Texas Apiary Inspection Service

*from Mary Reed, Chief Apiary Inspector*



Greetings fellow beekeepers!

Temperatures are rising, bluebonnets are popping up, and beekeepers are coming back to Texas—spring has finally sprung! I don't know about you, but I'm happy to be sticking my face in hives on a regular basis again. Hopefully you have your new queens picked out, or have scheduled a pick-up for new packages or nucs, or at least have sampled your colonies for Varroa mite levels (you know I can't go without mentioning monitoring for mites!).

It was a pleasure seeing so many beekeepers at the Central Texas Bee School that took place in Brenham this March. At this event I spoke on both Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and the current beekeeping laws for Texas. I did an overview of IPM in my previous TBA article, so I thought I would give a brief introduction into the laws for this one.

## Apiary Registration:

Registration is currently not required in Texas. Many beekeepers end up registering with our office because it is either a requirement by their county in order to receive agricultural exemption; they are conducting bee removals in Texas (more on this later); choose to participate in the Texas Master Beekeeper Program; or because they simply want to register with the state. If you decide you would like to, or need to, register with our office, the application form is available to download on our website under the tab titled "Forms and Fees" and there is no fee for registering (<https://txbeeinspection.tamu.edu/forms-fees/>).

## Apiary Equipment Brand Number:

Under the current beekeeping laws, beekeepers are required to identify their hives with either their name and address, or with a brand number that is generated by the Texas Apiary Inspection Service (TAIS). Some beekeepers prefer to use the brand number as a way to identify their hives without advertising personal information to the public. Although indicated otherwise by the name, we do not require beekeepers

to brand the number to their boxes.

Painting or stenciling the number works just as well. If you are interested in applying for a brand number, you can find the application form under the "Forms and Fees" tab and has a fee of \$10.00.

## Movement Permits:

TAIS offers a set of permits that reflect the type of movement a beekeeper may do. We have permits for importing and exporting bees that are required per movement of hives in and out of Texas. We also have a permit for transporting hives across county lines that is valid for one fiscal year (September 1st to August 31st). The permit that raises the most questions is the Bee Removal Transportation Permit. Under the Texas Structural Pest Control law (Chapter 1951) beekeepers who conduct bee removals in Texas are exempt from acquiring a pest control license. Instead, they are required to register with our office. TAIS requires any beekeeper conducting bee removals in multiple counties to apply for the Bee Removal Transportation Permit. This is not a bee removal license, rather it simply allows a beekeeper to transport the collected bees across county lines. Again, all of these permit applications can be found under the "Forms and Fees" section on the TAIS website.

If you are interested in learning more about Texas beekeeping laws you can find a short narrated presentation that goes over the laws in more detail on the TAIS website (<https://txbeeinspection.tamu.edu/regulations/>). This is where you will also find a copy of both the beekeeping laws and rules to download for a bit of light reading. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact our office (979-845-9713; [tais@tamu.edu](mailto:tais@tamu.edu)). In the meantime I hope you're taking advantage of the beautiful weather to go see your bees. Happy beekeeping!





## Bee Hive Thermal Industries, Breaking News, Saving Honey Bees Organically

John Hicks

936.718.3471

[john@beehivethermalindustries.com](mailto:john@beehivethermalindustries.com)

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

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

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



**\*\*Entrepreneurs Needed For Sales & Support\*\***

### TBA Summer Clinic

30th June, 2018

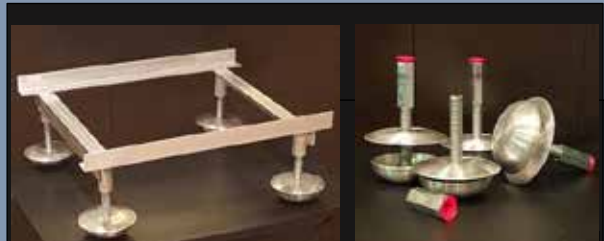
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See Pages 6 & 7



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# Agricultural Valuation for Beekeepers in Texas

*from Joe Bader*

This report is designed to help beekeepers understand agricultural valuation by their Texas county appraisal district and to provide good information to the appraisal districts for creating fair land valuation.

## Agricultural Valuation for Beekeepers in Texas

In 2012, beekeeping became available for agricultural land valuation in Texas. This type of ag valuation requires a 5 year history and at least 5 acres and not more than 20 acres to qualify. The goal of this report is to help beekeepers who are attempting to qualify, better understand the appraisal calculation so they can provide better information to their appraisal districts.

## Agricultural Productivity Valuation

There are several classifications of land used by appraisal districts and mentioned in Texas law. Each has different appraisal values. Generally speaking, native pasture has the lowest agricultural value and lowest tax. Often, Orchards are close to the highest value and highest tax. County appraisal districts have a good deal of autonomy in determining the agricultural value of the land (called productivity value).

The appraisal district is attempting to determine productivity value for each of the classifications. Beekeeping is now one of those classifications.

Productivity value is different from market value. Market value is the approximate price that land would sell for, given a willing seller and willing buyer. Market value is not used in agricultural appraisal.

Productivity value is usually determined by considering lease rates that farmers pay to land owners for an acre of land in that county. There is almost no historical data for Texas beekeepers paying for land leases for their apiaries. Even today, according to Blake Shook who is a very successful Texas commercial beekeeper and past president of the Texas Beekeeping Association, commercial beekeepers in Texas rarely pay a lease fee for land. Often beekeepers will give a land owner 2 to 5 pounds of honey each year for a bee yard.

The Manual for the Appraisal of Agricultural Land (passed into law) has an alternative method to calculate value when lease rates are not available. It is called "Estimating Lease Terms From Owner-Operator Budgets" found on page 47 of the manual. The manual is available as a pdf online if you want to read it. Beekeeping land is valued using this alternative method.

## How Productivity Value is Determined for Beekeepers

"Estimating Lease Terms From Owner-Operator Budgets" uses three inputs to determine productivity value.

The first input is the value of honey before it is broken down into smaller quantities (bottled). In beekeeping terms, this is called the value of "bulk honey". The second input is the average pounds of honey extracted per hive per year. The third input is the average total expense for each hive per year.

## Bulk Honey Price

This is probably the most important piece of information in this report. If you can help your CAD to understand this one point, it may change your property value significantly. Appraisal for agriculture only considers "production" of honey. When honey is bottled, it is no longer part of production appraisal. It is "processed". Some appraisal districts are using "wholesale" price of jars of honey (processed honey) which creates a significantly higher land value for beekeepers. "Bulk" price for honey is the appropriate value to be used instead of "wholesale" price.

USDA publishes bulk honey prices each March and can be found here: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1191>. The latest price for Texas honey as of this writing is \$2.10 per pound, but the appraisal districts use an average for several years so the actual input figure might be around \$1.95.

There is no requirement for income or profit for (1-d-1) beekeeping agricultural valuation. There is a requirement for production.

## Average Pounds of Honey Extracted per Hive

This is important because some appraisal districts are using 74 pounds per hive per year which is the Texas commercial beekeepers average. For smaller beekeepers, the input number should probably be somewhere below 35 pounds.

Large scale beekeepers attempt to place bees in the most lucrative forage locations. As a definition of 'large scale', according to Mark Hedley, former vice president of the Texas Beekeeping Association and board member of the American Beekeeping Federation, it takes around 750 colonies of bees to be financially viable as a beekeeper... in other words, be able to quit your day job and live off your beekeeping. Blake Shook, mentioned earlier, says honey production relies on "location, location, location". Large scale commercial beekeepers also move bees to pollinate almonds and other crops that are blooming. They are in effect "chasing the honey flow". For small scale beekeepers seeking ag valuation, their bees are often not in the most lucrative forage location. Moving beehives is not economically viable for less than several hundred hives.

USDA reports that smaller beekeepers (less than 5 colonies) extracted 31.9 pounds of honey per colony in their

2017 report. The report can be found here: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/Hone/Hone-03-22-2017.pdf>

In 2017, a survey was sent to Texas beekeepers through local beekeeping associations. 229 beekeepers responded representing 1986 total colonies. Including all beekeepers who responded... (some did not extract any honey) in 2016, the average extracted honey was 19.56 pounds per hive. If we only include beekeepers who extracted honey, the average was 31.19 pounds per hive.

Most counties require at least 3 colonies and usually a maximum of 12 colonies to qualify for ag. So, from this survey, 115 beekeepers responded who had between 3 and 12 colonies representing 659 total colonies. Including all of these beekeepers who responded... (some did not extract any honey) in 2016, the average extracted honey was 25.08 pounds per hive. If we only include beekeepers in this subgroup who extracted honey, the average was 33.15 pounds per hive.

### Average Expense per Hive per Year

This is relevant because some appraisal districts are using \$60 as an expense per hive per year. This is a difficult average expense number to determine.

The Manual for the Appraisal of Agricultural Land says this: "In general, expenses include such things as feed, seed, fertilizer, harvesting and labor costs, fuel and property taxes assessed on agricultural land. In some areas of the state, water depletion may constitute a legitimate deduction. Appraisers should allow for depreciation of agricultural equipment and appurtenances using accepted appraisal practices. They should not use accelerated depreciation figures shown on income tax returns. Appraisers should estimate and deduct an amount for management expenses. Typically, this expense is shown as a percentage of the gross income. Appraisers should base the exact percentage on the typical conditions in the area."

How does "feed, seed, fertilizer, harvesting and labor costs, fuel and property taxes" apply to beekeepers?

Feed would include sugar and pollen substitutes and any supplements and feed stimulants you use to feed your bees.

The term seed is used broadly here. A farmer would buy seed to plant a field, but a rancher buys (seed) calves to replace cows and a poultry farm buys (seed) baby chicks to replace its chickens. Seed for beekeepers would include buying colonies and replacing colonies lost to CCD (colony collapse disorder) or Varroa destructor mites or any other causes. There is no question that these are appropriate expenses toward agricultural production.

The Bee Informed Partnership has been surveying beekeepers about colony loss for the past 11 years. Their latest report covered the 2016-2017 season. In this survey "4,963 beekeepers in the United States provided validated survey responses. Collectively, these beekeepers managed 363,987 colonies". The results show "Beekeepers lost 33.2% of their colonies between April 2016 and March 2017". This is the second lowest rate of annual colony loss recorded over the last seven years. (<https://beeinformed.org/2017/05/25/2016-2017-loss-results-thank-you-to-all-survey-participants/>) The previous year the loss was approximately 40%. Most small scale beekeepers buy 4 or 5 frame nucleus colony (nucs) when they

initially buy or replace colonies. A nuc does not sufficiently replace a full producing 10 frame box of bees lost to CCD or mites. As an example, BeeWeaver is one of the best known Texas honeybee suppliers. Their retail price for a nuc in 2018 is \$345.

Since the statistical average risk of losing a colony is 33.2% and the cost per nuc is \$345, an overall average risk cost can easily be calculated. There is an expected "risk of loss" expense of \$114.54 per colony per year (if we replace a full 10 frame box with a 5 frame nuc). Since some counties are using \$60 per year as a total expense, this one expense alone is almost twice \$60.

Another relevant expense for beekeepers is miticides and any pest control expenses.

Unlike income tax expenses, your labor and any hired labor is an expense item for this calculation. Why? First, because the appraisal district's ag manual says so, but it goes to land lease value. Consider a rancher who leases land to raise cattle. If, because of the topography of the land, he can work his herd easier and faster, the land lease expense will be higher than land that would be harder to work and require more time.

Your time would include hive checks, any preparation for the hive checks, any syrup or feed preparation time, any mite treatment time, any time adding or pulling supers for extraction, any time preparing to extract, driving to borrow an extractor, cleaning the extractor, extracting the honey and any time spent before you bottle the honey. It does not include any time spent bottling or any marketing or sales of honey. According to The Manual for the Appraisal of Agricultural Land, production ends "when primary agricultural products are broken into smaller parts or combined with other products." Do not count time or expenses after you extract. Time and expense for education also might not be allowed, but is arguable.

The US Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes farm worker average hourly rates. The average would be approximately \$11.50 per hour. Your time might be worth more, but at least \$11.50 per hour.

Weather certainly affects beekeeping expenses. Late freezes and drought destroy forage for bees.

### Agricultural Valuation Summary

In summary, the inputs for productivity value of beekeeping land are price per pound of around \$1.95, the average pounds of honey collected per hive per year, which probably should be less than 35 pounds, and the average expense per colony per year which should be near or above \$100. If an appraisal district uses something close to even two out of three of these amounts, beekeeping land value will probably be fair. We want beekeeping agricultural valuation to be fair to beekeepers, but also to be fair to the appraisal districts and to be fair as compared to other agricultural valuation categories. Fair valuation is, in fact, the job of the appraisal office in each Texas county.

*continued on page 26*

**The Agricultural Importance of Beekeeping**

It is said that one out of every three bites of food we take are made possible by bees. The monetary value of honey bees alone as commercial pollinators in the United States is estimated at about \$15 billion annually with honey bees doing almost 80% of all crop pollination. Honeybees are the only economically viable managed pollinator.

**The Threats to Bees**

Varroa Destructor mites are a serious threat to bees because of the virus load they spread. Colony Collapse Disorder is not completely understood and is still a problem. Approximately 85% of all commercially available bee colonies are used in almond pollination each year. This is a major source, if not the major source of income for large scale beekeepers in the US. There are two key threats in this. If a disease destroys

the almond orchards, many large many large beekeeper businesses will be seriously hurt. If on the other hand, in this intensely populated environment, a lethal disease or pest spreads through the bee population, it would decimate the industry. Either threat would cause a reduction of agricultural pollinators.

**Agricultural Special Valuation is a Solution**

By passing agricultural valuation into law, Texas has an inexpensive ‘insurance policy’ for these threats. Small, non-migratory beekeepers keep colonies out of high density disease areas.

Small scale beekeepers are not immune to risks of loss, but having another beekeeping segment with different goals, provide Texas and our nation a reduced risk. Agricultural valuation is an incentive to maintaining an important pollinator.

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

- Achim Steiner, Executive Director UN Environment Programme (UNEP)

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## Encaustic Art – Coming to a Market Near You?

*from Robin Young, Metro Beekeepers Association*

At the 2017 TBA Convention, I noticed there was a break out session listed:

### Encaustic Painting Part 1 & Part 2 – Kim Lehman

I was so excited to see that TBA had managed to get such a unique speaker. Over the past few years, members of the Queens Royal Court had mentioned Encaustic painting and had also brought several works each year to the TBA auction. This was a rare and welcomed opportunity to learn from an expert.



The presentation started out with the question: “What is encaustic painting?” Answer:

- Greek word – enkaustikos “to heat or burn in”
- Artwork created using beeswax, pigment and resin.

Kim proceeded to explain the medium used in the art: beeswax, pigment, and resin (with a ratio of beeswax to resin 1:7). She further explained that you could use flat and smooth, incorporate photos, collage and mixed media (dimensional by including objects). To help us understand, she showed us one of her first works.



In the “Mixed Media” she used cheesecloth, bee comb, wood shavings, dried plants, and encaustics.

Imagine taking a dried flower from your wedding bouquet and a wedding photo and turning it into a lovely piece of art. You could even do it with things from your prom or items from your child’s first day of school and creating a lasting memory with them by turning it into a piece of art. There is no end to what wonderful cherished pieces could be created.

After a few more pieces of information on a more advanced level of encaustic painting, we were set loose to create a masterpiece of our own.



Did I forget to mention? Kim brought all her equipment for us to get hands on experience.





## Encaustic Art – Coming to a Market Near You?

*from Robin Young, Metro Beekeepers Association*

Kim discussed making our own “wax crayons” by using our own beeswax. She also explained that wine corks work great to hold down your work when it is on a hot flat iron. “You can pick up flat irons at a thrift store for less than \$20. If you cover them in tinfoil, cleanup is a snap. The newspapers underneath protect your counter top.”



We were shown examples of monoprints by doing a rubbing on a piece of comb frame. This added texture to our works and depth interest.



Bee friends, you may be asking yourself, “Why am I telling you about encaustic art?” At the market where I sell my honey products, people also sell art. In keeping with my last article, this is yet another bee hive product you could be selling. You could sell the experience of making your own encaustic art, supplies made from your own bees wax, and even the actual art itself. There is a vendor at my market that sells mini oil paintings of all kinds of hearts. If you’re good at flowers, kittens, or whatever you love; you can put it on a canvas and add color to your booth. It will also draw attention to your booth and start up conversations about all the items that bees touch in our lives. Even if all you’re good at is drawing a happy face, it’s an opportunity to make your honey business stand out from all the others. Let your customers know that you are actually a bee keeper and your business is not just a jar on a grocery store shelf. **You are an Artist.** It is a true art being a bee keeper and you, my bee friend, should show all the wonder that you are and see in our lovely honey bee.



Till next time bee friends, share the smiles. The world needs you too!



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



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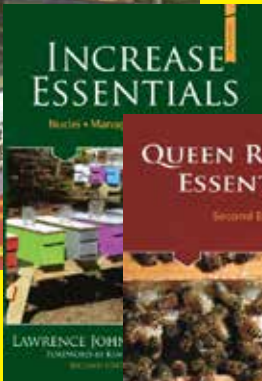
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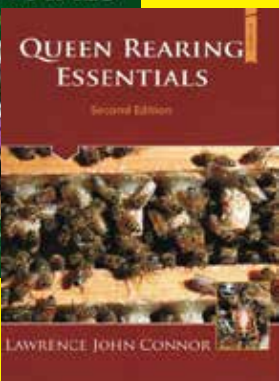
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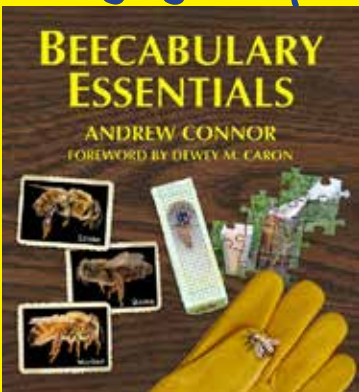
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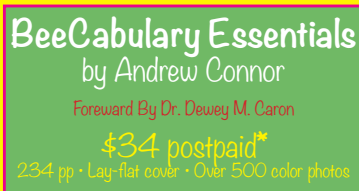
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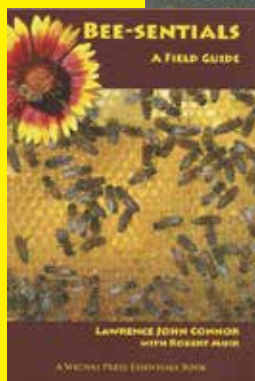
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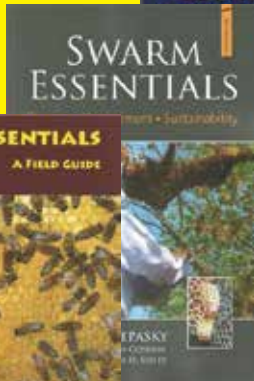
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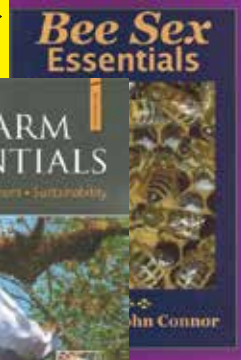
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## The Flow Hive Has Been Redesigned

*from Catch The Buzz*

The Flow Hive is a groundbreaking beehive that offers honey on tap. Over 50,000 Flow Hives have gone out to 130 countries around the world, and now the Australian father-son team behind the design are back. The pair redesigned their groundbreaking hive, drawing on customer feedback and adding brand new features, and they took to Indiegogo again with the Flow Hive 2 for a campaign that was 18,983% funded.

Flow Hive 2's design is simple: inside a body comprised of laser-cut sustainable Western red cedar rest Flow Frames, which Stuart Anderson and Cedar Anderson, father and son, describe as "the most revolutionary beekeeping invention since the Langstroth hive was designed in 1852." The frames are partially built honeycomb: add bees to do their thing — covering the honeycomb in wax, completing the cells, filling them with honey, and capping with wax — and then, when it's time to harvest the honey, beekeepers insert and turn a handle to allow channels to form inside. The honey flows down into a waiting jar with minimal disturbance to the bees, who "are left to be, still standing on their wax capping." A few hours later the bees realize the honeycomb is empty and they get right back to work, busy as bees.

The Flow Hive 2 features an adjustable hive stand making it easier to set up on uneven ground. A multi-functional tray helps beekeepers trap pests. Deeper handles, a ventilation control system, a harvesting shelf, and observation windows on both sides are among the other upgrades to the hive. Beekeepers can obtain around five-and-a-half to six-and-a-half pounds of honey per frame.





## Texas Beekeepers Association Delegates Meeting

*from Ashley Ralph, TBA Director, Prime Bees*

We had a great turnout at this year's Delegates Meeting hosted in Conroe, Texas. There were so many things discussed and in an effort to convey what was accomplished by TBA and Local Club Leaders, here's a quick summary of the day.

1. TBA announced that the board voted to oppose the flea beetle being used as a method to control Chinese Tallow trees on the grounds that it is a valuable clean nectar source for pollinators all over the nation as well as the beekeeping industry as a whole at this point.

2. The Real Texas Honey grant has been extended and is moving along slowly but surely.

3. Tanya Phillips is forming a committee to decide whether or not TBA should pursue changes to HB 131 and if the answer is "yes" that committee will work to educate about the existing bill, survey beekeepers, and propose changes to the bill according to input.

Update since the meeting- The committee has been formed and is in discussions.

If you'd like some information about the current bee laws, TAIS has a great resource at <https://txbeeinspection.tamu.edu/regulations/>

4. TBA Summer Clinic is June 30, 2018 and will be in Conroe, TX at the Lone Star Convention Center. TBA Convention will be in Temple November 8-10. Discussion of local events from the highly successful Central Texas Beekeeping School to the well attended workshop hosting Larry Connor - by clubs in East Texas. TBA keeps up with events on the events Calendar on the webpage as well as on the TBA Facebook page so stay tuned for more learning opportunities near you.

If you are interested in volunteering to help with events - contact Summer Clinic Volunteer Coordinator - Julie Norman at [julie@juliescoops.com](mailto:julie@juliescoops.com) or Ashley Ralph at [ashley@primebees.com](mailto:ashley@primebees.com).

5. TBA is looking for volunteers webmaster, bookkeeper, treasurer, and scholarship and grant administrators. If you're interested in volunteering you can contact Lisa Dittfurth. TBA is working on a volunteer sign up form for the website so that volunteers can more easily sign up to help. Contact Vice-President, Lisa Dittfurth at

[dittfurths@gmail.com](mailto:dittfurths@gmail.com) if you're interested in volunteering for the above mentioned roles.

6. Updates on Texas Honey Bee Education Association were made. This is an educational 501(c)3 that allows tax deductible donations. This entity's board is appointed by the TBA board but may consist of anybody deemed qualified for the needs of the organization. THBEA is currently facilitating replacement nucs for beekeepers who had losses due to Hurricane Harvey.

6A - To continue the conversation that was started at last year's convention - TBA is seeking to go from a 501(c)7 to a 501(c)5 to better reflect what the club actually does today. THBEA is set up as a 501(c)3 Educational foundation and can offer grants and scholarships that are in line with their mission (to educate about honey bees to keep it simple).

7. TBA made an announcement that there will be upcoming bylaw changes for TBA - these changes are necessary to bring TBA up to the modern age regarding communication, elections, and to better reflect the mission of the TBA's direction as an agricultural non-profit.

A committee was formed to put together a proposal for bylaw changes that will be published for feedback upon completion of a full draft.

8. TBA received positive feedback on how much people enjoy reading the TBA Journal. There was some concern raised that not enough people read it or that TBA may need to explore other options of communicating in addition to the journal.

Update since the meeting - TBA had some volunteers (thank you Dodie Stillman, Michelle Boerst) to help get the valuable content within the journal and beyond out to members through a wider variety of mediums. So, look for some good things to come in the near future!

As a side note, you can access all the TBA journal archives here - <http://texasbeekeepers.org/journal/>

9. Ruth Ramos introduced and gave an update on the Honey Queens and Ambassadors. These young men and women talk around the state educating people about



honeybees. The sheer numbers of communities and individuals that they reach is impressive and we definitely all benefit from their efforts to educate people about honeybees.

During lunch, each Director talked with their clubs. This was a great opportunity for small group sharing about the different programs that are working (or not working) within clubs. We were given some great feedback for how to improve TBA through communication, education, and sharing of resources.

Update since the meeting - TBA is working on a "Club Starter Resource" to share with clubs. Local club leaders from around the state have come together to help consolidate some of the key aspects for starting a club from technology to bylaws. Once completed, this resource will be made available for TBA members.

So many clubs around the state are doing interesting and fun events to promote their clubs, their youth, their schools, and bees in general. A few highlights were the beginning

of the Ambassador program by a couple of young men who were interested in educating people like the Honey Queens do - very cool. There's also clubs doing Honey Tastings for the public to help raise interest and awareness as well as raise money for clubs, research, or programs.

Update since the meeting - Because the sharing from club to club was such a big hit, TBA is looking for ways to continue fostering this sharing throughout the year. Based on feedback, we are exploring email newsletters, Facebook interactions, updates on our website, and of course the TBA Journal. We've recently revamped a group on Facebook called "Texas Local Beekeepers Associations Leadership" to help bring more club leaders together and share information in real time. If you're interested in joining this group, you can email [ashley@primebees.com](mailto:ashley@primebees.com) for an invitation

It was a very productive day and it ended with a very long board meeting to continue to discuss the direction TBA is heading this year. We're excited to have the feedback as well as the devoted membership to help make a positive impact on TBA and our membership this year!

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## **Insecticide Treated Cornfields Had 10 Times More Insect Pests than Regenerative Fields**

*from Catch The Buzz*

Dear Friends,

In early March, we released a peer-reviewed study that challenges many of our preconceptions about how we manage our food production systems (<https://peerj.com/articles/4428/>). Throughout the Northern Plains, we compared regenerative corn fields versus conventional cornfields in terms of pest management, soil quality, yields and profit. Regenerative agriculture focuses on building soil health and fostering biodiversity while producing nutrient dense food profitably. Conventional cornfields were more input-focused and monoculture based, as is practiced on much of the crop ground in the US. Frankly, I believe that this study is the answer to the bee problem, and many others.

Key results:

- Insecticide treated cornfields had 10 times more insect pests than regenerative fields that replaced insecticides with plant diversity
- Regenerative cornfields were nearly twice as profitable as conventional cornfields, even though yields were reduced by 29% in the regenerative fields.
- Profit was correlated with the organic matter of the soil, not corn yields.

If this topic is of interest, here are two TEDx talks on regenerative agriculture that may be of interest to you.

<https://youtu.be/QfTZ0rnowcc>  
<https://youtu.be/qRJ0y9LMhI4>

In one day, this paper rose to the top 1% of all papers ever written in terms of its social media impact.

It is on fire right now, but traditional media has not covered it yet. I hope we can get the word out to as many farmers, beekeepers, and consumers as possible about this.

Sincerely,  
Jonathan Lundgren, PhD  
Agroecologist & Entomologist  
Ecdysis Foundation: Blue Dasher Farm Initiative

## Pictures From Around the Associations



*Texas Honey Queen, Abby Pettibon, with Alamo Area Beekeepers Association Honey Queen, Katie Speen*



*Texas Honey Queen, Abby Pettibon, Teaching Honey Bees at Alamo Area Beekeepers Booth*



*Williamson County Area Beekeepers presentation to Scholarship winners Jerald Swain, Sam Bingham, Dylan Roberts, Jimmie Oakley (Scholarship Chair), Carter Selvera, Marius Talentino and Jordan Heivilin, WCABA Honey Queen*



*Williamson County Area Honey Queen  
Jordan Heivilin*



*Williamson County Area  
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**Please send pictures or  
articles about your club  
activities to  
Chris Doggett  
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*President, Williamson County Area,  
Jim Colbert in Full Voice*

## **Texas Beekeepers Association**

**Summer Clinic**

**30th June, 2018**

**Lone Star Convention Center  
Conroe, TX**

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(512) 924-5051**

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# Texas Honey Bee Education Association Update

March 2018 TBA Journal  
by Roger Farr - Chairperson



Howdy fellow beekeepers!

The board of the Texas Honey Bee Education Association (THBEA) has been hard at work during February and March of 2018. THBEA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit "controlled entity" of TBA, and governed at present by a seven-member board. We've taken care of some administrative items to set THBEA on a good path forward. Now we turn our attention to raising funds and making grants. In fact THBEA is in the process of making our first grants as this article goes to press.

In 2017, THBEA received \$7000 from Bayer U.S. to assist beekeepers affected by the weather events in the 39 affected Texas counties. THBEA chose to utilize the funds to make available discounted cost nucleus hives to affected beekeepers. THBEA solicited nucleus suppliers willing to offer discounted cost nucleus hives and will provide the list of designated suppliers to the grant recipient beekeepers. The nucleus suppliers receive additional customers, and the affected beekeepers receive nucleus hives from their chosen designated supplier, partially paid for by grant funds from THBEA. The grant application period for affected beekeepers runs from February 15 to March 15, 2018. The details of the grant are available at [www.texasbeekeepers.org/thbea/](http://www.texasbeekeepers.org/thbea/).

The THBEA board is now turning its attention to additional fund raising activities. In a nutshell, THBEA solicits funds and donations from those interested in advancing honey bee research and education of both beekeepers and the general public regarding honey bees and the role they play in our world. These funds are then pooled and used to make grants to individuals and organizations which advance one of the five purposes for which THBEA was organized:

- 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.

When the THBEA board makes decisions in these areas, you will see the information in the *TBA Journal*, in your TBA registered e-mail, and on the THBEA website at [www.texasbeekeepers.org/thbea/](http://www.texasbeekeepers.org/thbea/).

To support THBEA, you may make do so in three ways:

- send a cash contribution, by check made out to the Texas Honey Bee Education Association, to THBEA, 400 County Road 440, Thrall, TX 76578.
- donate publically-traded marketable securities by contacting Leesa Hyder, THBEA treasurer, at [Execsec@texasbeekeepers.org](mailto:Execsec@texasbeekeepers.org), for details, or
- visit the THBEA website at <http://texasbeekeepers.org/thbea/>, to make a donation via PayPal.

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, Mark Hedley, Larry Hoehne, Leesa Hyder, Chris Moore and Blake Shook.

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 [rdfarr@gmail.com](mailto:rdfarr@gmail.com).

The Texas Honey Bee Education Association is pleased to announce that it has given over \$7000 to 33 different beekeepers in more than 16 counties of Texas affected by the weather events of 2017 along the Texas Gulf Coast. This assistance will allow affected beekeepers to rebuild their apiaries in a timely and cost-effective manner while benefiting the Texas beekeeping industry.

This grant was made possible in part by funds from Bayer U.S., and the supply of discounted nucleus hives from the following individuals and organizations.

## Designated Nucleus Suppliers for THBEA Grant Redemption - 2018

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This is the list of designated nucleus suppliers as of 20 March 2018.

Updates to this list will be posted to <http://texasbeekeepers.org/thbea/>.

Company Name	Contact	Address	Phone	e-mail
	Conrad Bielamowicz	10449 S Tidwell Pairie Rd. Calvert, Texas 77837	(979) 204-0093	
S&K Honey Farms	Steve Laube	Bedias, Texas 77831	(979)324-7297	<a href="mailto:skhoneyfarms@outlook.com">skhoneyfarms@outlook.com</a>
	Gary Novosad			<a href="mailto:garynovosad@att.net">garynovosad@att.net</a>
Dan's Honey Company	Dan Whitney	2971 South Texas State Highway 87 Newton, Texas 75956		<a href="mailto:dwapiary@gmail.com">dwapiary@gmail.com</a>
R Weaver Apiaries, Inc.		16495 C.R. 319 Navasota, Texas 77868-9704	(936)825-2333	
The Nucleus		Brazoria County, Texas	Tod (281)770-3712 Constatine (979)922-9899	<a href="mailto:Beethenucleus@gmail.com">Beethenucleus@gmail.com</a>

For questions, please contact Larry Hoehne at 979 236-1385.



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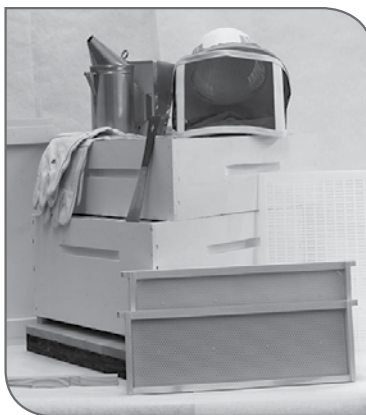
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- \* **Montana State Beekeepers Association**
- \* **South Dakota Beekeepers Association**
- \* **Tennessee State Beekeepers Association**
- \* **Wisconsin Honey Producers Association, Inc.**
- \* **American Honey Producers Association**
- \* **Florida State Beekeepers Association**
- \* **Minnesota Honey Producers Association**
- \* **North Dakota Beekeepers Association**
- \* **Texas Beekeepers Association**
- \* **Washington State Beekeepers Association**

**Kevin Rader: [Buzzus@beekeepingins.com](mailto:Buzzus@beekeepingins.com)**  
**[www.beekeepingins.com](http://www.beekeepingins.com)**  
**888-537-7088**

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

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

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## **Alamo Area Beekeepers Association**

Rick Fink - (210) 872-4569

[president@alamobees.org](mailto:president@alamobees.org)

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

**Meetings:** 3rd Tuesday on odd # months

Helotes Ind. Baptist Church

15335 Bandera Rd., Helotes at 7 pm

## **Austin Area Beekeepers Association**

Dodie Stillman

[austinareabeekeepers@gmail.com](mailto:austinareabeekeepers@gmail.com)

[facebook.com/groups/Austin/AreaBeekeeperAssociation](https://facebook.com/groups/Austin/AreaBeekeeperAssociation)

[www.meetup.com/Austin-Urban-Beekeeping/](http://www.meetup.com/Austin-Urban-Beekeeping/)

**Meeting:** 3rd Monday of each month at 7pm

Frank Fickett Scout Training and Service Center

12500 N I-35, Near Parmer Lane, Austin

## **Bees in the East Club**

Mark de Kiewiet (210) 863-8024

[beesintbeeast@att.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:knugent@gmail.com)

[bcba@brazoria-county-beekeepers-association.com](mailto:bcba@brazoria-county-beekeepers-association.com)

[www.brazoria-county-beekeepers-association.com](http://www.brazoria-county-beekeepers-association.com)

**Meetings:** 2nd Monday of each month

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

## **Brazos Valley Beekeepers Association**

Ashley Ralph - (979) 777-2529

[info@bvbeeks.org](mailto:info@bvbeeks.org)

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

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

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

## **Caddo Trace Beekeepers Association**

Terry Wright - (903) 856-8005

[tcwright7021@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:CentralTexasBeekeepers@gmail.com)

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

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

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

## **Chisholm Trail Beekeepers**

Scott Zirger (682) 385-0008 or (510) 301-5796 (cell)

[scott@zirger.us](mailto:scott@zirger.us) or [chisholm-trail-beekeepers@googlegroups.com](mailto:chisholm-trail-beekeepers@googlegroups.com)

**Meetings:** Last Monday of each month

United Cooperative Services, 2601 S Burleson Blvd, Burleson

## **Coastal Bend Beekeepers Association**

Dennis Gray (361) 877-2440

[CoastalBendBeekeepers@gmail.com](mailto:CoastalBendBeekeepers@gmail.com)

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

City of Corpus Garden Senior Center, 5325 Greely Dr., Corpus Christi

## **Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Assn.**

Mary-Ann Allen (214) 543-5597

[president@cchba.org](mailto:president@cchba.org)

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

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

Collin College Conference Center, (Central Park Campus)

2400 Community Dr., McKinney

## **Concho Valley Beekeepers Association**

Rex Moody - (325) 650-6360

[cvbeekeeper@gmail.com](mailto:cvbeekeeper@gmail.com)

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

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

## **Deep East Texas Beekeepers Association**

Ellen Reeder - (337) 499-6826

[ellenswartz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ellenswartz@sbcglobal.net)

**Meetings:** 1st Tuesday of each month @6pm

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

## **Denton County Beekeepers Association**

Christina Beck - (940) 765-6845

[christinadbeck@gmail.com](mailto:christinadbeck@gmail.com)

[www.dentoncountybeekeepersassociation.com](http://www.dentoncountybeekeepersassociation.com)

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

Denton County Elections Building, 701 Kimberly Dr., Denton

## **Dino-Beekeepers Association**

Chip Hough (817) 559-0564

[dino-beeclub@hotmail.com](mailto:dino-beeclub@hotmail.com)

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

**Meetings:** 2nd Tuesday of month at 6:30 pm

Glen Rose Citizens Center, 209 SW Barnard St., Glen Rose

## **East Texas Beekeepers Association**

Richard Counts - (903) 566-6789

[dick.counts4450@gmail.com](mailto:dick.counts4450@gmail.com)

[www.etba.info](http://www.etba.info)

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

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

**Elgin Beekeepers Association**

Sarah Jones - (512) 567-1410

*sarah@campsunflower.com*

**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

*mmathews324@gmail.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

*pmhamilton@gmail.com*

**Meetings:** 2nd Monday of each month at 7pm

Victoria County 4H Activity Center,  
459 Bachelor Dr., Victoria

**Harris County Beekeepers Association**

Gary Parks (713) 906-1805

*gparks@geparkslaw.com*

*www.harriscountybeekeepers.org*

**Meetings:** 4th Tuesday of each month at 7pm

Golden Acres Center, 5001 Oak Ave., Pasadena

**Hays County Beekeepers Association**

Nathalie Misserey (512) 699-0605

*nathalie@liveinfrench.org*

**Meetings:** 3rd Wednesday of each month at  
Driftwood Volunteer Fire Station, 15850 FM 1826, Austin, TX  
78737 at 7pm

**Heart of Texas Beekeepers Association**

Gary Bowles - (254) 214-4514

*gw.bowles@yahoo.com*

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

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

**Henderson County Beekeepers Association**

Elizabeth Hudson - (330) 881-8008

*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**

Jon Dalzell - Secretary, (214) 395-1730

*dalzelljon@aol.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.**

Larry Roderick (940) 237-2814

*roderickwaterwells@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:** 4th 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

### Area 2

#### 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

### Area 3

#### 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

### Area 4

#### Roger Farr

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

Caddo Trace Beekeepers Association  
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

### Area 5

#### Harrison Rogers

*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

### Area 6

#### 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

Chris Doggett, Editor  
400 County Road 440  
Thrall, TX 76578-8701  
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Kountze, TX 77625  
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12992 CR 577  
Anna, TX 75409  
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#### Past President

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(214) 886-6899

#### Executive Secretary

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#### Membership Director

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(512) 924-5051

