

The Texas Beekeepers Association

Journal





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President's Report

from Chris Moore

Recently TBA testified at a hearing held by the Texas House of Representatives in Austin to “Study the effects of declining migratory species, such as the monarch butterfly, as well as native and domesticated bee populations on agricultural production and its economic impact on the state. Identify possible causes of the population changes and monitor national trends. Make recommendations”.

I asked Mr Clint Walker to speak on behalf of TBA. Clint has seen first hand the change in Texas Beekeeping over the past 60 years. I enjoyed his testimony so much I asked him if we could publish it.

Changing Landscape for Honey Bees in Texas

Testimony of Texas Beekeepers Association

Before the Texas House Agriculture and Livestock Committee

10:00 Wednesday 18 July 2018

presented by

Clint Walker III

Walker Honey Farm

Rogers, Texas

My name is Clint Walker. I'm a third generation Texas beekeeper. Like my father and grandfather before me, I am a full-time beekeeper. My son, Jonathan—who turns 30 in less than a month, is our lead beekeeper now. That makes him the fourth generation in our family since 1930 to choose beekeeping as a profession and lifestyle. During my lifetime our family has operated bees for profit—either pollination services for a fee or for honey production—in every ecoregion of Texas except the Trans Pecos. I only share this little snippet

of personal beekeeping story by way of context for the testimony that we as Texas beekeepers—for I am here representing the Texas Beekeepers Association, the sole voice for Texas beekeeping statewide--want to share with you concerning the changing landscape for Texas bees and beekeepers in the last 50 years.

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Cover Picture by Bill Hartley

Orange Honey in the LRGV:

When I was born in McAllen in 1957 the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas—or as the natives simply refer to it “The Valley”—was teeming with large commercial beekeeping operations including our family operation at Pharr (1942-1994).

At that time, The Valley was also the winter and spring home to tens of thousands of northern and midwestern honey bee colonies that were trucked there each fall for the warm winter climate and the highly prized citrus honey. Ever since the citrus growing industry began in Texas in the early 20th century it had grown by leaps and bounds despite periodic freezes that set back or killed trees. Because of favorable economic conditions for citrus sales and in large part—due to the fortuitous discover of the red grapefruit varieties—the industry persevered and grew both in acres and in value per acre.

By the early 1980s there were nearly 70,000 acres of citrus in the three southernmost counties in Texas. However, after two devastating freezes in 1983 and 1989 there were only 12,000 acres of production capable citrus trees remaining. (Historical side note: The very first large-scale planting of grapefruit in The Valley occurred in 1916 when John Shary bulldozed 16,000 acres of Valley brush and planted and irrigated the whole block. That single planting that set Texas apart in Grapefruit specialization was 35% larger than the post 1989 acreage level!)

Rio Grande Valley citrus production will likely never reach pre-1983 levels again. While current acreage has recovered to some 30,000 acres (in 2017), growers are increasingly opting to crop their land in less risky ways with annual cash crops and rotational crops that use less water and where risks and cost of production are much lower. The explosive population growth in the Valley in the last twenty years has caused many citrus groves to become housing subdivisions or to be consumer for Interstate Highway expansion.

Further, much of the Valley citrus interests have migrated their production dollars south into Mexico as a hedge against freeze and to take advantage of cheaper labor and water. As of this testimony today there are no large commercial beekeeping operations in The Valley. The bees that do annually migrate in and out of The Valley are brought in primarily for fee for service pollination on watermelons and some seed crops. What few pounds of Valley orange honey that are produced each year in Texas are ancillary to the pollination business.

Huajillo Honey:

Uvalde, Texas still bills itself as “The Historic Honey Capital of the World”. The key word there, for our purposes here today, is “historic”. The old timers say that every ranch in the South Texas Brush Country was bought by the production and sale of huajillo honey. (Don’t let anyone tell you it’s spelled with a “G”. And the locals don’t pronounce it WA HEE YO. It’s WA HEE UH or, to the folks I had the privilege to grow up around, WAH HEER. Anyone know what WY CAN is? (Guayacan or Soap Brush))

Huajillo is an acacia cousin to mesquite. Like it’s near relative, it doesn’t need help surviving. It does however require

some very specific climatic conditions to produce nectar.

Huajillo needs a wet fall, a significant number of hours below 40 degrees, some March rain, and a sunny humid April when it blooms and the bees gather it’s nectar.

Climatic changes in the last twenty years have given us warm winters that cause the bloom to come in March during the rains. 7 of the warmest winters in the last 100+ years have been recorded in the last decade.

Similar, the drought years of 1996 and 2011 set back the plants significantly. Climatic variation is generally bad for nectar producing plants upon which honey bees rely. It has been devastating for huajillo honey production and for the beekeepers who have depended upon it. (WE had a much better crop this spring due, in large part to a good—historical normal—winter.)

Crop Rotation Practices:

Historical farming practices in Texas on the Central Blackland Belt that runs along a crescent just east of Interstate 35 from Dallas to Waco to Austin to San Antonio included crop rotational farming.

Under this farming paradigm which was encouraged and taught by Texas A&M, cotton, corn, and maize would be planted on the same ground in alternate years with a third year of rest or, more precisely, rejuvenation.

In that third year a cover crop—usually clover, vetch, or alfalfa—would be planted. These plants are all in the pea or legume (Fabaceae) family and set or fix nitrogen into the soil.

With the advent of petroleum fertilizers after WWII and the contemporaneous growth of the insecticide industry, these cover crops were phased out as land grant universities changed their recommendations.

I will leave you to answer the question as to whether the LGUs believed that discontinuing cover crops was good agronomy or were merely motivated to keep good relations with the large agri-chem entities that increasingly funded programs—even endowing chairs—at their schools.

Clover honey crops were large and profitable for beekeepers on the Blackland Belt through the 50s and even into the 60s. By the early 70s very little cover cropping was done there.

Now, Texas beekeepers are lucky to produce a little clover honey. It is almost always associated farming operation geared toward clover seed production.

Cotton Honey:

Until machinery replaced manual labor for picking cotton, there would be cotton blooms with nectar in them from June the 15th until the first hard frost in November. Cotton plants literally produced nectar for as much as six months each year. (Except on the Texas High Plains.) The cotton plant is what botanists call an indeterminate plant. That means that it will continue to grow and bloom and set fruit (cotton bolls) until the environment no longer presents suitable conditions—usually a lack of resources (rain) or inclement weather—a hard frost or freeze.

Now, all cotton is picked mechanically, growth inhibitors are sprayed on the plant to cause it to fruit simultaneously

rather than sporadically, and it is defoliated long before frost for picking without green leaves in the way. The cotton fiber farming practices have essentially halved the cotton honey producing season.

Further, and just as significantly, cotton seed companies and land grant universities intentionally bred cotton for reduced nectar production. As a young boy and even into my teen years I can remember traipsing out across cotton fields with my dad to check for nectar in the cotton blooms and the exuding from extra-floral nectaries. (Native cotton has nectaries in the blossom like most plants. It also possesses extra-floral nectaries below the sepals of the blossom and even underneath the leaves.) I can remember that we would routinely see nectar literally running down the stalk of the cotton plant. The plants could produce so much nectar that the honey bees and all the native bees and butterflies—even hummingbirds—could not get it all. Not so today. Seed breeders succeeded in breeding near nectar-free plants due to the mistaken assumption that ‘bugs’—such as our honey bees and so many other beneficial insects—are damaging to crops. They wanted a bug free environment in the cotton patch.

This was at least short-sighted and probably just wrong from both an environmental and economic perspective. Cotton honey is now sought after by very few commercial beekeepers in very few specialized situations. It is no longer a dependable or significant honey crop in Texas.

Gulf Coastal Tallow Honey:

For the past twenty-five years, the Gulf Coastal region of Texas has produced more honey than any other part of the state. The primary crop is produced from the Chinese Tallow tree.

Tallow trees were brought into the US as a fall ornamental tree to provide landscape color when everything else was still green. They are a highly invasive plant in the US. In Texas, they are listed on the Texas Noxious Plant list. https://www.texasinvasives.org/plant_database/detail.php?symbol=TRSE6 Unlike their native environment, they have no natural predators here. (We are well aware the USDA APHIS is exploring options for eradication of Chinese Tallow. You will not be surprised to learn that TBA is opposed to that.)

As such, tallow trees are no longer legal to be sold or traded in Texas. Despite all this, they are a great honey plant. The quality of the honey cannot rival South Texas Huajillo, Rio Grande Valley Orange, Clover, or, even, Cotton Honey. Nevertheless, the sheer quantity of honey that can be produced in a 4-6 weeks bloom period is astounding. As such, Chinese Tallow honey production in pounds and dollar value far

outstrips all other Texas honeys. (However, even tallow honey production has suffered in recent years. Hurricanes that pushed salt water up out of bays into low lying areas that tallow trees thrive in is one culprit.)

One of the major causes in the reduction of tallow honey production in recent years is encroachment of urban sprawl. Tens of thousands of acres of Chinese Tallow trees are lost each year to suburban home development. There are certainly other possible factors. Who knows what the future holds for our last big honey producing crop.)

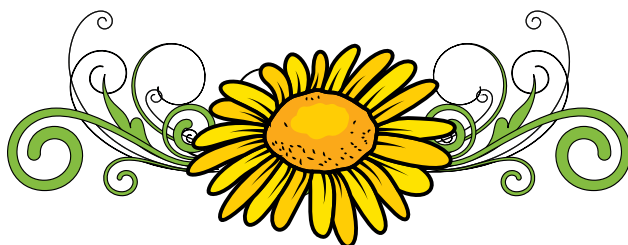
Reflections:

There are very few bright spots to report in the Texas nectar producing landscape. Urban beekeepers are doing very well in cities. There bees can find year-round well-watered and cared for native, exotic, and cultivar plants that never experience drought, are bred to produce prolific blooms and extended bloom periods, and are replaced by homeowners whenever they decline. Commercial beekeeping operations and urban landscapes don't coexist well.

What can be done?

- 1) Codifying 1D1 ag exemptions for planting of significant pollinator friendly forage would benefit small-holder landowners as well as monarch butterflies, hummingbirds, native bees, moths, and butterflies, as well as supply much needed forage for the domesticated honey bee upon which we rely for one-third of our diet. (Might I add, the tasty part of our diet.)
- 2) ROW Plantings by TxDOT of crimson clover, Gaillardia (Indian Blanket/Firewheel), monarda sps, euphorbia species for monarchs, and many others. Mowing regimes that protect these ROW plantings until seeding is complete.
- 3) Cooperative projects with pipelines, railways, and other utility entities. Anything that benefits from eminent domain could be required to “give back” with pollinator habitat.

Thank you for inviting the Texas Beekeepers Association to share some of our plight with you today. We trust you will reach out to us for further input as you deem necessary and beneficial to your deliberations. We appreciate your attention to Monarch and Pollinator habitat.





Vice President's Report

Lisa Dittfurth

Greetings Fellow Beekeepers:

We are in the beekeeper's favorite season! It's Honey Harvest time, oh I mean Summer. It's the time of year that beekeepers eagerly anticipate and when they realize if they have been a beekeeper or just a bee'haver'. I hope that each of you have been managing your hive(s), that they are queen right, full of bees and that they have rewarded you for all your hard work by packing out a super or two full of delicious honey for you. Don't forget to test to determine your Varroa Mite count ASAP after you harvest and if necessary treat your hives. You don't want your untreated hives to produce a deadly Varroa mite bomb that could affect neighboring apiaries. All beekeepers should follow Integrated Pest Management practices recommended by the Honey Bee Health Coalition for the good of all.

Recently, my husband Russell and I visited Paris, France. I've often read how European governments have implemented strong regulations to eliminate pesticides along with other restrictions to help honeybees prevail. For ten days, we walked for miles throughout the city of Paris, enjoyed many open-air areas with an abundance of flowers and even meandered through Claude Monet's Garden filled with approximately 5 acres of every imaginable flower. I'm sad to report that we observed very few honeybees. Optimistically, we hoped that it was just a matter of timing and the bees were busy elsewhere. We were confused and discouraged. On a positive note, we bought a couple of jars of wildflower honey produced in the Normandy region of Paris. It is quite delicious and reminds us of France every time we open the jar.

If you read my "Vice President's Report" in the Jan / Feb 2018 edition of the TBA Journal, you will recall that I provided information regarding the USDA's plans to release the Chinese Flea Beetle in Southern and Southeastern U.S. states where the Chinese Tallow Tree has been classified as an invasive species. The USDA advised that they planned to conduct a comment period in order for the public to provide their feedback regarding this proposed 'solution'. Aside from the news stories in November, 2017 I have been unable to locate any information on the status of the research, the referenced comment period or when we should expect their decision.

To that end, at the TBA 6/29/2018 Executive Board Meeting, the Board voted to work in conjunction with the American Beekeeping Federation, the American Honey Producers Association and other state beekeeping associations by contributing \$5000 to support an assessment of the economic impact on the U.S. beekeeping industry of eradicating Chinese Tallow Trees. The assessment will also evaluate the ecological impact on the elimination of Chinese Tallow trees in the U.S. The ultimate objective is to present the assessment's findings to U.S.D.A. officials. The beekeeping industry is very concerned about this issue and it is important for TBA to stand with commercial beekeepers across the country as they work to pollinate our food crops and produce honey for U.S. consumption. It is my hope that beekeepers will prevail and save Chinese Tallow trees growing in the U.S.. Stay tuned!

For the love of bees!!

Call for Nominations

It is time to begin gathering nominations for the 2018 TBA Election, to be held during our Annual Convention! If you are interested in being nominated to serve on the TBA Board, would like to nominate someone or would like more information on what service entails, please send an e-mail to: -

blake@desertcreekhoney.com

Over the next few months we will be forming a Nomination Committee, and sending out interview forms to all those interested. Thank you for your interest!

Texas Beekeepers Association Member Directory Use Policy

Permission to access and use the information contained in the Texas Beekeepers Association (TBA) Member Directory, whether in print or online, is restricted to TBA members. Members may not provide their login information to anyone else other than immediate family members, authorize others to use information obtained from the Member Directory, or assign or transfer any Member Directory information to any individual or organization.

It is the policy of TBA that all information contained in the TBA Member Directory, both in print and online, is entrusted to TBA members for one-to-one communication between members and for TBA related business only. The


information is not to be used for any other purpose, including commercial, political, solicitation or promoting any other organizations.

Violation of this policy may subject a TBA member to immediate blocking from access to the member section of the website and may lead to permanent revocation of TBA membership.

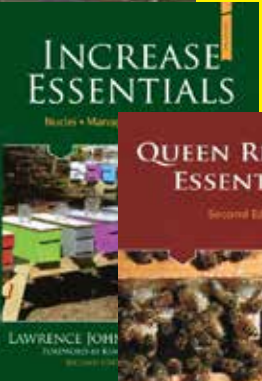
If you would like to opt-out of the online Member Directory, you can do so by updating your profile.

Please notify TBA if you become aware of violations of this policy by sending an email to:
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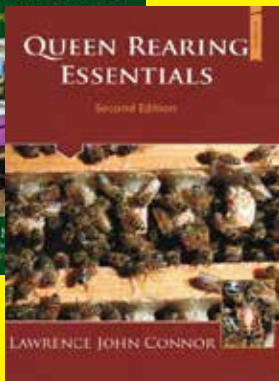


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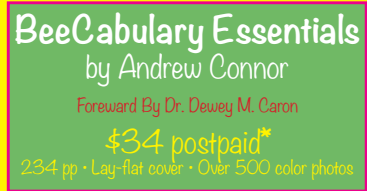


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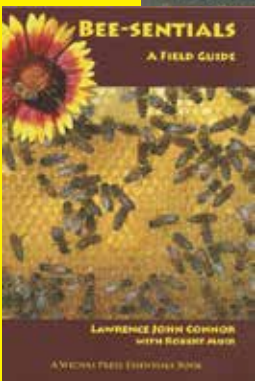
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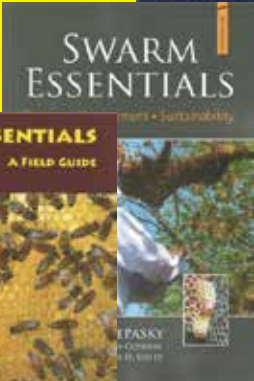


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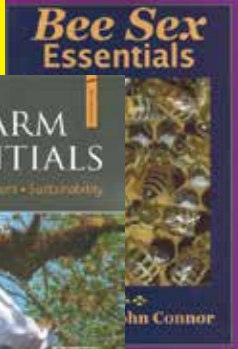
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**TEXAS
BEEKEEPERS
ASSOCIATION**

**Annual Convention
November 8th - 10th, 2018**

**Frank Mayborn Civic & Convention Center
3303 N 3rd St., Temple TX 76501
9am - 5pm**

Keynote Speakers



**Dr. Reed Johnson
Ohio State University**

**Dr. Roger Hoopingarner
Michigan State University**



**George Hansen
Former President ABF**

Texas Honey Queen Auction Fund Raiser

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

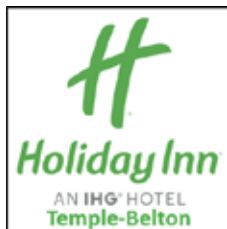
Texas has had much success in providing very strong competitors in the selection for the American Honey Queen. It would not be so without your support. Your funds provide the ability for the Texas Honey Queen to travel extensively in Texas promoting honey. Most of our Queens travel 4,000 to 6,000 miles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

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

Your help is needed. With the continued increase in the cost of motor fuel and increased airfares, the travel budget gets tighter. If you are planning to attend the Annual Convention in Temple, November 9th - 10th, please bring a special beekeeping related item to contribute to the auction.

Bring your pocketbook also to bid on an item or two donated by someone else. If you are unable to attend, please send a contribution to the THBEA, c/o Shirley Doggett, 400 County Road 440, Thrall TX 76578, for the Honey Queen Program. It will be very much appreciated.

TBA Annual Convention Hotel



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

1) Call 254-778-5511

2) Provide Group Code: **Texas Beekeepers Discounted Rate**

3) November 7th - 10th, 2018

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

Or click on the link: [Texas Beekeepers Association](http://www.texasbeekeepers.org)

Cutoff Date: Tuesday October 24th 2018

2018 Annual TBA Convention Rules for Competition: “The Taste, Smell, & View of The Texas Beekeeper”

From: Lisa Dittfurth, Robin Young, & Fellow Committee Members



The Texas Honey Show board is so excited to present this year's competition information. We are adding a few **new offering this year for local beekeeping clubs.**

Two Opportunities for Texas beekeeping clubs to win \$500

1.) Texas Beekeeping Club with 100 member or less:

The **entries** in the Texas honey show will be counted and the Texas Beekeeping Club (with 100 member or less) with the most entries will receive \$500 to be used towards their local club's youth program. If the winning club does not have a youth program they can use the funds to start one.

2.) Texas Beekeeping Club with 101 member or more:

The **entries** in the Texas honey show will be counted and the Texas Beekeeping Club (with 101 member or more) with the most entries will receive \$500 to be used towards their local club's youth program. If the winning club does not have a youth program they can use the funds to start one.

3.) Entry into one of the categories will include a spot in the group picture that will be used in a future calendar. The photo will be taken at the convention. Time and location will be made available when you register.

4.) We will have the people's choice award again in the black jar competition as a part of our "Taste of the Texas Beekeeper". We will have a table with all the beeswax entries so that you will be able to "Smell Texas" from the perspective of the Texas Beekeeper. A display of the winning photos will give you the "View of a Texas Beekeeper"

Honey Show governing document and what to do to enter an exhibit.

The Texas Honey Show highlights good marketing of Texas beekeeping products and for beekeepers to share techniques

with each other. The goal is to include beekeepers statewide.

All are encouraged to enter one of the following classes:

Class 1: Extracted Honey, one jar of (0 mm to 50mm)

LIGHT/AMBER

Class 2: Extracted Honey, one jar of (51mm to 140mm)

DARK/AMBER

Class 3: Creamed Honey, one jar

Class 4: Chunk Honey, one jar

Class 5: "Black Jar" Honey, one jar

Class 6: Wax Plain Block (no fancy mold) weight between 1 lb. and 2 lbs.

Class 7: Beekeeping Arts and Crafts

Class 8: Photography Close-up

Class 9: Photography Scenic

Class 10: Photography Portrait

Class 11: Beekeeping Gadgets

Class 12: Mead Competition

Auction

All honey jars and photographs submitted to the Texas Honey Show and placing 1st, 2nd, and 3rd are auctioned for the benefit of the Texas Honey Queen Program. Winning entries of the Wax Plain Block, Arts and Crafts, and Beekeeping Gadgets are not automatically included in the auction; however, exhibitors may consider donating to the Auction. All donated Honey Show entries not in the auction will be sold at a side table at the Friday Banquet and Saturday Luncheon.

Drop off Show Entries: Thursday Noon-6:00pm

Friday – 8:00am to 10:00 am

Competition Judging: Friday – 10:30am until complete

Show Open to Public: Friday – After judging is done

Awards: Friday Banquet – Evening

General Rules

The Honey Show judging criteria are designed to reflect exhibitor skill, shine a favorable light on Texas beekeeping, and create a learning experience. Items over which one has no direct control are de-emphasized. In the extracted, creamed and chunk honey classes, a judge's personal taste of the natural flavor or color of honey will not affect scoring. However, alteration of either color or flavor in handling or preparation of the entry by the beekeeper will adversely affect the score (such as smoke, or repellent.) Manufacturing defects in glass jars and bottles will not affect scoring, but surface dust, smudges, scratches, chips or other handling alterations on entry containers will affect the score.

By entering the competition you agree to be bound by the rules. Please read them carefully.

1. The Texas Honey Show is sponsored by the Texas Beekeepers Association and open to all.

2. Texas Honey Show Entry Fees: 1) TBA members no charge, 2) Registered TBA Conference attendees no charge, 3) Not a TBA member, nor registered for TBA Annual Conference then \$5 fee per entry.

2018 Annual TBA Convention Rules for Competition: “The Taste, Smell, & View of The Texas Beekeeper”

From: Lisa Dittfurth, Robin Young, & Fellow Committee Members

3. Entries can be hand-delivered on behalf of a qualified entrant by another person attending the conference. Entries will not be accepted by mail. Mead Competition has drop off rules.
4. One entry may be made in each honey class by one individual, the individual's family or individual's apiary. All hive product entries must be a product of the exhibitors' own bees. Artwork must be produced solely by the exhibitor. Photography is limit of one entry per class.
5. Entries dropped off the day of judging must be received by 10:00AM.
6. Registration can be done online or paper entry forms.
7. Log on to texasbeekeepers.org for online registration and payment for the convention. Purchase one ticket per entry for Texas Honey Show classes.
8. Complete the 2018 Texas Honey Show Entry Form at the end of this Rules document.
9. At the time of registration, the Show Secretary inconspicuously labels each entry.
10. Bring printed copies of the registrations when delivering your entries to the Show Secretary at the registration table.
11. At time of receipt all honey entries become property of the Texas Beekeepers Association, to be sold to benefit the Honey Queen Program.
12. Extracted honey must be submitted in a standard one-pound glass queen-line or Gamber Classic jar, with plain metal or plastic lid. **(No labels affixed.)**
13. Creamed honey 1-LB. round chunk honey jar (has small shoulder) or straight cylinder glass jar. **(No labels affixed.)**
14. Chunk honey container 1-lb round chunk honey jar (has small shoulder) or straight cylinder glass jars with standard lid. **(No labels affixed.)**
15. The “black jar” entry will be obscured by the Show Secretary when received.
16. Do not label products in any way before arrival. Show Secretary will label every item with the Texas Honey Show Identification Labels.
17. After submitting entries to the Show Secretary, competitors may not enter the area where the entries are placed. Exemption may be given to those entering the Arts and Crafts and Gadget classes.
18. Judging will take place Friday with results presented on Friday evening at the banquet. The honey show will be open to the public after judging and room cleanup. Ribbons and trophies awarded at the banquet.
19. All extracted honey and beeswax entries must have been produced by the exhibitor within the last 12 months. This restriction does not apply to entries in “black jar” honey, photography, art, gadgets and mead.
20. Judges are disqualified from the classes they judge. Show secretaries are disqualified from competition.
21. All entries will be judged according to the official score sheet. After the show, completed score sheets will be given to each entrant.

22. For the auction, each extracted honey entry to be accompanied by the producer's own labels, which will be attached to the entries after judging. This is done so the auction winner will know the source of the honey and name of the beekeeper. Put the labels in an envelope so it can get a sticker so we know what label goes with what honey. **DO NOT AFFIX THE LABELS TO ENTRIES PRIOR TO COMPETITION.**
23. Honey Show judges may be blue-ribbon winners of local, state and regional shows, or professionals judging in their fields, such as artistry, mead or photography. Judges fill out a scorecard for each entry. If an entry is disqualified, the reason for disqualification must be stated on the scorecard. Judges make comments on score cards in order to help exhibitors improve. The score cards are the property of the exhibitor.
24. Any complaint or issue must be presented in writing to the Show Chairman within one hour of opening to the public.

CLASS

1-4 Extracted Honey: Light, Light Amber, Amber, & Dark
Extracted honey submitted in one standard one-pound glass jar in queen-line type or Gamber Classic jars, with plain metal or plastic lid. No labels affixed. Honey will to be sold to benefit the Honey Queen Program.

Judging Criteria for maximum of 100 points:

10 points: DENSITY (water content above 18.6% is disqualified; below 15.5% will be docked points.)

15.5-17.0 % is 10 points

17.1 – 18.0 is 9 points

18.1 – 18.6 is 7 points

20 points: ABSENCE OF CRYSTALS

40 points: CLEANLINESS

Without lint – 10

Without dirt – 10

Without wax – 10

Without foam – 10

10 points: FLAVOR (points reduced ONLY for honey flavor adversely affected by processing) disqualified if fermented.

10 points: CONTAINER APPEARANCE (dust, dirt, smudges, honey or other foreign material on the rim or outside of the container will result in point deductions.)

10 points : ACCURACY OF FILLING (jars filled to the top of the bead, molded on the jar, no visible gap between bead and lid, not over 3/8 inch from top of jar.)

5. CREAMED HONEY: 1-LB round chunk honey jar (has small shoulder) or straight **No labels affixed.**

30 points: FINENESS OF CRYSTALS

25 points: FIRMNESS

20 points: CLEANLINESS AND FREEDOM FROM FOAM

15 points: FLAVOR points reduced if affected by processing; disqualified fermentation.

10 points: ACCURACY OF FILLING

2018 Annual TBA Convention Rules for Competition: "The Taste, Smell, & View of The Texas Beekeeper"

From: Lisa Dittfurth, Robin Young, & Fellow Committee Members

6. CHUNK HONEY: 1-LB round chunk honey jar (has small shoulder) or straight **No labels affixed.**

20 points: NEATNESS AND UNIFORMITY OF CUT (Upgrade for parallel, 4-sided cuts, Downgrade for ragged edges)

20 points: ABSENCE OF WATERY CAPPINGS, UNCAPPED CELLS AND POLLEN

20 points: CLEANLINESS ABSENCE OF TRAVEL STAINS, FOAM, WAS FLAKES & CRYSTALLIZATION

20 points: UNIFORMITY OF APPEARANCE COLOR, THICKNESS OF COMB, ACCURACY OF FILL

10 points: A.) Density (above 18.6% is disqualified)

10 points: B.) Flavor (reduced points if adversely affected by processing)

C.) Disqualification for fermentation

7. BLACK JAR HONEY: Entries are to be submitted in one jar of any type. Show Secretary will obscure honey upon entry into the show. Honey is to be sold at auction with information that it has been tasted. 1st place ribbon only. Not eligible for Best in Show Honey Award. Class Judging Criteria: Solely on the merits of its taste.

8. BEESWAX BLOCK: Beeswax entries must be natural, unbleached, 100% beeswax. Weight rang of 1LB -2LBs only. Wax to be smooth and can be block, square, round, or rectangular in shape, no fancy mold and no indentations of letters from mold. Wax block must be wrapped in transparent plastic wrap (such as Cling Wrap. Entry label will be affixed to the film. After Judging, wax will be displayed for convention goers to smell.

35 points: CLEANLINESS

20 points: UNIFORMITY OF APPEARANCE

15 points: COLOR

15 points: AROMA

15 points: ABSEBCE OF CRACKS & SHRINKAGE

9. BEEKEEPING ARTS AND CRAFTS: This category includes any type of art. It can include batik, encaustic painting, collage, mixed media, quilts, painting, knitting, embroidery, and so forth, Exhibitors' names must not be shown.

25 points: ARISTIC MERIT

25 points: ORIGINALITY

25 points: SKILL INVOLVED

25 points: DESIGN

ALL PHOTOGRAPHY: Photograph must by size of 8"x10", horizontal or vertical. 1st, 2nd, 3rd place sold at auction. Photographer submitting an entry retains all legal copyrights. The first place photo entry will be featured as a 2018 TBA Journal cover and the cover of the TBA brochure. All photos may be used in the calendar to be sold at the following year's convention.

10. SCENIC: Must be a photo of a honey bee yard, truck transporting bees, installing packages, doing a hive check, bee hive removal, swarm trap, or other bee activity.

11. PORTRAIT: Must be a portrait of a person, or group of people doing something involving beekeeping.

12. CLOSE UP: Must be a close up of a bee or bees (anywhere).

35 points: COMPOSITION

35 points: TREATMENT OF SUBJECT MATTER

30 points: QUALITY AND PRESENTATION

13. BEEKEEPING GADGETS: Beekeeping gadgets accompanied with written description of the use and function of the gadget. Exhibitors' names must not be shown.

25 points: EXPLANATORY TEXT

35 Points: PRACTICALITY

15 points: EASE OF REPRODUCTION

10 points: HELP TO BEEKEEPING

15 points: Originality

MEAD AMATEUR DIVISION COMPETITION RULES:

Rules and regulations for this division will be the same as last year. We will post them on the TBA website once they are all finalized. We will also email the membership all the competition information as well once everything is finalized.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the 2018 TBA Honey Show: "The Taste, Smell, & View of The Texas Beekeeper!" please email me at soulhoney@pwhome.com



2018 Annual TBA Convention Rules for Competition: "The Taste, Smell, & View of The Texas Beekeeper"

From: Lisa Dittfurth, Robin Young, & Fellow Committee Members

See you at the Convention Bee Friends!

Texas Beekeepers Association Serving beekeepers since 1880.

Texas Honey Show Entry Form

Friday November 9, 2018

Name: _____ Email: _____

Cell phone: _____ City or Bee Club _____

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

| CLASS | Entry QTY | \$5 Fee | Entry # <small>Office use ONLY</small> |
|--|--------------------|------------|---|
| Class 1: Extracted Honey, one jar (0 mm to 50mm) LIGHT/AMBER | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Class 2: Extracted Honey, one jar (51mm to 140mm) DARK/AMBER | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Class 3: Creamed Honey, one jar | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Class 4: Chunk Honey, one jar | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Class 5: "Black Jar" Honey, one jar | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Class 6: Wax Plain Block (no fancy mold) weight between 1 lb. and 2 lbs. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Class 7: Beekeeping Arts and Crafts | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Class 8: Photography Close-up | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Class 9: Photography Scenic | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Class 10: Photography Portrait | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Class 11: Beekeeping Gadgets | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Class 12: Mead Competition | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| | _____ | _____ \$ | |
| | Total # of Entries | Total Cost | |



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The Brantley Column

from S. S. Brantley
East Texas Beekeepers Association

August is a hot month in Texas. The way July ended makes it look like it may be hotter than usual. During this hottest period, there is not much for the hive to do except try to maintain its status and keep cool. Water is essential for the cooling process to be effective. If natural water sources are not available, you will need to provide a good clean watering place for your bees. If possible, have a couple of spots for the bees to visit. Try a little salt in one and a small amount of Clorox in the other. Watch the bees to determine if one mix is more desirable than the other. Too much salt or Clorox and the bees may not visit either.

Double brood hives will probably have large beards of bees covering the outside of the hive or even hanging off the bottom board on a hot afternoon. This is not a cause for alarm, it is just a normal bee activity in hot weather. Bees are moving outside of the hive to reduce the heat load caused by many thousands of bees inside the boxes. At the end of the day, the bees will move back inside. But tomorrow you will probably see them bearding again.

Since many hives are placed in full sun to help reduce the Small Hive Beetle population, there are a couple of things you can do to reduce the heat build-up inside the hive. Consider raising the front edge of the telescoping cover and sliding it back until the front edge the cover rests on the edge of the inner cover. This allows heated air to rise out of the hive. I would not suggest this for a weak hive because it does increase the area for robbers to get inside the hive.

If you use migratory cover, consider placing two 2x2 or 2x4 on top of the hive and adding a piece of plywood or tin as a shade top. A piece 3-foot by 3-foot makes a nice shade cover for the hive. Place a concrete block or a couple of bricks on top of the plywood or tin to ensure that the wind does not blow it away. You can do this on hives with telescoping covers also. The shade board will help reduce the sun's heat on the hive. Do not neglect checking the queen and the brood nest. It is possible the top brood box has ten frames of honey and the

bottom box is "honey bound". This is the term for "the field bees put nectar in every cell and the queen has no place to lay eggs". One solution is to pull and extract honey from the top box. When replacing the extracted frames, put them in the center of the bottom brood box and move other full frames from the bottom brood box into the top brood box. This will give the queen room to lay eggs.

What to do with your extracted supers? I am of the opinion that the hive that filled the supers should be given the opportunity to "lick them clean" by putting them back on the hive. After the bees have cleaned the frames, you can leave them on the hive or remove them for storage in a cool, dry area. If storing them off the hive, put several thickness of newspaper on the floor (or an old telescoping cover, upside down), and stack the dry supers. Place an 8x8 inch piece of paper on top of the third super and put two tablespoons of paramoth crystals on the paper. Stack three more supers and repeat the paper/paramoth crystal. Do not stack over ten supers high. Start a second or third stack as needed. Place paper/paramoth crystals on top of the top super and cover with a telescoping cover. Seal the joints between supers with blue painters tape. Renew paramoth crystals on the top super every two to four weeks, depending on how fast they evaporate. As they evaporate, the heavier-than-air vapors will filter down the stack and protect against wax moth invasion. Paramoth purchased at Walmart is now in plastic bags as "balls" rather than "crystals". Be sure you are purchasing paramoth (paradichlorobenzene) and not naphtha moth balls. **DO NOT USE NAPHTHA MOTH BALLS OR CRYSTALS.**

Continue to do a check for mites and treat as needed. Information shared at the TBA Summer Clinic in Conroe indicated that failure of most queen-right hives is due to high mite populations. Do not underestimate the damage that Varroa can do to your hives.

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

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

Howdy TBA members!

I hope you're staying hydrated and relatively cool in this HOT summer heat. Our research is going well this season, and for the first time in two years we have been able to produce a honey crop from our research apiary. Thank you to all of you who participated in the extraction events we had at the bee lab, it was very informative and lots of fun! I also want to thank those of you who attended the Texas Beekeepers Association Summer Clinic on 30 June at the Lone Star Convention Center in Conroe, TX. Dan Aurell, Liz Walsh, Pierre Lau and myself presented talks at the event, and ET Ash and Alex Payne staffed the bee lab's table. As always, it was great to see new and familiar faces at this ever-growing event.

I want to invite all of you to attend the upcoming webinar that we are preparing as part of the Real Texas Honey grant that the TBA and our lab received from the TX Department of Agriculture. In the first of a three-part series, the webinar titled **"Real Texas Honey: How honey is tested to identify the floral sources of nectar"** will be presented live on the internet by Pierre Lau and myself on Friday, 31 August 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. If you happen to be in College Station and want to attend the presentation, it will be held at the Heep Center (Entomology building), room 413 at Texas A&M University's west campus. Here are the details on how to join the webinar:

Link: <https://tamu-cs.webex.com/tamu-cs/j.php?MTID=ma6069a1a4a565d3d7205cd43f3b5d9f6>
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Access code: 643 870 961

For this journal entry I decided to share with you some of the latest publications that have come out of my lab. We have published or have in production seven articles so far in 2018!!! I will share three of those papers this time around but might share some of the others in upcoming journal entries. The complete citation information and abstracts (summaries) of the papers are below. The first one (Ma et al. 2018), a collaboration between our lab, Rong Ma from UT Austin and Gabriel Villar from Dr. Christina Grozinger's lab in Penn State, reports the role of larval pheromones, including E-beta-ocimene, as regulators of collective foraging behavior. In particular, we show that workers detect and respond over large distances to larval pheromones.

The second one (Fisher et al. 2018) is a survey that my former student, Dr. Adrian Fisher II, conducted on the reproductive quality of drones around Brazos county that shows that certain apiaries have, on average, drones with higher sperm viability compared to other apiaries, but these differences are not consistent across years. The third one (Powell et al. 2018), a collaboration between our lab and the

lab of Dr. Nancy Moran at UT Austin, reports the effects of caging queens upon emergence on their gut microbiome, which is important for proper digestion of nutrients. The last one is published in an open access journal (PLOS ONE) and thus you

can download it for free. The other two are not open access, but if you're interested I can send you a PDF via email.

In other news, we will be launching the new labels for Aggie Honey and will be selling the honey at the Brazos Valley Bee School, which is co-organized by our lab and the Brazos Valley Beekeepers Association. The event will be held at the AgriLife Center of Texas A&M University on Saturday, 22 September, and has a cost of \$60 for individuals, \$100 for couples, and \$15 for youth, which includes lunch. For more details and to register, visit <https://bvbeeks.org/events/bee-school/>

As always, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to email me at jrange1@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 pollinators and beekeeping, please visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/TAMUhoneybeelab>. Our page has over 3,125 followers and counting! Thank you all for your continuing support and happy beekeeping!

Sincerely yours,
Juliana Rangel

Powell JE, Eiri D, Moran NA, Rangel J (2018) Modulation of the honey bee queen microbiota: Effects of early social contact. *PLoS ONE* 13(7): e0200527. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0200527>

Abstract: As the sole reproductive female in a honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) colony, the queen's health is critical to colony productivity and longevity. Beekeeping operations typically rely on the commercial mass production of queens for colony multiplication, which involves manipulating and isolating the queens by confining them in cages during early development. Using common queen-rearing techniques, this study shows that segregating newly eclosed queens from their worker attendants for 72 hours using queen protector cages has a significant impact on the total amount of gut bacteria carried by those queens compared to queens that have unrestricted access to attendants upon eclosion. Isolated virgin queens sampled immediately after isolation at 4 days post eclosure



had significantly more bacteria and a less consistent microbiota composition than their non-isolated peers. Furthermore, this effect lasted into the mating life of queens, since mated queens that had been isolated after emergence and then sampled at 14 days post eclosure also had significantly more microbiota compared to non-isolated mated queens of the same age. The causes and potential impacts of this alteration are not clear and deserve further investigation. This study also verifies earlier findings that honey bee queens lack the core microbiome found within honey bee workers.

Ma R, Villar G, Grozinger CM, Rangel J (2018) **Larval pheromones act as colony-wide regulators of collective foraging behavior in honey bees.** Behavioral Ecology. <https://doi.org/10.1093/beheco/ary090>

Abstract: When animals move or forage in groups, collective behaviors arise from independent decisions that individuals make based on limited information about the environment. In decentralized systems in which individuals use local cues to decide how to allocate their time amongst multiple tasks, a “global” signal detectable over large distances by all members of the group could have a profound effect on task allocation and coordination. Honeybees provide a unique opportunity to study how information transfer modulates behavior because they produce pheromones that can regulate the actions of thousands of individuals in a colony. We used electrophysiological and behavioral assays to compare the transmission modes of 2 larval pheromones to test the hypothesis that larval pheromones can act as “global” signals by rapidly regulating behavior throughout a colony without direct physical interactions between individuals. By studying mechanisms of pheromone transmission at the individual and colony level, we provide evidence that larval pheromones act as direct rapid and powerful regulators of behavior, even among individuals too far away from each other to use visual or tactile cues. Therefore, our results suggest that in some cases, global signals can be important regulators of collective behavior.

Fisher II A, Harrison K, Love C, Varner D, Rangel J (2018) **Spatio-temporal variation in viability of spermatozoa of honey bee, *Apis mellifera*, drones in central Texas apiaries** Southwestern Entomologist, 43(2):343-356. <http://www.bioone.org/doi/full/10.3958/059.043.0206>

Abstract: Males of some eusocial hymenopterans live in sheltered hives where they are raised by sister workers until they are ready to mate. Large amounts of colony resources are invested in the care and nurturing of males, as they provide no contributions to colony maintenance apart from reproduction. Colonies of the honey bee, *Apis mellifera* L., have one queen, thousands of female workers, and a few thousand seasonal males (drones) that are reared only during the reproductive season when colony resources are plentiful. We examined the viability of spermatozoa in sexually mature drones from eight apiaries in three counties in Central Texas during the summers of 2013 and 2014. We sampled 1,622 drones from two counties in 2013, and 556 drones from three counties in 2014. Using dual fluorescent flow cytometry, viability of drone spermatozoa was measured as the proportion of total

spermatozoa that was viable. The average spermatozoa viability was 46.2% in 2013 and 67.0% in 2014. We found significant variation in spermatozoa viability across apiaries, with viability in Apiary 5 significantly lower and viability in Apiary 11 significantly greater than viability in the other apiaries sampled in 2013. Likewise, males in apiaries 6 and 7 had significantly lower average viability of spermatozoa compared with other apiaries analyzed in 2014. However, the changes were not consistent across apiaries during the 2 years sampled. Our results suggested that other factors such as exposure to insecticides or seasonal availability of forage might be more important than inter-colonial genetic differences in fertility of honey bee drones during the reproductive season.



As part of the Real Texas Honey™ grant that the TBA and the Texas A&M University Honey Bee Research Program received from the Texas Department of Agriculture, we invite you to attend the first of a three-part series webinar titled
“Real Texas Honey™: How honey is tested to identify the floral sources of nectar.”

The webinar will be presented live on the internet by Pierre Lau and Dr. Juliana Rangel on Friday, 31 August 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Or, if you are in College Station and want to attend the presentation, you are welcome to join us at the Heep Center (Entomology building), room 413 at Texas A&M University's west campus. Here are the details on how to access the webinar:

Link: <https://tamu-cs.webex.com/tamu-cs/j.php?MTID=ma6069a1a4a565d3d7205cd43f3b5d9f6>

Password: **ento123**

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Update from Texas Apiary Inspection Service

from Mary Reed, Chief Apiary Inspector

I hope everyone is staying cool during these hot summer days! This time of year you will want to make sure your hives have plenty of water to access so they can keep their hives cool. Also, make sure you're checking your colonies for Varroa mites. This is around the time when the mite populations typically become problematic. Ensuring that your mite loads are low will help the hive better prepare for and survive the winter months. If you're not sure how to monitor for Varroa mites, or what treatment option you want to implement, I recommend you take a look at the Honey Bee Health Coalition's website (<https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/Varroa/>). The website provides an informative guide about managing mites, as well as instructional videos on how to monitor for mites and how to properly apply some of the treatments that are covered in the guide.

I recently attended the Heartland Apicultural Society conference in St. Louis, MO. There was a great lineup of speakers that covered all of the current hot topics in beekeeping today. However, some of the talks that I enjoyed the most got back to the basics of honey bee biology, as well as the evolution of the various honey bee species. I walked away from these talks thinking about how the life history and biology of honey bees can affect the success of a colony. I often encourage new beekeepers to study up on the biology of honey bees so that they can better understand the behaviors they are seeing in their colonies. From there you can better identify a problem when it arises, assess how it may have developed, and what the best course of action is to resolve the issue. There

are several excellent books that cover honey bee biology, some of which are listed as suggested reading materials for the Texas

Master Beekeeper

Program (see page 13 of the following document: https://masterbeekeeper.tamu.edu/files/2018/03/TMBP-Program-Requirements_3-2018.pdf).

One quick reminder before I sign off, current Intrastate Permits and Bee Removal Transportation Permits will expire August 31, 2018. If you intend on continuing to transport colonies across county lines, or conducting bee removals you will need to renew your permit prior to September 1, 2018. The cost for either of these permits is \$35, which must be submitted via check or money order along with the permit application, which can be found here: <https://txbeeinspection.tamu.edu/forms-fees/>. Any applications that are received in the month of August will be permitted for the upcoming year. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to our office (979-845-9713; tais@tamu.edu).

I hope you all stay safe out there in this heat and I look forward to seeing you at a future beekeeping event!

As always, happy beekeeping!



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TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE RESEARCH



Fall Testing for the Texas Master Beekeeper Program

When: Thursday November 8th, 2018

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

Registration: Online registration begins on September 1st

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

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

Member Assistance Needed: The Perfect Event Location

From Lisa Dittfurth, Vice President

If you've talked to any TBA board members or TBA volunteers recently, or you've been reading the TBA Journal, the TBA Facebook Page, the new TBA Announcements email blast, or you happened to have been one of the ~675 people that attended this year's Summer Clinic in Conroe Texas on June 30th, you've probably heard or read the phrase 'growing pains' in relation to TBA events, online resources, communication media, processes, procedures, policies, etc... As an all-volunteer organization devoted to supporting Texas beekeepers and preserving the Western Honey Bee (*apis mellifera*), the current trend of enthusiastic interest in beekeeping has the TBA growing in leaps and bounds and the TBA Board working furiously to meet the challenge.

A perfect example of demands on the TBA is the rapid growth of the TBA Summer Clinic. My first-hand knowledge spans the last seven years in which the growth of the event has more than tripled. The first Summer Clinic that my husband, Russell and I attended was in 2012. It was in a rural outdoor setting under canopies to shade the 180 attendees from the Texas sun. Attendees rotated through five stations with presentations on topics such as making splits, hive management, Apitherapy and a honey extraction demonstration. Attendees brought lawn chairs and carried their seating with them throughout the day. Russell and I first volunteered at the 2014 Summer Clinic, helping with registration and check-In. As a newly elected Area Director, I was appointed to a new role of Event Coordinator by then TBA President, Blake Shook and tasked with growing the attendance to the Summer Clinic. With the help of an amazing and energetic planning committee and volunteers from the Montgomery County Beekeepers Association, led by James & Chari Elam, we changed the TBA Summer Clinic to the seminar format it is today. Since 2014 we have continued to grow and enhance the Summer Clinic. Newly

elected TBA Area Director, Ashley Ralph served as this year's Summer Clinic Event Coordinator and definitely produced another top-notch event. In 2016 we turned our attention to the TBA Convention to determine how we might also enhance that event and increase attendance. We rearranged the convention activities, restored the Saturday break-out sessions and engaged multiple national-level speakers. This year's convention will build on last year's success with even more learning opportunities.

The phenomenal growth of the Summer Clinic since 2014 has been nothing short of astounding but that growth has made it increasingly difficult to find facilities large enough for the event. We are facing the same issue with the Convention. TBA resources are spending an inordinate amount of time researching event venues across the State of Texas for both events. Our search has encompassed Convention Centers, Civic Centers, Fair Grounds, Universities, Junior Colleges and any other large, rentable space we can find but the search continues. Ideally, we would like to secure facilities two years prior to an event, to ensure we can also secure quality speakers. We would also prefer the location to be within the geographic 'triangle' north of Houston, north of Austin and South of the DFW Metroplex and close to a major highway, but we'll consider all feasible venues. Which brings me to the objective of this article. We are seeking assistance from our members around the state to help us locate facilities with the space requirements for both the Summer Clinic and the Convention. I've provided a list below of the facility requirements for each event. If you know of a facility that may meet the criteria for either event, please contact Lisa Dittfurth (dittfurths@gmail.com) or Ashley Ralph (ashley@primebees.com). We hope to hear from you! If we can find a few workable locations around the 'Heart of Texas', we could create a year-over-year rotation schedule and end the laborious venue search process. We would truly appreciate assistance from our members!!



*Summer Clinic
June 2012*

Summer Clinic Evolution Statistics

| Recent Evolution of the Summer Clinic | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|------------|
| Year | Summer Clinic Location | Attendance |
| 2012 | David & Jan Tucker Residence; Belton, TX | 180 |
| 2013 | Walker Honey Farm & Dancing Bee Winery; Temple, TX | 220 |
| 2014 | Janice & John G Thomas Honey Bee Facility; TAMU Riverside Campus Bryan, TX | 330 |
| 2015 | Montgomery County Fairgrounds; Conroe, TX | 550 |
| 2016 | Lone Star Convention Center; Conroe, TX | 640 |
| 2017 | University of Texas Arlington; Arlington, TX | 650 |
| 2018 | Lone Star Convention Center; Conroe, TX | 675 |

| Space Description | Event | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|------------|
| | Summer Clinic | Convention |
| Registration | | |
| Executive Committee Meeting | 25 | 25 |
| Vendor Exhibits & Club Table Setup | 40 | 40 |
| General Session | 800 | 500 |
| Banquet Room | | 500 |
| Breakout Session Room 1 | 150-200 | 100-150 |
| Breakout Session Room 2 | 150-200 | 100-150 |
| Breakout Session Room 3 | 150-200 | 100-150 |
| Breakout Session Room 4 | 150-200 | 100-150 |
| Breakout Session Room 5 | 150-200 | 100-150 |
| Breakout Session Room 6 | 150-200 | |
| Breakout Session Room 7 | 150-200 | |
| Breakout Session Room 8 | 150-200 | |
| Breakout Session Room 9 | 150-200 | |

*Summer Clinic
June 2018*



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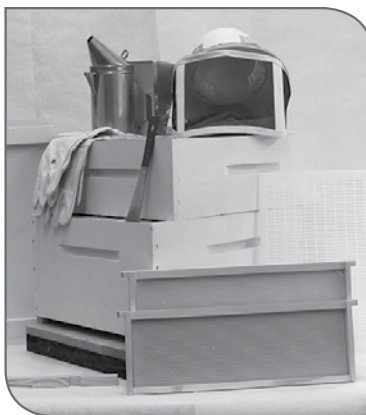
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THE BUDS AND THE BEES

Take a Walk on the Wild Side

by Becky Bender, Texas Master Naturalist

*They don't call them wild flowers for nothing.
But, hey, they're worth it!*

For many of us, this year's honey extraction is complete or will be soon. After such a delicious accomplishment, some of us will turn to "the other half of beekeeping" – planting. Since Fall is the best time to plant wildflowers in Texas, let's take a walk on the wildflower side of beekeeping.

Technically, at least in nature, a "wildflower" is defined as a flower growing freely without human intervention. As a land owner who's had wildflowers for 10 years, I laugh at this definition. Natural wildflower meadows evolved over many years. In fact, nature intended them to be only a temporary, transitional stage of land vegetation which eventually give way to trees and shrubs. So the task of establishing a wildflower meadow that never changes is not nature's way. But once established it requires only occasional maintenance and richly rewards both bee and beekeeper.

Why Plant a Wildflower Meadow?

A wildflower meadow is a thing of beauty that's rarely seen these days amidst landscapes of manicured lawns, grazed pastures and mown fields. Wildflowers add color to yards, fields and pastures, bloom in all seasons and return year after year. Bees benefit from their nutritious nectar and pollen while beekeepers benefit from a healthier honey crop and flower pollination. And that's not all. A wildflower meadow is home to butterflies, birds, native bees and other small



*Early Spring Meadow of Short and Tall
Native Grasses with a Variety of Early
Blooming Texas Wildflowers*

wildlife, providing them with food, rest and shelter. But buyer BEEware: wildflowers live up to their name. They are wild, unpredictable and more accountable to the land than to the land owner. Maybe that's part of their charm.

Planning and Preparation

It may surprise you that native grasses make up 50 to 80 percent of plant species in a healthy, sustainable wildflower meadow. Grasses protect taller flowers, cover soil around flowers to prevent weeds and soil erosion and provide food and cover for wildlife. Native grasses such as Buffalograss, Little Bluestem, Blue Grama, Sideoats Grama and Wildrye are a few examples of grasses that grow in harmony with Texas wildflowers. Non-native, aggressive turf grasses such as St. Augustine and Annual Rye and pasture grasses like Bermuda suppress wildflowers over time. Choose an open, sunny, well-drained site for your meadow. Irrigation is not required. Determine what kind of grass currently covers the land and if necessary how aggressive grasses or woody species can be mown or removed. It's important to make sure competing vegetation is under control before you seed. (See the list of resources at end of this article.)

Seeding

Your seed choice is important. You may choose seed mixes containing both grasses and wildflowers or just wildflowers if you're lucky enough to have native grasses. A soil test may help but you won't need much soil preparation if you select flower species that are well suited to your site. Plant a diverse mix of perennial wildflowers (come back by root year after year) and annual wildflowers (come back by seed) that are well suited for your site, soil and climate. The seed mix should provide blooms from early spring through late fall. If getting the right seed sounds complicated, don't worry – the work has been done for you. Seed mixes that meet all of these requirements are just waiting for you. (See the resources at end of this article.) Bee Happy Seed Mix from Native American Seed in Junction, Texas was developed with input from Texas beekeepers. It's the only seed mix I know of that was developed for honey bees and native bees with 33 different native Texas flowers that bloom in all seasons and all regions of Texas. It does not include grasses but the company has native grass seeds.

Fall is the best time to plant wildflower seeds. Regardless of seeding method, seeds must make good contact with the soil yet not be buried. For small plots hand-cranking devices work well. For larger acreage, all-terrain vehicles with mounted broadcast seeder can be used. For any size acreage the best method of seeding is no-till drill seeding. This method requires larger equipment but saves the land owner costly soil preparation and ensures optimal planting depth and seeding rates without disturbing top soil, churning up weeds or killing existing vegetation. Though no irrigation is needed, watering is recommended within the first two days of seeding if there's no rain.



Late Spring Meadow of Short Native Grasses with Predominance of Indian Blanket



Fall Meadow of Short and Tall Native Grasses with Sunflowers, Broomweed, Goldenrod and Eryngo

So are you ready?

If there was a LinkedIn site for networking people and plants, this is what you might see: "I'm a wildflower. Don't contact me unless you like spontaneity and unpredictability. When I bloom, I'm brilliant. And while I'm not high maintenance, I do require care to keep blooming year after year. I'm not for everybody. But if you're willing to take a walk on the wild side, I'm worth it."

Stages of a Wildflower Meadow

The first year you seed the annual flower species in the seed mix may appear quickly and dominate. Most of the perennial flowers in the mix will not appear until the second or third year because their energy is going into root systems. Once a meadow has bloomed mowing must be delayed until most of the flowers and native grasses have dropped their seeds for the following year. By mowing only once a year in late winter grasses and flowers have time to seed and wildlife receives winter food and cover. Leave all clippings because they contain seeds.

For the first 2 or 3 years you'll need to weed, remove invasive plants and possibly reseed in certain areas. But as grasses and flowers become established you should have fewer weeds. As years pass, natural ecological plant succession takes place and woody plants move into meadows. It's nature's way. Halting this natural process takes removal or prescribed burning. Over the years I've broadcast wildflower seed mixes not only in meadows but along my driveway, around a barn and on the edge of woods. I guess you could say I let the land lead. It's always a surprise to see which flowers in a mix thrive in specific locations. Some years a flower species, like Indian Blanket, will dominate with a brilliant display. Some years I don't see certain species at all because weather conditions aren't right for them. Sometimes a species, like Bluebonnet, will drift away from where I planted it and find a new location it likes better.

For more information and resources:

For help: Your local County Texas Agri Life Extension Service. Native American Seed @ www.seedsource.com or 800-325-446-3600.

Further reading: *Pollinator Friendly Gardening* by Rhonda Hayes. **Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center** affiliated with The University of Texas at Austin, go to www.wildflower.org and search for "Plant a Wildflower Meadow".

Seed Sources: **Texas Beekeeping Association**, go to texasbeekeepers.org and from menu click on "shop". When you order the bag of Bee Happy Seed Mix covering up to 200 sq. ft. here, TBA earns a portion of the proceeds. **Native American Seed**, go to www.seedsource.com and search for Bee Happy Seed Mix. Here you can buy different sizes of Bee Happy Seed Mix and native grass mixes. **Wildseed Farms**, go to wildseedfarms.com and search for Pollinator Mix.

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

Texas Honey Producers show off at 7th Annual International Black Jar Honey Contest!

from Pamela Yeamans, Austin, TX



The International Black Jar Honey Trophy

The International Black Jar Finals were held on June 5th, 2018 in Asheville, NC with about 200 attendees. Carl Chesick, Director, Center for Honey Bee Research located in Asheville, NC was impressed with the showing of Texas honey.

Worldwide beekeepers send their honey samples to Asheville, NC for judging. Since the taste of honey varies from the different regions around the world, each honey has a

unique flavor. Thirty finalists go through taste tests and winners in more than ten categories are selected, such as International Multi-Floral, Sourwood, and USA Southeast Region, among others.

Black jar honey contests are competitions based on flavor alone. Most honey contests judge on presentation, color, smell and other factors, as well as taste.

Last year at the TBA's 2017 Texas Honey Show, Lance Wilson won the judged Black Jar Class and David Abshier won the People's Choice Award for black jar honey. The TBA entered both winner's honey into the International Show as part of the TBA Honey Show awards.

Congratulations to our Texas beekeepers for their outstanding showing at the International Black Jar Honey Contest in North Carolina:

Lance Wilson, Leander, TX received the "Club Champion" ribbon.

Blanca Encarnacion, Athens, TX won in the "Southwest Region" category.

David Abshier, Corrigan, TX was a semifinalist in the "Southwest Region" category.

Texas honey is high quality and with the new Real Texas Honey registration program starting this month, all the Bee Clubs are encouraged to conduct Black Jar Contests in 2018.

The TBA will sponsor a Black Jar Honey Contest at the 2018 State Fair. The 2018 TBA Convention in November will feature a honey contest with a judged black jar category as well as a people's choice black jar category.



*David and Tammy Abshier,
2017 People's Choice Award for black jar honey.*



*Lance Wilson, standing next to
Judge Ann Harman, and Judge Tim Tucker, past
American Beekeeping Federation President.*



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

John Hicks

936.718.3471

john@beehivethermalindustries.com

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

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



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2019 Texas Honey Queen Competition

from Ruth Ramos, Texas Honey Queen Chair



Applications for the 2019 Texas Honey Queen competition will be accepted starting September 1st.

Texas Honey Queen Competition Criteria

Contestants for the Texas Honey Queen/Princess can be any young women between the ages of 18 and 24 years old as of January 1st (in year of reign).

Contestants must be a Texas resident, a beekeeper, and a member of the Texas Beekeepers Association. Contestants must have a sponsor.

Contestants must have graduated or be attending an accredited Texas high school program.

Contestants must have a valid driver license and reliable transportation.

Contestants shall be single, shall never have been married, nor had a marriage annulled, nor have cohabitated with a male in lieu of a marriage contract. Contestants who are pregnant or have been pregnant are ineligible.

The Texas Honey Queen may not hold any other title or be committed to any other organization or program during her reign. If a contestant has a current title, she will have to choose which position she wishes to serve.

Contestants may compete for Texas Honey Queen more than once if they continue to meet the guidelines.

A past Texas Honey Queen may compete for the Title a second time if:

She did not receive the American Honey Queen or Princess titles

Other considerations to be determined by the Texas Honey Queen Chair

Contestants ages 17 through 24 as of January 1st (in year of reign) may compete for the Princess title.

A Texas Honey Princess title may be awarded when there are two (2) or more contestants.

The Texas Honey Princess may compete again for the Texas Honey Queen title.

Each sponsor* may have only one (1) contestant. She shall have no other title or be committed to any other program that would interfere with her being Texas Honey Queen/Princess.

*A sponsor can be any Texas Beekeeping Association or Honey Producing Organization, any individual Texas Honey Producer, any Texas Honey Packer, any Texas Beekeeper, or any Texas organization interested in the Texas beekeeping industry (Garden Clubs, VFWs, 4-H clubs, etc.) that is a member of the Texas Beekeepers Association in good standing.

...From the Texas Honey Queen Manual

Applications may be requested by email from the Chair of the Texas Honey Queen Program.

Contact the chair at texashoneyqueenchair@gmail.com



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2018 Texas Honey Queen

Abby Pettibon

A Texas Beekeeper



This month, I would like to share about a fellow Texas Beekeeper. Mr. John Talbert, of Josephine, is my families' beekeeping mentor and has shared his love of bees with many other families.

As a young boy, John Talbert's first exposure to beekeeping occurred while he was visiting his grandfather's bee yard. He remembers hearing the stories of his grandfather and his great grandfather moving their hives from Alabama to Texas in the 1870's. Mr. Talbert said, "What really got me started in it, was that a guy came into my office and asked if I knew where he was going that night and I said, 'No.' Well he talked some more and he finally told me, he said he was going to a beekeeper's meeting." It was at the Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Association. He said, "So we talked a little more and it sounded interesting, so I said, 'I think I'll go with you'". Mr. Talbert attended the meeting and smiled, as he stated, "That was my first drag on the drug of Beekeeping."

Ever since that meeting, around the year 1985, Mr. Talbert has been raising honey bees. He and his friend became partners and started out by setting up a couple of hives. Mr. Talbert said, "We started partnering, which I recommend to anybody who's willing to do it, to find someone to work with. It makes it a lot more fun." It was about the third year when Mr. Talbert recalls, "He and I had about six hives and it was a great year - we had three supers on each hive. So that meant when harvesting them, we had eighteen supers and a hundred and eighty frames." From nine o'clock in the morning until two o'clock the next morning, both men and their wives diligently extracted the honey from each frame. Mr. Talbert remembers doing all of the extracting with just a two-frame manual extractor. After working long and hard that year, Mr. Talbert readily decided to invest in an electric twelve-frame extractor.

Mr. Talbert shared with me that at another time, he and his friend were at work one day when a man approached them and said "If you want a couple of free bee hives, come and get them." Well, Mr. Talbert said "Sure!" So after they finished work, Mr. Talbert and his friend follow him over to Pilot Point where the bees were kept. Mr. Talbert laughed and said, "Well, he failed to tell us that one of those hives was knocked over,

so we had to put it back together full of bees." It was getting late and the foragers were starting to return to their hives. Mr. Talbert continued, "So we put our gear on, got our smokers going, got after the bees - and then they got after us." They managed to load the hives into their truck and as they were on their way home they stopped to get a hamburger. While they were there, Mr. Talbert saw he had twelve stingers in his neck. Mr. Talbert said, "I knew I had gotten stung, but I didn't know I had the stingers still in there. After I took them out, my friend looked at me and said, 'John, are we still having fun?' I couldn't help but grin and say, 'I guess so.'"

As their apiary grew throughout the years, Mr. Talbert and his friend were able to grow commercially and establish Sabine Creek Honey Farm. Around the year 1999, Mr. Talbert became the owner and currently operates his farm with his son, Skip. They do far more than produce honey. Every January, they send their hives all the way to California to pollinate the almond crops.

During his years of beekeeping, Mr. Talbert has been President and the Executive Secretary of Texas Beekeepers Association, as well as on the board of American Beekeeping Federation. He is thankful to interact and learn from beekeepers from all over Texas, and has met people from all over the U.S. Mr. Talbert's love of and passion for honey bees is evident through his speaking and community involvement in beekeeping clubs. He said, "It's a fun thing sharing what we know about bees with other people. I can get, you know, sort of passionate about talking about bees and I've watched people's expressions when what I'm saying is reaching out to them and triggering a curiosity factor." Mr. Talbert truly enjoys working with and mentoring the scholarship students in the Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Association. He stated, "They get into a learning experience about the bees and honey, they get into the physical experience of working outside, they get the experience of selling honey and interacting with all kinds of people. These are all great experiences to have." Mr. Talbert wants to encourage his fellow beekeepers to read and never stop learning about honey bees and then to use that knowledge when they are in their own bees. "Most of all, just have fun!"

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Real Texas Honey™

from Harrison Rogers, Director



Real Texas Honey™ is a Texas non-profit corporation organized to promote Texas honey. The program had its beginnings at the 2016 Texas Beekeepers Association (TBA) annual meeting. Shortly after that the web address <https://realtexashoney.com> was reserved, the organization incorporated in Texas on April 5, 2017, and plans were started to formulate the detailed rules of the program.

Real Texas Honey (RTH) is governed by a board of directors. Bylaws dictate that the TBA president and TBA Vice President are on the board to help align RTH objectives with that of TBA. The board members presently are Chris Moore, Lisa Dittfurth, Blake Shook, Cameron Crane, and me, Harrison Rogers. I presently serve as chairman, Lisa Dittfurth as vice chairman, and Leesa Hyder as secretary. Board members serve on rotating two-year terms and its directors are appointed by the TBA executive committee, so in some sense RTH operates as a subsidiary of TBA.

The board met multiple times in 2017 to nail down the requirements for participants, seal design to be used on eligible honey products, and survey questions. Kiosk surveys were presented to visitors at the State Fair of Texas in October and again at the TBA convention in November. Answers to those questions helped guide us in generating some of the rules of the program. For instance, we found that most beekeepers know about 70% of the honey consumed in the U.S. is imported, but consumers do not know that fact. Also, the survey confirmed that most everyone knows that honey contains pollen, and most consumers want local honey.

Detailed RTH program requirements are posted on our realtexashoney.com website. Generally, all participants must be beekeepers registered with the Texas Apiary Inspection Service, abide by the definitions set by the board, pay annual dues, and agree to strict rules about selling only pure unadulterated Texas honey. The RTH budget allows for random testing of participant's honey. Melissopalynological testing determines pollen sources. Nuclear magnetic resonance testing easily reveals adulterated honey. Both tests are cross-referenced against databases to determine if the samples are consistent with Texas honey.

Honey producers that are approved by the board will receive a specified number of RTH seals once they have paid annual dues. The foil seals are unique and are available only from RTH. The website explains the dues formula and the number of seals available.

The TBA Honey Locator is a service provided to connect

consumers with TBA members. Marketing information is displayed on the interactive map when a user clicks on the flag of a beekeeper. Many TBA members are already listed on the map, and they will continue to be shown as long as they maintain TBA membership. RTH producers are shown with a premium flag on the map once their RTH application is approved. Existing Honey Locator participants wanting RTH status on the map will need to submit an online RTH application.

Speaking of the website, education is also a part of the RTH program. Honey consumers visit this site to find local beekeepers selling honey, so we include our adopted definitions of different honey properties, and list some outside links to sites discussing adulterated honey, health benefits, and food fraud.

The RTH website helps explain some properties of honey:

According to the USDA-ERS and USDA-AMS about 70% of honey sold in the US is imported.

The percentage of imported honey in Texas is similar so there is a lot of room to grow if we sell the real stuff.

The USDA and FDA do not define nor regulate terms to describe honey like raw, local, natural, or unfiltered.

We provide definitions for these terms, as agreed upon by the board. The terms Raw and Unfiltered are sometimes controversial and we have taken a hard line on them.

Real Local Raw honey contains local pollens. We provide some guidance about what "Local" really means in relation to pollen content.

TBA received a Specialty Crop Grant in 2017 to promote Texas honey. This program is on a parallel path to Real Texas Honey, but is aimed more at increasing consumer awareness of Texas honey and helping beekeepers market their honey. Texas A&M and University of Delaware are involved in this project which ends September 30, 2018. This grant has been valuable so far in its support for advertising brochures, pollen testing, and startup finances for the RTH program. It is expected that there will be some helpful marketing information distributed to Texas beekeepers before the end of the year.

If you are a Texas beekeeper, agree to the Detailed Program Requirements, and would like to apply to be a participant in the Real Texas Honey™ program, and inclusion on the Honey Locator, please submit an online Real Texas Honey Application.

All applications are reviewed by the Real Texas Honey Board for accurate and verifiable information. After your application is approved you will receive an invoice for your annual dues, and any additional seals you may require. After receipt of your payment, the seals will be shipped to you at the address on your application, and your information will be exhibited on the Honey Locator with premium status.

Participants in the program are subject to inspection by members of the board if necessary. We don't anticipate inspections often, and it is not meant to intrude into your business, but we just want to verify that you really do have the number of hives in Texas making honey that you say you do. For example, a beekeeper that has 10 hives can't produce 2500 pounds of Texas honey on their own, and they should not need seals for that much honey.

FAQ

1. What happens if I run out of honey? How do I keep my customers happy?

a. RTH rules allow you to purchase honey from another RTH participant. You may be asked for proof of the source of your additional honey.

2. Do I really have to provide GPS coordinates of my apiaries on the application form?

a. No. We understand this information is regarded as a trade secret, so this is only required as a last resort if we cannot ascertain the claimed number of hives through other means.

3. What is the difference between TBA and RTH beekeepers listed on the Honey Locator?

a. There are two groups of people on the map. Any TBA member selling honey can request inclusion on the map, and TBA board members determine eligibility. Any beekeeper in Texas selling honey can apply through the RTH program and when approved by the RTH board will exhibit a premium status on the Honey Locator map.

4. Can I reproduce the RTH seal on my own honey label?

a. No. This is a violation of the program rules. Seals to place on honey containers are only available from the RTH corporation. Black and white reproductions of the seal can be printed on your business cards and banner or advertising materials only.

5. What period of time are covered by the annual dues?

a. Dues are to paid annually, based on the date of

your approval. You will be invoiced yearly for your dues, and you may be asked to reverify your information.

6. I purchase barrels of honey from another state or country. Is there any way I can join the RTH program?

a. No, not at this time. There is ongoing discussion about a possible second phase of the program that would permit this.

7. I sell a few jars of Manuka honey and tupelo honey at my farmer's markets, along with a lot of my local Texas honey. Can I be a part of the RTH program?

a. Yes, if those products from outside the State of Texas are prepackaged and labeled in their country or state of origin. But, the RTH seal can be used only on containers of your real Texas honey.

8. I sell cinnamon-flavored honey and lavender-infused honey along with my local Texas honey. Am I eligible for the RTH program?

a. Yes, as long as those products do not display the RTH seal. This seal is only for Pure honey without any other additive or substance.

2018-2019 annual dues have been set at this formula:
\$20 + \$0.70 per hive

After your annual dues payment is received you will receive a specified number of seals free. Based on the number of hives you stated on your application form, you are allowed to request additional seals up to the maximum number indicated. An administrative handling fee shall be charged for additional seals.

| Number of Hives | Free Seals | Maximum Seals |
|-----------------|------------|---------------|
| 1-5 | 100 | 500 |
| 6-25 | 400 | 2,000 |
| 26-100 | 1,500 | 7,200 |
| 101-300 | 4,000 | 20,000 |
| 301-1,000 | 12,000 | 60,000 |
| 1,001-2500 | 30,000 | 140,000 |
| 2,501-5,000 | 50,000 | 250,000 |
| 5,001-10,000 | 100,000 | 450,000 |

Texas State Fair

From John Talbert

The Texas Beekeepers Association State Fair of Texas Honey Booth Exhibit September 28-October 21, 2018

The State Fair of Texas opening September 28 is rushing toward us like a semi rolling down Interstate 35. Are you ready? Have you made your plans to participate by sending some of your honey for display? Will you be one of the many volunteers that staff the exhibit? Will you be one of the beekeepers and cooks that participate in the Contests in the Creative Arts Department? If you cannot be one of the active participants during the Fair, can you send a donation to help cover the Honey Booth expenses and the prizes given in the Creative Arts Department?

The TBA Honey Booth is one of the most visited booths in the Food and Fiber Pavilion. One of the reasons that it gets so much attention is that there is at least one or more beekeepers actively interacting with the visitors. No other exhibit booth in the building reaches out and shares the information like the beekeepers.

Honey bees and honey are interesting subjects for the consumer. Most of them have a mental image of a stinger when they think of a bee. Texas beekeepers are more than willing to correct that misconception about the wonderful organism, the honey bee, that produces honey which is not just another sweetener. It also has many healthful healing properties that few people know about. It is the only pure natural unmodified sweetener. EVERY other sweetener has to be crushed, heated, transformed, or undergo some other modification before it can be used.

One of the other differences about honey is that it has a multitude of colors and tastes. It would be so easy to put a few jars of honey on display in the booth and fill the rest of the space with facts and figures but nothing illustrates the

differences of honey from a local beekeeper is the vast array of colors and labels that are shown stretched out across the width of the booth. Your honey is needed to show how honey differs all across the state. The more different honeys on display will help reinforce that variety of flavors and tastes. Please send a labeled jar of your honey for display. After the Fair, all honey on display is donated to Happy Hill Farm near Granbury which is a residential school for children.

New and more information will be available about the Real Texas Honey (RTH) initiative by TBA. Last year RTH had a survey for the fairgoers to share their preferences about honey. That information was used to further develop the program. Again this year, TBA will be a sponsor in the Creative Arts Department. Cash prizes furnished by TBA will be awarded by Creative Arts for cooking with Honey as the Magic Ingredient, ice cream with honey as the sweetener, and adult and junior categories in photography with honey bees as the primary subject. Registration and contest rules can be accessed at this link <https://bigtex.com/get-involved/creative-competitions/creative-arts-during-fair-contests/>. Click on 2018 Creative Arts Handbook. Photography information is on page 42. Cooking with honey and honey contest are on pages 85-86.

The cooking contest will be on Monday October 15 at the same time as the polished jar and black jar honey contest. The photography submissions must be entered prior to the Fair.

We need your honey for the exhibit and we need your participation in the booth. To volunteer for the booth contact John Talbert, john@sabinecreekhoney.com. To donate honey, send to: John Talbert, P.O. Box 6, Josephine, TX 75164 or if UPS or FEDEX to John Talbert, 22326 CR 638, Josephine, TX 75189. Please pack all glass securely.

Please send any money donations to TBA, 400 CR 440, Thrall, TX 76578.

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

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

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

Please sign up for a date!

Call or email John Talbert at john@sabinecreekhoney.com

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Admitting Failure

(a story about our Spring 2018 unsuccessful nucleus hive production)

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

TBA Journal Article - July 2018

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



Photo - Hudson Old, East Texas Journal Photography

Pictures are by the authors unless otherwise indicated.

The classis line from Mission Control Director Chris Kraft to the technical team of Apollo 13 rings in my ear, "Gentlemen, failure is not an option!" However, Mr. Kraft was not dealing with agriculture nor with honey bees, where failure is definitely an option.

This spring we had about 20 people in our NewBee introduction to beekeeping course. Three couples wanted to buy nucleus hives from us for delivery in April. We decided to "take them on the journey" with us to see how nucleus hives are made. They visited our apiary and we sent them weekly e-mail updates as their hives progressed.

We had one plan to effectively produce 9 nucleus hives for sale and 3 to bolster our own apiary, but God had another.

We'll spare you the sordid details, but the bottom line was that our bees did not produce. It took us four months and three separate rounds of queens for us to finally deliver healthy, 10-frame medium nucleus hives to our customers in May and the last ones in middle-June. As we write this all of them are building up nicely even with a somewhat delayed start.

We shared all of our mis-adventures with these three beekeeping NewBee couples. Our struggles may help them become better beekeepers and ultimately to share their learnings with the next generation of NewBees. We shared decisions and disappointments.

- Our decision to spend three weeks in Africa in April
- Our related decision not to raise our own queens this year and instead purchase queen cells locally
- Our disappointment in finding only three hives queen-right upon returning from Africa
- Our decision to purchase additional queen cells from a mail-order supplier
- Our disappointment at the small size of the queen cells which ultimately led to the bees quickly superseding her
- Our decision to keep our commitments
- Our disappointment with attempts to help other new hive owners – friends of friends of friends – we did not know

- Our decision to do walk-away splits at the end since the summer dearth in northeast Texas was upon us and the queens in our production hives were tapering back their egg laying

We also shared with them some of the convictions we developed as a result of our decision “failures” and the resulting disappointments this year:

- We WILL raise our own queens every year. Our goal is to raise fat queens in large queen cells with an excess of royal jelly still in the cell upon emergence
- We WILL NOT schedule long trips away from our apiary during March, April, and May
- We WILL only sell nucleus hives to those whom we have taught in a beginning beekeeping class

You may think these convictions strict, especially the last one. However, we are in beekeeping for the beekeepers, so this means we don’t just want to sell hives of bees. We want to form a long-term relationship with those to whom we supply bees.

In the end, sharing failures with others does several positive things, in our opinion:

1. It made us “real.” We tried, failed, started again, and again. Our new beekeeper friends now can view their mistakes as just part of the learning process rather than an attack on their worth or value as a person.
2. Our NewBees learned how to recover from a failure. Their hives will go queenless at some point in the future and these beekeepers now know how to deal with that reality.
3. We learned humility. The mantra “Apiculture is agriculture!” helped us all keep perspective on what we were doing. We are dealing with living systems that can and do die, swarm, and supersede at the most inopportune times!

We encourage you to take your “failures” and share them with others. Don’t hide them. Don’t glory in them. Share them so that others can learn and so you learn humility...just as we did this year. We are grateful for the lessons our God takes us through as He conforms us to the image of His Son, Jesus.

We'd love to hear about your beekeeping adventures.

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





Come Celebrate National Honey Bee Day at the 6th Annual Tour de Hives on August 18th 2018!!!

Tour the ART HIVES TRAIL and VOTE for your favorite PAINTED ART HIVE during the event! Winners will be announced at the end of the event!

(Art Hive entries must be returned to Bee Friendly Austin by August 3rd to be included in the competition)

Saturday August 18th, 9am-5pm: This is the day for the whole family to enjoy! Tour a live working apiary and see the bees at work, enjoy a full day of informative speakers, a live honey bee exhibit, beekeepers with local honey for sale, learn about the native plants that feed our pollinators, meet the Honey Queen, find out how to get started as a beekeeper, learn City of Austin rules on urban beekeeping, bid at the silent auction, win raffle prizes, shop the vendors and so much more!

EVENT LOCATION:

Bee Friendly Austin Apiary – 9874 Wier Loop Circle Austin, TX 78736

Register and buy tickets online at www.TourdeHives.org

This event is a yearly fundraiser with proceeds dedicated to helping bees, beekeepers, public education, and bee research. Bee Friendly Foundation is a non-profit organization 501(c)(3) dedicated to helping honey bees. A portion of proceeds will be donated to the Hays County Beekeepers Association, a member club of the Texas Beekeepers Association.

Texas Honey Bee Education Association Update



"Honey Bee License Plates – Raising \$8000"

July 2018 TBA Journal
by Roger Farr - Chairperson

Howdy fellow beekeepers!

I'm often asked what THBEA is and does. Simply put, THBEA

- is the **non-profit** arm of the Texas Beekeepers Association,
- **raises money** from beekeepers and those interested in supporting the beekeeping industry, and
- **makes grants** to beekeeping individuals and organizations in line with its organizational objectives.

THBEA is a non-member, 501 (c) (3) organization, governed by a Board of Directors. THBEA's current directors, appointed by the TBA Executive Committee are Lisa Dittfurth, Chris Doggett, Roger Farr, Larry Hoehne, Leesa Hyder, Chris Moore and Blake Shook.

THBEA raises money in a number of different ways. One very promising funding project is the sponsoring of specialty license plates in the state of Texas, through the Department of Public Service's (TxDPS) program. A registered owner of a motor vehicle will be able to purchase a specialty plate for an additional \$30 over the normal assessed registration fee. The sponsoring organization for the specialty plate, in this case THBEA, receives \$22 of the \$30 paid for each new plate or renewed registration!

You may say, as I did..."What's the catch?" There is an initial financial investment to get the ball rolling. TxDPS requires a deposit of \$8000 to gear up and manufacture the first set of plates. After the first run of plates sells, then the \$8000 is returned to THBEA for its use. THBEA currently plans to use the returned funds toward beekeeper education projects.

Beth Derr, an east Texas beekeeper, has been the point person for this project for the last two years. THBEA joined forces with Beth only recently to push the project to reality. Working together it looks like we will have plates available in the mid-2019 timeframe. In the mean time we have a few hurdles to clear, including raising \$8000...and that is where you come in!

THBEA rolled out this project in June at the TBA summer clinic in Conroe. THBEA raised approximately \$1500 toward the project and secured a commitment for \$4000 from a major donor. We would like to raise the remaining \$2500 by November 30, so that when the artwork and other paperwork are complete we'll be ready to move to production.

If this project interests you, please donate and support this fund-raising project. Please be sure to specify your donations are toward the "License Plate" project.

If you'd like to donate now to support THBEA there are three ways to give:

- 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 publicly-traded marketable securities by contacting Leesa Hyder, THBEA treasurer, at Execsec@texasbeekeepers.org, for details.
- Visit the THBEA website at www.thbea.com, to make a donation via PayPal.

I hope you will join me and the THBEA board to make THBEA a success for beekeeping and beekeepers' education in Texas! I'd love to hear your ideas. Contact me at rdffarr@gmail.com.

Denton Water Park Makes a Splash for 2018 Pollinator Week

*from Michelle Boerst, Denton County Beekeepers Association
Advanced Beekeeper, Texas Master Beekeeping Program*

Photo credit: Gary Barber



Beekeeper Bill Hartley holds up honeycomb and bees taken from a water meter.

Beekeepers converged on the Denton Water Park on Thursday, June 21st to relocate a hive of bees and show new beekeepers some basic beekeeping techniques to bring pollinator awareness to Denton County.

Eleven years ago the U.S. Senate's unanimous approval and designation of a week in June as "National Pollinator

Week" marked a necessary step toward addressing the urgent issue of declining pollinator populations. Pollinator Week has now grown into an international celebration of the valuable ecosystem services provided by bees, birds, butterflies, bats and beetles.

The Pollinator Partnership designated June 18-24, 2018 as National Pollinator Week. Denton agreed to create sustainable habitats for pollinators when the became a Bee City in 2016.

When beekeeper Bill Hartley, a member of the Denton County Beekeepers Association, was contacted by the City of Denton to relocate bees from a water meter at the city water park, he decided it would be a great way to get new beekeepers involved and bring awareness to pollinators thru the Denton Parks and Recreation Department.

The water meter had a small hive of gentle bees. Four local experienced beekeepers and a family of new beekeepers were present for the early morning removal, along with parks and rec employees.

The honey comb was removed with the queen and bees and rehomed into a beehive, while any bees remaining in the box were gently vacuumed by the young beekeepers on site.

It was a great collaboration between beekeepers and the City of Denton to make pollinator week a success for North Texas.

No bees were harmed in the relocation, and even better, no onlookers were injured either.

Borntrager Bee Farm 4036 Gaitan Lane, Beeville, TX 78102 (361) 362-1408

| | 1-24 | 25-99 | 100 up |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 5 Frame Nuc | \$155 | \$145 | \$135 |
| Single Starter Hive | | | |
| with 5 Frames of Bees | \$205 | \$200 | |
| | 1-9 | 10-24 | 25-99 |
| Queens | \$25 | \$23 | \$21 |
| Virgins | | \$10 | \$20 |
| Queen Cells | | \$3 | |

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www.texasbeekeepers.org

If you change your address or email please contact

Shirley Doggett at *sdoggett@mindspring.com*

or call (512) 924-5051

Look for the Honey Locator and Events Calendar

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

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

Alamo Area Beekeepers Association

Rick Fink - (210) 872-4569

president@alamobees.org

www.alamobees.org

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday on odd # months

Helotes Ind. Baptist Church

15335 Bandera Rd., Helotes at 7 pm

Austin Area Beekeepers Association

Dodie Stillman

austinareabeekeepers@gmail.com

facebook.com/groups/Austin/AreaBeekeeperAssociation

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

Meeting: 3rd Monday of each month at 7pm

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

Meetings 4th Saturday of each month at 10am

Water Garden Gems, 3230 Bolton Road, Marion,

Bell/Coryell Beekeepers Association

Frank Morgan - (254) 423-2579

bellcoryellbeeclub@gmail.com

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

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

Brazoria County Beekeepers Association

Kenneth Nugent - (979) 922-9725

knugent@gmail.com

bcba@brazoria-county-beekeepers-association.com

www.brazoria-county-beekeepers-association.com

Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month

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

Brazos Valley Beekeepers Association

Ashley Ralph - (979) 777-2529

info@bvbeeks.org

www.bvbeeks.org

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

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

Caddo Trace Beekeepers Association

Terry Wright - (903) 856-8005

tcwright7021@yahoo.com

Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month

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

Caprock Beekeepers Association

David Naugher - (806) 787-7698

caprockbeekeepers@gmail.com

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

Lubbock Memorial Arboretum, 4111 University Ave., Lubbock

Central Texas Beekeepers Association

Michael Kelling - (979) 277-0411

CentralTexasBeekeepers@gmail.com

www.centraltexasbeekeepers.org

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

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

Chisholm Trail Beekeepers

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

scott@zirger.us or 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

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

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

Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Assn.

Mary-Ann Allen (214) 543-5597

president@cchba.org

www.cchba.org

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

Collin College Conference Center, (Central Park Campus)

2400 Community Dr., McKinney

Comal County Beekeepers Association

Julie Morgan - (210) 475-2924

julie.morgan@gmail.com

Meetings: 1st Thursday of each month

Beefy's on the Green Restaurant, upstairs room

12910 US Hwy 281N at 6:30 pm

Concho Valley Beekeepers Association

Rex Moody - (325) 650-6360

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

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

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

Deep East Texas Beekeepers Association

Ellen Reeder - (337) 499-6826

ellenswartz@sbcglobal.net

Denton County Beekeepers Association

board@dentonbees.com

www.dentonbees.com

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

Please see calendar for location

Dino-Beekeepers Association

Chip Hough (817) 559-0564

dino-beeclub@hotmail.com

www.dino-bee.com

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

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

East Texas Beekeepers Association

Richard Counts - (903) 566-6789

dick.counts4450@gmail.com

www.etba.info

Meetings: 1st Thursday of each month at 6:45 pm;
Whitehouse Methodist Ch., 405 W Main (Hwy 346), Whitehouse

Elgin Beekeepers Association

Sarah Jones - (512) 567-1410

sarah@campsunflower.com

Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7 pm
Various Locations

Elm Fork Beekeepers Association

Jan Hodson - (940) 637-2702

janrhodson@gmail.com

Meetings: 3rd Thursday of each month
Landmark Bank, 1112 E California St., Gainesville, TX 76240
at 6:30 pm

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

Lynne Jones - (713) 304-8880

info@fortbendbeekeeping.org

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 Thurs. 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) 293-0472

pmbamilton@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

hayscountyba@gmail.com

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 Dec.) at 7 pm
in Lecture Hall
MCC Emergency Services Education Center, 7601 Steinbeck
Bend Road, Waco

Henderson County Beekeepers Association

Elizabeth Hudson - (330) 881-8008

hushyomouth55@gmail.com

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

Hill County Beekeepers Association

Art Wharton (254) 221-5325

ohyougotit@aim.com

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

Hopkins County Beekeepers Association

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

info@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

Grace Bible Fellowship Church,
17897 FM 1255, Canton

Pineywoods Beekeepers Association

Terry McFall - (409) 384-3626

tdmcfall@hotmail.com

Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month at 7 pm

St. Cyprian Episcopal Church Hall
919 S. John Redditt Dr. (Loop 287), 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
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

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