

The Texas Beekeepers Association

# Journal







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## President's Report from Blake Shook

Hello Friends!

In the iconic words of Randy Quaide, from the movie Independence Day, "I'm BaaAAACK!" I appreciate all of your support, and the welcome I have received from so many of you. I will admit, I've enjoyed the past 3 years with the title of Past President, which has a very official ring to it, yet with little to no responsibility. It's a sweet position. The last 3 years have been a wonderful time of growing my beekeeping company and watching my first daughter grow from a baby to a vivacious kid who wants to be an astronaut, doctor, and trash truck driver, as well as welcoming our second daughter to the world this past September. But, as much as I've enjoyed the break, I am very excited to be back for 1 year to help launch some exciting new projects and plans that I believe will help propel TBA to the next level of success as one of the greatest state associations in the country. You will be hearing much on this topic in the coming months.

It has been fascinating to watch this industry grow and evolve over the years. I've been a part of TBA for about 13 years, and the industry for 15 years. A decade ago, small scale beekeeping was a fringe hobby, reserved for a select few enthusiasts. Commercial beekeepers were just starting to pollinate almonds in mass in California, and CCD was a brand new phenomenon.

Now, beekeeping has become incredibly mainstream. Presidents, Senators and Governors support beekeeping, industries have formed around small scale beekeeping, almond pollination is a mainstay for commercial beekeepers, and as my daughters can attest, Barbie has even picked up beekeeping as a hobby.

My point in all this is not to simply reminisce. This job, hobby, or sideline career called beekeeping has changed dramatically in the last 10 years. Not only in beekeeper demographics, but we deal with more issues and problems than ever before, and

celebrate more triumphs and discovery than ever before. Like the rest of our world today, the only thing in beekeeping that stays the same is that everything changes. All of this has led to a greatly widened and diversified group of people that are lucky enough to be called "beekeepers".

That is a good thing. We have a more powerful voice than ever. There is more research occurring than ever. Associations and clubs are growing faster than ever. But, with all this good, there are challenges as well. The entire industry, including TBA, is growing, and with growth should come learning and evolving. That learning and evolving part is what we are committing to at TBA. Those that have been around for 10+ years know the many positive changes that have occurred within TBA in the past decade. As we grow and change, unity is more important than ever as an industry. We don't ever want to forget what brings us all together to start with- a love for bees and beekeeping, and protecting our fragile industry. We plan to work hard this year unifying the industry, and continuing to improving our organization.

I've worked with TBA for a long time now. I know many of you personally, inside and outside of TBA. I know that the members and board members of TBA care so very deeply about bees, and what is best for TBA and the beekeepers in our state. As we all learn and evolve through this new iteration of our industry, the TBA Board is eager to hear your thoughts, concerns, struggles, and what we can do about it. We are all solidly on the side of the beekeepers of Texas. There are no hidden agendas, back room deals, and no ulterior motives. All of us are simply a phone call away. If you have questions, just ask. As an industry we may all not agree on everything, but at the end of the day, we are all still on the same team, and rooting for the same cause. I'm looking forward to the upcoming year, and accomplishing great things together!

All the best.

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## **Vice President's Report from Ashley Ralph**

First of all I would like to say thanks to all of you for electing me as your Vice President! I am very excited about the opportunity to serve on the board in this new capacity and I am so looking forward to this upcoming year. It's truly an honor to have your trust and I am excited to get to work.

The Resolutions set at the Annual Meeting will provide a great direction for the TBA Board as we work to represent Texas beekeepers. It's been amazing to see how united the board is in doing the greatest good, continuing to improve TBA, and elevate our membership through education.

The cold and rainy weather leading up to the conference led to a few challenges. For one, our Apprentice Level Texas Master Beekeeping Program participants had to light smokers and work bees with umbrellas in hand. So, a special congratulations is in order to those of you who made it through the testing this year! The weather also led to a few challenges for our Thursday workshop - we had to bring double the necessary hives to make sure we had enough open brood frames to graft from in Dr. Juliana Rangel's Queen Rearing Workshop! Luckily us Texans are adaptable - a special thank you to Clint and Jonathan Walker for loaning us some extra hives at the last minute! It all worked out and E.T. Ash and Juliana were able to put on a fantastic hands-on clinic. I guess that's beekeeping - we all had brood to our ears this time last year, and this year we had to cross our fingers that we'd have enough frames to graft from.

The Annual Convention is the one TBA event that has not seen substantial growth over the past few years so we are evaluating the event more thoroughly to make sure we make the most of the time and provide the best resources for our membership. We had 285 registrations and with the weather, had what felt like fewer attendees. This is comparable to previous years and yet, it leaves a lot of potential on the table for educating beekeepers in Texas. We have already gotten so much feedback for future events and I can't wait to start implementing them for 2019. Please continue to help shed light on ways we

can make these educational events even better! We've heard great ideas and feedback from people - from great ideas on specific classes to offer, the desire for more conversation and social opportunities, simpler registration, of course, there's always varied opinions of what types of classes we should offer (more advanced vs. more beginner) and what days they should be, but we do our best to meet your needs and learn a little each year. We are taking a thorough look at our TBA Annual Convention as we look forward to 2019 and will continue to gather feedback from those willing to give it!

As we head into a new year, it's important to the board that we get feedback from you on the initiatives we have for 2019. We have added some feedback links and volunteer opportunities into our monthly emails to make it easier to receive real time feedback in a manageable way so keep an eye out for those! You can always reach out to us directly as well, but we hope this will allow more feedback to get directly to us.

Mark your calendars - the Winter Delegates Meeting will be February 9, 2019 in Conroe, TX. This is an opportunity to speak directly with club leaders and provide a place where clubs can share information and programs that are working well with one another. Julie Norman has graciously agreed to organize and host the event again this year and we're thankful for that!

We have already booked speakers for 2019 that include Dr. Keith Delaplane, Dr. Dennis vanEngelsdorp, Tim Tucker, Dr. Justin Schmidt and Cameron Jack of the University of Florida. As we get closer to the events we will release full details for both Summer Clinic and Convention. As always, we are searching for new locations that can host our events - if you have a location in mind, please reach out to Kaye & Dan Brouse at [mapple4710@aol.com](mailto:mapple4710@aol.com)

Thank you again for your support of TBA and for your help as we continue to grow this fantastic organization. I'm honored to serve for and with you all.

---

**Front Cover Picture  
1st Place in Close-up at TBA 2018 Convention  
from Rachel Payne**

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# Texas Honey Bee Education Association Update

## from Roger Farr, Chairman



### *"Recognizing our Partners"*



THBEA solicits funds and gifts-in kind from donor individuals and organizations interested in supporting beekeepers and the beekeeping industry in Texas. THBEA then uses these funds to accomplish the purposes for which it was organized, and by IRS special rule, to be involved in disaster relief efforts, including the weather events along the Texas gulf coast during 2017.

Specifically, THBEA applied for and received a \$7000 grant from Bayer USA to provide relief to affected Texas beekeepers. In February 2018, THBEA's board decided to use the money to supply discounted nucleus hives from designated suppliers to affected beekeepers. Grant recipients, selected by application to THBEA, could then purchase the nucleus hives at a further discounted price with their grant money. THBEA sent an e-mail to all TBA members asking them to participate as designated nucleus suppliers. From the responses, THBEA board member Larry Hoehne worked to identify suppliers that would voluntarily reduce the cost of their nucleus hives sold to the grant recipients, thus making them even more affordable.

THBEA publicly thanks the designated nucleus suppliers that participated in the grant implementation:

Company Name	Contact(s)	City (all in Texas)	Phone(s)	e-mail
	Conrad Bielamowicz	Calvert	979.204.0093	
S&K Honey Farms	Steve Laube	Bedias	979.324.7297	skhoneyfarms@outlook.com
	Gary Novosad	Chireno	713.825.8809	garynovosad@att.net
Dan's Honey Co	Dan Whitney	Newton	701.388.1177	dwapiary@gmail.com
The Bee Place	Gary Rankin	Somerset, San Antonio	210.289.0583	beekeeper@thebeeplace.com
	Steve Brackman	Alvin	832.887.6141	
	Kenny Deknikker	Frankston	507.210.9706	
R Weaver Apiaries		Navasota	936.825.2333	
The Nucleus	Tod, Constatine	Brazoria County	281.770.3712 / 979.922.9899	beethenucleus@gmail.com
	Fernando Martinez, Jr.	Rosharon		nandos.honey@gmail.com
Old Security Farms	Kelly Jordan		281.705.2491	

Partnerships, such as this grant from Bayer, and the implementation by those in the Texas beekeeping industry will certainly be the future as THBEA further develops as an organization and enlarges its scope and reach.

If you are interested in impacting Texas beekeepers and the general public with THBEA's education initiatives, we'd love to consider having you join THBEA's board of directors. Please let me know of your interest and what skills you can bring to help THBEA become more effective. We're particularly looking for someone with non-profit grant application writing skills to further build our funding base. You can write me at [rd Farr@gmail.com](mailto:rd Farr@gmail.com).

You may support THBEA financially in these ways:

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

I hope you will join me and our board in making THBEA a success for beekeeping and beekeepers' education in Texas!



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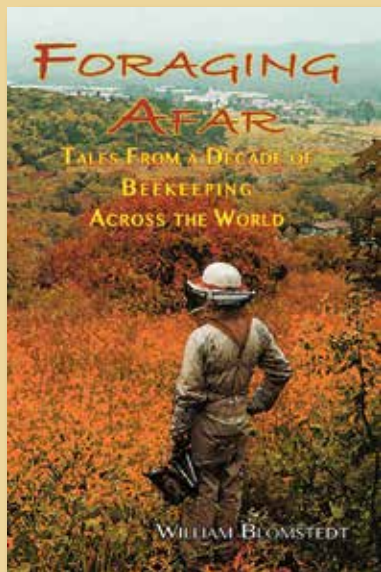
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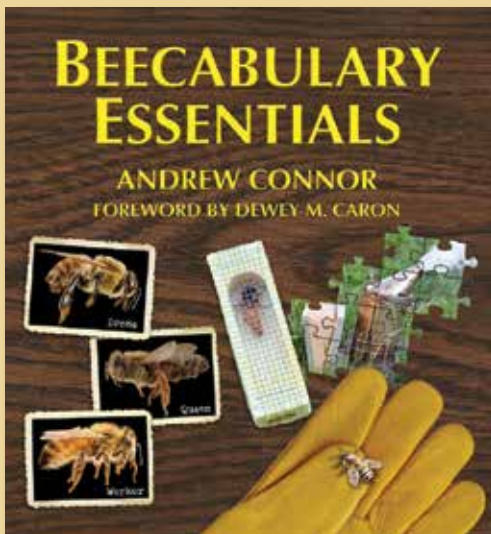
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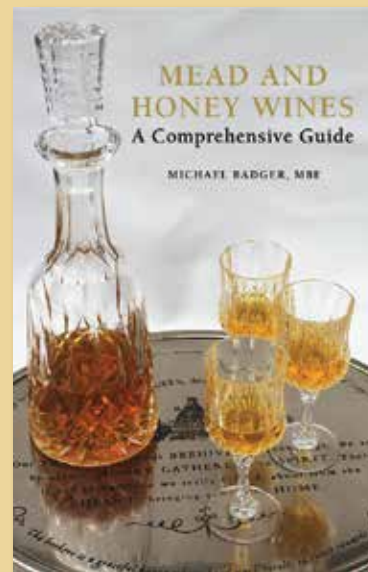
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## The Brantley Column

*from S. S. Brantley*

*2016 Life Member Texas Beekeepers Association*

*2017 Life Member Louisiana Beekeepers Association*

The weather finally turned a bit chilly, with a couple of winter-like days and nights. Some areas even reported a few snowflakes. During these cold days, there was not a bee flying in my beeyard. Hopefully, you were a pro-active beekeeper and your hives were ready for the cold weather.

December is that time to tend to the indoor activities of beekeeping. It is time to assemble new wooden ware, clean and repair old wooden ware, reflect on successes and failures of the past year, and make plans for the new season. Most beeyard activities will involve making sure your hives do not run out of stores and feeding if needed.

Entrance reducers should already be installed. If not, do so as soon as you can. If the entrance reducer is difficult to install, check the hive entrance for propolis buildup. Use your hive tool to scrape away enough propolis to get the reducer firmly seated in place.

I like to use a little smoke around the hive entrance even if the temperature is below 40 degrees. The smoke will let the bees know you are outside doing some work. It may also prevent the bees from breaking cluster to investigate the outside disturbance.

If you use a solid bottom board or do not leave your screened bottom board open, make sure your hives are ventilated to prevent condensation from building up on the lid and dripping down into the hive. Placing a tongue depressor, popsicle stick, or small twig on the back edge of the top box or inner cover will provide adequate ventilation. Do not create such a large gap that robber bees would be able to enter. Given our Texas winter pattern of a couple of cold days followed by several warm days, bees will be flying on the warmer days and looking for any forage available. Other hives will be tempting targets.

If you use a migratory cover, insert a 6 or 8 penny nail under the back edge of the cover to make a small crack for moisture to escape.

If your hive has a slight forward tilt, water from rain or

condensation will not puddle near the rear of the bottom board. Top bars from old frames can be inserted under the back of the bottom board to create that slight forward tilt.

Hive supports can easily be set-up using cinder blocks. I prefer to use one block long-ways under each side rather than a block on each end of the hive. With blocks on the ends, the blocks are a couple inches too short to fully support the hive. I never feel comfortable when I try to use that method.

You can make a wooden hive stand and place it on the cinder blocks to keep the wood off the ground. Two 45 inch long 2x6s with 14 inch spacers placed between them will support two hives. If the spacers are less than 14 inches, the stand is too narrow and the hive can fall off. Place a cinder block under the wooden frame at each end. This will keep your hives about 10 inches off the ground.

When building your hive stand, consider how high your boxes will be when supers are added. It is difficult to work supers stacked chest high or higher. Beekeepers come in different heights, so plan the height of your hive stand to match the beekeeper. Think "Safety First" and build your hive stands accordingly.

On a personal note, I would like to say "Thank You" to all the people who walk up to me at meetings and conventions and share how much they have learned from these articles. I am a believer in beekeeper education and am committed to sharing my experiences to help others learn to be better beekeepers. Sometimes, I feel I am repeating information but then remember that new beekeepers are coming to meetings all of the time. Every new beekeeper deserves the opportunity to learn the essentials of beekeeping. I encourage every beekeeper to read books and magazines, watch YouTube videos, and become active in a local beekeeping organization. Be available to share your knowledge and experiences with the new and novice beekeepers in your group.



*Mr. Brantley receiving award for  
support of the TBA Honey Queen Program*

## Fall 2018 New Master Beekeepers

### Apprentice Beekeeper

Mary-Ann Allen  
Virginia Allen  
Kathy Anderson  
Micah Ater  
Georgie Bender  
Scott Celinski  
David Crozier  
Robert Divers  
Charles Earhart  
Meagan Elzner  
Lynn Evans

Linda Hansen  
Brie Johnigan  
Chantell Kirwyn  
Tim Knighton  
Joan Kochanek  
Andrew Kocher  
Douglas Lehto  
Wendy Leonard  
Melissa Maeker  
David Marchus  
Jerry Maxwell

Albert Owen  
Debbie Pruett  
Jim Pruett  
Valorie Robertson  
Elinor Rowan  
Lane Schoeneberg  
John Spalding  
Frances Spalding  
Terry Sparling  
John Stewart  
Mitzi Thomas-Lawson  
Rebecca Vaughan

### Advanced Beekeeper

Hayden Chrisman  
Nick Coker  
Richard Dorazil  
Nathalie Misserey  
John Rhodes  
Monica Siwiak

### Master Beekeeper

Michelle Boerst  
Daniel Brantner  
Donovan Johns  
Rachel Payne  
Pamela Yeamans



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## Update from Texas Apiary Inspection Service

*from Mary Reed, Chief Apiary Inspector*



Hello Texas Beekeepers!

Well, I think I was wishing too hard for cooler weather, because we've been having some colder than expected weather these past few weeks. Fortunately, we had a break in the chilly temperatures recently, which gave us a chance to look through some hives. Hopefully all of your hives have enough honey stores by now and that your pest and disease levels are low so your bees can make it through to the spring. If you're hoping to do one last treatment for Varroa, this is the perfect time to use something that is most effective when there is little to no brood in the hive. The Tools for Varroa Management Guide passes out the most effective control methods during this stage of a honey bee colony and I encourage you to check it out! You can download a copy of the guide for free here: <https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/Varroa/>.

In November our office attended the Texas Beekeepers Association's annual convention in Temple. The day before the convention started we held our eighth session of the Texas Master Beekeeper Program exam! We had a great turnout for all of the levels that we offered. By the end of the day we added 34 Apprentice Beekeepers, 6 Advanced Beekeepers, and 5 Master Beekeepers to the program! I want to personally congratulate all of the beekeepers who passed their exams and thank everyone who helped make this exam day a success. If you are interested

in learning more about the TMBP, check out the program's website here: <https://masterbeekeeper.tamu.edu/>.

As we inch closer to the end of the year, we are still getting out into the field to inspect beekeeping operations that are coming in to overwinter their hives. In addition, I am happy to say that we have hired another inspector, Hannah Blackburn! Hannah graduated from Texas A&M University with a degree in Entomology and has several years of experience working with insects and identifying various insect pests. We are happy to have Hannah join our team and please help us give her a warm welcome!

As we finish out the year, I want to remind everyone that this is the perfect time to start planning your spring bee season. Whether that means ordering bees or queens, building new equipment, or polishing your trusty hive tool, you should use this time to assess how this past year went and what changes (if any) you want to make in this coming year. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact our office ([tais@tamu.edu](mailto:tais@tamu.edu); 979-845-9713). In the meantime, I hope you all have a happy holiday season!

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# State Fair of Texas Honey Booth Report

from John Talbert

The Texas Beekeepers Association Exhibit in the Go Texan Pavilion at the State Fair of Texas September 28-October 21, 2018 was another success despite the many challenges that seemed to come from all directions. TBA has been exhibiting in the building for over 65 years based on the information that I have been able to collect. My responsibilities started about 30 years ago and I have never had the struggles that seemed to pop-up this year.

To make a long story shorter, only the major elements will be listed. We started in February asking for the specific dates for the stage events in order to schedule the American Honey Queen. Finally heard back in June confirming the requested dates.

No communication from TDA about exhibit space until a June conference call and then informed that the space fee had changed from \$11/SF (\$2200) to \$16/SF (\$3200). After my strong objections about the late notification of any change in fees, they agreed to accept the \$2200 (we still haven't been billed). In that same call, parking and vehicle access policy changes by the Livestock Department at the State Fair were going to reduce the available passes issued to the Pavilion from 160 to 50. Our exhibit is ordinarily issued 6-10 to be able to cover our approximately 125 volunteers. A plan by TDA to be able to accommodate for the drastic reduction was not in place until September and our only recourse was to purchase 4 vehicle access passes at \$350 each (\$1400). Even with the 4 passes, it was a difficult scheduling but workable plan.

As you know, the exhibit features honey from beekeepers from as many areas as are willing to contribute. The goal is to showplace many different colors of honey, different labels, and different containers to acquaint the visitors about the vast array of honeys available. We directly contacted 38 different clubs thru their Facebook accounts asking them to contribute. Almost

no response. One bright spot is the contribution every year by Susan Hastings of Texas Pure Honey in Waxahachie. I know that there will be three cases of honey from Susan sitting in the booth on Tuesday morning before the fair. A big shout out to Susan!!! We did fill the booth with honey but only after a personal appeal to individual beekeepers.

The Fair started and it rained and it rained and it rained. That was bad for total attendance but good for total contact time per person. When it was raining, the visitors stayed in the building and the volunteers had more face time with them telling the story of honey and bees. On those few days when the sun was shining, the park was full and lots of people came by the booth. On 12-13-14 October, the Honey Queens were on the stage in the Pavilion, sharing about the wonders of cooking with honey. On 15 October, in the Creative Arts building, TBA sponsored a "Cooking with Honey" and a Polished Honey/Black Jar Honey contest. The Cooking With Honey winning recipes will be published in the Journal after release by the State Fair of Texas. These contests were well attended despite the hard rain that morning.

Despite the challenges getting started and the inclement weather, thousands of people had the opportunity to learn more about the wonders of honey and the most fascinating organism that we love.

It is our plan to put the exhibit in place next year despite the expected challenges, Will you help, will you donate honey, and will you be a volunteer? This is your chance to be a part of a winning team. The Texas Beekeepers Association is the best informational booth in the building. We have the most contact time with the individual fair attendee of any booth. People ask questions and get real answers. We were able to share about the need to seek out Real Texas Honey producers and to look for a beekeeper to buy honey from.



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

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



Dear TBA members, 'tis the season to give thanks, and I have a LOT to give thanks to this holiday season. I have a wonderful family that keeps me grounded and loved, I have many dear friends that support and keep me company in good and bad times, and I have an amazing team of people that works together at the bee lab to help improve the health of our beloved honey bees. For all these wonderful people and for you, the beekeepers of Texas and beyond, and your continuous support of our research program, I give immense thanks.

The most exciting update is that our lab was well represented this November at the annual meeting of the Entomological Society of America in Vancouver, Canada! Of the six people from our lab attending the conference, all but me participated in the student presentation competitions. I am very proud to say that Alex Payne received 1st place in the "Bees" section of the oral graduate student competition, which was a section with many great speakers. Congratulations to Alex and to all the students (Pierre, Liz, Betty and Travis) that participated at the conference!

From 18-20 October I was invited as one of the keynote speakers at the Missouri State Beekeepers Association Fall Conference in Kirksville, MO. Other speakers included Dr. Judy Wu-Smart from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, and Jerry Hayes. Some comments about the meeting can be found at <https://mostatebeekeepers.org/successful-conference/>. Moreover, I recently had the pleasure of giving an all-afternoon queen-rearing workshop at the annual convention of the Texas Beekeepers Association in Temple, TX. I joined my friend and colleague, Dr. Dewey Caron, in giving a Thursday workshop at the convention, which was sold out and full of constructive learning about queen rearing essentials. More information about the workshop can be found at <https://texasbeekeepers.org/thursday-workshops/>. I will also be giving an effective queen management techniques mini workshop this January at the annual meeting of the American Beekeeping Conference in Myrtle Beach, SC. I am very excited about this opportunity because it gives me a chance to interact with members of the Bee Informed Partnership, as well as other colleagues and beekeeper friends. If you have never attended an ABF conference, I would encourage you to join us. More details about the 2019 conference can be found at <https://www.abfnet.org/event/abf2019>.

I wrote about this in the past column, but wanted to remind you that, 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, now have a two-part webinar series posted on our website for anyone to watch. The first webinar, titled "Real

Texas Honey™: How honey is tested to identify the floral sources of nectar," is presented by Pierre Lau and Dr. Juliana Rangel. The second webinar is presented by Dr. Marco Palma, Professor in Agricultural Economics at Texas A&M University, and Dr. Deborah Delaney, Associate Professor of Entomology at the University of Delaware, and is titled "Real Texas Honey™: Increasing the economic value of Texas honey through consumer willingness to pay and marketing studies." You can watch recordings of both webinars by visiting the home page of our bee lab's website and clicking on the webinar's title image (<https://honeybeelab.tamu.edu/>).

And, with the holidays upon us, I also want to remind you that Aggie Honey™ is back! After two long years without any success in gathering a worthwhile amount of honey from our research colonies, we are excited to announce that this summer we were able to pull honey from about 30 colonies from our apiary at the RELIS campus and from a couple more local apiaries and are now selling Aggie Honey™ out of our lab at the Heep Building (you can call for pick up at 979-845-1079) or at the Texas A&M University Rosenthal Meat Market. Rosenthal can take orders for Aggie Honey™ over the phone and is open during business hours: M-F, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Phone: 979-845-5651, Email: [meat@tamu.edu](mailto:meat@tamu.edu). Remember, all proceeds from honey sales go back to fund our research program, especially graduate and undergraduate student salaries in the summer months, so your purchase goes to a great cause. Thank you for your support!

That is all for now. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to email me at [jrangel@tamu.edu](mailto:jrangel@tamu.edu). I am more easily reached via email than the phone. For up-to-date information regarding our program, or for new and interesting posts regarding bees and beekeeping, please visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/TAMUhoneybeelab>. We now have 3,244 followers, THANK YOU ALL for your continuing support!

I wish all a happy and restful Thanksgiving!





*Members of Texas A&M University's Honey Bee Research Program gathering for a meal at the ESA annual meeting in Vancouver, Canada!*



*Alex Payne receiving her 1st place award at the ESA meeting in Vancouver!*



*Past and present members of Texas A&M University's Honey Bee Research Program gathering outside of the convention center at the ESA annual meeting in Vancouver, Canada!*



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**If you change your address or email please contact**

**Shirley Doggett at *[sdoggett@mindspring.com](mailto:sdoggett@mindspring.com)***

**or call (512) 924-5051**

***Look for the Honey Locator and Events Calendar***



# **BEEKEEPERS' CONFERENCE** **January 26, 2019**

Early registration will be

**\$60.00 per person and \$100.00 for couples. This will include lunch and snacks**

**Early Registration ends Jan. 19th**

**Registration at the door**

**70.00 per person and 120.00 for a couple**

**NO REFUNDS**

For information contact  
Myra Smith 903-573-1701  
myras29@gmail.com

Beth Derr 936-591-2399  
derrbe@netscape.net

For Mail in :  
ATT: Beth Der  
210 Meadowlark Dr.  
Jefferson TX. 75657

**speaker**

**Dr. Jeff Harris**

**Mississippi State University**



I am the Extension/Research Apiculturist here at Mississippi State University. I moved to Mississippi after working for 15 years as a bee breeder with the USDA, ARS Honey Bee Breeding Lab in Baton Rouge, LA. I am best known for my involvement with other scientists in developing lines of honey bees that express high levels of Varroa Sensitive Hygienic (VSH) behavior. Prior to working with the government, I received my doctoral degree in insect physiology (Department of Zoology & Physiology) and my Master's degree in entomology (Department of Entomology) from Louisiana State University.



**The conference will be held in :**

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# Tucking the Girls in for Winter

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

TBA Journal Article - November 2018

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

Pictures are by the authors unless otherwise indicated.



Photo - Hudson Old, *East Texas Journal* Photography

Our beekeeping year starts in July. We pull the spring honey, split the hives for the last time, and apply varroa treatments, if required. Then comes the summer dearth when our hives really begin to think about winter and preparations begin. Yes, it was 98 degF and here we were preparing for winter?!?

Recently Roger has been speaking to TBA-member associations on how to prepare hives for winter. Winter bees are those that have never served as nurse-bees and so they have high stores of vitellogenin, the fat storage protein of honey bees. This high vitellogenin level, and other factors, allow these so-called “winter bees” to live long enough to make it through the winter and to nurse the new brood in early spring. However, if these winter bees are compromised because the nurses that fed them were compromised by either nutritional problems or varroa, then the hive will likely not survive the winter. Therefore, the Farrs’ planning for winter begins three bee generations back from November, first frost in northeast Texas, to July when we begin our winter preparation.

Our late summer preparations include a varroa treatment, if necessary, and making sure that the bees have not only good honey/nectar stores but good pollen diversity for the summer dearth. Usually in northeast Texas we do not have a pollen problem, but nectar can sometimes be scarce.

In late October we assessed whether or not we will be able to take a fall honey crop and the general state of our bees as we prepared to downsize them for winter. All hives had a good number of bees, in the 20-30,000 level, which surprised us so late in the season. The first picture shows our apiary looking to the north. We number our hives by their stand location, so N1 is the first hive on the north stand.





Here are our October 23 inspection notes in tabular form.

What does this data tell you to do?

	Hive N1	Hive N3	Hive N6	Hive S2	Hive S5
<b>Box 5</b>					H – B – P – C – F – 10
<b>Box 4</b>				H – 7 B – P – C – F – 3	H – 10 B – P – C – F –
<b>Box 3</b>	H – 1 B – P – 1 C – 3 F – 5	H – 4 B – 2 P – 1 C – F – 3	H – 5 B – P – C – F – 5	H – 4 B – 2 P – 1 C – 1 F – 2	H – 5 B – 2 P – C – 1 F – 2
<b>Box 2</b>	H – 5 B – 4 P – 1 C – F –	H – 1 B – 2 P – 1 C – 2 F – 3	H – 1 B – 4 P – 2 C – F – 3	H – 1 B – 1 P – 2 C – 4 F – 2	H – 1 B – 3 P – 2 C – 4 F –
<b>Box 1</b>	H – 1 B – 2 P – 2 C – 3 F – 2	H – B – 1 P – 1 C – 8 F –	H – B – 2 P – 1 C – 7 F –	H – B – P – C – 8 F – 2	H – B – P – 3 C – 9 F – 1

Legend: H=honey, B=brood, P=pollen, C=drawn comb, F=empty foundation

Yes, you probably guessed it. The south (S) hives have enough stores for the winter, while the north (N) hives are light. In our area it takes about 10 medium frames of honey to go through winter. We decided to begin feeding the north hives since the weather was forecast to be 70 degF during the day and sunny. The bees would be flying so we can feed them sugar syrup to top up their honey reserves. Notice the feeders on the north hives. We fed them for roughly two weeks. Each hive took one quart per day of approximately 1.5 sugar to 1.0 water (by weight) syrup.



You probably also noticed the empty comb and foundation in our notes. Each hive had too much space in late October, as we waited for the last brood to emerge. We right-sized each hive in November. We noted that three of our queens are leading hives with low varroa counts, good honey production and solid brood patterns. If these three queens make it through the winter then we'll have several mother queens to choose from for our queen-rearing efforts.



While we were right-sizing the hives in November, thousands of bees were in the air, yet they were very gentle and not even bumping our veils. We sorted every frame in every box, removing foundation-only frames and most empty comb for storage. We also cleaned the boxes of accumulated propolis to make it easier to work the frames. We culled drawn-wax frames which were more than four-years old. Each hive ended the right-sizing activity in two (medium) boxes.



This picture shows our hives reduced to their winter configuration with brood comb on the bottom with some pollen and honey frames, and at least one full box of honey on top. We did this on November 6 just before rain and colder weather made their way to east Texas. We did put feeders on each hive to give them one last chance to fill up every cell with nectar/honey.



There were still lots of bees in each hive. We even caught them foraging on camelia, azalea, and rose as we were cleaning up and storing our gear. In the picture at right they had to share the bounty with a preying mantis!



We feel good about our winter preparations. The bees have done their part so far, and we've given them every chance to thrive in winter and early spring.

Cluster well and rest, ladies. We'll see you in January!

We'd love to hear about your beekeeping adventures.

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



WHERE TEXANS GET

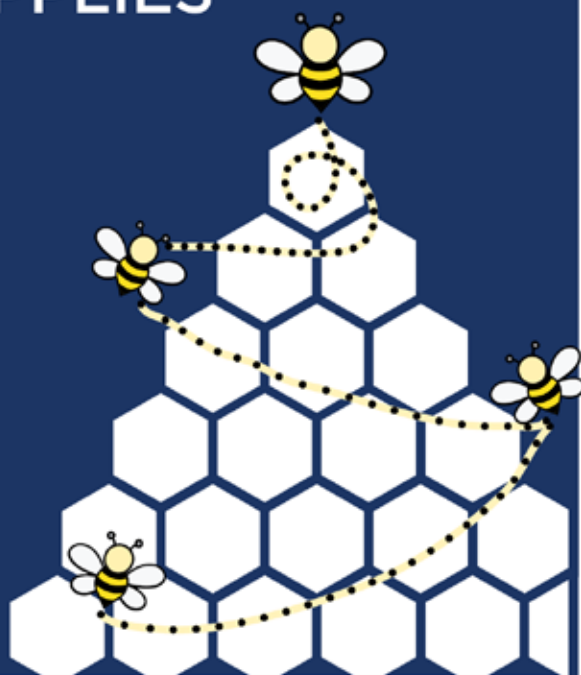
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**Bee Merry This Holiday Season!**

# Texas Honey Show

*"The Taste, Smell, and View of the Texas Beekeeper"*



The Texas Honey Show was so much fun! Check-in was like Christmas as the honey show staff could not wait to see what would be brought in next. Laura Coulburn brought in the 1<sup>st</sup> place Arts & Crafts item pictured below. It was then donated to the "Honey Queen Auction" and was purchased for over \$1,000.



Tanya Phillips came in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Arts & Crafts with a clever beeswax bowl (pictured below). Rachel Payne came in 3<sup>rd</sup> place with her lovely art piece.



This was the first year we did the mead judging in-house and it went perfect. We had 11 mead entries and it was a great opportunity for the participants as they received feedback from all 5 judges pictured below.



We plan to have the Mead competition again in 2019 so start making your meads today. We look forward to the results of what you brew up next!



Pictured above is Pamela Yeaman our Sweepstakes Award winner with Ann Harman is presenting.



Greg Oermann and his lovely wife Sherry won 1<sup>st</sup> place in



Extracted Honey Light/Amber with a perfect score of 100!  
Ann Harman awarded Greg “Best of Honey” and he received an award for “Best Small-scale Honey”.



In the “Wax Plain Block” Doug Stanley won 1<sup>st</sup> place for the second year in a row with his “ball of wax”. It was the talk of the convention. The second place winner was Glynn Smith with Kaye Brouse coming in third (pictured



above).

Daniel Brantner won first place in Gadgets (1st place entry pictured) with Art Thomas 2nd, and S.S. Brantley coming in 3<sup>rd</sup>.



All nine photography winners will be featured in “2020’s Texas Honey Show Calendar”. We presented a draft of the calendar style to TBA (Texas Beekeeping Association) members at the convention in Temple Texas this year. We are looking for feedback, if you were able to get your hands on one of the 300 copies, please email us your thoughts at: [soulhoney@pwhome.com](mailto:soulhoney@pwhome.com)



The Texas Honey Show Team also came up with patches.



Everyone that entered an item in the honey show received a yellow patch. We had blue, red, and white patches for the place holders in each category. We are requesting people submit their art designs for next year’s (2019) to be awarded. Submit your designs to: [soulhoney@pwhome.com](mailto:soulhoney@pwhome.com)

# Texas Honey Show

*"The Taste, Smell, and View of the Texas Beekeeper"*

The honey show team would like to see more young people involved in beekeeping. We would like to add events next year for youths eighteen years old and under. Keep an eye out for more information in January 2019 for the list of entries in the 2019 Texas Honey show.

New this year was the award for most entries by a beekeeping club with more than 100 winners and an award to the beekeeping club with less than 100 members. Both winning clubs would receive a check of \$500 to go towards their clubs youth program. Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Association had 22 entries winning the over one hundred club member prize. Austin Area Beekeepers Association had 17 entries winning the under one hundred club member prize. The 2018 awards were sponsored by: Dadant, Dancing Bee Winery, Moore Honey, R. Weaver Apiaries, Sabin Creek Honey Farm, Walker Honey Farm, Sweet River Honey Company, and Mann Lake. A portion of the money given by the sponsors went towards the two \$500 awards that went to Texas Beekeeping Clubs youth organizations. We are so thankful for their contributions to the future of Texas honey! Thank you from the Texas Honey Show Team.

We had 77 exhibitors and 132 entries that braved the cold rainy weather. We are so excited to present the winners of the "Texas Honey Show" 2018. We were blessed to have Ann Harman (national, regional, state,

and local honey show judge) back judging the honey categories, arts & crafts, and gadgets. Kevin Stillman and Cameron Crane were Photography judges. In cooperation with the Texas Master Beekeeping Program, we were pleased to have three students shadow the judges during the honey show.

Class	1st	2nd	3rd
Extracted Honey LIGHT/AMBER	Greg Oermann	Kaye Brouse	David Boatcallie
			Daniel Brantner
Extracted Honey DARK/HONEY	Jason Gamble	David Boatcallie	Jerry Maxwell
		Marshall Bee Asso.	Chuck Rayburn
Creamed Honey	Nedda Japon	Donovan Johns	Myra Smith
Chunk Honey	Pamela Yeamans	Monica Siwiak	Chuck Phillips
Black Jar	Myra Smith	Pamela Yeamans	
Wax Plain Block	Doug Stanley	Glynn Smith	Kaye Brouse
Arts and Crafts	Laura Coulburn	Tanya Phillips	Rachel Payne
Photo Close-Up	Rachel Payne	Danessa Yaschuk	Shirley Sebastian
Photo Scenic	Rachel Payne	David Sebastian	Chris Moore
Photo Portrait	Shirley Sebastian	Rachel Payne	Lisa Dittfurth
Gadgets	Daniel Brantner	Art Thomas	S.S. Brantley
Traditional Mead - Semi-Sweet	Daniel Brantner	Terry Wright	
Fruit Mead - Berry		Terry Wright	
Fruit Mead - Stone Fruit	Chuck Reburn		Terry Wright
Spiced Mead - Spice, Herb, or Vegetable	Chuck Reburn		
Specialty Mead - Braggot & Honey Bees	Terry Wright		
Specialty Mead - Experimental Mead		Chuck Reburn	
People's Choice Black Jar Honey	Kaye Brouse		
Best of Honey	Greg Oermann		
Best Small-scale Honey	Greg Oermann		
Best Sideliner Honey	Davis Whitthurst		
Best Commercial Honey			
Best of Art	Shirley Sebastian		
Best of Gadgets	Daniel Brantner		
Best of Mead Division	Chuck Reburn		
Sweepstakes Award	Pamela Yeamans		
Most Entries for Large Club	23	Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Assn	
Most Entries for Small Club	17	Austin Area Beekeepers Assn	

**Merry Christmas to all the Texas Honey Show Contestants!**  
**You Exhibit the Best of Texas.**





# Are you a Texas Beekeeper?

## Do you Produce & Sell Pure Texas Honey?

You may be eligible to participate in Real Texas Honey™, a non-profit organization created by the Texas Beekeepers Association to promote Texas honey as a premium product.

Texas consumers want real Texas honey.

Separate your Texas honey from imports and honey from other states. We are looking for Real Texas Beekeepers to join Real Texas Honey™.

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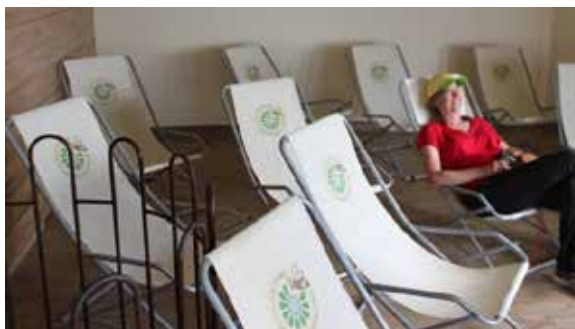
Look for this Seal



This project was supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service through grant 16SCBGPTX0025. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the USDA.

# "I Triple-Dog-Dare You!"

from Robin Young, Metro Beekeepers Association with admiration to the makers of "A Christmas Story"



*"Please make yourself comfortable*

*Be calm and relax*

*Close your eyes and take 3 deep breaths...*

*Enjoy the music of bees and let the healing fragrances  
from the bee hives guide your senses.*

*The hectic pace of today's life style often makes us forget  
ourselves and our wellbeing.*

*We rarely dedicate enough time for ourselves and we  
have nearly forgotten how important our health and  
wellbeing is for others.*

*Enjoy this moment and indulge in nature. Bees are the  
real pharmacists. All that comes from their hives are a  
gift of nature/God a natural pharmacy. Treat yourself to  
a sensual experience. Let the bees take care of you.  
Listen to what they have to tell you. They will lead you to  
their mysterious world and help you to relax.*

*You too can become one with them and indulge in soft  
sounds and scents the hive is offering you. Join them on the  
journey of wellbeing relaxation and energy. Bees are  
more than wonderful. They exist beyond the reach of  
memory and without them life would not exist. Visit their  
world in the following minutes. Let them take control.  
They will be here in no time."*



In the northern village of Zirovnica, Slovenia is a bar,  
named Bistro Noc. When you enter you realize you are in  
what can only be described as Beekeeper's Heaven.



The bar offers meads from all over Slovenia along with  
various honey and creamed honey to go with your food  
and designer coffees. While you wait for your order, you  
sit at a table with honey comb pattern designs .



As you pan the room you realize there are 2 inside  
observation hives to stimulate your mind.





# “I Triple-Dog-Dare You!”

*from Robin Young, Metro Beekeepers Association with admiration to the makers of “A Christmas Story”*

Windows wrap the room, but instead of a view of the outdoors, you have lovely murals that the sun illuminates.



Your order arrives and you notice people walking into a door to the side of the bar. “Is that where the bathroom is? I’ve got to see this!” As you open the door, become amazed as you walk into a large room with lounge chairs and over the speaker you hear someone speaking in soothing French. A few minutes later the voice changes to English and the words are spoken. As the speaker goes through his calming words (listed at the beginning of this article), you hear a few giggles. It’s May 20, 2018 and people from all over the world have come to this small town to celebrate “World Bee DAY”. A few, a very lucky few, managed to find themselves in this local gem.



A lucky few find a chair with their name on it. Soon, too soon, it’s time to go. You gather your things and head out to look for new adventures only to notice you missed the garden.



This year, when you’re making your New Year’s resolutions, “I Triple-Dog-Dare You” to be the one to build the first mead bar with a room for communing with the bees in Texas. I would love to see you all there my bee friends.

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

# 2018 Texas Honey Queen

## Abby Pettibon



This year was incredible being able to meet so many beekeepers and educating thousands of people about the importance of honey bees and beekeeping. It is always amazing to see how people respond so positively when they learn about pollination and the honey making process. The children especially watched wide-eyed with amazement when they saw an observation hive for the first time.

At the beginning of the year, I presented at several schools and beekeeping clubs. Then, as the year continued, I reached the public at multiple fairs and festivals. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as your Texas Honey Queen. One memory that comes to mind is about a little girl with curly blonde hair at the Houston rodeo. Hundreds and hundreds of people received information about beekeeping and honey that weekend. When the little girl looked up at me with a smile and asked to try on my crown, it was the cutest moment. She said that she wanted to be a honey queen as well someday. This is what the Queen program is all about – educating the public and inspiring the next generation of beekeepers!

All throughout the year, I went to some fantastic promotions one of which included a TV interview with KBTX in Brazos Valley. Personally, this was my first time being on TV and, as you can imagine, I was a little nervous, but through this one 2 minute interview I was able to reach over 200,000 people. I will always remember this time with the 2018 American Honey Princess, Jenny, as we promoted the importance of honey bees by doing a live cooking demonstration. These are just a couple of memories I have shared with you, but each promotion has a special memory and place in my heart.

Throughout this year, the Queen program has reached a total number of 473,710 people from all ages and areas in Texas. That is nearly a half-million people who now know more about our industry, our hobby and the impact that honey bees have in our world.

It has been an honor and joy to represent my association and get to know each of you. I look forward to keeping in touch with you all in the future. You have been such a blessing to me personally. You have impacted my life whether it has been by hosting me for a promotion or by sharing a warm smile while we were at events together.

The next steps for me as of now is to finish up my studies at His Hill Bible School and then continuing my college education in either business or organizational leadership. I do want to say "congratulations" to Mary Reisinger who is our newly crowned 2019 Texas Honey Queen. She has done a terrific job at the county level and will be an excellent representative for our association in Texas.

The Honey Queen Program is something we should never take for granted or the countless hours of work from our queen chair. Thank you, Ruth, for guiding me to better represent our association, scheduling events, booking flights, and so much more. You are a true friend and I will always be grateful for you, Ruth.

I look forward to seeing you at beekeeping events in the future. Please know that you are all very special to me and I'll always treasure and be thankful for our time together this year.



*Abby Pettibon presents Laura Colburn's Quilt  
sold in support of the THBEA Queen Fund  
to Julie Noerman*





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

John Hicks

936.718.3471

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

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

You may have heard that "honey bees are in trouble". There are a few reasons we could list in this dilemma and most experts will most likely agree that the *Varroa* mite is at the top of that list. Bee Hive Thermal Industries designed this Thermal System utilizing an industrial grade heater blanket and electronic controls which are easily installed and removed from the hive. The end goal of the product is to raise the temperature of the hive to a programmed temperature, killing the mites without harming the bees based on studies done in Europe. To see the game changing product in action, click the link and view the video. <https://youtu.be/D3l4G2Ws91o>

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

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



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## More from our 2018 Texas Honey Queen Abby Pettibon

One of the most well-known and experienced beekeepers in the state of Texas is S. S. Brantley. With his sense of humor and love for honey bees, he has been an impactful mentor in the world of beekeeping. Since the year 1971, after retiring from the army, Mr. Brantley and his older sister decided to become beekeepers. He told me with a chuckle, "My sister told me we were born to become beekeepers, and since she was my big sister, you do what your big sister tells you." Soon after, a well-established beekeeper retired from beekeeping and provided them with five hive boxes' full of honey bees.

As Mr. Brantley and his sister learned about beekeeping, their apiary grew up to fifty hives at one point. When I asked him, what is one of his favorite memories during the time he first started keeping bees, he replied, "Catching swarms. They were all free bees, and I did not charge for removing swarms for the people that called. I didn't know that you could get paid for doing that." Currently, Mr. Brantley manages fifteen hives and he said smiling, "I'm just like everybody else, I also raise hive beetles. But I guess the most enjoyable part of beekeeping for me is honey extraction." Watching the honey flow from the freshly cut comb, Mr. Brantley says he always enjoys tasting and

seeing the different colors of honey from year to year.

The first TBA convention Mr. Brantley attend was with his sister in San Antonio. He said, "The presentation at that convention was all about Africanized honey bees because all of the Ph.D.'s had gone to South America to study this wild bee that was lose in South America. And it was a really eye-opening dissertation by quite a few well-known beekeepers at the time." One of the guest speakers from that convention was Dr. Dewey Caron who will be presenting at our upcoming TBA convention. Mr. Brantley says he is definitely looking forward to talking with him again.

Throughout the forty years of being involved with TBA, Mr. Brantley has continually shared his encouragement and passion for honey bees with others. Since 2016, he has been awarded a conferred lifetime membership both for TBA and the Louisiana Beekeepers Association. As he continues being involved with the county, state and national associations, Mr. Brantley says, "It's important to be active beekeepers and don't wait." He smiled and continued saying, "Treat your bees like you want to be treated." We can learn from this simple truth about beekeeping and from Mr. Brantley's story as a beekeeper.

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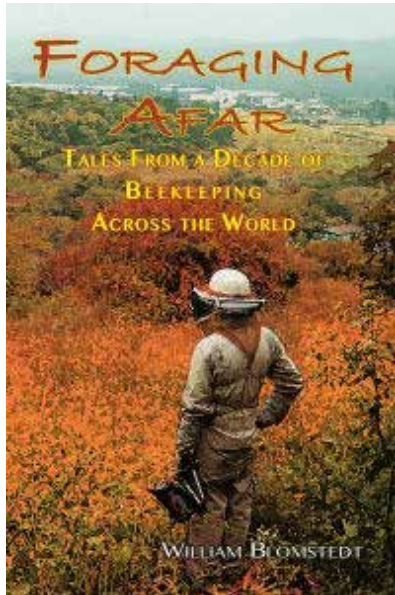
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# New Book Reviews

*from Barbi Rose*



## **Foraging Afar:**

### **Tales from a Decade of Beekeeping Across the World**

By William Blomstedt

Black lava rocks in Hawaii. A darkened gas station in Italy. The rooftops of Morocco. What do all these places have in common? Bees.

Mr. Blomstedt recaptures his experiences traveling as a commercial beekeeper to many different countries around the world – from the green pastures of New Zealand to the ancient temples of Thailand – looking for the next bee adventure.

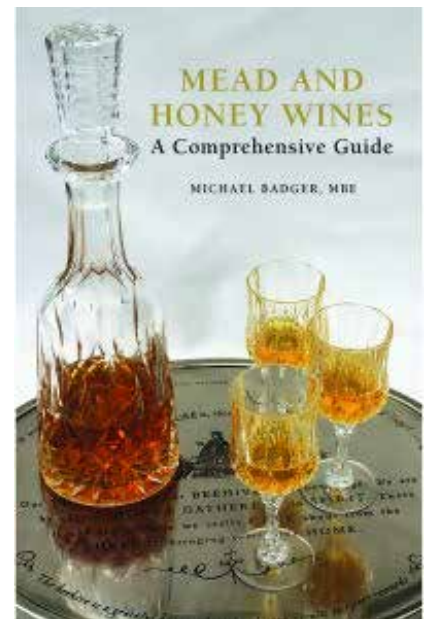
This is an easy and fun anecdotal account of William Blomstedt (American Bee Journal Columnist) and his early beekeeping travels to exotic and not so exotic lands as he makes his way around the world of beekeeping. I liked the entertaining story about his quest to Turkey for a taste of Anzer honey (the acclaimed most expensive honey in the world). There are even a few sections about his experiences in Texas. The book has many interesting pictures of hives, landscapes, maps, and notable sights.

## **Mead and Honey Wines: A Comprehensive Guide**

By Michael Badger, MBE

Michael Badger MBE has been a mead and honey wine producer for over 50 years, using his own honeys for both exhibition and consumption. His knowledge of honeys is exemplary, due in part to his beekeeping expertise of 65 years. He has been judging meads at the highest level for over 40 years, including at the British National Honey Show, and is a prize-winning exhibitor in shows nationally and internationally.

This is truly an elegant and intense study of everything related to making and judging mead and honey wine. I do mean everything. From the chemistry of mead making, to the science of the fermentation processes, to the olfactory senses used in mead judging – All are fully discussed and illustrated. The distinct types of mead are described in detail along with at least one recipe for each. Skip to section six for the exact ingredients, timing, and precise day to day instructions to achieve the best of each type of mead and honey wine. I thoroughly enjoyed this book. It answered all my mead related questions and I feel like I'm ready to start my first "must".



**Available at Wicwas Press ([wicwas.com](http://wicwas.com))**





# Austin 8th Annual Beekeeping Seminar

Register at: <https://aabaseminar2019.eventbrite.com>

**When:** Feb. 2, 2019 9am - 5:30 pm  
**Who:** Austin Area Beekeepers Association  
**Where:** Austin Marriott North, 2600 La Frontera Blvd., Round Rock, TX 78681  
**Cost:** \$70 (Regular Registration)  
**Why:**

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

## Description:

This is a day-long seminar offering five different educational presentations running concurrently throughout the day. There will also be (28) 50-minute classes for intermediate and advanced beekeepers to choose from.

A SEPARATE BEGINNER TRACK has been formatted covering a variety of startup topics for soon-to-be or very-new beekeepers. A beginner beekeeper will learn the fundamentals of honey bee biology and behavior, how to select the equipment you will need, where to buy bees, how to set up your apiary, how to light a smoker, feeding, colony inspection, the fundamentals of honey extraction, queen finding, requeening and annual management.

<b>Other Sessions will include:</b>	<b>Presenters:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making Creamed Honey</li> <li>• Queen Rearing Workshop</li> <li>• Annual Management</li> <li>• Queen Management</li> <li>• Growing Pains: Expanding from a Hobby to Sideline Beekeeper</li> <li>• Homemade Products from the Hive</li> <li>• Bees as an Ag Exemption</li> <li>• Marketing and Brand Development</li> <li>• Honey Bee Biology and Behavior</li> <li>• Top Bar Management Part 1; Top Bar Mgmt. Part 2</li> <li>• Swarm capture Technics</li> <li>• How to Monitor for Varroa Mites</li> <li>• Pest and Diseases of Honey Bees</li> <li>• Preparing for a Honey Show</li> <li>• Producing Honey-Blake Shook</li> <li>• Live Bee Removals from Structures</li> <li>• Making Increase w/o Buying Bees</li> <li>• The 3 P's in Varroa Management</li> <li>• The Top 8 Best Practices in Modern Beekeeping</li> <li>• Swarms, swarming and swarm management</li> <li>• Honey House Planning and Development</li> <li>• Honey Bee Nutrition and Feeding</li> </ul>	<p><u>Professor Juliana Rangel Ph.D.</u> - Entomology at Texas A&amp;M</p> <p><u>Mark Hedley</u> - Owner of Spiral Horn Apiary</p> <p><u>Blake Shook</u> - Owner of Desert Creek Honey</p> <p><u>Karl Acuri</u> - Austin Area Beekeepers Assoc. (Co-Organizer)</p> <p><u>Tara Chapman</u> - Owner of Two Hives Honey</p> <p><u>James &amp; Chari Elam</u> - Owners of Bluebonnet Beekeeping Supplies</p> <p><u>Brandon Fehrenkamp</u> - Owner of Austin Bees</p> <p><u>Ryan Giesecke</u> - Trinity Valley Beekeepers President</p> <p><u>Tanya Phillips</u> - Certified Texas Master Beekeeper</p> <p><u>Ashley Ralph</u> - Vice President of the Texas Beekeepers Assoc.</p> <p><u>Chuck Reburn</u> - Certified Texas Master Beekeeper</p> <p><u>Mary Reed</u> - Chief Texas Apiary Inspector</p> <p><u>Dodie Stillman</u> - Certified Texas Master Beekeeper</p> <p><u>John Swan</u> - Owner of Wicked Bee Apiary</p> <p><u>Sue Ann &amp; Scott Untied</u> - Owners TX Rural Property Tax Consult., LLC</p> <p><u>Lance Wilson</u> - Certified Master Craftsman Beekeeper (GMBP)</p> <p><u>Pamela Yeamans</u> - Certified Texas Master Beekeeper</p>

For additional information email Lance Wilson at [lance@beekeepinghelp.com](mailto:lance@beekeepinghelp.com)



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**Kevin Rader: [Buzzus@beekeepingins.com](mailto:Buzzus@beekeepingins.com)**

**[www.beekeepingins.com](http://www.beekeepingins.com)**

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# Fungus Provides Powerful Medicine In Fighting Honey Bee Viruses

*from Catch The Buzz*

*by Scott Weybright - Washington State University*



*A Reishi Fungus*

Steve Sheppard and his team provide the mushroom extract to a bee colony as part of their experiment. Bees that received the extract showed significant declines in viral infections within days.

A mushroom extract fed to honey bees greatly reduces virus levels, according to a new paper from Washington State University scientists, the USDA and colleagues at Fungi Perfecti, a business based in Olympia, Washington.

In field trials, colonies fed mycelium extract from amadou and reishi fungi showed a 79-fold reduction in deformed wing virus and a 45,000-fold reduction in Lake Sinai virus compared to control colonies. Though it's in the early stages of development, the researchers see great potential in this research.

"Our greatest hope is that these extracts have such an impact on viruses that they may help varroa mites become an annoyance for bees, rather than causing huge devastation," said Steve Sheppard, a WSU entomology professor and one of the paper's authors. "We're excited to see where this research leads us. Time is running out for bee populations and the safety and security of the world's food supply hinges on our ability to find means to improve pollinator health."

The research was published in the journal **Scientific Reports**.

The hope is that the results of this research will help dwindling honey bee colonies fight viruses, that are known to play a role in colony collapse disorder.

"One of the major ways varroa mites hurt bees is by spreading and amplifying viruses," Sheppard said. "Mites really put stress on the bees' immune systems, making them more susceptible to viruses that shorten worker bee lifespans."

This is the first research paper to come out of a partnership between Sheppard's lab and Fungi Perfecti. Their co-owner and founder Paul Stamets is a co-author on the paper.

"Paul previously worked on a project that demonstrated the antiviral properties of mycelial extracts on human cells," Sheppard said. "He read about viruses hurting bees and called us to explore the use of the extracts on honey bees. After two years, we demonstrated that those anti-viral properties extend to honey bees."

Stamets is passionate about the various benefits of fungi, both to humans and wildlife. And he's been enjoying this partnership with Sheppard and his lab.

"This is a great example of connecting the dots between two fields of biological science," Stamets said. "I am excited about new discoveries and opportunities. For me, the best of science is when it is used for practical solutions. Our team is honored to work with WSU researchers and look forward to continuing collaboration."

## Limited supplies

Right now, the mycelium extract isn't currently available in levels for beekeepers to purchase for their hives.

"We are ramping up production of the extracts as rapidly as is feasible, given the hurdles we must overcome to deploy this on a wide scale," Stamets added. "Those who are interested in being kept up to date, can sign up for more information at <http://www.fungi.com>."

Sheppard said he and his colleagues plan to do more work to refine their now-published results. That way beekeepers will have the best information when supplies are more available.

"We aren't sure if the mycelium is boosting the bees' immune system or actually fighting the viruses," Sheppard said. "We're working to figure that out, along with testing larger groups of colonies to develop best management practices and determine how much extract should be used and when to have the best impact."

## Mites and viruses

Over the last decade, beekeepers have seen a disastrous decline in the health of honey bee colonies, often averaging over 30 percent loss annually. Varroa mites, and the viruses they proliferate, play a major role in those losses. Deformed wing virus, which causes shriveled wings on bees, greatly reduces the lifespan of worker bees.

Lake Sinai virus is also associated with varroa mites and is widespread in bee colonies around the United States. While the virus has no obvious or overt symptoms, it's an important virus to fight because it was found at higher levels in bees from collapsing colonies. It is closely related to chronic bee paralysis



virus and it likely makes bees sick and weak, according to WSU assistant research professor Brandon Hopkins.

### **Treating with fungi**

The treated bee colonies in this experiment were fed an oral treatment of mycelial extracts in dozens of small WSU bee colonies infested with varroa mites.

“It’s a really easy treatment to apply,” Sheppard said.

“After we follow larger colonies for a full year, we can develop recommendations for how to use the extracts. Then it is expected that Fungi Perfecti will ramp up production.”

There is currently no timeline for when the extract would be available at a scale large enough for beekeepers.

More information: Paul E. Stamets et al, Extracts of Polypore Mushroom Mycelia Reduce Viruses in Honey Bees, *Scientific Reports* (2018). DOI: 10.1038/s41598-018-32194-8



## **Texas Beekeepers Association**

### **Dates for 2019**

**Delegates Meeting February 9th**

**Summer Clinic June 22nd**

**Annual Convention November 7th - 9th**

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

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

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## **Alamo Area Beekeepers Association**

Rick Fink - (210) 872-4569

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

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

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

Helotes Ind. Baptist Church

15335 Bandera Rd., Helotes at 7 pm

## **Austin Area Beekeepers Association**

Dodie Stillman

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

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

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

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

Frank Fickett Scout Training and Service Center

12500 N I-35, Near Parmer Lane, Austin

## **Bees in the East Club**

Mark de Kiewiet (210) 863-8024

[beesintbeeast@att.net](mailto:beesintbeeast@att.net)

**Meetings** 4th Saturday of each month at 10am

Water Garden Gems, 3230 Bolton Road, Marion,

## **Bell/Coryell Beekeepers Association**

Frank Morgan - (254) 423-2579

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

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

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

## **Brazoria County Beekeepers Association**

Kenneth Nugent - (979) 922-9725

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

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

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

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

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

## **Brazos Valley Beekeepers Association**

Ashley Ralph - (979) 777-2529

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

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

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

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

## **Caddo Trace Beekeepers Association**

Terry Wright - (903) 856-8005

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

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

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

## **Caprock Beekeepers Association**

David Naugher - (806) 787-7698

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

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

Lubbock Memorial Arboretum, 4111 University Ave., Lubbock

## **Central Texas Beekeepers Association**

Michael Kelling - (979) 277-0411

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

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

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

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

## **Chisholm Trail Beekeepers**

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

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

**Meetings:** Last Monday of each month

United Cooperative Services, 2601 S Burleson Blvd, Burleson

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

Mary-Ann Allen (214) 543-5597

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

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

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

Collin College Conference Center, (Central Park Campus)

2400 Community Dr., McKinney

## **Comal County Beekeepers Association**

Julie Morgan - (210) 475-2924

[e.julie.morgan@gmail.com](mailto:e.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

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

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

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

## **Deep East Texas Beekeepers Association**

Ellen Reeder - (337) 499-6826

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

## **Denton County Beekeepers Association**

[board@dentonbees.com](mailto:board@dentonbees.com)

[www.dentonbees.com](http://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](mailto:dino-beeclub@hotmail.com)

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

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

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



**East Texas Beekeepers Association**

Richard Counts - (903) 566-6789

*dick.counts4450@gmail.com*

*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@fortbendbeekeepers.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

*bushyomouth55@gmail.com*

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

**Hill County Beekeepers Association**

Art Wharton (254) 221-5325

*ohyougotit@aim.com*

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

**Hopkins County Beekeepers Association**

Jon Dalzell - Secretary, (214) 395-1730

*dalzelljon@aol.com*

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

**Houston Beekeepers Association**

Shelley Rice - (832) 545-7178

*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

**San Marcos Area Bee Wranglers**

Leslie Patterson - (830) 305-3493

*smabeeWranglers@gmail.com*

**Meetings:** 2nd Wednesday of the month (June through February)

2nd and 4th Wednesdays (March through May) at 7 pm  
Pecan Park Riverside RV Park, 50 Squirrel Run, San Marcos

**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

**Texarkana Beekeepers Association**

Sarah Clinesmith - (903) 490-1080

*texarkanabeekeepersassociation@gmail.com*

**Meetings:** 3rd Monday of each month at 6pm

Texarkana Public Library, 600 W 3rd St Texarkana

**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.**

John Swan - (512) 677-7404

*ontact@TCBeeks.org*

*www.TCBeeks.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 Tuesday of each month at 7 pm (except December)

Georgetown Public Library, 402 W 8th St., Georgetown

**Wise Texas Bee Club**

Donny Johns - (817) 939-3249

*info@wisetexasbeeclub.org*

**Meetings:** First Thursday of the month at 6pm

Public Library, Bridgeport

**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

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