

The Texas Beekeepers Association

Journal



Jan / Feb 2019

www.texasbeekeepers.org

Issue 19-1



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President's Report from Blake Shook

Hello Friends!

I hope you and your bees are emerging from winter successfully! I once visited Canada, and spent a few days in February with a commercial beekeeper. He shared with me that one of his favorite winter past times was throwing a tennis ball onto his 16 foot high barn roof...and watching his dog run up the snow bank onto the roof to retrieve it. I told him that we didn't have quite that much snow here in Texas. Amazingly, the snow was actually a great insulator for their snow buried hives. But, if there was ever a warm enough day to melt the top of the snow, beekeepers would have to rush and break up the re-frozen layer of snow and ice so that the hives buried below could get enough air through the snow. Hopefully those stories helped you feel a bit better about our Texas winters.

Some great things have happened in the industry over the past few months. One of the highlights was the defeat of the added sugar labeling law. As many of you know, the FDA informed the industry that honey labels must say "added sugar" on our labels. The intent was to inform consumers as to how much sugar they were adding to their diet. But, for single sugar products like honey and maple syrup, consumers in focus groups assumed that sugar had been added to honey. So the industry

fought the law and, a few months ago, it was defeated. This would have been a major blow to our industry if it had passed.

Another possible bit of good news, the tallow eradication via the flea beetle has not progressed. We haven't won the battle yet, but we were expecting for the project to open up for a comment period in November. That still has not happened, which is a good thing. It means, at the moment, the project is not moving forward. If it does reopen for a comment period, we will certainly let all of you know.

Unfortunately, from early reports we are hearing, this may end up being one of the worst winters in a very long time for hive losses. I have talked to dozens of beekeepers in the past weeks who have seen a 50-60%+ hive loss. That is abnormally high. It is hard to pinpoint a specific reason for this loss. Many losses are due to mites, some to viruses, others have had bees dwindle away during the winter. This level of losses certainly illustrates the necessity of ongoing research and involvement from all of us.

Here at TBA, we have all been quite busy. We have almost 10 committees running with new projects, ideas, and ways to improve TBA. If you are interested in helping us, we need all the volunteers we can get! Just let us know your areas of expertise and interest, and we can find a committee for you to serve on.

I hope to see you all soon!

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Cover Picture "The Bee and the Ant" - Dan Eudy



Vice President's Report from Ashley Ralph

Happy 2019!

During this super mild winter, we've been spending a lot of time preparing for the upcoming bee season and it is absolutely here! We've noticed the bees brooding up and thankfully looking very healthy. We'll keep a close eye on them as we send a small group to almonds and we'll take good care of the ones that stay in Texas as they prepare for springtime.

I'm excited to work with the TBA Board this year as we continue to move the organization forward. We have had so many words of support and encouragement as well as some fresh faces and volunteers to help so I am optimistic about what can be accomplished over the next year.

We've got some great initiatives that were outlined in the TBA Annual Meeting Resolutions so be sure to check those out on our website and in this issue of the Journal. We'll be using these resolutions as a guideline to provide value to our membership through improving communications, club resources, and events as TBA continues to grow. With that said, I'm looking forward to hearing from some of the Local Beekeeping Club Leadership throughout the state at the Delegates Meeting in February.

We are so excited to have Dr. Keith Delaplane at the Summer Clinic - save the date for June 22 for our Summer Clinic - it will be in Conroe once again and although we're always on the lookout for new locations, we're grateful that this location has been so perfect for our Summer Clinic event. We've made

some adjustments to allow for more panel discussions and demonstrations to create a more "hands-on" feel. We're excited to try this out and see if it's something we can implement more readily in our future events.

Again, please save the date for our upcoming events:

Summer Clinic: June 22, 2019 - Lone Star Convention
Center, Conroe, TX

Featured Speaker: Dr. Keith Delaplane

TBA Annual Convention (tentatively) November 7-9, 2019
(Please keep in mind it is early in the year and this event is subject to changes)

Featured Speakers:

Dr. Dennis vanEngelsdorp
Dr. Jerry Bromenshenk
Dr. Justin Schmidt
Cameron Jack
Tim Tucker

We are thoroughly looking at the Annual Convention event to make sure we are meeting the needs of the membership with the event - this includes everything from the length of the event, to the content, and social experiences, so please continue to make solution oriented suggestions as they come to mind. You can always email me at ashley@primebees.com

Texas Beekeepers Association

Dates for 2019

Delegates Meeting February 9th

Summer Clinic June 22nd

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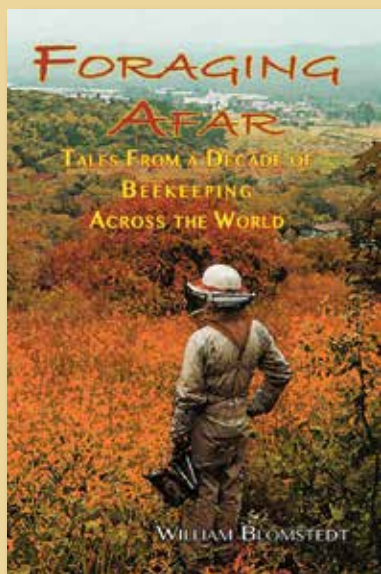
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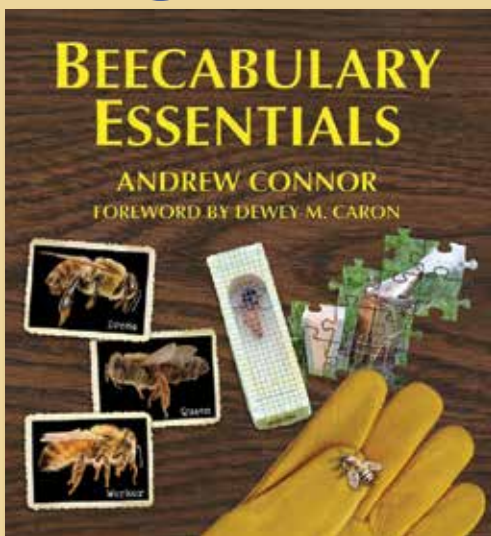
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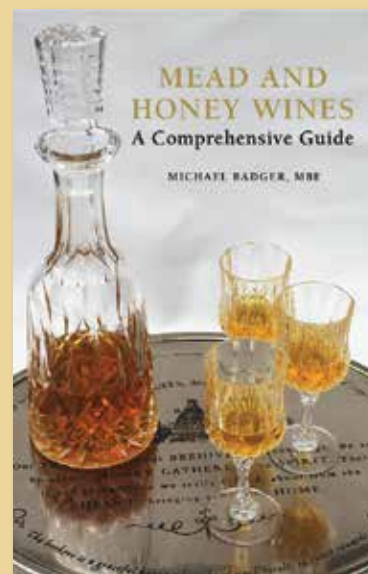
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The Brantley Column

from S. S. Brantley

*2016 Life Member Texas Beekeepers Association
2017 Life Member Louisiana Beekeepers Association*

I sometimes receive interesting bee calls during the early months of the year after the winter winds have blown all of the leaves off the deciduous trees. The excitement comes from a frantic homeowner who can now see a wild bee hive hanging underneath a limb on the leafless tree. They are sure the wild African Bees are going to attack the grandchildren as soon the house door is opened. The call usually goes something like this: "I have a wild beehive twenty feet up in a tree in my front yard. I am highly allergic to bee stings and my grandchildren can't play in the yard." I try to calm them and reassure them I will come over and remove the bees. When I arrive and knock, the homeowner cracks the door a few inches and points out the tree with the "killer bees" and slams it shut again. I check out the limbs about 20 feet high and find nothing. Using binoculars, I check the upper limbs and sure enough, about forty feet high are five dinner plate sized pieces of comb hanging underneath a big limb. But all I see between the combs is blue sky. There are no bees at all. This open colony did not survive the cold and winds we have already had this winter. I assure the homeowner that all is well and promise to come back in April and set up swarm traps on the property -- but not in the front yard. And not forty feet high!

February typically is a few cold days intermixed with some much warmer days. Today is 69 degrees but tomorrow will have 25 mph winds and near freezing temperatures. Take advantage of the warmer days to do a quick inspection of your hives. Make sure the hive still has stored honey that can see the bees through several more weeks of cold weather. If honey stores are limited, feed with a 2:1 sugar syrup mix. In cold weather, the sugar syrup container should be placed inside the hive and over the bee escape hole in the inner cover or over the top bars. This allows the bees to reach the syrup without breaking cluster. Bees can starve during cold weather if the syrup is too far from the cluster.



A Feeding Super

You may need to add an empty super or a feeding super to allow the syrup container to set under the Inner Cover. A feeding super is just a 2 ½ to 3 inch deep box placed between the Inner Cover and Outer cover, creating enough room to feed with a plastic baggie. They can be purchased from most bee suppliers or quickly assembled from some 1x3 or 1x4 boards.

Sometimes I am asked about feeding with old honey. Old honey is not recommended for feeding unless you know its source and you know that it is disease free. It is less risky to feed with sugar syrup or corn syrup.

Some of the bee journal authors are writing about bees found dead in hives with adequate honey stores but little to no pollen. In our part of Texas, bees are shifting into expansion mode by late January and consuming more pollen. On warmer days, they can forage for pollen from the blooming Elm trees but will be consuming stored pollen when it is too cold to forage. It is possible for the bees to exhaust the stored pollen. Some beekeepers feed a pollen substitute, either a commercially available powder or a patty. The pollen powders or patties can be placed inside the hive on top of the inner cover or top bars. You can also consider open feeding of pollen supplements by constructing an open feeding station and let the bees forage on warmer days. If you are not familiar with open feeding stations, Google "bee pollen open feeding stations" and you will find a wide variety of options.

By mid-to-late February, we should see Wild Pear blooming throughout East Texas. Other nectar bearing plants will begin to bloom soon after. Our bees will be foraging strongly on warmer days. You should see increasing activity at the landing board, with bees coming in bearing loads of pollen. Spend some time observing and you will note a variety of different colored pollen on the pollen pouches of the returning foragers. It will be a good time to start a calendar or notebook noting what kinds of trees and flower are being worked and what the bees are bringing into the hive. Blooms do not produce nectar all day long so you need to check at different times of the day.

2019 Texas Honey Queen

Mary Reisinger



Hello everyone!

My name is Mary Reisinger, and I was recently crowned your 2019 Texas Honey Queen. I am extremely honored and excited to serve you this year as the spokesperson for the sweetest organization! I had the privilege to serve Collin County as their 2018 Honey Queen and 2017 Honey Princess, reaching over 30,000 people at over 61 events.

I thought I would start by telling you all a bit about myself. I am currently a sophomore pursuing a degree in speech-language pathology at The University of Texas at Dallas. In addition to caring for five beehives with my father, I enjoy swimming, hiking, reading, camping, cooking and baking.

My adventures with honey bees began in late 2014 when my love for animals led to wanting a pet. Because of family allergies, we could not get a stereotypical cat or dog. I greatly desired to get a pig, but our city would only allow us to get potbelly pigs. Even after researching and presenting to my parents why adopting one could help me with homework, they were not thrilled. My mom was only in it for the bacon and there simply was not enough with a potbelly pig. Next on the list of attempts was honey bees. I was awarded a youth scholarship through the Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Association in 2015. I

am forever thankful for the experience and participating in the program is a valuable part of my education.

My interest in honey bees has become an important part of my life. In most all conversations, honey bees just seem to come up. Simply going to church or the grocery store have become great platforms for speaking about honey bees! Once Spanish class was derailed for a 45-minute Q&A session as my professor and fellow students asked me every bee and honey related question they could think of.

I really enjoyed the TBA Conference, meeting many of you, and hearing your stories from the year. The I look forward to meeting more of you through serving the association this year. I am available for interviews, personal appearances, and love to give presentations. Please let us know if you would like to arrange for me to visit in your area by contacting the Honey Queen Chair: Ruth Ramos at tx.honeyqueen.prg@gmail.com. Be sure to also follow the Texas Honey Queen Program on Facebook and Twitter (@TxHoneyQandP) to follow my travels this year.

My next event will be at the Austin Area Beekeepers Seminar this February. I look forward to seeing many of you there. Once again, thank you for the opportunity to represent you as your new 2019 Texas Honey Queen.



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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.

Who Is Harris County Beekeepers Association?

from Harrison Rogers - TBA Director and Texas Master Beekeeper



You might think that Harris County Beekeepers meets in Houston, but we actually have our monthly meetings in Pasadena. The City of Pasadena graciously lets us use the Golden Acres Recreation Center building, because some of our members take care of swarms in the city. Many of our 180 members do live on the west side of Houston but some travel some 45 minutes or more to meetings.

Our bee club has been holding annual banquets every October for ten years. We welcome all members to a dinner, with scheduled speakers, members-choice honey and photo contests, and annual awards. The current Texas Honey Queen or Princess have attended for many years and preside over the judged honey contest. The year 2018 saw us reach 110 years as an organization, most likely the oldest beekeeper association in the state.

A popular experience for new members is the Saturday equipment assembly outing in April, just before the club sources bees to fill them. Experienced beekeepers help newbees assemble their new boxes and frames.

We have been participating in several local events. With the help of a honey queen and a few dedicated members we sell honey at the Pasadena Strawberry Festival every May at the Pasadena Fairgrounds. This is the largest yearly event in the city, and is also the home of the world's largest strawberry shortcake – 2037 square feet of shortcake in 2018. Proceeds of honey sales go to fund our youth program.

But the big event of the year is the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo. HLS&R had an overall attendance last March of almost 2.5 million. About a quarter of the huge NRG Center building is devoted to the AgVenture area. AgVenture is an educational outreach of the rodeo that draws tons of people. And, of course a large portion of the 2.5 million rodeo attendees come to visit these exhibits, too. Over 61,000 school children book tours through the twelve educational exhibits. That's about 3000 kids every morning, most of whom want to see the queen in the honey bee exhibit. Harris County Beekeepers Association has been the coordinator of the honey bee exhibit in AgVenture for many years. Year after year it has been a crowd favorite. The walk-through skep is the highlight, and there are two observation hives, with bees swapped out every 5 days to help keep them healthy. The rodeo built the exhibit structures and Harris County Beekeepers is responsible to furnish the bees and enough volunteers to fill about 160 slots for the twenty-day event. There are seven bee clubs in the Houston area and all help, including those in the Texas Master Beekeeper Program that need Public Service Credits. FFA high schoolers have been a big help also in entertaining crowds of children with interesting bee facts. We distribute beekeeper catalogs, information on the seven nearby clubs plus TBA, and Real Texas Honey™ brochures. We aren't allowed to sell honey, or even offer honey tasting, but we certainly let visitors know how to find local honey on the TBA Honey Locator.



The Walk-Through Skep at the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo



Harrison Rogers with the Ever Popular Observation Hive

A new opportunity arose this year. Dr. Juliana Rangel, A&M professor of apiculture and honey bee lab manager, found out about a program to be launched at the George R. Brown Convention Center in downtown Houston. The incoming catering company wanted to have bee hives at the center. Originally it was thought the hives would be best on the roof, but the final location turned out to be on a second-floor balcony overlooking Discovery Green, the scene for things like concerts, ice skating, Independence Day celebrations, and Super Bowl events. There are large picture windows looking out on the balcony so visitors can view the honey bee activity from inside the building.



*Harrison Rogers and Michael Scheyer
Installing the Hives*

The project is a collaboration between A&M, Harris County Beekeepers Association, Texas Beekeepers Association, and Levy Restaurants, the GRB food service provider. It is tasked to be an educational opportunity, a source of really local honey for the restaurant, and great public relations for all involved. The

Houston Chronicle newspaper and KTRK Channel 13 have both let the public know about the new venture. The bees were provided by E. T. Ash from College Station, installed into hive equipment assembled by A&M students. Bees were introduced to their new homes on September 24 to establish four hives. Since then we have added a fifth hive and will help them all survive the winter with supplemental feeding. Restaurant executive steward Michael Scheyer was a non-beekeeper but has become quite involved with maintenance of the colonies, with help and leadership from members of Harris County Beekeepers. This venture is now known as GRBees. The convention center is certain to publicize it more, especially as a water feature and bee-friendly plantings are planned this next year to enhance the balcony setting.



*Close Up of the Right Hand Side of the GRBees
Window Display*



View from Inside of the Balcony GRBees Project

Update from Texas Apiary Inspection Service

from Mary Reed, Chief Apiary Inspector



Greetings Texas beekeepers!

I would like to first wish all of you a happy New Year! I hope you had a wonderful holiday season and are off to a good start this year. Since we are all starting off on a fresh note, I'd like to use this article to provide a little background on the Texas Apiary Inspection Service and what our primary role is. We have interacted with quite a few of you in the past, but I'm sure we haven't had the pleasure of meeting the majority of you, thus I'd like to provide a brief introduction.

The Texas Apiary Inspection Service was established in 1910 due to legislation that was created to control American Foulbrood (AFB). AFB is considered one of the most destructive honey bee diseases, and at the time of TAIS's creation it was widespread. The inspection service was widely successful in its efforts at subduing the disease, and today we have very few cases reported each year. Although this disease is currently not as prevalent as it once was, I always encourage beekeepers to understand and learn to recognize the disease just in case symptoms start to develop in their hives. You can find more information about AFB on our website under the "For Beekeepers" section (<https://txbeeinspection.tamu.edu/american-foulbrood/>). To this day, foulbrood is the only disease that TAIS regulates, so if you suspect an infection in your hives you are required to report it to our office.

Ever since its inception, TAIS has been housed under the Texas A&M University system. We currently have four inspectors that conduct inspections throughout the entire state. Our primary role is to mitigate the spread of honey bee pests and diseases, with a main focus on foulbrood disease. We primarily conduct inspections on migratory and commercial beekeeping operations, but we will cater to smaller scale operations if requested. The cost of an inspection is \$75, which also provides the beekeeper with a certificate of inspection that is valid for one year from the inspection date. If you would like to have an inspector come out to your hives, you can either email or call our office and we will work with you to set up a date and time to come out and visit (tais@tamu.edu; 979-845-9713).

Since we cater to the beekeeping industry of Texas, we get many questions from beekeepers on what requirements they need to fulfill in order to keep bees in this state. Three questions in particular stick out in my mind as "frequently asked questions":

1.) Do I need to register?

Under the current beekeeping laws apiary registration is voluntary. There are some exceptions however, which include whether your county requires it for Ag valuation, you are conducting bee removals without a pest control license, or you are participating in the Texas Master Beekeeper Program. Otherwise, a beekeeper is not required to register with our office.

2.) Do I need to brand my beekeeping equipment?

The current beekeeping laws require a beekeeper to identify their colonies by either marking them with the beekeeper's name and contact information or with a brand number issued by TAIS. Hives

must be marked on one or two ends of the hive. A beekeeper is not required to mark any other beekeeping equipment, unless they wish to do so.

3.) What steps do I need to take if I'm going to sell queens/bees?

If you are planning to sell bees or queens, you are not required to be inspected by our office. However, you are required to provide your customers with either a health affidavit that states you have not been inspected by TAIS but you believe your bees to be free of disease. As an alternative, you can request an inspection from our office and thus provide your customers with a certificate of inspection.

Questions we receive from beekeepers certainly extend beyond these three, so if you have any questions for us, please don't hesitate to reach out to our office.

Before I close out my article, I have a few announcements I'd like to make. First, the Spring 2019 Texas Master Beekeeper exam day is scheduled for Friday, March 22nd, 2019. We will be holding exams for the Apprentice, Advanced, and Master levels. If you are interested in participating, more information can be found on the program's website (<https://masterbeekeeper.tamu.edu/>) and online registration opens Tuesday, January 22nd, 2019 (<https://masterbeekeeper.tamu.edu/2019-spring-exam-registration/>). If you have any questions about the program, please contact either myself (mary.reed@tamu.edu) or Lance Wilson (lance@beekeepinghelp.com).

On a second note, the Honey Bee Health Coalition (HBHC) has recently released two new resources for beekeepers: A guide for Best Management Practices for Bee Health and an online Varroa Decision Tool. The new guide is a comprehensive document that covers beekeeping safety, apiary maintenance, hive management, bee nutrition, and much more. You can download a free copy here: <https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/hivehealthbmps/>. Keep in mind that this is a "live" document meaning that it is updated from time to time as needed. The Varroa Decision Tool was designed to support the Varroa Management Guide that the HBHC developed a couple of years ago. The guide includes all of the currently approved treatment options for Varroa mites and sometimes beekeepers feel overwhelmed by their options and aren't sure which one they should go with. This decision tool narrows down those options based on a few questions. If you think this tool will be useful to you or if you'd like to give it a whirl, you can find it here: <https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroatool/>.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or a good beekeeping story you can reach us via email or phone (tais@tamu.edu; 979-845-9713). I hope you continue to have a great start to the year and that we hear from you soon!

Happy Beekeeping!

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Beekeeping in the Early 20th Century

*from Morris Weaver, written by his Uncle
Roy S Weaver Sr*



Over a period of more than seventy years I have moved or helped move a great many colonies of bees, some were moved short distances and some a thousand or more miles.

The first experience I remember was about three years after the turn of the century. (20th century) Papa had a bee yard to move. As I helped hitch-up the horses I suggested that I would like to go along and help drive. No doubt I was more interested in driving than anything else and daddy was a man who let his sons do, or try to do, almost anything they wanted to do. He not only let me drive, he didn't even ride in the wagon. He rode a horse. My younger brother went along. We got the bees loaded about dark and started. In going down a long rough hill I lost control of the team and by the time we reached the bottom of the hill the horses were in a gallop. They ran off the road and into some trees that the wagon hit and stopped very suddenly. Papa was close behind on his horse and got the team unhooked from the wagon. His two sons escaped with only a few stings. The wagon and bees sat there until the next morning. I didn't offer to go along and help finish the moving and there was nothing said about me going.

When I was a young man we had two small bee yards we wanted to move. My brother and I decided to take three wagons with a hired man driving one. The bees were about 12 miles from home. When we hitched up soon after lunch the weather looked stormy and it was raining a little. We lived out in the country and had no weather reports. Of course, there was no radio. The weather was warm and we all had "slickers" so we thought a little rain would not hurt but would make the bee move easier.

We got to the first yard in good time. My brother and the hired man stopped there to load their wagon while I went on about three miles to the other yard to load. By the time I got loaded it was dark and raining with the wind blowing hard. In my hurry, I failed to tie the bees down well and in driving fast one hive fell off in the middle of the road. Somehow, I got it reloaded. By the time I got back to where the others were. We realized we were in a Gulf hurricane. We were lucky in that there was a small extracting house at that yard. That night we could hear trees being blown down. However this was a snug low building in a rather thick grove of young trees, so it stood the storm well. One of us ventured out now and then to see about the six horses. They were fastened to good young trees and none were hurt. By daylight we were on our way. The wind was still blowing hard and it continued to rain. All the creeks were out of their banks so we had to make a long detour. Before dark the bees were unloaded in their new locations and we were home none the worse for our experience. Some of our neighbors thought the Weaver boys were about one half crazy to be moving bees in a gulf hurricane.

I was moving bees some years later in a Model T Ford truck. Just after the sun was up, I was some 85 miles from home and crossing a river bottom with many long bridges with no side rails. I met, a group of some twenty or thirty pairs of mules with their drivers going to work a big farm. One of the mules got excited and tried to turn around. The corner of the truck hit him near his hip. The mules and the man riding went off the bridge and down about ten feet into the ditch. I could see they were not hurt. The jar knocked some hives

open and bees poured out. I was afraid to stop right there so drove on a couple hundred yards to a house. The lady told me who owned the mules and promised to phone and tell him I would be by as soon as I could unload the bees. The teams didn't belong to the man the lady phoned and by the time I had found the right man he had the sheriff looking for me. I was fortunate to have a good beekeeper friend in that town who went with me to see the man. I had to pay \$100.00 for a mule and the matter was dropped.

I had three uncles who were beekeepers in Cuba. The first one to go to was my uncle Walter Somerford. I believe he went in 1892. It was, to work for the A I Root Co. At that, time they had bees in Cuba. There is a picture of one of their Cuban bee yards in the 1910 edition of the ABC & XY Z. Walter was followed by his brother Fred in 1896. Fred Somerford was in Cuba during the Spanish war and acted as a spy for the Americans. My uncle Frank shipped some bees to Cuba and went along with them just after the close of the war. In 1911 I went to Cuba to work for my uncle. Just after I arrived he had a bee yard of some 110 one story colonies to move. He hired two ox carts and each pulled two yoke of oxen. These carts had wheels some seven feet tall. The carts met us at the bee yard before sundown and we soon had them loaded with 55 colonies each. On these carts the loads had to be balanced over the one axel. On one of the loads it, was a little too heavy on the back axle. Therefore the driver rode near the end of the tongue to keep cart from tipping up. The carts were slow making their way 12 to 14 miles to the new location so we went home and slept for a while. When we got to the new location the carts had been left at the new location and the oxen moved away from the bees. The bees were out all over the front of the hives. Two men got on the carts to hand off the bees to my uncle and myself. I was an American fresh from the U.S. and could speak no Spanish. I guess these Cubans thought they would see some fun and soon see me leave the bee yard. So, they would hand the hive to me front first and just as I caught a hold they would give it a shake sending a bunch of bees down on me. I was having a very hard time until my uncle saw what, they were doing and gave then a good dressing down. That was probably my worst experience in moving bees. Of course, the Cubans who worked with me tried to give me a rough time for a while.

With the passing of the years moving bees along with everything else has changed. No longer are they moved with an ox cart or a team of horses. I have watched our men load two truckloads of bees with a "Bobcat" fork lift. These colonies consisted of a hive body with one shallow super. They were on pallets with four to the pallet. They had been unloaded from a large truck that had hauled them in from a distant state.

As I watched our man with the Bobcat load these two trucks with 112 colonies each in less than 45 minutes. With corner boards on each side the loads were soon tied down with screen over the loads and fastened down. How easy it, looked and how much faster than a boom type loader or with three men loading by hand. Then I thought about what one of these machines and the trailer used to carry it on costs and soon realized that one would need to move a large number of colonies each year to justify the expense.

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Taking Care of Bees-ness Since 1888

Birth of the Beetle Banisher

from Michael Richardson

The Beetle Banisher is a simple, yet extremely effective, way to deal with Small Hive Beetles. Small Hive Beetles are native to sub-Saharan Africa. They were first detected in the United States near Charleston, South Carolina in 1996 and have since spread to all 48 of the lower continental states as well as Hawaii. They are most prolific in areas with a warm damp climate where they can live up to 6 months, and one female can lay up to 2,000 eggs. In 3 days when those eggs hatch the beetle larva proceeds to devour bee brood, pollen and honey. Unchecked Small Hive Beetles can decimate a hive in a matter of days.

For 22 years now U.S. beekeepers have been battling these beetles and they've come up with some pretty clever ways to keep them at bay, but not completely eliminate their threat. In February 2016 my friend, and now business partner, asked if I'd build him some experimental bee hives. I agreed to do so under the condition that I wouldn't have to deal with bees, because bees sting. My friend had never kept bees, and really had no place of his own to keep bees, but was certain that a beekeeping friend of his would let him keep the hives at his place. It turned out his beekeeping friend wasn't any too eager to have the responsibility of someone else's hives on his property so the hives remained at my house. Before you know it we were keeping bees which led to battling beetles. The beetles rapidly became the bane of our beekeeping.

By the end of that summer we'd tried numerous devises in the hives, all worked to greater or lesser degrees, none eliminated the problem and most required frequent monitoring and upkeep. By late summer we were researching everything we could find on Small Hive Beetles. We were reading university research papers, articles, posts in forums and listening intently at bee club meetings. We wanted to know everything we could about our nemesis. We wanted to know their strengths and more

importantly their weaknesses. What were other beekeepers doing? What was effective, what wasn't, and to what degree? In the process we discovered the beetles have a serious aversion to light but that knowledge alone didn't readily seem like a solution since bees aren't too keen on much light in the hive either.

Being newbies to beekeeping, my business partner and I thought it would be a good idea to transfer an established colony from a swarm trap to a hive in the cool of the night. Little did we know bees hate being messed with after dark, but it was a lesson we quickly and painfully learned. Later, when telling the tale of this painful fiasco to a beekeeping friend, we were informed that it's best to use a red light when dealing with bees after dark, because bees see red as black. This bit of information caused us to wonder if the beetles could see red light, or were they color blind like the bees. So we built a test box with a transparent red lid on one half and a solid black lid on the other. We placed a handful of beetles in the box then placed it in the sunlight and, just like Anakin Skywalker, the beetles went to the dark side. We reversed the lid and again they scurried to the dark side. This proved the beetles could see red light and didn't like it. Next came a few rough prototypes and field tests, but by then it was winter with no good way, in the Ozarks, to test our covers. We contacted the president of a bee club near the southern tip of Florida. He confirmed that Small Hive Beetles there are a year round battle. He agreed to test our covers, so we shipped him a couple. He monitored the hives for two weeks, checking almost daily. After the first three days there was little to no change but on day four the numbers started to decline and by day eight there were zero beetles in the hives. No beetles were observed during the remainder of his two week observation.

In 2017 spring weather came early to the Ozarks so, with help from several local beekeepers, we got early opportunities to



Beetle Banishers on Three Hives



Placing a Beetle Banisher on a Hive



*Beetle banisher Discusssion at TBA Convention
Dan Brouse, Michael Richardson and Roger Hoopingarner*

test our Beetle Banishers on numerous hives. With consistent positive results we spent that season comparing and sourcing raw material options for the optimal combination of UV stability and impact resistance. We refined the design and lined up a manufacturer. Finally our Beetle Banishers were ready and our website went online.

Now dealing with Small Hive Beetles has never been easier.



Beetle Banisher on Several Hives



AG Exemption from Hel-Helpful from Robin Young, TBA Director Metro Beekeepers Association



Before you volunteer to help someone get their property an ag exemption through beekeeping, re-read this article. It would also be a good idea for them to read it as well. EVERY COUNTY IS DIFFERENT BUT IF YOU MEET DENTON COUNTY STANDARDS...

All my hives are in Denton County, Texas. I won numerous honey competitions. My winning honey always comes from the same apiary that could only sustain 3 hives. Needless to say, I wanted more of that honey so my husband and I started looking for properties in the area. We found one. The property was an open lot of 12ish acres and no ag exemption. The current property tax on this "open lot" was \$2,412 increasing every year for the following five years. So to just get out of the red, I needed to sell my honey and honey products for over the property tax amount and an amount for 12 bee hives each year for five years. This is called financial insanity. It takes five years to literally "pull-drag kicking and screaming" a property into ag status.

The day after we closed on the open lot, I filed for the ag exemption. The beekeeping exemption was new to Texas and I wanted to see what the rules were. I was sent an email with this information:

Bee Keeping Guidelines	
Beekeeping is a qualifying agricultural use if used for the pollination or for the production of human or other tangible products having a commercial value. (Sec. 23.51(2) Tax Code)	
Acreage requirements are set by Texas Property Tax Code to be a minimum of 5 acres and a maximum of 20 acres to qualify for beekeeping as an agricultural use.	
Typically the number of hives per acre is as follows:	
First 5 acres	5 - 6 hives
Additional 10 acres	4 additional hives
Remaining 5 acres	12 hives maximum
The property will need to have a history of agricultural use or the owner will have to establish the 5 year history with the bee operation to qualify.	

I still had eight months left in my first year so I moved hives to the open lot property. I took photos of the hives on the property and felt that the first year was well documented. This was also the first year I started selling my honey at the Denton Community Market.

The second year we filed for the ag exemption again. A different assessor was assigned and we were informed we had to improve the property to get the ag exemption. I asked, "What do you mean by improve the property?" She told us we need to clear all the brush and mesquite trees and show where we purchased seeds for flowers. I had to bite my tongue to keep from screaming that mesquite trees are one of the biggest nectar produces for Texas Honey bees. I tried really really hard to gently tell her that I wanted to harvest more of my award winning honey and changing the environment by bulldozing the trees and introducing new wild flower would change the honey flavor...

etc. She would not listen. I was basically no one who knew nothing about beekeeping. NEVER GET ANGRY. I have spent years teaching my brain to not get angry, that anger is a wasted emotion. It's destructive and never leads to what you want. This was the first time in decades that I was actually angry. I took a deep breath and started talking to my husband. We decided to fence in the front of the property that faced the highway, clear all the trees except the ones needed to shade the bee hives in the afternoon and put a gravel road in. The second year it got real. I went on Google maps and copied the aerial photos of my hives with the google date stamp.



Example:

The third and fourth year I sent in an inch of documentation both times. I received a denial letter based on years. That's ok. What I was doing was building a record for myself, seeing what else they might throw my way, and letting them know I will not back down. By this time I had entered the Texas Master Beekeeping Program. I felt if a person selling honey next door to the old court buildings for Denton County was not demonstrating a sale of honey and the education and photos I took did not qualify, "Who Does?"

The Fifth year I received this:

Beekeeping Questionnaire

Property Owner Name:

Property ID #'s

*Acreage Requirement: The State of Texas has set a minimum of 5 acres and a maximum of 20 acres to qualify beekeeping as an agricultural use. (Losing an acre to a homestead exemption must be accounted for in the acreage total. Eg: a six acre site with a one acre home site meets the minimum acreage requirement, a five acre site with a one acre home site does not.)

* Number of acres on this application is _____

* When property owners initially qualify for agricultural appraisal, they must show proof of history of agricultural use/beekeeping for any of the five out of seven preceding years for bees.

One way to do this is to ask for export, import or intra-state permits, which is required by the Texas Apiary Inspection.

* Service to transport hives. When did you receive your bees? (Attach a copy of the apiary receipt from your purchase).

* When did you obtain your equipment for the bees?

* What type of bees are you raising?

* How long have you been raising bees?

* How many Hives do you have on the property now?

* Who will be managing the bee colony?

* Is there a hired wrangler? If yes, who?



* Describe any beekeeping education obtained:

DESCRIBE THE PRODUCTS YOU EXPECT TO HARVEST

____Honey – (Extracted, Comb, Chunk, Creamed, or Whipped Honey ____ Beeswax ____ Propolis ____ Royal Jelly ____ Pollen ____ Bees themselves

Expected pound of production per hive is _____

How do you plan to market your products?

DESCRIBE ANY POLLINATION PLANS FOR YOUR PROPERTY:

i.e.: What plants are on your property now? Do you have clover? Have you planted specific flowers for the bees?

PLEASE NOTE – The bees must be alive & producing to qualify & are subject to annual verification.

SIGNATURE: ____DATE: ____Print Name:

Congratulations!!! An official governing entity has named you “Wrangler”!

”! Also, according to this form above, crazy ag assessor from the 2nd year actually did me a favor by making me buy several thousand dollars of flower seed. I had a receipt. I sent in documentation to back up every answer from the “Beekeeping Questionnaire”. Two months later I received a denial letter telling me I have 5 days to respond with more documentation. So I sent them even more. Finally, in November of 2018 we received a letter and the property tax rate was \$16.95. We officially made it to Beekeeping ag status. It felt good... and it was validations that yes, you are a beekeeper. Yes, I could have just put a cow on the property. The reality was not lost on me and I received a letter yesterday stating I have to reapply again this year. This may become a yearly thing. If I was to say something to anyone that worked in an ag office and were responsible for determining if a property received a beekeeping ag exemption I would say this:

Thank you for naming us Bee Wranglers...you rock!!! Second, in this current beekeeping environment with Africanized Bees, Varroa Destructor, other honey bee diseases, and months with no rain vs. months with constant rain; if beekeeping is not truly in one's heart, they will leave the field. Less than one percent of the population is beekeepers. They are, for the most part, an older generation. We are trying to bring in younger beekeepers and this ag exemption is an attempt to create more beekeepers. It's so bad that there are several honey bee types that have gone extinct. There are battles that need to be fought so that the next generation has what we have. In this case, it is literally food to feed the world. So do your due diligence to protect the exemption, but know when too much is too much.

Did I mention the honey is worth it?



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

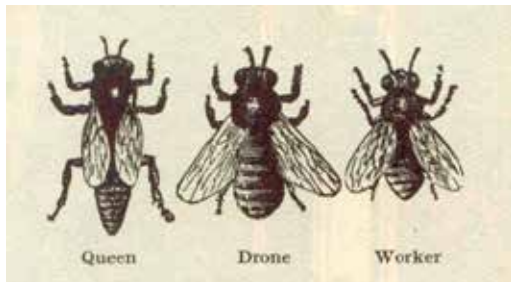


**Central Texas
Beekeepers Association**

11th Annual Beekeeping School

**Saturday, March 23, 2019
Brenham High School
525 A. H. Ehrig Drive, Brenham, Texas**

*****New Location*****



Whether you are a complete beginner or an experienced beekeeper, there will be something of interest to you!

A preliminary course schedule is given on the back of this flyer.

Cost, including Lunch and Snacks:

Individual	\$65
Additional Adult	\$60
Student (Including College)	\$25
Children Under 12	\$10

Register at: www.tinyurl.com/2019BeeSchool

Please visit us at www.centraltexasbeekeepers.org
email centraltexasbeekeepers@gmail.com or call 979-277-0411
for more information or to be added to our mailing list.

Visit us on Facebook at CentralTexasBeekeepersAssociationandFriends

CTBA 2019 Beekeepers School: Preliminary Course Offering—As of January 21, 2019

Course	Description
General Classes	
Beekeeping 101	Multi-Hour class for Beginners covering basic beekeeping principles
Beekeeping 201	Multi-Hour class for Intermediate Beekeepers seeking advanced techniques
Top Bar Beehives	Multi-Hour Class Addressing the Top Bar hive and it's utilization
Live Bee Inspection	Live Bee Inspection--Protective Gear Provided
Beginner Classes	
Getting, Installing, Handling Bees	Where to get bees, how to install them in your hive
What Equipment Do I Buy	What you will need for your beekeeping activities
Different Types of Bee Hives	Examining different types of bee hives (Langstroth, Top Bar, Flow Hive, etc)
Introduction to the Flow Hive	Skype session with Flow Hive (A flow hive will be given as a door prize!)
How to Assemble Equipment	Demonstration of assembly of hive Components (Langstroth hive)
Lighting and Using a Smoker	Hands on demonstration of smoker utilization
Inspecting Your Hive	How to inspect your hive and what to look for (Beginner Level--Classroom)
Hive Autopsy	Assessing causes of hive failures
Texas Bee and Honey Laws	Understanding the state regulations for beekeeping
Chemical Free Beekeeping	Chemical free techniques for managing your hive
Top Bar Hive Overview	An introduction to the Top Bar Hive
How to Extract Honey	Basics of harvesting honey from your hive
Ag Valuation for Bees	Review of the regulations regarding property tax
Apitherapy	Medicinal Application of Bee Stings
Intermediate Classes	
Beescapes	Managing your property and vegetation to support your bees
Making Splits	How to multiply your hives by way of splitting your existing colonies
Making Mead	Introduction to the making of Mead from your honey crop
Packaging and Marketing Honey	How to market your honey and other hive products
Pest and Disease Control	Sustainable pest and disease management
Maximizing Honey Production	Proven techniques for increasing your honey output
Inspecting Your Hive--Intermediate	Classroom discussion of hive inspection procedures and issues--Intermediate
Nutrition and Feeding	Nutritional needs and feeding of your bees.
Integrated Pest Management (IPM)	Discussion of IPM methodology and application
Re-Queening Your Hive	Why, when and how to re-queen your hive
Growing Your Bee Business	Moving from hobbyist to small business beekeeper
Collecting and Keeping Swarms	How to find, capture and maintain bee swarms
Advanced Classes	
Raising Your Own Queens	Avoid the cost and problems of purchasing queens by raising your own
Application of Oxalic Acid	How to properly and safely apply Oxalic Acid for Varroa mite control
Thermal Pest Control Techniques	New thermal approach to pest control
Removing Bees from Structures	Techniques for safe and efficient bee removal and recovery
Bee Reproductive Biology	Examination of the sex lives of bees!
Designing a Honey House	How to plan your honey facility for efficiency and productivity
Commercial Beekeeping Issue	A Commercial Beekeeper's Point of View
Using Double Nucs for Sustainability	Examining the benefits of the Double Nuc to maintain Apiary Resources

Note: Courses subject to change based on speaker availability.

Central Texas Beekeepers Association

11th Annual Beekeeping School

from Michael Kelling, President CTBA

March 23 is the date for the Eleventh Annual Beginners Beekeeping School sponsored by the Central Texas Beekeepers Association.

The school, which began as a small gathering of 35 attendees at one of the member's homes, has grown to around 650 people and has moved to a new venue at Brenham High School at 525 A. H. Ehrig Drive in Brenham.

There are many classes to educate Newbees on how to get started in beekeeping including How to Assemble Your Equipment, Where to Get Your Bees and demonstrations on How to Extract Honey.

One of the most popular attractions is the ability for new beekeepers to "suit up" and be present while a live bee hive is opened and inspected. Participants will be able to find the queen and see brood, pollen and other activities inside a healthy hive.

Another popular class is a live Skype session with Cedar Anderson, inventor of the Flow Hive. Cedar gets up early on a Sunday Morning (for him) to spend an hour with us live and demonstrate the Flow Hive. He usually donates a Flow Hive to be given away at the school.

While the school is designed for beginning beekeepers, we also have sessions for intermediate and advanced beekeepers. Intermediate classes include Disease and Pest Control, Making Splits and Raising Queens.

Advanced Beekeeping classes include Moving from Sideline to Commercial Beekeeper, Designing a Honey House and Using Double Nucs for Sustainable Apiaries.

A complete track is available for those interested in Top Bar Hives. We all know Top Bar expert Les Crowder who will lead this session. It includes everything needed from making the decision to go Top Bar to maintaining and having thriving hives.

The school starts at 8:00 a.m. and will be over at 5:30 p.m. The cost of the school includes a catered Bar-B-Q meal with Blue Bell Ice Cream and a "school book" with information about beekeeping. Door prizes will be given away and a drawing to give away complete bee hives will be held at 5 p.m.

To register for the school, visit:

www.tinyurl.com/2019BeeSchool.

For more information, call Michael at 979-277-0411 or email to: centraltexasbeekeepers@gmail.com

Our facebook page with over 3750 members, mostly from around Texas, can be found at: Central Texas Beekeepers Association and Friends

The Central Texas Beekeepers meets the 4th Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Washington County Fairgrounds. Anyone interested in beekeeping is welcome at the meetings.

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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

Texas Beekeepers Association Membership Application

or Join Us at www.texasbeekeepers.org

New / Renewal (circle one)

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Local Association _____

Membership category:	Century Club	\$100	_____
	Individual	\$ 35	_____
	Family	\$ 50	_____
	Association	\$ 50	_____

Donation:	Texas Honey Queen Fund	_____
	Texas Honey Bee Education Assoc.	_____
	Stae Fair Honey Booth Fund	_____

Total Enclosed _____

Remit to: Shirley Doggett
Membership Coordinator, 400 County Road 440, Thrall. TX 76578



THE BUDS AND THE BEES

Early Season Bloomers

by Becky Bender, Texas Master Naturalist

Let the foraging begin...before Spring is even in the air!

Your bees are already preparing their new year's menu. The winter pantry has dwindled. The hive population is at a low. And during those occasional warmer days in January and February, scout bees are on reconnaissance missions surveying sparse but vital pollen and nectar resources. Meanwhile, foraging bees are awaiting the scouts return to the hive with information on the location of these resources. These earliest foraging trips are kickstarting preparation for egg laying and brood rearing.

Brood rearing activity starts earlier in the season than we might think and rapidly expands as days warm. We may see bee activity at bird baths, dog bowls or bird feeders. And while bees don't exactly get a lot of "buzz" for their "buzz" in the winter, even limited flights to collect early pollen are valuable. The arrival of early pollen signals the colony and queen to prepare for egg laying and brood rearing, a very busy and critical time. Here are a few sources of some of our earliest pollen and nectar in Texas.

MAPLE TREES bloom so early in the season that their value as honey plants are underestimated. As one of the bee's earliest sources of large quantities of pollen, the maple's major value is in brood-rearing. Of the many members of the Aceraceae or Maple Family, five maples are native to Texas. Box Elder or Ash-leaved Maple (*Acer negundo*) is native to Austin and Travis County. It doesn't look much like other maples in shape, nor does it have spectacular fall foliage. Chalk Maple (*Acer leucoderme*), Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*), and Southern Sugar Maple (*Acer barbatum*) all occur in the sandy Piney Woods of East Texas. The Big-toothed Maple (*Acer grandidentatum*) grows on limestone soils of Central Texas but is considered a native and adapted, Earth-wise landscape plant that can thrive in various regions and amended soils.

HENBIT (*Lamium aplexicaule*) is one of our most common and invasive weeds. People who like turf grass try to kill it. It's a member of the Mint family originally from Europe-Eurasia-North Africa. Henbit has multiple stems from a single taproot which can grow 6-8 inches long with small purple flowers. It's considered a "winter annual" blooming as early as January. Henbit produces both nectar and pollen that the bees will work at a time when nothing else is around. Once other things start to come out, the bees will abandon Henbit for something better.



RED MAPLE in Early Bloom



HENBIT, a Common Weed in January

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.

FLOWERING QUINCE (*Chaenomeles japonica*) is a shrub or small tree which can start to bud in early January and is a good source of both pollen and nectar during winter. This is a good choice to plant near an apiary. If you've had the pleasure of taking beekeeping classes at Sabine Creek Honey Farm in Josephine, Texas, John Talbert probably showed you his Flowering Quince in bloom in early March near his Honey House. Neil Sperry once wrote that the Flowering Quince would probably be included as one of the best flowering shrubs in Texas if only it was more attractive when not in bloom. This small tree of Japanese origin gets about 5-6 feet tall and has thorns.



WINTER HONEYSUCKLE

in Winter Months



FLOWERING QUINCE *at Sabine Creek Honey Farm in February*



WINTER HONEYSUCKLE (*Lonicera fragrantissima*) is a small shrub with creamy white flowers that appear on bare branches. While not showy, these flowers are accessible to bees and a welcome sight in winter. It is an excellent source of both pollen and nectar. Winter honeysuckle originated in China and is not the invasive Japanese honeysuckle which has long flowers too deep for bees. Winter honeysuckle is adapted to all regions and soils in Texas and grows to about 6 feet in height with arching branches.

HELLEBORUS (*Ranunculaceae*) is a small evergreen, deer-resistant perennial shrub in the buttercup family that prefers shade or part shade in a garden or wooded area. It's a good source of both pollen and nectar from winter to mid-spring. Several different cultivars (varieties) are available in some nurseries. I recently learned about this plant from a participant in my program at the DFW Beekeeping School in Waxahachie who told me she sees her bees on this plant in winter. One of the best parts of speaking to Texas beekeepers is learning from them, and I wish I had gotten her name to thank her here. After doing a little research on Helleborus, I learned this European and Asian shrub is suitable for various soils in Texas and not likely to be invasive in landscape use. I plan to plant some this year.

HELLEBORUS *with Garden Flowers in Winter*

These featured plants are not an all-inclusive list of early season bee plants in Texas. But they are some of the best on a very short list. The list is surprising to me because I typically write about conserving and planting natives. Yet while researching early bloomers it became obvious how few native early bloomers for bees we have in North America, much less in Texas. Plants of European and Asian origin dominate our winter nectar and pollen producers. Perhaps that's because the native Asian honey bee, *apis cerana*, and Asian plants evolved together for mutual survival. And the native European honey bee, *apis mellifera* (brought to the Americas by European settlers), and European plants evolved together for mutual survival. Thank goodness we beekeepers can import a few plants that are well-adapted to our ecology to help our imported honey bees thrive and survive.

Especially before spring is even in the air!

Texas Honey Bee Education Association Update



“Increasing Resources”

January 2019 TBA Journal by Roger Farr – THBEA Chairman

Howdy, fellow Texas beekeepers!

Please welcome Mr. Terry Wright and Ms. Ashley Ralph to the THBEA board. They join Leesa Hyder, Blake Shook, Chris Doggett, Chris Moore, and me as we together help THBEA fulfill its mission to fund and implement projects relating to honey bee education and research. The THBEA is truly a working board, and it takes all of us to get the job done.

This January, THBEA unveiled the *NewBee’s Guide to Texas Beekeeping*. This four-panel, double-sided *Guide* is designed primarily for new beekeepers who have taken a beekeeping course but still have much to learn about beekeeping in Texas. The *Guide* is printed in a large format on water-resistant cardstock to make it durable and longer-lasting when carried in a pocket or toolbox on the way to the bee yard. The *Guide* is available at no cost and has already been shipped to all TBA-member beekeeping associations. Please ask your association president for a copy. You can download a copy of the *Guide* from THBEA.com or request additional *Guides* from Chris Doggett at ckdoggett@gmail.com.



The *NewBee’s Guide to Texas Beekeeping* is a great example of teamwork and utilization of resources. An initial group of beekeepers (Linda Williams, Robin Young, Kellie Jensen, and Mark de Kiewiet) under the direction of Chris Moore created the first drafts. Beekeepers from the Texas Apiary Inspection Service and the Texas Master Beekeeper Program then provided additional information and suggestions. Next, a talented graphic designer put it all together into a very readable and useable form. The final step in making the *Guide* a reality was to fund the \$5000 to produce and distribute 5000 copies to Texas beekeepers; several beekeepers stepped up to fund the *Guide*, and other future THBEA publications. We’re grateful for everyone’s contribution!

Your THBEA board is working on two broad fronts in 2019. The first front is to generate additional income for THBEA to use in granting and funding projects. We’re pursuing three avenues:

- additional donations from beekeepers and those desiring to support the Texas beekeeping industry,
- grants from public charities with a similar mission to THBEA, and
- through the production of specialty license plates with the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.

The second front is to develop projects to further additional improvements in general public and beekeeper education. THBEA would love to support TBA-member Associations with additional resources to supplement their monthly educational programs and to encourage young people to get involved in beekeeping. THBEA is supporting the TBA Honey Queen program on the Texas state level and plans to do more in supporting other youth programs on the local level. We will keep you up to date as we make progress on these projects.

THBEA’s main source of income is donations from beekeepers like you. I encourage you to join with the THBEA board and get involved by making a contribution to THBEA to fund the projects above. Your contribution to THBEA, an IRS designated 501(c)(3) public charity, may be tax-deductible for you. There are several ways to donate and get involved:

- 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, or
- visit the THBEA website at THBEA.com to make a donation via PayPal.

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

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

Howdy TBA members!

I hope you had a restful and productive holiday season. Once the fall semester ended, I had the opportunity to travel to Honduras to teach for the first time a beekeeping training course (in Spanish!) to cooperative extension agents, thanks to a grant awarded by USAID to the Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture's Coffee Resilience program in Central America. We had a total of 20 participants from El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala who attended the intensive one-week training course that included classroom lectures and hands-on workshops. After this trip I was able to spend quality time with friends and family in San Diego, CA, and to recharge.

The new year has come with a lot of question marks for the future of science in the United States... let us hope that our law makers will enable our funding agencies to re-open and continue funding our much-needed research on honey bees and the natural world!

I have just a few announcements to make. First, congratulations to Alex Payne, who received the student presentation award in Early January at the American Bee Research Conference (ABRC), which took place within the larger meeting of the American Honey Producers Association in Tempe, AZ. Alex continues to impress the audience with her excellent presentation skills and cool research on ant and bee viruses. Representing our lab were also Pierre Lau and Liz Walsh, both of whom did a great job presenting their own Ph.D. dissertation work at the conference. More information about the conference at <http://aapa.cyberbee.net/2018/2018-american-bee-research-conference-2/>



*Dr. Rangel at an apiary in
CAPUCAS, Honduras*



I did not join the students at the ABRC for the first time in many years. Instead, that same week I presented a Saturday workshop on "Queen Rearing Essentials" at the 20-19 American Beekeeping Federation Conference and Tradeshow in Myrtle Beach, SC (<https://www.abfnet.org/event/abf2019>). Dan Aurell, our BIP Tech Transfer Team leader in Texas also presented a case study on Nosema control products during the BIP's stakeholder meeting.

I am really excited about presenting a webinar to the Irish Beekeepers Association on Wednesday, 24 January. The title of the webinar is "The Behavioral Ecology of Swarming" and will be presented live at 2pm Central Time. For those of you who are interested, the link to more information is <https://www.irishbeekeepersassociation.com/calendar-of-events.html>



*A coffee plant with mature beans. Bees help increase
this crop's yield by more than 15%!*

On the scientific publications front, the American Association of Professional Apiculturists (AAPA) published on 8 January of this year a special issue with the journal *Insects* on honey bee health, as a complete set of articles including an editorial overview. A total of 13 peer-reviewed manuscripts and an editorial review comprise this inaugural AAPA special issue (https://www.mdpi.com/journal/insects/special_issues/honey_bee_AAPA)

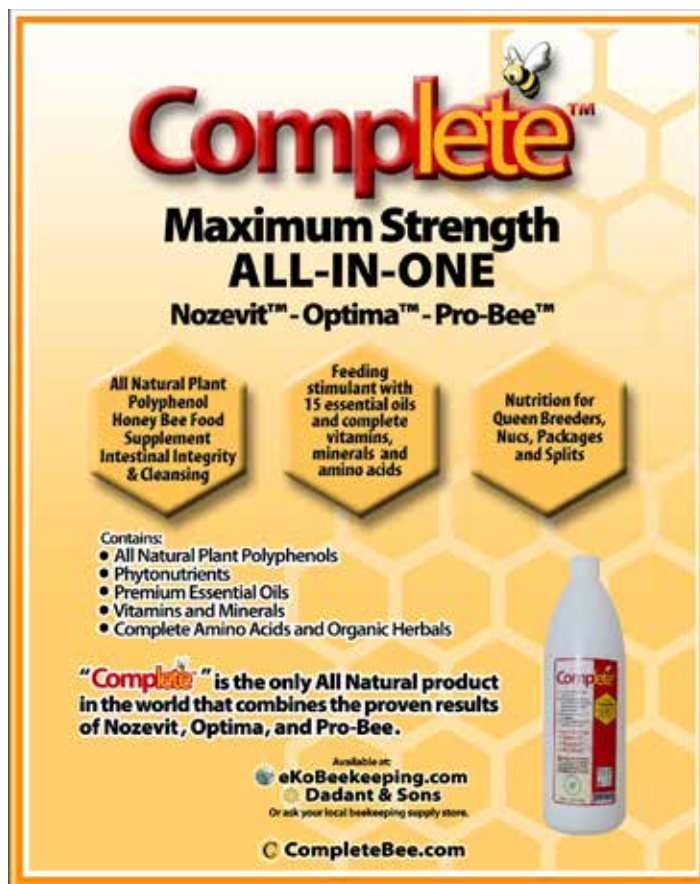
On that same issue, our latest paper came out. Title "Initial Exposure of Wax Foundation to Agrochemicals Causes Negligible Effects on the Growth and Winter Survival of Incipient Honey Bee (*Apis mellifera*) Colonies." Alexandria N. Payne †, Elizabeth M. Walsh † and Juliana Rangel †Payne and Walsh are co-first authors.

Insects 2019, 10(1), 19; <https://doi.org/10.3390/insects10010019>

Abstract: Widespread use of agrochemicals in the U.S. has led to nearly universal contamination of beeswax in honey bee hives. The most commonly found agrochemicals in wax include beekeeper-applied miticides containing tau-fluvalinate, coumaphos, or amitraz, and field-applied pesticides containing chlorothalonil or chlorpyrifos. Wax contaminated with these pesticides negatively affects the reproductive quality of queens and drones. However, the synergistic effects of these pesticides on the growth and survival of incipient colonies remain understudied. We established new colonies using frames with wax foundation that was pesticide free or contaminated with field-relevant concentrations of amitraz alone, a combination of tau-fluvalinate and coumaphos, or a combination of chlorothalonil and chlorpyrifos. Colony growth was assessed by estimating comb and brood production, food storage, and adult bee population during a colony's first season. We also measured colony overwintering survival. We found no significant differences in colony growth or survivorship between colonies established on pesticide-free vs. pesticide-laden wax foundation. However, colonies that had Varroa destructor levels above 3% in the fall were more likely to die over winter than those with levels below this threshold, indicating that high Varroa infestation in the fall played a more important role than initial pesticide exposure of wax foundation in the winter survival of newly established colonies.

Lastly, I just want to invite you all to join us for the Austin Area 8th Annual Beekeeping Seminar on Saturday, 2 February 2019 from 9am to 5:30pm at the Austin Marriott North, 2600 La Frontera Blvd., Round Rock, TX 78681!!! You can register at: <https://aabaseminar2019.eventbrite.com> The cost is \$70 (Regular Registration). Most of the proceeds are donated to the Texas A&M Honey Bee Lab so attending this event will directly benefit our research program!

I hope to see a lot of you in Austin this February. In the meantime, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to email me at jrangel@tamu.edu. I am more easily reached via email than the phone. For up-to-date information regarding our program, or for new and interesting posts regarding bees and beekeeping, please visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/TAMUhoneebeeab>. Thank you!



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Preparing Our Bee Yard for Spring

"The Continuing Journey of Two Sixth-Year Small-Scale Beekeepers"
TBA Journal Article - January 2019

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

Winter is the time when most backyard beekeepers begin to think about their spring season activities. They order new equipment, repair the old, and brush up on their queen-rearing skills and timing. All of these are necessary in order to be successful and prepared. However, one area not usually thought of is the condition of the bee yard itself and its impact on the success of the beekeeping operation. That's the focus of this article.

We prepared five hives to overwinter, and it appears that all will be successful. We treated for mites using the oxalic acid vaporization method in December on a 50 degF day. You see our hives in their winter configuration at right. We last inspected them in middle January when we had a 65 degF day. All had sufficient food resources, and all but one had brood in some form so we added a box with drawn comb to each hive. The elm trees in northeast Texas are beginning to bud and that is a good sign of spring population build up. Yet, we still had one thing to do...get the bee yard itself ready!



We run our beekeeping operation with one apiary site in a far corner of our six-acre homesite. Our permanent hive stands are fixed in the ground. Having a single permanent apiary has many advantages and some disadvantages for a small-scale beekeeping operation. When we started with bees in 2013, the trees around our apiary were smaller and the hives were in full sun. Now the trees have grown to partially shade our hives creating more favorable temperatures for hive beetles to flourish. The tree branches could be in the way of inspecting the hives, and the lower branches make it easier for birds to pick off bees as they leave the hives. In the picture at right you see how we've trimmed the trees up at least 15 feet from the ground. This was a December, two-person job; one operated the pole saw, and the other assisted with easing the branch to the ground so as to not disturb the clustered bees.



We use mulch to keep down the weeds and grass which would easily grow around the hives and their stands. In the winter photo above note the low level of mulch; in some places you can see bare ground! A recent photo shows staged (piled) new mulch in our



apiary ready to be raked and distributed. We use the material that comes straight out of the chipper at a local tree service. It is a mixture of hard and soft woods and contains leaves and other organic matter. We get ours from our AgriLife Extension office where the Master Gardeners and their gardens are also located. The mulch allows water to drain freely and it provides a firm footing for us to move around the hives and safely carry the supers.

We like to keep the mulch level between four and six inches deep. Approximately two inches of mulch will degrade each year so we replenish it once a year. We usually do this in winter when the bees are clustered and so do not mind the noise and vibration of the tractor delivering the mulch to the apiary. In the photo at right you see the finished results of our mulch refresh.



We plan to increase our apiary to nine hives, and we want to again produce and sell nucleus hives. This means we will need more space, initially temporary, for the nucs. We've used cinder blocks and 10 foot-long 4x4 poles with good success in past years. The nuc area is about 50 feet from our permanent apiary. This allows us to visit the nucs more often for feeding and inspection without being in the flight line of the other, established hives. To accommodate the larger number of nucs we desire to produce this year, we'll add a second set of blocks and boards approximately 50 feet further away from the first nuc stand.



Bees are flower eaters. As Texas Master Gardeners, we like to have many flowering plants on our six-acres to give our bees "close to home" sources of nectar and pollen. Winter is also a good time to put into the ground additional flowering plants. We recently constructed a new bed in our orchard to grow Goji berries...but that is another story, and we'll share that with you in our next article.

We'd love to hear about your beekeeping adventures.

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





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

Kevin Rader: Buzzus@beekeepingins.com
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Raw Honey is Driving Net Growth within the Honey and Syrup Industry due to the Popularity of the Paleo Diet

from Catch The Buzz

by Nicole Potenza Denis – Specialty Food Magazine

Makers and Consumers are Coming Down From Their Sugar Highs and Keeping a Closer Eye on What Makes Products Sweet

Conventional sugar's reputation is suffering. According to Mintel's "Sugars and Sweeteners Report, December 2016," dollar sales of sugar and sweeteners fell five percent from 2011 to 2016 and settled at an estimated \$4.3 billion in 2016. Sales of sugar, sugar substitutes, and syrup also continued to decline, unable to disassociate from sugar's negative stigmatization and the concerns over the safety and flavor of artificial sweeteners. (Thirty-five percent of consumers surveyed by Mintel believe that artificial sweeteners are bad for their health, and that something derived from nature is more appealing.)

With ties to obesity, chronic inflammation, diabetes, and a no-no in increasingly popular diets worldwide, sugar has health-focused consumers rushing to satisfy their sweet tooth with plant-based options and alternatives that offer cleaner labels, good tastes, reduced calories, and in some cases, added nutritional benefits. Simultaneously, producers are rethinking and revamping product formulations.

"With more consumers familiar with the glycemic index and choosing products that are lower on that scale, producers are feeling the pressure to include more natural sweeteners in their recipes, scrambling to find alternatives, bragging when they do, and even touting attributes before taste," notes Amelia Rappaport, grocery team leader, Woodstock Farmers' Market, Woodstock, Vt., who says she's seen the most sweetener overhauls in categories such as beverages, barbecue sauces, and desserts.

Mintel reports that 84 percent of U.S. adults are limiting the amount of sugar in their diets, with a third of consumers limiting sugar intake more than they were a year ago. Thirty-five percent want food and drink companies to do more to reduce the amount of sugar in products, while 34 percent say these companies should make it easier to understand how much sugar is in their products.

Consumers are also reevaluating at retail, prioritizing purchases, and taking a closer look at food and drink packaging. According to Mintel's report, 80 percent are checking labels for the amount of sugar and/or sweetener used and 79 percent are checking labels for the types of sugar and/or sweetener used.

Twenty-six percent would like to see more food/drinks using naturally sourced sugar substitutes, but only a small portion (16 percent) is willing to pay more for these items. (iGens and millennials are more likely than older consumers to want to see natural options in food and drink and are willing to pay more for the option.)

And, when looking to buy food and beverages that they consider healthy, high-fructose corn syrup, white sugar, and artificial sweeteners are among the top five things consumers report they avoid.

The shift in thinking can be seen in specialty sweetener sales, a category that includes maple syrups, honey, and unrefined sugars, and alternative sweeteners. According to the Specialty Food Association's 2018 "State of the Specialty Food Industry" report, specialty sweeteners grew 13 percent between 2015 and 2017 versus 2.5 percent growth in all sweeteners.

Even the FDA has taken heed. For the first time in over 20 years, it's updating its Nutrition Facts Panel, mandating manufacturers to disclose added sugars front and center on their labels.

"The FDA's pending change coupled with consumers' heightened awareness of their sugar consumption, will definitely pressure manufacturers to reassess their products," says Cara Koslosky, UNFI category manager for sugar, sugar substitutes, and honey and syrups.

From sweet potatoes and dates, to honey, monk fruit, and more mellowed-out stevia, here are some trends in the alternative sweetener category that are gaining traction in packaged goods.

CLEAN LABEL INGREDIENTS

With health and wellness one of the biggest drivers behind the adoption of alternative sweeteners, natural, unrefined ingredients like fruits, vegetables, and raw honey, especially those making non-GMO and organic claims, are becoming go-tos.

"Lots of people struggle with satisfying a sweet tooth," says Rappaport. "So, they look for the least of the evils when it comes to sweeteners, trying to avoid HFCS and replacing it with things like honey and monk fruit." She touts raw honey-sweetened Elements Truffles and Ethereal Confections Sugar-Free Bars sweetened with erythritol and organic stevia, as popular non-conventional sugar indulgences.

According to Mintel, honey is perceived well, with 75 percent of consumers indicating that it is healthy, and 38 percent rating it the healthiest option, followed by stevia, raw cane sugar, agave, monk fruit, coconut sugar, and maple syrup.

"In the natural channel, raw honey is driving 68 percent of the net growth within the Honey and Syrup category, partly due to the popularity of the Paleo diet," notes Koslosky, pointing out that raw honey claims to be more nutritious than non-raw honey because it retains the natural vitamins, enzymes, and nutrients that are typically lost through processing.

While raw honey has nutritional benefits, it's not an option for many vegans. Sweet potato juice concentrate could be the next natural sweetener showcased in baked goods, protein bars, and more. It is low on the glycemic index, a solution to high-fructose sugars, vegan-friendly, and mildly sweet.

"Sweet potato juice is an excellent and nutritious sweetener option for incorporating into baked goods or hot coffee drinks. Cinnamon sweet potato lattes, anyone?," says Kylie Gearhart MS, RDN, CDN, registered dietitian, and clinical nutrition manager at NYU Langone Orthopedic Hospital.

Gearhart says manufacturers should see its potential in protein shakes and bars, and to naturally sweeten creamy soups. It also comes with a health halo.

"It's high in potassium, nutrient-dense, and has both soluble and insoluble fiber," says Paul Verderber, vice president of sales for Carolina Innovative Food Ingredients, maker of Carolina Sweet, a clean-label sweetening solution that uses whole sweet potatoes grown in North Carolina.

AVOIDING THE AFTERTASTE

Amidst growing demand for low-calorie beverages, stevia has been a frontrunner in the sweetener category, with increased applications in RTD teas, flavored waters, and protein drinks. According to a report by MarketsandMarkets, the stevia market is projected to grow at a CAGR of 9.5 percent from 2017, to reach a projected value of \$771.5 million by 2022.

"The most popular alternative sweetener that my patients ask me about is stevia," Gearhart says. "It's calorie-free and tastes very sweet, making it a no brainer for those attempting to lose weight or control their blood sugar levels."

But, while many consumers prefer it to artificial sweeteners, it still has a stigma associated with an off-putting aftertaste.

"Stevia in moderation is a better alternative than raw sugar in products, and this is especially true in the diabetic population," Gearhart continues. "However, it is important for consumers to be aware that these products are more expensive than sugar and have slightly dissimilar taste and aftertaste and may cause gastrointestinal issues."

Manufacturers are working to improve upon the taste, and balancing flavors to mellow the bitterness is key.

"It does seem that newer products with stevia taste better, in part because of strategic blending with other sweet ingredients, including cane sugar. Science and technology will soon have new styles of stevia that address off-tastes, and that could be a game changer," observes Kara Nielsen, vice president, trends and marketing, CCD Innovation, Oakland, Calif.

Global flavor houses like Synergy use proprietary 'sweetness enhancers'—what flavor chemists and senior food technologist Janice Bryl and Margaret Walther, respectively, describe as "natural flavors that round out the backend of the stevia and complement the sweetness profile." Other ingredient suppliers like Cargill have launched EverSweet, a zero-calorie sweetener made with Reb M and Reb D, compounds found in less than one percent of the stevia leaf. EverSweet is produced via fermentation while isolating and processing the compounds with baker's yeast to create, according to Cargill, an "improved sweetness quality without bitterness or licorice aftertastes associated with stevia leaf extracts at high use levels."

"Reb D and Reb M will have a cleaner taste and less bitter profile, notes both Bryl and Walther. "But, will be more expensive.

Paleo and Keto Approved Sweeteners

Paleo diet-friendly sweeteners: honey, particularly raw honey; maple syrup or sugar; and coconut palm syrup or sugar.

Keto-friendly sweeteners: stevia, erythritol, and monk fruit, as they are all zero carb sweeteners.



"The only time I ever believed that I knew all there was to know about beekeeping was the first year I was keeping them. Every year since I've known less and less and have accepted the humbling truth that bees know more about making honey than I do."

Sue Hubbell,
A Book of Bees: And How to Keep Them

TEXAS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

2019 Resolutions

Saturday, November 10, 2018

Continuing Resolutions

1. **Whereas** TBA strongly encourages the honest and ethical marketing of honey, and the promotion of pure Texas honey,
Be it Resolved that TBA will continue to promote programs that advance that cause.
2. **Whereas** TBA recognizes the continued support of Texas apiculture by Texas A&M University's ("TAMU") agricultural administration, and its department of entomology under the leadership of Dr. David Ragsdale,
Be it Resolved that TBA will continue to support and work with TAMU to enhance their research and education about honey bees in Texas.
3. **Whereas** TBA recognizes that the Texas Master Beekeeping Program ("TMBP") is greatly benefiting Texas beekeepers,
Be it Resolved that TBA wholeheartedly appreciates the endeavors of all of those involved in the TMBP, and pledges our continued support.

2019 Resolutions

1. **Whereas** TBA recognizes and appreciates the dedication and efforts of so many of its members involved in TBA work and activities throughout the entire year,
Be it Resolved that TBA expresses appreciation to the dozens of volunteers that make this organization a success.
2. **Whereas** TBA recognizes that the current Texas apiary regulations under Chapter 131 of the Texas Agriculture code are outdated and in need of updating; and **Whereas** the 2018 committee did recommend pursuing changes,
Be it Resolved that TBA will continue to pursue updates to Chapter 131 in upcoming legislative sessions for implementation.
3. **Whereas** beekeeping has rapidly gained exposure in the state of Texas,
Be it Resolved that TBA will continue to pursue the creation of a Statewide Apiary Extension Agent.
4. **Whereas** TBA strives to increase exposure to beekeeping and raise funds for beekeeping education,

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

5. **Whereas** TBA understands the importance of, and supports small scale, sideline and commercial beekeepers,
Be it Resolved, that TBA will strive to represent the needs and concerns of all scales of Texas beekeepers.
6. **Whereas** TBA recognizes the importance and struggles of the beekeeping industry; and **Whereas** commercial beekeepers play an irreplaceable role in the Texas economy and the beekeeping industry, fulfilling critical pollination and production needs,
Be it Resolved that TBA commits to include, represent and support current and future commercial beekeepers and their interests.
7. **Whereas** roadside forage initiatives promoted by Ladybird Johnson provide over 800,000 acres in Texas of valuable bee forage,
Be it Resolved that TBA work with TXDOT state, regional and county offices, homeowners associations, municipalities, and other agencies to encourage roadside best management practices which permit and encourage the full life cycle of flowering plants.
8. **Whereas** the 1-D-1 Open Space Agriculture Use Appraisal has greatly benefited beekeepers and landowners in Texas,
Be it Resolved that TBA pursue expanding the acreage limits for the special use valuation for beekeepers and help establish county requirements of the program.



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

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

Alamo Area Beekeepers Association

Rick Fink - (210) 872-4569

president@alamobees.org

www.alamobees.org

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday on odd # months

Helotes Ind. Baptist Church

15335 Bandera Rd., Helotes at 7 pm

Austin Area Beekeepers Association

Dodie Stillman - (512) 560-7550

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

bellcoryellbeclub@gmail.com

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

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

Brazoria County Beekeepers Association

Steve Brackmann - (832) 884-6141

stevenbrackmann@yahoo.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

Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Assn.

Mary-Ann Allen (214) 543-5597

president@cchba.org

www.cchba.org

Honey Queen Program: queenchair@CCHBA.org

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

Collin College Conference Center, (Central Park Campus)

2400 Community Dr., McKinney

Colorado County Beekeepers Association

David Behlen (832) 230-5740

coloradocountybeekeepers@gmail.com

Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm

316 Spring Street, Columbus

Comal County Beekeepers Association

Julie Morgan - (210) 475-2924

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

cvbeekeeper@gmail.com

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

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

Deep East Texas Beekeepers Association

Ellen Reeder - (337) 499-6826

ellenswartz@sbcglobal.net

Denton County Beekeepers Association

Candi Pardue - (940) 765-4185

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@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

kr@dunnservices.net

Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month at 7pm
4102 North Ben Jordan St.
Victoria, TX 77901

Harris County Beekeepers Association

Jeff McMullin - (713) 203-6348

jefferylmc@yahoo.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

gm.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

Robin Sliva - (254) 205-0534

rs.plumleeplace@gmail.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

Connor White - (903) 360-2253

connor.white.1969@gmail.com

netbacantontexas@outlook.com

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

Canton Fairgrounds, 24780 TX 64

Canton, TX 75103

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

Area 1

Chris Doggett

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

Bees in the East Beekeepers Association
Bell/Coryell Beekeepers Association
Brazos Valley Beekeepers Association
Central Texas Beekeepers Association
Fayette County Beekeepers Association
Elgin Beekeepers Association
Heart of Texas Beekeepers Association
Hill County Beekeepers Association
Southwest Texas Beekeepers Association
Temple Area Beekeepers Association
Williamson County Beekeepers Association

Area 2

Robin Young

robinyng@pwhome.com
13737 FM 1171
Northlake, TX 76262
(940) 765-2907

Caprock Beekeepers Association
Chisholm Trail Beekeepers Association
Denton County Beekeepers Association
Dino-Beekeepers Association
Elm Fork Beekeepers Association
Erath County Beekeepers Association
Johnson County Beekeepers Association
Metro Beekeepers Association
Red River Valley Beekeepers Association
Wise Texas Bee Club

Area 3

JJ Swan

kadeiquis@hotmail.com
5904 Burrough Dr.
Austin, TX 78745
(214) 316-4236

Alamo Area Beekeepers Association
Austin Area Beekeepers Association
Colorado County Beekeepers Association
Comal County Beekeepers Association
Concho Valley Beekeepers Association
Fredericksburg Beekeepers Association
Golden Crescent Beekeepers Association
Hays County Beekeepers Association
San Marcos Area Bee Wranglers
Texas Hill Country Beekeepers Association
Travis 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
Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Association
East Texas Beekeepers Association
Hopkins County Beekeepers Association
Lamar County Beekeepers Association
Trinity Valley Beekeepers Association

Area 5

Harrison Rogers

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

Brazoria County Beekeepers Association
Deep East Texas Beekeepers Association
Foet Bend Beekeepers Association
Harris County Beekeepers Association
Houston Beekeepers Association
Houston Natural Beekeepers Association
Liberty County Beekeepers Association
Montgomery County Beekeepers Association
Pineywoods Beekeepers Association
Tyler County Bee Club
Walker County Area Beekeepers Association

Area 6

Myra Smith

myras29@gmail.com
PO Box 37
Hughes Springs, TX 75656
(903) 639-2910

Henderson County Beekeepers Association
Longview Beekeepers Association
Marshall Beekeepers Association
North East Texas Beekeepers Association
Texarkana Beekeepers Association
Tri County Beekeepers Association
Wood County Beekeepers Association

Texas Beekeepers Association

Chris Doggett, Editor
400 County Road 440
Thrall, TX 76578-8701
Phone: (512) 914-2794
ckdoggett@gmail.com

TBA Officers-2019



President

Blake Shook
blake@desertcreekhoney.com
575 County Road 5010
Blue Ridge, TX 75424
(214) 886-6899

Vice-President

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

Past President

Chris Moore
chris@moorehoney.com
9767 Bevil Blvd.
Kountze, TX 77625
(713) 724-7110

Executive Secretary

Leesa Hyder
execsec@texasbeekeepers.org
82 Sandpebble Drive
The Woodlands, TX 77381
(281) 460-0344

Publications Director

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

Membership Director

Shirley Doggett sdoggett@mindspring.com
400 County Road 440, Thrall, TX 76578
(512) 924-5051

