

The Texas Beekeepers Association

Journal



Important Legislative Update on Pages 6 - 8

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President's Report from Blake Shook

It's officially springtime and that means that my report will be brief as I write it in between long days of splits and nights of moving bees. It's great to be busy in the bee yard after getting our bees back from California. It was an exceptionally wet season in almonds and we were worried about how the bees would look coming back with fewer time to collect pollen between rain storms. They're looking good though and we're looking forward to what will hopefully be a good spring for honey production.

The TBA Board has been busy at work with committees focused on events, legislation, website and communications and more. Be looking for more updates throughout the year as we have a great team of volunteers. For now, I'd like to take a moment to give you an overview of the beekeeping legislation we've seen over the past month or so. We're closely watching and communicating with our partners at the Legislative Lawyering Clinic (LLC) who have been working hard on behalf of beekeepers across Texas. We're thankful for the feedback we've received and are listening to recent feedback in addition to the past years of discussions that we've had regarding many of these issues with you, our membership.

HB 2670 and companion CSSB 677 was presented in order to improve and resolve the most agreed upon portions of Chapter 131 that were in need of revision. The decision to tackle these areas was rooted in majority agreement amongst discussions surrounding Chapter 131 that has been going on for the past 3+ years.

Regarding the other "bee bills" that have been introduced, I felt it important to acknowledge that we are watching them diligently and working with our representatives at the LLC to oppose the mandatory training for bee removers as proposed in HB4212 as well as the amendment in agricultural exemptions for subdivisions in HB2996. Both of these issues are widely opposed by our membership and we will continue to work on your behalf. Again, we appreciate those of you who have reached out with solution oriented feedback, concerns and in order to help. We truly appreciate it.

Wishing you all a successful spring season with your bees. We're looking forward to seeing you all in June for the TBA Summer Clinic! It's going to be an exceptional event. See you soon!

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Cover Picture - Dan Eudy



Vice President's Report from Ashley Ralph

I recently saw an image outlining the “seasons of Texas” with springtime referenced as “the pollening”. It seems like the perfect descriptor for the time of year when the car is more yellow than any other color no matter how many times you wash it and the bees are brooding up for what will hopefully be a plentiful spring honey flow.

Our bees are back from California and we’ve been growing out nucleus colonies. Springtime is always such a busy time! We’ve got calls for bee removals and swarms, nucs filling up, splitting our hives, and redistributing our bees around the county. It’s back to long days but you’ll hear very few complaints from us. We did keep some bees home this year, but it’s nice to have our bees back safely and doing well.

It’s the time of year where we make decisions on what our focus will be for the year - are we building up more bees or are we focused on a large honey crop? We split for swarm prevention and growth and build up production hives. Bees have been our biggest

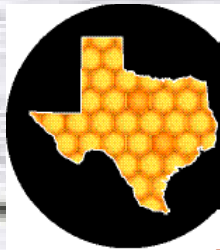
focus as we grow our apiary, however, we tend to keep enough production colonies to keep the honey flowing throughout the year for us, for now.

There are a lot of exciting things happening in TBA at the moment as we gear up for Summer Clinic. We have an amazing line up of speakers, demonstrations, vendors, and more. It is bound to be the best year, yet! We’ll even get a sneak peak of Dr. Delaplane’s current research with Dr. Debbie Delaney in which their grant ends in June so we’ll be one of the first to hear how their research went and what amazing discoveries they’ve found. If you haven’t signed up already, registration is open at the TBA website. The event is Saturday, June 22 in Conroe, TX at the Lone Star Convention Center.

TBA has several committees at work thanks to an influx of volunteers. I want to thank all the amazing volunteers that have spent time and energy working for TBA this year so far - it’s been amazing to work alongside so many talented and energetic people.



*Austin Area Beekeepers Association Seminar
Vendor Show (Photo by Jimmie Oakley)*



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Important Legislative Update

from TBA Legislative Committee

As many of you know, there are several bee related bills that were introduced for this session. We wanted to take a moment to discuss them and acknowledge the feedback and questions we've received. We appreciate those of you who have taken the time to provide feedback and we hope that this will help clarify some things for those of you who have been following along.

What is TBA's stance on HB4212 and HB2996?

HB4212: This bill proposes a mandatory training program for bee removers. The bill would set up a certificate and/or licensure (unclear) for a "Bee Removal Professional," establish training requirements and require the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) to set up industry standards for live bee removals. Administrative rulings by TDA could effectively end the current exemption from pest control licensing for beekeepers doing live bee removals. TBA has concerns about "Bee Removal Professional" certificates being issued by the state to non-beekeepers with limited training and experience. **TBA OPPOSES this bill.**

HB2996: This bill makes land in a residential subdivision (as defined by the Texas Property Code) ineligible for Open-Space agricultural appraisal. This prevents beekeepers who own property in larger-tract, primarily rural residential subdivisions that otherwise permit agricultural activities, from qualifying for ag valuation for keeping bees. **TBA OPPOSES this bill.**

TBA has fielded many calls, comments, and questions regarding these bills and we've been watching them both closely since they were filed. It is clear to us that these bills are not beneficial to beekeepers throughout the state. We have been working with our legislative contacts and key legislators to explain our concerns. We will continue to monitor both bills.

HB 2670 and SB 677 FAQs

What is the purpose of removing the intrastate permit? Are there any concerns in doing so?

Purpose:

Repealing the intrastate permit is a step in updating and simplifying Chapter 131. While this was a useful tool in 1983 when Africanized bees and two new bee pests were moving into Texas, it provides no significant benefits today.

Concerns:

The repeal of this permit has direct consequences to those beekeepers on the master bee removal list published by the Apiary Inspection Service. This list has become a widely used tool by the public. The information for the master list is taken directly from the annual Bee Removal Transportation Applications (Intrastate Permit). If the permit goes away, the master list will no longer be published by TAIS. Last fiscal year there were 241 beekeepers whose names were on the master list. Beekeepers on this list will attest to its importance to their business and to the folks who contact them through the list.

Legislative Update (contd.)

The funds generated by the Intrastate Permit are 30% of the income generated by TAIS. The loss of funds to TAIS is significant and we believe could result in less services provided by them (i.e. attendance as speakers at educational events, educational material on pests and diseases and mitigation, etc.) and could possibly affect the Master Beekeeper Program.

Will TAIS apply fees to those registering as part of the proposed “voluntary annual registration”? Why would they charge me?

Under the proposed changes, TAIS would have the ability to set fees for voluntary registration. There is a provision in the bill for categories of registration for assessing fees, including a “no fee” registration. Registration fees will enable TAIS to provide the master list of beekeepers doing bee removals and to establish the infrastructure for beekeeper notification. The benefits of such a notification system have been discussed for many years, specifically with respect to pollinator protection plans, as a way to facilitate communication between beekeepers and pesticide applicators. Numerous states have requirements in place for pesticide applicators to notify registered beekeepers in a certain radius of pesticide spraying.

TBA & TAIS are very aware of the requirements imposed by some appraisal districts and municipalities to register with TAIS. That is why there is a provision in the bill for categories of registration for assessing fees, including a “no fee” registration.

Are we currently required to register our apiary or as an individual beekeeper?

Chapter 131 Section 131.045 currently states that the chief inspector may provide for the periodic registration of all apiaries in Texas. The intent of this section, which was added in 1983, was to allow the chief inspector to **require** the periodic registration of all apiaries in Texas, per the bill analysis. This was never intended to be used as a voluntary registration. In order to try to accommodate beekeepers who were being required to register by their appraisal districts for ag valuation for beekeeping, TAIS allows folks to “register.” TAIS provides no services to those registering an apiary and registrants are not even added to a TAIS email list. There is no provision for updating registration information so it is quickly outdated.

Does TBA support or oppose mandatory registration?

We feel that the voluntary registration is the best way to keep this decision in each individual beekeepers' hands. Since we have heard strong opinions from beekeepers on both sides of this issue, we would have to do a huge amount of research before we even begin to tackle this question. Our goal for this bill is to stay narrowly focused on the less-controversial changes that will improve Chapter 131. We chose these areas of focus based on the changes with the widest degree of acceptance over the past 5+ years of working on legislative changes to Chapter 131.

Legislative Update (contd.)

What does the proposed change for the Import / Export Permit mean to me as a beekeeper?

The import and export permit only pertains to those beekeepers moving bees into and out of Texas. Many beekeepers are currently required to apply for multiple permits during the year. The import and export permits will be consolidated into one annual permit, which will greatly simplify the permitting process for beekeepers and TAIS. This bill makes **no changes with respect to the inspection requirements** under the current statute. The inspection service does a good job monitoring the general health of managed honey bees in the state. Texas has reciprocity understanding with respect to health inspection certificates with several other large beekeeping states like South Dakota. Texas could not employ enough inspectors to constantly inspect the tens of thousands of hives that move in and out of Texas annually and if we did, it would not provide any increased benefit.

What does TAIS do for me?

TAIS did 182 inspections last fiscal year and certified 293,389 hives. Their service to monitoring bee health is a benefit to bee consumers as well as bee breeders and beekeepers. The landscape of bee health has changed drastically over the years and we appreciate this partnership with the TAIS and their Chief Apiary Inspector (Entomologist) to monitor past, current and future threats to honey bee health. As members of TBA, we benefit from TAIS and their participation in TBA events and numerous beekeeper schools throughout the state, providing education materials, information on honey bee health, pests and diseases as well as their valuable partnership with the Texas Master Beekeeper Program.

Someone mentioned that TAIS is not under Sunset Review? Why not? Is this an issue?

TAIS was under Sunset Review until 1985 when the Sunset Commission recommended TAIS be taken out of Sunset Review and the Legislature voted to do so, along with numerous other agencies. All of the funds generated by TAIS go directly to the State general fund and it is under the direction and **oversight** of Texas A&M AgriLife Research so the risk of this “being an issue” is quite low. TAIS is subject to and complies with the Texas Public Information Act.

What can I do to help TBA in their legislative efforts?

Continue to follow along with us, ask questions, and stay up to date on the progress of these bills. We know many of you have already spoken to your representatives and there may be a time and place for us to take action as a large group on the horizon and we will certainly need your help. So, stay tuned, and thank you for your support!

“There is a Protein in Royal Jelly that Causes Bee Stem Cells to Renew Themselves, So Queen Bees are Bigger and Contain More Cells Than Worker Bees”

from Catch the Buzz

Inside a hive, all females are the same when they are larval bees. Then, one female is selected as the queen bee, and she is fed a special diet of royal bee jelly. The jelly nurtures her into becoming the queen bee. The other females get a non-royal diet. Royal bee jelly is made by worker bees, for the sole purpose of developing a queen. As a result, adult queens are larger than the other bees, live longer and are the only fertile ones in the hive.

The reason is that a queen's stem cells can self-renew, but worker bees cannot. Just as hair or fingernail cells renew themselves and grow back after being cut, a queen bee's stem cells are continuously self-renewing.

The Stanford researchers found that a special protein within the royal jelly is what causes this. Like nature's copy machine, this protein causes the queen's stem cells to make many copies of themselves. And more cells make a bigger queen.

Stem cells in larval bees are ready to grow into different body parts such as adult wings, antennae and more. But royal jelly protein molecules cause a queen bee's stem cells to keep multiplying themselves, resulting in a larger body size. The protein that fuels this renewal was unknown before the Stanford study.

This is where the critical importance of bees comes in. Honey bees are the only organism that can create royal jelly — it cannot be created by humans or mammals.

“We were able to identify this molecule by analyzing royal jelly,” said Stanford's Dr. Kevin Wang. “The honey bee is a fantastic model to study this. These female larvae all start out the same on day zero, but end up with dramatic and lasting differences in size. How does this happen?”

Wang and his team wanted to find out. “There is a protein in royal jelly that causes bee stem cells to renew themselves, and this is what causes queen bees to be bigger and to contain more cells than worker bees,” Wang said. This protein had never been observed in any other animal or human stem cells.

In a surprising finding, Wang's team eventually discovered that mammals and humans do have a somewhat similar protein — but scientists have never before been able to find it. And it seems to be present in everything “from eels to humans,” Wang said.

“Royal jelly literally turns on genes to create a queen out of any fertilized egg, so it makes sense that it allows for a blank canvas, so to speak, to make way for cell differentiation,” CLU alumna Geldert explained. “Within the hive, honey bees have an incredible network of communication and immunity practices

that keep the hive healthy and operating effectively. If we can get a better understanding of that network and find the areas of overlap between our species and theirs, I think we will only discover more incredible things that honey bees are capable of doing. This is very promising for both human and veterinary medicine!”

Wang's work was inspired by his curiosity about royal jelly's ancient reputation as a rejuvenating power. “In folklore, royal jelly is kind of like a super-medicine, particularly in Asia and Europe,” Wang said.

Royal jelly has for centuries had a reputation for having fountain-of-youth qualities that keep its users young and vibrant. Ancient Greeks like Aristotle believed so adamantly that royal jelly increased intellect and physical strength that he served it to his students. Chinese emperors considered it to have Viagra-like powers. Egyptian pharaohs consumed royal jelly for its alleged rejuvenating powers, and it was one of Cleopatra's beauty secrets. Modern-day proponents continue to tout its anti-aging benefits, while skeptics ignore it. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has never approved it as safe. There has been little scientific evidence to support the historical claims that surround royal jelly. The medicinal usefulness of this glue-like substance has been debated for centuries, and now it is not likely to come unglued from modern science.

“The unexpected findings will likely invigorate the thousand-year-old debate about royal jelly's age-defying reputation,” Wang said. “We provided concrete scientific evidence that the rumored effects of royal jelly have some biological basis.” Royal jelly has a number of different components, but Wang's team isolated “the one protein that has never been seen before.”

“It's fascinating,” he said. “We've connected something mythical to something real. The molecule we identified can fuel stem cell renewal, can be used to propagate new stem cells or renew adult cells.”

Human stem cells, when used safely, can repair diseased or injured body parts, from retinas in blind patients to lungs in fibrosis patients. The potential for treatment of a variety of medical conditions is enormous. Thanks to bees, scientists now know more about the healing power of stem cells — guided by how the royal jelly powers up the queen bee, which happens daily on county campuses.



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Planting for the Bees

"The Continuing Journey of Two Sixth-Year Small-Scale Beekeepers"
TBA Journal Article - March 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.

We're Texas Master Gardeners as well as backyard beekeepers, so we're constantly searching for plants that will feed our honey bees early and late season. We have the usual ones, and they're thriving in our acidic sandy soil:

- | | | |
|--------------|----------------|-----------|
| ✓ Henbit | ✓ Mints | ✓ Altheas |
| ✓ Salvias | ✓ Blackberries | ✓ Asters |
| ✓ Sunflowers | ✓ Blueberries | ✓ Hollies |

Pawpaws? Mayhaws? Jujubes? No (pollinated by flies), yes, and yes.

We tried Passion vine, a beautiful climbing purple flowering plant native to Texas; we dug them out when they "escaped," ran under the driveway, and showed up 100 feet away in the front lawn. Bees liked them, but our resident lawn mower (Roger) does not!

We have also planted some trees (almonds, cherries, apples, and apricots) and plants (clovers) that do not love our northeast Texas climate or soil. We enjoyed the early blossoms from these fruit trees along with our bees, and we hope that this will be "that year" when they will actually bear fruit. We added lime to the acres we over-seeded with white ball clover last fall, and the germination and growth look good so far.

What else could we plant that would produce fruit for us and resources for the bees? We researched goji berries last year, saw photos (at left from <http://bees.msu.edu/goji/>) of honey bees collecting white pollen from the small lavender flowers. We purchased one goji plant of the Sweet LifeBerry cultivar in February 2018. Sue stuck it in a pot, placed it against a south-facing brick wall, and mostly ignored it for a year. We pulled it out of the pot a month ago and discovered that the original plant had accepted our neglect, thrived, and even produced eleven more plants and a handful of berries! That's our kind of plant!



Photo – Zachary Y. Huang, <http://bees.msu.edu/goji/>



Photo - Hudson Old, *East Texas Journal Photography*

We decided to major in gojis. We ordered 20 more plants, created a 100-foot long bed, built a proper support trellis from hog wire and T-posts, brought in several trailer loads of mulch, and planted all the goji sticks that arrived via UPS. They were literally six-inch tall sticks with about three inches of bare root at the bottom. God provided rain and sunshine, and the sticks began to grow.

Goji berries are in the same plant family as tomatoes, eggplant, potatoes, and peppers, so they tend to be pollen, not nectar, sources for bees. Gojis are self-pollinators, so you do not need more than one plant, nor do they have to be a different cultivar. Gojis start blooming in spring and will continue blooming and fruit production until first frost.

Goji berry, is the common name for the fruit of two very closely related species: *Lycium barbarum* and *Lycium chinense*, two species of boxthorn in the family Solanaceae. Goji is native to southeastern Europe and Asia. The original goji plants came to America with the Chinese immigrants who were hired to build the trans-continental railroad in the 1860s. They used the fruit to supplement their railroad issued food rations.

Gojis are popular now as the latest “super food” because of their anti-oxidant properties. Goji berries can be eaten fresh from the bush, frozen, or better yet, dried like raisins. You can dry them outside in the sun, but you will need to put netting over them to protect the berries from the birds.

If you are looking for a fruit-bearing plant for you and your family to enjoy while you watch your honey bees forage, consider planting Goji berries.

We'd love to hear about your beekeeping adventures.

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



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The Brantley Column

from S. S. Brantley

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

April comes with a big increase in activity in the beeyard. The warming weather and spring blossoms mean rapid increases in your hive's bee population. There is still the chance of enough inclement weather to keep the bees inside the hive for a few days. Make sure that they have enough stores to survive a few rainy days without starving. Feed with sugar syrup if necessary.

Increasing populations also mean increasing chances for swarms. Make sure your queen has ample space to lay and not feel crowded. If necessary, reverse brood boxes on a double brood hive or add a second brood box to a single brood hive.

If you have not already added your honey supers, do so as soon as you see white wax along the edges of the brood chamber top bars. When the first super has six to eight frames of capped honey, add another. If you are pressed for time in the beeyard, you can add multiple supers in one trip.

I keep a queen excluder on all my hives because I do not like to have brood in my honey supers at extraction time. Some bees move freely through the excluder but other hives may be reluctant, especially if the super does not have already drawn comb. If your bees are not moving up into the honey super, you may need to give them a clear path until they have established themselves. You can remove the excluder until the worker bees become accustomed to working in the super, then replace it. This technique does have the risk of the queen moving up into the super. If you see brood forming after replacing the excluder, you will need to locate the queen and move her below the excluder. Another technique is to rotate the excluder 90 degrees. This leaves a gap on the short side of the excluder that the workers will more readily pass. After they are established, turn the excluder back to its proper orientation. In my experience, the queen seems less likely to move into the honey super through the side gaps and

usually stays below in the brood chamber. However, again be sure to check for brood in the super just in case she did move up. If you do end up with some brood in the super, don't worry about it. After that brood hatches, the workers will clean the cells and fill them with honey.

Package bees and new queens should begin to arrive from suppliers in April. If this is a new process for you, check the Internet for the various methods of installing them into your equipment. FEED the newly installed package with 2-to-1 sugar water until they have drawn at least eight frames of comb. Add a second deep box or add a super for them to store honey. Feeding is important for the success of a new package. It keeps them busy and gives them incentive to stay in your hive box.

I received a bee call from a new homeowner recently. The property included an open-air bee hive in a tree. The mother was concerned the family's four-wheelers would cause the bees to attack if the children rode under the tree. About thirty feet high, a heavy limb extended about fifteen feet out from the trunk. A large hive was hanging from the bottom of the limb. I estimated the comb to be about five feet long and hanging down about three feet. Through my binoculars, I could see four or five separate pieces of comb hanging side by side with bees flying freely as if this was their normal pattern of activity. The hive appeared to be well populated even though we had experienced some very cold weather with temps dropping into the teens the previous week. Based on the color and size of the comb, I judged the hive to be at least three years old and thriving in open air. The homeowners were still debating whether to leave the hive or to have it removed. I encouraged them to route the 4-wheeler trails away from the tree and leave the hive in the tree until it needed to be removed. I have not heard further from them and hope this amazing hive is allowed to remain.





Texas Honey Bee Education Association

Chair: Roger Farr
Vice-Chair: Chris Doggett
Secretary/Treasurer: Leesa Hyder

THBEA 2018 Year-End Report

Dear THBEA donors, supporters, and Texas beekeepers,

The Texas Honey Bee Education Association closed its **second full-year of operation** and what a year it was! Increases in income from donors like you and other beekeeping industry supporters allowed us to accomplish projects furthering the goals of THBEA. In this report, I'll recap the accomplishments of THBEA and cover the income and expenses of the Association as well as give you a view of what we're working on for 2019.

Oversight

The Texas Honey Bee Education Association (THBEA) is a 501(c)(3) **non-profit educational and research entity** founded by the Texas Beekeepers Association (TBA). THBEA is governed by a board of seven directors appointed by the TBA Executive Committee. The 2018/19 THBEA board members are, Chris Doggett, Roger Farr, Leesa Hyder, Chris Moore, Ashley Ralph, Blake Shook, and Terry Wright.



THBEA is listed with the GuideStar non-profit database and has earned the **Silver Transparency Seal** for 2018.

Accomplishments

First, THBEA was pleased to make available \$7000 in **grants to Texas beekeepers** affected by the weather events in late 2017 along the Texas Gulf Coast. We worked with nucleus hive (nuc) producers in Texas to provide nucs to affected beekeepers at a substantial discount to aid in the replacement of lost colonies. The \$7000 was provided to THBEA in 2017 as a grant from Bayer U.S.

Second, we worked together with the Texas Beekeepers Association (TBA) to provide **grant funds for their Texas Honey Queen program**. THBEA worked to raise funds at industry events and through an auction at the TBA annual convention to provide the \$12,000 grant to TBA. The work done on this project creates a model for THBEA to use in providing partial funding of TBA-member Association youth programs in 2019.

Third, the THBEA board's desire to focus on **improving beekeeper education** in 2018/19 led us to create **A Newbee's Guide to Texas Beekeeping**. This two-sided 11x17-inch four-fold *Guide* is designed to be a resource to new and intermediate beekeepers who need help in knowing "what to do when" in their hives. The *Guide* is printed on heavy card stock and is water resistant, making it a perfect addition to the tool box or back pocket of every Texas beekeeper. Distribution of this *Guide* started in late 2018 and the feedback has been very positive. THBEA funded this approximate \$5000 project from beekeeper donations, so Texas beekeepers can receive the publication at no cost.

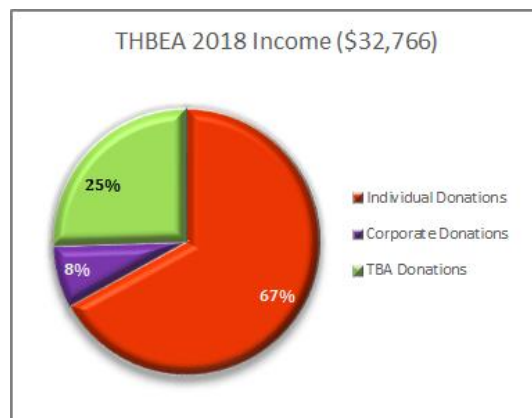


Lastly, THBEA has **updated its website at THBEA.com** to provide information and grant applications to beekeepers and to provide an easy method for donors to give to THBEA in support of Texas beekeepers. We've also put in place policies and procedures to assist THBEA in becoming a philanthropic force in Texas beekeeping. We are putting the final touches on the website and expect the final version will be accessible in February 2019.

Income

THBEA ended 2018 with an unrestricted fund balance of \$5859 and a restricted fund balance of \$26,475 for an **asset total of \$32,334**. THBEA received a total of \$32,766 in 2018 contributions. The pie chart at right details the contribution sources for 2018.

THBEA's 2019 goal is to further **diversify our income stream** by soliciting donations and grants from private non-profit organizations and foundations. We are also actively seeking donations from Texas beekeepers and TBA-member beekeeping Associations. These funds will further THBEA's goal to advance beekeeper education at the local beekeeping Association level.



THBEA's policy is to raise funds in the current year that will be spent in future years. In this way THBEA is not dependent upon a "promised" future income stream that may not materialize. Rather, the already "in-hand" donations guide the budget setting process for the upcoming year.

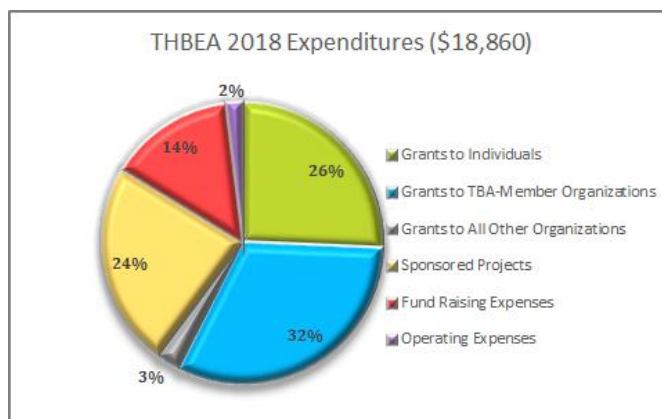
THBEA **solicits contributions** from beekeepers and those interested in supporting the beekeeping industry in Texas. You may donate to THBEA by:

- mailing a **check** contribution, made out to THBEA, 400 County Road 440, Thrall, TX 76578,
- donating publicly-traded **marketable securities** (contact Leesa Hyder at Execsec@texasbeekeepers.org, for details),
- visiting the **THBEA website** at www.thbea.com, to **donate via PayPal**, or
- naming Texas Honey Bee Education Association as your charity on **Facebook** or via **Smile.Amazon.com**.

Expenses

THBEA has no employees, and directors receive no compensation for their service to THBEA. THBEA's operating and fund-raising expenses were 16% of 2018 total expenditures. THBEA intends that at least 90% of all income in future years, will be used to fund the projects and grants which move THBEA's mission forward in the Texas beekeeping industry.

Looking Ahead



THBEA's 2019 goal is to raise \$40,000 to fund projects and grants to:

- assist local TBA-member Associations in their **beekeeper education programs** and in developing or expanding their **youth involvement and education programs**, and
- begin efforts to proactively reach out with **educational materials to the general public** on how they personally benefit from honey bees and how they can "help the bees."

THBEA met its granting and project goals in 2018. We look forward to increased funding in 2019.

Working with you to improve beekeeping and beekeeper education in Texas,

Roger D. Farr

2018/19 THBEA Chairman (and for the entire THBEA Board)

Update from Texas Apiary Inspection Service

from Mary Reed, Chief Apiary Inspector

Hello Texas Beekeepers!

I was recently looking through old articles that I had written for the TBA Journal and boy, do I like to talk about the weather! It seemed like almost every entry started with a comment about what the weather was like at the time. Well, my excuse is that the weather is an important factor to beekeepers! We're always planning our days around rain or shine, hot or cold: when to feed, when to start raising queens, when to inspect, etc. Well, I don't see any point in breaking from tradition. The weather this spring has been topsy-turvy! It seemed like we wouldn't see a dry, warm day ever again. But ideal spring weather has finally arrived! I celebrated the Spring Equinox by visiting the hives we maintain for the Texas Master Beekeeper program in preparation for the upcoming spring exam. It could not have been a more perfect day, and I hope you were able to go see your bees as well. Now, what do you say I quit jabberin' away and move on to the main topic of the article.

In my entry for the January-February journal, I provided a brief background on the Texas Apiary Inspection Service (TAIS). In that article I mentioned that we primarily inspect beekeeping operations for the presence of a honey bee disease called American Foulbrood (AFB). This time I'd like to take a deeper dive into this disease since I think it's extremely important for every beekeeper to understand the disease, even if you never see it in your hives.

American Foulbrood is a spore-forming bacterial infection. The causative agent for this disease is the bacterium *Paenibacillus larvae*. The key biological factor of this disease is that the bacterium forms spores. These spores can remain in a dormant stage in wax, honey, and contaminated equipment for decades, if not indefinitely. If an opportunity arises (i.e. the honey bee colony is weakened somehow), dormant spores will become active and the colony will start exhibiting symptoms of infection. Once symptoms are expressed, there is no treatment that will cure the hive of the disease.

There are several symptoms of AFB that are characteristic for this disease. Below are the key symptoms that beekeepers should keep in mind when inspecting their own hives:

- Brood cappings will look sunken in and punctured. Sometimes moisture droplets will be present as well, and will look as if the cappings are sweating. (Figure 1)
- Developing brood will appear brown to black in coloration, as opposed to the pearly white color of a healthy larvae.
- As the pupae dies and starts melting to the bottom of the cell, a "pupal tongue" will form. (Figure 2)
- Infected brood will be "ropy". This characteristic refers to a test that a beekeeper can do in the field, called a "rope test". Take a twig or toothpick, insert it into an infected brood cell, swirl it around so that the end of the stick is covered in the remnants of the larvae. Then slowly pull the stick out of the cell. If the larvae

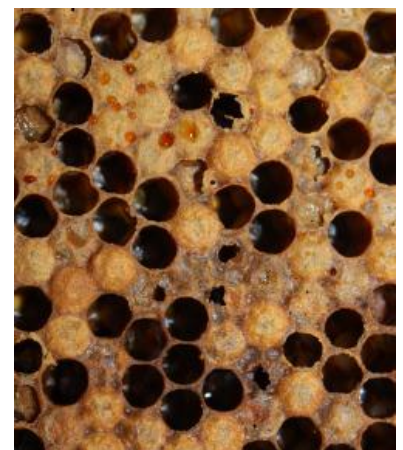


Figure 1 Sunken cells with moisture droplets (beeinformed.org)

is infected with AFB, it will remain attached to the cell and will stretch at least 2 cm as the stick is removed, thus “roping” out. (Figure 3)

- As a larvae desiccates, it will melt to the bottom of the cell and dry out, leaving behind a black scale that is brittle and difficult to remove.
- The hive may give off a sulfur-like smell.
- The brood pattern will appear spotty.



Figure 2 Pupal tongue (<https://agdev.anr.udel.edu>)



Figure 3 American Foulbrood rope test (Vita Bee Health)

There are several ways that a beekeeper can protect their hives from an AFB infection:

1. **Rotate frames every three years.** This is a good Integrated Pest Management technique that provides your bees with fresh wax on a regular basis, thus reducing buildup of diseases and/or chemicals in the wax.
2. **Regularly sanitize beekeeping equipment (hive tool, smoker, gloves, suit, etc.).** This is a good practice to incorporate so you are less likely to transmit or harbor diseases. I like to scrape all of the wax and propolis off my hive tools before heat treating them with a blowtorch. I will also regularly clean my smokers and gloves, but will replace them after a while. I frequently wash my suits with regular detergent, but they will also eventually get replaced.
3. **Know what you are feeding your bees.** Since AFB spores can be present in honey, it is important that you never feed your bees honey from an unknown source. If you need to feed your bees, make a sugar syrup for them rather than dumping some honey in the feeder.

The Texas Apiary Inspection Service, as well as many other state inspection services, was created to control the presence of AFB. American Foulbrood can spread rapidly through an operation and will quickly kill a healthy colony. Infections can be spread through drifting of diseased honey bees into healthy colonies, robbing of a dead and infected colony by otherwise healthy bees, and through beekeeper management practices. It is important that each beekeeper understands the detriment this disease can cause and be able to recognize it should the need arise. If you suspect AFB in your colonies, you are required to report it to the state inspection service. Once reported, there are several measures that can be taken in order to ensure a positive identification is made:

1. **Conduct the rope test.** As mentioned before, the characteristic ropiness of AFB can provide identification of the disease. Since there is no other honey bee disease that exhibits this characteristic, this test is reliable, but can be used in combination with other techniques.
2. **Use an AFB diagnostic kit that is available from beekeeping suppliers.** These are essentially an at-home pregnancy test for honey bee diseases. They make ones specifically for AFB, as well as for another brood disease called European Foulbrood, so make sure you are using the correct one.
3. **Send a sample to a diagnostic lab.** The Bee Research Laboratory is the national honey bee lab that is managed by the USDA. This lab can run samples of diseased comb and/or larvae to determine whether AFB is present. TAIS is also capable of analyzing samples inhouse at our state diagnostic lab. Sample analysis is free at both the national and Texas labs. For more information on how to collect a sample, please see the instructions provided on the USDA website (<https://tinyurl.com/USDAHoneyBeeLab>).

What happens if the tests come back positive for AFB? Unfortunately, the best method for getting rid of this disease is to burn the whole colony. Since there is currently no treatment that will rid the colony of the disease, beekeepers must rely on culling the hive from their operation so that other hives do not become infected. It is an extreme measure that I hope none of you experience, but controlling this disease is key to maintaining the apiary industry.

If you are interested in learning more about other honey bee diseases, I recommend you check the information provided on our website (<https://txbeeinspection.tamu.edu/beekeepers/pests-diseases/>), as well as the Honey Bee Health Coalition's new Best Management Practices guide (<https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/hivehealthbmps/>). As always, if you have any questions or comments, you can reach us via phone or email (979-845-9713; tais@tamu.edu).



*Chief Apiary Inspector Mary Reed
speaking to Michael Kelling, President of
Central Texas Beekeepers Association at
Austin Area Beekeepers Seminar.
(picture by Jimmie Oakley)*

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The Best Way to Rear Your Queens

From Robin Young, TBA Director

Metro Beekeepers



So you have been a beekeeper for a few years and you don't want to pay the high prices for your queens, or you have a queen that is producing in what can only be described as (key the music):

"You're a heart breaker, dream maker, love taker, don't you mess around with me!" sung by Pat Benatar – Heartbreaker 1980

You know the kind of queen I refer to. She's the most amazing thing you have ever seen. She lays eggs beyond your average queen. Her hive produces double the honey any of your other hives produce. She has the sassy attitude to boot and every time you get in her hive you hold your breath because it would break your heart if something happened to her. Fear not! I have six possible solutions for you.

Catching Swarms and Cut Outs

I only mention this because there are beekeepers that use this method to grow their apiaries. Retrieving swarms can be as easy as putting a tub under the swarm and catching them as you tap the branch or having to get out a chainsaw to cut them out of a tree or house. If you choose to get your queens this way, be sure you have had the proper training and licensing. Insurance is also a good idea. Here are the possible good and bad issues with this method:

- 1.) **Global Impact** – catching swarms and doing cutouts help people get rid of unwanted bees safely
- 2.) **Social** – you will get to meet all kinds of people and travel as far as you wish
- 3.) **Employment** – swarming season is a finite season
- 4.) **Money** – removal fees range between \$0 to \$400+
- 5.) **Queen Quality** – You are not in control of your queens genetics
- 6.) **Pests** – quarantine is a must for several months to protect your own hives from disease and pests that the Swarm/Cut Out may bring



Hive Splits

Hive splits can be done simply by putting half of the brood frames from a strong hive into a new hive box. This gives you two nucs.

If you find capped queen cells, you can put the capped queen cells in one nuc and leave your queen inside the other nuc. Here are the possible good and bad issues with this method:

- 1.) **Global Impact** – slow steady growth and a more natural way to rear queens
- 2.) **Social** – Hives Splits can be done alone or with a partner
- 3.) **Employment** – This is a slow growth method. It can take years to grow your operation. It is possible to double the number of hives you have yearly, but don't split hives that are weak. Only split from strong hives with good traits.
- 4.) **Money** – There is little to no cost doing splits. Nuc sales are limited to the amount of splits you can do without killing or over stressing the hive.
- 5.) **Queen Quality** – You have some control when splitting from strong hives.
- 6.) **Pests** – There is some control resulting from the strength of the hive you split from.



Comb Cut Grafting



Find a frame with eggs. Using your hive tool, cut a strip out along the bottom edge of the smallest visible larva (first instar) or eggs (pictured above).

Pictured above: Turn the cut strip to where the cell openings are facing down (vertical in relation to the frame). Then screw three inch screws into the comb connecting the strip of eggs and first instar larva to the bottom of the frame.



Your frame should look like the picture above. Note the vertical direction of the attached strip at the bottom of the frame.

When Comb Cut Grafting, you want to be sure there are lots of resources (flowers) for the worker bees to be sure your queen larva is well feed. Having natural food sources will improve your success in queen rearing.

I recommend doing this type of grafting in mid spring or once you start to see capped drone larva.

Here are the possible good and bad issues with this method:

- 1.) **Global Impact** (Help The Beekeeper) – If you are older and your vision is not as good or your hands shake, this is the queen grafting method for you. This process allows older beekeepers to continue grafting until the day they die prolonging the beekeeping time span.
- 2.) **Social** – Comb Cut Grafting can be done alone or with a partner
- 3.) **Employment** – Production from one prized queen can produce five to ten queens per hive per queen cycle in peak seasons.
- 4.) **Money** – The cost of a box of 3 inch screws. The production makes it possible to sell a few queens, but the main goal in this type of operation is to grow your own queens.
- 5.) **Queen Quality** – Drone production and natural food sources are a factor.
- 6.) **Pests** – There is some control resulting from the strength of the hive that you comb cut graft from.

Frame Sectioning



Frame sectioning is when you take smaller frames and fit them inside a regular frame. Once the hive has drawn out the bees wax comb and added honey and pollen to the top frames, the queen will start to lay eggs. At that point or shortly after, you can pull the regular frame with the section pieces as shown above and pull the smaller frames apart and put them in a mini nuc or queen nuc (pictured below).



Here are the possible good and bad issues with this method:

- 1.) **Global Impact** (Help The Beekeeper) –This process allows older and very young beekeepers the experience and ability to rear queens.
- 2.) **Social** – you can easily take the small filled out frames and put them straight into a small mating nuc-type box. This allows for easy transport. It is possible to give mating nucs with nurse bees, larva, and eggs to a beekeeper that wants to breed to their own stock. This is an easy and effective way to transport eggs.
- 3.) **Employment** – Production is lower than comb cut grafting because you are taking whole frames from the hive. There is less handling of the bees compared to grafting.
- 4.) **Money** – There is a cost for the queen breeding box and frames. The production makes it possible to sell queen mating nucs or mated queens.
- 5.) **Queen Quality** – Drone production and natural food sources is a factor.
- 6.) **Pests** – There is some control resulting from the strength of the hive you take your frames from.

Grafting



Twelve year old student from a local school bee-keeping club in Slovenia started by Brane Kozinc is pictured above. She is dry grafting into a bees wax cell.

Grafting is when you take a grafting tool and “Hook” a first instar larva and deposit it directly in to a bees wax cell (a plastic cell or beeswax cell). These cells are mounted on a frame bar and once filled are placed inside a queen-less hive to have the nurse bees work to feed them. Once the queen cells are capped, they can be moved into queen nucs to emerge and eventually go on mating flights. There are numerous books and classes you can take on this procedure if you choose to pursue it.

Here are the possible good and bad issues with this method:

- 1.) **Global Impact** – This process is used for mass production. You can easily fit forty-five queen cells on a frame.
- 2.) **Social** – Commercial breeders will sell to your club, county, state, or the whole United States. Their roll is important to the beekeeping industry as a whole.
- 3.) **Employment** – Mass production calls for seasonal work. If your production is large enough, you will have workers year around. The winter seasons are used for cleaning, repairing, and building equipment for the following season.
- 4.) **Money** – The cost is substantially higher, but a well-run business off sets the cost in sales.
- 5.) **Queen Quality** – A larger gene pool can lead to higher quality queens. Most Commercial beekeepers have a queen yard and a drone yard working to refine the gene pool while introducing new tested stock from time to time to keep the queens from having too much inbreeding.
- 6.) **Pests** – Large gene pools give a queen breeder more options. Many Texas queen breeders are moving towards a Varroa resistant and disease resistant stock.



Instrumental (Artificial) Insemination



Photo taken at A&M University “The Art of Queen Rearing” with Sue Cobey

Instrumental (Artificial) Insemination is when you gather spermatozoa from one drone (male bee) or several drones.

Then you insert the spermatozoa into the virgin queen to be deposited in to her spermathecal.



Drone Displaying his reproductive organ.



Spermatheca – two mated queen's spermathecal and one virgin queen's spermatheca.

I was able to experience this procedure with Sue Cobey pictured below.



SOUL HONEY by: Robin L-S Young

Why Instrumental Insemination?

Susan Cobey, pictured to your left,

"is an acknowledged international authority in the field of instrumental insemination and honey bee breeding. She has established and maintains the New World Carniolan Closed Population Breeding Program, now in its 37th generation, a recognized industry standard and model program for teaching."

according to www.honeybeeinsemination.com

She has been the featured presenter at the Texas A&M Honey Bee Lab class "The Art of Queen Rearing". In order to keep new Carniolan genetics coming into the United States, she has been going over to Slovenia and bringing back the strongest Carniola Drone Spermatozoa she can get access to.

Pictured below is Brane Kozinc at his beekeeping and carnica mating station at Krma Valley in Slovenia.



I had a chance to meet Brane Kozinc in May of 2018. He raises his drones on a protected mountain side in one of Slovenia's State Parks. He is one of the few people that have received permission. He stated:

"I raise my drones in this harsh cold environment so that only the strong survive. I also maintain a combined 40% drone larva and capped drone brood in each hive."

He asked us if we had heard of Sue Cobey. He said he has worked with her on collecting spermatozoa from his drones to take to the United States. Currently he also works with young children teaching them the art of queen rearing.

Here are the possible good and bad issues with this method:

- 1.) **Global Impact** – This process can be used for mass production. Drone availability is a factor.
- 2.) **Social** – Travel to other countries to gather Drone Spermatozoa is possible.
- 3.) **Employment** – Instrumental Insemination is used in research, to pinpoint genetic traits, and to help continue to strengthen failing blood lines.
- 4.) **Money** – Equipment costs are high, but once you get started it's a matter of time spent on the job.
- 5.) **Queen Quality** – Maximum control over the number of drones you collect spermatozoa from to inseminate queens.
- 6.) **Pests** – Instrumental Insemination takes out the risks of transferring disease and pests such as Varroa from drone to queen.



Pictured above: "The Queen Bee in all her glory"

All of the photos in this presentation are photos I have taken out in the vast field of queen rearing. I tried all six of the methods and had good success with each of them. In deciding my preferred method, I asked myself the same question I asked you at the beginning of this presentation:

"Why do you want to make your own queens?"

Each of the six types of queen rearing has a place in the beekeeping world. Carefully weigh each option and I suggest taking a few queen rearing classes. The money spent on classes will seem minuscule compared to the loss of a month's worth of work that crashes and burns because you did not pull your capped queens from your queen rearing nuc. before they started emerging. (All the breeders I worked with recommended pulling your capped queens on the fourteenth day because the Africanized genetics causes them to emerge faster. I have not seen this noted in any current books on queen rearing.)

The best queen rearing method is the method that best helps you to meet your needs and goals.

Special Thanks To:

The Texas Master Beekeeping Program,
 Texas Apiary Inspection Services,
 Bee Good Mercantile - The Weaver Family,
 Lauren Ward (Board Certified Entomologist and an A&M graduate),
 Texas A&M Honey Bee Lab,
 Agrilife Research Department of Entomology,
 Dr. Rangel, Liz Walsh, Sue Cobey,
 Suzanne Brouillette for getting me access to over 100+ different beekeepers in Slovenia www.slovenianbeekeeping.com
 Brane Kozinc from Slovenia,
 Jake Klingensmith Teacher and Mentor from:
www.sustainlife.org ,
 "The ABC & XYZ of Bee Culture" Forty First Edition, and God for being so wise in creating such a wonderful creature for us to enjoy.



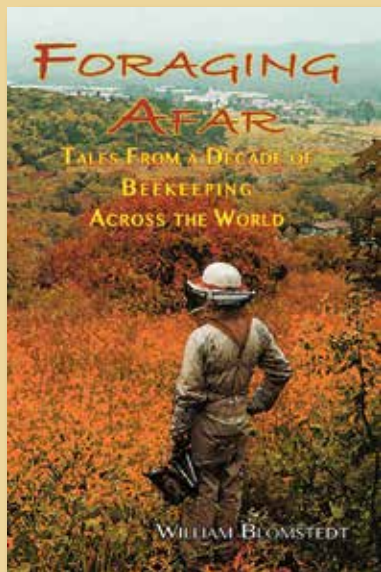
*Clint Weaver searching for ???
 At Austin Area Beekeepers Association
 Beekeeping Seminar
 (picture from Jimmie Oakley)*

The Hive

The colony grew in my body all that summer.
 The gaps between my bones filled
 with honeycomb and my chest
 vibrated and hummed. I knew
 the brood was healthy, because
 the pheromones sang through the hive
 and the queen laid a good
 two thousand eggs a day.
 I smelled of bee bread and royal jelly,
 my nails shone with propolis.
 I spent my days freeing bees from my hair,
 and planting clover and bee sage and
 woundwort and teasel and borage.
 I was a queendom unto myself.

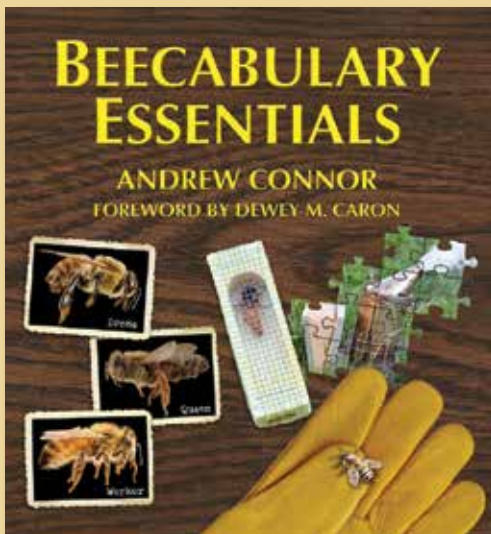
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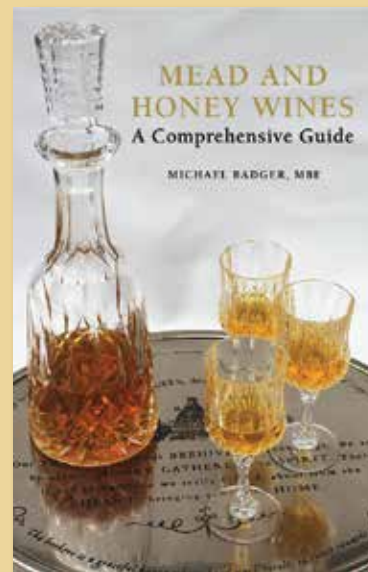
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The Formation of Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Association and Other History

from Carole Booth, former Journal Editor and 1990 VP of TBA

Hello, to fellow beekeepers. My name is Carole Booth, and here is a little history about one who began beekeeping in the late 80's and became a founding member of Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Association. I was asked by Chris Doggett, to go back down "Memory Lane", as one of your former TBA Newsletter Editors, and to share that window in time with you. Here is the story of the amazing growth of hobby beekeepers in Collin County.

Back in the early 1970's, I made regular 50-mile trips between my home in north Dallas, just to buy honey from Luther and Moina Maserang in Ft. Worth. I learned later that they were the founders of the Texas State Fair Honey Booth. Back then, I was just a young mom, passionate about using local honey for her family. After tuning into their enthusiasm for honey bees and beekeeping, the Maserangs encouraged me to become a beekeeper. In 1975, I took a course in Beekeeping, taught by Robert Hutchinson. Shortly afterwards in spite of a skeptical husband, I began keeping bees. Robert became my teacher, mentor, my inspiration, and along with his wife, Glenda, became a good friend. Keep in mind, beekeeping knowledge was scarce, there was no emailing, no internet. In 1978 my family moved from Dallas to a country location in Allen and my two colonies expanded to 25.

I joined the Trinity Valley Beekeepers Association, and for several years, drove from Allen to Dallas to the meetings at Union Hall, near the old Cowboy Stadium. I checked out books, cultivated friendships at the monthly Trinity Valley Beekeepers Association meetings. I even sponsored their Honey Queen and selected locations near-by where she could do her presentations, but I wished many times for the convenience of a club with bee buddies closer to home. Anyone living in Allen, who wanted to know about bees and honey, needed to make the 70-mile monthly round-trip to the Dallas association. There were four-five of us living in Allen who made the trip, but we wondered about near-by beekeepers who didn't or couldn't drive at night down to Dallas. In time, the concerns rose to the point where you might say we were filled with "missionary zeal" to reach those beekeepers, and those who might want to be. At the close of one memorable meeting, we agreed to try to create a new association in Allen. We wrote an ad to be placed in the local newspaper, the Allen American, inviting folks with an interest in keeping bees to come to a meeting of a new Bee Club in Allen.

Johnny Sparks secured a meeting room in a bank, and amazingly, about 10 people came. In 1978, that was how the new association, Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Association was born...from that one newspaper ad. We met in the bank building for a short time, but then we were invited to meet at the Heard Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary, with no room fee. It was an ideal location. Starting an Association was like creating a new start-up business. From the beginning, we were excited and filled



Carole Booth with Allison Adams (now Allison French) 2009 Collin County Honey Queen

with passion for our new club, but balked at management details, like creating a Charter, By-Laws and keeping minutes. Thankfully, Grace Franklin, whose husband, Clarence, was one of the original founders, had much experience with the local Texas A&M Home Economics Extension Office. She influenced the little group to create the structure that would be needed as time went on.

All of us had experience with other clubs and we knew what we wanted (and did not want). Older clubs seemed lacking in youth, set in their ways, lacking in drive and enthusiasm. We were filled with enthusiasm to be better beekeepers, to produce & sell outstanding honey, to educate the community about the importance of the honey bee...and to include family and youth participation...as they were our future. It took a lot of thought and effort...writing and re-writing. I remember saying, *"This is what it must have been like to be Founding Fathers"...*

These were our influencing thoughts...

- 1st: The club should include the county name, Collin County, so people could identify with it.
- 2nd: The name must include the word, "Hobby." At that time, the state association was dominated by commercial beekeepers. It was our drive to attract and encourage beginners and small beekeepers. We agreed that the word, "Hobby" would be welcoming to those newcomers.
- 3rd: Write our Purpose; repeat it at every meeting, to help keep us on track.
- 4th: Have a clear plan for our association; agree on jobs to be done.
- 5th: Write everything down.

Create a Logo.

We needed an organization, by-laws. What was our purpose?
We came up with five...

- Provide fellowship and sharing of information among beekeepers and those interested in honey bees
- Promote the art of beekeeping
- Encourage the use of honey
- Protect the industry of beekeeping and the honeybees
- Cooperate with County Extension Services, USDA, TBA, (Texas Beekeepers Association) and other organizations promoting beekeeping information

What was especially gratifying to me, was that our new association would become Goodwill Ambassadors for the Beekeeping Industry....

CCHBA Provides: Goodwill ambassadors for the beekeeping industry

- Youth programs; 4H, Scouts, Scholarships
- Outlets for surplus honey within members
- Participation in community events
- Public relations and media for news industry
- Factual information about bees and beekeeping
- Annual educational workshops & seminars
- Honey Queen Program

With enthusiasm for Youth, we gained family participation, and the club began to grow. The folks who guided the association were amazing. There was a deep sense of Mission and everyone contributed in his or her own special way.

These were our principles:

1. Don't wait for someone to volunteer for a job. Make an assessment of skills of members and ask a person to take on a job based on their ability.
2. Never ask for volunteers for an elected office
3. Use two people in elected office to avoid burn-out.
4. Provide description of responsibilities, be respectful of each position, and always give recognition for work done

We studied the traits of successful organizations, and agreed to follow them as much as we could. They included:

Express genuine interest in one another
Be respectful of each other
Be willing to be accommodating
Be dedicated to the common purpose

Following the principles of cross-pollination, we agreed that a successful club will expand by cultivating relationships with other clubs, so we agreed to:

- a. Set up an Exchange programs
- b. Ask for program lists from other associations
- c. Do joint activities
- d. Cultivate friendships in other associations

- e. Utilize the state association and utilize persons with expertise, such as (Dr. John Thomas, Texas A&M Entomologist)
Thus...we did everything we could think of to raise community awareness of CCHBA.

Knowledge was in big demand. Many of us taught classes and we held seminars, but the best outgrowth of beekeeping instruction came from John Talbert, who held every office with CCHBA, as well as with TBA. When he retired, he set up Beekeeping Seminars that offer outstanding beekeeping knowledge.

Over the years, I have seen many people who rose up from within Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Association to become officers and then a positive driving force for the state, within TBA. I feel like a mama watching her baby grow up.

In the 80's, beekeepers everywhere, experienced four Crises in Beekeeping;

1. Mites
2. Varroa
3. Adulterated honey from China
4. Africanized Honey Bee

It was a busy time for beekeeping associations as they worked to help one another and their communities to deal with the issues on local and state levels.

One day, in 1987, the phone rang in the City Manager's office of Farmer's Branch. A lady was irate. She wanted the city to outlaw all honey bees from inside the city limits. It seemed that bees were taking over her hummingbird feeder and she wanted to eliminate them. Perhaps the anxiety about the AHB was a factor, but all we knew was that she wanted them GONE. The manager contacted Dr. John Thomas, Texas State Entomologist, who then called me to ask for help in creating a Model Ordinance for a city to use as a guide in situations like this. Local beekeepers as well as several from throughout the state, from the Texas Beekeepers Association, worked on this. It was a remarkable team effort. It was approved by the State of Texas and the story along with the Model Beekeeping Ordinance was published in the American Bee Journal. It was titled, "Model City Beekeeping Ordinance Developed for Texas by the Texas Beekeepers Association." Shortly afterwards, several of us attended a hearing in Plano, where our ordinance was later adopted to allow honeybees inside the city limits.

A Model Ordinance is a plan that is created with care and thoughtfulness before an event occurs, when there might not be time to weigh the issues and appropriate measures. It's just something to be kept on file. Because of the Africanized Honey Bee scare, there were many communities considering the elimination of beekeeping in their city limits, so the Model Ordinance was actually utilized more than you probably knew.

In the 1990's bee swarms were a big nuisance. There was a huge demand for people who would retrieve swarms, so we created, "The Swarm Patrol." In 1995 there were 17 folks who drove all over the county, retrieving swarms. They were beekeeping angels. As I look back now, I realize how much has changed, because swarming does not occur like it did then. Also, at that time, there were no suppliers nearby. All we could do was to order by catalog or over the phone. I decided I would

stock beekeeping supplies for my fellow beekeepers, to hasten availability of supplies at critical times. My husband and I owned an electronics distribution company, so we had the knowledge plus some warehouse space. I became a dealer for Dadant, Mann Lake and for Maxant, stocking product for local beekeepers. As time passed, however, the internet became an easy source for supplies, so dealers were ultimately eliminated.

Some enthusiasts for honey promotion came forward and the Honey Queen Program was started. Over the years, I have seen Honey Queen Programs appear throughout the state and in the U.S. I observed selfless, mission-driven beekeeping folks get engaged in the Queen Program. I marveled at their genuine caring and how they spent money from their own pockets to do whatever it took to get the Association's young queens to their promotions, pay for materials, and to cover myriad expenses. We, beekeepers, were thus encouraged to promote and sell quality honey at market value, not to give it away.

It was rewarding to put together the Newsletter for Collin County's association for several years, then I served as Newsletter Editor for the Texas Beekeepers Association for three years-1987, 1988, 1989. Back then, it was all cut and paste-all typed, taken to the printers and then collated by hand. In 1989, My article, "Honey Bees Ensure Pollination, appeared in Neil Sperry's magazine, Garden." In 1990, I served as Vice-President of TBA, and in 1991, Director at Large. These were times of transition for the Texas Beekeepers. There was an upwelling of hobby beekeepers who were eager for knowledge and beekeeping companionship. Beekeeping workshops increased and more Youth Programs began to appear. In 1994, I toured the UK with the Southern States Beekeepers Association and got to meet the great beekeeper, Brother Adam of Buckfast Abbey in Wales, who developed the strain of bees that is resistant to Varroa. That same year, I wrote another article, which was printed in the Journal - this time on the subject of Black Combs in the Hives, which was directly influenced by the meeting with Brother Adam in Wales and the visit to his apiary. (He was an advocate of replacing black combs to eliminate toxic elements embedded in the wax, that weakened the honey bee's immune system).

In 1994, I retreated from beekeeping association work, to follow a new interest, that of practicing T'ai Chi, the exercise known as "Moving Meditation." It was an effort to overcome back discomfort from years of lifting those heavy supers. Since then, I logged over 10,000 hours of learning and teaching. My husband and I sold the distribution company we ran for 40 years and I began to teach at retirement centers. I celebrated my 80th birthday last October, but continue to teach and work, and to keep bees. My colony numbers are down to just 5, but every day I continue to rejoice over my bees and their continued lives with me for the last 40 years.

Thank you to those of you who read this, because you are one who life has also been touched by our precious Honey Bee and has been forever changed by it. Each beekeeper I have known has made a profound difference. The story of Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Association, now one of the best in the country, is a tribute to willingness to learn from each other and to work together for a common good. It's the Honey Bee Way. We can all learn from each other, and together we can make Life better.



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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 was going through some old articles I have written over the years and came across the one from exactly two years ago, which I wrote right after returning back to work after being on maternity leave. Time flies, and I can't believe it's been two years already! Our research program is growing stronger than ever, and I am very happy with the family of scholars that we have forged at Texas A&M University, making it a research program that is now recognized nationally and across the world!

March has been an incredibly busy month for me this year... more than usual! On top of teaching the undergraduate courses *Honey Bee Biology* and *Introduction to Beekeeping* and preparing for our field season, I have traveled quite a bit to speak to beekeeper groups across the U.S. and abroad. First, I traveled to Lawrence, KS, as the invited speaker for the Kansas Honey Producers Association Spring Meeting (<http://www.kansashoneyproducers.org/bi-annual-meeting.html>). Then on that same trip, I was an instructor for the Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Association Bee School, which took place on Sunday, 10 March (<http://www.nekba.org/class.html>). With the two meetings combined, I gave a total of seven classes in a matter of two and a half days!

The day after I returned from KS I traveled to the CAPUCAS Coffee and Honey Cooperative, Honduras, to teach an intensive one-week beekeeping course to "train the trainers" that will foster beekeeping as an alternative source of income for coffee growers in Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala. This time we had ten students, one program coordinator (Ms. Marta Campos) and one apiary inspector (Mr. Wilman Rojas). Besides having a total of ten lectures on the biology of honey bees and beekeeping, we went to four beekeeping operations around the area, which combined managed approximately 800 colonies. We also had hands-on sessions on building equipment, raising stingless honey bees, extracting honey, measuring Varroa levels on site, and queen rearing. This type of training is possible through a USAID grant to the Texas A&M University Borlaug Institute, which has the main focus of improving coffee resilience and the livelihood of coffee farmers in Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador. It was a very rewarding experience both personally and professionally, and I can't wait to go back in a year to do it all over again.

A few days after my return from Honduras, on Sunday, 24 March I was the guest speaker for the Long Island Beekeepers Club, which has been active since 1949! The three-hour event took place at a historical society barn, making it a very cozy and unique event that I greatly enjoyed (<http://www.longislandbeekeepers.org/>). I spoke about our research on the effects of miticides and agro-chemicals on the reproductive quality of queens and drones, which was perfect timing because as a club, the LI Beekeepers purchase formic acid strips and have a suggested "treatment day" that everyone in the club is encouraged to participate in, so that they can keep Varroa levels low, especially

because there are over 40 beekeepers within a 12-mile radial area surrounding the town of Smithtown, NY, where the meeting took place. I was glad to see that the club also puts

together a *Varroa* treatment questionnaire that they encourage members to fill out so that they have a better idea of the needs and wants of the club as a whole.

My travel schedule prevented me from being able to teach at the 11th annual Beekeeping School organized by the Central Texas Beekeepers Association in Brenham, TX on Saturday, 23 March. But despite my absence, our lab was able to help out again this year in several ways. Liz Walsh, Pierre Lau, and Taylor Reams served as instructors of several sessions. Alex Payne and ET Ash handled our research program's booth and several volunteers from our lab and my undergraduate courses were busy helping with the demonstrations out at the apiary and answering questions at our display booth. I am continuously impressed by the continued interest from the community around Central Texas regarding honey bees and beekeeping. A big shout out to the organizers and volunteers for putting together a successful bee school once more!!

Finally, I would like to remind you that **registration is now open for the 5th annual "Art of Queen Rearing" workshop**, to be held at the Janice and John G. Thomas Honey Bee Facility on **Saturday, 18 May 2019**. Registration will close on Friday, 26 April 2019 and will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis for PAID registrants. This all-day workshop is organized and delivered by the Honey Bee Lab staff, who will be sharing their expertise on queen rearing. As in past years, Sue Cobey will be attending the event this year!!! so there will be a demonstration on instrumental insemination of queens. Registration is \$155 per person. Payment includes a mandatory \$5 parking permit (new this year), lunch, a binder with notes, and queen rearing supplies!! Space is limited to 50 people.

Instructions for registration:

1. Send email of intent as soon as possible to Taylor Reams at tdreams@tamu.edu
2. Once you receive a confirmation e-mail, send this registration form and payment to Ms. Reams to secure your spot. You can also find the registration form or on our website at www.honeybeelab.tamu.edu

3. **Send payment and registration form to secure your spot by Friday, 26 April 2019 to:**

Ms. Taylor Reams
Ref: Dr. Rangel's queen rearing workshop
Department of Entomology, Texas A&M University
412 Heep, 2475 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843

4. Only the first 50 paid registrants will be able to participate in this year's workshop
5. Late registration, or registration by those that were not confirmed via email might not be able to attend and their checks might be returned.
6. Those that have taken this course before do not qualify.

If you have any questions, please email me at jrangel@tamu.edu. Because of my tight travel schedule, I am not easy to reach via telephone. Additionally, 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/TAMUhoneebeeelab>. Our page has over 3,300 LIKES and counting! Thank you all for your continuing support.

We wish you a happy and fruitful beekeeping season this spring!



Sue Cobey will be joining us on Saturday, 18 May 2019 for the 5th annual Art of Queen Rearing Workshop at the Honey Bee Lab!!



Participants of the second beekeeping training course in CAPUCAS, Honduras, learned how to build their own equipment so that they can teach others in their respective countries of origin!



Students of the CAPUCAS beekeeping course in Honduras learning how to perform the powdered sugar shake to measure phoretic Varroa mite levels on site.

5th Annual “*ART OF QUEEN REARING*” Workshop

Saturday, 18 May 2019

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

Head Instructor: Dr. Juliana Rangel

Special Guest: Sue Cobey

Co-Instructors: ET Ash, Pierre Lau, Alex Payne, Liz Walsh, Taylor Reams

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REGISTRATION FORM (Please write legibly!!)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone #: _____

Have you attended any of our queen rearing workshop? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Previous queen rearing experience: ☐ None ☐ Some

Do you currently rear queens or plan to rear queens in 2019? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Lunch preference: ☐ Meat ☐ Vegetarian

Payment: ☐ Enclosed is a check for \$155 (this amount includes \$5 parking fee)

Instructions for registration:

1. Send email of intent as soon as possible to Taylor Reams at tdreams@tamu.edu
2. Once you receive a confirmation e-mail, send this registration form and payment to Ms. Reams to secure your spot. You can also find the registration form or on our website at www.honeybeelab.tamu.edu
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4. Only the first 50 paid registrants will be able to participate in this year's workshop
5. Late registration, or registration by those that were not confirmed via email might not be able to attend and their checks might be returned
6. Those that have taken this course before may not qualify depending on how many people register

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Please Note: Payment includes \$5 parking permit, lunch, binder with notes, and queen rearing supplies!!

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

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

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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- * **Tennessee State Beekeepers Association**
- * **Wisconsin Honey Producers Association, Inc.**
- * **American Honey Producers Association**
- * **Florida State Beekeepers Association**
- * **Minnesota Honey Producers Association**
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- * **Texas Beekeepers Association**
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Texas Beekeepers Association Membership Application

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New / Renewal (circle one)

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Local Association _____

Membership category:	Century Club	\$100	_____
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	Stae Fair Honey Booth Fund	_____

Total Enclosed _____

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

2019 Texas Honey Queen

Mary Reisinger



Hi all,

This month, I would like to showcase Ann Harman, an internationally known, tender hearted leader of modern beekeeping. Harman's interest in honey bees began at age 5 while watching the honey bees travel from flower to flower pollinating them. She graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in chemistry, and later went back to school at the University of Maryland to study apiculture and was taught by Dewey Caron.

At age 62, she was given an opportunity to travel to Hungary as a representative of Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance. Since her first trip, she has traveled to over 39 different countries "to teach beekeepers how to market their honey, as well as to increase honey production by utilizing more modern beekeeping methods."

She has earned and held many titles such as 1982 Maryland State Beekeeper of the Year, 1990 president of the Eastern Apicultural Society, 2008-2010 President of the Virginia State Beekeepers Association, certified honey judge from the Wales UK Beekeeping Institute, 2004, 2005, 2008 President's Volunteer Service Award, 2000 Eastern Apicultural Society Chairman's Award, and co-author and editor for a couple beekeeping books including *The ABC & XYZ of Bee Culture* and *Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping*. She continues to receive many well-deserved recognitions.

She has been influential in developing standard judging criteria for honey shows, served as the Eastern Apicultural Society's Honey Show Chairman, and judged honey for the American Beekeeping Federation Honey Shows many years.

Ms. Harman writes about various topics for magazines such as *BEE Keeping* and *Bee Culture* and presents on a regular basis at beekeeping schools and conventions. While reading her articles, and taking a class of hers, I was in awe of her passion for honey bees and her practical nature.



Ann Harman (picture from "Bee Culture")

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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

bellcoryellbeeclub@gmail.com

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

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

Brazoria County Beekeepers Association

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

Nathan Krueger - (979) 324-1160

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

Schlotsky's, 3715 19th St., 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: honeyqueenchair@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

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 Area Beekeepers Association

Jerry Lee - (917) 710-6072

elginbeekeepers@gmail.com

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday 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
2099 W FM 917, 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

Ryan Giesecke - (214) 577-9562

*ryangiasecke@gmail.com**www.metrobeekeepers.net***Meetings:** 2nd Monday of each month at 5:30 pm

Southside Preservation Hall, 1519 Lipscomb St., Fort Worth

Montgomery County Beekeepers Assn.

James Elam

*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

Palo Duro Bee Club

Paige Nester - (806) 678-8048

*nesterpaige@gmail.com***Meetings:** 1st Thursday of each month

Creek House Honey Farm, 5015 4th Ave, Canyon

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

Rusk County Beekeepers Association

John Stewart - (903) 842-4433

*jes.stewart@gmail.com***Meetings:** Last Thursday of each month at 6 pm

Church of the Nazarene, 906 W Main St, Henderson

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

Greyson Elaine McMurray - (830) 777-7845

*texashillcountrybeekeepers@gmail.com***Meetings:** 4th Tuesday of odd months at 6:30 pm

Schreiner University, 2100 Memorial Blvd, 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
Palo Duro Bee Club
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
Henderson County 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
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Hughes Springs, TX 75656
(903) 639-2910

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

Texas Beekeepers Association

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