

The Texas Beekeepers Association



Journal



Jul / Aug 2019

www.texasbeekeepers.org

Issue 19-4

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President's Report from Blake Shook

Hello Friends,

As is often said in Texas, the armadillo saw his shadow last week, so it looks like there will be 6 more months of summer. The heat has finally hit, and the few hives we currently have in Texas are struggling just to keep their hives cool. Most of our hives (and beekeepers) are up in North Dakota or Minnesota currently, where it is currently a balmy 75 degrees.

Keeping hives healthy and thriving during the summer in Texas can be just as hard or harder than overwintering them. A few things we've done in the past that have been successful was adding an empty deep or medium box of foundation onto our hives, and feed them syrup and pollen patties over the summer. The bees thrive with the constant food source, and draw out foundation for the next year as a bonus. Adding an empty deep box between the cover and the lower boxes can offer a heat buffer as well. All that being said, making sure (regardless of the method you use) your mite levels are under 3 mites per 100 bees is critical, as mite populations peak in the summer months.

I have to say, the summer clinic this year was AMAZING! I just wanted to say a quick thank you to the dozens of volunteers

who helped make it a smooth, educational and high energy event. I'm very excited about our upcoming conference as well. While our clinic has grown our annual conference has struggled to grow much in the past few years. This year we have a dynamic team working on some incredibly unique and creative ideas for this year's conference. I think you will be very pleasantly surprised at many of the formats and details. Keep an eye out for emails and notifications as we reveal more before the conference!

A few reminders before then- if you have any resolutions, please let us know what they are! That way we can clarify any questions we have, and get them printed for our business meeting. Anyone can certainly bring up resolutions from the floor, but it makes the meeting much cleaner and faster if we have them ahead of time. Also, if you are, or know someone who may be interested in serving on the board, please let Chris Moore with the nomination committee know! We are always in need of new volunteers!

May you and your bees survive the heat this summer!

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*Front Cover: Bee on Duranta Blossom
by Dan Eudy*



Vice President's Report from Ashley Ralph

First, let's talk about this beekeeping season! I've heard from so many beekeepers with record honey crops due to the more gentle rains this year keeping the flowers growing strong longer into the summer. What a thing to be grateful for! Personally, we had bees in watermelon and moving over to some cotton fields and really focused more on maintaining the strong colonies we had over the summer and fulfilling the pollination contracts rather than the rapid splits and growth that we did last summer. We're still fairly new to the commercial scene so we are still learning a lot as we go along.

Summer Clinic was such a highlight of my summer and I'm so grateful for the hard-working event team that put it together and for the attendees that came to make it the best event yet! The event team has been working hard to create more engaging and interesting events as well as to ramp up the level of education available at each event for an increasingly experienced beekeeping community. While we still had more "new-bees" at the event, it was great to see people taking in all the knowledge, asking educated questions at the panel discussions, and leaving the event with more insight on how to be better beekeepers.

With that being said, we are already setting our sights on the TBA Annual Convention which will be held in San Antonio at the San Antonio Hilton Airport. The main event is Friday and Saturday, November 8-9 with Thursday dedicated to the Texas Master Beekeeper Testing and Evening Beekeeping Social and Mixer. It's shaping up to be a spectacular event with a lot of unique learning opportunities for a variety of interests. Mark your calendars and be sure to register early! I expect registration will be up over the course of the next few weeks.

We have fantastic speakers lined up for the Annual Convention! Dr. Jamie Ellis highly recommended Cameron Jack from the University of Florida and we're so excited to have his energy as well as his practical approach to academic beekeeping. Tim Tucker of Tuckerbees Honey, past ABF President, and commercial beekeeper will be here to help us with our honey show as well as to share his years of experience. Dr. Jerry Bromenshenk of the University of Montana is studying honey bee health in an audible way and has years of experience in honey bee health. Dr. Dennis VanEngelsdorp of the University of Maryland as well as the Chief Scientist for the Bee Informed Partnership will also be joining us to discuss honey bee populations, health, and more. Obviously, this is just the beginning - we'll have amazing presentations from experienced beekeepers of all apiary sizes as well as a large variety of presentations. We hope you'll make it.

Lastly, we've found some amazing TBA volunteers this year and it's been such a pleasure to work alongside everybody towards a common goal of helping put on fantastic events, grow TBA, Real Texas Honey, and the Texas Honey Bee Education Association. If you haven't found us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube - I highly recommend seeking us out! We've had a great volunteer keeping those accounts full of fun and interesting information and we just launched our video library for you all to enjoy! We're also revamping the merchandise for TBA so be on the lookout for new shirts and other fun stuff at the Convention. If you're interested in volunteering to help with TBA, RTH, or THBEA - be sure to let us know so we can get you plugged into the right place!

Renew your Membership, or Join Us.

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If you change your address or email please contact

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or call (512) 924-5051

Look for the Honey Locator and Events Calendar



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Tour the ART HIVES TRAIL and VOTE for your favorite PAINTED ART HIVE during the event! Winners will be announced at the end of the event! (Art Hive entries must be returned to Bee Friendly Austin by August 16th to be included in the competition)

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At TBA Convention in San Antonio,
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Texas Beekeepers Association Annual Convention

November 7th - 9th, 2019



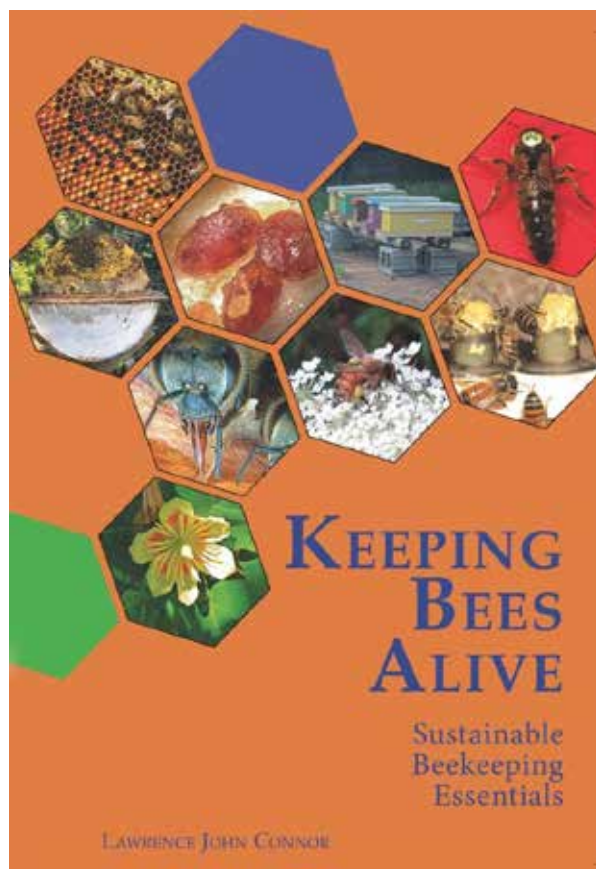
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Room Rate is \$124 a night, including breakfast



**Keeping Bees Alive: Sustainable Beekeeping Essentials
by Lawrence John Connor**

Wicwas Press
Perfect Bound, 6 x 9 inches, 224 pages

\$34.00 including postage

Wicwas Press is pleased to announce the publication of ***Keeping Bees Alive: Sustainable Beekeeping Essentials***. Written by Lawrence John Connor, Ph.D., ***Keeping Bees Alive*** analyzes sustainable beekeeping, evaluating the key causes of colony loss and details how beekeepers—from the newest to commercial operators—can keep their colony numbers stable and growing. He also reviews concepts of biodynamic beekeeping.

Over 100 Years of Beekeeping

from Morris Weaver



In the spring of 1887 Walter Somerford moved some bees on land owned by Zack Weaver. This place was about 9 miles south of Navasota, Texas. Walter said that he needed to establish another out-apiary and as there were a great many trees on and near this land he thought it would be a good location.

The community soon took the name of Lynn Grove and the school and Church that were soon established were called Lynn Grove School and church.

Walter Somerford was a young man with an inquiring mind and as early as 1878 he was interested in bees. No doubt he was the first in Grimes County to subscribe to a bee journal and the first to keep bees in a movable frame hives. Walter was a very resourceful young man. One day when he was on his bicycle several miles from home, he saw a nice large swarm of bees on a bush near the road. Walter wanted those bees very much but, had nothing to put them in. Young men in 1880s didn't dress like young men do today. Walter solved his problem by stepping into the woods and when he came back to the road, he was tying up the legs of his "long handles." He shook the bees into them and hung them over the handlebars of his bicycle and peddled for home. In 1892 Walter Somerford went to Cuba and went into the bee business over there.

At first, Zack Weaver not impressed with the bees, however that, year a was good year and Walter was a very enthusiastic young beekeeper. Zack also discovered that Walter had a very attractive sister who liked to help with the bees. It wasn't long before Florence Somerford noticed that when she was at Church or a Grange meeting there was usually a well-built young man somewhere near. This being the year of 1887 and Florence being a very modest young woman only glanced at Zack when she thought he or no one else looking. She seems to have decided that young man was good looking and that it might be interesting to know him better.

One morning Florence looked out the window and saw Zack talking to her brother Walter. About 11 o'clock Walter came in the house and told Florence that Zack had come to help him build a honey cart and he was going to ask him to stay for dinner. She was the oldest girl and as her mother was dead, she not only cooked the meals but also managed the household of her father and 6 brothers and sisters. No doubt some of the younger brothers and sisters peeped around corners and later teased her about Zack coming to build a honey cart.

Zack found the meal and household very much to his liking and as Walter was building something and Zack was handy with tools he came often to work With Walter. No doubt the fact that Florence liked to help with the bees, and in making bee supplies had something to do with these visits. When Zack was around the bees, he put on a bold front that he didn't always feel. If this girl was not afraid of bees, he didn't want her to think that he was afraid of such little things.

In 1888 Zack Weaver and Florence Somerford were married. The roads being very bad Zack brought his bride home to Lynn Grove on horseback.

As Florence, had always helped him with the bees Walter gave his sister 10 hives of bees as a wedding present. For 75 years, there have been bees near where those first, 10 colonies set. The location was good, and the bees did well. Increase was fast and soon out apiaries were being established. They had a foundation mill and a saw that was operated by a hand crank and foot peddle. When Florence could not go to the bee yards, she was usually making foundation or nailing up supplies that Zack had sawed out. To keep room on the bees the foundation mill was often turned until late at night.

The roads wore poor and oxen were sometime used to pull a wagon in going to outyards. Honey extractors were rather new on the market and the price seemed. high, so Zack made a honey extractor. A small house was built at most of the out-yards. Those houses were built, on two levels. A ramp was used to bring the honey into the extracting floor in a honey cart. The extracted honey ran by gravity through a strainer into a container on the ground level.

One time when honey was being extracted near the small town of Courtney the young lady schoolteacher came to watch. The shallow strainer tank was almost flush with the floor and was covered with oil cloth. In her eagerness to see everything that was going on the young Lady stepped off into the tank of honey. If you get out an old photo of about 1895 and see what a schoolteacher would be wearing you will understand what a mess, she was in. From then on this was one schoolteacher who probably always looked where she stepped.

There were few bridges and the roads were often in such condition it was quite a task to go the 7 or 8 miles to some of the out-yards. Florence and the children went along to help whenever they could. It was often very late at, night before they got home. Once when extracting they filled the barrels they had and then filled some large lard cans with honey. On the way home, they found a creek running deep because of a heavy rain. In crossing the water came up into the wagon box where Florence and the children were sitting trying to hold the cans of honey. One of the cans turned over and spilled the honey into the creek.

To handle honey in barrels we now we have some type of hoist. Zack loaded many 55-gallon wood barrels alone or with the help of one of the small boys. He would cut two long poles and put one end on the end of the wagon and, roll the barrel up the poles. He was afraid for the young son who might be along .to get behind the barrel and push as the barrel might get away and roll over the boy. He would tie a rope on each side the end of wagon and wind it around the barrel of honey and carry it back into the wagon. The boy then got into the wagon and pulled on the rope. If it didn't help much it at least made the boy feel like he was helping.

Although honey was what would now seem like a cheap price,

it was in fact very high priced when compared with other things, in an old account, book honey sales are listed at 50 cents a gallon. Also listed are such things as a suit for Roy \$2.00 and 3 pounds of coffee 25cents.

With expanded production sales were quite a problem. Some comb honey was produced in pound sections and shipped freight, to different towns. Honey was shipped in wood barrels to some of the larger stores. The customer would bring their jug to be filled from the barrel. At times when honey was shipped to Dallas in barrels Zack went by train and bought lard buckets and would peddle the honey direct to the consumer. On one trip, he came home with \$200.00. This seemed like a lot of money, and it was. The money was hidden in an old can in the kitchen. Zack had to leave on another trip, so Florence's younger sister came to stay with her and the \$200.00. That night they heard what they thought was someone walking on the porch. The first thing they thought about was all that money & they knew someone was about to rob them. Finally, they peeped out and there was an old horse rubbing on the porch post.

In 1915 after working a year with a large beekeeper in west Texas and one in Cuba Roy Weaver came back to Lynn Grove and started beekeeping and farming. Roy soon decided that life without a certain black-haired neighbor girl life would indeed be dreary. There were no honey carts to help build, however it was not long before Lela Binford and everyone in the community knew why Roy was so often at the Binford home.

In 1916 Roy Weaver and Lela Binford were married and moved into a house near the old home. Gulf storms had downed many of the Linn trees, others were cut down when land was cleared. The locations weren't as good as they were in 1888. That spring, there was also a late frost. The crop was short, and with 1917 prospects not good and very little money to operate on, Roy and Lela Weaver went to El Paso County to work for a honey producer. In 1918 they came back trying beekeeping and farming again.

In the spring of 1925 Horace Graham who lived at Cameron and was a large package bee shipper visited Roy and Lela and talked to them about, producing queens. Graham said that, he would buy least 1,000 queens a year. That sounded like a lot of queens. The year 1925 was very dry. Only a few queens were produced in April. By May the bees were starving and there was no money to buy sugar to feed them. Roy and Lela loaded their children in a Model T Ford and went to Colorado to work for a large honey producer.

Rains came early in the fall 1925. The bees that were left filled full of honey. 1926 was a good year, Roy and Lela were soon in queen production in what seemed a big way. Graham bought many more than the 1,000 queens he had promised to buy. In 1927 T. W. Burleson bought his first queens from the Weavers. For 36 years, the Burleson's and their successors have bought Weaver queens. Total has been many thousands. In fact, about 40,000 queens have been mailed to Waxahachie, Texas to the Burleson's. For many years, we sold queens to Horace Graham and the Burleson's. There never were any misunderstandings. Finer customers and friends cannot be found.

In 1929 Howard Weaver entered into partnership with Roy. Queen production expanded quite rapidly. Roy and Howard operated as a partnership. After the war when Roy Jr. and Binford came into partnership with their Dad. Soon afterward Billy Howard and Morris entered partnership with their dad. Roy S. Weaver, Sr.,

Roy S. Weaver, Jr., and Binford produce dark Italian queens, packages bees and honey and operated as Weaver Apiaries. Howard along with Billy Howard and Morris produce Caucasian queens, package bees and honey and operate as Howard Weaver & Sons. There is another brother, Carrol Weaver who produces honey at Alto Texas.

There are few if any, post, offices that have had as many bees mailed from it as Navasota, Texas has had. Thousands of packages of bees also moved out each spring by truck, railway express and parcel post. Many pounds of honey are also produced. The location is not as good as it was in 1888. There have, been changes for the better though. With the roads we now have and the trucks to go with them it is easier and quicker to go 100 or 350 miles to out apiaries than it was for Zack to go the 8 or 10 miles in 1888.

The way has not always been easy. Sometime the days were long and hard and the returns small. But bees have been good to the Weaver families and life with the bees and beekeeper friends has been a good life.



Weaver Home Bee Place 1898



Howard in Home Queen Yard 1964

Texas Honey Bee Education Association Update



“Raffles, License Plates, and Public Education”

July 2019 TBA Journal
by Roger Farr – THBEA Chairman

Howdy, fellow Texas beekeepers!

The Texas Honey Bee Education Association (THBEA) board has been busy the last few months working behind the scenes on projects. If you get a moment, please say thanks to these hard-working board members: Chris Doggett, Roger Farr, Leesa Hyder, Chris Moore, Ashley Ralph, Blake Shook, and Terry Wright. THBEA has a true working board, and it takes all of us to get the job done.

The TBA Summer Clinic in June was the venue of the first THBEA fund-raising raffle. Thanks to the generosity of Dadant and Sons, Mann Lake, and others, we were able to raffle a 20-frame sideliner extractor and the makings of an “instant” beekeeper set, including wooden ware, bee suit, and bees! The attendees were generous and purchased over \$4000 worth of raffle tickets, all the funds being used toward THBEA education projects! Many volunteers made the raffle even possible, and we are grateful for the gift of their time and energy.

Further on the fund-raising front, THBEA has submitted our application for a Texas DMV specialty license plate. The Texas Department of Agriculture is our government sponsor for the plate and will receive the funds from TxDMV before granting them to THBEA. Every plate sold or renewed will generate \$22 for THBEA to use for future projects. We’re working with TxDMV now to finalize the plate design, so look for further information on plate availability on this page in the *TBA Journal*. In the picture you see our initial draft of the plate design, but keep in mind that it will change as we work through the TxDMV process.



Lastly, THBEA is working with potential donors to fund a \$2500 project to produce a four-panel brochure to broaden public education about honey bees and the contribution they make to society. The working title is “How You Can Help the Honey Bees!” We’re actively soliciting donors now and are pitching the project to them for funding. Let’s just say that has been a learning experience for us all.

People are the life-blood of any organization, and THBEA is no different. Right now we are looking for a team of people to develop this public education brochure. Just think of having a brochure in your hand so that you, a Texas beekeeper, can adequately answer the questions we all get, namely, “What’s happening to the honey bees?” and “How can I help the situation?” This brochure will provide factual information and specific action steps that people in their local spheres of influence can implement to help us all and to help our friends *Apis mellifera*.

Another funding source is the THBEA auction held in conjunction with the November Texas Beekeepers Association (TBA) annual meeting. I encourage you to submit beekeeping-themed items which THBEA can then auction off to raise additional donations. No item is too small or too large. Please consider donating to the auction. Be sure to put tickets to the dinner/auction in your shopping cart when you register for the TBA annual meeting at TexasBeekeepers.org. We’re also considering on-line auction capability to encourage even more participation.

If you’ve given to THBEA, “Thank you!” If you’re still considering it, I encourage you to donate. Your donation will assist in funding the reprint of the *NewBee’s Guide* and two other projects to support beekeeper education and provide information to the general public on the benefits of honey bees. You can give directly by clicking the donate button at THBEA.com.

Together, let’s make THBEA a success for beekeeping and beekeepers' education in Texas!

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2019 Texas Honey Queen

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Hi everyone!

I hope your bees are doing well and you harvested some delicious honey to enjoy. My family extracted our record amount of honey this year and are enjoying our favorite meals with fresh honey! Every year, the flowers available to our bees change. That happens because of environmental changes. The different availability of pollen and nectars help create a wide variety in honey. This will affect the color, taste and finer health properties.

Here are profiles of some popular honeys.

Manuka Honey

- Only found in New Zealand from the Manuka tree
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Clover Honey

- Helps regulate blood pressure
- Helps mitigate liver issues
- Provides anti-oxidants
- Increases other circulatory actions
- Decongestant

Sage Honey

- Helps promote relaxation throughout the entire body
- Can help shift moods
- Helps with respiratory problems such as coughing or congested lungs
- Helps the body fight off infections by bolstering the immune system

Lavender Honey

- Helps with mineral balance
- Mitigates outdoor allergies
- Can lower blood pressure
- Helps with bone disorders

Heather Honey

- Decongestant
- Promotes kidney and urinary tract health

Hawthorn Honey

- Helps with the circulatory system
- Soothing to the body

Sunflower Honey

- Promotes throat and sinus health
- Anti-inflammatory

Pine Honey

- Anti-inflammatory
- Antimicrobial
- Rich in minerals and metals

Linden honey

- Fights the flu
- Increases metabolism
- Anti-spasmodic
- Eases internal pain





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Update from Texas Apiary Inspection Service

from Mary Reed, Chief Apiary Inspector

Hello Texas Beekeepers!

I hope the summer is going well for all of you and that you've extracted some honey already! This a great time of year to check your Varroa mite levels and make sure your bees have plenty of water close by so they can make it through these hot temperatures. In this article I'd like to share with you some information on the Asian hornet (*Vespa velutina*). Some of you may already be aware of a close relative to this insect, the Asian giant hornet (*Vespa mandarinia*), which can be a detriment to honey bee colonies, but I want to focus on *V. velutina* since it is currently a major issue for beekeepers in Europe, particularly in France. There is a potential for these hornets to spread to the United States, so this is just one more pest that beekeepers should be aware of.

Asian hornets are large insects (workers are about an inch in length) that live in a social nest environment. Their bodies are dark-brown to black and have a yellow band on each abdominal segment. One key characteristic is that only the fourth abdominal segment is entirely yellow-orange in color. Their legs are brown, but are yellow near the ends. The head is black with an orange-yellow coloration on the face. The nest is spherical in shape and can have 6-7 pancake-like structures, which contain the brood. These structures are entirely enclosed by a shell made out of paper-like material, typically beige or brown colored. The entrance is located near the lower end of the nest. The Asian hornet typically builds the nest high off the ground, such as in a tree or on a man-made structure, but can also be found closer to the ground. In France, these nests have been found primarily in oaks, poplars, and acacia trees, but they can also be found in man-made spaces such as garages, sheds, and under decks. Over the course of a year, the nest can reach a size of 2-3 feet in height and 1-2 feet in diameter.

Life Cycle

An Asian hornet colony has an annual life cycle, meaning that a nest is established in the spring and the entire colony dies in the late fall or winter. In early spring, a reproductive female that mated in the previous fall will start building a nest when the temperatures have started to warm up. The first eggs that she lays are non-reproductive females (workers). The workers expand the nest, feed the developing brood, and forage for resources. During the peak of the season, there can be between 500 and 1500 hornets in a colony. In the fall, males and reproductive females are produced. The females will mate and overwinter in a sheltered area (such as under bark or in a small tree hollow) before they establish their own nests in the following spring.

Current Distribution and Spread

The Asian hornet and its subspecies are native to Asia and can be found in Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, eastern China, and the Indian archipelago. In 2005, the subspecies *Vespa velutina nigrithorax* was introduced to southwestern France via a shipment of pottery from China. Since its introduction this hornet has spread across France and into Spain and Belgium. The introduction of the Asian hornet has been linked to the movement of nests or fertile queens in freight containers, untreated timber, soil of



Adult *Vespa velutina*

Credit: Dr. Allan Smith-Pardo, USDA-APHIS PPQ



Adult *Vespa velutina* abdomen. Note that the 4th segment is entirely yellow-orange in color.

Credit: Dr. Allan Smith-Pardo, USDA-APHIS PPQ

imported potted plants, cut flowers, and fruit. In addition, there are several other wasp pests that are related to the Asian hornet and can cause damage to honey bee colonies:

- Asian giant hornet (*Vespa mandarinia*)
- Oriental hornet (*Vespa orientalis*)
- European hornet (*Vespa crabro*)
- Lesser banded hornet (*Vespa affinis*)
- Japanese hornet (*Vespa analis*)
- Black shield wasp (*Vespa bicolor*)

How to Detect

There are several ways a beekeeper can keep an eye out for these insects. One way is to watch for foraging hornets, which are most active during the day from spring to autumn, depending on the climate. These foragers will hover or “hawk” outside honey bee colonies to catch any foraging bees leaving or returning to the hive, or guard bees that are attempting to defend the colony. If a foraging hornet catches a bee it will drop to the ground with the bee before it paralyzes it. Then it will decapitate the bee, remove its legs and wings, and mold it into a ball for easier transportation. Sometimes hornets may enter a honey bee colony to steal the developing brood. If so, the hornets will attack the guard bees first before stealing from the brood nest. Beekeepers in France have experienced losses of entire colonies due to the Asian hornet, and have noticed that these hornets typically attack hives that are already weak due to another cause.

Currently we do not have the Asian hornet, or any of its relatives, in the United States. However, due to international commerce it is possible that they will be introduced one day. It is important for beekeepers to be able to identify these hornets, be vigilant, and report any suspicions to the appropriate authorities. If you spot an insect that you believe to be an Asian hornet, or a similar invasive pest, please report it to your state’s Plant Health Director (<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/ppq-program-overview/sphd>). For more information on how you can help prevent the introduction of invasive pests, check out the USDA’s website here: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/resources/pests-diseases/hungry-pests/what-you-can-do>. For more information about the Asian hornet, check out the Invasive Species Compendium website here: <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/109164>.

As always, if you ever need to contact our office, you can reach us via email or phone (tais@tamu.edu, 979-845-9713). I hope you all enjoy the rest of the summer!

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



The Brantley Column

from S. S. Brantley

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

August normally is a hot and dry month with “Dog Days” plaguing us most of the time. There will be little for the bees to work unless they find plants blooming in the woods and creek bottoms where some moisture and shade keeps some blossoms going. Bitter Weeds will become very noticeable in the fields and along the roadsides. Nectar from Bitter Weeds does make a very desirable honey. Hopefully, you completed extracting before they began to bloom.

With extraction completed, you have to decide how to store your supers. Remember honey supers that have not had any brood reared in them and therefore do not have any honey bee cocoons present, are not really interesting to the wax moth. However, you still cannot store extracted supers off the hive without providing wax moth protection. If you have a few hives with two or three supers on each, you may decide to return the extracted supers to the hive for storage and to be protected by the bees from the ever present wax moth.

The approved “off-hive” storage method is to stack supers in a cool dry location under paramoth crystals. I prefer to start with a Telescoping Outer Cover upside-down on the floor. Line it with several thicknesses of newspaper. Stack supers two-or-three high on the newspaper. Place an approximately 8x8 inch sheet of paper on the top super and add ¼ cup of paramoth crystals. Make sure to use the ParaDicloroBenzene paramoth crystals – DO NOT USE NAPHTHA MOTH CRYSTALS.

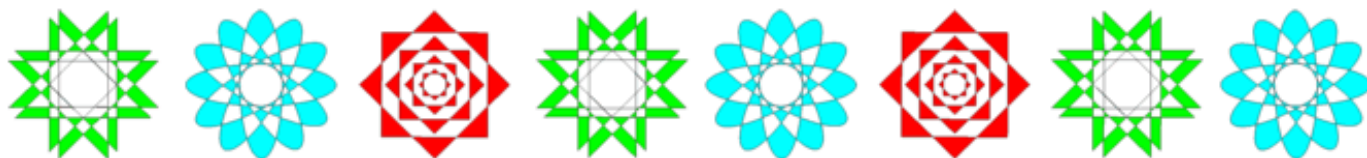
You can add another stack of two or three supers, followed by another paper with paramoth crystals, if you wish, or start another stack. Cover the top of the stack with another Outer Cover. The paramoth crystals will vaporize and permeate the stack of supers from the top down, repelling wax moths. They vaporize faster in hotter weather. Periodically check the amount of crystals remaining and add more, as needed.

The beekeepers’ activities in the beeyard are now focused on helping the bees weather the hot dry summer dearth period. Be

aware that your bees may be cranky and bad tempered during the summer dearth. Use caution when working in the apiary and wear protection to reduce stinging incidents. Make sure fresh water is readily available. Your bee’s water intake will increase as they use evaporation to help cool the hive. Ventilate the hive by sliding the Outer Cover back and resting it on the edge of the Inner Cover.

Make sure there are remaining stores in the hive, especially if you extracted most of the honey. There may be little or no honey in the brood chambers. Determine your hive’s condition by inspecting frames from the brood chambers. If you are pressed for time, you can feel the hive’s weight by lifting the back edge using the “two-fingered lift” technique. Just make sure the boxes are not stuck together when you try the lifting the edge. If the hive is light or you do not see much stores in the brood frames, consider feeding with 2:1 syrup.

It is also time to do a mite count. According to all published literature, mites must be controlled to prevent the hive from collapsing. To do a mite count, you will need a plastic dishpan, a ½ cup measuring cup, some powdered sugar and a wide-mouthed jar with 1/8-inch hardware cloth replacing the solid lid. Pull a frame containing open brood and shake the attending nurse bees into the dishpan. Scoop up ½ cup of bees and pour them in the jar and cover with the hardware cloth lid. Dump the rest of the bees back into the hive. Add a spoonful of powdered sugar through the hardware cloth lid. Roll or shake the jar in your hands for 90 seconds. Let the jar sit while you replace the frames back into the hive. Now, pour the powdered sugar through the hardware cloth into the bottom of the dishpan, shaking the jar to be sure all of the mites have been dislodged. Add some water to the pan to dissolve the sugar and count the mites. Since your ½ cup of bees was about 300 bees, divide your mite count by three to get the count per hundred bees. If there are three or more mites per hundred bees, consider treating your hive.



The Roles of Drifting and Robbing in Varroa Destructor Mite Infested Colonies.

from Catch The Buzz

David Thomas Peck & Thomas Dyer Seeley

Department of Neurobiology and Behavior, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

PLoS One. 2019 Jun 21;14(6):e0218392. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0218392. eCollection 2019.



When honey bee colonies collapse from high infestations of Varroa mites, neighboring colonies often experience surges in their mite populations. Collapsing colonies, often called “mite bombs”, seem to pass their mites to neighboring colonies. This can happen by mite infested workers from the collapsing colonies drifting into the neighboring colonies, or by mite-free workers from the neighboring colonies robbing out the collapsing colonies, or both.

To study inter-colony mite transmission, we positioned six nearly mite-free colonies of black-colored bees around a cluster of three mite-laden colonies of yellow-colored bees. We then monitored the movement of bees between the black-bee and yellow-bee colonies before, during, and after mite-induced collapse of the yellow-bee colonies.

Throughout the experiment, we monitored each colony’s mite level. We found that large numbers of mites spread to the black-bee colonies (in both nearby and distant hives) when the yellow-bee colonies collapsed from high mite infestations and became targets of robbing by the black-bee colonies.

We conclude that “robber lures” is a better term than “mite bombs” for describing colonies that are succumbing to high mite loads and are exuding mites to neighboring colonies.



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The Adorable Custom of “Telling The Bees”

from Amusing Planet by Kaushik

There was a time when almost every rural British family who kept bees followed a strange tradition. Whenever there was a death in the family, someone had to go out to the hives and tell the bees of the terrible loss that had befallen the family. Failing to do so often resulted in further loss such as the bees leaving the hive, or not producing enough honey or even dying. Traditionally, the bees were kept abreast of not only deaths but all important family matters including births, marriages, and long absence due to journeys. If the bees were not told, all sorts of calamities were thought to happen. This peculiar custom is known as “telling the bees”.

Humans have always had a special connection with bees. In medieval Europe, bees were highly prized for their honey and wax. Honey was used as food, to make mead—possibly the world’s oldest fermented beverage—and as medicine to treat burns, cough, indigestion and other ailments. Candles made from beeswax burned brighter, longer and cleaner than other wax candles. Bees were often kept at monasteries and manor houses, where they were tended with the greatest respect and considered part of the family or community. It was considered rude, for example, to quarrel in front of bees.

The practice of telling the bees may have its origins in Celtic mythology that held that bees were the link between our world and the spirit world. So if you had any message that you wished to pass to someone who was dead, all you had to do was tell the bees and they would pass along the message. Telling the bees was widely reported from all around England, and also from many places across Europe. Eventually, the tradition made their way across the Atlantic and into North America.

The typical way to tell the bees was for the head of the household, or “goodwife of the house” to go out to the hives, knock gently to get the attention of the bees, and then softly murmur in a doleful tune the solemn news. Little rhymes developed over the centuries specific to a particular region. In Nottinghamshire, the wife of the dead was heard singing quietly in front of the hive—“The master’s dead, but don’t you go; Your mistress will be a good mistress to you.” In Germany, a similar couplet was heard—“Little bee, our lord is dead; Leave me not in my distress”.

Telling the bees was common in New England. The 19th century American poet John Greenleaf Whittier describes this peculiar custom in his 1858 poem “Telling the bees”.

Before them, under the garden wall,
Forward and back,
Went drearily singing the chore-girl small,
Draping each hive with a shred of black.

Trembling, I listened: the summer sun
Had the chill of snow;
For I knew she was telling the bees of one
Gone on the journey we all must go!

And the song she was singing ever since
In my ear sounds on:—
“Stay at home, pretty bees, fly not hence!
Mistress Mary is dead and gone!”

In case of deaths, the beekeeper also wrapped the top of the hive with a piece of black fabric or crepe. If there was a wedding in the family, the hives were decorated and pieces of cake left outside so that the bees too could partake in the festivities. Newly-wed couples introduced themselves to the bees of the house, otherwise their married life was bound to be miserable.

If the bees were not “put into mourning”, terrible misfortunes befell the family and to the person who bought the hive. Victorian biologist, Margaret Warner Morley, in her book *The Honey-Makers* (1899), cites a case in Norfolk where a man purchased a hive of bees that had belonged to a man who had died. The previous owner had failed to put the bees into mourning when their master died, causing the bees to fall sick. When the new owner draped the hive with a black cloth, the bees regained their health. In another tale, an Oxfordshire family had seventeen hives when their keeper died. Because nobody told them about the death, every bee died. There are plenty of such tales in Morley’s book.

The intimate relationship between bees and their keepers have led to all sorts of folklore. According to one it was bad luck to buy or sell hives, because when you sell one, you sell your luck with your bees. Instead, bees were bartered for or given as gifts. If bees flew into a house, a stranger would soon call. If they rested on a roof, good luck was on its way.

But the relationship between bees and humans goes beyond superstition. It’s a fact, that bees help humans survive. 70 of the top 100 crop species that feed 90% of the human population rely on bees for pollination. Without them, these plants would cease to exist and with it all animals that eat those plants. This can have a cascading effect that would ripple catastrophically up the food chain. Losing a beehive is much more worse than losing a supply of honey. The consequences are life threatening. The act of telling the bees emphasizes this deep connection humans share with the insect.



Medeni Zaklad... Honey Treasure

From Robin Young, Metro Beekeepers Association

The articles I have written in the past about apitherapy have been basic yet beyond the honeybee sting (bee venom). I'm on a journey and where it leads, I don't know. What I do know is that you're getting a front row seat. In seeking knowledge about apitherapy, the more determined I became to go to "the source". "The source" slowly became more defined as someone who has been taught, studies, and practices apitherapy. That is hard to find here in America. My search led me to Slovenia in May of 2018 and back again this past May 2019. I met a young lady named Nika Pengal. Nika is a beekeeper, apitherapist, and honey massage therapist.



Nika Pengal pictured above.

Nika studied at an apitherapy school in Slovenia (A 12-month intense program on all aspects of apitherapy). On this occasion, May 2019, she did a presentation on her formula for "Medeni Zaklad" (translation: Honey Treasure).



I'm giving you the recipe, but please read the whole article for safety warnings information and safety precautions. Also, I must mention that I am not a doctor and it is always good to consult your doctor before taking anything such as the "Honey Treasure".

Medeni Zaklad (Honey Treasure)

Ingredients:

- 2 1/2 pounds honey
- 1-ounce royal jelly
- 1 cup pollen



Directions:

Pour all three ingredients in a bowl and stir until mixed thoroughly. I recommend having a strong guy around to do the stirring. Once mixed, put into glass containers, and write the date on each container. Store at room temperature. Once opened, store in the refrigerator. Expiration is around six months.

When flu season approaches, drink one teaspoon of "Honey Treasure" mixed in a 12-ounce glass of warm water. This mixture is said to boost your immune system and much more. As always, do your own research. And read the [safety warning](#) later in this article.

Medeni Zaklad... Honey Treasure

The most important part of this recipe is the ingredients. You want to use all your own ingredients. Here is a little help.

Honey: Your best honey is unheated, filtered by waiting, allowing particles to float to the top and then pouring out the unfiltered honey from a spout at the bottom of your honey container. Basically, the first pour and not filtered. Yes, you will want to filter the top of your honey that has the wax particles floating in it, but you're not using that to make this.



Royal Jelly: Here is where all those queen rearing classes pay off. Graft around thirty to forty queen cells. Two to three days after grafting, pull your grafting frame. With your grafting hook, pull the larva out of each queen cell. Three days after a queen has left the egg stage is when the cell has the most royal jelly. You have several choices, you can scoop out the royal jelly and put it in a 1-ounce glass container with a lid, or you can pinch the wax closed sealing the royal jelly in the beeswax. Store your royal jelly in a deep freezer. You can sell the wax sealed royal jelly "capsule" for \$39 each (the cost of a queen). More on that in future articles. There are studies that show royal jelly that is made from natural pollen and natural nectar makes the best quality royal jelly.



Pollen: There are some amazing pollen traps on the market that you can pick up from Mann Lake, Dadant, or your local beekeeping supply store. When using a pollen trap, you don't want to just leave it on the hive day after day. It's good to use the trap a few hours a day, pull it off and collect the pollen each afternoon. This takes some of the pressure off the hive. Also, pick a time of year when there is quality pollen to be found usually in spring or early summer. After collecting, put your pollen in a freezer bag and store in your deep freeze until you are ready to use it. Date everything.

SAFTY WARNING: Before taking pollen, you need to do some testing to see if you have an allergic reaction. A simple way to do this is to take one grain of pollen and put it in a 12-ounce glass of lukewarm water, stir and drink it. If you don't have a reaction, keep doing this every day for a week. After the first week mix 2 grains of pollen into the lukewarm water and drink a glass with 2 grains of pollen for seven day and so forth. Gradually testing your tolerance level. With apitherapy, you want to **always start with the smallest possible dose and work your way up.**



Notice the honeybee disturbing the pollen in plumes of pollen dust. Pictured above.

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

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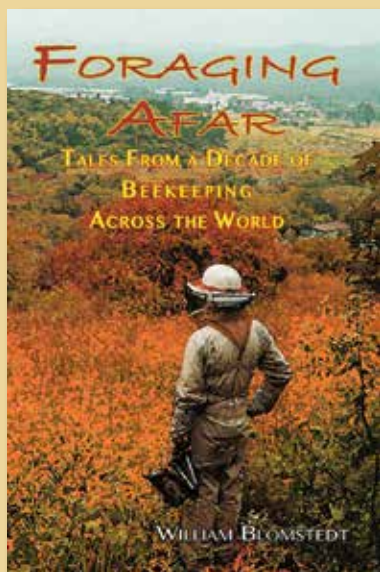
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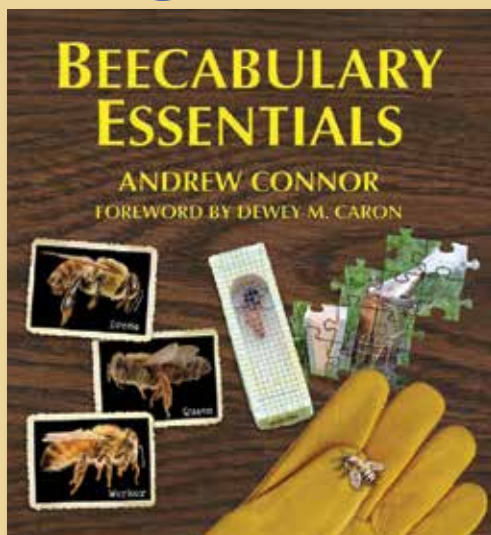
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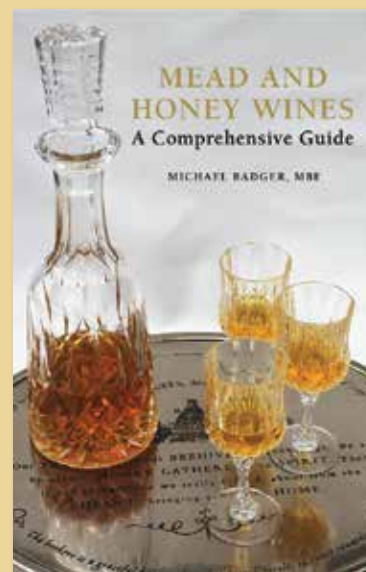
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Religion of Bees

By Rev. Paul Crown

When people first see this large guy dressed in all black, they unconsciously think to themselves, “Was that someone from the Matrix, Batman or a Star Wars Jedi?” They normally settle on Priest. The black cassock is the forerunner to the modern business suit, attire that I wear as an outward sign of my commitment to study Holy Orders and become a Priest. The theology that I am studying is Catholic in the sense that it is Apostolic, yet liberal in the sense that Priests marry and raise families, and answer to the majority opinion of local Bishops rather than a far away Pope. However, this is not the religion that I want discuss today, but rather the religion of Bees.



Early in life it was determined that I was allergic to just about everything. I once took an allergy test, and the doctor administering the test said the results concluded that it was ONLY safe for me to eat white bread and drink water. He prescribed a series of shots to be given at home by my mother. Before long, I said enough was enough—no more shots. That was when I had read that the miracle of regular doses of honey could accomplish the same as the shots, but taste “oh so much better”. Whether the honey did the trick, or I just grew out of the allergies with age, today almost all of my allergies are all but forgotten. For a majority of my adult life, the only allergy that remained that I still had to contend with was Spring pollen. Each March, my eyes and nose would run, and I would live on daily doses of antihistamines. About 10 years ago, my wife introduced a second Bee miracle: crumbles of bee pollen on my breakfast toast each morning. Like the honey before, she strived to source the bee pollen from a local hive. Today, I quite religiously have a bit of local honey and pollen at breakfast everyday.

Having, obviously, held a grand view of bees for a very long time, it is surprising that I didn’t start tending bees sooner. In January of this year, a coworker began discussing that he had purchased acreage next to a golf course, but nearly half of the land amounted to a 100 foot wide strip that followed the golf course perimeter. We discussed what types of animals that he might raise in order to earn an agricultural exemption of property taxes. Bees jumped out as the winner. He didn’t want to tend bees, but I was excited to. I would supply the hives, and he would supply the land. I would keep the honey and he would get the exemption.

Continued on page 22

The unconventional type of guy that I am read up on bee hives, the races of bees, the diseases that they are susceptible, how to combat those diseases, who makes more honey and who is the most docile. Just like any good religion, everyone had their own opinions. I settled on top bar hives with Russian bees. The top bar hive allowed me the freedom to build the hive with my unique flair. I also wanted, what I have perceived as the long term goal: hives of strong bees that need little intervention from me. I built several hives using rough cedar planks, 5' long by 17" wide at the top. I screened in the bottom, and set an A-frame roof on top. The outside was painted with a solution of linseed oil and beeswax. After two weeks of drying time, they got a second coat. I drilled three entrance holes on the end, and painted an ultraviolet blue line at each entrance. For those keeping track, I had so far spent \$200 and had two pretty cedar top bar hives. Hives in place, and leveled, now for the bees.



The USDA-Agricultural Research Service Honey Bee Genetics and Physiology Lab in Baton Rouge has isolated and setup a breeding program for raising a strain of

Russian bees that have consistently shown to have a resistance to the varroa mite. While the strain has not shown any signs of problems with nosema spores or tracheal mites, both are still being researched. Part of the Russian's resistance to varroa mites stems from the bees natural inclination to attack the mites. When researchers examined dead mites from a hive, they found numerous bite marks on the mites, and frequent dismemberment with missing legs or antenna. This race or strain of bees is being bread by the Russian Honeybee Breeders Association, maintaining 17 genetic lines each divided into three blocks. The drones of the several blocks are rotated among the different lines to maintain a healthy diverse gene pool.

In January, I contacted a number of the Russian breeders only to find that everyone had placed their orders for NUCs and Queens in the fall of last year. Finally, one agreed to sell me two NUCs that he hoped would be built up by early May. In the meantime, I discovered the proper transport of bees across state lines involved permits and inspections. I applied and obtained a permit to transport hives from Mississippi to Texas. Luckily, the Mississippi hives had been recently inspected. A copy of the Mississippi inspection certification satisfied the Texas Apiary Inspection Service. When arriving in Mississippi, the beekeeper pointed out that only one of the NUCs was built up as much as he likes them before selling. To compensate for the lack luster second NUC, he would give me a third for free. Since I was transporting the NUCs inside an automobile, I put mesh laundry bags around each NUC. This kept contained the few bees that managed to get out of the NUC. Total cost for registering the hives and obtaining an import permit: \$100. Total cost for the 2 paid for NUCs and the 1 freebie: \$300.



Much has been said about getting a good beekeeper's suit. I researched the pros and cons of each, and settled on a \$240 suit, partly because it came in XXL and partly because it was aerated—meaning it could breathe. Just before submitting an order, I saw an ad for a \$30 XXL. It wasn't aerated, but it was cheap. I gave in to temptation and bought the \$30 suit, and was reminded again "too good to be true" is too good to be true. Their version of XXL could be worn by my 12 year old daughter, but I couldn't even get both pants legs on. Before the original suit arrived, I worried that it too might be too small, alas, while snug, I was still able to wear it. While I have been stung now a half a dozen times, only one was while I was wearing the suit—an unprotected ankle, I am undeterred.



The Mississippi NUCs that I purchased are for a Langstroth hive. This does not exactly fit the top bar hive that I have built. Each frame has to have its sides cut at a 60 degree angle, and holes drilled through the frame to allow yarn to pass through and tie to the bar. I prepped the frames and put them in their new homes. Now we let bees do what bees do. By the end of the first week, the strong and healthy hive got up and left; no partial swarm, they just all left. The other two are doing just fine. If the religion of bees is balanced, then it would explain why I found my first swarm of Italian bees the same week. They had moved into a telephone capsule at the edge of the road. I moved as many bees and a frame of honey and brood into a NUC placed next to the capsule. I couldn't find the queen. I will go back tomorrow to see if they follow their queen to the NUC, or if I only have a box of bees. Regardless, bees and I will be spending lots of time together for many years to come.





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What are Your Beekeeping Goals?

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

TBA Journal Article - July 2019

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

Pictures are by the authors unless otherwise indicated.



Photo - Hudson Old, East Texas Journal Photography

We hope you have goals for your beekeeping activities. We've had them from the beginning of our beekeeping adventure, and the goals have changed from time to time. For example, our number of hives goal to maintain marital harmony has increased from six to nine!

However, one goal has not changed for us. We are in beekeeping for the beekeepers. Every managed hive has a beekeeper, and that is this month's topic.

We really do enjoy working with bees, but even more we enjoy the people we meet. We do enjoy seeing bees on our plants and finding "new-to-us" plants, vines, and trees that provide bee forage. However, we're into horticulture for the other gardeners. We do like extracting our own fall honey and thanking our girls for a good year, but we do remember that we're in this for the new beekeepers, those excited to extract a frame or two of their own honey.



We don't enjoy the 97 degF days with the 93% humidity we sometimes get in northeast Texas, especially when there are nine more hives to inspect. However, when we think about the first-year folks we get to assist and who are helping us with our inspections, we suck it up and go on to the next hive.

Our family tends to run on goals. We make them, put plans together to execute against the goals, and then check them off when they're done. When we're in beekeeping for the beekeepers it takes away the mundaneness of one more bee meeting, two more bees-in-the wall calls, three more hours spent requeening because 100 more school children are now convinced that bees are the most marvelous of all of God's insect creations...ever! Then, it is all worth it.

When you read this, we will have returned from a 2.5-week trip to Nigeria. We're there to help church leaders get better at teaching and leading the people in their care, their flocks. We're also there to model (and learn) what it looks like to be followers of Jesus, flaws and all. We hope to meet more Nigerian beekeepers to find out if, indeed, they really do inspect their hives at night using the lights of an automobile and plenty of smoke. Nigerian beekeepers have brought us samples of their honey, usually in reused plastic water bottles. The honey

is good and totally unlike any honey we've tasted from Texas bees. Unfortunately, we can't take it back with us to the US, so we share it with our new Nigerian friends, those who've never even considered becoming beekeepers!

We're grateful for our bees. Our nine hives are doing well and building up nicely. We've seen at most ONE hive beetle in any of our hives. Our varroa counts have been very low, most likely due to the oxalic acid vaporization treatment in December of last year and the brood breaks we've had in producing nucleus hives earlier in the year. We continue to monitor our bees monthly for varroa. We've chosen to use the powdered sugar shake method, knowing that it is not as accurate as the alcohol wash method. It's just too much fun to watch the sugar covered "ghost" bees when we dump them back into the hive as their sisters begin to groom them.



We raised lots of bees in the spring, and we do expect to harvest honey in the fall. Our mentor taught us that it is hard to do both, but since we're in beekeeping for the beekeepers and not to supplement our income, we can afford to have a reduced honey crop.

So, what are your beekeeping goals? Why are you in beekeeping? When you're clear on that answer, you'll find that it is much easier to make decisions regarding equipment and beekeeping practices. When it's 97 degF with 93% humidity and nine more hives to inspect, it's easier to know what to do, because we know why we are doing it!

We'd love to hear about your beekeeping adventures!

Roger and Sue Farrdfarr@gmail.com;
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Texas Beekeepers Association Membership Application

or Join Us at www.texasbeekeepers.org

New / Renewal (circle one)

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____
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 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ Email: _____
 Local Association _____

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

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

Total Enclosed _____

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

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

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



Dear TBA members,

This summer has been mostly hot and somewhat wet and humid in the Brazos County, meaning that beekeepers around here need to be extra careful with the heat while handling bees. Our students have been working hard outside on their projects, despite the hot temperatures. While the students and Gene Ash, our apiary manager, have been handling the heat, I did quite a bit of traveling the past couple of months, all to represent our research program around the U.S. and the world!

A highlight of this summer, and of my professional career, was the invitation to be the International Keynote speaker at this year's Apiculture New Zealand Conference & Trade Exhibition, which was held 27-29 June at the Rotorua Energy Events Centre in Rotorua, New Zealand! The organizing committee went above and beyond to make us feel welcome and we had a great time participating in this event and learning more about how bees are kept in that part of the world. For more information on this exciting meeting please visit <http://apicultureconference2019.co.nz/programme/>

I was also the opening Keynote Speaker at this year's Heartland Apicultural Society (HAS) meeting, which was held on the campus of Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, KY, on 8-10 July. The schedule can be found at <http://www.heartlandbees.org/has-2019-schedule/>. There were a lot of interesting from colleagues including Reed Johnson, Jennifer Tsuruda, Jay Evans, Tom Webster, and many, many more!

Our lab participated on 27 July in the 7th annual *Wish Upon a Butterfly* event at the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History! During this fundraising event, hundreds of Monarch butterflies and wishes were released at 10 am outside of the museum. There was plenty of food and many informational booths including our lab's, the Brazos Valley Master Gardeners, and the Entomology Graduate Student Organization. There was a special prize for children in a butterfly (or a caterpillar) themed costume, and most importantly, we got to speak to the general public about pollinators, honey bees, and our research program!

In other news, I am very humbled and honored to become the newest elected member to the Board of Food 4 Farmers, an organization mostly funded by large coffee producers and cooperatives from the USA, to help improve food security for coffee growers in Latin America. Here's the latest article in Barista Magazine!

<https://www.baristamagazine.com/non-profit-org-food-4-farmers-releases-their-annual-report-during-a-pressingly-relevant-time/>

This year's Brazos Valley Beekeeping School is once again being co-sponsored by the Texas A&M Honey Bee Lab and the Brazos Valley Beekeepers Association (BVBA). Online

registration now open,

plus full details at <https://www.bvbeeks.org/events/bee-school/>

Proceeds benefit the BVBA Youth Program and the Bee Lab. We

will again take pre-orders for people to purchase their hive kit from Mann Lake (item # KD-100), to be delivered and picked up at the bee school. Then the "Hive Body & Frame Building" class will help you put your own boxes and frames together on the spot. We'll have tools and helpers available to help you get it done. These hive kits are available at the really good sale price of \$85 each! Here are the details:

Date: Saturday, September 7th.

Location: Agrilife Center and Agricultural & Life Sciences Building, Texas A&M University Campus. Parking will be available in lot "100C".

Cost: \$70 individual / \$125 couple; \$15 kids (ages 12-17)

Lunch: Beef and Chicken Fajitas and all the Fixings from J.

Cody's BBQ

One of our lab's latest scientific paper came out last month in the open-access journal PLoS ONE. The paper is titled "**Seasonal variation of pollen collected by honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) in developed areas across four regions in the United States**" with Pierre Lau as the first author. We are very proud of the hard work that our Ph D student Pierre Lau and collaborators did for this paper on urban Bee pollen consumption!! And we got a lot of popular press interest, including making to Bee Culture's Catch the Buzz!!! **Press release:**

"Pollen Collected by US Honey Bees in Urban Settings Shows Dramatic Seasonal Variation."

The diversity and availability of pollen foraged by honey bees across urban and suburban areas in the US varies drastically with the seasons, according to a study published June 12, 2019 in PLOS ONE by Juliana Rangel from Texas A&M University, USA, and colleagues. Honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) colonies require a diversity of protein-rich pollen in order to rear healthy brood and ensure colony survival. During certain seasons, insufficient or poor-quality pollen can limit brood nutrition. In this study, the authors investigated the variation in pollen collected by honey bees across developed landscapes in California, Michigan, Florida, and Texas over the seasons of the year. The authors tracked a total of 394 sites with at least two hives each in urban and suburban locations across California, Texas, Florida, and Michigan. They placed a pollen trap at each hive entrance, which passively collected pollen from foraging bees, and sampled pollen from the traps in multiple months of 2014 and 2015. The researchers used a light microscope to

identify pollen grains to the family, genus, and species level where possible.

The total overall pollen species diversity varied significantly across all four states, with highest diversity in California and lowest diversity in Texas. Nationally, the total pollen diversity was significantly higher in the spring across all locations as compared to other seasons. Top pollen sources across all states included legumes, oaks, roses and daisies. Only a few plant groups provided pollen throughout the year—for example, eucalyptus and palm pollen was consistently available in California and Florida. Since pollen traps were only in use over limited periods, the assessment of pollen collection was not comprehensive, and the pollen was not quantified to examine the proportion collected of each type. However, these results provide information about honey bee foraging patterns over the year. The authors hope this might help urban planners and gardeners choose plants that can provide appropriate pollen resources to honey bees in developed areas year-round, and plan pesticide treatment regimens around honey bee foraging schedules. The authors add: “This study describes the seasonal and geographic variation of floral sources of pollen for honey bees in urban and suburban landscapes, giving us for the first time a comprehensive look at some of the most important plants for honey bees in developed areas, and serves as a foundation for studies related to honey bee nutritional ecology in urban settings.”

And, our new paper in collaboration with Drs. Rong Ma and Christina Grozinger just came out a few days ago! Ma R, Rangel J, Grozinger CM (2019) **Honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) larval pheromones may regulate gene expression related to foraging task specialization.** BMC genomics 20(1): 592. **Abstract:** Foraging behavior in honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) is a complex phenotype that is regulated by physiological state and social signals. How these factors are integrated at the molecular level to modulate foraging behavior has not been well characterized. The transition of worker bees from nursing to foraging behaviors is mediated by large-scale changes in brain gene expression,

which are influenced by pheromones produced by the queen and larvae. Larval pheromones can also stimulate foragers to leave the colony to collect pollen. However, the mechanisms underpinning this rapid behavioral plasticity in foragers that specialize in collecting pollen over nectar, and how larval pheromones impact these different behavioral states, remains to be determined.

Here, we investigated the patterns of gene expression related to rapid behavioral plasticity and task allocation among honey bee foragers exposed to two larval pheromones, brood pheromone (BP) and (E)-beta-ocimene (EBO). We hypothesized that both pheromones would alter expression of genes in the brain related to foraging and would differentially impact brain gene expression depending on foraging specialization. Combining data reduction, clustering, and network analysis methods, we found that foraging preference (nectar vs. pollen) and pheromone exposure are each associated with specific brain gene expression profiles. Furthermore, pheromone exposure has a strong transcriptional effect on genes that are preferentially expressed in nectar foragers. Representation factor analysis between our study and previous landmark honey bee transcriptome studies revealed significant overlaps for both pheromone communication and foraging task specialization. Our results suggest that, as social signals, pheromones alter expression patterns of foraging-related genes in the bee's brain to increase pollen foraging at both long and short time scales. These results provide new insights into how social signals and task specialization are potentially integrated at the molecular level, and highlights the possible role that brain gene expression may play in honey bee behavioral plasticity across time scales.

That is all for now, folks. Thank you as always for your continuing support. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to email me at jrangel@tamu.edu. I am more easily reached via email than the phone. For up-to-date information regarding our program, or for new and interesting posts regarding bees and beekeeping, please visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/TAMUhoneebeeclub>. Thank you!



Liz Walsh and Alex Payne at the lab's booth in year's "Wish Upon a Butterfly" event.



Our instrumental insemination of 65 queens this summer – can you detect what's wrong with this picture



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

John Hicks

936.718.3471

john@beehivethermalindustries.com

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

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

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

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



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Queen Cells		\$3	
			100 up
			\$20

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Pictures from Texas Beekeepers Association Summer Clinic

from Jimmie Oakley



S S Brantley with Bill Baxter



Texas Honey Queen, Mary Reisinger



Michelle Kerr Parkonien with John Talbert



Jordan Heivilin and Mary Reisinger



Liz Walsh from Texas A&M



*Dr. Keith Delaplane
Keynote Speaker*



*Mary Reed, Chief Apiary Inspector
TAIS*



Lance Wilson with Dr. Keith Delaplane



Panel Discussion, Blake Shook, Chris Moore, Chris Doggett, Skip Talbert and Justin Ralph



*Products from the Hive Demonstration
Beth Derr and Myra Smith*



Painted Hives in the Auction



Registration - Over 600 Folks Attended



Art Thomas at work



Alex Payne from Texas A&M



*Julie Norman and Kaye Brouse
with early morning doughnuts*



Registration with our Team of Volunteers

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

Kay Purcella - (325) 330-0745

kaysyellowrose@hotmail.com

Meetings: 3rd Monday of each month, Texas Agrilife Research and
Extension Center, 1229 N US Hwy 281, Stephenville at 7pm

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) 289-7387

*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.

Larry Fuchs - (936) 661-0633

*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 7 pm

The Red Barn, 100 CR 4830, 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
PO Box 150725
Austin, TX 78715
(512) 677-7404

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

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