The Texas Beekeepers Association
Journal

Sept / Oct 2019 ***www.texasbeekeepers.org*** **Issue 19-5**

President's Report
from Blake Shook

Hello Friends!

As summer is theoretically coming to an end, I hope your harvest was great, and your bees are as ready for fall/winter as all of us are! Remember, winter preparation for your bees begins the moment you harvest your honey! Mite levels peak during the summer, and pollen and nectar become scarce. Make sure you are feeding if your hive has less than 40lbs of stores, and that you are keeping your mites under 3 per 100 bees! Industry wise, many beekeepers had a wonderful crop this year across the country.

Unfortunately, we are seeing honey prices decline at a greater rate than we have seen in many years. This is due to many factors, but will make it more difficult than normal for some operations to be profitable for the next few years. On the bright side, many are reporting that their bees are looking very healthy, which will hopefully allow beekeepers to send a good number to California for almond pollination to help make up some of the income lost to dropping honey prices. Time will tell however, as bee health and population can change greatly during the fall.

It has been a wonderful year for TBA, and I've been honored to serve one final year as your President! The board has worked extremely hard, making my job quite easy. Working with such a dynamic group who care so deeply about bees and beekeeping is forever inspiring. I want to personally thank them for the incredible work they do. I get to see the inner workings of the board, and am always amazed at the thousands of hours of work that they do, which most people never see. Each year the board has become more efficient, transparent, and cohesive. I'm confident the new 2020 board will continue that positive trend.

We are all very excited to see all of you soon at the annual conference in San Antonio! Thank you for allowing me to serve this year!

In This Edition

Cover Picture by Dan Eudy

Vice President's Report
from Ashley Ralph

I am getting so excited for the Annual Conference in San Antonio! There's a huge team of dedicated people working to make this a great event and it's going to be a unique and engaging conference that is nothing like what we've done in the past. Please plan to come and enjoy the fun! Register early because the hotel is filling up fast!

So, please make sure you register for our Annual Convention - there are so many ways to participate as a sponsor as well. You can donate silent and live auction items, honey for our honey breakfast (proceeds will go to THBEA), event sponsorship, and attendance are all wonderful ways to support the conference as well as Texas Beekeepers Association. If you're interested in Sponsorships or Donations - please reach out to Monica Siwiak at *monica.siwiak@gmail.com*

Our TBA committees have been hard at work coming up with plans to better serve our members and we have published our video library on both YouTube and Vimeo. The great thing about Vimeo is that you can easily download the videos to save. We've heard from some clubs that have poor internet service that streaming videos at club meetings is not an option - this is a great way to download the video for future use.
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyQRKKe0Fo-sDlorWXwkFXA/videos
https://vimeo.com/texasbeekeepers

The legislative team had an opportunity to meet with a couple lawmakers to show them around a honey farm. It was a great opportunity to introduce them to the beekeeping industry in a tangible way. We're looking forward to working with them in the upcoming year as they explore what areas of legislation are most important to beekeepers in Texas.

It's looking like the Department of State Health Services may be leaning towards adopting FDA guidelines that honey is an on-farm product which would permit beekeepers to sell honey without regulation. We've hit 'pause' on the honey label production as the labels may no longer be required for small scale beekeepers. We will stay informed, but we're hopeful new guidelines will be released sometime in October.

On a strictly beekeeper level, it seems like the summer has flown by and the calendar says it's Fall although I'm not so sure that actually exists in Texas. We are getting a little rain around here and we're thankful for that. Our bees have been doing well this year and have finished their pollination duties. We just finished a good round of honey harvesting as well as splits. It seems like this has been the year of equipment for us. We have added two 36 frame extractors to the collection and a better decapper for the extracting line which will make next year's extracting much faster. We also remodeled our honey house (a repurposed shipping container) this year and are happy to report we passed our DSHS inspection. Justin worked hard refurbishing an old Bobcat Melroe 610 that he rescued from a lifetime of rusting in a field, it is now powered with a Predator engine. We got a car hauler to take the tractor from yard to yard - some of our vacant fields were getting unruly so it was time to shred a bit. We're excited to add a refrigerated storage unit to the family so that we can do better temperature control storage for wax - we probably won't put it to work until next year, but I'm excited to see how that works. Other than that, we finally set up storage for the insane amount of equipment we've collected. I've always been a bit of a minimalist when it comes to keeping "things" under the premise that it's just easier to keep up with, but beekeeping has certainly made me come to terms with having lots of "stuff". We added a 40'x40' carport and some extra storage buildings out at the farm. This is a journey folks - it's hard to believe we're on the downslope of the 2019 beekeeping season. I hope everybody's hives are looking healthy, have low mite counts, and that they're fattening up for winter.

As always, if you have productive solutions that we can implement please don't hesitate to reach out. Our goal is to continue to improve, provide great educational opportunities, promote the beekeeping industry, and support our members.

Renew your Membership, or Join Us.
www.texasbeekeepers.org
If you change your address or email please contact
Shirley Doggett at *sdoggett@mindspring.com*
or call (512) 924-5051
Look for the Honey Locator and Events Calendar

Texas Beekeepers Association Annual Convention November 7-9th 2019 Hilton San Antonio Airport 611 NW Loop 410, San Antonio, 78216

Keynote Speakers

Dr. Dennis VanEngelsdorp

a previous State Apiarist for Pennsylvania's Department of Agriculture, commitment to studying honey bee health — the alarming, worldwide disappearance of worker bees and Western honey bees.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

Dr. Jerry Bromenshenk

Many beekeepers know of or have heard from Dr. Jerry Bromenshenk, now retired from the University of Montana, recognized by his unorthodox research based on using honey bees as environmental monitors. Over the years, Dr. Bromenshenk has participated in a variety of practical application research and is currently focused on acoustic monitoring of honey bee hives. Some of his research has even been put to work in the Department of Defense!

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

Cameron Jack

His focus is to create an educational program that prepares students for the many challenges associated with beekeeping and to train those interested in entering the beekeeping workforce. Cameron has a high energy and passionate approach to educating about honey bees.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Keynote Speakers (cont'd)

Les Crowder

Throughout his career as a beekeeper, Les has always looked for ways to eliminate toxic inputs in the hive, starting with antibiotics and now miticides. He has been keeping bees in Langstroth and Top-Bar Hives for about 50 years, both as a hobby and as a business Earlier in his career, he worked for a business with 4,000 hives in New MexicoHe was the President of New Mexico beekeepers association multiple times. He was a honeybee inspector in New Mexico for 5 years. He has been teaching highly popular beekeeping classes domestically and abroad for over 35 years (both in English and Spanish)

AUTHOR OF TOP BAR BEEKEEPING

Dr. Juliana Rangel

Dr. Juliana Rangel was born in Colombia, South America. She obtained her Ph.D. from Cornell University in 2010 and in 2013, she became Assistant Professor of Apiculture in the Department of Entomology at Texas A&M University. Her research program focuses on the biological and environmental factors that influence the reproductive quality of honey bee queens and drones, the health and population genetics of feral honey bees, and the quality and diversity of floral sources collected by honey bees in developed areas across the country. nutrition, pesticide affects, and eusocial disease pathology. A student of Dr. Tom Seeley, Juliana earned her Ph.D. from Cornell University.

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY HONEY BEE LAB

Ann Harman

An International honey judge, monthly writer for Bee Culture Magazine, experienced beekeeper, and all around energetic voice in beekeeping is joining us again this year as our head honey judge. She has served in numerous capacities to represent beekeepers throughout the years and we're excited to welcome her back to Texas. A world class honey judge, we are lucky have Ann here to continue to rain our honey show and beekeepers on juding honey and putting on the best possible honey show.

INTERNATIONAL HONEY JUDGE

TBA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SPEAKERS & PRESENTERS

Beth Derr - Master Beekeeper, East Texas Club Leader
Brandon Fehrenkamp - owner of Austin Bees
Charlie Agar - Charlie Bee Company
Chris Moore - Past TBA President, Moore Honey Farm
Dodie Stillman - Austin Area Beekeepers President
Dr. Todd Holman - Bee Sting Therapy
JJ Swan - TBA Director, Master Beekeeper, Hive Jive Podcast
John Kirkland - Travis County Beekeepers Association
Jonathan Walker - ABF Director, Walker Honey Farm
Justin Russell - Master Beekeeper, Owner of Prime Bees
Lance Wilson - Georgia Master Beekeeper, TMBP Board
Laura Weaver - Owner of B Weaver & Texas Honey Bee Farm
Lauren Ward - Entomologist & owner of Apothecary Apiaries
Les Crowder - Author of "Top Bar Beekeeping"
Lisa Dittfurth - Past TBA VP & owner of Crooked Creek Honey Farm
Myra Smith - TBA Director, East Texas Club Leader
Monica Siwiak - owner of Houston Bee Rescue
Skip Talbert - Owner of Sabine Creek Apiary
Tara Chapman - Owner of Two Hives Honey
Terry Wright - Award Winning Mead Maker
Todd Youngblood - Past TBA President, Youngblood Honey
Ashley Ralph - TBA Vice President, owner of Prime Bees
Blake Shook - TBA President, owner of Texas Bee Supply

AND MORE!

Thursday Schedule

Texas Beekeepers
THURSDAY NOVEMBER 7

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Texas Master Beekeeper Testing
@ Texas B&C

11:00 AM - 5:00 PM
TBA Executive Committee Meeting

3:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Honey Show Registration
@ Rio Grande Room

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM
Beekeeper Mixer
@ Hotel Bar

TBA

Friday Schedule

SPECIAL EVENTS:

7:00 AM - 8:00 AM
Conference Registration

7:30 AM - 10:00 AM
Honey Show Registration
@ Texas E Hallway

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Black Jar Honey Judging for
"People's Choice"

7:00 AM - 6:30 PM
Vendor Show

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
TBA Business Meeting

6:30 PM - 9:30 PM
TBA Banquet &
Texas Honey Bee Education
Association Auction

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE
@TEXAS BALLROOM:

8:00 AM - 8:20 AM
Welcome & American Beekeeping
Federation Update

8:20 AM - 9:20 AM
Current Avenues of Varroa Research

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
Varroa Update with Dennis VanEngelsdorp

10:30 - 10:50 AM
Break

10:50 AM - 11:50 AM
Honey Production vs. Bee Production
Discussion with Tara Chapman and Laura
Weaver

12:10 PM - 1:30 PM
Lunch and Beekeeper Story Hour

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Panel Discussion - Rapid Fire Q&A

2:35 PM - 3:35 PM
Industry, Research Update & Future of
Beekeeping

3:35 PM - 3:55 PM
Wrap Up

Texas Beekeepers
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 8

TBA

Saturday Schedule

7:00 AM - 7:45 AM
Conference Registration

After Breakfast - 4:00 PM
Silent Auction Items Available For Bidding
@Texas Ballroom

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM
Executive Committee Meeting

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM
Flavors of the Hive Honey Breakfast benefitting Texas Honey Bee Education Assoc.

9:10 AM - 10:00 AM
SESSION 1

10:15 AM - 11:15 AM
SESSION 2

11:25 AM - 12:25 AM
SESSION 3

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM
Lunch & Honey Show Awards

1:40 PM - 2:40 PM
SESSION 4

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
SESSION 5

Wrap Up

Texas Beekeepers
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 9

Breakout Sessions

9:10 AM - 10:00 AM - SESSION 1

Texas Best Management Practices	Dr. Dennis VanEngelsdorp	Texas E
The Language of Bees	**Lance Wilson**	**Seguin**
Natural Beekeeping	Les Crowder	Austin
Making Balms & Lotions - Hands On!	**Myra Smith & Beth Derr**	**Brazos**
Interviewing Real Texas Honey Beekeepers	Chris Moore & Monica Siwiak	Rio Grande

10:15 AM - 11:15 AM - SESSION 2

Acoustic Monitoring of Bee Hives for Honey Bee Health	Dr. Jerry Bromenshenk	Texas A
Introduction to Beekeeping	**Lauren Ward**	**Texas E**
Young Commercial Beekeepers Interview & Discussion	Blake Shook & Jonathan Walker	Texas B
Biological Activities of Pure Honey on Wound Healing	**Dr. Ferhat Ozturk**	**Texas C**
Bee Removal Panel Discussion	John Swan, Justin Russell & Brandon Fehrenkamp	Texas D
Making Balms & Lotions - Hands On!	**Myra Smith & Beth Derr**	**Brazos**
Hands-On Honey Judging with International Honey Judge	Ann Harman	Rio Grande

12:25 PM - 12:25 PM - SESSION 3

Effects of miticide exposure during development on honey bee queen physiology & worker behavior	Dr. Juliana Rangel	Texas A
Nutrition & Nosema	**Cameron Jack**	**Texas E**
Biggest Problems & How We Solve Them Panel	Blake Shook, Lauren Ward, E.T. Ash, Todd Youngblood	Texas B
Stepping into Pollination - A Sideliner's Perspective	**Justin Russell**	**Texas C**
Discussion - Special Ag Valuation Q&A	Joe Bader & Ashley Ralph	Texas D
Demo Honey Judging w/ International Honey Judge	**Ann Harman**	**Rio Grande**
Honey Extraction Demonstration	Dodie Stillman	Seguin
How to Make Kombucha Demonstration	**Brandon Fehrenkamp & Whitney Michaels**	**Austin**

1:40 PM - 2:40 PM - SESSION 4

Management 201	Lance Wilson	Texas A
The Intelligence of Bees	**JJ Swan**	**Texas E**
Academic Panel - Updates on Research, Upcoming Projects & What To Look For In The Future	Dr. Juliana Rangel, Cameron Jack, Dr. Dennis VanEngelsdorp, & Dr. Jerry Bromenshenk	Texas B
Varroa Management - Integrated Pest Management	**Lauren Ward**	**Texas C**
Packing & Selling Honey Panel Discussion	Blake Shook, Jonathan Walker, John Kirkland, Pamela Yeamans, Chris Moore	Texas D
Mead Making & Tasting with Award Winning Mead Maker	**Ann Harman**	**Rio Grande**
Hands-On: The Art of Beeswax: Encaustic Painting	Brandon Fehrenkamp & Whitney Michaels	Austin
Making Creamed Honey Demonstration	**Dodie Stillman**	**Seguin**

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM - SESSION 5

Nutrition Management for Robust Populations	Lance Wilson	Texas A
Marketing your Bee & Honey Business	**Jonathan Walker**	**Texas E**
Industry & Business Innovation Panel	Blake Shook, Ashley Ralph, JJ Swan, Tim Tucker, Clint Weaver	Texas B
Bee Sting and Venom Therapy	**Dr. Todd Holman**	**Texas C**
Educating the Next Generation of Beekeepers Discussion	Cameron Jack & Beth Derr	Texas D
Hands On: Candles & Household Beeswax Products	**Dodie Stillman**	**Seguin**
Bee Club Resource Sharing	Myra Smith	Rio Grande

Texas Beekeepers Association Annual Convention

November 7th - 9th, 2019

Hilton San Antonio Airport
611 NW Loop 410, San Antonio, TX 78216
(210) 340-6060

To Book Room(s) please use the following link:

https://tinyurl.com/yycq9od4

or call phone # above and use group code TXBEE

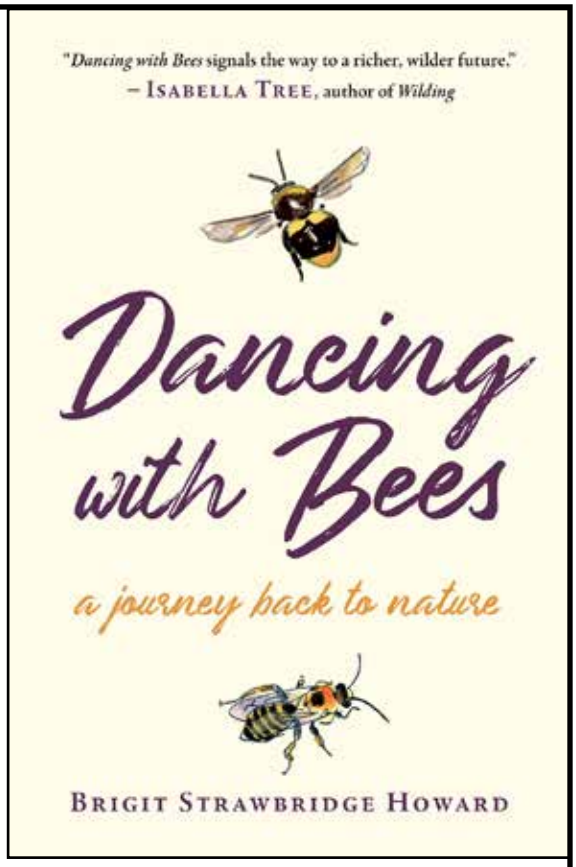
Room Rate is $124 a night, including breakfast

Cut-off date is October 23rd - please book rooms before this date.

Dancing with Bees

A Journey Back to Nature
Brigit Strawbridge Howard

Categories: Nature & Environment
Publisher: Chelsea Green Publishing



A naturalist's passionate dive into the world of bees of all stripes–what she has learned about them, and what we can learn from them

Brigit Strawbridge Howard was shocked the day she realised she knew more about the French Revolution than she did about her native trees. And birds. And wildflowers. And bees. The thought stopped her—quite literally—in her tracks. But that day was also the start of a journey, one filled with silver birches and hairy-footed flower bees, skylarks, and rosebay willow herb, and the joy that comes with deepening one's relationship with place. Dancing with Bees is Strawbridge Howard's charming and eloquent account of a return to noticing, to rediscovering a perspective on the world that had somehow been lost to her for decades and to reconnecting with the natural world. With special care and attention to the plight of pollinators, including honey bees, bumblebees, and solitary bees, and what we can do to help them, Strawbridge Howard shares fascinating details of the lives of flora and fauna that have filled her days with ever-increasing wonder and delight.

Kirkus Reviews

A British naturalist offers crisp essays on her relationship with bees. In her debut book, Howard, a devoted bee advocate, pens a lengthy, knowledgeable, and occasionally poetic tribute to honey bees, bumblebees, and other buzzy creatures . . . [She] provides a nice balance between the very real science of studying bees and their function in nature and her cleareyed and eloquent observations about the natural world. Because of that balance, what might have sounded like a dry lecture turns into something far more interesting. Whether she's explaining how different bee species are classified, describing her mother's deteriorating health (and eventual death), or simply ruminating on the beauty around her, Howard creates a text that is compelling and worth

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Do You Purchase From Amazon.com?
Go to Smile.Amazon.com
Same products and same prices
Choose THBEA (Texas Honey Bee Education Association)
Amazon will donate a percentage of your purchase to us
This supports the Texas Honey Queen program
and many other Educational Activities

"The Smell, Taste, and View through the eyes of the Texas Beekeeper"

November 7th - 9th, 2019
At TBA Convention in San Antonio,
Texas Rules at texasbeekeepers.org

Friday Honey Show

No entry fee

For TBA members or Convention attendees. If neither: $5 per entry.

MANN LAKE
WE KNOW BEES

Dancing Bee
the winery at walker honey farm

Dadant

Moore Honey
HONEY AS IT SHOULD BEE

R WEAVER APIARIES

SWEET RIVER

Walker Honey Farm
PURE NATURAL HONEY

Sabine Creek Honey Farm

CALL FOR DONATIONS

We need your help to make our TBA sponsored auctions a success for THBEA!

What are we looking for?

Jewelry
Bee themed art or decor
Trips and experiences
Business services
Beekeeping equipment
Live bees - spring nucs
Bee blankets
Bee themed anything!
Electronics
Tickets to live events / concerts

Or anything you think can help raise money for THBEA!

Contact Monica Siwiak ASAP with donations
monica.siwiak@gmail.com

If you have excess honey, we would love for you to share for our Saturday Taste of the Hive Honey Breakfast! We'll have honey from all over Texas and attendees can buy their favorites! Proceeds go to THBEA!

Thanks for your help!

Texas Beekeepers Association

Annual Business Meeting

4pm - 6pm Friday 8th November

1. Call to order
2. Appointment of secretary and parliamentarian
3. Reading of minutes of previous meeting (s)
4. Receiving communications
5. Reports of Officers
6. Reports of committees both standing and special
7. Unfinished business
8. New business
9. Election of Officers and Directors
10. Adjournment.

Texas Beekeepers Association Membership Application

or Join Us at www.texasbeekeepers.org

New / Renewal (circle one)

First Name:_____ Last Name:_____

Address:_____

City:_____ State:_____ Zip:_____

Phone: _____ Email:_____

Local Association _____

Membership category:	Century Club	$100	_____
	Individual	$ 35	_____
	Family	$ 50	_____
	Association	$ 50	_____
Donation:	Texas Honey Queen Fund		_____
	Texas Honey Bee Education Assoc.		_____
	Stae Fair Honey Booth Fund		_____
	Total Enclosed		_____

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

Fall Testing for the Texas Master Beekeeper Program

When: Thursday November 7th, 2019

Where: Hilton San Antonio Airport, 611 Northwest Loop 410
San Antonio, 78216

Registration: Online registration is open

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

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

Texas Honey Bee Education Association Fund Raiser

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

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

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

Your help is needed. With the continued increase in the cost of motor fuel and increased airfares, the travel budget gets tighter. If you are planning to attend the Annual Convention in San Antonio, November 7th - 9th, please bring a special beekeeping related item to contribute to the auction.

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

2019 Texas Beekeepers Association Convention Registration

Please register for the annual convention on-line at

www.texasbeekeepers.org

Make Sure you are Logged in to get Membership Rates

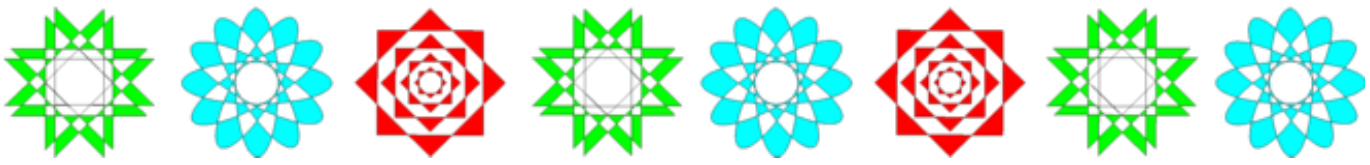
Registration Form for Mail Registration

TBA Member Pricing

	Member	Non-Member	Number	Total
Full Conference	$125	$160		
Children Age 3-18	$50	$50		
Awards Dinner	$30	$30		

Full Conference Pricing Includes Friday Lunch, Saturday Breakfast and Lunch

Cut off Date for on-line registration is November 6th - registration after this date or at the conference will be at the non-member rate of $160.



2019 Convention Registration Form

Please list attendees

Name(s): _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:**_____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____

Mail Registration Form and check payable to Texas Beekeepers Association to:

Shirley Doggett, Membership Director,
400 County Road 440
Thrall, TX 76578

TBA Member Family means members who have a family membership and up to 6 children living at the same address

Texas Beekeepers Association By-Laws Revisions

The Executive Committee, in accordance with Constitution Article VII and ByLaw Article VIII, submits the following revisions for consideration and approval at the Annual Meeting of the Texas Beekeepers Association, meeting in San Antonio, TX at 4pm on Friday November 8th 2019.

Here is a brief explanation of the main changes recommended for the bylaws: We have modified the restrictive language regarding the timing of the annual meeting to be more flexible. This will enable us to be able to have more flexibility in scheduling when the annual meeting and convention can be held. Tied to this, we have also modified the requirements surrounding how long someone must serve on the executive committee before being eligible to hold an officer position. This change is due to the potential moving nature of the annual convention and meeting in the future, and we did not want to exclude potentially eligible candidates on a technicality of the conventions being closer one year and further out the next. The final major change opens up the eligible parties who can hold an officer position by changing it from only being directors, and making it more inclusive by allowing it to be any member of the executive committee who has served in their position for at least the minimum term requirements mentioned above.

TEXAS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION -CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I NAME

The name of this organization, a Texas non-profit ~~organization~~Corporation, shall be The Texas Beekeepers Association.

ARTICLE II PURPOSE

The purpose of this Association shall be to engage in any lawful activity which will promote the common interests and the general welfare of the beekeeping industry.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Section 1

Any person~~, firm, corporation or association~~ or entity supporting the purpose of the Association ~~engaged in the beekeeping industry (or related activities)~~ is eligible to become an active member of the Association upon receipt of the required dues.

Section 2

Each member whose dues ~~have been paid for the~~ are current ~~year~~ as of the record date set by the Executive Committee shall be entitled to ~~one~~ vote at any annual or special meeting of the Association. Proxy voting shall not be permitted.

Section 3

Any member may be suspended or terminated for cause or for non-payment of dues. Sufficient cause for such suspension or termination of membership shall be violation of the Bylaws or any other conduct prejudicial to the interests of the Association. Suspension or expulsion shall be by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Executive Committee, taken at any regularly constituted meeting of the committee, provided that a statement of the charges shall have been mailed by certified or registered mail to the last recorded address of the member at least fifteen (15) days before final action is taken thereon. This statement shall be accompanied by a notice of the time and place of the meeting of the Committee at which the charges shall be considered and the member shall have the opportunity to appear in person and/or be represented by counsel to present any defense to such charges before action is taken thereon. Non-payment of dues shall be considered as immediate voluntary resignation of membership sixty (60) days after the ~~first day of the fiscal year~~a member's anniversary renewal date ~~that the dues are effective~~.
~~Reinstatement will be effective with payment of the prior year delinquent dues and current dues.~~

ARTICLE IV OFFICERS

The officers of the Association shall be: President, Vice President, Executive Secretary, Treasurer and Publications Director.

ARTICLE V EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The day to day control and direction of the affairs of the Association shall be vested in the Executive Committee, as provided by the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI

All matters not defined in this Constitution shall be as provided in the Certificate of Formation and Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII

This constitution may be amended, repealed, or altered in the whole or in part, by two- thirds (2/3) of the votes cast at ~~the Annual~~ any organized meeting of the Association preceded by a thirty (30) day advance~~,~~ written notice to the membership of such proposed change. This ~~may~~ will be done by means of publication in the TBA Journal in a timely issue, and/or sent to the members last recorded preferred contact address preceding ~~the Annual~~ such meeting. ~~or by a First Class mailing to all members.~~

Revised 11/2019

TEXAS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

BYLAWS
ARTICLE I MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 1

Eligibility for membership in the Association is set forth in the Constitution. Memberships are annually renewable based on an anniversary date. The anniversary date is one year from when the membership last became effective. Non-payment of dues shall be considered as immediate voluntary resignation sixty (60) days after a member's anniversary renewal date.

Section 2

The annual dues for each membership classification of the Association shall be determined by the membership at the annual meeting. The Executive Committee shall present its recommendations for changes to the dues schedule to the membership prior to its vote thereon. The dues schedule once established shall remain in effect until changed.

ARTICLE II OFFICERS

Section 1

The officers of this Association shall be: President, Vice President, Executive Secretary, Treasurer, and Publications Director. The President and Vice President shall be elected annually at the annual meeting of the Association. Eligibility for any office shall be restricted to those who paid dues during the current and previous year. In addition, the nominee for President or Vice President must have served ~~one (1) year~~ a minimum of nine consecutive months as a ~~Director at Large~~member of the Executive Committee. The Executive Secretary, the Treasurer and the Publications Director shall be appointed annually by the President and confirmed by the voting members of the Executive Committee. They shall be under the supervision of the Executive Committee.

Section 2

The Nominations Committee shall present candidates for President, Vice President and three (3) Directors at Large at the annual meeting. Any member may nominate a candidate in addition to the presented slate of nominees. All candidates nominated must be present at the annual meeting, must agree to serve and understand the obligations of the office. The Nominations Committee will consist of but not limited to, the Immediate Past President, two Directors at Large selected by

the Executive Committee, and two members from the general membership. The Immediate Past President ~~as~~ shall be the Chair of this committee, and will be responsible for appointing the individuals to fill the other positions of the committee from the general membership.

Section 3

The officers shall take office immediately following election and shall serve for a term of one year ~~and~~ or until a successor is duly elected and qualified.

Section 4
Duties of Officers

1. **The President shall preside at all meetings of the membership and at all meetings of the Executive Committee. The President, unless some other person is specifically authorized by vote of the Executive Committee, shall be authorized to sign all agreements, contracts, drafts and checks of the Association. The President shall appoint all standing or special committees as are deemed necessary to carry out the aims and policies of the Association. The President shall be a member ex-officio of all committees and shall perform all the duties commonly incident to the office, and including such other duties as may be fixed or determined by the Executive Committee that are not contrary to the Constitution and Bylaws.**

2. **In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall perform the duties of that office. The Vice President shall serve as the General Chair of the Annual Convention Planning Committee and will perform such other duties as directed by the President.**

3. **The Executive Secretary shall keep accurate minutes of all meetings of the membership and the Executive Committee; and shall perform such other duties as designated by the Executive Committee. In the absence of the Executive Secretary at any meeting, an assistant Secretary or Secretary pro tempore shall be appointed to perform the duties thereat. The Executive Secretary shall have care and custody of the valuable papers and documents of the Association; and shall have and exercise, all powers and duties commonly incident to ~~his or her~~ the office.**

4. **The Treasurer shall have care and custody of the monies and funds of the Association. All funds of the Association shall be deposited in such bank or banks, trust company or companies as the Executive Committee shall authorize. The Treasurer shall be authorized to sign drafts and checks of the Association in the discharge of day-to-day budgeted business accounts. Levels of signature authority requiring prior approval of the President will be set by the Executive Committee. ~~He or she~~ They may endorse for deposit of its order and may accept the drafts on behalf of the association. ~~He or she~~ They shall keep accurate records of all Association transactions and will provide a complete financial**

report to the membership at the annual meeting and Executive Committee meetings. The Treasurer will prepare a proposed budget for review by the Executive Committee prior to the annual meeting. The books shall be the property of the Association and together with all its property in ~~his or her possession~~ their possession, shall be subject at all times to the inspection and control of the Executive Committee. If required by the Executive Committee, the Treasurer shall give bond in such form and with such sureties as shall be required by them.

~~1.~~5. The Publications Director shall be responsible for the development and production of all publications of the Association. Duties will include publishing six issues of the Texas Beekeepers Association Journal annually, special newsletters as may be directed by the Executive Committee, special publications originated by the various committees and, in general, be the primary printed and electronic media person for the Association. Editorial duties will include the responsibility to edit articles and communications for appropriateness, length and bias to reflect the collective opinions and voice of the Association. Counsel of the President will be solicited for guidance. Publications will include information relative to the beekeeping industry-local, Texas and national. In support of the Publications Director, members of the Executive Committee will be scheduled to provide articles and reports to the membership for publication in the Journal.

ARTICLE III DIRECTORS AT LARGE

There shall be six (6) Directors at Large. Their duties will be to represent the individual members and the local associations at meetings of the Executive Committee. Directors in positions with even numbers shall be elected in even-numbered years. Directors in positions with odd numbers shall be elected in odd-numbered years. The Association membership at the annual meeting shall elect these Directors. Eligibility for Director at Large shall be restricted to those who paid dues during the previous year and the current year. Each director shall serve for a term of two years or until ~~his~~ their successor is duly elected. A director shall not succeed himself or herself more than once. In the event of a vacancy in the Directors at Large during the period between annual meetings, the President shall be empowered to fill such a vacancy for that position for the remainder of the term, with the confirmation of the executive committee.

ARTICLE IV EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1

The voting members of the Executive Committee shall consist of the President and the Vice President, Immediate Past President and six (6) Directors at Large. Non-voting members shall consist of the Executive Secretary, the Treasurer and the Publications Director. One or more of these non-voting offices may be held by one or more persons, so long as all the duties commonly incident to the separate offices are performed in a timely and satisfactorily manner.

Section 2

The Executive Committee shall determine and adopt such policies, procedures, and programs as are deemed necessary for the efficient operation of the Association.
The Executive Committee shall have the authority to transact all necessary business between annual meetings but no action by the Executive Committee shall be contrary to the actions and resolutions of the membership in attendance at the annual meeting. The Executive Committee shall have the authority to contract with, to terminate, to set the ~~salary~~ compensation, and to define the duties of the non-voting officers and staff. The Executive Committee may conduct its business and vote by mail, telephone conference call, electronic mail or any other means of communication it deems necessary or effective. All such actions taken and votes cast will be recorded by the Executive Secretary.

Section 3

The Executive Committee is hereby empowered to remove from office any ~~officer or director~~member of the Executive Committee who fails to fully support the Constitution, Bylaws or any resolution adopted by the membership in attendance at any meeting assembled. This action shall be accomplished by a majority vote of the Executive Committee at any called meeting or by written poll within 30 days after cause for action has been determined by the Executive Committee.

Section 4

The Executive Committee shall meet at least three (3) times annually and at such intervals as is deemed necessary by the President during the year. The meetings shall be held at a time and place specified by the President or by a majority of the Executive Committee. Four voting members of this committee shall constitute a quorum. Any ~~officer or director~~member of the Executive Committee missing three meetings of the Executive Committee during the term of office will be considered to have vacated the office. ~~and the President shall be empowered to appoint a successor for the remainder of the term.~~ In the event a position on the Executive Committee is vacated for any reason, the President shall be empowered to appoint an eligible member to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term, with such appointment to be confirmed by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE V COMPENSATION

Any member of the Executive Committee, acting under the direction of the President and conducting business of the Association shall be entitled to

reimbursement for budgeted expenses incurred during the execution of those duties. Proper documentation shall be presented to the Treasurer for reimbursement.

ARTICLE VI MEETINGS

Section 1

There shall be an annual membership meeting of the Association ~~during the month of November~~ at such times as may be determined by the Executive Committee, so long as there is not a lapse of more than 14 months between annual meetings. These meetings will be for the election of Officers, for receiving the annual reports, and the transaction of other business. Notice of such meeting shall be ~~mailed~~ sent to the members last recorded preferred contact address ~~to the last recorded address of each member~~ at least fifteen (15) days before the time appointed for the meeting.

Section 2

Special meetings of the Association shall be called by the President or upon the written request of twenty-five (25) percent of the members of the Association. Notice of any special meetings shall be sent to the members last recorded preferred contact address ~~mailed to each member's last recorded address~~ at least fifteen (15) days in advance, with a statement of the time and place and information as to the subject or subjects to be considered.

Section 3

Thirty five (35) members present at any annual or special meeting of the Association shall constitute a quorum.

Section 4

The order of business at the annual membership meeting shall be as follows:

1. **Call to order**
2. **Appointment of secretary and parliamentarian**
3. **Reading of minutes of previous meeting (s)**
4. **Receiving communications**
5. **Reports of Officers**
6. **Reports of committees both standing and special**
7. **Unfinished business**
8. **New business**
9. **Election of Officers and Directors**
10. **Adjournment.**

Section 4.1

The President shall appoint three at large members of the Association to perform an annual audit of the financial records of the Association at the end of each fiscal year. The results and any completed or planned corrective actions required will be reported at the annual meeting.

Section 5

The order of business may be altered or suspended at any meeting by majority vote of the members present~~. The usual parliamentary rules as laid down in the latest published edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern all deliberations~~ when not in conflict with these Bylaws or the Constitution.

ARTICLE VII FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Association shall commence on the 1st day of January and shall end on the 31st day of December.

ARTICLE VIII

These bylaws may be amended or repealed, in whole or in part, by a majority vote at any organized meeting of the Association preceded by a thirty (30) day advance written notice to the membership of such proposed change. This ~~may~~ will be done by means of publication in the TBA Journal in a timely issue, and/or sent to the members last recorded preferred contact address preceding ~~the annual~~ such meeting. ~~or by a First Class mailing to all members at their last recorded address.~~ Should the membership elect to dissolve the Association, all assets will be donated to a similar not-for-profit beekeeping organization, university, or research entity. Nothing will accrue to any individual.

Revision 2019

23nd Annual Field Day at the USDA Honey Bee Lab in Baton Rouge

The USDA Honey Bee Breeding, Genetics and Physiology Laboratory and the Louisiana State Beekeepers Association will hold the 23nd Annual Field Day on Saturday, November 2, 2019. The event will be held at the laboratory, located at 1157 Ben Hur Rd, Baton Rouge LA 70820. This is near the intersection of Nicholson Drive (Hwy 30) and Brightside Dr., which is about two miles south of the LSU football stadium. A rain-out date on Saturday, November 9 has been set for that possibility.

Gates will open at 9:00 a.m. with presentations and activities scheduled from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The Field Day will include a series of talks in the morning from members of the Louisiana Beekeepers Association and the USDA-ARS staff about Louisiana beekeeping and research being conducted at USDA-ARS lab. Afternoon sessions and demonstrations on various beekeeping topics will be offered for beginning, intermediate and advanced-level beekeepers.

The Fall Field Day offers beekeepers and attendees a chance to meet established USDA-ARS scientists working at the Baton Rouge Lab as well as well as six new or more recent staff members. These include three scientists and three postdoctoral associates. Kate Ihle is a molecular biologist who is studying the mechanisms of disease and parasite resistance in honey bees. Vincent Ricigliano is an entomologist investigating aspects of honey bee nutrition, especially the efficiencies of food use by different stocks of bees. Arián Avalos is a geneticist using genomic analyses and computational biology to improve bee stocks and bee breeding methods. Hannah Penn is an entomologist who is evaluating honey bee stocks for their response to deformed wing virus. Perot Sealau uses genomics to assess genetic diversity in honey bees and to study host-pathogen interactions. Thomas O'Shea Wheller is a biologist who came from England to study stress factors that lead to colony losses in the commercial pollination industry.

A nonrefundable, pre-registration fee of $35.00 is required for attendees 12 years of age and above. Children 11 and under must stay with their parents at all times. Children and volunteers will be charged $15 for the catered lunch at the event. Pre-registration will be from October 2 through October 16. You may pre-register (and submit payment) at labeekeepers.org with the option to pay by credit card or PayPal. A printable pre-registration form will be located at labeekeepers.org that may be mailed along with a check made payable to Louisiana Beekeepers Association to LBA Treasurer, Beth Derr, 210 Meadowlark Dr, Jefferson, TX 75657 and must be postmarked by October 16. Registration will be available at the door for the increased fee of $40 per person.

For additional information please visit labeekeepers.org or contact Dr. Frank Rinkevich (225) 276-3998 or *frank.rinkevich@ars.usda.gov* or Joe Sanroma (318) 346-2805. For questions regarding online registration, please contact Jennifer Brown (601) 493-3447.

Picture by Dan Eudy

The Brantley Column

from S. S. Brantley
2016 Life Member Texas Beekeepers Association
2017 Life Member Louisiana Beekeepers Association

While inspecting one of my hives last week, I again observed something I have always felt about plastic foundation. In the middle of June, I captured a swarm and put them in a single 10-frame brood box. I had seven frames of partially drawn comb that I put in the box. To finish out the box, I added three frames of plastic foundation that had been removed from hives earlier in the year. These three frames were "dry", in other words, had little or no wax left on them, just an uncoated plastic surface. All three of these frames were placed together on one side of the box, primarily to fill the box with the proper number of frames.

Ninety days later, this inspection showed the frame of dry foundation next to the partially drawn frame had been "pancaked" as the bees refused to put wax on the dry plastic. Rather than draw the comb on the dry foundation, they had made a thin pancake of comb hanging from the top bar. One of the partially drawn frames also had a dry spot of foundation on the lower third of the frame. The bees had made a new, white, four inch long pancake of drone comb hanging off the bottom of the old drawn comb but not attached to the dry plastic. This pancake of drone comb extended almost all the way to the bottom bar.

I removed the two outside "dry" frames and replaced them with new foundation that had a good waxed finished. Hopefully, the bees will draw out good comb on the wax coated foundation. I left the "pancaked" dry frame in the hive, next to the drawn comb. I will remove it at the spring inspection and replace it with a good waxed frame.

So the lesson of this discussion is: Unwaxed plastic foundation is not very attractive to bees. While not an absolute rule, in general bees will not draw comb on the surface of unwaxed plastic. Instead, they are prone to hang thin pancakes of comb from the top bar of an uxwaxed frame. However, when necessary, unwaxed plastic frames can still be used to complete the full set of frames in a box and to therefore preserve proper bee space. Using too few frames to maintain proper spacing will result in bees filling the excess space with comb and creating a mess in the box.

In Texas and Louisiana, we are blessed with many days that are warm enough for bees to fly during what we call "winter". However, now is the time to prepare your bees for February and March of next spring. Based on the history of your area, if there is not usually a strong fall nectar flow, you should consider feeding 2:1 sugar syrup or the prepared liquid feeds from the bee supply houses. Feed the syrup or liquid feed until the hive has at least thirty pounds of stored food in the deep brood box (about six frames of capped honey/syrup). Or, if you have a super above the brood box, it should have about eight frames of food stored. As winter progresses, you can feed additional liquid feed that the bees can consume on warmer days. Your goal is to ensure that the bees have adequate food to survive the winter and be fat and ready as the spring build-up begins.

October is your last chance to do a mite count and treat before the winter. If you are not familiar with doing mite counts, I suggest you see the videos by Randy Oliver (scientificbeekeeping.com). I think this is one of the best mite count presentations I have seen. Here is a link to one of his pages listing mite monitoring methods: http://scientificbeekeeping.com/varroa-management/mite-monitoring-methods/. I suggest you first do a sugar roll count, then follow up about 10 days later with an alcohol wash. However, if your sugar roll count is high, immediately proceed with treatments, carefully following manufacturer's directions.

Reminder: TBA convention is in San Antonio November 8-9. I encourage all beekeepers not only from Texas but also our neighbors in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico and Oklahoma to come. Details are on the TBA website: https://texasbeekeepers.org/

Recently ranked #1 in the United States, and #2 in the World for the Top Beekeeping Podcasts you should be listening to in 2019!
- Feedspot

Amber recommends The Hive Jive.

This has best podcast to help me as a novice beekeeper. they're just a pleasure to listen to as well.

Scott recommends The Hive Jive.

The Hive Jive is as entertaining as it is informative. You will laugh while you learn. There is something for all levels of beekeeping. I'm always looking forward to the next podcast.

Kasey recommends The Hive Jive.

As a second year beekeeper I have learned a lot from these podcast. Lots of good information that is relatable. Love the bee humor.

Terri recommends The Hive Jive.

Everything I want in a podcast! Humor, intelligence, great advice, great conversation between the hosts. I don't have hives, but I think about having hives, and after listening to a few episodes I know that I could actually have a decent conversation with someone who does have them! I'll start asking them what kind of bee is your queen?

Available on your favorite Podcast App, or online at: www.TheHiveJive.com Tune in Now! @thehivejive

Teaching Kids About Honey Bees

from Rachel Payne, Pineywoods Beekeepers Association

Sooner or later, you will be presented with the opportunity to talk to a group of kids about honey bees. Don't pass it up! It can be a lot of fun to share the magic of honey bees with children. I've compiled a list of resources and ideas you might find helpful. This is by no means an exhaustive list but, if you've never done a presentation for kids, this should give you at least a starting point.

Many times, the teacher or organizer will have a particular focus in mind. Perhaps it's the life cycle of a bee or pollination. This helps to narrow down what you'll do for your presentation. If you're left to your own devices, think about what you could teach them that they might not learn elsewhere. Schools are doing a pretty good job of teaching about pollination, the body parts and life cycles of insects, and the different members of a honey bee colony and their jobs. Ask the teacher/coordinator what the students already know about honey bees.

The ages of your audience members and the time allotted to you will dictate, to some extent, what you can do. In general, the younger the child, the shorter the attention span. Try not to drone on and on (no pun intended). If you have a lot of information to share, break it up with an activity or two. Combining lecture with posters or other visual aids will also help you retain your audience's attention.

Demonstrations are good, but hands-on activities are better, particularly with younger children. It's a good idea to do a test run at home. See how long the demo or activity takes. Did you find you needed other supplies that you hadn't anticipated? Did you end up with as much lip balm or bee nutty choco-chip cookies as the recipe indicated, or should you triple the recipe instead of doubling it so every child gets some?

Use age-appropriate language. It's ok to tell 5-year-olds that a bee has a proboscis, but explain what it is in terms they'll understand. Something like, "A bee has a proboscis. It's a mouthpart, kind of like a straw, that she uses to suck nectar from flowers, and she'll turn the nectar into honey."

The number of kids will also be a factor. If you're speaking to a group of 50, you might not be able to do any crafts or activities. You might need to show some posters, disseminate facts, and let everyone file past your observation hive. This is not the ideal situation, but sometimes it's what you get.

Here are some resources, in no particular order, you may find useful.

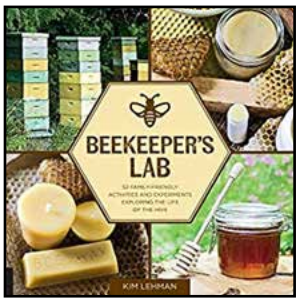
The Honey Files – A Bee's Life by the National Honey Board

This is a short video, about 16 minutes, of how honey is made, interviews with a commercial beekeeper and a hobbyist beekeeper, round and waggle dances, and pollination. The narrator is goofy and older kids will make fun of him, but it provides a good overview of quite a few topics.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZV8Jq3ka4s

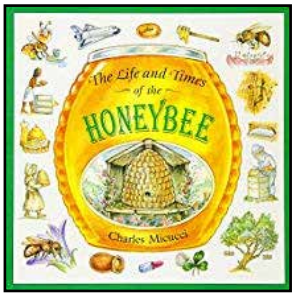
Beekeeper's Lab - by Kim Lehman

This book contains a nice assortment of 52 activities, experiments, and recipes. Some require that you have bees (or at least have a good friend with bees). For others, you need hive products such as honey, wax, or propolis. There are several that use items you probably already have around your house.



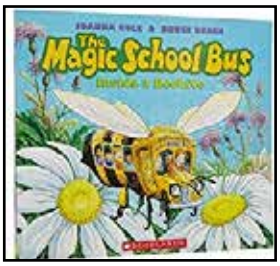
The Life and Times of the Honeybee - by Charles Micucci

This is a beautifully-illustrated book full of good information about honey bees. Among other things, it includes descriptions of the members of the colony, the life cycle of a honey bee, jobs of workers, how honey is made, the round dance and waggle dance, and historical notes.



The Magic School Bus Inside a Beehive - by Janna Cole and Bruce Degen

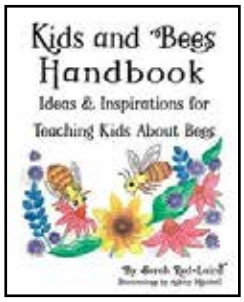
As is typical in the Magic School Bus series, Ms. Frizzle and her class take a field trip, this time to an apiary. They shrink into bees and are allowed into a hive by the guard bees. They learn about pollination, pheromones, the different bees in the colony, round and waggle dances, nest arrangement, and swarming.



Kids and Bees Handbook: Ideas and Inspirations for Teaching Kids About Bees - by Sarah Red-Laird

A guidebook for anyone who is interested in teaching kids about bees. Lots of information, activities, and resources.

https://www.beegirl.org/kidsandbees



Props, crafts, and activities

Observation hive – If I were told I could take only ONE item to a bee talk, it would be an observation hive. People are fascinated by honey bees when they're confined within a windowed box. Most people ask about the queen, so it's nice to have her "upstairs." Here in Nacogdoches, thousands of elementary school students attend Bugs, Bees, Butterflies, & Blossoms each year – an environmental science event hosted by Stephen F. Austin State University. My local club stocks several observation hives for BBB&B, frequently with marked queens. Kids attending other events will usually tell you about it, especially if your queen's dot is a different color. It's not uncommon for people to ask what makes the queen the queen, or whether the queen is born with a dot on her back. If you can't find your queen, that's ok. I'd rather take an observation hive full of workers than not take one at all. I try to pick a frame that has brood of various ages, as well as nectar and/or capped honey. If the queen isn't on the frame you'd like to take, use your finger to "herd" her onto it.

Burr comb, processed beeswax, honey, small measuring spoon -

If you have any burr comb laying around, let the kids feel it and smell it, but caution them to hold it gently. Or, if you're concerned, you could let them see and smell, but not touch. They might enjoy seeing wax that you've cleaned up from cappings before it's made into candles or lip balm. Most kids are delighted to sample your honey. You can order small tasting spoons from Amazon. It's a good idea to take a small bucket with a lid for disposal of the sticky spoons if it's an outdoor event (neighborhood bees are attracted by the smell of honey). If you're indoors, a trash can is fine. It's also a good idea to have a damp rag or baby wipes handy. It's impossible to not get sticky when you're handing out honey samples. You may be wondering why I listed a small measuring spoon. Sometimes I take a ¼-teaspoon with me; it's the smallest I have. A bee will produce about 1/12 of a teaspoon of honey in her lifetime. I like to share this with the kids, show them the ¼-teaspoon, and explain that it'll take three bees their entire lives to make enough honey to fill that spoon. They're impressed, and rightfully so!

Dress the part

It's not necessary, but I think it's a nice touch. I have what I call my "bee dress" with black and yellow stripes. Kids love it. Adults have complimented me on it, too. I found antennae at Goodwill and made wings with coat hangers and pantyhose. Don't have a bee dress? Wear black and yellow or wear your bee suit.

Coloring sheets

Google "honey bee coloring sheets" to find a variety. Some are cartoonish; some are more realistic. Some have the body parts labeled; others don't. For really young kids, you might prefer a simpler drawing with solid lines and not much detail, like the bee on the left. It's easy to see the bee's head, thorax, and abdomen. The three legs on this side are visible. It's not so cartoonish to be inaccurate – this bee doesn't have a smiley face or hands and feet. The bee on the right is better for older kids who can use crayons or colored pencils with more finesse. You could have junior high or high school students, who might find coloring childish, draw a bee. These examples are from http://hiscaful.com/honey-bee-coloring-sheet/ and http://www.supercoloring.com/coloring-pages/honey-bee.

Have students "help" you count to six.

This is great for young children. I'm usually wearing my "bee dress" with antennae and wings. I like to ask the students if they can help me count. There's usually an enthusiastic "Yeah!" I'll start them off with "one" and ask what they think a bee has one of. The answer I'm looking for is proboscis. They usually don't get that one, so I'll tell them, then explain what it is. I'll then ask what comes after one ("Two!") and ask what they think a bee has two of. A common answer is "wings." They might say "eyes."

You can tell them a bee has two compound eyes, and that you're thinking of something different. I might reach up to my antennae and repeat the question, then I'll talk about the antennae. We work up through three body regions (I remind the kids that bees are insects and all insects have three main body regions), four wings (that can act like two wings), five eyes (usually surprising to them), and six legs (again, bees are insects). I like to distribute coloring sheets with these parts labeled for reinforcement. The one I use doesn't have the ocelli, so I tell the kids they can add those three little eyes to their bees.

Mock Hive Inspection

Take an empty hive and your protective gear. Explain the importance of each item and tool as you "smoke" your bees and "inspect" your hive. Show the kids how you gently manipulate the frames, what you look for, how you find the queen.

Mock or real honey extraction

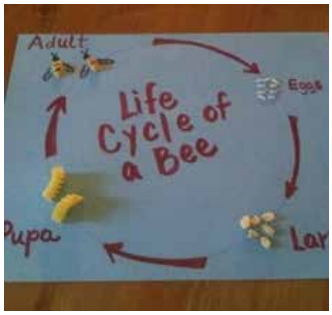
If you have a group of students over to your apiary, you can do a real honey extraction. If, on the other hand, you're talking to an elementary school garden club or 7th grade science class, a mock extraction is the way to go. You can go through the motions of pulling honey frames, brushing off the bees, uncapping the honey, and extracting and bottling it. If the group isn't too large, you can let them help. I did this with a summer camp group and they loved it! A couple of kids used hive tools to remove "honey frames" from the hive. A couple more gently brushed imaginary bees off the frames. Then a kid or two "uncapped" them. We put them in my extractor and everyone had a turn at cranking the handle. The honey they tasted was real, though!

Make origami bees

https://www.origami-resource-center.com/easy-origami-bee.html

https://www.paperorigamiblog.com/2011/07/bug-origami-bee.html

Life cycle craft



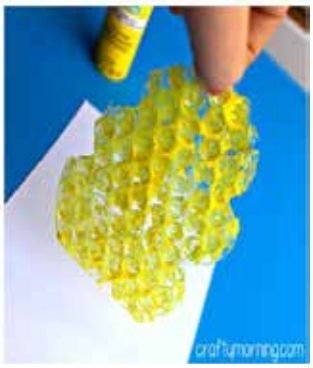
Younger kids might enjoy constructing a 3D representation of a bee's life cycle. Use white rice for eggs, rice crispy cereal for larvae, spiral pasta for pupae, and peanuts for adults (the kids can add black stripes with markers and draw wings on their papers or cardstock). I found this idea on Pinterest.

Worker bee jobs

Collect props to illustrate the different jobs of worker bees. You might have baby dolls and bottles for nurse bees, brooms and dusters for cleaner bees, and shopping bags for foragers. Set up different stations for different jobs and let the students cycle through them. This can get a little loud and chaotic, so make sure you have a way to get their attention when it's time to change stations. There's a similar (and simpler!) activity in the *Kids and Bees Handbook*, but it hadn't been created when I did this with a group.

Beehive artwork

Use bubble wrap to paint a beehive drawing. The kids can make thumbprint bees around their hives, using markers to add stripes when the paint dries. (You'd want to do this craft with a sink nearby.)



Paint hive boxes

These are my kids painting nuc boxes, but you might consider letting a group of kids paint your hive boxes. This would take a little planning – the kids would need to have painting clothes and you'd need a place for them to paint and the boxes to dry. You could turn it into an art contest and have another class (or the 9th grade teachers, science teachers, bus drivers, etc.) vote on their favorite box. You could award the winner a jar of honey! Be sure to send them pictures of their artwork in your apiary!

Products of the hive

Take a collection of items resulting from the work of bees (honey, lip balm, soap, lotion, propolis, mead, and a t-shirt are some ideas) in a basket or box. Ask the kids to think of things we get from bees. Likely answers will include honey, pollination, and wax. As they list their ideas, show corresponding samples. Hold up your bottle of honey, a handful of flowers or fruit, candles, and lip balm. You can mention that mead is made from honey. Soap sometimes contains honey and/or beeswax. My toothpaste contains propolis, as do some tinctures. Beeswax is frequently added to lotion and lotion bars. Cotton is pollinated by bees (my son's Minecraft t-shirt was a hit with the elementary students). Bee pollen is sold at health food stores.

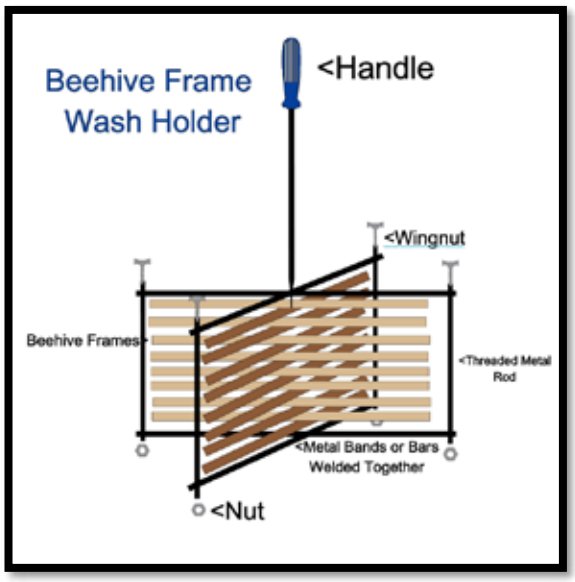
There should be enough ideas here to get your started. The hardest part of teaching kids about bees is not having enough time to do everything you'd like to do!

This One is for You… My Learned Friend

From Robin Young, Metro Beekeepers Association

While on my journeys, I came across a lovely beekeeper named DeShawn. He guided me through his wax melting and frame washing process stacking frames in an alternating pattern on a "Beehive Frame Wash Holder". (pictured below)

Using two sets of crossed metal bands, with an attached handle, and four long threaded rods, the stacked frames are secured together. (diagram pictured below)



The whole "Beehive Frame Wash Holder" is dipped into wood fueled, bowling hot water bath. I recommend wearing long gloves to protect the hands and arms from the boiling water, a heavy-duty apron to keep from splashing hot wax on clothing, possibly protective goggles and a pair of rubber boots to protect feet.

It helps to have two sets of "Beehive Frame Wash Holders" so that you can assemble a set of frames while the second set of frames are in the boiler. While the first group of frames are in the boiler, start stacking the next sixteen frames in the second "Beehive Frame Wash Holder". When the "slurry" (debris from the frames) collects at the top of the boiler, it is time to use a metal pan with a rubber handle to scoop up the "slurry" floating on the water. Place a flat piece of metal (metal plank) to connect the boiling pot to a centrifuge. The centrifuge has a sturdy cloth bag with a draw string that the scooped "slurry" and beeswax is dumped into. The metal plank catches any of the drippings to run back into the boiling tank of beeswax. *(Pictured below)*

This One is for You… My Learned Friend

Diagram of the whole setup pictured below.

As the centrifuge spins, wax drains out into a holding tank that has water at the bottom. *(Pictured below)*

The overflow tank has two spouts in the side. One drains water at the bottom of the tank, and the other drains beeswax at the top of the tank. Drain the water and dump it back into the boiling pot to be reused. Drain the wax into a bucket and let it cool for later use.

Once the centrifuge is done spinning, the bag is taken out and the remains dumped into a wheelbarrow and, made in to bricks that are burned in the fireplace during the winter months.

This process can save so much time and manpower. It also has a second benefit. Each frame is boiled. Boiling the frames kills any disease and prevents spreading disease from a poor or collapsed hives to healthy hives.

My Learned Friend,

Over the years, I have had the opportunity to learn and study with some of the best beekeepers in Texas. I treasure those times and if I come across anything that might save you time or money It is yours… this one is for you and all you do for Texas beekeepers. Thank you

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

Use Methods For Controlling Varroa That Are Tested, Legal and Work

by Jennifer Berry, from Bee Culture

Last year, a new method of using oxalic acid (OA) was publicized by Randy Oliver, Scientific Beekeeper. According to his updates, he was having pretty good results with the new method. Beekeepers, along with myself, became hopeful that this new formulation would be the silver bullet we've all been waiting for. Not only did it look promising in controlling mites, but it was easy to mix, apparently had no adverse side effects to bees, brood or queens, had no wax or honey contamination issues and finally, it was cheap. It consists of mixing OA crystals with food grade vegetable glycerin, applying the mixture to a delivery matrix (shop towels or cardboard strips) and then placing the material in the hive. After just a few short months, it quickly became a popular method for treating mites. Because of its popularity and wide spread use among beekeepers, it drew the attention of the EPA and USDA, along with myself.

At that time, this method had only been tested on the west coast, where it is hot and dry. We needed to test whether this method would work in a hot and humid environment as well. Plus, we needed a large-scale study that included multiple apiaries. So, I contacted Randy, and after numerous phone calls, and emails between a gaggle of folks, an experimental design was formulated to a) test the efficacy of the new method, b) was it detrimental to bees/brood/queens, and c) was OA being absorbed into honey. Once we were all in agreement, it was time to get to work. The UGA Bee Lab crew, along with the Auburn University Bee Lab folks, traveled to South and North Georgia collecting data for days at a time. All total, 17 people were involved setting up the experiment, collecting and analyzing the data.

In October 2017, I published an article briefly discussing the study but at that time, we had not completed analyzing the data. We were still hopeful we could have results within a few months but unfortunately, we were a bit too optimistic. The data set was very large and took us much longer to analyze than we had anticipated. Before we get to the results, here's a recap of the project.

The study: With the number of colonies involved, we asked two commercial beekeepers, Shearer Turton, (Dream Haven Farms), and Bob Binnie, (Blue Ridge Honey Company), if they would be willing to donate the use of their colonies and help us collect data for the study. Thankfully, they both agreed, since our UGA colonies were already involved in one study or another.

The protocol: For our Southern trial, there were four treatment groups, each with 50 colonies/group. Two of the groups received the delivery matrix (shop towels) (Photo1) with the OA mixture at different concentrations; one with 12g and the other with 18g. The towels were applied to the top bars inside the brood chamber. The other two groups were the controls; one with shop towels and glycerin only and the other with nothing at all.

It took 10 people three days to number, weigh, calculate bee & brood amounts (colony assessments), collect 300 bees in alcohol and apply the shop towels in all of the 200 colonies. Doing colony assessments gives us beginning bees and brood populations. This will test to see if the treatment has any detrimental effects on the bees. The 300 bees collected in alcohol gives us beginning mite numbers (to test if the product is actually working). Twenty four days later in July we traveled back down to Cordele and collected the same data as before, along with % of the towels removed. This gave us ending data for comparison. We were encouraged to see numerous dead mites scattered about on the folds of the paper towels.

The next month we headed North to Lakemont Georgia and repeated the same process of data collection.

Results: Even though these results are still preliminary, we do not recommend using this method for reducing mite populations in honey bee colonies. Why? Because the data didn't show any significant decrease in mite levels in the 12g or 18g extended release method. The reason I am saying "preliminary" results is we are going to repeat the study. Actually, we will start in early July, and plans are to alter the study protocol just slightly. My fear is (which has been substantiated through personal conversations, and emails) there are numerous beekeepers out there using this unapproved, illegal method of applying OA. Some say it is working, some say it's not, some say it isn't harmful to the bees, some say it is. That is why we need to continue to examine, experimentally, with numerous colonies, in different regions, to see whether or not this method works. Otherwise, potentially lots of bees will succumb to mites, lots of beekeepers will be out of money and lots of folks will be unhappy.

Even though this new manner of applying OA may seem to be easier and cheaper, if it doesn't work, then what's the point? We do know that the three approved methods of applying OA significantly kills mites, and does not harm bees or humans if applied according to directions. Even though I've written about this before, I would like to revisit it again. The three methods approved for use in honey bee colonies are trickle (dribble), vaporization (sublimation) and spraying (spraying). All three can be used on existing colonies, packages or swarms. The two most popular methods are the trickle and vaporization method. The trickle method is prepared by mixing the OA with a sugar water solution and then trickling the solution down between each frame (seam), directly onto the bees when temperatures are between 35-50°. The bees must be in a tight cluster in order to distribute the OA from bee to bee. Any mite coming in contact with the solution, will perish. The second is to heat the OA until it vaporizes into a gas (sublime). This is accomplished by placing the OA crystals into the plate, and then connecting the metal wand or vaporizer to an electrical source. The plate heats up, melting and vaporizing the acid. The vapor will permeate the hive and when it comes in contact with the mites, kills them. Yeah!!! The method that we prefer is the sublimation method. It takes a bit more time to use the wand than to trickle, however, it's not as hard on the bees and it works better.

You can also spray (mist) packages or swarms with the same mixture of OA and sugar syrup used for the trickle method,

but we don't recommend this method because it is very hard on the bees. Why? Because you have to hold them in a cool, dark location for 24 hours prior to spraying. Once tightly clustered, the bees must be sprayed with sugar syrup several hours prior to applying the OA, to ensure that their honey stomachs will be full. Otherwise, they will ingest the OA sugar syrup mixture, which can cause harm or worse, kill the bees. After spraying with the OA mixture, you must hold the bees for an additional 72 hours. If you want to remove mites from your packages, there is a much easier and less harmful method. Once you install the package, wait a few days, and vaporize after sundown. Caution, make sure you don't wait too long because you don't want any capped brood present. Why don't we want capped brood?

All three of these methods (or any method for that matter) are most effective if they kill at least 90% of the mites in the colony. Otherwise, mites and more importantly, viruses (which are the real culprit) will continue to reproduce and overwhelm the colony. This can only be achieved if the colony is void of capped brood and the mites are phoretic (crawling around on the frames or adult bees). If there is capped brood, then, the majority of mites are under the protective wax capping and will not be exposed to the OA. This is why applications are most effective when no brood is present.

During the Winter months, queens usually "shut down" or at least have slowed down brood production. This natural brood break is an easy opportunity for us to decrease mite loads, so we don't want to miss our chance. But wait! What about now, today, this Summer, when mite populations are on the rise (compromising the health of our colonies), yet colonies are full of brood? Reducing mite populations will only help our girls going into Winter. Bees weakened by viruses enhanced by the mites will not live as long. Bees produced to survive the Winter (Winter bees) need to live longer than the Summer bees, so by reducing mites & virus loads now, it's gives our girls a fighting chance for Winter survival.

Over the years, I've discussed a way to make a colony broodless by simply caging the queen. Well, caging a queen is not that simple, so after serious thought, much pondering and contemplation, I've come up with a better, simplified method of getting a colony free of capped brood. Ok, actually it wasn't completely my idea; Jay Hendrix, Master Beekeeper here in the state of Georgia, emailed me, asking a question that has proven to be a great solution. His question was; why not just exclude the queen in a super for 14 days, and then treat on day 21? Brilliant! Of course! Here's the plan of action to rid our girls of these nasty parasites & viruses during the brood rearing season.

1. Find the queen and exclude her in a super above the brood nest.
2. In the super with the queen, place one or two frames of drawn comb for her to lay in and fill the rest with honey or pollen frames, or frames with just foundation. By giving her frames that are undrawn or already filled with honey or pollen, it will inhibit her ability to lay a ton of eggs.
3. 14 days later, remove the excluder, releasing the queen.
4. Check for queen cells below the excluder just in case the bees have produced any.
5. Remove frames above the excluder which contain brood and – see below
6. 21 days after excluding the queen (seven days after removing the excluder), vaporize colonies with OA at sundown when all the bees (and mites) are home from their foraging trips.

What to do with the brood frames that the queen was allowed to lay in for the 14 days, the ones above the queen excluder? If you only have one or two colonies, or you don't want anymore colonies, you can sacrifice the brood by freezing the frames. Or, you can take those frames with brood and bees and make a "walk away" split. You can either place a queen cell in this split or allow the bees to raise their own queen, then 21 days after you made the split and all the brood has emerged, you can vaporize with OA.

Some may still question why 14 days, 21 days, etc.? It takes 21 days from egg to an emerging adult worker bee and it takes eight days from egg to capped brood. By breaking the brood cycle, we are able to take advantage of the time between when the egg is laid and the brood is sealed under the protective wax cap. The mite enters the cell just prior to the larvae being capped, so we need to catch the mite BEFORE she enters the cells to reproduce. This is why we treat when there is no capped brood, so all the mites will be exposed to the acid. By shutting down the queen for 14 days, there will be no capped brood on day 21 when we treat with OA, however, there will be capped brood soon afterwards, so make sure to count the days properly.

In our area, the Piedmont region of Georgia, the best time to use OA is during the cold winter months (January) when hopefully the queen has "shut down" and there is little to no brood. The next time would be during the summer months when we "shut down" the queen and force a brood break. We can also take advantage when we requeen a colony or when a colony has swarmed. Quick reminder, when using OA, all "human" consumable honey must be removed from the colony. Usually by the end of July most honey flows have ceased in our region of Georgia.

Recently, I was asked to speak to one of our local Georgia bee associations and the topic they chose was "when searching the Internet, how do we know if the information is correct or not". At first I thought, "what a great subject", but as I researched it further, I realized this was not going to be an easy task. First off, there is a ton of information out there concerning bees, plus, as I narrowed my search to just videos, I came across a pile of them that were flat out WRONG, not to mention illegal. Bad information was more wide spread than I first thought. For instance, I typed in, "how to control Varroa" and focused on the top ten video hits. Out of those, only one, ONE was legal, has been tested and we know works. That was using oxalic acid in a vaporizer.

I'm sure you have heard the saying "the label is the law." Well it is, and as silly as it may seem at times, that label, the one found on a can, jar, container, or bag is there for a reason. In the case of beekeeping it is there to protect you, the bees, and the environment, so please, use what has been tested, what is legal and what works. There are plenty of proven options out there that work so we don't have to reinvent the wheel, take a chance with our health or the health of the bees. Mother Nature will thank you.

Take good care of you and your bees.

High-Tech Pollination Program Begins Work In ND Sunflower Fields.

from Catch The Buzz, by Jenny Schlecht Forum News Service

BISMARCK, ND — Bee boxes sit to the west of Clark Coleman's sunflower field north of Bismarck. Honey Bees play a vital role in pollinating sunflowers, helping increase yield and quality. But up until now, the bees have been placed nearby and farmers hope for the best.

"Bees pollinate, but they don't know where," explains Kate Lyall, who owns and operates Australian agriculture technology company Bee Innovative with her husband, David.

Bee Innovative believes it may have an answer that could increase profitability for farmers and make better use of a dwindling resource — honey bees.

According to the Bee Informed Partnership, 37.7% of managed honey bee colonies were lost during the 2018-19 winter — the highest level since the partnership began surveying winter loss after the winter of 2006-07. While problems with colony collapse disorder — when the majority of worker bees leave a colony — have lessened to an extent in recent years, concerns about overall bee health continue.

Those concerns have led researchers to consider whether technology can play a part in pollination. For some researchers, that means looking into whether technology can replace bees. Harvard researchers have created RoboBees, insect-sized flying robots, and about a year ago, they found ways for the robots to fly untethered from power supplies. Numerous researchers are seeking ways to use tiny drones for means of artificial pollination. Walmart filed a patent for a system for "pollinating crops by unmanned vehicles."

But in North Dakota — annually the No. 1 or No. 2 honey producing state in the country — researchers aren't trying to use technology to replace pollinators. They're trying to use technology to make honey bees more efficient.

"I think this is a better option because it's using what's already in the natural landscape," Kate Lyall says. "We're just making better use of that commodity."

In August, the Lyalls brought their radar-like technology to North Dakota. Kate Lyall explains the device they created emits an energy signal that can see where bees are and where they're not. Using that data, they work with beekeepers to bring in more bees, strategically placed for where the field hasn't been pollinated.

"It's about providing the farmer with data that they currently don't have," she says.

Bee Innovative started using the technology in Australian blueberry and raspberry fields. The blueberries saw increases in both yield and quality, as well as 80% less waste, and more of the blueberries were considered a premium, rather than standard, product, Kate Lyall says.

"We've had amazing results," she says.

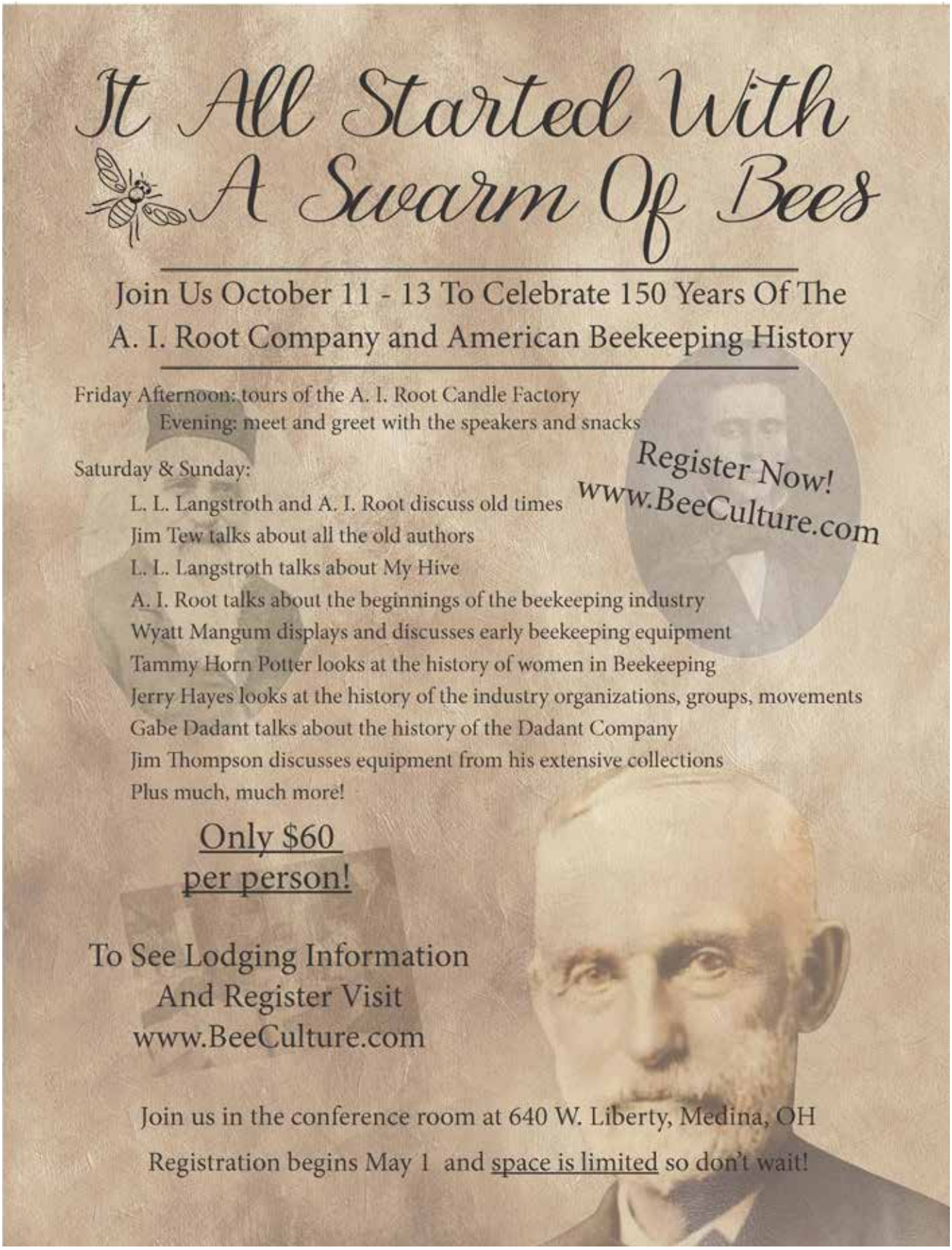
Bee Innovative will compare two nearly identical sunflower fields during the course of the study. To do so, they need to use larger drones and are relying on expertise from the University of North Dakota.

Bee Innovative came to North Dakota through a partnership with UND and a $59,113 grant from the North Dakota Agricultural Products Utilization Commission. The UND Aerospace School is providing an additional $10,000 for personnel and equipment.

The Lyalls say they searched the world for knowledge on unmanned aerial systems and landed on UND as the most knowledgeable place.

Paul Snyder, assistant chairman and director of the UAS program in the Aviation Department at UND Aerospace and the principal investigator on the project, says UND's programs seek to solve problems for industry and they are excited to see where the Bee Innovative partnership leads.

"This kind of technology, I think, is really unique. I mean, we're tracking the movement of bees," he says. "It's just so exciting to see that, because when you start tracking the movement of bees, what's next with technology?"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Jim Tew talks about all the old authors
L. L. Langstroth talks about My Hive
A. I. Root talks about the beginnings of the beekeeping industry
Wyatt Mangum displays and discusses early beekeeping equipment
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Jerry Hayes looks at the history of the industry organizations, groups, movements
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Texas Honey Bee Education Association Update

Grants, Grantors, and Grantees

September 2019 TBA Journal
by Roger Farr – THBEA Chairman

Howdy, fellow Texas beekeepers!

The Texas Honey Bee Education Association (THBEA) board continues to work on projects and potential grants. The THBEA board is appointed by the TBA Executive Committee. Current THBEA board members are Chris Doggett, Roger Farr, Leesa Hyder, Chris Moore, Ashley Ralph, Blake Shook, and Terry Wright. If you are interested in serving on the THBEA board in 2020, please e-mail me.

Understanding grants, grantors, and grantees is at the heart of what THBEA does as a non-profit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Tax Code.

A **grant**, when used as a noun, is a sum of money given by an organization or a government for a particular purpose. Grants usually have stipulations in them as to who can apply and how the money may be used, as opposed to *gifts* which may be used for any purpose and manner the gift recipient chooses.

A **grantor** is a person or institution that makes a grant. Usually the grantor desires to advance certain projects or causes, and therefore funds individuals and organizations to do this work for them. The grantor stipulates in the grant letter how the money is to be used and any reporting or accounting requirements. THBEA is a grantor and has made grants for the TBA Honey Queen Program and is considering making grants to fund youth scholarship programs in TBA-member bee associations. The extreme weather events in 2016/7 created difficulties and caused losses for beekeepers along the Texas Gulf Coast. THBEA granted $7000 to affected beekeepers; THBEA received this money in a grant from Bayer USA, the grantor.

A **grantee** is a person to whom a grant is made. THBEA will also be a recipient of grants from other grantors. THBEA is actively soliciting grants from grantors that desire to fund public education on honey bees and to fund biodiversity initiatives. For example, the funds from the sale of specialty license plates and renewals by TxDMV, when approved, will be granted to THBEA by the Texas Department of Agriculture, the grantor.

Grant, grantor, and grantee. THBEA is busy on all these fronts!

Previously, I reported to you that THBEA had submitted its 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.

TxDMV rejected our initial design, writing that the design being "deceptively similar" to another plate. The revised plate is as shown, and we are now awaiting approval from TxDMV to proceed.

THBEA is also working with potential grantors to fund a proposed $2500 project to produce a four-panel brochure to broaden public education about honey bees and the contribution they make to society. We've made several grant applications but have not yet had success at securing the funding. We're also looking for a team of people to develop this public education brochure we're calling "How You Can Help the Honey Bees." We believe that this brochure will help Texas beekeepers answer frequent questions such as, "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.

The THBEA auction is held each year 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 funds. No item is too small or too large. Be sure to put tickets to the dinner/auction in your shopping cart when you register for the TBA annual meeting.

Together, let's make TBHEA – grantor and grantee – a success for beekeeping and beekeepers' education in Texas!

Changes in Queen and Package Bee Production and Shipping

from Morris Weaver

Changes in queen & package bee production and shipping began in the early 1960's with the development of better highways & vehicles. Before this time many if not most package bees were sent via what we called in the US (United States) "Railway Express' Railway Express was part of the railroad system and package bee orders of one hundred or more were placed on freight trains for efficient fast delivery to all points in the lower forty-eight states and Canada. Also, the United States Postal Service (USPS) delivered queens and package bees in an efficient manner. At some point in the 1960's the railroad quit handling package bees and the postal service became less reliable. Then postal service quit insuring queens and package bees beyond the 4th zone (about 400 miles).

With the development of interstate highway system and more reliable vehicles commercial beekeepers in the US first bought more package bees for themselves and neighbors and transported the bees themselves. The larger beekeepers soon figured out they could bring their own bees south produce their own queens or queen cells, divide the colonies they brought south three or more times then take their own bees back north to produce a good honey crop. Not only did this utilized their labor force better but gave them better control of the bees they depended on for honey and/or pollination income.

Next came the development of shipping queens and package bees long distance via air express. Some airlines refused to carry live bees. Queens were much easier to ship. Smaller queen orders were shipped international express mail while larger quantities were best sent via air express. First, package bees were shipped with queen candy rather than syrup. Problems were the airlines would sometimes leave the bees out in the hot sun and they would perish before they were even loaded on the plane. The shipper always had to make sure the product was place in a pressurized, temperature-controlled compartment. Changing planes during transit or even change airports during transit was a challenge. Today's methods of instant communication have improved resolving issues that arise during shipment.

The tracheal mite (*Acarapis woodi*) were found in the US via Weslaco, TX on July 3, 1984. First attempts were made to destroy the colonies where the mites were found and quarantine the area. It did not take long to discovery this effort was fruitless. Canada closed its border to package bees from the US. In the beginning some states refused shipments where tracheal mites was known to exist. Queen and package producers scrambled to find new customers to fill the void. A surplus of queens and packages had a negative effect on prices'.

Varroa mite (*Varroa jacobsoni*) were first found in the US in 1987. They were found in Wisconsin in colonies transported from Florida. Fortunately, beekeepers and regulators had learned that quarantines were ineffective. Varroa greatly increased the cost of production. Producers were required to put fluvalinate strips in all queen and package shipments. Due to the migratory nature of commercial beekeeping in the US varroa spread rapidly across the lower 48 states. The number of colonies declined and demand for queens and packages increased. Queen and package producers were not able to fill the demand as their colony numbers declined and did not build up as expected.

Established queen and package producers had increased labor and treatment cost to manage their colonies and queen mating nucs. Queen breeders began selecting for good house cleaning traits and other traits known to keep down varroa. This is an ongoing project that has met with some success. In 1992 Dr. John Harbo of United States Department of Agriculture Honey Bee Laboratory in Baton Rouge and Dr. Roger Hoopingamer of Michigan State University discovered the VSH (varroa sensitive hygiene) trait. This is a trait, not a breed or a line of bees that has shown resistant to varroa. They claim this trait can be found and bred for in any line or breed of bees. I have had no personal experience with this trait. If you want to learn more about it I suggest you go the Dr. Harbo's web site; www.harbobeeco.com. Also, some beekeepers in northern areas began to produce their own queens and nucs. This enabled them to select for traits they desired and worked best in their local. Some of these beekeepers were able to produce a surplus to sell. Those beekeepers who were unable or unwilling to change went out of business.

In October 1990 in the southern tip of Texas an Africana honey bee swarm was found near the small town of Hidalgo. Conventional thinking was that they would spread east following the Gulf Coast eventuality arriving in Florida. Instead they followed the rivers northwest going into New Mexico, Arizona, California, and Nevada. They entered Florida and other east coast states through ports of entry by hitch hiking on ships and planes. The states I have mentioned are not the only ones where Africana bees have been found. They are more of a public relations problem than a beekeeper problem. Successful queen producers have long saturated the area surrounding their queen mating yards with colonies headed with queens that produce drones they wanted their virgin queens to mate with. Queen producers became more diligent in selecting European queens to head their colonies.

Now along comes the small hive beetle (*Aethina-tumida*) first found in the US in 1997. These pests are a nuisance. If the beekeeper maintains strong colonies and nuclei the bees will

continued from page 44

keep them under control. Therefore, queen producers now must maintain stronger nucs. When establishing nucs it was common practice to not remove the first round of queens until 14 days after she had hatched. This insured the queen nucs would be able to survive the queen producing season. Now it requires 21 days to ensure the strength of the nuc to survive the season. Of course this lowers the total number of queens produced per nuc per season.

I know of no statistics on queen and package bee production in the US. Common thought has been that one half of all production is in California, and the other half is Texas and the southeastern states that boarder the Gulf of Mexico. This equation changed in the mid 1970's when one company began producing queens for sale in the state of Hawaii. This company grew into what is probably the world's largest queen producer. Currently there are several queen producers in Hawaii. Queens can be produced all year in Hawaii. Comparing April 2013 to April 1983 in one major American bee publication there were 58% (fifty eight percent) fewer display ads selling queen and package bees. Some of these companies went out of business and others were absorbed by other queen and package bee producers. My wild guess is that there are 1.25 million queens sold in the US and exported each year and another 2 million or more produced by beekeepers for their own use.

One thing about all these problems those beekeepers who were willing to make changes in their management are much better beekeepers today than they were before. Those who did not change are no longer in business. Many of those colonies were absorbed by the more progressive beekeepers, or new younger individuals entering beekeeping.

My crystal ball tells me that genetics will solve many of today' s beekeeping problems

In the United States we have some fine United States Department of Agriculture and State University bee research scientists. However, they cannot solve these problems alone. They simply don't have the resources to solve all our problems. It is my opinion we need is a beekeeper driven research program to develop bees that are varroa resistant, good honey producers, and have good temperament. I am talking about fifty to one hundred beekeepers across the United States that dedicate 50 to 100 colonies each to work with a selected group of bee research scientist.

These are some of the things I have observed in my long beekeeping career. All opinions expressed are solely my own.

Are you a Texas Beekeeper?

Do you Produce & Sell Pure Texas Honey?

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

Texas consumers want real Texas honey. Separate your Texas honey from imports and honey from other states. We are looking for Real Texas Beekeepers to join Real Texas Honey™. If you are interested, please visit our website and learn more.

realtexashoney.com

Look for this Seal

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

2019 Texas Honey Queen

Mary Reisinger

Therapeutic Beekeeping

Hello all!

I hope your beekeeping adventures are going well! Many beekeepers will tell you about the calming nature of beekeeping. Listening to the soft, buzzing of the bees flowing in and out of the hive in a steady stream often puts one into an existential daze and all worries about life seem to float away. Animal-assisted therapy has long been used to help those struggling with mental health disorders. Animals require care and attention for their livelihood. With this increased responsibility, caretakers often report increased sensory sensitivity, confidence, and self-esteem. They even report these benefits as lasting far beyond the time spent with the animals. Dogs, horses, and cats are commonly the first choice for animal assisted therapy, but honey bees have recently also been found to be a good therapeutic option.

Heroes to Hives, based at Michigan State University, is a nine-month program for veterans facing mental and physical health difficulties in order to help them find balance within the practice of beekeeping. The program has both online and in person components. The main program trains students in honey bee biology and management of colonies through webinars and Q&A occurring online monthly. Additionally, they provide hands on workshops and therapeutic programs for veterans and their families.

Since 2016 when they first began, Heroes to Hives has served over 408 veterans and their dependents. Adam and Lacey Ingrao, founders of this program strive to teach participants to enter into a state of mindfulness while beekeeping. Heroes to Hives provides veterans with a hobby to delve into as well as a community of fellow veterans to relate with. Jeremy Huffman, a veteran and former participant in the program, stated "we (veterans) are so mission-oriented. We want somethin' - we want to be contributing and part of something that's bigger and larger than ourselves. That's why we went into the military (Now This News)."

Heroes to Hives is not the only organization with the mission to enable veterans in beekeeping. In 1919, the government distributed a pamphlet that advocated for veterans returning from World War I suffering from shell shock to pursue beekeeping as an aid for recovery. Now, select US Department of Veteran Affairs centers provide classes and on site beekeeping workshops as well as Bees for Vets (University of Nevada, Reno) and Helmets to Hives (New York), and other programs not mentioned here.

Before I move on, I would like to thank you if you have served our country in any way through the military – we greatly appreciate you!

Not only has honey bees been shown to improve mental health with veterans, but also promote resilience in at-risk communities. Hives for Humanity hosts workshops and builds community around beekeeping. People from all sorts of socio-economic statuses and backgrounds can bond in these experiences. The pride and competency experienced from working the bee hives impacts the individual's life and brings them into a community. Since starting in 2012, the program has grown to encompass over 13 different therapeutic apiaries across Canada.

Although there is not much experimental data gathered on beekeeping specifically being used in a therapeutic setting, the correlational data is astounding. I have no doubt that sometime in the future we will see research supporting this discovery. That being said, I challenge you to find time this month to sit outside in a lawn chair by the beehives listening to them buzz around about their business and breathe in the fresh Fall air.

These next two months I will be busy at the Texas State Fair speaking about the importance of honey bees to our livelihood and the pollination industry. I will give cooking demonstrations to showcase the versatility and health benefits of honey in and out of the kitchen. I hope you take the opportunity to volunteer at the Texas Beekeepers Association booth in the Go Texan building at the Texas State Fair. If you are interested, please contact John Talbert for more information.

Happy beekeeping!

When a NewBee Quits

"The Continuing Journey of Two Sixth-Year Small-Scale Beekeepers"
TBA Journal Article - September 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 love helping new beekeepers (NewBees) get started in beekeeping. They have such great enthusiasm, energy, and one thousand and one questions! Usually, they start with two or three hives and soon are making increase and have some honey to give away or sell. Sometimes though, they find out that beekeeping is not for them, and they need to get out. That is the topic of this article.

John and Sally, not their real names, took our club's NewBee class two years ago. They soaked up everything and eventually purchased three nucleus hives from us to get started. We still remember visiting their house for the first time to survey their bee location and to do some hands-on training before we delivered the nucs the following week. Everything was great, and they were prepared. Sally would be the main beekeeper and John the helper.

We went back once a month for the first year to check on things and to do varroa checks. As sometimes happens, the usually gentle bees were agitated during one of our inspections, and Sally received several stings through her bee suit. Nothing dramatic, but just enough to know that, yes, these really are wild stinging insects we're working with here!

However, after two years of beekeeping, the e-mail came. "John and I have decided to no longer be beekeepers. Would you help us get the bees and equipment to a new family that can use them?"

We were saddened that John and Sally made this decision, but we understood. Several life events had made it difficult to give the bees the attention they needed, and something had to give. Hence, we were asked to assist in getting everything to a new home.

We told John and Sally our plan to take the bees initially to our home. The hives had not been inspected for several months and we did not know their condition. We decided it would be best to isolate them initially so we could make sure they were healthy. We also wanted to check their strength and resources to make sure they could successfully overwinter. Since October is not a great month to start beekeeping, the bees would be with us until spring of 2020.

With regard to the equipment, our local bee association is considering starting a youth scholarship program. The equipment would be a great donation. We offered a backstop arrangement of selling the equipment or having us buy it for some percentage of the original price.

We've scheduled to pick up the bees next week, early in the morning before the sun comes up. We'll transport them to their temporary home and open the entrances so they can orient to their new surroundings. Then, we'll go back to John and Sally's to get the equipment and tools. Once those are loaded, we'll probably have coffee and a chat.

We want John and Sally to finish well with their beekeeping adventure. Now is not a good time for them to keep bees, but perhaps there will be a time in the future. We want to maintain the relationship and friendship with them, so we'll take time to debrief them on their beekeeping experience.

Being a beekeeper isn't for everyone. John and Sally gave it a go and found out that it doesn't work for them right now. That's OK. They did the responsible thing to get the bees and equipment to people who could use them. They didn't just let them die of varroa and associated diseases, thus causing a problem for other beekeepers in the area.

We're still friends with John and Sally. We will give them a bottle of honey and some of our "famous" blueberry jam, pollinated by our bees, and we'll stay in touch with them.

We'd love to hear about your beekeeping adventures!

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

Update from Texas Apiary Inspection Service

from Mary Reed, Chief Apiary Inspector

We are nearing the end of the summer and hopefully you were able to extract a little bit of honey and have already checked your Varroa mite levels to prepare for the fall and winter season. If you weren't able to participate in the 2019 Mite-A-Thon event, that's ok! The MiteCheck website is available year round and any beekeeper can enter in their Varroa counts every time samples are collected (https://bip2.beeinformed.org/mitecheck/). These sample results help beekeepers and researchers better understand Varroa levels across the nation and how they fluctuate over the year. The Bee Informed Partnership has also created a free mobile phone app called MiteCheck that provides step-by-step instructions on how to monitor for mites using the sugar shake and alcohol wash methods, a shake trainer that helps a beekeeper practice how vigorously to shake the samples, a portal to enter your sample results directly into the MiteCheck database, and much more! This is a quick and easy tool that beekeepers can use to practice monitoring techniques and keep track of their results over the year. I encourage you all to give it a try and maybe even incorporate it in your management practices!

Early in September the international honey bee conference, Apimondia, was held in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. This year there were 6,000 speakers from 80 different countries who covered topics on current research on the genomics of honey bees, impacts of pesticides on honey bee colonies, pollinator conservation, detection and prevention of honey fraud, and much more. This is a great opportunity for researchers, beekeepers, and government officials from across the globe to come together and discuss all things honey bees. During the conference I had the unique opportunity to meet with other apiary regulators and educators from other countries to discuss the major honey bee health issues we encounter in our own regions. The goal of this meeting was to learn about different perspectives and the approaches taken to mitigate each issue. This meeting was a first step in developing international relationships with other apiary professionals and establishing connections with regions that share similar issues, as well as those that host novel pests and diseases. If you are interested in attending future Apimondia conferences, the next one will be held in 2021 in Russia, and Chile in 2023.

Just to close out the article I want to mention that the Fall 2019 Texas Master Beekeeper exam day will be held on Thursday, November 7th in conjunction with the Texas Beekeepers Association's annual convention in San Antonio, TX. If you are interested in participating in this event, you can find more information about the exam day here: https://masterbeekeeper.tamu.edu/2019-fall-exam-registration/. If you would like to learn more about the program, I encourage you to read the Program Requirements document that is available on the Texas Master Beekeeper website. This provides more details about each level of the program, but if you still have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me (*mary.reed@tamu.edu*)! Otherwise, if you have any other questions, comments, beekeeping stories or jokes, you can reach our office via email or phone (*tais@tamu.edu*, 979-845-9713). I hope you all enjoy the rest of the summer and have a great start to the fall!

Happy Beekeeping!

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

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

Dear TBA members,

Despite having reached the official start of autumn, the hot and humid days are far from over in this part of Central Texas. I am glad we have had some rain lately, because that means that soon we will have some fall blooms available for nectar and pollen, thus ameliorating the robbing and supplemental feeding that our colonies have had to undergo in the last few months. I hope you participated in this year's Mite-A-Thon and did your fall Varroa mite counts, or at least got some inspiration from that nationwide event to plan your mite count and treatment options soon.

As in every edition of the TBA Journal, I have some updates to give you regarding our lab's latest news and events. First, I would like to introduce you to the newest members of our research program. Jordan Twombly Ellis, our newest Ph. D. student, completed a B.S. in Entomology from Cornell University this past May. She worked on her thesis with my Ph. D. advisor and mentor, Dr. Tom Seeley. Jordan received a three-year College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Diversity Graduate Fellowship and is interested in self-sacrificing and altruistic behavior in honey bee workers. The second student, Myra Dickey, graduated this past May with a B.S. degree in Biology from Salisbury University in Maryland, and will be doing a Master's degree working on the genetics of pesticide exposure on honey bee queens. Welcome Jordan and Myra! You will be seeing more of them in the coming years for sure.

Once again, this year's Brazos Valley Beekeeping School was co-sponsored by the Texas A&M Honey Bee Lab and the Brazos Valley Beekeepers Association (BVBA). The event, which took place at TAMU's AgriLife Center on Saturday, 7 September, had over 400 people in attendance including registered participants, volunteers and vendors. Besides our lab having an information table in the vendor section, many of our members were instructors, with a combined eight talks. Taylor Reams presented on the "Biology and Behavior of Varroa;" Alex Payne's presentation was "Who Got Me Sick? Transmission Routes of Honey Bee virus;" Liz Walsh presented on "When, Why, & How to Requeen;" Pierre Lau had a lecture on "Honey Bee Nutrition;" ET Ash presented on "Selling Bees & Nucs;" and Dr. Rangel presented "Raising Queens for Yourself" and "Biology of Queen Mating" and, along with ET Ash, was part of the panel of experts at the end of the day. Proceeds will benefit the BVBA Youth Program and the Honey Bee Lab. Please visit https://www.bvbeeks.org/events/bee-school/ for more details about the event.

Our lab will also be participating at this year's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences' Tailgate on Saturday, 26 October at the AgriLife Center, in preparation for the home game against Mississippi State. The event is when we typically launch each year's honey crop and we talk to people about our research program. For more information, please visit https://aglifesciences.tamu.edu/tailgate/.

We have some more exciting news to tell you on the student front. Liz Walsh defended her Ph. D. on Saturday, 20 September. Thank you to all of you who attended Liz's defense, she passed with flying colors. There were about 60 people in attendance, 41 in person, and the rest connected remotely online. What an impressive turnout for an impressive woman! Liz will be graduating in December and hopes to begin her Post-doctoral studies in January of 2020. Although she will be sincerely missed by all here in Texas, we are sure she will move on to bigger and greater things in her professional career. Congratulations, soon-to-be Dr. Liz Walsh!! We are very proud of you!

Liz Walsh defending her PhD on 20 September in front of a full room!

Our lab's latest scientific paper came out this month in the journal *Apidologie*. The paper is titled **"Factors affecting the reproductive health of honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) drones—a review"** with myself as first author and Adrian Fisher II as co-author (DOI: 10.1007/s13592-019-00684-x). **Abstract**: In the honey bee, *Apis mellifera*, colonies are composed of one queen, thousands of female workers, and a few thousand seasonal males (drones) that are reared only during the reproductive season when colony resources are plentiful. Despite their transient presence in the hive, drones have the important function of mating with virgin queens, transferring their colony's genes to their mates for the production of fertilized, worker-destined eggs. Therefore, factors affecting drone health and reproductive competency may directly affect queen fitness and longevity, having great implications at the colony level. Several environmental and in-hive conditions can affect the quality and viability of drones in general and their sperm in particular. Here we review the

extant studies that describe how environmental factors including nutrition, temperature, season, and age may influence drone reproductive health. We also review studies that describe other factors, such as pesticide exposure during and after development, that may also influence drone reproductive quality. Given that sperm development in drones is completed during pupation prior to adult emergence, particular attention needs to be paid to these factors during drone development, not just during adulthood. The present review showcases a growing body of evidence indicating that drones are very sensitive to environmental fluctuations and that these factors cause drones to underperform, potentially compromising the reproductive health of their queen mates, as well as the overall fitness of their colony.

Lastly, I'm not sure how many of you may know, but I am expecting a baby girl (Lía) in a couple of weeks, which means that I will be on maternity leave for a few weeks starting in October. I will therefore have limited access to email and will be back in the office toward the end of November (if all goes well). Thank you as always for your continuing support. For up-to-date information regarding our program, or for new and interesting posts regarding bees and beekeeping, please visit us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/TAMUhoneybeelab.

Thank you!

From left to right: Myra Dickey, Pierre Lau and Jordan Twombly Ellis staffing our lab's table at this year's Brazos Valley Bee School on 7 September.

Pierre Lau ordered his Aggie Ring recently… that is because he will be defending his Ph. D. in May of 2020!!

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
beesintheeast@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
Schlotzsky'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 CommunityDr. , 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 USHwy 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
Courtney Ware
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
joebeees@gmail.com
Meetings: Third Thurs. of even number months (excl. Dec) at 6:30 pm
Gillespie County Ext. Off., 95 Frederick Rd., Fredericksburg

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
Kathi Murphy-Boley (972) 467-5092
kdbmurphy@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 Bisonnet 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
ryangiesecke@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

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
Bill Zimmer - (469) 222-3901
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 **J J Swan**
kadeiqus@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
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

Area 5 **Harrison Rogers**
brooksidebees@gmail.com
5402 Greenhill Road
Brookside Village, TX 77581
(281) 468-0019

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

Area 6 **Myra Smith**
myras29@gmail.com
PO Box 37
Hughes Springs, TX 75656
(903) 639-2910

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

TBA Officers-2019

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

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

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

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

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

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

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