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Texas Beekeepers Association



Journal



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President's Report from Ashley Ralph

Wow. I am truly blown away by the support and feedback I've received in the wake of the amazing 2019 Convention. I feel honored to be TBA President and am grateful for the supportive executive committee I have around me. I have huge shoes to fill in place of Blake Shook and Chris Moore who have been kind and humble mentors to me in business and leadership. We have an amazing team assembled that is ready to get to work!

We had record attendance at our Convention of around 400 people and raised \$13,245 for the Texas Honey Bee Education Association to use towards youth education programs. I know THBEA has big plans for the future and these funds will help them to take on larger projects. I saw many new vendors as well as some of our long-time supporters and I really enjoyed learning from our out-of-state experts as well as our Texas beekeepers. Watching the growth of the events, the Honey Show, and the membership over the past few years has been inspiring and we owe it to the hardworking volunteers that have been tirelessly devoted to improving all aspects of TBA. In fact, those teams already have rigorous notes on how to make the next event even better so be sure to watch for upcoming Summer Clinic information.

Looking back on the event, I was reflecting on some of my favorite moments and they all had something in common. The moments when beekeepers were laughing and sharing ideas, experiences, and stories with one another. At one moment on Saturday, there was even a room full of natural beekeepers discussing the future of beekeeping with commercial beekeepers and it gave me so much hope for our industry to see everybody working towards a common goal of healthy bees and a sustainable beekeeping industry. I'm hopeful and encouraged that bringing people of different ideologies together is a great way to accomplish big things for bees and beekeeping in the future.

On a personal note, As the beekeeping season comes to an end it's also a great time to take note of lessons learned and make plans for the future. We're still growing as a business and this year we took more baby steps towards building our commercial operation. The plans for the immediate future are to continue to keep our bees growing in their boxes. With almond pollination plans coming up, we came out of watermelons a little lighter than we wanted so we have been getting the bees back on track.

As Blake Shook, TBA Past President, mentioned at the TBA Conference in his industry update, consumers' for honey bee health is at an all-time high. This is a great thing and is apparent in the attendance of sold-out theaters showing "The Pollinators" movie as well as in everyday interactions with our customers. This is a great opportunity for us to educate people about the importance of honey bees to food production, how we care for honey bees, how we advocate for all pollinators by promoting forage and limited pesticide use and how we safely harvest honey without harming the colony. These are talking points that we can continue to use to better educate the people we interact with every day while promoting the beekeeping industry.

Onward to 2020! We have a great executive committee filled with passionate beekeepers who want the best for TBA, the membership, bees, beekeepers, and the entire industry. There is so much talent on the board and big ideas and plans to bring even more value to all of you. I plan to attend the American Beekeeping Federation Conference to bring back ideas for future TBA conferences, information on the most current research and market conditions and issues surrounding the beekeeping industry. I look forward to sharing what I learn. Your board has already shared countless emails and phone calls as we make plans for the next year so be on the lookout for more updates!

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Vice President's Report from John Swan

What a whirlwind of a year! First off, I'd like to start by congratulating Ashley on becoming the first female president of the Texas Beekeepers Association. This is a monumental accomplishment and a milestone event for TBA. We are all excited to see where her innovation and leadership will take us in 2020. I would also like to congratulate our newest directors: Charlie Agar, Monica Siwiak, and Dodie Stillman. Welcome to the TBA board, and I look forward to working with you all in the coming year as well. Last, but certainly not least, I would like to thank you all for having the confidence in me to be your new Vice President. I definitely have some big shoes to fill, and will do my best to help TBA continue to grow and evolve as we move forward, together.

The 2019 Annual Convention has come and gone, and though we are still finalizing all of the numbers, I am happy to report that it was the largest turnout for a convention that we have had for some time now. This is great news, and proof that the changes implemented by the events committee this year were a much needed breath of fresh air to this event. The changes to the venue, addition of panel discussions, and the new and varied educational topics have definitely helped to give the event a new look and feel. It was so great to see all the new faces who were attending their very first conference, and from what I've heard, they seemed to enjoy themselves immensely. There are so many people working behind the scenes of these events in order to give the attendees the best experience possible. These volunteers put in a lot of planning and preparation, sleepless nights, and vast amounts of energy and hard work in order to bring these events to life. Often times, all this effort can feel like it goes unrecognized by the majority. I could fill the entire journal if I tried to list all the names of the countless volunteers, past and present, who have helped make TBA and its events what they are today. So, on behalf of myself, and all of TBA, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to each and every one of you who have worked tirelessly and thanklessly to help make TBA the best that it can be. You are appreciated more than you will ever know!

Traditionally, the next TBA event would be the delegates meeting in February. However, this year we have decided to try something a bit different. We have heard the feedback of

our members regarding this event and the logistic challenges it poses to those who have attended in the past. It is a lot to ask of those individuals to volunteer their time, money, and mileage to come all the way out to this meeting for just a few hours, and then have to head back home that same day. Texas is a very large state, and often times there are a lot of clubs who do not feel that the benefits outweigh the effort it takes to get there. So, we have decided to combine the efforts and information from the delegates meeting into our other existing events, like the Summer Clinic and the Annual Convention. By doing this, we feel that we can better respect our member's time and energy, while optimizing the level of information and education that can be offered. To this end, we will be adding dedicated tracks to our future events that will address club needs and resources, while still giving club members an avenue to share their feedback and ideas. We will also be creating a dedicated club liaison role to help facilitate communication between TBA and all of our member clubs. This will give our clubs instant access to TBA in order to share ideas, request assistance, offer suggestions, and voice concerns. To steal a quote from a wonderful lady, we all rise together!

We have some wonderful ideas for our upcoming events next year, so mark your calendar now. The next Summer Clinic will be held on June 13th in Denton, TX. And, are you ready for this? Our keynote speaker will be none other than Dr. Tom Seeley! With the new location and a legend of beekeeping research in our midst, this could prove to be our largest Summer Clinic to date. Then, later that fall, we will be hosting our Annual Convention in Allen, TX. on November 12th – 14th with Dr. Marla Spivak and Dr. David Tarpy! 2020 is truly looking to be an exciting year for TBA and we cannot wait to see where it takes us.

I am very much looking forward to working with all of you to continue making TBA the best beekeeping organization that it can possibly be. I am so honored to have the opportunity to serve as your Vice President, and humbled by those who have come before me. We have setup a new email address (vp@texasbeekeepers.org) and my 'virtual' door is always open. So, if you should have any questions, comments, or feedback, please don't hesitate to reach out. I know that together, we can do great things!

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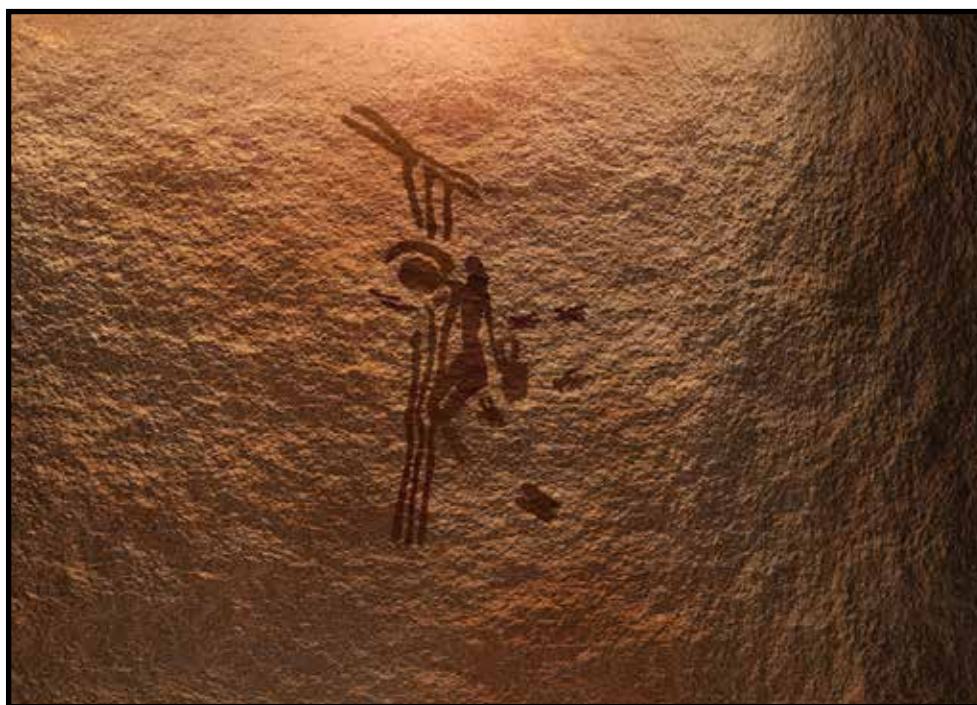
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Honey: The First Wound Healing Agent in Human History

from Ferhat Ozturk

first published in "The Fountain" July - August 2018



Hay and Su had been hungry for almost a week. Spring was in full bloom, and birds were chirping. Living in a cave was safer and warmer than outside, especially during the long winters. However, the food stock they had was almost finished. As the sun rose higher, the hunter-gatherer couple left their cave to find some food and hunt some animals to cook with the fire they had recently invented. As they searched for some fruit in the forest, they heard wood cracking and then a sudden loud growl from the bushes. The grizzly bear started to chase them, and they ran away quickly. They successfully ran back to their safe cave; however, during the chase, a tree branch scratched and wounded Su's shoulder and she was severely bleeding. Hay first applied some ash to the wound to stop the bleeding; then he went out to the cliff, a smoking branch in his hand. He tied his rope ladder to a tree and climbed down the cliff. Once he reached the bee's nest, he gently waved his smoky branch to numb the honeybees and collected their honey, pouring it into a carved stone. Then he rushed back to the cave, covered Su's open wound with honey, and fed her the leftovers. The wound was closed within a couple of days without any significant inflammation, infection, or scar. Then Su and Hay carved their adventure into the wall of their cave, which is located in today's Valencia, Spain, and was recently discovered by anthropologists – a mere 8000 years later.

Honey is a viscous, supersaturated sugar solution derived from nectar and honeydew. It's gathered from flowers and modified by the honeybee, *Apis mellifera*. Honey is composed of more than 200 components, which are mostly carbohydrates (76%) and water (20%), as well as many other substances, such as amino acids, vitamins, minerals, organic acids, polyphenols, and enzymes. From ancient times, due to its high biological activity potential, honey has been used in wound care, infection control, and treatment of abdominal pains and skin and eye diseases. Thus, it was frequently mentioned in the early pharmacopeia of the Sumerians, Babylonians, Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, Indians, Chinese, Turks, Arabs, and other civilizations.

For the last two decades, scientists and healthcare professionals have studied the potential uses and benefits of honey. Cell assays, animal studies, and clinical trials have provided evidence for the use of medical grade honey in the control and treatment of wounds, cancer, diabetes, and asthma, as well as cardiovascular, neurological, and gastrointestinal diseases.

Medical grade honeys possess high bioactivity potential, which differs depending on the floral source, geographical origin, and harvest time. Worldwide, the most common honey types used for medical purposes are Manuka, Tualang, Gelam, Ulmo, Castanea (chestnut), Rhododendron (Azalea), Quercus (Oak), Acacia, Thyme, and Jungle.

Honey in wound treatment

A wound is, broadly, the destruction of the integrity of tissue, which may also include neighboring areas. This destruction can be either penetrating or non-penetrating, and induced by accidents, surgeries, or violence (Martinotti et al). Depending on the healing time, wounds are classified as acute or chronic. Generally acute wounds heal in a short and predicted amount of time without major complications. The chronic wounds take much longer to heal and present different complications such

as infection, contamination of the wound bed, or ischemia, the limited supply of blood that carries oxygen and nutrients to the wounded tissue. The chronic wounds are also known as ulcers and can be grouped as pressure (bed sores), diabetic, venous, and arterial ulcers, which mostly result from chronic medical illnesses such as diabetes, atherosclerosis, thrombosis, paralysis, etc. (woundcarecenters.org). The process of wound healing is generally divided into four overlapping stages: homeostasis (seconds to minutes), inflammation (3–5 days), proliferation (4–14 days), and remodeling (8 days to 1 year) (Miguel 2017).

Different clinical trials and in vitro studies have reported the broad-spectrum antimicrobial properties of honey (Israili 2014). Moreover, honey provides hygroscopic, immunostimulatory, anti-inflammatory, and anti-oxidant properties, which are necessary for the healing of both infected and ischemic chronic wounds. Therefore, medical grade honey promotes the immune response, treats microbial infections, prevents cross-contamination, promotes autolytic debridement, balances inflammatory activity, stimulates growth of wounded tissue to hasten healing, and promotes the healing process in chronic wounds (Miguel 2017).

In a recent Cochrane review, which is considered as the highest standard in evidence-based clinical resources, Jull AB et. al. reviewed the evidence about the healing effects when applying honey on different kinds of wounds (Jull 2015). They analyzed 26 different clinical studies involving 3011 people with acute (e.g. burns, lacerations) and/or chronic (e.g. venous ulcers) wounds. Honey was compared with many alternative wound dressings and topical treatments in the included studies. They concluded that there is high quality evidence that honey heals partial thickness burns around 4 to 5 days more quickly than conventional dressings. There is also reasonable evidence that honey is more effective than antiseptic gauze for healing infected wounds (Jull 2015).

As a particular example, Yusoff KM and his colleagues treated 102 patients with untreatable chronic wounds with honey as a last resort. Most of these wounds were infected with pathogenic bacteria of 14 different strains, and two of them were antibiotic-resistant bacteria, which could not be treated using conventional antibiotics. Of the 102 patients, 100% of them were successfully cured with topical application of honey within 4 to 7 weeks of daily treatment. Moreover, limbs of the diabetic wound patients were saved from amputation after their ulcers were healed.

Meanwhile, studies on different animal models provided evidence that honey accelerates wound healing in animals. Fifteen of the 16 controlled trials in five different animal models (mice, rats, rabbits, pigs, and buffalo calves) found that honey-treated incisional and excisional wounds, and that standard burns healed faster than control wounds (Jull 2015).

Consequently, existing evidence from animal studies and clinical trials strongly suggests that medical grade honey has the potential to treat various types of wounds without causing any serious side effects.

Honey in cancer

Cancer is uncontrolled cell growth within a certain tissue or throughout the body due to mutations in the genome. As one of the major causes of death worldwide, more than 8.8

million deaths were reported in relation to cancer in 2015 (WHO). Meanwhile, cancer is not a disease occurring in one cell type only; there are more than 100 cancer types identified to date (cancer.gov). Both the genetic and environmental factors contribute to the development of cancer in different cells. There are three major steps when cancer attacks the body: initiation, proliferation, and progression. The normal cell transforms into a cancer cell due to an irreversible mutation within its genome; then it starts to replicate in an uncontrollable manner and forms a tumor mass; finally, these mutated cells invade the bloodstream and metastasize to different tissues within the body. Despite extensive research projects devoted to diagnosing and treating cancer, it remains as one of the least treatable diseases.

Conventional treatments for cancer are surgery, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, immunotherapy, and cellular therapy. Meanwhile, natural products with high anticancer potential are also being considered for research and treatment as complementary and integrative medicine (CIM) agents. Due to limitations of conventional methods, such as affordability and side effects, and promising evidence-based results of various CIM approaches, physicians and patients are getting more interested in CIM applications for the treatment of various cancer types.

Among the CIM agents, medical grade honey is one of the most promising natural products for treatment of some cancers due to its high bioactivity potential. Scientists studied the capacity of honey to both prevent tumor development and inhibit progression. Most of these studies were performed in vitro, using cell cultures in the lab. When tested on several types of human cancer cell lines (breast, prostate, liver, endometrial, cervical, lung, skin, kidney, bladder, oral squamous cell carcinoma, and osteosarcoma), honeys from diverse floral sources demonstrated potential anticancer activity (Ahmed S 2018, Erejuwa 2014). Moreover, several studies showed that different cancers, in animal models, were successfully treated with honey (Ahmed S 2018). It has been shown that honey provides antiproliferative, antitumor, antimetastatic, and anticancer effects via diverse mechanisms, including cell cycle arrest, the activation of mitochondrial pathways, induction of apoptosis, modulation of oxidative stress, amelioration of inflammation, modulation of insulin signaling, and inhibition of angiogenesis in cancer cells. It has also been shown that honey is highly and selectively cytotoxic against tumor or cancer cells while it is non-cytotoxic to normal cells. It can inhibit cancer development by modulating or interfering with the molecular processes or events of initiation, proliferation, and progression (Erejuwa 2014). In the PubMed, the largest database of biomedical research articles, there are almost 400 research papers and review articles published about the use of honey in cancer treatment. Moreover, there are more than 15 active clinical trials using honey for treatment of cancer and side effects of chemotherapy (Clinicaltrials.gov). Consequently, medical grade honey can be considered as a potential and promising anticancer agent which warrants further research—both in experimental and clinical studies.

Besides wound healing and cancer, honey is being actively studied for treatment of diabetes, neurological, cardiovascular, and metabolic disorders, as well as eye diseases.

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The Brantley Column

from S. S. Brantley

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

Another beekeeping year is almost finished and we will soon be looking for the first January blooms on the Elm trees to tell us a new season is starting. As we wind down this year, all beekeepers should take some time to reflect on the successes and failures of 2019. What did you do right and what could you have done better? It is also time to make plans and set goals for 2020. What do you want to achieve and what do you need to do to achieve it? One of my perennial goals is to not allow a hive to die this year! I am happy when I achieve it and I try to learn from the experience if I do not!

I recently attended the Texas Beekeepers Convention in San Antonio, along with over 350 other interested individuals. Vendors offering all manner of useful items were abundant and those interested made contacts for future needs. Speakers from the East and West Coasts discussed the latest in research and assisted in judging the many excellent samples of Texas honey in the honey show. During the business meeting, changes were made to the Constitution and By-Laws and members of the TBA Board were updated as old members rotated off and were replaced by new well-qualified beekeepers for the coming years. To become a more complete beekeeper, I encourage you to consider becoming a member of TBA and take advantage of the opportunities to learn more about beekeeping. Plan to begin by attending the 2020 Summer Convention in Denton this July.

Also, I want to share with you that the Northeast Texas Beekeepers Conference is scheduled for Saturday, January 25, 2020 in Longview, Texas. This is a one day event at the Holiday Inn North in Longview. The keynote speaker is Dr. Jamie Ellis, professor of Entomology in the Department of Entomology and Nematology at the University of Florida. Tickets are available 12/1/2019 – 1/18/20 at eventbrite.com. Tickets are \$60 for single, \$100 for couple, and \$20 for children. A meal is included. (Tickets are non-refundable.) Additional information is available, call Beth 936 591-2399 or Myra 903-639-2910.

Are you looking at the bee activity on your landing boards? I was amazed to see bees loaded with pollen just after a major

cold front. With 20 degree temps and high winds on Tuesday and Wednesday, the following Friday in still 50 degree daytime temperatures, my bees from a screened bottom board hive were flying in, carrying loads of pollen. The hive sits in my driveway inside the city limits of Jefferson. So you might ask, "Where are the bees finding pollen in temperatures like these?" The members of our local Garden Club pride themselves in a flowering show around town all year long. I am of the opinion that if a flower is blooming within the flight radius of the hive, some of the bees will find it and dance others to its location. May I suggest you consider cultivating a relationship with the Garden Clubs and Master Gardeners in your local area? This could be a mutually rewarding partnership -- year around forage for your bees and readily available pollinators for the gardeners.

December is the time of the year to inspect and repair equipment, getting it ready for use in the coming spring. Since you will not be working in the apiary this month, plan to scrape, clean and repair old equipment and assemble and paint new equipment. It is also a good month to paint hives already in the apiary. More and more beekeepers talk about painting occupied hives in place in the apiary. Pick a cold day when the bees are clustered and not flying. I would suggest you at least wear a glove on the painting hand in the event some bees don't like all that back and forth brush movement and come to investigate.

In my November and December articles, I often remind beekeepers to ventilate their hives to prevent build-up of condensation during cold weather. I usually talk about raising one edge of the outer cover using popsicle sticks or thin twigs or by placing one edge on the top of the top box. However, I would like to point out that in our East Texas winter, I seldom find a need to ventilate the hive at the top IF THE HIVE HAS AN OPEN SCREENED BOTTOM BOARD. The open screened bottom board is usually sufficient to prevent condensation from building up inside the hive. If you do close your screened bottom boards in the cold weather, you want to make sure the hive is ventilated at the top.





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Finishing Well

"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 recently hosted a group of long-time friends for a Finishing Well Gathering to explore what each of us could do to finish life well. The speakers' challenges were deep and personal, and the fellowship was wonderful. We are still thinking about what it means to finish well in each area of our lives. If you'd like to know more about the Finishing Well Gathering, send us an e-mail!

We're completing preparations to finish well, in 2019, too. Relationships are top priority. Home repairs are prioritized and planned. Major purchases are under research. Activities are carefully scheduled. Bees are bedded down with plenty of resources.

Beekeeping in autumn on our piece of God's northeast Texas means education, honey processing, creamed honey preparation, bee forage planting, and equipment storage.

Sue recently read Kim Flottum's *The Backyard Beekeeper* 3rd Ed. from cover to cover, investing 4+ hours in discovering "Why?" We both participated in teaching a NewBees course for our local club and helped nine new aspiring beekeepers to count the costs and begin well in beekeeping.

We have talked with homeschoolers and 4-H students about bees and pollination, and we have developed a go-to bee box full of hands-on activities and supplies for teaching all ages about bees and pollination. We agreed to share with Master Gardeners in a neighboring county about planting for pollination, and we have lots of great plants we propagated to get them started. Roger used knowledge gained at the TBA convention to modify presentations on overwintering and bee nutrition. Education is on-going.

We focus on queen rearing and nucleus hive production in Spring, so we extract honey in November. Our beekeeping mentor taught us that it is hard to raise bees and produce honey out of the same hives. So, we've dedicated four of our hives to honey production and the other five to producing



1 - Frost on the roof and new plants on the porch mean Fall at the Farr home in northeast Texas and time to produce creamed honey!



2 - Creamed honey from linden blooms in the area around Würzburg, Germany.

primarily bees. Our bees' Fall honey is dark and full of flavor. We like it and have trained our customers to prefer it over the lighter colored Spring honey.

Our honey production this year will primarily be as creamed honey, probably because we enjoyed creamed honey on a recent European trip. We also had the chance to talk to a German beekeeper at a farmers' market. He produces primarily creamed honey, since that is what most Europeans prefer.

Roger chose a cold, clear day in mid-November to raise the temperature of our Fall honey to 130° F to dissolve any crystals, allow to cool to 70° F, add a crystallization starter of last-year's creamed honey, mix for 30 minutes, and then package the creamed honey in wide-mouthed half-pint Mason jars. We store it outside in an insulated unheated metal building and try to keep the temperature between 55 and 60 ° F. The smooth creamed honey will be ready in early December, just in time for gifting.

Roger distributed sunflower heads and finally mowed down the wildflowers on our property. The crimson and white clovers are up; their tiny heads are all over the property. We look forward to strong clover stands next year as early bee nectar forage. We recently purchased more Filbert (a.k.a. hazelnut), Japanese persimmon, and pawpaw trees for our orchard, so we're pulling out some underproductive plums and apricots next week. These trees are not for bee forage but for fruits and nuts to supplement our blue- and black-berry production. Our Goji berry plants grew quite well this last year; we have high hopes for them in 2020.

The debate continues on bee equipment: How much is enough? We recently used three additional top covers a friend gave us when we reorganized and managed our hives for winter, so the answer is, apparently, "More." We're holding firm on our nine permanent hive commitment with a doubling during nucleus rearing season.

It feels really good to know our bees are healthy and doing what they're supposed to be doing. We are grateful for this place we call home, each other, like-minded friends who challenge us to finish well, and time to prepare for winter and the start of a new bee year. In December we'll treat for varroa with vaporized oxalic acid.

Our prayer for you is that you too, will finish well in life.

We'd love to hear about your beekeeping adventures!

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



3 - Gently heating the honey in our oven to 130 degF; be sure to check the temperature frequently!



4 - All the ingredients and equipment to make creamed honey in your kitchen.



5 - Using the regular beater produces a better mix of this velvety goodness. In the background are persimmons awaiting their transformation into Sue's famous persimmon cake.








Due To Overwhelming Demand We Are Now Accepting Orders For #2 Packages And 5 Frame Deep Nucs



SPRING 2020



-  **Nucs are \$250 with an \$85 deposit**
-  Each nuc comes with two to three frames of brood eggs and larva one pollen/nectar and one honey/nectar frame. All nucs will have mated queen and have gone through at least one brood cycle and had a spring mite treatment
-  **#2 Packages are \$150 with an \$85 deposit**
-  Comes with a mated queen
-  Easy to install & great way to save money!

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Update from Texas Apiary Inspection Service

from Mary Reed, Chief Apiary Inspector

Hello Texas Beekeepers!

As I write this I'm heading back from St. Louis where I presented at the Entomological Society of America's annual meeting. There were pollinator researchers and experts from all over the country who spoke on the results from their current research, many of which were on the nutritional needs of honey bees. There has been some interesting research conducted on the various nutritional compounds found in pollen, as well as how honeybees process these compounds, how worker bees choose pollen resources based on the level of these compounds, and how they balance their diets by feeding on a variety of pollen resources. If you're interested in learning more about these individual projects, I recommend you check out Dr. Ramesh Sagili's work from Oregon State, Dr. Christina Grozinger's research from Pennsylvania State University, and even our own Pierre Lau who has made some really interesting discoveries on the protein and lipid levels preferred by bees which may help develop more nutritionally relevant pollen substitutes.

The weather in St. Louis was pretty chilly, so I'm looking forward to coming back to the warmer weather of Texas. This fall has been a bit unusual for beekeepers, not only in Texas but in other states as well. Other state inspectors are reporting that they experienced a strong, but short honey production season over the summer, which was then followed up almost immediately by extremely cold weather. Many have commented that there wasn't much of a fall, and the sudden drop in temperature has left beekeepers little time to prepare their hives for winter and caused their queens to stop laying prematurely. We have been seeing some fluctuations in temperatures across Texas, but hopefully you are taking the opportunity of warmer days to check on your hives, making sure that they have enough honey resources (at

least one full super per hive), that your Varroa mite populations are low, and finalizing any treatments you may have applied earlier. I sometimes get asked by beekeepers if they should be concerned about having a screened bottom board on their hives through the winter. I would recommend that you pay attention to how the weather behaves and if you are concerned about the colder temperatures and winds, you can either slide a piece of cardboard (or something similar) in the slot provided under the screen bottom (where you would typically place a sticky board), or you can replace it with a solid bottom board if you have one on hand. In addition, you should also consider placing an entrance reducer on each hive as an added protection against wind. If you have queen excluders on your hives, please make sure to remove them soon! If an excluder is left on the hive, the queen will not be able to move with the cluster of bees as they migrate up into the super resulting in her death and that of the colony. Regardless of what steps you choose to take, the key to overwintering success is ensuring that you have a strong, healthy population of worker bees and that they have enough food to make it through the dearth.

Finally, I'd like to congratulate all of the beekeepers who participated in the Fall 2019 Texas Master Beekeeper exam day! We had a great crowd in San Antonio and it's great to have so many new beekeepers join the program. I'd also like to thank the volunteers who helped proctor the different portions of the exam. The day would not have run so smoothly without you!

As always, if you have any questions, comments, or a good bee story, please don't hesitate to reach out to our office (tais@tamu.edu; 979-845-9713). In the meantime, I hope you all have a happy and safe holiday season!

Apprentice Beekeepers

Michael Ash
Catherine Banks
Gary Barber
Michael Barber
Danny Beaty
Stephen Carroll
Mike Christian
Martin Eckert
Michael Hardman
William Hosea

Apprentice Beekeepers

Darryl Pitts
Joe Powers
Russell Riley
Twiss Rogers
Greg Rogers
Laurie Sagor
Thomas Sanguedolce
Thomasine Sanguedolce
Gabriela Smart
Saundra Smith

Advanced Beekeepers

Georgie Bender
Diego Berry
Lynne Jones
Wendy Leonard
Michael Mendez
Rebecca Vaughan

Master Beekeeper

John Rhodes

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

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



Dear TBA members,

'Tis the season to give thanks for the bounty that we have received in 2019, and also an opportunity to celebrate with our loved ones as the end of the year approaches. We at the bee lab have plenty to celebrate and give thanks for, including the support of all the beekeepers from Texas and beyond.

Some of you may recall that I have been on maternity leave for the last six weeks. My family and I welcomed baby Lía on 7 October and we are all doing great. She is adorable and loves to eat! And, while I have been on maternity leave, the lab has been self-driven by our amazing staff and students who have kept busy working on research, classes, outreach activities and grant applications.

One of such activities was the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences' Tailgate on Saturday, 26 October at the AgriLife Center, the day that our team played at home Mississippi State. Most of our staff helped out at our booth, showcasing our Aggie Honey as well as our research program. Thank you to all of those who attended!!

On Saturday, 9 November, I had the pleasure of being one of the speakers at this year's annual convention of the Texas Beekeepers Association in San Antonio. I gave a presentation on our research regarding the effects of miticides on the reproductive health of honey bee queens and drones. I also participated in the expert panel along with Drs. Dennis vanEngelsdorp and Jerry Bromenshenk, quite an eclectic and diverse group to say the least. It was fun to see so many familiar faces, some of whom got to meet baby Lía!

More recently, students Liz Walsh, Taylor Reams, Pierre Lau, Alex Payne and Ruth Harrison, as well as myself, presented our research at the annual meeting of the Entomological Society of America in St Louis, MO, from 17 to 20 November 2019! More information on the meeting and the presentations can be found at <https://www.entsoc.org/events/annual-meeting>. I am proud to announce that Alex and Ruth received the first-place awards in their categories for the poster presentation student competition!!

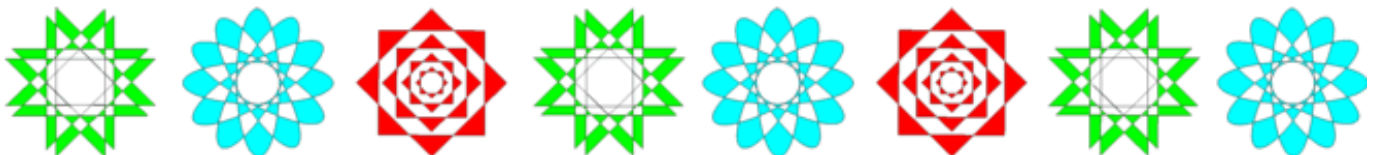
In other exciting news, the Jeffery P. La Fage Student Award for Applied Research on Social Insects recognizes a graduate student for distinguished research and scholarly activity on social insects, with an emphasis on applied projects. The award consists

of a plaque and an honorarium. The North American Section of the International Union for the Study of Social Insects proudly announced a week ago that

Pierre Lau, of Texas A&M University, is the recipient of the 2019 Jeffery P. La Fage Award. The selection committee wrote: "Pierre is now completing his Ph.D. research at Texas A&M under the direction of Juliana Rangel. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Systems from the University of California, San Diego. His doctoral work is focused on how to improve honey bee nutrition, with a focus on bees' preferences for specific ratios of protein-to-lipid within pollen resources. His findings so far suggest that bee pollen-to-lipid ratio preferences are substantially different from the ratios found in commercially-available pollen substitutes, which have traditionally been touted as being "high protein" to promote brood rearing. In addition, Pierre has explored variation in the types of pollen collected by bees at different places across the U.S.; characterized bee salt preferences; and developed an artificial honey bee diet that will set the stage for future tests of how bee diet nutrient content affects honey bee fitness. Pierre's letter writers note that in addition to his critical research work focused on pollen, he is highly enthusiastic about education and outreach, helping beekeepers connect the dots between nutrition and colony health. The awards committee is pleased to have Pierre as an award-winning member of our society." Congratulations to Pierre, Alex and Ruth on their awards!!!

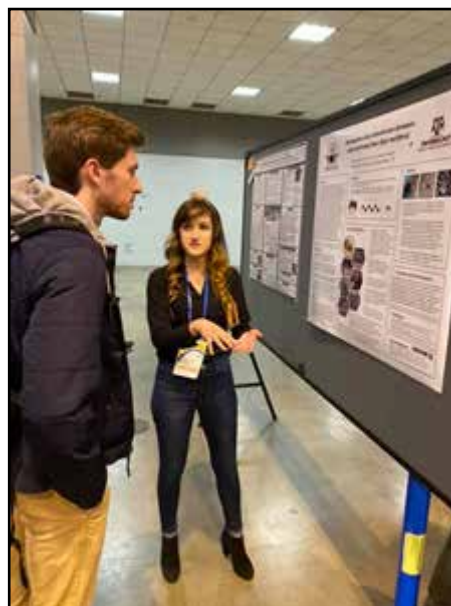
I will continue to be on part-time maternity leave for the rest of the year, and will therefore have only limited access to email. For up-to-date information regarding our program, or for new and interesting posts regarding bees and beekeeping, please visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/TAMUhoneybeelab>.

Thank you for another fantastic year for myself and our research program here in Aggieland, and here's hoping for many more to come! Happy Thanksgiving and may your holidays come with peace and great memories!!

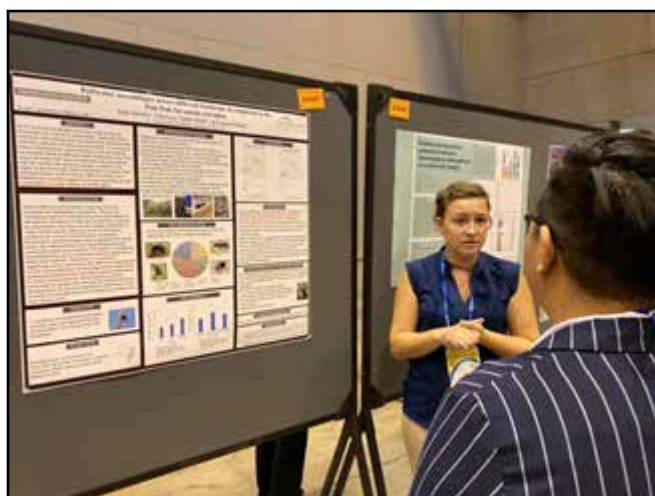




Rangel lab members talking about our research program at this year's COALS Tailgate!



Ph. D. student Alex Pierre received the first-place award in the poster presentation competition at the Entomological Society of America (ESA) meeting in St. Louis, MO this month!!



Undergraduate student Ruth Harrison also received the first-place award in the poster presentation competition at the ESA meeting in St. Louis!!



Congratulations to Pierre Lau for winning the Jeffery LaFage award on applied social insect research for his work on honey bee nutrition!

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2019 Texas Honey Queen

Mary Reisinger



Dear Texas Beekeepers,

I want to start this article off with saying “thank you” for your constant support of the Honey Queen Program. Representing you and the Texas beekeeping industry has been a great experience and I will fondly remember this forever. As you may know, just a few weeks ago, I had the privilege of crowning your 2020 Texas Honey Queen and Princess, Virginia Allen and Blake Nester at the Texas Beekeepers Association Convention. I know they both will do a fantastic job serving this organization, and I look forward to seeing their work

This year I was able to start a YouTube Channel (TexasHoneyQueen), which has provided a great avenue to reach people in an easily accessible manner. For my first video, I demonstrated making a honey hummus. I was also given the opportunity to present at the Texas State Fair Celebrity Chef

Kitchen. I taught the audience how to take their favorite recipes and substitute honey for sugar. In total, I have reached over 72,924 people throughout my year at 26 unique events!

I would like to thank my queen coordinators Ruth Ramos and Alaine Heivilin. Without them, I wouldn't have been able to get from event to event. I have enjoyed working with them, and I am extremely thankful for them! Thank you also to my host families. I would not be able to reach so many different parts of Texas without you! Meeting you has been a great blessing!

Lastly, I will represent Texas in the American Honey Queen Competition in January. The Convention will be in Schaumburg, Illinois. I am honored to have this opportunity and hope to see many of you there! I look forward to seeing you at beekeeping events in the future!



2020 Texas Honey Queen

Virginia Allen

Box of Surprises

Have you ever been surprised by your honeybees? Only ever having dogs before bees, I found bees to be unpredictable. I mean they crawl out to their front porch, rev up their wings, and then poof! they mysteriously disappear into the sky to save the world from starvation. But the surprises didn't stop there.

During a normal inspection of a new colony, I cracked open the lids and attempted to take out a frame. I say attempt since the bees formed chains, as they laid fresh, new wax on to the plastic foundation. I later learned that the bees were festooning

which means to decorate with ribbons, strings, etc. So really, I just interrupted the honey bees from decorating their home with newly drawn wax. Dan Wyns and Rob Snyder from Bee Informed used some great, high-quality pictures of festooning and bee feet.

From this surprise, I learned that you should never underestimate your honey bees. They will always keep you guessing whether or not they will do what you expect them to do. Stay alert and keep learning TBA!

If you'd like to have the Texas Honey Queen or Texas Honey Princess appear at an event, please email us and include the following information: Event date: Event location: Event time: Event purpose:

tx.honeyqueen.prg@gmail.com



American Honey Queen, Hannah Sjostrom, Texas Honey Queen, Virginia Allen, Texas Honey Princess, Blake Nester, 2019 Texas Honey Queen, Mary Reisinger

Texas Honey Show

“The Taste, Smell, and View of the Texas Beekeeper”

This year we were so blessed to have Ann Harman judge one last time. Those that went to her training classes on Saturday were very lucky. Ann has been instrumental in elevating the Texas Honey Show. Upon her recommendation of rotating the head judge every three years, the honey show team will be working to compile a short list of new head judges for 2020. If you have someone that you recommend or would like to see come to Texas to judge and speak, please let us know.

This year we really wanted to focus on perfecting all the behind the scenes aspects of the honey show and create an award's display worthy of everyone's hard work put into each entry.



Ann Harman checking a chunk honey entry with the Polariscope



The entries for “Chuck Honey” had lovely variety in color

The toughest category to judge this year was the photo entries. The debate between the three judges was heated and took several hours to complete. Judging finished at 5:30pm. Congratulations to all the winners.



Photo Entry Winner's on Display in the NEW Honey Show Booth



“Best of Gadgets” went to Daniel Brantner for his design “Ventilated Beekeeping Gloves”

WINNERS



Best of Honey - Teri Albright



"Best of Art" went to Barbi Rose



*Second place
in "Arts and
Crafts" was
Dodie Stillman
with her
encaustic art
piece*

JUDGING RESULTS

Class	1st	2nd	3rd
Extracted Honey LIGHT/AMBER	Teri Albright <small>Waco County Beekeepers</small>	Daniel Brantner <small>Collin County Hobby Beekeepers</small>	David Sebastian <small>Spokane County Hobby Beekeepers</small>
Extracted Honey DARK/AMBER	Monica Szwiaak <small>Houston Beekeepers</small>	Jason Gamble <small>Waco County Beekeepers</small>	Greg Oermann <small>Temple Area Beekeepers</small>
Creamed Honey	Pam Johns <small>Waco Texas Bee Club</small>	Glynn Smith <small>Waco County Beekeepers</small>	Sarah Johns <small>Waco Texas Bee Club</small>
Chunk Honey	Danessa Yaschuk <small>North Texas Beekeepers</small>	Monica Szwiaak <small>Houston Beekeepers</small>	Daniel Brantner <small>Collin County Hobby Beekeepers</small>
Black Jar (Baged)	Saundra Smith <small>Waco County Beekeepers</small>		
Wax Plain Block	Monica Szwiaak <small>Houston Beekeepers</small>	Greg Rogers <small>Capitol Beekeepers</small>	Doug Stanley <small>Montgomery County Beekeepers</small>
Beekeeping Arts and Crafts	Barbi Rose <small>All American County Area Beekeepers</small>	Dodie Stillman <small>Austin Area Beekeepers</small>	Kristen Ferguson <small>Waco County Beekeepers</small>
Photo Close-Up	Tara Randle <small>Austin Area Beekeepers</small>	Monica Szwiaak <small>Houston Beekeepers</small>	Greg Rogers <small>Capitol Beekeepers</small>
Photo Sound	Kim Dietz <small>Waco Area Beekeepers</small>		
Photo Portrait	Rich Beggs <small>Waco County Beekeepers</small>	Sally Beggs <small>Waco County Beekeepers</small>	Thomazine Senguedolce <small>East Texas Beekeepers</small>
Beekeeping Gadgets	Daniel Brantner <small>Collin County Hobby Beekeepers</small>		
Candles	Greg Rogers <small>Capitol Beekeepers</small>	Monica Szwiaak <small>Houston Beekeepers</small>	
Bee Box Art Contest	Mark de Kiewiet <small>Waco Area Beekeepers</small>		
Traditional Mead - Dry	Calvin Varnon, Jr. <small>Southwest Texas Beekeepers</small>		
Traditional Mead - Semi-Sweet	Daniel Brantner <small>Collin County Hobby Beekeepers</small>	Calvin Varnon, Jr. <small>Southwest Texas Beekeepers</small>	
Traditional Mead - Sweet	Doug Stanley <small>Montgomery County Beekeepers</small>		
Fruit Mead - Cider (Apple & Honey)	Greg Oermann <small>Temple Area Beekeepers</small>		
Fruit Mead - Pymmet (Grape and Honey)	David Sebastian <small>Spokane County Hobby Beekeepers</small>		
Fruit Mead - Berry	Terry Wright <small>Lubbock Texas Beekeepers</small>	Thomas Lawson <small>Waco Area Beekeepers</small>	
Fruit Mead - Stone Fruit	David Sebastian <small>Spokane County Hobby Beekeepers</small>		
Spiced Mead - Fruit & Spice	Greg Oermann <small>Temple Area Beekeepers</small>		
Specialty Mead - Bragget & Honey Bee	Terry Wright <small>Lubbock Texas Beekeepers</small>		
Best of Show	Winner	Winner's Bee Club	
People's Choice Black Jar Honey	Keri Isaac	Waco County Beekeepers	
Best of Honey	Teri Albright	Waco County Beekeepers	
Best Small-scale Honey	Teri Albright	Waco County Beekeepers	
Best Sideliner Honey	Pam Johns	Waco Texas Bee Club	
Best of Art	Barbi Rose	Williamson County Area Beekeepers	
Best of Gadgets	Daniel Brantner	Collin County Hobby Beekeepers	
Best of Mead	Terry Wright	Lubbock Texas Beekeepers	
Sweepstakes Award	Monica Szwiaak	Houston Beekeepers	
Bee Club Entries	Winner	Nbr of Entries	
Most Entries for Large Club	Collin County Hobby Beekeepers	22	
Most Entries for Medium Club	Montgomery County Beekeepers	12	
Most Entries for Small Club	Longview Beekeeping Association	8	



Third place went to Kristen Ferguson's watercolor



This year Myra Smith and Beth Derr organized the club center piece competition. It was wonderful to see all the creativity each club put into their entries.



This year's "Sweepstakes Award" went to Monica Siwiak. She is pictured with Doug Stanley who won first place in "Traditional Mead – Sweet".



Best of Mead went to Terry Wright



Saundra Smith was winner of the "Black Jar" competition and served as our Sommelier for this year's mead judging

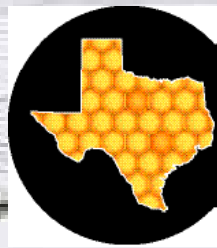


"People's Choice Black Jar" went to Keri Isaac. Jorge Mata and JJ Swan along with the Honey Queens managed the "People's Choice Black Jar" voting.



Mead Judging: Tanya Phillips, Cameron Crane, Lisa Dittfurth

**The Texas Honey Show team
wishes you a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!**



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Texas Honey Bee Education Association Update



Supporting Youth Beekeepers

November 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, grants, and fundraising as we finish 2019. Current THBEA board members are Chris Doggett (vice-chair), Roger Farr (chair), Chris Moore, Ashley Ralph, John Swan, Rebecca Vaughan, and Terry Wright; Leesa Hyder serves as our secretary and Barbi Rose as our treasurer.

THBEA is active on the fundraising front as MANY of you helped us raise over \$13,000 dollars during the auction at the TBA annual meeting. All of this money will be earmarked for use in supporting youth beekeeper education and youth development programs. This was a fantastic achievement by the approximately 400 attendees at the meeting. On behalf of the youth whom you will help with these funds...Thank you!

THBEA's honey bee themed TxDMV Specialty Plate application is now complete, and our design has passed the first set of criteria. TxDMV is now processing our application which usually takes three to six months. We are ready to place our \$8000 deposit to produce the first plates. THBEA will receive \$22 for every plate or continuing registration sold. We're putting a marketing program together now and will roll it out to everyone when the plates are available for purchase on the TxDMV website.



THBEA is currently offering a grant to TBA-member beekeeping associations. Under the terms of the grant THBEA will offer up to \$1000 to associations for the development and implementation of a youth beekeeping education program. The focus is on assisting beekeeping associations which do not currently have youth programs to develop them. Details of the grant and an on-line application are available at www.thbea.com/grants/. **Applications must be received by December 15;** grants will be awarded in January 2020.

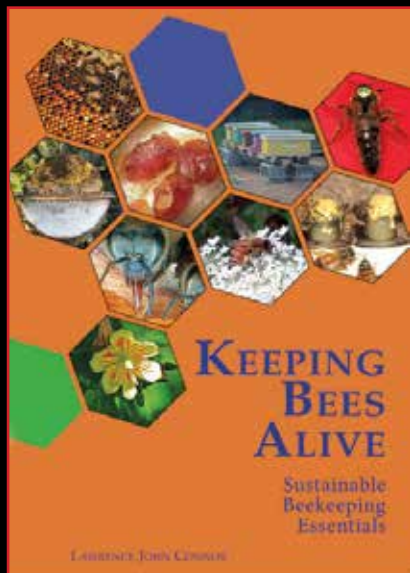
THBEA is looking to partner with organizations whose goals are similar. These partnerships could assist the organization with a grant, and broaden the message of THBEA to a wider audience. Some of the organizations we're considering are the Pollinator Stewardship Council and Project Apis m. If you have suggestions of possible partner organizations please send the information to me at rdfarr@gmail.com for consideration.

THBEA's project focus for 2020/21 is on educating the general public and those involved in agriculture regarding honey bees and beekeepers, and the benefits honey bees bring to society. We're working on an education campaign to equip you as beekeepers to get the message out. This will probably include printed materials that you can give to school-aged children and to those you meet at farmers' markets explaining the benefits of honey bees. We're considering the production of a few short videos to motivate people to take actions right where they live that will benefit honey bees. We'd also like to get the "benefits of honey bees" message out to Texas farmers and ranchers. This might include specialized literature or working with 4-H and other education programs through AgriLife Extension. We'll keep you updated as these projects develop.

THBEA is working diligently to find and develop projects and grants to maximize the utilization of every dollar entrusted to it. This is not an easy task. Consider the complexity of getting the right messages out to the general public about what they can do to assist honey bees. We have to focus on the right message for each audience, choose the best methodology, and constantly evaluate our progress. You can support the work of THBEA by donating at www.thbea.com/donate/.

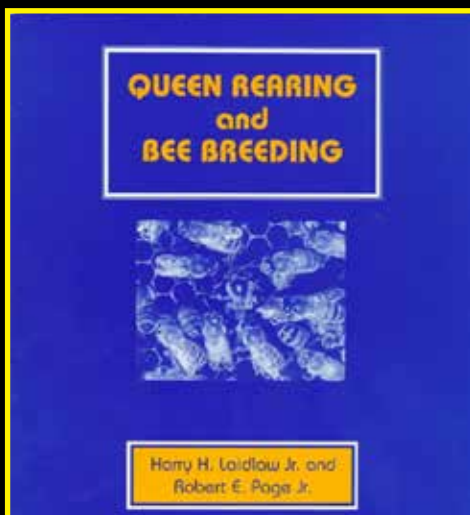
Bill and Melinda Gates know that "Making money is the easy part. Figuring out how to give it away is hard."

Updates from Wicwas Press!

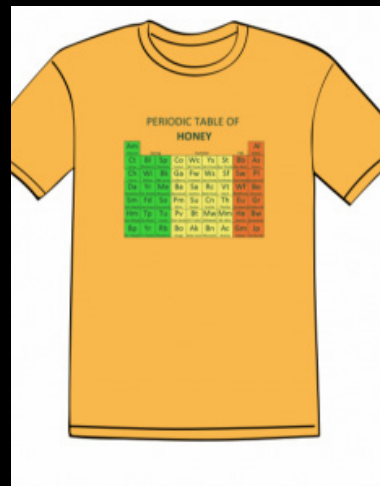


Helpful new book by Dr. Larry Connor, discussing sustainable beekeeping and building colony numbers. \$30 plus shipping.

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Yes, You Can Give a Bee Presentation

*Part 2 in the series
from Linda Williams*



So, you have been volunteered to speak at a local school, FFA, rodeo, or other event to talk about bees! How exciting! Or, are you all in “knots” and even tongue-tied thinking about the talk? You are not alone! For the first few years in beekeeping, newbies are often excited and want to share about these really fascinating creatures and their new hobby, but don’t feel qualified to do so. In fact, you know way more than the majority of the public, so don’t back down. Hopefully, with a few pointers and some guidelines, you will be out there ready to go!

Typically, the first folks you will be exposed to when speaking about our wonderful bees are children and youth. These young people can be both challenging and forgiving at the same time! Challenging in the fact that you never know “what” they will ask you or what they will do at your presentation. Forgiving in that they don’t really care how “well” you present – just as long as you show your passion and are fun! Because of this it is best to have a plan of action before you show up. Select three or four major points you want to inform your potential audience about, and practice ways to share those concepts. The more show-and-tell items you can pull together, which support those concepts, the more successful you will become.

Sometimes the topic of the presentation will be given to you. Recently a class was studying pollination and the teacher wanted to tie that in with the importance of bees. With a little homework from the internet accurate information was found. Then a trip to Walmart, a garden center, and the Dollar store provided props for visual aids. A plan was formulated and an

outline evolved based on the teacher’s request. I was now ready and more knowledgeable about bee pollination! Other times you are invited to give a talk without any specific guidelines on the topic. Here the sky is the limit. Be selective on what you settle on to present. Drill your topic down to a main concept, and focus your talk on that. Common theme examples include: the importance of bees, what is a colony made up of (queen, drones, workers), what are the roles of worker bees, how bees make honey... You get the drift. Remember, your audiences most likely do not have an intensive background with bees so you don’t need to get technical! Keep outlines and handouts of your presentations in a file. When asked by another organization – you have a presentation ready to go. Tweak your information for the new audience as needed. If invited back to speak to the same audience you have presented to before ensure you have a new presentation. If your first presentation was on basic bee facts (what is a bee, what do they look like, where can they be found, what is a hive...) The second talk could focus on honey, how bees communicate, or the roles of worker bees.

A second common place beekeepers share at are local booths, tables at fairs, farmer’s markets, garden club activities, and rodeo’s. Here, your audience walks by and you have a brief moment to catch their attention with a bee fact or two. Or, you might find someone with some experience who likes to share or ask questions. With this setup it is truly an asset if you can obtain an “observation hive”, which is a natural draw to have folks come to your booth or table. If you do have an observation hive, make sure it is secured in some fashion (tape/bolts) so there is no chance of the bees getting out if the hive accidentally gets bumped. I often have the younger kids hold clasp their hands together in front of their chests while standing in front of the hive to avoid any accidents. Trust me, the kids will police the other kids who unclasp their hands! Another attraction, depending on the size of the event, could be honey sampling. With kids, do not give out any honey samples unless a parent is present and gives permission. If at a school presentation, ensure it has been cleared ahead of time with the children’s parents.

I have a standard list of “fun facts” I share with folks who will stop by and look at my observation hive. These are questions such as “Do you think these bees are mainly boy’s or girls?”. “What do you think the queen does in a hive?”. “If you had to hold a girl or boy bee which would you want to hold?” (A boy because he has no stinger!) I listen to their answers and either congratulate them for getting it correct, or have fun telling them the right answer. Often, when you ask those leading questions they come back with a few questions of their own which opens a conversation to discuss bees.

Then there are adults who will stop by your booth who have some bee experience or want to know more information. These people will take up a little more time at your table. It is a little challenging sometimes to balance meeting their needs against



those who only want a quick look. That is why it is great to have another beekeeper to work as a team. One can spend time in discussion with the individuals who desire to learn or talk more bee-talk, and the other beekeeper can provide more general quick education moments.

In working with audiences who have some experience, be prepared to hear some strange or incorrect bee practices. Keep in mind our job is to pass along solid beekeeping knowledge and best practices in the beekeeping industry. At the same time we do not want to discourage or make a person feel negatively by telling them they are doing it all wrong! Practice some sort of a comfortable phrase for when you encounter this situation by saying something like, "That certainly sounds interesting. I am not familiar with that, my experience has been..." and move along onto good beekeeping practices on the topic. Many times you will encounter a beekeeper who is no longer active and just likes to be "heard" about some of their experiences. Listen! You might learn something!

The third group of presentations you might be asked to do will be a timed presentation perhaps to a garden club, community group, or your own local bee club! These talks are more formal and once you have gained some confidence in the first two types of presentations you may be ready to take on these talks. If you are computer literate it helps if you can make a simple PowerPoint presentation. At least have some "slides" which outline your talk along with pictures to support your subject material. If you design your computer presentation well, it will help keep you on track while you are talking. It is great if you can practice your presentation and get feedback from both



another experienced beekeeper and a person who knows nothing about bees. Find folks who will give you honest feedback and not just pat you on the back and say "wonderful job". This way you ensure your beekeeping information is accurate and the presentation makes sense, even to those who know nothing about bees.

If you are not computer-literate or can not find someone to help you make a presentation you are not out of the running. There are many wonderful presenters who give delightful talks without the support of technology. The key is not to read off a sheet of paper! Make sure the first few presentations you give are ones on the topics you know the best. Even then, do some additional reading on the topic to verify you are accurate, and gain some insights on how other speakers have presented similar material. Pick and choose from your reading materials those things you would like to incorporate into your talk, making it your own. If you get to do your talk more than once, each time you deliver it you will make adjustments and improve. Allow time for questions and answers at the end of the presentation. Don't be afraid if you don't know an answer. Let the person know you will find out if you are seeing them in the future. If not, and you have time goggle the answer. If there are fellow beekeepers in the audience, ask them if they have knowledge on the topic that they could share.

In all the above scenarios, from a kids' presentation, a booth or table presentation, to a more formal talk, show-and-tell equipment can be vital aides to beef up your talk. Bring your bee suit, gloves, smoker, and hive tool! No extra expense needed! You have all these. For kids, I set up my observation hive in the classroom prior to the kids coming in. I cover with something so they don't see it. After the kids file in and are sitting, I come in wearing my bee suit on and carrying my smoker (I do not have it lit). I walk slowly asking the children "Have you seen my bees?" They giggle, laugh, and watch in anticipation. Depending on the age I will ask questions such as, "My bees make some noise- can you tell me what they might sound like so I can find them?" Those kids will all be "buzzing" for you. Be creative and fun - bring some drama into it! I then "find" my hive and can either unveil or take my suit off after explaining the purpose of my protective equipment.

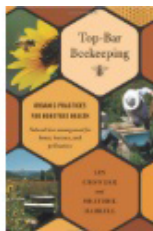
Other visual aides include posters, laminated pictures, a frame with honeycomb in it, beeswax, and whatever beekeeping products or tools you use related to your topic. Make sure you have some sort of take-home "handout" that gives some bee information from your talk. Include beekeeping websites or how to contact you or a local beekeeping club/association in case someone might be interested in learning more about bees or becoming a beekeeper! With students, I typically have either a coloring page with a bee or a simple bee project they can complete in the class or at home. There are great simple resources you can freely share and pass out from the internet. The National Honey Board (honey.com) has many recipes, educational brochures, stickers, magnets, and more items which are either low cost or free to be used in educating and informing consumers about honey. They also have downloadable free handouts.

What is the bottom line? Know your audience, do some preparation ahead of time, practice, keep it simple, stick to solid beekeeping principles, have some physical pops and most of all have fun!



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- Less stress on the bees (pull only a few bars for opening)
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During this 4h class, taught by Les Crowder himself you will learn how to make a sturdy and well insulated Top-Bar Hive
 You will leave with a Les Crowder hive, complete with roof, ties, entrance and bars.
 In addition, Les Crowder will share his philosophy and teachings on Natural Beekeeping.
 Bring your power drill if you have one!

www.Bee-Mindful.com/equipment-and-bees

Vacation...HELP?

article by: Robin L-S Young, Metro Beekeepers Association

When I first started beekeeping, I was told to put bird baths out during the summer months so that the honey bees would not have to fly so far to water. Off to the store I went and bought three deep cement bird baths. I placed them out a few feet away from my two hives and added a few bricks for the bees to stand on and filled them with water. A few days later, the bees had drunk all the water and there was nothing but deep bowls of dead honey bees and one dead bumble bee. I was crushed. I thought, "Hummm...What to do? What to do?". I went inside and started doing what comes naturally now but was a new idea for me at the time. I got on the internet. I found incredible videos on how to create a solar water pool for the bees to get a drink. Everything was so elaborate. All the ideas were fascinating but seem excessive. It was like watching the TV show "Home Improvement" starring Tim Allen, very entertaining but not practical. I decided to put that problem on the back burner.



"The Perfect Honey Bee Water" pictured above

This design is so simple but brilliant.

- Take a barrel or even a rain catcher from a garden department and elevate it about one foot. When using wood, be sure it is untreated wood.
- The container will need to have a water spigot to allow water to drip out of the container slowly.
- Take an untreated plank of wood six inches wide and four to five feet long.
- Use a ban saw, chisel, or drill to make a zig-zag grove patter in the wood for the water to drip down. (To be honest, I gave my husband the correct size of plank and asked him to go put a zig-zag pattern in it. So, if you have a friend that knows how to use wood working tools, you might want to give them a call.)
- Attach the "zig-zag plank" to the base of the barrel and make sure that your spout lines up with your zig-zag pattern.
- At the lower end of the plank, you are going to want a small shallow bowl to catch any excess water that runs down. I also put some twigs in the lower bowl.

Here is the genius part. As the water slowly drips down, the wood soaks it up the water and the bees come along and get a drink right off the wood. Access to the water is spread out so no crowding and the water is so shallow no drowning occurs. The slow drip allows for weeks of water with out having to fill up. Until next time, Bee Friends.

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



*Photo by: TV Show "Home Improvement" starring Tim Allen
FaceBook @homeimprovement*

A few years later I was visiting a beekeeper that was well know for her herbs and flowering plants that are beneficial to human and pollenating insects. I was there for the plants but tucked away on the sloping hill was the answer I needed. It was a water feeder for honey bees that you could fill and go on vacation for a week or two and it would not run out.

TEXAS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

2020 Resolutions

Adopted Friday, November 8, 2019

Continuing Resolutions

1. **Whereas** TBA understands the importance of, and supports small scale, sideline and commercial beekeepers,

Be it Resolved, that TBA will strive to represent the needs and concerns of all scales of Texas beekeepers.

2. **Whereas** TBA strongly encourages the honest and ethical marketing of honey, and the promotion of pure Texas honey,

Be it Resolved that TBA will continue to promote programs that advance that cause.

3. **Whereas** TBA recognizes the continued support of Texas apiculture by Texas A&M University's ("TAMU") agricultural administration, its department of entomology, and the Janice and John G. Thomas Honey Bee Facility.

Be it Resolved that TBA will continue to support and work with TAMU to enhance their research and education about honey bees in Texas.

4. **Whereas** TBA recognizes that the Texas Master Beekeeping Program ("TMBP") is greatly benefiting Texas beekeepers,

Be it Resolved that TBA wholeheartedly appreciates the endeavors of all of those involved in the TMBP, and pledges our continued support.

2020 Resolutions

1. **Whereas** TBA recognizes and appreciates the dedication and efforts of so many of its members involved in TBA work and activities throughout the entire year,

Be it Resolved that TBA expresses appreciation to the dozens of volunteers that make this organization a success.

2. **Whereas** TBA recognizes that the Texas apiary regulations are important to the health of the Texas beekeeping industry,

Be it Resolved that TBA will continue to monitor legislative activity related to the beekeeping industry and pursue appropriate updates.

3. **Whereas** beekeeping has expanded in the state of Texas; and
Whereas Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is an important vehicle for dissemination of good beekeeping practices,

Be it Resolved that TBA will continue to pursue the creation of a Statewide Apiary Extension Agent.

4. **Whereas** TBA recognizes the importance and struggles peculiar to large-scale beekeeping in Texas; and
Whereas large-scale beekeepers play an important role in the Texas economy and the beekeeping industry,

Be it Resolved that TBA commits to encourage the development and growth of large-scale beekeepers through education and mentoring programs.

5. **Whereas** roadside and public land forage provides valuable bee forage,

Be it Resolved that TBA work with state, regional and county offices, homeowners associations, municipalities, and other agencies to encourage roadside and public land best management practices which permit and encourage the full life cycle of flowering plants.

6. **Whereas** the 1-D-1 Open Space Agriculture Use Appraisal has greatly benefited bees and beekeepers in Texas,

Be it Resolved that TBA will strive to maintain the special use valuation for beekeepers and seek to educate local appraisal districts regarding bees and beekeeping requirements throughout the state.

**These are the 2020 resolutions approved by the TBA membership at
the business meeting on November 8th 2019**

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

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Williamson County Area Queen, Ashley Guzman, American Honey Queen, Hannah Sjostrom, Collin County Honey Princess, Morgan Kiser, Texas Honey Queen, Mary Reisinger, Collin County Honey Queen, Virginia Allen. Texas State Fair 2019



Proverbs 16:24
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TEXAS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONVENTION 2019



*Roger Farr receives the President's Award
from Blake Shook*



*Ashley Ralph receives the Jim Petty, Beekeeper of
the Year Award from Blake Shook*



*Tim Elliott receives Lifetime Membership
Award from Blake Shook*



*Tim Elliott receives the John G Thomas Meritorious
Service Award from John Talbert*







"Honey Highway" Blur Ribbon Photo by Kim Tomes Dietz

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



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

John Hicks

936.718.3471

john@beehivethermalindustries.com

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

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

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

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



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

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

Alamo Area Beekeepers Association

Rick Fink - (210) 872-4569

president@alamobees.org

www.alamobees.org

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday on odd # months

Helotes Ind. Baptist Church

15335 Bandera Rd., Helotes at 7 pm

Austin Area Beekeepers Association

Dodie Stillman - (512) 560-7550

austinareabeekeepers@gmail.com

facebook.com/groups/Austin/AreaBeekeeperAssociation

www.meetup.com/Austin-Urban-Beekeeping/

Meeting: 3rd Monday of each month at 7pm

Frank Fickett Scout Training and Service Center

12500 N I-35, Near Parmer Lane, Austin

Bees in the East Club

Mark de Kiewiet (210) 863-8024

beesintbeeast@att.net

Meetings 4th Saturday of each month at 10am

Water Garden Gems, 3230 Bolton Road, Marion,

Bell/Coryell Beekeepers Association

Frank Morgan - (254) 423-2579

bellcoryellbeeclub@gmail.com

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

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

Big Country Beekeepers Association

Ken Hobbs - (325) 665-4045

paniolobee@icloud.com

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each month except December

Potters Pizza, 3802 Buffalo Gap Road, Abilene at 6:30pm

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 Community Dr., McKinney

Colorado County Beekeepers Association

David Behlen (832) 230-5740

coloradocountybeekeepers@gmail.com

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

316 Spring Street, Columbus

Comal County Beekeepers Association

Julie Morgan - (210) 475-2924

e.julie.morgan@gmail.com

Meetings: 1st Thursday of each month

Beefy's on the Green Restaurant, upstairs room

12910 US Hwy 281N at 6:30 pm

Concho Valley Beekeepers Association

Rex Moody - (325) 650-6360

cvbeekeeper@gmail.com

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

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

Deep East Texas Beekeepers Association

Ellen Reeder - (337) 499-6826

ellenswartz@sbcglobal.net

Denton County Beekeepers Association

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

joebees@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 Bissonnet St., Houston

Houston Natural Beekeepers Association

Dean Cook

houstonnaturalbeekeepers@gmail.com

Meetings: Second Saturday of the month at 11 am

1702 Rothwell, Bldg C, Houston

Johnson County Beekeepers Association

Don Russell or Bruce Watts, Jr.

boatshop6@yahoo.com or bruce.jr@sbcglobal.net

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

2099 W FM 917, Joshua

Lamar County Beekeepers Association

Randall Childres - (903) 652-5912

lamarcoba@gmail.com

Meetings: 1st Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm

Lamar County Fairgrounds, Bldg B, 570 E Center St., Paris

Liberty County Beekeepers Association

Cameron Crane - (409) 658-3800

info@libertycountybeekeepers.org

www.libertycountybeekeepers.org

Meetings: 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm

Liberty Agrilife Extension Office, 501 Palmer Ave., Liberty

Longview Beekeepers Association

Gus Wolf - (903) 746-9256

glwolf@gmail.com

Meetings: 4th Thursday of each month at 6 pm

Texas Agrilife Extension Office, 405 E Marshall St., Longview

Marshall Beekeeping Association

Beth Derr - (936) 591-2399

*marshallbeekeeping@gmail.com***Meetings:** 2nd Thursday of each month at 5:30 pm

Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 501 Indian Springs Dr., Marshall

Metro Beekeepers Association

Ryan Giesecke - (214) 577-9562

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

Southside Preservation Hall, 1519 Lipscomb St., Fort Worth

Montgomery County Beekeepers Assn.

James Elam

*mocobees@gmail.com**www.mocobees.com***Meetings:** 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30 pm

Montgomery County Extension Office, Tom Leroy Education Bldg., 9020

Airport Road, Conroe

North East Texas Beekeepers Association

Connor White - (903) 360-2253

*connor.white.1969@gmail.com**netbacantontexas@outlook.com***Meetings:** 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30 pm

Canton Fairgrounds, 24780 TX 64

Canton, TX 75103

Palo Duro Bee Club

Paige Nester - (806) 678-8048

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

Creek House Honey Farm, 5015 4th Ave, Canyon

Pineywoods Beekeepers Association

Terry McFall - (409) 289-7387

*tdmcfall@hotmail.com***Meetings:** 2nd Thursday of each month at 7 pm

St. Cyprian Episcopal Church Hall

919 S. John Redditt Dr. (Loop 287), Lufkin

Red River Valley Beekeepers Assn.

Larry Roderick (940) 237-2814

*roderickwaterwells@gmail.com***Meetings:** 3rd Tuesday of each month (except December) at 7pm

Bolin Science Hall Room 209, Mid West State University,

310 Taft Blvd., Wichita Falls

Rusk County Beekeepers Association

John Stewart - (903) 842-4433

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

Church of the Nazarene, 906 W Main St, Henderson

San Marcos Area Bee Wranglers

Leslie Patterson - (830) 305-3493

*smabeeWranglers@gmail.com***Meetings:** 2nd Wednesday of the month (June through February)

2nd and 4th Wednesdays (March through May) at 7 pm

Pecan Park Riverside RV Park, 50 Squirrel Run, San Marcos

Southwest Texas Beekeepers Association

Cynthia Schiotis (210) 317-5596

*swtexasbeekeepers@gmail.com***Meetings:** 3rd Thursday of odd numbered months at 6pm

Sutton County Public Library, 306 E Mulberry St., Sonora

Temple Area Beekeepers Association

Jim Billings (254) 760-2053

*holly21351@aol.com***Meetings:** 2nd Thursday of each month at 7pm

Troy Community Center, 201 East Main Street, Troy

Texarkana Beekeepers Association

Sarah Clinesmith - (903) 490-1080

*texarkanabeekeepersassociation@gmail.com***Meetings:** 3rd Monday of each month at 6pm

Texarkana Public Library, 600 W 3rd St Texarkana

Texas Hill Country Beekeepers Association

Linda Williams - (830) 688-0560

*texashillcountrybeekeepers@gmail.com**facebook.com/TXHillCountryBKAssn/***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

*tcclub16@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

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