The Texas Beekeepers Association

Journal

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President's Report
from Ashley Ralph

Well I blinked and it was almost June! This year has been one for the books. Starting off as we deal with a pandemic and the subsequent measures that have been taken to keep everybody safe. Luckily, beekeeping is a socially distant activity so at least we have that! This is the busiest time of the year for us beekeepers and it's been a blast. The nectar flow is on and we're watching our bees bring in plentiful nectar and pollen. Watch your hives and add space as needed - swarm season is still upon us. I've seen various reports of nectar flow intensity and I remember this time last year we were all praising the amount of nectar that was brought in by our bees. There's still time for it to be a good honey producing year, yet. Keep your fingers crossed.

In light of the sensational headlines about "murder hornets" (excuse me while I try not to cringe at the term). We've had a lot of questions about the Giant Asian Hornet and have talked with biologists, entomologists, and our Texas Apiary Inspector Mary Reed. In fact, Mary wrote an article about it last year for the TBA Journal when the sightings were first reported. The hornet is obviously a threat to a honey bee colony but the actual, measurable threat to U.S. honey bee populations on a bigger scale is still very unknown. With our honey bees handling threats from all angles from loss of forage to pesticides and chemicals we aren't sure where the Asian Giant Hornet will fall on this spectrum. At the time of my writing this, there hasn't been another reported or confirmed sighting since the initial scare. So, in the meantime, our advice is to watch reputable news sources and resources like Texas A&M Honey Bee Lab or the great resource that Washington State University has put together here - https://agr.wa.gov/departments/insects-pests-and-weeds/insects/hornets

Hopefully, you all received our update, however, we decided to cancel the TBA Summer Clinic this year due to the uncertainty and health concerns and are fully focused on creating an amazing TBA Convention in November. With that in mind, I want to thank all the volunteers that have been working tirelessly to ensure we have amazing and educational events. The energy, attention to detail, and time that is put into these events is unbelieveable and we're lucky to have a team of volunteers that not only work so hard but do a phenomenal job. If you have questions about the event or would like to help volunteer - please reach out to Rebecca Vaughan (Event Coordinator) or John Swan (Vice President) to help them make this event bigger and better than the last! The TBA Convention will be November 05-07, 2020 in Allen, Texas and will feature a lot of great speakers and events so put it on your calendar and stay tuned for more details.

Thank you all for continuing to support the efforts of Texas Beekeepers Association, Texas Honey Bee Education Association, the Texas Honey Queen Program, and Real Texas Honey. Our volunteers enjoy serving you and we're here to help however we can.

Enjoy some time in the bee yards!

In This Edition

Cover Picture by Bryan Orms

Vice President's Report
from John Swan

Just when we thought we were starting to get a handle on this strange new world of COVID-19, quarantines, and working from home… some crazy person ran into the cyber-room screaming MURDER HORNETS and that last frayed tether to what we used to call reality snapped! Welcome to your new reality!

Now, to be fair, the introduction of the Asian/Japanese Giant Hornet(s) to the U.S. is to be of some concern. However, the researchers that decided it needed a name upgrade to "MURDER" needs to be slapped, twice. Maybe they thought the only way they could be heard above all the COVD-19 news was to have an equally shocking name to up the sensationalism? Perhaps. But it was still a bit uncalled for, and you certainly didn't need that added to your list of beekeeping nightmares. Here is the truth, in a nutshell… The Asian and Japanese Giant Hornets were actually found in 2019, so this isn't really "new" information, despite social media doing its best to make it seem like your bees are all in imminent danger. But, yes, these Giant hornets can be a huge nuisance to a colony of honeybees. And, at the right time of year, they can even decimate a colony and take it over to horde the remaining honey stores for their own uses. Overseas, the bees have learned how to defend against these massive intruders by balling up on them and literally cooking them to death. Can our bees learn to do the same thing? Sure, given enough time and exposure to the problem, they can adapt and evolve their own defensive traits. However, we beekeepers can do our part as well by adding accessories to help confuse, trap, and eradicate these fearsome looking foes. And, luckily for us, beekeepers overseas have already been working on items just like these for some time now. Whew! One less thing we have to worry about for now. Someday these Giant Hornets may indeed take hold and become a new part of our beekeeping routine and maintenance. But, for now, its probably best to keep our focus on things that pose a far greater risk to our bees such as Varroa Destructor, and it's even nastier little cousin, the Tropilaelaps Mite!

In happier news… the rains have come… the rains have come! The bizarre little dearth we experienced here in Central Texas in mid-April has finally dissipated with the coming of some much-needed rain. What little flowers were out there are now readily producing nectar at a steady pace and more and more blooms are popping up to join them each day. During the last round of hive inspections I was happy to see that all of my colonies each had several combs of open nectar and the bees were busily bringing in more nectar and pollen. With more rain in the forecast for us, there is hope that June will be a fantastic month for the nectar flow. And, with that, high hopes for a decent honey harvest for the bees and beekeepers who have been working hard all spring.

We are diligently working on plans for our Fall Convention this year up in Allen, TX. and we are pleased to announce a spectacular lineup of key speakers for your enjoyment including Dr. David Tarpy, Sam Comfort, Dr. Leo Sharashkin, and Dr. Ferhat Ozturk. Each of these knowledgeable individuals bring their own innovative approaches to beekeeping that you will be able to take back and incorporate into your maintenance routines. So, stay tuned for more information as we continue working towards this wonderful event.

As I mentioned in the last issue of the Journal, know that you are not alone out there! Remember to be kind and considerate to those around you. And, even though some restrictions are starting to be lifted, please still remember to take into consideration the needs and safety of others before you make decisions that could affect others. Stay safe out there! Bee Good. Bee Healthy.

But most importantly, Bee Kind!!

Texas Beekeepers Association Annual Convention

November 5th - 7th 2020

Dr. David Tarpy - Professor and Apiculture Extension Specialist, North Carolina State University.
Sam Comfort – Anarchy Apiaries – Less Invasive Beekeeping with Survivor Stock and the "Comfort Hive" style
Dr. Leo Sharashkin – Author, Horizontal Hive Expert, and Natural Beekeeper
Dr. Ferhat Ozturk – Researcher and Expert in using Honey for Medicinal Purposes

Update from Texas Apiary Inspection Service

from Mary Reed, Chief Apiary Inspector

Greetings Texas Beekeepers!

I hope you are all staying healthy and safe out there! I want to jump out of the gate and address the recent media frenzy about the Asian Giant Hornet. In the fall of 2019, specimens of *Vespa mandarinia* were found in Washington State and were the first indicators that this species of the AGH had somehow been introduced to the United States. Ever since then the Washington State Department of Agriculture has been implementing surveying and sampling strategies to track the presence of this hornet and eliminate this pest before it becomes established. Earlier in May, Governor Greg Abbott requested that a task force be formed to proactively prepare for the possible introduction of the hornet into Texas. My office is working alongside Dr. Juliana Rangel, TAMU Extension, and other university entomologists in this task force to communicate with beekeepers and the public about this hornet, and to prepare an action plan if the insect were to be introduced here. As of right now this insect has not been found in Texas, however I think it's important that beekeepers and the general public be aware, know how to identify this hornet, and where to report a suspected sighting.

About a year ago I wrote an article for the TBA Journal that provided an overview of the Asian hornet, *Vespa velutina*, that is a close relative of *V. mandarinia* (https://texasbeekeepers.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/TBA-Journal-Jul-Aug-2019.pdf). At the time, *V. velutina* had been introduced into Europe and beekeepers (particularly in France) were experiencing major challenges with this pest. The two species share similar life cycles, so I encourage you to go back into the archives and re-read this article for more information. In this article I'd like to provide you a brief overview of *V. mandarinia*, primarily how to identify this species, what an attack on a honey bee colony looks like, and how to report a suspected sighting.

Figure 1 Vespa mandarinia specimen
Photo credit: Xanthe Shirley USDA-APHIS-PPQ

Figure 2 Vespa mandarinia specimen with size comparison
Photo credit: Xanthe Shirley USDA-APHIS-PPQ

How to Identify

The Asian Giant Hornet (*V. mandarinia*) is a large wasp-like insect that can reach a length of about 1.5 – 2 inches. One of the key identifying characteristics is its large yellow-orange head.

There are several insects that already exist in Texas that could be confused with the AGH, such as Cicada Killers, Yellowjacket queens, the European Giant Hornet, and the Tarantula Hawk. I encourage you to familiarize yourself with these insects so you can better identify them out in nature. The USDA-APHIS-PPQ has put together a document highlighting the different insects that are commonly mistaken for the AGH and can be a helpful guide for identification (https://txbeeinspection.tamu.edu/files/2020/05/Asian-Giant-Hornet-Look-alikes-101-Xanthe-Shirley.pdf).

For beekeepers, there are several ways to spot the presence of AGH at your honey bee hives. These hornets are most active during the day from spring to fall. The foraging hornets will hover or "hawk" in front of a colony to catch any bees that may be flying in and out of the entrance. When a hornet attacks a worker bee, it will paralyze the bee and then decapitate it. The goal of the hornet is to access the honey bee larvae inside the hive, so they will repeatedly attack the workers until they can reach the developing brood. As a result, a key indicator of an attack is to see a pile of dead, decapitated bees on the ground outside of the hive. If a beekeeper suspects that their hive has been attacked by AGH, please contact our office immediately (979-845-9713, *tais@tamu.edu*) and we will come out to inspect the situation.

As I mentioned before, this insect has not been found in Texas, but it's important for everyone to be aware and knowledgeable about the situation. Our office will notify beekeepers of any changes to the current status of the AGH, as well as update our website as needed (https://txbeeinspection.tamu.edu/asian-giant-hornet/).

If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact our office. In the meantime, I hope you all are having a wonderful spring/early summer season. Happy Beekeeping!

- The AGH is native to Japan.
- They were first discovered in fall 2019 in British Columbia, Canada, and in Washington State.
- The AGH has not been detected in Texas.
- The AGH is a predator of honey bees.
- If established, this hornet could devastate honey bee populations.
- Honey bees are managed for both their honey and their pollination services.
- The AGH will aggressively defend its nest or any honey bee hive it occupies.
- Migratory beekeepers who move bees between Texas and the Western U.S. are not how the AGH would make it to Texas.
- Any honey bee hive occupied by the AGH would be occupied by sterile hornet workers, which cannot reproduce and begin a new colony.

ASIAN GIANT HORNET

The Asian giant hornet, *Vespa mandarinia*, or AGH, is a large, predaceous hornet native to Asia, most commonly found in Japan and South Korea.

The AGH is the world's largest hornet, even slightly larger than the cicada killer wasp common in Texas. It was discovered for the first time in North America in August 2019 in British Columbia, Canada, and located and eradicated in September 2019.

Two specimens were collected near Blaine, Washington, in the northwest corner of the state. Efforts are underway this spring to trap hornets near Blaine and other sites where citizens have seen or collected hornets.

Until insects are trapped in the spring and summer of 2020, we won't know if this species has adapted to the Pacific Northwest climate.

Could the AGH get to Texas?

Yes, most commonly anticipated mode of travel is as a stowaway in shipping containers.

What threat does this hornet pose?

The most immediate threat is to the beekeeping industry. This insect is a specialized predator of honey bees in Asia. The Japanese honey bee is not the same species used in the U.S. Because the Japanese honey bee co-evolved with the AGH, it has defensive behaviors that protect it from attack. The European honey bee, the species used in the U.S., has no defense against the AGH. In addition to the threat to beekeepers, this large venomous insect (1.5 to 2 inches in length—or the size of your thumb) can deliver a powerful sting. Its venom is no more toxic than other stinging insects. In Japan, the AGH kills 30 to 50 people a year. In a matter of hours, 15 to 30 AGH can kill a hive of honey bees containing 30,000 to 50,000 workers. The hornets then occupy the hive, kill the developing larvae and take this protein-rich meal to their nest.

What to do if you think you have spotted the AGH

If possible, take a photo, if you can do so safely, and send it to the Department of Entomology through the Online Insect Identification Form (https://askanentomologist.tamu.edu/insect-id-form/). If you find a dead specimen that has a bright yellow head and it is over 1.5 inches long, collect it and ship it to the Department of Entomology by following these instructions and Form for Collecting and Shipping Specimens for Identification (https://askanentomologist.tamu.edu/files/2019/08/insectid_form.pdf).

Management and Biology

The commercial and hobby beekeepers in Texas are our first line of defense. They will contact the Texas Apiary Inspection Service for assistance if they notice bee kills and observe these insects near a hive. This hornet does not construct an aerial nest like some wasps do. The AGH and many other hornets and yellowjackets use an abandoned animal burrow to build their nest, making it difficult to locate. But locating and eradicating the AGH nest in spring and summer is the goal. In fall, the nest begins to develop reproductives (males and virgin queens) that leave the nest. Only the mated queen overwinters. All other nest occupants die during the winter. The newly mated queen seeks shelter where she will pass the winter, emerging in spring to find a suitable nesting site to rear the initial set of sterile workers. Once the nest has a few dozen workers, the queen never leaves the nest again and the cycle starts over in the spring.

Movement

The AGH is a strong flier and can travel several miles. When a honey bee colony is attacked, an AGH colony is likely within 0.5 to 1.5 miles. A related hornet from Asia recently established in France and its rate of spread is about 60 miles per year. Since this range is beyond the flight distance of this species, human-aided movement is likely. Shipping containers are suspected as a key route of entry into North America. Another possible route of entry is by air transport. In Asia, AGH larvae are a prized delicacy and have been confiscated from luggage in airports.

Photo By Clarissa Wei

Next Steps

- We need to know if the AGH found in Washington survived the winter and if there are active colonies this spring and summer.
- We need the help of every Texan to keep an eye out for these large hornets. In spring, they feed on sap from trees or at hummingbird feeders.
- Early detection followed by eradication of nests before fall is critical to prevent establishment.

Dr. David Ragsdale, PhD
Associate Director and Chief Scientific Officer

600 John Kimbrough Blvd., Suite 512
2142 TAMU
College Station, Texas 77843-2142

(979) 845-8486
david.ragsdale@ag.tamu.edu

In Loving Memory of a True Friend - Chuck Reburn

On Wednesday, April 8th, 2020, Charles Thomas Reburn, loving husband and father of six children, passed away at the age of 59. Chuck was born on July 30th, 1960 in Flint Michigan to Bob and Sharon Reburn.He moved with his family and six siblings to Tucson AZ when his father retired. He attended Chol-la High School , worked as a vet tech in Tucson, and he loved the desert southwest. He moved with a friend to Austin Texas in 1986 and started his family shortly after getting a job with the state.

Chuck and Tanya met in 1998 and before long re-alized they were meant to bee! They married on June 3rd of 2000 and blended their families for new ad-ventures together. During their first spring break as a family (in only 9 days) two adults with the help of five small children built their off grid 'dream cabin' in the desert of Big Bend with plans to retire there some day. Many adventures were enjoyed there as it grew from a tiny cabin into a larger family vacation home. They have shared it with many friends over the years and it was always Chuck's favorite place to get away from the hustle and bustle of Austin life.

In 2012 Tanya took Chuck to a top bar hive bee-keeping class at Rohan Meadery and they discovered a new obsession with honey bees and beekeeping which quickly grew from a hobby to a part-time bee business. Chuck and Tanya shared their passion for honey bees and when Chuck retired in September of 2016, (with 24 years of state service), he started work-ing full-time with the bees. Chuck's favorite part was mentoring with new beekeepers both in person and online. He always had time to talk with a friend about bees! It was Chuck's pride and joy to co-own and operate Texas Honey Bee Farm with his mentor and friend Danny Weaver. He truly loved his beekeeping friends and considered them our 'family by choice'. We are forever grateful to his best bee buds and mentors: Emil Kaluza, ET Ash, Dean Cook, Danny & Laura Weaver, Les Crowder, Michael Lopez, Steve Butler, Jason Gamble, Chris Barnes, Chris & Shirley Doggett, Robin Sliva, Brandon Fehrenkamp, Dodie & Kevin Stillman, George Bissias, Pierre Lau, Liz Walsh, Juliana Rangel, Ashley Ralph & Justin Russell, Clint and Jonn Walker and so many more!

Chuck wanted everyone to know that he lived a good and full life, without regrets. His family was his top priority and he spent his last months hanging out with his kids and grandkids as much as possible reminding them how much he loved them and how proud of them he was. He was a classic Renaissance man, he carried so much wisdom and could literally do almost anything and he knew something about absolutely everything. He loved to design and build things; he was an incredible cook and loved to make something out of nothing. One of his greatest talents was his ability to make everyone laugh, he was just so easy to talk to. He was a real keeper, one of a kind, truly unforgettable, and I remember how much I love him every day as I share his stories and memories with our family and friends. I am so thankful to have all of you to help me honor his memory.

Chuck was preceded in death by his father Bobbie and his mother Sharon. He is survived by his wife Tanya, his 6 children Brendon, Britania, Joshua, Char-lotte, Amanda, and Thomas and his 2 grandchildren Logan and Peter who all love and miss him so much!

We plan to have a Life Celebration Memorial at a future date and will be sure to invite all to attend.

Thank you for sharing your love with us.


TEXAS BEEKEEPERS
1960
2020
In Loving Memory
Chuck Reburn
Master Beekeeper and Mead Maker Extraordinaire
Chuck Reburn, 1960-2020
Master Beekeeper and Friend

“Stick it on ‘S1’”

"The Continuing Journey of Two Seventh-Year Small-Scale Beekeepers"
TBA Journal Article – May 2020

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

“S1” has been a terrific hive for us for the last five or six years. S1 is not a clever name, but in hot, humid, August when tempers are short in the bee yard, it works.

S1 – located on the south stand in the first position – has been our top honey producer, queen provider, problem solver, and gold standard for the Farr apiary. When we had a problem with laying workers in an errant hive, the solution was to the take the whole box of junk and “Stick it on S1. They’ll clean it up.” When we needed a frame of brood – or three or ten – for a weak hive, where could we always find that and more? S1. When we had extra boxes of honey that we needed to place somewhere safe, where did we put it? Reliable S1. When we needed to deconstruct a hive and place a weak box of bees, the answer was always, “Stick it on S1.” The wooden hive stand under S1 is slowly shifting, turning inward under the sometimes weight of one beekeeper and seven or eight honey supers, but S1 could always take it, right? Always!

Reliable “S1” hive, on the left, taking care of problems in our apiary!

Always, that is, until Spring 2020. S1 swarmed before our eyes, became aggressive (or defenseless, depending upon who you ask) and met us 100 feet from the hive, and showed only spotty brood. Good ol’ S1, dependable as May rain in NE Texas, suddenly…apparently…obviously lost its queen, failed to superceed her, and jumped from being The Problem Solver to being a Problem. Why? What was S1 telling us? What did we do wrong? What should we have learned during the process? What did we actually learn?

S1’s queen, along with her eight sisters in the apiary, overwintered well, and all began to lay brood in January. We utilized the queen in S1 to lay eggs in our Nicot box from which we then raised queens. She did a great job, so S1 stayed out of the cell-builder-and-other-queen-rearing-hoopla. We relied on them to produce brood, and they did, to augment the new nucs we’d make and sell in April and May 2020. And they did – until they didn’t.

We started spring with nine strong hives. S1 and the cell builder hives produced 48 beautiful large queen cells. We requeened all of our old hives…except S1, just in case something happened. We raised 24 queens to requeen our apiary and produce 16 nucleus hives for sale; we sold the remaining queen cells. We’ve had a good year producing nucs and queens in 2020.

But the, we noticed unusual defensive behavior in our apiary and tried to isolate the source: Was it S6 with its new queen? N1 that we watched swarm? Never did we even consider that it was good ole S1. Finally, needing frames of brood to complete a 10-frame nuc for sale we opened S1, and bees poured out, filling the air with hums. When we took off the problem box, the extra honey supers, and the weak hive, expecting to find frames of brood in the bottom boxes. We saw…patches of old brood and no new glistening white larvae. There was only one capped Queen cell; why not multiples? Something was not right with S1.

So, what can we take away from this activity in our bee yard?

- Re-queen them all, don't wait – We seem to be getting about one year from our queens. They are new in March, do well all summer, overwinter, begin brood production in January, and then are superceeded by the bees the following March if we don't intervene with a new queen.
- Go the bottom box – We're small-scale beekeepers so, in the spring, especially, we need to know what is really going on in each hive box. Usually coming out of winter, the bottom box is EMPTY, with only drawn comb. Some beekeepers will reverse their boxes to move the brood chamber down in the hive. Remember when you assume everything is ok, the bees will make an "ass of u and me."
- Go through every frame – We are an all medium frame operation, so it is very easy for us to move brood, pollen, or nectar around the hive or to other hives. By going through every frame in the spring, then we know what we have to work with and what a hive may need.
- Inspect even the great hives regularly – We didn't want to "bother" S1 with a "regular inspection" in spring since they were our problem solver and had rescued many resources from destruction. However, this mentality made us unaware when they went queenless, so the hive languished for nearly a month before we intervened and gave them swarm queen cells from another hive.

Inspecting the blueberry crop, on the right, and the blackberry crop on the left, which our bees have helped to pollinate.

Hive S1 is now on the mend as they successfully raised a new queen from the queen cells we gave them. We also added full frames of brood to give them the nurse bees they would need to feed the developing larvae from the newly mated queen. They are in three boxes now with plenty of resources and bees. We've taken the surplus honey frames and distributed them to other hives to supplement their stores to prepare everyone for the summer nectar dearth in July and August in northeast Texas.

It's wonderful to have a reliable S1 in your apiary! However, learn to say with us, "This is agriculture," and "Yes, but that was last year."

Learn from your bees. Listen to what they are telling you. We'll all be better off for it. We'd love to hear about your beekeeping adventures!

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

Having fun in the bee yard!

Texas Honey Bee Education Association Update

Raising Donors and Donations

May 2020 *TBA Journal*
by Roger Farr – THBEA 2019/20 Chairman

Howdy, fellow Texas beekeepers!

The Texas Honey Bee Education Association (THBEA) is an IRS registered 501(c)(3) public charity, which means the bulk of our funding must come from donations. There are strict laws on how, and to whom, the funds THBEA receives may be utilized. Potential donors, and hopefully the donations they give, are the lifeblood and catalyst for THBEA's philanthropic investments.

Raising Donors

People give to causes and organizations they support and agree with. Some give because they believe in the leaders and their vision of what they'd like to accomplish in the world. However, at the end of the day, most donors give because they have a relationship with the people in the organization.

THBEA is focusing on developing relationships in the beekeeping community and in the general public. Our recent activities in this area include:

- Creation of a new introductory materials highlighting who THBEA is and what we do,
- Development of materials to assist beekeepers in telling the story of honey bees to the general public in response to the question we all get, "What's happening to the bees?", and
- Production of materials designed to assist parents and teachers in educating children about honey bees and the food honey bees help produce through their pollination services.

Each of these activities is designed to educate and encourage individuals and organizations to get involved financially with THBEA.

Raising Donations

Our desire is to accommodate potential donors in the giving process by making it easy for them to give. To this end we've done the following:

- Provided on-line giving tools via the THBEA.com website and our social media accounts,
- Opened a brokerage account with Vanguard for the receipt of appreciated stocks or bonds, and
- Applied for and available in September, approval for a Texas honey bee-themed TxDMV specialty license plate with $22 per initial or renewal fee going to THBEA.

In September, you may order a specialty plate at https://www.txdmv.gov/motorists/license-plates/specialty-license-plates, or you can do so through your local motor vehicle registration office.

The COVID-19 disruption has hit many non-profit organizations, including THBEA, hard. THBEA's fiscal policy is to only spend funds that were received in the prior year. Hence, THBEA is now utilizing funds generated in 2019 to fund its granting and project activities. However, if 2020 giving does not increase over current levels, THBEA will struggle in 2021.

We, the Board of THBEA, are working hard to get these messages out. THBEA is a solid organization and we are grateful for your support…and donations!

WE ARE REDUCING OUR INVENTORY.

COMPLETE HIVES FOR SALE
10 FRAMES, TOP AND BOTTOMS

1 DEEP OR
2 MEDIUM OR
1 DOUBLE BOX NUC
DEPENDING ON WHAT WE HAVE AVAILABLE
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WOOD IS ALL BOILED IN FOOD GRADE PARAFFIN.

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DEATH LOSS HAS BEEN ABOUT 6%.

OTHER EQUIPMENT IS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE.

MOST EQUIPMENT IS 2 – 5 YEARS OLD

CALL JIM AT 830-591-4484

All the Little Things…

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

Janet Young (age 10)

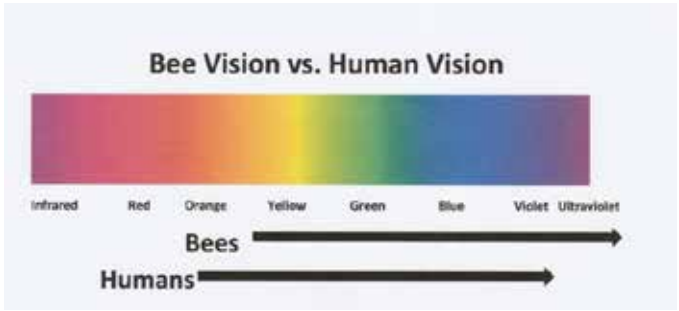
Working with new beekeepers keeps me on my toes and reminds me of all the little things we do to have a successful "hive dive". This spring, while working with my daughter, we reviewed several special little tricks we use to make our beekeeping experience enjoyable. What the weather is like, what we look like, and what we smell like has an impact on beehive behavior.

Appearance

Wearing a full bee suite can often be hot. Many beekeepers have gone to ventilated suites that are made of plastic. They are expensive and I have melted a spot or two when my smoker got a little to close. When it is just me and my husband and we are not doing a honey harvest, I wear a vale, gloves, and my "lucky" jeans and t-shirt. Pictured above you can see some of the lighter color of jeans. My "lucky" pair of jeans is the middle lightest color. After doing some research, I learned that bees and wasps tend to see light blue colors as the sky. If you paint the top ceiling of your porch light blue, wasps will not build nests there.

My 'lucky" t-shirt is pictured above. When I wear this shirt, I blend in with the grass around me. I have tried different shades of green such as true green or forest green, but I always end up getting stung with those colors.

Honey bees see in the ultraviolet spectrum. Below is a chart that compares what humans see and what honeybees see.



https://www.beeculture.com/bees-see-matters/

Image above from: Bee Culture – "How Bees See and Why It Matters"

All the Little Things…

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

Smell

We have also done some work on what we smell like. We have also gotten in the habit of showering before we go out to the beehives. Over time, we have changed any underarm deodorant and shampoos to non-scented where possible.

Pictured above: Ronnie, Robin, and John Young

During every pregnancy, while working in the hives, we notice that I never got stung. When ever we have been at any beekeeping events, I always try and ask any of the ladies if they have had the same experiences during pregnancy. I am not recommending going out and getting pregnant, but it is yet another case where what a beekeeper smells like effects the way a hive can behave.

During our studies while working our way through the Texas Master Beekeeping Program https://masterbeekeeper.tamu.edu/ , we learned about how bees hone in on human and animal breathing for their attacks. Honeybees can smell carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide is a gaseous product of the body's metabolism and is normally expelled through the lungs and then out the mouth. When harvesting honey and working in beehives, my husband kept getting stung on the shoulder. We began to realize that the wind was blowing the carbon dioxide he was breathing out over his shoulder and the bees were picking up on it and stinging him. That is when we discovered "Orbit Wintermint Gum". This particular gum has such a strong menthol-eucalyptus flavor and scent that, chewing the gum when I have congestion from a cold or allergies, clears out my sinuses. Where it matters during beekeeping, the gum masks the carbon dioxide scent. The bees are unable to find your face. We recommend a fresh pack so that the gum is at it's strongest. If the gum is open and sits out for a week or two, it lessens the effects. In our house all my kids know that you do not touch mom's special beekeeping gum. Over time, Orbit gum has become a rite of passage in our family. Becoming a beekeeper gives them the right to chew the special gum.

Temperature

We have also discovered that once the outside temperature goes above 80 degrees, our bees become more aggressive. This is where "the art of beekeeping" comes into play. Our eighty-degree rule is so prevalent, that when we are out working with the bees, we know when to stop because they start to get a little aggressive. Once we get into the truck and check the temperature it is always just above eighty degrees. This may not work in every part of Texas, but it is worth it to start taking notice of the temperatures outside when you work your hives to see if a pattern becomes clear.

Till next time bee friends!

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

In Memoriam - Ann Harman

Ann Harman, 89, passed away peacefully with her daughter Joyce and sons Stewart and Art in attendance, with her cat CiCi and dog Toby at home on her hilltop farm in Flint Hill, Virginia on a lovely spring day.

Ann grew up in the Washington, DC area. Her interest in bees was there from the beginning, writing a little book with her friend Jocelyn Sladen called "Bees and How to Pleez Them" when she was about 10 years old. She earned a degree in Chemistry from Virginia Polytechnic Institute (VA Tech). She was a research chemist at the National Bureau of Standards where she won an award for her work at a time when women in chemistry were rare. After her children were born, Ann moved into teaching science and became Head of the Science Department, Georgetown Day School in Washington, DC. She taught her family, friends and students a great love and respect for nature.

After teaching, she moved to Maryland in the late 1970's and attended a beekeeping course run by Dr Dewey Caron at the University of Maryland. Ann became one of the first Eastern Apiculture Society (EAS) certified master beekeepers in 1981. Ann went on to keep some 50 colonies for honey production. Always active and committed, she was not only a member of but also held office in local, state and national beekeeping organizations.

She was the catalyst, along with veterinarian pharmacologists, Drs. Jürgen von Bredow and James Vick, in founding the North American Apiotherapy Society (NAAS) in 1978 at the University of Maryland; she would later serve as advisor for reestablishment as the American Apitherapy Society (AAS) in 1989. In due course, she became assistant apiarist at the University of Maryland and then the state honey bee Extension Specialist.

Ann was a dedicated honey show judge. She greatly assisted in design and development of the first US honey judging instructional program at the University of Maryland. She was a popular honey judge in the USA and around the world, including Texas, Maine, Australia, Montreal and Korea.

She 'retired' to the Flint Hill, VA farm, shared with daughter Joyce's large-animal veterinary practice, in 1992. Then from 1993 to 2013 she volunteered with at least eight different not-for-profit organizations, teaching beekeeping in 29 countries, undertaking 54 assignments on 5 continents. She was recognized for exceptional service with the President's Volunteer Service Awards in 2004, 2005 and 2008, and the President's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2009.

She taught the Northern Piedmont Beekeepers Association annual beginning beekeeping class for many years and worked closely with her dear friend Billy Davis (the creator of the beekeeping class teaching curriculum) editing and improving the class teaching materials from its inception and throughout the years.

In 1980, Ann was asked to write articles on honey cookery for Gleanings in Bee Culture, now Bee Culture. She soon became a regular contributor, covering all aspects of beekeeping over the next 40 years. Ann finished her last column while in the hospital. She also wrote articles for Bee Craft and was a regular contributor to the Beekeepers' Quarterly. Her literary work did not stop there. She was a contributor to and co-editor of the 2007 edition of ABC & XYZ of Bee Culture, and was also a contributor to the latest edition that went to press the week she died. She edited and assisted in the publication of many other bee books.

Also, in these last months she worked on chapters in the upcoming Bee Craft books, Bee Space to Bee Hive and Bee Hive to Bee Keeper. Ann wrote the chapters on US beekeepers and inventions as well as contributed important research to other parts of the book.

In accordance with her wishes, there will be no formal service. Plans for a gathering to celebrate her life are being made and will be held at a future date when social gathering restrictions have been lifted.

Contributions toward bee research and student scholarships can be made in her memory to:

Eastern Apiculture Society, c/o Treasurer Jacky Hildreth, 3 Summit Terrace, North Yarmouth, ME 04097, treasurer@easternapiculture.org

American Beekeeping Federation, 500 Discovery Parkway, Suite 125, Superior, Colorado 80027, https://www.abfnet.org/page/donate

Bee Friends,

It is with a sad heart that we announce the passing of Ann Harman. Her guidance has been a large part of what has made the Texas Honey Show what it is today. It is the honey show team's desire to guarantee there will be a 2020 honey show no matter what and for it to be the biggest and best yet. By doing this, it is the best ways we can honor Ann and all that she has done for Texas beekeepers. This year we will be changing the name of the "Sweepstakes" award to "The Ann Harman Excellence" award. We will also be doing all judging the week before the convention. This is to ensure that the winners in each category are displayed longer at the convention for everyone to enjoy. All categories and will be the same as last year (2019) except we are adding a short film category. We will be working with local clubs for drop off entries and working through issues of mailing entries. We will give everyone a more thorough details in the next issue of the TBA Journal.

With Your Help, This Will Be the Best Texas Honey Show Ever!

The Texas Honey Show Film Festival 2020

This year we are so excited to offer a new short film category. We will give you more information in the following issues of the "TBA Journal", but in short, here are the basics you need to know:

1.) The film must not run longer than two (2) minutes and that includes the title and credits.
2.) This year's subject matter is: "What I Love About Beekeeping!"
3.) The film will need to be turned in on a USB drive. More on this later.
4.) By entering this Texas Honey Show category, you will be giving the rights to have your film posted on any TBA (Texas Beekeepers Association) website, Facebook page, or add.
5.) Your video may also be aired at any TBA event such as the "Summer Clinic" and "Fall Convention".

The winner will receive a trophy and a brand new GOPO. We cannot wait to see everyone's entries.

Ann Harman

from Dodie Stillman and Pamela Yeamans

Last year while Ann came to help with TBA Honey Show in San Antonio. Kevin and I had the wonder pleasure of showing her the town. We rode the river boats, saw the Alamo, and had a Mexican dinner. It was a little windy and cold, but Ann insisted it felt like home to her and was excited to do it all.

We had a great day. Ann loved the bridges on the Riverwalk, and wanted photos of them all! She enjoyed hearing about the history of San Antonio, and really liked walking through the Alamo, she stopped at each item to listen to the recorded tour information.

She was a beautiful lady with a kind and giving personality. Ann will be missed.

In 2017 Jimmie Oakley mentioned that someone named Ann Harman wrote an article about honey shows. After reading some of her work, I could not find a contact for her so I wrote to Kim Flottum and asked for help to connect with her. She and I collaborated heavily on the rules and classes.
Lance Wilson secured funding for Ann to travel to Texas to judge and teach classes.

Dodie and Jimmy as Show Secretaries worked with her, as did JJ as the steward for her black jar honey judging.
Robin and her sister spent time with her for two fabulous shows.
Kevin and Cameron shared with her photography. Donny, so glad you worked with Ann last year on the extracted honey classes.

In memory of Ann let us continue our Texas Honey Show with her standards for quality, fairness, and encouragement.

Stay at Home Beekeeping Series

Distance Learning for Beekeeping Clubs

Social distancing to resist COVID-19 doesn't mean you need to stop learning about your favorite social insect!

We're offering members of beekeeping clubs the chance to attend 'remote' meetings from the comfort of one's own home using a computer or mobile device. Each event will bring participants up to date on timely beekeeping topics. Time for Q&A included.

ALL ARE WELCOME! IT'S FREE!

May 14: Bee and parasite biogeography, *with Dr. Keith Delaplane (University of Georgia)* **May 28: What's killing honey bees, *with Dr. Jamie Ellis (University of Florida)*** **June 11: Varroa biology & management, *with Dr. Cameron Jack (University of Florida)*** **June 25: Honey: production, processing, packaging, *with Dr. Jim Tew (ret'd Alabama Ext.)***	**6:30 – 7:30 pm** **Central Time**

Watch via Zoom Webinar

https://auburn.zoom.us/j/904522838

or Facebook Live: **https://www.facebook.com/LawrenceCountyextension/**

Questions? Email Allyson Shabel ams0137@aces.edu

Our institutions are equal opportunity educators and employers. Everyone is welcome!
See our efforts here: ACES | Auburn | Florida | Georgia | Tennessee | Texas A&M

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

Honey Bees in Cold Storage

by Kathie Zipp from Catch the Buzz

This New Tool Is Sweet for Almond Growers and Beekeepers

By: Kathie Zipp

Bees help generate billions of dollars for the agricultural industry each year, but as acreages grow, beekeepers are having trouble keeping up.

Even with so many high-tech advances in agriculture, sometimes nature has the best solution. Bees are critical to cross-pollinating many U.S crops, especially almonds, which cover more than 1 million acres in California alone.

Each year these tiny insects help generate billions of dollars for the agricultural economy.

However, the supply of commercial bees is frighteningly unsustainable. As acreages grow, beekeepers can't keep up.

Factors such as poor nutrition and mites have caused colonies to die over winter. Beekeepers have been losing more than 30% of overwintered colonies for nearly 15 years.

This is a problem because almonds bloom in February, when colonies are at their lowest populations and just beginning to build. Therefore, the number of colonies that survive until February and are available to rent and pollinate almonds is limited. Beekeepers and almond growers lack certainty as to how many colonies they can count on to fulfill their contracts. High colony losses and the rising cost of managing and transporting colonies to almond orchards puts a financial burden on beekeepers and has the potential to significantly impact food production.

"We need beekeepers because managed bees are a lynchpin in agricultural production today," says Gloria DeGrandi-Hoffman, research leader of the USDA-ARS Carl Hayden Bee Research Center in Tucson, AZ.

Seeing the problems in the industry, DeGrandi-Hoffman and her team put together a tool to help provide beekeepers and almond growers with more certainty about the number of colonies that will survive over winter, as well as best practices to ensure the most colonies survive.

Overwintering Bees

In the wild, bees overwinter in a tight thermoregulated cluster surrounding the queen. In warmer climates, some bees will fly to forage for food, and the queen will rear brood (eggs, larvae, and pupae) over winter. While some beekeepers will place colonies in areas where bees can forage and rear brood during the winter, there are expenses and challenges. Often, floral resources are insufficient to keep colonies supplied with nectar and pollen. Beekeepers may supply protein supplements, but sometimes bees still show signs of malnutrition. Bees are also exposed to varroa mites that parasitize developing bees. Colonies that are malnourished and infested with mites in the fall have little chance of survival over winter.

"The situation has changed a lot," DeGrandi-Hoffman says. "It is more expensive to manage honey bees, with costs to feed colonies when flowers are not available and to control varroa mites. And it is more difficult to find places for honey bee colonies that provide the diverse nutrition they need."

When overwintered in colder climates, as in Minnesota or Canada, bees won't fly to forage for food or rear brood until the queen starts laying again in mid to late January, so a less-expensive practice of overwintering bee colonies in cold storage facilities is becoming popular.

Advantages of Cold Storage

DeGrandi-Hoffman and her team studied colonies overwintered in Texas apiaries compared to Idaho cold-storage facilities.

"In Idaho, these were as simple as a shed where they would store potatoes and other things once the weather outside got cold," she says. "They're sort of like a warehouse, where you're moving the colonies around with forklifts and loading them onto trucks. You can see the ease of that rather than having them outside in the elements."

The team found advantages to placing bees in cold storage in November. Beekeepers can give colonies a fall miticide treatment before storing to avoid varroa re-infestation. Also, when bees cluster inside the hive rather than forage, they are less active, so they age slower and require fewer supplemental feedings.

"Cold storage swings populations into having younger bees and reduces overwintering losses, making more colonies available for almond growers," DeGrandi-Hoffman says.

However, some colonies fared better than others in cold storage. With tight profit margins, beekeepers need to know which colonies would have a high chance of survival and merit the expense of overwintering.

"We found that it's all about selecting which colonies to overwinter to reduce labor costs," DeGrandi-Hoffman says.

"Beekeepers, just like so many parts of agriculture, run on very narrow profit margins, so being able to reduce labor costs or the number of miticide treatments and feeding helps expand those profit margins."

Calculating the Odds

After more research, DeGrandi-Hoffman and her team found that the size of the colony and percent of varroa mite infestation in September could impact the chance of overwinter survival. With this information, they put together a tool to predict the odds that honey bee colonies that are overwintered in cold storage will be large enough to rent for almond pollination in February.

"We wanted to build a model with flexibility to help prevent beekeepers from throwing good money after bad," she says. "They can now make those decisions based on the condition of the colony and communicate to the almond grower in September what the chances are of them having the colony sizes they're looking for in February, and everyone can manage accordingly."

The tool is currently available as a table, but the team is working to develop a cold storage webpage with an online version as well.

DeGrandi-Hoffman and her team are continuing to research best-management practices for cold storage. For example, chilled facilities allow putting the bees in cold storage a month earlier, in October, which could further reduce flying (and aging) as well as feed and miticide applications.

Decreasing colony losses and stabilizing the economics of beekeeping is not straightforward and requires cooperation among beekeepers, land managers, growers, and federal agencies. In their report, the team says the challenges beekeepers face arise from many factors in ecosystems that have been altered more rapidly and extensively in the second half of the 20th century than in any comparable period in human history.

"The wide-angle view of an economic perspective should generate a sense of urgency to address the challenges faced by the beekeeping industry, so this vital sector of the agricultural economy can remain profitable and sustainable," DeGrandi-Hoffman says.

https://www.growingproduce.com/fruits/this-new-tool-is-sweet-for-almond-growers-and-beekeepers/

2020 Texas Honey Princess

Blake Nester

Apitherapy is a form of alternative treatments using bee products. These products include honey, pollen, beeswax, propolis, royal jelly, and bee venom. In my last article, I went into detail describing the benefits of honey, beeswax, and propolis. These three products are very effective for healing wounds on the surface of the skin. This month, I wanted to focus on apitherapy that helps with deeper rooted problems, bee venom therapy. This type of therapy is used to treat many muscle related problems such as arthritis, ALS, and tendonitis. Using bee venom for medicinal purposes has been performed for thousands of years. Some scientists suggest that it was one of the earliest forms of medicine. This type of therapy was used in Ancient Greece, China, and Egypt. These powerhouse civilizations were known to have "highly developed medical systems" according to the American Apitherapy Society. In Ancient Greece, Hippocrates, also known as the "Father of Medicine" often used bee venom to treat arthritis.

Scientists today have evidence that apitherapy in general will boost the immune system, help with circulation and decrease inflammation. Bee venom specifically is composed of 88% water. It also includes various peptides, enzymes, and amines. Over eighteen pharmaceutical components have been identified in bee venom (American Apitherapy). This combination can cause severe inflammation, pain, and itching. When being treated with apitherapy, therapists will sometimes use a combination of oils to help calm some of these effects. Every treatment and dosage is different depending on what is being treated. Live stings or venom extract can be used. In some therapy sessions, up to 40 stings can be used. Although many people have experienced great results with this process, bee venom is not considered a cure for the conditions it is used to treat. With any alternative treatment you have to be careful. Many people can develop allergic reactions to the bee venom, which can be very dangerous.

Both of my parents have become very allergic through beekeeping. Being cautious is key to making sure you do not get stung while in the hives. Luckly, they see an immunologist for bee venom tolerance injections. These injections are given every month or so depending on how severe the allergy is. The doctor/nurse will take bee venom that is diluted down to a very low scale. The injections will continue like this until the patient is immune to that level of bee venom. After this process, the amount of bee venom will be upped little by little until the person can handle a full sting. This process does not make the person unallergic, it just gives them a tolerance so that they can take a sting and not have to worry.

Apitherapy is a very old and holistic method that I fully support. I get to help people everyday through the healing products and tinctures I make. The American Apitherapy Society has helped me understand how much more bee venom can help with. I was so happy to find out that bee venom is taking a turn and helping people with pain in their joints and muscles. I hope to experiment with the rest of the products of the hive in the future. I get stung regularly in my hives so I might save bee venom therapy for another day. For now, I will continue with my skin care and look into the benefits of pollen and royal jelly. I am honored that beekeeping has given me this opportunity to help others through my own type of apitherapy.

Apsociety. "Apsociety." American Apitherapy Society, Inc, Apsociety http://Apitherapy.org/Wp-Content/Uploads/2019/07/3-Logo-1-300x48.Png, 22 Apr. 2020, apitherapy.org/.

The Brantley Column

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

September is National Honey Month but in East Texas I think it should be in June. Most of the nectar will be coming to an end by the later part of this month. In past years, I always tried to coordinate my vacation from work around the 4th of July and have my extracting completed by that time.

My Golden Rain Tree began to show yellow on the 13th of May and will continue to interest the honey bees until the end of June. The Chinese Tallow flow has not yet begun in my area but should be blooming by the first week of June.

You should not be feeding sugar syrup to your hives if you plan on extracting honey for your personal use. However, you should feed recently received package bees. Feed packages the 2-to-1 sugar syrup until they have drawn eight of the ten frames (or six frames in an eight-frame box).

If you are just getting started in bees, you may want to heed the comments of some of our Northeast Texas conference speakers like Larry Conner, Jamie Ellis or Jeff Harris about hive configurations. There are various opinions about how to configure your hive. You should listen to the various comments and then configure your hive the way you want, given the available forage in your area.

The nectar flow in the East Texas/ArkLaTex area is not long enough to maximize honey storage in some areas. If you use double brood boxes, bees will often pack the top brood box with honey before they move up into the supers to store honey for us.

You check your hives and the frames in the super are beautifully drawn white wax capping from top to bottom in each frame. Now, how do you get the supers off the hive? You could smoke the bees out but I have found it takes a lot of smoke and in some cases your honey retains an odor of smoke, even after bottling.

If you have only a few supers, you could remove each frame individually and brush away the bees. Then put the frame in a bee-tight container to keep other bees from landing on them.

You could use a fume board. Add some BeeGo to the felt pad under the black metal top and sit the fume board on top of the super. The BeeGo fumes drive the bees down out of the super. Fume boards work best when the sun shines and the temperature is above ninety degrees.

I like to use my gas powered leaf blower to blow the bees out of the super. It is very quick and effective. Remove the super and stand it on a short side. Crank up the blower and blow the bees out from the bottom bars toward the top bars. This prevents the bees from becoming stuck in the honey covered bottom bars.

Whichever method you choose, I suggest that you "unstick" the super first. Use your hive tool to pry it loose from the box below it and slide it back an inch or two, then the put it back in place. This breaks the bottom bars loose from the frame below, making it a lot easier to remove the frames.

Here are some tips to consider:

(1) Make sure there are no snakes under you hives.
(2) Use the hive tool to scrape the gunk from the inside of your smoker lid.
(3) You do not have to press the smoker lid down as far as it will go. Just press it down enough to be snug and it will be much easier to open next time.
(4) Check the small nuts holding the smoker bellows in place. A small lock washer could prevent the loss of a nut that could hamper smoker operation.
(5) Cut some 1x2 boards of various lengths and put them with your field equipment. Use them as entrance reducers. The various lengths let you choose how much of the entrance you want to be open.
(6) Bee suits can be washed. We do not have to look like we just got out of the grease pit! Look for washing instructions in your suit's tag. Some cannot be put in a washer or dryer. I know one beekeeper that would lay the suit on the driveway, spray it with Simple Green or Purple Power, then hose it off with a strong spray from the water hose. After cleaning, drape over a lawn chair in the sun to dry.

S S Brantley communing with a bee.
He's always done it this way!
Photo by Jackie Traylor

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

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

Dear TBA members,

I hope that everyone is staying safe as we extend the new realities of living in a world re-shaped by the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the last three months Texas A&M University had weathered this storm in a way that has surpassed the state-wide mandates and has operated in a very conservative manner, allowing only essential personnel to be present on campus and asking everyone else to work from home and stall research activities. We were allowed to continue to do some basic beekeeping at the research apiary because we made the argument that the bees needed to be taken care of. Since the restrictions were mostly lifted during the month of May, we have been allowed to perform more tasks on campus, but only if we can provide a safe environment for employees in which there are as few people as possible in a given space, and everyone uses proper laboratory and personal hygiene, informs supervisors if they are feeling ill, and practices social distancing and/or staggers their work so as to not overlap with other co-workers.

Unfortunately, just like many other beekeeping organizations, our program had to cancel this year's Art of Queen Rearing workshop. We will make sure that you all get information about the date for 2021. In the meantime, we have contributed to many of the online platforms that have emerged to keep beekeepers informed and entertained while staying at home. That is why, along with several universities from the SEC, we have created the "Stay at Home Beekeeping Lecture Series." So far we have had five presenters from several institutions speak about various topics. I presented in April about Queen Rearing Essentials, and this Thursday, 28 May, Dr. Jamie Ellis from the University of Florida will be talking about "What is Killing Honey Bees?" All presentations are done live on Facebook and stored for two weeks for anyone to watch at their leisure. Each presentation has received great reviews, with over 500 viewers live and over 3,000 views of the videos. Because this was a great success, we have decided to extend the lecture series through the summer, adding new dates and presenters, and seeing if this is something that we can extend for the remainder of the year. Watch with Zoom at: https://auburn.zoom.us/j/904522838 or stream via Facebook Live at: https://www.facebook.com/LawrenceCountyextension/ Questions? Email Allyson Shabel *ams0137@aces.edu*, or read the flier on page 25 for more information.

The recent report that the Asian Giant Hornet (or "AGH," otherwise infamously known as the "murder" hornet) was observed at the end of 2019 in the Pacific Northwest has created a new wave of media frenzy regarding this species, with a lot of misinformation about the potential threat of the AGH to honey bees in the United States. Because of this, Texas AgriLife has created the AGH Task Force (with myself included), which is working on educating the public about the biology and management of this invasive species. This issue of the TBA Journal will include a Facts Sheet about the AGH that I hope all of you can read. Our Task Force is prepared to receive phone calls, photos and even specimens of potential sightings of the AGH. However, given that the possibility of the AGH arriving in Texas any time soon is negligible, we advise that you DO NOT attempt to kill and collect any look-alikes to send for identification, and instead take a picture (if it is safe to do so), so that you do not kill important pollinators in the process. I was interviewed by a media outlet recently about the AGH and here is what I responded:

Question: How realistic of a threat is the Asian giant hornet to honey bees? We know the hornets are in small numbers now, concentrated in the Pacific Northwest. Could this change over the next several years?

The Asian giant hornet (AGH) is originally from East Asia and Japan, where it evolved along with the Asian honey bee, *Apis cerana*. In their native environment, the two species have been able to co-exist, and the honey bees have been able to cope with the AGH attacks. The recent sighting of the AGH in the Pacific Northwest is troubling in that, if established, this species would likely become predatory on the Western (also known as the European) honey bee, *Apis mellifera*, which is the one we have in the United States. When the AGH encounters honey bee colonies, they decapitate the workers and usurp the developing larvae and pupae to take back to their nest to feed their young. Because of their voracious and large mouthparts, a few individuals can decimate an entire honey bee colony in a matter of hours, hence the nickname "murder" hornet.

While it looks like so far that there have only been a couple of sightings of the AGH in Washington state, it is likely that those individuals were workers, not reproductive queens, which are the ones that establish nests. If that is the case (and I believe the WA Dept. of Ag is working on trying to answer that question), they may have been arrived as stowaways in shipment containers or inadvertently through human-mediated shipments. With that in mind, the real threat is likely to come from the invasion of reproductive females that can found new nests and lay eggs. If and when that happens, because the AGH is a large, flying insect, there could be a possibility of females to move several miles per year to new areas to occupy that have suitable living environments, potentially occupying new areas in the U.S. So yes, there could be a possibility of introduction of the AGH as stowaways and/or as movement of reproductive females. To face the threat of a potential re-introduction of more AGHs, many

states with coastal areas where shipping ports exist have created task forces with industry experts to start or continue monitoring programs to sample, identify, and potentially eradicate the AGH.

Question: What are more pressing threats to honey bee populations across the US?

At this time the threat posed by the recent sightings of the AGH in the US is relatively low to the beekeeping and human population. There are currently many more pressing issues affecting honey bee health including the issues associated with the parasitic mite, *Varroa destructor*, other pests and pathogens, pesticide exposure, poor nutrition, habitat loss, climate change, and poor management practices.

Question: Is there anything we can do now to protect honey bees from possible threats like Asian giant hornets and threats that are closer to home?

While it is important to be alert and informed of new threats to honey bee populations, we also need to educate the public as to how to properly identify these threats. For example, there are many AGH look-alikes, and most of the reports that are coming in about potential sightings have been of other hornet species that look similar. So learning what visual cues to look for will be very important in trying to keep the public aware but also assessing whether the AGH eventually spreads to other parts of the US.

There are many things that we can all do to protect honey bees and other beneficial insects and pollinators. For example, optimizing the environment in which honey bees thrive, such as providing areas of plentiful and diverse floral sources, improves the overall health and productivity of managed and wild honey bees, as well as other pollinators. Lowering the use of harmful pesticides in both agricultural and urban landscapes. And slowing the spread of urbanization, or in its absence, taking the plight of pollinators into urban planning programs to ensure that areas that are to be urbanized are appropriately provided with pollinator-friendly ornamental plantings with plenty of green "beescapes."

Finally, our most recent paper with a large collaborative effort to track feral honey bees in the forests of southwestern Pennsylvania just came out in the journal Apidologie. Here is information about the article: "**Genetic diversity of wild and managed honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) in Southwestern Pennsylvania, and prevalence of the microsporidian gut pathogens *Nosema ceranae* and *N. apis*.**" Authors: Juliana Rangel, Brenna Traver, Marla Stoner, Alyssa Hatter, Brian Trevelline, Chris Garza, Tonya Shepherd, Thomas D. Seeley & John Wenzel. If you want a copy of the article, let me know.

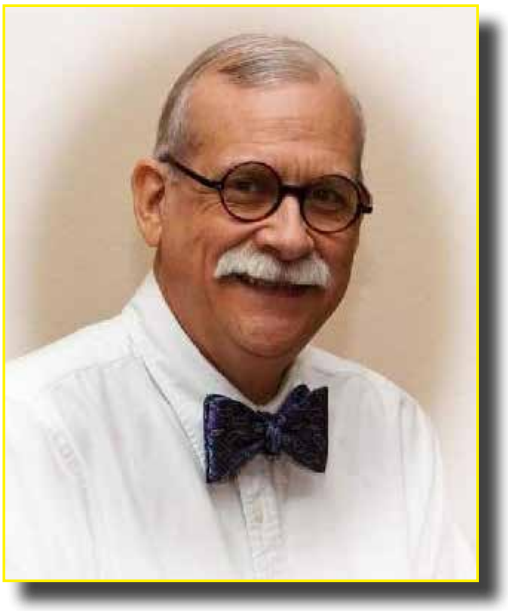
Abstract. The populations of wild honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) colonies in the USA were decimated after the arrival of a parasitic mite *Varroa destructor* in the 1980s. However, in some places, wild honey bee colonies survived. In this 3-year study, we analyzed 32 wild and 11 managed colonies in Southwestern Pennsylvania for their maternal genetic ancestries and their levels of *Nosema* spp. infection. We detected nine mtDNA haplotypes in the 32 wild colonies sampled: six belonged to the Eastern European lineage (C) and three belonged to the Western European lineage (M). We found only three mtDNA haplotypes in the eleven managed colonies sampled, all belonging to the C lineage. Infection levels of *N. ceranae* were relatively high and fluctuated over time while those of *N. apis* remained relatively low and constant. There were no differences in *N. ceranae* or *N. apis* levels between wild and managed colonies. This study shows that wild honey bee colonies can represent old lineages despite being susceptible to *Nosema*.

That is all for now… I truly wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer. I am hopeful that we will come out of this stronger and more united than before. As always, 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 your continuous support, and stay safe!

Here are two pictures of Dr. Tom Seeley painting bees for the process of "bee lining" in which you paint foraging bees so that you can track their flight path and determine (via rudimentary triangulation) where their tree cavity is located (left) and Dr. Tom Seeley, Chris Garza and Dr. Rangel standing next to a feral bee colony that was found in PA during the bee lining process.

In Memoriam - Gus Wolf



Gus Leo Wolf, 1951 – 2020 (68) peacefully passed into the arms of Jesus on April 7th, 2020 at his home in Big Sandy, TX surrounded by the family he loved so much. Gus was born in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and immigrated with his parents to the United States in 1956. The family initially settled in Plainfield, New Jersey and later moved to Dunellen, NJ. Gus graduated from Dunellen High School in 1969. In 1975 he married his best friend, Joanne Sweeney. In 1986 he graduated from Union County College with a degree in Business, also becoming a member of American MENSA. Gus was an active member of Terrill Road Bible Chapel in Fanwood, NJ where for over 30 years he led music and accompanied by guitar, taught Sunday school classes, and spoke often from the pulpit.

Gus worked as a production manager/supervisor, systems analyst, materials manager, and office manager for companies such as Simmonds Precision, the Lockheed Corporation, Foremost Manufacturing, Frigidaire, and Kaufman Stairs Inc. For many years, Gus also used his notable voice doing voice overs and radio spots for WFME in the NY metro area and Christian radio network "Family Stations Inc."

In 2007 Gus and his family moved to East Texas, settling in Big Sandy. After moving to Texas, he pursued a career in outside sales in the health insurance field, with companies such as Aflac, Lincoln Heritage, and most recently United Healthcare. Gus was active at Brookwood Bible Chapel in Longview, and later at Golden Bible Chapel in Golden TX, and regularly spoke from the pulpit at both churches. He became involved in Bible Study Fellowship, serving as a Childrens Leader, and for several years as the Assistant Teaching Leader for the Longview Men's Class. Gus was also involved with the International Alert Academy in Big Sandy, volunteering his time and voice for various events and conferences. He was best known as "Giddy-up Gus" at their annual Family Camp.

More recently, Gus and his wife began "Piney Creek Farm" which uses organic/holistic methods and provided a large variety of produce to East Texas restaurants and health food stores.

As an avid Beekeeper, Gus was an active member of the East Texas Beekeepers Association and the Longview Beekeeper's Association, serving as President in both clubs for many years.

Gus was delighted to share his wisdom and experience on many subjects giving informative presentations on; beekeeping, identity theft, final expense, and Medicare, to name just a few. His transparency, sharp sense of humor, and vast knowledge, was enjoyed and appreciated by so many.

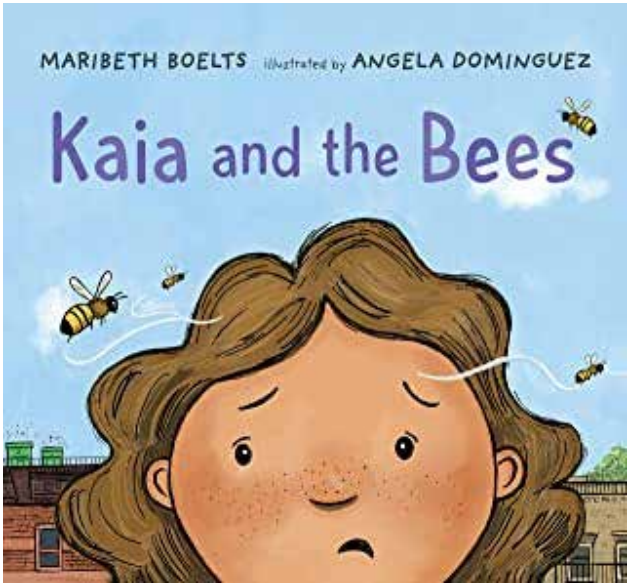
Being fully assured of His salvation in Christ and eternal security purchased for him by Christ's death and resurrection, Gus' greatest desire was to glorify God with his life. He ran his race well.

Gus' greatest joy was his family whom he poured himself into. He and his wife homeschooled all four of their children. Gus is survived by Joanne, his wife of 44 years, Son Spencer and family of Rogers, Arkansas, Daughter Taylor and family of Lubbock, TX, Son Graeme and Daughter Hayden of Big Sandy, 12 grandchildren, and a Sister Inge Mattei of Nazareth, PA.

Due to the current pandemic, a memorial service is planned for a future date. Those wishing to attend the memorial service may be notified by emailing *guswolfmemorial@gmail.com* with preferred means of contact.

In lieu of flowers the family has requested that donations be made to Bible Study Fellowship International in San Antonio, Texas www.bsfinternational.org

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 author of Those Shoes and an award-winning illustrator team up for the story of a girl who tries to overcome her fear of bees to see how amazing they are.

Kaia is the brave type. Like hottest-hot-pepper brave. But there is one thing that scares her: BEES! And right now, thousands of bees live on her roof because Kaia's dad is a beekeeper. Her dad says that the world needs bees and that's why they are beekeepers. But only he goes on the roof, not Kaia — unless she can find a way to be the brave girl she always says she is. Against a sunny city setting, author Maribeth Boelts and illustrator Angela Dominguez depict Kaia's small courageous steps — and her tiny insect neighbors — with great empathy and charm. Buzzing with storytime potential, Kaia and the Bees is an honest and relatable tale about bravery and compassion, as well as the importance of bees to our world.

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4 Types of Honey You Need to Try

Skip the clover and get a little adventurous with these honey flavors.

from Catch the Buzz

Davey Hackenberg and some of the honey that Hackenberg Apiaries produces. Photography by Mary Beth Koeth

Orange Blossom: Long a staple of roadside produce stands, this light honey has an undeniable citrus taste. While it used to be abundant, hits to Florida's citrus industry in recent years make this one harder to find.

Tupelo: The tupelo trees in southern Georgia and the Florida Panhandle have long been popular for beekeepers, and the end product is a light amber honey with a delicate sweetness and smoothness.

Saw Palmetto: Saw palmetto bushes, the inhospitable-looking razor-sharp ground cover, produce a honey that's just as bold as the plant, with tasty hints of citrus, caramel, smoke and wood flavors.

What's in season: Unlike in northern climates, where bees go dormant in the winter, in Florida bees are generally busy all year, and the honey they produce here has an inordinate number of natural flavors that taste like the fruits and veggies the plants produce. Of the honey you need to try, you might find your new favorite among: mango, gallberry, Brazilian pepper, blackberry, avocado, mangrove or seagrape.

https://www.flamingomag.com/2020/03/02/fl-specialty-honeys/

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

Big Country Beekeepers Association
Ken Hobbs - (325) 665-4045
paniolobee@icloud.com
Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each month except December at 6:30pm
Ben E Keith Company Beverage Distributors (Budweiser Co.)
2141 Cottonwood St, Abilene
(entrance on Cottonwood St next to flagpole

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.
Russell Dittfurth - (972) 542-4418
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
Gary Barber - (972) 768-5505
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
Vista Brewing, 13551 FM 150, Austin, TX 78737 at 6:30pm

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 6:30 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
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
Karin Bayne - (903) 261-3021
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

Montgomery County Beekeepers Assn.
Jerry Maxwell - (281) 771-5625
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
nethacantontexas@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 6:30 pm
Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce
1615 S Chestnut St. Lufkin (just off Loop 287)

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.
Tanya Phillips - (512) 560-3732
traviscountybeekeepers@gmail.com
www.TravisCountyBeekeepers.org
https://www.facebook.com/groups/TravisBeeks/
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

Dodie Stillman
stillmandodie@gmail.com
1602 Blanchard Drive
Round Rock, TX 78681
(512) 560-7550

Area 2

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

Area 3

Charlie Agar
charles_agar@yahoo.com
861 Twin Oaks Drive
New Braunfels, TX 78130
(803) 708-8797

Area 4

Roger Farr
rdfarr@gmail.com
6073 Farm Road 2348
Mount Pleasant, TX 75455
(979) 436-5310

Area 5

Monica Siwiak
monicasiwiak@gmail.com
7023 Wheaton Hill Lane
Richmond, TX 77407
(281) 627-7700

Area 6

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

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

TBA Officers-2020

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

Vice-President
J J Swan
kadeiqus@hotmail.com
PO Box 150725
Austin, TX 78715
(512) 677-7404

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

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

Picture from Lolita Bader