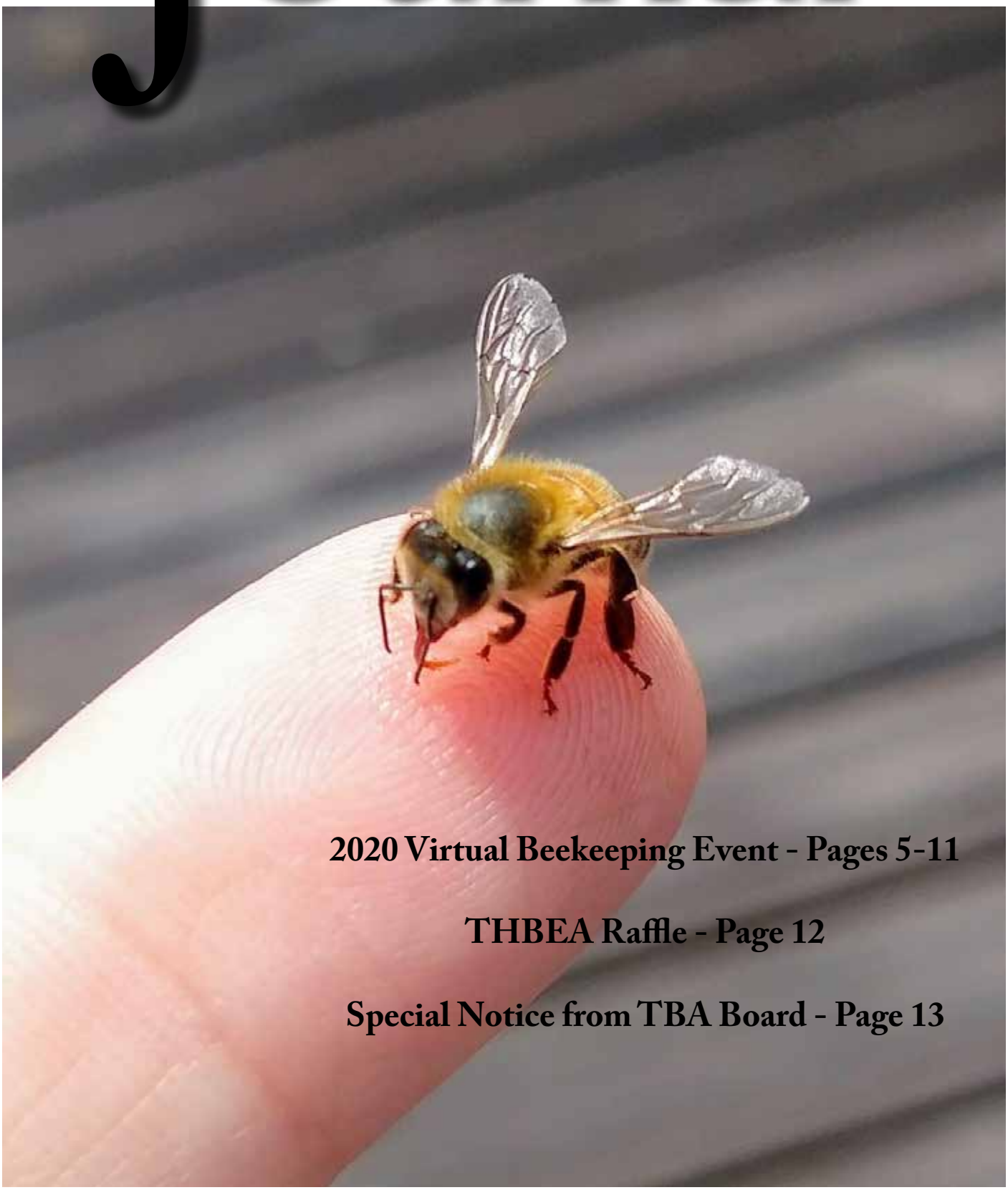
The Texas Beekeepers Association

Journal



Sept / Oct 2020 *www.texasbeekeepers.org* Issue 20-5

President's Report
from Ashley Ralph

Some of our Texas beekeepers are working double-time to keep their business relevant in this new world. From social media pushes for local honey deliveries to online classes and smaller gatherings to teach hands-on skills, our professional beekeepers have stayed busy. While some bee businesses have applied for PPP, or other SBA assistance, others have trucked along without. As you've likely seen in our online updates - honey is now eligible under the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP). Honey was not previously included in the program but has been expressly included in this second round of CFAP. You can get more information at www.farmers.gov/cfap

I hope you are all enjoying the time with your bees as we enter the last quarter of the year. I was chatting with a small-scale beekeeper friend of mine and she was boasting about how beekeeping was the most normal part of her schedule - a welcome constant amongst the strangeness that is 2020. If this is you - enjoy it as the beekeeping year even more as it comes to an end.

Make sure your bees and queen are healthy, do your mite checks, requeen and treat as necessary. This is the time of year when mite counts can get out of control so monitoring is key. It's time to make sure your bees are fat and happy before we blink and Fall has come and gone.

It remains a confusing time for people as restrictions for large groups are still in place and we're all very ready to get back to "normal". In the meantime, our event committee has been working hard to ensure that we put together some great speakers for the upcoming virtual event. I know I'm excited to be able to tune-in to some of my favorite beekeepers as well as have access to the educational library of videos that they've set up. It turns out, technology is a great tool in this strange time.

Despite the lack of in-person meetings, our board has been meeting virtually throughout the year to keep TBA on track for our members and since we don't get to brag about the projects that these committees and sister organizations have accomplished I decided to share with you all some of the great things your board and TBA volunteers have been working on:

TBA is currently working with TMBP Beekeepers, AgriLife, TAIS, and AgriLogic via a SARE Grant that will create a curriculum and learning program that can be used by mentors, 4H leaders, and beekeepers alike to be better resources for learning beekeepers.

Our Texas Honey Queen, Virginia Allen, has put together some amazing videos to educate the public about bees and the beekeeping industry - make sure you check out the Honey Queen YouTube Channel because her most recent video on Migratory Beekeeping is spectacular.

Continued improvement of procedures and systems for TBA, the Texas Honey Queen Program, Real Texas Honey, and Texas Honey Bee Education Association. I promise this is more exciting than it sounds - our volunteers have worked hard to make these organizations run more smoothly and efficiently while making it easier to maintain for our future leaders and volunteers.

TBA has a learning library of videos that you can now easily find from our website - hosting videos both on Vimeo (for easier download) & YouTube (for easier streaming) so that our club members can continue their education.

THBEA License Plate is out! This has been a longtime coming and we're excited to finally have the "Love Honey Bees" license plate out and ready to order! $22 per plate of the $30 plate charge comes back to the Texas Honey Bee Education Association. Check out the details HERE or go to thbea.com

Mike Hatch, Chris Doggett and the communications team have done an amazing job revamping the website to be more user friendly. Our website resources are growing so keep an eye on it.

Even though the Texas Legislature is not in session, our legislature team has been kept up to date on the rumblings in the Capitol. Because of COVID-19 legislators are hyper focused on the Texas economy and events to meet and greet the lawmakers have been cancelled and while there has been less activity focused on bees and beekeeping, our lobbyist and friends in the Capitol building have been keeping an eye out for opportunities and threats for our members.

There are many more projects on the horizon so I look forward to giving more updates of TBA project progress. In the meantime, if you have suggestions or want to help, please reach out - we're always looking for friendly volunteers to help make TBA even better.

Cover Picture by Dodie Stillman

Vice President's Report
from John Swan

The heatwave has finally passed, and fall is officially here! With that comes our fall nectar flow as well. This is a great time for our bees as they have a chance to rebound after a brutal summer heatwave and dearth. But, that doesn't mean that you shouldn't still check in on your bees though… Winter is coming and this is your last chance to ensure your colonies are strong, healthy, and have plenty of food stores to survive the winter dearth. If you haven't already, do your mite checks and respond accordingly if needed. Watch he colony to ensure they are bringing in plenty of pollen to raise strong healthy fat winter bees. If not, provide them with a pollen substitute if needed. Watch the open liquid and capped food store ratios as the fall flow continues to ensure they are bulking up with at least a 50% ratio of bees to food stores. If supplemental feeding is needed, this is the time to start giving them the 2:1 sugar syrup solution to help them get to their needed winter weight.

Another thing that comes with fall is our annual TBA Convention. As mentioned in the previous journal reports, we made the decision to convert this year's Convention over to a new Virtual event that can be accessed by our members from the comfort and safety of their own homes, no travel needed! This online virtual event will take place on Saturday, November 7th. There will be two separate phases to this event in order to provide everyone the opportunity to learn from ALL of the amazing speakers and their accumulated beekeeping knowledge without being tied to your computer all day long. Here is how this will look…

First and foremost, with your purchase of a ticket to the virtual event you will gain access to the LIVE presentations with the opportunity for a brief Q&A with each of our amazing keynote speakers after each session. Who are these mysterious keynote presenters you might ask? I'm happy to announce that this year we have the pleasure of being joined by Dr. Samuel Ramsey, Dr. David Tarpy, Dr. Ferhat Ozturk, and Sam Comfort!
In addition to the LIVE portion, your ticket purchase will also grant you access to a special repository of over 20+ individual beekeeping video presentations that are being created right now from an ever-growing list of amazing beekeepers from across the state of Texas! This feature will be the virtual equivalent to what normally would have been our breakout sessions. However, for the first time ever, you don't have to worry about picking one at the expense of missing another! All of these videos will be available starting on the day of the event and will remain right there at your fingertips to watch at your leisure over the coming weeks and months. Plus, select presentations from our Keynote Speakers during the live portion of the event will also be converted over and placed into this video library as well. So even if you were not able to join them for their live timeslot, you will still be able to watch their portions after the fact. What a better way to spend your coming winter months and help you prepare for the next beekeeping season than to have access to some of the best beekeeping tutorial and training videos out there on demand and at the ready when you need them!

You can find out more about this virtual event, including speaker bios, presentation topics & descriptions, and the LIVE event timeline in our special layout here in the Journal, or by visiting the TBA website and grabbing your tickets today at: texasbeekeepers.org.

TEXAS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

2020 VIRTUAL BEEKEEPING EVENT

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH

FEATURING SPECIAL KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

DR. SAMUEL RAMSEY

DR. DAVID TARPY

DR. FERHAT OZTURK

SAM COMFORT

PLUS ACCESS TO MORE INCREDIBLE SPEAKERS AND ONLINE DEMONSTRATIONS ARCHIVED EXCLUSIVELY FOR ATTENDEES OF THIS EVENT.

ONLINE ADMISSION $45
REGISTER TODAY AT
WWW.TEXASBEEKEEPERS.ORG

Keynote Speakers


Dr. David Tarpy

Dr. David Tarpy is a Professor and Extension Specialist (Apiculture) over Entomology & Plant Pathology at North Carolina State University. Dr. Tarpy's research programs span the entire spectrum from highly basic science on honey bee biology to highly applied science on apiculture and bee management. His extension program is targeted at disseminating information about honey bees and bee management to the public and beekeeping groups, working with local, state, and national beekeeping associations, and administering novel extension initiatives such as the online Beekeeper Education & Engagement System (BEES) and the NC State Queen & Disease Clinic.


Dr. Ferhat Ozturk

Dr.Ozturk is currently serving as a Volunteer Research Scientist at The University of Texas at San Antonio & PLTW Biomedical Science Teacher at School of Science and Technology. Dr. Ozturk specializes in NGS-based molecular diagnostics with a strong Ph.D. background in gene therapy, molecular and cellular biology, bioinformatics, biotechnology, and biochemistry research. He has taken this knowledge and applied it to the unique biological and chemical makeup of different mono-floral honey from around the world allowing him to unlock the hidden knowledge of age old wisdom regarding the healing benefits of honey. His current research is helping to identify U.S. based honey sources that contain high bioactivity levels and healing properties that can not only compete with, but out perform those of Manuka honey!

Dr. Samuel Ramsey

Dr. Ramsey graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Entomology from Cornell University in 2011, and focused his research on Predatory & Parasitic Insect Behavior. He cultivated an interest and expertise in the close relationships between insects and other creatures (symbioses), and dedicated his doctoral research to understanding a parasite killing honey bees globally (Varroa destructor). In Dr. Dennis VanEngelsdorp's Honey Bee lab at the University of Maryland, College Park; he completed his formal education. Dr. Ramsey went on to create award-winning research on Varroa destructor that has changed the standing paradigm on how the parasite feeds upon, and ultimately kills, honey bees. At the forefront of this scientific inquiry, he has had many opportunities to share his work internationally. Dr. Ramsey firmly believes that the ability to articulate one's findings to anyone who wants to hear them is just as important as the skills needed to reach important findings in the lab. This conviction is evidenced by his engaging scientific presentations and his contagious excitement in supporting the entomological community. His attention has now turned to the next big honey bee threat… the Tropilaelaps Mite!

Sam Comfort

Sam came into beekeeping after winning 6 hives in a poker game. He has since worked for several years in commercial beekeeping across America. He started Anarchy Apiaries in 2005 to explore permaculture ideas of low input natural cycles. He breeds queens from hardy survivors, experiments with splitting techniques, and messes around with hive designs. Sam's mission is to 1: Make more beehives than there are televisions, and 2: Have a good time, all the time (with bees). Anarchy Apiaries runs around 1000 hives that split seasonally into 1500+ mating nucs with no treatments, minimal feeding, and do-it-yourself hive boxes in New York and Florida. Through teaching independent, biological beekeeping, he hopes to make it more affordable, approachable, and enjoyable; thus bring the means of production back to the beekeeper.

Texas Beekeepers Association

Virtual Event - Saturday November 7th 2020

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Start Time	Finish Time	Speaker	Topic	Description
8:30 am	8:50 am			Room Open for Guest/Speakers to sign in and queue up for first presentation.
9:00 am	9:50 am	**Dr. Samuel Ramsey**	**The Honey Bee Landlord: Why Everything Wants to Live in Your Hive**	Ever wondered why so many creatures risk life and limb to live with a bunch of stinging insects that don't want them there? What's so alluring about living inside a honey bee hive and how have other creatures been able to dupe insects as smart as the honey bees into letting them stay? **"This presentation is "LIVE" only and will not be available after the live event itself."**
10:00 am	10:50 am	**Dr. David Tarpy**	**The Quality of Commercial Queens**	With our interest in multiple mating by queens we are prompted to ask the next logical question about how good commercial queens are. Diminished queen quality and reduced longevity is a major problem experienced by beekeepers, and so this presentation explores the good news and the bad news when it comes to buying queens in the apiculture industry.
11:00 am	11:50 am	**Dr. Ferhat Ozturk**	**Uses of Honey in Wound Healing**	Honey was long ago used as a means to treat all manner of ailments, but as our society moved more towards pharmaceuticals, we drifted away from some of the more natural approaches of days gone by. However, the medical community is slowly waking back up to the realization that there was some truth to these forgotten methods. Join Dr. Ferhat Ozturk as he walks us through the medicinal uses of honey on the treatment of wounds.

This is designed to be a come and go as you please type of event. If you have someone you've always wanted to see LIVE and/or you want the opportunity to have them answer your questions, simple make sure to tune in a few minutes before that specific session is to begin. If you're unable to catch some of the LIVE presentations, then don't fear… with the exception of Dr. Ramsey, all of our Keynote Presentations will be recorded and will become available for you to watch at your leisure after the event. However, if you are wanting to see Dr. Ramsey specifically, then you must attend his LIVE sessions because they are a one time only opportunity due to recording restrictions on the sensitive work he is currently undertaking.

Start Time	Finish Time	Speaker	Topic	Description
12:00 pm	12:50 pm	**Sam Comfort**	**Swarm the State: The Stinging Past and Sweet Future**	What does our beekeeping future look like? How do we maintain our independence and resilience in bzzzarre times? Anarchy Apiaries is addressing these issues through a tri-focal lens (environment, methodology, genetics) to make beekeeping simpler and stronger.
1:00 pm	1:50 pm	**Dr. Samuel Ramsey**	**Fight the Mite (Thailand Edition): Understanding the Mysterious Tropilaelaps Mite**	Tropilaelaps mercedesae is among the most concerning threats to our bees but continues to be one of the least studied. The Fight the Mite Initiative was established to proactively better our understanding of this creature without waiting for it to arrive in the US first. Funded largely by the beekeeping community, Dr. Ramsey has been researching the behavior, lifecycle, and vulnerabilities of the Tropilaelaps to chemical and non-chemical treatment measures. Though the project was ended abruptly as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, this presentation will detail discoveries and data collected to this point and the need for continued study. **This presentation is "LIVE" only and will not be available after the live event itself.**
2:00 pm	2:50 pm	**Dr. David Tarpy**	**Queen & Disease Clinic**	Based on our research on queens and colony health, we have launched an exciting new initiative to bring these same scientific techniques to help answer questions that beekeepers have. This new clinic provides a fee-based service for all beekeepers to help ensure quality control, providetroubleshooting, and even custom experimentation. Tune in to this presentation to learn all about how it works and to see if it might be a serive that could help you in your beekeeping endeavors.

3:00 pm	3:50 pm	**Dr. Ferhat Ozturk**	**Which Honey Types for Medical Use**	Did you know that same types of honey are better used for medicinal purposes than others? This is actually because each type of honey has its own unique levels of bioactivity. Some types of honey even have naturally occurring peroxide properties within them. In fact, there could be a type of honey right here in the U.S. that has the potential to be more effective in certain treatments than that of Manuka honey. Join Dr. Ferhat Ozturk as he guides us through the methods used to determine which honey is best for medical purposes.

In addition to the Amazing LIVE Presentations and Q&A with our impressive lineup of Keynote speakers, your ticket also grants you access to the following library of educational videos starting on the day of the event and running through the end of February 2021. That's right! You can spend the off season and your winter months building up your beekeeping repertoire with topics on:

Bee Removals
Dealing with Feisty/Testy Bees
Making a Solar Wax Melter
Wax Craft Demonstrations
Nutritional Ecology of Honey Bees in a Changing Landscape
Hive Inspections
Stepping Up Into Pollination Services
Queen Rearing
Topbar Beekeeping
Building Your Own Topbar Hive
Testing and Treating for Varroa
Texas Bee Laws
Texas Honey Regulations
How to Make Creamed Honey
Preparing for a Honey Show
Mead Making
Beginning Beekeeping
Bees as a Superorganism
Overwintering Your Colonies
Bee Nutrition & Feeding

… and more videos are being added to the roster every day!

2020 Virtual Beekeeping Event Registration

Please register for the annual convention on-line at

www.texasbeekeepers.org

or

2020 Event Registration Form

Please list attendees

Name(s): _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

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

Phone: _____

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

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

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

Cost for the conference is $45

Live access to Speakers
Post Conference access to Key Speakers and many additional videos

ONLINE RAFFLE

With over $10,000 in prizes - you won't want to miss this!

$1947 value

Honey Extractor

2 Prizes to Win

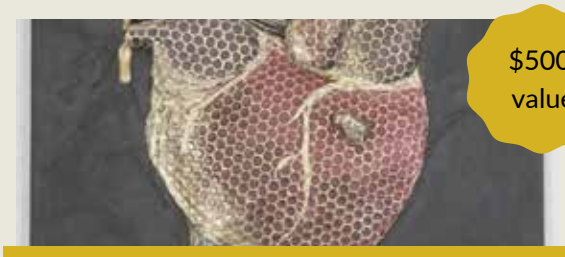
Complete Hive Kits with Live Bees

2 Prizes to Win

Nucleus Colonies

$1100 value

Handmade Bee Pendant Necklace



$500 value

Original Artwork

Get Your Tickets!!

Our raffle provides funding for the non-profit Texas Honey Bee Education Association. THBEA provides partial funding for the Texas Honey Queen Program, youth education grants, public information materials on "How to Help the Honey Bees," beekeeper education with the Newbees' Guide to Texas Beekeeping, and funding for honey bee research and advocacy.

Starting mid-October, buy your tickets online at:
www.thbea.com/raffle2020
**Ticket sales limited to Texas Residents.

THANK YOU TO

Dadant
Mannlake
Moore Honey Farm
Texas Bee Supply
Winding Creek Apiary
Silver Linens Jewelry
Prime Bees
Jorge Mata

FOR DONATING THESE PRIZES

.... watch for even more prizes!

Special Notice from your TBA Board

In light of the unprecedented circumstances we have all faced in 2020, the TBA membership has not been able to meet in person at our usual events. This includes the annual meeting in which we host our elections. Due to these challenges it was recommended to the board by the nominations committee that the TBA Board should carry over the current leadership until such a time as we can host a proper meeting and election. With this recommendation, the board has drafted the following resolution..

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee had to cancel the November 2020, in-person convention and annual meeting because of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and restrictions imposed by state and local authorities; and

WHEREAS, TBA Bylaws provide for the nomination and election of directors and officers by the membership at the annual meeting of the membership and do not make provision for elections to occur through any other means; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee believes it is in the best interest of TBA to have continuous and consistent leadership through these unusual circumstances and the TBA Bylaws provide that elected officers and directors shall serve for their respective terms "…or until a successor is duly elected and qualified";

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, those individuals currently serving in positions that would have been up for election in 2020, (President, Vice President, Director positions 2, 4, 6) shall continue in their respective positions until the election in 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, a vacancy in any position shall be filled in accordance with the Bylaws.

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

Texas Honey Bee Education Association Update

THBEA Happenings this Fall…and beyond

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

Howdy, fellow Texas beekeepers!

Your THBEA board has not been idle these last few months. I'd like to share with you several newsworthy items.

First, THBEA will NOT have a live auction in 2020. TBA has decided to have a virtual convention and so a live auction is not feasible. However, **THBEA will have an on-line raffle for 2020.** We plan to have up to ten items in the raffle. See a partial list of items with pictures elsewhere in this *Journal* edition. You will be able to purchase tickets, for each prize individually, on-line at www.thbea.com/raffle2020 and receive a receipt with your ticket numbers via email. No internet – No problem; just call Chris or Shirley Doggett to place your ticket order. The raffle will run from mid-October to November 13, 2020 at 6 p.m. The winners will be drawn, notified, and posted to thbea.com and texasbeekeepers.org on November 14, 2020.

Second, and also on the topic of fund-raising, the "Love Honey Bees" license plate is now available! You can purchase yours by visiting your local county tax assessor-collector or on-line at TxDMV.gov. Navigate to the specialty license plate area and type "Love Honey Bees" in the search area and up will pop the plate picture and a button to purchase it. You will pay an additional $30 in yearly registration fees of which $22 will go to THBEA each year. This has the potential to be a great on-going funding source for the activities of THBEA. Thanks to the team who worked diligently over the last two years to make this specialty plate a reality. Thanks to you we've sold 141 plates in the first 15 days!

Third, **THBEA is rolling out the Adopt-a-Hive program**. The idea is to connect local beekeepers with local businesses who then donate money to THBEA for educational and other programs. The beekeeper and the business are then able to promote local honey and the benefits of bees to their customers. THBEA provides honey bee information brochures to the business and a press release for the business to use in promoting their donation and support of honey bees. You can find more about the program and get involved at thbea.com/adopt-a-hive. We're also sending out information packets on Adopt-a-Hive to TBA-member beekeeping associations to share with their members.

Lastly, **THBEA has created an informational brochure** on how the general public can "help Texas honey bees." When people find out I'm a beekeeper I usually get asked these three questions. "Have you ever been stung?" "Do you have any local honey for sale?" "What's going on with our bees?" This brochure is designed to answer that last question. In the brochure you'll find information to educate people on the importance of honey bees to our ecology and economy, as well as eight specific things anyone can do to help Texas honey bees. THBEA will mail packages of brochures to TBA-member beekeeping associations to share with their members and for use at educational events for the general public. The brochures are available free of charge to you as a result of the generosity of other beekeepers in donating to THBEA.

Administratively, TBA will be looking for individuals to serve on the THBEA board beginning in November 2020. If you are interested contact Ashley Ralph, TBA President (ashley@primebees.com).

THBEA 2019/20 Board - Chris Doggett (Vice-Chair), Roger Farr (Chair), Chris Moore, Ashley Ralph, John Swan, Rebecca Vaughan, and Terry Wright
Secretary - Leesa Hyder, Treasurer – Barbi Rose

FREE TESTING FOR YOUR HONEY

BY: THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

The Texas Honey Show is partnering with The University of Texas at San Antonio to do a study on Texas honey. We are asking all entries to the Texas Honey Show to fill out the document below so that after judging, we can send your honey to be tested. Just include this form with your entry forms. We are so excited to be able to offer this testing to all of you and we are excited to see the results. The testing could potentially be a boon for the Texas Honey Businesses meaning all of you. If you do not want to enter the Texas Honey Show but would still like to participate in the study. We will be collecting honey at the honey show to send on to the university. To know more about the study, we have included a letter from the University in this month's journal.

Texan Honey BioActivity Level (BAL) Analysis Study		
Dr. Ozturk - UTSA		
Honey Sample Donation Form		
Honey Sample	Date of Submission	
	Date of Harvest (MM/YY)	
	Geographical Region and Altitude	
	Nectar Source *(if known)*	
	Amount (min 4 oz)	
	Color	
	Fermentation *(Foam on top)* **(Y/N)**	
	Filtered **(Y/N)**	
	Bee strain *(if known)*	
Beekeeper's	**Name**	
	Address	
	Phone	
	E-mail	
	Additional Notes	

Texas Local Honey Biological Activity Level (BAL) Project

Throughout the history, honey has been used for various therapeutic purposes, such as wound healing, treatment of skin and eye infections, gut diseases, as well as a painkiller due to its high biological activity. The bioactivity potential of honey is mostly dependent on its biological and chemical constituents. Honey contains over 200 compounds, being broadly composed of sugars, water, amino acids, vitamins, minerals, enzymes, phenolic acids, and flavonoids, etc. Honey has been reported to have various biological activity properties, such as immunomodulatory, antibacterial, antifungal, antidiabetic, and antitumor activities. The exact composition of honey differs depending on the variety of geographical region, climate, strain of honeybee, and nectar source.

In this study, we will characterize the biological activity levels (BAL) of honey samples collected from beekeepers at different locations of Texas. Using biochemical analytical methods, we will determine the conformity features such as color, moisture, sugar, enzyme, protein, pollen, and HMF, as well as the antioxidant and antimicrobial properties of the honey samples. Eventually, we will calculate their BAL using our unique formula.

Our long-term goal is to identify the biochemical fingerprint of Texan honeys. To achieve this goal, we will collect and analyze honey samples (n:50) from 7 different regions of Texas with a homogenous distribution, which are Big Bend Country, Gulf Coast, Hill Country, Panhandle Plains, Piney Woods, Prairies and Lakes, and South Texas Plains. We will provide a short questionnaire for the beekeepers to identify the location, type, forage, nectar source, and harvest period of the honey with their contact information.

These analyses will be performed by students of UTSA and School of Science and Technology under the supervision of Dr. Ferhat Ozturk during Spring 2021. Results of our findings will be presented at Texas Beekeepers Association's (TBA) annual conference, and other student conferences, as well as will be published at prestigious journals. The expected outcome of this study is that the Texas local honey samples with high BAL can be promoted globally for therapeutic uses in complementary and integrative medicine studies for animal models and clinical trials.

To participate in this study and receive a free honey BAL analysis, please send 4-oz sample of your unique honey to the TBA.

Sincerely yours,

Ferhat Ozturk, Ph.D.

University of Texas San Antonio

Ferhat.Ozturk@utsa.edu DrMedibal@gmail.com

In Memoriam

John G, Thomas of Bryan Texas died Wednesday August 5, of complications from Covid-19. He was 83, a lifelong Texan, and a beloved husband, father, grandfather, friend and educator. His life of service was long and full.

John was born to Lefty and Casie Thomas in Pampa, Texas. His lifelong passion for service was influenced by his father, a county agent and his mother, a volunteer for many causes including many years of service to the Methodist Church. John's love of farming and of honey bees started very early. Around age 10, he began selling honey he gathered from a wild colony at a roadside stand, and was a beekeeper for the majority of his life. He often referred to his wife of 61 years, Janice, as his "first wife", but his first love was a honey bee. His first trip to Texas A&M, his alma mater, was at age 6 when Lefty received a Master's degree. His second was at age 11 when he was put on a train, alone, from Childress to College Station, where he spoke at a Texas Beekeepers meeting. His desire to attend A&M was cemented. After graduating from Wellington High School in 1955, John headed to College Station with $575 and the address of Ma Hamilton's boarding house.

John enrolled in the entomology program and was a member of the Corps of Cadets in "B" battery, Anti-Aircraft Artillery (AAA) unit. He held many elected positions in the Corps, while working his way through college. It was rumored his Senior Class managed to "borrow" every school mascot in the region (with a complete loss of one car interior, thanks to the Baylor bear). Secondary to his escapades, he was also a stellar scholar and was a member of several academic honor societies. Upon graduation in 1959, he married the love of his life, Janice Davis, a Wellington classmate (and a proud T-sip). He became the Class Agent for Class of '59, a position he held for 50 years. He additionally went on to receive his BA in Economics and MS in Entomology (1961) and his Ph.D. (from KSU) in 1970.

John worked for the Texas A&M Extension Service through college and until his retirement in 1992. He was integral to the early development of Integrated Pest Management in Texas. During the 50's and 60's, chemical pesticides were inexpensive and casually used. The Agricultural Extension Entomology program set out to educate farmers on cutting edge research to better manage crop pests, reduce pesticide use, and broaden non-chemical control practices such as beneficial insect use and non-chemical controls. This successful Texas program was later implemented by John in 28 states during a stint at the Federal Extension Service in Washington D.C. The IPM pilot programs resulted in significant impacts to agriculture and improvements in environmental quality and is still a model of agricultural practice today. He received numerous awards and accolades for his work including the Faculty Distinguished Achievement Award.

After his "first" retirement, John threw himself into his many unpaid positions. He volunteered with multiple organizations including National Active and Retired Federal Employees where he tirelessly lobbied for protection of federal employee pension benefits and served stints as both state and national legislative chair. He was a member or elected official for many of the

regional, state and national Entomological Societies. He also continued his service and was a strong advocate for the Texas Beekeepers Association, which he was a member of for most of his adult life. "Dr. John" became one of the greatest ambassadors for the honey bee and could speak long and eloquently about that wonderful organism (once asked how long he would like to speak about honey bees, he replied "How long is your program today?"). He would eagerly mentor anyone who asked (and some that did not ask) about honey or honey bees. Dr. John was the driving force in getting a honey bee research facility built at the Riverside Campus of Texas A&M and he and Janice provided the gift needed to finish the laboratory, the Dr. John G. and Janice Thomas Honey Bee Facility. Additionally, they were both fixtures at the honey demonstration booth for years at numerous fairs, meetings, and county demonstrations to promote honey use and honey bees.

He was always ready and willing to promote Texas A&M. As a lifelong adult resident of Bryan, he truly bled maroon and attended and supported nearly every sport at A&M involving a ball. He was a charter member of the Century Club for 52 years. He also worked tirelessly as Class Agent and assisted the class in numerous donation efforts including it's funding of a Class of '59 pillar at the Clayton W. Williams, Jr. Alumni Center, and the funding of three Corps of Cadets Endowed Scholarships. In addition, he and his wife personally supported numerous educational endeavors and scholarship funds at Texas A&M. John was a member of the A&M United Methodist Church for the majority of his life and a lifelong Methodist. He served for many years as a Sunday School teacher and church usher. John loved to talk and was a speaker for numerous organizations and societies. His passion for learning and educating was instilled to all of his children who also pursued BS, MS or PhD degrees. He interacted with international guests as a host for the Agriculture International Program and met many lifelong friends,

always eager to both teach and learn from them. He traveled extensively through Texas and through many countries during his lifetime. Later in life, John enjoyed spending time with his kids and grandkids, traveling to numerous locations in the US, Canada and Mexico. His curiosity was present even well into his late 70s and 80s. The grandchildren quickly learned to expect numerous questions and when asked something they clearly would not know the answer to (such as asking the 11 year old about the population of a foreign city they were driving through), that the short answer was always one word… "14". The family response to any unanswerable question to this day is still "14". His love of life and legacy to service are alive and well to this day in the many programs and institutions he has touched, and in the love of education he instilled in his family and friends.

John is preceded in death by his son, Wesley M. Thomas and his brother, Jack H. Thomas. He is survived by family, Janice, wife of 61 years, daughters Valerie (Jeff Luzenski) Thomas, Lisa (Tommy Lukens) Fahlquist, grandkids Zach, Caelin, Cassie, Logan and Erin, his sister Ada Rummel, and numerous nieces, grand-nieces and grand-nephews. Many thanks to the wonderful caregivers whose dedicated assistance ensured John's comfort at home in his last years. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Texas Honey Bee Education Association (400 County Road 440, Thrall, TX 76578 or by phone at 512-924-5051) or to the the Texas A&M Foundation, 401 George Bush Drive, College Station, Texas 77840. Please designate gifts "in memory of Dr. John G. Thomas '59" in the memo line of the check and gifts will be applied to honey bee and beekeeper education. To donate online, you can go to give.am and select, Unlisted Account, and enter "Dr. Nevin Weaver Honey Bee Excellence Fund-04-57916".

The Brantley Column

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

NEWS FLASH!! BREAKING NEWS!! You may not be up to date so let me inform you about what is happening. Several months ago, Mann Lake acquired the Stromberg songbird/ chicken business. For the last few weeks the local Marshall, Texas radio station has been running ads for songbirds and chickens. "Place your order now for delivery on September 19 at 1600 Commerce Street in Marshall, Texas." If you have been closely reading the Mann Lake Marshal ads, you realize that 1600 Commerce is the address of Mann Lake's Marshall location. Mr Stromberg himself was present to see that pickup and delivery of his product went well. And, of course, it did! To make sure you are rewarded for your purchases, Strombergs's has a reward program similar to Mann Lake Marshall's. You probably have already figured out that you will earn "Cluck Bucks" for each purchase of songbirds or chickens!

In the beeyard, during October we should see the bees bringing in lots of pollen to store for next year's start of the new bee season. East Texas typically sees a heavy Goldenrod bloom. Since it seems that no one likes Goldenrod honey, why not put a super on the hive and let the bees store their winter food supply during this flow. The natural nectar and pollen they store will be much more beneficial than the sugar solution you give them next spring. You would need to check the weight of the hive to make sure the flow provided sufficient food for the winter and into the spring buildup.

If you have not checked or treated your hives for mites this fall, I encourage you to do so before cold weather arrives. The recent literature I read points more and more to mite infestation as a leading cause in fall and winter absconding. One opined that a healthy hive should have no more than one mite in a 300 bee sample. If you find a higher count, you should treat the hive. This is much more rigorous than the traditional opinion that a hive should be treated if the mite load is 3% or greater, e.g., 9 mites in a 300 bee sample.

Since you are not going to sell or consume the fall honey that is being stored, it should be OK to treat with the super on the hive. Just make sure the bees consume all of this honey by next spring. They will then have a clean, dry super to store nectar when the spring flow begins.

If you do not have an adequate fall bloom, you can supplement with sugar syrup to help the bees build winter stores. I suggest a 2:1 formula as they tend to quite readily store the heavier mixture. In many areas, October will be the last chance for bees to gather and store pollen and nectar. Shortly thereafter, the first freeze will come along and most of the natural forage will be finished. If you have some of your hives located in the city, your bees may be able to continue to find pollen and some nectar from the many "window box" flower beds found in residential neighborhoods.

By the beginning of October, bees may have already begun to close the entrance with propolis. Stick your hive tool into the hive entrance to feel for any propolis buildup. No matter what you find, now is a good time to add an entrance reducer. Install the entrance reducer with the 2" opening in position. Also, vent the outer cover to allow heat and condensation from the bees to escape and evaporate. When colder weather arrives, this condensation can drip onto the winter cluster and may damage your colony. I like to place a popsicle stick on the front rim of the inner cover to raise the outer cover just enough for ventilation. Just take care that your ventilation stick does not create a large crack that robbers could use to get into the hive.

Small Hive Beetle activity will slow as the weather becomes cooler. If needed, you can add a small piece of pollen pattie on the top bars above the cluster as a pollen supplement. The piece of pattie should be about what your bees can eat in a week. Start with a one inch strip of the pattie and see how much is eaten in a week. You do not want to leave a large pattie in the hive for a long period or the beetles will try to lay eggs underneath it.

In our area, it is not necessary to wrap hives for winter protection. Face the hive entrance to the East or South, provide a wind break as needed, and you hives should survive an East Texas

“First Rule of Fight Club…err Prepping”

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

Rules of Fight Club:

1.) “The first rule of fight club is you don’t talk about fight club.”
2.) “The second rule about fight club is YOU DON’T TALK ABOUT FIGHT CLUB.”
3.) “But the most important rule of fight club is: F… the rules.”

If you ever get into prepping, the rules for prepping are the same as fight club. When prepping the last thing you want is to spend years prepping while listening to your friends tell you are crazy only to have them come straight to your house anytime things get a little crazy. With that in mind, today I am going with rule number three.

As I began to go through my kitchen to start getting ready for the holidays, I came across two 10lb. bags of Pancake Mix. I had been so proud of myself for not panicking when Covid -19 happened and had not done any “stress shopping”. I have a rule about purchases. I try to have at least two if not three possible uses for an item before I purchase anything. Let me give you an example: If you listen to the radio for any amount of time you will hear a commercial about buying gold and silver. There have been times when I felt a bit of a nudge in the back of my mind that I should buy some silver usually after watching “Oh brother Where Art Though?” The kid holding the shotgun seen makes me laugh and freaks me out all at the same time.

“Hold it right there. You men from the bank?" "You Wash's boy?" "Yessir and Daddy told me I'm to shoot whoever's from the bank." "Well, we ain't from the bank young feller." "Yessir, I'm also s'posed to shoot folks serving papers." "We ain't got no papers neither." "I nicked the census man." "Now there's a good boy.”
— Joel Coen, Ethan Coen, O Brother, Where Art Thou?

I start to panic and think, if I buy enough to pay taxes, we will be able to keep the ranch. What saves me from grabbing my phone is my rule of two uses. The only bad thing is after a few years I thought of a second use. I could give it to the kids when they get married like a dowry. I think I may need to raise it to “the rule of three”…lol

So back to pancake mix. While I was going though my pantry and faced what I had purchased the first week of the outbreak, I came across a bunch of different flavored muffin mixes. What in the world am I gong to do with 50 assorted flavors of muffin mix. After some searching, I came across this recipe from the Facebook page “Mommy Needs a Recipe”. Here it is below.

Muffin Mix Pancakes

- One pack muffin mix
- 2/3 cup of milk
- 1 egg

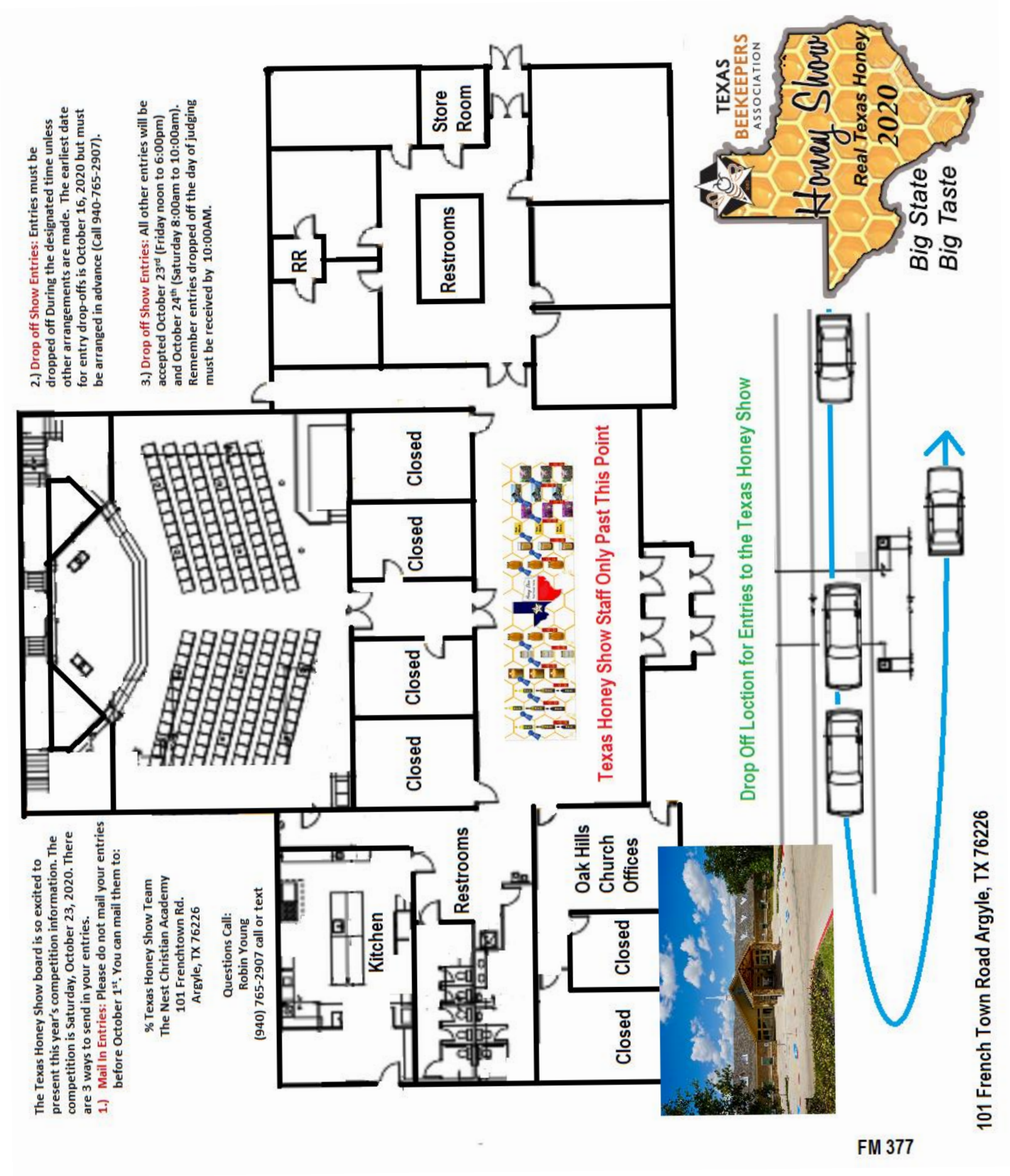
One package will make roughly seven good sized pancakes. Once cooked add butter and generously apply your honey.

So, when you start going through your pantry and find that you may have gone a bit overboard, this recipe may come in handy. Let’s face it, we are all looking for things to put honey on and pancakes with butter and honey is such an incredible treat. The kids and grandkids will lick the plate.

As you look to the future of your honey business and your family plans, keep in mind the rule of “Three Uses”. If you start doing any prepping activities remember the “Rules of Fight Club”. They will not steer you wrong.

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

Texas Honey Show Entry Drop Off Points



At Home Beekeeping Series

Distance Learning for Beekeepers

We're offering beekeepers the chance to attend virtual 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!

- **Sept 29: Winter bee biology & management, *with Jack Rowe (Alabama Extension)***
- **Oct 27: Creating & maintaining a wildflower meadow, *with Anthony Abbate (Auburn)***
- **Nov 24: Getting started and staying in beekeeping, *with Jeff Harris (Mississippi State)***
- **Dec 29: Beekeeping boxing day sales, *with vendors & Geoff Williams (Auburn) & Anne Marie Fauval (Bee Informed Partnership)***

Last Tuesday of the month

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

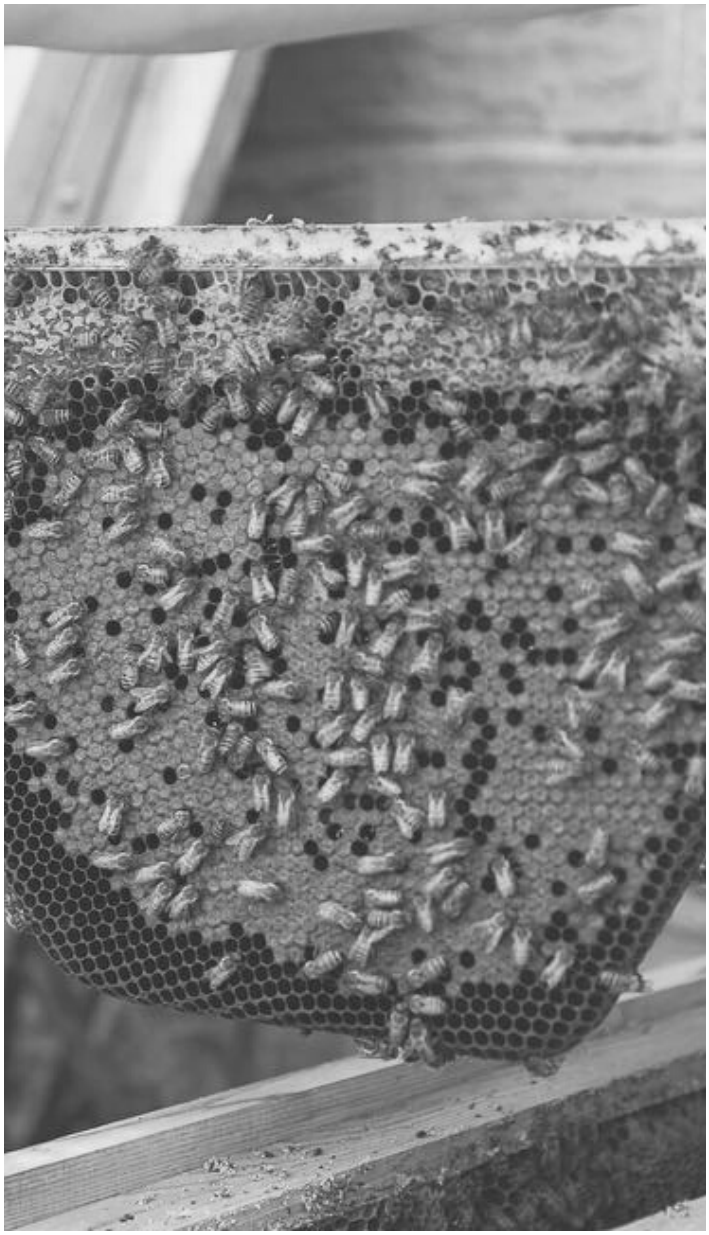
Our institutions are equal opportunity educators and employers. Everyone is welcome!
See our efforts: ACES | Auburn | Florida | Georgia | Louisiana | Mississippi | Tennessee | Texas A&M | USDA

TEXAS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

searching for

2020-2021

TEXAS HONEY QUEEN



TELL ME MORE:

The TBA Honey Queen Program was started in 1979 to promote the Texas Honey Bee Industry through education and promotion. With 50 years of history, our program participants gain valuable experience in marketing, communication, and education. Honey Queens are 17-24 years of age. They'll promote the beekeeping industry through demonstrations, interviews, & promotion.

APPLICANTS MUST DEMONSTRATE:

- Communication skills
- Poise, confidence, charisma
- Bee & industry knowledge
- Social media, video, and marketing skills

More Info:

Find detailed application and program Information at TexasBeekeepers.org/honey-queen

Applications Due Nov. 1

EDUCATE - NETWORK - PROMOTE

Specialty Licence Plate

Please Help Our Honey Bees

Get your specialized license plate from the DMV

Available September 1st 2020

$22 of the License Fee will go directly to the Texas Honey Bee Education Association

Goji Berry Update

"The Continuing Journey of Two Seventh-Year Small-Scale Beekeepers"
TBA Journal Article – September 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. Information adapted from
https://www.provenwinners.com/http%3A/%252Fwww.provenwinners.com/vitaminberries

Photo - Hudson Old, *East Texas Journal*

We're back to report on one of our new favorite food crops: goji berries. We planted four goji plants two years ago, added ten more last year, and ten more in 2020; they're that good. Bottom line: **Honey bees love to forage on gojis!** Here are some specifics on growing them for food and bee forage.

Description: Goji is a sprawling shrub with long, flexible canes and clusters of small, grey-green leaves. The flowers are a light purple, and they appear along the length of the canes after rains from late spring to early fall. Several varieties of pollinators visit the small open flowers; often, gojis are the only thing in our garden in bloom in August. Flowers give way to juicy, bright red fruits that resemble small peppers or tiny Christmas lights. The fruits grow sweeter as they mature on the plant. Goji plants continue to flower and produce fruit through the first heavy frost. Though gojis sound exotic and are most often found with a high price tag in health food stores, goji berry plants are actually easy to grow and hardy. Gojis do not require another plant to bear fruit. Keep in mind we're describing the "Sweet Lifeberry" cultivar; other cultivars may have a different growth habit and require trellising.

How to grow gojis:

Zone: hardy to USDA zone 5; heat tolerant to AHS zone 9

Exposure: Full sun is best, but tolerates a bit of shade.

Height: 4-7 feet (1.5-2.1 m)

Water: Water new plants weekly. Gojis tolerate some drought once established, but for best fruit set and quality, water regularly.

Soil: Any well-drained soil, pH 6 to 8. We cover our soil with 4-6" of mulch to retain moisture and to limit weeds. You can easily grow gojis in a large pot with a drainage hole.

Plant goji on 4-foot centers. Here they are four feet apart on opposite sides of a 16-foot long cattle panel.

Staking: Goji naturally wants to sprawl. Save space and make harvesting berries easier by either bundling the strongest 3-5 canes around a 6-8'tall stake or tying canes to a wire fence or trellis.

Pests: Goji berry plants are not bothered by insects or diseases, but birds, deer, and raccoons all love the fruit.

Pruning: Goji does not require pruning to grow well and produce fruit. However, you may find the plant is more manageable and easier to harvest when its horizontal branches are lightly pruned to encourage branching and to produce vigorous new growth.

Harvesting: Goji berries begin to ripen in early summer. They should be plucked off by hand when they are brilliant red and taste sweet. They come off the plant easily, without the need for pruners or a knife.

Fertilizing: Apply a 3-1-2 ratio fertilizer formulated for flowering woody plants in early spring, just as new growth begins.

Purchase: We've purchased on-line at groworganic.com and almosteden.com. Check also at Home Depot.

Goji Berry Harvesting, Storage, and Use

Pick when reddish-orange, wash, and dry on a towel. Refrigerate up to 3 days or freeze in labeled, dated, and sealed plastic bag or storage container. We store gojis by 1 cup volume in small plastic bags inside a sealed gallon bag. Well-sealed frozen goji berries should keep for several months and can be used straight from the freezer in recipes. We've tried drying them, but the "Sweet Lifeberry" variety produces small berries, and they dry to hard kernels. Try these goji berry recipes!

Goji Berry Nut Snacks (adapted from Goji Berry Paleo Granola from whatgreatgrandmaate.com)

1 C salted almonds
1 C salted cashews
1 C walnuts
1 C shredded coconut
1 C Goji berries (we used frozen)
¼ C almond butter (or melted coconut oil)
¼ C honey
1 t vanilla
½ t cinnamon

Chop nuts to 1/2'". Add all ingredients in a large bowl. Stir to mix. Bake for 15 minutes at 300°. Remove pan and turn mixture with a large spoon, bake 10 minutes more. Removed and let cool for 30 minutes. Break into chunks. Store in a plastic storage container or bag. Eat as is or use as a topping for yogurt, oatmeal, or fruit.

Uncle Buck's Goji Salsa; yields 8 quarts (adapted from provenwinners.com)

8 C goji berries
8 C tomatoes, peeled and diced
4 cloves of garlic, minced
1 T black pepper
¼ C salt
¾ C sugar
1 C white vinegar
3 onions, chopped
4 green peppers, chopped
15 jalapeño peppers, minced
12 oz. can tomato paste

Bring all ingredients (except tomato paste) to boil. Simmer for 45 minutes. After 30 minutes, stir in tomato paste.

Enjoy sharing goji plants with your honey bees! We'd love to hear about your beekeeping adventures!

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

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

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

Dear TBA members,

Howdy from my home office! As in past months, we still continue working mostly remotely from an alternate work station and/or at the apiary doing field work. Of course, when we are in the field everyone is practicing biosafety measures. Despite not being able to meet in person, our lab is still VERY active, and we meet once a week (at least) via Zoom. There have been other meetings and conferences happening remotely, some of which I will brief you on.

First, I want to let you know that I am working directly with a representative from Texas A&M University's Foundation to begin fundraising efforts to create an endowment on behalf of our honey bee research program. We met with the representative this past week, and he is going to gather all the necessary paperwork and information so that we can actively begin to fundraise for our program. I know that some of you have already donated to the Nevin Weaver Honey Bee Excellence Fund, especially after the passing of Dr. John G. Thomas. With the help of the proper A&M Foundation representatives, rest assured that we will make every dollar contributed to this fund useful to our program and to the beekeeping industry in Texas. So thank you in advance, and we will give you more details about how to donate in the coming weeks.

There have been a few things happening in our research program despite of most people working remotely. The Department of Entomology held its 23rd annual Graduate Research Forum, where students have the opportunity to present their work to members of the department. This year was the first ever virtual forum and we had a surprisingly high number of attendants! Taylor Reams, Myra Dickey and Jordan Ellis presented from our lab, and Jordan got Honorable Mention for her presentation titled: "Honey bees (Apis mellifera) experience accelerated age polyethism and premature death due to developmental stressors." Congratulations Jordan!

I continue to present our work on virtual platforms during the COVID-19 pandemic. On 3 August I was keynote speaker for this year's Comparative Nutrition Society (CNS) Symposium. The title of the presentation was "Nutritional ecology of honey bees in a changing landscape," in which I talked about some of the work that we have been doing on the macronutrient preferences of honey bees. Details of the event can be found at https://www.cnsweb.org/symposia

Also, on 12 August I was invited by Dr. Jamie Ellis from the University of Florida to chat about swarming and house hunting in honey bees on his Two Bees in a Podcast show. Jamie is always so entertaining, and his co-host Amy Vu is a lot of fun as well! Even without promoting it on social media, the show had over 1000 listens in one week! You can find the episode (Episode 31) at https://anchor.fm/ufhbrel/episodes/Scout-Bees--Bee-Stings-eio7iv or at http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/honey-bee/podcast/

The next session in the At Home Beekeeping Series will be Tuesday, Sept. 29, from 6:30-7:30 CST. Our speaker this month is Jack Rowe, ACES Beekeeping Specialist. He will be discussing winter bee biology and management. As usual, presentations are live on Zoom and Facebook and/or recorded for two weeks for people to watch at their leisure. And as always, the event is FREE!!! The Zoom room webinar link is https://auburn.zoom.us/j/904522838 will continue as is, and the Facebook Live Stream is https://www.facebook.com/LawrenceCountyextension will still be an alternative option for those who prefer not to use Zoom. Additionally, each session will be posted as a recording in the video section of the Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/LawrenceCountyextension/videos/?ref=page_internal) for two weeks to allow those missed to watch later. No need to register, just log on a few minutes before we begin. We hope you will join us and spread the word to your beekeeping friends and clubs!

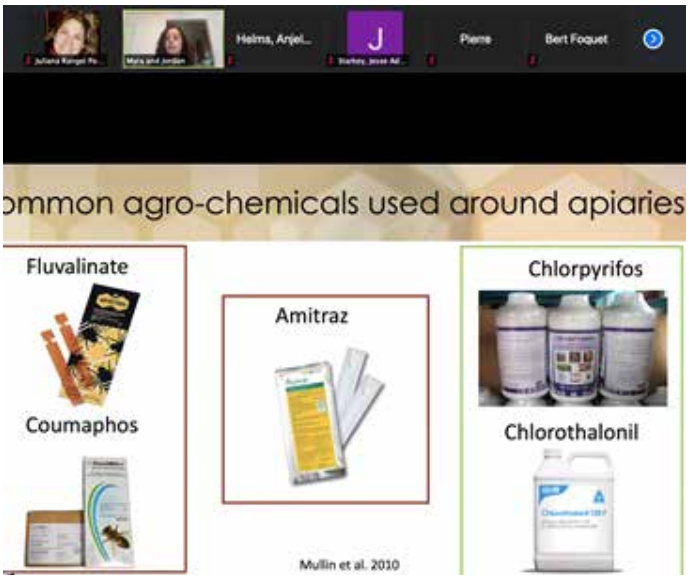
Finally, our former student Liz Walsh just had another paper from her dissertation accepted for publication. The details of the paper are below.

E. M. Walsh, M. A. Janowiecki, K. Zhu, N. H. Ing, E. L. Vargo, J. Rangel. 2020. Elevated mating frequency in honey bee (*Hymenoptera: Apidae*) queens exposed to the miticide amitraz during development. Annals of the Entomological Society of America. In press.

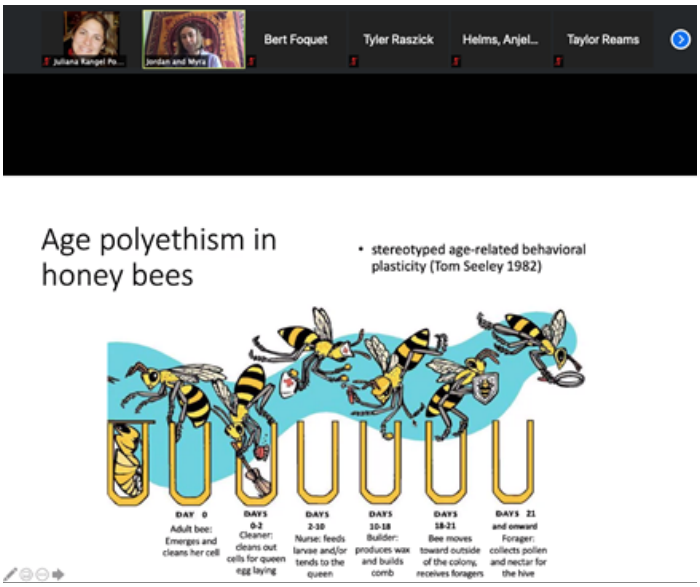
Abstract: Most honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) colonies in the United States have been exposed to the beekeeper-applied miticides amitraz, coumaphos, and tau-fluvalinate. Colonies are also often exposed to agrochemicals, which bees encounter on foraging trips. These and other lipophilic pesticides bind to the beeswax matrix of comb, exposing developing bees. We explored whether queen-rearing beeswax containing pesticides affects the reproductive health of mated queens. We predicted that queens reared in pesticide-free beeswax would have higher mating frequencies and sperm viability of stored sperm compared to queens reared in in wax containing pesticides. Mating frequency and sperm viability are two traditional measurements associated with queen reproductive health. To test these hypotheses, we reared queens in beeswax-coated cups that were pesticide-free or contained field-relevant concentrations of 1) amitraz, 2) a combination of tau-fluvalinate and coumaphos, or 3) a combination of the agrochemicals chlorothalonil and chlorpyrifos. We then collected queens once they mated to

determine sperm viability, using a dual fluorescent cell counter, and mating frequency, genotyping immature worker offspring at eight polymorphic microsatellite loci. Sperm viability did not differ between control queens and those reared in pesticide-laden wax. However, queens exposed to amitraz during development exhibited higher mating frequency than queens reared in pesticide-free beeswax or beeswax containing the other pesticide combinations. Our results suggest that miticide exposure during development affects queen mating frequency but not sperm viability, at least in newly mated queens. This finding, which has practical implications for commercial queen rearing and overall colony health, calls for further study.

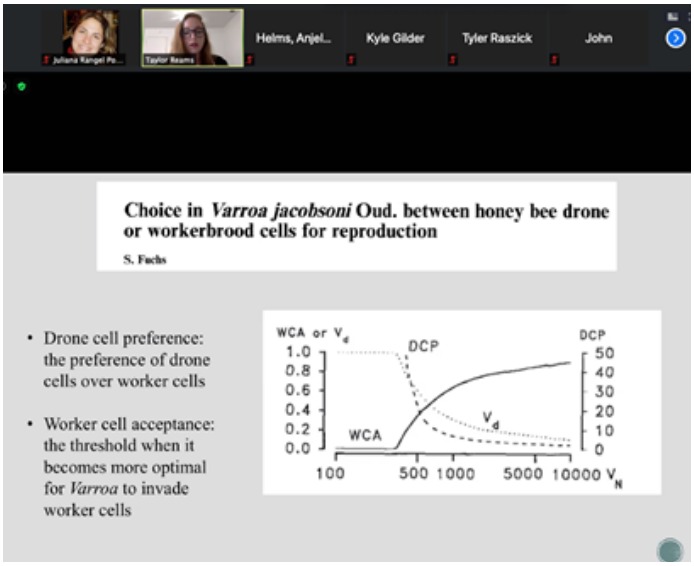
That is all for now. I cannot believe that Autumn is upon us… I wish you all a safe and enjoyable Fall, and I hope to get some momentum for our fundraising efforts. As always, for up-to-date information regarding our program, or for new and interesting posts regarding bees and beekeeping, please visit us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/TAMUhoneybeelab.
Thank you as always for your support. Stay safe!!



Myra Dickey presenting at the Graduate Research forum her project titled: "Transcriptomic analysis of the honey bee (Apis mellifera) queen brain in response to pesticide exposure during development."



Jordan Twombly Ellis received Honorable Mention at this year's virtual Entomology Graduate Research Forum for her presentation on accelerated age polyethism due to stress in bees.



Taylor Reams presenting at the Graduate Research forum her project titled: "Varroa destructor mite decision-making process regarding honey bee worker cell invasion and size implications for developing bee brood."

Imirie Shim Revisited

from Kirk Kirksey, Master Beekeeper, Dino-Bee Club

One group of Michigan Beekeepers say, "It is essential equipment". "It is worthless", decries a long-time Arkansas beek. In both cases the "It" is the humble Imirie Shim. Having recently inherited five of these gizmos, I wanted to check out the brouhaha.

I know beekeepers will argue endlessly about about the smallest things, but the Imirie Shim doesn't look like something very controversial. It is a 3/4 inch frame sized to fit an 8 or 10 frame Langstroth hive. A 3/8 inch entrance notch is cut into the front end of the shim. That's it. A quick traipse through Googlesphere turns up many uses: a shim for medication patties; ventilation; upper entrance. However, after a bit of research, I am convinced the original intent of the Imirie Shim is mostly downplayed having morphed into other uses with time.

GEORGE IMIRIE

The Imirie Shim was invented by George Wadie Imirie Jr., a Master Beekeeper and founder of the Montgomery County (Maryland) Beekeepers Association. Imirie held a PhD in Nuclear Physics and worked on the Atomic Bomb project during World War II. He kept bees for over 70 year. With his help, the State of Maryland established a license plate bearing a Bee logo. This plate on Imirie's scooter was "BEE 000". In my book, a bee on a state license plate would be a solid lifetime legacy, but Dr. Imirie didn't stop there.

Besides creating the Shim bearing his name, Imirie is probably best known for his "Pink Pages". Published in the American Beekeeping Federation newsletter until 2005, the "Pink Pages" were Imirie's thoughts and advice for beekeepers. Some describe Imirie's writing style as 'crusty'. True. He is credited with coining the term "Bee Haver", and did not hesitate to pile scorn on any beekeeper who did not take beekeeping seriously. Today Imirie's Pink Pages are still a valued beekeeping reference. Many of Imirie's " Pages" are being preserved and catalogued at http://pinkpages.chrisbacherconsulting.com/. George Imirie passed away in 2007 at the age of 84.

GEORGE'S SHIM

George Imirie invented his shim with one goal in mind - increased honey production. Considering his scientific background I imagine his thinking went something like this.

A). Foraging honey bees returning to a Langstroth hive, enter through the bottom board opening.

B). Once inside the hive, the bee must move up through the brood box to the upper supers to deposit her payload.

C). This trip takes X amount of time.

D). If this trip time could be reduced, foragers could leave the hive quicker, and would have more time to forage.

E). Reduced travel time inside the hive multiplied by hundreds of foragers means more nectar coming in and ultimately more honey.

G). Therefore, place a small entrance close to the suppers allowing foragers to bypass traveling up the brood chamber.

F). The Imirie Shim is born.

Being a scientist, Imirie knew full well the downside of his invention. He kept his shim as thin as possible because he knew the spacing being created would violate bee space. He felt the resulting burr comb was a small price to pay for more honey.

DOES IT WORK?

Hard to say. Imirie Shims, and several hybrids/names, are sold today by large and small beekeeping equipment houses. Product propaganda insinuates the product may lead to increase production, but the marketing lingo is murky at best. Here are the results of my unceremonious fact-finding.

Google Scholar turned up zilch scientific studies examining honey production using the Imirie Shim. Further more (and this is purely anecdotal and very unscientific on my part), I don't see these shims used widely for bumping up honey numbers by commercial operator or sideliners.

To be completely fair, verifying the Imirie Shim helps increases honey production in the field would be a very difficult thing to prove (far too many variables to control). As far as I can tell, even George Imirie himself could not quantitatively show his shim led to more honey in supers.

I am trying Imirie Shims for the first time this year. I've put them between supers strictly for improving ventilation in the dog days of Texas summers. Like my criticism of the increased honey production notion, I can't prove ventilation is really any better; plus, when robbing starts I have the added inconvenience of sticking duct tape over the shims' entrances. Other beeks use them for top entrances and for creating space for medication/ food patties.

For now, I'll have to say my conclusions are inconclusive. Without more evidence based examination, I categorize the Imirie Shim as another piece of faith based beekeeping equipment. It's value is strictly in the eye of the beholder. If I'm wrong, I'm pretty sure someone out there will let me know posthaste. One thing is certain. George Imirie, a really smart guy and very experienced beekeeper, believed in his invention.

Have you Noticed

We've updated our website!

texasbeekeepers.org

Please go look and we'd love to hear any comments or suggestions

Send them to
Chris Doggett
ckdoggett@gmail.com

Update from Texas Apiary Inspection Service

from Mary Reed, Chief Apiary Inspector

Hello Texas beekeepers! I hope all of you are enjoying the last few days of summer and are gearing up for the fall season. Hopefully by now some of you have been able to pull honey from your hives, even if it's just a frame or two. If not, I've got my fingers crossed for a good weather and a strong fall nectar flow coming your way!

Every time I sit down to write my article I try to produce something that would be useful for all beekeepers. The topic this time is slightly more geared towards our sideliner and commercial beekeepers, but it may also be of interest to small-scale beekeepers who might be considering entering the commercial industry in the future. So, this time around I'd like to take the opportunity to talk a little bit about the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program. This is a federal program, administered by the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), that provides financial support to beekeepers that experience hive or colony loss due to adverse weather conditions or disease. In this article I am going to lay out the basics of this program, what the requirements are to be eligible, and how beekeepers can apply. If you have any questions after reading through this article, please reach out to your county FSA office, since they are the best ones to answer specific questions on this topic. You can find contact information for your county office here: https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app.

Who can apply for this program? In order to receive funding through this program, the applicant must manage honey bee hives that are used for honey production, pollination, or honey bee breeding for commercial use. This program does not cover wild or feral honey bee colonies, leafcutter bees, or any other species of bee that is not used for production purposes.

What type of losses are covered? The ELAP program will provide financial support to beekeepers who have experienced losses of colonies, hives, or feed due to adverse weather conditions or disease. Some of the conditions that are eligible for this program include flooding, hurricanes, excessive wind, wildfire, and Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). In order to claim these losses and receive payment through this program, documentation is required.

Well, what kind of documents do I need? Well, this can vary depending on if the beekeeper is claiming a loss of colonies, hives, or feed. I'll break it down a bit further below:

Colony losses

- Provide proof of colony numbers at the beginning of the program year (January 1st), as well as the number of colonies remaining immediately after the loss is experienced.
- When reporting colony losses, the beekeeper must provide proof that Best Management Practices for managing healthy hives were being followed (i.e. proper nutrition, preventative treatment for Varroa mites, disease prevention, proper maintenance of hive equipment).
- If the colonies were lost due to CCD, the beekeeper must also provide a signed copy of the producer certification form (USDA form CCC-870) indicating that the loss was a direct result of at least 3 of the 5 symptoms of CCD. The beekeeper must complete this form for all noticed losses due to CCD.
- Symptoms of CCD as defined under the USDA FSA ELAP program:
    1. the loss of live queen and/or drone bee populations inside the hives;
    2. rapid decline of adult worker bee population outside the hives, leaving brood poorly or completely unattended;
    3. absence of dead adult bees inside the hive and outside the entrance of the hive;
    4. absence of robbing collapsed colonies; and
    5. at the time of collapse, varroa mite and Nosema populations are not at levels known to cause economic injury or population decline.
- File a notice of loss to your county FSA office within 15 days of when the loss was first apparent.

Hive losses

- Provide proof of hive numbers at the beginning of the program year (January 1st), as well as the number of hives remaining immediately after the loss is experienced.
- Hive losses are often experienced due to weather conditions, some of which were mentioned earlier in this article. However the conditions are not limited to the ones listed by FSA, and additional conditions can be determined by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Feed losses

- This pertains to the loss of either purchased or harvested feed. The ELAP program will also cover the additional costs of purchasing additional feed that which is above the normal quantities typically needed to sustain honey bee colonies until natural feed (i.e. nectar) becomes available.

It seems like I need to show a lot of proof for this program. How do I do that?

There are many acceptable forms of documentation that beekeepers can use to indicate their inventory at the beginning of the year and when the loss occurred. I've listed a few below, but I encourage you to reach out to your county FSA office to see if they will accept other types of documents.

- FSA-578 Acreage Report (https://tinyurl.com/FSA-578)
- Loan records
- Private insurance documents
- Property tax records
- Sales and purchase receipts

As I mentioned early on, this article only covers the basics. We could definitely get into the weeds when we start talking specifics, but we will have to save that for another time. In the meantime, I want to provide you with some of the resources I utilized while doing my research on the topic. The websites listed

below will also provide you an overview of the program, but then also introduce you to some of the more nitty-gritty details. If you have any questions about this program, the best resource you can use is your local FSA office, so make sure to give them a call.

- USDA FSA ELAP main website: https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/emergency-assist-for-livestock-honey-bees-fish/index
- ELAP Honey Bee Assistance Fact Sheet (June 2018): https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdafiles/FactSheets/2018/elap_honeybee_assistance_fact_sheet-may_2018.pdf
- ELAP program presentation titled "New ELAP Rule & What It Means for Beekeepers" presented by Amy Mitchell, ELAP Programs Manager: https://www.abfnet.org/page/2020-elap

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). Happy beekeeping!

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.

EATBETA's Beekeeping Efforts Among Rural Farmers in Uganda

In summer 2018, EATBETA facilitated its very first beekeeping training program for smallholder rural farmers in Uganda. Following that training session, some rural farmers picked interest and took on beekeeping – besides their traditional farming activities. The main reason why EATBETA added beekeeping to its training programs was, in part, to enhance its mission of transforming rural farmers' livelihoods through boosting their household incomes. Beekeeping has a huge potential for supplementing rural farmers' incomes, most of whom currently live on less than a dollar a day.

A general beekeeping training session conducted by EATBETA

A trainer demonstrating how to build modern beehives

Beehives installed by a rural farmer who participated in EATBETA's training

As of today, one of the rural farmers who participated in EATBETA's beekeeping training, in 2018, has become very successful; he has installed more beehives and he is also training and encouraging fellow rural farmers in his community to engage in beekeeping. EATBETA is now committed to helping this rural farmer and his growing community of beekeepers, to start processing and packaging bee-honey and sell it to the local and export markets. If you are a passionate beekeeper and you would like to partner with us in this effort, please contact us.

Rural Farmer showing honey harvested from his beekeeping activity

Fake Honey

from Catch the Buzz

- Honey is the third-most-faked food in the world, behind milk and olive oil, according to compliance management company Decernis.
- Fake honey is bad for beekeepers, and also means that bees spend more time pollinating, which wears them out.
- "Honey launderers" fool authenticity tests by making chemical modifications, making it hard to trace where the honey came from.
- The testing has gotten better than the 2013 "Honeygate" scandal where the Justice Department went after honey launderers.
- But the industry still doesn't always use sophisticated tests that can see through chemical modifications, and consumers have to rely on toothless government regulators.

In February 2013, the Justice Department charged two major honey importers in "Operation Honeygate."

The importers — Honey Solutions and Groeb Farms — shipped fake or adulterated Chinese honey through other countries in Asia and Europe before sending them to the US.

The honey-laundering scheme, which helped the companies avoid $180 million in shipping duties, hid the honey's true origin, leaving few to suspect that it wasn't real.

It was the biggest incident of food fraud in US history.

More than seven years later, a lot of our honey is still fake.

According to the Food Fraud Database maintained by the compliance management company Decernis, it's the third-most-faked food behind milk and olive oil.

There's no reason to think that fake or adulterated honey is a threat to public health, but it's still a problem.

The manufacturers either dilute real honey with syrup derived from plants, like high-fructose corn syrup or beet syrup. Or they can chemically modify the sugars in those syrups to make them look like real honey.

Undercut by prices that can dip below half their operating costs, honey producers bear the economic brunt.

"Adulterated or fake honey depresses the price for real honey, making honey production unprofitable," Kelvin Adee, president of the American Honey Producers Association, told Insider. "Beekeepers have to turn to other sources of income such as packing and retailing honey themselves, raising queens/hives for sale or pollination services. Honey production by itself is not a sustainable option."

Fake honey is bad for beekeepers and bad for bees

The exact amount of fake honey in the world is up for debate. An analysis by the Honey Authenticity Project, an association of activists and industry members, places the number of fake or adulterated honey at 33%. A 2018 study of honey for sale in Australia found that 27% of the products tested were faked or had other ingredients mixed in.

US-specific numbers are harder to come by, but one lawyer, who's behind several class-action lawsuits accusing honey brands of fraud, puts the figure as high as 70%.

View of special cups where queen bees are raised to be later introduced into hives, making them more productive, in Esteli, Nicaragua, on December 21, 2019. INTI OCON/AFP via Getty Images

Earlier this year, Vice tested honey brands in several US grocery stores and found that many of them were adulterated. But the threat extends beyond those little golden bears lining the supermarket shelves, Adee said.

Honey plays a huge role in the American diet, with about 400 million pounds of it ending up in our food every year, much of it in processed foods like cereal.

Beekeepers in the United Kingdom have been hit particularly hard. The UK received 47% of Europe's honey imports from China in 2018, but a Honey Authenticity Project lab analysis of 11 supermarket brands found that none complied with EU labeling standards.

Adulterated honey also ultimately drives honey prices down, beekeepers say. Some beekeepers find it's more worthwhile to have their bees focus on pollination rather than honey production. It's a vicious cycle that leads to less authentic honey in the market.

"When the cost of production is around $2, it's really tough to compete against prices that are well under a dollar," Adee told Insider.

"There are beekeepers who have decided to call it quits and leave the industry," he added.

And it's bad for bees, too: With pollination, bees travel more, putting hives at risk of exposure to new diseases.

How 'honey laundering' works

"Honey laundering" became widespread when Chinese laboratories began modifying high-fructose corn syrups to make them look like pure honey.

The sugars in these syrups — known as C4 sugars — became popular for honey counterfeiters in the 1970s, with the invention of high-fructose corn syrup, according to Richard Anderson, director of Siratech, a private lab in Texas that detects fake and adulterated honey.

But they were soon easily detected in tests, so honey counterfeiters modified their methods to use syrups developed from plants with C3 sugars, like rice, beets, or cassava.

"[Regulators] started looking for it and catching people, so they shifted over to other types of syrups," Anderson said.

Paul Schweitzer, head of the French beekeeping study center in Moselle (CETAM) and a pollen specialist, holds honey jars, on May 17, 2013 in Guenange, eastern France. Fake labels, traffic of the country-of-origin, addition of sugar syrup. JEAN-CHRISTOPHE VERHAEGEN/AFP via Getty Images

The adulterated syrups can be used to dilute a smaller batch of real honey. They can also be fed directly to bees, replacing flower nectar, Anderson told Insider.

Earlier honey authentication tests analyzed the pollen inside honey and traced them back to their source. But some honey launderers have gotten smart, treating honey so that it's difficult to trace. Anderson's lab runs SIRA tests, which are sophisticated enough to catch the large majority of attempts to falsify honey.

"They either buy pollens or blend custom made syrups with honey that already has pollen in it," Adee said. "It seems like every time there's a new test that comes out, it's not long that they'll find a way that they can beat it."

To read the complete article go to; https://www.insider.com/fake-honey-problems-how-it-works-2020-9

THBEA Youth Scholarship program update

Native plants and their role in Beekeeping

At last! We can continue our Bee Project!

The TBEA sponsored program is designed to give kids an understanding of the interactivity of bees and their environment. This will allow the kids to be able to make decisions which will result in health, productive bees.

As we all know, bees are just one part of nature and whether we manage them or not they form part of the eco system. The kids learnt that there is a multi variable interaction between the bees and their environment. This makes bees a great "canary" of nature and specifically insects who make up almost 80% of the living creatures.

September is the month of native plants. Our activity took the form of a field trip to Warbler Woods nature preserve in the Schertz / Ciblo area. Our Native plant specialist, Veronica Hawk explained how the life cycles of the bees and the plants interact, how one depends on the other. We learnt how the nectar flow is different for different plants and how some of the bee species have adapted to take advantage of this. We discovered what the plants get out of this relationship and that the bees need to visit different varieties of plants to get everything they need.

We then learnt the basics on identifying plants (and trees) and to have patience when observing the insects visiting the pant. During the walk through the nature preserve, the kids practiced their identification skills but just could not hold back their enthusiasm when finding an insect feeding on the plant.

October will see us back in the Apiary, learning how to ready the bees for winter

2020 Texas Honey Princess

Blake Nester

Can Local Honey Cure Seasonal Allergies?

As long as my family have been beekeepers, I have always taken a teaspoon of honey a day. This has been for all types of reasons but mostly because of my personal philosophy, "some honey a day keeps the doctor away." The real question is, can honey cure allergies? If not, what other healing properties does it have?

According to Dr. David Erstien, "Despite tasting great, it's an urban legend that local honey can clear up seasonal allergies because it contains local pollen." Erstien explains that although local honey does contain local pollen, it does not carry the pollen causing seasonal allergies. These allergies are generally caused by airborne pollens brought on by trees, grasses, and seasonal weeds. Honey does contain pollen, but for the most part it only contains pollen from local flowers. Honey bees prefer pollen from flowers compared to any other type of plant even though they are known to gather some tree pollen. Flower pollen is heavier and larger in size, while tree and grass pollen are light and easily picked up by wind. With these types of pollen floating through the air, they are normally inhaled and may also get trapped in the eyes.

Dr. Payel Gupta, an immunologist in New York, explains that it is hard to know how much pollen is in local honey. Pollen allergy treatment is effective because doctors know exactly how much pollen they are giving their patients. The amount of pollen in honey can be different in every location. It will depend on flower longevity and growing seasons.

So if local honey does not improve allergies, what does it do? Why do so many people claim that it does? We have a consistent flow of customers that come to our honey farm for this reason only. Honey has amazing anti-inflammatory properties! My family and I believe that because it does reduce swelling, it probably is reducing sore throats and coughing (the same symptoms that local allergies present). Scientists have recently proven that raw honey helps coughing better than any over-the-counter medication. Therefore, honey can't cure allergies, but it can help with the symptoms of local allergies.

In conclusion, the results of honey not helping local allergies is somewhat disappointing, but the scientific data on inflammation is great news! Raw Honey does help the symptoms associated with allergies and therefore I will continue to take my teaspoon of honey a day!

Work Cited:

Benton, Emilia. "People Are Eating Honey For Their Spring Allergies-But Does It Actually Work?" Women's Health, Women's Health, 14 Mar. 2019, www.womenshealthmag.com/health/a26787529/local-honey-for-allergies/.

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Tosh, Pritish. "Honey: An Effective Cough Remedy?" Mayo Clinic, Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research, 6 Aug. 2020, www.mayoclinic.org/symptoms/cough/expert-answers/honey/faq-20058031.

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
Victoria Watts - (806) 392-2355
mystique175@att.net
Meetings: 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm
Freeway Bible Chapel, 5507 Marsha Sharp Freeway, Lubbock 79407

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) 658-3951
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 McMillin - (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
Bruce Watts, Jr. - (817) 992-2294
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) 249-9105
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.
Andy Knight - (281) 305-4072
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) 277-2145
sarahaddie@aol.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.
Gillian Mattinson - (512) 961-9955
gillmatties@gmail.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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Picture from Lolita Bader