



The Texas Beekeepers Association



# Journal



Mar / Apr 2021

[www.texasbeekeepers.org](http://www.texasbeekeepers.org)

Issue 21-2





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## President's Report from Ashley Ralph

Spring is springing as we speak and although I'm sure we'll get one more cold snap (it always seems to happen again around Easter), I'm looking forward to this bee season.

Queen rearing has started, bees are back from pollinating almonds, and splits are already taking place. For the bees that were in Texas for the snowpocalypse, I've heard from many beekeepers and it seems a common trend that many of the smaller hives they were nursing through the winter didn't make it but the strong colonies did well as we'd expect.

The legislative committee has been hard at work as the Texas legislative session is in full swing. There will be a much more detailed update later in the journal, but I continue to be impressed by the efforts of our volunteers and lobbyist. As new bee legislation is introduced and we continue to deepen relationships at the Capitol, I am encouraged that we can continue to act in the best interest of bees and the beekeeping industry.

The federal PPP assistance was widened to better aid farmers, independent contractors, and small business owners so if you're looking for assistance, be sure you check that out. Deadlines are May 31st.

It's sure to be a busy year - as the threat of COVID and regulation on large gatherings seems to be coming to an end, our event committee is hard at work planning for a virtual summer clinic and a live convention. You won't want to miss the summer clinic with Tom Seeley. He's been on the books to speak to us for several years now and it's finally here! I'm a big fan of his work so this one is extra special for me as I'm sure it is for many of you as well.

TBA has been working closely with bee experts around the state to create a new resource for 4-H, FFA, mentorship programs, and youth programs through a SARE grant in partnership with Agrilogic Consulting and we're getting very close to making it public. We can't wait to share this collection of resources to help educate current and future beekeepers.

I want to thank all of our board members and volunteers. It's been a chaotic year and they're still working to add value to our members and beekeepers. We have a new resource on the website for clubs wanting to create and build out mentorship programs.

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*Cover Picture by Don Rogers*



## Vice President's Report from John Swan

It might not have seemed like this day would ever come after that epic winter freeze, but Spring has finally sprung, and the flowers are blooming once again. Let us not get too complacent just yet though... This season could very well become a touch and go scenario, with the late start to our blooms, and an impending La Nina weather pattern that could cause deepening drought conditions for much of the state. If these dry winds do indeed persist, this could bring about our summer dearth earlier than usual. Due to these conditions, things might be a bit slower starting out for some colonies this spring, and others could outgrow the available food sources in their area unexpectedly come early summer. Hopefully, the tides turn in our favor and we have an amazing season. But, just in case, be sure to keep an eye on colony growth verses food stores as the season gets into full swing.

Here at TBA we are busy as bees working on all the moving pieces for this year. The legislative committee is actively monitoring and reviewing the new bills that are being submitted this session. You will find some details in another part of the journal about some of these key highlights, and you can keep up with the ever-changing details on our website.

We have some great news about the upcoming events for this year as well. TBA is pleased to announce that we will be holding a Virtual Summer Clinic on Saturday, June 19th, with our incredibly special guest speaker, Dr. Tom Seeley! We have been waiting to get the opportunity to have Dr. Seeley join us to share his vast knowledge of everything honey bee. And, being a virtual

event, this means that everyone will be able to attend from the comfort and safety of their own home while being able to have access to the information presented by Dr. Seeley. Tickets for this event will go on sale May 1st.

Now, I know that some of you might be ready for things to get back to the way they were in the good ole days when we could all meet in person and not everything would be online and virtual. Well then, I have some spectacular news for you... We are so excited to announce that this year's fall convention will be held IN-PERSON! Not only that, but for the first time ever we will be holding the event at Moody Gardens in Galveston Texas! This venue is a game changer for us as it offers something for everyone, even if they aren't as into beekeeping as the rest of us are. So, load up the entire family and bring them along for a weekend getaway where everyone can choose their own adventures. Mark your calendars now as this year's convention is set for Friday November 5th through Sunday November 7th. More details will be released in future journal articles as the convention draws nearer.

The Texas Honey Show will also be held in November during our convention this year in Galveston. So now is the time to get started on your bee themed art and videos, stash away your favorite brew of mead, and jar up your best honeys as they come in throughout the season. We are finalizing this year's rules and regulations right now, and we will be sending out the final version through our distribution lists in the coming days.

Be on the lookout for emails and updates on our website as more details about this year's legislative session and upcoming events are released.

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# Chinese Flea Beetle Proposal

## Texas Beekeepers Respond!

*From Leesa Hyder, TBA Exec. Sec.*

The Environmental Assessment from APHIS seeking to justify the issuance of permits for release of the two non-native insects, *Bikasha collaris* (a/k/a Chinese flea beetle) and *Gadirtha fusca* Pogue (a/k/a Chinese moth), for biological control of the Chinese tallow tree was released for an initial thirty-day comment period on January 21, 2021. Texas beekeepers flooded APHIS with their comments! AHPIS has extended the comment period to April 23, 2021.

To date there have been more than 800 comments, overwhelmingly in opposition to the release. A majority of the comments have been from Texas beekeepers. Not only are the responses from Texas beekeepers impressive in number, but in content. You have done a fantastic job responding to this critical issue!

TBA, Texas Honey Bee Education Association (THBEA) and Real Texas Honey (RTH) have all filed responses. You can review these responses at <https://texasbeekeepers.org/flea-beetle-appeal/>. Special thanks to Dennis Herbert for his technical expertise in TBA's response.

Several TBA member local associations have responded on behalf of their club. We know it is hard with many clubs not

having in-person meetings but, if your club has not responded, we urge you to do so. Again, responses will be accepted through April 23, 2021.

You do not have to be a beekeeper to respond. There are many comments from non-beekeepers who do not support the release of non-native insects into the environment and who want to support beekeepers and honey bees. Please encourage others to respond as well.

This is an uphill battle, but we are working together with the American Honey Producers Association, the American Beekeeping Federation, other national organizations, and other state beekeeping associations to stop the permits from being issued. Right now, the most effective thing we can do is keep the comments coming!

<https://texasbeekeepers.org/flea-beetle-appeal/>

We will continue to keep you informed of any new developments.

TBA Legislative Committee

Contact [beelaw@texasbeekeepers.org](mailto:beelaw@texasbeekeepers.org)



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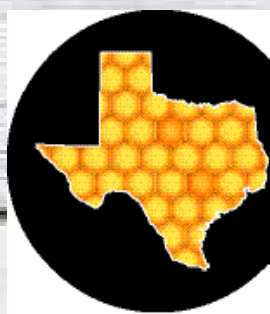
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# Who We Are as Beekeepers

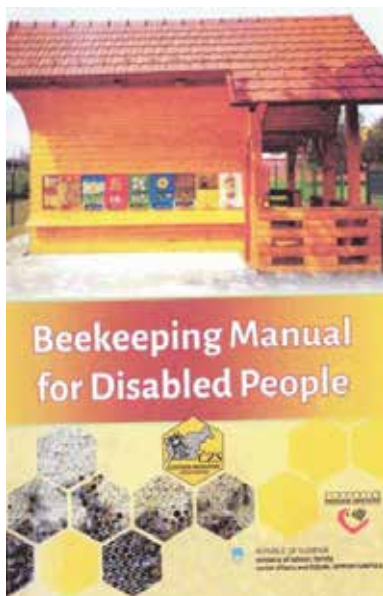
by: Robin L-S Young, Metro Beekeepers Association

*Pictured above: Dushan Slana, beekeeper*

As I sit down to write this article, our new president is being sworn into office. Every news channel I turn to seems to try and tell me who I am, who you are, and who we all are as Americans. I find it unsettling. I find myself thinking back to before the pandemic and the craziness. As I sit quietly, I remember one name: Dushan Slana.



As Dushan stares through the glass of an observation window pictured above, he tells us he had been in a car accident quite a few years ago and was unable to walk. Before the first World Bee Day in May of 2018, the Slovenian Association of Paraplegics created a section for beekeeping. Some of the best minds in the country came together for the project and an education manual was written on beekeeping with special needs in mind.



There were copies of the book made in many languages to celebrate World Bee Day. There was a strong desire in Slovenia to make beekeeping available to anyone. It was official, the first beekeeping house for handicapped people in the world had been constructed. A sign-up list was started and Dushan registered.

During the tour, Dushan told us he taught beekeeping classes to people that wanted to learn. He talked about how the hives were positioned so that he would work the bees without any help.



*Dushan Slana pictured above inside the world's first beekeeping house for handicapped people.*

Dushan joked with us about how thankful he was that there are no bears in Slovenia to get to his precious honey bees. All the beehives were placed with easy access for anyone in a wheelchair to use. Everything



# Who We Are as Beekeepers

by: Robin L-S Young, Metro Beekeepers Association

was thought of and planed out perfectly. It was wonderful and inspiring to see the wonders we can do as a people when we come together to help each other's lives to be better. I went through video footage that I took and could feel the excitement in the air of the possibilities of what could be here in the United States. It took some work, but I was able to get one of the last English translations of the book, "Beekeeping Manual for Disabled People". I knew in my heart that this was important. I had no idea where to start or what to do but I had been shown what could be. Once you have seen a future so bright there is no going back.



When it came time to go, I found it hard to leave. It was a vision I was given, and I wanted to dwell in that place. Dushan locked up the bee house and walked with me back to the front office where my precious copy of "Beekeeping Manual for Disabled People" was waiting. I was taking a piece of what could be with me.

Dushan gave me a hug and told me how blessed he felt having found a purpose in life. He said it was all so unexpected how beekeeping has changed his life. He stated,

*"I started to feel more closer to nature. I would notice when flowers bloomed and changes in the weather. The world seems sweeter and brighter every passing day."*

Listening to his words again through the recorded video footage makes me tear up. On the other side of the world there is a beekeeper that experiences the same

things we do here in Texas. Driving down the highway seeing fields of wildflowers with thoughts of how I can get bees there and how lovely the flowers are.

Some where in this great state of Texas there is someone in a wheelchair looking for a purpose, looking for a way to matter, looking for hope for the future. What can I do about it? What can you do about it? What can we do about it together? I do not have an answer. Maybe I am just the messenger. What I am sure of is that I was sent to Slovenia to meet this incredible man and to share his story with you in such a time as this. It is to remind us all that we are not what people say we are or think we are. We are and always will be who we choose to be. Our world is what we make of it. It starts with a dream or vision of what could be. We must take the first step and then the next. The peoples lives we touch can be filled with joy and love for each other. We have the key to it all.



Bee friends, please know that you are never alone. We have each other and the future we build together looks so bright. Times like these refine us and focus us on what is important. I look forward to the day when we all gather together to share all our beekeeping experiences, the laughter, and the hugs that have missed. Till then my bee friends.

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# TBA Legislative Report

*from Leesa Hyder, TBA Exec. Sec.*

The 2021 Legislative Session (87th Legislature) began on January 12, 2021 amid the Covid19 pandemic, necessitating all sorts of alterations in procedures that had to be worked out in both the House and the Senate. The events at the Nation's capital in early January, caused a temporary closure of the capitol in Austin, followed by closure again around inauguration day. And then came the February freeze, which some in the agricultural industry are calling the "Saint Valentine's Day massacre." Amid these delays, add the task of redistricting, which almost certainly will result in a special session for the fall, to the unexpected energy issues that came up during the February freeze, and you might be wondering... how much can be accomplished by the close of session. A lot of experts are projecting – not much. We will see.

In 2020, TBA formed a legislative committee to address matters related to resolutions passed by the TBA membership and other legislative or regulatory issues directly or indirectly effecting beekeepers. Members of the TBA Legislative Committee are Ashley Ralph, John Swan, Dodie Stillman, Charlie Agar, Chris Moore, Dennis Herbert, and Leesa Hyder. Leesa is chair of the Committee. Other TBA members are also involved as special advisors on specific issues.

In 2019, TBA hired Joe Morris as a governmental relations consultant. Joe has many years of experience in Austin and worked as a former chief of staff for a state senator before becoming a lobbyist. The agriculture industry is his focus. He is our eyes and ears in Austin and has provided amazing support for TBA's efforts. With Joe's help, TBA has increased our contacts in Austin and with other agriculture related organizations. This year TBA was invited to become a member of the Texas Agriculture Council <https://txagcouncil.org/>, a member organization comprised of a majority of agriculture interests in the state. Texas Ag Council addresses a wide range of agricultural issues, and its members seek to be proactive in legislative and regulatory topics pertaining to agriculture.

Over 7,000 bills have been filed in the 87th Session. There are a number of bills the Committee is following closely. These are addressed in more detail on TBA's website. <https://texasbeekeepers.org/beelaws/> We are genuinely concerned with respect to the bills filed related to the beekeeping qualification for ag valuation and the efforts of some to try to mandate statewide minimum standards for "degree of intensity" in statute. If you have an interest in this area, we urge you to read the article by

Dennis Herbert in this issue of the Journal and to look at the more detailed information on the TBA website.

In the 2019 session, all beekeeping related bills were left pending in the House Ag Committee. At the request of Committee Chairman Drew Springer, an interim charge was issued by the Speaker of the House to study the Apiary Inspection Service and the proposed changes to Chapter 131 of the Texas Agriculture Code. Joe Morris helped set up a meeting with Chairman Springer, Ashley Ralph, and Chris Moore at former TBA President Todd Youngblood's apiary in Pearsall, Texas in July 2019. They spent much of the day talking about bee related issues and taking Chairman Springer on a tour of Todd's facility. The TBA Legislative Committee did a tremendous amount of work in November 2020, in providing information to Chairman Springer for the response. In mid-December 2020, Chairman Springer was elected state Senator – District 30, in a special election. We understood that the response had been completed and would be filed at the beginning of session, but that did not happen. We believed that the response would assist in a clearer path forward for the much-needed updates of Chapter 131. No bills have been filed this session that address updates to Chapter 131. While disappointed, be assured, we have not given up and will continue to work toward updates to Chapter 131 that we believe will be in the best interest of Texas beekeepers.

There have been a few interesting ag related bills filed that, after discussion with the authors, have been amended to incorporate beekeeping or that we believe will be amended to incorporate beekeeping into the language. More details about these bills can also be found on the website. <https://texasbeekeepers.org/beelaws/>

The website will be updated with additional information as it becomes available, so you may want to check back from time to time. TBA will plan to send out additional updates to members and local associations by email if something arises that needs attention in a timely manner. So, please watch for the emails.

The members of the Legislative Committee are ready to answer any questions TBA members may have about pending legislative or regulatory matters. This is a somewhat new endeavor for TBA, but the members of the Committee have been working diligently over the past year to learn more about the legislative processes and how to navigate the political landscape. We will strive to keep TBA members updated through the Session and we solicit your continuing support.



# Bee Leasing in Texas

## The Wave of the Future or the Demise of Agriculture Valuation

*From Dennis Herbert*

How are bee populations faring today, are the numbers up or down or stable? For those of you that follow the myriad issues that plague our honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) colonies in recent years know the problems are many and the solutions seem too few.

Huge bee declines have been attributed in part to a phenomenon referred to as Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). Years of research determined the decline was likely attributable to a wide range of stressors such as pest, diseases, pesticides, pollutants/toxins, nutritional deficits, habitat loss, effects of climate variability, agricultural production intensification (neonicotinoids), reduced species or genetic diversity, pollinator or crop management practices, and the decline in the overall number of beekeepers that were once spread over the landscape, such as on small family farms. (USDA)

The issue of declining numbers of bees and beekeepers seemed to be one that might be improved if there was incentive for small landowners to become beekeepers. The incentive is to receive an agricultural valuation on your land and pay a smaller property tax. Hence, an idea was born in 2010 that later became the bee law in the 82nd Texas Legislature that we now enjoy. The total increase in the number of beekeepers in Texas is very hard to nail down although it is known that numbers are increasing (Texas Apiary Inspection Service). The increase in the number of Local Bee Associations (clubs) formed under the Texas Beekeepers Association (TBA) has grown by 300 per cent since the law became effective on 1 January 2012. The first several years those landowners that qualified according to the law became beekeepers themselves. Beekeeping began to spread over the landscape, and things were good. As time progressed small landowners desiring to save on property taxes, although not caring to become beekeepers themselves opened a niche for established beekeepers to lease their bees and hives and a new market developed. Bees continued to spread over the landscape and things were even better. As the number of small landowners wishing to save on property taxes grew so did the number of beekeepers wishing to provide bees for lease. There are now many beekeepers that lease their bees out. As this supply and demand issue expands so does the issue of some possibly not following the established rules or maybe the overextension of the supply of a legal business venture is a possibility.

It has been alleged by some that the business of supplying bees to non-participatory landowners is “completely out of control”. This author does not believe the allegations but some in the legislative realm seem to. Hence, meetings were called. Zoom and in-person meetings have been held several times since October 2020 and the principal has stated that there are numerous billboard signs up and down IH35 advertising “Rent-A-Bees” (not my phrase, and btw- I detest the phrase) for landowners desiring to cut their property taxes. Also alleged, these advertisers are placing bee hives on properties trying to “establish history” for their client’s property and then removing the hives after only three or four months, only to deliver them to another property for the same reason, thereby not fulfilling the obligatory law in establishing a properties agriculture history.

Further, the principal alleges that landowners and the “Rent-a-Bee” providers are only doing so to establish a route to wildlife management for the property (legal if done correctly). The principal also brought up wildlife qualification in the last meeting and said that in 2023 they were probably going to propose ways to put more standardization in the tax code for wildlife. The principal has stated that the CADs (Central Appraisal Districts) are helpless to defend against such unlawful practices and their county funding is in jeopardy. The principal also alleges that agriculture valuations across the state is jeopardizing county and school funding if allowed to continue without code changes.

A proposed code “fix” provided by the principal at the last zoom meeting requires the statement of a standard Intensity Level (6 – 12 hives) as well as all hives to remain on the land 9 months of the year to be required for all counties state wide. Those that brought the issues up believe the proposed standardization will solve the alleged CADs problems. Yet they offer no solution or suggestion as to whom will provide the policing of the new requirements. It seems obvious to this author that enforcement must be by the CADs themselves, but some CADs don’t seem willing or able to enforce the rules/laws that they have at their disposal now.

TBA has stated their opposition to the proposed changes to Chapter 23 of the Tax Code as it relates to the beekeeping qualification and has sent it to the principal. The TBA letter further stated “To be clear, we do not condone the kind of practices that you allege are happening, but CADs clearly have existing avenues to address such issue. The proposed changes do not add anything to what CADs can already require”. What might the future hold for traditional ag guidelines if this proposal is approved? Will the number of acres per animal unit be set in law for all counties across the state with no regard for the environmental production factors like rainfall, soil types, etc.?

I hope the information TBA has provided in opposition to tax code changes will be sufficient to stop the changes going forward. If a bill proposing changes is filed, and if you agree that code changes are not good law, do not add anything to address the principal’s concerns, and that the CADs currently have sufficient laws, rules, and policy to address such issues you might wish to write to your State Representative and Senator to express your views.

**PS: The issue/s I discussed above have now come true. State legislators Senator Springer and Representative Shine have filed House and Senate bills expecting to change the law as stated above, thereby requiring all CADs statewide to require intensity levels for beekeeping to be set at 6 – 12 hives. Please review the additional material regarding this matter at <https://texasbeekeepers.org/beelaws> and then contact your state Representative and Senator to express your views. See HB 4319, HB 4320 and companion senate bills SB1994 and SB1995.**



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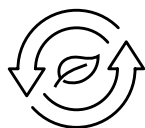
**Obtaining suitable articles**

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 similar editorial activities**

**Thanks**



Dennis Herbert is a longstanding member of TBA who was instrumental in bringing the original legislation passed in 2011 to allow beekeeping to qualify land for agriculture valuation. He has continued to keep up with the various individual county requirements throughout Texas and this information is posted at on the TBA website at Ag Valuation - Texas Beekeeping. Dennis has taught many classes over the years to help beekeepers understand the requirements and how to qualify. Editor.



## DISASTER ASSISTANCE

### ELAP - Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program

#### Overview

The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (the 2018 Farm Bill) authorized the use of Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) funds for the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP). ELAP provides financial assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease, certain adverse weather events or loss conditions, including blizzards and wildfires, as determined by the Secretary. ELAP assistance is provided for losses not covered by other disaster assistance programs authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill, such as losses not covered by the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) and the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP).

The 2018 Farm Bill amended certain provisions related to ELAP effective with the 2019 program year. Those amendments included:

- removing ELAP from the combined ELAP and LFP maximum per person and legal entity payment limitation for the 2019 and subsequent program years;
- providing reimbursement of 90 percent of the cost of losses for socially disadvantaged, limited resource, beginning, or veteran farmer or rancher;
- in addition to covering the cost related to gathering livestock to treat for cattle tick fever, ELAP will now cover the cost related to gathering livestock to inspect for cattle tick fever;
- no longer covering livestock death losses due to diseases that are caused or transmitted by a vector and are not controlled by vaccination or an acceptable management practice. The 2018 Farm Bill authorizes these diseases under LIP.

ELAP is administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

#### What Is Eligible?

##### Eligible Losses

ELAP provides assistance for livestock feed and grazing losses that are not due to drought or wildfires on federally managed lands; losses resulting from the cost of transporting water to livestock due to an eligible drought; losses resulting from the additional cost associated with gathering livestock for treatment and/or inspection related to cattle tick fever, honeybee feed, colony and hive losses; and farm-raised fish feed and death losses.



#### Eligibility Requirements and Payment Calculations

For additional information regarding eligibility requirements and payment calculations for a specific type of livestock, honeybee and/or farm-raised fish loss, see the ELAP - Farm-Raised Fish Assistance, ELAP - Honeybee Assistance or ELAP - Livestock Assistance fact sheet at [fsa.usda.gov/ELAP](https://fsa.usda.gov/ELAP).

#### Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, Beginning, or Veteran Farmers or Ranchers

An eligible livestock, honeybee or farm-raised fish producer who certifies they are socially disadvantaged, limited resource, beginning, or a veteran farmer or rancher will receive 90 percent of the payment rate for the losses under ELAP.



FACT SHEET - APRIL 2020

### Payment Limitations

The 2018 Farm Bill removed ELAP from a combined \$125,000 payment limitation under ELAP and LFP. Therefore, effective for 2019 and subsequent program years, payment limitation does not apply to ELAP benefits. The average adjusted gross income (AGI) limitation relating to limits on payments for persons or legal entities, excluding joint ventures and general partnerships, with certain levels of AGI apply. Specifically, a person or legal entity with an AGI (as defined in 7 CFR Part 1400) that exceeds \$900,000 is not eligible to receive ELAP payments.

Direct attribution provisions also apply to ELAP. Under direct attribution, any payment to a legal entity will also be considered for payment limitation purposes to be a payment to persons or legal entities with an interest in the legal entity or in a sub-entity. To learn more, visit the Payment Eligibility and Payment Limitations fact sheet at [fsa.usda.gov/payment-limitations](https://fsa.usda.gov/payment-limitations).

### How it Works

#### Applying for Assistance

Producers can apply to receive ELAP assistance at local FSA service centers. The ELAP application period ends Dec. 31 of each calendar year.

In addition to submitting an application for payment, producers who suffered losses must submit a notice of loss to the local FSA service center that maintains the farm records for their business.

The following table provides the final dates to file a notice of loss and application for payment for losses.

Date of Loss	Final Date to File Notice of Loss	Final Date to Submit an Application for Payment
Within the program year Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	For honeybee losses, 15 days after loss is apparent.  For Livestock and farm-raised fish losses, 30 days after loss is apparent	Jan 30 after the program year in which the loss occurred.



### More Information

This fact sheet is for informational purposes only; other restrictions may apply. For more information about ELAP, visit [fsa.usda.gov/ELAP](https://fsa.usda.gov/ELAP) or contact your local FSA office. To find your local FSA office, visit [farmers.gov](https://farmers.gov).

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-----Press Release-----

**TO: TBA JOURNAL**

**RELEASE DATE: IMMEDIATELY**

**SUBJECT: 2020 AMERICAN HONEY PRINCESS HAILS FROM TEXAS**

**FROM: AMERICAN HONEY QUEEN PROGRAM  
ANNA L. KETTLEWELL, CHAIRPERSON  
10432 W. NORWICH AVENUE  
GREENFIELD, WI 53228  
414.545.5514**

The American Beekeeping Federation is proud to announce that Virginia Allen was selected as the 2021 American Honey Princess by the American Beekeeping Federation. Virginia is the 20-year-old daughter of David and Mary-Ann Allen of Richardson TX. She is a freshman at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, studying organizational leadership. She is an active leader in her local Fire Explorers program and hopes to serve as a paramedic or flight nurse. In her spare time, she enjoys volunteering at church, reading, cross stitching, and rock climbing.

Prior to being selected as the American Honey Princess, Virginia served as the 2020 Texas Honey Queen. In this role, she promoted the honey industry in schools, through festivals, and to community organizations.

Virginia will spend the next year promoting honey and the beekeeping industry throughout the United States in a wide variety of venues both in person and through virtual platforms. To schedule an appearance and presentation from American Honey Princess Virginia Allen, please contact American Honey Queen Program Chairperson Anna Kettlewell at 414.545.5514.







## THBEA Youth Grant Awards

*from Laura Weaver, Vice Chair THBEA*

Texas Honey Bee Education Association is excited to announce its annual youth beekeeping education grant awardees! Our committee was impressed with the applications this year and excited to see unique ways beekeepers and beekeeping clubs are working hard to reach more young people and spread the love of beekeeping. Beekeeping is a unique skill best learned with an experienced mentor and our criteria for choosing winners focused on qualified leadership, historical initiative in teaching beekeeping, and a need for the area to have a youth beekeeping club. For applicants that did not win this year we strongly encouraged them to reapply next fall for this annual grant. We had more applicants than grant money, so we had to make some difficult choices!

### OUR WINNERS

**Denton County Beekeepers Association:** A rejuvenated beekeeping organization looking to revamp its youth organization with a fun hands-on and book-based education class. Classes have already begun but contact: [treasurer@dentonbees.com](mailto:treasurer@dentonbees.com) to learn more about how you can participate.

**Elm Fork Beekeepers Association:** An established youth organization with a strong youth program looking to reach more youth through the grant moneys. Lack of funds during COVID and decrease in membership left a gap and THBEA's grant award helped fill it. To learn more about their youth beekeeping options please contact: [education.elmfork@gmail.com](mailto:education.elmfork@gmail.com).

**Hays County Beekeepers Association:** Due to COVID HCBA put its local beekeeping program on hold (lack of interest), but in the meantime began a beekeeping program focused on a community of refugees in the Houston area. Grant moneys will be used to reach more youth from at risk communities through beekeeping. This unique and powerful project is geared for success with extremely passionate and experienced leadership. To learn more please contact [hayscountyba@gmail.com](mailto:hayscountyba@gmail.com).

**Gardenkids of Kemah** is an education outreach program with presentations and demonstrations at community locations and with a variety of youth groups. Their goal to increase pollinator friendly plantings along roadways and expanding youth education about honey bees has the potential of reaching a variety of youth and improving honey bee habitat. For more information please contact: [gardenkidskemah@yahoo.com](mailto:gardenkidskemah@yahoo.com)

A Special Thank You to our business partners who offered discount equipment and bees/queens to the youth grant awardees:

Dadant & Sons

Texas Bee Supply

BeeWeaver Honey Farm

Watch for updates about our grant winners all season on our Facebook page. If your club would like to start or expand or revamp its youth beekeeping education, please apply for a grant from THBEA in Fall 2021! Learn more: [thbea.com](http://thbea.com)



# Bee Weaver

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## HIVES FOR HEROES

save bees - save vets

The Texas Beekeepers Association would like to introduce you to a wonderful network, Hives for Heroes. Hives for Heroes is a national military veteran 501(c)(3) non-profit organization focusing on honey bee conservation, suicide prevention, and a healthy transition from service. Through the national network of beekeepers and veterans we provide purpose, education, and healthy relationships fostering a lifelong hobby in beekeeping.

Hives for Heroes wants to connect people. By bettering the lives of individuals there is a positive impact on their community and ultimately the world. Through honeybee conservation, there is a common goal for NewBEEs (a military veteran involved in the program), Mentors, and Volunteers to work towards. The Hives for Heroes network reached out to TBA looking for help in the form of beekeeping mentors.

The core of the Hives for Heroes network is centered around 1 NewBEE veteran working with 1 Mentor Beekeeper on 1 Bee Hive. In the first year, NewBEEs will follow their Mentor's instruction. By year two, they will serve with others in a community yard. In year three, they will have the opportunity to lead as new mentors in the organization. As a TBA Beekeeper/Mentor, you will fill the first vital role of introducing and educating a NewBEE in your apiary for a year of beekeeping activities.

After a year of working with you, you will hopefully be able to split your hive and present it to your NewBee. This colony will be moved to a community yard where your NewBEE will continue to care for the bees on his or her own. After a second successful year, your NewBEE will graduate to becoming a Mentor in the program.

After military service, many veterans often fall into depression, unhealthy relationships and addictive behaviors which leads to feeling alone, isolated, or become suicidal. Beekeeping is unique, allowing a beekeeper to suit up, overcome fear, accomplish a goal through process oriented techniques, and walk away with a sense of accomplishment. This practice can easily translate to their personal and professional lives when dealing with PTSD and other traumas from service.

Help TBA help our veterans by offering to support them as a mentor in their first year of beekeeping. You can register as a mentor here: [www.hivesforheroes.com](http://www.hivesforheroes.com). Mentors do not need to be veteran and we ask that they have at least 3 years of successful beekeeping experience. We will also be reaching out the various clubs across the state where Hives for Heroes currently have NewBEEs looking for members, so please, if you are able, answer the call!





## MENTOR APPLICATION | HIVES FOR HEROES

Mentor . A Mentor is an individual with 3 or more years of successful beekeeping experience, a desire to pass on their knowledge to our nation's heroes, and the ability to donate a single split, nuc or hive after one year of mentoring.

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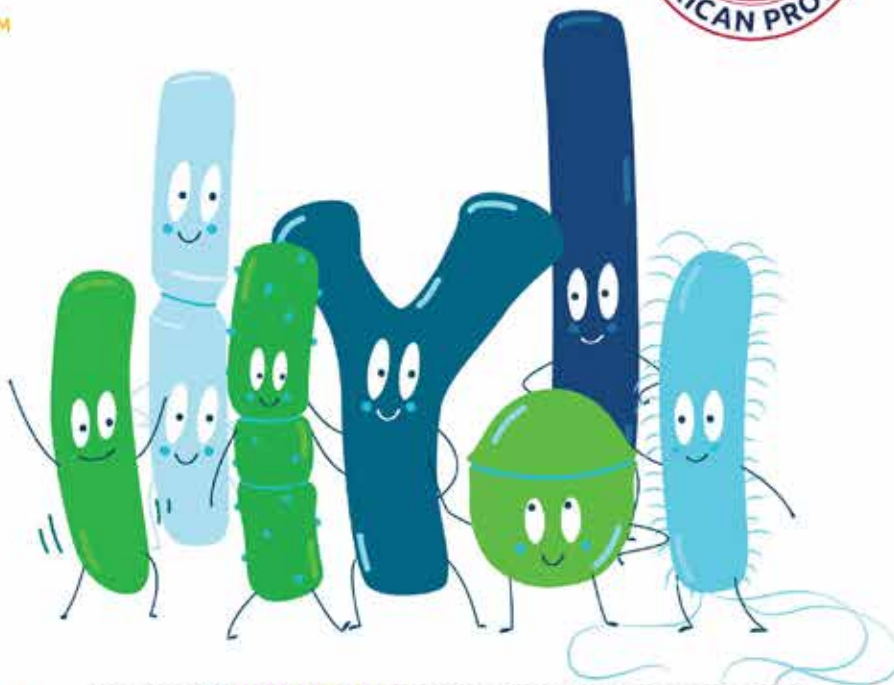


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## The Brantley Column

*from S. S. Brantley*

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

In my area around Jefferson, Texas, on March 10th, I saw the following blooms appear almost as if by magic over a three day period – Bradford Pear, Chinese Magnolia, Wild Plum, Sloe Plum, Dogwood, Redbud, Elm, Maple, Oak as well as Jonquil, Tulips, Dandelion and the little white flowers that abound in our yards. What a welcome sight after enduring such frigid temperatures just a couple weeks before. We were not sure how the spring blooms would be affected.

Now that we have had some 80 degree days, it is time to check our hives and determine the impact of the late freezing temperatures. Open the hive and check the status of the queen. If you have four or five frames of capped brood covering most of both sides of the frame, then it would appear the queen is doing well. The first week of March, the Marshall Bee Club members were checking hives and found lots of capped brood but also noticed small supercedure cell cups being constructed on the middle of the capped brood about three inches down from the top bar. Do not destroy these cups unless you have a queen cell or a new mated queen to put in the hive. If these cells produce queens, they will mate, come back, and the Mother/Daughter queens will co-exist in the hive for a period of time before the Daughter takes over and the Mother is eliminated.

Make sure there are still frames of honey/pollen in the hive. If you do not see any, feed with 2:1 sugar syrup and a little pollen substitute to ensure food for the larva as they hatch.

Check you supers that were stored off the hives over winter and make sure they are ready to be placed on the hives. It is better to give the bees too much room than not enough and spark a swarming instinct. Many of you have heard me say, "Bees cannot put honey in a super that is not on the hive. Install your supers and give your bees room to store honey. Important -- if the supers have been stored under paramoth crystals, be sure to air them out for a couple of days before you put them on the hive.

If you want to increase the number of hives, now would be the time to look for swarm cells along the bottom bars of the frames. Pull a frame with swarm cells, along with a couple frames of capped brood and a frame of honey/pollen and put them in a Nuc box. Let the swarm cells mature and hatch. From what I have been reading, a swarm cell queen is one of the better queens a hive will produce.

If you have a hive with so many bees on each frame that you can hardly see the wax, you could consider taking a couple of splits to start new hives.

During early spring inspections, you sometime have difficulty getting the frames to come out of the bottom brood box. When you are finally able to get it out, you see a large amount of propolis on the bottom edge of the frame. This is the hive's way of saying you did not get the entrance reducer installed early enough to suit the bees so they just build their own propolis door. Once you get this propolis door broken loose, the bees will not re-attach it again. You may remove the excess propolis to use in making hive products or leave it in place. The bees will relocate any propolis left in place and move it throughout the hive wherever it may be needed.

If you are planning to graft larva for queen rearing, Dr. Larry Conner says it is time to begin grafting when you see drone larva at the purple eye stage of development. These purple-eye drones will be hatched and sexually mature enough to mate with your grafted queen when she makes her first mating flight.

Be alert for swarms. I saw the first in my yard on March 12. Standing in my driveway, I saw a swarm of bees come up the street just over the tree tops. They turned into my yard and dropped down to enter a double deep dead-out that has been there since last fall. A gallon of Mann Lake Bee-Pro put them well on the way to becoming a honey making hive.

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**or call (512) 924-5051**

***Look for the Honey Locator and Events Calendar***



# Our “Build-a-Nuc” Adventure

*"The Continuing Journey of Two Ninth-Year Small-Scale Beekeepers"*  
TBA Journal Article – March 2021

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

Pictures are by the authors unless otherwise indicated.



Photo - Hudson Old, East Texas Journal

Spring is definitely in the air in northeast Texas. No more snow, but we are still having evening lows in the 30s! This makes it a real challenge to gauge when to start our queen rearing and ultimately our nucleus hive building. Spring is also a time of great beekeeping interest by many NewBees, beekeeping education classes, and hands-on training.

Last year, we experimented with combining all three of these items together into a “Build-a-Nuc” day, modeled on the “build-a-bear” concept made popular by Maxine Clark in 1997 at Build-a-Bear Workshop, Inc. Last year several of our nucleus customers wanted to come “help us” put the nucs together. We also needed them to bring their equipment since we had, for the first time, more orders than equipment! We all came together in March 2020 and had a great time, just as the masks and distancing mandates were being implemented. It was a great day of learning capped off by one comment, “I’ve learned more here today than I have in the last three years!” We’re grateful for the kind comment on our experiment!



This year, we are being a bit more intentional about our Build-a-Nuc day. Invitations just went out for our customers to come assemble their nucleus hive in their equipment. We’ll have a lunch, answer questions about beekeeping, and try on all that shiny white protective gear and get a bit of pine creosote in each pristine new smoker. Then we’ll head out to our bees and begin the assembly process. You may think nuc building is easy, but there is a lot of preparation behind making the event come off smoothly. Let us outline some of it below in case you want to hold your own “Build-a-Nuc” (BaN) day.

Before BaN event:

- Determine your nucleus hive production potential. We evaluate our overwintered hives; we double the number of strong hives and that approximates our nuc potential. We then take orders for that number and waitlist the remainder. This year we had eight strong hives, so our potential is 16 nucleus hives.
- Start your queen production early and don’t count your queen cells until they are capped! We raise our own queens from our best queen to have queen cells for nucs. We use the Nicot system and have the potential to raise 90 to 110 queens per round. Unfortunately, between freeze days and thunderstorms, we raised only 31 queens this year. That will be enough to make nucs and requeen our own hives, but it will not be enough for queen cell sales in this round.
- The queen quantity and timing set the potential dates for your BaN day. We look at the weather and choose a day between Queen Day 11 and 14; recall that a queen cell is capped on day 10 and emerges on day 16. We’re looking for the best day possible with at least a 70 degF day and full sun, remembering that this will be the FIRST encounter with live bees for many of our NewBee folks.
- We let everyone know the rough timing on the BaN date back when we start the queen rearing process, but only hone it in when we KNOW we have queen cells, and we can find a good weather date.



- Invite everyone to the BaN telling them to bring their protective gear, tools, smoker, questions, and hive woodenware equipment. We make sure they know they will be assembling a five-frame medium nucleus hive with a queen cell and that we won't deliver their nucleus hive until four to six weeks later. This gives time for the queen to mature, mate, and begin to lay. We want our customers to see the laying pattern of "their" queen to know her quality.

On the day of BaN event:

- We have everyone sign a liability release waiver for the Agritourism experience they will have on our property.
- Be ready with a game plan of how you will divide your hives to make the new nucleus hives. Where will the brood come from? The pollen? The honey/nectar? We put three brood, one pollen, and one honey/nectar frame in our nucleus hives. These five frames will increase to a full ten frames of resources in a few weeks.
- Have the woodenware already on stands, labeled, and ready to receive the frames.
- Have feeders ready and sugar syrup, either prepared, or ready for preparation by the NewBees.
- Aggregate your queen cells into one hive or box, ready to distribute as the last step in preparing the nucleus hives.
- Do not be in a hurry. Our experience is that it will take twice as long to assemble nucleus hives with all of your NewBees as it would to do it alone, so we intentionally slow down and explain again. This is an educational experience for everyone, and understanding is the measure we use to judge our success at the event.
- Folks are welcome to stay for an hour or all afternoon, whatever fits their schedule.
- We invite each BaN participant to visit our plant storage area and take home a few great bee-friendly plants.



After the BaN event:

- We sit down, enjoy diet Dr. Pepper and peanuts, and debrief.
- We check back with folks a few days later to see what they've learned and experienced. If necessary, we help them with different equipment or with changing the logistics in their planned apiary at home.
- We update everyone on the progress of their nucs as queens emerge (or don't), go out on mating flights and return (or not), and the laying pattern of their new queen. Inevitably, we have to swap queens, add brood frames, or make other changes to each nucleus hive to help it reach the level where it is self-sufficient and ready for a new owner.
- Lastly, we set a date for delivery of the nucleus hives to the NewBees. We deliver our hives and assist with the set up of the new hive in their apiary. We also perform a first inspection of the hive with the new owners to verify queen presence and quality, and the presence of resources on all 10 frames.
- We offer to assist in a follow-up inspection in two to four weeks to make sure the hive is progressing and the queen is performing. By this time there are also lots of questions and some stories of their personal experiences with the bees.
- We keep in touch monthly to offer assistance and encouragement, and we suggest strategies to deal with summer dearth, varroa, and anything else that comes up. Many new beekeepers invite us to visit their apiaries.
- Most of our NewBees will have some honey to extract in the fall, usually two or three frames per hive. We let them know when we are extracting our personal honey and offer them a time to come extract theirs. Nothing tastes quite as good as the first drop of honey from their bees!

Bottom line, we've found these Build-Nuc events to be a key component in building relationships with NewBees, far beyond just the customer transaction. We've shared stories about life, kids, grandkids, plants, failures, successes, goals, and, of course, beekeeping in Texas. Each year, we make new friends and share our relationships with Jesus...and those are the reasons we are in beekeeping.

We'd love to hear about your beekeeping adventures!

Roger and Sue Farr - [rdfarr@gmail.com](mailto:rdfarr@gmail.com); [sue.farr1@gmail.com](mailto:sue.farr1@gmail.com)

# Sticking Up for the Sticky Board

*from Kirk Kirksey, Master Beekeeper, Dino-Bee Club*

Sticky Boards are getting a bad rap. When it comes to monitoring Varroa levels inside a hive many, experts, popular bloggers, state beekeeping associations, beekeeping club websites are pushing The Wash method of estimating Varroa levels inside a hive. They say The Wash is better. I'm not so sure.

From where I sit, either method, if done properly, is no worse or better than the other. I say the choice of monitoring Varroa depends on the beekeeper's situation, resources, and judgment.

## GETTING TO 'THE NUMBER'

The Wash and Sticky Board have several things in common. Both assume some level of Varroa already exists inside a hive, and both methods take advantage of known Varroa behavior. Both methods return a useful result – something I call “THE NUMBER” – using a sampling technique.

The Wash method uses a loosely controlled sample of bees – ½ cup or about 300 bees is recommended. A substance (usually alcohol or dishwashing soap) is poured over the sample and shaken. This kills the bees, but causes the mites to drop off. Bees are removed, and the count of varroa left behind is THE NUMBER.

Every day some number of mites will fall off their hosts. Sticky Board monitoring exploits this behavior. The Sticky Board (usually a flat sheet of corrugated plastic) coated with a thin film of tacky goo is slid onto the hive's the bottom board (or under a screened bottom board). Fallen Varroa mites are trapped to die a goeey death. After a pre-determined period of time, the Sticky Board is removed. THE NUMBER is the count of trapped mites.

## WHICH IS “BEST”? IT DEPENDS...

“Best” is always tricky to pin down, and will not be the same for everyone. For monitoring Varroa count, ideally, “Best” would be the method that most accurately predicts the total of Varroa population inside a hive. One controlled study (Delaplane KS, Hood WM. 1997) states “Bottom Board inserts were more reliable predictors of colony mite predictors of mite population compared to the ether roll method.” Clearly opinions differ.

Here's the bottom line. Both Sticky Board and Wash will give a useful number. Which is “Best” depends on the beekeeper.

For commercial, sideliner or beekeepers with lots of hives, The Wash is probably best. This method is relatively quick. The hives need only be visited once to perform the test. Counting the mite post wash is easy.

For a hobbyist with only a few hives, Sticky Boards maybe best. Sampling is unobtrusive – no need to open the hive. No bees are killed. If you are an aged statistician like me, the Sticky Board sampling method can be considered more reliable as it covers the entire hive over a period of time. Sticky Boards can be used anytime of year, and under far-from-perfect conditions.

## HOW TO USE STICKY BOARDS

I feel I've given both The Alcohol Wash and Sticky Board methods more than a fair shake, and I'm mystified by the “which-is-best” argument. Personally, I'm sticking with Sticky Boards. If you think you may be a Sticky Board person too, here are some suggestions from the field.

Sticky Boards can be used with both screened and solid bottom boards.

Start with a commercial, pre-gooed, Sticky Board (see URL). The pre-printed grid on these Boards really helps when it comes time to count stuck mites. Once you've got the hang of things, you can easily make (and even recharge and re use) your own Sticky Board with a piece of coroplast (the board), a can of PAM/Crisco (the goo), and permanent Marker (the grid).

Leave Sticky Boards in place for multiples of 24 hours, because most recommended Treatment Thresholds (see next section) are expressed in ‘mite fall per 24 hours’. The longer you can leave the Sticky Board in the hive the better. That said, the Sticky Board will collect a lot of debris, the more debris, the more difficult it is to ID the mites. Seventy-Two hours in the hive is best for my aging eyesight.

Monitoring Varroa works best – regardless of method – when brood is not present. Late fall and early spring are good. Also, monitoring after treating a hive will let you know if the treatment was effective. This test should be done at least three days after the treatment was complete.

Monitor all hives at the same time.

Counting mites on a Sticky Board is about as tedious as it gets. You'll need good light, a magnifying, a pointed knife to move debris out of the way; a red permanent marker for mite marking; a cold beverage to dull the tedium; and last but not least a moist rag to wipe goo off your fingers. The mites are usually easy to see – perfect little ovals with teensy feet peeking out of one side.

Over counting is better than undercounting. Mark all possibles.

Anomalies happen. Some examples...

The Varroa Count is much higher AFTER Varroa treatment than before. The Varroa Count is zero. The Varroa count on a particular hive differs drastically from nearby hives. Bottom line – don't hesitate to retest if you see iffy results.

## HOW TO USE 'THE NUMBER'

Always remember. THE NUMBER – by either The Wash or Sticky Board method – is derived from unscientific sampling. This doesn't mean it isn't valuable; it simply means THE NUMBER cannot not be interpreted as exact. It is nothing more than an indicator or sign of direction. Beekeeper judgment determines next steps.





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THE NUMBER is most often compared to a Threshold Value. Here are three Thresholds I use with Sticky Boards. Feel free to come up with others to meet your needs.

#### TREATMENT THRESHOLD

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) stresses comparing THE NUMBER to a Treatment Threshold. Varroa Treatment is applied to hives when THE NUMBER exceeds this Threshold. I warn you. Opinions on a Treatment Threshold vary wildly. These threshold numbers are (more or less) an amalgamation of several recommendations by credible sources.

Spring 5-12 Mite fall per 24 hour  
Fall 24-60 Mite fall per 24 hour

#### RE-TREATMENT THRESHOLD

Repeating a Sticky Board exam after treatment can validate treatment effectiveness. Re-Treatment Thresholds recommendations are hard to come by. Start with Re-Treatment threshold that are (at least) half of your original Treatment Threshold. For post-treatment monitoring, be sure to leave Sticky Boards in place the same length time as the pre-treatment time.

#### CODE RED THRESHOLD

Here's a worst-case scenario. THE NUMBER is in the

stratosphere – say over 150 plus mites per 24-hour period. Hard questions and difficult decisions immediately come to mind. Is the Varroa infestation too massive to justify treatment? Are the bees already infected with viruses vectored by a sky-high Varroa population? Do the infestation and/or virus-infected bees pose a threat to other colonies? Are there valuable resources (e.g. honey, drawn comb) that could be recovered before wax moths and Small Hive Beetles overrun the doomed hive.? Do other signs point to a doomed colony? More information – not just THE NUMBER – will be needed to form a plan of action.

If monitoring your Varroa count is important, the Sticky Board Method can work and work well. Don't be dissuaded by naysayers. But remember Sticky Boards do not rely on a hard and fast formula for success. Like most things beekeeping, the value of Sticky Boards boils down to the beekeeper's judgment, resources, and unique situation.

#### References:

Delaplane KS, Hood WM. 1997. Effects of delayed acaricide treatment in honey bee colonies parasitized by and a late-season treatment threshold for the southeastern USA. Journal of Apicultural Research 36: 125-132.

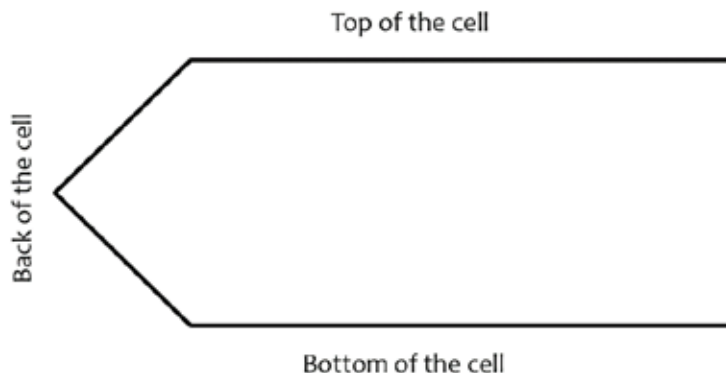
## Update from Texas Apiary Inspection Service

*from Mary Reed, Chief Apiary Inspector*

Hello Texas Beekeepers!

What a year it has been so far! Never did I think I would see it really snow in College Station, let alone twice in one year. I hope your bees made it through the cold weather safe and sound. I know my bees are happy to be out flying in the beautiful weather we have been having recently. As you may have noticed in your hives already, brood production has kicked back into gear and the worker populations are building. As colonies begin to grow, make sure to keep an eye out for any issues that may pop up. Whether it's the queen not laying properly, a lack of pollen or nectar stores, or any number of pest or disease symptoms. Here in Texas, spring is when we typically encounter an increased amount of European Foulbrood (EFB). EFB often is exacerbated when a hive is increasing in population and nectar flows are inconsistent. It can also appear when there are not enough nurse bees to care for the developing brood. It's important to keep any eye out for any symptoms of EFB, as well as American Foulbrood (AFB), as your colonies grow. I'm not going to spend this article diving into the details of both foulbrood diseases, however more information about the specific symptoms of EFB and AFB can be found on my office's website under For Beekeepers→Pests and Diseases (<https://txbeeinspection.tamu.edu/beekeepers/pests-diseases/>). We also have a tri-fold guide that goes over the two foulbrood diseases, plus Parasitic Mite Syndrome (<https://txbeeinspection.tamu.edu/files/2018/02/Identifying-Brood-Diseases-trifold.pdf>). This guide covers the symptoms of these diseases, as well as provides questions to ask yourself as you're trying to determine what the exact issue is. Some of these symptoms require more than just looking at the brood pattern and basing your decisions off of smells. In this article I'd like to go over how to look for some of the foulbrood symptoms and what to do if you suspect an issue.

One of the defining symptoms of both EFB and AFB is the formation of a scale, which occurs when a diseased larvae or pupae disintegrates and dries out. Now, before we go any further, I want to give a brief outline of the parts of a cell. To do that I've flexed my artistic muscles in Paint to create the following image:



Notice that the point where you typically find eggs laid is the back of the cell, whereas the bottom of the cell is where the larvae and pupae lay down to complete its development once the cell is capped over. Often beekeepers want to call the back of the cell the bottom of the

cell. This distinction is important to understand because the scale in both EFB and AFB forms on the bottom of the cell. Keeping this in mind, it can be difficult to look for scales when holding up a frame like you would when looking for eggs (see Figure 1). So, what's the trick? Well, I've got a handy 3-step method for you that I've listed out here:

1. Shake any bees off of the frame and back into the hive. Hold the frame by the top bar and turn to face the sun.
2. Lower the frame to about hip height and slightly angle the frame upwards (approximately a 45 degree angle from the ground) so that you can see the bottom of the cells.
3. Adjust the angle of the frame as needed to change your view of the cell and look for scale.



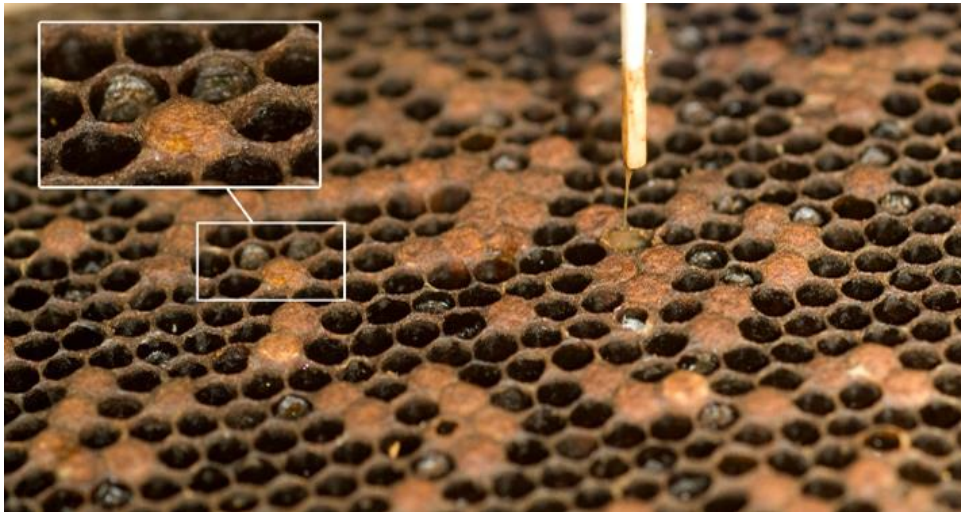
*Figure 1 Beekeeper is holding a frame up to look into the cells. This is how to hold a frame to look for eggs. You will not see scale from this perspective.*



*Figure 2 The beekeeper can now see the bottom of the cell and is looking for EFB/AFB scales.*

The scales will be dark in color and look dried out and flattened against the cell (Figure 3). One way to determine if the hive is infected with EFB or AFB is by attempting to remove the scale from a cell. If the scale is easy to remove, then the hive has EFB. The scale that forms from AFB is nearly impossible to remove.



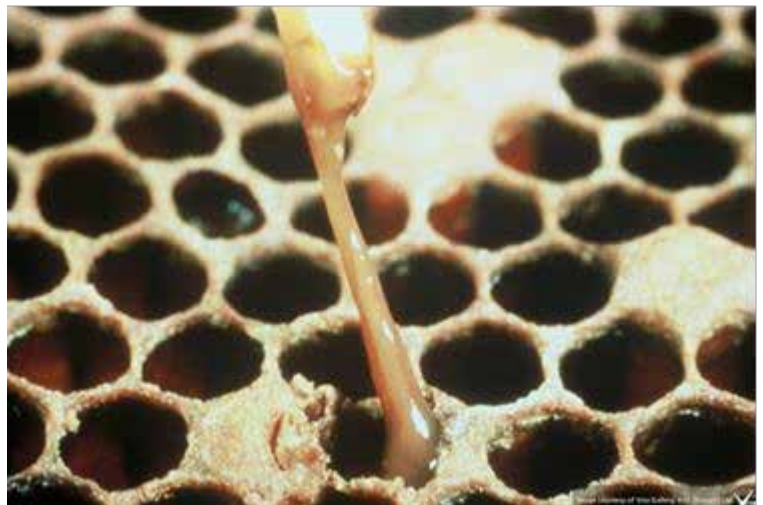


*Figure 3 Scale formed at the bottom of a brood cell. (Photo credit: Bee Informed Partnership).*

Another step you can take to determine if your hive has foulbrood is conduct the rope test. For this test, all you need is a toothpick, twig, or a small stick of some sort. Insert the stick into the suspect cell, swirl it around, and then slowly draw the stick out. If the larval goop remains attached to both the stick and cell, and draws out more than 1.5 centimeters, then most likely the hive is infected with AFB. If the goop does not string out and comes out with your stirring device, then it's not AFB, but possible that it's EFB or some other issue (this is when we use other symptoms to assess the situation).



*Figure 5 A twig works well when conducting the rope test.*



*Figure 4 Infected brood roping out, a strong indicator that the hive is infected with AFB. (Photo credit: Vita Bee Health)*

If you would like to have samples lab-tested, you can either mail a cut out of comb containing the infected brood, or collect a sample using a Q-tip (see Figure 5). One option is to send the samples to my office to be analyzed for free (Texas Apiary Inspection Service, 2475 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-2475). You also have the option of sending it to the USDA Bee Research Lab in Beltsville, MD. They will also process foulbrood samples for free and have instructions on their website on how to collect and ship your samples (<https://www.ars.usda.gov/northeast-area/beltsville-md-barc/beltsville-agricultural-research-center/bee-research-laboratory/docs/bee-disease-diagnosis-service/>). Please keep in mind that if you suspect or determine your hive(s) have AFB, you are required under the current Texas beekeeping laws to report it to my office. In these situations, we work with the beekeeper to set up an emergency inspection to determine if the hives are infected. We are able to conduct an in-field test, as well as collect samples for additional analyses if needed.



*Figure 6 Insert a Q-tip into an infected brood cell to collect a sample.*



*Figure 7 Sample coating the end of a Q-tip.*

I hope this quick overview of a foulbrood detection helps showcase how to look for scale on a brood frame. There are several other symptoms that can appear for both AFB and EFB, some of which are distinct and key characteristics of each disease. I gave an overview of AFB in my March-April 2019 TBA Journal article, so check that out in the archives if you need a refresher. As I mentioned earlier in the article, there is loads of information on our Service's website, so check those out as well.

Before I close out, I have a few reminders about upcoming events:




- The Spring 2021 Texas Master Beekeeper Exam is coming up in April! The exams will be virtual again this year, and will be made available over three days (April 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>). If you would like more information or are interested in signing up, check out the program's website (<https://masterbeekeeper.tamu.edu/2021-spring-exam-registration/>).
- The Bee Informed Partnership's Colony Loss and Management Survey will be launched on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2021. This is a voluntary survey that collects information from beekeepers about the number of colonies they lost over the past year, as well as the management practices that were implemented. This is valuable information to beekeepers, researchers, and other industry stakeholders. The results help highlight the challenges beekeepers face, as well as influence the programs and financial aid made available to the industry. More information about previous survey results, as well as the upcoming survey can be found on the Bee Informed website (<https://beeinformed.org/citizen-science/loss-and-management-survey/>).


As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or a good bee story, please don't hesitate to reach out to my office ([tais@tamu.edu](mailto:tais@tamu.edu), 979-845-9713). In the meantime, I hope you all are able to get out to your bees and enjoy the spring weather! Happy Beekeeping!

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- \* **Wisconsin Honey Producers Association, Inc.**
- \* **American Honey Producers Association**
- \* **Florida State Beekeepers Association**
- \* **Minnesota Honey Producers Association**
- \* **North Dakota Beekeepers Association**
- \* **Texas Beekeepers Association**
- \* **Washington State Beekeepers Association**

**Kevin Rader: [Buzzus@beekeepingins.com](mailto:Buzzus@beekeepingins.com)**  
**[www.beekeepingins.com](http://www.beekeepingins.com)**  
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### Update from the Rangel Lab at Texas A&M University

Dear TBA members,

What a February we had, huh? I hope that you did not suffer terrible losses at home or your apiaries due to snow storm Viola (tenderly called “snovid21” by my students!). Our bee lab suffered mild losses after the cold snap... we lost a total of eight colonies, half of which we knew were heavily parasitized by Varroa because we needed the colonies that way for our research. So, in all, things could have been worse for us. In any case, many people in the Brazos Valley lost power and/or water for days and had severe damage to their property. I can consider myself very lucky that we escaped disaster once more, as my family and my research staff seem to be doing ok through this new chapter in the COVID-19 pandemic.

I want to update you on a couple of awards that were obtained recently. First, I would like to congratulate Dr. Tonya Shepherd, Senior Research Associate and Instructor for the Rangel Lab, who received the highly prestigious Dean’s Award in Service from the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. Dr. Shepherd has been with our program for over four years now and is an irreplaceable member of our research and teaching staff. Thank you, Tonya, for all you do for our program! She will be honored at an awards ceremony at a later date.

I am also pleased and honored to announce that I have been awarded this year's James Hambleton Award from the Eastern Apicultural Society of North America. The Hambleton Award was established in 1973 to honor outstanding scientists in apicultural research. The award letter read:

“EAS received strong letters of support from your peers in academia, as well as the beekeeping community. The Award Committee based their decision on your exemplary research record; your ability to conduct and integrate studies across a variety of biological levels - combining the skills and knowledge to collect state-of-the-art information, translate it, and apply it to real-world issues, and your strong emphasis on training students and Postdoctoral Research Associates. The award will be presented at the annual conference of the Eastern Apicultural Society, August 11-13, 2021, Shepherdsville, Kentucky. You will be formally invited and be expected to discuss your research. EAS will cover your travel and meeting expenses. EAS will award a plaque acknowledging your research accomplishments during the annual conference and provide a one-year individual membership to EAS.”

Thank you all very much for this opportunity, as I could not have reached this important professional milestone without the help and support of our laboratory staff and family.

I also had the great honor of being approached by the Buffalo Museum of Science (Buffalo, NY) to be featured in their current display on Women in Science during Women's History Month (March 2021)!!! Of the 11 women that are featured this year, only three are alive and I am the only Hispanic woman, so it truly is an honor to be represented!

This spring is already proving to be a busy one. If I’m not busy collecting bees to mitotype or coordinating research projects for our students and staff, I am teaching the *Honey Bee Biology* and *Introduction to Beekeeping* undergraduate courses, serving on several departmental and university committees, reviewing theses and manuscripts, or writing grant applications. I have also given a few presentations via Zoom in the last couple of months. In particular, on 3 February I spoke to Northern Ireland’s Ulster Bee Keepers Association during their winter seminar series. My talk was titled “**Ecology of Africanized Honey Bees in the United States**,” a topic that was of interest to them because they do not have Africanized bees in

NI... at least not yet. So, they wanted to learn more about them. There were upwards of 190 participants, not only from NI but from all over the world. I was also a plenary speaker for this year's Spring Conference of the Michigan Beekeepers Association on 5 March, when I spoke about "**Queen Management Essentials**" to a group of over 200 beekeepers. I really enjoy doing those remote presentations because they reach a lot more people from other parts of the country and the world than if we were in one particular location.

I also want to congratulate our Ph. D. student Jordan Twombly Ellis on being selected as one of four apiculture graduate students to be awarded a scholarship in the amount of \$3,000 USD through the 2021 award cycle of the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees Scholars Program!!!! The purpose of this scholarship, in addition to providing modest financial support, is to foster professional development of emerging apiculture scientists by allowing award recipients to attend the American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) Conference & Tradeshow. This year's event took place virtually, on January 5-7, 2021.

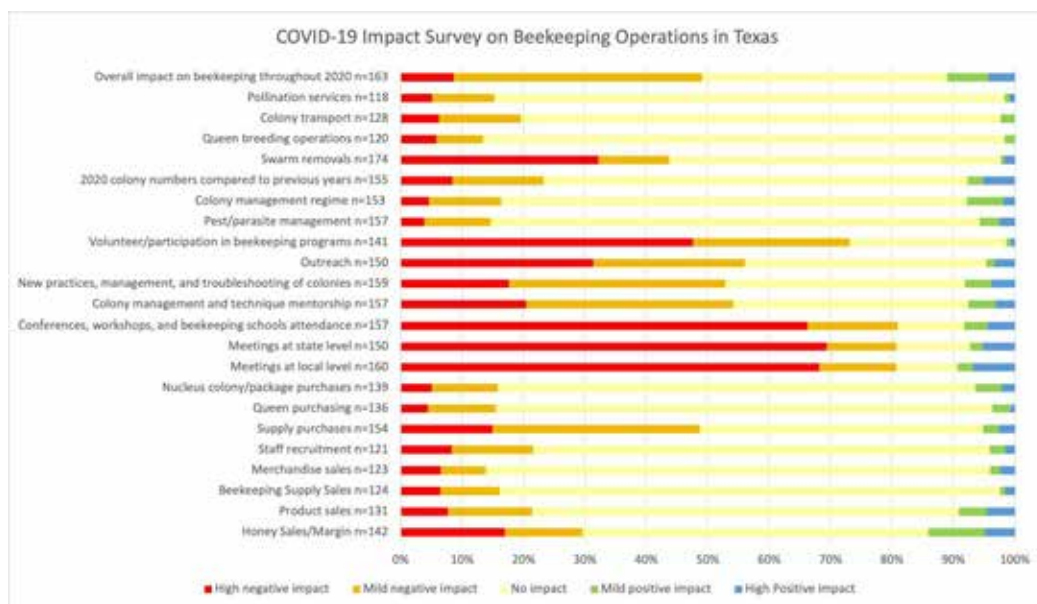
On the research front, I would like to thank all of you who participated in our student-organized survey to better understand how the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated travel restrictions have impacted Texas and Louisiana beekeepers. The purpose of the survey was to identify what beekeeping practices, operations and/or available learning opportunities were most impacted by the pandemic in 2020 and into 2021. We had as many as 220 respondents to the survey, although some people chose not to answer some of the questions. Preliminary results of the survey can be found in the attached photo. Thank you very much to all of you who participated! By identifying what aspects of beekeeping have been impacted by COVID-19, our goal was to help the industry determine what solutions can be applied in the future to mitigate these issues.

The latest speaker for the At Home Beekeeping Series was our own Pierre Lau. He presented a wonderful talk on 23 February titled "**Understanding and integrating honey bee nutritional ecology into beekeeper practices.**" There was a total of 280 people on the Zoom platform, and 40 people watching the presentation live on Facebook, so it was a great success! The At Home Beekeeping Series is organized by Auburn University in collaboration with other SEC universities (including ours). The next session will be on Tuesday, 30 March, from 6:30-7:30 CST. Our speaker this month will be Dr. Jennifer Tsuruda from the University of Tennessee. The title of her talk is "**Behavioral Resistance to *Varroa*.**" Please help us out by sharing this info on your social media sites and sending the flyer to your partners and local beekeeping associations. Here is the link to the event on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/3708042452609068>. The event is also shared on the Lawrence County Extension page: <https://www.facebook.com/LawrenceCountyextension>. Feel free to just share the event or this post onto your Facebook sites!! 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!

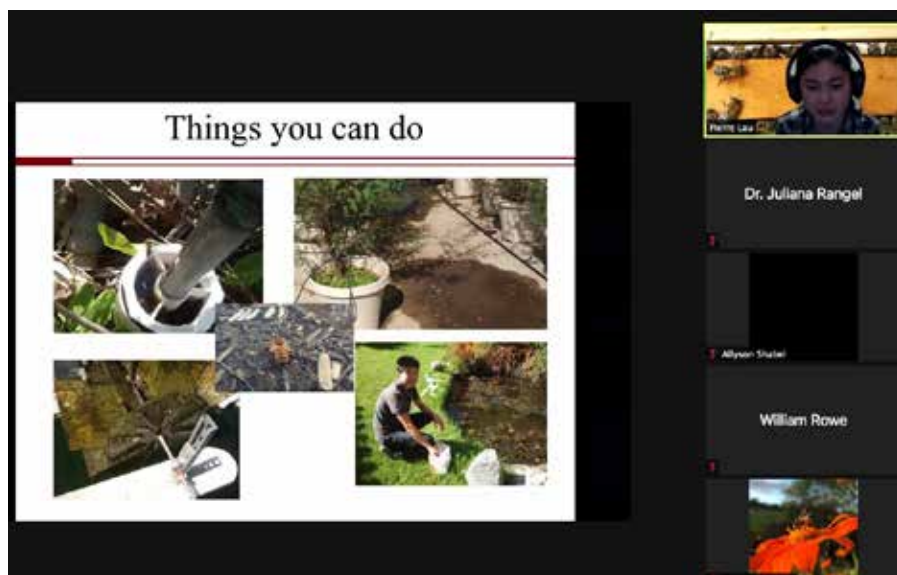
I reiterate the sense of gratitude that I have for all of you and your support. I hope that 2021 in general, and this spring in particular, prove to be more positive and full of hope for everyone. As always, for up-to-date information regarding our program, or for new and interesting posts regarding bees and beekeeping, please visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/TAMUhoneybeelab>.

Sincerely yours,  
Juliana Rangel

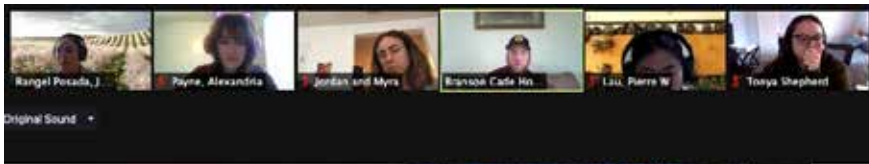




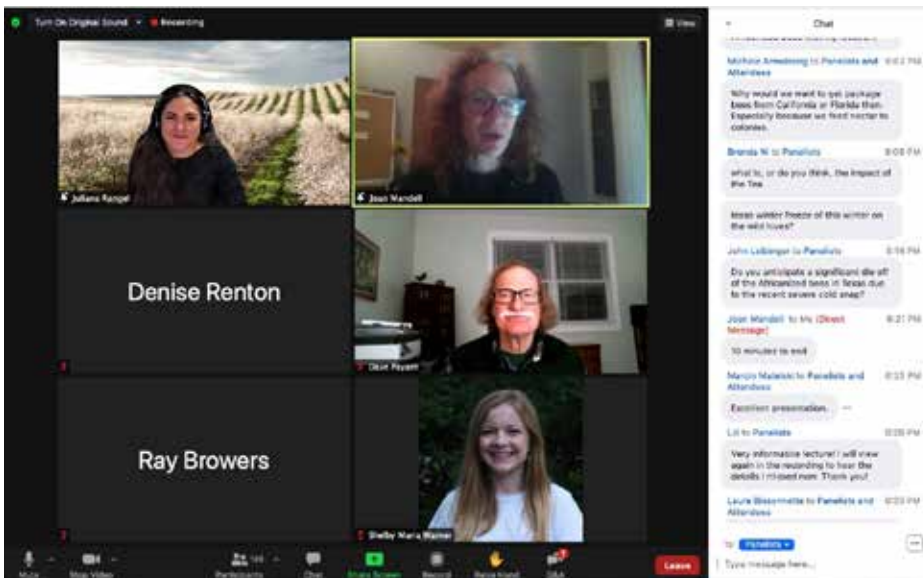
Preliminary results from those who completed the survey regarding the effects (negative and positive) that the COVID-19 pandemic and related travel restrictions has had on the beekeeping industry in Texas.



Ph. D. candidate Pierre Lau was the guest speaker for February's At Home Beekeeping Series organized by SEC Universities. His talk was about the nutritional ecology of honey bees.



Texas A&M University's Tech Transfer Team Leader Cade Houston presented an update on his trip to California during almond pollination at the latest Rangel Lab meeting. In this picture he was showing all the frames he was prepping for liquid nitrogen treatment to check for each colony's hygienic behavior phenotype.



Dr. Rangel was one of the winter speaker series for the Ulster Bee Keepers Association of Northern Ireland. There were over 186 participants that connected live on Zoom for the presentation.

24 March 2021  
 Column for the TBA Journal  
 Juliana Rangel



Dr. Rangel is featured in this year's Women's History Month (March 2021) at the Buffalo Museum of Science in Buffalo, NY.

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- March 30: Behavioral resistance to Varroa, with *Jennifer Tsuruda*
- April 27: Biology and management of swarms, with *Mike Goblirsch*
- May 25: Working with mosquito control to protect bees, with *Kristen Healy*

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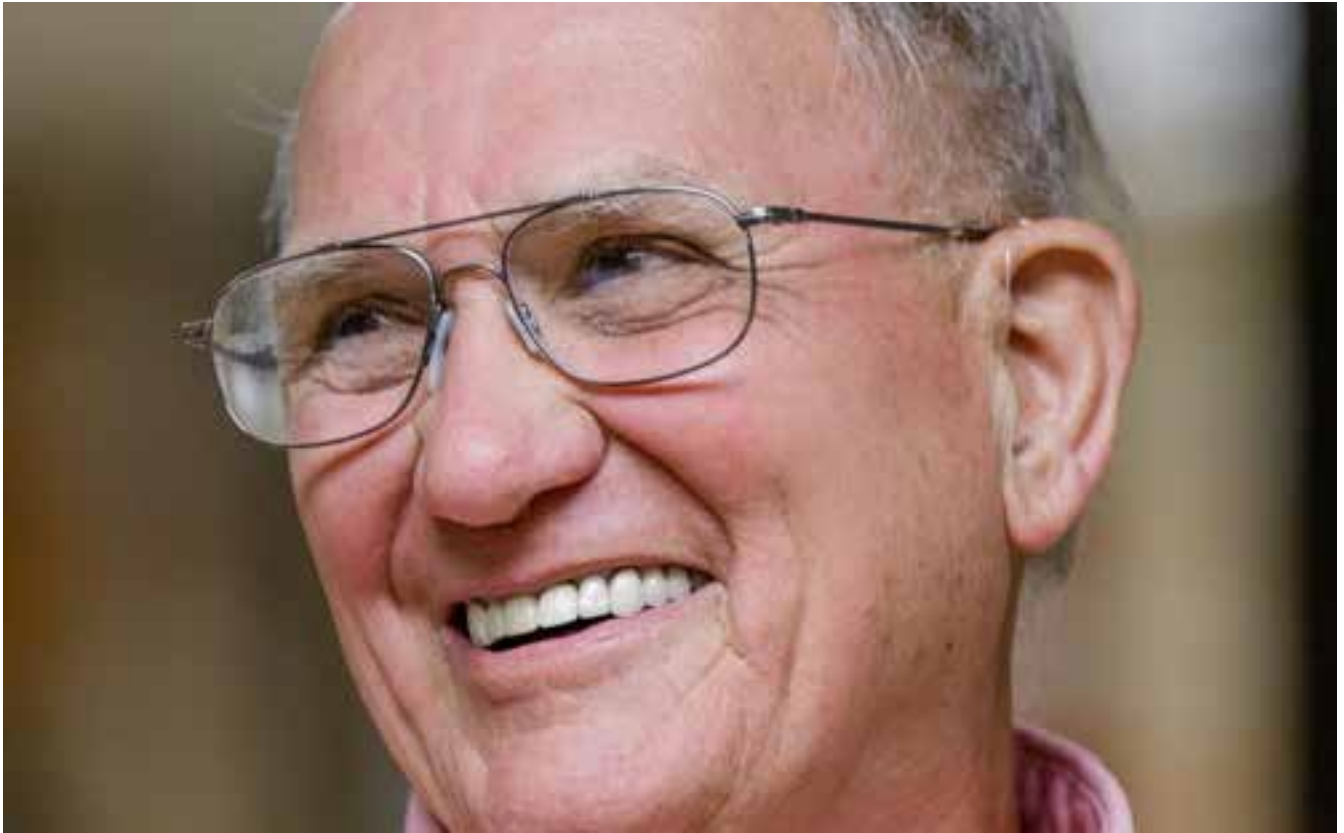
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## In Memoriam

### Dr. Vaughn M. Bryant



Dr. Vaughn M. Bryant, Regents Professor known for his work in palynology, passed away on Saturday, January 30. Having received his B.A. (Geography), M.A. (Anthropology), and Ph.D. (Botany) degrees from the University of Texas at Austin, Dr. Bryant started his Assistant Professor position at Texas A&M University in 1969.

Dr. Bryant originally studied archaeological and paleoenvironmental research when he joined the department of Anthropology. It was not until 1976 that he entered the world of melissopalynology, the study of pollen in honey, after the United USDA asked him to examine honey as part of a larger domestic honey farm subsidy project. At this time, he was unaware of the challenges ahead of him. He admittedly mentioned that he was unprepared for how difficult it was to do pollen analysis for honey. Unlike his other palynological research activities, pollen in honey presented its own unique challenges because honey bees use over 250,000 plants in the United States alone. He would always mention how it took him 40 years to get good at this. In addition to learning the different pollen types honey bees use, Dr. Bryant helped to standardize some of the techniques used to process and analyze honey. He then used what he learned to help beekeepers and bee scientists understand the types of plants bees are using in their environment.

You may have heard the quote "Do what you love, and you'll never work another day in your life." In my eyes, Dr. Bryant lived

that quote to the fullest. Many of you reading this may have seen the articles of him bringing in a microscope to analyze honey in his isolated, germ-free room during his chemo treatment. This was something that did not surprise any of us that already knew him. Dr. Bryant was always working around the clock on a daily basis. Analyzing honey was something he did in his spare time to help fund student research. When he did not have a backlog of honey samples waiting for him, he was constantly teaching various anthropology classes, mentoring students on their research projects, working on forensics samples, analyzing archaeological samples, writing journal articles, and much more. He had the work ethic of a leader in his field. In fact, I truly believe that his job was something that helped him push through years and years of battling cancer.

Despite all of Dr. Bryant's commitments, he would never hesitate to put aside the time for anyone who had a question for him. He was always an eager and ready mentor to all who were interested in the art of analyzing honey, even if most ended up abruptly leaving after realizing it wasn't something you could easily pick up overnight. On a personal note, I started working in his lab shortly after he was first diagnosed with a very aggressive prostate cancer early in 2015. Despite that, he still had designated hours where he would be in the lab every day and would promptly respond to my emails whenever I had a question about a particular sample. His mentoring style helped create a positive



lab environment where I looked forward to walking across campus to work in his lab. Dr. Bryant's leadership led to a healthy lab working environment where students past and present formed strong relationships inside and outside work. I can only imagine the type of mentorship and quality training his previous students received before his illness.

It is quite obvious that Dr. Bryant's presence will be missed for years to come. He will always have a forever impact on those he has divulged his expertise, mentorship, and training to. The

fields of palynology, melissopalynology, forensics palynology, paleoethnobotany, quaternary palynology, archaeology, and prehistoric diets would not be where they are today without his lifelong contributions.

Gifts in memory of Dr. Bryant should be sent to Texas A&M Foundation, 401 George Bush Drive, College Station TX 77840.

*from Pierre Lau*

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

Please forward any changes and/or additions to  
Leesa Hyder, Executive Secretary, [execsec@texasbeekeepers.org](mailto:execsec@texasbeekeepers.org)

---

## **Alamo Area Beekeepers Association**

Rick Fink - (210) 872-4569

[president@alamobees.org](mailto:president@alamobees.org)

[www.alamobees.org](http://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](mailto:austinareabeekeepers@gmail.com)

[facebook.com/groups/Austin/AreaBeekeeperAssociation](https://facebook.com/groups/Austin/AreaBeekeeperAssociation)

[www.meetup.com/Austin-Urban-Beekeeping/](http://www.meetup.com/Austin-Urban-Beekeeping/)

**Meeting:** 3rd Monday of each month at 7pm

Frank Fickett Scout Training and Service Center

12500 N I-35, Near Parmer Lane, Austin

## **Bees in the East Club**

Mark de Kiewiet (210) 863-8024

[beesintbeeast@att.net](mailto:beesintbeeast@att.net)

**Meetings** 4th Saturday of each month at 10am

Water Garden Gems, 3230 Bolton Road, Marion,

## **Bell/Coryell Beekeepers Association**

Charles McMaster (703) 624-1337

[bellcoryellbeeclub@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:paniolobee@icloud.com)

**Meetings:** 3rd Tuesday of each month except December at 6:30pm

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(entrance on Cottonwood St next to flagpole)

## **Brazoria County Beekeepers Association**

Steve Brackmann - (832) 884-6141

[stevenbrackmann@yahoo.com](mailto:stevenbrackmann@yahoo.com)

[bcba@brazoria-county-beekeepers-association.com](mailto:bcba@brazoria-county-beekeepers-association.com)

[www.brazoria-county-beekeepers-association.com](http://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](mailto:info@bvbeeks.org)

[www.bvbeeks.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:CentralTexasBeekeepers@gmail.com)

[www.centraltexasbeekeepers.org](http://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](mailto:scott@zirger.us) or [chisholm-trail-beekeepers@googlegroups.com](mailto:chisholm-trail-beekeepers@googlegroups.com)

**Meetings:** Last Monday of each month

United Cooperative Services, 2601 S Burleson Blvd, Burleson

## **Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Assn.**

John (Skip) Talbert (706) 761-7893

[president@cchba.org](mailto:president@cchba.org)

[www.cchba.org](http://www.cchba.org)

**Meetings:** 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30 pm

Collin College Conference Center, (Central Park Campus)

2400 Community Dr., McKinney

## **Colorado County Beekeepers Association**

David Behlen (832) 230-5740

[coloradocountybeekeepers@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:e.julie.morgan@gmail.com)

**Meetings:** 1st Thursday of each month

Beefy's on the Green Restaurant, upstairs room

12910 US Hwy 281N at 6:30 pm

## **Concho Valley Beekeepers Association**

Rex Moody - (325) 650-6360

[cvbeekeeper@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:ellenswartz@sbcglobal.net)

## **Denton County Beekeepers Association**

Gary Barber - (972) 768-5505

[board@dentonbees.com](mailto:board@dentonbees.com)

[www.dentonbees.com](http://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

The VFW Hall, 3332 North Grand Ave, Gainesville

**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

*fredericksburgbeekeepers@gmail.com*

**Meetings:** Held on Zoom. Email joebees@gmail.com for information to join meeting.

**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**

Sandi Murray (713) 594-9273

*info@houstonbeekeepers.org*

*www.houstonbeekeepers.org*

**Meetings:** 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm

Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston

**Houston Natural Beekeepers Association**

Dean Cook

*houstonnaturalbeekeepers@gmail.com*

**Meetings:** Second Saturday of the month at 11 am

1702 Rothwell, Bldg C, Houston

**Johnson County Beekeepers Association**

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**

Myra Smith (903) 639-2910

**Meetings:** 1st Tuesday 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](mailto: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](mailto:mocobees@gmail.com)

[www.mocobees.com](http://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

**Northeast Texas Beekeepers Association**

Rebecca Vaughan - (972) 841-3751

[rebeccavaughan2@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccavaughan2@gmail.com)

[netbacantontexas@outlook.com](mailto:netbacantontexas@outlook.com)

**Meetings:** 2nd Monday of each month at 6:00 pm

Canton Baptist Church, 303 South Athens St.,

Canton, TX 75103

**Palo Duro Bee Club**

Paige Nester - (806) 678-8048

[nesterpaige@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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**

Gay Fraser (512) 264-2021

[smabeeWranglers@gmail.com](mailto:smabeeWranglers@gmail.com)

**Meetings:** 2nd Thursday of the month 7:00 pm - 9:15 pm

**Extra Meetings:** 4th Thursday of the month, March, April, May 7:00pm

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

**Southwest Texas Beekeepers Association**

Cynthia Schiotis (210) 317-5596

[swtexasbeekeepers@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:texashillcountrybeekeepers@gmail.com)

[facebook.com/TXHillCountryBKAssn/](https://www.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](mailto:traviscountybeekeepers@gmail.com)

[www.TravisCountyBeekeepers.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:gillmatties@gmail.com) [www.wcaba.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:woodcountybeekeepers@gmail.com)

**Meetings:** First Tuesday of every month at 7 pm

The Red Barn, 100 CR 4830, Winnsboro

## Directors -at-Large

### Area 1

#### **Dodie Stillman**

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



### Area 4

#### **Rebecca Vaughan**

*rebeccavaughan2@gmail.com*  
216 VZ CR 3805  
Wills Point, TX 75169  
(972) 841-3751



### Area 2

#### **Robin Young**

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



### Area 5

#### **Monica Siwiak**

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



### Area 3

#### **Charlie Agar**

*charles\_agar@yahoo.com*  
861 Twin Oaks Drive  
New Braunfels, TX 78130  
(803) 708-8797



### Area 6

#### **Myra Smith**

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





## Texas Beekeepers Association

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

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### TBA Officers-2020



#### President

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

#### Vice-President

J J Swan  
[vp@texasbeekeepers.org](mailto:vp@texasbeekeepers.org)  
PO Box 150725  
Austin, TX 78715  
(512) 677-7404

#### Past President

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

#### Executive Secretary

Leesa Hyder  
[execsec@texasbeekeepers.org](mailto:execsec@texasbeekeepers.org)  
82 Sandpebble Drive  
The Woodlands, TX 77381  
(281) 460-0344

#### Publications Director

Chris Doggett  
[ckdoggett@gmail.com](mailto:ckdoggett@gmail.com)  
400 County Road 440  
Thrall, TX 76578  
(512) 914-2794

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#### Membership Director

Shirley Doggett [sdoggett@mindspring.com](mailto:sdoggett@mindspring.com)  
400 County Road 440, Thrall, TX 76578  
(512) 924-5051

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*Picture from Lolita Bader*