

The Texas Beekeepers Association



Journal



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President's Report from Ashley Ralph

The bloom was late as we started to expect after watching the flowers slowly roll in. In many areas throughout Texas, the rain was detrimental to the early Spring flow. We've heard from beekeepers all over the state that had a varying and slightly unpredictable flow this year. Needless to say, we did not produce nearly the amount of Tallow honey this year as we have in previous years due to frozen trees and delayed or non-existent blooms.

We're starting to see local clubs open up their meetings in person again and this is exciting news for new and old beekeepers alike. The time of COVID event closures is hopefully behind us for good. We're excited to host our first in-person event in Galveston for the TBA Convention in November. Some of our scheduled keynote speakers were not available still due to travel restrictions, however, we have a great lineup of Texas experts as well as advanced topics such as queen rearing, research developments, and lots of interesting discussions and panels.

We will continue to improve our online resources on the website as well as our social media channels - make sure you're following TBA on YouTube where we'll continue to post expert speakers and content. Resources are consistently added to the

website as well - we have some youth activity booklets, a new and updated resource page, legislative updates, mentorship program guidelines, and more. We have other exciting resources in the works so make sure you keep an eye out and if you have ideas or questions that may help other beekeepers, please reach out so we can continue to improve our bank of resources.

I've mentioned the SARE Grant that we've been working on in conjunction with TAIS, Agrilife, Agrilogic Consulting, and several expert beekeepers and it's just about ready to publish and share. This will be a dynamic resource bank for 4H clubs, mentor programs, youth programs, and new beekeepers. We're excited to have been a part of this project and look forward to the big reveal! It will allow a more comprehensive resource guide for beekeepers looking to learn more about bees and beekeeping. So, watch our social media channels, emails, and the next journal for more details.

Make sure you're monitoring your hives for varroa, enjoy whatever honey harvest you've got, and be safe outside in the heat! I'll be looking forward to seeing everybody as bee events open back up!

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Vice President's Report from John Swan

I hope you are ready for a jam-packed journal full of wonderful updates and crucial information. As Ashely mentioned in her President column, the 2021 Texas Beekeepers Annual Convention is quickly approaching! As I mentioned in my last article, this year the convention will be held at Moody Gardens in Galveston, TX. This provides a wonderful opportunity for the whole family to come and join in on the fun. For the non-beeks in your family, Moody Gardens offers plenty of fun and educational activities for the whole family. Be on the lookout for the opportunity to snag yourself some discount all access tickets to the garden for TBA members!

As for the convention itself, we will be joined by our featured keynote presenter, researcher Lewis Bartlett. Mr. Bartlett brings his British dry wit to discuss the pros and cons of Darwinian beekeeping, as well as sharing with us his latest research on disease and virus vectoring in Varroa mites. Matthew Mulica, with the Honey Bee Health Coalition, will be making an appearance to update us on the current works and outreach that HBHC is currently doing to help educate beekeepers and growers. And Megan Mahoney will be stopping by to discuss her experience with 50 Shades of Grey... now that got your attention, didn't it! Get your mind out of the gutter though, cause this isn't the 50 Shades you're thinking of... this is her experience while doing three years in a Carniolan Breeding program. Megan also brings a wealth of information on how to be successful in queen breeding and artificial insemination.

Of course, there will be numerous breakout sessions where you can choose your own course that fits your educational needs, as well as panel discussions and live demos. The Annual Convention will also include the Texas Master Beekeeper testing, as well as the 2021 Texas Honey Show! This year the honey show has added an exciting new category – Comb Honey. Not to be confused with “Chunk Comb” which is honeycomb in a jar surrounded by extracted honey, the Comb Honey is raw honeycomb

in either a Ross Round or Halfhog container or Cut Comb honey that is prepped and presented in a clamshell container. The Honey Show has also expanded the extracted honey category from last year to include Light Amber, Medium Amber, and Dark Amber. All of which you will find in greater detail here within the pages of the Journal, and online at TexasBeekeepers.org

On a related event note, a quick shoutout to all the individuals who work behind the scenes to help make these events a reality for all you Texas Beekeepers. But an incredibly special thank you should go out to Rebecca Vaughan, who has been working tirelessly coordinating all the moving parts and ensuring that each group and committee stays on track to pull off what will be our first in-person event since 2019! Thank you, Rebecca. You are a ROCK STAR!

In other beekeeping news... has anyone seen my honey flow? Well, I guess the proper term is nectar flow... but all the same, who took it? I know a lot of you out there might be feeling the same way. This year has been crazy as mother nature continues to throw us one curve ball after another. I have personally left all my honey supers on my hives in hopes of catching the last few drops of available nectar before our summer dearth sets in. Though, the way this year has gone, who's to say when that might actually happen, nor how long it might last? Either way, with the frequent rains and high humidity, my bees needed a little extra time this year in order to get the nectar dehydrated down enough to be considered ripe. In order to provide them the needed time, I have postponed my personal honey harvest until the first part of August this year. Here is to hoping!

I also hope the nectar gods shine favorably on you and your hives as we all try to ride out the erratic ebb and flow of this season. May you find some honey in your hives for all your hard work this year, even if just a little.

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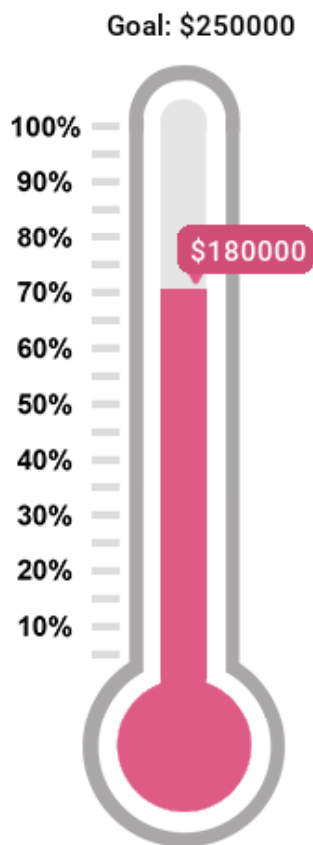


Texas Honey Bee Education Association Launch of Major Fundraising Event

Nevin Weaver Endowment Fund

THBEA in its role as a charitable Educational/Research Association has been in conversations with Texas A&M about how we may work together more closely to benefit the Honey Bee Facility at TAMU and honey bee research in the future. As a result of this collaboration, THBEA is organizing a major fundraising effort to increase the Nevin Weaver Endowment Fund from its current level of \$155,000 to a goal of \$250,000, allowing for increased and more consistent honey bee research funding.

The Nevin Weaver Fund was established in December of 2009 with an original endowment of \$75,000 from donors Dr. John and Janice Thomas and their daughter Valerie Hamilton under the administration of the TAMU Foundation. A guaranteed rate of 4% per annum of the endowment value is available to be used by Dr. Juliana Rangel to cover expenses and projects in her department. Only the interest on the endowment can be used, ensuring funds for the future.



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Mrs. Janice Thomas has kickstarted this fundraiser with a very generous gift of \$25,000 - raising the fund to a level of \$180,000. We thank her for her incredible gift and the knowledge that she so strongly supports the present and future of the Texas A&M Honey Bee Facility.

We know that many of you share Mrs. Thomas' commitment to education and research in this important area. Every contribution will move THBEA toward this important goal.

Checks payable to THBEA can be mailed to:
THBEA, Attn. Shirley Doggett,
400 County Road 440, Thrall TX 76578,
or on-line donations can be made at:

www.thbea.com/nevin-weaver-endowment-fund

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

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



Dear TBA members,

I hope you are having a productive and (relatively) cool summer. We have been very busy at the bee lab, not just with research, but also with some action items that we are happy to announce now.

This issue of the TBA Journal is full of very important information, and this column is not different. So, I hope you read all the wonderful articles that have been prepared to give you all the news about our recent efforts. For instance, along with leaders of the TBA and THBEA, as well as other influential beekeepers, Texas A&M University's Honey Bee Research Program is officially launching a fund-raising campaign to expand the Nevin Weaver Endowed Excellence Fund. On 5 December 2009, Janice and John G. Thomas ('59), along with their daughter Valerie T. Hamilton ('88) established the Nevin Weaver Endowed Excellence Fund with an original gift of \$75,000, in recognition of the contributions and dedication of Dr. Nevin Weaver to the honey bee industry. Distributions from the endowment are to be used to support the Texas Honey Bee facility located at the (now) RELIS Campus in the Department of Entomology at Texas A&M University. As stated in the agreement, additional gifts in support of the fund should be made payable to the Texas A&M Foundation, which is a 501(c)(3) organization under the IRS guidelines.

Over the last year, our ad-hoc group has held in-person and virtual meetings with members of the Texas A&M Foundation and Texas A&M AgriLife Communications to help us develop and deliver the campaign. After months of preparation, we are now excited to tell you that anyone can donate funds to our endowment fund in two different ways, both of which are tax deductible. Our initial goal is to reach \$250,000 in donations, and we are about half way there already! Also, Mrs. Janice Thomas is once again our steward and will match all donations up to \$25,000!!!

Just this month, our administration announced that the Foundation is doing away with the 5% initial commission that they were charging from all gifts, so 100% of your contribution, regardless of size, will go directly to our fund. To make things clear, our program only has access to 4% of the accrued annual interest to use for our research/facility needs. So the corpus of the endowment will remain at the Foundation in perpetuity, to be the gift that keeps on giving.

You can make your contributions in multiple ways, both online and via check. First, the folks from the A&M Foundation have created a VERY easy way to donate online. You can select any amount, and either contribute as an individual or as a group. To make your contribution online, please visit the following website:

<http://give.am/NevinHoneyBeeFund>

You can also send a check payable to "Texas A&M Foundation"

and write "Nevin Weaver Endowed Excellence Fund" in the subject line. You can send your contribution to:

Texas A&M Foundation

Re: Nevin Weaver Endowed Excellence Fund

401 George Bush Drive

College Station, Texas 77840

Another easy and convenient way to contribute, especially if you do not want your name to be known, is to donate through the Texas Honey Bee Education Association (THBEA) website, which has graciously created a payment link just for the Nevin Weaver Endowed Excellence Fund. They will periodically deposit collected donations into the Foundation's account. To donate via the THBEA website, simply click on the DONATE button on the following website:

<https://thbea.com/nevin-weaver-endowment-fund/>

You can also send a check payable to "THBEA" and write "Nevin Weaver Endowed Excellence Fund" in the subject line. You can send your contribution to:

THBEA

c/o Shirley Doggett

400 County Road 440

Thrall, TX 76578

Given these uncertain financial times, the rising costs of higher education and research, and the level of competition for obtaining grants, I feel that it is in our program's best interest to look for additional sources of funding that can help maintain and expand our research and education program. In particular, the cost of graduate education is incredibly high (about \$80,000 a year per student, which includes the student's stipend, tuition and fees) and it is critical that we find ways to supplement these costs. With my fund-raiser hat on, I am writing to as you, our beekeeper followers, supporters, and friends, to help us by donating to the Nevin Weaver Endowed Excellence Fund. Your contribution (however large or small) will help us maintain a group of graduate students and staff that can conduct all the wonderful research that you have come to appreciate over the years. I hope that you can support our cause and share the links with your beekeeping friends and family. We are VERY THANKFUL for your support.

In other news, I want to extend my gratitude and indebtedness to Gene (E.T.) Ash, our beekeeping guru, mentor and friend, who has left College Station after more than three decades to be with his partner Jane Packard out in California. Gene joined our laboratory as Apiary Manager, and over the years not only kept our colonies but also mentored our students. We would not have been able to reach so many accomplishments if it had not been

for his presence and guidance. Gene will definitely be missed. Good luck to him and Jane on their new adventures, and we will see you soon, friends!

Continuing with the series I am calling REASONS TO CELEBRATE, I want to share with you more of the multiple accomplishments of our incredible group of students and staff.

REASON TO CELEBRATE #10: Please join me and Drs. Trudy Rutherford, Robert Strong, and Summer Odom in congratulating David Walther on his successful dissertation defense "A Qualitative Study of Mass Media Reports About Honey Bee Decline and Beekeeper Behavior." Great job Dr. David Walther!

Many of our students recently participated in the student paper competition at the annual meeting for the Southwestern Branch (SWB) of the Entomological Society of America (ESA). This year's meeting took place virtually on 28 and 29 June, and the presence of the Rangel Lab was significant. Our students Myra Dickey and Jordan Ellis represented Texas A&M University as team members for the Entomology Games competition, the trivia game that tests students' knowledge on all aspects of our field. We also had all five graduate students present their research at the conference, and we had some award winners!

REASON TO CELEBRATE #11: Congratulations to Rangel Lab undergraduate student Mary Beth Buchman, who received this year's Percival Scientific Undergraduate Entomology Student Activity Award for her excellence in honey bee research and student outreach, during this year's SWB meeting.

REASON TO CELEBRATE #12: Congratulations to Ph. D. student Jordan Twombly Ellis, who received 3rd place in this year's SWB meeting Ph. D. Oral Presentation Competition Session 1 for her talk titled "Determining the mechanism of honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) self-removal behavior as a potential social immune response." Congrats Jordan!

REASON TO CELEBRATE #13: Congratulations to Ph. D. candidate Alex Payne, who received 3rd place in this year's SWB meeting Ph. D. Oral Presentation Competition Session 2 for her talk titled "Improving honey bee tolerance to Nosema infection by optimizing macronutrients within artificial diets." Congratulations Alex!

I also have a few announcements regarding past and upcoming beekeeping events. I joined Dr. Tom Seeley (my Ph. D. advisor) as plenary speaker for this year's TBA Summer Clinic, held via Zoom on Saturday, 19 June. I spoke about our recent work on the nutritional ecology of honey bees, and Tom spoke about the art and craft of bee lining. At the end we had an informal "Q&A" session, and our host, JJ, did a great job in moderating questions back and forth from the audience and panelists. It was great to "see" Tom, albeit virtually.

The next session in the At Home Beekeeping Series will be Tuesday, 27 July 2021, from 6:30-7:30 PM CST. Our speaker this month Dr. Tom Webster, from Kentucky State University, who will present the talk titled "The honey bee digestive system." We're offering beekeepers the chance to attend virtual meetings from the comfort of one's own home using a computer or mobile device. Speakers include university researchers and extension specialists from across the SE US as well as USDA ARS researchers. Each event will bring participants up to date on timely beekeeping topics with time for Q & A included. We also have Dr. Jamie Ellis from the University of Florida presenting on 31 August, Dan Aurell from Auburn University

presenting on 28 September, and Dr. Keith Delaplane from the University of Georgia presenting on 26 October. 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://fb.me/e/1Z4zPmde1>. As always, all the presentations are posted for two weeks after the live showing at the Lawrence County Extension page <https://www.facebook.com/LawrenceCountyextension>. Feel free to re-share this post from that site, share the event onto your Facebook sites, or create your own post with the jpg attached.

Finally, I want to let you know that Pierre Lau will be graduating with his Ph. D. on Saturday, 7 August. He is getting ready to move to Stoneville, MS, as research scientist for the USDA. We wish Pierre luck in his new career and hope that he can come speak to the TBA in the near future!

This was a long column, and I thank you for reading it. I am indebted to our followers, our supporters, and our friends. I am also very proud of our students and staff. One way for you to continue to see excellence in research and education coming out of our program is to support our fundraising campaign and to donate to the Nevin Weaver Endowed Excellence Fund. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart.

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>.



Lab members saying goodbye and farewell to Gene (ET) Ash, our beekeeping guru, mentor and friend

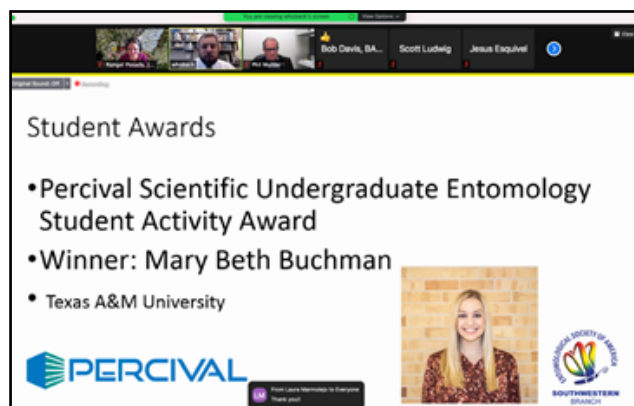




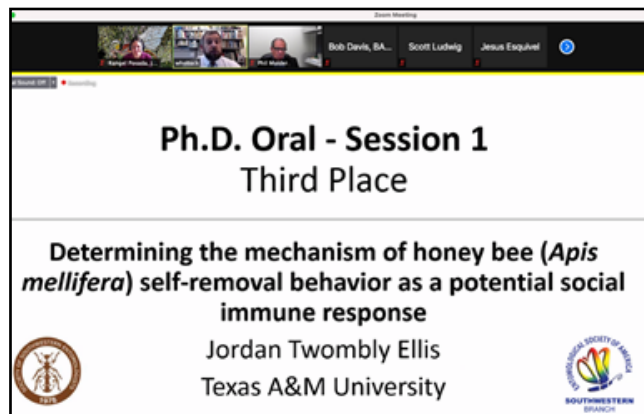
David Walther during his Ph.D. dissertation defense in May 2021



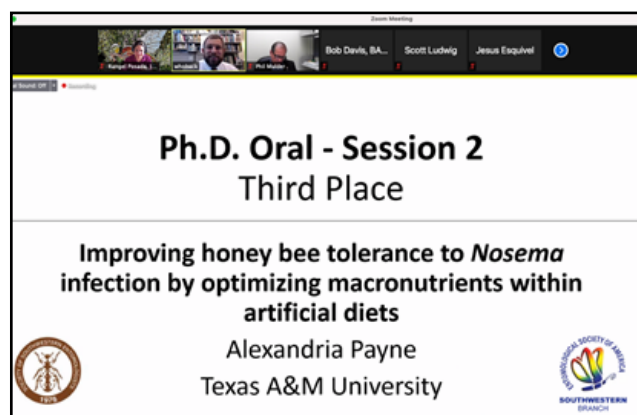
Myra Dickey and Jordan Twombly Ellis were members of Texas A&M University's Team #2 for this year's Entomology Games during the annual meeting of the Southwestern Branch of the Entomological Society of America.



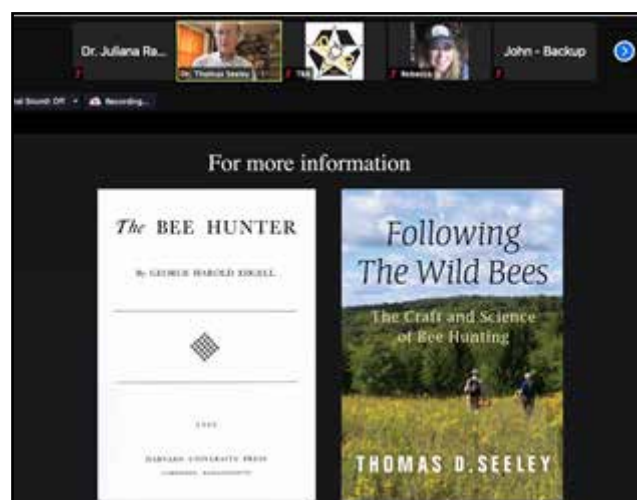
Mary Beth Buchman received this year's Percival Scientific Undergraduate Entomology Student Activity Award at the SWB meeting



Jordan Twombly Ellis received 3rd place for her presentation at the SWB of ESA meeting



Alex Payne received 3rd place for her presentation at the SWB of ESA meeting



Dr. Tom Seeley's presentation on bee hunting during this year's TBA Summer Clinic

Pollinating the next generation of new honey bee scientists

Alex Payne '21 shares the personal impact of honeybee research, motivation, academic opportunities Texas A&M University afforded her

Alex Payne, a current doctoral candidate within Texas A&M University's Department of Entomology, didn't always know she wanted to research honeybees. However, working in the Texas A&M Honey Bee Lab put her on a buzzing journey that would not only require her to focus on current honeybee concerns but also on research from influential Aggies before her.



A smiling woman outdoors with yellow flowers behind her. Texas A&M University honeybee research doctoral candidate Alex Payne (Texas A&M AgriLife photo)

Payne attended the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences for her bachelor's degree, majoring in bioenvironmental sciences and wildlife and fisheries sciences with a wildlife ecology and conservation concentration. She is currently studying under award-winning researcher and facilitator Juliana Rangel, Ph.D., director of the Texas A&M Honey Bee Lab and professor of apiculture.

Payne sat down to discuss her experience as an Aggie and the unique role the Honey Bee Lab played to ignite her passion for Texas apiculture.

How did you decide to pursue research in entomology?

After working in plant virology labs within the Department of Plant Pathology, I decided I wanted to conduct research in a more field-based setting. In the summer of my sophomore year, I was accepted into a National Science Foundation-funded Research Experience for Undergraduates program. I was invited to conduct research with the invasive tawny crazy ant. It was an intimidating, yet amazing experience to execute my own research project in a limited amount of time. The hours were long and the Texas heat was almost unbearable, but I gained a love for field research that I had previously never been exposed to.

Due to my internship experience, I became fascinated by social insects. It was my first time working with insects, and I became immersed in the field of entomology.

You mention you began working with ants, what inspired you to work with honeybees?

I originally wanted to work in a pollinator conservation lab during my summer research internship. However, since I was not aware of whether I was allergic to bee stings, it was a potential liability. My invasive tawny crazy ant experience gave me a whole new appreciation for ants and insects in general, but I still wanted to get involved with bee research. I realized that working with bees would fulfill my desire to work toward a meaningful and impactful environmental issue.

"The European honey bee is a single species whereas ants are an entire family made up of thousands of different species. Both are eusocial organisms, which is what makes them so cool to study. In places like Texas we have tons of different ant species. It is so interesting to see how these two eusocial insects interact with one another. It is what inspired the first chapter of my dissertation research."

- Honeybee researcher Alex Payne

Dr. Rangel provided me the perfect opportunity to gain experience as an undergraduate research assistant in the Honey Bee Lab. It was during this time that I became familiar with many research topics associated with honey bees by working alongside graduate students and learning of former students-turned-researchers who impacted the honey bee community. Texas A&M has so many prominent researchers, including Dr. Nevin Weaver and Dr. John Gordan Thomas, who left their mark not only on Texas apiculture but the bee community worldwide. Weaver was a Texas A&M faculty member who was instrumental in establishing Texas as a pioneering home for honey bee research.

Overall, I've worked in a plant virology lab, an ant lab and a honey bee lab. The skills I acquired from these three labs helped

What influenced you to continue your education at Texas A&M in the Honey Bee Lab program?

Let me first say, many encouraged me to get my doctorate at a different institution. Some researchers viewed having more than one degree from the same institution negatively. However, Texas A&M provided multiple reasons for me to stay including family, funding, research freedom and experience.

My family still lives in Spring and by staying at Texas A&M, I could continue to see them on a more regular basis than most students who were out of state. Another big reason I stayed was the experiences and opportunities I would have by working at the Honey Bee Lab. Dr. Rangel has always encouraged me to pursue research topics that interest me. These opportunities have played a major role in deciding where to continue my educational journey. Dr. Rangel has a lot of passion as a professor and is dedicated to seeing her students and research succeed.

Dr. Rangel's lab not only offered the opportunity to conduct research, but it was evident that she was very involved in helping local beekeepers with their colonies, which is something I loved—being able to see in real-time how my efforts were helping the bees. As a result, our lab and its members are constantly involved in outreach events with stakeholders, giving talks at beekeeper meetings and even helping establish programs such as the Master Beekeeper Program.

But none of these experiences would have been possible without funding. Without that financial support, I would not have the creative research freedom I currently hold.

You mention securing funding was very important to continuing your honeybee research at Texas A&M, why is that?

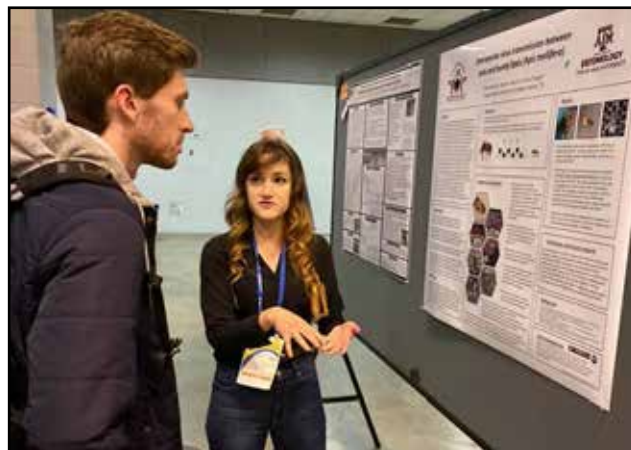
While applying for graduate school, I also applied for several funding opportunities, two of which Dr. Rangel herself nominated me for. I was awarded various fellowships, which gave me six years of full funding for my doctoral program. I wouldn't have had the same amount of financial stability or research freedom attending another university.

It's a stressful job to juggle furthering impactful academic research while constantly having to fight for funding. The field of honeybee research is highly competitive with labs around the country competing for the same funding pools. So I'm thankful for the Nevin Weaver Honey Bee Excellence Endowment, which will enable the Texas A&M Honey Bee Lab to continue performing high-caliber research while funding future doctoral students for years to come.

The endowment exemplifies the true spirit of being an Aggie—former students helping the new generation succeed by passing it back. It's what I strive to do daily as a senior student in the lab. I mentor new students by teaching various lab skills and beekeeping techniques, helping them adjust to college life, and having fun participating in all the Aggie traditions.

How has your experience at the Texas A&M Honey Bee Lab program changed you?

My experience in the lab, specifically with Dr. Rangel's mentorship, has helped me become the person I am today—a confident researcher and beekeeper. I would describe my past self as timid and unsure of my abilities. Impostor syndrome is something I constantly battle, but Dr. Rangel's influence and encouragement to put myself out there has helped me mature as a scholar. I have become a more self-confident, professional scientist and communicator. She pushed me to overcome fears such as public speaking, and I am a stronger researcher because of it.



Alex Payne presenting honeybee research.

Upon graduation, Payne is working to secure a postdoctoral position where she can diversify her skill set and continue her research studying interactions between honey bee hosts and their infectious pathogens. As she furthers her career professionally, she hopes to become a research scientist at a honey bee research facility within the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service.

Additional information for prospective students interested in pursuing honey bee research in Texas is available through the Texas A&M Honey Bee Lab, local Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service offices across the state, and the Texas Beekeepers Association. To learn how you can inspire students and foster opportunities for budding honey bee scientists, you can contact Jansen Merrill with the Texas A&M Foundation or the Texas Honey Bee Education Association.

*Article by Briana Ford
briana.ford@ag.tamu.edu*

Please help by donating to the Nevin Weaver Fund
www.thbea.com/nevin-weaver-endowment-fund



At Home Beekeeping Webinar

Distance Learning for Beekeeping Clubs



We're offering beekeepers the chance to attend virtual meetings from the comfort of one's own home using a computer or mobile device. Speakers include university researchers and extension specialists from across the SE US as well as USDA ARS researchers. Each event will bring participants up to date on timely beekeeping topics with time for Q & A included.

All are welcome!! Join us for this free event!!

- July 27: The honey bee digestive system, with Tom Webster (KSU)
- Aug. 31: Recognizing and mitigating queen events, with Jamie Ellis (UFL)
- Sept. 28: Varroa management, with Dan Aurell (AU)
- Oct. 26: Pollinating partnerships among bee species, with K. Delaplane (UGA)

Last Tuesday of the month

6:30 – 7:30 pm
Central Time

Watch via Zoom Webinar

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

or Facebook Live: <https://www.facebook.com/LawrenceCountyextension/>

Questions? Email Allyson Shabel ams0137@aces.edu

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The Texas Honey Bee Education Association (THBEA) is proud to introduce a great new way for Texans to support education and research programs dedicated to preserving and protecting honey bees. The new THBEA “Love Honey Bees” license plate is now available for sale online and in county tax assessor offices where license plates are sold and renewed across the state.

For every license plate purchased, \$22 will go to the THBEA for youth and beekeeper education programs, information resources for farmers and the general public, and research programs to improve honey bee health and longevity.

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Bait Hives

By ROGER A. MORSE
Dept. of Ent., Cornell Univ.
Ithaca, NY
and

THOMAS D. SEELEY
Museum of Comparative Zoology
Harvard Univ.
Cambridge, Mass.

Summary

Basic research on nest site selection by honeybees has progressed to the point where an effective design for bait hives can be reported. Using 88 bait hives close to the optimal design, we captured 51 swarms in the summer of 1977. This success reflects our understanding of what bees seek in a nest site. The important variables include height off the ground; visibility; cavity volume; entrance size, direction and position; and probably cavity dryness and draftiness. Our findings indicate that beekeepers in areas with numerous wild colonies of honeybees can expect to annually fill at least 50 percent of properly constructed and positioned bait hives.

Introduction

Practical commercial beekeeping developed very rapidly in the late 1800's with the invention of movable frame hives, comb foundation, honey extractors and other apparatus. All of these inventions were designed around the honeybee's natural biology. Two aspects of bee biology which were unstudied at the time of the apicultural renaissance, and which therefore could not contribute to the rapid advances, are the honeybee's natural nest and the bee's preferences in nest site properties. Knowledge of these two subjects is the foundation to the use of bait hives, that is, hives intended to catch wild swarms of bees. We have studied both subjects. Complete reports of our studies have been published elsewhere (Seeley 1977, 1978; Seeley and Morse 1976, 1978) and should be consulted for detailed descriptions of this research. The following is a brief report of some of our findings coupled with recommendations on the construction and placement of bait hives.

Our studies were conducted in Tompkins County in southern New York State. This region has been heavily settled since the early 1800's and until the mid 1900's was devoted primarily to agriculture. The area is no longer heavily farmed; large acreages which were once cultivated have grown into unmanaged forests. Wooden houses are the predominant structures. Our unpublished data suggest there are at least as many honeybee colonies living in trees and houses (wild colonies) as there are in beekeeper's hives in the area. We have

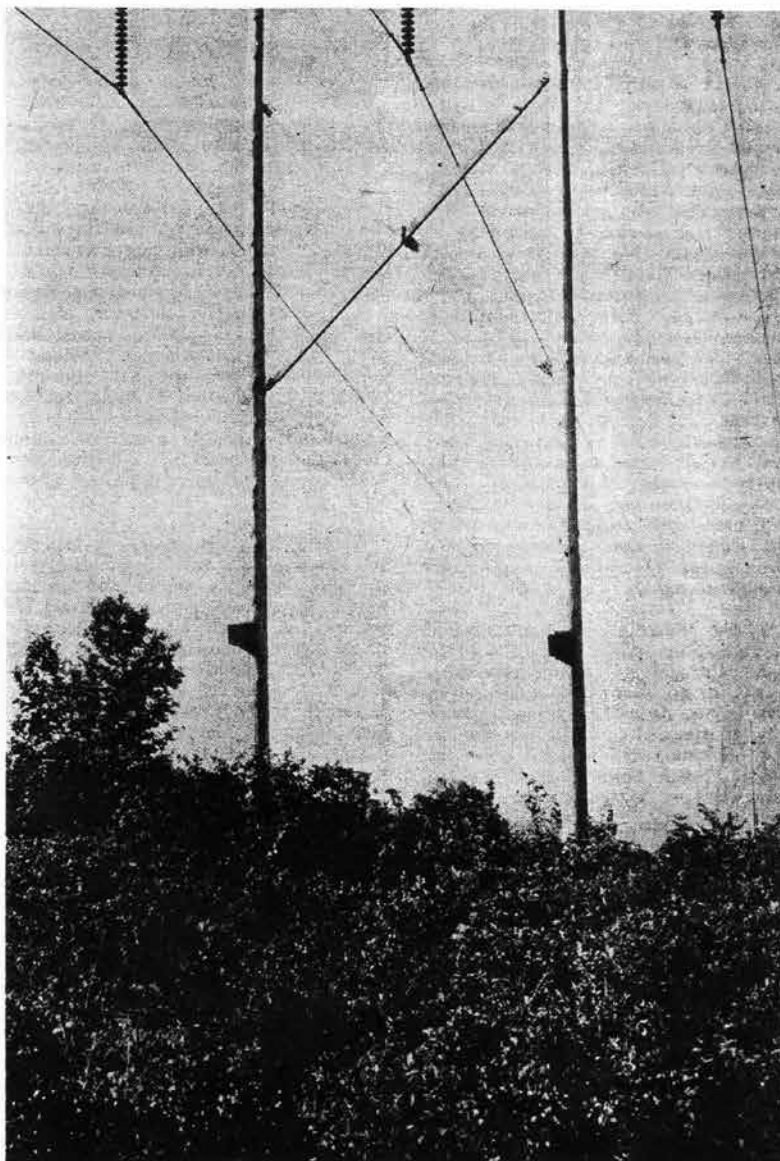


Fig. 1. A typical nestbox pair used in the study of the honeybee's preferences in nest site properties. As is shown, the nestboxes were closely matched in height,

visibility-exposure and entrance direction. In this pair, the nestboxes differed only in the shape of their entrances.

also found that the typical honeybee nest in a tree or building is relatively small, about the size of one 10-frame Langstroth super. Colonies in such small nest cavities cast swarms nearly every year. Thus the annual production of wild swarms in regions like Tompkins County is quite large. These wild swarms constitute a valuable resource, provided they are efficiently harvested, as with bait hives, and are not over-exploited.

Methods

We tested the honeybee's preferences in nest site properties by setting out pairs of nestboxes in which the nestboxes differed from each other in one nest site variable, such as height off ground or entrance size. Wild swarms would discover the nestbox pairs and inhabit one of the two nestboxes in each pair. We counted as a test result only the first occupation of a nestbox in

each nestbox pair. Statistical analyses of the patterns in first occupations revealed the presence or absence of preferences in nest site properties.

The experimental nestboxes were 40 liter cubes (except in the Cavity Volume and Cavity Shape experiments) made of 5/8 inch plywood and painted dark green on the outside. (A 10-frame Langstroth super, for comparison, is 42 liters in volume.) With a few exceptions, the nestboxes had a 1-1/4 inch diameter entrance hole on the front side. A nail across the entrance prevented occupation by birds. The two nestboxes constituting a pair were nailed to trees or power line poles which were 10 to 25 yards apart and were closely matched in visibility and exposure. Both nestboxes in each pair faced the same direction. A typical nestbox pair is shown in Figure 1. A closer view of three sizes of nestboxes used in the Cavity Volume experiment is given in Figure 2.

Results

1. Height Above Ground — To test this nest site variable, we set out 8 pairs of nestboxes. In each pair, one nestbox was 1 yard and the other 5 yards above the ground. In six out of six cases the five yard high nestbox was inhabited by a swarm. This indicates that bees occupy high nest sites more rapidly than low sites. From this test and other experiences we feel that height is one of the most important nest site variables.

2. Exposure and Visibility — Three years ago we observed that eight out of ten nestboxes positioned in highly visible and exposed locations, such as dead elm trees or telephone poles, were occupied in one summer. Over the same period, in the same area, and using identical nestboxes, only two out of ten nestboxes positioned deep in woods were inhabited. This difference in occupation rate is statistically significant. We suspect that although bees prefer sheltered nest sites, the highly visible nestboxes were more easily discovered by scout bees and thus were more rapidly inhabited.

3. Entrance Size — Our study of natural honeybee nests revealed that entrances to these nests are usually quite small, typically less than six square inches. When we established 14 pairs of nestboxes containing one nestbox with a 1-1/4 inch diameter entrance, the other with a 3-3/4 inch diameter entrance, we observed six out of six swarms occupy the smaller entrance nestbox. Thus entrance size is also an important nest site variable.

4. Entrance Shape — In a test of entrance shape using 10 pairs of nestboxes, each nestbox within a pair having either a circular or a slit-shaped entrance of the same area, we observed no significant preference. Four swarms chose a slit-entrance nestbox while two inhabited circular entrance nestboxes.

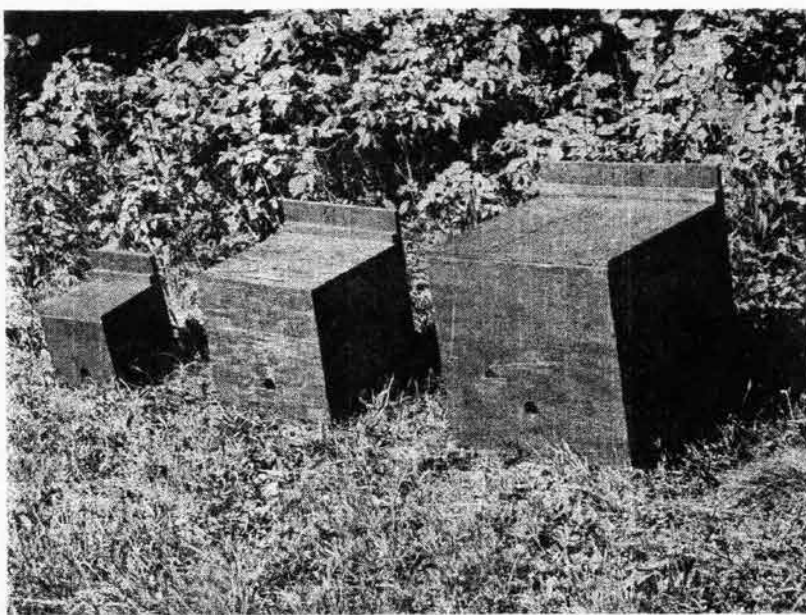


Fig. 2. Nestboxes of three sizes (10, 40 and 100 liters) used in the study of the preferred nest cavity volume. A pen atop the middle nestbox provides a size

reference. Bees prefer nestboxes of the middle size over the smaller and larger sizes.

5. Entrance Position — The entrances in honeybee nests in trees are disproportionately located near the bottom of the nest cavity. This may merely reflect the pattern of decay which produces hollows in trees. However, we tested the bee's preference in this variable by establishing 12 pairs of tall nestboxes (about 40 inches tall, and 10 inches deep and wide). In these pairs, one nestbox had its entrance at the bottom of the front side, the other's entrance was at the top of the front side. Eight swarms inhabited the bottom entrance nestboxes and two occupied the top entrance nestboxes. Though not quite statistically significant, these results strongly suggest that bees prefer their nest entrance near the base of a nest cavity.

6. Entrance Direction — We compared the rate of nestbox occupation for 124 nestbox pairs whose entrances faced various compass directions. The statistical analysis of this data is somewhat involved and is not discussed here. However, the result of this analysis is the conclusion that bees more rapidly occupy nestboxes with southward rather than northward entrances.

7. Cavity Volume — The volume of 49 natural nests in trees and houses varied from 12 to 448 liters (a liter is slightly larger than a quart). Most nest volumes were clustered in the 20 to 100 liter subrange, with about 40 liters the most common size. This is about the same size as a 10-frame Langstroth super (volume about 42 liters). Various tests in which swarms were offered nestboxes of several sizes demonstrated that bees prefer 40 liter over 10 and 100 liter nest cavities.

Thus 40 liters is or is close to the most attractive nest cavity volume for the bees studied.

8. Cavity Shape — Most natural nests in trees take the form of an elongate, upright cylinder, consistent with a tree's shape. We tested whether bees prefer nest cavities of this shape over cube-shaped ones. Twelve nestbox pairs were established containing one tall, elongate nestbox and one cube-shaped nestbox, both with the same volume. Six cubes and three tall nestboxes were inhabited. Thus there was no statistically significant difference in attractiveness between tall and cubical nestboxes. This suggests that beekeepers may use a wide variety of box shapes in constructing bait hives.

9. Cavity Dryness — To test this variable, we set up 10 nestbox pairs with two quarts of a sawdust-punkwood mixture in the bottom of each nestbox. In each pair, one nestbox was kept damp inside by a weekly wetting of its sawdust-punkwood carpet with one quart of water. The "dry" nestbox was inhabited in two nestbox pairs and the "wet" nestbox was occupied in three others. Thus the bees showed no preference of a "dry" nestbox over a "wet" one. However, only the floors of the "wet" nestboxes were wet. Bees may well be repulsed by cavities which are more thoroughly wetted inside.

10. Cavity Draftiness — We tested this variable by establishing 12 nestbox pairs in which one nestbox was left sound and the other was made drafty by drilling

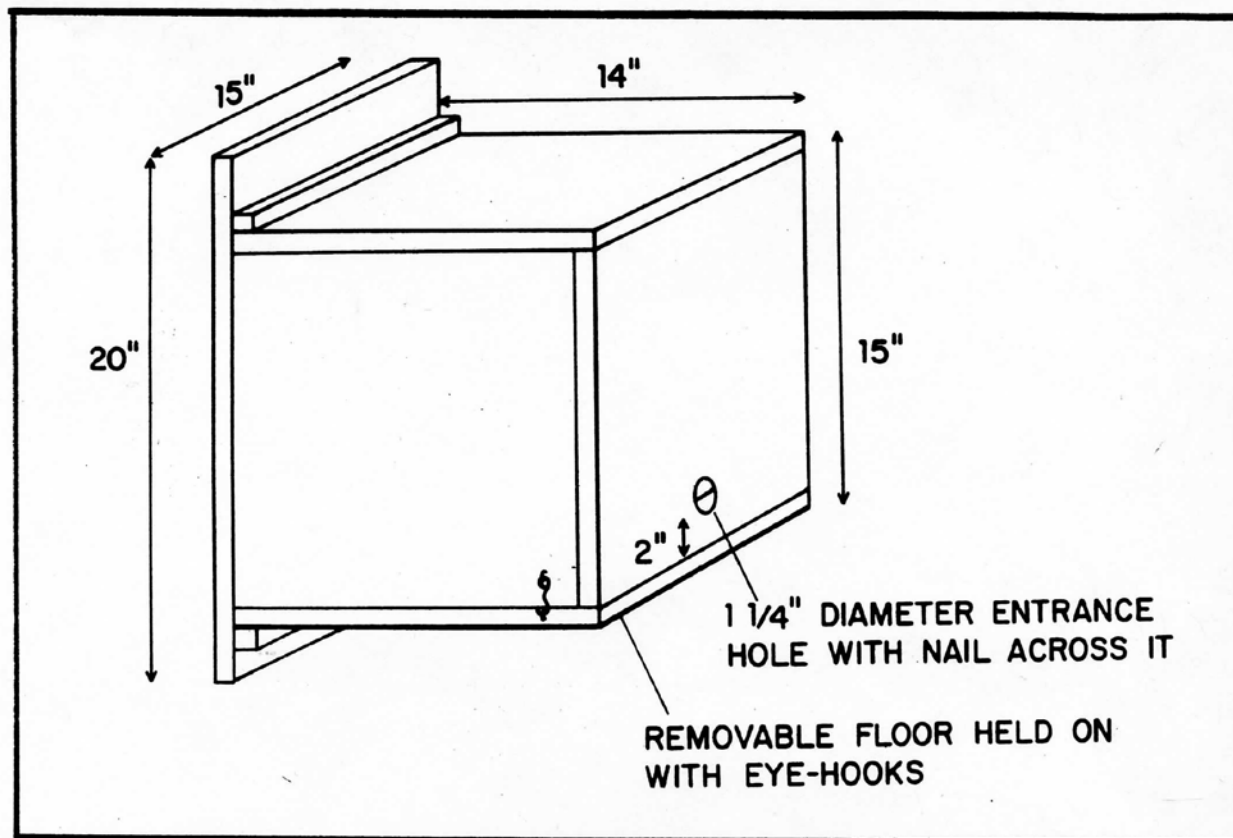


Fig. 3. Suggested bait hive design based upon the design of the nestboxes which

were successful in our experiments. All dimensions are in inches. Use either 5/8"

or 3/4" exterior plywood.

25-1/4 inch holes each in its front and two lateral sides. Four drafty nestboxes were occupied and three sound nestboxes were inhabited. Thus the bees showed no preference between these two types of nestboxes. This may reflect the bee's ability to plug up such small openings with propolis, as did all the swarms which nested in the drafty nestboxes.

11. Comb in Cavity — Almost everyone who has graced the beekeeping literature with advice on bait hive design has advocated placing old bee comb in the bait hive. However, no one provides experimental evidence for its effectiveness, if any. Our test of the effect of comb inside a nest cavity involved 12 nestbox pairs in which one nestbox contained an approximately 6 x 8 inch piece of dark, old comb and the other contained no comb. Three out of three swarms inhabited nestboxes with comb. Although these meager data do not significantly demonstrate a preference for a comb-containing nest cavity, they do demonstrate that bees do not reject cavities because of comb inside.

Recommendations on Bait Hives

The experiments which we have briefly described above allow us to make several recommendations on bait hives: height,

high off the ground, at least 10 feet up; visibility, high, such as on a dead tree or telephone pole; entrance size, small, a 1-1/4 inch diameter hole is effective; entrance shape, probably does not matter; entrance position, near the floor of the bait hive; entrance direction, facing south; volume, about 40 liters (about 1.4 cubic feet); shape, probably does not matter; dryness and draftiness, a soundly built bait hive which is dry and snug is probably best; comb in cavity, leave it out, it may improve a bait hive's attractiveness but it can also transmit disease to the swarm.

We have no advice, based upon biological studies, regarding bait hive color. However, we do recommend painting them a dark color to reduce their conspicuousness to humans. In an unplanned sociological experiment, we found that light-colored nestboxes frequently become riddled with bullet holes during the hunting season. Also, we have no data concerning the effects upon bait hive attractiveness of the odors of fresh paint and newly-sawed lumber. These and many other bait hive variables offer opportunities for further studies.

A suggested bait hive design is shown in Fig. 3. This is the design of our experimental nestboxes which has proved

to be effective. The floor is removable to facilitate bait-hive cleaning. Occasionally wasps and ants inhabit honeybee bait hives. We used eye-hooks or long, thin nails to hold the floor in place and sealed the floor seam with masking tape or opaque photographic tape (No. 235, Scotch, 3M Co.). A nail across the entrance prevents occupation by birds. And the use of scaffolding (double headed) nails when fastening bait hives in place facilitates taking them down.

A possible alternative to specially constructed bait hives is the use of beekeeping supers. An old, 10-frame Langstroth super which has a tightly fitting cover and bottom, a small entrance, and which is correctly situated, could prove to be an effective bait hive. However, we have not tested this possibility.

The timing of setting out bait hives is of obvious importance. Scout bees from colonies about to swarm start searching for new nest sites several days before the swarms depart their parent nests. Thus bait hives should be in place at least a few weeks in advance of the expected start of swarming.

(Continued on page 242)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Continued from page 234)

Q. In a health column by Dr. Lawrence E. Lamb honey was said to contain a carcinogen which may stimulate the formation of cancer. Is this true?—S.W., Ontario, Canada.

A. The information given by Dr. Lamb would appear to have little basis in reality and be on the borderline of fact. Dr. Lamb's statement came about as a result of quoting Dr. Thomas H. Jukes in the New England Journal of Medicine "Current Concepts in Nutrition", vol. 297 #8 (427-30). In his report Dr. Jukes used the sentence "Honey has just been found to contain a carcinogen coming from pollen, —; this statement based on a paper 'The Occurrence of Pyrrolizidine Alkaloids in Honey Produced from Tansy Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*), a Toxic Weed', by Burgett.

Dr. Jude, and particularly Dr. Lamb, used extemporaneous statements in a manner damaging to the honey industry; the implication being that all honeys are carcinogenic. Actually, tansy ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*) is an introduced weed of the Northwest and only under certain conditions contributes local honey in an insignificant amount when compared to the some 245 million pounds of honey produced in the U.S.

Without going into the ramifications of what is and what is not carcinogenic, it may be in order to suggest that anyone concerned with public information show more prudence about making statements which reflect on the creditability of a product with as many proven virtues as honey.

BAIT HIVES

(Continued from page 220)

Our final recommendation on bait hives is that one should start a program of swarm trapping on a small scale to avoid damaging the source of the wild swarms by over-harvesting. If beekeepers divert too many swarms from the population of wild colonies into their apiaries, then the number of wild colonies will decline. And because honeybee colonies have long lives and slow reproduction, the recovery from a major drop in the wild-colony population will be slow. Unfortunately our ecological knowledge of wild honeybee colonies is very poor. Thus we cannot specify for any area the rate of swarm capture which constitutes over-harvesting. We, therefore, recommend that each beekeeper start on a small scale and then expand slowly in his use of bait hives. In this way it should be possible to develop a feel for the rate of swarm capture which the local population of wild colonies can sustain.

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RETRIEVING THE HIGH SWARMS

(Continued from page 221)

hook, thereby making it easy to untie rope from cage handle.

The height from which you can retrieve swarms is limited only by the length of the lath you use.

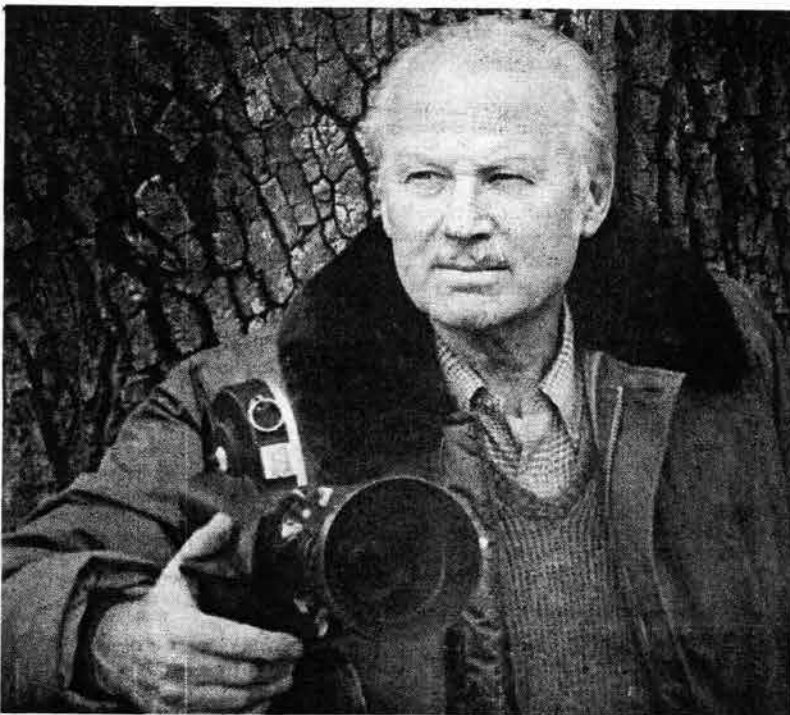
Another advantage I wish to mention is the fact that you do not have to have a new hive ready when the swarm issues. You can keep the bees in the cage a day or two if necessary. Just let them hang under the tree in the shade. They will be all right, confined in the cage, and maybe you will be happier, too, while you get a new hive ready.

FILM PRESENTATION

RENOWNED WILDLIFE photographer and Audubon Society tour speaker Karl Maslowski will give one of his spellbinding film presentations at the Aug. 9-12 Eastern Apicultural Society meeting. This event will be sponsored by the Southwestern Ohio Beekeeper's Association. For registration information on the E.A.S. meeting write E.A.S. Registration, c/o Wm. McNutt, 245 North St., Columbus, Ohio 43216.

GERALDINE BUELL NAMED MICHIGAN BEEKEEPER OF THE YEAR

GERALDINE BUELL, Milford, was named Beekeeper of the Year by the Michigan Beekeepers Association (MBA) during Michigan State University's Farmers' Week (March 20-24). She is shown with Dick Hubbard, MBA president. Mrs. Buell and her husband, Ray, maintain 5,500 colonies, producing extracted and comb honey, and beeswax candles. She was cited for her outstanding contributions and leadership provided MBA the past several years. — M.S.U. Information Services.



GLEANINGS IN BEE CULTURE

Three Things You Must Get Right

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

Jamie Ellis, column editor of the *American Bee Journal* "Classroom," spoke about it at the 2018 Texas Beekeepers Summer Clinic. Lewis Cauble, North Carolina Apiary Inspector, wrote about it in his November 2020 *American Bee Journal* article. The Bee Informed Partnership highlighted it in their 2021 Annual Colony Loss Survey.

We read those, lived through 2020-21, and wholeheartedly agree: these are not normal beekeeping times. Beekeepers recognize this, and we have a zillion suggestion. We've all been at bee association events where folks share their latest ideas or gadgets to help solve whatever problem. Those discussions and demonstrations are often very interesting and are sometimes very useful. However, those things are absolutely worthless unless we small-scale beekeepers keep our focus on the main things. These authors identify three things we beekeepers must get right with our bees, or everything else we think about, talk about, worry about, write about, or seek a gadget to fix just doesn't matter.

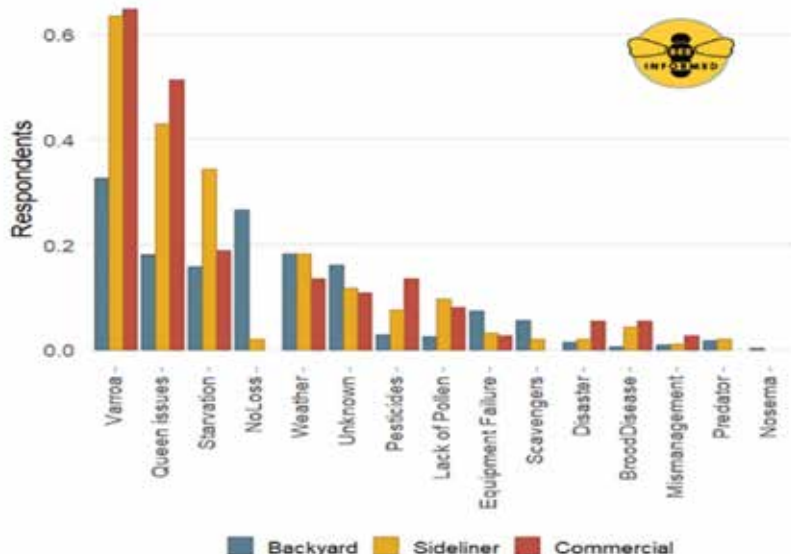


Figure 4: Self-reported cause of loss of managed honey bee colonies in the United States

Texas beekeepers must get these three things right:

1. Varroa
2. Queen events
3. Nutrition/feeding

Let's discuss each of these in turn and in order of importance and ease of accomplishment.

Varroa

Some would say this is the greatest challenge; however, we've found the tools and procedures at the Honey Bee Health Coalition website to be more than adequate at addressing and controlling varroa. Like most things in beekeeping, not only must we do the right thing, but we must also do it at the right time!

The main issues with varroa are that they parasitize developing larvae and then inject them with viruses that impact the whole hive. Until we have varroa resistant bee stock, or bees who are able to take care of the mites on their own, we beekeepers should – must – vigilantly monitor and treat varroa.

We've found, for our apiary in northeast Texas, that a regime of winter oxalic acid vaporization, monthly sugar-roll monitoring, and Apivar treatment in the summer or fall when indicated, has worked very well for us to control varroa.

Queen Events

Declining queen life seems to be the new normal. Supercedure, even within healthy hives, occurs on a regular basis between yearly queen replacements. Staying on top of what is happening in our hives is the key to properly managing queen events. Likewise, we need to know what the different queen cells/cups tell us about our bees and show us when we, Texas small scale beekeepers, must intervene to prevent colony death.

This year was especially challenging with all the rain we experienced in northeast Texas. We needed the rain; however, it came at a time and a frequency that made it difficult for virgin queens to mate fully, or even mate at all. For the first time, we saw small not fully-mated queens (and even four-week-old virgin queens that would never mate) running around our newly formed nucleus hives. This is not normal.

Unless you like purchasing \$40 plus freight delivered mated queens every year, we strongly suggest you learn to raise your own queens. If that is too much of a challenge for you, then learn to recognize and use excess normal supercedure cells and swarm cells from a queen/hive you like.

You might also find it helpful to keep a larger apiary to give you additional resources when you have a queen event. For this reason, we've increased our apiary from three hives to nine. Frankly, it is only a little bit more work, but having the additional hives gives us tremendous flexibility in moving resources between our hives to manage queen events.

Remember, bad or failing queens don't get better; locate a new queen, find the failing queen and squish her, replace her with a healthy new queen, and move on!

Nutrition/Feeding

In our opinion, bee nutrition is the toughest one of the three to get right. Yes, we can feed sugar water and pollen substitute to our bees, and they will be okay. However, remember that our bees need a diversity of floral sources to get the micro nutrients and proper amino acid ratios necessary for optimum health and performance. You and I control what we feed our bees and what is available to forage in our backyards. The issue is not only *quantity* but also the *quality* of the available feed or natural resources.

However, in a bee's two-mile radius foraging circle, there are over 8000 acres of land. In our case, what is on our neighbors' properties is way more important than what is on our six acres! Yes, we put honey bee friendly plants on our property, and our front yard is decked out in crimson and white Dutch clover from February to June, but this is only 0.1% of the bees' forage area. Getting our neighbors to plant bee plants, or to let plants flower by delaying mowing is crucial.

We do feed dry pollen substitute to our bees in mid-winter before natural pollen is available in the environment. We also feed sugar water mixed with a feeding stimulant to developing hives and to hives a bit light on honey reserves coming out of winter.

While this nutrition thing is more difficult, in our opinion, this is where the biggest payoff comes. When honey bees have access to plentiful and healthful nutrition, they are able to perform at their maximum capacity. This means we're usually able to split our hives harder in the spring, and we're able to gather a good honey crop in the fall. This means our overwintering success will be greater; we lose 10% or less of our hives each year, while the national averages are 40% or more for colony loss. This means we'll be able to raise queens in luxury, with all the feed they need.

Summary

New beekeepers tend to focus on the latest gadget since the whole beekeeper thing is still somewhat of a mystery. If you are a bee educator, we encourage you to focus and hammer on these three things: varroa, queen events, and nutrition. This will give new beekeepers a fighting chance to make the leap from being "bee-havers" to being full-fledged beekeepers. The new beekeepers will be happier, and you will be more effective honey bee educator.

Personally, our mentors over the years have reminded us, "Keep the main thing the main thing." These three problems are the main things of Texas beekeeping in 2021. Keep varroa, queens, and nutrition at the forefront, and your hives will benefit.

We'd love to hear about your beekeeping adventures!

Roger and Sue Farr - rdfarr@gmail.com



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The Brantley Column

from S. S. Brantley

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

Local July Ark-La-Tex honey extracting reports are not very good. Most East Texas reports indicate from little or no honey to about one third the production the beekeeper gets under normal conditions. A Louisiana sideline with about 300 colonies said he had pulled and extracted all of his spring production and got only eight barrels where he usually produced twenty barrels.



The February freeze took a heavy toll on the Chinese Tallow trees in my area. I snapped a few pictures of the new growth that started appearing in late June. I was surprised to see some of the new growth actually producing the familiar yellow blossoms we usually see all over the tree in good years.

The freeze did not seem to damage the Golden Rain Tree in my front yard. This tree is about twenty years old. Honey Bees aggressively work the blooms that continue for about forty days. Then most of the blossoms produce a three-sided seed pod containing two to four black BB-sized seeds.



Another bee attracting plant is the American Buckwheat Vine. Bees search out the small yellow-white blossoms until they wither and begin to make small flat seed pods.

August with its "Dog Days" will provide little to no pollen for the bees to collect. For the small scale beekeeper, this is a trying time. Do monthly mite checks and treat depending on the mite count. If the count is above six mites per 300 bees, treat the colony. After treatment, do another mite check to determine if the treatment was effective. If the mite count remains high,

consider using a different mite treatment and treat the colony again.

Make sure your bees have plenty of water at all times. A five-gallon bucket full of water with an old towel hanging on the edge of the bucket and floating on the water is a good method to use for safe watering of bees.

Use the hot sun to melt wax cappings collected during extraction. A medium-sized plastic container, a piece of glass to cover it, and a smaller container that will fit inside work well. Clip a paper towel to the rim of the small container to act as a filter. Place pieces of wax on the paper. Place this into the larger container and cover with the glass. Put your "solar wax melter" in the sun to melt the wax. At the end of the day, you should have beautiful white wax in the bottom of the small container and all of the crud trapped on the paper towel. Dispose of the crud away from your bee yard. You can even use it for fireplace starting material.

During August, check your supers one more time to see if there is any honey to extract. If the weather has been hot and dry, even uncapped honey is probably dry enough to be extracted. Do the shake test to be sure it is OK to extract. By extracting in August, any additional nectar and pollen collected from the fall Goldenrod bloom can remain on the colony for winter feed. Be sure to do any August extractions before the Goldenrod starts to bloom.

Swarm traps can be left out until the weather begins to cool in November. You may still catch late swarms that issue from hives that have been forced out by mites or beetle infestations. Swarms collected this late would need to be fed enough sugar water to allow them to store at least six frames for winter food. Swarms can also be a source of replacement queens. Well-mated queens are often difficult to purchase this late in the season. However, I do see some ads in the ABJ offering mated queens as late as October.

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Shirley Doggett at *sdoggett@mindspring.com*

or call (512) 924-5051

Look for the Honey Locator and Events Calendar

THE HIDDEN TREASURE OF GAINESVILLE TEXAS

from Elm Fork Beekeepers Association

In North Texas at the heart of Cooke County, a group of dedicated beekeepers had an idea to form a small club which would not only promote apiculture to those new to the term, but would also give a younger generation and local citizens the tools and support needed to learn and develop their own hives. In 2018 EFBA (Elm Fork Beekeepers Association) was formed along with scholarship and mentorship programs that bloomed with the support of members and donations. Over the last few years the club has grown to over 60 members with numbers climbing. The outreach of this education has now stretched several counties as members travel far and wide to glean wisdom from the success of the successful beekeepers in the area, including the 2020 recipient.



Keldyn Lehner is this year's scholarship winner. At the age of 15 and a strong desire to learn, he's starting out with 2 thriving hives and the search for more. Candidates of the program are awarded all the basic necessary supplies to get started and the help of a personal mentor that not only visits the recipient hives several times a year, but provides hands on instruction. These young Honey Farmers are immersed in the membership circle each month where they greet members and visitors, learn names, hand out door prizes and help with organization and cleanup. Aside from the involvement in the local meetings they attend three intensive and information-packed bee schools and will have the opportunity to share their journey through public speaking, offering a final report of their 18 month involvement, shaking hands and growing with successful leaders in the industry.

Without the E.F.B.A. scholarship Keldyn wouldn't have been able to start beekeeping so early. This program is open

to youngsters between the ages of 11-18 and a part of the scholarship is the award of the necessary beginner tools. These include wooden ware, hives, supers, equipment to take care of the bees, the honey bees with queen, a suit, hive tools and a smoker. At each monthly meeting there are also several door prizes of handy hive tools and equipment which help make attendance fun. Keldyn started out with two Italian and hybrid nukes in April. Four months later his hives are thriving and successful. He has goals to add additional hives to provide enough honey for his family and add pollinators for the area farming. He has an interest in catching wild hives, learning to make honey products and eventually selling some of those creations. Above all, his greatest goal is to become a mentor himself. With a heart for people he wants to share his journey, knowledge and encourage others in many areas.

EFBA is, and has been, an invaluable gem for Northern Texas cultivators and surrounding young farmers as they seek to keep the interest in and roots of agriculture alive. The once small group is growing and reaching far beyond the county and continues to spread through its scholarship and mentor programs, community involvement, study groups, exam opportunities, educator resources, monthly tips and hours of lessons available. For more information visit <https://www.elmforkbeekeepers.org/> where you can learn, apply for the 2021 scholarship, contact mentors, ask questions and/or share your knowledge.



*Elm Fork Beekeepers Association was the recipient of a \$1,000 grant from
Texas Honey Bee Education Association*

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Texas State Fair

We Need Your help

The State Fair of Texas recently announced that the 2021 State Fair of Texas is a go. On Friday September 24, the Fair will open for another 24 day run and since the Texas Beekeepers Association Honey Booth will be there, **we need you more than ever.**

I have been working with the Texas Department of Agriculture State Fair Coordinator and the SFOT Creative Arts Director to make sure that we are all on board and ready for the opening day. Skip Talbert has been working with TBA President Ashley Ralph and Rebecca Vaughan to provide additional new graphics and A/V media from TBA, Texas Honey Bee Education Association and Real Texas Honey. The Honey Booth has a Facebook page for the Fair and it is linked to every other local association Facebook page. Please watch for it. We are going to have a great year.

We will have our usual Food and Fiber Pavilion stage event on the weekend of October 1,2, and 3 and we will have the contests in Creative Arts on Monday October 4. The American Honey Queen will be there for those events. If any of our local associations have a Honey Queen or Ambassador they are invited to participate on the weekend too. Unfortunately, we do not have a 2021 Texas Honey Queen to be a part of it so we are planning to invite some of the prior Texas Honey Queens to assist.

The events in the Creative Arts Building on October 4 will be "Honey, The Magic Ingredient" cooking contest, the polished honey contest and the black jar honey contest. The American Honey Queen will give a cooking presentation as part of the Celebrity Chef series that afternoon. There will be two photography contests that will require entries in early August for judging prior to the Fair opening.

The most pressing issue for the booth is the poor honey production in Texas this year. As you know, the Honey Booth is built around the display of the beautiful variety of honeys from around the state. We usually have honeys from several commercial honey producers and lots of individual beekeepers. Many of those same beekeepers had a small harvest or no harvest at all. **If you had even a small harvest, please send a small bear or one pound jar for the booth. We need your help! Call or text**



me at 214-532-9241, email at John@SabineCreekHoney.com.

We will help you find a way to get your honey to the Fair before September 22 when we have to have the booth fully set up.

We will need our volunteers to staff the booth. The Honey Booth has the most visitors because we have the greatest group of beekeepers that are willing to share their love of the wonderful Honey Bee and Honey. The Booth must be staffed from 10 am to 7 pm. Our volunteer times in the booth are 10 am to 2:30 pm and 2:30 pm to 7 pm. All volunteers are asked to be there 30 minutes prior to their shift to start the day and to make an orderly transition. The volunteer sign up calendar will be published on September 1. It will go to every TBA member, every local association, and on the Facebook page. Your help is needed, please consider volunteering. It is an experience you will enjoy.

Looking forward to working with you. See you at the Fair.

Renew your Membership, or Join Us.

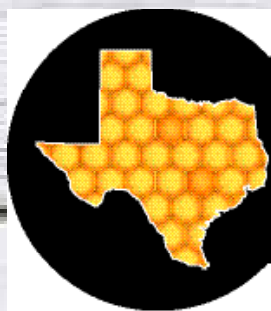
www.texasbeekeepers.org

If you change your address or email please contact

Shirley Doggett at sdoggett@mindspring.com

or call (512) 924-5051

Look for the Honey Locator and Events Calendar



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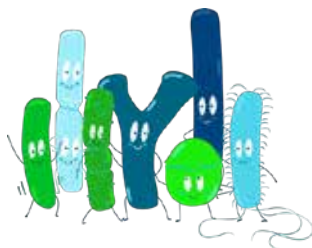
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Might I Tempt You?

by: Robin L-S Young, Metro Beekeepers Association



I just got back from checking out the 2021 Texas Beekeepers Association site for our annual fall convention. I share this with you because this convention has several unique things available. It's location brings opportunity for a little vacationing if you can get an extra day or two from your daily life. Another unique thing about this convention is the food. There will be opportunities to go outside of the convention to eat. Time is being set aside so that we can all get our fill of fresh fish. As the team showed us around, it took me back to the first time I went to Galveston with my parents. There was a special restaurant that they took me to and I found myself wondering if it was still there. I did a quick search and there it was.



I was able to make reservations online and booked a seat for lunch.



When I arrived, it was just like I remembered. I sat down and ordered.



They have seating inside or outside.

Might I Tempt You?

by: Robin L-S Young, Metro Beekeepers Association



They are known for many things, but their fresh bread and lobster bisque I highly recommend as a started.



For a main course I had their fish platter. They also have it friend as well. Everything tasted wonderful.



I had cheesecake for dessert. I highly recommend booking your convention hotel and such early. Take time and look into all the fun stuff to do there and all the amazing places to eat. We have all been staying home and we are due a break in the sun with good food and bee friends. The hotel has tons of fun stuff as well.



The pool area pictured above is located right outside the lobby.



The atmosphere is one of fun, food, wine, and good company. I hope to see everyone there. I miss you all very much and cannot wait to talk about all the exciting things going on in beekeeping. Are you tempted yet?

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



COOK OFF

Honey

CALLING ALL HONEY LOVERS & CREATIVE COOKS!


Our 1st annual Honey Cook Off is set! Gather your friends, family or bee club to enter the competition or come enjoy the live music, taste test creations and vote for your favorites!



September 25th, 2021
Event Hours: 11 AM - 6 PM
Food Tasting: 12 PM - 3 PM

Tickets to attend or register your team available on beeweaver.com

Our Honey Cook Off is proud to support Real Texas Honey & Grimes County Animal Shelter. All profits from entries and tickets will go to these two organizations.

BEEWEAVER.COM 16481 CR 319 Navasota, Texas 77868 (512) 535-2219 Follow the  signs! [@beeweaverhoneyfarm](https://www.instagram.com/beeweaverhoneyfarm) [@wildflyermead](https://www.instagram.com/wildflyermead)



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Pro-Sweet Liquid Feed

Our Pro-Sweet Liquid Feed is a great choice for hobby beekeepers! Unlike sugar water, Pro-Sweet has both binomial (bees treat these like nectar) and monomial sugars (bees treat these like honey), so it not only stimulates the bees but helps them put on weight on the hive. Pro-Sweet won't crystallize or ferment like sugar water, plus there is no more going through the check out line with a cart full of sugar or making a mess of your kitchen!

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(361) 362-3281

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Single Starter Hive with 5 Frames of Bees	\$225	\$210	
Queens	1-9 \$25	10-24 \$23	25-99 \$21
Virgins		\$10	100 up \$20
Queen Cells		\$3	

Thank You from Pierre Lau

To the Texas Beekeepers,

I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank the TBA for all of the support everyone in the organization has given me over the past few years. Coming to Texas with more experience in research than beekeeping, I learned a tremendous amount about beekeeping practices and the issues beekeepers experience. A significant portion of my growth has been attributed to the interactions I have had with each and every one of you at various bee schools and meetings. I distinctly recall the first time I attended a TBA meeting in 2014 (see picture). Everyone was incredibly kind and showed a generous amount of interest and support for my research the moment I started. There would never be any hesitation to volunteer time, bees, and knowledge for the projects I was involved with.

As some of you may have heard, I recently completed my PhD. under Dr. Juliana Rangel this past spring. None of this work would have been possible without the TBA behind me throughout this process. I can only hope that I was able to give back as much as you all gave me. With that being said, I will be moving on to Mississippi to join the Pollinator Health in Southern Crop Ecosystem Research Unit as a Research Ecologist with the USDA. I am ecstatic for the position, but I will miss Texas and the TBA dearly. The good news is that I will still be in the industry, so I look forward to possibly running into some of you in future national or regional meetings!

Sincerely,
Pierre Lau



Adrian Fisher, Pierre Lau and Liz Walsh

Governor Abbot Signs Farm Animal Liability Act



Amendments to the Texas Farm Animal Liability Act ("FALA") passed in the 87th Legislative Session become effective September 1st. For the first time beekeepers are allowed to take advantage of FALA's protections. Thank you Representative Andrew Murr! TBA's lobbyist, Joe Morris (2nd row, third from the right), attended the bill signing in Austin.

For more information please see: <https://agrilife.org/texasaglaw/2021/06/21/amendments-to-texas-farm-animal-liability-act-effective-september-1/>



Update from Texas Apiary Inspection Service

from Mary Reed,, Chief Apiary Inspector

Hello Texas Beekeepers!

I hope you all are having a wonderful summer and are staying as cool as possible. I've been enjoying going outside and checking bees in the morning, and then dodging the rain and heat in the afternoons. We have been getting rain here in the Brazos Valley almost every day this summer, which I have welcomed for my garden, but it seems to have also thrown a wrench in my bees' plans to collect nectar. I've noticed throughout the spring and summer season that the nectar flows have been delayed and variable, so much so that I'm not sure if I will make much of a honey crop this year. I've got my fingers crossed that the fall flows will have a strong comeback.

Texas is not the only state that has been seeing a change in nectar flows this year. Currently, most of our commercial beekeepers are up in North and South Dakota for honey production. However, these states have not received much rain this spring and summer, and as a result the plants have not been as productive. All this talk about questionable nectar flows is my segue into management practices beekeepers can implement to help support their hives.

If you're noticing that your bees are not bringing in nectar and they are lacking in honey stores, then you may need to feed them some sugar syrup. Feeding your bees when there aren't many resources around will give them the energy they need to keep the hive going until a strong nectar flow kicks in. Also, make sure your bees have access to a reliable water source. I enjoy sipping from a tall glass of water when temperatures are hot outside, and the same goes for your bees. Honey Bees will collect water to cool down the hive and prevent the colony from overheating. Some optional water resources are a water tank or pond near the apiary, a chicken feeder, a birdbath, or a water trough. Please keep in mind that if you use a water trough or feeder that is shared with other animals or livestock, you may want to provide an additional

water source, so the visiting bees don't become a nuisance to the animals.

Finally, any time you open your hives is a good opportunity to take note of any pests that may take up residence. This time of year is when Varroa mite populations typically start to peak in honey bee colonies. Make sure that you sample your hives in August or September to ensure that your mite levels are low. If you end up sampling your hives in August, consider entering your results into the Fall 2021 Mite-A-Thon! This is a biannual event where beekeepers are encouraged to submit their Varroa sampling results into a national database to raise awareness about Varroa populations across North America. The fall event will take place August 14th - August 29th, so you will have plenty of time to sample your hives and submit your results online. More information about Mite-A-Thon can be found on the Pollinator Partnership website (<https://www.pollinator.org/miteathon>).

Before I close out, I'd like to mention that Texas Apiary Inspection Service has created a Facebook page! This is just another avenue we wanted to use to better connect with beekeepers, share information about our office, and provide updates and announcements pertaining to our office and the industry at large. If you're interested in following our page, you can find us by either typing in "Texas Apiary Inspection Service" or "@TexasApiaryInspection" into the search bar on Facebook.

I hope you all enjoy the remaining days of summer and are able to get out to see your bees. Soon my staff and I will be donning our veils in preparation for fall inspections. I know we all are counting down the days until we are out regularly visiting beekeepers again. If you ever need to get in touch with our office, please don't hesitate to call or send us an email (979-845-9713, tais@tamu.edu).

Happy Beekeeping!

Name: Dennis Brown

Email: herculesinspections@yahoo.com

Subject: Promoting my 2 books

Message: I'm the Author of 2 beekeeping books. Since I have been keeping bees for over 50 years, I am sure there are many of your members who know me. My first book; Beekeeping: A Personal Journey was written in 2012 and my second book Beekeeping: Questions And Answers in 2013. I have never in all those years placed chemicals in any of my hives and have been very successful in my endeavor. My books reflect being an Organic beekeeper and being successful while enjoying myself. I'm now down to being a hobbyist since age has taken over. I have had a wonderful life being surrounded by several hundred hives. I'm truly blessed. My books can be purchased on Amazon by typing in the name of the books. I thank you for your time and hope that you forward this email to your members. PS: The hardest thing I ever did in my blessed life was having to turn in my hive tool.



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- * **South Dakota Beekeepers Association**
- * **Tennessee State Beekeepers Association**
- * **Wisconsin Honey Producers Association, Inc.**
- * **American Honey Producers Association**
- * **Florida State Beekeepers Association**
- * **Minnesota Honey Producers Association**
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CompleteBee.com

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Olivarez Honey Bees, supports innovation and industry leaders who play key roles in beekeeping and sustainability of the industry. Albert Robertson is that leader, inventing the Saskatraz™ Queen Breeding Program in Saskatchewan Canada. OHB is partnering with Albert at our California location to produce Saskatraz™ Hybrid Queens. The Saskatraz™ Program was established with diverse genetics to enrich sustainable economic traits such as:

- Tolerance to Varroa Mites
- Overwintering
- Honey Production
- Gentle Temperament

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2021 Annual Convention

**November 6th & 7th, 2021
Moody Gardens - Galveston, Texas**

FEATURING GUEST SPEAKERS...



Megan Mahoney



Matthew Mulica



Lewis Bartlett

...AND MUCH MORE!



Additional speakers!



Online Raffle!*



Live Demos!



The Texas Honey Show!



Silent Auction!*



TBA Banquet!



Live Auction!*



Beekeeping Vendors!

*THBEA activities

TICKETS: \$125/ MEMBERS \$160/NON-MEMBERS \$50/17 AND UNDER

Join us on November 6th & 7th at Moody Gardens for a fun-filled weekend of educational speakers, beekeeping vendors, the Texas Honey Show, and beekeepers networking. Bring the entire family for a buzz worthy weekend adventure. Pre-registered hotel guests will have the opportunity to purchase discounted weekend passes to Moody Gardens with unlimited access to all attractions!



Register today at www.texasbeekeepers.org



or go to page 38

DON'T MISS IT!



TEXAS
BEEKEEPERS
ASSOCIATION

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 5, 2021

- 7AM Texas Master Beekeeper Testing
- 9AM Exhibitor Move In
- 10AM Honey Show Registration
- 10AM THBEA Auction Items drop off begins
- Noon Club Centerpiece submission deadline
- 6:30PM Beekeeper Social
- Come early to take advantage of the Moody Gardens all inclusive discount event tickets

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2021

- 7AM Convention Registration
- 8AM TBA President Greeting
- 8:30AM Keynote Speaker
- 10AM Breakouts including panels, presentations, and interactive demonstrations
- 10AM Honey Show Judging begins
- 10AM Silent Auction bidding begins
- 10:30AM Club Centerpiece Contest voting begins
- 1PM Black Jar Judging begins
- 3PM TBA Annual Meeting
- 6:30PM THBEA Silent Auction bidding ends
- 6:30PM TBA Banquet & THBEA live auction

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 7, 2021

- 8:30AM Honey & Biscuits & Speakers
- 9:30AM Breakouts including panels, presentations, and interactive demonstrations
- 12:30PM Door Prizes
- Enjoy the inclusive discount tickets one more time before heading home

schedule is subject to change

2021 CONVENTION - MOODY GARDENS, GALVESTON



2021 Annual Convention

November 6th & 7th, 2021

Moody Gardens - Galveston, Texas

Hotel Information

Moody Gardens Galveston
Seven Hope Blvd., Galveston, TX 77554
409-683-1299

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

<https://www.reseze.net/servlet/SendPage?hotelid=1722&skipfirstpage=true&page=2987>

Room Rate is \$149/night for Queen/Queen or King rooms.

(The deadline for reservations is 10/19 at midnight.)

Fall Testing for the Texas Master Beekeeper Program

When: Friday, November 5th, 2021

Where: Moody Gardens, Seven Hope Blvd., Galveston, TX 77554

Registration: Online registration begins on September 1st

Website: <https://masterbeekeeper.tamu.edu/2021-fall-exam-registration/>

Questions: Email us at TAIS@TAMU.edu

Speaker Biographies

Dr. Lewis Bartlett

Dr. Lewis Bartlett is a post-doctoral fellow at the UGA Honey Bee Program and Odum School of Ecology working at the intersection of infectious disease biology and beekeeping. His research focuses on how infectious diseases and parasites cause so much harm to honeybees and how we can help honeybees defend themselves. Lewis began keeping bees ten years ago as part of scientific research and as a hobbyist in the UK before moving to America in 2016. He has worked with scientists across the UK, Europe, and USA, on topics including the risk to beekeeping from mosquito control, how sugar feed quality impacts colony immunity, the effects of crowding or moving honeybees on their viral infections, and on testing novel control techniques for pests like Varroa and Small Hive Beetles. His research goals are to inform solutions to managing honeybee diseases and pests that are effective and economically viable, always with an ear toward experiences and insights from beekeepers.

Megan Mahoney Bio

Megan Mahoney has been fascinated by honey bees ever since being fortuitously introduced to them in Dr. Marla Spivak's lab in 2003. Her enthusiasm for bees, beekeepers, and bee breeding has grown over time, and inspired her to build up a repertoire of beekeeping experiences and skills across the US. She has invested more than a decade of work inside the commercial bee industry, with past experience working for queen producers in California, leading a tech team for the Bee Informed Partnership in Texas, and working as a technician for the varroa sensitive hygiene (VSH) breeding program on Hawaii, Big Island. In 2019, she and her partner (Ross Klett), founded "MAHONEY BEES & QUEENS," a company specializing in instrumental insemination, breeder queens, and cell production. They are currently managing a migratory Carniolan-based breeding population in addition to helping maintain about 2,000 hives. They travel (with the bees) between South East Texas and Central North Dakota.

Matthew Mulica

Matt is a senior project director with the Keystone Policy Center, providing mediation, facilitation, and project management services within Keystone's environment, public health, energy, education, and agriculture practice areas. Matthew works with diverse public, private, and NGO stakeholder groups and designs and facilitates stakeholder dialogues, public engagement processes, coalitions, and strategic planning processes. Recent issues include honey bee health, water, sustainable agriculture and ranching, oil and gas development, as well as several projects involving NEPA processes.

Matthew graduated with a Master's of Science in Conflict Resolution, International and Intercultural emphasis, from Portland State University and holds two Bachelor of Science degrees in marketing and management from the University of Montana. He enjoys living the outdoor recreation lifestyle with his wife and two young children.

Topics for the 2021 Convention

Keynote Presentations from
Lewis Bartlett on “The Problems and Promises of Darwinian Beekeeping;”

An update on the Honey Bee Health Coalition from **Matthew Mulica** on “How HBHC is Helping to Improve Bee Health by Providing Information on Best Practices to Beekeepers and Growers;” and

Megan Mahoney will detail her journey through “50 Shades of Grey – Three Years in a Carniolan Breeding program”

Plus there will be numerous breakout sessions, panel discussions, and live demos on topics such as...

The Business of Bees – Marketing your Business; Utilizing Social Media for Growth; Selling Honey Online; Diversifying your Bee Business; Expanding from a Small Scale Beekeeper into a Sideline Operation and Beyond; and Bee Removals as a Business

Queens – Raising Queens; Queen Cells Demystified; Insemination; and Breeding Models

Beekeeping Laws in Texas – Legislative Updates; Ag Valuations; and more

Pollinators – Native Pollinators; Pollination; and Planting for Pollinators

Bee Pests & Diseases – Identification & Diagnosis; Treatments; Small Hive Beetles; Varroa Mites; Virus Vectoring; and IPM

Honey Bee Biology – Basic Bee anatomy; Behavior; and Sensory Organs

Bee Nutrition – Nectar; Natural Pollen; Sugar Substitutes; Pollen Substitutes; Nutritional Management; and Knowing What and When to Feed Your Bees.

Natural Beekeeping – Topbar Beekeeping & Hive Management; Natural Wax - Foundationless Frames/Bars; and Bee-centric Beekeeping

Beginner Beekeeping – Getting Started with Bees; Annual Management; and Basic Beekeeping Practices

Advanced Beekeeping – Splitting Colonies; Migratory Beekeeping; Raising & Selling Nucs

Live Demos – Encaustic Painting; Honey Show Preparation; Jewelry from Beeswax; Honey Tasting; Propolis Tinctures; Beeswax Candles; and Wax Luminaries



2021

Local Club Centerpiece Contest

November 5th – 7th
Moody Gardens
Galveston, TX

Are your local club members exceptionally talented and crafty? It's time to show off those talents at the 2021 TBA Annual Convention!



2019 Winner

From artistic creations to bountiful baskets filled with your club member's favorite hive products, your local club talent's will shine as the centerpieces of our evening banquet. All entries will be judged and auctioned benefiting our THBEA educational fund. Will your local club take home the winner's plaque this year? Will your club's entry win the highest bid at the auction? Register today and show us your club's talents while supporting a great cause!



2019 People's
Choice

Rules for Entry:

- The club's total out of pocket expenses will be \$25-\$50, all other items to be donated.
- Entry height and width not to exceed 18-20".
- The theme is anything regarding bees, but each entry should be a reflection of your regional club (references to famous landmarks, area delicacies, local favorite items). You can proudly display your club name on your entry.
- Entry must be brought to the annual convention by a club member or representative
- Entries must be submitted at the registration table no later than 12:00 noon on Saturday

People's Choice Award:

- Voting will begin Saturday at 10:30 AM
- 5 votes for \$5
- One set of votes per person

Other 2019 centerpiece entries can be seen on the TBA Facebook page.

Contact Myra Smith at myras29@gmail.com or 903-573-1701

2021 Texas Beekeepers Association Convention Registration

Please register for the annual convention on-line at
www.texasbeekeepers.org

Make Sure you are Logged in to get Membership Rates

Registration Form for Mail Registration

	Member	Non-Member	Number	Total
Full Conference	\$125	\$160		
Children Age 3-17	\$50	\$50		
Awards Dinner	\$32	\$32		

Cut off Date for on-line registration is November 4th - registration after this date or at the conference will be at the non-member rate of \$160.

We are offering discounted event tickets that allow unlimited access to all open attractions at Moody Gardens during our event for all who reserve rooms at the venue. The ticket prices are \$56/ea and are available for purchase during our registration process. Your tickets will be ready for pick up upon arrival at the hotel.

2021 Convention Registration Form

Please list attendees

Name(s): _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

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

Phone: _____

MAIL REGISTRATION FORM AND CHECK PAYABLE TO TEXAS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION TO:

**SHIRLEY DOGGETT, MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR,
400 COUNTY ROAD 440
THRALL, TX 76578**

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

Texas Honey Bee Education Association Fund Raiser

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

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

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

Your help is needed. With the continued increase in the cost of motor fuel and increased airfares, the travel budget gets tighter. If you are planning to attend the Annual Convention in Galveston, November 5th - 7th, please bring a special beekeeping related item to contribute to the auction.

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



The Texas Honey Show Committee is so excited to present this year's competition information. The competition is Saturday, November 6th, 2021 during the Texas Beekeepers Annual Convention at Moody Gardens in Galveston, TX.

There are 2 ways to send in your entries.

- 1.) **Mail-In Entries:** Please do not mail your entries before October 1st. All shipments must be postmarked by Monday, Oct 25th. For entries to be considered in the competition they must be received no later than Tuesday, Nov 2nd.

You can mail entries to:

% Texas Honey Show Team
The Nest Christian Academy
101 Frenchtown Rd.
Argyle, TX. 76226

Questions:
Call or Text Robin Young
(940) 765-2907

- 2.) **Drop-off Show Entries:** All other entries must be dropped off at the event venue and will be accepted on November 5th (Friday 10:00 am to 6:00pm) and November 6th (Saturday 8:00am to 10:00am). Remember entries dropped off the day of judging must be received by 10:00AM to be eligible.

Honey Show governing document and how to enter an exhibit.

The Texas Honey Show highlights good marketing of Texas beekeeping products and helps beekeepers share techniques with each other. The goal is to include beekeepers statewide. All are encouraged to enter one of the following classes:

CLASS

Class 1: Extracted Honey, two jars of (0 mm to 85mm) LIGHT/AMBER

Class 2: Extracted Honey, two jars of (86mm to 114mm) MEDIUM/AMBER

Class 3: Extracted Honey, two jars of (115mm and above) DARK/AMBER

Class 4: Creamed Honey, two jars

Class 5: Chunk Honey, two jars

Class 6: "Black Jar" Honey, two jars (The winner will need to have a total of 3 jars, so be prepared for that. That is the requirement to be sent on to the next level that is out of state.)

Class 7: Comb Honey – Ross Round, two matching

Class 8: Comb Honey – Halfhog, two matching

Class 9: Comb Honey – Cut Comb, two matching

Class 10: Wax Plain Block (no fancy mold) weight between 1 lb. and 2 lbs.

Class 11: Beekeeping Arts and Crafts

Class 12: Photography Close-up

Class 13: Photography Scenic

Class 14: Photography Portrait

Class 15: Beekeeping Gadgets

Class 16: Candles

Class 17: Deep 10 Frame Super Art Contest (Paint exterior surfaces of the bee box.)

Class 18: Video Short

**** Mead –** Mead has its own unique classes and rules. For mead entries, please see the separate Mead Rules Document

Auction

*All entries become the property of TBA. Some winning entries will be included in the THBEA Auctions. No entries will be returned unless specifically worked out with the Honey Show Team. (*With the exception of Gadgets and Art.)

General Rules

The Honey Show judging criteria are designed to reflect exhibitor skill, shine a favorable light on Texas beekeeping, and create a learning experience. Items over which one has no direct control are de-emphasized. In the extracted, creamed and chunk honey classes, a judge's personal taste of the natural flavor or color of honey will not affect scoring. However, alteration of either color or flavor in handling or preparation of the entry by the beekeeper will adversely affect the score (such as smoke or repellent.) Manufacturing defects in glass jars and bottles will not affect scoring, but surface dust, smudges, scratches, chips or other handling alterations on entry containers will affect the score. We will work to make adjustments to judging for items that are mailed in as a result of the uncontrolled aspect of that process.

Complete the 2021 Texas Honey Show Entry Form at the end of this Rules document. Please see Mead Competition Rules for mead entry forms. By entering the competition, you agree to be bound by the rules. Please read them carefully.

1. The Texas Honey Show is affiliated with and hosted by the Texas Beekeepers Association (TBA). All are welcome to submit entries so long as those entries were produced and made in the state of Texas by the entrant.

2. Complete the 2021 Texas Honey Show Entry Form at the end of this Rules document. Registration is by paper entry forms only, so please bring the printed copies of the registrations when delivering your entries to the Show Secretary at the registration table, or include them with your shipment if mailing your entries.

3. Texas Honey Show Entry Fees: \$5 flat fee per entry class submitted.

4. An Individual can only submit one entry per class. All entries must have been produced/harvested/created in the state of Texas within the last 12 months by the individual submitting the entry.

5. Entries can be hand-delivered on behalf of a qualified entrant by another person so long as all entry forms and fees are presented at time of drop-off at the designated location at the event. Entries dropped off the day of judging must be received by 10:00AM to be considered for the competition.

6. Entries will be accepted by mail if postmarked by Monday Oct 25th and they must be received by Tuesday November 2nd to be considered for competition/winner. Mead Competition has separate drop off rules detailed in the Mead Rules Document.

7. At the time of registration, the Show Secretary will assign an internal tracking number and code each entry accordingly.

8. At time of receipt all entries become property of the Texas Beekeepers Association (TBA), and may be included in auctions to benefit the Texas Honey Bee Education Association (THBEA). **With the exception of Gadgets and Art*

9. Extracted honey must be submitted in two standard 1-lb glass queen-line or Gamber Classic jar, with plain metal or plastic lid. **(No labels affixed.)**

10. Creamed honey must be submitted in two 1-lb. round chunk honey jars (has small shoulder) or straight cylinder glass jar. **(No labels affixed.)**

11. Chunk honey must be submitted in two 1-lb. round chunk honey jar (has small shoulder) or straight cylinder glass jar with standard lid. **(No labels affixed.)**

12. The "Black Jar" entry will be obscured by the Show Secretary when received.

13. Do not label products in any way before arrival. If you would like to include your personal/business label for display and photo purposes, each extracted honey entry should be

accompanied by the producer's own labels, which will be attached to the entries after judging. Put the labels in a blank white envelope that accompanies your entry so it can get included with your assigned tracking number. **DO NOT AFFIX THE LABELS TO ENTRIES PRIOR TO COMPETITION OR YOU WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.**

14. After submitting entries to the Show Secretary, competitors must leave the registration area and are not permitted entry into the judging area for any reason.

15. Judging will take place Saturday with results announced initially at the Banquet that night and then posted on the TBA Facebook Page on Sunday.

16. The Show Secretary and assistants are disqualified from competition. Judges are disqualified from the class/classes they are judging. (Honey judges are not allowed to submit honey entries, Mead judges are not allowed to submit mead entries, Art judges are not allowed to submit art entries, etc.)

17. Participants can enter either individually or as a group, in the case of group projects.

18. All entries will be judged according to the official scoring criteria guidelines. Judges fill out a score card for each entry. If an entry is disqualified, the reason for disqualification must be stated on the score card. Judges make comments on score cards in order to help exhibitors improve. After the show, completed score cards with notes will be given to each entrant.

19. Any complaint or issue must be presented in writing to the Show Chairman. All Complaints need to be accompanied by two suggestions on how matters could be improved for future competitions.



Judging Criteria for maximum of 100 points:

1-3 Extracted Honey: Extracted honey must be submitted in one standard one-pound queen-line type or Gamber Classic glass jars with plain metal or plastic lid. **No labels affixed.**

10 points: DENSITY (water content above 18.6% is disqualified; below 15.5% will be docked points.)

15.5-17.0 % is 10 points

17.1 – 18.0 is 9 points

18.1 – 18.6 is 7 points

20 points: ABSENCE OF CRYSTALS

40 points: CLEANLINESS

Without lint – 10

Without dirt – 10

Without wax – 10

Without foam – 10

10 points: FLAVOR (points reduced ONLY for honey flavor adversely affected by processing); disqualified if fermented.

10 points: CONTAINER APPEARANCE (dust, dirt, smudges, honey, or other foreign material on the rim or outside of the container will result in point deductions.)

10 points: ACCURACY OF FILLING (jars filled to the top of the bead, molded on the jar, no visible gap between bead and lid, not over 3/8 inch from top of jar.)

4. CREAMED HONEY: 1-lb. round chunk honey jar (has small shoulder) or straight cylinder glass jar. **No labels affixed.**

30 points: FINENESS OF CRYSTALS

25 points: FIRMNESS

20 points: CLEANLINESS AND FREEDOM FROM FOAM

15 points: FLAVOR points reduced if affected by processing; disqualified if fermented.

10 points: ACCURACY OF FILLING

5. CHUNK HONEY: 1-LB round chunk honey jar (has small shoulder) or straight cylinder glass jar. **No labels affixed.**

20 points: NEATNESS AND UNIFORMITY OF CUT (Upgrade for parallel, 4-sided cuts, Downgrade for ragged edges)

20 points: ABSENCE OF WATERY CAPPINGS, UNCAPPED CELLS AND POLLEN

20 points: CLEANLINESS ABSENCE OF TRAVEL STAINS, FOAM, WAX FLAKES & CRYSTALLIZATION

20 points: UNIFORMITY OF APPEARANCE COLOR, THICKNESS OF COMB, ACCURACY OF FILL

10 points: DENSITY (water content above 18.6% is disqualified)

10 points: FLAVOR (reduced points if adversely affected by processing); disqualified if fermented

6. BLACK JAR HONEY: Entries are to be submitted in one jar of any type. Show Secretary will obscure honey upon entry into the show. 1st place ribbon only. Not eligible for Best in Show Honey Award. Class Judging Criteria: Solely on the merits of its taste.

7-9 COMB HONEY: Honey comb that has been built in a container by the bees in either (Ross Round – Class 7) round plastic, (Halfhog – Class 8) square wooden or plastic boxes with clear removable lids and no labels. Cut Comb (Class 9)

should be 4 inch by 4 inch sections of honeycomb with the edges drained and placed in a clam shell container with no loose or dripping/leaking honey. The foundation (if used) should be 100 % bees wax with no metal wire supports in it. Comb honey should not contain any uncapped cells; it should be completely filled from top to bottom and side to side.

Points are taken off for open cells. Comb honey should have pure white cappings and there should be uniformity in color.

20 points: ABSENCE OF UNCAPPED CELLS

20 points: UNIFORMITY OF APPEARANCE

15 points: UNIFORMITY OF COLOR

15 points: UNIFORMITY OF CUT (Cut Comb) - or - CLEANLINESS OF FRAME/CONTAINER (Ross Round/Halfhog)

10 points: ABSENCE OF WET/WATERY CAPPINGS

10 points: ABSENCE OF POLLEN & GRANULATION

10 points: UNIFORMITY OF WEIGHT (honey in both sides for Ross Round and Cut Comb)

10. BEESWAX BLOCK: Beeswax entries must be natural, unbleached, 100% beeswax. Weight range of 1-lb. - 2-lb. only. Wax to be smooth and can be block, square, round, or rectangular in shape, no fancy mold, and no indentations of letters from mold. Wax block must be wrapped in transparent plastic wrap (such as Cling Wrap). Entry label will be affixed to the film.

35 points: CLEANLINESS

20 points: UNIFORMITY OF APPEARANCE

15 points: COLOR

15 points: AROMA

15 points: ABSENCE OF CRACKS & SHRINKAGE

11. BEEKEEPING ARTS AND CRAFTS: This category includes any type of art. It can include batik, encaustic painting, collage, mixed media, quilts, painting, knitting, embroidery, and so forth. Exhibitors' names must not be shown.

25 points: ARTISTIC MERIT

25 points: ORIGINALITY

25 points: SKILL INVOLVED

25 points: DESIGN

ALL PHOTOGRAPHY: Photograph must be size of 8"x10", horizontal or vertical. Photographer submitting an entry retains all legal copyrights. The first-place photo entries may be featured as 2022 TBA Journal covers and the cover of the TBA brochure. All photos may be used in the calendar to be sold at the following year's convention. Please ensure you have the permission of any individual featured in photos prior to submitting entries. Each of the photography classes will be judged using the following point system...

35 points: COMPOSITION

35 points: TREATMENT OF SUBJECT MATTER

30 points: QUALITY AND PRESENTATION

12. SCENIC: Must be a photo of a honeybee yard, truck transporting bees, installing packages, doing a hive check, beehive removal, swarm trap, or other bee activity.

13. PORTRAIT: Must be a portrait of a person, or group of people doing something involving beekeeping.

14. CLOSE UP: Must be a close up of a bee or bees (anywhere).

15. BEEKEEPING GADGETS: Beekeeping gadgets accompanied with written description of the use and function of the gadget. Exhibitors' names must not be shown.

25 points: EXPLANATORY TEXT

35 Points: PRACTICALITY

15 points: EASE OF REPRODUCTION

10 points: HELP TO BEEKEEPING

15 points: ORIGINALITY

16. CANDLES: You must submit **3 identical** candles. Candles will be judged on cleanliness and uniformity in size and shape. Candles must have a flat base and will be displayed upright. Wicks must be trimmed to 10mm in length.

35 points: CLEANLINESS/ORGINALITY

20 points: UNIFORMITY OF APPEARANCE

15 points: COLOR

15 points: AROMA

15 points: ABSENCE OF CRACKS & SHRINKAGE

17. Deep 10 Frame Super Art Contest: An artistic design of your imagination painted on a deep super 10 frame box. Only the outside of the box will be judged. Do not paint the inside.

25 points: ARTISTIC MERIT

25 points: ORIGINALITY

25 points: SKILL INVOLVED

25 points: DESIGN

18. Short Film "What I Love About Beekeeping!":

1.) The film must not run longer than two (2) minutes and that includes the title and credits.

2.) The film will need to be turned in on a USB drive.

3.) By entering this Texas Honey Show category, you will be giving the rights to have your film posted on any TBA Website, Facebook page, or advertisement. Your video may also be aired at any TBA event such as the "Summer Clinic" and "Fall Convention".

35 points: COMPOSITION

35 points: TREATMENT OF SUBJECT MATTER

30 points: QUALITY AND PRESENTATION



Texas Honey Show Entry Form

Saturday, November 6th, 2021

Name: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____ Number of colonies: _____
(Small-Scale fewer than 25 colonies, Sideliner 25 to 300 colonies, Commercial over 300 colonies.)

CLASS	Entry QTY *1 entry per class only	\$5 Fee	Entry # Office use ONLY
Class 1: Extracted Honey, two jars (0 mm to 85mm) LIGHT/AMBER	_____	\$ _____	_____
Class 2: Extracted Honey, two jars (86 mm to 114mm) MED/AMBER	_____	\$ _____	_____
Class 3: Extracted Honey, two jars (114mm or higher) DARK/AMBER	_____	\$ _____	_____
Class 4: Creamed Honey, two jars -----	_____	\$ _____	_____
Class 5: Chunk Honey, two jars -----	_____	\$ _____	_____
Class 6: "Black Jar" Honey, two jars -----	_____	\$ _____	_____
Class 7: Comb Honey – Ross Round -----	_____	\$ _____	_____
Class 8: Comb Honey – Halfhog -----	_____	\$ _____	_____
Class 9: Comb Honey – Cut Comb -----	_____	\$ _____	_____
Class 10: Wax Plain Block (no fancy mold) weight between 1 lb. and 2 lbs.	_____	\$ _____	_____
Class 11: Beekeeping Arts and Crafts -----	_____	\$ _____	_____
Class 12: Photography Close-up -----	_____	\$ _____	_____
Class 13: Photography Scenic -----	_____	\$ _____	_____
Class 14: Photography Portrait -----	_____	\$ _____	_____
Class 15: Beekeeping Gadgets -----	_____	\$ _____	_____
Class 16: Candles -----	_____	\$ _____	_____
Class 17: Deep 10 Frame Super Art Contest-----	_____	\$ _____	_____
Class 18: Video Short: "What I love about beekeeping" -----	_____	\$ _____	_____

*For payment by check, please make checks payable to: Texas Beekeepers Association

_____ \$ _____
Total # Entries Total Cost



Texas Beekeepers Association Mead Individual Submission Form

Serving beekeepers since 1880.

Please fill out a form for each bottle of mead submitted, put the filled-out form in a zip-lock bag, and use rubber-bands to attach it to each bottle of mead before you get to registration. Be sure to include your \$5 entry fee per Subcategory you are entering. If paying by check, please make checks payable to: Texas Beekeepers Association.

Vintner(s) Information

Your Name _____ Street Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP/Postal Code _____
Phone (H) (_____) _____ Phone(cell) (_____) _____ Email Address _____

Entry Information.....

Name-of-Vintner (Mead Maker) _____
Category (No. M1-M4 found in Mead Rules) _____ Subcategory (A-E found in Mead Rules) _____
Category/ Subcategory (print full names) _____
Sweetness level (Dry, off dry, semi-sweet or sweet) _____
Honey Varietal _____
Location Produced (County in Texas) _____
Apiarist Who Produced/Harvested the Honey _____
Start Date (When did you make the must and pitch the yeast) _____

.....Cut Here



Texas Beekeepers Association Mead Individual Submission Form

Serving beekeepers since 1880.

Please fill out a form for each bottle of mead submitted, put the filled-out form in a zip-lock bag, and use rubber-bands to attach it to each bottle of mead before you get to registration. Be sure to include your \$5 entry fee per Subcategory you are entering. If paying by check, please make checks payable to Texas Beekeepers Association.

Vintner(s) Information

Your Name _____ Street Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP/Postal Code _____
Phone (H) (_____) _____ Phone(cell) (_____) _____ Email Address _____

Entry Information.....

Name-of-Vintner (Mead Maker) _____
Category (No. M1-M4 found in Mead Rules) _____ Subcategory (A-E found in Mead Rules) _____
Category/ Subcategory (print full names) _____
Sweetness level (Dry, off dry, semi-sweet or sweet) _____
Honey Varietal _____
Location Produced (County in Texas) _____
Apiarist Who Produced/Harvested the Honey _____
Start Date (When did you make the must and pitch the yeast) _____



Texas Beekeepers Association

Serving beekeepers since 1880.

Mead Amateur Division Competition Rules

By entering the competition, you agree to be bound by the rules. Please read them carefully. Only one entry per each Mead Sub-Category.

This is our fourth year doing the judging in house and we want to be sure we have enough judges. We will take new entries on registration day, but PLEASE, PLEASE email us at soulhoney@pwhome.com no later than October 25th with a copy of your entry form so we can get an idea about how many entries to expect. Our judges can only review so many meads. It is important to have enough judges to get the best results.

1. Only home-produced amateur meads may be entered.
2. All meads are required to have Texas honey. The source(s) of the honey or beekeeper name must be declared in the entry description. Entries made with non-Texas honey, or entries without the source(s) of honey disclosed, will be disqualified. All entries become property of the Texas Beekeepers Association. Entries will NOT be returned to entrants under any circumstances.
3. Entry Fees: a \$5 entry fee applies per Subcategory.
4. Two 12oz or larger bottles are required for evaluation. If entering smaller bottles, three bottles are required to qualify for Best of Show in the Mead Category.
5. Bottles MUST be accompanied by the registration entry form titled "Texas Beekeepers Association Mead Competition Form" and declared BJCP style category. It is requested that you print the form from the registration website (<https://texasbeekeepers.org/tba-honey-show-2021/>) and affix a completed form to each bottle using rubber bands. (We recommend you put the form in a gallon zip lock bag to protect the document and then use rubber bands to attach it to each bottle.) PLEASE DO NOT USE TAPE TO AFFIX LABELS OR DOCUMENTATION!!
6. The competition is Saturday, November 6th, 2021. All entries will be accepted November 5th (Friday 10:00am to 6:00pm) and November 6th (Saturday 8:00am to 10:00am). Entries must be dropped off during the designated time unless other arrangements are made. Remember, entries dropped off the day of judging must be received by 10:00AM. If you need special accommodations or to make other arrangements, please call Robin Young at (940)765-2907.
7. Texas Beekeepers Association is not liable for lost or misplaced drop-off entries.
8. Entries will be judged against the Beer Judge Certification Program (BJCP) style guidelines for the category entered. (See #10 for more information.) The competition chairman/secretary, head judge/judges, and stewards will not re-categorize your entry for you. If you enter your mead in the wrong category, it will be judged in the wrong category which will affect your score. If you are unsure what category to enter a mead into, contact the Honey Show Committee using the form on the competition registration website prior to registering your entry or email Robin Young at soulhoney@pwhome.com and she will get you the answers you need.
9. We are NOT accepting any bottles by mail. Be sure to have all your paperwork filled out and attached to each bottle. DO NOT SHIP VIA THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE. SHIPPING OF ALCOHOL VIA THE USPS IS ILLEGAL. ANY ENTRIES SENT BY US MAIL WILL BE DESTROYED TO COMPLY WITH POSTAL REGULATIONS.
10. Helpful information: <https://www.bjcp.org/mead.php>
11. If You would like to volunteer for the Texas Honey Show send an email to soulhoney@pwhome.com

Entries may be shipped to:	Drop off location:
<p>We are not accepting shipped entries for Mead. If you want to send your entry with a friend or family member, be sure to have your documentation filled out and attached to each bottle. We will accept entries:</p> <p>November 5th (Friday 10:00am - 6:00pm)</p> <p>November 6th (Saturday 8:00am - 10:00am)</p>	<p>TBA Annual Convention (Nov 5th & 6th) Moody Gardens Galveston, TX.</p> <p>Questions: Call or Text Robin Young (940) 765-2907</p>

Categories	Sub-Categories
M1. Traditional Mead	<p><i>Honey, water, yeast</i></p> <p>M1A. Dry Mead</p> <p>M1B. Semi-Sweet Mead</p> <p>M1C. Sweet Mead</p>
M2. Fruit Mead	<p><i>Honey, fruit, water, yeast</i></p> <p>M2A. Cyser – apple and honey</p> <p>M2B. Pyment – grape and honey</p> <p>M2C. Berry Mead</p> <p>M2D. Stone Fruit Mead – fruit with a pit and honey</p> <p>M2E. Melomel – any other fruit combinations not in A-D</p>
M3. Spiced Mead	<p><i>Honey, spices, water, yeast</i></p> <p>M3A. Fruit and Spice Mead</p> <p>M3B. Spice, Herb or Vegetable Mead</p>
M4. Specialty Mead	<p><i>Honey, fruit and/or spices and/or grains, yeast</i></p> <p>M4A. Braggot and Honey Beer</p> <p>M4B. Historical Mead Recipes</p> <p>M4C. Experimental Mead</p>
<p>Max Points: Judging Criteria for a maximum of 50 points</p> <p>10 BOUQUET AND AROMA</p> <p>6 APPEARANCE</p> <p>24 FLAVORS</p> <p>10 OVERALL IMPRESSION</p>	

Texas Beekeepers Association Mead Competition Form

Saturday, November 6th, 2021

Name: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____ Number of colonies: _____

(Small-Scale fewer than 25 colonies, Sideline 25 to 300 colonies, Commercial over 300 colonies.)

Subcategory	Entry QTY <small>*1 entry per subcategory</small>	\$5 Fee	Entry # <small>Office use ONLY</small>
M1. Traditional Mead - Honey, water, yeast			
M1A. Dry Mead	_____	\$ _____	_____
M1B. Semi-Sweet Mead M1C. Sweet Mead	_____	\$ _____	_____
M2. Fruit Mead - Honey, fruit, water, yeast			
M2A. Cyser – Apple and Honey	_____	\$ _____	_____
M2B. Pyment – Grape and Honey	_____	\$ _____	_____
M2C. Berry Mead	_____	\$ _____	_____
M2D. Stone Fruit Mead – Fruit with a pit and Honey	_____	\$ _____	_____
M2E. Melomel – Any other fruit combinations not in A-D	_____	\$ _____	_____
M3. Spiced Mead - Honey, spices, water, yeast			
M3A. Fruit and Spice Mead	_____	\$ _____	_____
M3B. Spice, Herb or Vegetable Mead	_____	\$ _____	_____
M4. Specialty Mead - Honey, fruit and/or spices and/or grains, yeast			
M4A. Braggot and Honey Beer	_____	\$ _____	_____
M4B. Historical Mead Recipes	_____	\$ _____	_____
M4C. Experimental Mead	_____	\$ _____	_____

*For payment by check, please make checks payable to: Texas Beekeepers Association

_____ \$ _____
Total # Entries Total Cost

*Thank You for
Sponsoring our
2021 convention!*



MANN LAKE



There's still time to become a sponsor and supporter. For more information, contact us at
tradeshow@texasbeekeepers.org

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

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

Alamo Area Beekeepers Association

Rick Fink - (210) 872-4569

president@alamobees.org

www.alamobees.org

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday on odd # months

Helotes Ind. Baptist Church

15335 Bandera Rd., Helotes at 7 pm

Austin Area Beekeepers Association

Dodie Stillman - (512) 560-7550

austinareabeekeepers@gmail.com

facebook.com/groups/Austin/AreaBeekeeperAssociation

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

Meeting: 3rd Monday of each month at 7pm

Frank Fickett Scout Training and Service Center

12500 N I-35, Near Parmer Lane, Austin

Bees in the East Club

Mark de Kiewiet (210) 863-8024

beesintbeeast@att.net

Meetings 4th Saturday of each month at 10am

Water Garden Gems, 3230 Bolton Road, Marion,

Bell/Coryell Beekeepers Association

Charles McMaster (703) 624-1337

bellcoryellbeeclub@gmail.com

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

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

Big Country Beekeepers Association

Ken Hobbs - (325) 665-4045

paniolobee@icloud.com

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

1502 South Treadway Blvd, Suite B

Abilene

Brazoria County Beekeepers Association

Steve Brackmann - (832) 884-6141

stevenbrackmann@yahoo.com

bcba@brazoria-county-beekeepers-association.com

www.brazoria-county-beekeepers-association.com

Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month

Brazoria County Extension Office, 21017 CR 171, Angleton at 6:45 pm

Brazos Valley Beekeepers Association

Nathan Krueger - (979) 324-1160

info@bvbeeks.org

www.bvbeeks.org

Meetings: 3rd. Tuesday of each month (except Dec.)

First Christian Church, 900 S Ennis St., Bryan from 6pm

Caddo Trace Beekeepers Association

Terry Wright - (903) 856-8005

tcwright7021@yahoo.com

Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month

Titus County Agrilife Ext. Bldg., 1708 Industrial Rd., Mount Pleasant at 7 pm

Caprock Beekeepers Association

Victoria Watts - (806) 392-2355

mystique175@att.net

Meetings: 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm

Freeway Bible Chapel, 5507 Marsha Sharp Freeway, Lubbock 79407

Central Texas Beekeepers Association

Michael Kelling - (979) 277-0411

CentralTexasBeekeepers@gmail.com

www.centraltexasbeekeepers.org

Meetings: Monthly on the 4th Thursday (except November and December) Washington County Fairgrounds, 1305 E Bluebell Rd., Brenham at 7pm

Chisholm Trail Beekeepers

Scott Zirger (682) 385-0008 or (510) 301-5796 (cell)

scott@zirger.us or chisholm-trail-beekeepers@googlegroups.com

Meetings: Last Monday of each month

Burleson Bible Church, 260 South Hurst Road, Burleson

Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Assn.

John (Skip) Talbert (706) 761-7893

president@cchba.org

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

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

316 Spring Street, Columbus

Comal County Beekeepers Association

Julie Morgan - (210) 475-2924

e.julie.morgan@gmail.com

Meetings: 1st Thursday of each month

Beefy's on the Green Restaurant, upstairs room

12910 US Hwy 281N at 6:30 pm

Concho Valley Beekeepers Association

Rex Moody - (325) 650-6360

cvbeekeeper@gmail.com

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

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

Deep East Texas Beekeepers Association

Ellen Reeder - (337) 499-6826

ellenswartz@sbcglobal.net

San Augustine Chamber of Commerce Building

611 West Columbia Dt., San Augustine

Denton County Beekeepers Association

Gary Barber - (972) 768-5505

board@dentonbees.com

www.dentonbees.com

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

Please see club website 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

president@elginareabeekeepers.org

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

Patrick Kostecka (254) 366-5160

pkostecka28@yahoo.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

Long Acres Ranch Visitor Center, 2335 Richmond Pkwy, (then turn onto Circle Seven Dr.) Richmond TX 77469

Harris County Beekeepers Association

Jim Orr - (713) 213-7080

rjfarmandapiary@gmail.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

Contact club to confirm meeting location

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

5200 Montrose Blvd., Houston TX 77006

Houston Natural Beekeepers Association

Dean Cook

houstonnaturalbeekeepers@gmail.com

Meetings: Second Saturday of the month at 10 am

4466 Billy Street, Houston TX 77020

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

Texas Bee Supply, 351 County Road 6243, Dayton TX 77535

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***Meetings:** 2nd Thursday of each month at 5:30 pm

Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 501 Indian Springs Dr., Marshall

Montgomery County Beekeepers Assn.

Andy Knight - (281) 305-4072

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

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

Airport Road, Conroe

Northeast Texas Beekeepers Association

Rebecca Vaughan - (972) 841-3751

*rebeccavaughan2@gmail.com**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***Meetings:** 1st Thursday of each month

Creek House Honey Farm, 5015 4th Ave, Canyon

Pineywoods Beekeepers Association

Terry McFall - (409) 289-7387

*tdmcfall@hotmail.com***Meetings:** 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm

Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce

1615 S Chestnut St. Lufkin (just off Loop 287)

Red River Valley Beekeepers Assn.

Larry Roderick (940) 237-2814

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

Bolin Science Hall Room 209, Mid West State University,

310 Taft Blvd., Wichita Falls

Rusk County Beekeepers Association

John Stewart - (903) 842-4433

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

Church of the Nazarene, 906 W Main St, Henderson

San Marcos Area Bee Wranglers

Gay Fraser (512) 264-2021

*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***Meetings:** 3rd Thursday of odd numbered months at 6pm

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

Temple Area Beekeepers Association

Jim Billings (254) 760-2053

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

Troy Community Center, 201 East Main Street, Troy

Texarkana Beekeepers Association

Sarah Clinesmith - (903) 277-2145

*sarahaddie@aol.com***Meetings:** 3rd Monday of each month at 6pm

Texarkana Public Library, 600 W 3rd St Texarkana

Texas Hill Country Beekeepers Association

Linda Williams - (830) 688-0560

*texashillcountrybeekeepers@gmail.com**facebook.com/TXHillCountryBKAssn/***Meetings:** 4th Tuesday of odd months at 6:30 pm

Hill Country Veterans Center, 411 Meadow View lane, Kerrville TX 78028

Travis County Beekeepers Assn.

Tanya Phillips - (512) 560-3732

*traviscountybeekeepers@gmail.com**www.TravisCountyBeekeepers.org**https://www.facebook.com/groups/TravisBeeks/***Meetings:** First Monday of the month at 7 pm

Zilker Botanical Gdns., 2220 Barton Springs Rd., Austin

Tri County Beekeepers Association

Erin Davis - (903) 389-3436

*erin.davis@ag.tamu.edu***Meetings:** 4th Tuesday of each month at 5:30pm

Sam's Restaurant, Fairfield, TX

Tyler County Bee Club

Scott Martin - (409) 283-4507

*tcbclub16@gmail.com***Meetings:** 4th Tuesday of each month at 6 pm

Nutrition Center, 201 Veterans Way, Woodville

Walker County Area Beekeepers Assn.

Larry Fuchs - (936) 661-0633

*walkercountybeekeepers@gmail.com***Meetings:** Last Thursday of each month at 7 pm (not Nov or Dec)

Walker Education Center, 1402 19th St., Huntsville

Williamson County Area Beekeepers Assn.

Gillian Mattinson - (512) 961-9955

gillmatties@gmail.com *www.wcaba.org***Meetings:** 4th Tuesday of each month at 7 pm (except December)

Georgetown Public Library, 402 W 8th St., Georgetown

Wise Texas Bee Club

Donny Johns - (817) 939-3249

*info@wisetexasbeeclub.org***Meetings:** First Thursday of the month at 6pm

Public Library, Bridgeport

Wood County Beekeepers Association

Bill Zimmer - (469) 222-3901

*woodcountybeekeepers@gmail.com***Meetings:** First Tuesday of every month at 7 pm

Winnsboro Civic Center, Hope Ln, Winnsboro

Directors -at-Large

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