

CLUB EDUCATION



A GUIDE TO MEMBERSHIP EDUCATION



TEXAS
BEEKEEPERS
ASSOCIATION



PROGRAMMING

Membership education is one of the most valuable aspects of joining a bee club for beginning beekeepers. Local clubs offer a place to ask questions, meet knowledgeable beekeepers that can help troubleshoot issues, and to discuss environmental issues specific to your area (rainfall, blooms, temperatures, etc.) that affect your hives.

Creating a diverse collection of experiences, presentations, and educational events can ensure that your membership has the knowledge they need to be great beekeepers.

Good beekeepers in your area makes it more likely that city ordinances, regulations, and initiatives in your area stay or become bee friendly.

Here are some ideas to help get your creativity going - think of what your club may need and get creative. Take a poll, ask your board, follow other local and state clubs to get ideas for topics that adds value to your membership.

- Monthly Meetings -
 - Seasonal tips
 - Local flora discussion (what do the bees have to eat?)
 - Main presentation or demonstration
 - Youth story time
 - Q&A time
- Seasonal Demonstrations - think of demos that could be the main event of your local meeting, a special gathering, or even a quick add on to your regular programming
- Field Trips - take a trip to a local apiary or bee supply store to learn through hands-on experiences
- Advanced Topics - As your membership base becomes more comfortable with basic beekeeping, you'll need to bring in more niche and advanced content



DEMONSTRATIONS

Hosting demonstrations can be a really fun way to get hands-on experience with your membership. Most people will learn better through "doing" the activity. Here are a few ideas of demonstrations that you could do as part of your meeting or as a separate, fun event.

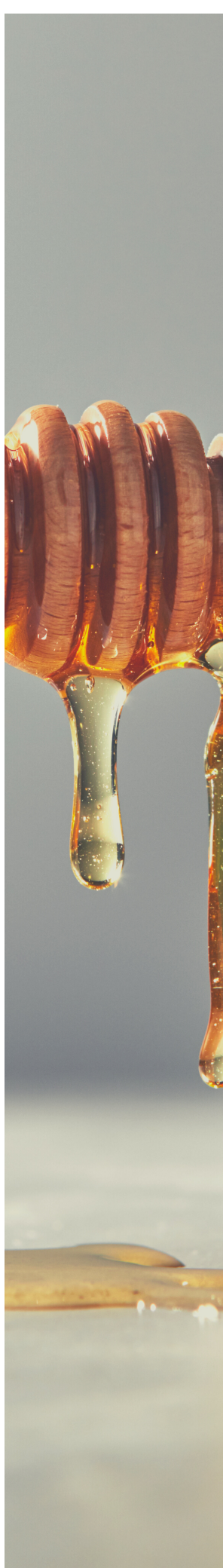
- Honey tasting - have everybody bring a jar from their harvest. If they haven't harvested yet, have them bring their favorite honey.
- Making lotions, soaps with honey and wax
- Candle making, candle dipping, or wax luminaries
- Extracting honey - extract honey together to experience the whole process
- Mead making
- Building boxes & assembling frames

FIELD TRIPS

If you have beekeepers willing to host field trips in their apiary, this can be an invaluable learning experience. It's best to have an idea of what you'd like to teach/learn ahead of time so you can pick the best location and time of year to accomplish that.

We suggest staying 30+ days ahead of what beekeepers need to know so beginning beekeepers are able to plan ahead and get out to their hives proactively for the season.

- Mite testing - use multiple methods and discuss personal experiences
- Harvesting honey - techniques to select boxes/frames, removing bees from the comb, etc.
- Splits - demonstrate the process of selecting hives and splitting
- Requeening - demonstrate different queen locating and requeening techniques
- Hive inspections - discuss what to look for during inspections
- Tour of hive set ups - set up a progressive dinner, an apiary drive-by, or host a "share your hive set up" to discuss different ways of doing things.



EDUCATIONAL PLAN

Building a curriculum ahead of time can help you ensure you're covering all of the most important topics for your membership. It can also allow you to book out months in advance. Take this "pro tip" - always confirm your speakers (again) 1-2 weeks ahead (or even several times) leading up to their of their scheduled presentation.

It's best to "map out" your year and then fill in the speakers that match your desired topics.

- General Topics:
 - Bee Biology
 - Integrated pest management
 - Feeding bees & bee nutrition
 - Queen management
 - Splits
 - Hive inspections & management
 - Products of the hive
- Advanced Topics:
 - Honey bee genetics
 - Superorganism
 - Business topics
- Panel / Discussion Topics:
 - Common mistakes
 - Treatment methods
- Niche Topics:
 - Bee removals
 - Mead making
 - Native bees and pollinators
 - Planting for pollinators
 - Bee laws



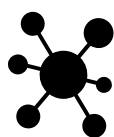
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

It's important to know where you can find resources - it can make your job as a club leader a lot easier. We consistently update our webpage with resources for you including recorded videos and presentations, Texas speaker lists, and more.

Here are a few ideas on how you can locate speakers for your club:

1. Check the "speaker list" under the TBA club resources on the website
2. Ask your surrounding clubs who they'd recommend from their clubs as a speaker.
3. Tap into your local resources for knowledgeable beekeepers

You can also check out TexasBeekeeping101.com for additional resources. Good luck!



CONNECT WITH US

GET MORE RESOURCES
ONLINE AT
TEXASBEEKEEPERS.ORG

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