

The Texas Beekeepers Association



# Journal







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## President's Report from Ashley Ralph

First of all, I want to say thank you to all the attendees, vendors, and volunteers for such a great Convention. A special thank you to the sponsors that helped to support the event as well - these sponsorships help us to put on great events and bring in high-quality speakers.

Dr. Lewis Bartlett was a phenomenal speaker and brought a ton of practical applications regarding varroa mite treatment as well as small hive beetles. We have recorded sessions that will be released slowly on our Texas Beekeepers Association YouTube channel as they become available. There were great speakers all around and a ton of learning happening in the hallways, classrooms, socials, and vendor areas.

I want to congratulate a few of our award winners as well:

**Jim Petty Award** - "Beekeeper of the Year" - Eugene "E.T." Ash has worked for decades as a commercial beekeeper providing services, selling nucs, raising queens. He just retired from his position as the Apiary Manager at Texas A&M Honey Bee Lab where he provided, managed, and cared for the bees used for meaningful research. This effort along with his experience in beekeeping overall has made him an asset to the Texas Beekeepers Association.

**President's Award** - Rebecca Vaughan has put in a tremendous amount of effort in organizing events over the past few years. Her efforts have helped to create some of our biggest and best events while creating a blueprint for future volunteers. We are so grateful for the work and energy that Rebecca has given to TBA.

**John Thomas Meritorious Service Award** - Mary Reed was given this prestigious, non-commercial beekeeper award for being a valuable resource for Texas Beekeepers across the state. She has been far more than a regulator - she has volunteered time for education, the creation of the Texas Master Beekeeper Program, 4H and FFA curriculum and so much more. We're incredibly lucky to have Mary in Texas.

**Lifetime Memberships** were given for exceptional service and value provided to TBA to three deserving individuals.

Mike Hatch has volunteered countless hours in maintaining our websites as well as most of the technology used to run TBA. His thoughtfulness, thoroughness, and expertise is a huge asset to the Texas Beekeepers Association. Mike has helped to find creative solutions, think outside the box, and make ideas become reality and for that, we're extremely grateful.

Myra Smith worked hard as a TBA Director and long before in promoting the THBEA license plate, creating the club

centerpiece contest that raises money for THBEA, and providing club resources such as "how to start a club" and so many more.

E.T. Ash and Jane Packard recently moved to California and while we know they'll stay connected, we wanted to ensure it with this lifetime membership. They continue to support Texas A&M research students in so many ways and we all benefit from their generosity in helping continue bee research.

Our event team is already busy planning a great Summer Clinic - it's amazing what getting together in person can do after so long apart. I saw smiles, new faces, old friends, and a ton of learning happening in Galveston and I'm looking forward to an even bigger and better Summer Clinic and Convention in 2022. We'll have Keith Delaplane back in Texas and he's always a huge hit. There are talks of more demos, panels, and advanced topics (as well as plenty of info for beginners) so we're super excited to share with you all.

Save the dates:

Summer Clinic, Conroe, TX - June 25  
TBA Convention, Temple, TX - Nov 3-6

As I mentioned in my last update, TBA had a productive year and we're looking forward to continued improvement, new projects, and a great board to help execute the vision for the upcoming year. We can't wait to share some of the exciting projects we have on the horizon, it's going to be an incredible year.

As for the bee yard - most people are packing away their bees for the winter. We've spent the Summer and Fall building strong colonies to send into the winter and made sure they're fed up and ready to roll. Now is the time to make sure you've got heavy hives filled with resources to make them through. If you're new and unsure - ask a friend, mentor, or professional to come and help you assess. If you have light hives, feed them up, possibly add some insurance with a solid sugar brick (not fondant), and keep a close eye on them when the temperatures allow. For those of you who did the work leading up to winter - enjoy the break and prepare for the Spring. It's time to order bees, queens, boxes, and everything in between. With supply chains the way they've been this year, it's better to be ahead of the curve than behind.

Here's to a great year in 2022! Enjoy the holidays, and prepare for your busy year in the off-season - you'll be glad you did!



## Vice Presidents Report

*from Dodie Stillman*



Let me start this article by saying hello to everyone! I'm really excited to be writing an article as the new TBA vice president! I'm honored to have the opportunity to serve in this new capacity and I am so looking forward to this upcoming year.

Because of our 2020 Covid year, and not being able to meet in person, we passed a resolution to keep all the board members in place for an additional year. So the big deal this year was getting to elect an almost entirely new board!! How exciting it is to welcome all our new board members; Nathalie Biggie, Charlie McMaster, Jimmy Middlebrooks, Byron Compton and Gary Barber. The last position on our board is filled by returning member Monica Siwiak.

Do you know what beekeepers, bikers and cheerleaders have in common? Well, on November 6-7, they were all in Galveston, Texas and many were at Moody Gardens! It was great to meet so many new beekeepers, and wonderful to finally get to see old friends in person again! With Megan Mahoney and Lewis Bartlett as our guest speakers, there truly was something for everyone, and I hope everyone learned something new.

The convention had over 300 attendees and almost everyone decided to forgo a seafood dinner on Saturday evening and share a meal with other beekeepers. The meal started with some announcements and awards were presented. Having so many folks at the banquet made for an excellent live auction to raise money for Texas Honey Bee Education Association (THBEA). 117 Items were auctioned off and raised \$10,827. This money will help support THBEA's mission of education and research. More details on the THBEA live and silent auction, including the items that attracted the highest bids, can be found on page XX of the Journal.

Our Fall Convention wouldn't be complete without the Texas Honey Show, and this year was another successful year with over 23 judged entries and 13 black jar entries. We were lucky to have a wonderful new judge come to Texas and successfully fill the huge void that Ann Harman left for us. Please check out the article Robin Young has about behind the scenes of the Honey Show to get a great idea of what actually goes on behind the closed doors, and meet Mr. Brutz English. After the judging and the ribbons were awarded, the winning honeys were included in the live auction.

The THBEA Raffle was a success again this year. We sold tickets online even during the 2021 convention. We sold 1224 tickets and had donations of \$325 for a total of \$12,565!! Our big winner, Raffle Prize #1, a 20-Frame Electric Extractor donated by Dadant and Sons was won by Jeanne Lejeune of Cypress, Texas with ticket #21010391. For the full list of winners see page 10 later in the Journal.

There is one last item I need to mention, and this should really be at the top of the list, because our convention wouldn't be the success that it was without the help of our excellent Event Coordinator, Rebecca Vaughn. Our exceptional Event Chair and Vice President John Swan, our Secretary Leesa Hyder, the TBA Publication Director as well as the THBEA Chair, Chris Doggett, all around wonder woman Barbi Rose, our treasurer, Julie Haza, the Honey Show Chair, Robin Young, Charlie Agar for his video skills and Tim Elliot for his A/V expertise, Myra Smith, the centerpiece organizer, and about 30 super awesome volunteers that helped with everything from selling TBA merchandise, to introducing the speakers, to adding signs and directing traffic!

There are so many people working behind the scenes of these events in order to give the attendees the best experience possible. These volunteers put in a lot of planning and preparation, sleepless nights, and vast amounts of energy and hard work in order to bring these events to life. Often times, all this effort can feel like it goes unrecognized by the majority. I could fill the entire journal if I tried to list all the names of the countless volunteers, past and present, who have helped make TBA and its events what they are today. So, on behalf of myself, and all of TBA, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to each and every one of you who have worked tirelessly and thanklessly to help make TBA the best that it can be. You are appreciated more than you will ever know! And I have to add, as I emailed with a good many of them, they almost all remarked that they will be volunteering again at our Summer Clinic in Conroe on June 25th, and are looking forward to the 2022 Fall Convention in Temple on November 3rd - 6th. Let me know if you'd like to join the volunteer list!!

I am honored, and humbled, to have the opportunity to serve as your Vice President. I can answer the email address ([vp@texasbeekeepers.org](mailto:vp@texasbeekeepers.org)) and my 'virtual' door is always open. So, if you should have any questions, comments, or feedback, please don't hesitate to reach out. Thank you!

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# Texas Honey Show 2021

*"The bee is more honored than other animals, not because she labors but because she labors for others"*

*By: St. John Chrysostom*



*Pictured Above Winner of Best in Art: "Praise Bee Cathedral" by: Theresa Kveton*

The Texas Honey Show Team was so excited to see all the wonderful things Texas Beekeepers have been up to. The "Praise Bee Cathedral" brought by Theresa Kveton set the stage for the convention this year. We could spend this entire article going through each section on of this masterpiece top-bar hive. We were told that Theresa is waiting for a call for a church to remove a swarm of bees to give them this incredible home.



*Pictured above: Monica Siwiak, Brutz English & Nanette Davis*

Turnout was high considering a pandemic year. We had 48 participants and 79 entries. The Honey Show

Team brought in Brutz English from Georgia at the head honey Judge. He was wonderful to work with and we hope to have him back in 2022.



*Second Place Winner in Art: Cari Krauter*

Class	1st	2nd	3rd
Extracted Honey LIGHT / AMBER	Jimmy Middlebrooks	Don Whitaker	Selina
Extracted Honey MED/AMBER	Tanya Phillips	Katrina Semones	Beth (Ron) Derr (Gumm)
Extracted Honey DARK/AMBER	Glenn Kveton	Rebecca Vaughan	Glynn Smith
Creamed Honey	Rebecca Vaughan		
Chunk Honey	Danessa Yaschuk	Katrina Semones	
Black Jar (Judged)	Gail Kerley	Rebecca Vaughan	
Comb Honey - Halfhog	Gabriel Steward		
Comb Honey - Cut Comb	Danessa Yaschuk	Katrina Semones	
Wax Plain Block	Greg Rogers	Danessa Yaschuk	
Beekeeping Arts and Crafts	Theresa Kveton	Cari Krauter	Dodie Stillman
Photo Close-Up	Greg Rogers	Lori Hatherley	Stephen Hatherley
Photo Scenic	Danessa Yaschuk	Nanette Davis	Rebecca Thomas
Photo Portrait	Theresa Kveton	Greg Rogers	Rebecca Thomas
Beekeeping Gadgets	Dan Brantner	Lori Hatherley	
Candles	Rebecca Vaughan	Greg Rogers	Danessa Yaschuk
Bee Box Art Contest	Teri Albright	Rebecca Thomas	
Traditional Mead - Semi-Sweet	Zachary Hancock		
Traditional Mead - Sweet	Brittany Fetterman		
Fruit Mead - Cyser (Apple & Honey)	Zachary Hancock		
Specialty Mead - Historical Recipes	Michael Bernoudy		
Specialty Mead - Experimental Mead	Keith Lawson		
Best of Show	Winner		
People's Choice Black Jar Honey	Rich Beggs		
Best of Honey	Jimmy Middlebrooks		
Best Small-scale Honey	Jimmy Middlebrooks		
Best Sideline Honey	Danessa Yaschuk		
Best of Photography	Danessa Yaschuk		
Best of Art	Theresa Kveton		
Best of Gadgets	Dan Brantner		
Best of Combed Honey	Danessa Yaschuk		
Best of Creamed Honey	Rebecca Vaughan		
Best of Wax Block	Greg Rogers		
Best of Mead	Brittany Fetterman		
Ann Harman Award of Excellence in Beekeeping	Greg Rogers		
Best of Centerpiece	Texarkana		
Best of Centerpiece People's Choice	Marshall		





*Pictured Above: Comb Honey – Halfhog 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Winner: Danessa Yaschuk*

This year we add to the “Comb Honey “categories. It was exciting to see what everyone brought in. We try to add something new each year to keep us all growing and perfecting our craft. We are always open to suggestions you might have for future categories of competition.



*Pictured Above from Left to Right 1<sup>st</sup> Rebecca Vaughn,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Greg Rogers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Danessa Yaschuk Place Winners in  
Candle Making*



*Marie Yanchak, Sandra Smith, Virginia Allen  
and Jimmy Oakley Working the “Black Jar –  
People’s Choice” Pictured Above*



*Beekeeping Club Centerpiece Display Area Picture  
Above*

The center pieces were as cleverly constructed as ever this year. Congratulations to Texarkana for winning “Best Center Piece” and Marchall for winning “Best of Centerpiece People’s Choice”.



From all of us on the Texas Honey Show Team,  
“Cheers! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!”





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**Jeanne Lejeune of Cypress, Texas**



Raffle Prize #2 - Deluxe Beekeeping Starter Kit and Nucleus Colony donated by Mann-Lake, Ltd. and Texas Bee Supply

**Winner:**

**Amy Mayhall of Cypress, Texas**





Raffle Prize #3 - Deluxe Beekeeping Starter Kit and Nucleus Colony donated by MannLake, Ltd. and Texas Bee Supply  
**Winner:**  
**Nathan Harvey of Argyle, Texas**



Raffle Prize #4 - Four Nucleus Colonies donated by Winding Creek Apiary  
**Winner:**  
**Maureen Miner of Plano, Texas**



Raffle Prize #5 - Two Nucleus Colonies donated by BeeWeaver Honey Farm  
**Winner:**  
**James Cobarruvias of San Antonio, Texas**



Raffle Prize #6 - Two Nucleus Colonies donated by BeeWeaver Honey Farm  
**Winner:**  
**Robert Borhofen of Meridian, Texas**





Raffle Prize #7 - Populated Top Bar Hive donated by Prime Bees

**Winner:**

**Glenn Kveton of Adkins, Texas**



Raffle Prize #8 - Two Nucleus Colonies donated by Holdman Honey

**Winner:**

**Stephen Perry of Kerrville, Texas**



Raffle Prize #9 - Two Nucleus Colonies and Division Frame Feeder donated by The R. Weaver Apiaries

**Winner:**

**Rex Johnson of Onalaska, Texas**



Raffle Prize #10 - Forty pound block Pure Bees Wax Donated by Moore Honey Farm

**Winner:**

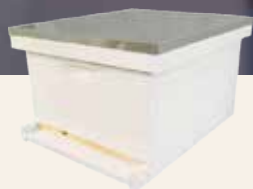
**Greg Rogers of Whiteface, Texas**



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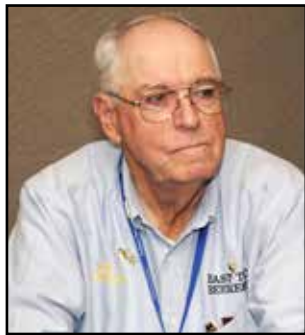
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## The Brantley Column

*from S. S. Brantley*

*2016 Life Member Texas Beekeepers Association*

*2017 Life Member Louisiana Beekeepers Association*

Now is the time for all good beekeepers to enjoy the finer things of the past year. There is really not much you can do during December except review your past year's work. Think about what you might have done differently and achieved better results. Maybe you did a cut-out (that is a lot of work) and did not confine the queen on all of that comb full of capped brood. In a couple of days, all of those bees just decided to leave for someplace unknown. I have experienced the same situation and for some reason the bees don't swarm out of the hive, they just disappear without a trace.

December is the time to reflect on your past months of learning more about the honey bee that you have invested your time and finances into to obtain what most beekeepers expect – a bountiful harvest of honey for sale or for a nice Christmas present to friends and next-door neighbors.

Cold weather will soon be upon us. You will need to check your hives for stores during the winter months. In the ArkLaTex area, there will still be days of weather warm enough to do an inspection inside the hive. On cold and windy days, you can estimate the amount of stores using the two-finger lift. If the hive feels light, feed 2-to-1 sugar syrup. Be cautious when you feed sugar water to your hives and do not spill it inside the hive. Spilt sugar water could start a robbing situation. Entrance reducers installed with the smallest opening could prevent a robbing disaster for a weak hive. Be zealous in your attention to your hives. Do not let them exhaust their stores and starve to death. Weekly attention through the cold months will pay dividends with more successful hives in March.

Did you attend your local bee club meetings? Did you participate in club functions? There are many opportunities to participate. There is always a need to help set-up before the meeting and clean-up afterwards. Maybe you may have had an experience that never happened before that you think might benefit other club members. Or, you may want to share something

you have been doing in your beekeeping activity that others might consider for their next year's operation. I know the program chair would be happy to schedule you to share at the next month's meeting.

Volunteer organizations need workers. For some reason, most people don't want to be in a place of responsibility. Why? Because they short change themselves by believing other members are more knowledgeable and have more to offer. But we all learn from shared experiences, whether our level of knowledge is sufficient for us to teach or whether our role is to raise a question and start a dialog. We are all in the club to learn and to do our best to improve the art of our chosen passion. So when you offer yourself for a leadership position in 2022, I suspect you will find at the end of your term, you have become more knowledgeable in all aspects of beekeeping.

I had the privilege of attending the 2021 Texas Beekeepers Association Convention in Galveston during November. There were some great speakers presenting different topics related to beekeeping. One interesting discussion about "Effects of Honey on Cancer" indicated the best US honey for medical use is Buckwheat Honey. If you are interested in obtaining more information, there are several articles available on the Internet.

TBA's campaign to improve the funds available to A&M Entomology students reached its goal thanks to generous donations from individuals and from TBA clubs. This is the Nevin Weaver Endowment Fund. It provides financial resources to the Texas A&M Bee Lab to complete vital research that benefits honey bees, the beekeeping industry, and beekeepers throughout the nation. We want to assist those young, bright minds who will in turn provide future beekeepers information to keep our associations headed in the right direction.



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# Hold a Honey Extraction Party

*"The Continuing Journey of Two Ninth-Year Small-Scale Beekeepers"*

TBA Journal Article – November 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*

Honey extraction. Serving friends. Right-sizing hives. Sharing stories. Taking inventory. Candle making. Planning. Harvest. Giving thanks. English clergyman Henry Alford wrote these great lyrics in 1844: "Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home; all is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin. God our Maker doth provide, for our wants to be supplied; come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home."

The two of us sat at our kitchen table last month planning Roger's 65<sup>th</sup> birthday. Take a trip...nah! Buy something...don't need anything. Have a cake...no icing, please. Hold a honey extraction event and birthday party simultaneously...what a great idea!

We invited several first-year beekeeping families to a multi-day extraction party in our garage. We finished our own extraction beforehand and so checked out all the equipment before the NewBees arrived. They counted their honey frames; some had a few frames and some had had three full boxes. We furnished the extraction equipment. They brought a 5-gallon pail for their honey and a coffee grounds container for their wax. We made appointments over three days.

We gave instructions ahead of time on how to harvest their honey. They kept back, on their hives, honey and nectar to resource their bees this fall and winter. We cleaned the garage. They battled wind, rain, and bees to remove frames from the hives as the weather turned cold and rainy on the days before the extraction party. We provided simple food and drink. They brought their buckets, opened the wax cappings, and helped keep the six-frame radial extractor from dancing across the garage concrete floor. Together, we marveled at their harvests. On cue, each beekeeper said, "That's the best honey I've ever tasted!"



Those three days were a lot of work for us, and the harvest joy made it all worthwhile. We're in bees for the beekeepers, and this event touched all the bases for us and, hopefully, our NewBees as well. We are thankful people and closer friends with these five families. We sat around the kitchen table telling life stories as we waited for honey to flow through the sieve and the wax cappings to drain. All of us worked hard to care for our bee colonies this last year, and we gathered in the harvest, both honey and wax, safely. It was a great birthday celebration!

The last NewBee left, so we cleaned our garage again. The bees found the equipment, set out for them under the trees about 100 meters from our apiary, and cleaned the last sweet bits. We bottled our honey, started making candles and wax products, and contacted faithful fall-honey customers letting them know the harvest was in. A few customers purchase 10 to 20 pounds to make sure it lasts until next fall's harvest.

Winter storms are already here in northeast Texas. The rainwater tanks are filling up, and the temperatures and leaves are falling down. We're mulching our plants and apiary. We will soon reduce the space in our colonies to their winter configuration. Oxalic acid vaporization, to treat varroa mites, is the next task reserved for a coolish 50-degree day in December.

God our Maker did provide, again, by supplying our needs and wants: friendship, hard work, useful skills to share, and hive products to open meaningful conversations. Honey bees are amazing, and God is great!

We'd love to hear about your beekeeping adventures and your club's plans for new beekeeper training!

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







## THBEA Update

*from Chris Doggett, THBEA Chair*

The Texas Honey Bee Education Association (THBEA) is a non-member, IRS designated under section 501(c)(3) non-profit, controlled entity of TBA. THBEA's current directors, appointed by the TBA Executive Committee, are Chris Doggett (Chairman), Jerry Maxwell, Chris Moore, Julie Norman, Ashley Ralph, John Swan, and Laura Weaver - Leesa Hyder, Sec.; Julie Haza, Treasurer

**THBEA began in 2016**, and according to its founding documents is organized exclusively to:

- enhance and expand the awareness of the contribution of honey bees to agriculture and to society,
- create additional appreciation and interest in the profession of beekeeping through studies in technical and scientific subjects,
- strengthen beekeepers' skills through education programs, and
- provide resources for continuing bee research particularly in areas that will advance bee culture, improve pollination, and conserve biodiversity.

**In 2021, THBEA had many successes**, despite the challenging environment. Its activities are broken into three broad areas.

- **Fundraising**
  - o Received a grant of \$13,253 from the Texas Department of Agriculture from the annual sale of the honey bee themed specialty license plates
  - o Conducted a fundraising campaign for the Nevin Weave Honey Bee Excellence Fund which raised \$100,000 the endowment
  - o Conducted THBEA's second annual online raffle (in progress) and silent and live auctions at the 2021 TBA Convention
- **Grants Awarded**
  - o Awarded an increased number of youth program grants to TBA-member associations and youth organizations; will soon be taking applications for 2022
  - o Awarded grants to honey bee research and pollinator promotion organizations
- **Projects**
  - o Developed a public-information campaign utilizing a new brochure - "You Can Help Texas Honey Bees...Here's How" and distributed more than 5,000 copies
  - o Reprinted the "NewBees' Guide to Texas Beekeeping" – approximately 10,000 copies distributed in three years

**THBEA may focus in 2022/23 on these additional potential projects:**

- Selecting the THBEA focus area for 2022/23 – In 2021 it was public education; 2022's focus will be on youth education through "Youth Day Events" at locations throughout the state.
- Award grants to TBA-member associations for youth programs
- Award grant to TBA for the 2021/22 Honey Queen Program

**THBEA receives funding from:**

- Contributions by beekeepers and those interested in supporting the beekeeping industry in Texas,
- Grants from other 501(c)(3) organizations whose goals are in line with THBEA's, and
- Grants from Texas Department of Agriculture for sales of the honey bee themed TxDMV specialty license plate. THBEA receives \$22 for each new plate or registration renewal.

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

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



Dear TBA members,

The holiday season is upon us, and with it come all the end-of-the-year last to-dos at the bee lab, as well as immense gratitude for all the accomplishments and support we received in 2021.

This is bound to be one of the longest pieces I've written in a while, mostly because of all the activities we have participated in over the past couple of months, so bear with me while I tell you about our presence and impact in October and November 2021.

First, I want to say that The Texas A&M Honey Bee Lab, Texas Beekeepers Association & Texas Honey Bee Education Association are thrilled to announce that we now have **OFFICIALLY SURPASSED** our original goal of raising to \$250,000 in the Nevin Weaver Honey Bee Excellence Fund. Through your support, we have raised the fund to a total of \$253,242 so far. This means that we now must set up a new achievable goal. What if we go for the next level, and reach \$300,000? A small gift of \$5 (or more) during this holiday season will provide students the opportunity to complete vital research that benefits honey bees, the beekeeping industry, and beekeepers throughout the nation. Thank you for considering joining us in the movement to save our bees through research and education. 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.

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

Now with the recent and future activities that our lab has been involved in. I was the keynote speaker for the Collin County Beekeepers Association on Tuesday, 11 October. The meeting was held virtually and in person (I spoke via Zoom), and my presentation was titled "Nutritional Ecology of Honey Bees in a Changing Landscape."

In late October-early November, me and my family embarked on a long, multi-city tour. First, we traveled to Florence, Oregon, from 21 to 25 October, as I was one of the keynote speakers for their annual fall convention. I gave talks on our recent nutrition work, as well as the work we've done on the factors that affect the reproductive health of queens and drones. More information about the Oregon State Beekeepers can be found at <https://orsba.org/events/categories/conferences/>. Then, we traveled to Seattle, Washington, to meet with collaborator and friend, Sue Cobey. I am delighted to say that we have been able to confirm her participation at next year's Art of Queen Rearing Workshop. More details on the event will become available early in 2022. Then, from 30 October to 3 November, we traveled to Denver, Colorado, for the annual meeting of the Entomological Society of America. I was invited to present at a symposium, and all our graduate students (Alex, Taylor, Jordan, and Myra), plus undergraduate student Mary Beth Buchman, presented at the conference. Additionally, I was busy coaching the graduate team that participated in the national Entomology Games, the trivia bowl competition that tests students' knowledge of historic and novel aspects of entomology.

Upon return from Denver, we went to Moody Gardens, Galveston, TX, for the annual TBA Convention. Our lab had a booth, and Cade Houston, Taylor Reams, and myself, spoke at the convention. Many folks are going to write more in-depth pieces about the many successes of this year's convention. So, I will briefly talk about ours. First, I want to thank my friend Silvana Lasagna, for her generous donations to our program. Silvana is a Chilean artist based out of College Station. She specializes in all kinds of painting and sculpture techniques, and also owns an art studio in which she teaches art to kids. A few years ago, Silvana and her husband began keeping bees. I'd like to think that our



friendship and my work had something to do with their new hobby. They now own a piece of land and six-to-eight colonies that they manage on a weekly basis. Because of our shared love for honey bees, Silvana donated two of her bee-themed paintings for the live auction at the convention. But most importantly, we decided to hold an art contest in which convention participants that visited our booth would have an opportunity to vote for their favorite of 13 different bee-themed paintings made by kids ranging in age from six to sixteen. The winner of the contest received a prize and a lot of notoriety! We hope to make this contest a recurring event at all annual conventions. We also witnessed the recognition of ET Ash and Jane Packard, who were recognized for their service to the beekeeping industry of TX. I am so proud of them, and so honored to be able to call them friends. We also saw the recognition of Mary Reed, who received the John G. Tomas Meritorious Service Award for all the work that she has done as Chief Inspector of the Texas Apiary Inspection Service. This was a very well received award. Congratulations to Mary and her team. Overall, the convention was a great success, and we received many additional donations to the Nevin Weaver endowment fund, which was just icing on the cake.

Finally, I was also this year's guest speaker for the (virtual) annual meeting of the Ontario Beekeepers Association, Ontario, Canada, on Saturday, 20 November 2021. My talk was titled "Nutrition as a Mechanism for Pathogen Defense" and was very well received! Hopefully I will get to visit them in person one day in the near future. It has been a crazy couple of months with lots of traveling and action, but I would not change it for the world.

The next session in the At Home Beekeeping Series will be Tuesday, 30 November, from 6:30-7:30 PM CST. Our speaker this month is our own Alex Payne. She will be speaking on honey bee-associated viruses. 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 as well as USDA ARS researchers. Each event will bring participants up to date on timely beekeeping topics with time for Q&A included.

The lineup for 2022 talks is as follows:

**January 25:** The many facets of honey bee nutrition, with P. Chakrabarti (MSU)

**February 22:** Integrated Pest Management in the hive, with Cameron Jack (UFL)

**March 29:** Methods for controlling Varroa that work, with Jennifer Berry (UGA)

Please help us out by sharing this info on your social media sites and sending the flyer to your partners and local beekeeping associations. 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/KSe55Cpn>. 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.

At last, 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 #16:** Rangel lab students presented oral talks at the annual meeting of the Entomological Society of America (ESA) in Denver, Colorado. All strong, smart, female scientists, who gave excellent talks and represented our lab with flying colors. We are very proud of Mary Beth, Myra, Jordan, Taylor, and Alex!!!!

**REASON TO CELEBRATE #17:** Rangel Lab Ph. D. student Jordan Twombly Ellis, who received the 1st place award, and to Mary Beth Buchman, who received the 2nd place award, both in their respective categories (graduate and undergraduate student competition), at the ESA meeting in Denver, CO.

**REASON TO CELEBRATE #18:** We are the National Runners-up of this year's Entomological Society of America Games!!! Congratulations to all team members: Joanie King, Fabian List, Jaclyn Martin, Morgan Thompson, and Amy Dickerson. We lost to the University of Hawai'i, but the games were a lot of fun and I am very proud of the team.

**REASON TO CELEBRATE #19:** Fresh off the press!!! Congratulations Alex Payne, Myra Dickey, and Taylor Reams, who just got selected among four graduate students to be awarded a scholarship in the amount of \$5,000 USD through the 2022 award cycle of the Foundation's Scholars Program. That means three of four for our lab this year, which is just FANTASTIC. The purpose of this scholarship, in addition to providing financial support for research, is to foster professional development of emerging apiculture scientists by allowing award recipients to attend the American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) Conference & Tradeshow. Besides the monetary award, the ABF will pay for all expenses for all three students to attend the upcoming event on January 5-8, 2022 in Las Vegas at the South Point Hotel. Way to go!





*Congratulations to all the former and current Rangel Lab students for presenting wonderful talks at the national meeting of the Entomological Society of America. From left to right: Dr. Adrian Fisher II, Alex Payne, Myra Dickey, Jordan Twombly Ellis, Taylor Reams, M.S., and myself. Jordan obtained first placed in her category and Mary Beth Buchman (now shown) obtained second place in the undergraduate category. We are very proud of you!*



*So proud of the Texas A&M University Graduate Team! We are the National Runners-up of this year's Entomological Society of America Games!!!*



*Dr. Rangel with Texas Honey Queen, Ms. Marie Yanchak, who was present at the TBA Convention. Congratulations Marie!*



One of two paintings donated by College Station artist Silvana Lasagna. Combined, both paintings fetched \$525 at the TBA Convention's auction. The funds were donated to the Nevin Weaver Honey Bee Excellence Fund.



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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## Do you know the rules for selling honey in Texas? (Are you sure about that?)

*from Lynne Jones, Fort Bend Beekeepers Association*



You might not be aware, but last year there was a big change for beekeepers selling honey in Texas. With little fanfare, the Texas Department of State Health Services posted an update to their website titled, *Beekeeper Honey Production Frequently Asked Questions – Added July 16, 2020*, and for all practical purposes, made the licensing exemption for “Small Honey Producer” irrelevant.

Texas now considers beekeeping and honey production to be “farm” activities and the rules for a farm apply to beekeepers when they harvest, extract, package, label, and sell pure raw honey. Now as a “Beekeeper Honey Producer” you can sell raw honey produced from your own bees/hives and do not need a license to bottle and sell, whether for retail or wholesale.

There are still rules though, and finding them is more difficult than before. The rules that apply to Beekeeper Honey Production can be found in these Federal and State regulations and guides. (All are hyperlinked.)

- [Code of Federal Regulations, Title 16, Chapter I, Subchapter E, Part 500, Regulations Under Section 4 of the Fair Packaging and Labeling Act \(16 CFR Part 500\)](#)
- [Code of Federal Regulations Title 21, Section 1.227 \(21CFR1.227\), Registration of Food Facilities](#)
- [Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Part 1, Chapter 229, Subchapter GG, Sanitary Transportation of Human Foods \(25 TAC 229\)](#)
- [Texas Agriculture Code, Title 6, Chapter 131, Bees and Honey, Subchapter E, Labeling and Sale of Honey](#)
- [Texas Health and Safety Code Title 6, Subtitle A, Chapter 431, Texas Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act](#)
- [FDA Classification of Activities as Harvesting, Packing, Holding, or Manufacturing/Processing for Farms and Facilities: Guidance for Industry](#)
- [FDA Guidance for Industry: Questions and Answers Regarding Food Facility Registration \(Seventh Edition\) August 2018](#)
- [FDA Proper Labeling of Honey and Honey Products: Guidance for Industry, February 2018](#)
- [Texas Department of State Health Services Frequently Asked Questions – Food Manufacturers, Wholesalers, and Warehouses, Beekeeper Honey Production Frequently Asked Questions – Added July 16, 2020](#)



If you skipped reading the list, I don't blame you. And really, who has time to read through all of these documents to find the bits and pieces that apply to beekeepers and honey?

What's really needed is a publication like the [Texas A & M AgriLife Extension's \*Selling Honey in Texas\* by Rebecca Dittmar](#) that described the Small Honey Producer rules; it had everything you needed to know and was easy to understand.

Until a new publication is available for Beekeeper Honey Production, and based on the research I've done, here is my understanding of the requirements for Beekeeper Honey Production.

## Honey Requirements:

- It must be pure raw honey from your bees/hives
- Farm activities that are permitted are:
  - Harvesting (uncapping, extracting, straining/filtering liquid honey and cutting comb honey)
  - Packing or holding (store in barrels, buckets, or any container not for the consumer)
  - Packaging (putting into containers for sale to the consumer) and Labeling
  - Drying/dehydrating honey
  - Blending other raw honey with your honey
  - Freezing, refrigerating, and warming honey (per DSHS, warming to less than 160°F is permitted)
- Manufacturing/processing operations are not allowed. Some examples of operations that are considered manufacturing/processing and are not permitted are:
  - Using heat to pasteurize
  - Whipping in air to make whipped honey (Which isn't how creamed/whipped honey is actually made, but that's a topic for another day.)
  - Adding/infusing anything to the honey (spice, flavoring, 'extra' pollen)

## Location(s) for harvesting, packing/holding, packaging and labeling:

- At the "primary production farm" (any location or building on the property where you have your apiary/apiaries).
- At the "secondary activities farm" (operation, not located on a primary production farm, devoted to any of the approved operations listed above. You must own, or jointly own, a majority interest in the secondary activities farm operation – you don't have to own the property, just the "operation." This means you can extract/bottle/store, etc. the honey away from your apiary. For example, your apiary in the country

is the primary production farm and your home where you extract/bottle/store is your secondary activities farm.

- You do not need a honey house or facility inspected by the TX Dept. of State Health Services.
- You do not need a license or to register with the State or any other government agency (as long as activities stay within the "allowable farm activities").
- Food Handler certificate is not required (but an online course only costs \$7 and educates on the basic food safety practices everyone should follow).

## Requirements for Sales:

- Limited to sales within Texas
- No annual dollar limit, no in-person requirement, no direct-to-the-consumer requirement
- Anyone associated with the "farm" can sell the honey (family members or employees)

## Requirements for Labeling:

- Texas Agriculture Code, Title 6, Chapter 131
  - If your label uses the words "honey," "liquid honey," "extracted honey," "strained honey," or "pure honey" to identify the product, it must be 100% pure honey.
  - If your label uses a picture or drawing of a bee, hive, or comb it can only be used on containers of 100% pure honey. (Something to consider if you sell, or plan to sell infused or flavored honey under Cottage Food Production Operations)
- Violating the labeling requirements above is a Class B misdemeanor
- Texas Health & Safety Code, Chapter 431 Sec. 431.082(f)(1) standard required labeling:
  - name of the product
  - net weight statement in (both metric and inch/pound units [16 CFR Part 500])
  - name and address of business/beekeeper
- A voluntary warning statement is recommended due to the chance that an infant could

contract Infant Botulism after ingesting honey. The statement commonly used is the following: "Do not feed honey to infants under one year of age."

- The following statement is no longer required: "Bottled or packaged in a facility not inspected by the Texas Department of State Health Services."
- Nutrition Information if your annual business sales to consumers are more than \$500,000 or your annual food sales to consumers are more than \$50,000. [Sec.431.082(q)(1) and (3)(D)]

In summary, you can now sell pure raw honey in-person, by mail, phone, and online from any location you choose. You can sell pure raw honey direct to the consumer as before, but now also to stores, restaurants, gift shops, or any other retail or wholesale business in Texas. Also, you do not need to bottle in an inspected facility, nor do you need a Food Manufacturer license.

*Disclaimer: I am not an attorney and my opinions should not be considered legal advice. Conduct your own research or consult an attorney.*

Lynne Jones is a 5-year beekeeper and owner of [Brazos River Honey](#). She serves as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Fort Bend Beekeepers Association and is an original member of the [Real Texas Honey™](#) program. She is currently at the Advanced level of the [Texas Master Beekeeper](#) program but needs to get motivated and start working on the requirements for Master.



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## Update from Texas Apiary Inspection Service

*from Mary Reed,, Chief Apiary Inspector*

Hello Texas beekeepers!

I hope all of you have had a successful fall beekeeping season and have already started gearing up for the winter months. This is a good time to make sure your bees have enough honey stores, remove queen excluders (if you use them), and think about reducing the hive entrance and shielding the screened bottom board if you live in a cold and windy location. All of these measures will help ensure that the bees stay well-fed and cozy during these colder months. Here at our office we have had a busy season getting our inspections completed. There are quite a few beekeepers who come to Texas in the fall to take advantage of the mild winter before heading out to California in January for almond pollination. Fortunately we have not seen any symptoms or issues out of the ordinary this season. Most of the hives have looked healthy and well-prepared for the coming months.

This fall we were able to hold an in-person exam session for the Texas Master Beekeeper Program for the first time since November of 2019. We had a great turnout for the Apprentice, Advanced, and Master levels, and I'm happy to say that everyone who participated passed their exams! Congratulations to all of

the participants and I hope we see you at a future exam session. We plan on hosting another in-person session in the spring on Friday, March 25th in Brenham, TX. More details about this upcoming exam session will be sent out to the program's email listserv and Facebook page at a later date. If you are interested in learning more about the TMBP, I recommend checking out the Program Requirements document available on the program's website (<https://masterbeekeeper.tamu.edu/program-requirements/>). If you have any questions about the program, please don't hesitate to reach out through the contact form: <https://masterbeekeeper.tamu.edu/contact-form/>.

As we finish out the year, I want to remind everyone that this is the perfect time to start planning your spring bee season. Whether that means ordering bees or queens, building new equipment, or polishing your trusty hive tool, you should use this time to assess how this past year went and what changes (if any) you want to make in this coming year. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact our office ([tais@tamu.edu](mailto:tais@tamu.edu); 979-845-9713). In the meantime, I hope you all have a safe and happy holiday season!



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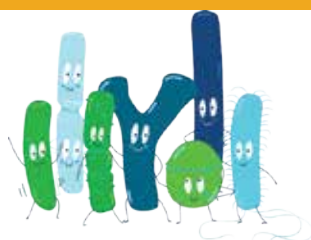
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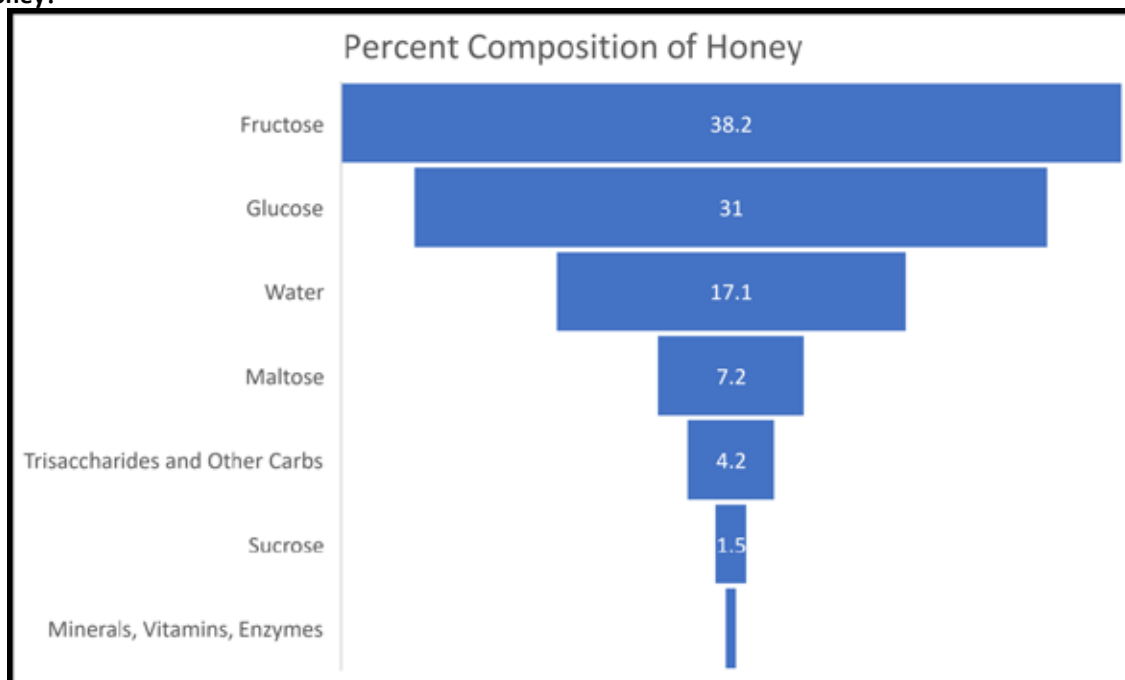
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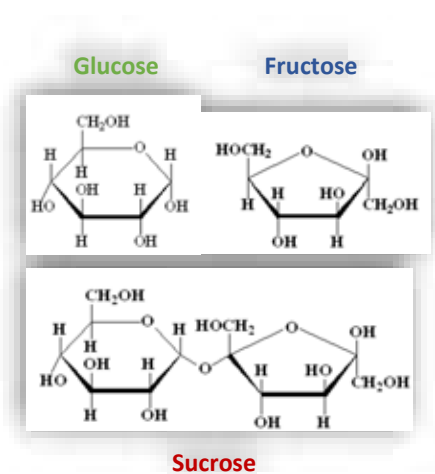
## Where Does Honey Fit into a Healthy Diet?

The holiday season is upon us and talking about the “D Word” is forbidden. However, immediately following the holiday season is the “I’m trying to eat healthy” season and it certainly does not hurt to think ahead. We all know the health benefits to being a beekeeper. The work and the harvest help us to keep physically active. Beekeeping can be mentally therapeutic also (and on the opposite side, it can make us mentally crazy). But how many beekeepers truly know the health benefits and the nutritional science of the product that we (along with the bees) produce? Most of us only know “it’s good for you” as a response to questions about how honey fits into diet. We also know honey is loaded with sugar (carbohydrates), which recently has been given a bad reputation. It may help us all to have more knowledge of the product that we (along with the bees) produce and sell.

**Most beekeepers know quite a bit about honey bee health, but how much do we know about the health of honey?**



Nutritionally, honey is around 70% carbohydrates. Sucrose, which is not found in honey, is table sugar and is actually a combination of both glucose and fructose and most often extracted from sugar cane. Glucose and fructose, the sugars found in honey, are molecularly different types of sugar. These chemical structures and the way that your body digests and processes them, make honey and table sugar very different.



**So, what are the differences in sugars and why is honey a superior sweetener?**

Some people might tell you that sugar is sugar. To some extent this is true. Calorically speaking, table sugar comes in at 16 calories per teaspoon compared to 21 calories for honey. However, because of high content of fructose in honey, our taste buds perceive honey to be 2-2.5 times more sweet than regular table sugar, so we are able to use a lot less to sweeten our food.

Sucrose is a disaccharide. It is one molecule of glucose and one molecule of fructose joined together. Your body cannot digest

sucrose as it is, so it must first separate the two molecules before it can even begin to digest and use it. Because of this, sucrose often lasts longer in the body than the either glucose or fructose alone, and subsequently your body can feel a very delayed feeling of satiation when eating plain table sugar and feel the effects of higher blood sugar for longer duration.

Glucose is a simple carbohydrate—a monosaccharide, which means it is a single sugar. In the human body, glucose is used for cellular respiration. For this reason, it is often referred to as "blood sugar" because it moves through the blood and diffuses across cell membranes. On an interesting sidenote, if honey has a higher glucose percentage, then it will crystallize faster. This is because glucose molecules are less soluble. When honey crystallizes more quickly, the sugar crystals are smaller and smoother. The slower honey crystallizes, the larger and grainier the sugar crystals become.

Fructose is a more complex sugar and almost 40% of the sugar in honey is fructose. In your body, fructose is absorbed by the lining in your small intestine. But since fructose is a more complex sugar than glucose, your body takes more time to digest it. In fact, your body must first convert fructose into glucose before it can be used. Because of this, fructose does not affect your blood sugar levels as immediately as glucose.

The quantity and quality of carbohydrates consumed affects insulin release in your body, hunger, and fat storage. The Glycemic Index (GI) is an objective way of measuring this effect. Sugars in food are often compared and categorized by their Glycemic Index. The lower the Glycemic Index, the slower the absorption and digestion process, which means a more gradual and healthier infusion of sugars into the bloodstream. It can also be a useful tool to identify foods that often are more nutrient-dense, as well as what foods are higher in refined carbohydrates. For reference, honey has a Glycemic Index around 49, and sucrose (table sugar) has a GI of about 65.

**Sometimes foods are healthy not for what they are, but what they are not.**



The word "natural" has been associated as something to be desired in our food. In most grocery stores, you will find an entire aisle dedicated to "natural foods." What exactly is a natural food? Is honey a natural food? A common definition of a natural food is a food that has not undergone treatment with preservatives and minimal processing.

Perhaps you have been told that honey is not a processed sugar. This is not entirely true. Honey is indeed a processed sugar, but in its raw form it is not a mechanically processed food. Honey is most certainly processed; however, it is processed *inside* the honeybee. The process of taking sugar cane and creating white table sugar involves a lot of mechanical processing and the chemical processing uses lime, sulfur dioxide, and bleach to create the product that is on your table. Honey goes through almost zero mechanical or chemical processing once it is out of the hive.

We all have a general idea of how the bees collect the nectar and how after the forager bee returns to the hive, the honey is exchanged from the honey sac of the forager bee and into the mouths of younger bees in the hive. Those bees pass around the nectar to one another, ingesting it and chewing it, and in this process the water content of the honey is reduced, and enzymes are added. These enzymes are the "preservatives" of honey.

There is an enzyme called invertase in the honey bee and it works to covert the sucrose in the nectar of the flower into two simple sugars: fructose and glucose. After this chemical reaction is complete, another enzyme called oxidase converts some of the glucose into gluconic acid and hydrogen peroxide. Honey is actually indeed very acidic, it has a pH of about 3.8, just slightly less acidic than oranges (average pH of 3.2) Many common bacteria require a pH of at least 4.0 in order to grow and multiply. For instance, E. coli requires pH 4.3 and Salmonella needs a pH of 4.0. The acidity of honey is what slows the growth bacteria and fungus, acting like a natural preservative.

The bulk of the composition of honey is sugar and water, but in that last 1% of its composition are some pretty magical ingredients. Honey contains a whopping eighteen free amino acids (proteins), the most abundant being proline. Also, honey has many B vitamins, including niacin, folic acid, riboflavin, B6 and pantothenic acid. Also, there are trace amounts of calcium, zinc, iron, magnesium, selenium, iron, manganese, and chromium. If you have ever wondered the difference between darker and lighter honey, one of those differences is that the darker honeys have higher levels of flavonoids, one of which is pinocembrin, and only found in honey and propolis.

### **So where does honey fit into exercise?**

If you eat honey before exercise, you allow for an instant, slow, and steady release of glucose and fructose into the blood. Because of the high content of glucose, honey can be absorbed into the bloodstream without the process of breaking it down. This allows for near instant carbohydrate fuel and can keep your body from using its stored muscle glycogen as fuel. Sparing muscle glycogen can keep fatigue at bay.

A bit later into a more strenuous workout, the fructose in honey would begin to be digested by the small intestine, again allowing for more fuel for your exercise. The glucose and fructose combined in honey allow for a consistent energy source without the long build-up time and crash that regular table sugar gives as carbohydrates. Honey can be a relatively longer-lasting source of energy for the body.

### **Conclusion**

Honey has a place in our diets and should be used whenever possible to replace table sugar. It is an excellent option for those looking to make healthier choices in the new year. It also makes an excellent workout carbohydrate for those looking to fuel up before or after any strenuous exercise.



### **About the author**

Dayna Druke is a professional beekeeper, ethical bee remover, and wannabe weightlifter in Fort Bend County, TX. She lives on a small ranch with her husband, 5 children, miscellaneous farm creatures, and about 200,000 bees, give or take a few.





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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**
- \* **North Dakota Beekeepers Association**
- \* **Texas Beekeepers Association**
- \* **Washington State Beekeepers Association**

**Kevin Rader: [Buzzus@beekeepingins.com](mailto:Buzzus@beekeepingins.com)**  
**[www.beekeepingins.com](http://www.beekeepingins.com)**  
**888-537-7088**



## Texas State Fair

*Article by Dodie Stillman, VP TBA*

“Mr. Wilmon Newell, State Entomologist, kindly loaned a most instructive exhibit and display, with mounted specimens, of the work and habits of the wax-moth.”

Over 100 years later in 2021, the State Fair of Texas is still going strong and so is the TBA Honey Booth! This year's Honey Booth saw an observation hive with new LED lights and a QR Code Booklet to help visitors gain information about their local bee clubs. Best of all we were able to award everyone that was able to find the queen in our observation hive with a TBA Honey Bee stamp! Also new this year, we had a non-stop video that played in the booth to recognize our sponsors.

Over 5,000 brochures from the Americas Beekeeping Federation and the Texas Beekeepers Association were handed out to over 6,000 booth visitors, but with only half the normal amount of booth volunteers, everyone was on our toes answering question about honey and honey bees. As the fair progressed, the booth filled with bottles of Texas honey donated by more than 30 different beekeepers. The honey was donated to Happy Hill Farm in Granbury, TX after the conclusion of the Fair. At that time it was estimated that 2.2 million people enjoyed the state fair this year.

Consider joining the volunteers that help make this booth a success next year. There are several opportunities available from donating a jar of honey to helping with booth set up or tear down, to actually manning the booth and talking about bees all day. Look for the volunteer opportunities to be highlighted here in the Journal later this year. If you'd like to volunteer for next year, reach out to the Talberts here [john.w.talbert@gmail.com](mailto:john.w.talbert@gmail.com) or [beekeeper1959@gmail.com](mailto:beekeeper1959@gmail.com)

If you happen to see Skip or John Talbert, give them a special THANK YOU for all the work they put in each year to support the Honey Booth!!



Current State Fair of Texas TBA Booth  
Coordinator – John Talbert (since 1992)  
assisted by Skip Talbert (2014)

According to an article published in the January, 1909 edition of Bee Culture, the Texas State Fair has had a long successful association with the TBA and Honey Bees.

“In spite of the short crop in Texas, the bee and honey department of the State Fair was a grand success. It was better and larger than at any previous fair, although the bee keepers in all parts of our State had long before disposed of their crops.”

Additional history recorded in the American Bee Journal from 1913 found these interesting quotes

“The State Fair of Texas, held annually at Dallas, and the Texas Cotton Palace of Waco have been very liberal in the encouragement given the bee-keeping industry. The making of premium lists has been referred to the Texas Bee-Keepers' Association, and superintendents and judges chosen by the latter body have been recognized by the Fair Associations.”

“The exhibits have been truly representative of the bee-keeping industry of Texas. This year's exhibit was the best that has been held. Mr. T. P. Robinson, of Bartlett, president of the Texas association, is Superintendent of the Bee and Honey Exhibit at the State Fair, and Mr. W. H. Laws, of Beeville, holds a like position at the Cotton Palace.”







*2021 Texas Beekeepers Association Honey Booth.*

*Honey that was donated by: Aggieland Honey, Barton Creek Honey, Bost Apiaries, Braden's Honey, BZB Farm, Crooked Creek Honey Farm, CS Apiaries, Don Schwertner, Eastside Honey Bee Management, Golden Blessings, Harvey Farms, Honey Oaks Farms, JL Honey Farm, Moore Honey, My Beez Honey, Oakley Family Apiaries, PachaMama Bees, Roo's Sweet Honey, Sabine Creek Honey Farm, Sally Bee Honey Co., STG Farms, Sunken Boot Honey, Susan Hastings/Mark White, Sweet Ass Honey, SweetNes Honey Beetique, Texas Honey Farms, Walker Honey Farm, WW B's*



*Texas Department of Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller pre-opens the GO TEXAN Pavilion for VIPs of the State Fair of Texas, City of Dallas, Texas Agriculture, and Grocery Industry. Mr. Miller was greeted by TBA Booth volunteer and American Honey Princess, Virginia Allen.*

## Thank You to Our Supporters

















Northeast Texas Beekeepers Association  
Canton, Texas





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

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

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## **Alamo Area Beekeepers Association**

Rick Fink - (210) 872-4569

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

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

**Meetings:** 3rd Tuesday on odd # months

Helotes Ind. Baptist Church

15335 Bandera Rd., Helotes at 7 pm

## **Austin Area Beekeepers Association**

Dodie Stillman - (512) 560-7550

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

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

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

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

Frank Fickett Scout Training and Service Center

12500 N I-35, Near Parmer Lane, Austin

## **Bees in the East Club**

Mark de Kiewiet (210) 863-8024

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

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

Water Garden Gems, 3230 Bolton Road, Marion,

## **Bell/Coryell Beekeepers Association**

Charles McMaster (703) 624-1337

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

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

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

## **Big Country Beekeepers Association**

Ken Hobbs - (325) 665-4045

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

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

1502 South Treadway Blvd, Suite B

Abilene

## **Blanco County Beekeepers Association**

Teri Albright - (512) 636-9900

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

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

Blanco County Annex South, 402 Blanco Rd., Blanco

## **Brazoria County Beekeepers Association**

Steve Brackmann - (832) 884-6141

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

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

[www.brazoria-county-beekeepers-association.com](http://www.brazoria-county-beekeepers-association.com)

**Meetings:** 2nd Monday of each month

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

## **Brazos Valley Beekeepers Association**

Nathan Krueger - (979) 324-1160

[info@bvbeeks.org](mailto:info@bvbeeks.org)

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

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

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

## **Caddo Trace Beekeepers Association**

Terry Wright - (903) 856-8005

[tcwright7021@yahoo.com](mailto:tcwright7021@yahoo.com)

**Meetings:** 2nd Monday of each month

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

## **Caprock Beekeepers Association**

Victoria Watts - (806) 392-2355

[mystique175@att.net](mailto:mystique175@att.net)

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

Freeway Bible Chapel, 5507 Marsha Sharp Freeway, Lubbock 79407

## **Central Texas Beekeepers Association**

Michael Kelling - (979) 277-0411

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

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

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

## **Chisholm Trail Beekeepers**

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

[scott@zirger.us](mailto:scott@zirger.us) or [chisholm-trail-beekeepers@googlegroups.com](mailto:chisholm-trail-beekeepers@googlegroups.com)

**Meetings:** Last Monday of each month

Burleson Bible Church, 260 South Hurst Road, Burleson

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

John (Skip) Talbert (706) 761-7893

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

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

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

Collin College Conference Center, (Central Park Campus)

2400 Community Dr., McKinney

## **Colorado County Beekeepers Association**

David Behlen (832) 230-5740

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

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

316 Spring Street, Columbus

## **Comal County Beekeepers Association**

James Cobarruvias (210) 858-9011

[jacobarruvias@att.net](mailto:jcobarruvias@att.net)

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

Beefy's on the Green Restaurant, upstairs room

12910 US Hwy 281N at 6:30 pm

## **Concho Valley Beekeepers Association**

Rex Moody - (325) 650-6360

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

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

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

## **Deep East Texas Beekeepers Association**

Ellen Reeder - (337) 499-6826

[ellenswartz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ellenswartz@sbcglobal.net)

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

**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

**Kaufman Area Beekeepers Association**

John Guthrie - (214) 686-8585

*kaufmanbeekeepers@gmail.com*

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

Kaufman United Methodist Church, 208 S Houston St, Kaufman

**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

**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

*contactnetba@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 pmLufkin/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 7pmBolin 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**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

### Area 1

**Charles McMaster**  
*mcmasterc@gmail.com*  
2204 Oak Hill Dr  
Copperas Cove TX 76522  
(703) 624-1337



### Area 4

**Byron Compton**  
*scot.n.tx@gmail.com*  
PO Box 563, 116 Blair Road  
Sadler TX 76264  
(201) 262-1862



### Area 2

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*jimmymiddlebrooks@gmail.com*  
138 PR 3759  
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(903) 987-0420



### Area 5

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



### Area 3

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*garybarber@mac.com*  
1709 Westchester  
Denton TX 76201  
(972) 768-5505



### Area 6

**Natalie Biggie**  
*beemindfulhoneyfarms@gmail.com*  
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Austin TX 78737  
(512) 699-0605



## Texas Beekeepers Association

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*ckdoggett@gmail.com*

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*Picture from Kirk Kirksey*