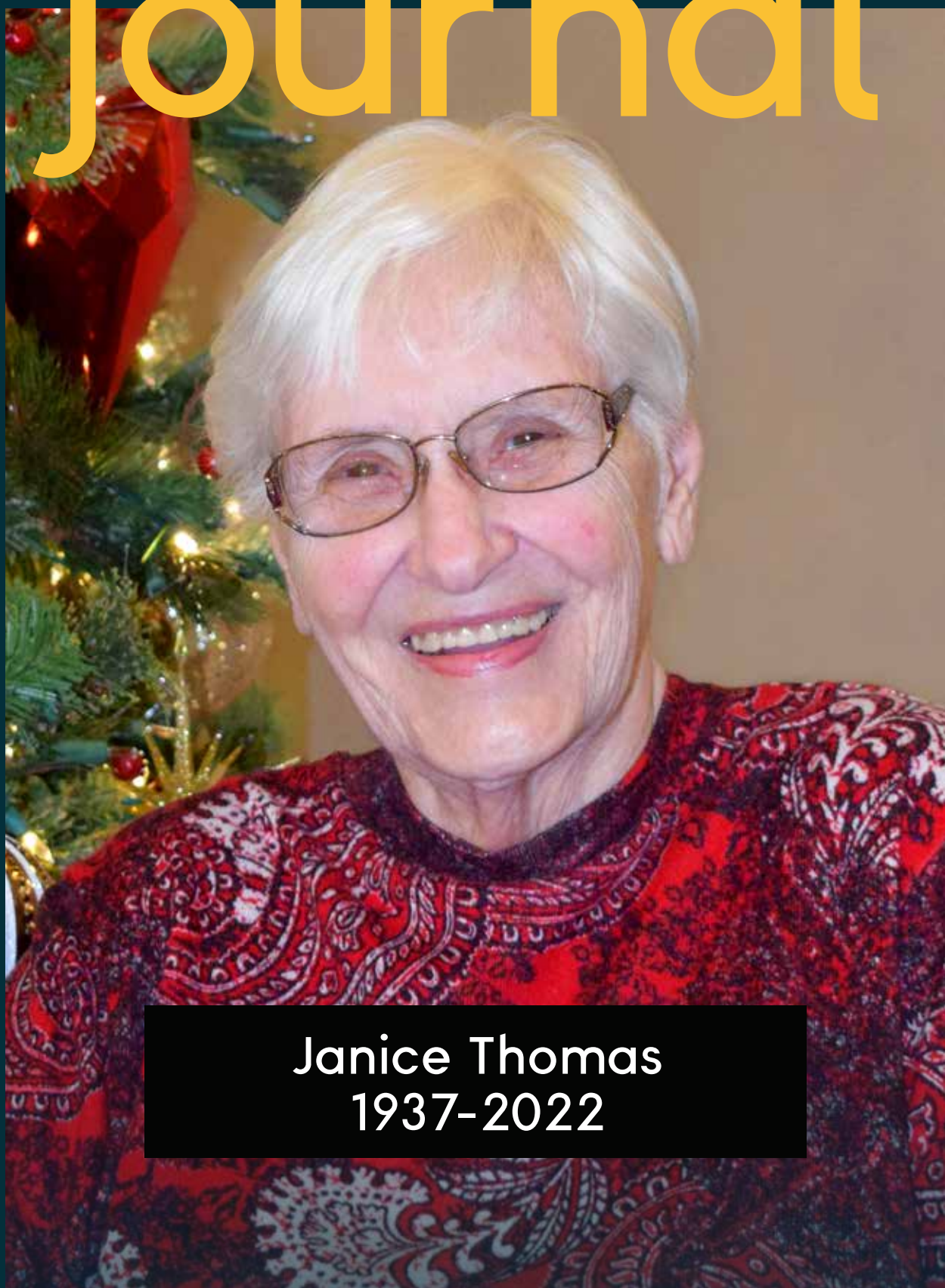


TEXAS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

journal



Janice Thomas
1937-2022



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Texas Beekeepers Association
CONVENTION
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Temple, TX

the president

has things to say



Ashley Ralph

TBA President

It's already been a busy year and it's only March - that seems to always be the case in the apiary, but especially this year on our end. Bees came back from almonds looking healthy and fed. It was immediately time to split the hives and drop queen cells in as we work to expand our apiary. This year's Texas weather challenges included a shortage of early pollen storage - we saw well fed larvae but less pollen stores for the time of year than in previous years. Similar challenges were echoed in other geographic regions in Texas and East Texas queen breeders had some challenges with jasmine, a bee toxic floral source that was prolific in this year's weather. As in everything beekeeping, there are always exceptions but these were some of the trends we saw early in the bee season. Queen breeding started a little later than last year for most beekeepers and is in full swing now.

I'm looking forward to the Central Texas Beekeepers Association Bee School although by the time this article comes out it will have already happened and I hope to have seen many of your faces there. TBA is busy in preparation for the Summer Clinic in Conroe (June 25) and we are so excited for our first summer event since COVID! We have amazing speakers lined up and a class-packed day. You won't want to miss the classes or the friendly beekeeper mingling. It's going to be fantastic!

If you're wanting to volunteer for roles or activities within TBA, please don't hesitate to reach out to myself or Dodie at president@texasbeekeepers.org or vp@texasbeekeepers.org. We have upcoming projects as well as ongoing roles and activities and would love to get you involved in the organization. We are looking for help with TBA social media - if you're a savvy, enthusiastic, and educationally driven beekeeper, we would love you to join the communications team as we create more resources for beekeepers across Texas.

Check out VP Dodie Stillman's article for many more details on the clinic as well as pages in this journal about how to register - you won't want to miss it!

I hope you're having a fantastic spring so far or ramping up to have a great spring season, I know we're all hoping for a better honey flow than last year!

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vice president's

report



Dodie Stillman

TBA Vice President

Looking out my window this afternoon and it's only 57° in early March... This was the 44th freeze of the season and 40th since the 1st of January. We had some temps as cold as 9° in the Hill Country this morning, these are the actual temps and not wind chill temps.

Texas has 12 Season's

Winter
Fool's Spring
Second Winter
Spring of Deception
Third Winter
The Pollening
Actual Spring
Summer
Hell's Front Porch
False Fall
Second Summer
Actual Fall

← you are here



This should be the coldest we get until the end of the year. However we will likely see another freeze tonight, and can't rule out additional freezes through early April, as the latest freeze on record in the Austin area is April 9th.

So we are just now leaving Texas' "Third Winter"... I'm looking forward to "The Pollening"!!! Getting ready to get deep into my hives to confirm all is well! They have all looked good so far and even saw orientating flights last weekend while checking on them.

For all the "stay at home" Beekeepers, are you as excited as I am to be able to get into your hives soon? Is your beekeeping calendar filling up?? I just spent a few days helping at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo in the

"Agventure" area talking about honey bees and pointing out the queen... If you ever want to improve your Queen spotting skills, sign up for a day at the Rodeo or the State Fair where all you do all day is point out the queen... you can really polish that skill!

I have a couple of local club meetings, and then the COVID Delayed Central Texas Bee School coming up quick. A day of honey bees and Blue Bell icecream!! What could be better?? How about

a couple of "bee pick-up" days on the calendar quickly following the Bee School?? Local club bulk buys and my own Queen pick dates are getting closer. Now, if we could just get the weather to start cooperating!

While the bees are getting ready for their busy season, I'm still busy in the background getting things ready for the honey bee educational extravaganza known as the 'TBA Summer Clinic'. If you're new to beekeeping, or new to the TBA, or have just been too busy working your hives to take a day off to enhance your beekeeping knowledge, you really should take a few minutes to investigate this unique event developed specifically for Texas Beekeepers.

The TBA Summer Clinic, held on June 25 and facilitated by the Texas Beekeepers Association to provide an opportunity for those interested in learning how to keep bees, to those wanting to enhance their beekeeping knowledge or to those who simply want to enjoy the fellowship of other beekeepers from across Texas, and beyond. Each year, the Planning Committee strives to provide essential education for beekeepers of all levels, knowledgeable instructors; new session topics each year for our returning attendees and nationally renowned speakers presenting on the latest industry trends. This year, we are introducing Shared Interest Groups, be sure to watch out for those!

Our keynote speaker this year is Dr. Keith Delaplane, Director, University of Georgia Honey Bee Program, who will share his insights, and also share information with us during the break-out sessions. Look for more information on Dr. Delaplane and his additional topics in this journal. In addition to Dr. Delaplane, you can attend five 50 minute break-out sessions selected from over 40 topics. There should be something for everyone! Check the next journal for a more detailed schedule, or watch the TBA website for the details.

The venue for the 2022 Summer Clinic will be the Lone Star Convention Center in Conroe, Texas. The event will also include: a vendor trade-show with multiple beekeeping supply companies; other interesting vendors, an information booth on the Texas Master Beekeeping Program and information on Beekeeping Clubs from around the state. Lunch is included in the registration fee: Adult (member) \$85; Adult (non-member) \$100; Children (4-12 years old) \$25. You can register online at www.texasbeekeepers.org.

This year's TBA Summer Clinic will be an event that you won't want to miss. We hope to see you there!



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the brantley column



S. S. Brantley

2016 Life Member Texas Beekeepers Association

2017 Life Member Louisiana Beekeepers Association

On February 15th, I opened my front window curtains and a flash of pink blossoms on the Chinese Magnolia greeted me. Trees, flowers, weeds and dandelions have continued to bloom. I saw Bradford Pears blooming on March 3rd and the first white colors of the Wild Plum on the 6th. Everybody in the East Texas Beekeepers Association knows Dick Counts says it is time to put your first super on the hive when the Wild Plum blooms. The nectar flow has begun!

The flow will get stronger during April. If you have access to pastures of Red Clover, relocate hives to these pastures as soon as you can. Red Clover will not bloom long after the middle of May.

New Beekeepers --If you have made arrangements with bee suppliers for Nucs and packages, you should receive them April to mid-May. If you receive package bees, install and FEED THEM until they draw eight frames in a ten frame box. If you want honey this season, I suggest you then discontinue feeding and add an excluder and a medium super. If you just want to grow lots of bees and not harvest honey until next season, then add second brood chamber and continue to feed sugar syrup as long as they will take it even though the flow is still going strong. When they stop taking sugar syrup, add an excluder and a medium super.

Sometimes it is difficult to get the bees to move up into a super full of new foundation. An old trick is to make passage around the excluder for the bees to access the super. Remove the super and rotate the excluder ninety degrees on the brood box. This leaves about a two inch gap at the front and back of the brood box. Replace the super and check in six days to see if the bees have moved through this extra space into the super. I have found this is usually successful in getting the bees to move onto the foundation and start to draw it out. The queen usually stays in the brood box as she tends to lay on drawn frames in the center of the box. When the bees start working in the super, turn the excluder to its proper orientation. If you notice brood in the super, your queen did move up through the gap. You will need to find her and move her back below the excluder.

Established Beekeepers – It is time to decide if you are going to split some of your hives or attempt to reduce swarming tendencies by requeening with a newly purchased queen. You may also consider starting one or more Nucs. Pull a frame of solid capped brood and place it in a Nuc box with a frame of eggs and a frame of honey and let them raise a queen. Or add a queen cell or a new caged queen. New beekeepers are always ready to buy good, locally produced Nucs.

If your hive is a double brood configuration, check and see if the bees have moved into the top brood box over the winter. If they are in the top box and the frames are full of brood, you may wish to reverse the top and bottom brood boxes and allow the queen more overhead expansion room. Remove the top and bottom brood box and scrape the bottom board clean. Then place the top brood box full of brood onto the bottom board. Put the original bottom box on top of the new bottom box. This will allow the queen to expand upward with her laying without feeling stress of overcrowding.

Supers can be filled quickly during a strong flow. Monitor your supers to determine when to add additional ones. One technique is called bottom supering. Additional supers are added to the hive under the supers already in place rather than being placed at the top of the stack. Some beekeepers believe placing the new super just above the excluder reduces the feeling of crowding in the hive and reduces the tendency to swarm.

For those of you who are building swarm traps, you need to get rid of the new wood smell to make them more attractive to bees looking for a new home. We typically add a frame of old drawn comb to entice the bees to enter. Another suggestion is to pick a handful of green grass, trees leaves, azalea leaves, or other blooming plant leaves and vigorously scrub the opening and inside of the swarm trap. This leaves the natural odor of the plant residue and covers the new wood smell.



SUMMER CLINIC June 25, 2022

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Author of "First Lessons in Beekeeping", Dr. Delaplane has been beekeeping since he was a child. He will bring his astute observations, experience, and an academic career in bee research to Texas this summer with topics like "Out of Africa or out of Asia? Honey bee biogeography and what it means for beekeepers" "Mutiny and other things that go wrong (besides mites)" and "Pollinator partnerships among bee species" Our favorite thing about Dr. Keith Delaplane is how he perfectly bridges the gap between bee research and practical beekeeper knowledge that helps build stronger bee colonies.



VARIETY OF TOPICS

BEGINNER

Getting Started Beekeeping

Bee Biology

All About Nutrition

Annual Management

INTERMEDIATE

Queen Performance & Breeding

Infused & Creamed Honey

Making Soaps & Salves

Urban Beekeeping

Growth Strategies

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summer clinic

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Professor - Dept of Entomology
University of Georgia



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Assistant Professor - Dept of Entomology & Nematology
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we bid farewell to

Janice Thomas

Obituary submitted by Valerie Thomas

Martha “Janice” Thomas of Bryan Texas died peacefully Sunday February 20 at her home, surrounded by family. She was 84, a lifelong Texan, and a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, aunt and friend.

Janice was born to Jack and Dorothy Davis in Greer County, Oklahoma in 1937. She attended Wellington High School in Wellington, Texas along with her future husband, John. They tied for the class salutatorian, and she graciously ceded speakers privilege to him based on the flip of a coin. She had a life-long passion for education, fostered by her parents, both teachers and education was a cornerstone of her life. Janice received her Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from the University of Texas becoming the third generation of women in her family to graduate from college. After college, Janice married John and moved to Bryan where she lived most of her life. Janice and John were long time members of the A&M United Methodist Church and resided at Arbor Oaks for the last 8 years of their lives.

Janice worked at Texas A&M in the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences, testing for pesticide residues under Dr. Jack Price. She paused to raise her kids, providing the support, time and logistics that raising children always requires. Later, she worked for many years with her friend Bobbi, at Bobbi’s Bookstore in Bryan. During this all, she supported John’s passions for farming and beekeeping, routinely putting numerous hours into the family farm including bee keeping. Her children still remember many trips from the Rio Grande Valley to the Texas panhandle and back, hauling hives. After retiring, she and John held many volunteer positions, hosting international groups for the Agriculture International Program, and spending many hours supporting the Texas Beekeepers Association and ‘manning the booth’ for TBA. Seldom was she absent from a TBA meeting that Dr. John attended. While he was the speaker of the family at beekeeping meetings, she was truly the heart of the couple, and she met and kept many dear and life-long friends through TBA.

Her parents cultivated her love of travel, and she traveled extensively, making many trips throughout the US and world, including a trip to Europe in 2021. She was always a gracious traveler and recognized that traveling could also be a great learning experience, exposing one to different cultures, ideas and people. She instilled this curiosity and love of travel in her children and grandchildren. Janice also has a special place in her heart for education, encouraging all she met to learn and enrich their lives. She always encouraged others to continue educating themselves and supported the education of several family and friends,

through her emotional support, through private donation, and through the fund she endowed at Texas A&M College of Education and Human Development.

Janice was always devoted to family. Her lesson by example was always “family is more than who you are related to by blood” and she dearly loved all of her blended and extended family. She taught her children so much about love, family, grace and joy, how to be present, and how to care first about others. Numerous of her children’s friends passed through the house for short or long periods, and she was ever caring and patient. She was always ready and willing to travel to assist family, taking care of parents, aunts, and uncles with her sister LaVena and later, making many trips to help with her grandchildren when needed. By example, she instilled in her children a compassion and respect for others, regardless of their background, politics or where they came from. This love also extended to many lifelong friends, who will miss her warmth and smile.

Janice is preceded in death by her son, Wesley M. Thomas and husband John G. Thomas. She is survived by many loving family members, daughters, Valerie Thomas (Jeff Luzenski) and Lisa Fahlquist (Tommy Lukens), sister LaVena Pritchard, sister-in-law Ada Rummel, grandchildren, Erin and Caelin Lukens, Zach Hamilton, and Logan and Cassie Luzenski, nieces, grand-nieces and grand-nephews, and many dear friends. Thanks to the many family members, including niece and nephew-in-law, Carolee and Gordon Schuck, to her grandchildren who made her last few months wonderful by visiting and assisting in her care, and to many wonderful caregivers including Margaret Corral. A Celebration of Life service for both Janice and John will be scheduled in the early summer.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be added to the Janice Thomas Student Assistance Fund Endowment which is used as emergency support for students in the College of Education and Human Development at Texas A&M University. Donations can be sent to the Texas A&M Foundation, 401 George Bush Drive, College Station, Texas 77840. Please make checks payable to “Texas A&M Foundation” and designate gifts “In memory of Janice Thomas” in the memo line. Gifts may also be made online by visiting <https://www.txamfoundation.com/> and clicking on the “Give Now” button at the top of the page. Please select “The General Memorial” in the “Select a Unit or College” field, and then indicate that the gift is in memory of Janice Thomas. Alternately, donations can be made to a favorite charity.



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the rangel report



Dr. Juliana Rangel

Assistant Professor of Apiculture - Dept of Entomology
Texas A&M University

Dear TBA members,

It is finally spring time in Central Texas, and with it come lots of activities at the TAMU Honey Bee Lab. This has been an incredibly busy semester for me. As I mentioned in the last column, I am teaching three courses: the undergraduate courses ENTO 320 Honey Bee Biology and ENTO 321 Introduction to Beekeeping, as well as the graduate seminar course on Insect Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology. All while also supervising all of our research projects and traveling around the country to speak at various beekeeping organizations.

I was the invited speaker for the monthly meeting of the Montgomery County of Pennsylvania Beekeepers Association. The meeting took place on Thursday, 27 January, and can be found at <https://www.montcopabees.org/event-4109062> I was then Keynote for the South Carolina Beekeepers Association Spring Conference on 25-26 February in Spartanburg, SC. I have a couple of talks about our recent work on bee nutrition. More information about the meeting can be found at <https://scstatebeekeepers.com/>

I was also an invited speaker of two remote presentations for the 2022 Integrated Pest Management Workshop & Breeder's Day organized by the Alberta Beekeepers Commission, in Edmonton, Canada, on February 10-12. More information can be found at <https://www.albertabeekeepers.ca/2022-ipm/>

On Saturday, 5 March I was the keynote speaker for the Worcester Beekeepers Association of Massachusetts, the oldest beekeeping organization in the U.S. It was founded in 1900 and has hundreds of members from all over New England. This was my second time visiting the group and it was truly a delight being in Massachusetts again. More details can be found at <https://wcbamembers.wildapricot.org/Bee-School-2022>

This past Saturday, 26 March we had the 12th annual Central Texas Beekeepers Association Bee School at the Brenham high school. With over 750 participants, the event was as great as ever, after a one-year hiatus due to COVID-19 restrictions. Our lab participated with a total of FIVE talks by, Taylor Reams, Myra Dickey, Jordan Twombly Ellis, Dr. Tonya Shepherd, and me. Thank you to all the organizers for a wonderful event.

Now for some upcoming events. The next session in the At Home Beekeeping Series will be Tuesday, 29 March 2022, from 6:30-7:30 PM CST. Our speaker this month is Dr. Jennifer Berry from the University of Georgia. She will be speaking on methods of Varroa control that work. 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. 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/1cDO2T7Qg>. Feel free to re-share this post from our site or create your own post with the jpgs attached. Information for the entire series can be found here: <https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/bees-pollinators/at-home-beekeeping-series/?cn-reloaded=1>

The lineup for 2022 talks is as follows:

- March 29: Methods for controlling Varroa that work, with Jennifer Berry (UGA)
- April 26: How to make great queens and avoid poor ones, with David Tarpy (North Carolina State University)
- May 31: Costs and benefits of propolis to honey bees, with Frank Rinkevich (USDA ARS)
- June 28: Planting for honey bees, with Katherine Parys (USDA ARS)

One of our funding agencies, Project Apis m., is excited to announce their first webinar of 2022. This is a one-hour program on April 5th, at 6:00 pm (CST). The event features a presentation by Dr. Vanessa Corby Harris, of the USDA-ARS Carl Hayden Bee Research Center, Tucson, AZ. who will discuss a current research project, entitled, "Toward a more comprehensive assessment of honey bee pollen substitutes." This research, which was funded by the Healthy Hives initiative in 2020, is a large-scale comparison of commercially available protein supplements and their impacts on bee health. The presentation will be followed by a live Q&A with Dr. Corby-Harris, and commercial beekeeper, Blake Shook, of [Desert Creek Honey](#), TX, who is a collaborator on the project. To attend this free event, please register [HERE](#).

The most important upcoming event is our Art of Queen Rearing Workshop, which will take place all day Saturday, 21 May, and half day on Sunday, 22 May 2022. We have a great line up of speakers: Sue Cobey, Dr. Jennifer Tsuruda (University of Tennessee), Melanie Kirby (Zia Queens, NM), Megan Mahoney (Commercial Queen Producer in Texas), and members of the Rangel Bee lab. Registration will open soon, and it will be \$200 for the two-day event. More information, including the finalized schedule, can be found on our Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/events/684273012756447>

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

REASON TO CELEBRATE #21: Congratulations to Alex Payne for receiving the highly prestigious Comstock Award from the Southwestern Branch of the Entomological Society of America. Congratulations Alex! This award is given to a graduate student from the Southwestern Branch to promote interest in entomology at the graduate level and to stimulate interest in attending the fall/winter ESA Annual Meeting. The winner will be recognized at the Southwestern Branch Meeting and will receive an all-expenses-paid trip to the ESA Annual Meeting, a \$100 cash prize, and a certificate.

REASON TO CELEBRATE #22: Congratulations to Taylor Reams, Co-PI, for our recently awarded grant from the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign. The proposal is titled "Novel method for Varroa control: utilizing worker brood to control mite populations."

REASON TO CELEBRATE #23: Congratulations to Jordan Twombly Ellis, Co-PI, for our recently awarded grant from the Eastern Apicultural Society. The proposal is titled "Determining the drivers of precocious honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) self-removal behavior."

REASON TO CELEBRATE #24: Congratulations to former Rangel Lab member, Dr. Adrian Fisher II, who was just awarded a Postdoctoral Presidential Fellowship at Arizona State University. The purpose of the fellowship is to provide a year of funding for a postdoc and serve as a lead in for a tenure-track position here at ASU. We are very proud of Adrian and his accomplishments!

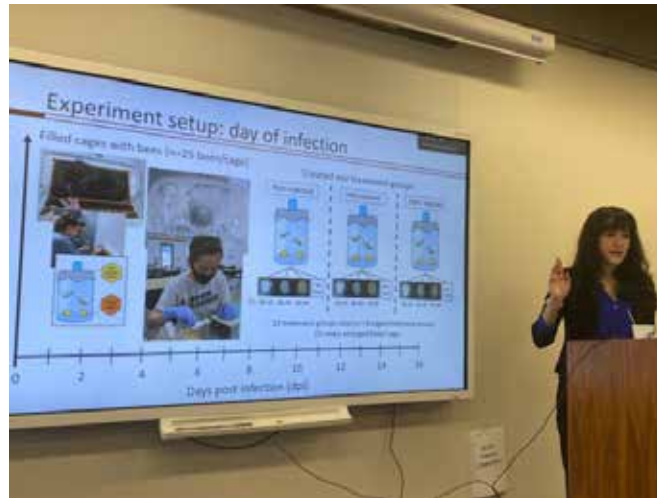
REASON TO CELEBRATE #25: Congratulations to Alex Payne for successfully defending her Ph. D. dissertation. Dr. Payne will be graduating in May and will move to the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign to work in the laboratory of Dr. Adam Dolezal on projects related to honey bee-associated viruses and microbiome interactions. We will definitely miss you Alex!

That is all for now.

It was great seeing you all at the CTBA bee school recently. 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/TAMUhoneebeeelab>.

Sincerely yours,

Juliana Rangel



Alex Payne during her dissertation defense. She will graduate with a Ph. D. in May 2022!



Rangel lab graduate students Taylor Reams, Jordan Twombly Ellis, and Myra Dickey, at our booth for the Central Texas Beekeepers Association Bee School in Brenham, TX.

Fundraising update, Nevin Weaver Endowed Excellence Fund

We are grateful for the new matching donation to the Nevin Weaver Honey Bee Excellence Fund! Mr. Stanford Brantley made the donation to honor the memory of Janice Thomas. Mr. Brantley will match dollar for dollar all donations made to the endowment up to \$5,000! This will kickstart our new fundraising goal of reaching \$300,000 in the fund by summer 2022. We are currently at almost \$255,000.

In conjunction with the Texas Beekeepers Association and the Texas Honey Bee Education Association, we are asking our supporters to help us reach our goal by donating any amount to the Nevin Weaver Endowed Excellence Fund. A gift in any amount 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.

Currently here are some of the projects we are working on with my Ph. D. Students:

- Myra Dickey (3rd year) is looking at the prevalence of pathogens in a wild (unmanaged) population of Africanized honey bees in South Texas (the Welder Wildlife Refuge, or WWR, near Sinton). She collects bees from tree cavities and determines the types and levels of honey bee-associated viruses, as well as levels of *Nosema ceranae* and *N. Apis*, found in wild colonies, and is comparing them to those in nearby managed apiaries. So far she has found that, according to our predictions, wild colonies have very low levels of viruses. She'll be going with undergrads to the WWR to collect bees this spring when *Nosema* levels are at their highest.

- Jordan Twombly Ellis (3rd year) is looking at the mechanisms and/or drivers of premature self-removal behavior in workers that leads to premature death. She has already found that this behavior is caused by stress, as she has found that up to 8% of a colony's worker force leaves the colony prematurely (dropping to the ground) at days 4 to 7 of age (way too early to be foragers) due to heat stress, cold stress, varroa parasitization, and/or pesticide exposure during development. She is doing a lot of gene expression and hypo pharyngeal gland size analyses to correlate with her observational data.

- Taylor Reams (4th year) is exploring Varroa behavior, in particular, how it makes the decision on which bees to hitch a ride on during the dispersal phase, and how they make the decision of which developing bee's cell to invade (worker or drone) based on factors such as cuticular hydrocarbons and number of drones vs. worker cells present in the hive. She has also tested (and found very interesting results for) the hypothesis that starving worker larvae for 2 hours or 4 hours leads to higher Varroa parasitization, which could be a method to be used for IPM of Varroa. She's also working on the population genetics of Varroa in the US (so far only TX, MN and ND because of costs).

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

Sincerely,

Juliana Rangel



At Home Beekeeping Webinar

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

- March 29: Methods of controlling *Varroa* that work, with J. Berry (UGA)
- April 26: How to make great queens and avoid poor ones, with D. Tarp (NCSU)
- May 31: Cost and benefits of propolis to honey bees, with F. Rinkevich (USDA ARS)
- June 28: Plantings for honey bees, with Katherine Parys (USDA ARS)

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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Project *Apis m.* 2022 Webinar Series

Presents: “Toward a more comprehensive assessment of honey bee pollen substitutes”

Featuring:

**Dr. Vanessa Corby-Harris, Research Physiologist, USDA-ARS
Carl Hayden Bee Research Center, Tucson, AZ**

and

Blake Shook, Commercial Beekeeper, Desert Creek Honey

APRIL 5, 2022 at 7:00PM (EST) - 8:00 PM (EST)

Free Event!

[Please Register Here](#)



Project *Apis m.*

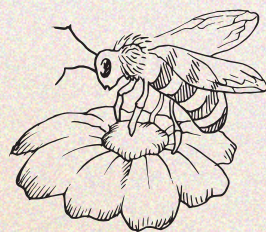
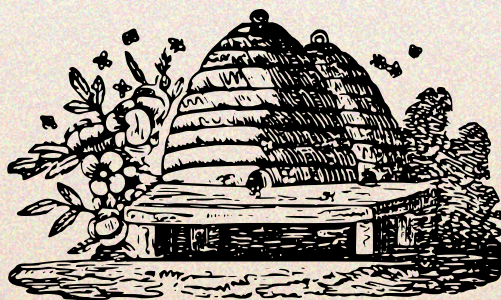
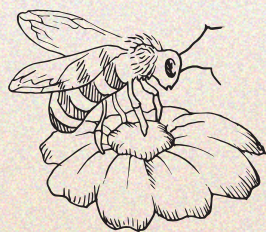
HEALTHY *Hives*



Dr. Corby-Harris will present her Healthy Hives-funded research comparing commercially available nutritional supplements in a large-scale commercial field trial. Her presentation will be followed by a Q&A where she'll be joined by the beekeeper hosting the trial, Blake Shook.

Bring your questions, or email them in advance to Grace at Grace@ProjectApism.org.

Can't make it during this time slot? [Click here](#) and sign up for our eNews to be notified when the recording is available.



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Texas Honey Bee Education Association
Fundraiser in Memory of Janice Thomas

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.

**Mr. Stanford Brantley has generously offered
\$5,000 in matching contributions to the Nevin
Weaver Endowment Fund, in memory of Janice
Thomas (1937-2022)**

**Please make your generous contributions to
Texas Honey Bee Education Association**

**There will be a Donate button on the THBEA website at
THBEA.com, or send checks payable to THBEA to Shirley Doggett,
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Chief Apiary Inspector Position at Texas A&M University

The Department of Entomology at Texas A&M University seeks applicants for a vacant Chief Apiary Inspector position for the Texas Apiary Inspection Service (TAIS). The duties and responsibilities of the Chief Apiary Inspector include overseeing all activities of TAIS including regulatory actions, supervising personnel and developing the educational aspects of the program. As the Chief of TAIS the incumbent has the statutory authority to propose rules that support enforcement of the Texas Administrative Code that governs TAIS activities (<http://txbeeinspection.tamu.edu/regulations/>).

Specific Duties. The incumbent must maintain a good working relationship with the Texas Beekeeping Association (TBA). This includes attending their annual and summer meetings and to provide updates on regulations and rules to enforce those regulations. In addition to working closely with TBA, the Chief serves as the primary point of contact for USDA when TAIS is requested to participate in national surveys whereby samples are to be collected from apiaries. On rare occasions it may become necessary to declare a quarantine for specific colonies or beekeeper(s) to contain disease, exotic pests, or undesirable races of honey bees. While TAIS is not an agency that enforces regulations, it does work with local police and county judges to file charges where appropriate. This may result in seizure of bees, equipment, pollen, and honey, to enforce bee laws and regulations. The incumbent will work with municipalities on honey bee-related issues and code recommendations and will serve as a point of contact for media interviews regarding honey bees.

Principal apiary inspection duties include overseeing the inspection of regulated honey bee colonies and issuing permits for import, export, and intrastate movement of colonies and issuing certificates of inspection. Record keeping in electronic format is done through an in-house data management system that documents apiary inspections. The Chief or his/her designee(s) will maintain records on permits issued, email lists, and other necessary data needed to operate TAIS. The primary focus of TAIS is to serve the full-time, commercial honey producers and those beekeepers focused on pollination services. TAIS is also charged with educating the public on topics related to beekeeping. This is accomplished by coordinating the Texas Master Beekeeper Program.

The incumbent is to work closely with TAMU faculty who are actively engaged in apiculture research. The Chief and his/her staff may participate in applied research projects that will assist beekeepers with management of honey bee diseases, parasites, and pathogens, but there needs to be a direct tie between the research activity and their regulatory responsibilities. The incumbent is expected to attend national professional society meetings as appropriate, including the annual meeting of the Apiary Inspectors of America. The appointee will be responsible for maintaining a website and an electronic payment system for permits.

Administrative Relationship. The Chief reports to the Department Head of Entomology and is responsible for writing a detailed annual report. Data captured in this report serve as evidence that the activity of the unit is such, that the specific requirements of the unit in state statutes are being accomplished. The Chief will supervise an Assistant Chief Apiary Inspector and as necessary other Apiary Inspector(s) and provide continuing education for TAIS staff as appropriate.

Qualifications. The Chief will have at a minimum a B.S. degree in Entomology or a closely related field with 3+ years of experience in working with honey bees. The preferred candidate will have 5+ years experience in honey bee regulatory activities. Preference will be given to applicants with an M.S. degree where the focus of their research was on some aspect of apiculture. The successful candidate will have experience in relevant regulatory activities and in supervising personnel. The preferred candidate will demonstrate a working knowledge of the beekeeping industry through direct experience. The successful candidate will demonstrate an ability to identify and recommend appropriate action to minimize the impact of honey bee pests, parasites, and diseases. The incumbent needs basic laboratory and computer skills and fiscal management experience. Evidence of successful grantsmanship is desired. The incumbent must have excellent verbal and written communication skills, must not be allergic to bee stings, be able to lift 50 pounds repeatedly, work outdoors in remote locations and in difficult conditions, and able to travel for extended periods of time. Applicant must be eligible to operate a state vehicle. If necessary, the Chief may be required to obtain through the Texas Department of Agriculture a certified pesticide applicator's license paid by TAIS.

To Apply: General inquiries about this position may be sent to:

Carla Smith
Department of Entomology
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX 77843-2475
U.S.A.
979-845-9739

E-mail: carla.smith@ag.tamu.edu

A complete position description and specific duties is available in Workday through which all applications must be received.

External applicants apply at https://tamus.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/AgriLife_Research_External/job/College-Station-AL-RSCH/Chief-Apiary-Inspector_R-046839

Follow website directions for completing an on-line application and uploading and attaching a cover letter, resume, college transcripts and other supporting documentation. The position is available immediately. Interested individuals are encouraged to submit their applications ASAP. We anticipate reviewing applications in mid-April 2022, conducting interviews with an expectation that a new Chief inspector can begin by no later than July 01, 2022. Contact Carla Smith (above) if you experience problems. **All individuals must apply via this on-line application process. We CANNOT accept walk-ins or applications/resumes via email and/or mail.**

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TAIS update



Bill Baxter

Acting Chief Apiary Inspector, Texas Apiary Inspection Service

It is 2022-not sure it's spring!

Scattershooting while wondering whatever really happened to Billy the Kid.

We have gotten calls from several commercial beekeepers saying their bees have really gone downhill since January. Every year I think it a cold late spring, it seems colder yet. Seems any pollen or nectar is late this spring. Usually there are clouds of bees on elm trees and I haven't seen it. The 2 cold spells in Feb really hurt, I think. Never think your bees are OK just because they were 2 weeks ago. There's an old saying amongst cow men that "February shakes 'em and March takes 'em" and I think that can apply to bees also.

The issue of bee removals seems to be one that will never be set in concrete. We have had and will have discussions about this with TBA officers and members. We list people on our bee removal tab as a service to the general public. That is not our only mission, so I gently ask beekeepers to use discretion in listing # of counties on form. You can always e-mail or call us to add a county. We are not entering a beekeeper's name in all 254 counties, even though I have been in every one. We do get complaints from the public (and beekeepers) about prices and practices. One of the duties of a responsible beekeeper is to not take advantage of John Q Public's lack of knowledge or fear of bees. The fancy word for that is reprehensible.

Our chief inspector position is listed nationwide and across Canada as well, so we are searching for a good fit for our beekeeping industry

In closing, as I grew up in the Vietnam era, I know war is bad. At the risk of sounding as a social conscience, our thoughts and prayers should be with the people of Ukraine. We go back to our own homes and beds each evening, turn on the big-screen TV and take it all for granted and gripe some more.

Love to TX bees and beekeepers, Bill

A promotional poster for the 2022 Fall Seminar. The background is dark blue with yellow and white geometric shapes. At the top left, "2022" is in large yellow font, followed by "FALL SEMINAR" and "FEATURING KEYNOTE SPEAKER JEFF HORCHOFF 'MR. ED' BEEKEEPING AT THE ABBEY". In the center is a circular portrait of Jeff Horchoff, a man with a beard and sunglasses. To the right of the portrait is a yellow circle with "TICKETS \$25". At the bottom left is a circular logo for "NETBA BEEKS CANTON 2022 FALL SEMINAR". At the bottom right is the text "EVENT SCHEDULE & REGISTRATION AT NETBABEEKS.ORG" next to a logo of three yellow hexagons. At the bottom left, smaller text reads "6 presentations*black jar contest*vendors lunch included PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED. TICKET SALES ARE LIMITED."



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helping them prepare for hard days



Roger and Sue Farr

Caddo Trace Beekeeping Association

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Beekeeping includes some wonderful experiences, lots of plain-vanilla days, and a few really horrible times in the bee yard. We call these horrible times “bee events.” We have the privilege and responsibility as mentors to help NewBees understand this and be able to evaluate and respond properly to bee events. We don’t want NewBees to have one bad experience, either for an hour or recurring throughout a year...and then just quit beekeeping. That does none of us any good. If we as mentors have done our jobs well during introductory bee school, then those NewBees who think that they want to be in beekeeping for some wrong reasons will never actually become beekeepers.



Figure 1- Installing a nucleus colony in a NewBee's apiary.

Below are some bee events that might make a NewBee quit their beekeeping experience. We’re sure that you could list other bee events related to your area’s weather, flowers, and bees.

“Bad Hair Days” – We take the outer cover off, remove the inner cover, hear a train roar, and see hundreds of bees fly to my veil. The Problem: The colony is having a “Bad Hair Day,” and whatever

we had planned for that inspection isn’t going to happen. The Solution: Smoke the top box, replace the inner cover, put the outer cover on, and move away 100 feet to regroup. A normally docile colony can be on edge for a number of reasons, none of which, necessarily, has to do with the NewBee. Rather, something is or was happening in the colony, and we just happened to open the colony at an inopportune time. Close them up and regroup. Move on to the next colony to continue your inspection.

“Taking Too Long” – The inspection is going well until, suddenly, it isn’t going well. The Problem: The NewBee has spent too much time in the colony, and the bees are now at the “runny” stage. The Solution: Do what we absolutely have to do, keep the smoker at hand, finish, and move on before the bees revolt.

“Hide-and-Seek Queen” – We usually don’t need to see the queen; we look for queen presence: brood in all stages. The Problem: Sometimes we must find the queen today. She may refuse to cooperate. The Solution: Realize that the queen is probably on a frame with open brood, but she might be on any frame in the hive or on the top, sides, or bottom of the hive. She wants to go down in the colony away from the light. We’ve learned to always bring extra equipment to the apiary; you never know exactly what you’ll find in opening the hive. Carefully examine every frame and place it in a separate hive box off to the side of the main hive. Repeat. Hold each frame over the full box, search carefully for the queen, and then transfer that frame to the empty box on the lid. Repeat for each frame in the box. Look for the queen inside the now empty box. Shake remaining bees into the other box. Check for the queen on the cover. Take a deep breath. Remove the next box and carefully search for the queen on each frame. When you reach the last frame on the bottom box, be ready to repeat as necessary as you again look frame-by-frame and reassemble the hive on its original location and bottom board.

“Bottoms-up in Spring or Summer” – We might see a colony of dead bees with a few robber bees walking on the combs around the bee-bottoms poking up from the cells. The Problem: The colony likely starved to death. The Solution: Understanding what the bees need to be successful and making sure they have it. In early spring, after a hard winter, the bees may starve when there

is not enough stored honey to supply 1500 newly-produced bees per day as the queen ramps up her laying. Usually, the queen starts laying in earnest even before there are abundant sources of nectar and pollen in the environment. Pollen patties are a way to get resources to the colony when temperatures may still be below freezing at night.



Figure 2- Learning to raise queens using the Nicot method.

“Queenlessness” – The NewBee has the sinking feeling that things are not exactly right in their hive. The Problem: At present queens are not lasting more than six to twelve months which will lead to more frequent queen events and supercedure. The Solution: NewBees need to know the signs of queenlessness and be ready with both knowledge and resources to remedy the problem before workers begin to lay and the colony is robbed out. As mentors we can encourage NewBees to start their beekeeping adventure with three hives. Then, we can assist them to continually make splits, year after year, as insurance resources against the day they find themselves queenless and need a queen right colony to place the recalcitrant colony atop. Learning to raise queens is

well withing the skills of a second or third-year beekeeper.

“Stinging Hoard” – Bees do not sting just for the fun of it. Bees do sting when defensive or threatened. Although a worker bee can only sting once, there are lots of worker bees ready to join the fight. The Problem: Bees aggressively stinging gloves or other protective



Figure 3- First inspection with NewBees and their hives.

clothing. The Solution: If the bees are repeatedly defensive help the NewBee decide whether to keep the colony, requeen it, or simply destroy it. In northeast Texas where we live, we still have a choice to keep less defensive bees, while our beekeeping friends in south Texas do not. Each beekeeper must decide the level of defensiveness he will tolerate and know when to put an end to the troublesome behavior before someone is hurt.

These are simple problems and solutions to some bee events we have been through with the NewBees we’ve mentored. Create your own list and help prepare people for “Hard Days in the Bee Yard.” We want beekeepers with live bees, not becoming ex-beekeepers after two or three disappointing years or a significant bee event. Let’s work to keep our NewBee population healthy and thriving.

We’d love to hear about your beekeeping adventures!

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

understanding the power of propolis



Dayna Druke

Fort Bend, TX – queenbeetx.com

If you have ever had to take your hive tool and use it as a lever to pry off a Langstroth hive inner cover, then you definitely have heard the unmistakable sound of a propolis seal cracking open. Not many of us consider what propolis actually is, beyond marveling at its strength when we enter our hives for inspection. This article aims to give a better understanding of propolis and to share some potential uses beyond the hive.



What is propolis?

The dictionary definition of propolis is “a red or brown resinous substance collected by honeybees from tree buds, used by them to fill crevices and to seal and varnish honeycombs.” The word “propolis” is derived from Greek, with the “pro” meaning “at the entrance to” and the “polis” meaning “community.” That is quite a literal meaning to the word, considering that propolis can be found around the entrance hole in almost every natural and manmade honeybee hive

in existence. Propolis is a complex mixture made by bee-released and plant-derived compounds. Generally, propolis is composed of 5% various organic compounds, 5% pollen, 10% tree essential oils, 30% wax, and 50% resin. The diversity in the geographic area of where the propolis is collected is reflected in the composition of it. For the most part in North America, the bees collect from the *Populus* species, and most often from the Cottonwood trees. In Texas, it is made of almost entirely Cottonwood tree resin.

In addition to propolis role in sealing up holes and cracks, it appears to act as an antiseptic in the hive, used to prevent infection of the larvae, honey, and comb. It protects the colony from airflow and moisture, allowing the hive to maintain a constant humidity and impermeable lining.

History

Propolis has appeared in use for thousands of years of human history. Egyptians used it in preparation of their dead for mummification. It appeared in ancient Roman and Greek medicine as an antiseptic. Hippocrates wrote about propolis in his medical journals, saying that it was useful in the treatment of sores, ulcers, and bruises. In ancient China it was widely popular for toothaches and as a mouth disinfectant. Some historians credit propolis to assisting the Soviets during the Second World War as it aided them in tuberculosis treatment of their soldiers during the war.

Current Uses

Propolis is a natural remedy with uses that span the spectrum of ailments and preventative therapies. In health food stores it can be found in cosmetics and dermatological topical treatments for everything from acne to burns. There are holistic and natural Facebook groups dedicated to its uses. Due to its antiviral, antioxidant, antifungal, and antimicrobial properties, it has a wide range of use.

Composition

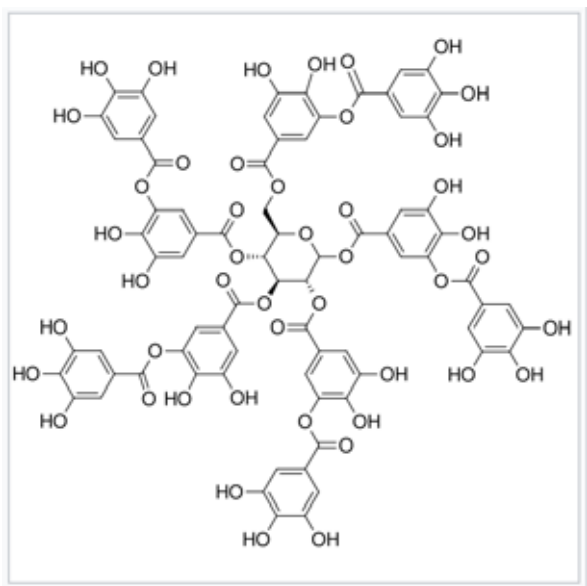
The composition of propolis is highly reflective of the geographical area of where the bees derive the compounds. Overwhelmingly in North America, the propolis is gathered from *Populus* spp.,

and most often from *P. nigra*, also known as the Black Poplar or Cottonwood.

The main bioactive compound in North American honeybee propolis is Polyphenols. Polyphenols are a large family of naturally occurring organic compounds often referred to as antioxidants.

Harvesting Propolis

Given propolis vast uses and high demand in holistic healthcare, harvesting propolis can result in a financial incentive for the bee-



keeper. With normal collection methods, propolis collection does not stress or damage the colony.

A commercial propolis trap does not look much different than a queen excluder. It is the same thickness, size, and shape as an excluder that would fit on top of any Langstroth hive body. The difference is that unlike in a queen excluder, the worker bees cannot fit through the slats.

The trap must be placed on top of the highest super in the hive during the late fall, as the bees begin to seal up the cracks of their hive in preparation for winter. The colony will begin to seal the slats in the excluder. When the trap is covered in propolis, the beekeeper can remove it and place it in the freezer. The freezing temperature will harden and solidify the propolis quickly, and the beekeeper can simply bend the flexible screen within a plastic bag and remove the propolis easily. A commercial trap will run you about \$10-\$15 from any of the online beekeeper supply companies.

Once the propolis is collected, it is straightforward and easy to make a tincture or salve of the product. The internet is full of methods to create products of varying concentrations. It is important to remember though that people who are sensitive or allergic to bee venom will likely also have the same reaction to bee propolis. Propolis tinctures sell online for prices from \$20-\$30 for just a few ounces.





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A study looking at floral density and pollinators finds that some types of pollinating insects prefer dense flower patches more than others, but that preference can also vary by flower species, too. The complicated findings offer clues to how multiple pollinator species co-exist and compete for floral resources. Shown here is a patch of *Monarda fistulosa*, one of the flower species included in the study. (Photo by Joshua Mayer via Flickr, CC BY-SA 2.0)

By Andrew Porterfield

Historically, entomologists have concluded that bees and other pollinators select flowering plants according to the density of those plants in a given location. This makes some economic sense, since foraging in large areas of the same flowers reduces flight time (and thus energy) between flowers.

But other research has shown that pollinator visits do not decrease when isolated from same-species plants, suggesting that flowers in dense formations compete for pollinators.

Understanding how pollinators are attracted to plants is important to seeing how different species of bees can exist together in the same pollen-producing environment.

In a study published in December in *Environmental Entomology*, Tristan Barley, a student at Miami University in Ohio (now at the University of Illinois), and his colleagues found a large degree of variation in pollinator visitation when analyzed simply by density of flower patches. Instead, the type of flower appeared to have an effect on pollinator visitation, as did the type of pollinator.

In their study, the researchers looked at the effects of flower density on pollination in a restored Ohio prairie. They recorded visits to three plant species: *Penstemon digitalis*, *Monarda fistulosa*, and *Eryngium yuccifolium*. Pollinators were observed when they landed on a flower, foraged for flowers, or visited multiple flowers on the same plant. Pollinators observed included species of *Bombus*, *Ceratina*, and others.

The importance of flower identity over density, especially for *Ceratina*, was a surprise, Barley says.

“This group of pollinators was the only one to be a significant visitor for all three of our focal flower species, and yet flower-patch density affected their visitation rates in different ways,” he says. “When visiting *Penstemon digitalis* or *Monarda fistulosa*, both of which were also significantly visited by *Bombus* in our dataset, *Ceratina* tended to visit isolated flowers more often or even show no preference in patch density. However, the opposite was true when visiting *E. yuccifolium*. It seems that the identity of the flower being visited, as well as potentially the other pollinators visiting the flower, has an important effect on the patch-size preference in some bee species.”

For *Bombus*, the bees did seem to overall prefer larger flower patches. The authors note, however, that “nesting habitat may contribute to these findings, as *Bombus* species may preferential nest in higher density flower patches when compared with solitary bees.” It’s also possible that *Bombus* was reducing flight time and energy expense by visiting larger flower groups.

The biggest implication of their research, Barley says, is the possible mechanism bee species use to coexist in the face of varying densities of flowers. “Larger, more social bees, such as bumble bees, tended to visit larger flowering patches more than isolated flowers, whereas for smaller, less social bees, this was not the case,” he says. “Bumble bees may be outcompeting smaller bees in larger patches of flowers, but the smaller bees may be able to meet their energy needs through visiting isolated flowers instead.”

Because the researchers were studying only feral (native) bees in a non-agricultural plot of land, they were not able to determine the impact, if any, of *Apis mellifera*, the European honey bee. “Our results suggest that *A. mellifera* could compete more directly with *Bombus* species when they are present in a habitat, rather than smaller native bees,” which may avoid competition altogether, Barley says. But such interactions would only take place if honey bee colonies were deliberately placed near such a prairie.

This co-existence could help determine the extent to which pollinators could occupy a given area. The concept, Barley says, “to our knowledge, has not been fully explored, and it could help future researchers better understand how diverse bee communities can coexist despite sharing floral resources.”

Do Pollinators Prefer Dense Flower Patches? Sometimes Yes, Sometimes No (entomologytoday.org)

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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

Bastrop County - Elgin Area Beekeepers Association

Joseph Hakkinen - (713) 408-1260

president@elginareabeekeepers.org

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm Various Locations

Bees in the East Club

Mark de Kiewiet (210) 863-8024

beesintheeast@att.net

Meetings 4th Saturday of each month at 10am

Water Garden Gems, 3230 Bolton Road, Marion,

Bell/Coryell Beekeepers Association

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

Blanco County Beekeepers Association

Teri Albright - (512) 636-9900

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

bcha@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

James Cobarruvias (210) 858-9011

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***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**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**

Bruce Ford

(713) 818-7348

*rosscreekhoneybees@gmail.com***Meetings:** First Saturday of the month, Feb, April, June, August,
October and December at 5 pm
Fayette County Ag. Bldg., 240 Svoboda Ln., La Grange**Fort Bend Beekeepers Association**

Lynne Jones - (713) 304-8880

*info@fortbendbeekeepers.org***Meetings:** 2nd Tuesday of each month (except December) at 7:30
pm Bud O'Shieles Community Center
1330 Band Rd, Rosenberg 77473**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 Tuesday of each month at
Suds Monkey Brewing, 12024 US-290, Dripping Springs, 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**Magnolia SWARM Beekeepers**

Andy Knight - (281) 305-4072

*magnoliaswarm@gmail.com**http://www.magnoliaswarm.org***Meetings:** 1st Tuesday of the month Various Locations (go to
website)

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***Meetings:** 2nd Monday of each month at 5:45 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 Jacinto County Beekeepers**

Andy Knight - (281) 305-4072

sanjacbeekeepers@gmail.com *https://www.facebook.com/**SanJacintoCountyBeekeepers***Meetings:** 2nd Tuesday of each month
Calvary Baptist Church, 65 Petroleum Rd., Coldspring 77331**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.com***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

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Charles McMaster at charles.mcmaster@texasbeekeepers.org

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Photo credits

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Rear cover: swarm trap

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