

The



Texas Beekeepers Association



Journal





Thank you to lifetime TBA Member,

Chris Doggett

for your 11 years of service as
Publications Director of the
Texas Beekeepers Association





President's Report from Dodie Stillman

First of all, I want to say “Thank you” to everyone for electing me as your President at our 2022 Convention! I would also like to congratulate Byron Compton, our new VP, and thank him for taking on the role. I’m excited to continue working with him, and know he will do a fantastic job leading our events committee and planning our Summer Clinic in Conroe on June 17, and the Fall Convention in Temple again next year in early November. I also want to welcome our new Directors: Barbi Rose, Andy Knight and Jake Moore. We have an awesome group of folks and I’m excited to work with them all to support the Beekeepers of Texas this next year.

Our 2023 Convention was a great success. We had a wonderful turnout, for both our pre-convention workshops and the actual convention. With close to 400 attendees this year, a special thanks to everyone that purchased a ticket and made time to attend the Convention. A huge thank you to all of the volunteers who made the organization and flow of the Convention look so easy, and to all the speakers who did such an excellent job. Did you get to enjoy being part of the free webinar audience with Blake Shook, Cameron Jack and Kamon Reynolds? It was a great opening to our convention and I hope we can include it again!

Our Convention strives to hit two very important

notes, the first is to bring information and education to our Texas beekeepers, and the second is to raise money for more educational opportunities. This year we were honored to hear from Dr. Cameron Jack, Dr. Samuel Ramsey, and Mr. Kamon Reynolds as well as several local Texas Beekeepers. Thank you so much to all the folks who donated items for the raffles and auctions, our programs would not exist without your generosity. This year the THBEA Raffle raised over \$9,000! The live and silent auctions raised over \$15,000. Check out the THBEA article for the big ticket winners!!

What about that Honey Show? What a beautiful display, we really need more entries to really fill that up next year. Be looking for an update to the rules and more classes to enter for next year. The 2022 Texas Honey Show winners are listed in this Journal and on the TBA website. Congratulations to all the winners and to everyone that entered.

As your new President, I want to know what TBA can do for you, your company, or association. TBA’s goal is to serve you and the more you can let us know how we can help, the better we can achieve that goal. I appreciate all of your service to the TBA and your support at the convention. I look forward to working with all of you in the coming year! I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas.

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Front Cover Photo by Nanette Davis, TX Honey Show First Place Winner



Vice President's Report from Byron Compton

Howdy! I am thrilled to be your TBA Vice President for 2023. As a way of introduction, I served in the Navy for 24 years, leaving with the rank of Captain. Since leaving the Navy, I have been working in the IT field securing government systems and preventing cyber-attacks, as well as beekeeping.

In 2014 my wife Lisa and I started STG Farms with two (2) hives, with the goal to expand and qualify for Agricultural Valuation on our property near Lake Texoma. In the years since, we have expanded to about 130 colonies and provide apiary services for other land owners as they seek Ag Valuation. We do have a couple of honey supply contracts with local retail outlets, but the majority of our business is to repeat customers. *Word of mouth really works!*

Although COVID may still be with us, and will be for the foreseeable future, and impacting some members' health and ability to attend large gatherings, our 2022 events – Summer Clinic and Fall Convention – saw a return to near pre-COVID attendance levels. Serving as a TBA Director for 2022 and responsible for coordinating and soliciting vendors, I have been provided a glimpse of all the behind-the-scenes activity required to stage those large events. It takes a tremendous amount of work by all TBA leadership and the dozens of volunteers to pull them off that most of you never see.

As Vice President, in addition to filling in for the TBA President, Dodie Stillman, my primary responsibility is overseeing several standing committees, chairing the events committee and planning for the next Summer Clinic and Fall Convention. And, I am responsible for any other pop-up fires within TBA, or any other project assigned to me by the President.

What I ask of you – the TBA membership – is get engaged with TBA. That engagement can be as simple as reading the TBA Journal, either print or online versions. There is a lot of valuable information in the journal for all levels of beekeepers. Also, if not already, join your local beekeeping club. Local clubs provide you the best support as you navigate beekeeping. And if you still want to be more involved, let us know you want to volunteer with TBA events. It takes dozens of volunteers pre-event as well as on the days of the events.

Lastly, TBA is very committed to improving TBA event, articles, etc. to better meet beekeepers needs. If you have any suggestions, complaints, questions, about any TBA or beekeeping issue, reach out and communicate your thoughts. We will work diligently to address any issue.

Renew your Membership, or Join Us

www.texasbeekeepers.org

If you change your address or email please contact

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2022 TBA Honey Show Winners

The Texas Honey Show Team would like to thank all who participated in this year's contest. We were blessed to have renowned Judge Brutz English back again as the head Judge with Nanette Davis and Monica Siwiak assisting and learning (*Pictured Below*).



We had some surprising entries this year. We had 48 participants and 84 entries. The "Ann Harman Award of Excellence in Beekeeping" had a difference of four points between first place winner Nanette Davis and second place Danessa "Nes" Yaschuk. The award is based on the top three scores of each participant. The lowest moisture content on record was registered at this year's judging at 14.6. Such a low natural moisture content is wonderful for making creamed honey. The straw stands straight in the low moisture content honey pictured below.



Class	1st	2nd	3rd
Extracted Honey LIGHT / AMBER	Sofie & Ally Clark	Glenn Kveton	Danessa 'Nes' Yaschuk
Extracted Honey MED/AMBER	Gary & Peggy Lange	Danessa 'Nes' Yaschuk	Byron Compton
Extracted Honey DARK/AMBER	Tara Randle	Andrea Kuhnert	Steven Pool
Chunk Honey	Danessa 'Nes' Yaschuk	Gary & Peggy Lange	
Black Jar (Judged)	Colby McClelland		
Comb Honey - Cut Comb	Danessa 'Nes' Yaschuk		
Wax Plain Block	Danessa 'Nes' Yaschuk	Doug Stanley	
Beekeeping Arts and Crafts	Danessa 'Nes' Yaschuk	Lisa Compton	
Photo Close-Up	Kim Townsend	Nanette Davis	Tara Randle
Photo Scenic	Danessa 'Nes' Yaschuk	Nanette Davis	Kim Townsend
Photo Portrait	Nanette Davis	Jake Moore	Sally Beggs
Beekeeping Gadgets	Chris Barns	Jake Moore	Steve Butler
Candles	Danessa 'Nes' Yaschuk		
Bee Box Art Contest	Michele Jaquier	Gavin Guy	Jackson Skelton
Traditional Mead - Dry	Randy Randle		
Traditional Mead - Sweet	Glenn Kveton		
Fruit Mead - Cyser (Apple & Honey)	Randy Randle		
Fruit Mead - Berry	Sandra Knight		
Fruit Mead - Stone Fruit	Randy Randle		
Best of Show	Winner		
People's Choice Black Jar Honey		Danessa 'Nes' Yaschuk	
Best of Honey		Sofie & Ally Clark	
Best Small-scale Honey		Sofie & Ally Clark	
Best Sideline Honey		Danessa 'Nes' Yaschuk	
Best of Photography		Danessa 'Nes' Yaschuk	
Best of Art		Michele Jaquier	
Best of Gadgets		Chris Barnes	
Best of Mead		Glenn Kveton	
Ann Harman Award of Excellence in Beekeeping		Nanette Davis	
Best of Centerpiece		Alamo Area Beekeepers	



*Pictured Above Winner
Black Jar Judged: Colby McClelland*







THBEA RAFFLE WINNERS



WINNER: Damon Byrd of Canton
Honey Extractor • Live Bees



**WINNER: Christy Lawler of
Spicewood**
Bee Vac • Multi-Tool



**WINNER: Tracie Patterson of
Spicewood**
Nuc • Apimaye Hive



**WINNER: Michele Jaquier of La
Grange**
Top Bar Nuc • Stewardship Class



**WINNER: Dianna Kocurek of
Weimar**
Nuc • Lesson • Beekeeping Kit



**WINNER: Edward Olszanowski of
Boerne**
40 pound block of pure bees wax

Items will be picked
up by the winner
from the donator.



**WINNER: Rachel Hagan of
Georgetown**
Set of 2 Nucleus Colonies



WINNER: Dusty Davis of Flatonia
Set of 2 Nucleus Colonies



**WINNER: Jeffrey Thigpen of
Temple**
2 R Weaver Nucs • Tickets to
Summer Clinic

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THBEA Quilt Raffle Winner

By Danessa Yaschuk

Back in August of 2017 Hurricane Harvey, a Category 4 hurricane, made landfall on Texas and Louisiana. Like many beekeepers did, I scrambled to raise and reinforce my hives. At the time I was living in the suburbs and kept all my hives on the property of a very sweet couple named Mr. & Mrs. French.

I was also doing bee removals full time and steadily growing my apiary. Unfortunately, my rescue efforts for my apiary were useless as the entire property became submerged in waist-high, snake infested water. My apiary was gone! All my hard work gone! I was heartbroken. But my family and friends and my home were safe. So, I counted my blessings and began helping people in our community instead.

I was able to borrow a kayak from a lady in the neighborhood so I could access my apiary. It was shocking to see the place I would drive my truck to and park next to my hives was completely underwater! I could barely see the tops on 4 hives. There were 18 other hives there nowhere to be seen!

A month later I attended the Houston Beekeepers Association club meeting and a friend of mine told me to reach out to the Texas Honeybee Education Association for assistance. I was told that they were seeking out beekeepers who suffered hive losses during the hurricane and offering them a voucher for a nucleus hive to get restarted. As much as I hate to ask for help, I really felt the urge to check it out. So, I

reached out to them.

During that time, my husband Brent was NOT into beekeeping! At all! He didn't want to know a bee! Although he supported me, he had no interest in helping me rebuild my loss. (Little did he know what our future holds.) The Texas Honeybee Education Association sent me not one but two vouchers for nucleus hives! I was ecstatic and motivated again!

We decided to finally make the move out of the suburbs and kickstart our apiaries on higher ground! I have always been so grateful for an organization such as the Texas Honeybee Education Association! I told Brent, one of these days I want to pay it back.

Fast forward many years later, we won a magnificent and beautifully sewn queen size "Queen Bee" quilt at the Texas Beekeepers Association 2022 Annual Conference & Honey Show. The quilt is gorgeous and ironically matches the colors in my house. It was meant to be! ;)

Even the stitching is intricately detailed bees and flowers! Definitely made by a highly skilled seamstress! The quilt was the highest bid item of the auction! And the sweetest part is, all proceeds went to the Texas Honeybee Education Association! Karma has a way of making a full circle! Not only do I admire the beauty of such a quilt, but it is now a reminder to me of how far we have come and how grateful I am that there are such organizations available to Texas beekeepers!



2022 TBA Convention

We swarmed Temple, TX and had a great time!



TBA Vice-President Dodie Stillman receives President Award from TBA President Ashley Ralph



TBA Membership Director Shirley Doggett with quilt

Nathalie Missery bee-ing mindful!



Charlie Agar receives Jim Petty Beekeeper Award from TBA President Ashley Ralph





The Curious Case of the Missing Honey Bees

By Kirk Kirksey

The setting is fall in a small North Central Texas apiary.

Around the first week of September the honey bees disappeared from our garden. All summer long they had buzzed around the squash, melon, herbs, and flower blossoms, but suddenly they were gone. Bad things ran through my mind; pesticide poisoning; mass absconding; maybe they didn't like me anymore. I checked the hives. They seem to be thriving.

My wife, standing under a large pecan tree near our hives pointed up and said, "Listen". The hum of honey bees buzzing could clearly be heard. Twenty feet above hundreds of bees zipped in and out of the leaves. The mystery of the missing bees may be solved, but what were they doing up there? It took some research and a very unusual honey harvest to find out.

PUZZLE PIECES

First clue. These hives sit in an old pecan plantation so there are lots of mature pecan trees (native and hybrid) close by.

Then there has been the weather. Here in North Central Texas the summer has been especially brutal this year. It started with weeks of unusually high winds. Lack of spring rain ushered in an extended Summer drought with day-after-day of triple digit temps. The wildflower bloom was scant and short lived.

By the end of August things improved a bit. A little rain had fallen and the scorching temps were tapering off. Plants were starting to perk up, but the rain was too little too late. Fall wildflowers were skimpy compared to previous years. The plot thickens,

PECAN TREES WEEPING

Some years (not every year) the pecan trees around our hives "weep" (my grandmother's term) a little.

This year the "weep" was extremely heavy. Many locals said they had never seen anything like it. There was much complaining because the tears were a sticky goo that covered everything. Walking under a pecan tree meant leaves and dirt stuck to shoes. A sticky film covered car windshields and windows. On some days a heavy mist of goo could clearly be seen falling from the pecan trees.

The falling goo is called "honeydew"; a very polite sounding word. The source of the goo is not so refined. Honeydew is excreted by aphids infesting the pecan trees. In a word, honeydew is poop - aphid poop.

Two types of aphids typically infest pecan trees in Texas. These are Yellow Aphids and Black Margin Aphids. Both have piercing mouth parts, and feed on sap taken from primary and secondary leaf veins. This sap is mostly water and sugar however, aphids are after proteins and minerals in sugar water. But proteins and minerals are only a tiny constituent of pecan tree sap, so the aphids must consume a lot sap to get the nutrients they need. As

a result, aphids excrete most of what they eat. In other words, the aphids poop a lot. The resultant honeydew is a sugar-rich, very sticky liquid. In cases of serious infestation, honeydew can be so thick on leaves that photosynthesis is impeded.

Heavy aphid infestations of pecan trees commonly occurs twice a year; once in the early Spring, and again in late Summer/Fall (males are produced in the Fall). Heavy infestation and weeping is especially common after a long dry spell.

So...

What does aphid poop have to do with disappearing honey bees?



Black Margin Aphids

HONEY FROM HONEYDEW

To state the obvious, honey bees prefer to make honey from plant nectar. We'll call this Nectar Honey. When plant nectar is in short supply, the bees will collect honeydew from certain aphids and other insects. These secretions get transformed into honey.

Honeydew honey is well known in Europe where it is commonly called Forest Honey. This Forest Honey is highly prized as it has higher antibacterial and antioxidant levels than Nectar Honey.

Forest Honey is described as being dark to very dark, and depending on the source, may even have a green, shiny tint. Taste is said to be woody, warm, and not as sweet as nectar honey. Germany, Greece, Turkey, Sardinia, and France are all known for their Forest Honey, which mostly comes from oak, fir, and pine trees. Forest Honey can be considerably more expensive than honey. The plot thickens.

HIVE STRANGENESS

After a too skimpy summer honey harvest, winter prep in

our little pecan orchard apiary was well underway. Hives were reduced to one deep and one medium box. Honey stores for the winter were adequate but marginal, so candy boards for insurance feeding were being prepared. Then something strange started to happen inside the hives.

A week or so after the bees disappeared the hives started to rapidly fill up with uncapped honey. By the last week in October, the hives were bursting with honey. For this aging beekeeper, lifting the medium boxes was nearly impossible.

I wanted a taste of this honey, but harvesting in late October just seemed wrong. Temps were dropping, and the first killing frost would hit around mid November. In the end, curiosity got the better of me.

Popping the covers, I was surprised to find medium boxes filled with frames of wall-to-wall, beautifully capped honey. This was the last week in October. With winter right around the corner I took only a few frames.

THE HONEY

Of course, I cannot say this is 100% Forest Honey. In reality it is probably a healthy combination of Pecan Tree Forest Honey and local Wildflower Nectar Honey. But one thing is certain. This honey is very different from any honey we had ever harvested from these hives.

By my estimate, this honey falls on the dark end of *Amber* on the Pfund Honey Color Scale. Not surprising as we have seen similar colored fall honey from these hives before. With a refractor moisture reading slightly north of 14%, the honey is very thick.

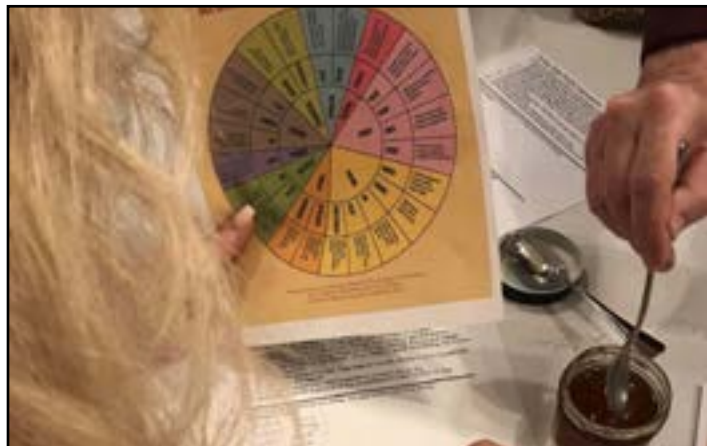
What sets this honey apart is the taste

(always a difficult thing to describe). We recruited a group of courageous neighbors to help us put together a flavor profile. As a guide participants used the “Honey Connoisseur Aroma and Tasting Wheel” developed by Marina Marchese and Kim Flotum working with a group of sensory experts at UC Davis.

“Warm” (as shown on The Wheel) and “Caramel” were by far the most common terms used to describe both aroma and taste. “Woody” was a distant second. Other descriptions included “Molasses”, “Wet Hay”, “Earthy”, “Smoky” as well as a few others. One tester stated this honeydew honey did not have the same fruitiness and sweetness of honey produced by these hives earlier



Honeydew on left



in the season. This is consistent with descriptions European Forest Honey. All in all, the tasters’ observations were very insightful, and the neighborhood honey tasting project turned out to be great fun. One neighbor even asked that we repeat the experiment for their relatives who are coming for Thanksgiving!

This case of missing honey bees brings several questions to mind. How important is honeydew honey in our bees’ food cycle? What varieties of Texas trees produce honeydew our Texas bees can use? Do our honey bees collect honeydew during a dearth? I guess the moral of the story is clear. In beekeeping there is always a mystery to solve.

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The Results Are IN: It's the State Fair of Texas for the WIN!!

By Kim Townsend

The 2022 State Fair of Texas drew to a close at the end of October, but it started off with a tasty *BANG* with the TBA-sponsored Honey Contests that were held on Monday, October 3rd!

Surprisingly, in the Polished Jar Honey Contest, there were only a dozen entries... which were predominantly light amber in color, though a few were classified as medium amber. As each entry was carefully placed in front of the three judges by a gloved contest helper – without tilting the container, they carefully examined the jar for physical flaws, cleanliness, the level of fill. Next, the jar was placed in the polariscope – where the judges could now peer through the honey via the bright light directed into special filters. After looking for bubbles, foam, wax, lint, 'debris' (you'd be surprised at the things found floating in honey!), etc., the helper gingerly removed the lid to display the under-side of the lid (as it ought to be pristine). At this stage, the trio could see the top of the exposed honey – again, looking for bubbles, foam, and 'stuff'. Then, at long last, the helper dipped three coffee stirrer sticks (one at a time) and handed them to the judges for the 'taste test'. Finally, while the flavors were being savored, another helper also took a small sample of the honey and placed a drop onto the lens of the refractometer to test the moisture content, and announced the reading to the judges for them to note on the entry's score card to award the appropriate points for that number range.

(FYI: IF there was greater than 18.7% moisture content, the entry was immediately disqualified, while an 'ideal' moisture content range is 15.5% - 17% for the maximum 10 points available in this category)

With a maximum 300 points possible (100 pts. per judge), here are the winners for the

2022 TBA State Fair of Texas Polished Jar Honey Contest:

1st Place: Hap Burden of McKinney, TX 285 points

2nd Place: Travis Steel of Murphy, TX 285 points

3rd Place: Steven Pool of Gordonville, TX 284 points



Travis Steel, 2nd place Polished Jar

You may be wondering how the first and second place winners were determined - since they had the same number of points. In the event of a tie, then the entry with the best moisture content takes top place. If that's a tie, then we just put the entrants in a cage and let them fight to the death. Just kidding.

As for the Black Jar Honey Contest, this is far less cumbersome to describe, because it all comes down to: Taste.

In this contest, the helper immediately covers the entry jar with either foil, a black bag, etc., so that neither the size, shape of the jar nor the color of the honey can be seen and it's kept out of view of the judges. Then, the entries are grouped into batches or 'flights' of five (think samples at a brewery). As each flight is introduced by the helper, the three judges – (who are either professional chefs and/or Super-Tasters... and, yes - that's really a thing!) are presented a wooden coffee stirrer with a sample of honey on it. The helper is careful all the while to keep the open honey container above and away from the judges' line of sight, so that the contents of the jar aren't visible. The helper who dispenses the sample tells the judges what entry number this is, and they make their appropriate notes on their sheets of paper as they appreciate the flavors in their mouths. This step is

repeated until that flight of samples is complete and the judges have selected which of that group is their top pick. Finally, when the top choices per flight have also gone head-to-head, at last the trio of judges determine amongst themselves their three favorite honey samples.

There is no 'scoring' system, no judges' sheets... it's purely subjective based on the experienced tastebuds of the three professional judges. However, while sometimes it can be a challenge to determine the tastiest honeys... occasionally, a sample eliminates itself based on undesirable traits. For example, I happened to be nearby as the judges were trying one particular honey sample, and immediately they all grimaced and were in complete agreement that what they had in their mouths "tasted like kerosene"! WOW!! Thankfully, that was an exception and not a rule when it came to the delicious samples Texas beekeepers offered up!

Out of twenty-three entries, these top three honeys deserve all the bragging rights afforded by winning the 2022 TBA State Fair of Texas Black Jar Honey Contest:

1st Place: Salem Joseph of Austin, TX

2nd Place: Myra Haddad of Dallas, TX

3rd Place: Michele Prescott of Prosper, TX

In addition to liquid honey, there was another opportunity to use that wonderful liquid gold in competition: Honey, the Magic Ingredient (a.k.a. "Cooking With Honey") in which any food can be entered, so long as honey is an ingredient. This category is judged on taste, creativity, and presentation.

Once again, the experienced palates of celebrity judges were employed to taste all of the various delicious entries, from meats to desserts, dips, sauces, vegetables, breads... you name it!

In the end, there were three finalists chosen... and two honorable mentions for the 2022 TBA State Fair of Texas "Honey, the Magic Ingredient" Cooking Contest:

1st Place: Jodi Oliver of Dallas, TX

2nd Place: Sally Muhl of Sunnyvale, TX

3rd Place: Kim Townsend of Heath, TX

Last but not least, The Texas Beekeepers Association also sponsored both a junior and adult honey bee category within the Photography Contest. Approximately a dozen or so beautiful photos were entered, in total, and professional photographers were challenged to choose the two winners of the 2022 TBA State Fair of Texas Honey Bee Photo Contest:

Junior Winner: Mia Meehan of Grandview, TX

Adult Winner: Jennifer Dixon of Richardson, TX

On behalf of the Texas Beekeepers Association and the State Fair of Texas, we want to extend a hearty CONGRATULATIONS to all the winners of these contests, and a huge THANK YOU to every one of the talented judges, excellent helpers, and the wonderful folks in the Creative Arts Department at the great State Fair of Texas! Well done, ALL!

See y'all in 2023!!



Salem Joseph 1st place Black Jar

Legislative Committee Update

TBA's legislative committee has been working for months to get ready for the upcoming 88th Legislature which officially opens on January 10, 2023. Members of the committee are Dodie Stillman, Byron Compton, Ashley Ralph, Gary Barber, Chris Moore, Dennis Herbert and Leesa Hyder.

Joe Morris is TBA's lobbyist in Austin. We have worked with Joe for several years and have come to appreciate the importance of having him in Austin working on our behalf.

We will strive to maintain updated information about bills of interest on the TBA website throughout the session, as well as through member communications as appropriate. State and national issues of interest can be found on the Issues page of the TBA website.

The committee can be reached at Legislative@texasbeekeepers.org

Some of the legislative priorities for this session include:

- continuing our efforts to getting a statewide apiary extension specialist
- cleaning up the Health and Safety Code from 2015 provisions for selling honey that are now moot given recent changes in DSHS regulations
- updating Chapter 131 of the Texas Agriculture Code
- being ready to address any attempted changes that may negatively impact the beekeeping qualification for ag valuation
- monitoring and evaluating legislation that may impact beekeepers and the beekeeping industry



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<https://texasbeekeepers.org/issues/>

In 2019 the Texas Beekeepers Association Executive Committee decided to hire a lobbyist at the Texas Capitol. This decision came after several ill-advised bee related bills were drafted with little beekeeper representation and has led to so many great things.

Over the past 5 years, Texas Beekeepers Association has worked to develop relationships with beekeepers, law makers, growers, farmers, and landowners to further conversations that help the bee industry in Texas

Help Texas Beekeepers Association efforts in Austin.



At <https://texasbeekeepers.org/donation/>

How Bees Came to Ireland

By Michelle Boerst, TBA Publications Director

Every beekeeper has heard of the practice of Telling the Bees of important events in their keeper's lives such as deaths, births, marriages and departures and returns in the household family related events. If the honey bees were not kept informed it was believed a penalty would have to be paid, such as the bees leaving their hive, stopping the production of honey or dying.

This is a centuries old tradition that originated in Eastern Europe.

In Ireland, there is a fascinating story around this tradition that occurred in the 6th century with the Irish Saint Modomnoc, Patron Saint of Bees.

A young gentleman wanted to serve God as a priest and he traveled to Wales to receive an education and training in the great monastery of Mynwy (now St. David's).

Modomnoc was designated as the beekeeper of the monastery for his manual labor obedience. The young priest loved his obedience very much and took great care of his bees. He caught each swarm and gently returned them to a new skep. He planted beautiful wildflowers in the monastery garden for his precious bees. He was also known to talk to his bees and they often flew around him in swarms of affection.

The bees provided the monks with a great abundance of honey every summer. All the other monks made sure to avoid the bee corner of the garden as they were very nervous about being stung, even though Modomnoc was never stung by his bees!

After a few years, Saint Modomnoc was ready to return to Ireland and start his priestly journey in his home country. He said goodbye to his fellow monks and proceeded to tell the bees of his departure.

The bees came out and made a great swarm around Modomnoc's head. Then the Saint got on a boat and headed for Ireland. The boat had only gone 3 miles, when a great black cloud started following the boat. As the black cloud grew closer, Modomnoc and the sailors realized the cloud was all of the bees from the monastery. The bees settled onto the boat, refusing to listen to the monk's order to return to Wales. The

sailors were terrified and Modomnoc asked them to turn the boat around and go back to Wales.

The monk returned and told the astonished priests that he didn't want to deprive the monastery of their honey. Modomnoc woke up early the next morning and jumped on the boat again. And soon the black cloud appeared on the horizon again. Modomnoc and the sailors attempted to leave Wales three times before giving up. The saint approached the Abbot of the monastery who gave him the bees with his blessing. After many promises to the sailors that the bees would not harm them, the skep hives were loaded into a corner of the boat.

They arrived in Ireland and St Modomnoc built a church in the present day county of Dublin, where he made a beautiful garden for his honey bees. This is known as the beekeeper's church even now. In ancient times, Irish people believe that bees and beekeeping came to their country through St Modomnoc.





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The Brantley Column

from S.S. Brantley

2016 Life Member Texas Beekeepers Association

2017 Life Member Louisiana Beekeepers Assoc.

When the weather is freezing at night and it stays too cold for bees to fly until after the noon hour, we wonder if our bees enjoy some down time. There will be little for them to do except go the late blossoms since the freezing nights have eliminated the pollen sources. How about the lowly dandelion? You know that bright yellow head of color in the sea of brown that is the pristine lawn your neighbor worked so hard all last year to be the brightest green patch of “bee-less” pasture in the area. Somehow, Mother Nature knows how, when and where to provide that one, or many more, little yellow heads to pop up to greet us as we move about our apiaries on the cold December days.

I was out of town for the daytime hours last week, returning in the shortened daytime hours, and was pleasantly surprised when I went to check my honey house. There were a couple hundred of those little yellow dandelion heads scattered in the grass of the lawn. I also saw patches of dark green here and there and determined it to be the new 2023 growth of crimson clover germinating after the last rain. It was preparing itself to provide my bees with nectar in the months to come.

December is the time to enjoy the results of our labor and to monitor the mite population that developed in each hive throughout last summer and fall. It seems that now the best IPM for mite control is to monitor six times throughout the year rather than just in the spring and fall. Reports still abound of “My hives was full of bees last week but yesterday I found they were all gone.” About the only comment you can make is “What kind of mite count did you have?” followed by a short pause and then “You did do a mite check, didn’t you?” By that point, if you are looking the person in the eye, you know what the answer is going to be! Until we can get beekeepers to understand most hives are not capable of controlling the mite population without treatment, their

bees are much more likely to die.

Demand for bees, bee hive products, and beekeeping equipment will continue to rise as long as the “Save the Honey Bee” attitude is alive. Prices quoted for hives of bees, Nucs and packages vary among the various growers and suppliers. I suggest that you shop not only for a good price but also for a reputable supplier. Not all bees for sale are the same. You get what you pay for most of the time. Seek the advice of a seasoned beekeeper about the quality of a supplier’s bees before you buy. A listing of bees for sale can readily be found on the Internet and Facebook. Many bee clubs have favorite suppliers, or can recommend suppliers known to provide good quality bees that are proven successful for your locale. Some clubs even pool orders and buy in bulk.

If you know someone who started in beekeeping but is considering discontinuing for some reason, share with them that hives and equipment could be sold or donated to the local bee association to help the next new beekeeper get started. Some bee clubs are tax exempt organizations and such donations may be tax deductible.

New beekeepers can benefit from club programs or classes designed to help them get a firm grasp of basic beekeeping principles and practices. Does your bee club offer classes for new or novice beekeepers? Consider starting or helping teach an existing class. You do not have to be an expert beekeeper to help a beginner get a good start in the profession. Even beekeepers with only a year or two of experience have information that is invaluable to someone just getting started. The Internet has a wealth of YouTube videos oriented for beginners from nationally known leaders in the field and academic sources such as University of Florida, Texas A&M and University of Alabama. New beekeepers are our future and I encourage you to invest your time teaching and mentoring them.



Handmade From the Hive:

Creamed Honey, 2 ways

By Carolyn Gibson

Natural, raw honey will crystalize eventually. How soon depends on the nectar source and the stored temperature of the honey.

It is up to you if the honey will be thick or hard, totally unpleasant, if you can even get it out of the jar. Or, you can create silky smooth, creamy honey.

This may be called whipped honey, honey fondant, spun honey, or most commonly, creamed honey.

Left to itself, honey will crystalize into large, uneven glucose crystals. If, however, you give it a pattern with small glucose crystals to follow, the honey will crystalize into even, small glucose crystals that are silky smooth.

It is important to note the following instructions are for honey that has not yet started to crystalize. The honey should be no warmer than 75°F and no colder than 59°F.

You need liquid honey, plus a starter. This can be a jar of creamed honey from your favorite Beekeeper, or a creamed honey starter powder from your beekeeping

supply company. I bought my starter from Dadant Bee Supply.

The ratio is 10% starter to liquid honey. It is well known if you get 5 beekeepers in the same room, you will get 5 different opinions.

Some beekeepers consider this ratio, 1 part to 9 parts. Others will tell you, to weigh the honey and then add 10 % of that weight of starter. And of course, there are others beekeepers that will say that a 1 to 7 ratio is the best.

Although you can measure out parts, weighing will be more accurate.

I am testing the results using creamed honey as a starter versus using a creamed honey powder starter.

After a trip to the emergency room, we had to give up our bees, as my husband Gerald had become allergic to bees. So, I am now buying my honey.

First, I started with a jar of liquid honey from Honey Apple Farm here in Ben Wheeler, Texas and a jar of her creamed honey.

How to Make Creamed Honey, 2 Ways



@CarolynGibsonHerbalist



To make creamed honey from creamed honey:

Weigh 9 ounces of liquid honey.

Weigh 1 ounce of creamed honey.

Mix these together slowly by hand or on low to medium speed of a mixer. If you have a large amount, use a stand mixer and use the paddle on low speed. Do not use the wire whisk. You want to prevent adding too much air.

For a really large amount such as 10 pounds or more use a 3/8 inch drill with a stirring attachment on low and a large bucket.

Spoon into wide mouth jars or plastic tubs, leaving a 3/8 inch headspace.

Clean rim and cap.

Store in a cool environment. The ideal temperature is 55°F. That is not below 50°F and not above 59°F. This may work if you have a root cellar or a basement, but most of us here in Texas do not.

The home refrigerator is below 40°F, and ideally between 35-38°F.

This may be perfect for keeping food safe but, way too cold to make creamed honey.

I have a small dorm type refrigerator that I can keep around 55°F or at least in between the 50-59°F range. If you do not have a root cellar, basement, or a designated refrigerator for creamed honey, you may not be able to make creamed honey.

Keep these containers in the refrigerator, basement, or root cellar for about 5-7 days.

A larger container can take as long as 14 days. Leave in cooled storage until the creamed honey is set. Bubbles will appear which can be from air introduced when mixing.

To make creamed honey from creamed honey starter powder:

Dadant specifies to use 1 pound of their starter to 10 pounds of liquid honey. For this test I used 1 ounce of the premium creamed honey starter powder and 10 ounces of liquid honey. I mixed and stored the creamed honey in the same refrigerator.

I removed both creamed honeys from the



refrigerator on the fifth day. I honestly could not tell a difference between the two.

Once your creamed honey is done, set aside a little “starter” for your next batch of creamed honey before adding spices, dried fruit or nuts and flavorings.

According to your taste, you can add a tablespoon per pound of creamed honey, spices such as cinnamon, cocoa, pumpkin pie or apple pie spice or other spices. Other beekeepers suggest 1-2 teaspoons per 2 cups of creamed honey.

Dadant sells flavoring such as chocolate, peach, and strawberry. Follow their directions.

Store your creamed honey at room temperature, as long as room temperature is below 90°F. Creamed honey will stay creamed indefinitely, if kept at 65°F. If kept too warm it will separate again and you will have to do the whole process all over again.

Hard, un-useable crystalized honey, or super smooth, creamed honey, it is all up to you.

You can watch my video on YouTube @Carolyn-GibsonHerbalist, making the Creamed honey and the results of both methods. Scan the QR code to take you directly to the video.



One Consistent Theme

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

by Roger and Sue Farr

Pictures are by the authors unless otherwise indicated.

The 2022 TBA Convention and Annual Meeting was a great success with good speakers and great fellowship with other like-minded beekeepers.

Interestingly, over the last seven years we've attended this Convention, the TBA Summer Clinic, and other educational events, one theme emerged. Amazing queens, dead mites, and good nutrition. These three items, expressed in various words, have come from the mouths of PhD entomologists, commercial beekeepers, and small-scale beekeepers in their presentations on how to successfully keep bees. We'd like to unpack these a bit this month.

Amazing Queens

Even a first-year beekeeper can spot the difference in their colonies between one headed by a good queen and one headed by a not-so-good queen. The queen certainly makes the difference, and quite often the answer, to turning around an unperforming colony; beekeepers requeen after other



Photo - Hudson Old, East Texas Journal Photography

genetics into the breeding pool around our apiaries from hygienic breeders or other's successful queens.

If we produce our own queens, we have the same options of selecting our best performing queen, in our personal opinion, and making more of her. Yes, we have to learn queen rearing and how to do it on the scale we require, but we know first-hand the productivity of the queen mother.

In our personal apiary we do a combination of both. We produce about 50 queens each year for our own use and to sell to local beekeepers. Most years we bring in a high-performing queen from another beekeeper whose apiary is distant from ours.

Queens lead our colonies and hold the genetic keys to improving our colonies and making them highly productive.

Dead Mites

Varroa is our number one pest and enemy in beekeeping right now. The statistics tell us that if a beekeeper does not treat in some form or fashion for varroa they will lose approximately 50% of their colonies the first year and by the second year they will lose 90+% of their colonies and are well on their way to becoming an ex-beekeeper.

The best beekeepers keep their mite counts at two or fewer mites per 300 bees or 0.67%. Whether they do this with genetic means by whatever queen selection



Sharing bees with a new beekeeper at the SFOT.

low performance causes are ruled out. But, where do we get amazing queens? In general, we have two options, buy them or raise them.

If we buy a new queen, whether in a queen cell, as an emerged virgin, or as a mated laying queen, we can certainly choose the queen breeder and evaluate his/her stock based upon reports from other beekeepers and the seller's reputation. We can also introduce new

process they use, via IPM tactics, soft chemicals or hard chemicals, they get the job done and keep mite levels low. They sample their colonies monthly, or at least quarterly, and know that mite levels double in 21 to 30 days.



Installing bees with a NewBee.

Mites not only weaken developing brood by feeding on vitellogenin stores in the pupae, but also inject viruses into developing and adult bees. This weakening of the bees is the cause of all sorts of colony problems which lead to death of the colony in short order.

Hence, for a productive colony you need dead mites...however you choose to get there. Talk to your mentor and read the Varroa Management Guide produced by the Honey Bee Health Coalition.

Good Nutrition

In a pristine, totally natural environment, with abundant floral quantity and variety, honeybees do quite well at selecting the quantity and type of nutrition they require to flourish. However, none of us keep bees in this type of environment, nor do we leave our bees unmanaged. We harvest honey and other products from our colonies which is a part of fulfilling God's command to take dominion over the earth.

Honeybees require a variety of pollens to get the protein diversity they need to feed developing larvae. The nectar too must be from a variety of flower sources to get the appropriate micro-nutrients they require. Finally, the quantity of pollen and nectar must be

sufficient to meet the developing brood need and to sufficiently feed the winter cluster. Sometimes we can meet these requirements from purely wild sources, but at other times we have to feed our bees.

Yes, we personally feed our bees and there are times we do this as a part of good management practices. In our apiary we typically feed pollen and nectar in various forms in early spring to speed brood development and to ensure our bees do not inadvertently starve after a hard winter. We'll also feed our developing nucleus colonies when there are insufficient forager bees to meet the nutrition requirements of the growing colony. When we deliver nucs to our NewBees we tell them to feed them because, "There is no one old enough to drive to Walmart to get groceries!" They get our point.

Amazing queens. Dead mites. Good nutrition. A consistent theme and the three keys to honeybee colony success. The good news is that all three of these are in the control of the beekeeper. So, what's stopping you from raising your own queens, trying a new mite treatment, planning more flowers or utilizing a different pollen substitute. These are your bees, so manage them appropriately to meet your personal beekeeping goals. Personally, we keep exploring better ways to amazing queens, dead mites, and good nutrition; and that is why beekeeping is so interesting and with so many ways to be successful!

We'd love to hear about your beekeeping journey!

Roger and Sue Farr (979.436.5310), rdffarr@gmail.com



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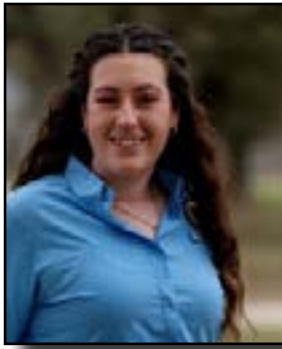
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TAIS Update from Taylor Powell *Chief Apiary Inspector*

Howdy Texas Beekeepers!

First and foremost, I would like to wish everyone safe and happy holidays as we finish out the year. I love wintertime because it gives me an opportunity to slow down and reassess the efficacy of my beekeeping practices in preparation for spring. Right now, I am sorting through my equipment, reorganizing my storage shed, and reviewing my records from this year as I prepare to make next years plans for my bees.

Meanwhile, things at the office hardly ever slow down. I have been the Chief Inspector now for just under six months and I would like to take a moment to brag on the fantastic team I get to lead. They have been absolutely invaluable to the function of our office, and they have all worked tirelessly to make this transition run as smoothly as possible. Recently we added another team member to serve as our administrative coordinator and my hope is that he will help us maximize efficiency and therefore better serve Texas beekeepers and the apiary industry.

I would also like to congratulate Dodie Stillman on her election as President during the state convention! I have had the pleasure of working with Dodie for the past year on the Texas Master Beekeeper Program Board of Directors and she is an absolute go-getter! I am excited to see the fantastic things she will do as

President of TBA. Speaking of things that happened at the state convention, we also had our TMBP testing, and I am pleased to announce that the TMBP Board of Directors certified 28 Apprentice level, four Advanced level, and two Master level beekeepers. Our two newest Master level beekeepers are Gregory Oermann and Dianna Kocurek. I am incredibly proud of the hard work and dedication they have put into this program so if you see them, make sure to congratulate them, because becoming a Master Beekeeper is no small feat to say the least.

Lastly, as a reminder to migratory beekeepers and large-scale queen breeders, please remember to submit your paperwork. If you are crossing state lines, please get your importation or exportation permit applications submitted as soon as possible since postal services and our office hours are affected during the holiday season.

We will begin our queen breeder inspections around the beginning of the year as soon as temperatures warm up, so we also need to get a head count of who will need queen tags in advance.

With that being said, I hope you all enjoy the holiday season and please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns (tais@ag.tamu.edu, or (797) 845-9713).





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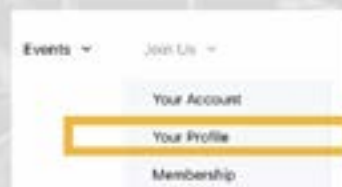
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Dr. Juliana Rangel
Associate Professor of Apiculture,
Department of Entomology, Texas
A&M University

Dear TBA members,

'Tis the season to give thanks, and the holiday season is upon us. I cannot believe that it is already December and in less than 30 days this year will be over. We have had an incredibly busy fall, as the entire laboratory has participated in several outreach and academic activities in the last couple of months. I will try to briefly touch on some of them for you. But first, I would like to tell you about my new endeavor feeling the water regarding administration at the university level.

On 1 September I started a 10-month ADVANCE Administrative Fellowship for the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (COALS). The goal of my fellowship is to identify opportunities on behalf of COALS that can better position our programs for inclusion and diversity of underserved students now that TAMU is officially a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI). We have identified the USDA's HSI Education Grants Program as one of our target funding opportunities. We have secured partnerships with three community colleges: Blinn Community College (Brenham and Bryan), Houston Community College (Katy), and Palo Alto College (San Antonio area). Our collaboration grant proposal is due in early 2023.

The HSI Community College Link for Future Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Human sciences (HSI Link) is a four-year collaboration project between Texas A&M University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (COALS), three community colleges (Blinn College District, Houston

Community College, and Palo Alto College), Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Texas A&M AgriLife Research, USDA agencies, and private and non-profit sectors to create an academic and professional pathway for students from community colleges to complete four-year B.S. degrees at Texas A&M University or other universities in Texas. Our vision for the HSI Link to be a transdisciplinary and transformative human development enterprise that prepares undergraduate and graduate students to meet prevailing and future professional needs of the FANH sciences to ensure a safe and abundant food supply in the U.S. and the world. Our goal for the HSI Link is to develop a transdisciplinary and transformative education model that links HSI community colleges and land-grant universities through an action-oriented and purposeful program of activities including linkages with Cooperative Extension, USDA agencies, and the private and non-profit sectors. Our main objectives for the HSI Link are:

Objective 1: Improve the identification and recruitment of first- and second-year students from HSI community colleges in Texas for their successful transfer to one of the 32 baccalaureate programs offered by Texas A&M University's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.

Objective 2: Solidify partnerships between Texas A&M University's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (COALS), HSI community colleges, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and Research units, USDA



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agencies, and the private and non-profit sectors, to improve recruitment, retention, graduation, and placement of undergraduate and graduate students from U.S. underrepresented populations in the wide array of disciplines that comprise the FANH sciences.

Objective 3: Provide educational, networking, and professional development opportunities to community college transfer students before, during, and after they transfer into COALS programs.

I will keep you updated on the progress of the grant proposal, and of course, will let you know if we get funded.

Now on for some of the meetings we have participated in recently. On 19 October, my students Taylor Reams and Jordan Twombly Ellis gave research updates during the virtual annual meeting of the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC). The titles of their presentations were “*Determining the drivers of precocious honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) self-removal behavior*” and “*Novel method for Varroa control: utilizing worker brood to control mite populations*,” respectively. For more information about the 2022 NAPPC conference visit <https://www.pollinator.org/nappc/2022>

On 20 and 21 October I had the pleasure of being Keynote Speaker for the Annual Convention of the Montana Beekeepers Association in Helena, MT. The meeting was small but well received. The other keynote speaker was Dr. Frank Rinkevich from the USDA, who talked about his work on amitraz resistance by certain populations of *Varroa destructor* mites.

Two weeks later I was back on a plane, this time to the Northeast, to present as Keynote Speaker for the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association. I was sorry to miss the TBA meeting, but I had promised the PA beekeepers that I would present two years ago, and then the pandemic happened. So, on 5 and 6 November I was able to join my post-doctoral advisor, Dr. David Tarpy, as my co-speaker for the conference. Overall, the meeting was very informative, and I’m glad I got to interact with David. More information about the conference and the PSBA can be found at <https://www.pastatebeekeepers.org/>

Less than a week later I was back on a plane to Ames, IA, to present as keynote speaker on 11 and 12 November at the Iowa Honey Producers Association meeting. I got to see snow and interact with a lot of

wonderful beekeepers. Other presenters included Jerry Hayes (Editor, Bee Culture Magazine), Eugene Makovec (Editor, American Bee Journal), Mike Palmer and Randy Oliver. More information can be found at: <https://www.iowahoneyproducers.org/annualconference>

From Iowa I traveled to Vancouver, Canada, for the annual meeting of the Entomological Society of America. I got to take all students from my lab, so it was a “full house” filled with wonderful presentations by my students and those of colleagues and friends. See the attached flier with information about all our lab’s presentations.

Lastly, on 19 November I was the keynote speaker at this year’s KY Queen Bee Breeders Association Fall conference. My presentations were delivered via zoom, and were well received overall <https://kybees.org/2022/10/26/fall-2022-general-membership-meeting/>

To end, the latest session in the **At Home Beekeeping Series** was on Tuesday, 29 September 2022, from 6:30-7:30 PM CST. Our speaker this month was our own Pierre Lau, Ph. D., who is now a pollination ecologist with the USDA-ARS in Stoneville, MS. His talk was titled “**Liquid Gold: A Crash Course on the Types and Properties of Honey.**” There are monthly speakers lined up, so 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/3lXYkI86X>. The event can also be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/LawrenceCountyextension>.

More information for the entire series can be found here: <https://www.aces.edu/.../bees.../at-home-beekeeping-series/>

It’s almost unbelievable how fast this year went for me... how is this is my last column of the year!?? I say it year and year again. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT OF MYSELF AND MY PROGRAM. 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



Dr. Rangel with Dr. David Tarpy and Dave Hackenberg attending the Pennsylvania Beekeepers Association meeting in State College, PA.

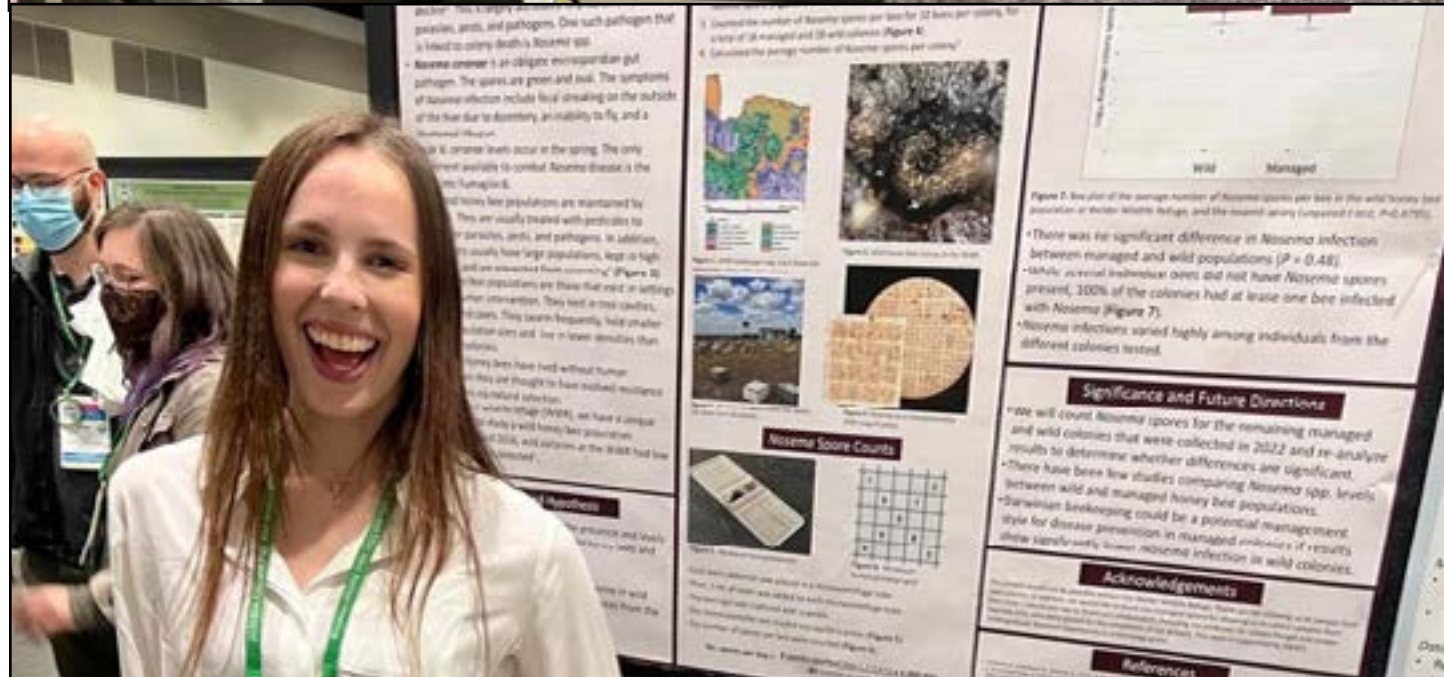
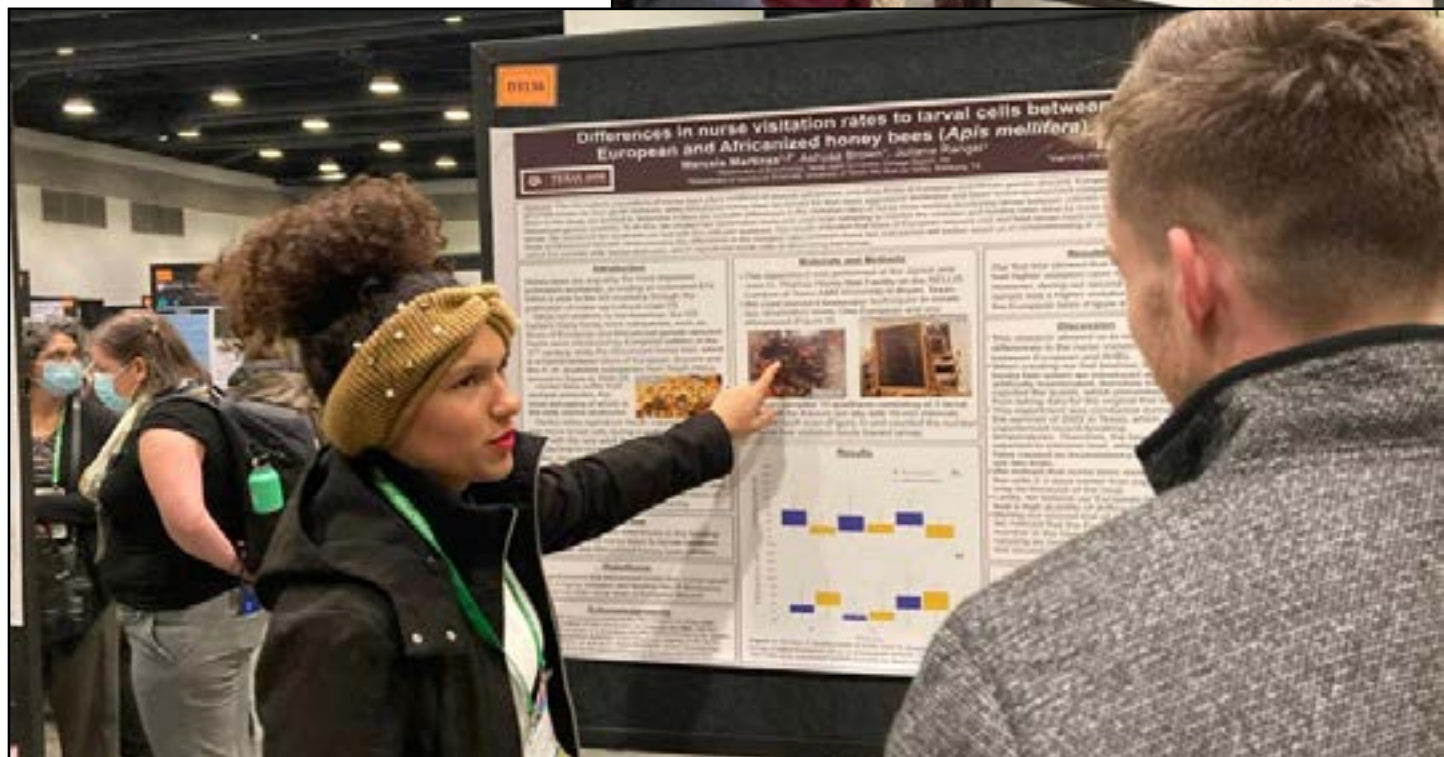
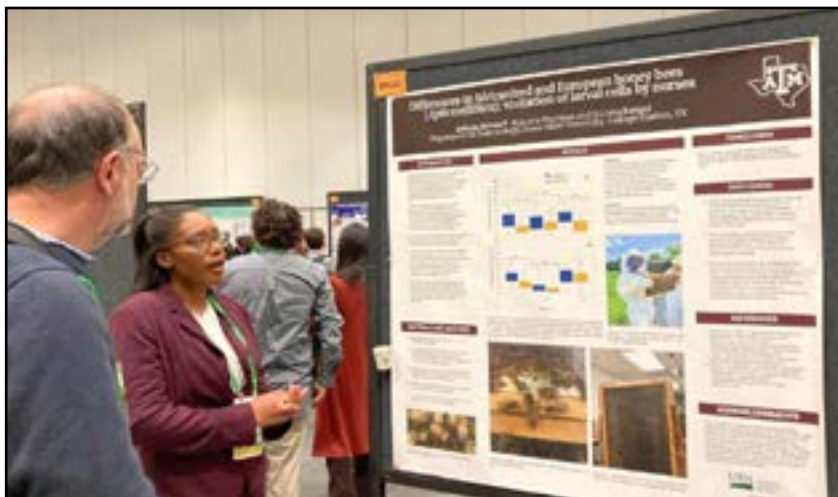


Rangel Lab students presenting their work at the annual meeting of the Entomological Society of America in Vancouver, Canada this past November.



Dr. Rangel with Dr. Christina Grozinger from Penn State University during the PSBA meeting.

Below are all the talks and posters that the Rangel Lab-Texas A&M Apiculture Program was involved in this year at the annual meeting of the *Entomological Society of America* in Vancouver, Canada.





At Home Beekeeping Webinar

Distance Learning for Beekeepers



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

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

- Oct. 25: Breeding and performance of bees with Varroa Sensitive Hygiene, *with F. Rinkevich (USDA-ARS)*
- Nov. 29: Liquid gold: A crash course on the types and properties of honey, *with P. Lau (USDA-ARS)*
- Jan. 31: Seasonal efficacy of Varroa treatments, *with C. Jack (UFL)*

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

Our institutions are equal opportunity educators and employers. Everyone is welcome! Please let us know if you have accessibility needs.





HOUSTON Livestock Show and Rodeo

Feb 28 – March 19

Established in 1932, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ has grown into the world's largest event of its kind with a total attendance of around 2.5 million people.

AGVENTURE, located in Hall A of NRG Center is the educational place where children and adults alike learn all about agriculture. Nearly every species of livestock can be found inside this fun and educational area, with several live animal exhibits. All twelve exhibits are open daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Harris County Beekeepers Association has been hosting the honey bee exhibit for many years. We need volunteers! Since there are many, many visitors (the honey bee exhibit is often the number one most visited exhibit) we need lots of volunteers to work the exhibit.

There will be two observation hives and we have found that it works best to have two volunteers for each hive to answer questions and point out the queen.

Four volunteers work morning shifts from 9 AM to 3 PM and four more for evening shifts from 3 PM to 9 PM.



Volunteers get to park free at the Reed Road parking lot, ride the bus free to NRG Park, and have free entry to the grounds by use of a badge.

We ask volunteers to work at least two shifts but all are welcome even if you can only do one shift. An online calendar will go active in January on the www.HarrisCountyBeekeepers.org website to show what shifts are open. To volunteer, please contact Harrison Rogers at BrooksideBees@gmail.com and indicate what day(s) and shifts you want, your cell phone number, your local bee club name, and an address if we need to mail the

badge to you.

This is a fun event – just ask anyone that has helped before. You should wear your club tee shirt, or even a bee suit!





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

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

Alamo Area Beekeepers Association

Rick Fink - (210) 872-4569

president@alamobees.org

www.alamobees.org

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday on odd # months

San Antonio Botanical Gdn, 555 Funston Place, San Antonio

Austin Area Beekeepers Association

Brittany Fetterman - (512) 525-9473

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

beesintbeeast@att.net

Meetings 4th Saturday of each month at 10am

Water Garden Gems, 3230 Bolton Road, Marion,

Bell/Coryell Beekeepers Association

Nan Helmke (254) 289-5802

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

4857 Buffalo Gap Road, Abilene 79606

Blanco County Beekeepers Association

Teri Albright - (512) 636-9900

blancocountybeekeepers@gmail.com

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

Blanco United Methodist Church - Social Hall, 61 Pecan St., Blanco

Brazoria County Beekeepers Association

Steve Brackmann - (832) 884-6141

stevenbrackmann@yahoo.com

bcba@brazoria-county-beekeepers-association.com

www.brazoria-county-beekeepers-association.com

Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month

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

Brazos Valley Beekeepers Association

Justin Russell - (979) 492-4114

info@bvbeeks.org

www.bvbeeks.org

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

Bryan High School, 3450 Campus Dr. Bryan from 6pm

Caddo Trace Beekeepers Association

Dale Vanhooose - (903) 573-6954

dcv836@gmail.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

Karl Cottrell

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

[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

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**

Shame Jordan

*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

Jim Biles (281) 451-6069

*www.etba.info***Meetings:** 1st Thursday of each month at 6:45 pm;

Whitehouse Methodist Ch., 405 W Main (Hwy 346), Whitehouse

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

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

Georgia Miguez 512) 827-6239

*hayscountyba@gmail.com***Meetings:** 3rd Wednesday of each month at

Suds Monkey Brewing, 12024 US-290, Dripping Springs 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**texashillcountrybeekeepers@gmail.com***Meetings:** 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm

Hill County Courthouse Annex, 126 S Covington St Hillsboro

Hopkins County Beekeepers Association

Jon Dalzell - Secretary, (214) 395-1730

*dalzelljon@aol.com***Meetings:** 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm

Hopkins County Agrilife Bldg., 1200 W Houston St., Sulphur Springs

Houston Beekeepers Association

Sandi Murray (713) 594-9273

*info@houstonbeekeepers.org**www.houstonbeekeepers.org***Meetings:** 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm

Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonett, Houston

Houston Natural Beekeepers Association

Therese Ramirez - (832) 908-5017

*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

*brucejr@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)

Metro Beekeepers Association

Russ Killingsworth - (817) 751-9513
president@metrobeekeepers.net
<http://www.metrobeekeepers.net>
Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month 6:30 - 8:30
 Southside Preservation Hall, 1519 Lipscomb St. Ft. Worth

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

Walter McLendon (936) 632-7099
wem@mail.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
smabeevranglers@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

David Huffman huffmaninsurance@glade.net
Meetings: 4th Tuesday of each month at 5:30pm
 Sam's Restaurant, Fairfield, TX

Tyler County Bee Club

Scott Martin - (409) 283-4507
tcclub16@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

Director 1

Charles McMaster
mcmasterc@gmail.com
(703) 624-1337



Director 4

Jake Moore
jakemoor@texasbeekeepers.org
(409)790-5885



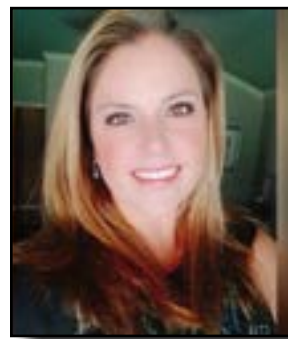
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barbirose@texasbeekeepers.org
(512) 799-0616



Director 5

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monicasiwiak@gmail.com
(281) 627-7700



Director 3

Gary Barber
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(972) 768-5505



Director 6

Andy Knight
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photo by Danessa "Nes" Yaschuk