

TEXAS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

journal



Mar/April 2023 www.texasbeekeepers.org Issue 23-2

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The Texas Beekeepers Association Mission Statement

The Texas Beekeepers Association (TBA) promotes the common interests, the betterment of conditions, and the general welfare of beekeeping.

the president's report



Dodie Stillman
TBA President

I hope this is our last cold snap of the year. I've inspected, done mite counts and applied a treatment. The bluebonnets are blooming here and I'm ready for warmer weather! How are your bees? Did they all make it through the winter?

Did you enjoy your beekeeping downtime this past winter break? My favorite beekeeping assistant and I checked off another couple of items from our bucket lists with a trip to Mexico. His list item was seeing

breakfast complete with a mariachi band. We then went back to the site to spend the rest of the morning exploring the grounds, pyramids and museums. We were able to hike to the top of the first platform at the Temple of the Feathered Serpent (Quetzacoatl), but unfortunately, that was the only pyramid we were allowed to climb.

One of the most amazing facts about Teotihuacan is that it is home to one of the tallest pyramids in the world. The Pyramid of the Sun is the 7th tallest pyramid in the world.

The next day of our vacation was a travel day that ended with us toasting the sunset on the roof of our bed and breakfast high in the Sierra Madres. What followed were visits to two different butterfly sanctuaries, the Reserva de la Biosfera Mariposa Monarca and Cerro Pelón Butterfly Sanctuary. Butterflies and bees share some terminology... Butterflies group together in colonies, and they both cluster to stay warm. When they are in clusters, they



Teotihuacan, and I surprised him with a balloon ride over the pyramids. Seeing the monarchs as they overwinter in the Sierra Madre mountains just west of Mexico City has been on my bucket list since I first made my list.

Teotihuacan is a vast Mexican archaeological complex northeast of Mexico City. Running down the middle of the site, which was once a flourishing pre-Columbian city, is the Avenue of the Dead. It links the Temple of Quetzalcoatl, the Pyramid of the Moon and the Pyramid of the Sun. After our early morning balloon ride over the pyramids, we had



have their wings closed and look like dead leaves. But when the sun shines and starts to warm them, they open their wings and if it's warm enough will take flight. The butterflies will gather water and nectar as well as mate. The male butterfly often dies soon after mating with a female butterfly.



After a week in Mexico it was back home to the 88th legislative session that was now in full swing with bills being submitted daily. The TBA Legislative team is now tracking ten different bills and watching another six. We have kept our TBA Legislative page (<https://texasbeekeepers.org/beelaws/>) up to date since mid February with a couple of news articles published to highlight this effort.

We were pleased to be invited to a zoom conference call covering some of the important bee-related bills from this session. It was a constructive call and has helped to start and continue some of the conversation needed to strengthen the wording and support of many of the current bills. Please check the Legislative Review in this issue and watch the TBA 2023 Legislative Session web page for bill updates.

The last item of business is the Summer Clinic! Yes, I saved the best for last! We have our date (June 17) set. We have the location (LoneStar Convention Center, Conroe) confirmed. Now, we are working on our list of speakers. It's coming together nicely and I not only want to invite you to attend, but I want to tell you about a couple of new items we are going to try this year. I'll save the big announcement for Byron, but I want to tell you about a couple of fun side options.

First, I'll have a box set up at the TBA Table to accept your honey donations for the State Fair. Make sure your honey is labeled, and after we place the honey on the state fair display, we'll take photos and close ups of YOUR honey displayed at the TBA State Fair of Texas Honey Booth!! We will post these photos on the TBA website and Facebook pages for you to grab copies. And while you are packing up your honey to bring to Conroe, bring an extra bottle for a honey swap!! We will have another table set up for folks to drop off a bottle of honey and pick up someone else's! What a great way to experience the sights and tastes of different Texas Honey. Did your bees create some wonderful dark honey this year? Want to trade it for some wildflower honey? Or are you from Central Texas and really want to give some tallow honey a taste? Please bring labeled honey for the first ever TBA Honey Swap at the 2023 Summer Clinic.



vice president's

report



Byron Compton
TBA Vice President

If something is worth doing, it is worth doing badly!
A couple of years ago I read a fascinating article in the American Bee Journal. I can't remember the year or name of the author – I would like to give him credit. The title is what caught my eye – “If something is worth doing, it is worth doing badly!” That is a different spin on the adage “If a job is worth doing, it is worth doing well!” The different negative wording intrigued me, so I dove into the article.

It was by a beekeeper who had kept bees for several years. He didn't have a lot of hives and was in the business as a hobby or sideline for his own reasons – help his garden, get a little honey, and the pure joy of raising bees, watching them work, multiply, swarm, and regenerate colonies through increases.

He admitted he wasn't a great beekeeper, maybe not even a good beekeeper. He routinely lost colonies, had failures when doing splits, never was able to make his own queens, and in general had to purchase queens or nucs each year. By most metrics, we would call him a “bee haver” rather than a bee keeper.

But he saw it differently. He knew at the beginning he would never make it big in beekeeping, would probably never make enough honey to sell, never make a profit, and struggled year to year to keep his apiary viable. He never got frustrated over his losses.

But he did not see himself as a bad beekeeper. He wasn't in it for riches or fame. Shoot, he admitted he didn't want more than a few hives. He approached beekeeping like a true “hobby.” He compared it to golf, or fishing, or skiing. Most people that get into those “hobbies” never make it big either. They never make it

to the Masters Tournament, appear on Bass Masters, or make the Olympic Ski Team. They spend thousands on green fees and clubs and shoes, fishing gear and boats, and skis and lift tickets, with no chance of recouping those expenses; they are in it because – they LIKE IT!

So, he resigned himself to being what he would call an average beekeeper, plodding along year to year replacing queens, Nucs, woodenware, etc. And he was quite happy to do so, because he received self-satisfaction watching and working with the small wonders that are honey bees.

The U.S. and Texas beekeeping community is made up of all types and sizes of beekeepers from 1-2 hive beeks to commercial organizations with thousands of hives; from migratory beekeepers to those that never move their hives. So, regardless of how many colonies you have, how many colonies

you lose each year, how many pounds of honey you get (or don't get), be not discouraged! Beekeeping can be its own reward!

The Texas Beekeepers Association is dedicated to support the needs of ALL Texas beekeepers, regardless of size or category, whether they use Langstroth, Topbar, Warre, or commercial hives in their bee yards. We are here to help YOU... if there is some area you need help with, let us know, reach out to your local beekeeping club, attend our clinics and conventions, and attend any of the almost dozen bee schools around Texas, and even try to make it to an out-of-state school or convention. You will learn, meet wonderful people, and feed your inner hunger for learning more about beekeeping.

We are here to help YOU!



Microbial Myths

True or False? If microbes don't colonize, they aren't effective.

It's true that some beneficial microbes, such as Lactobacilli in probiotics, are aimed at replenishing native bacteria that colonize (or continue to populate) the gut. However, many bacteria have demonstrated their ability to impart positive effects even though they are transient and do not remain in the digestive tract or the rectum for extended periods.

You may have wondered why probiotics for humans are often recommended daily. This is because beneficial microbes that do not colonize the gut need to be replenished. Even bacteria that do colonize the gut face overwhelming circumstances that often disrupt their natural balance. For example, when honey bees face several environmental stressors such as transportation, dearth, supplemental feeding,

pathogens, parasites, exposure to toxins and antibiotics, these all negatively impact a flourishing microbiome.

When good bacteria are diminished, it leaves holes or gaps for harmful bacteria to move in. Imagine your honey bee's gut is a big neighborhood; we want our society to have plenty of helpful neighbors that shield our community when hard times come.

Unfortunately, when environmental stressors come along, some of the helpful neighbors (bacteria) will die or dwindle in numbers until they can no longer take up residence like they used to. When this happens, it leaves a hole or a gap, like a vacant house. That empty space is an opportunity for pathogens to take up residence. This is why it's crucial before, during, and after stressful times like pollination, when your bees face a deluge of stressful circumstances, that their gut's microbiome is fortified with good neighbors (bacteria) to help them get through the tough time ahead.



Summer Clinic 2023

June 17th, 2023

Conroe, TX



Pricing:

TBA Members

\$99

Non TBA Members

\$125

Featuring Jeff “Mr. Ed” Horchoff

Bees have been a passion of mine for over 20 years, but that passion was neverfully realized until I became the lone bee wrangler for a group of Benedictine monks at Saint Joseph Abbey in Southeast Louisiana, about 50 miles north of New Orleans. It was there that I began seeing bees in a different light, a marvel of God’s creation.

As I had every intention of becoming a monk, and I spent over 12 years discerning that vocation, the prayer life of a monk lived seeped into my everyday life, and this greatly influenced my beekeeping practices.

As the fledgling Abbee Honey Program here at St. Joseph Abbey was just beginning, in 2012, as well as my Youtube channel about the bees at the abbey, the flood of 2016 hit, causing over 33 million dollars in damage to the abbey and washing away the 30 hives we had. I had to make the decision, to call it quits or move forward. Well, I chose the harder route and aggressively began building up colonies by doing removals, making splits, and catching swarms. And God blessed the proceedings. We went from zero hives in 2016 to over 200 in 2020, and then last year, we scaled down to 150 which is where I want to stay

.As I said earlier, I discerned the monastic life for over 12 years, but the vows I took at the end of last September were not religious vows. Instead, they were marriage vows and I married Mona whom I met from my Youtube channel. Thank you Jesus!

DON'T MISS THE BUZZ THIS SUMMER!

SUMMER CLINIC 2023



**JUNE 17TH
CONROE, TX**

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OPENS
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the brantley column



S. S. Brantley

2016 Life Member Texas Beekeepers Association

2017 Life Member Louisiana Beekeepers Association

Ready or not, here comes March! You may have been “thinking” about your bees since last November but now is the time you have to “Do Something”!

Are your hives going to starve during the next really cold spell, swarm the first week of 78-80 degree weather, or be ready to thrive in the coming spring? Have you been monitoring them, feeding them, and giving them room to lay eggs and not need to swarm?

Have plenty of 1:1 sugar syrup on hand to feed your hives to mimic a nectar flow. If feeding pollen patties, adjust the size of the patty to what the bees will consume in a few days. This helps prevent the hive beetles from laying eggs underneath a large piece of pollen patty. I read a recent suggestion about using ½ inch hardware cloth attached to a shim that will support the pollen patty so the bees can better guard the underside and control the laying of hive beetle eggs underneath.

As I write this in the middle of February, we have been experiencing some big swings in the daytime temperatures—very cold windy days followed by warm days with temperatures in the 70s. Early spring blossoms are showing in the fields and woods. The first plum tree variety to bloom is the Sloe Plum (pronounced “slow” but spelled sloe or sometimes slo), often seen on the edge of highway right-of-ways, mostly in the edge of the woods or fields. Their white blossoms often have an off-color appearance with just a bit of pink taint to them. Also blooming along the roadways is the Wild Plum. It has white blossoms and from a distance looks much like the Sloe Plum. The biggest difference is their fruits. The Wild Plum has yellow or red fruit that ripens in May or June and the Sloe Plum’s pinkish colored fruit ripens in November. The Sloe Plum fruit is hard and has a very tart taste if you bite it but is great for making jelly and jam.

East Texas beekeepers know the blooming of the wild plum varieties is a sign the nectar flow is

beginning. In the next few weeks we can expect to see blooms on Redbud, Pear, Peach and Wild Cherry trees. The spring flow will be in full swing and hopefully you are ready.

If you used two deep brood chamber hives, you need to determine if you want to reverse the boxes. That means you determine if the queen is in the top brood box and the bottom brood box has only a few bees moving through it to get to the activity above.

As with many things in beekeeping, there are differing opinions about reversing boxes. Some beekeepers strongly believe in separating the two brood boxes and placing the originally top box containing the queen and brood on the bottom board. Then, set the originally bottom box on top of it. This allows the queen to move up into the now mostly vacant top brood box to continue to lay eggs.

Other beekeepers believe reversing the boxes is unnecessary as the queen will move down when she has used all the space in the top brood box. You can decide which method you will use in managing your hives. Since this is a pretty disruptive process, choose to do it on a warmer day.

Eggs layed by the queen in March will be nectar gathers in the latter part of May and as long as their wings hold out into June. If your inspection shows a spotty brood pattern early on, a wise move would be to replace the queen with a newly purchased mated queen as soon as you can obtain one.

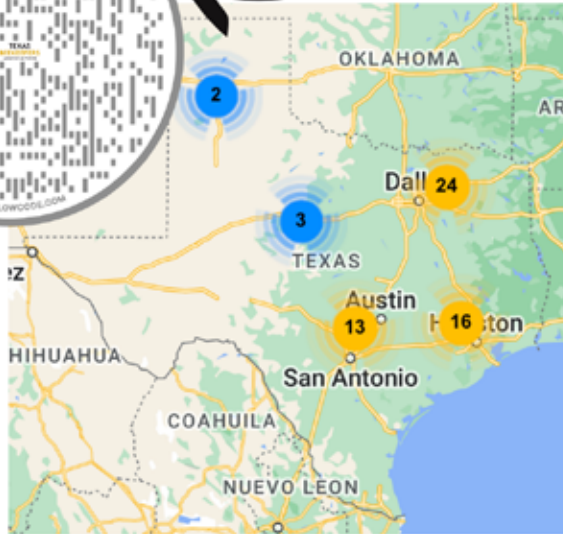
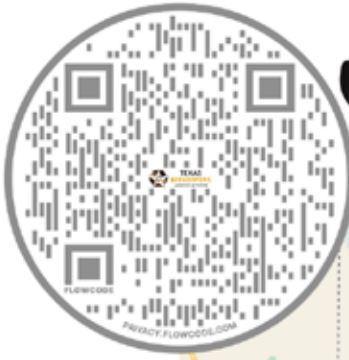
If you have maintained Nucs in your apiary, you have a ready to use queen on-hand for just such a situation. Find the poor laying queen and kill or remove her. Take all five frames with the queen and the bees out of the Nuc and place them in the full sized hive. Close it up and let the two sets of bees work it out. They will usually learn to get along quickly and the fresh queen from the Nuc will start laying in your hive.



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University Bee Lab



the texas keeper



To Mow or Not To Mow

By Kirk Kirksey

We beekeepers are an argumentative lot; it must be something in our genes. We love to disagree. Happily, I have come across one subject on which most beekeepers (not to mention scientists and other experts) agree. Loss of habitat driven by human “progress” has become a major threat to our Honey Bees and other pollinators.

To my way of thinking, there are at least four vectors of honey bee habitat destruction. Humans destroy habitat by building too many condos and planting too many almond trees. We kill habitat with the widespread use of selective herbicides. Pesticides poison honey bee habitats by tainting essential honey bee food sources - plant nectar and pollen.

Suppression is my fourth vector of habitat destruction. Habitat suppression happens when we use mechanical methods to prevent useful plants from reaching a state that honey bees can use. In other words, we repeatedly mow down flower producing “weeds” eliminating sources of nectar and pollen honey bees need to survive.

Feeling helpless when it comes to saving honey bee habitats is easy to do. The problem is simply too complex with most issues being a political and economic tug-of-war between powerful opposing factions.

But if you are a property owner or know property owners, there is a way you can make a difference. Get behind the NO MOW movement. It doesn't matter if your property is a large rural plot, a city park, or a homeowner's small yard -there is a NO MOW approach for you. Evidence is starting to show mowing less and mowing differently helps a lot.

NO MOW: THE CULTURE. THE SCIENCE. THE BEEKEEPER

The idea behind NO MOW is painfully simple. Support honey bees by not cutting the nectar and pollen producing blossoms they need to survive. The first hurdle to overcome is culture.

We have convinced ourselves that certain plants growing in places we don't want them to be is a bad thing. We call these no-good, trespassing plants “weeds”. Its funny how this works. A plant growing in my lawn is a “weed”. The same plant growing in my flower bed is an “ornamental”. My suggestion; beekeepers – not to mention the culture at large - should purge the word “weed” from their vocabulary and thinking. Do a little research about human foraging in your area. You will find native peoples had no concept of a “weed”. Instead they used many of what we call “weeds” for comfort, food, and medicines.

After culture comes science. A growing body of scientific evidence supports the value of NO

MOW. Here are a few examples. One two-year project observed pollinator visits to 73 plots. This study states that the “...pollinator visits increased linearly with both the blossom cover and the number of flowering plant species...”

Another study in 2014 examined how different mowing techniques in hay meadows affected bee population. In this study, parts of a meadow were left unmowed (refuges). Results showed wild bee populations increased significantly in meadows where uncut areas created refuges. Delayed mowing resulted in more wild bees.



I am the first to recognize that science is a wonderful thing, but I am not sure beekeepers need scientists to tell us more flowers attract more bees. The beekeepers I know closely watch their environment. They know what should be blooming when, and when things are “off” (usually due to drought in my area).

THE NO MOW MOVEMENT: WHAT IT IS. WHAT IT ISN'T

First and foremost, NO MOW does not mean NEVER MOW. Many variations of NO MOW are possible. Success will depend on successfully crafting an approach that considers area size and environment as well as local politics, community support, budget, regulations, and other factors.

By now, the idea behind NO MOW should be obvious – we allow plants (commonly known as weeds) to blossom and stay around long enough to benefit honey bees and other pollinators. Here are examples of three NO MOW approaches.

NO MOW MAY

Blossoms in early Spring are critical to our honey bees. As the spring build up begins, foragers must bring in enough pollen to support healthy feeding of larva. Without this pollen, larvae cannot develop into healthy

mature bees. Studies show pollen quantity, quality, and diversity are both critical for larva nutrition. To this end, many communities like Home Owners Associations and cities relax mowing restrictions in the early spring in order to give honey bees a healthy start.

If you are interested in beginning a NO MOW initiative where you live, you can download a NO MOW MAY yard sign at <https://www.xerces.org/publications/other/no-mow-may>.

MOW LESS

Eliminating mowing entirely is rarely an option. However, several studies show that less frequent mowing can greatly enhance bee and pollinator benefits – especially in areas where fast blooming species are present. There is another very important aspect of MOW LESS – saving money. Many cities and municipalities have implemented MOW LESS policies because of taxpayer savings. The table below shows savings realized by a small city (Ville de Trois-Rivières) in Quebec after implementing MOW LESS in 2018.

MOW DIFFERENTLY

NO MOW and its hybrids are not just for city parks and urban front yards. Thoughtful mowing applied



to large plots such as meadows and hay fields can deliver large payloads for our bees. The studied I cited earlier (Buri, et. Al.) tested both the effects of delayed mowing; and the creation of “refuges” by leaving 15% of large, commercial hay fields unmowed. Bee population increased significantly in fields with uncut “refuges”. Delayed mowing resulted in a significant increase in honey bee and wild bee populations.

Researchers concluded that agri-management plans currently can adopt variations NO MOW or REDUCED MOW to support honey bees and other pollinators.

Loss of honey bee habitat is a monumental problem for everyone. In the face of what seem to be insurmountable obstacle, falling into the pit of discouragement is easy. But there is some that you and your non-beekeeping friends can do. Just put away

those lawn mowers – at least for a little while.

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Mowing regime	Area (ha)	Current scenario			Low-intensity scenario		
		Mowing frequency (average)	Total mown area (ha)	Cost (\$CAD)	Mowing frequency (average)	Total mown area (ha)	Cost (\$CAD)
High use	273	15 per year	4,095	\$791,755	10 per year	2,730	\$527,837
Low use	118	3 per year	354	\$68,445	1 per year	118	\$22,815
Total	391		4,449	\$860,200		2,848	\$550,652



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STAY ON THE FARM



the happy herbalist



Infusing Honey, 3 Ways: Chai Spice Infused Honey Recipe By Carolyn Gibson

Infused honey can be a tasty treat, or an herbal remedy, mostly both.

It can have an indefinite shelf life or need to be refrigerated with a shelf life of maybe 2 weeks – 2 months, depending on rather the herbs, vegetables or fruits are fresh or dry.

To heat or not to heat?

Heating will destroy important enzymes in the honey but may be required to extract the healing benefits of the botanicals or if you need your herbal remedy today.

Use any dried powdered spice, (These are herbs that you would normally eat in your food, like cinnamon, cloves etc., even turmeric.) to honey.

The easiest and fastest would be stirring the powdered spices into your honey. A basic recipe would be to add 3-4 tablespoons of powdered spices to $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of raw natural honey.

These need to sit at least overnight. At least a week would be ideal. The longer they sit the more intense the aroma and the more they will incorporate into the honey.

My favorite is Chai Spice Infused Honey. This will make a delicious “instant Chai Tea Latte”.

Use Chai Spice Infused Honey to transform ordinary food into extraordinary. Add to yogurt, puddings, chopped fruit, coffee or even oatmeal.

Chai Spice Mix

Mix together:

1 $\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoons powdered Cinnamon

1 tablespoon powdered Coriander

$\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon powdered Cloves

$\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon powdered Cardamon

$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon powdered Ginger

$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon powdered Black Pepper

$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon powdered Nutmeg

Stir into 1 cup of raw natural honey. Let set at least overnight. Let set for 1 week for best results. Heat together 1 cup of milk or milk substitute and 2-3 teaspoons of instant tea. Stir in 1 tablespoon of Chai Spice honey. Instant Chai Tea Latte!!

Dry herbs that you would normally make an herbal tea with, such as Chamomile, Wild Cherry Bark, Lavender, Hibiscus, Thyme, Oregano, Mints etc. would be treated a little different than your spices.

Chop your dried chosen herb, cover with honey and then heat on low heat for 6-8 hours and then strain. Try and keep your temperature between 110-115°F.

Crock pots:

Set the temperature on low, place a canning ring on the bottom, set your jar of honey and herbs on the ring, add 1-2 inches of water to the crockpot. Do not cover with a lid. Watch the temperature. Once the temperature of your honey gets up to 115 °F, turn your temperature to warm and keep an eye on it.

A yogurt maker can be used or even a double boiler. Since no moisture was added these should keep years. Of course, you may have problems with the honey crystallizing.



*Honey is awesome by itself, but
spectacular when it is infused.*

Fresh herbs, fruits and vegetables will dilute the honey. Once it is diluted it no longer has an indefinite shelf life. The most famous are natural cough syrups made with either onions or garlic and honey. Onions or garlic is covered with honey and heated for several hours. Or, it may be left to set overnight without heat. Onions or garlic are releasing water into the honey. This will need to be refrigerated and kept for around 2 weeks – 2 months. Monitor for mold. Any kind of fresh fruit or vegetables will add moisture, diluting the honey.

For longer shelf life using fresh herbs and vegetables you need to make a fermentation. You can see my YOUTUBE videos on making fermented, garlic honey.

Apple Cider Vinegar added to an infused honey using fresh herbs and vegetables will extend the shelf life. Infused honey with apple cider vinegar is called an Oxymel. I also have a YOUTUBE video on making oxymels.

Honey is awesome by itself, but spectacular when it is infused.

YOUTUBE channel: @carolyngibsonherbalist

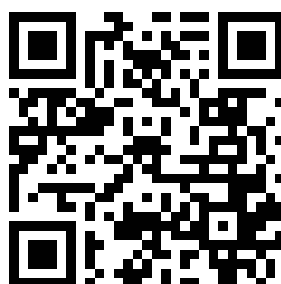
Infusing honey 3 ways

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pCHO06BG-RA>



Onion Honey Syrup

<https://youtu.be/Afv-JFdmYTI>



Instant Chai Tea Latte

<https://youtu.be/VbPeZcwpEJo>



Fermented, garlic honey

<https://youtu.be/1CLNW26sD6I>



How to Make a Ginger Oxymel.mp4



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-b3JnwFEC0k>

honeybee factoid article



Honey Bee Drones and Spooky Math

By Kirk Kirksey

Eight hundred years ago a young Italian mathematician started thinking about rabbits. He wondered how rabbits, under perfect circumstances, would do what they do best, multiply. He started with one pair (male and female) of imaginary baby rabbits. In one month, he assumed, this bunny couple would mature and in two months they would produce another pair of make-believe rabbits (conveniently another male/female pair). Existing pairs of rabbits would keep begetting new pairs of rabbits; each new pair would beget their own pair, etc., etc., etc. Our young hero worked out a number sequence that told him how many pairs of male/female rabbits he would have each month (of course, under the completely unrealistic conditions that mathematicians seem to favor).

By all accounts, our young math wizard's discovery should have been consigned to obscurity. But over the past 800 years something very weird has been happening. This mysterious number sequence and its consequences keeps popping up in the most unexpected places like pine cones, pineapples, the human hand, and -yes - honey bees.

Today we call this progression of numbers, The Fibonacci Sequence. You may have seen it mentioned in the movies like "The Da Vinci Code (numbers in the Fibonacci Sequence are used to crack a safe) and "Pi".

"What does all this have to do with honey bees?", you ask.

Hang with me.

A WHIZ KID FROM PISA

Our hero's name was Leonardo Bonacci. He was born sometime around 1170 in Pisa, Italy. Guglielmo, Leonardo's father, was



Leonardo Bonacci (AKA Fibonacci)

a customs official who oversaw trading operations in, what is today, Algeria. Young Leonardo often traveled with his father around the Mediterranean coast. On these trips he met with merchants and learned their methods of record keeping and arithmetic. During an extended stay in Bugia (Algeria), he received extensive training in mathematics. This is where he learned the thing that would make him the most famous mathematician of the Middle Ages – The Hindu-Arabic Numeral System.

In Leonardo's day most merchants and bankers used Roman numerals for accounting chores (if you think this is simple, try dividing XIIIV by VI). Leonardo quickly recognized the value of using Hindu-Arabic numerals and their place-value system of doing arithmetic. He described this system in his book, Liber Abaci.

To make a long story short –

The book was a huge success. Middle Ages accounting types adopted the new system in droves. Leonardo became a super star.

Now, about that name.

In Leonardo's day the term filius (son of) was used to differentiate a father from his son. Leonardo would have been known as Leonardo filius Bonacci (Leonardo son of Bonacci). Somehow it all got shortened to Fibonacci.

The world may have forgotten that Fibonacci brought Arabic numerals to our world, but almost everyone has heard of the Fibonacci Sequence.

SO, WHAT IS THE FIBONACCI SEQUENCE ANYWAY?

Simply put, the Fibonacci Sequence is a progression of numbers, beginning with 1, in which any given number is the sum of the two previous numbers.

Take a look:

0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55,
89,144,233,377,610,987, 1597, 2584, 4181, 6765, 10946,
17711, 28657, 46368, 75025, 121393, 196418, 317811,
514229, ...

Numbers occurring in the sequence are called Fibonacci Numbers. You get something called The Golden Ratio by dividing a given Fibonacci Number by its predecessor in the sequence.

What's the big deal? This looks pretty simple. Don't be fooled. Do a little digging and you'll find The Fibonacci Sequence, Fibonacci Numbers, and the Golden Ratio, can be found in the most surprising places, like ancient Greek architecture, the Mona Lisa, and sunflowers to name a few.

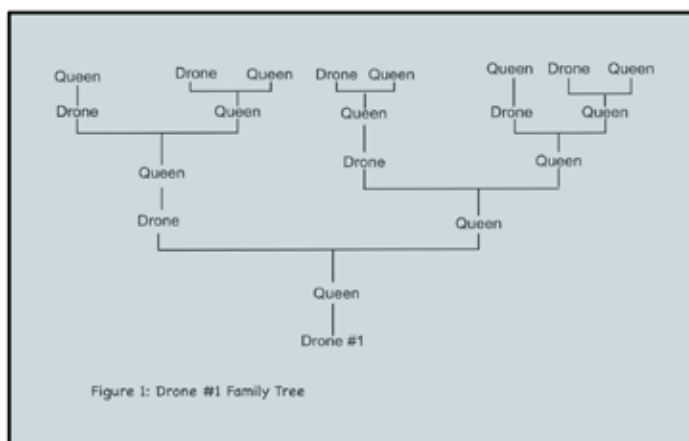
FIBONACCI AND HONEY BEES

As I mentioned earlier the Fibonacci Sequence and Fibonacci Numbers keep popping up in the most unexpected places. For many flowers, botanists have noticed the number of petals is likely to be a Fibonacci Number. The sequence can be found in the branch development of some trees. Do some Googling to find lots of other examples. And then there are the honey bees – honey bee drones to be specific.

Beekeepers know honey bee drones are a product of haplodiploidy. Haplodiploidy is a biological system for determining the sex of an individual. When it comes to honey bees, worker bees and queens are diploid because they are formed from a fertilized egg laid by the Queen. This means workers and queens have two sets of chromosomes; one set from the drone father and one set from the queen.

Drones, on the other hand, are haploid because they develop from an unfertilized egg and have a single set of chromosomes (only from the queen mother). So, drones have no father; only a mother – the colony Queen. Enter the Fibonacci Sequence!!

Have a look at Figure 1.



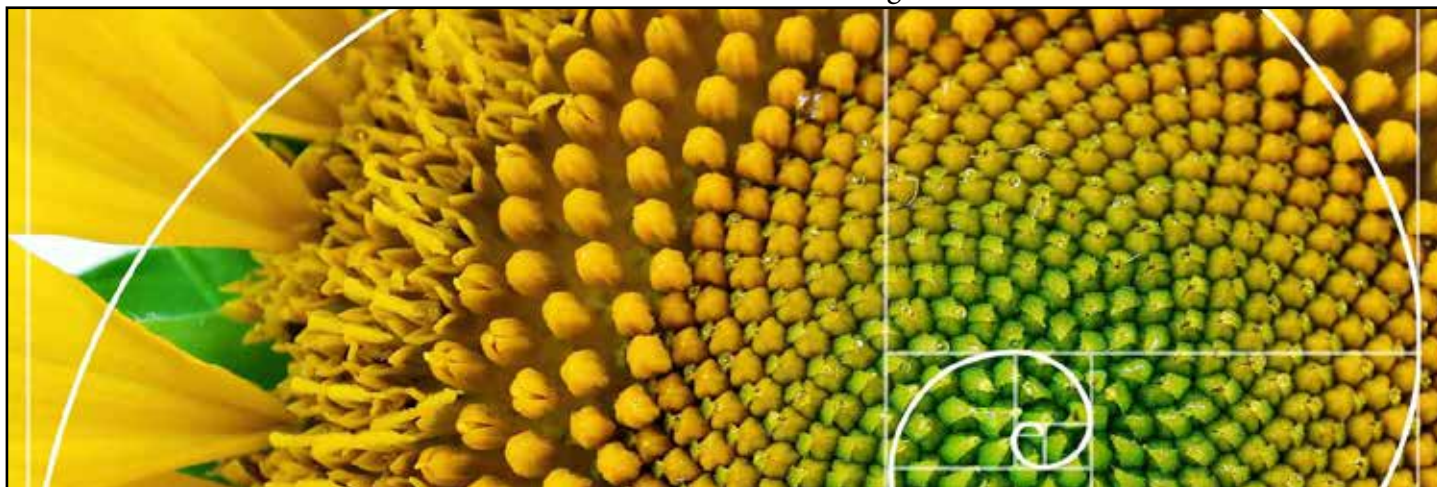
Here's what you get when you count the parents, grandparents, and ancestors of Drone #1.

Number of	Parents	Grand parents	Great Grand Parents	Great Great Grand Parents	Great Great Great Grand Parents
Drone #1	1	2	3	5	8

Look familiar? As you can see, the Fibonacci Sequence and beekeeping are inextricably intertwined.

As if the earthly presence of The Fibonacci Sequence in nature, art and architecture wasn't spooky enough, aliens are creeping into to picture. Astronomers say radio signals sending Fibonacci numbers from deep space would be a sure sign of alien intelligence. And get this. Some scientists are now speculating that advanced alien civilization could make themselves known by "stacking" planets so "that their orbits resonate the Fibonacci Sequence".

I'm the first to admit all this weird Fibonacci stuff is starting to get to me. Now, every time I see a drone, the music from the Twilight Zone begins playing softly in the background.



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the legislative committee

Bee Laws

The 88th session of the Texas Legislature officially opened on January 10, 2023, but TBA's legislative efforts are ongoing all year long. Using resolutions passed by TBA membership at the annual meeting as a guide, the members of your Legislative Committee devote many hours each year talking to various stakeholders, attending events, meeting and corresponding with legislators, their staffs and government agencies, both state and federal, researching, and discussing how to best address the needs of beekeepers and the Texas beekeeping industry. With the capable assistance of Joe Morris, TBA's lobbyist since 2019, TBA has been able to make progress in ways that we would not have thought possible just a few years ago.

TBA is bringing three legislative initiatives forward this session and is monitoring more than a dozen bills that may directly or indirectly impact TBA members. We urge you to visit the 2023 Legislative page of TBA's website (<https://texasbeekeepers.org/beelaws/>) for more specific information on these bills. We are doing our best to provide information and updates as we learn more about the issues and as the bills move through the process.

2023 TBA Legislative Initiatives

Secure funding for an Apiculture Extension Specialist. Senator Charles Perry and Representative Mary Gonzales, both strong supporters of beekeeping, have put forth funding requests for the position of a state bee specialist at AgriLife Extension. It's a long and complex process but we know they are working for us, and we appreciate their efforts very much.

HB 2329 (Rep. Ernest Bailes) Relating to honey production operations and the harvesting and packaging of honey and honeycomb. Recent changes

in the position of the Department State Health Services (DSHS) with respect to extracting and bottling honey necessitated a cleanup of potentially conflicting statutory language from the 2015 small honey producers' bill. The language of HB 2329 closely tracks the current DSHS position. We thank the folks at DSHS for bringing this issue to our attention and to Rep. Bailes for helping us work to get it resolved.

HB 4538 (Rep. Kyle Kacal) Relating to the regulation of beekeeping; imposing fees and authorizing other fees; expanding the applicability of an occupational permit. While this caption may sound somewhat ominous, the proposed changes to Chapter 131 of the Texas Agriculture Code do not increase the authority of the Texas Apiary Inspection Service nor impose any burdensome constraints on beekeepers. We have worked with a number of stakeholders for better language in certain areas to come to what we believe is a general consensus regarding the updates. The revised bill language has been posted on the website.

Other bills of particular interest include bills that would specifically impact the 1-d-1 open-space land qualification for keeping bees (three of which are favorable and one that TBA opposes) as well as a bill that would change labeling laws with respect to Texas honey.

Please take a minute to review these and others we are following. If you have comments or questions about anything, use the link provided on the 2023 Legislative webpage or contact any of the legislative team members directly.

Leesa Hyder
Executive Secretary and
Legislative Committee Chair

the rangel

report



Dr. Juliana Rangel

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

Dear TBA members,

Spring has sprung and it has been a wet one! We have been quite busy this semester, and I want to give you a few updates on our latest developments.

First, I would like to congratulate Taylor Reams, who successfully passed the oral exam for her doctoral dissertation defense on 14 February. The title of her dissertation is “Understanding the enemy: The genetics and behavioral ecology of *Varroa destructor*, parasitic mite of the honey bee (*Apis mellifera*).” She is now happily working at Washington State University with Drs. Brandon Hopkins and Kelly Kulhanek. Congratulations Taylor!

On 17 and 18 February, I was the international keynote speaker for the Ulster Bee Keepers Association Spring Conference at Greenmount College in Antrim, Northern Ireland. This was my second time visiting that beautiful country and venue, and it was amazing to visit old friends and sites once more. As usual, it was an absolute delight to be there again (<https://www.ubka.org/latest-news/conference-2023/>).

On 3 and 4 March, I was the keynote speaker at the 44th Annual Spring Beekeeping Workshop of the Tri-county Beekeepers Association in Wooster, OH. Other great speakers include Drs. Margarita Lopez-Urbe and Robyn Underwood from Penn State, Dr. Reed Johnson (OSU) and Jerry Hayes (Bee Culture Magazine). <https://tricountybeekeepers.org/.../2023-Registration...> Workshop participants were not only from Ohio but several neighboring states.

The latest session of the At Home Beekeeping Series was on Tuesday, March 28, from 6:30-7:30 PM CT. Our speaker was Dr. Geoff Williams from Auburn University. His topic was ‘BMPs from BIP: The National Loss and Management Survey.’ 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 here: <https://fb.me/e/1T70m8iEG>. The event is also available on the Lawrence Co. Extension local page: <https://www.facebook.com/LawrenceCountyextension>. 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/.../bees.../at-home-beekeeping-series/>.

Our lab was again proud to be participant at this year’s Central Texas Association’s Bee School on 1 April 2023 in Brenham, TX. We had presentations by Dr. Tonya Shepherd, who spoke about bee-associated viruses, Keegan Nichols, who spoke about native bee biology, and I, who spoke about the biology of mating. Our booth was well attended, and we had lots of honeys from all over the world available for tasting.

Members of our lab presented their research at this year’s Ecological Integrated Symposium (EIS) in poster format on Friday, 31 March at the Rudder Tower Foyer of Texas A&M University (<https://eeb.tamu.edu/eis/2023-ecological-integration-symposium/>). The EIS is an annual interdisciplinary event that brings together a diverse group of leading scientists and students from the fields of ecology, evolutionary biology, and conservation. This year’s theme was “Ecology Through Time: Perspectives from the Past, Present and Future.” Our laboratory was represented by Keegan Nichols, Sydney Martinez, and Ashyaa Brown. Well done guys!

Lastly, the Bee Informed Partnership (BIP)’s annual Loss & Management Survey (LMS) is live! The LMS is primarily advertised by word of mouth and (via ABJ and Bee Culture magazines), we rely on the community to help us to spread the word. This year, we set a respondent goal of 6,000 and would

love your help getting there! We are posting several announcements with fun new graphics and content on our social media outlets, so please feel welcome to share any or all (every share helps!)! If you would like to be tagged in any of our posts, please let us know. :) Here are our Facebook and Instagram pages:

facebook.com/BeeInformedPartnership
instagram.com/beeinformedpartnership

That is all for now. 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>. We are almost at 5,500 followers from around the world!

Sincerely yours,
 Juliana Rangel



Dr. Rangel was the international keynote speaker for the Ulster Bee Keepers Association Annual Conference in Antrim, Northern Ireland.



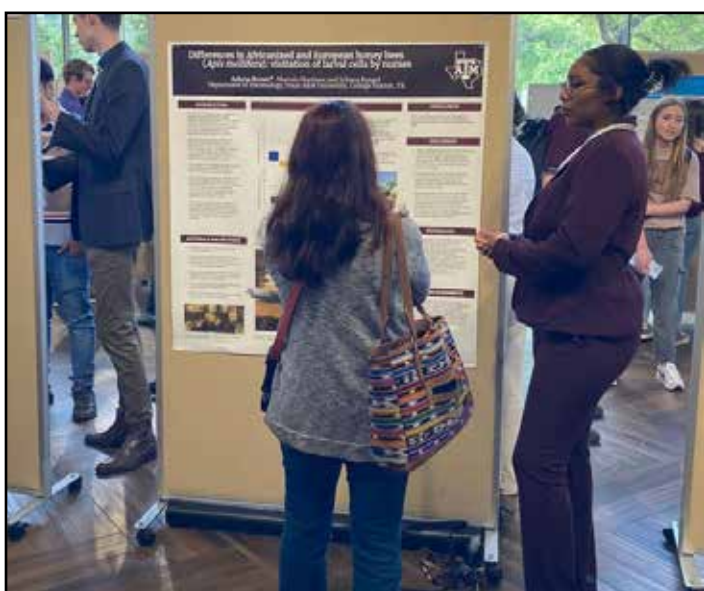
Dr. Rangel at the Ulster Bee Keepers Association meeting with Trevor, who used the pipes to call on attendees to go to his mead making workshop.



Vendor show at the Tri-County Beekeepers Association Spring Conference in Wooster, OH.



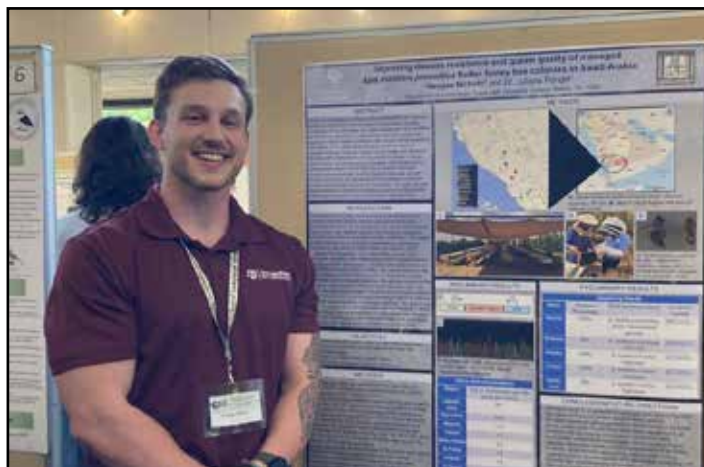
Dr. Tonya Shepherd (left) and Keegan Nichols (right) at the Rangel Honey Bee Lab's booth at this year's Central Texas Beekeepers Association Bee School in Brenham, TX.



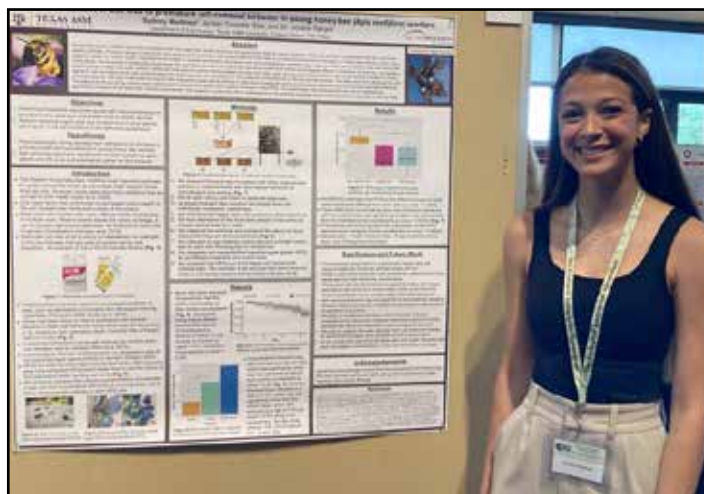
Ashyaa Brown presenting her work at the EIS about nurse bee feeding behavior of European vs. Africanized honey bee larvae.



Aggie honey, as well as honeys from around the world, were available for tasting at our booth as part of our outreach activities at this year's Central Texas Beekeepers Association Bee School in Brenham, TX.



Keegan Nichols presenting his work at the EIS about the genetic diversity of *Apis mellifera jemenitica* colonies in Saudi Arabia.



Sydney Martinez presenting her work at the EIS about the effects of pesticide exposure during development on premature self-removal behavior of young workers.

your local club



Parker County Beekeepers Association, holds their first club meeting, with President Russ Riley.



It's all in the family with honey winners at the Wise County Bee Club. Miriam Putnam takes second place to her granddaughter Felicia Putnam, who won first place.



Rob Holliday recognizes Rick Fink for 10 years of service as President of Alamo Area Beekeepers Association.

send your local club news to publications@texasbeekeepers.org



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!!

- March 28: BMPs from BIP: The National Loss and Mgt. Survey, with G. Williams (AU)
- April 25: Supplemental Feeding and Disease Control, with L. Bartlett (UGA)
- May 30: Water Foraging, with T. Webster (KSU)
- June 27: TBD, with E. Walsh (USDA-ARS)

Last Tuesday of the month

**6:30 – 7:30 pm
Central Time**

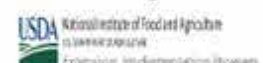
Watch via Zoom Webinar

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

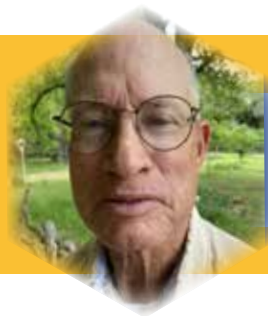
or Facebook Live: <https://www.facebook.com/LawrenceCountyextension/>

Questions? Email Allyson Shabel ams0137@aces.edu

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



TAIS update



Bill Baxter

Chief Apiary Inspector, Texas Apiary Inspection Service

Greetings to Texas beekeepers!

There is a lot going on in the world of keeping bees—it's springtime!

If you have not already ordered your new queens you are behind. A lot of our queen breeders will already be sold out on orders. I will repeat this one more time- do not fall in love with your queen. Judge her in a critical manner and adhere to that standard.

Though the cold season is nearly done, there is another factor I ask you to consider. I visited several beekeepers whose bees had died, dwindled, disappeared or some calamity had

befallen them. When the line of questioning began, a general response seemed to be "I thought it was too cold to open the hive and look" or "I thought you weren't supposed to look at them when it was cold". If bees need fed, they need fed. I'm not talking about bothering them when it is ten degrees, but reasonably in 45 degrees or so you can feed without disturbing their heat cluster.

I do wish to comment on HB 4538, the filed bill to revise Chapter 131, our beekeeping laws. This bill is in our current legislative session and being scrutinized by

a lot of stakeholders in our industry. Bee laws have not been substantially changed in years, but beekeeping has changed, so statutes need to reflect those changes.

Texas Apiary Inspection Service fully supports TBA in HB4538 and believes this bill will simplify TAIS permitting processes. TAIS and TBA have historically worked together from Varroa mites to Africanized honey bees and I feel are united in this effort to update

our bee laws. I do not feel there is anything in the proposed bill to create an undue burden on backyard bee keepers.

I was asked recently what is the most interesting thing I have seen in a bee hive. I would

have to say seeing a queen bee faint is one of the most amazing things. You believe they are dead in your hand, then they begin to stir and come out of it. Do not try this at home. I also have removed a lid and had the colony immediately swarm and leave straight up in a cloud of bees right in my face. They did not use the front door.

If you have questions of our agency, ask us. That is why we are here. (tais@tamu.edu) or (979-845-9713). Bee the Best Beekeeper you can Bee! TAIS appreciates each and every one of you.

Bill Baxter

*Do not fall in love
with your queen.*



**Texas Apiary
Inspection Service**

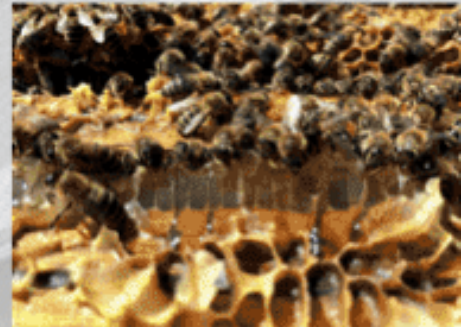
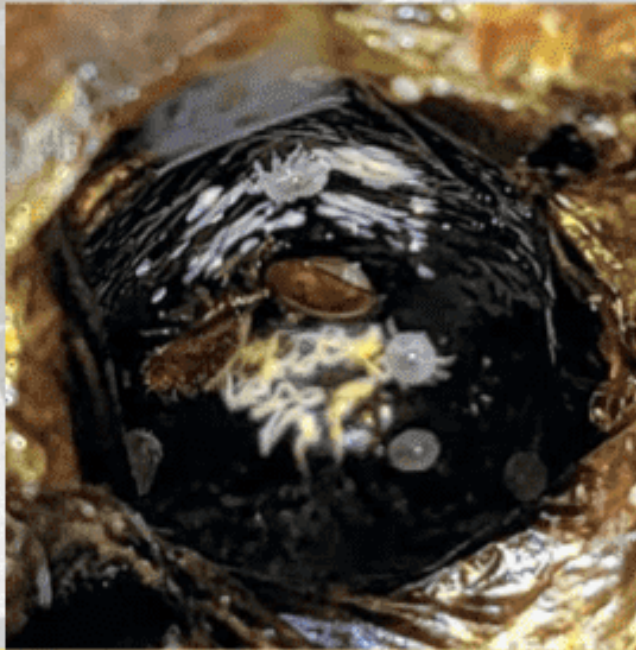
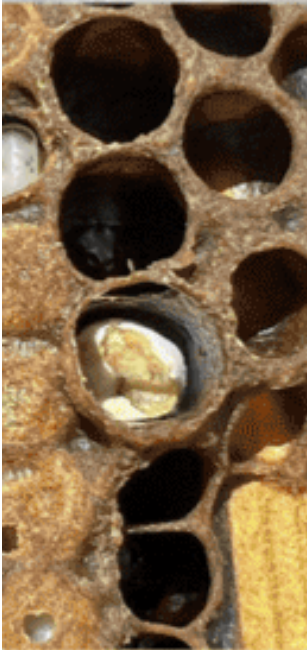
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Your participation is **vital** for informing beekeepers, researchers, policy makers, and the greater public on colony management and loss trends.



Management Topic for 2023:

We have shortened the survey to focus on a single management topic each year, revisiting topics every few years. This year, the focus is on:

Pest & Disease Management Practices

Separate questionnaires are available for small-scale and commercial beekeepers.

Take the survey at beeinformed.org!

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beeinformed.org

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The easiest way to contact us is via mail. We can call you if desired. You can try calling and leave a message with whoever answers the phone and I will return your call. Often I return calls late Evening. We look forward to doing business with you and we appreciate your patronage.

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	1-9	10-24	25-99	100-up
Queens	\$29	\$26	\$24	\$23
Virgins	\$10	-	-	-

Queen Cells \$3

this has never happened to us before!



Roger and Sue Farr

Caddo Trace Beekeeping Association

Master Level Beekeeper-Texas Master Beekeeper Program (Roger)

“The Continuing Journey of Two Ninth-Year Small-Scale Beekeepers”

This is our fifth year to raise queens using the Nicot non-grafting system; we are still learning new lessons. Our resources this year include seven strong hives, wise beekeeping mentors, good communication

between beekeeper and assistant, knowledge and expertise from the Texas Master Beekeeper courses, adequate allotted time, extra wooden ware and equipment, four years of varied queen-raising experience, and several science-based books on raising queen bees. Our opposition has been rain, beekeeper

error, thunder storms, troubling locating the queens in colonies, robbing, wind, short tempers, hail, and, well, you get the idea. We have toyed with the idea of posting a large sign on our fence: “This is agriculture,” to remind us that anything can happen both positively

and negatively. We hung up our bee suits yesterday and simultaneously said, “That has never happened to us before!”

Here are some examples of things we have never experienced during queen-raising activities:

We invited beekeeping friends to be with us in the hives as we raise queens. We require each participant to have at least one year of beekeeping, to wear personal protective equipment, and to sign a liability waiver. We suit up in the garage, answer any questions, walk to the apiary,

light the smoker, pray, and go to work. We sent out the queen-rearing schedule of daily activities ahead of time, and then provide exact times depending upon the weather.

Some participants stand back and watch, gaining



the big picture. Others move to the front and stand at Roger's elbow as he manipulates frames. Some ask, "May I try to do what you just did?" Hands-on experience and immediate instruction take place. Some finally ask that question they have been wanting to ask but were unsure.

This beekeepers-are-welcome-approach requires us to be even more organized, prepared, communicating well, and cognizant of the time and of the goal. In the picture at right, a participant is harvesting the laying cups and placing them on the cell bar.

We divided one day's task between two days. Weather is a huge factor in NE Texas in March, so we keep to the queen-rearing calendar with one eye on the sky. We follow the schedule that Grant Gillard, who died a few years ago, outlines in his wonderful book *Nicot Queen Rearing* – the non-grafting method for raising local queens. The Day-4 activities, the day we should create our cell-builder colonies and harvest the desired 12-24 hour-old larvae, happened partially on Day 3 (moving the queen and open brood atop the cell builder hives to a different hive stand to establish them as individual nucs) and on Day-5 (retrieving the larvae from the Nicot-cassette-caged queen and selecting young larvae-filled cups for placement into the cell-builders), all while dodging raindrops and chilly wind.

We kept the queen mother in the Nicot cassette while we harvested larvae. Previously, we pulled the cassette frame, took a quick look at the filled cups

from the back side of the cassette, to ensure hatched larvae and royal jelly presence, and released the queen back into the colony. This year, we thought that we might find a range of egg/larvae development, so we brought her – with a dozen or so nurse bees – into the garage. We discovered that the nurse bees did not leave the queen, and all appeared fine throughout the harvesting process. With the Nicot system we know exactly where the queen will lay, but not exactly when she will do it, hence the potential variation in egg/larvae development in calendar days. In the picture above, we're releasing the queen back into the colony.

We found multiple larvae in cups. This was not a new queen, just starting out, nor was it a laying workers situation. Our queen mother is a proven performer, and she outdid even our expectations. However, about one-fifth of the 110 cells (individual moveable cups) had multiple unhatched eggs or larvae floating in the royal jelly, as pictured at right. We chose the singles for most of the cell bars but included ten multiple-larvae-cups on the last cell bar as an experiment. Would one larva outcompete the others, or would the nurses remove the excess larvae.



Upon further research, some beekeepers conclude that the queen in the Nicot cassette many have felt “confined” but still needed to lay, since laying 110 eggs over a four-day period was no challenge for her.

We used a strong light and magnifier. It’s fairly easy to spot a blob of royal jelly while still in the apiary, and we can discern eggs that are not yet even bending over from larvae. The lighted magnification in the warm, quiet, and bee-free garage helped us quickly sort out the good from the bad and the ugly. The selection of the cups with the proper age larvae is an absolute key for the Nicot system to work. From the 110, we took the 65 best and 15 others which were marginal in some way. We filled up eight cell bars with 10 cups per cell to go into two chockablock cell-builder colonies. We need approximately 40 queens to meet our nucleus and queen cell sales commitments.

We held a short debrief after each queen-rearing activity. Friendships form over cool water, fruit, and beekeeping questions and answers. It has become, “Look what our queen did today!” rather than any of us saying, “Let me tell you what I did.” The debrief is where the learning takes place and relationships are built...which is exactly why we are in beekeeping. In the picture at right, a helper is carrying out our queen mother in the Nicot cassette and another helper is carrying out the eight cell bars ready for placement in our cell-builder colonies.

Overall, these things that “had never happened to us before” are now part of our honeybee queen rearing norm, and we are grateful for the lessons we are learning. We enjoy sharing beekeeping with others; transparency is much more important than perfection. Visiting beekeepers say things like, “Oh, so now I understand!” We have broadened and deepened our queen-rearing experiences, so the unexpected is much less scary or negative. It is always easier to raise more queens than we think we will need; workers may pull out all the multiples and ignore those 15 cups. (We’ll give you a report later!)

The next stop on our calendar is to count the capped queen cells and set up the activities for our yearly build-a-nuc day, when our customers come out to our apiary with their equipment and actually build their nucleus colonies. It’s always a chaotic time but also great fun!

We’d love to hear about your beekeeping journey!

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



local clubs

with TBA delegate and contact info

Alamo Area Beekeepers Association

Rob Holliday

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

Lester Wetherell - (512) 758-0818

austinareabeekeepers@gmail.com

facebook.com/groups/Austin/AreaBeekeeperAssociation www.

meetup.com/Austin-Urban-Beekeeping/.

Meeting: 3rd Monday of each month at 7pm see Meetup or Facebook for meeting location.

Bastrop County Beekeepers Association

Joseph Hakkinen - (713) 408-1260

jwhakinen@gmail.com

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

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

Crissy Ward - 325-665-1638

Crissyward@gmail.com

Third Tuesday of each month 6:30 - 8:00 PM

4857 Buffalo Gap Road, Abilene

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 @ 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 Vanhoose - (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
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

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
Shane 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
Joseph Hakkinen - (713) 408-1260
president@elginareabeekeepers.org
Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm
Various Locations

Elm Fork Beekeepers Association
J Tim Branam 903-814-6686
branam@verizon.net
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 4:30 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
texashillcountrybeekeepers@gmail.com
Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm

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

local clubs

with TBA delegate and contact info

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

Kevin Young 903-715-0208

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.

Matt Thomas

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
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
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
tcbclub16@gmail.com
Meetings: 4th Tuesday of each month at 6 pm
Nutrition Center,
201 Veterans Way, Woodville

Walker County Area Beekeepers Assn.
Larry Fuchs - (936) 661-0633
walkercountybeekeepers@gmail.com
Meetings: Last Thursday of each month at 7 pm (not Nov or Dec)
Walker Education Center,
1402 19th St., Huntsville

Williamson County Area Beekeepers Assn.
Gillian Mattinson - (512) 961-9955
gillmatties@gmail.com www.wcaba.org
Meetings: 4th Tuesday of each month at 7 pm (except December)
Georgetown Public Library,
402 W 8th St., Georgetown

Wise Texas Bee Club
Donny Johns - (817) 939-3249
info@wisetexasbeeclub.org
Meetings: First Thursday of the month at 6pm
Decatur Conference Center
2010 US-380 Decatur

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

Please forward any changes or additions to
Leesa Hyder at execsecretary@texasbeekeepers.org

For Club Meeting info, view club location map on texasbeekeepers.org

we need your

help

with the Journal

Do you want to help with this journal?

Contact Michelle Boerst

publications@texasbeekeepers.org

Help can include:

- Obtaining suitable articles
- Working with Adobe products to format articles
- Other editorial activities as needed

club info

changed?

New Officers for 2023?

Meeting time/location changed?

Send all club updates to Leesa Hyder at execsecretary@texasbeekeepers.org

join us or renew your

membership

www.texasbeekeepers.org

(Look for the Honey Locator and Events Calendar)

If you change your address or email, please contact Shirley Doggett

at membership@texasbeekeepers.org or call (512) 924-5051

directors

at-large

Director 1



Charles McMaster
charles.mcmaster@texasbeekeepers.org
(703) 624-1337

Director 2



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(512) 799-0616

Director 3



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jake.moore@texasbeekeepers.org
(409) 790-5885

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monica.siwiak@texasbeekeepers.org
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Director 5



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(972) 768-5505

Director 6



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Texas Beekeepers Association

Michelle Boerst
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Texas Beekeepers Association Officers - 2023

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