

TBA Summer Clinic Speakers' Bios



Jeff Horchoff, AKA "Mr. Ed"

St. Joseph Abbey and Seminary College

Bees have been a passion of mine for over 20 years, but that passion was never fully 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 Abbey 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!

Dr. Ferhat Ozturk, is an assistant professor of practice at the University of Texas San Antonio and



specializes in medicinal use of honey with a strong Ph.D. background in gene therapy, molecular and cellular biology, bioinformatics, and biochemistry research. He has taken this knowledge and applied it to the unique biological and chemical makeup of different mono-floral honey from around the world allowing him to unlock the hidden knowledge of age-old wisdom regarding the healing benefits of honey. His current research is helping to identify U.S. based honey sources that contain high bioactivity levels and medicinal properties that can not only compete with but outperform those of current medical grade honeys.

Medicinal Use of Honeybee Products Recently, scientific support has emerged in a proliferation of publications on the successful therapeutic use of honey in several general medical and surgical conditions. Thus, honey has been described as, A remedy rediscover.

Researchers continue to study the potential uses and benefits of honey. Several clinical and animal studies suggest the use of honey in the control and treatment of wounds, diabetes, cancer, and asthma, as well as cardiovascular, neurological, and gastrointestinal diseases.

In this presentation, Dr. Ozturk gives a brief outline about the use of honey as a therapeutic agent for centuries, as well as provides evidence-based information about the bioactivity potential of different honeys and use of honey for wound healing in clinical settings.

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Nicole Buergers has a background in digital marketing and specialty foods, she launched Bee2Bee Honey Collective in 2016. Her company is an educational collective providing beekeeping mentorship, beehive management and hyperlocal honey distribution throughout Houston. She is a Texas Master Beekeeper Apprentice and previously served a three year term as secretary of the Houston Beekeeping Association.

Generating Buzz: How to Market Your Beekeeping Business Bee2Bee Honey Collective founder Nicole Buergers, will teach us the lessons she's learned from successfully marketing her business and the best practices for your online presence.

Scott and SueAnn Untied are licensed Texas Property Tax Consultants. Sue is a former Appraisal District Agriculture and Wildlife & Appraisal Review Board secretary. They are both TBA members.

Ag Valuation & Bee Leases Discussion Panel



Carolyn Gibson and her husband Gerald have owned Dogwood Gardens Organic Farm since 1991. Carolyn fell in love with herbs and natural healing in the 1970's. Carolyn shares her knowledge for making and using natural remedies and skin care with honey, beeswax and propolis on YouTube @CarolynGibsonHerbalist and through her many books that she writes.

Carolyn and Gerald were beekeepers until Gerald became allergic to bees.

They now grow pollinator plants for honeybees.

Contact her at: CarolynGibson1951@gmail.com

Healing with Honey and Propolis The anti-bacterial activity of honey. How honey healing works through: Osmosis, Acidity, Hydrogen Peroxide production. How honey is used in hospitals, for wounds, burns and shingles. The healing benefits of Propolis for skin conditions, bee stings, and warts. Don't miss her recipe for Burn & Wound Spray using Aloe Vera, Honey and Propolis.

Bill Baxter, current acting Chief Apiary Inspector will be giving a talk on **Texas Laws related to honey bees**.

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Dodie Stillman In 2011 Dodie started attending the Austin Area Beekeepers Association (AABA) and the Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association meetings. Still searching for more information she jumped into the inaugural class of the Texas Master Beekeepers Program (TMBP) and became one of the first Master Beekeepers in Texas and now serves on the TMBP Board. She is a former Director and currently the President of the Texas Beekeepers Association (TBA) and the past president of AABA. Dodie's volunteer efforts are numerous, from helping at TBA and AABA Seminars to the last couple of years working on the TBA Honey Shows. In 2017, she served as the TBA Honey Show Secretary. She can be found most weekends teaching a beekeeping class or playing with her bees.

Industry/Legislative Updates and Requeening: Why and How to Requeen

Abram Barker is a 3rd generation beekeeper and 6th generation Texas rancher with a life-long passion for nature conservation and promoting positive human-nature interaction.

Bee Forage Basics: Keys to Sustainable Beekeeping Do you know what your bees need to survive and thrive? Come learn how you can optimize your beekeeping operation and profitability by combining modern GIS tools and research with the old knowledge almost lost to time.

Botanical Studies: The Roots of Beehive Success Honeybees are master pollinators and important to plant life on earth. Come learn how to find out which plants your bees like, and how it can help you plan operations, and improve beehive health and products. Also includes the results from an ongoing, multi-year Post Oak Savanna botanical survey.



Chari and James Elam As owners of Blue Ribbon Honey Company and previously Bluebonnet Beekeeping (now part of TBS - The Bee Supply), James and Chari have circled the industry honored to have served on multiple board positions both in their local bee club and Texas Beekeepers Association. As they continue traveling the speaking circuit, although technically retired James is still very active in the industry, writing articles, scoping out new products and part of the advisory team for TBS. Chari is the co-creator and Editor/Writer/Content Director of The Bee Supply

Monthly magazine (formerly known as Texas Bee Supply Monthly). Between the two of them they try to make learning beekeeping fun as they share their knowledge and enthusiasm as you learn!

Bee Biology: A Guide To Understanding Your Hive It's so important to know who is doing what and when they are supposed to be doing it! With this knowledge you will be better able to identify your next move in the bee yard as well as circumvent problems before they occur! This aspect of bee biology will ultimately make you a better beekeeper.

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Kim Townsend Though fascinated by bees and a honey-lover since she was a young puppy, Kim Townsend had NO idea of how one could become a beekeeper, nor a strong desire to find out (as that profession was on-par with being an astronaut). However... God had other plans for her and sent a large colony of bees to the eaves of her garage, where they became firmly established and required the services of a bee remover. While witnessing the removal process and visiting with the professional beekeeper, Kim was intrigued... and wanted to learn more about bees, and to h-a-v-e bees. Like, NOW! The beekeeper brought her a hive of bees the following day and she happily (albeit cluelessly) became a 'bee have-r' but it wasn't long before she took some classes and soon became an educated bee KEEPER. Always curious and given a life-long inclination to

say "yes" to opportunities (even when she'd never previously considered them), she eagerly began saying yes to pretty much anything bee-related that fell in her lap: swarm catching, bee removals, cut-outs, public speaking, judging honey contests, mentoring, organizing bee photo contests, advanced certifications, hive management, teaching... and more!

Though employment in adulthood has given her a variety of experiences (elementary teacher, musician, clinical lab research, commercial/residential remodeling, coroner's assistant, etc.), not a day goes by that Kim doesn't thank the Lord for the bees and the innumerable blessings (and adventures) they have brought into her life!

Removing Bees

Timothy Branam is a full-time beekeeper located in North Texas. Since 2013 he has owned and operated Three Bees Apiary, offering a variety of services including beekeeping classes, consulting, and assistance with agricultural exemptions. He is involved at all levels of beekeeping, assisting beginners as well as the seasoned beekeeper. Tim is an Advanced Master Beekeeper. He is a member of the Grayson County Beekeepers Association and current President of the Elm Fork Beekeepers Association in Cooke County.

Ag Valuation - Bee Leasing Discussion Panel on Ag. Valuation and Bee Leasing



Tony Andric lives between San Antonio & Austin and treats beekeeping as a healthy addiction. He cares for about 150 africanized hives for fun and profit. His background in engineering drives his innovative mind to design new tools to make beekeeping more fun and productive for everyone.

Managing Mean Bees In many parts of Texas, Africanized Bee genetics dominate and it is time consuming and expensive to fight it. A viable choice is to accept it and learn to work with their peculiarities. This class summarizes years of this learning which came the hard way! Compared to conventional bees, the protective equipment, the routines of care, and the tools of choice change with Africanized bees. The methods to safely keep and care for AHB colonies will be presented.

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Steve Butler is a professional bee remover and longtime beekeeper in Robertson county Texas.

Removing Bees panel discussion & Beekeeper Hacks: Practical Management Practices panel discussion



Charlie Agar Originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Charlie Agar has trod an unusual path to beekeeping. He once worked the fisheries of Alaska, ski-bummed in Colorado, taught English in Japan, and crisscrossed South and Southeast Asia for years, adventures that morphed into a career as a travel guidebook writer and later a newspaper reporter before life brought him to sunny New Braunfels, Texas. Charlie removes and rehomes nuisance bee colonies, coaches new beekeepers, leases honey bees for Ag valuation, and sells honey he calls “liquid sunshine” at the local farmer’s market. His work is the subject of a reality TV series on PBS. Learn more at CharlieBee.com.

Three Years to a “Sustainable Apiary”



Lauren Ward is the owner of A Bar Beekeeping, providing hive management services, beekeeping lessons, and professional presentations. Lauren has had a lifelong interest in insects and agriculture, culminating in a Master’s degree in Entomology in 2014 and Board Certification in Entomology in 2015. Further experience includes serving as Texas A&M Apiary Manager, Honey Bee Biology Instructor, and working in commercial scale beekeeping operations. A Bar Beekeeping now services more than 500 hives across Central Texas.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for Honey Bees; Queens: Strategies for Success in a Backyard Apiary

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for Honey Bees: Integrated pest management (IPM) is a concept which helps beekeepers strategically combat pests

and parasites in their hives while doing the least harm. This talk will cover IPM strategies for varroa mites, small hive beetles, and wax moths and applies to a broad spectrum of beekeeping styles. **Queens: Strategies for Success in a Backyard Apiary:** Queen quality is too often overlooked in backyard bees despite being key to colony success. Knowing how to assess queen quality and how/when to replace queens is an important skill for every beekeeper.

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Chris Barnes helped form the Brazos Valley Beekeepers Association in 2013 from the ground up. Began a youth program in 2015 that weathered through the covid years into what is today the largest Youth Beekeeping Program in the state of Texas (and probably the nation). Prior to being involved in beekeeping, was on the Board of Directors of local homeschool association where we created (from scratch) a youth athletics program that at one point reached 10 different basketball teams, 3 girls volleyball teams, a girls fastpitch softball team, a 6-man boys football team, and a boys baseball team.

Building a Youth Program at Your Bee Club Q&A A frank and open discussion of what is required for a club to have a successful Youth Program. Topics discussed will include "recruiting" vetting kids, fund raising, structure of the programs, required "behind the scenes" work (ie. the adminstrivia).

Dr. Tonya Shepherd Tonya Shepherd received her B.S. from the University of Evansville (2009) in biochemistry and received her Ph.D. in Medical Science from Texas A&M University (2016), College of Medicine, Microbial Pathogenesis and Immunology department. In 2017, she joined Dr. Juliana Rangel Honey Bee Lab in the Department of Entomology, Texas A&M University, and is a Senior Research Associate and Assistant Lecturer researching and teaching on honey bee biology.

Honey Bee Lineages and Honey Bee Associated Viruses



John (Skip) Talbert John (Skip) Talbert retired from the US Army in 2014 and specialized in Project Management and Administration in Pharmacy before becoming Operations Manager at Sabine Creek Honey Farm. He is a graduate of Northwestern State University in Louisiana with an AD and BS in Business Administration. Skip is married to Amber, with 4 children and 1 grandchild. He currently is serving his 3rd term as Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Association President, serves on the CCHBA Youth Scholarship Committee, served as Co-Vice President of CCHBA, served as a board member for Real Texas Honey, and serves as a Director (2nd year) for the Texas Honey Bee Education Association. Skip assists his father, John J.

Talbert, with the State Fair of Texas Honey Booth for the Texas Beekeepers Association.

Making the Jump to Commercial

Leesa Hyder TBA Executive Secretary since 2016. Current Chair, Legislative Committee. TBA Director 2014-2016. Past President Montgomery County Beekeepers Association. Beekeeper since 2000. Real job - 25 years paralegal commercial litigation firm.

Industry/Legislative Updates Panel Bee Bills and the 88th Legislative Session

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Jeff Murray is co-owner of WildFlyer Mead in Navasota TX. The Wildflyers are a dynamic foursome, composed of a couple Weavers and a couple Murrays. Jeff is the mead maker. The Artist if you will. He makes the magic happen. By magic, that really means dumping and mixing honey, chopping fruit, etc.

Mead Making: How to, creating flavors, recipes, and more We will discuss the basics of mead making: including process, equipment, and ingredients. We will focus on what makes mead unique, which I think is the variety of flavors that can be created with different honeys, fruits, spices and more. WildFlyer Mead makes handcrafted mead right here in the heart of Texas with Texas honey and Texas fruit.



Vera Strogolova is a biologist. She has been teaching college level courses since 2007, and she has been a backyard beekeeper since 2014. Together with her husband, she founded Strong Microbials Inc., a company committed to researching, developing and manufacturing probiotics for bees. "My job is to grow good bacteria, and my passion is to help understand the roles that the good and the bad bacteria play in agriculture."

Bacterial diseases of honey bees. Basics, transmission, and diagnostics

Bacterial diseases of honey bees - EFB and AFB - are treatable by antibiotics. It is important to diagnose these diseases correctly and distinguish from viral diseases such as sacbrood virus and fungal diseases such as Chalkbrood. We will discuss symptoms, diagnostics, and best practices.

Dr Bob 47 years as a Veterinarian and loving every minute of it, almost. 7 Years of Zoo practice, 17 years Equine, 12 years Emergency clinics, and owner of Critter Fixer Pet Hospital in Spring, Texas for 30 years. I have been keeping bees for almost 3 years and am enrolled in the Master Beekeeping Program. I have 10 hives.

All About Nutrition - Feeding Your Bees Why, How, and When to Feed Bees

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Ashley Ralph and her husband Justin, owns Prime Bees in College Station. Focused on “all things bees” they do professional bee removal, nuc sales, pollination, agritourism, raising queens, beekeeping lessons, hive management, vacation farm stays, and everything in between. Starting with a single package and growing to over 2000 colonies, they are first-generation farmers. Learning and growing every step of the way, Ashley enjoys sharing what she learns through hard-work and mistakes.

Queen Rearing Discussion Panel and Industry/Legislate Updates

Explore techniques in raising queens for yourself and others. We will discuss the ins and outs of raising queens, the timeline and expectations for raising quality queens and more. From techniques in raising a queen for a single hive to many queens for upcoming splits or sale we will dive into the world of queen rearing in this class.



Lynne Jones Lynne Jones is a small-scale beekeeper in Sealy and owner of Brazos River Honey. She serves as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Fort Bend Beekeepers Association and is a member of the Central Texas Beekeepers Association. She is an original member of the Real Texas Honey program and is currently at the Advanced level of the Texas Master Beekeeper program.



Ed Erwin is the Executive Director of Bee Harmony, a Non-Profit Organization dedicated to confronting Colony Collapse Disorder and providing the public with an opportunity to learn about the importance of pollinators, Honey Bees, planting bee-friendly and nutritional wildflowers and providing Honey Bees with bee hives in environmentally friendly locations safe from pesticides. Ed is a Master Beekeeper (University of Montana) and has a passion for speaking to groups to help them learn about the many fascinating facts about the Honey Bee and Colony Collapse Disorder. He is a contributor of Honey Bee articles and photographs to newspapers and professional Beekeeping magazines.

Murder Hornet - They are now in the U.S. Can we Stop them. Also known as the Asian Giant Hornet, they are the world's largest species of hornet. Their favorite food is the Honey Bee and the bees in North

America have no defenses to stop them. As many as a dozen hornets can kill an entire hive of 50,000 honey bees in two hours. Their stinger is ¼ inch long and delivers seven times the amount of venom as a honey bee and is more painful than 10 yellow jacket stings at once. As an invasive species, will we be able to eradicate this species that kills between 30 and 50 people per year. Will these hornets kill off

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our population of honey bees? Learn how to identify this species of hornet and what to do if you encounter one or the entire hive.



Randy Oakley Randy has been practicing the art of beekeeping for over 40 years. Three generations of the Oakley Family currently help-out in the family bee business producing local bees and beehive products as well as teaching others sustainable methods of beekeeping for central Texas. They manage 250 plus colonies along the I35 corridor between Austin and Waco, Texas. More information about their beekeeper training and beehive products can be found at www.OakleyFamilyApiaries.com.

Vertical Beehive Splits: A Key to Sustainable Beekeeping Central Texas beekeeper, Randy Oakley, will share the why and how-to of making vertical beehive splits. He will give the details of how he has used this duplicable beekeeping technique over the past eight years to: Increase his colony numbers. This will also cover annually requeen each colony, improve winter survivability of colonies, successfully requeen Africanized colonies, control Varroa mite populations, increase honey production, and prevent swarming. He will also cover raising queens and producing two queen colonies.



Danessa 'Nes' Yaschuk, known by many as Nes is a Master beekeeper and owner of SweetNes Honey Apiaries & Beetique. She has served for 5 years now as the Vice President of the Fort Bend Beekeepers Association, as well as a board member for the Real Texas Honey program. She and her husband manage approximately 400 honeybee colonies in Fort Bend County. Together, they opened SweetNes Honey Beetique's first very own storefront location on December 3rd, 2023. It's a Boutique store for Beekeepers! A Beetique! She sells not only her award-winning honey there, but also bee supply and other gear to her fellow beekeepers and nature lovers.

Charlie McMaster, an Army veteran of more than 30 years, serving in Communications, Information Technology/Security and Program Management. His final military assignment was as the Director of the Central Technical Support Facility, Fort Hood. A Beekeeper for the past 6+ years in Copperas Cove, Texas. He now devotes his time to and serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the Texas Beekeepers Association and the Director for Connections of Hives For Heroes, a Veterans Service Organization. Charlie is a graduate of the University of Vermont, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts, Shippensburg University, Master of Public Administration and the Army War College, Master of Strategic Studies. **Hives for Heros**

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Gary Barber Gary and his brother Mike own Honey Bees Unlimited in North Texas. The company's focus is providing pollinators and selling bees. They started the company in 2019 with little beekeeping experience. They manage on average 1500 hives at peak. Gary is a past president of Denton County Beekeepers Association and currently a director with TBA.

**Commerical: Making the Jump and Ag Valuation & Bee Leases
Discussion Panels**



Justin Russell owns and operates Prime Bees in College Station with his wife, Ashley. He also works for Desert Creek Pollination where he manages the placement and logistics of California almond pollination for beekeepers around the U.S. As a first-generation farm, Prime Bees does bee removal, education, nuc and bee sales, queen raising, honey sales, and everything in between.

**Growth Strategies: Scaled Splits, Acquisitions, Etc. & Monitor and
Treat for Bee Health, and Grade Colonies for Commercial
Beekeepers**



Beth Derr and Myra Smith Beth and her husband have been keeping bees for 11 years. We are founding members of the Marshall Beekeeping Asso. I earned my Master Beekeeper certification the first year it was available 6 years ago. I am currently a Lifetime member of TBA. I presented the idea for the Texas Honeybee License Plate and saw it to reality. I am currently the treasurer of the Louisiana Beekeeping Assoc, the Marshall Beekeeping Assoc, and the North East Texas Beekeeping Conference. I have numerous invitations to talk about bees all over Texas and Louisiana to children and adults alike. Myra Smith was a TBA Board Member and leader of the TBA Club Centerpiece contest.

Products of the Hive "Show and Tell" demo of basic products of the hive helping extend your ability to market your product for fun and profit. I will have equipment I use as well as recipes and references

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John Talbert is the Founder of Sabine Creek Honey Farm in Josephine, Texas. Has two grown children, Leslee and John, and three grandsons/one granddaughter/one great-grandson. Grew up on a dairy farm in China Springs, McLennan County near Waco. Served in the US Army for 2 years at Fort Huachuca, AZ. UT Austin graduate with BS in Mechanical Engineering. Retired after 37 years at Raytheon/E-Systems in Garland, Texas. Honorary Fellow member of American Institute of Plant Engineers. Beekeeper since 1985. Past President/Vice-President of Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Association. Past President of Texas Beekeepers Association and Chairman of the TBA State Fair Booth Committee. Member of the Board of Directors for the Honey Queen Program of American Beekeeping Federation. Currently Life Member of the Texas Beekeepers Association and Collin County Hobby Beekeepers

Association.

Open Book: What it takes to be successful in the bee business



Eddie Collins Eddie Collins has a M.S. in Computer Science, he's a Beekeeper and an IT Director at Brookshire Grocery Co. Past TBA Director, past ETBA president. Currently a member of his local home club, the East Texas Beekeepers Association. Eddie is a 3rd generation beekeeper who grew up "hating" bees then 18 years ago jumped in and now can't get enough. Currently maintains colonies under the label of CNC Honey Farms with his daughter, Connie Collins. They are located in Whitehouse, TX. This year they raised over 10,000 queen cells. You may contact Eddie at beeman@cncfarms.com. Or, you can also contact Connie at connie@cncfarms.com.

Queen Rearing Board Panel

Stan Gore, Brenham Texas, Native Texan, Vietnam Vet Stan's Grandad was a beekeeper with hives in Montana. Stan currently works over 100 hives in 4 different counties. He is the owner of Texas Honey Bee Rescue where he helps folks with their bee issues by rescuing bees and swarms while mentoring and training new beekeepers. Stan is on the Executive Board of Central Texas Beekeepers and Hives For Heros. He is also the Owner/Admin and Chief Goober of Texas Friendly Beekeepers with over 7,000 members. It's a safe friendly Facebook group to hang out and talk bees. Our goals are too educate, equip and encourage new and old beekeepers. Beekeeping for Stan, is his calling, and passion, not a hobby. Stan is a Disciple of Christ disguised as a Beekeeper. **Small Hive Beekeeping**