TEXAS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

journal

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contents

TEXAS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

TBA JOURNAL -NOVEMBER DECEMBER 2023 ISSUE

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

Byron Compton
TBA President

My first message to members of TBA is THANK YOU! Thank you for your enthusiasm, passion, and support for beekeeping. Your efforts, participation, and contributions to TBA and your local beekeeping clubs and associations are the reasons the outlook for the future is great. Whether you are a new Beek or 25 year veteran; a sideliner with 2 hives or commercial keeper with 2,000 hives, beekeeping in Texas is better for it – keep it up!

But, TBA still has some challenges ahead. Continued battles with pests like Varroa and the insidious viruses they carry, invasive species like Asian Hornets, competition for resources as native habitats give way to more urban development, continued pressure from agrochemicals, and the battle to keep honey sold in Texas really *Texan,* and honey sold in the USA from adulteration from illegal imports and "fake" honey. We (honey producers in Texas and the USA) need your support in any of these areas where you can have an influence.

Regardless of where you are on the honey/beekeeping scale, one way to have a positive impact is educate yourselves on these issues to become a better beekeeper. Educate your friends and family on the differences in local raw honey versus large scale commercial honey. Be an advocate for bee removals that don't kill or poison the bees. Go read Texas Agriculture Code 131 and dive into the laws regarding beekeeping in Texas. Finally, be a good Beekeeper - treat your honey customers right, manage your bees in a sustainable manner, be an example for others – your actions as a beekeeper reflect on all of us and have an impact on how non-beekeepers view our community.

As for this next year, we are planning our major events – summer clinic and convention – and working on several areas in support of you – our membership. We are interacting with schools, 4H, and FFA groups, collaborating with other state and national beekeeping organizations, working with our legislators on areas affecting beekeeping and honey production, and providing opportunities for you to hear and learn from leading experts in all aspects of beekeeping.

With the new year coming fast, you will begin to see notices of bee schools and classes starting up in January and continuing through the spring. There will be several upcoming schools in all parts of the state. So, there should be one available to you regardless of where you live. Take advantage of these to supplement your bee knowledge and network with other beekeepers not near you.

Lastly, I want to thank all the outgoing directors and our past president – Dodie Stillman – for their service this past year and congratulations to our new directors as they come aboard. It's going to be a great year!

--Byron Compton, President

A Message from the Membership Committee

The TBA Executive Committee decided not to increase membership dues this year but did increase the cost of the printed journal by $5.00. So those of you who pay for a printed journal will see that increase when you renew your membership. The main reason for this is the cost of paper and postage.

Happy Holidays.

Shirley

Apiculture Extension Entomologist

Texas Beekeepers Association helped obtain funding during the last Texas legislative session for an Apiculture Extension Entomologist. For many years, the TBA membership has passed resolutions expressing the need for an apiary extension agent for Texas. The continuing resolution was:

Whereas beekeeping has expanded in the state of Texas; and Whereas Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is an important vehicle for dissemination of good beekeeping practices, Be it Resolved that TBA will continue to pursue the creation of a Statewide Apiary Extension Agent.

This last session, Representative Mary Gonzales and Senator Charles Perry, after consultation with TAMU, introduced budget riders for funding the position at A&M. Both of these legislators have been strong supporters of TBA and beekeeping in Texas over the years.

The first position will be located in the Overton office; hands-on honey bee research will happen in beautiful East Texas.

The job, Assistant Professor, Apiculture Extension Entomologist, was posted this month. If you are interested, you can view the details online.

https://tamus.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/AgriLife_Extension_External/job/Overton-TX/Assistant-Professor---Extension-Specialist_R-065364

vice president's report

Gary Barber
TBA Vice President

Thank you for believing in me and selecting me as your new vice president for 2024. I am excited by the opportunity to give my time to our wonderful association. An introduction seems to be the best topic with which to start my column.

I caught my first swarm in Spring 2018and suddenly I was a beekeeper. That's when I officially caught the bug. I read it was important to surround myself with experienced beekeepers. I joined my local club, Denton County Beekeepers Association. I met some wonderful folks and found some great mentors. Bill Hartley and Michelle Boerst had faith in me early and helped kick off what I did not know then would be a wonderful journey.

The first year we took 40+ hives over winter. All but 2 were from trapping and splitting. The hobby was getting expensive, we started thinking of ways to make it self sufficient. About that time we had a friend express interest in investing. This prompted me to dream up a business plan and financial forecast. That turned out to be a fruitful exercise, my brother and I realized that we were sitting on something special and were not ready take on an investor, but have a go ourselves. We are always grateful to our good friends in Marathon, Texas for believing in us and sparking the fire which would turn into HBU-- our brand.

We formed a partnership in 2019 and never looked back. TBA summer clinics and fall conventions helped us get in front of the right folks to learn what we needed to make our next steps. Beekeeping associations attract honest people, good people. We have found that not all players in this industry are honest. The information we gathered in the halls and classrooms at TBA events was priceless to our new business.

Our business has been somewhat successful early on. Yes, hard work and having the right plan is a must. Without TBA that plan would have been riddled with holes and I doubt I would be in this position today.

Anyway, thanks for having faith in me. I look forward to this opportunity. I have many good friends now at TBA and can't wait to meet many more and watching us all grow as beekeepers.

USDA announces waiver of 15-day notice of loss deadline for reporting honey bee losses!

USDA Farm Service Agency
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Interested in learning more about ELAP or other USDA Programs?
Contact:
Joshua A. Coleman
State Outreach Coordinator, Texas State Office
2405 Texas Avenue South College Station, Texas 77840
USDA-Farm Service Agency

Office Phone: (979)680-5252, Email: Joshua.Coleman@usda.gov
Or Your Local Service Center
https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator

sticky stuff

By Shannon LeGrave

Being a honey competitor, I have seen the tender way people polish their jars and exchange the lids. Preparing for a honey competition is a practice that differs in many ways from the everyday activities of beekeeping, as the ordinary colony maintenance is often dealing with things you have minimal control over. Entering honey into a place to be evaluated and judged requires you to have a great deal of control over the process with an extremely specific result in mind.

When the opportunity arose for me to enter the back room of the honey judging process at the TBA 2023 honey competition as a steward, I was excited by the possibility. I had not originally planned to participate in the process, having entered the contest with the vague hope of a blue ribbon. I promptly withdrew my entries in exchange for the certain opportunity to be educated under the American Certified Honey judges. This unexpected opening allowed me to experience the back room and be exposed to a different process and level of training.

Shannon LeGrave with Texas Honey Show Judges Arthur English, Steve Genta and Pam Carter

The first thing I did was to begin cutting up forms for judging. I noticed that all the forms were standardized and followed a meticulous judging process, well organized and systematic. Then each volunteer assigned the title of steward was paired with a judge. The judges were from all over the country. I was paired with the Certified American Senior Honey Judge, Brutz English, who was from Georgia. His immediate instruction was that every judge needed a kit assembled by the individual judges themselves to make sure they had all the tools needed, along with a copy of the rules for reference to the specific contest being judged.

Each judge was assigned categories to evaluate so they did not overlap. The exception was the Black Jar contest. The method was to separate the black jars into groups and each judge began with a separate section, marking the bottom of the jars that, when tasted, were appealing. The idea were hidden was so the other judges would not be influenced. Then the judges would move to another area allowing the taste buds to rest in between. Returning, they would sample from the next section and so on. The act of adding space between tasting is a smart move, allowing for a clearer decision in the long run.

Next, we were assigned to judge the dark amber category in Polished Jar. The toolbox produced a grading glass to allow the judge to reassign, if appropriate, the honey to the correct color category. Listening to the banter between the judges during this process was heartening as they did not want any entry to be disqualified for incorrect categorization. In a more restrictive setting, inaccurate placement is cause for disqualification.

While working with the dark amber category, the judge kindly took the time to educate me on methods. I was familiar with the cleanliness standards, presenting without fingerprints or air bubbles. He also explained how they work to not judge heavily on things that are out of the beekeeper's control, such

as bubbles in the glass itself. Smelling the bouquet of the honey was new to me. He explained that not only were they getting an idea of the aroma, but also were checking for fermentation. In one case it was suspected, and he went back to the toolbox to retrieve a refractometer. The honey came in at the appropriate percentages allowing the determination that the unusual smell was from a contributing flower rather than fermentation. Through this process, the judge took notes to give feedback to the individual competitors on how they achieved their marks. This is a courtesy that requires extra effort and is not required of the judge.

Cut Comb Honey required another specialty tool. A square piece of metal that held the top of the comb honey so the judges could inspect the bottom, checking for any uncapped cells, cells with pollen, broken cappings, or uneven building of the comb. During this time, I observed another judge and steward converse on the finer points of creamed honey. The other judge produced a small pipette designed for testing the texture for creamed honey as he instructed on appropriate thickness and crystal size, he reiterated that they do not judge against the field. Meaning that they will not give a first, second, or third place if the entry does not meet the standard for such placement, regardless of the number of competitors in the field. A ribbon is earned only by the merit of the entry against the standard, not just against the entries into a category.

The non-honey products, which I have had no previous experience with judging, were wax products of any kind, artistic efforts and baking. These areas were where I saw the rule sheet consulted numerous times for the competitor's benefit, to make sure the entries were compliant and that the judges were only making judgments on the parameters given for entry in the competition. For instance, in the candle competition, there were many different length wicks, the judge made sure to consult the sheet to see if wick length was listed. In other competitions, wick length is almost always listed. However, in the TBA rules, the wick length was not, and therefore, not relevant.

While scores were being tabulated, I popped over to ask a few questions of the judges working with the photographs and meads. I could see that the photography competition was fierce, and that every photograph was considered with care and deliberation. There are several mead categories, traditional meads;

- brochet which is made with caramelized honey,
- cysers and melomels which are fruit based, and metheglins which are the spiced varieties. The judges were looking for clarity and balanced flavors. Many meads need more time than the average wine to come to full maturity. Honey is a very complex sugar, breaks down slowly. Another complication is the balance of tannic and acidic qualities. Honey has a surprisingly high acidic range. Add to that the floral components of a honey and the end results of mead making can vary on the same recipe from one honey harvest to the next. For anyone looking for an additional challenge, who likes to feel like a mad scientist, I recommend mead making. The mead and photography judges are both experienced and enthusiastic.

After moving through many of the beautiful artesian products and gift baskets, we completed the day with cakes baked with honey. After opening the first box and proceeding to open the other cake boxes, the judge leaned back in his chair and said, "We are in big trouble!" He was correct, the cakes were all uniquely amazing. But as we sampled, he reminded me to see if I could still taste the honey in the cake. The honey should never be overwhelmed by the other ingredients. He encouraged me to look past any staleness of a cake. He reminded me that whoever had baked it, had probably traveled a great distance and likely put the finishing touches on at the last moment before the judging. Every effort had been made to keep it as fresh as possible and as judges, we should always be considerate of the efforts of the contestant.

Participating in the TBA Honey Show is something I would recommend to any beekeeper who would like to better understand the process. Working with these judges who exhibited a great deal of knowledge was not only fun but educational. I admired the professionalism and enthusiasm for their craft. Make no mistake, honey judging is a professional endeavor and these individuals do it because they are passionate about it. Being able to benefit from their enjoyment and dedication to this topic of honey judging was the unexpected highlight and experience I came home talking about regarding the Fall Convention of the TBA 2023.

For additional information on the American Honey Judges

https://www.honeyshowusa.com/useful-contacts

2023 TBA Conference

TBA President Dodie Stillman and Jimmie Oakley

TBA Lifetime Member: Jimmie Oakley

2023 Honey Show Display

2023 TBA President's Award: Leesa Hyder

2023 Honey Show Best in Show Winners

2023 Honey Show Volunteers

2023 Beekeeper of the Year: Gary Barber

2023 Honey Show

~ Best of Show Winners ~

People's Choice Black Jar Honey	-	Nikki Felcman
Best of Honey	-	Kelsey Miller
Best of Beeswax	-	Danessa Yaschuk
Best of Arts and Crafts	-	Michele Jaquier
Best of Beverages Made With Honey	-	Sandra Knight
Best of Food	-	Kelsey Miller
Best of Photography	-	Danessa Yaschuk
Ann Harman Award of Excellence in Beekeeping	-	Kelsey Miller

Class	1st	2nd	3rd
Extracted Honey LIGHT	Kelsey Miller	Ally and Sofie Clark	Danessa Yaschuk
Extracted Honey AMBER	Randy and Tara Randle	Lance Miller	Steven Pool
Extracted Honey DARK	Rebecca Vaughan	Nadia Clark	Andrea Kuhnert
Creamed Honey	Kelsey Miller	Monica Siwiak	Rebecca Vaughan
Chunk Comb Honey		Danessa Yaschuk	Monica Siwiak
Cut Comb Honey		Monica Siwiak	
Black Jar (judged)	Rebecca Vaughan		
Beeswax Block	Danessa Yaschuk	Monica Siwiak	Lance Miller
Beeswax Candles	Danessa Yaschuk	Rebecca Vaughan	Kelsey Miller
Beeswax Figurines	Monica Siwiak	Danessa Yaschuk	
Artwork Related to Beekeeping	Danessa Yaschuk		
Crafts Related to Beekeeping	Kelsey Miller	Nadia Clark	Monica Siwiak
Beekeeping Gadgets		Lance Miller	
Beekeeping Gift Basket	Danessa Yaschuk	Kelsey Miller	Dodie Stillman
Painted Hives - Adult Division	Michele Jaquier	Monica Siwiak	Tracy Fanning
Traditional Meads	Glenn and Monica Kveton	Randy and Tara Randle	
Fruit Meads	Randy and Tara Randle		
Spiced Meads	Sandra Knight		
Honey Cake (open recipe)	Kelsey Miller	Michael Vigo	Rebecca Vaughan
Honey Cookies	Kelsey Miller	Sandra Knight	Monica Siwiak
Photography (macro)	Monica Siwiak	Randy and Tara Randle	Kim Townsend
Photography (scenic)	Danessa Yaschuk	Nadia Clark	Kim Townsend
Photography (portrait)	Cynthia Tanner	Kelsey Miller	Monica Siwiak

~ November 3, 2023 ~

honey bee factoid article

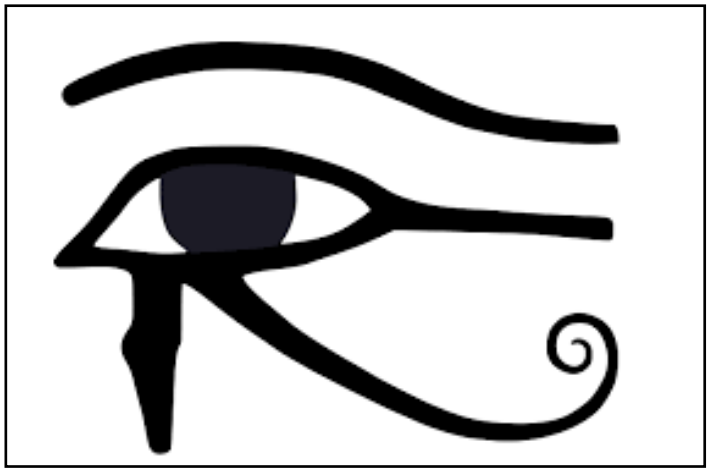
Honey Bee Legends

by Kirk Kirksey

The honey bee – a little flying creature that magically makes honey and candle wax. For the ancients, honey bees were wonderfully mysterious. It is no wonder honey bees end up in so many legends, myths, and stories of cultures across the globe. Here are a few of my favorites.

Ancient Egypt

Ra was the sun god of ancient Egypt. He was often depicted as the head of a falcon on the torso of a man. A large disk carried on his head represented the sun. Honey bees were created when tears of Ra fell upon the Earth. Why Ra was crying is not known.



Sun god Ra

The Romans

A honey bee flew up Mount Olympus with a gift of honey for Jupiter, king of the gods. In return, Jupiter promises to grant the honey bee a wish. She asks for a weapon she can use to protect her hive from humans who come to steal her honey. Jupiter granted her wish and gave her a stinger.

Europe

Telling the bees has been a long-held tradition in the British Isles. Bees were considered family members and were kept up to date on gossip, community happenings, and family news. On the death of a beekeeper, bees were informed, and hives draped in mourning black.

Telling the Bees

Celtic

Bees were considered messengers between earth and the gods.

Ancient Greece

In Greek mythology, Melissa is the goddess of the bees. According to legend, honey bees taught Melissa how to use honey. She attended the god Zeus when he was born and fed him honey and goats' milk.

In another story, Apollo became lost when searching for an Oracle. Bees found Apollo and led him to his destination. This story sealed honey bees' reputation as creatures of knowledge, prophecy, and insight.

The Vikings

In Norse mythology the god Freyr and his servant Bella are associated with fertility and prosperity, and it was believed that offerings of honey could appease them and bring good luck. Honey was also used in rituals, such as the blót, a pagan sacrifice where honey and mead were offered to the gods.

Hindu god Kama

India

Bees and their hum are often mentioned as symbols of love and spring. Indian poets interpret bees' hum as the sound of romance and love. Spring is the season of tahe Hindu god Kāma. Like Cupid, Kāma has a bow and arrows. In Indian mythology, honey bees form the string of his bow. Kāma's arrows teach that love is sweet and painful. When Kāma takes aim, his targets are hit with five arrows which symbolize five stages of desire; attraction, disturbance, burning, desperation, and destruction.

Honey bees and honey are often associated with Hindu gods. Vishnu, Krishnu, and Indra are called Madhava, the nectar-born ones, and their symbol is the bee. Bhrami (or Bhramari) is the Hindu bee goddess.

Southern Africa

Mantis was the legendary hero of the Bushmen, the indigenous peoples of southern Africa. As the story goes, a honey bee was carrying Mantis over turbulent waters. The bee became exhausted and fell dying into the water. Just before she died, she gave Mantis a seed, then laid him in the heart of a beautiful white flower. As the sun rose and warmed the earth, the first human was born from the seed given to Mantis by the honey bee.

Australia

Bee stories have been passed down by Aboriginal storytellers for hundreds of years. Here are two.

When honey hunters on earth took honey, they always left behind a sweet offering of honey and comb for Bahloo the Moon Lady. One day Bahloo came to earth to get her treat left by men who had split open a large tree and harvested honey. Bahloo came to the fallen tree and thrust in her arm to retrieve her gift. Her arm became stuck. She was trapped. Tiny grass people saw Bahloo's predicament and freed her. As a reward, each night Bahloo sends down dew to moisten the grass.

One day long ago, two Numerji giants were walking through the land when they saw honey bees. The two giants wanted to find the bees' nest so they could take their honey. The giants threw spiderwebs on the bees so they would be easy to follow. The webs glistened in the sunlight as the bees flew. The giants followed the honey bees, found their nest, and gobbled up the honey.

China

Honey bees aren't always revered. Here's an example.

In ancient China a honey bee was bad omen to be feared and avoided. A honey bee sting became the symbol for a sharp, dangerous weapon.

Bee stings and snake bites can be avoided by a person with a great store of internal energy.

Bees and Bad Luck

Superstitious? Consider the following points if you are beekeeper who doesn't walk under ladders; fears breaking a mirror; throws spilled salt over your left shoulder; and avoids stepping on cracks.

- In Ancient Rome bees swarming and settling on a bay tree was a bad omen.
- If a person who keeps bees has his hives robbed, he should give them up immediately, because they never can succeed afterwards. As an old Breton proverb advises - "No luck after the robber."
- In France and Britain, it was considered bad luck to sell bees for money, but they could be bartered for some article of equal value.
- Letting a honey bee die in your house is guaranteed bad luck.
- In Ancient Rome, if bees settled on top of a house or temple, bad things were sure to follow.
- When moving bees, carrying them across water will cause them to die.
- Bad luck and difficulties will follow soon after a bee sting.

In these days of science and instant communication, it is easy to think honey bees have been demystified. I say go open a hive and you'll see the magic is still there.

the brantley column

S. S. Brantley
2016 Life Member Texas Beekeepers Association
2017 Life Member Louisiana Beekeepers Association

Once upon a time, December was a "down" month in the bee world. But not anymore! Plans for the coming year need to be made to prevent that "I don't have any more boxes to house this swarm I just picked up."

December was and still is a time to enjoy family and friends and food and fellowship with the bee club members. It is also time to work in the shop repairing all the equipment you will need in the coming year. For individuals who got bees last year and may be wondering what needs to be accomplished in the next couple of months, I have some suggestions for your consideration.

First, Mann Lake in Marshall, Texas usually has a "March Madness" sale of items useful to beginning beekeepers. Watch their website for the date and plan to visit.

Second, are you planning on expanding or just need new queens for last year's hive? Queen breeders begin booking orders as early as January. You need to make a decision about where you want to order your queens and be prepared to place that order as soon as they open the order line. Check their website to find out when you can place the order. Orders are typically filled in the order received. If you wait too late you may not receive a queen until late in the season or maybe not at all.

Third, if you plan on ordering Nucs, make sure you have a full-sized hive and frames to house the Nuc. You will need three to five frames to finish filling the brood box when you move the Nuc into it. If you do not have the box and frames, be sure you obtain them before the Nuc arrives.

Fourth, attend a "beginning beekeeper school". Even if you attended a class last year, it is a good idea to go for a refresher now that you have had an exposure to the real world of raising bees.

Fifth, visit different bee clubs in your area to decide which one provides the programs most useful to your level of knowledge and experience. Most bee club dues are not expensive so consider joining more than one club to get the best learning opportunities.

Sixth, join the Texas Beekeepers Association to keep abreast of activities at the state level.

Seventh, the most important thing is to BECOME ACTIVE in the bee club of your choice.

Local beekeepers have reported honey production in our area was negatively impacted by the weather. Honey prices listed in the journals are going up so be aware of a shortage of honey and increase your asking price.

Reports indicate the TBA convention in Temple was informative and attempted to provide information useful in real-life beekeeping. I encourage you to take advantage of this annual opportunity to meet with beekeepers across the state and be exposed to current information presented by nationally known speakers of our industry.

In closing, do you have friends or family whom you just don't know what to give as a gift for Christmas? Are you looking for end-of-year tax-deductible donations? Would you like to make a donation to a worthy cause as part of your Christmas spirit?

I have been donating to Heifer International for several years. https://www.heifer.org/ A hive of bees for a third world country is $30.

Closer to home, the Texas Honey Bee Education Association supports the work of our Texas A&M Honey Bee Lab through the Nevin Weaver Endowment fund. See the THBEA website for details about the endowment fund and information about making a donation. https://thbea.com/nevin-weaver-endowment-fund/

Save the Date

January 13, 2024

Guest Speakers

James & Chari Elam

Registration Opens Nov 1, 2023
limited seating

When: January 13, 2024 9am to 4pm

Where: Mt Pleasant Civic Ctr
1800 N Jefferson Ave Mt Pleasant, Texas 75455

Cost: **$100 for 2 $60 for 1**
$70 each at the door

Includes: Full day of instruction and lunch

How do I sign up? Call 936-591-2399
to pay with card LaQuinta Hotel $89.
Call 903-204-7325 to book tell them you are with the Bee Conference

Non refundable event Vendors Door Prizes

the happy herbalist

Homemade Honey & Propolis Gel

By Carolyn Gibson

If you have taken my Healing with Honey and Propolis presentations at the bee schools or read my book Making Healing Remedies with Honey & Propolis, you are aware of the many healing benefits of honey and propolis.

My book Making Healing Remedies with Honey and Propolis is available on Amazon and I sell it at the bee schools.

How about combining honey with propolis?

How do you keep honey and propolis from dripping off the injury without complete bandaging?

You can now make a honey and propolis gel with one extra ingredient.

I have tried different combinations and this one works best for me.

1 Tablespoon of glycerin infused with propolis.
½ Tablespoon of raw natural honey
1/8 teaspoon of Bob's Red Mill Xanthan gum.

Mix the honey and propolis glycerin together.

Place 1/8 teaspoon of Xanthan gum in a small container.

Stir in the tiniest amount of the honey propolis mixture to the Xanthan gum and make a paste. Then stir in the remaining liquid.

Just like when you are working with flour or cocoa powder, making a paste first and then adding the remaining liquid will prevent lumps and clumps.

You may think that the Xanthan gum did not make much of a difference. Wait until the next day and it will have thickened to a nice gel consistency.

It does make a difference which brand of Xanthan gum that you use. You can buy Bob's Red Mill Xanthan gum in the baking section of your grocery store.

You can also buy Xanthan gum where they sell cosmetic and lotion ingredients. This will make your gel thicker.

Watch my YouTube: https://youtu.be/tiycD7OnSTU

This will show the difference in thickness. This does not mean that you cannot use the cosmetic grade Xanthan gum, it just means you will need to make adjustments.

I chose to use ½ Tablespoon of honey to make the gel less sticky. I chose propolis infused glycerin rather than a propolis alcohol tincture because an alcohol tincture will burn your socks off.

"Have a Merry Christmas and join me next year for my articles on Plants for Me and My Honeybees."

Contact Brent Yaschuk for more details 832-472-0567

SweetNes Honey Bee tique

TUE-SAT 9am-3PM
8922 Main Street
Needville, Texas
832-303-1595

TAIS update

Angela Johnson
Chief Apiary Inspector, Texas Apiary Inspection Service

Greetings from Texas Apiary Inspection Service!

This time of year, beekeeping responsibilities are slowing down, but we are all concerned about the health of our bees as we go into the colder months here in Texas. If we send weak colonies into the winter, then we will probably not see that colony make it through to the spring. At this point, we are limited to feeding and waiting until spring. This downtime can be used to reflect on the ending year's successes and failures and, with that insight, to develop a plan for the coming year.

Strategies for strengthening colonies are varied, but the most successful ones use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices for long term control of honey bee pests. Since the invasion of Varroa destructor into the United States, bees are no longer a "set it and forget it" type of endeavor. Varroa mites weaken colonies and degrade bee health overall not only because of the mite feeding from the pupa, but the introduction of other pathogens that affect bee health.

We know that requeening a colony solves many health-related problems. Requeening a colony creates a brood break, which has been shown to be an effective measure in controlling Varroa population. Sequestering the resident queen within the colony can also create the brood break if requeening is not desired. Drone trapping and banking and drone comb removal are also non-chemical practices used to lower Varroa population. Allowing bees to swarm, as is their natural behavior, also sees a reduction in mite numbers, and splitting the colony creates a brood break that sees the same result.

While there are many non-chemical means to help lower the population of mites, using a chemical agent in combination with a non-chemical tool is the most effective way to keep Varroa mites at a manageable level. Label instructions must be followed when using any type of chemical pesticide. Proper timing of application is key in achieving the best results without contributing to mite resistance.

The success of the colony can be determined by its health. In order to have healthy colonies, a balance must be found between human interaction and natural bee behavior. Timely application of any pest control method is dependent on knowledge of the specific colony and its needs. Mite resistance and residual chemical in wax is not something we want to contribute to, so alternating the methods that are used to control mite populations is an important consideration when planning your attack.

Texas Apiary Inspection Service
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE RESEARCH

Honey bee Propolis: It's Just Another Miracle

By Kirk Kirksey

I think we can all agree that a honey bee hive is chock-full of miracles. There's the bio chemistry of honey; honey bee sociality; polytheism, haploid/diploid to name but a few. In this article, I want to highlight another miracle - propolis.

As beekeepers, we encounter propolis every time we dive into a hive. It can be a gooey, sticky mess, or a rock hard, immovable chunk-of-gunk. What's in this stuff anyway?

Sticky plant ooze – resin in other words - is the main propolis ingredient. Resin will come from plants found in the ecosystem within foraging range of the hive. Common sources are Oak, Pine, Ash, and many other trees/plants. Like pollen, several types of resin are brought back to the hive by foragers. But there is more to propolis than tree/plant goo.

Honey bees turn resin into propolis by adding wax and glandular fluids. The final product is: 50% plant resins; 30% wax; 10% essential oils; 5% pollen, and 5% other organic substances. Recent studies show propolis will contain over 300 chemical components. Scientist are discovering this blend delivers beaucoup value to the colony, as well as individual honey bees.

Propolis and the Colony

Inside the hive propolis serves as putty, insulation, glue, and tomb building material.

In the wild, honey bees cover hive walls with a layer of propolis. This waterproofing helps keep the hive free of disease-causing fungus and condensation. A coating of propolis (sometimes called a propolis envelope) also helps promote temperature control and stabilization. There's more.

Propolis is used to fill drafty cracks. Hive entrances reduced with propolis make defending the hive against robbing easier.

Last but not least, unwanted hive invaders end up propolized. For example, a mouse seeking winter warmth will enter a hive. Bees dispatch the intruder, but then end up with another problem - a decaying, stinky carcass too big to remove. Bees will stop the spread of disease by encasing the corpse in propolis.

Propolis and the honey bee

An ever-growing body of knowledge shows the value of propolis in controlling honey bee disease and strengthening honey bees' immune systems. Propolis may even help control honey bee pests including varroa. First, propolis as a honey bee pharmaceutical.

Scientists studying how propolis affects honey bees emphasize more work is needed. However, some things are known, while other effects are "indicated".

Therapeutic value of propolis depends on the plant source of the resins. Some resins are more powerful than others. As stated earlier, honey bees from a single colony will gather resins from several different plant sources. Resin variety proves to be a good thing. As one study (1) states,"...the fact that colonies mix sources of resins creates an extremely complex mixture against which susceptible parasites and pathogens would have

difficulty developing resistance."

Like so many things in beekeeping, propolis affects honey bees on two levels: the colony, and the individual honey bees. Colonies that have a propolis envelope have been shown to "have reduced microbial loads, decreased disease, and increased productivity due to a larger population size, and better survival rates." For individual honey bees this means longer lifespans, higher antioxidant and detox levels, and less energy devoted to developing immunity. As far as we know, honey bees do not consume propolis, so the medicinal mechanisms are not fully understood. But what about varroa?

Several recent studies have shown the presence of propolis has a negative effect on the #1 pest we all dread most. One study (2) found propolis applied to brood cells affects varroa's reproductive process. Scientists are working to isolate the chemical components that would be most effective in fighting varroa.

Propolis and the Human

Humans have used propolis for thousands of years. The word "propolis" comes from an Ancient Greek word meaning "bee glue". Hippocrates used propolis to cure internal and external wounds. It was also used to cure "old coughs". Ancient Egyptians took advantage of the anti-putrefactive properties of propolis when they used it in the mummification process.

In our world today, the antibacterial and anti-inflammatory properties of propolis are well known. Bacteria fighting components in propolis have been shown to be effective in the care of severe wounds. This same antibacterial (as well as antioxidant) qualities are being used to develop more natural food preservatives.

As a personal aside, a young physician used medicinal grade honey pack to cure sores on my mother's leg.

Please don't assume propolis is a miracle medicine. Propolis has shown to have many benefits with no side effects in animals or human. But much more study needs to be done.

Propolis and the Beekeeper

As I write this article, I catch myself smiling. Many years ago, my first beekeeping instructor made us (students with snow-white bee suits and armed with our unstained hive tools) scrape every bit of propolis off frames and hive boxes. "It attracts dirt and is nasty," was her reasoning. My, how things have changed.

A year or so ago I attended a beekeeping conference in Oklahoma. One session covered the benefits of propolis, and techniques beekeepers can use to encourage honey bees to make more if it. Science marches on.

The favored approach (at this writing, anyway) is to "rough up" hive box sides so that the honey bees will smooth things out by adding a layer of propolis.

One method is to use an electric-drill-powered wire brush to create striations on the inside walls of bee boxes. The resulting grooves should run vertically, not horizontally.

Stapling part of a propolis trap cut to fit the inner hive box walls can also be a propolis-making incentive. These traps take up space. Plan on using one less frame than usual. Ten framers will use nine frames; eight framers seven, and so on. By the way, using propolis traps on top of frames does not seem to work.

Science is just starting to unlock the secrets of propolis. I am betting there are many more miracles to come.

REFERENCES

(1) Propolis Counteracts Some Threats to Honey Bee Health, Simone-Finstrom, Michael, Renata S. Borba, Michael Wilson, and Marla Spivak. 2017. "Propolis Counteracts Some Threats to Honey Bee Health" Insects 8, no. 2: 46. https://doi.org/10.3390/insects8020046 \ https://www.mdpi.com/2075-4450/8/2/46

(2) Honey bees use propolis as a natural pesticide against their major ectoparasite, Michelina Pusceddu et al. Published:15 December 2021https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2021.2101

(3) Historical Aspects of Propolis Research in Modern Times,Volume 2013 | Article ID 964149 | https://doi.org/10.1155/2013/964149Andrzej K. Kuropatnicki,Ewelina Szliszka,and Wojciech Krol2

Academic Editor: Zenon Czuba

Nganso, B., & Torto, B. (2021). The effects of crude propolis, its volatiles and ethanolic extracts on the ecto-parasitic mite, Varroa destructor and health of the African savannah honey bee, Apis mellifera scutellata. Parasitology, 148(6), 696-702. doi:10.1017/S0031182021000305

the rangel report

Dr. Juliana Rangel
Professor of Apiculture - Dept of Entomology
Texas A&M University

Dear TBA members,

As the end of the year gets closer and closer, our research program has not stopped participating in outreach and education activities to serve the beekeeping community in our state and around the world! Here are some of the most noteworthy accomplishments and happenings related to our recent work.

First, I want to share with you the news that I was promoted to the rank of Professor on 1 September. I have been working at Texas A&M University since January 2023, and I honestly feel very lucky to have obtained my "dream" job over ten years ago. I want to thank my family, friends, colleagues, and YOU, the beekeepers of Texas, for helping me reach this milestone. I hope to be able to continue serving y'all for years to come, and that our continuous partnerships and friendships keep on growing over time!

Our two latest papers just came out in the prestigious journals *Molecular Ecology* and *Ecological Entomology*. The first one is a collaboration with Penn State looking at the effects of intra-genomic conflict between genes that an individual receives from its father ("patrigenes") and those that it receives from its mother ("matrigenes"). The second one came from a large collaborative labor with Dr. Aaron Tarone, Professor in Forensic Entomology, Dr. Pierre Lau, Research Entomologist at the USDA-ARS, Brandon Strauss, and three!! undergraduate students from the Rangel Lab! Both papers are free to read and access when you click on the DOIs below.

"***Beyond conflict: Kinship theory of intragenomic conflict predicts individual variation in altruistic behaviour***."

Sean T. Bresnahan, David Galbraith, Rong Ma, Kate Anton, Juliana Rangel, Christina M. Grozinger.

Molecular Ecology. First published: 25 September 2023 https://doi.org/10.1111/mec.17145

Abstract

Behavioural variation is essential for animals to adapt to different social and environmental conditions. The Kinship Theory of Intragenomic Conflict (KTIC) predicts that parent-specific alleles can support different behavioural strategies to maximize allele fitness. Previous studies, including in honey bees (*Apis mellifera*), supported predictions of the KTIC for parent-specific alleles to promote selfish behaviour. Here, we test the KTIC prediction that for altruism-promoting genes *(i.e.,* those that promote behaviours that support the reproductive fitness of kin), the allele with the higher altruism optimum should be selected to be expressed while the other is silenced. In honey bee colonies, workers act altruistically when tending to the queen by performing a 'retinue' behaviour, distributing the queen's mandibular pheromone (QMP) throughout the hive. Workers exposed to QMP do not activate their ovaries, ensuring they care for the queen's brood instead of competing to lay unfertilized eggs. Due to the haplodiploid genetics of honey bees, the KTIC predicts that response to QMP is favoured by the maternal genome. We report evidence for parent-of- origin effects on the retinue response behaviour, ovarian development and gene expression in brains of worker honey bees exposed to QMP, consistent with the KTIC. Additionally, we show enrichment for genes with parent-of- origin expression bias within gene regulatory networks associated with variation in bees' response to QMP. Our study demonstrates that intragenomic conflict can shape diverse social behaviours and influence expression patterns of single genes as well as gene networks.

"***Pollen associated with a Texas population of blow flies-(Diptera: Calliphoridae) highlights underappreciated aspects of their biology***."

Juliana Rangel, Pierre Lau, Brandon Strauss, Emily Hildinger, Betty Hernandez, Stephanie Rodriguez, Vaughn Bryant, Aaron M. Tarone. *Ecological Entomology*. First published: 14 November 2023. https://doi.org/10.1111/een.13298

Abstract

Over 80% of agricultural crops rely on insect pollination. Thus, pollinator biodiversity is critical for augmented plant yield and quality. Blow flies (Diptera: Calliphoridae) are acknowledged pollinators of several crops. However, there are many open questions regarding their importance in pollination ecology. For instance, there has not been a comprehensive assessment of pollen use by blow flies, and thus, it is unknown whether individuals visit few or many plant types per trip. At least one blow fly species (*Lucilia sericata*) can digest pollen and use the protein therein as an oogenic resource. However, it is unknown whether this is a commonly used strategy for protein acquisition, given that they are more commonly associated with feces, carrion and myiasis. We surveyed the pollen found in blow fly guts to determine whether blow flies (a) consume pollen, and if so, which types of pollen; (b) exhibit species-specific pollen use and (c) demonstrate sex-specific pollen use. We collected blow flies from natural habitats around Central Texas from 2016 to 2019 and dissected their guts to look for the presence of pollen. We found widespread use of pollen from a variety of plants by six blow fly species and discovered a bias in the amount of pollen collected by female blow flies compared with males in some, but not all fly species.

Pollen represents a relatively underappreciated aspect of blow fly biology, with the potential for several underappreciated ecological impacts ranging from disease ecology to plant diversity.

Dr. Rangel (center) presenting her poster at the Apimondia International Beekeeping Congress in Santiago, Chile.

Now for some attended events. From 4 to 8 September, I had the awesome opportunity to travel to Santiago, Chile, for the 48th ***Apimondia International Beekeeping Congress***. There were about 3,000 beekeepers and scientists from all over the world, especially from South America. We had an amazing time. I presented two talks and one poster and got to visit presentations as well as the vendors' ApiExpo. If you have not been to an Apimondia Congress before, I highly recommend you do it. The next one will be held in 2025 in Scandinavia (Norway, Denmark, and Sweden). Here's a link to this year's conference website: https://apimondia2023.com

Then, on Monday, 18 September, I had the privilege to host Dr. Elina Niño as the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Program's seminar speaker. Elina is Associate Professor of Cooperative Extension at UC Davis and presented the seminar titled "***Supporting honey bee colony success within California's agricultural landscape***." It was great fun showing Elina our neck of the woods, and the seminar was very informative. Her website can be found at: https://entomology.ucdavis.edu/people/elina-nino

On Monday, 25 September we had the great opportunity to showcase our program at the launch event for Season 2 of the "***Texas A&M Today Show***" on KAMU-PBS TV. The bee lab is featured in the season premiere, which can be seen online at https://kamu.tamu.edu/coming-soon-season-2-of-texas-am-today/

We had a lot of visitors come to the Leach Teaching Gardens to taste honey, learn about our program, and get some KAMU swag!

Also, our lab participated in this year's ***Honey Cook Off*** contest, organized by Bee Weaver, on Saturday, 30 September from noon to 4pm. We competed in the "side dish" category, and obtained the ***Best in Show award!*** All wristband sales went to support Real Texas Honey & Grime County Animal Shelter. In 2022, they raised $1,500 for

I was honored to be one of this year's keynote speakers, along with Dr. Zach Lamas, for this year's ***TBA Convention, held on 3 and 4 November 2023 at the Frank W. Mayborn Civic & Convention Center In Temple***, Texas. I held a half-day queen rearing workshop, and gave two plenary talks back-to-back on Friday, 3 November. Our lab manager research associate Dr. Tonya Shepherd also presented on Saturday, 4 November. For more information, please visit https://texasbeekeepers.org/annual-convention-2023/

I was also one of this year's keynote speakers

(along with Bob Benny and Randy Oliver) for the fall convention of the ***Virginia State Beekeepers Association*** in Williamsburg, Virginia. I gave two talks on Saturday, 4 November. For more information visit: https://www.virginiabeekeepers.org/event-5331953

And, the following day, I traveled to National Harbor, Maryland, where thousands of entomologists (including our lab's graduate students) gathered for the annual meeting of the ***Entomological Society of America***, held on 5-8 November at the Gaylord National Resort & Conference Center (https://entomology2023.eventscribe.net) In my next column I will give you updates on all the talks and awards received at the conference!

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/TAMUhoneybeelab. We how have over 5,640 followers from around the world!

Sincerely yours,
Juliana Rangel

On September 25th we had an event at the Leach Teaching Gardens to advertise the Season 2 premiere of the Texas A&M Today Show on KAMU TV, featuring the bee lab!

Colleagues representing the USA at the Apimondia conference in Chile!

KAMU TV giving out swag at the Texas A&M Today Show Season 2 launch event on 25 September.

The bee-friendly pavilion at the Leach Teaching Gardens.

From left to right: Dr. Mike Arnold, Professor of Horticulture and Director of the Leach Teaching Gardens at Texas A&M University; Dr. Tonya Shepherd, and Keegan Nichols, members of the bee lab.

what's next?

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"

We're in beekeeping for the beekeepers. That means that we mentor and share what we are learning with NewBees in the many available forums. Just last month one of our second-year mentees, "Joe," asked us, "What's next?" Joe continued, "What should I be learning now to be a better beekeeper? What is next on the growth calendar for a new beekeeper like me?" Great questions, Joe! Here are our thoughts and answers.

There is so much to learn about honey bees and beekeeping, but no two new beekeepers, NewBees, learn in exactly the same way. What is the best way to impart the knowledge experienced beekeepers have to the NewBees they are assisting? Some are tactile learners, while others learn from videos or books. We're sure many experienced beekeeping mentors have a "training" schedule for new beekeepers, but what we've seen seldom goes beyond the first year. We don't pretend to have all the knowledge or even all the answers, but we do think a lot about what new beekeepers should learn and demonstrate in their first five years.

The Texas Master Beekeeping Program has a knowledge plan and milestones to achieve, so we're not looking to duplicate that; rather, we want to present it in a slightly different way so that first year beekeepers can know what they have to look forward to in beekeeping. This is a living document, so we'll change it as we become wiser and receive feedback from those with whom we share the plan. We'd love your comments!

Year 1 - Goal: Keep healthy bees and successfully overwinter them

Skills: Learn how to read a frame, treat for varroa, inspect a colony for queen presence and resources, and properly keep bees in the southeast U. S. in 10-frame Langstroth equipment

Experiences: Learn from a mentor, make first small honey harvest, discover queen failure, varroa

Knowledge/Education: Read a beginning beekeeping book all the way through, pen in hand

Teaching/Mentoring: None

Community service: Participate in your local beekeeping association, bring snacks, ask questions

What you might say about yourself: "I'm learning to keep honeybees"

Year 2 - Goal: Colony management, diagnosis, and problem solving

Skills: Queen replacement, resource leveling amongst colonies, splitting colonies, swarm management

Experiences: Make a walk-away split, install new queens, make a successful honey harvest, make apiary size decisions, assemble and maintain woodenware

Knowledge/Education: Enroll in the Texas Master Beekeeper Program (TMBP), achieve "Apprentice"

Teaching/Mentoring: Assist with your local beekeeping association's NewBee training classes

Community service: Share what you know about beekeeping with schoolchildren

Say about yourself: "I'm learning to successfully keep honeybees"

Year 3 - Goal: Successfully manage your apiary

Skills: record keeping, intentional splits with found queen cells or purchased queens, make other products from the hive

Experiences: Manage more than three colonies of bees

Knowledge/Education: Learn about queen biology and how to raise 2-20 queens

Teaching/Mentoring: Attend beekeeping seminars appropriate for your experience and interest

Community service: Agree to mentor a NewBee, work a beekeeping booth at an agricultural fair

Say about yourself: "I've moved from being a bee-haver to being a beekeeper!"

Year 4 - Goal: Enjoying beekeeping, deciding what your "steady-state" size is for your beekeeping desires

Skills: Raise queens from your apiary stock

Experiences: Make and sell nucleus colonies

Knowledge/Education: Achieve the "Advanced" level in the Texas Master Beekeeper Program

Teaching/Mentoring: Continue mentoring in your local association, teach part of the NewBee class

Community service: Volunteer as an officer in your local association, learn about working with volunteers, take a public speaking course, share about beekeeping with local community groups

Say about yourself: "I've found out what I enjoy about my beekeeping adventure"

Year 5 - Goal: Knowing what you want to achieve with beekeeping and ordering your activities to do so

Skills: Larger apiary management (manage 12 colonies in the time it used to take to do 3 colonies), beekeeping business skills, presentation skills

Experiences: Invest time learning from a sideliner or a commercial beekeeper

Knowledge/Education: Plan to achieve the "Master" level in the Texas Master Beekeeper Program

Teaching/Mentoring: Actively mentor one to three NewBees, prepare for and effectively teach part of the NewBee class, prepare and present a talk at your bee association's monthly meeting

Community service: Assist your county's agricultural agent on honey bees and beekeeping topics

Say about yourself: "I've found what I enjoy and love to share about keeping honey bees"

Beyond Year Five

"Lather, rinse, repeat," as the shampoo bottle says, with grace, humor, and joy.

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

BORNTRAGER BEE FARM - 2023 PRICES

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361-362-3283

Our plans are to have Nucs available in April and May, 2023. Please place your orders early to insure availabilty.

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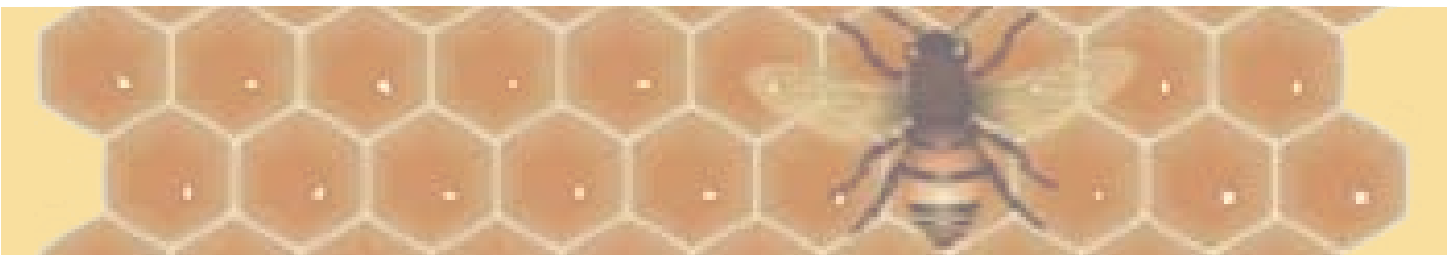
Five Frame Nuc	$190	$170	$150
Single Starter Hive with five Frames of Bees	$235	$215	-

Prices are for pick-up at the Farm
Delivery to AABA Field Day: add $10 each
$25 down payment to book orders

	1-9	10-24	25-99	100-up
Queens	$29	$26	$24	$23
Virgins	$10	-	-	-
Queen Cells	$3			

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.

David T. Borntrager & Sons



local clubs

TBA member clubs

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 Frank Fickett Scout Training and Service Center 12500 N I-35 (Near Parmer Lane) Austin, TX 78753

Bastrop County Beekeepers Association
Joseph Hakkinen - (713) 408-1260
jwhakkinen@gmail.com
https://www.facebook.com/groups/1511905162469905/
Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm
Bastrop Fire Station #4 1432 North S.H. 95 Bastrop, TX 78602

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
http://www.bellcoryellbeeclub.org
Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each month (except December) at Refuge Ministries, 2602 S. FM 116, Copperas Cove - 7pm

Big Country Beekeepers Association
Chrissy Ward (325) 665-4045
Chrissyward@gmail.com
Third Thursday of each month 6:30 - 8:00 PM
Ridgemont Baptist Church 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
Lance Ladewig
ladewigle@gmail.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. at 6:30 pm)
Bryan High School, 3450 Campus Dr. Bryan from 6pm

Caddo Trace Beekeepers Association
Dale Vanhoose - (903) 573-6954
dcv836@gmail.com
https://www.facebook.com/groups/818862742106557/
Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month
Titus County Agrilife Ext. Bldg., 1708 Industrial Rd., Mount Pleasant at 7 pm

Central Texas Beekeepers Association
Karl Cottrell- (979) 645-0832
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
Keith Crow
Keithcrow2000@yahoo.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 CommunityDr. , 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

Concho Valley Beekeepers Association
Jeremy Granato (325) 227-7676
cvbeekeeper@gmail.com
Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each month Jan-Nov at 6:30 pm
Texas A&M Res. & Ext. Center, 7887 US Hwy 87 N, San Angelo

Deep East Texas Beekeepers Association
Ellen Reeder - (337) 499-6826
ellenswartz@sbcglobal.net
Not Currently Meeting

Denton County Beekeepers Association
Shane Jordan
board@dentonbees.com
www.dentonbees.com
Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm
Joseph A Carroll Bldg, 401 W. Hickory St, Denton

Dino-Beekeepers Association
Chip Hough (817) 559-0564
dino-beeclub@hotmail.com
www.dino-bee.com
Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of month at 6:30 pm
Glen Rose Citizens Center, 209 SW Barnard St., Glen Rose

East Texas Beekeepers Association
Jim Biles (281) 451-6069
www.etba.info
Meetings: 1st Thursday of each month at 6:45 pm
Whitehouse Methodist Ch., 405 W Main (Hwy 346)
Whitehouse

Elm Fork Beekeepers Association
Tim Branam 903-814-6686
branam@verizon.net
http://www.elmforkbeekeepers.org
Meetings: 3rd Thursday of each month
The VFW Hall, 3332 North Grand Ave, Gainesville

Fayette County Beekeepers Association
Bruce Ford (713) 818-7348
rosscreekhoneybees@gmail.com
Meetings: First Saturday of the month, Feb, April,
June, August, October and December at 5:30 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 Dec.) at 7:30 pm
Bud O'Shieles Community Center
1330 Band Rd, Rosenberg 77473

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

Longview Beekeepers Association
Myra Smith (903) 639-2910
Meetings: 1st Tuesday of each month at 6 pm
Texas Agrilife Extension Office,
405 E Marshall St., Longview

Magnolia SWARM Beekeepers
Andy Knight - (281) 305-4072
magnoliaswarm@gmail.com
http://www.magnoliaswarm.org
Meetings: 1st Tuesday of the month
Various Locations (go to website)

Marshall Beekeeping Association
Beth Derr - (936) 591-2399
marshallbeekeeping@gmail.com
Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month at 5:30 pm
Cumberland Presbyterian Church.
501 Indian Springs Dr., Marshall

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

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

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

local clubs

TBA member clubs

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, 7 pm to 9:15 pm

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

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
Meetings: 1st Thursday of each month at 6 pm
Decauter Conference Center
2010 US-380, Decatur, TX

Wood County Beekeepers Association
Aubrie Jones
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 execsec@texasbeekeepers.org
For Club Meeting info, view club location map
on texasbeekeepers.org

local clubs

TBA non-member clubs

The following Texas beekeeping clubs are not currently members of TBA but, as we gathered this information from reliable sources, we believe it is accurate.

Alamo Area Beekeepers Association
Rob Holliday
president@alamobees.org
www.alamobees.org

Caprock Beekeepers Association
Victoria Watts - (806) 392-2355
mystique175@att.net

Comal County Beekeepers Association
James Cobarruvias (210) 858-9011
jcobarruvias@att.net

Erath County Beekeepers Club

Fredricksburg Area Beekeepers Association

Harris County Beekeepers Association
Jim Orr - (713) 213-7080
rjfarmandapiary@gmail.com
www.harriscountybeekeepers.org

Hays County Beekeepers Asociation
Goergia Miguez(512) 827-6239
Hayscountyba@gmail.com

Heart of Texas Beekeepers Association
Gary Bowles (254) 214-4514
gm.bowles@yahoo.com

Henderson County Beekeepers Association
Elizabeth Hudson

Hopkins County Beekeepers Association
Jon Dalzell (214)395-1730
dalzelljon@aol.com

Houston Beekeepers Association
info@houstonbeekeepers.org
www.houstonbeekeepers.org

Hunt County Beekeepers Association
Jay Gilmer, BeeHappyBee@gmail.com

Jacksonville Area Beekeepers Association
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Trinity Valley Beekeepers Association
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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 execsec@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

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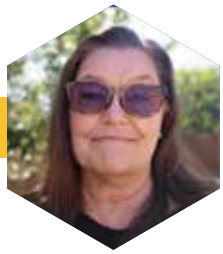
Director 2



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Texas Beekeepers Association Officers - 2023

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