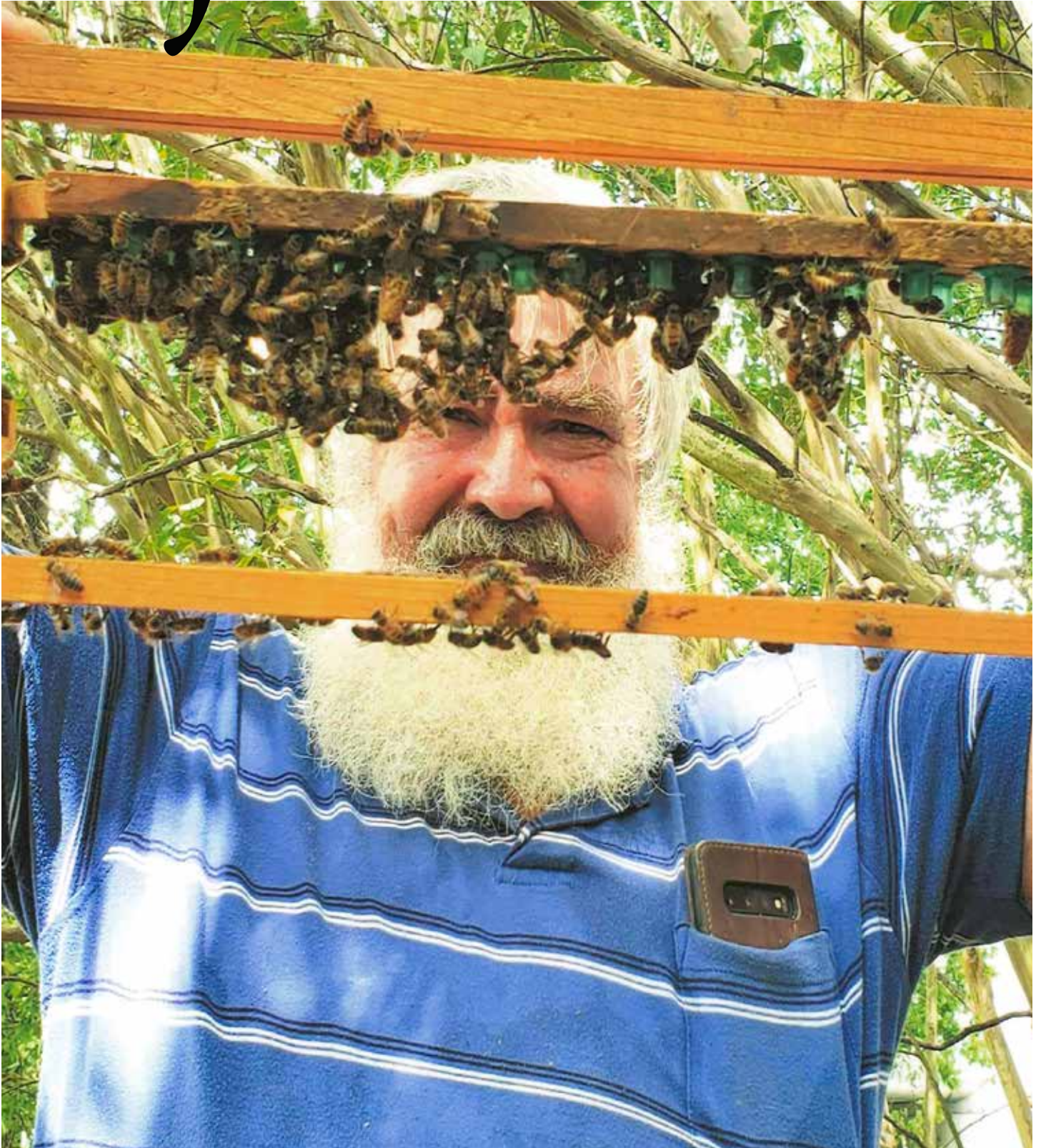


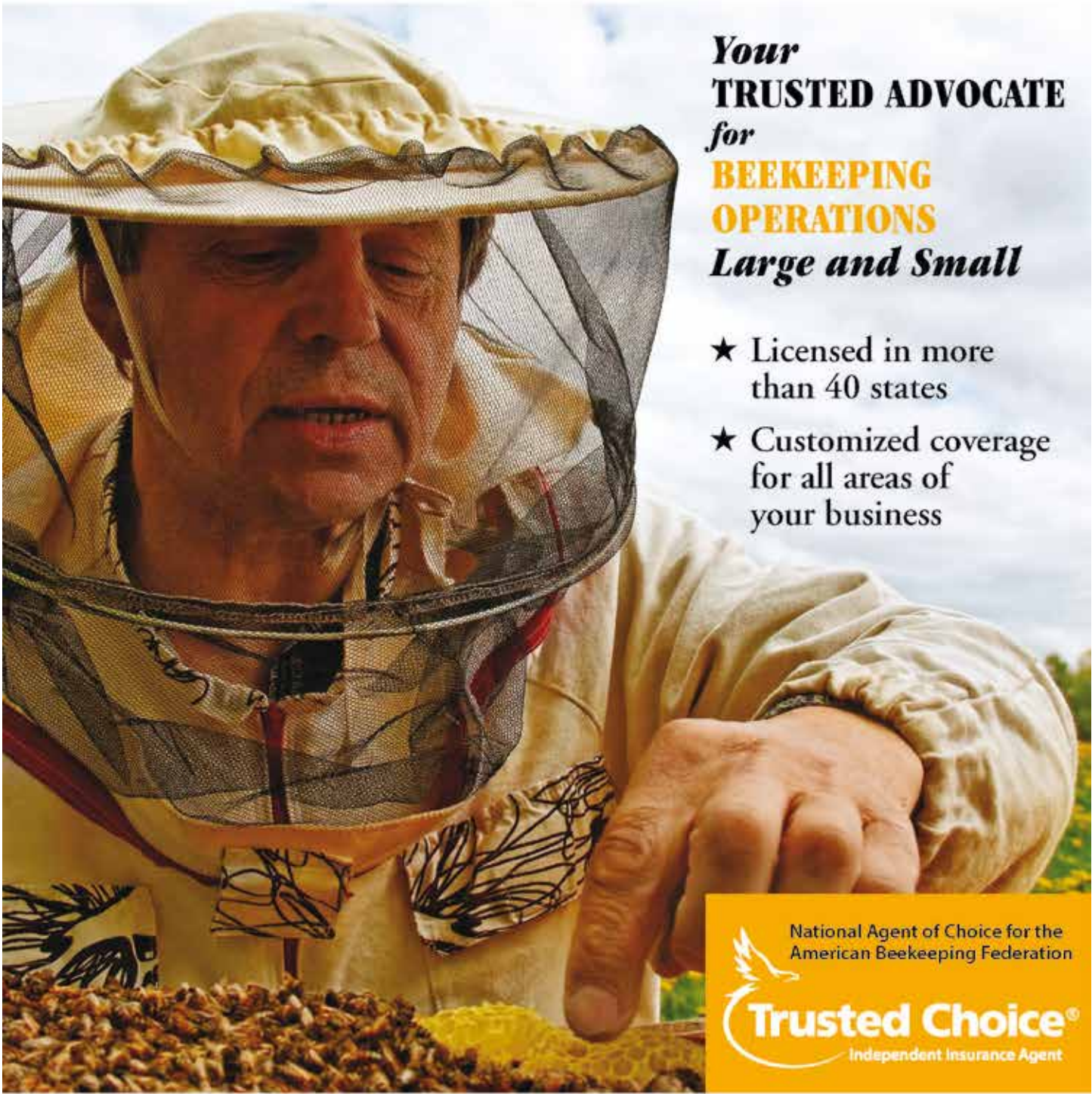
TEXAS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

# journal



January/February 2024 [www.texasbeekeepers.org](http://www.texasbeekeepers.org) Issue 24-1

# You Know Bees. We Know Beekeepers Insurance.



*Your*  
**TRUSTED ADVOCATE**  
*for*  
**BEEKEEPING  
OPERATIONS**  
*Large and Small*

- ★ Licensed in more than 40 states
- ★ Customized coverage for all areas of your business

National Agent of Choice for the  
American Beekeeping Federation



**TEXAS INSURANCE &  
FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.**

**800-541-9849 • [www.txins.com](http://www.txins.com)**

**Contact us today to schedule your FREE insurance review.**

# contents



**TEXAS**  
**BEEKEEPERS**  
ASSOCIATION

TBA JOURNAL - JANUARY FEBRUARY 2024 ISSUE

4	The President's Report
7	The Vice President's Report
8-10	NAHB Expo Recap
12-13	Honey Bee Factoid
14	The Brantley Column
16-17	The Happy Herbalist
20	Texas Apiary Inspection Service Update
21	The Texas Keeper
23-25	The Rangel Report
26-27	What form, honey?
30	Local Club Directory
35	TBA Directors at Large



NAHB Expo  
Recap  
Page 8

Honey Bee  
Factoid  
Page 12

The Brantley  
Column  
Page 11

The Rangel  
Report  
Page 23

Adventures  
of 10<sup>th</sup> Year  
Beekeepers  
Page 26

## 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

Shhhh... can you keep a secret? Winter is HERE! Yes, we have made that turn around the sun once again. While winter is normally a time you can relax and get to work on your woodenware for the coming season, it is also time to watch out for your bees. As they eat through their honey stores with no nectar to replace it, you need to think about feeding an alternative. That can be sugar syrup, dry granulated sugar, fondant patties, or whatever you can find as a suitable supplement. There are many opinions on winter feeding. Some shy away from syrup, as it adds more liquid into the hive. Often the bees won't eat it cold, and the added moisture can cause condensation and mold in the hive. Dry sugar supplements don't have those drawbacks. Open feeding allows bees to forage on warmer days, if you don't mind feeding bees other than your own. Just make sure you place it far enough away from your hives to preclude a feeding frenzy and robbing. Some beekeepers make their own sugar bricks with sugar and pollen substitute this time of the year. Lots of recipes on line offer the carbohydrates and pollen that allows the queen to begin laying as soon as possible.

But – there is always a “but” – beekeepers need to monitor their hives to make sure the colony doesn't go overboard with the sugar – regardless of the form. Bees are greedy, they will eat the sugar until it is gone and will fill up frame cells with no regard for leaving laying space for the queen. Beekeepers who ignore

this could find their hives honey bound and no room for the queen to deposit her eggs.

On the other hand, beekeepers who don't monitor the resources in their hives starting in the fall could find their colonies essentially starving to death or more accurately, freezing to death because the bees don't have sufficient carbohydrates providing energy to generate heat in the cluster.

Our 2024 Summer Clinic planning is coming together. The dates will be June 15<sup>th</sup> at the Courtyard by Marriott in Allen at the Allen Event Center. This will allow out-of-towners to stay at the clinic venue and not have to drive from your hotel to the clinic and back daily. (We hope to do the same for the 2024 Fall Convention, but at a different location). We are starting to put together a list of guest speakers and breakout session, so mark your calendars and free up your schedule so you can attend.

One more important item I want to bring to your attention is the list of legislative issues affecting bees and beekeeping we have on the TBA website under “**RESOURCES>>ISSUES**” or type in this link: <https://texasbeekeepers.org/beelaws>. There is also federal legislation proposed affecting bees and beekeeping. I haven't completely wrapped my head around it yet, but I will dive into the law and provide a report in the next journal.

Till then, watch your hives, and get ready for the spring increase – it will be here before you know it!

Byron Compton  
TBA 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.

Shirley

# texas 4-H essay



Texas 4 -H has many opportunities for youth to learn about beekeeping. There are clubs and beekeeping projects that many of you may be involved in already.

Another avenue for youth outreach and education is the 4-H Beekeeping Essay.

Sponsored by The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc. the Beekeeping Essay is open to 4-H members who are in grades 3-12 and at least 8 years old by September 1st of that year. No beekeeping experience needed, just an interest in the topic and willingness to write the essay!

Topics change each year and vary from “Why is the hive considered a super organism?” to “Discussing why beeswax is important to the hive.” Topics are released in February and essays are due to Texas 4-around early April of each year. For a list of previous topics and winning essays, visit [preservationofhoneybees.org](http://preservationofhoneybees.org)

The essays are judged by people who have some expertise or knowledge in the essay topic. Winners are announced in May. The top three essays are awarded a prize by Texas 4-H.

The winning Texas essay is entered into the national competition, where 4-Hers can earn a cash prize of \$750, \$500 or \$250 if they place 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>. The

winning essays will be published in the American Beekeeping Federation Quarterly magazine and on the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc. website.

Two ways you can get involved with the 4-H Beekeeping Essay are to serve as a judge or be willing to be interviewed. Since there is no requirement to have any knowledge or experience in beekeeping, many essay topics may require 4-Hers to interview a beekeeper for advice, opinions, or information. While fellow beekeepers know who to reach out to for advice, it’s not always easy for a 4-Her to find a willing interviewee.

Texas 4-H is always on the lookout for judges for the essays. It takes a bit of time but is truly an enjoyable experience. I’m always amazed at how bright and communicative our youth are! Even when topics seem simple, the imagination and creativity of our Texas youth will astound you.

If you are interested in serving as a judge for the Texas 4-H Beekeeping Essay OR willing to be interviewed, please visit [tx.ag/BeeEssay](http://tx.ag/BeeEssay)

To learn how to become a 4-H member, reach out to your county’s AgriLife Extension Service or visit [www.4-h.org](http://www.4-h.org)

Nov/Dec 2023 Journal Correction:

The 2nd place winner of the centerpiece competition was incorrectly identified.

The 2nd place winner of the centerpiece competition is Bastrop County Beekeepers Association.



**THE BEE SUPPLY**  
BEEKEEPERS HELPING BEEKEEPERS™

**FREE SUPPORT  
AFTER PURCHASE!**

# 2024 TX5000™ AND GOLDEN CORDOVAN™ BEES

Available for Preorder Now!



**TX5000™  
COMPLETE HIVE**

TX5000™ Bees and Queen  
New Equipment  
Bred for VSH  
Marked Queens Optional

**\$389.00 ea**

**GOLDEN CORDOVAN™  
COMPLETE HIVE**

Golden Cordovan™ Bees and Queen  
New Equipment  
Bred for VSH  
Marked Queens Optional

**\$399.00 ea**



**TX5000™  
NUC**

5 Frame Pro Nuc Box  
Tough as Texas Bees  
Flexible Pickups  
Bred for VSH  
Marked Queens Optional

**\$239.00 ea**

**GOLDEN CORDOVAN™  
NUC**

5 Frame Pro Nuc Box  
Ultra Gentle Bees  
Flexible Pickups  
Bred for VSH  
Marked Queens Optional

**\$269.00 ea**



**TX5000™  
PACKAGES**

Bee Bus Package  
Italian/Carniolan  
Hybrids  
Bred for VSH  
Pickup Only

**\$195.00 ea**



**MARKED  
QUEENS**

Always Marked  
Italian/Carniolan  
Flexible Pickups  
Tough and Gentle  
Bred for VSH

**\$39.00 ea**



CHECK OUT OUR LOCATIONS AT: [www.thebeesupply.com/locations](http://www.thebeesupply.com/locations)

[www.thebeesupply.com](http://www.thebeesupply.com)

| 800.356.4229

| [info@thebeesupply.com](mailto:info@thebeesupply.com)

# vice president's report



Gary Barber  
TBA Vice President

When I volunteered for this job no one told me I would automatically be on 2 additional boards and every committee associated with each entity. I now know a lot more than I bargained for with regard to THBEA and RTH. I am excited to be a part of both organizations' leadership and supporting their missions.

It's been an adjustment for sure but things are starting to fall into place. We have booked the Courtyard by Marriott in Allen at the Allen Event Center for our annual Summer Clinic. We are going with a honey theme this year. Don't worry, we will still have someone speaking to appropriately scare you about mites and starving your bees. Hopefully we are selling tickets to the clinic by the time this article prints.

Arthur 'Brutz' English has agreed to be our keynote speaker this time around and if you haven't heard him speak I highly recommend coming to listen, I bet you will be leaving making plans and ordering your Queenline jars, prepping for fall honey shows. Brutz English is a UGA Master Beekeeper and an internationally certified Senior Honey Judge. He has served as the chairperson of the Georgia Beekeepers Association Honey Show Committee since 2015. From 2017 to 2022, Brutz served as the program director for the Welsh Honey Judge training program at the Young Harris-UGA Beekeeping Institute. He is a founding member, and the current president, of the American Honey Show Training Council.

As we speak our event committee is feverishly making plans for the clinic and conventions. Rebecca Vaughn has returned to help as our event coordinator. She brings a wealth of experience to the position. Nan Helmke will be our first Summer Clinic Chair and will work directly with Rebecca and the other sub committees as we bring this event together. Tim Branam up in Cooke County has agreed to be our Volunteer Chair; his habit of attending as many local club meetings as possible makes him a great fit for this. Teri Albright, the last of our 3 new directors to mention here has agreed to be our Vendor Chair and coordinate vendor activities. Enthusiasm in beekeeping is qualification enough for this job and Teri brings much more. Bryon Compton, Leesa Hyder, Dodie Stillman, Rusty Kaskel, Barbi Rose, Tim Elliott, Michelle Boerst, Ferhat Ozturk, Mike Hatch, Kim Townsend and Hannah Blackburn round out the Event committee. I am excited about what this team has going on and what we are going to bring you this coming year. Join me in thanking them for volunteering their valuable time for our association.

We want to have a lot of honey related programming in this years clinic, but we also need more topics of interest to broaden our appeal. What do you want to see in programming? Please let me know. Even if we can't fit it into the clinic, the convention will be here before anyone of us have regathered our wits after our exhaustive summer beekeeping. Send your ideas to [vp@texasbeekeepers.org](mailto:vp@texasbeekeepers.org).



**TEXAS**  
**BEEKEEPERS**  
ASSOCIATION



By Kim Townsend

# north american honey bee expo

At the same time many folks were still recovering from their boisterous New Years celebrations, across the nation beekeepers of all ages and levels of experience were making their way to Louisville, Kentucky to experience THE inaugural bee event of the year – heck, maybe even the decade: The North American Honey Bee Expo! This grand debut was held January 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> at the massive (yet beautiful) Kentucky Exposition Center - which was an unbelievably convenient location! It was approximately one mile from the Louisville Muhammad Ali International Airport and maybe a quarter-mile from many of the attendees' hotels (including mine). Frankly, some of the hotels were easily within walking distance, but having a vehicle handy was a plus when it came to having somewhere to store purchases.

What, exactly, is/was the North American Honey Bee Expo? Well, the description on NAHBExpo.com sums it up nicely:

“(NAHBE is) the best opportunity to share and network with thousands of beekeepers, industry leaders, and some of the biggest YouTube creators in beekeeping.”

True story! And that was no boast on the numbers because (at last tally) over 3,200 beekeepers were registered... and rumor has it that the numbers were actually over 3,500 in attendance! WOWZA!

AND, as if that wasn't enough (and, by golly, don't you think it should be?!)... NAHBE offered what was likely the single-most colossal collection of vendors showcasing the latest innovations in the beekeeping industry – worldwide - not to mention the monumental pre-conference and on-site deals that, in some cases, more than accommodated the expense of attending this fantastic event! Speaking from personal experience, I saved close to a thousand dollars on just honey bottles alone, versus what I would have spent for the same quantity from suppliers closer to home! WOOOO HOOO! And that was just the tip of the iceberg! Given that over 120 vendors were on hand to display their wares, attendees could see/

handle/purchase anything and everything bee-related from as small as beeswax lip balm all the way up to as ginormous as a mobile honey extraction trailer! I mean to tell you that everything a beekeeper would ever need or want was available – and it was like seeing thousands of very happy BIG kids in a grown-up version of a candy store!

Needing some new protective gear? Well, there were at least six different vendors offering the latest and greatest styles, sizes, even colors of bee jackets, suits, veils, gloves – some traditional, and a lot of creative new designs! Are you wanting hive components? You had a vast array of options from which to choose - ranging from Apimaye, wax-dipped, propolis-lined (interior), nucs, queen castles... and more! You name it, you got it! Feeders galore... pollen patties, fondant patties enhanced with supplements and vitamins... means and methods of treating against varroa mites, hive beetle traps, and (for the beekeeper) T-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, stickers, lotions, hive stencils, tools and soooo much more! No matter the aspect of beekeeping, from 'newbies' to commercial, from the first-hive “wannabees” to the pros who have their zillionth (I just made that up), from those wanting to raise queens to those who are focused on honey production, there were exciting and ingenious devices for ALL areas of interest! It was spectacular!!

But, wait! There's MORE!

This North American Honey Bee Expo wasn't just launched for shop-a-holics (though it would have been a good excuse – ha!). Its primary function was to provide a top-notch conference – and NAHBE was firing on all cylinders in that respect, too!! Rock stars of the beekeeping world came from all parts of the globe (really!) to educate the masses!

Here are just a few on the roster who gave outstanding presentations on a litany of topics:

Bob Binnie

Humberto Boncristiani



David Burns  
 Larry Connor  
 Paul Kelly  
 Frederick Dunn  
 Laurence Edwards  
 Jeff Horchoff (a.k.a. “Mr. Ed”)  
 Cameron Jack  
 Dr. Tony Kadai  
 Greg Rogers  
 Randy McCaffrey (a.k.a “The Dirt Rooster”)  
 Jose Uribe  
 Richard Noel  
 (France) Jacob Osborne  
 Dr. Meghan Milbrath  
 Justin Ruger  
 Cory Stevens  
 Phoebe Snyder  
 Marla Spivak  
 Natalee Summers  
 Etienne Tardif  
 Chris Werner  
 Robyn Underwood  
 and... representing Texas, our own hometown  
 hero, Blake Shook!

Frankly, not only were these superb speakers highly knowledgeable and informative, but they were incredibly entertaining as well. Without exception, their presentations were both interesting and hilarious... often taking friendly ‘jabs’ at one another or at the organizer, Kamon. Clearly, they shared a terrific sense of humor and, by the way, they didn’t mind being bombarded by incessant requests for photos and autographs from obviously adoring fans (of all ages) while strolling through the trade show!

Speaking of ‘shows,’ NAHBE can now boast having hosted what is likely THE largest honey show on the continent – and that’s no joke! This. Was. HUGE!!! Every single category offered had at least one entry... and most had multiples! To give you some sense of the size and scope, internationally certified Senior Honey Judge (and President of the American Honey Show Training Council) Brutz English reported that there were:

- 5 Classes of exhibits for competition: Honey, Art, Wax, Food, and Beverages made with honey
- 1,161 exhibits (honey and other)
- 339 exhibitors
- There were 242 entries in the Black Jar Contest alone! WOWZA!!!

It was absolutely ASTOUNDING – and all those entries were truly beautiful to behold!!

In addition to the Honey Show, there were several “optional” events – including a wildly popular “honey swap” which, thanks to the excellent organizational skills of the fine folks at Honeybee Tennessee, assisted in the exchange of over 7,500 bottles of honey between participants! HOLY MACKEREL!!

There were at least two ‘extracurricular’ activities (that I was aware of) for those who wanted even more time to fraternize, eat and drink (of course). The first was a ticketed event on Thursday night hosted by Comfort Pro called “Beeks and Brews”, which consisted of tasty snacks to complement the main event: mead tasting! THAT was fun!! The mead makers each gave a brief description of their offerings, then the corks were popped and samples were enjoyed by anyone who chose to partake! I know of at least two people who were inspired to purchase mead making kits the very next day at the trade show!

FYI : The tickets for Beeks and Brews were only available online, in advance, and sold out almost instantly... in case you’re interested in attending next year.

The second nighttime gathering was hosted by Hive for Heroes and was held at Mission BBQ Friday night. I must say, THAT was just as much fun as the mead tasting... but perhaps a wee rowdier (ha)! The line was out the door for the delicious BBQ, but they handled the crowds like champs and everyone was seated and fed quickly. After that, a lot of folks took the party to Dave & Buster’s across the street... but THIS beekeeper knew when to call it quits. Besides, Graeter’s Ice Cream Parlor was whispering sweet nothings in my ear and enticing me to visit. (Yes, I did!)

None of this, and I do mean none of this, could’ve or would’ve resulted in as massively successful a conference as it did were it not for the truly phenomenal efforts of the NAHBE instigators/ founders: Kamon and Laurel Reynolds! You may be familiar with Kamon’s name (he’s a YouTube giant) as well as a past TBA Keynote speaker. He and his lovely bride, Laurel, have now taken their unsurpassed organizational skills and created what I predict will immediately become THE most important (not to mention popular) beekeeping event to attend – in the world! I can’t fathom the amount of work, time, hours they’ve expended in creating the North American Honey Bee Expo, but without hesitation I can wholeheartedly proclaim: BRAVO!!!



*Live taping of Beekeeping Today podcast!*



*Mead tasting*



*Randy McAffery (a.k.a. The Dirt Rooster) and fans!*



*2nd largest smoker*



# LEADERSHIP TEAM

2023 - 2024



PRESIDENT  
**BYRON  
COMPTON**



VICE PRESIDENT  
**GARY  
BARBER**



SECRETARY  
**LEESA  
HYDER**



TREASURER  
**RUSSELL  
KASKEL**



DIRECTOR  
**NAN  
HELMKE**



DIRECTOR  
**TIM  
BRANAM**



DIRECTOR  
**TERI  
ALBRIGHT**



DIRECTOR  
**BARBI  
ROSE**



DIRECTOR  
**JAKE  
MOORE**



DIRECTOR  
**ANDY  
KNIGHT**



PUBLICATIONS  
**MICHELLE  
BOERST**



PAST PRESIDENT  
**DODIE  
STILLMAN**



MEMBERSHIP  
**SHIRLEY  
DOGGETT**

GET  
YOURS  
TODAY!!



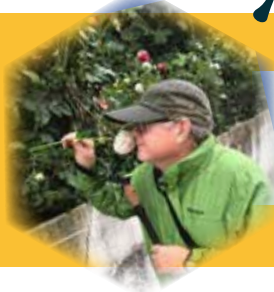
**\$22 OF EVERY PLATE SOLD**

GOES TO YOUTH AND BEEKEEPER EDUCATION PROGRAMS, INFORMATIONAL RESOURCES, & RESEARCH PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE HONEY BEE HEALTH & LONGEVITY



TO PURCHASE THE PLATE ONLINE GO TO  
[HTTPS://WWW.TXDMV.GOV/MOTORISTS/LICENSE-PLATES](https://www.txdmv.gov/motorists/license-plates)

# honey bee factoid article



## Photo-Periodism

The word you didn't know you need to know

by Kirk Kirksey

“Winter solstice” conjures images of diverse cultures, Neolithic monuments, and ancient rituals. People around the globe celebrate the winter solstice as the first day of winter. Not so for everyone. Lots of beekeepers see the winter solstice as the first day of the new beekeeping season. This is especially appropriate for Texas bees and beekeepers. Longer days bring warmer temps. Early spring blossoms and pollen sources will soon start popping. On warm days, our honey bees will be out foraging. Photo-Periodism is the spark behind it all.

### IT STARTS WITH THE WINTER SOLSTICE

Humans have known about and celebrated the winter solstice for thousands of years. Five thousand years ago, Stonehenge was built to align with the winter and summer solstices.

The winter solstice (December 21 or 22 in our neck of the woods) is the shortest day and, conversely, the longest night of the year. This means daylight hours will gradually grow longer (and nights become shorter) through the spring and early summer until the summer solstice (June 21) - the longest day of the year. So what's all this got to do with honey bees and beekeepers, and photo-periodism? It's a roundabout answer.

### THEN THERE IS PHOTO-PERIODISM

For many years, we thought longer daylight hours might directly trigger honey bee activity. We know now this is only partly true in an indirect sort of way.

Turns out plants, not honey bees, are responding to

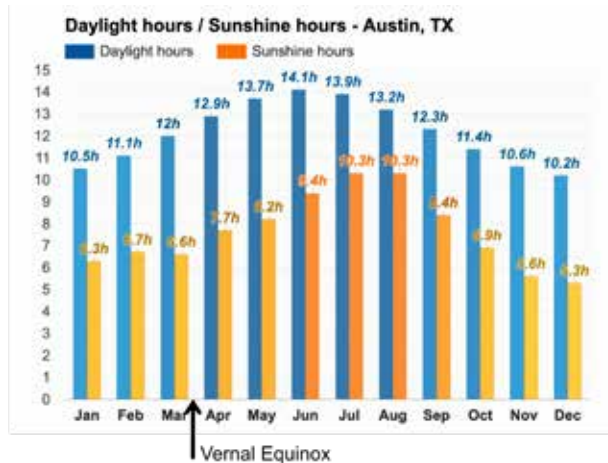
daytime/nighttime length. This botanical reaction is called photo-periodism - “the response of an organism to the length of light or dark.” This may not sound like a big deal, but one study describes photo-periodism as “... one of the most significant and complex aspects of the interaction between plants and their environment.” In many plant species, photo-periodism “wakes up” plants after their winter nap and drives many aspects of the plant's early spring<sup>1</sup> growth spurt. Therein lies the winter solstice-honey bee connection.

Changing daytime/nighttime length (as signaled by the winter solstice) spurs a photo-periodism induced transition to spring. Inside the plant's biology, this process drive things like blossom development, leaf growth and root-spread. As beekeepers, we anxiously await the flower bloom and warming temps.

Once the blossoms appear, honey bees begin foraging for pollen and nectar. Voila!! Let the spring buildup begin.

How reliable is photo-periodism? One multiyear study found photo-periodism was a better predictor of blossom development than either snowmelt (temperature proxy) or date. In this study, bee activity was highly correlated with the effects of photo-periodism.

Nothing hard is ever easy, and nothing complicated



<sup>1</sup> Many cultures celebrate the Vernal Equinox (daylight and nighttime hours are roughly equal) as the first day of spring. It occurs around March 19-21. By the Vernal Equinox rolls around, Photo-Periodism is already affecting spring plant growth.

is ever simple. Photo-periodism is complex and only partially understood. Some plants are short-day sensitive, while others are long-day sensitive. Some plants are unaffected by photo-periodism. To paraphrase many of the research papers I've read, "More study is needed."

## EARLY SPRING FLOWERS

Now is the time in Texas to keep an eye out for those early spring flowers (sometimes called "ephemerals"). Often, they are low to the ground (probably for the warmth) with small (or even tiny) blossoms. Taller, leggier wildflowers will appear as the Texas heat rises in the summer.

Where I live (North Central Texas) this time of year brings henbit (the "weed" we love to hate), little anemones, the ever-present dandelion, and an occasional wild trillium. Pear and wild plum trees begin to bloom. Pollen packets begin appearing on Wingback Elm trees. And of course, there are always bees aplenty buzzing about.

## THE FUTURE OF PHOTO-PERIODISM

It seems nothing can escape the long arm of humankind. Photo-periodism is no exception. Wide spread light pollution from artificial lighting has been shown to have negative effects on certain plants. Some herbicide treatments seem to interfere with some plants' photo-periodism processing. And as always, the BIG, SCARY unknown is climate change. Here's why.

Millions of organisms, - plants, animals, marine life - must "anticipate and prepare" for seasonal transitions. Failure to make this transition can be fatal. Over millions of years, photo-periodism has become nature's way of signaling the coming season. Scientists

think this is because, unlike variable environmental factors (e.g. rainfall, temperature, etc.), the daytime/nighttime lengths cycle never changes. Life forms have come to rely on day-length cues to adapt to rigors of the coming season. If climate change alters timings of this cycle, things may not go well.



Throughout history humans have celebrated winter solstice as the beginning of winter. Many beekeepers see the winter solstice as the beginning of beekeeping season ("Early spring", if you will). Our bees will soon be out foraging. When we see those first flowers of spring, we know photo-periodism is alive and well, and it's time for beekeepers to get busy.

## REFERENCES

Sevenello, M., Sargent, R.D. & Forrest, J.R.K. Spring wildflower phenology and pollinator activity respond similarly to climatic variation in an eastern hardwood forest. *Oecologia* 193, 475–488 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00442-020-04670-4>.

Wu Z, Skjelvåg AO, Baadshaug OH. Quantification of photoperiodic effects on growth of *Phleum pratense*. *Ann Bot*. 2004 Oct;94(4):535-43. doi: 10.1093/aob/mch170. Epub 2004 Aug 11. PMID: 15306559; PMCID: PMC4242224.

*Phleum pratense*(Timothy Grass - common in Texas, Forage for Bumble Bees. Has no



nectaries.)

Monika Czaja, Anna Kolton, How light pollution can affect spring development of urban trees and shrubs, *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*, Volume 77, 2022, 127753, ISSN 1618-8667, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ufug.2022.127753>. (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1618866722002965>)

# the brantley column



S. S. Brantley

2016 Life Member Texas Beekeepers Association

2017 Life Member Louisiana Beekeepers Association

January FACT: Honey bees do not wait on humans for help. If you receive a call about a swarm or other bee issue, you need to respond NOW! Read those words again.

What expectations we have for the new bee year! Seasoned beekeepers as well as beginners have “honey harvest” in their thoughts. In years past, wired-wax frames from moth-eaten supers were scraped, boiled in Red Diamond brand lye water, held under with a long handled garden rake until the greater part of the wax melted. They were then removed with the rake and sprayed with a strong stream of water until clean. Today, we say “Another dead-out” and pile the frames and maybe the box also in the burn pile. With a quick call or visit to the supplier’s website, we order a new “everything” and it shows up at our door a few days later. In the same manner, we can easily order NUCS, packages or other replacement bees.

If you have hives in the city, you can usually find bees carrying pollen all year, especially in January and February. How can this be? Think about the local garden club and those window boxes of flowers. If you are in the country, you will see the bees go to the wooded areas under the forest canopy, looking in protected areas for the blooming things that produce early pollen.

Soon bees laden with loads of different colored pollen will begin to arrive at landing boards. Green pollen is from the early blooming elm. Maple has bright red pollen. Google “pollen color chart” and you will find links to numerous articles and pollen-by-color charts. Not all will be specific to your region but may help you learn to identify pollen sources. Another interesting search is “identify plants by pollen color”.

Inspections may begin in January when the air temperature is in the 60 degree range as long as there is good sunshine and light wind. Be mindful of the queen when doing inspections. She is probably just starting to lay, will be easily excited, and may fly away if you pull her frame. If you pull the frames, observe them quickly and

get them back in the hive.

If you are new to beekeeping and planning on getting your first hives, now is a good time to start the learning process. A good place to start obtaining information could be your county Texas AgriLife office. Local bee clubs usually have training classes. They can also help you locate proper equipment and obtain bees. Consider participating in more than one class if several are available in your area. You will find that you can learn more in each session.

Consider locations to place your hives. The hives should be on level ground or have some type of stand that makes the hive set level. Current guidance suggests the hive face east or southeast and be mostly in the sun all day. A little late evening shade will not be a problem. Moving hives and equipment can be heavy so the hive should be easily accessible by the type of vehicle you plan to use.

Your bees will need access to a reliable water source that is close to the apiary. A nearby year-around lake, pond or stream is ideal. If a natural water source is not available, you will have to find a way to provide reliable water, especially during the hot and dry months of summer. Be aware that your bees will search as far as they need to find water, even if that means drinking from your neighbor’s pool or birdbath.

In my opinion, you must learn to think like a bee. Bees are driven by their nature to act in certain manners. It is often very difficult to make bees do as you wish. That is why it is important to study and learn as much as possible about bee behavior. As an example, do not violate bee space if you want to obtain frames of comb providing the most uniform area for the queen to lay solid patterns of brood. If you don’t know about bee space, you had better learn. Fortunately, there is a wealth of internet articles and videos about almost anything in beekeeping as well as books from online sources and bee supply houses. Take advantage of these resources and strive to be an informed beekeeper.



GET YOUR  
**SPRING  
BEES**  
ORDERED  
TODAY!



# BEEWEAVER HONEY FARM

YOUR LOCAL GO-TO FOR BEES, HONEY,  
GIFTS, TOURS, EDUCATION, AND MORE,  
SINCE 1888

**BOOK NOW!**

WWW.BEEWEAVER.COM (737)230-3435 STORE@BEEWEAVER  
16481 CR 319 NAVASOTA TX 77868

# the happy herbalist



Plants for me & my honey bees: rosemary  
By Carolyn Gibson

*This article was created to provide information about natural medicines, cures and remedies that people have used in the past. This information is made available with the knowledge that the publisher, editor and authors do not offer any legal or otherwise medical advice.*

There really is not much in bloom this time of the year. In many parts of the country, it's too cold for the honey bees to be out foraging. Here in Texas the temperature bounces back and forth and you will see an occasional honey bee foraging.

The elms are budding, a reliable resource for the honey bees.

The elm tree pollen will stimulate the queen to lay eggs. There are no flowers blooming yet. Most honey bees starve to death during January – February. Make sure your bees have plenty of sugar water if their honey reserves are not adequate. Of course, all beekeepers have different opinions, but a ratio of 2 parts sugar to one part water is recommended.

Are you experiencing cedar fever from the juniper trees producing abundant pollen?

All conifer trees are a great resource for resin to produce great propolis. However, the pollen from the conifer makes a poor-quality protein for the honey bees.

The first chance of nectar is February – March from Blackfoot daisy, chickweed, dandelion, and early fruit trees. Dewberries will bloom before the blackberries. Dewberries are the ones that crawl like vines. Blackberries are the one that make a tall stalk. Pear trees, red maple, redbud, and wild plum trees bloom in early spring. Willow trees are great and Pussy Willow are even better but do not grow in East Texas. Forget the fancy hybrids like weeping willows as they are useless for pollinators.

Rosemary may or may not be blooming. I have seen it bloom in November, December, and even January. I have seen rosemary in bloom covered in snow.

Many of you may have given up on rosemary after



*Rosemary Blooms*

losing it a few winters ago. Rosemary is a source of nectar, pollen, and resin for producing propolis.

Its little flower makes a perfect landing pad for the honey bees.

Rosemary is very aromatic. The slightest breeze will let you know that rosemary is nearby. Run your hands along the branches, and a sticky substance will stick to you and leave no doubt that it is rosemary. The piney aroma will bring a smile to your face.

Rosemary is a carminative herb, great for digestion. We are now discovering how important digestion is to our immune system and overall well-being. Adding rosemary to our diet can be as simple as making rosemary salt and using it at meals. Simply mix powdered rosemary with your favorite natural salt. Feel free to add other carminative herbs like oregano and sage to the mix. I would definitely add powdered garlic. How easy is that?

Rosemary is a well-known herb for the memory,



including helping with dementia. It increases circulation, is an anti-inflammatory, and the queen of antioxidants.

All of these properties make it good for the heart, digestion, skin, mood and liver. It may lower blood glucose. It is used to combat colds and the flu.

Enjoy rosemary as a spice in your food. Rosemary roasted potatoes, rosemary chicken and garlic, or rosemary and garlic bread.

Rosemary can grow as prostrate shrub, which I think is its prettiest form, or in its upright form. We enjoyed cutting off a 6-8-inch-long stem from the upright form and using it as a skewer. Strip the leaves, and push on a cube of meat, a whole mushroom and a chunk of onion and then cook on the grill. Rosemary is often served with meat because it helps digest fatty foods. Before there were preservatives, rosemary was used to preserve meat.

Throw a few branches into the fire to repel mosquitoes.

Infuse olive oil with rosemary and garlic, make a garlic and rosemary vinegar or a rosemary butter. Even infuse it in honey.

Make alcohol tinctures for its medical benefits. Smelling the essential oil of rosemary helps with memory and lightens your mood. Add to lotions and creams for its an-inflammatory and pain-relieving qualities. Use rosemary creams and oils to offset sun damage. Taking rosemary internally helps to offset skin damage. Add to your soaps for its stimulating and antioxidating properties. Rosemary is used in hair products to darken the hair and help with hair growth.

Rosemary benefits include liver protection, antitumoral, antifungal, antibacterial, antiparasitic, enhances mental clarity and concentration.

If you are thinking, "This is too good to be true." Note this caveat: if you are pregnant or breast feeding only consume rosemary in small quantities and avoid taking tinctures and other concentrated forms of rosemary.

Rosemary needs full sun to bloom. Blocking the north wind is helpful. It doesn't freeze as much as it dehydrates. It loves alkaline soil and can stand the heat when put against a concrete wall. If you haven't replaced your rosemary, maybe this is the time to give it another try.

Find my book, Plants for Me and My Honey bees on Amazon at <https://amzn.to/3NOprU8>

Or visit me at my booth at the honey bee schools.



*Blooming Rosemary plant*

A graphic for the TBA Summer Clinic 2024. The central element is a white star with a black outline, containing a yellow and black bee and the year '1880'. Surrounding this are several hexagonal shapes: a yellow one with 'SAVE THE DATE', a black one with 'JUNE 15TH 2024', and a yellow one with 'ALLEN TX'. There are also images of bees and a beekeeper in a white suit and hat. At the bottom, it says 'TBA SUMMER CLINIC 2024' and 'MORE DETAILS TO COME'. The Texas Beekeepers Association logo is in the bottom right corner.

[www.SweetNesHoney.com](http://www.SweetNesHoney.com)



**Beekeeping Supplies**  
**Boxes & Frames**  
**Tops & Bottoms**  
**Treatments & Feed**  
**Suits & Jackets**  
**Honey & Beeswax**



**Hi Honey!**  
**We are beekeepers**  
**helping beekeepers!**



**Proud authorized dealer of**



**MANN LAKE**  
**BEE & AG SUPPLY**



**Sweet Nes**  **Honey**  
**Bee Y tique** 

**OPEN: TUESDAY - SATURDAY 9AM-3PM**  
**8922 MAIN STREET, NEEDVILLE, TEXAS**



# MAXIMUM STRENGTH

from the only All-Natural plant polyphenol Honey Bee Food Supplement in the world.



**Complete**<sup>TM</sup>

Maximum Strength  
Nozevit<sup>TM</sup> - Optima<sup>TM</sup> - ProBee<sup>TM</sup>



Feeding stimulant with 17 essential oils, complete vitamins, minerals, and amino acids. Nutrition for Queen breeders, nucs, packages and splits.

[www.SweetNesHoney.com](http://www.SweetNesHoney.com)



Contact Brent Yaschuk  
for more details  
832-472-0567



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

# TAIS update



**Angela Steinhauer**

Chief Apiary Inspector, Texas Apiary Inspection Service

Greetings Texas Beekeepers!

It's time to gear up for spring! Hopefully, all your colonies made it through the winter, and you have planned for the coming season accordingly. I know that I will be requeening this year and I dare not reveal the age of my queens! Some of you may be adding bees in the form of Nucs or packages. Note that those new guys may need a Varroa treatment right away.

Bill and Hannah attended the Apiary Inspectors of America Conference, which was held in New Orleans this year. They toured the USDA Honey Bee Research and Laboratory facility in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and learned about some of the research that is happening there. They were also able to bring back some specimens of the Yellow-legged hornet (*Vespa velutina*) and *Tropilalaps* spp. mite. The hornet has been found in Georgia and South Carolina and it is a very successful bee predator. We hope that Georgia and South Carolina are able to eradicate the hornet, but time will tell. The *Tropilalaps* mite has not made it to the U. S. yet. The mite is making its way through Asia, Russia, and Europe and is as devastating to bee colonies as Varroa, if not more so.

On another note, the EPA announced in late December that Greenlight Biosciences applied to register a new tool for fighting the Varroa destructor. It seems Greenlight Biosciences acquired RNAi technology from Bayer. Bayer never marketed the product and there are solid reasons why. Vadesca is the name for the dsRNA that Greenlight Biosciences has marketed as a Varroacide. As of September 7, 2021, Greenlight reported that the mechanism is difficult to apply outside the lab, there are untested effects of bee mortality related to dosage, and negative effects on ladybugs. The company has already put on the market a product called Calantha that uses similar technology to fight Colorado potato beetle. I would urge you to do your own research on this product. As of the writing of this article, Greenlight Biosciences has not provided me with any information about the product.

TAIS will be at the Central Texas Beekeeping Association's Beekeeping School on March 2<sup>nd</sup> in Brenham. Bill will be presenting a program on Integrated Pest Management and I will be presenting a program on Bee Laws. If you are in attendance, please stop by and chat with us, so you can check out our specimens!



# the texas keeper



## Rescuing honey bees? Should you have an MOU?

By Kirk Kirksey

My subject is “misunderstandings” - mix-ups between a beekeeper who rescues honey bees and a client who needs honey bees removed. Why the heck would I write something like this, you may ask? An officer in a large beekeeping organization suggested the idea after her group received several complaints. Being the contact for our local beekeeping club, I’ve fielded a few complaints myself.

Bottom line - I think a simple tool called an MOU can go a long way in reducing misunderstandings, and can ultimately protect the beekeeper’s reputation.

For this article I wanted to cover all sides of the issue. It wasn’t easy and it certainly is not representative of all rescues or rescuers. My methodology/ results are far from scientific. I just wanted to speak with folks on both sides the coin - the rescuers, clients, and even an attorney or two. Here are a few high points.

### THE NATURE OF A HONEY BEE RESCUE

Overwhelmingly, most rescue jobs go well, with all parties happy with the outcome.

Many rescues are informal, performed by beekeepers as favors. Often these beekeepers don’t have much rescue/removal experience.

People seeking rescues/removals sincerely want

bees removed, not exterminated.

Some jobs are emergencies: A frantic caller wants an active colony removed from a business or public place, or locations close to children and animals.

The removal “deal” is often sealed with a handshake - nothing in writing is exchanged.

As one rescuer put it, “Honey bee rescues are like Forrest Gump’s box of chocolates - You never know what you’re going to get.” Colonies behind walls, in soffits, etc. are huge unknowns. Many jobs require

some intentional property damage to reach the bees. This damage can end up being extensive.

Bee rescuers generally don’t commit to repairing anything but minor damages. Repairs end up being the responsibility of the customer.

Just like the rest of the world, beekeepers use social media to showcase their experiences and skill. Posted photos can identify a customer’s location, business,

and even identity.

Many beekeepers who do rescues don’t carry any sort of specialized liability insurance.

### COMMENTS

As with any arrangement - formal or informal - between two parties, people can get their wires crossed. In an effort to understand the nature of



rescuer-client wire crossing, I gathered comments from rescuers, clients, and one lawyer. Here are a few of the things I heard:

From Clients

- This is an “Emergency”. Beekeeper response is slow or unreliable.
- The beekeeper posted identifiable information on Facebook without my knowledge or permission. This hurt my business.
- Bees are still here.
- Property damage was more than I expected.
- Landscape plants were damaged.
- Cost - beekeeper gets bees worth several hundred dollars. Shouldn't I get part of this?
- Bees are mean. I need help fast.
- Didn't clean up a sticky mess that's attracting ants, wasps, and more bees.
- I didn't realize how long the job would take.
- If I can't find a beekeeper to rescue these bees, I'll call a pest control company and have the bees exterminated.

From Rescuers

- They were wasps not bees. “I made a trip for nothing.”
- It's a swarm not a colony.
- Unrealistic scheduling demands
- I can't guarantee bees won't come back.
- Bees may remain in the area for several days.
- Pets and people get too close and risk getting stung.

### WHAT IS AN MOU?

An MOU (Memo of Understanding) is a frequently used tool to describe a working relationship between two parties - in this case a honey bee rescuer and client. It is not a contract (legally binding) or a waiver (absolves liability). It need not be long and complicated. An MOU has one purpose and one purpose only - head off misunderstandings BEFORE the job begins. It can be a checklist for rescuer that covers important aspects of the job, and it can give the customer a chance to ask questions. Content of an MOU should be based on the rescuer's operation and experience. Here are some ideas:

Rescuers Responsibilities

- How property/landscape damage will be handled.
- Handling unplanned/unexpected events.
- Cleanup responsibilities.

- Needed facilities (e.g. electrical hookup, water, etc).
- Social media postings.
- Cost overruns.
- Schedule requirements.
- Revisit commitment.
- Nature/risks of the job (e.g. left-behind bees, honey residue, etc).
- Status report of the removal

Client Responsibilities

- Bystander and pet control.
- Availability for questions.
- Property/landscape repair.
- Services needed (e.g. power, water, tools)

I think we can agree misunderstandings are a bad thing. Misunderstanding about a honey bee rescue job can lead to a damaged reputation for the beekeeper, and a misinformed community that is hesitant to call a beekeeper when a rescue is needed. This is bad for honey bees and bad for beekeeping.

An MOU is not foolproof, but it can thwart many misunderstandings before they happen. It costs nothing; and is short, proven, simple, carries no risk, and is easy to do. One might say an MOU for anyone who rescues or removes honey bees is a no-brainer.

*Kirk is writing from personal experience and is not an attorney. Beekeepers should consult an attorney about their particular circumstances.*



# the rangel report



Dr. Juliana Rangel

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

Dear TBA members,

Happy new year to all our followers and friends! I hope that 2024 comes filled with prosperity, new adventures, and lots and lots of fun and rewarding beekeeping to all of you. As usual, we have been quite busy at the Rangel Honey Bee Lab. Below are a few examples of what we've been up to; but first, I would like to acknowledge the sad news of the passing of two iconic and influential beekeepers from the U.S.

As many of you may know, Jennifer Brown, former member and President of the Louisiana Beekeepers Association Board, and friend to many of us in Louisiana and Texas, passed away on Monday, 18 December, after a long illness. Jennifer was very influential in getting the LBA's student scholarship established, and with her help, many of our students received important funding from the LBA. She was a dedicated and sweet person and will be sorely missed. Here is a link to her obituary.

<https://sealefuneral.com/2023/12/21/jennifer-amanda-brown/>

Just a couple of weeks earlier, we also learned that Peter 'Kim' Flottum, 76, passed away Sunday, 10 December, after a short battle with cancer. He served as editor of Bee Culture magazine for 33 years, retiring in 2019. His wife, Kathy worked along side him for the majority of those years. He authored numerous beekeeping books and hosted podcasts, with Jim Tew and Jeff Ott. Kim visited and gave bee talks in all of the 48 contiguous states. He spent almost half of his life teaching and loving beekeepers and beekeeping." To learn more about Kim, please visit <https://www.beeculture.com/remembering-kim-flottum/> He will also be deeply missed by us all. Thank you Jennifer and Kim for all you did for our beekeeping community.

I wanted to share with you that, for the second year in a row, our lab has partnered with Auburn University for the national winter capped brood

monitoring project. The status of capped brood in honey bee colonies during winter is critical information beekeepers must consider when choosing an appropriate control product for the mite *Varroa destructor*. As colonies emerge from winter, insight into colony brood rearing also helps beekeepers plan for early spring management, such as feeding and swarm control.

Although colonies in many parts of the United States experience predictable extended periods without brood, this may not be the case for those in coastal and southern regions with mild winters.

To help beekeepers make appropriate management decisions during winter and early spring, 10 land-grant universities, 1 statewide cooperative extension system, 5 USDA ARS labs (Baton Rouge, Beltsville, Poplarville, Stoneville, Tucson), and 5 beekeepers are jointly monitoring the amount of capped brood in their colonies throughout the country from mid-October 2023 to the end of February 2024.

This page will be updated approximately every 2 weeks so that the amount of capped brood in the monitored colonies can be communicated to the beekeeping community.

As of early January, a lack of capped brood continued to steadily move south, as we plunge into winter. Still large amounts of capped brood as far north as central Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia. Consider treating with oxalic acid if you are north of this region. At the Auburn Bee Lab, the team treated with oxalic acid in December, and are prepared to do a follow-up treatment in late January, hopefully when they have no capped brood.

To explore our maps, visit:

- [Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory UGA Honey Bee Lab](#)

- [Alabama Extension Entomology and Plant Pathology - University of Tennessee](#)
- [MSU Extension Apiculture Program](#)
- [Texas A&M University Apiculture](#)
- [Oregon State Honey Bee Lab](#)
- [PSU Pollinators Lopez-Uribe Lab](#)
- [Cornell Dyce Lab for Honey Bee Studies](#)
- [American Beekeeping Federation](#)
- [American Honey Producers Association](#)
- [Project Apis m.](#)

Now for some attended events. Our lab was very well represented at this year's American Bee Research Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana. Lots of great talks and networking with colleagues and friends! We had presentations from Myra Dickey, Jordan Twombly Ellis, Keegan Nichols, and myself. Stay tuned for the publication of the conference proceedings in Bee Culture Magazine later on this quarter! To learn more about the ABRC, and the American Association of Professional Apiculturists (AAPA), which organizes the conference, please visit <https://aapa.us.org/> The AAPA is an organization consisting of professors, state apiarists, scientists, and students who all study and work with honey bees (*Apis mellifera*). The goals of the AAPA focus on three major areas: 1) Promoting communication within and between industry, academia, and the beekeeping community; 2) Developing and fostering research on fundamental and applied questions to gain a greater understanding of bee biology in an aim to assist and improve the beekeeping industry; and 3) Create a venue to rapidly share new techniques and current research to advance the field.

I had the privilege of being invited to participate in a three-day workshop about Varroa monitoring and control in Sydney, Australia, this past month. The event, organized by Dr. Mary Whitehouse from McQuarie University, and funded in part by Hort Innovation, was attended by commercial beekeepers and scientists from Australia and around the world, in an effort to find innovative ways to control for Varroa mites now that they have set their foot in New South Wales. There are indeed a lot of lessons that Australia can learn from our experience in the U.S., New Zealand, and Europe, about this devastating honey bee parasite.

That is all for now. As always, for up-to-date information regarding our program, or for new and

interesting posts regarding bees and beekeeping, please visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/TAMUhoneebeeelab>. We now have over 5,800 followers from around the world!

Sincerely yours,  
Juliana Rangel



*Status of the winter brood monitoring project nationwide as of 13 January 2024.*



*Dr. Rangel with Dr. Robyn Underwood (Penn State) and other colleagues at this year's ABRC.*







Members of the Rangel Lab participated as speakers in this year's American Bee Research Conference in New Orleans, LA.



Dr. Rangel participating in the Varroa monitoring and control workshop organized by McQuarie University in Sydney, Australia.



Research apiary (left) and honey bee laboratory (right) at the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries (DPI) near Toccal, Australia

# what form, honey?



Roger and Sue Farr

Caddo Trace Beekeeping Association

Master Level Beekeeper - Texas Master Beekeeper Program (Roger)

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

Not sure I (Roger) have been asked about “form” today; nor does Sue call me “Honey.” Sue is a seamstress and miniaturist, so she often asks about form when she wants to know size, shape, and color. However, the “What form, honey?” question is a very good one for beekeepers to ask as we consider marketing our honey to customers.

In November 2023, we were blessed to take a trip to southern and eastern Germany, where we traced the roots of the Protestant Reformation and the man responsible for it, Martin Luther. It was a fascinating trip to see the impact of one man, who lived 500 years ago, on the church, and indeed on society at large. During our travels we often stopped in local shops to get a flavor of local life in the cities and towns we visited searching out the travels of Luther’s life.

We found the local shops in most places were catering to Germans of various economic strata. Expensive ski wear and designer eye glasses shared roofs. Then, off the beaten path, we found a food shop catering

to Turkish families, who are a large part of the ever-increasing immigrant population in Germany. Just

like some of the grocery stores in Texas, the foods and household products come from the home country of the immigrants and meet their desires for home-grown foods from their native lands. Honey is everywhere and we found honey packaged in all ‘forms’ in the Turkish shops

First, we saw what we’ll call “frame” honey. This is a medium super frame, sometimes including the woodenware, taken straight from the hive and boxed for shipping. Here are two different packages, one with a transparent film to show off the honey. This allowed the customers to see that the product they are purchasing and eating is indeed real honey. Many local hotels and restaurants in Europe show off their honey at breakfast with a frame of honey on the table. Guests simply take a spoon, dip

it into the frame, and put wax and honey onto their



plate. Yum! The holder pictured is now offered in America as well.

Second, we saw traditionally-packed “comb” honey in the plastic clamshell common in North America. Nothing particularly surprising here. If your eyes are sharp you can read the price and quantity. We’ll save you the mathematical gyrations; the comb honey is selling for about \$6 per pound.

Third, came traditional “chunk” honey but in a reuseable, sealable container. Kind of fun to see the creativity, but it does add to the weight and cost when shipped from Turkey. I’ve seen some of these at farmers’ markets in America.

Fourth, came what we call “spun, or creamed” honey. You won’t see those words on a honey jar in Europe as almost all honey in Europe is marketed in a solid form. It’s usually in 500g jars and costs, in Germany, about \$10 per pound. There was some of this in the Turkish food market, but not much.

Lastly, on the bottom shelf, was the “extracted” honey. In North America, this is what we consider as “real honey,” but it’s not common in much of the world. This is probably due to the crystallization

problem of unfiltered honey and potential leakage issues with shipping plastic bottles of honey several thousand km overland by lorry.

Personally, we enjoy making and selling spun honey; it accounts for about 20% of our sales. We’re slowly converting our customers to spun honey; once they taste it and spread it on biscuits, they don’t usually go back to extracted honey.

Right now is a great time to

think about how you will package your 2024 honey crop, since container sellers are not inundated with orders this time of year. You might even pick up some containers at reduced prices.

Make it your ambition in 2024 to try a new “form” of honey with your customers! You, and they, might just be glad you did!

So, yes, “form” does matter, “Honey.”



**ORDER YOUR  
'SWEET AS  
PEACHES'  
NUCS &  
PACKAGES FOR  
2024**

**Five Frame Nuc \$250.00**  
**Three Pound Package \$175.00**  
**\$100.00 Non Refundable Deposit**

Each Nuc comes with 2 to 3 frames of brood, eggs and larva, 1 frame of pollen nectar and 1 honey- nectar frame. All Nucs will have mated queen and have gone through the least one brood cycle and had a spring mite treatment

3 LB. packages come with a mated queen. Easy to install in a great way to save money and expand your bee yard..

**Old Security Farms LLC (281)705-2491**  
**Winding Creek Bee Supply LLC (936)537-1952**

**[www.MagnoliaBeeandSupply.com](http://www.MagnoliaBeeandSupply.com)**



Authorized Dealer  
Polypropylene  
Affordable, Durable  
Insulated Hives  
Feeders  
Battery Smoker



**Beekeeping Supplies**  
**Boxes & Frames**  
**Complete Hives**  
**Suits & Jackets**  
**Local HONEY**  
**Digital Hive Tech**



Authorized Dealer  
Honey Extraction  
Decapping



**Open: Wed-Thurs 6PM - 9PM, Saturday 8AM - 2PM**  
**1010 MAGNOLIA BLVD, MAGNOLIA, TEXAS**  
**281-305-4072 (txt/call)**



# HONEY BEE HEALTH COALITION

HEALTHY BEES · HEALTHY PEOPLE · HEALTHY PLANET™

## HONEY BEE NUTRITION

A REVIEW AND GUIDE TO SUPPLEMENTAL FEEDING



Beekeepers now have a valuable resource at their fingertips with the release of the latest comprehensive Honey Bee Nutrition Guide from the Honey Bee Health Coalition. The guide is a review and manual for supplemental feeding in bee hives, giving beekeepers a simple approach to the complex and nuanced world of honey bee nutrition. Visit [honeybeehealthcoalition.org](http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org) to download this new guide.

# local clubs

## TBA member clubs

### **Alamo Area Beekeepers Association**

Rob Holliday  
president@alamobees.org  
www.alamobees.org  
3rd Tuesday of odd numbered months, 6:30p-8:30p  
**San Antonio Botanical Gardens 555 Funston Place San Antonio**

### **Anderson County Beekeepers**

Jerry Maxwell - (903) 394-7107  
mj5storm@yahoo.com  
www.AnCobees.org  
Meeting: 2nd Monday of every month, 6:30 to 8:30pm  
Palestine Church, 109 W. Crawford St., Palestine, TX 75801.

### **Austin Area Beekeepers Association**

Becky Barajas - (512) 520-7449  
austinareabeekeepers@gmail.com  
facebook.com/groups/Austin/AreaBeekeeperAssociation  
www.meetup.com/Austin-Urban-Beekeeping/  
Meeting: 3rd Monday of each month at 7pm  
The Bee Supply, 1205 Round Rock Ave., Round Rock, Tx 78681

### **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

### **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  
youth & newbee class @ 6:00, regular meeting @ 7:00

### **Caddo Trace Beekeepers Association**

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

### **Central Texas Beekeepers Association**

Karl Cottrell- (979) 645-0832  
CentralTexasBeekeepers@gmail.com  
www.centraltexasbeekeepers.org  
Meetings: Monthly on the 4th Thursday (except Nov. and Dec.)  
Washington County Fairgrounds, 1305 E Bluebell Rd., Brenham  
at 7pm

### **Chisholm Trail Beekeepers**

Keith Crow  
Keithcrow2000@yahoo.com  
Meetings: Last Monday of each month 6:30 - 8:30pm  
Burlson Bible Church, 260 South Hurst Road, Burlson

### **Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Assn.**

Shannon La Grave  
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  
 1st Thursday of each month, 6:30pm  
 Beefy's On The Green Restaurant, Upstairs Room 12910 US-281  
 Spring Branch

**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  
 North Lake Recreation Center, Denton

**Dino-Beekeepers Association**

Kirk Kirksey  
 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  
 NCTC Building 800, Room 808 1525 W. California St 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

**Hays County Beekeepers Association**

Goergia Miguez (512) 827-6239  
 Hayscountyba@gmail.com  
 http://www.hayscountybeekeepersassociation.org  
 3rd Thursday of the month, 6-8pm  
 See website for possible location changes  
 Dripping Springs Distillery 5330 Bell Springs Road Dripping  
 Springs

**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 p  
 resident@metrobeekeepers.net  
 https://www.metrobeekeepers.net  
 Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month 6:30 - 8:30  
 Fort Worth Botanic Garden, 3220 Botanic Garden Blvd, 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

# local clubs

TBA member clubs

## **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

## **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](http://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

Decatur 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

## 2023 TBA Journal Advertising Rates

6 issues for \$625 full page

6 issues for \$375 half page

6 issues for \$125 business card

\$125 full page single issue

\$75 for half page single issue

email [publications@texasbeekeepers.org](mailto:publications@texasbeekeepers.org) to start  
your ad in the next issue of the Journal





# 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.

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

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  
jacksonvilleareabeekeepersassociation@gmail.com

Johnson County Beekeepers Association  
Bruce Watts, Jr. (817) 992-2294  
bruce.jr@sbcglobal.net

Lamar County Beekeepers Association  
Kevin Young - (903) 715-0208  
lamarcoba@gmail.com

Liberty County Beekeepers Association

Palo Duro Bee Club  
Paige Nester (806)678-8048  
nesterpaige@gmail.com

Rio Grande Valley Beekeepers Association

San Marcos Area Bee Wranglers  
Gay Fraser (512) 264-2021  
smabeevranglers@gmail.com

Texarkana Beekeepers Association  
Sarah Clinesmith - (903) 277-2145  
sarahaddie@aol.com

Texas Hill Country Beekeepers Association  
Linda Williams - (830) 688-0560  
texashillcountrybeekeepers@gmail.com  
facebook.com/TXHillCountryBKAssn/

Tri County Beekeepers Association  
David Huffman  
huffmaninsurance@glade.net

Trinity Valley Beekeepers Association  
Kirby Carmichael  
tvbees.org

Tyler County Bee Club  
Scott Martin - (409) 283-4507  
tcbclub16@gmail.com

Please forward any changes or additions to Leesa Hyder at [execsec@texasbeekeepers.org](mailto:execsec@texasbeekeepers.org)

For Club Meeting info, view club location map on [texasbeekeepers.org](http://texasbeekeepers.org)

we need your

# help

with the Journal

Do you want to help with this journal?

Contact Michelle Boerst

[publications@texasbeekeepers.org](mailto: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 2024?

Meeting time/location changed?

Send all club updates to Leesa Hyder at [execsec@texasbeekeepers.org](mailto:execsec@texasbeekeepers.org)

join us or renew your

# membership

[www.texasbeekeepers.org](http://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](mailto:membership@texasbeekeepers.org) or call (512) 924-5051

# directors

at-large

Director 1



Teri Albright  
teri.albright@texasbeekeepers.org

Director 2



Barbi Rose  
barbi.rose@texasbeekeepers.org  
(512) 799-0616

Director 3



Nan Helmke  
nan.helmke@texasbeekeepers.org

Director 4



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

Director 5



Tim Branum  
tim.branum@texasbeekeepers.org

Director 6



Andy Knight  
andy.knight@texasbeekeepers.org  
(281) 305-4072

# Texas Beekeepers Association

Michelle Boerst  
409 S. Magnolia St.  
Aubrey, TX 76227

publications@texasbeekeepers.org

---

## Texas Beekeepers Association Officers - 2024

### President

Byron Compton  
president@texasbeekeepers.org  
(210) 262-1862

### Vice President

Gary Barber  
vp@texasbeekeepers.org  
(972) 768-5505

### Past President

Dodie Stillman  
pastpresident@texasbeekeepers.org  
(512) 560-7550

### Executive Secretary

Leesa Hyder  
execsec@texasbeekeepers.org  
(281) 460-0344

### Treasurer

Rusty Kaskel  
treasurer@texasbeekeepers.org



---

### Membership Director

Shirley Doggett  
membership@texasbeekeepers.org  
400 County Road 440, Thrall, TX 76578  
(512) 924-5051

---



### Photo credits

Front cover: Kim Townsend, 2nd place Honey Show Photo Winner

Rear cover: Kim Townsend