

East Texas Beekeepers Association



February 2023

This month we will have **Jake Moore** from **Moore Honey** farm coming to speak to our club. He is a wealth of information, as he and his father run approximately 2,500 hives in the Houston and Beaumont area and are passionate about Real Texas Honey. They also do almond pollination in California and other crop pollination in Texas. Jake manages bee health and the marketing side of the business and he's created some impressive videos for their YouTube channel. You can find out more about the Moore family business at www.MooreHoney.com.

We will also have a visit from **Chris Cruze**, the new manager at **Mann Lake** in Marshall. He wants to introduce himself since he and his family are new to the area and to let us know about their customer appreciation BBQ that is happening on March 4th.

See you there!

See the fliers at the end of the newsletter for more information on the Mann Lake BBQ and the Plants of Texas ETBA members discount and the ETBA Beekeeping Beginner Class!...

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Next Meeting

Feb 2nd

United Methodist Church
405 West Main in Whitehouse
6:30 PM

Practical Experiences in the Bee Yard

by Stan Brantley



I would like to start by telling you about the end of 2022 and the beginning of 2023. The morning of December 22 was a frigid 9 degrees and I received a phone call about bees that needed to be moved out of a shed. The shed was being used as a greenhouse and had bees flying inside. I entered the shed and watched bees flying in and out of a 24" x 24" chest freezer that was being used to store bags of dog food. The lid was closed but the bees had found or made an entrance near a door hinge. Shining my flashlight as I cracked the lid enough to see inside, I saw no wax or bees on the underside of the lid. I quickly realized that the weight of the wax, the temperature inside the greenhouse, or some unsuspecting person lifting the lid too quickly had caused the wax to fall into the bottom of the freezer.



All I could see in the bottom were mounds of wax and a swarming sea of bees. I gently closed the lid and told the owner I would return with a helper and remove the freezer. A couple days later, my helper and I took the freezer full of bees and dog food out of the green house and transported it to a beeyard. Hopefully, there will be a "rest of the story" about these bees if they survive into spring.

The beginning of 2023 was a very different day. New Year's Day dawned at 55 degrees and reached the lower 70s by afternoon. The first bee call of the new year came at 4pm!

Texas weather is so unpredictable. It makes it hard to suggest in writing what you can do in the beeyard. Check the hive weight – if it feels light you may need to feed. Don't let your bees run out of stores and starve before the spring forage starts. Anytime the temperature is above 60 degrees, inspect your hive. Just don't spend thirty minutes doing it. Fire up your smoker because during this time of the year bees do not like to be disturbed. A few well-directed puffs of smoke will do wonders to calm them.

If you want to see the brood pattern, it will probably be on the third or fourth frame. It is desirable to have two brood frames full of honey for a frame of brood in an overwintered hive in February. If you have six to eight frames of bees, they will need ten to thirty pounds of honey to build-up and keep growing. A full medium super should provide enough food for the hive even if there is a two or three week cold spell. Texas is famous for late February or early March freezes and even severe Easter Sunday cold snaps.

If you have a 2-3 frame hive that you just hope to keep alive, consider using a Snelgrove Board to assist the weak hive. Commercial Snelgrove boards coast about \$35 and are easy to work with. If you are not familiar with Snelgrove boards, Google will give you links to a lot of information and videos. Place the Snelgrove board on top of a really strong hive. Place the weak hive on top of the Snelgrove board and provide an entrance preferably on the side of the hive. Open a door on the bottom side of the board to allow the strong hive an upper entrance. When the strong hive bees are using the upper entrance for several days and in great numbers, close door on the bottom side of the board and open the door on the top side of the board to allow all of those field bees to enter the weak hive. This allows the 2-3 frame hive's queen to obtain a strong population to support her increased brood rearing and strengthen her colony. The large screen area of the Snelgrove board allows the bee smells to mingle and there should be no fighting. You are just moving bees from the populated hive to the weak hive with little or no work on your part.



Got Questions?

*Question & answer group will meet from 6:00-6:30 before the meeting.
Join us if you are a new beekeeper or just have beekeeping questions?
We'll try to get you some answers!*

ETBA Beginner Beekeeping Class

Join us April 1st - 8:30am-4pm - Whitehouse, TX



You will learn:

- Basic bee biology**
- How to check a hive**
- Beekeeping equipment**
- Pests & diseases of the hive**
- Yearly overview of bee hive management**
- Hands on experience**

We will spend at least 3 hours checking hives

Details:

- Cost: \$100 (box lunch included)**
- You can pay Jennifer Palmer at the meeting or mail a \$100 check (post marked before March 15th) made out to East Texas Beekeepers Association to:**

East Texas Beekeepers Association

PO Box 9662

Tyler, TX 75711

- All proceeds go to the club for the Scholarship Program**
- You need to provide your own protective gear, and bring it to class that day.**
Students without proper protective equipment will not be allowed to work in the bee yard.

This class is intended for those who are new to beekeeping or have very limited beekeeping experience.



BEEKEEPING SUPPLY SHOP



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10% DISCOUNT ON ALL
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GRAND OPENING MARCH 4TH

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MANN LAKE
BEE & AG SUPPLY



FIRST ANNUAL TEXAS CUSTOMER APPRECIATION BBQ

Saturday, March 4th
8am to 4pm

Where: Mann Lake - Texas
1600 Commerce St, Marshall, TX 75672



PLENTY OF GIVEAWAYS!

**Pollen Patties, Nucs & Packages,
Queen Bees, & Gift Certificates!**

- Special in Store Sales & Door Busters!
- Free Food and Beverages!
- Door Prizes & Raffles!

Special auction item from which the
Texas Honey Bee Education Association
will get 100% of the proceeds.



Scan me!
RSVP To Event

RSVP by Jan. 27th to be entered into an Early Bee Raffle!