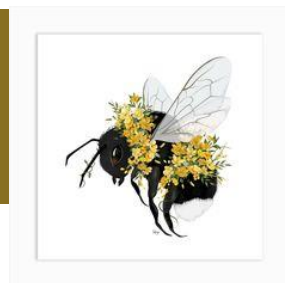


# East Texas Beekeepers Association



## *July Report by Jim Biles*

It's possible that you started beekeeping after you prayed for humility. Because beekeeping has a way of humbling even the most knowledgeable beekeepers! I know what I'm talking about here because I just completed 23 years of beekeeping, and it still reveals just enough to make me understand how much I don't know.

What started this thinking is some honey that I extracted in June. Most of the honey I've ever extracted has been East Texas honey, so I thought I had tasted all the variations that East Texas can produce. I was wrong. This honey has a distinctive flavor that's different than anything I've tasted. It also is crystallizing very quickly, which is also something I've not experienced. This makes me curious as to the nectar source. More on this later.

So, what do we do when faced with common or uncommon beekeeping questions? My approach is to rely on trusted sources of information. My first stop is experienced beekeepers I know. It's probable that someone in the ETBA has experienced the same thing you're asking about. Another resource is respected books or magazines. My favorite books are the Backyard Beekeeper and Beekeeping for Dummies. I also subscribe to the American Bee Journal for the latest information and science. Finally, there are internet sites where I spend time getting up to speed on issues. My "go to" places are the Honey Bee Health Coalition, Randy Oliver ([scientificbeekeeping.com](http://scientificbeekeeping.com)), Blake Shook ([thebeesupply.com](http://thebeesupply.com)) and Mike Palmer (almost all video, various sites including YouTube).

Now, back to my honey question. I called a couple of beekeepers that are good with floral sources, but didn't get a definitive answer to my questions. So, I took a bottle of the honey and shipped it off to be tested in a lab. Some answers you just can't find in a book! I'll let you know my lab results in a future article.



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Vice-President—Joe Laws  
Exec. Director/Reporter— Jim Biles  
Treasurer—Jennifer Palmer  
Secretary—Tish Kennedy  
Member-at-Large—Jamie Crain  
Program Director — Christina Williams  
Newsletter Editor—Jenifer Babyak  
Webmaster—Ken Wilkinson



## Next Meeting

# July 11th

Whitehouse Methodist Church  
405 West Main in Whitehouse

6:30 PM

On the Web:  
[www.etba.info](http://www.etba.info)

# FYI

by Christina Williams

The January Program...

Our Meeting this month will be on  
July 11<sup>th</sup>!

Our July Program  
will be a surprise due to a late  
cancellation!

Hope to see you there!

## *Practical Experiences in the Bee Yard*

by Stan Brantley



July is the month honey extraction can begin in earnest. During my employment years, I always tried to schedule my vacation during the July 4<sup>th</sup> time frame for honey extraction. This worked well because the honey flow was essentially over by the end of June in my area of residence.

Extraction marks a shift in the focus of the beekeeper. Several decisions must be made to prepare for the successful survival of the hot Ark-La-Tex summer and proper preparation for the coming winter. One of the first decisions is how to store the extracted supers. Do not leave the wet supers in your honey house, shop or garage without protection from the wax moth. Wax moths are highly attracted to the smell of honey and will begin to deposit eggs in the wet comb. One option is to let the neighborhood insects clean up your supers. If your

honey house, you could place the wet supers outside and let “everyone” come and dine.

You may see a variety of insects feasting on the honey along with local bees. Surprisingly, Lady Bugs seem to like to eat the honey. This is not a good method if your apiary is in the same area. The smell of wet honey in the air could start a robbing frenzy of any nearby hives.

Another option is to place the wet supers back onto the hives and let the hive bees clean them. This is my preference as it just seems appropriate to allow the bees that made the honey have a chance to clean up the residual honey. They will happily clean up the mess that I have made of their wonderful honey production and storage process. It is best to return the wet supers to the hives late in the evening, if possible. This allows the smell of wet honey in the apiary to dissipate overnight so all should be somewhat normal by morning. Increased bee activity and possible robbing can occur if the wet supers are returned to the hives during the day when bees are active outside of the hive.

Another decision to be made is what to do with the extracted supers after the bees have cleaned them for you. You have the option to leave them on the hive for the bees to protect or to remove them from the hive and store under protection over the winter. If you opt to store the supers off the hive, be sure you have determined where you will store them and have obtained the necessary chemicals to protect them from wax moths and beetles during storage. If you have not done this before, you can find different methods on the Internet or from other beekeepers in your circle of contact. Whatever method you choose, be prepared to safely store the supers immediately and do not leave them setting unprotected in your shop or garage.

Entrance reducers can help save a weaker hive. Don't be afraid to place entrance reducers on less populated hives to help prevent robbing by other bees or by wasps. As the summer weather becomes hotter and dryer, nectar eating insects will be looking for readily available forage. Your hives may be attracting them as the natural nectar flow diminishes. It is a good practice to place entrance reducers with the smallest opening on the less populated hives. You can also use any board of  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch or greater thickness placed over hive opening on the landing board. Leave a half inch space at the end of the board for the bees to use as an entrance. This small entrance allows the hive's guard bees to more easily defend the hive from other bees or predators.

The Ark-La-Tex is probably going to be hot from now until September. During this hot period, I like to vent my hives and use a shade board to help keep the hive cooler. I set the front edge of the Outer Cover on front edge of the Inner Cover. This allows enough space for natural convection to help the hotter air to rise and escape the hive and pull cooler air in through the front entrance. You may find bees congregating under the slanted cover but as a general rule they will not draw burr comb in this extra space. For a shade board, I place short pieces of 2x4 on the slanted Outer Cover and add a 3 foot square piece of plywood or sheet metal over them. Weigh the shade cover down with a brick or rock so the wind will not blow it off.



### *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!*

## Connie Collins - ETBA President

Dear Beekeepers:

Happy summer! I hope everyone is keeping cool as the hot summer begins. We have decided to push our meeting to the second Thursday this month as the first Thursday is the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Please spread the word and we hope to see everyone on Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup>. Here are some of the goings on in the bee community for our area and in Texas. If you have an event you would like to see posted here please contact me at [connie@cncfarms.com](mailto:connie@cncfarms.com). Don't forget to keep checking on your bees! It may be hot in your bee suit, but this is the time of year that all your work will prepare them for a strong winter and then into a successful spring in 2025!

Thank you,  
Connie Collins - ETBA President

### Events and Resources:

#### **Bee Expo:**

Kentucky Expo Center – Louisville, KY

The best opportunity to share and network with thousands of beekeepers, industry leaders, and some of the biggest YouTube creators in beekeeping. With an industry-leading number of vendors, see for yourself the latest innovations in the beekeeping industry worldwide! Enjoy learning from some of the best educators in the beekeeping industry and participating in the largest honey show on the continent!

3 Day Ticket Prices (Includes Speaker Videos):

"Early Bird" 3 Day ticket - May 4th - July 31st - \$175

3 Day ticket -----Aug. 1st - Nov. 30 - \$185

Late 3 Day ticket ----- Dec. 1st - Dec. 24th - \$200

At the door 3 Day ticket ---- Jan. 2nd - Jan 4th - \$230

One Day Ticket Prices (Does NOT Include Speaker Videos):

One day ticket ----- May 4th - Nov. 30 - \$145

Late one day ticket ----- Dec. 1st - Dec. 24th - \$160

No one day tickets will be sold at the door

Ticket prices apply to all attendees ages 10 and up.

Children under 10 may not attend the Bee Expo. Due to the nature of this event it is unsuitable for children under 10 years of age. Adult ticket prices apply for all attendees ages 10 and up.

#### LOCATION

Kentucky Exposition Center, 937 Phillips Ln, Louisville, KY 40209

January 2-4, 2025





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**Beyond Bees:**

Public Event by Mercer Botanic Gardens

Bee-come fascinated by bees! Learn about resident colonies of carpenter bees and honeybees from a beekeeper. Meet in front of the Mercer Visitor Center. Ages 5+. Registration is required and opens on March 1<sup>st</sup>. To register, visit [www.pct3.com/MBG](http://www.pct3.com/MBG) click "Events and Registration," find this event, update the participant number, click "Add" and enter your contact information.

Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup> – 8:30 AM

Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup> – 8:30 AM

22306 Aldine Westfield Rd, Humble TX, United States, 77338

**Herbs for Bees:**

Public Event by Lake Granbury Master Gardeners

Learn about how to grow delicious herbs that enhance your table and feed our favorite little pollinators – Bees!

Presenter: Jean Basset, Lake Granbury Master Gardener

Wednesday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024

641 Reunion Court, Granbury, TX 76048

**Heavenly Harvest Beekeeping Classes:**

6 hour Beginning bee keeping class. Please schedule your time appropriately, sometimes the class runs a little longer due to questions and chatting about bees.

Includes: e-workbook, hive inspection. (\*Weather permitting) Bring your bee suit! Dress comfortable. Close toed shoes required! Private Classes Available

Contact me directly to book the class. You will need at least 5 people to attend your Private Class, maximum 10 in order to be provided with lunch. One (1)- Four (4) attendees= no lunch provided. Deposit \$25 per person- non-refundable. No child pricing for this selection.

<https://www.heavenlyharvestapiary.com/product/BeeKeeping101Class/10?cs=true&cst=custom>

**East Texas Apiaries Education Opportunities and Consultations:**

Educational Opportunities:

Are you a new Beekeeper or want to become one? Do you already have bees and want to maximize your apiary? We offer a wide range of classes covering all aspects of beekeeping. From the basics to more advanced techniques, come join us for one or more of our classes! Click the button below to find out more about our course offerings. Have questions? Shoot us an email!

We are always happy to talk about bees!

<https://www.easttexasapiaries.com/>

Consultations:

East Texas Honey is proud to offer one-on-one consultations and hive inspections. We will bring our knowledge and expertise to you and your apiary. Consultations include hive inspection, evaluation and corrective action if needed. We are happy to share the experience with you and guide you in a personalized learning opportunity so you can learn how to best steward your apiary. Consultations are \$65/per hour (one hour guaranteed) plus mileage (\$.67 per mile). To reserve your time, click the link below or give us a call!

<https://www.easttexasapiaries.com/consultations.html#/>

East Texas Honey

903-854-4680

**East Texas Beekeepers 2025 Scholarship:**

The ETBA will be offering scholarships again this year. Please visit our website for the application to apply. Applications are due January 31<sup>st</sup>. Applicants must attend an interview on February 1<sup>st</sup> before the monthly meeting. The scholarship winners will receive a one-year membership in the East Texas Beekeepers Association, free attendance to our bee class, full wooden ware equipment for a beehive, a nuc or package of bees for the hive, and beekeeping gear: gloves, hive tool, and a smoker. Applicants must be within the age of 13 and 17 years of age.

**Local Beekeeper Club's Meeting Dates:**Rusk County Beekeepers

The Rusk County Beekeepers have decided to reestablish their meetings. Please attend and help support this local club.

Rusk County Extension Office - Conference Room  
113 E Fordall Street, Henderson, TX

For more information, contact Christine Grover at 410-917-6113 or [Chris.grover@earthlink.net](mailto:Chris.grover@earthlink.net)

Jacksonville Area Beekeepers - Third Monday of the month 6PM

Jacksonville First United Methodist Church-1031 TX-456 Loop, Jacksonville, TX 75766

Longview Beekeepers - First Tuesday of each month. 6 PM

Texas AgriLife Extension Office 405 E. Marshall St. Longview, TX 75601

Marshall Beekeepers - Second Thursday of each month. 5:30 PM

Cumberland Presbyterian Church 501 Indian Springs Dr. Marshall, TX 75672

Hopkins County Beekeepers - Third Thursday of each month. 6:30 PM

Hopkins County AgriLife Building 1200 West Houston, St. Sulphur Springs, TX 75483

Lamar County - First Thursday of each month. 6:30 PM

Lamar County Fairgrounds 570 E. Center St. Paris, TX 75460

Wood County Beekeepers -First Tuesday of each month.

7 PM Winnsboro Civic Center Hope LN Winnsboro, TX 75494

Caddo Trace Beekeepers - Second Mondays of each month. 7 PM

Titus County AgriLife Extension Building

North East Texas Bee Association - Second Monday of each month. 5:45 PM

Canton Baptist Church 303 South Athens St. Canton, TX 75103

Kaufman Area Beekeepers - Second Tuesday of each month. 6:30 PM 208 S.

Houston Street Kaufman, TX 75142

Henderson County Beekeepers Association - Third Thursday of each month. 6:30PM

Faith Fellowship Church 5330 Highway 175 Athens, TX 75752

Hunt County Beekeepers Association - Second Tuesday of each month. 6:30PM

American Legion Post 17 4509 Moulton St. Greenville, TX 75401

## *Joe Laws – Vice President*

### Summer Clinic 2024

This year's Texas Beekeeper's Association Summer Clinic was held in Allen, Texas on June 15<sup>th</sup>. I arrived at the host hotel (Marriott Courtyard) the night before and went down to pick up a cold beverage. One of the first people I ran into was Mr. Brantley (a long-time friend of ETBA) who was giving a director an earful about this year's program. I love that man; there are not many people who have the respected position to be able to give an honest, blunt critique and yet not offend, his opinion continues to be valued at his 93+ years. (I must admit that I may not have valued it as highly when I was the program director for ETBA!)

I struck up a conversation with a group of beekeepers and learned that most of them had gotten into supplying hives for property owners to get their land evaluated at an agricultural tax rate. One person was in the process of working to get seven (7) acres under contract. That may not sound like much until you learn that this seven (7) acres was in an exclusive neighborhood in North Dallas. (!)

Several people were talking about the low turnout for this year's clinic and how difficult it is becoming to get people to drive long distances from Houston, Austin and San Antonio for a one-day clinic. The Fall Convention has been moved off of the first weekend in November (which is the opening day of deer season in Texas) and is now being held on the third weekend of November in Austin this year. I also heard mention of having regional classes in 4-6 areas around the state, which is something that would take a lot more commitment from the member clubs and individuals.

Saturday morning started with three lectures, one by a national honey judge, the second by a professor at UTSA that is studying Texas honey's medicinal properties, and the third speaker was Dr. Garrett Slater who is a honey bee specialist working for Texas A&M extension service. The professor from UTSA was accepting honey from Clinic participants and using it to compare with other medicinal honeys. (IE Manuka honey) Dr. Slater will be hiring four (4) other team members and they will be similar to our County Agricultural Agents, however they will only work with bees. He is stationed in Overton, Texas which is a next-door neighbor to ETBA. Having a resource like this is something that TBA has been working on (and pushing for) for a number of years.

After a break for lunch, talking to vendors and visiting with other TBA members, we broke out into individual sessions in the afternoon. The first session I attended was a Q & A with TBA Board members. The main topic here seemed to be a usual one of professional beekeepers and hobbyist beekeepers and what the TBA is working on for each of these. The new extension program was touted and will be a big benefit coming for all beekeepers.

My second breakout was Integrated Pest Management and Mite Management by Garrett Slater, the new Extension employee, and I was quite impressed. He used some of his time taking feedback and wanting to know what he could do for us.

My third breakout was about optimizing honey production by Blake Shook. Blake is very knowledgeable and a great speaker- if you ever get a chance to hear him speak, jump on the opportunity.

In summary, this was a good program and worth the price of admission. (The hotel cost, unfortunately, pushed up the cost of the day considerably). I know that some new beekeepers don't attend because they might feel overwhelmed by all the information, but I saw a good mix of both beginner and experienced beekeepers, and there is always something new to learn in beekeeping.



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