

East Texas Beekeepers Association



Meeting Program for June 2023

This month our meeting will require a bit of participation! We are going to do a show and tell beekeeping gadgets meeting. So bring your favorite or unique beekeeping inventions/gadgets/items you use a lot and we can all mingle around the tables and learn about them. It can be anything from a queen clip to a hive body to beeswax beauty molds to a cool swarm removal device you may have invented. It will be fun to see what others have to show! I look forward to seeing what everyone brings. See you there!

Also in June!

Keep Tyler Beautiful invites you to the 3rd Annual Bee Day in the Garden to celebrate our favorite pollinator, the honeybee. In 2020, Tyler became an official Bee City USA affiliate with the mission to protect native bee species and educate the public on their vital role in our diverse ecosystem. In 2021, the inaugural Bee Day in the Garden served as a grand opening for the Honeybee Observation Hive at the Rose Garden. This year, we are continuing this tradition by providing opportunities for guests to learn about bees through educational workshops with pollinator experts and activities for children, along with local vendors and organizations who support our mission.

Event Details

Date: Saturday, June 24, 2023

Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: Tyler Municipal Rose Garden, 420 Rose Park Drive

To sign up as a vendor, please fill out the attached form (attached at the end of the newsletter) and return by June 9th. We also have availability for speakers in our Workshops, if you would be interested in leading a 30 min. - 1 hr. talk about anything related to pollinators, let me know and I can discuss specifics with you. (Erin Garner - egarner@tylertexas.com - 903-531-1335)

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Next Meeting

June 1st

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

Practical Experiences in the Bee Yard

by Stan Brantley



The honey bee of June is in a frenzy to get the available nectar from sources in the field to the hive. She is focused on storing that nectar and turning it into winter's food supply. Little does she realize the beekeepers are watching the process to see when their "summer production" is ready to be removed.

By the last of June, as a general rule the nectar flow is over in my part of East Texas. It could be a little sooner or a little later in your area. There may be some late forage available from Sumac and Horsemint, even into July.

The big freeze severely damaged the Chinese Tallow in my area. Some thirty-foot trees that appeared to be dead all the way to the top have begun to very slowly put out new leaves. I am waiting to see if there will be enough blossoms to produce any nectar at all.

If you have followed my suggestions, your colonies should be ready to produce honey. I have tried to suggest you feed the swarm you caught at least a gallon of sugar syrup when you got them hived. I know, they leave home loaded with honey but that will not result in the foundation or drawn comb being excitedly extended by all the wax-producing bees in the swarm. Supplemental sugar syrup fuels the wax building process.

When you are ready to harvest your honey in late June or July, it is usually a warm and dry day in Texas by then. Warm and dry conditions will result in a honey that should easily spin out of the frames. Over the last several years, I have positioned a "trouble light" with a 100 watt bulb under my extractor to warm the lower part of the tub. This seems to help by thinning the honey and making it flow faster from the extractor. I would not recommend using a heat lamp for fear of overheating the metal of the extractor and causing the honey to bubble before it could run out of the spigot.

Humidity and extended rainy conditions may affect the bees' ability to dry the honey enough to safely cap. Under nearly all conditions the honey bee will not cap "wet" honey. Uncapped frames of honey should be left in the hive and not extracted. Extracting and bottling uncapped honey can result in the honey fermenting inside the bottles.

When ready to extract, select only frames of completely capped honey. In the event the frame is not all white caps, you can easily determine if the honey is dry enough to extract. Hold the frame of honey with the top bar toward the ground, grasping it firmly with both hands. Give a sharp jerk downward. If the honey (nectar) rains out on the ground or work surface, then nectar is not cured and should be returned to the hive for continued drying.

Determine the best method for you when it comes to getting the bees out of the supers. If you smoke them out, your honey may have a smoky smell and taste. I only tried that one time in my early beekeeping days! You could brush each frame free of bees but at the risk of agitating the bees. A fume board with fumigant applied does a good job if the board is painted black and you have 90 degree sunshine to help activate the fumigant. A triangular bee escape works well by placing it under the supers you plan to remove. This method requires two trips to the bee yard as it usually takes 24 hours for most of the bees to leave the super through the bee escape hole.

My favorite method is a gasoline powered leaf blower to blow the bees off the frames. My blower is modified to shorten the air tube to about 16 inches. I turn the nozzle in an up-and-down attitude to help direct the air between the selected frames instead of hitting two or three frames at a time. I don't have to worry about blowing the queen away from the colony as she is confined to the brood chamber under the excluder. I like to remove the super and place it on the ground about 5-10 feet in front of the landing board. Stand the super on one edge with the frames running vertically and the top bars pointed away from the hive. Direct the air from the blower between the frames, blowing the bees from the top bar to the bottom bar and toward the landing board. The bees blown from the frames will find their way back into the hive.

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!*





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Bee Day in the Garden Booth Vendor Form 2023

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Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: Tyler Municipal Rose Garden, 420 Rose Park Drive

Vendor Details

- Set up time will be from 8:30 - 9:45 p.m.
- 1 8' table and up to 2 chairs will be provided
- Vendors must be from Smith County or an adjacent county.

Please complete this form and return it by Friday, June 16 to Erin Garner at egarner@tylertexas.com.

Organization/Business Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Contact Person: _____

Contact Email: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Items to be displayed/sold: _____

You will receive a confirmation email within 2-3 business days. For more information contact Erin Garner via email at egarner@tylertexas.com or via phone at 903-531-1335.