

East Texas Beekeepers Association



It's June!

*Bring any questions you have to the June
meeting.*

*Our panel of experienced beekeepers is here
to answer your questions and give guidance
on summer beekeeping.*

Hope to see you there!

President—Connie Collins
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

June 6th

Whitehouse Methodist Church
405 West Main in Whitehouse

6:30 PM

On the Web:
www.etba.info

Practical Experiences in the Bee Yard

by Stan Brantley



June is the month that all your hard work in the beeyard pays off. Historically, in my area of the Ark-La-Tex, the Chinese Tallow will begin to produce nectar about the 23rd of May and continue for three or four weeks. Have you any idea of how to tell when the Tallow blossom will provide nectar for the bees? What I have seen for several years is the yellow flower spike will slowly begin to bend over, much like the curling of your index finger from the pointing position. The spikes may be six or more inches long. In my area, if we have a four-inch blossom, we are happy.

Generally, the major nectar flow is completed by the last week of June. There may be some later blooming wildflowers on Sumac or Horsemint. If you are lucky enough to have a grove of Mimosa trees in the area, bees can collect nectar late June – early July.

Honey is considered finished when the bees apply a white cap over the stored honey. Extended periods of continuous rain or saturating humidity can slow the honey drying process and delay capping. Honey can be extracted after it is capped. Toward the end of the season, bees become lax in finishing their capping job. They will not normally cap a cell unless it is full (“full” by bee standards). This uncapped nectar is probably dry enough to extract and will be below the standard 18.5% moisture content. If you are unsure, try a simple field moisture content test. Hold a frame of honey with the top bar down. Give the frame a quick downward jerk. If nectar rains out of the frame, the moisture content is too high. This is usually referred to as “green honey” and should be returned to the hive for the bees to evaporate the excess moisture.

When collecting your frames for extraction, think about how you plan to remove the bees from the frames. If the super is ready for harvest, there are usually very few bees in it. There is nothing for them to do except patrol the capped cells and keep the small hive beetle in check. If half or more of the frames are not capped, the bees will usually have their heads in the cells eating the honey. These bees are difficult to remove from the super.

My favorite technique is to blow the bees off the frames with a gas or electric leaf blower. It is quick, effective, and requires only one trip to the beeyard. Stand the super on its short side and blow from the bottom bars toward the top bars to quickly remove the bees. Be sure to position the super and blow the bees into an area where you are not going to be walking later. Bees blown out of the super, even those on the ground, will recover and return to the hive.

Just a reminder, a full medium-depth frame of capped honey will yield about three pounds of extracted honey.

You can run into all kinds of adventures and situations when responding to calls about bees and swarms. One of my most interesting came from the local West Fraser OSB plant not far from my house. It seems the crane operators were in the habit of leaving their hard hat on the grillwork platform leading up to the crane cab and the bees thought it looked like a good home. The safety officer outfitted me as required by their policy and escorted me to the swarm site. All I saw on arrival was a green hard hat laying on the platform but was given instructions to “pick it up carefully!” I gently lifted the hard hat and found inside the nicest, tightly clustered swarm you could ever want to see. I had carried one of the plastic Pro-Nuc boxes with me to the platform. I gently turned the hard hat sideways and placed it in the Nuc box. We left the Nuc box on the platform so the rest of the bees could join the swarm. At dusk, I returned to retrieve the box. The Nuc has now been successfully relocated to the Marshall Beekeepers club apiary.



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!



BEEKEEPING SUPPLY SHOP

**ALL ETBA MEMBERS RECEIVE A
10% DISCOUNT ON ALL
BEEKEEPING RELATED ITEMS.
SOME EXCLUSIONS APPLY.**

**NOW OPEN! M-SAT
9:00-6:00**

SUNDAY 9:00-5:00

• TOOLS • PPE • BEES • HIVES • CLASSES



ESTD

2015

PLANTS *of* TEXAS

Homegrown Garden Goods

**Located at: 17470 FM
2493 Flint, TX**

Call us: 903-426-2558

www.plantsoftexas.com

ELZNER FARMS

1080 JENNINGS RD. JACKSONVILLE, TX 75766

LOCAL HONEY - BEES - AG EXEMPTION

WWW.ELZNERFARMS.COM
ELZNERFARMS@GMAIL.COM



MEAGAN ELZNER
BEEKEEPER/OWNER
618.410.6239

ISAAC ELZNER
BEEKEEPER/OWNER
713.504.3635



HONEY FARMS
WHITEHOUSE, TEXAS

CONNIE COLLINS
(903) 316 - 6335
CONNIE@CNCFARMS.COM
WWW.CNCFARMS.COM

FOR SALE:
NUCS & SINGLE HIVES
QUEEN CELLS
HIVE RENTALS