

East Texas Beekeepers Association



March 2023

The March meeting is always a busy and exciting one! This month I am happy to say we have Michelle Boerst, from **Bursting Bees** in Denton, TX speaking to us. Michelle recently became the first person to reach the Master Craftsman beekeeper level through the Texas A&M Master Beekeeper program. I met her at the TBA conference last fall and she was such a joy to chat with and I cannot wait for her to share her knowledge at the meeting. For this presentation she will be sharing with us how to best utilize our hive resources. This is the perfect topic for this time of year, as we are all maximizing resources within our hives as we set them up for making splits or honey. To learn more about Michelle you visit her website <http://burstingbees.com/> or listen to her podcast that she hosts with Rebecca Vaughn from the Canton Club at <https://?beeornot?bee.buzzsprout.com/>.

Also happening this month, we will nominate officers for the club. Voting will take place at the April meeting. If you are interested in becoming an officer please make it known so that you can be nominated. As a reminder, here are the officer duties, as outlined in Article 4 of the club bylaws (full list of bylaws can be found on the club website):

(See next page)

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!...

President—Connie Collins
Vice-President—Joe Laws
Exec. Director/Reporter— Jim Biles
Treasurer—Jennifer Palmer
Secretary—Tish Kennedy
Member-at-Large—Matt Thomas
Program Director — Meagan Elzner
Newsletter Editor—Jenifer Babyak
Webmaster—Ken Wilkinson



Next Meeting

March 2nd

United Methodist Church
405 West Main in Whitehouse

6:30 PM

ARTICLE 4- OFFICERS

SECTION 1. The Officers of the association shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Executive Director, Immediate Past President (who, unless otherwise directed shall also serve as 3 Parliamentarian), Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter and Publications Editor, and Programs Committee Chairman. All officers shall be elected from the membership by a majority vote of the active members present and voting in person at the annual membership meeting of the organization. Each officer shall hold office for one (1) year from the date of his/her election. Officers may be reelected to such offices from year to year except that to be elected to four or more consecutive terms for the same office shall require a three-fifths vote of those present and voting.

SECTION 2. Immediately upon the occurrence of a vacancy in the office of President, either by resignation or due to circumstances beyond his/her control or due to the temporary absence of the President, the duties -of President shall be exercised by the Vice-President.

SECTION 3. The President shall preside at all meetings of the association and of the Board of Directors. The President shall convene the Board of Directors whenever in his/her opinion the affairs of the association so demand , or on the written request of four (4) or more members of the Board, but in any case the Board shall meet at least twice each year.

SECTION 4. In addition to assuming the duties of the President during the absence of the elected President, and in order to be prepared to assume such duties, the Vice-President shall have an active interest in the financial records and reports of the association and in addition perform the duties usually incumbent on Vice-Presidents.

SECTION 5. The Executive Director shall, as may be authorized or directed by the President, be the primary point of contact for persons, businesses and/or organizations external to the association. This officer may also, as approved or directed by the President, speak for the President in regard to matters concerning the Association and act in a manner generally associated with the title Executive Director. The Executive Director shall keep the President advised of his/her actions and or decisions on behalf of the Association.

SECTION 6. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings and process such correspondence as may be directed by the President, Executive Director, and/or Board of Directors.

SECTION 7. The Treasurer shall collect annual dues and all other monies due the Association, and in all matters perform the duties usually incumbent on a Treasurer. He/she shall make reports of receipts and disbursements as the Board of Directors may require or direct, and in all matters pertaining to the office be under the direction of the Board of Directors. The Treasurer's records shall be open to inspection by any active member in good standing at any reasonable time. The Treasurer shall receive and keep account of all monies belonging to the Association, paying out the same upon receipt of liabilities or expenditures authorized by the Board of Directors. He/she shall make a report of receipts, disbursements and bank balances at each regular meeting of the Association. He/she may be aided by such assistants as 4 are deemed advisable and approved by the Board of Directors. The President shall direct an audit of the Treasurer's records by at least two members of the Association at least annually and a report of such audit shall be presented to the membership at the next regular meeting following such audit. Unless the monetary accounts of the Association under the Treasurer's control exceed an amount considered reasonable by the Board, no security bond of the Treasurer shall be required. Should such bonding ever be required, such bonding fees/costs shall be paid from Association funds.

SECTION 8. The Newsletter and Publications Editor shall be the officer responsible for the gathering of information, organizing, drafting, printing and distribution of the monthly Association Newsletter and any other additional documents or publications originated by the Association. The Newsletter and Publications Editor shall receive from the Treasurer the names and addresses of members having paid their annual dues (especially new members) and entitled to receive the periodic newsletters. When required, the Editor may request the President to appoint members to provide temporary assistance in production and distribution of printed matter.

SECTION 9. The Programs Committee Chairman shall, with the cooperation/assistance of the members of the Programs Committee and suggestions from other members, plan for, Schedule, and arrange for programs, speakers, and/or activities which will enable the Association to better achieve its purposes as stated in Article I of these By-Laws. Such arrangements shall be coordinated particularly with the President and Executive Director and, as necessary, with the Board of Directors.

Practical Experiences in the Bee Yard

by Stan Brantley



Ready or not, here comes March! You may have been “thinking” about your bees since last November but now is the time you have to “Do Something”!

Are your hives going to starve during the next really cold spell, swarm the first week of 78-80 degree weather, or be ready to thrive in the coming spring? Have you been monitoring them, feeding them, and giving them room to lay eggs and not need to swarm?

Have plenty of 1:1 sugar syrup on hand to feed your hives to mimic a nectar flow. If feeding pollen patties, adjust the size of the patty to what the bees will consume in a few days.

This helps prevent the hive beetles from laying eggs underneath a large piece of pollen patty. I read a recent suggestion about using ½ inch hardware cloth attached to a shim that will support the pollen patty so the bees can better guard the underside and control the laying of hive beetle eggs underneath.

As I write this in the middle of February, we have been experiencing some big swings in the daytime temperatures—very cold windy days followed by warm days with temperatures in the 70s. Early spring blossoms are showing in the fields and woods. The first plum tree variety to bloom is the Sloe Plum (pronounced “slow” but spelled sloe or sometimes slo), often seen on the edge of highway right-of-ways, mostly in the edge of the woods or fields. Their white blossoms often have an off-color appearance with just a bit of pink taint to them. Also blooming along the roadways is the Wild Plum. It has white blossoms and from a distance looks much like the Sloe Plum. The biggest difference is their fruits. The Wild Plum has yellow or red fruit that ripens in May or June and the Sloe Plum’s pinkish colored fruit ripens in November. The Sloe Plum fruit is hard and has a very tart taste if you bite it but is great for making jelly and jam.

East Texas beekeepers know the blooming of the wild plum varieties is a sign the nectar flow is beginning. In the next few weeks we can expect to see blooms on Redbud, Pear, Peach and Wild Cherry trees. The spring flow will be in full swing and hopefully you are ready. If you used two deep brood chamber hives, you need to determine if you want to reverse the boxes. That means you determine if the queen is in the top brood box and the bottom brood box has only a few bees moving through it to get to the activity above.

As with many things in beekeeping, there are differing opinions about reversing boxes. Some beekeepers strongly believe in separating the two brood boxes and placing the original top box containing the queen and brood on the bottom board. Then, set the original bottom box on top of it. This allows the queen to move up into the now mostly vacant top brood box to continue to lay eggs. Other beekeepers believe reversing the boxes is unnecessary as the queen will move down when she has used all the space in the top brood box. You can decide which method you will use in managing your hives. Since this is a pretty disruptive process, choose to do it on a warmer day. Eggs layed by the queen in March will be nectar gathers in the latter part of May and as long as their wings hold out into June. If your inspection shows a spotty brood pattern early on, a wise move would be to replace the queen with a newly purchased mated queen as soon as you can obtain one.

If you have maintained Nucs in your apiary, you have a ready to use queen on-hand for just such a situation. Find the poor laying queen and kill or remove her. Take all five frames with the queen and the bees out of the Nuc and place them in the full sized hive. Close it up and let the two sets of bees work it out. They will usually learn to get along quickly and the fresh queen from the Nuc will start laying in your 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!*

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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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!