

East Texas Beekeepers Association



September ETBA Report

October 2022

The Executive Committee has decided to go to a quarterly newsletter. We will still send out an email like this one with the date of the meeting, what the program will be for the month, and any other information of events that may be happening that month.

Meagan Elzner will be speaking this month on how they began their bee farm.

The Bee-ginning of Elzner Farms

Don't forget the East Texas State Fair runs September 23rd - October 2nd! Sign up to work one or several shifts in our ETBA booth! You don't have to know any more than you do to work. You'll meet interesting people, get people interested in bees and honey, and help keep the booth manned throughout the fair! Here is the link for the google docs file on who is working when:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Sv7JBOluo5Dv1J5-2xOzPiP6hAa6V1DNuaHukCibKV0/edit>

The shifts we need help with are:

Friday, September 23 rd	3-8p	Saturday, September 24 th	10a-3p	Sunday, September 25 th	noon-3p
Monday, September 26 th	5-8p	Tuesday, September 27 th	2-5p & 5-8p	Thursday, September 29 th	5-8p
Friday, September 30 th	2-5p	Saturday, October 1 st	late	Sunday, October 2 nd	noon-3p

Please contact Jim Biles to sign up for a shift at jimbiles@gmx.com or (281)451-6069.

Also, booth setup will be this Friday at 9:00am. It shouldn't take too long. All are welcome to help.

We will be voting for **Beekeeper of the Year** at our October meeting. Criteria for nominating someone is:

They must be a current dues paying member of ETBA and regularly attend meetings. They must participate and contribute to the betterment of the association. They should give above and beyond the call of attendance.

The Executive Committee will present nominations and nominations will be taken from the floor. Then each member in attendance will vote.

Due to a conflict with the church our November meeting will NOT be held. We will hold the **Honey-Tasting Contest** in December.

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

Oct 6th

United Methodist Church
405 West Main in Whitehouse

6:30 PM

On the Web:
www.etba.info

From Mr. Brantley:

In October, we should begin to see the yellow flowers blooming along the ArkLaTex roads. The blooms should last until the first killing frost. With the unpredictable weather we have been experiencing, that frost may not occur until Thanksgiving although in my area of East Texas the first big frost usually happens around the 10th of November. Even then, we may continue to have 85-90 degree days until Christmas!

The honey bees will continue to search diligently for the last few resources that may be available, trying to build up enough stores to last until spring arrives. Beekeepers should pay close attention to their hives during the next couple of months to determine if sufficient stores have been put up. You can do a quick check of the hive weight by lifting the back edge with two fingers, what we call the "two finger lift". Make sure the hive bottom board is not stuck to the support it is sitting on, then place two fingers under the middle back of the bottom board and attempt to lift the hive off its support. If it can be easily lifted off the support, there are two things you should do.

First, do a close inspection of the hive to see contents of each frame in the brood chamber. There should be one or two frames next to the outside wall that contain capped honey. These frames of capped honey help insulate the hive during cold weather. This honey will not have beautiful white cappings. Most likely, the caps will be dark brown to shades of black. If you are not sure what it is, stick the corner of your hive tool into one of the capped cells. You should find it is full of honey.

Frames number 3 and number 8 probably will have mostly pollen with an arc of capped honey across the top of the frame. The remaining frames in a ten frame single brood box should contain the eggs, larvae, pupa and capped brood. Hopefully there will be a nice brood pattern laid by the queen.

Secondly, if you do not find the frames to be as described above, you should begin to feed 2:1 sugar syrup. The supplemental feeding will allow the bees to fill those outside frames with the food needed to survive the winter. Using the thicker 2:1 sugar water mixture requires the bees to work less in evaporating the water content down to a stable stored solution. Should you desire to do so, you can feed the commercially available liquid feeds purchased at the bee supply houses.

For a double brood box hive, the bottom box generally should still be as described above. The top brood box will probably contain nine or ten frames of capped honey. **DO NOT REVERSE THE TWO BOXES.** When colder weather arrives, the bees will cluster in the bottom box in order to keep the brood warm until it emerges. As the weather cools, the bees will consume the stores in the bottom brood box before they continue to move upward into the second brood box. They will remain in the upper brood box until spring when the colony begins its bee life cycle again. In March, you can decide if you want to reverse the boxes (putting the top brood box on the bottom). Do an inspection of the hive. If you find the bottom brood box has no food, no brood, and no bees, you can reverse the boxes. Be aware that sometimes you will find the queen and brood still in the lower box. In that case, you may wish to leave the boxes as they are.

October is almost your last opportunity to feed the colony to ensure there are enough "fat bees" in the hive to carry it through until spring. Feed any hives that are low on stores.

Install your entrance reducer if you have not yet done so.

Check the hive for mites and treat if needed. Remember, if there is little to no brood present, the mites will be on the bees. I like to treat in October so I can pull out the treatment strips in early December.

October is also the time to start planning for the next bee season. Start building your list of needed supplies including queens and nucs as well as woodenware. Then start watching for late season sales at the bee supply houses. You can often save some money as well as beat any early spring price increases. Check with your chosen queen and nuc supplier and know when they will start taking orders for spring delivery.