



East Texas Beekeepers Association

Vol. 33 No. 8

August 4, 2016

August Report by Dick Counts

“Thank you” for your participation in our July meeting. We had 140 members and guests that attend the July meeting. Our “Got Questions?” class before the meeting had 31 participants.

After a good honey flow during April, May, and even into June, the weather has turned into typical East Texas summer – hot and dry. Unless you have some unusual late blooming flowers in your area, your bees are probably through with collecting significant quantities of nectar. I do see honeybees still working Vitex, a good mid-summer source for forage. Another good mid-to-late summer bloomer is the *Duranta Erecta* bush. These bushes bloom profusely from now until frost and are usually covered with bees, wasps, and butterflies. If you are not familiar with this plant, you can research them on the internet. They are difficult to find at nurseries, but some do carry them. Also, you will see bees working Crepe Myrtles, a great summer bloomer in East Texas, but the bees are primarily harvesting pollen.

We have already had a couple of extraction days with most people getting a good yield. At the August meeting, we will talk about planning another extraction day. As a reminder for our newer members, ETBA members are invited to bring their frames of capped honey to my house and use my extractor free of charge. Just remember to be sure they are bee free before transporting the frames.

At the August meeting, we will also talk about the ETBA booth at the East Texas Fair in late September. For our newer members, let me encourage you to become involved in working our booth at the fair. We have a large ETBA display that is set up in an air-conditioned building. Our display includes lots of bottled honey, a miniature hive, skin care products, and an observation hive full of live honeybees. Many people stop by the booth to talk about bees and buy products. Of course, the observation hive is a big hit, attracting the attention of adults and children. You meet a lot of interesting people and hear their stories about bees. If you are a “newbee”, we will pair you with some of our more experienced beekeepers. It is an enjoyable experience and a great opportunity to share information with the public. I will have final planning information from the fair to share, and we will start developing a schedule, and answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for your faithful and continued support of our organization.

President—Matt Thomas

Vice President—Eddie Collins

Treasurer—John Holladay

Secretary—Barbara Farguson

Ex. Director and Reporter—Dick Counts

Honey Queen Chair—Barbara Farguson

Director-at-Large—Stanford Brantley

Program Director — Joe Laws

Webmaster—Ken Wilkinson

Newsletter Editor—Trish Wilson



Photo by Trish Wilson

HONEY QUEEN REPORT by Barbara Farguson



We have a great opportunity to set up a booth to educate the public about honeybees. We have been invited to exhibit at Eastman's Family Day event being held at the facility's park located in Longview. This is a fantastic chance for us to reach a lot of people in just a few hours. We plan to have an observation hive, face painting, and plenty of show and tell items. The Eastman's Family Day event will be held on Saturday morning, September 17th, and you are all invited to stop by and talk bees. It should prove to be a fun filled day where we can do even more for our communities and beekeeping. We hope to see all of you there.

I would like to remind our members, that if you will be selling your honey and hive products and would like your contact information given as a local beekeeper when the Queen and Ambassador are presenting in your area, please email me at etbaroyalcourt@gmail.com, with your contact details and permission to provide those looking to us for local beekeeper information.



We are still looking for youth members to come up with a design for our long sleeved tee shirts that will be pre-ordered for fall/winter. You can design the back or create a design for one sleeve, or your design can incorporate both the back of the shirt and one sleeve. Submission can be a pencil drawing or a digital design. The contest will run from July 1st thru September 1st, 2016. The creator of the winning design selected will be awarded a \$30.00 gift card and a free shirt with their winning design. So, get those creative juices flowing and submit your design to any member of the Royal Court Committee or email to etbaroyalcourt@gmail.com by September 1st.

Committee Members are: Lani Lanchester, July Giles, Hayden Wolf, Luisa Crawford, Janelle Cole, and Barbara Farguson.

There will be printed contest details available at the meeting. I look forward to seeing each of you at our August meeting.

Be a Friend to Pollinators



Reduce or eliminate pesticide use in your landscape, or incorporate plants that attract beneficial insects for pest control. If you use pesticides, use them sparingly and responsibly.

To find out whether an insecticide you see on the shelf of your hardware, pest control supply, or garden center is a **neonicotinoid** (deadly for honeybees), look on the list of active ingredients. If you see one or more of the following names listed, the insecticide does in fact include neonicotinoid:

- Acetamiprid
- Clothianidin
- Dinotefuran
- Imidacloprid
- Nitenpyram
- Thiacloprid
- Thiamethoxam

Look for a warning label pesticides will label their careful and be sure to read If in doubt, always research



keeper applying

Support land conservation in your community by helping to create and maintain community gardens and green spaces to ensure that pollinators have appropriate habitat.

PROTECTION OF POLLINATORS



APPLICATION RESTRICTIONS EXIST FOR THIS PRODUCT BECAUSE OF RISK TO BEES AND OTHER INSECT POLLINATORS. FOLLOW APPLICATION RESTRICTIONS FOUND IN THE DIRECTIONS FOR USE TO PROTECT POLLINATORS.

Look for the bee hazard icon  in the Directions for Use for each application site for specific use restrictions and instructions to protect bees and other insect pollinators.

This product can kill bees and other insect pollinators.
Bees and other insect pollinators will forage on plants when they flower, shed pollen, or produce nectar.



such as this one. Not all products accordingly, so be all of the ingredients. or ask an experienced bee-before purchasing and insecticides or fertilizers.

~Jacob

Pollen, It's Not Just for Bees by Brittany

Pollen is defined as a “small powdery substance, typically yellow, consisting of microscopic grains”, and it may be a daily supplement you need. Pollen is usually associated with being an allergen to humans, however, it might just be the one thing needed to help with or even solve many other health problems.

As you may already know, pollen is one of the main food sources to the honey bees. The honey bees use pollen as a protein source to feed the growing brood, but did you know that these infinitesimal tiny particles that bees collect can be beneficial to you too? When the honey bee collects pollen and brings it back to the hive, it is then mixed with the bee’s digestive enzymes. Therefore, in doing so, it makes it even better for us. Scientists have proven that foods such as honey, pollen, and royal jelly from the honey bee are a “perfect” food for humans!



Pollen is used in several different ways, or for several different things. Some of the nutritional benefits of pollen are the several different vitamins it contains. For example; vitamins A, B₁, C, D, E, H, and K. It has also been discovered that pollen also contains many minerals such as : Calcium, Potassium, Iron, Copper, Magnesium, and many more. It has proteins and enzymes that help to build the immune system, as well as, supportive properties like being antibacterial, antifungal, and antiviral. It also has the ability to lower cholesterol levels naturally. “Fresh pollen contains a wide spectrum of at least 20 amino acids which are building blocks of protein needed to build every cell in the body, from blood cells to the cells of the skin, organs and bones.” There are also over 100 active enzymes in fresh pollen that are known to fight different diseases, such as cancer and arthritis.



Bee pollen isn’t just absolutely wonderful for the inside of your body; it is also great for the outside too! Applied to the skin, it helps in healing wounds and unwanted scars, and can even help with acne. It is great for weight loss, “Bee pollen is low in calories and contains natural Phenylalanine, an amino acid that acts as an appetite suppressant and lecithin that helps dissolve and flush fat from the body, aiding in detoxification and cleansing.” There is a multitude of benefits in bee pollen, some even more amazing than others; brain development in children, asthma, fatigue, fertility booster, rashes, hives, eczema and even diabetes.

Fresh pollen is the best and can be purchased at health food stores or the internet. For the beekeeper, you can place a pollen trap on your hive. There are different types of pollen traps, and can be placed at the entrance to the hive. As the bees go through a small opening, it knocks off some of the pollen, while still leaving the bees with enough pollen to store. The pollen that falls off collects in a small drawer. Raw pollen is the best to ingest, but it can also be cooked. However, like most fruits and vegetables, it loses some of its nutritional value when cooked or baked. As a food additive, it can be mixed with smoothies, breads, sprinkled on toast, pancakes or granola. It can also be chewed in a gum form, which can help fight against cavities.

Pollen is simply another wonderful gift from Mother Nature that provides many beneficial elements for the human body. From a nutritional stand point, pollen is simple and supplies many of the essential nutrients needed to keep the body up and running. Pollen is another wonderful gift we can thank the honey bees for.

Interesting Links

http://www.mercola.com/article/diet/bee_pollen.htm

<http://www.benefits-of-honey.com/bee-pollen.html>

<http://www.secrets-of-longevity-in-humans.com/bee-pollen-benefits.html>

<https://www.google.com/webhp?sourceid=chrome-instant&ion=1&espv=2&ie=UTF-8#q=the%20enzymens%20in%20bee%20pollen>

<https://www.google.com/webhp?sourceid=chrome-instant&ion=1&espv=2&ie=UTF-8#q=pollen%20definition>





President's Letter *by Matt Thomas*

Greetings ETBA Members and Guests!

June and July were fantastic honey months. I pulled honey for a good crop this year.

Once extracted I put the supers back on the hives for the bees to mop up what was left over and clean up the frames. The day after our last meeting we left for a week-long vacation in Colorado. After returning I made my rounds to check the hives to see how they did during my absence. I was shocked to discover the bees had given me another several supers of honey-AND it wasn't Bitter Weed. I will pull the rest tomorrow and hopefully will make, on average about 100 lbs. a colony. Some of the colonies produced 125 lbs. or better. Some hives at other locations only made 40 pounds!



During my talk at the July meeting, I mentioned that the quality of your bees, when matched with a great bee yard, can yield really strong results. Great queens make your honey crop if the location is great. One of my bee yards is a great early spring yard but doesn't have enough to support over 5 hives. You can't learn that valuable lesson until you actually place bees on the location. Next to great bees and great locations is management of pests. I lost numerous 5 frame nucs this season do to hive beetles. Next season I will manage them differently given the small hive beetle invasion.

I have been working on a bee yard close to the church where we can begin our apiary. I will donate a couple of singles next year for this purpose. I'm hoping others in the club will help to this end. If you would like to donate a split off your bees next year I will furnish the queens for the splits. I will even come out and help you make the splits. Further, if you donate a split I will even help give your colony a new queen. I would prefer beekeepers right around Tyler area. I look forward to hearing from you! Our goal is 10-12 colonies.



I want to give a shout of thanks to John Stewart and Jim Biles for helping me pull and extract a load of honey. They extracted in the heat of my garage and all three of us felt the drain of the day. They are helping me tomorrow and I'm hoping the friendship will survive. It's even hotter now than when we pulled the first time. Beekeeping is better with friends. You can compare notes, help each other out, get stung together, build equipment and have good stories to tell.

Do you need some help with your bees? Do you need some questions answered?

The goal of the club, in my judgment, is to help beekeepers become better. I want us to grow and learn more about how to keep healthy and strong colonies. One of the ways we meet this need is by having question and answers with Mr. Brantley. Having a mentor sit down with you and help you evaluate your hive would be an additional benefit to your beekeeping.

The club is a great place for shared information and to become acquainted with other beekeepers. Would you be interested in someone sitting down with you and helping you learn about your hives? Would you be interested in a mentor program? Please let me know if this interests you!



I have some pictures to share with you on extraction day. See you on August 4th.

Blessings—Matt

From the editor :

The front page photo is one I'd taken just recently during a visit to my home town in Upstate New York. The honeybees are different in that they are slightly smaller, and are a duller yellow in color. White Clover, Dandelions, and Lavender are their favorites in my mom's yard.



Practical Experiences in the Beeyard by Stan Brantley

August is hot and dry, and very hard on the Honey Bee colonies that are trying to make it to the cooling of autumn. There is very limited forage for the field bees to collect, so most of their time is spent collecting water to help cool the hive. Inside the hive, house bees fan this water with their wings and the evaporating effect helps to cool the hive.

They need help though, and there are ways you can keep the hive temperatures down. First, be sure your bees have access to fresh water. If there is no natural source nearby, provide some kind of supplement water source. With East Texas temperatures ranging from 90 – 100 degrees every day, you may have to replenish the water supply frequently.

Second, **ventilate the hive** to let heat escape at the top, setting up a convection current pulling in cooler air from underneath. Prop up on front end of the Outer Cover, either by placing a wedge or piece of wood or stick on the front edge of the Inner Cover. Or, set the front edge of the Outer Cover on the Inner cover. I have seen some beekeepers make a two or three inch deep spacer between the Inner and Outer cover, with screened vent holes or slots in the side. Some bee suppliers sell a commercial version of this and call it a Ventilated Feeding Super. Some also sell a ventilated Inner Cover which lets the heat rise easier than a solid Inner Cover, be aware that you are creating another opening the bees must guard against robbers. Make sure the hive is strong and has plenty of bees to defend the opening. If your hive is weak, it is better to use a method involving screened slots of holes.

If your hive is located in full sun, you can add a shade board to the top, reducing the impact of the hot sun beaming down to the lid. Place a couple of 2x4s on the top of the Outer Cover, then add a 2 foot by 2 foot piece of plywood over them. You now have a shade cover with an air space underneath. Place a heavy cinder block or several bricks to the top to keep the plywood from blowing off.

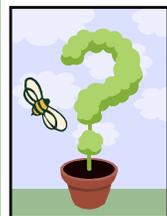
Remember, during the hot weather, you can expect to see “bearding” during the hottest time of day, bees collecting on the outside of the hive. This is a natural action of the bees to help move body heat outside and is generally not indicative a problem in the hive.

August should be the month to finish extracting honey and to then consider treating for Varroa mites. After the supers have been removed, **do a mite count on each hive** to determine whether treatment is needed. If treatment is needed, follow manufacturer’s instructions carefully. There is a wealth of information about making mite counts and choosing treatment methods on the Internet. If you are computer illiterate like me, check with an experienced beekeeper for advice.

For those of you involved in removing bees from structures, I had the opportunity to see a new gizmo in action that helps locate the hive. I was impressed by what I saw. We usually can see bees coming and going from a hole or crack in the structure but that does not always mean the comb is close to the entrance. For several years, bee removers have used a laser thermometer to help locate the hive and know where to start removing siding to get to the comb. The laser thermometer could detect the heat of the brood nest behind the siding and give a better idea where to start cutting. Now, you can purchase an Infrared camera lens that attaches to your cell phone and shows the heat signature of the brood nest as a bright red spot, allowing you to pinpoint the exact location of the nest.



Prices begin around \$200 and move upwards depending on how sophisticated an IR lens you need. Look it up on the Internet. Amazon has several, complete with reviews about how well they work. Make sure the model you buy is compatible with your type of cell phone.



The Got Questions?

The group will be open 6:00-6:30 before the meeting. Join us if you are a new beekeeper or have some beekeeping questions. If you have not joined us before, ask someone to point you to the Got Questions? Room. We will try to help you find some answers.

F.Y.I. *by Joe Laws*

August Program

For our August meeting, we will have Q & A with Eddie Collins, Matt Thomas, and one other.

September's meeting will be a special one in that we will have a guest speaker.

Kacy Cole; Manager from Dadant will be talking about pest control and treatments.

Anyone wanting to order such products and avoid shipping costs can do so beforehand and he will deliver to the meeting.

If you would like to place an order, please follow these instructions per Kacy:

1. Make sure that when you call you have everything that you want to order wrote down on a sheet of paper with the **item number** and **quantities** of each item on it. This will help with phone time and making sure every item is correct.
2. MAKE SURE THAT EACH PERSON ORDERING LETS US KNOW THAT THEY WANT THEIR ORDER TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ETBA MEETING SEPTEMBER 1ST 2016! **OTHER WISE IT WILL BE SHIPPED ON IT'S OWN!**
3. If the customer wants to add to his/her order WE will start a new order for them and they will have to pay for that order separately. All orders will be paid for IN FULL before they leave the warehouse so please have form of payment when you place the order.
4. Due to time we will not be able to add items at the last minute (There is plenty of time to place the order so please do not wait until the last minute to place the order).
5. Please make sure that you have all of your items placed with us before the cut-off date so that we will have one day to finish up all remaining orders before the pick-up date.
6. We have been informed that there will be no backorders so we will not be backordering any items. If we do not have the item when you place the order we will not be sending the item unless you reorder at a different time.
7. ***The cut-off date will be AUGUST 31ST 2016. This gives us one day to get everything loaded up because we will be heading that away the next day.***

We want to make this as painless and easy for everyone as possible and we look forward to doing business with everyone in the future. We will have a name on each box and each invoice will have how many boxes each person is supposed to be receiving. If you have any questions about anything please let us know.

Thank you,

Kacy Cole

Dadant & Sons Inc.

Paris Texas Branch

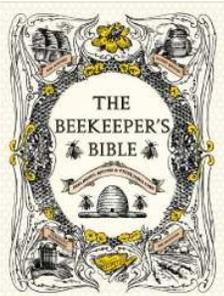
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<https://www.dadant.com/catalog/>



The Beekeeper's Bible is as much an ultimate guide to the practical essentials of beekeeping as it is a beautiful almanac to be read from cover to cover. Part history book, part handbook, and part cookbook, this illustrated tome covers every facet of the ancient hobby of beekeeping, from how to manage hives safely to harvesting one's own honey, and ideas for how to use honey and beeswax. Detailed instructions for making candles, furniture polish, beauty products, nearly 100 honey-themed recipes are included. Fully illustrated with how-to photography and unique etchings. Available from Amazon and other on-line book sellers for around \$27.