



East Texas Beekeepers Association

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Feb. 2, 2012

February Report by Dick Counts

We had a good attendance in January with 97 present, including several newbees. We want to extend a warm welcome to visitors and new members and encourage you to feel free to ask questions and share information. Don't be bashful and not speak up – we are just one big happy hive. You never know who will learn something new from your input.

I also want to say Thanks to Vi and our 2012 Honey Court for sharing with us the cooking demonstration they present at many public functions. They did an outstanding job, showing their poise and presentation skills. But the most important part of these presentations is the knowledge of bees that the Queen and Princess share with their audiences. Vi has already scheduled several appearances for the Honey Court over the next few months.

Our beginners beekeeping class now has 30 students, including four scholarship students. A gentleman named William Cox donated almost a complete setup for the scholarship program. One of our new members, Ryan Button, also donated several deep boxes for the scholarship students. "Thank You" Mr. Cox and Mr. Button.

Linda Pelham and Gloria Harmon will represent ETBA at the Fruit and Tree conference, February 28, at the Rose Garden. Our booth at conferences, festivals and fairs not only provides information to the public but also attracts people to beekeeping. One of our new students learned about the beekeeping class from our booth at the Edgewood Heritage Festival last November.

As you know, in December, Mary Jo Brantley passed away and now we have lost Lonnie Porter of Athens. Mary Jo could always be counted on to lend a helping hand to whomever needed one, was always ready to reach for her checkbook when a need arose, and was always greeting others with a smile. Lonnie was a long-time beekeeper and club member, most recently known for making thirty-five cedar recipe boxes. If you are fortunate to have one of Lonnie's boxes, treasure it in his remembrance. If you have a special story about Mary Jo or Lonnie, please share it with me.

President—Gus Wolf

Vice President—Mike Rappazzo

Treasurer—Tammy Lenamond

Secretary—Karen Anderson

Ex. Director and Reporter—
Dick Counts

Honey Queen Chair—Vi Bourns

Directors-at-Large—Stanford
Brantley, Randy Bobo

Program Directors — Joshua
Bradley, Eddie Collins, Mike
Rappazzo, Stanford Brantley

Webmaster—Ken Wilkinson

NEXT MEETING
February 2

TJC West Campus — Room 104
1530 West Loop 323 S SW
6:45 PM

Contact Us
On the Web: etba.info
Or on the phone: (903) 566-6789

HONEY QUEEN REPORT *By Vi Bourns*

Happy Valentines! I am praying that the February forecast for rain will be as good as was January. The ponds and streams are filling up nicely and nature is showing signs of pollen and nectar -- just what we need for good honey production and healthy bees.

The Queens court will be busy, but a bit more relaxing for them this year as I am trying to spread their appearances a little. All three young ladies will be writing a report for you, cooking new recipes, and traveling East Texas representing you as a club. They will be attending the Delegates meeting in Salado on Feb 18th where they will introduce themselves, meet the other 2012 queens and princesses, and get to know other Texas beekeepers.

Please see their reports below and come support them Thurs Feb.2 at TJC west campus at 6:45 pm.



I am so excited about starting another year as East Texas Honey Queen! I am looking forward to working with our new Princess-In-Waiting Martha Jeske and, of course, with Honey Princess Hayden Wolf and Mrs. Vi. We had a blast together last year and I'm sure this year will be even better!

For our first event of the year, Hayden and I gave "Cooking with Honey" demonstrations to the club. This was a lot of fun to do, considering the fact that we had given these demonstrations at the State Fair last year, but no one from our club had been able to see it. I gave my demonstration on how to make Honey Cinnamon Roasted Peanuts, which is the recipe I did at the State Fair as well. I also brought pre-made samples for the refreshment table. They must have been good; hardly any were left!

We are currently in the process of getting our brochures printed, so be on the lookout! I've already learned so much since last year, but as every true beekeeper knows, there is always something new to learn about honeybees! I am grateful to every one of you for giving me this wonderful opportunity. It is a great blessing to me.

See ya'll at the next meeting! ~Bekah



Thank you all for giving me the opportunity to be your Honey Princess again this year! I greatly appreciate the support each of you gives towards the Honey Queen program. I look forward to another exciting year of presentations and I am proud to be able to represent ETBA — the best beekeeping club in Texas!

My bees are doing well and we're feeding sugar syrup to a few of the weaker hives. On December 30th, one of our hives actually swarmed! We caught the swarm, put it in a nuc box, and started feeding it heavily. We had to move the swarm hives a few miles away from our apiary because of robbing problems, but it is doing well now.

At the January ETBA meeting, Bekah and I had the privilege of doing our cooking demonstrations for all of you. I cooked Honey Date Snowballs, the same recipe I cooked at the State Fair. I really enjoyed doing my cooking demonstration for you and hope ya'll enjoyed the samples.

On February, I'll be giving a presentation for a church seniors group, and on the 18th, I'll be attending the TBA delegates meeting in Salado, TX. Be sure to come to the next ETBA meeting. I look forward to seeing you there!

~Hayden





President's Letter *by Gus Wolf*

Here it is almost the end of January already. How did that happen? I know, I know – one day at a time. But January has been a good month with several bouts of significant rain. The ground is well saturated and the creeks are running again. We should have a good start on the spring blooming season and hopefully a good honey flow.



One of mine swarmed on December 30 and hung onto the back of the hive that it came from. At first I could hardly believe it, but a swarm it was. It was captured in a nuc box and fed heavily. The relatively mild weather has been kind to it. All was well until January 12. There was an awful lot of activity on the front of that hive. It seems the rest of the bees in my apiary had discovered easy pickins' and were busy robbing the little swarm out. I had a 1½ quart mason jar on it and it was cleaned out in a day! I am always amazed at the bees industriousness as it takes just a little drop of syrup back to the hive and comes back for more from sunup to sundown.

Since things had gotten out of hand, I had to relocate the hive a couple of miles away. I am happy to report that the hive activity is once again normal. In a couple of days, it will need more syrup and I'll open it up to see what I've got. I had only one drawn frame that I could give them and the other four they would have to draw out themselves. I just don't know if bees can do that in the winter. We have had some unusually mild days recently and perhaps they will do it. We will see and I'll be sure to report back to you.

Speaking of feeding hives, the January, 2012 issue of Bee Culture magazine has an article with step-by-step instructions for building a high-volume, heavy duty hive top feeder. Sometimes with hive top feeders, there are problems with bees drowning in the syrup. This feeder has a baffle on one end to create a dry well for the bees to enter. The dry well and the baffle are enclosed with 1/8 inch hardware cloth. The bees crawl along the hardware cloth to feed and do not fall into the syrup and drown.

I am fast running out of time to prepare my wooden ware for the Spring. I still have painting to do and preparation of swarm traps. Ah, so many distractions and so little time to get it all accomplished! I'd better get cracking!



I want to give a warm welcome to the visitors and new beekeepers who joined us at the January meeting. Beekeeping is a fascinating hobby and we hope to be a source of information to you. For you new beekeepers, our friend Dr. Larry Connor has a good article in this January issue of The American Bee Journal. In concise terms, he covers some basic information about setting up new hives. It is a pretty good read and I would recommend it to everyone.



Just a reminder that this month is auction/raffle night. Auction nights are always fun and the proceeds from the auction keep our club dues low -- \$7.50 without an increase in 25 years! Stan Brantley said he is bringing something unique out for the auction. Be sure not to miss it and bring you pocketbook!

I look forward to seeing you at our February meeting. Bring your questions and be prepared for a good time of information sharing, good fellowship and good snack at intermission!

2012 Membership Renewals

ETBA — see Tammy Lenamond

TBA — see Stan Brantley



A New Kind of Killer

Most beekeepers recognize the main insect pests that weaken and destroy colonies – varroa mites, small hive beetles, wax moths, and others – but a recent study lead by San Francisco State University professor of biology, John Hafernik, shows there may be another. The discovery of this pest, a parasitic fly known as *Apocephalus borealis*, was completely by accident. Hafernik had gathered a vial of honey bees intended for preying mantis food, but then forgot about it.

Later, when he remembered it and retrieved the vial, he saw small maggots crawling around the dead bees. About two weeks after that, the maggots hatched into flies, sparking the study.

From Hafernik's observations, it appears the fly inserts eggs in the bee's abdomen. These eggs then hatch and begin feeding on the bee. This causes the bee to wander aimlessly in circles and eventually leave the hive. Later, the infected bee flies toward a source of light, an abnormal habit. Soon the stricken bee will perish and the parasitic fly larvae emerge from the neck or abdomen.

Researchers believe this fly may be partially responsible for Colony Collapse Disorder, but thankfully it has only been detected in parts of California and South Dakota. ~Martha



New Business Rules May Impact Beekeepers

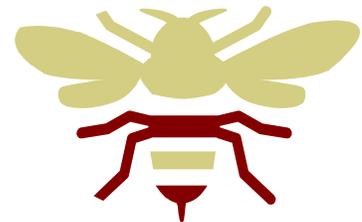
Two new rules may impact beekeepers who are operating as a business.

The State of Texas has issued new a ruling about tax exemption for agricultural purposes. The new rulings can be found at <http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/agriculture/>. The new rulings require the actual presentation of the tax exempt form when making purchases. Eddie Collins will share information about the new requirements at the February meeting.

Effective January 1, 2012, Federal business rules have changed to require all business to issue a 1099 form to any other business from whom they purchase goods or services. For example, prior to this rule, a business purchasing office supplies from Office Depot, Wal-Mart and Staples needed only to keep track of the purchases and report them as an expense under "Office Supplies". Now, the business must keep track of supplies purchased from each store and send the store a 1099 if the purchases exceed \$600 from that store. To do so, he must have each store's name, address and corporate ID number and send each of them a 1099 with a copy to IRS.

If anyone has further information about the new Federal 1099 rules and how they can apply to beekeepers, please share it with us.

Upcoming Activities



Feb. 2 — ETBA meeting at TJC West Campus

Feb 18 — TBA Delegates meeting in Salado

February 28 — Fruit and Vegetable Conference at Rose Garden, ETBA will have a booth. See Gloria Harmon or Linda Pelham to help.

February is Auction/Raffle month