



# East Texas Beekeepers Association

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## *January Report by Dick Counts*

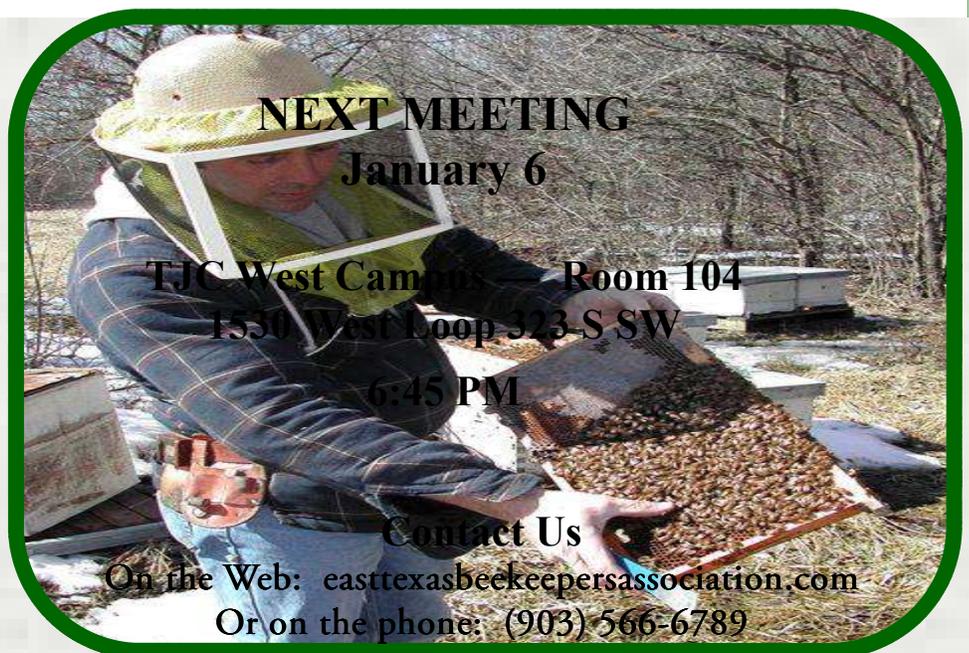
Welcome to 2011! Before we get into the New Year, here are a few notes about 2010. First, we had a nice time of fellowship at our annual Christmas Meeting at Traditions last month. However, only 54 were present -- we really miss you when we have something special.

In case you haven't heard, I was one of the missing members. Rather than attending the Christmas party, I was in the hospital getting a repair job on hip and femur that did not survive a fall I took on the porch of my shop. In the dark, I stepped up onto a hive body. Unfortunately, it rolled and my upper leg hit the corner of the hive body on my way down. I broke my femur, snapped off the hip ball and cracked the pelvis. Fortunately, I had my cell phone with me and called Vi. She called 911 and an ambulance from a nearby station was there in a few minutes. I am now doing well, walking on a walker, and getting stronger every day! Let me say a big "Thank You" to everyone who stopped by the hospital or rehab center, or called, or helped keep the club's business going. I really appreciate you!

Now for 2011, and the word is CHANGE. It is always taking place whether we see it or not. The change I would like for you to see is in your hives. View your hives as going through change in that new queens are being raised. These queens are from the hives that were boiling over with bees last Spring and Summer and made you a good honey crop. Part of that change may have been because you fed your bees in September, or that you rotated your boxes at the right time, or you left plenty of stores for the winter. Now that Winter is here, look in your hives for the changes that are always going on. Make sure your bees have enough stores and feed them regularly if they do not. The next two months will be our coldest weather and we want to make sure our bees have good provisions to be ready for Spring.

Don't forget it is now time to renew our ETBA memberships. For 2011, dues are still only \$7.50 per member. You can make your renewals at the January meeting.

President—Andrew Bellefeuille  
Vice President—Gloria Harmon  
Treasurer—Don Johnson  
Secretary—Karen Anderson  
Ex. Director and Reporter—  
Dick Counts  
Directors-at-Large—Stanford  
Brantley, Randy Bobo  
Program Directors — Eddie  
Collins, Stanford Brantley,  
Mike Rappazzo, Savannah Ross  
Webmaster—Ardy Johnson



Mike Rappazzo has been working with **Dr. Larry Connor** to present a day long program in East Texas. Dr. Conner made a similar presentation at the TBA Convention in Kerrville. He writes monthly articles in American Bee Journal and in Bee Culture. He has worked with various universities and bee breeding projects, including the midnight/starline breeding project in the 70s and 80s. He is also the owner of Wicwas Press in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Dr. Conner's presentation is **tentatively** planned for Saturday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at Indian Rock Baptist Church, 4944 State Highway 154 E. This is east of Gilmer TX. Cost is \$35 per person. You can either bring a sack lunch or drive about 8 minutes into Gilmer or Diana for lunch. Weather permitting, there will be live bee demonstrations afterward, so bring a veil.

We need to have at least 30 people sign up in order to be able to do this. At the January meeting, we will discuss the feasibility of the proposed location and the number of members interested in attending.

Please Contact me (Mike) and I will sign you up, remittance is cash or check in advance. You can register and pay at our January meeting. Thanks Mike (903.734.3553) Kingfisheracres@gmail.com

#### PROGRAM

#### HOW TO SUCCEED IN BEEKEEPING! -- With emphasis on making increase colonies.

9 AM TO 3 PM

Welcome

BEEKEEPING BIOLOGY FOR NEW BEEKEEPERS

READING THE COLONY FRAME BY FRAME

POPULATION MANAGEMENT AND BEEKEEPING

MAKING INCREASE AND WINTERING NUCLEI

IF TIME ALLOWS: CHEMICAL FREE BEEKEEPING

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

## **HONEY QUEEN REPORT** *By Vi Bourns*

We were fortunate to have several young ladies interested in serving our club and educating people about the importance of the honey bee. After much deliberation, the committee selected Miss Bekah Lenmond as ETBA Honey Queen and Miss Hayden Wolf as ETBA Honey Princess for 2011.

It was my privilege to crown these two young ladies at our December meeting. They are in the process of selecting recipes to share with us, having their pictures made for the brochures to give out when they make public appearances in our behalf, and of course enjoying time with their family and friends.

In the near future you will be able to go to our web site to view their pictures and find out more about them. You will also be getting updates and reports about their activities.

In addition, our own Miss Kellie Lenamond, the 2011 TBA Texas Honey Princess, is home from college for the holidays and plans to be at our January meeting. Kellie was crowned in Kerrville at the annual Texas Beekeepers' Association Convention in November.

I thank all of you for the honor of being 2010 Beekeeper of the Year. It was quite a surprise and truly an honor I shall always remember.



2011

ETBA HONEY QUEEN AND PRINCESS

*Bekah Lenmond*

*Hayden Wolf*



## President's Letter *by Andrew Bellefeuille*

Christmas has now come and gone and, at least for this week, winter has us firmly in its grasp. After living here for almost 8 years, I know that winter weather in east Texas can fluctuate wildly but I felt its true presence the other morning when it was 23 degrees as I was going out to feed my farm animals. The wind whipped and tugged at the edges of my coat and I was instantly transported 2000 miles away and 20 years back to Vermont where I was feeding cows and trudging through the snow. It's at times like these that the nostalgia of farming and warm glowing memories of "the good old days" dissolve into nothing more than shivering and grumbling for me. Growing up in Vermont, the cold arrived in earnest around October and rarely left before May. It was a l-o-n-g time to endure and because of my experiences there, I have a love/hate relationship with the cold.



As I broke through the layer of ice on all the water tubs and hauled warm water from the house to thaw and refill the rabbit water bottles, I chuckled to myself with the thought that the bees were definitely smarter than I. They had the good sense to stay inside huddled together on a day like this. I often wish to be like the bees all warm and snug inside their hives just waiting for the sun to warm the air so they can work. But then I have overwhelming guilt at the thought of being so lazy and letting a little cold weather keep me from working. And so, as I inhaled the icy air and felt its burn, I looked into the pale blue sky and was thankful for the day and where I was in this world. My animals were happy to see me and greeted me with a cacophony of bleats, clucks, moos and 'nickers'. The rooster even put in his two cents worth with an early morning crow in my honor. I thought of how many other people in Tyler and elsewhere were starting their mornings. I felt a little sorry for the suburban office workers driving to work and missing the incredible morning I was having. Not everyone was thinking of bees or enjoying the smell of warm cow breath in the dim light of the frigid morning.



I have not started feeding my hives yet because they are all heavy and when the days are warmer I see a lot of activity at the hive entrances, so I feel they are OK. I have not looked inside them in a few weeks but I watch them every chance I get. I am not sure what they are working, if anything, other than cleaning the hive and getting water but they seem to be out looking. Their optimism and work ethic is never ending, and I admire them for that.

I have not yet started building new boxes but that is my plan in the next few weeks during the winter doldrums. My goal is still to have 20 hives this year with at least that many remaining through next winter. I know I have written previously that my property will only support 6 to 7 hives before robbing and absconding occurs so my biggest challenge will be to develop other bee yards capable of supporting more production. With the swarms I usually collect throughout the year, the number of hives can get big. To make the most of those new hives I will have to outsource more space. Where exactly that will be still remains a question.

I wish everyone a happy new year and hope you all have a bee-autiful 2011.

### January Program Notes

Randy Bobo will present a discussion of techniques he uses to capture and handle swarms, including bee vacs and other equipment.

**Directors Meeting at 6:00**

# 2010 Christmas Awards Dinner

## Beekeeper of the Year



Vi Bourns



## Honey Tasting Contest First Place for the Seventh Consecutive Year



Bill LaPeyre



## 2nd Place Mike Rappazzo



## Scholarship Students

