



East Texas Beekeepers Association

Vol. 27 No. 1

Jan. 5, 2012

January Report by Dick Counts

It is hard to imagine that our next meeting will be in 2012! The last meeting of 2011 was our Christmas Dinner and Awards Program with 86 in attendance. We did things a little differently this year, meeting in our regular room at TJC and sharing a pot luck dinner. ETBA President Gus Wolf and family presented an enjoyable program of acappella Christmas music. There was plenty of good food and everyone had a great time. The crowd included a lot of kids, making this a true family club event! I would like to give a special Thanks to Darlene Rappazzo for planning and organizing the dinner and to everyone who brought food, set up the room, cleaned up the mess, and got us out on time!

First place in our Honey Tasting Contest was won by Sharon Lindvall. Second place winner was Mike Rapazzo and Third Place winner was Kenneth Duesterhoft. Congratulations to Sharon, Mike and Ken for producing some good honey in spite of a hard year. Our 2011 Beekeeper of the Year was awarded to Dan Eudy. Congratulations, Dan, and Thanks for all that you do for our club.

I am getting ready for the 2012 Beginner Beekeepers class. So far I have 15 adults but no Scholarship Students. If you know a young person interested in learning about beekeeping, please encourage them to apply. I need to receive scholarship applications as soon as possible and no later than the January meeting.

With winter upon us, be sure to watch your hives for adequate food stores. Without proper care, hives will be lost in the next three months because of starvation. Lift the back of your hives — if they feel light, feed them.

IN MEMORY OF MARY JO BRANTLEY: Mary Jo passed away on December 12. ETBA, and you and I, lost a very good friend, and a dedicated supporter of our club, especially our Queen program. As our auctioneer, I could always count on Mary Jo to help keep things moving, pushing others to pay just a little bit more for that lowly item I was trying to sell for top dollar.

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
January 5

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 NEW YEAR TO ALL OF YOU AND YOUR BEES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

We are all looking forward to a wet and warm spring with lots of soft rain drops spread out at just the right time for spring flowers and a sweet nectar flow for our bees. And a cooler summer would be nice also. Reminds me of the saying, "You don't know what you'll miss till you have it and lose it". That hit home this past year. Time marches on and things do change, so with our eyes looking up to the sky, let us welcome in 2012 with joy, hope, and a new start.

The Christmas party was a huge success thanks to Darlene Rappazzo and her Elves who did a great job making the room and tables festive. The food was plentiful and friends welcomed each other and six visitors with a warm smile and embrace.

ETBA honored Miss Bekah Lenamond and Miss Hayden Wolf as our 2012 Queen and Princess. Miss Martha Jeske became our 2012 Princess-In-Waiting. The royal court, dressed in gowns and escorted on their father's arms, entered and were presented with a bouquet. Be sure to come to our Jan 5th meeting, usual time and place. Bekah and Hayden will be demonstrating the cooking skills they displayed at the Dallas State Fair -- plus giving out samples.



**Beekeeper of the Year
Dan Eudy**

Honey Tasting Winners

**1st Place
Sharon Lindavall**

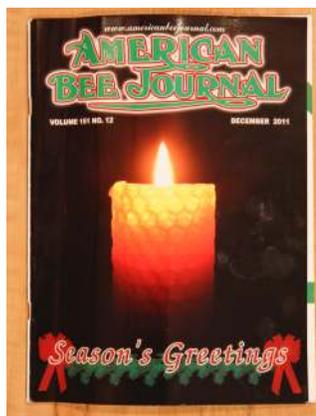
**2nd Place
Mike Rappazzo**

**3rd Place
Ken Duesterhoft**



President's Letter *by Gus Wolf*

I have only been a member of the club for four years now, so I don't have a wealth of experience when it comes to club history. But I'll wager that our Christmas party that was held at the Tyler Junior College campus on Thursday, December 1, was the best ever. Attendance was way more than double what was at the restaurant in years past, and the food selection was varied and plentiful. No one left hungry. Everyone left with pleased palates and warmed spirits. I think we've started a new tradition. Hats off to Darlene Rappazzo for organizing it and making it happen. Kudos to our members who came and who brought all the yummy treats to eat! I can't remember who originally suggested we do it this way, but it was a stellar idea!



Grab your December issue of American Bee Journal and turn to page 1135. In the top right corner of Jerry Hayes monthly feature, "The Classroom", you'll find a letter that was written by our club member Charles Roberson of Ben Wheeler. Jerry published the letter and provided an answer. Congratulations, Charles!

The next time you are on the internet, type "etba.info" into your browser URL bar and take a look at our updated website. Note that we have a much shorter web address and that our pages have been updated and upgraded. We have member Ken Wilkinson to thank for migrating our website to a new server and for rewriting

and reorganizing the site with upgraded software. Ken has given many volunteer hours to doing this work and we are all grateful for it.

The ETBA website is the global public face of our club. You may not realize it but it can be accessed by anyone in the world with a computer and access to the internet. Be sure to thank Ken the next time you see him! Be sure to thank Don Johnson as well. Don and his wife Ardy created the original website and have been maintaining it for several years.

December 20, 2011 marks a milestone in my life. It is the latest date I have ever been stung by a bee! There was plenty of activity going in and out of the hives and the bees were bringing in light tan colored pollen. I thought it would be a good day to take the tops off the hives, refill the division board feeders, and add another half protein patty, where needed. I thought my veiled jacket and no smoker would be fine. After all, I was not going to be in the hives very long at all. Was I ever mistaken! I forgot that it is winter and the bees "know" that there is only one reason anything would want to open their home. I have to admit that I've never seen them so defensive. Before I knew it, there were bees all over. Since I was wearing clogs, not boots, they found my unprotected ankles pretty quickly. Before I could escape to get proper equipment, one worker stung my ankle and another was looking for a good spot on the other side to get some purchase. Once again, I realized that I still have a lot to learn.



They got fed anyway and were promptly forgiven for their natural reaction to my intrusion into their home.

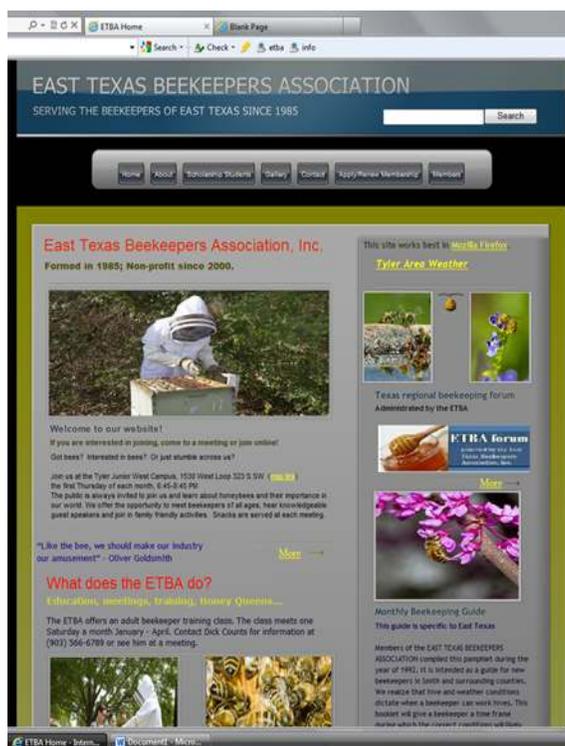
For our January meeting, we'll have time for questions and plenty of answers and our Honey Queen and Princess will be doing the cooking demonstrations that they did at the State Fair this year. Hope to see you at the meeting!

Directors' Meeting 6:30

A New Look on the Web

ETBA has a new look on the web! We have updated our club website using software that offers all of the bells and whistles of modern web pages. The new website has all of the information available from our old site, plus lots of pictures to catch the eye of potential new members surfing the web for information about bees.

The Internet address for our new website is **www.etba.info**. That is so much easier to type than our old name of easttexasbeekeepersassocation.com!



If you have the old address in your "Favorites" list, call up the new address and re-save it as a Favorite. For the next few weeks, the old address will redirect you to the new site.

If you have been using our Forum, you may recognize that this was the address of the Forum. There is still a link to the Forum on the new Home Page. You can click that link to go the Forum and then re-save the Forum Home Page as a new Favorite.

Members with email addresses on file received an email announcing the new website and giving the USER NAME and PASSWORD needed to access the MEMBERS pages. If you have an email address on file and did not receive this email, please call Dan Eudy at 903-570-5735. The MEMBERS page includes club minutes, membership lists, financial reports, and our club photo albums. Be sure to look at the member's photo albums—you just might find your picture!

If you are not a computer person, stuff like this looks like magic. If you do know something about computers, you know that such projects do not happen by magic — they are the result of many, many hours of tedious and demanding work. ETBA member Ken Wilkinson volunteered those many hours and built our new website. Thank You Ken for your commitment to ETBA.

Time to Renew Memberships

It is time to renew our ETBA memberships. Dues are still only \$7.50 per member after twenty six years.. What a bargain!

Tammy Lenamond will be taking membership renewals at the January meeting. Tammy will also have a printed copy of our membership list. Check the list and make sure that we have your correct postal address, email address, and phone number. Give any updates to Tammy when you pay your dues.

If you are not at the January meeting, you can renew your membership on-line through our ETBA website or you can mail a check to ETBA, P.O. Box 9662, Tyler, Texas 75711-9662. Make all checks payable to ETBA.

2012



TBA members, don't forget to renew your TBA memberships also! Stan Brantley will have official TBA membership renewal forms at the meeting.