



East Texas Beekeepers Association

Vol. 26 No. 11

Nov. 3, 2011

November Report by Dick Counts

October meeting saw 77 in attendance. It sure is great to see so many people interested in our honey bees. THANKS for coming. We had a great time learning how to display, bottle and prepare a honey sample for a contest. The club's polariscope will be available for your use at the November meeting. Our annual Honey Tasting Contest is our November program. Be sure to bring a bear of your honey for the tasting contest.

You will also have the opportunity to nominate the person of your choice for "BEEKEEPER OF THE YEAR" award. This is the person that you feel has done the most for the betterment of our club.

We are at the Texas State Fair in Dallas while writing this article. Attendance has been good. Our Queen and Princess are doing a great job in their cooking demonstrations. Statewide, I think there are seven girls participating. They are surely making some tasty treats using honey.

Next week, we are in Corpus Christi for state beekeepers annual meeting. It promises to be very interesting. You still have time to make plans to attend but you will have to hurry.

We have been invited to display our ETBA booth at the Edgewood Festival on November 12. Please see Gloria Harmon and President Wolf, as to how you can help, show bees, furnish an observation hive or just be a gofer.

December is the month when our club honors our spouses. We have changed our format and are having a pot luck dinner at our regular meeting place. Darlene Rappazzo will share information about what to bring. Of course, we will be honoring several of you with special awards. Please come and bring your family.

Director's Meeting 6:15

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

NEXT MEETING
November 3

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

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

Photo by Art Gust

HONEY QUEEN REPORT *By Vi Bourns*

We are home from the Dallas State Fair and want to report that you can be proud of your Queen and Princess! They were amazing.

I will be at the state convention on Nov. 3rd and will miss seeing you at the ETBA meeting. Bekah and Hayden will be with you that night and Linda Pelham will fill in for me. I'll see you Dec. 1st at TJC for annual Christmas dinner and awards presentations. ~Vi



On October 5th, Ms. Vi and I went to a Master Gardener's Club in Tyler where I gave a 15 minute presentation on bees and pollination. I took my bee-suit and smoker and demonstrated how a beekeeper would use them. This was a group of about 20 women and they were all so nice and very interested in what I was telling them. They also had lots of very good questions! The club hostess, Ms. Sue, showed us her garden out back. It was so beautiful! Mom was even able to get lots of pictures for my scrapbook, which I was very excited about!

On October 22nd and 23rd, Hayden and I went to the State Fair of Texas in Dallas where we gave "Cooking with Honey" demonstrations. Although I had previously watched Kellie do a cooking demonstration, I had never done one myself. I was so nervous! In looking for a recipe to make, I experimented with two different ones until I came up with my own recipe for Honey Cinnamon Roasted Peanuts. They were a big hit at the fair! I had to do two cooking demonstrations each day along with all the other Queens and Princesses that were there. I watched each girl do her presentation, trying to calm my nerves and pick up little tips for when my turn came around. When it finally did, I was still nervous and not really sure what I was doing at all! However, for a first time cooking demonstration, I think it went over rather well, even if I did make a small mess of the honey sticking to everything! For my next demonstrations, I was much less nervous and more confident. I would also like to add that Hayden did an excellent job with her demonstrations! She absolutely blew me away with how well she spoke and how comfortable she was talking to so many people at one time. You can definitely be proud of your Honey Princess. I know I am!



Hayden and I also rode in the parade. It was so much fun! We got all dressed up and took tons of pictures in front of the huge Ferris wheel with the other Queens and Princesses. Then, I rode in a sleek black corvette. I didn't even care that my face hurt from smiling or that my arm was about to fall off from waving so much. I was having the time of my life!

Last (but not at all least!) Ms. Vi and I got to go bungee jumping! Yes...Looking at her you would never know, but Ms. Vi does have a bit of a dare devil in her. I was also able to join some of the other Queens and Princesses on a ride we called the 'Honey Extractor'! It was a spaceship that spun around very fast and the centrifugal force pushed us against the wall and we were stuck to it. It was a very good thing we were stuck to the wall because they dropped the floor out from beneath us! We all have a little better idea of what a frame must feel like in the extractor!



Vi Bourns

Needless to say, I had so much fun at the fair this weekend! And of course it's always fun to get to fellowship with more beekeepers! My hives are still doing well and I am continuing to feed them. I think they will go through this winter just fine. I can't wait to see all of you again at our meeting! I will be bringing my Honey Cinnamon Roasted Peanuts for you to try. Hopefully you will enjoy them as much as I did!



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See you then and God bless,
~Rebekah Lenamond





President's Letter *by Gus Wolf*

Almost four years ago, my family and I emigrated from New Jersey to the Piney Woods of East Texas. That makes me a four-year-old Texan! Last week, I felt like I had gone through another Texan rite of passage — we spent three days at the State Fair in Dallas. I really did not see much of the fair as my wife Joanne, Hayden the Honey Princess, and I went to help work in the Texas Beekeepers Association booth.

Manning the booth was interesting and rewarding. Lots of people stopped by to examine the observation hive. Some kept their distance but most came close to see and ask questions. There was a certain predictability in the questions that were asked. Everyone wanted to know where the queen was but few, if any, understood the queen's importance or significance in the hive. "How do you get bees?" was a frequent question, as was "How do you make honey?". Many wanted to know about the bees disappearing and about Colony Collapse Disorder. Overall, the real surprise was finding out how little the average person really knows about bees and their importance to our lives. Their knowledge seems to extend only to honey, stings, Queen bees, and African bees.

A few years ago, the animated film "Bee Movie" was released. Although entertaining and sort of funny, it presented a thoroughly distorted and untrue story of bees. I can't think of anything in that film that was factual. Hoards of adults and children walked away with a fanciful perception of bees! The opportunity to speak to so many at the Fair will, hopefully, begin to correct some of the misunderstanding and ignorance of our favorite insect.

Of course, all of this obligates us as hobby beekeepers to have a thorough knowledge of bees. Read books and articles about bees. Then re-read them — you cannot assimilate all of the information at once. On another trip through a book or a chapter, you will notice something that you missed before. Use the club's video library and look at the websites of other beekeeping clubs and use their resources. Ask questions at the meetings and of other beekeepers. At the Fair, I was able to spend some time behind the counter with John Talbert of TBA. I learned some new things listening to him interact with visitors to the booth. Each of us needs to educate ourselves constantly so we can educate others. Strive to have a "PhD" in bees!

One more question that came up fairly frequently was, "How do you get started?" At least a dozen people asked that question. I instructed each of them to become involved with their local beekeeping club and to find a mentor. I don't believe that our hobby is something that can be successfully started without help from others. I also let them know about the possible availability of scholarships for their children. All were surprised that there were clubs that offer scholarships. Thank you to all in our club that graciously donate materials, time and money to make our programs happen.



Planning ahead for the ETBA Christmas Party



When — Dec. 1.

Where — TJC Room 104

What time — Arrive by 6:30 to set up your food. That is 15 minutes earlier than our regular start time. We want to have enough time to eat, present awards, cleanup and leave by 8:45.

Since our room has a limited amount of electrical circuits, try to bring food that does not require heating or warming.



Finger Food Potluck

If your LAST name begins with **A - M** —
Bring finger foods — (deli tray, sandwiches, lil smokies, queso dip/chips, etc.)

If your LAST name begins with **N - Z** —
Bring fruit, veggies, cheese balls, crackers, chips/dip, etc.

ALSO — everyone please bring your favorite Christmas desert goodies!



October 21st -23rd, I had the privilege of representing ETBA at the Texas State Fair in Dallas. For weeks, I had been dreading the upcoming cooking demonstrations. However, after completing the first cooking demo, I couldn't wait to do another one! I would never have guessed that the six "Cooking with Honey" demonstrations would actually be my favorite part of the fair! I also really enjoyed getting to spend time with the seven Honey Queens and Princesses at the fair – they are all like sisters to me! We helped each other prepare in the kitchen, handed out samples after our cooking demos, ate lunch together, got to see the State Fair's mascot "Big Tex", had group pictures taken, and rode in the "Starlight Parade" on Friday and Saturday nights. I was honored to ride on the float with Allison Adams (2011 American Honey Princess). On Saturday, I did an impromptu "Bee Talk" with Kaylynn Mansker (2011 Texas Honey Queen). It is awesome that the Texas State Fair gives beekeeping so much exposure. I hope that it generates interest in the hobby as well as future beekeepers! Although much of my time was spent doing prep work in the kitchen, I did get to work in the TBA booth and talk with visitors. It is sad to see how little the average person knows about honey bees. I'm glad I have the opportunity to help educate some of them about honey bees and beekeeping. I look forward to seeing ya'll at the next meeting! Don't forget to bring your honey for the honey judging contest! ~Hayden



Special thanks to Joseph Schroeder of Foe-toss|Light Photography, Garland, Tx for some of our Fair photos.



50th Louisiana Beekeepers Association Convention
Country Inn and Suites
2727 Monroe Highway 165
Pineville, Louisiana 71360

Friday and Saturday, Dec. 2 and 3

Call 318-641-8332 or 800-456-4000
Nov. 17 is the last day to register
Ask for special beekeepers rate

Special Guests

- Randy Verhoek—Integribees**
- Amy Weeks—Integrated Pest Mgmt.**
- Dr. Frank Eischen—Nosema, Varroa & Nutrition**
- Henry Graham—Nosema/Stored Comb Workshop**
- Robert Taylor— Vital tips for New Beekeepers**
- Stuart Volby—Feeding and Nutrition**
- Amy Weeks—Small Scale Queen Production**