

The Bee Line

Pineywoods Beekeepers Association

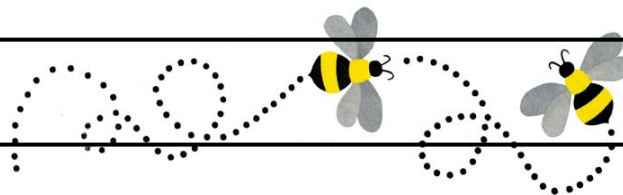
Next Meeting Thursday, February 13, 6:30 pm

Angelina Co. Chamber of Commerce

1615 South Chestnut, Lufkin

<https://www.pineywoodsbeekeepers.org/>

Volume 20 Issue 2



February 2020

February Program

PBA member Ryan Nelson will be discussing a 2-minute method he uses to quickly assess colony strength during late winter, without breaking open the cluster or disturbing the bees too much. This method is used by many commercial beekeepers and is a technique he picked up from his mentors.

Beverages: Robert Jones; Snacks: Jordyn Stoehr, Joe Moran, Linda McLendon

Bringing beverages or refreshments? If unable to attend, please notify Rachel Payne at 936-715-0362 or texasbeegirl@gmail.com so that we can supply them.

Assorted Buzziness

We're still in need of a **Program Coordinator**. If you're interested, see a Board member.

2020 PBA dues are now due! \$15 e-mail membership or \$20 postal membership, per family. Contact Treasurer Terry McFall, 1700 FM 252, Jasper, TX 75951 tdmcfallclan@yahoo.com 409-289-7387.

This is also a good time to renew your Texas Beekeepers Association membership, as well as your subscriptions to The American Bee Journal and Bee Culture magazines. Here are the links you'll need:

<https://texasbeekeepers.org/>

<https://americanbeejournal.com/subscribers/orderrenew-subscription/>

<https://www.bee-culture.com/magazine/>

2020 Bee School will take place April 18 and 25 and May 2. Details to follow.

Bee helpful and volunteer! PBA has the opportunity to have educational booths at local events and welcomes volunteers! Contact Rachel Payne texasbeegirl@gmail.com 936-715-0362

3/28 – **Nacogdoches Farmers Market Spring Fling**, 9am-2pm. Activities and games, petting zoo, special performances, and lots of local vendors. We typically take an observation hive, beekeeping gear, and field questions about honey bees and beekeeping. We also distribute information about our Bee School.

What's Buzzing

3/20 – **Texas Master Beekeeper Exam**, Washington Co. Fairgrounds, Brenham. Apprentice level: 8am-12pm, Advanced & Master levels: 1pm-5pm. Testing will be limited to 45 people for the Apprentice level test. \$75 exam fee. <https://masterbeekeeper.tamu.edu/2020-spring-exam-registration/>

3/21 – **Central Texas Beekeepers Association 11th Annual Beekeeping School**. 8:00am-5:30 pm, Brenham. \$65/adult, \$60/additional adult, \$25/student, \$10/child under 12, includes lunch and snacks. Beginner, intermediate, and advanced courses. <https://centraltexasbeekeepers.org/school2020.html>

Buy and Sell

For sale in Lufkin: Strong established honey bee colony – double deep, 20 frames, plastic foundation, 2019 new Floyd bees varroa-resistant queen, brood in top box. Hive components new in 2017: telescoping aluminum lid, inner cover, custom painted finger-joint boxes, screened bottom board, (not included: Boardman entrance feeder, SHB traps, cinder blocks). Should make a good 2020 crop of honey or several splits. \$375. Contact Erin at lesiber@gmail.com 936-208-9577 or Marie C. Kocyan at redcutridge@yahoo.com or 936-632-2272 for more photos.



Beekeeping supplies are available at Atwoods in Nacogdoches, Lone Star Farm & Home Center in Nacogdoches and Corrigan, Lufkin Farm Supply & Nursery in Lufkin, Circle Three Feed in Jasper, Motts Hardware/TKC Knives in Spurger, and Tractor Supply in Hemphill and Lufkin, Fairmount Lumber & Hardware in Hemphill. Shipley's Donuts has buckets with tight-fitting lids for inside-hive pail feeding - just make the holes. \$1 for small, \$2 for larger size.

Seasonal Tips

Robert Jones

February is normally another mixed cold winter month. In Deep East Texas, below freezing cold days or weeks can be followed by a day or week of warming. The idea is still to keep that feeder full for each colony. Failing to do so could lose the hive. The earliest honey producing flows will come this month in

the first to third week from the Mayhaws in the rivers and streams of Deep East Texas along with fruit trees (peaches, apples, blueberries). Even though this early resource is there, do not stop feeding. Some of the most extreme and devastating deep cold freezes happen in this month while the hive is trying to expand.

Two things you may notice during this month are colony loss from long freezing cold periods and dead bee larvae dumped out front of the hive porch. This should be the hardest month for survival for the colony. At the end of the month hives should be inspected for the presence of drones. This is the time for deciding when to set up cell building colonies. Without the presence of plenty of drones there is no need to make a queen building colony. This is the key factor one would look for to set the builders and do the grafting.

Traditionally in Deep East Texas builders are set up the last week of February into the first week of March. If you medicate your colonies, the end of this month on a warm day would be the best time to do so.

Comb-Grown Goodness

Honey Choco-Cheese Brownies

www.honey.com

4 oz. unsweetened chocolate
1/2 cup butter or margarine
3/4 cup sugar
1/4 cup honey
3 eggs, beaten
1 cup flour
1/2 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
1/4 tsp. salt
1 tsp. vanilla
1/2 cup chopped nuts

For cream cheese marble:

4 oz. cream cheese, softened
1 T honey
1 T sugar

For batter: Melt chocolate and butter in saucepan; set aside to cool. Combine cooled chocolate mixture, sugar, honey, and eggs. Combine flour, baking powder, cinnamon, and salt. Add to chocolate mixture. Stir in vanilla and nuts.

For cream cheese marble: Combine remaining ingredients and mix until smooth. Spread half of batter in greased 9-inch square pan; pour cream cheese marble over top. Drop spoonfuls of remaining chocolate batter and swirl with cream cheese marble. Bake at 350°F for 25 to 30 minutes. Cool and cut into squares.



PBA member Dr. Steven Arthur Josephsen recently published *How Do You Start Keeping Bees?* and has copies available. His display at the January PBA meeting included his hand-turned wooden bowls crafted from local timber.



About his book: Beekeeping is growing in popularity for a wide variety of reasons — for the environmental benefits, as a business or hobby, or for the love of honey or even bees themselves. But despite the excitement, few people know how to get started. *How Do You Start Keeping Bees?* offers a humorous, conversational manual on how to do just that. Author Steven A. Josephsen provides a step-by-step approach to beekeeping for beginners. He starts with the initial choice to keep bees and then takes you through all of the preparations you'll need to make before setting up your first beehive. From lists of purchases you'll need to make to what to expect when your beehives get started, Dr. Josephsen lays out the entire process, complete with pictures and encouraging advice. With his help, you'll have all the knowledge you need to be successful—*before* you find yourself in the middle of a swarm of bees! Straightforward and down to earth, this guide presents an easy-to-use method for getting started in the field of beekeeping.

Chatting at PBA January meeting, Treasurer Terry McFall, Training Coordinator Robert Jones and SFASU Liaison David Gallager.



Photos by Marie Kocyan