

The Bee Line

Pineywoods Beekeepers Association

Next meeting March 13, 6:30 pm

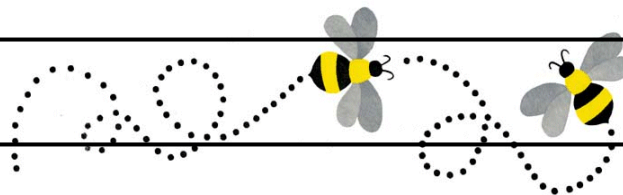
Lufkin VFW Post 1836

1800 Ford Chapel Road, Lufkin

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

Volume 25 Issue 3

March 2025



March Program

This month, we'll have a panel discussion on growing strong hives, whether to increase honey production or bee populations. Five members will share the steps they're taking to build healthy colonies.

Welcome to our Brood!

Kevin & Kristin Atkinson, Bitsy Barr, Ron Boggess, Kendall & Julia Conner, Megan & Averly Drake, Herbert Felder, Hayden Freeman, Hamby Family, Elizabeth Houston, Bill Keller, John Kelley, Terry & Paula Morris, Austin Morrison, Leslie Ricks, Randy & Jennifer Sullivan, Shawn & Shona Tillar, Larry & Brenda Zimmerman

Assorted Buzziness

Last call for 2025 dues! Non-renewing members will be dropped this month. \$15 e-mail membership or \$20 postal membership, per family. Pay at the meeting or send a check or money order (payable to Pineywoods Beekeepers Association) to Treasurer Mike Hartman, PO Box 536, Lufkin, 75902.

What's Buzzing

Kimberly Wagner, a member of the Texas Master Naturalist Longleaf Ridge Chapter in Jasper, says they're always looking for speakers on nature-related topics. If you have an appropriate program or ideas, let her know. kwagner@anra.org or 936-219-5622

April 5 – SFASU Spring Plant Sale, 9am – 2pm. 2900 Raguet St, Nacogdoches. The sale will feature an array of hard-to-find, "Texas-tough" plants, including Texas natives, edibles, tropicals, perennials, shrubs and trees, with an emphasis on pollinator-friendly selections. The sale's plant list is updated frequently and can be downloaded from the SFA Gardens Events webpage.

<https://graphite.sfasu.edu/events/view/43d537e1-d670-475e-b75a-acbaebf5b9a4>

At-Home Beekeeping Series presented by the Lawrence Co. Alabama Extension Office. 6:30-7:30pm. Recordings from this series are available **for only two weeks** after each session on the Lawrence County Alabama Extension Office Facebook page.

2025 Dates and Topics

March 25 — Colony Losses in the United States of America

Geoff Williams, Auburn University

April 29 — Honeybee Nest Architecture

Michael Smith, Auburn University

May 27 — TBD

Melanie Kirby, Institute of American Indian Arts

June 24 — TBD

Liz Walsh, United States Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service

ML MANN LAKE

JOIN US FOR OUR TEXAS
CUSTOMER APPRECIATION EVENT!

March 29th, 2025
10:00am - 2:00pm

Guest Speaker: Dr. Garrett Slater
from the Texas A&M AgrLife
Extension Apiary Program

COME TO

PLEASE RSVP!

SCAN HERE!

Texas Location
1600 Commerce St,
Marshall, TX 75672

- ✓ Commercial queen breeder round table hosted by Dr. Garrett Slater
- ✓ Free lunch - In-Store Specials!

Seasonal Tips

Robert Jones

March normally sees a warming trend along with the blooming of many wildflowers and plants across Deep East Texas. Expect early dewberry bloom, sweet clover, hairy vetch, Dutch/red clovers with the ending of the month seeing hawthorn, Yaupon holly, black locust, and other early-flowering bushes and trees.

This is the month for grafting, cell building, splits, early swarms, and the first hive supers added at the end of the month. Keeping bees is really a type of farming. Each and every year you will see winter losses. This month is the time to regain those losses by splitting your hives. There are actually two main reasons to split: hive loss replacement and swarm control. This can be done by the purchase of queen cells or live queens or, if you have the understanding of the cell builder, queen bee calendar, and know-how to graft, you can do your own.

You can also do this by natural splits made from making a hive queenless and the bees making emergency queen cells or looking for hives that have swarm cells and using those cells also for making splits. The main idea is to propagate new queens and hives to the level you intend to keep. Swarm cells can be friends or enemies according to how you intend to manage your colonies.

When the first honey flow starts it is natural that the bee colonies that are strong want to propagate and split. This, added to hive crowding, along with early weeks of stormy spring weather, is a catalyst for swarm cell building. Since we cannot control the weather, we move to what we can control. With colony crowding if you can keep a colony always building and never crowded you have some hopes of keeping your old queen out of the trees along with half the hive. Putting supers on ahead of the colony growth is one key factor in stopping over-crowding.

The other is to keep the nest mixed up by checkerboarding (putting in foundation frames) just in and around the nest area. This manipulation keeps the bees rebuilding the nest and away from building queen cells. The last control method is to replace the old queen with a new one. New queens will not normally swarm in their first year of service.

The main goal for this month is maintaining or expanding your apiary. The rule that we should use for feeding is to feed up to the time of supering a colony with honey supers. New starts should always be fed to support hive expansion with more brood.

Comb-Grown Goodness

Hot Honey Chicken Bowls

<https://www.azurestandard.com/azure-life/recipes/hot-honey-chicken-bowls/XULAP1Mscx7K35S2>

For the chicken:

- 1 lb boneless chicken breast or thigh
- 2 T olive oil
- 1 t paprika
- ½ t garlic powder
- ½ t onion powder
- Salt and pepper to taste

For the hot honey sauce:

- ¼ c honey
- 2-3 t sriracha
- 1 T apple cider vinegar
- ¼ t red pepper flakes, or to taste

For the bowl base:

- 2 c rice or quinoa
- 1 c roasted sweet potatoes
- 1 c roasted broccolini or broccoli
- ½ c shredded or sliced carrots
- ½ c sliced avocado



Garnish:

- Green onion
- Sliced limes
- Sesame seeds

Prepare chicken: In a bowl, toss chicken with olive oil, paprika, garlic powder, onion powder, salt, and pepper. Heat a skillet over medium-high heat and cook chicken for 4-5 minutes per side, or until golden brown and fully cooked. Remove chicken and let rest for 5 minutes before slicing.

Make hot honey sauce: In a small sauce pan, combine honey, sriracha, apple cider vinegar, and red pepper flakes. Heat over low heat until warm and slightly thickened. Set aside.

Assemble bowls: Divide cooked rice or quinoa into serving bowls. Top with sliced chicken, roasted sweet potatoes, broccolini, shredded carrots, and avocado slices.

Drizzle & garnish: Drizzle sauce over chicken + veggies. Garnish with green onions + squeeze of lime (sliced).

Bee School 2025

We had 30 students this year. Thank you to those who taught classes, brought snacks, donated door prizes, and helped set up or clean up: Pam Brown, Ricky Davis, Edward Doucet, Mike Hartman, Alan and Mitzi Higginbotham, Robert Jones, Miki Lynn, Terry McFall, Walter McLendon, Karen Mitchell, Corky Powell, Clay & Susan Precup. I hope I haven't forgotten anyone!



Queen Rearing Class

