

The Bee Line

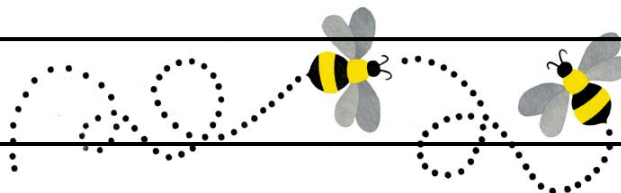
Pineywoods Beekeepers Association

Next Meeting Thursday, April 12, 7:00 pm

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church

919 S John Redditt Dr, Lufkin

Volume 18 Issue 4



April 2018

April Program

*A swarm in May is worth a load of hay;
A swarm in June is worth a silver spoon;
A swarm in July isn't worth a fly.*

Join us for an anniversary performance of last year's April program with the original cast! Combining a slide show with show-and-tell, PBA members Terry McFall, Rachel Payne, Roy Stark, and Jesus Vazquez will reprise their roles as they present **Swarms and Bait Hives**. Along with tips to improve your chances of success at capturing swarms, they'll tell you how to deploy bait hives and let the swarms come to you!

Beverages: Karl Lemke; Snacks: Joanie Kochanek and Rachel Payne

Bringing beverages or refreshments? If unable to attend, please notify Rachel Payne at 936-715-0362 or rachelpayne519@yahoo.com so that we can supply them.

Welcome (and Welcome Back) to our Brood...

Ronald & Cindi Caston, Jennifer Crenshaw, Joseph Messimer, Mike & Paula Stein, Roger & Deaborah White

You're the Bee's Knees!

3/24 – Jeff and Janet Haney and Rachel Payne manned a table with observation hive and honey samples at the Nacogdoches Farmers Market Spring Fling and Nacogdoches Public Library's How-To Festival.

3/27 – Rachel Payne took her observation hive to Mt. Enterprise ISD and spoke to Amy Richardson's 7th graders about bees and beekeeping.

Assorted Buzziness

Trinity Smith will be a lab assistant at Texas A&M's Honey Bee Lab this summer, gaining experience necessary to help him on his path to becoming an entomologist. He said, "I'm on my first step to becoming an entomologist. One little step at a time." Congratulations to Trinity!

Speaking of Trinity, he's thinking about having shirts made with the design shown at right. He would like to know how many of you might be interested in ordering and if you have any suggestions for alterations. trinity.smith18@student.ccisdx.com

Bob Love and Rachel Payne were interviewed by KTRE News for a very brief story on bees, which aired March 20.

<http://www.ktre.com/story/37770870/one-hive-at-a-time-deep-east-texas-backyard-beekeepers-are-saving-bee-population>

Editor's note: Bob and I are not responsible for the spelling and punctuation in the article!



Last call for 2018 PBA dues - \$10 email membership or \$16 postal membership, per family. Don't miss out on our educational monthly PBA *Bee Line* newsletter – pay your dues to continue receiving issues. Contact Treasurer Terry McFall, 1700 FM 252, Jasper, TX 75951 tdmcfallclan@yahoo.com 409-384-3626

PBA 2018 Spring Bee School

Still time to sign up for our three-Saturdays bee school including classroom days April 21 and April 28 at the AgriLife Extension Service, Lufkin, and Bee Yard Day May 5 at a PBA apiary in Angelina County! A comprehensive course with instructors and demos for beginning beekeepers, this bee school includes a textbook and hand-outs, hands-on practice, and the opportunity to acquire a nuc of honey bees. Contact Bee School Coordinator Marie C. Kocyan, redcutridge@yahoo.com 936-632-2272 for a Bee School Brochure and detailing letter.

PBA 2018 Youth Program

Four regional youth are accepted into our Youth Program from Lufkin and Alto – welcome Jordyn Stoehr, Nick and Jonas Guy, and Malachi Loper! With the help of PBA-member mentors, these enthusiastic young beekeepers will assemble their own hive components, learn east Texas beekeeping at our Bee School, acquire their own honey bee nuc colonies, attend meetings to learn from speakers and programs, and update us on their beekeeping adventures!

Join us on Facebook! Just a reminder that Pineywoods Beekeepers Association has a Facebook page where we share articles related to bees and beekeeping, pictures, questions, recipes, and more. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/532642643606301/>

Bee helpful and volunteer! PBA will have educational booths at some events and welcomes volunteers! Contact Rachel Payne rachelpayne519@yahoo.com 936-715-0362

4/7 – SFA Spring Plant Sale and Earth Day Celebration, 9am–1pm, Pineywoods Native Plant Center, Nacogdoches. Shop a variety of rare Texas natives, heirlooms, perennials, and exclusive SFA introductions. Earth Day theme is “Roots to Resilience – Eating Real Food to Support Local Farmers and the Planet.” (Further info available if you're interested in tabling this event.)

4/28 – SFASU Breakfast on the Farm, 9am–noon, Walter C. Todd Agricultural Research Center, Nacogdoches. Join SFA ag students for pancakes and sausage. During this free event, you can meet the

animals, take a hay ride, explore, and learn about agriculture through hands-on activities. Contact the agriculture office for your free breakfast ticket at 936-468-3705.

5/18 – Sawmill Sampler at the Texas Forestry Museum, Lufkin, 6pm–8pm. Individuals and groups set up to display their craft in a booth (ex. wood turning, quilting, hoof trimming).

Buy and Sell

Wanted: Millard’s Crossing Historic Village is interested in having an experienced beekeeper keep hives at the Village and offer beekeeping classes (beekeeper could charge for class). Contact Tracie Lasater at tracielasater@me.com or 936-652-2111.

Wanted: A couple who lives east of Nacogdoches (between Hwy 7 and FM 1878) would like a beekeeper to put some hives on their property where they’re developing a pollinator meadow. Call Kathy Griffin at 936-552-4900.

Wanted: Chris Martinez is interested in having hives placed on his property - 14.5 acres on FM 2782 in Alazan (between Lufkin and Nacogdoches). Very good road frontage and a high and dry spot up front for easy access. Partially fenced with an opening for a gate to be placed. 409-795-0700 or martinezkup@yahoo.com

For sale: Queens and Nucs - PBA member Rodger Floyd will have Varroa-resistant mated proven caged queens (\$20), and nucs consisting of 5 frames of established bees with new queen to go in your box in Groveton (May 5 for \$120). Call 936-831-2818 (evenings) for availability and reservations.

For sale: Deep boxes with 10 frames, bottom boards, top covers, inner covers, all hand-made. Call for pricing. 409-423-4756

Beekeeping supplies now 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 Lufkin.

What’s Buzzing

The 2017-2018 Bee Informed Partnership National Colony Loss & Management Survey is open. <http://26.selectsurvey.net/beeinformed/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=LMS2018#>

4/27, 28 – **Texas Master Beekeeper Program Spring 2018 exam**, Honey Bee Facility at Texas A&M REllis Campus (3100 Texas 47, Bryan, TX 77807). Apprentice level exam Friday, April 27th. Check-in will start at 8am, with exam 8:30am-12pm. **Only 30 participants this year due to space limitations.** In order to participate, you will need to have kept bees for at least one year and be registered with the Texas Apiary Inspection Service. Full details at <https://masterbeekeeper.tamu.edu/>

Advanced level exam Friday, April 27th. Check-in at 1pm, with exam 1:30pm-5pm. Remember to bring your documentation binder. Master level exam Saturday, April 28th. Check-in at 8am, with exam 8:30am-12pm. Remember to bring your Documentation binder.

Online registration is now open and can be accessed here:

<https://masterbeekeeper.tamu.edu/2018-spring-exam-registration/>. Please make the check or money order for \$75 out to **AgriLife Research Department of Entomology**. Payment for the exam can be mailed to Texas Apiary Inspection Service, 2475 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-2475

5/5 – 4th Annual Art of Queen Rearing Workshop, Janice and John G. Thomas Honey Bee Facility, College Station, 8:30am-5pm. Registration will close April 27 and is limited to 50 people. \$125, includes lunch, binder with notes, and queen rearing supplies.

<https://aglifesciences.tamu.edu/honeybeelab/wp-content/uploads/sites/70/2018/03/2018-Art-of-Queen-Rearing-Workshop-Agenda-and-Registration-Form.pdf>

5/19 – Nac Brew Club Brewfest 2018 (see ad at right)

6/30 – TBA Summer Clinic, 9am-5pm, Conroe. Keynote speaker Dr. Jamie Ellis. Topics include hive types, bee management, pests, bee health and nutrition, splitting hives, brood diseases, swarm management and capture, and more. \$60 each (\$50 if TBA member), \$100 for couple (\$90 if TBA members). \$25 for children under 16. \$75 registration per adult at the door.

<http://texasbeekeepers.org/summer-clinic-2018/>



The poster for Nac Brew Club Brewfest 2018 features a central illustration of a wooden barrel with a white foam head of beer on top, flanked by wheat stalks. The barrel has 'NAC BREW CLUB' written on it. Below the barrel is a banner that says 'NACOGDOCHES, TX'. The text 'Nac Brew Club' is written in a stylized, cursive font above the barrel. Below the barrel, the word 'BREWFEEST' is written in large, bold, orange letters, with '2 * 0 * 1 * 8' underneath it. At the top left, 'MAY 19' is written in large white letters, with 'SAT 2-8' to its right. To the right of this, 'Nacogdoches Civic Center' is written in white. At the bottom, there are three white boxes with black text: 'HOMEBREWED BEER, MEADS, AND CIDERS', 'FREE FOOD PROVIDED BY MERCHANTS WORLD CUISINE FOOD TRUCKS ON SITE', and '\$25 PER PERSON \$35 AFTER MAY 1ST NO MEMBERSHIPS SOLD THE DAY OF EVENT'. Below these boxes is a white banner with black text that says 'VISIT WWW.NACBREWCLUB.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION'. At the very bottom, there are small icons for Facebook and Instagram.

From the Hexagonal Office

Roy Stark

April is the month when the major honey flow will kick into gear. Swarms are more frequent in April. This is also the month to receive queens and package bees. Major nectar producers in April include red clover, vetch, hedges, wildflowers, Yucchi clover, and some trees such as prickly ash. Watch honey supers closely during April. If bees are working on 6-8 frames, it will be time to add another super. Empty supers may be added either above or below full supers. Bees need plenty of room to store the abundant nectar which comes with April. Give bees enough room so that nectar does not get stored in the brood nest. 3 to 4 supers per hive is generally enough for a season. If queens or packages were ordered for delivery in April, now is the time to use them. To make a 5-frame nuc, remove 2 frames of brood and bees and 1 frame of pollen and honey from a strong colony. Place this in the middle of a 5-frame nuc box and add two frames of foundation. A 10-frame brood box can be substituted for the nuc box. Introduce a young queen to the new colony. Feed 2:1 sugar syrup until all frames are drawn, then add another brood box

and continue to feed until that box is also full. Week 1,2: Super production colonies. Reverse brood chambers. Make new colonies with package bees. Make nucs from strong colonies. Week 3,4: Add supers. Feed nucs and look for swarms.

Comb-Grown Goodness

Dropped Honey Teacakes

Cream:

1 c. softened butter (I used 1 c coconut oil and 1 tsp flavoring)

4 eggs

1 cup honey

Add:

4 ½ c whole wheat flour

½ tsp ground nutmeg

1 tsp vanilla extract

1 Tbsp baking powder

¼ c buttermilk

Beat well. Drop dough by tablespoonfuls onto greased cookie sheets. Bake at 375°F for ~10 minutes, or until lightly browned. Cool. Makes about 6-7 dozen. (The original recipe "Dropped Teacakes" calls for 2 ¼ c sugar and probably white flour and was from Margaret Kennard in Starkville, Mississippi.)

Honey Cookies

Mix well:

1 ½ c honey

1 c butter or oil (I used coconut oil and 1 tsp butter flavoring)

3 Tbsp baking powder

1 Tbsp ground ginger

Add:

whole wheat flour

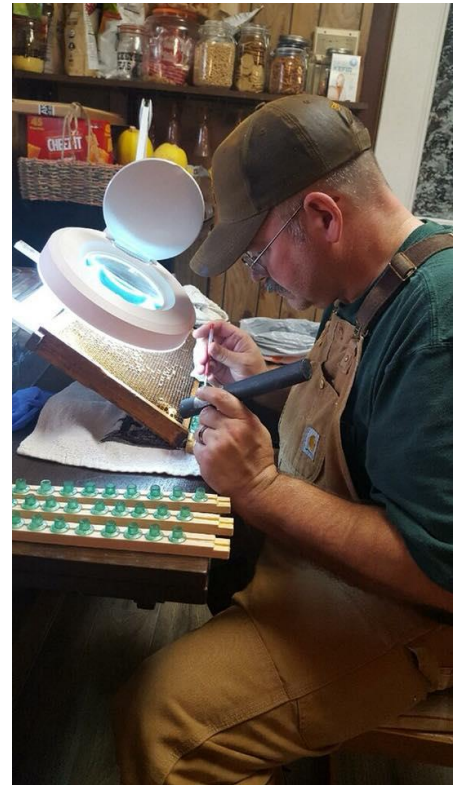
to make stiff dough, roll and cut out OR to make soft dough, spoon out. Place on greased baking sheet. Bake at 375°F for ~10 minutes. Makes about 6-7 dozen. (The original recipe "Syrup Cookies" calls for ½ c honey, 1 c syrup, and white flour and was from Ed Cotten of Zavalla, Texas.)

They are basically the same cookie with different spices in them. Both old-fashioned and good. ~ Rita Hester

Raspberry-Lime Fruit Soda

Good Housekeeping, Oct 2016

Blend 2 c raspberries, ¼ c fresh lime juice, 2 T honey until smooth. Strain seeds out; puree can be refrigerated up to a week. To serve, combine with sparkling water and ice, as desired. Makes 1-2 c concentrate, enough for 4-6 servings.

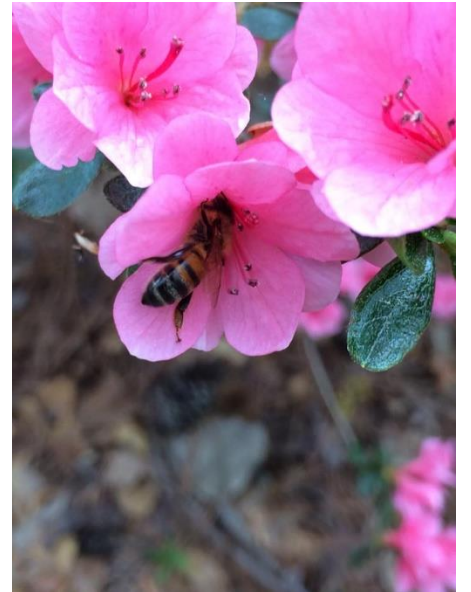


Top: Roy Stark painting bait hives. Steven Josephsen inspecting a hive. Bob Love grafting queens.

Middle: Jeff and Janet Haney talking about bees and offering honey samples at Spring Fling.

Bottom: Rachel Payne pointing out the queen in her observation hive to 7th graders.





Top: Rodger Floyd speaking at the March meeting. A swarm moving into one of Roy's bait hives.
Middle: Bees on blossoms at the Mize Azalea Garden, photographed by Steven Josephsen, whose name I misspelled last month. My apologies!
Bottom: Cade Banks took these pictures of bees foraging at his place.