

The Bee Line

Pineywoods Beekeepers Association

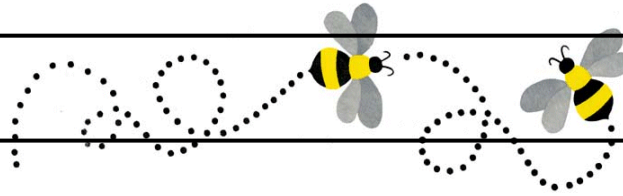
Next meeting Thursday, April 8, 6:30 pm

Angelina Co. Chamber of Commerce

1615 South Chestnut, Lufkin

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

Volume 21 Issue 4



April 2021

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.*

Combining a slide show with show-and-tell, PBA Newsletter Editor Rachel Payne will lead a discussion on **Swarms and Bait Hives**. Along with tips to improve your chances of success at capturing swarms, she'll tell you how to build bait hives and let the swarms come to you! Bring any tools you use, along with your own tricks, to share with others.

Masking (or not) is left to your discretion. Use your good judgement and stay home if you have symptoms of illness, just as you normally would.

Use this link to join the Zoom meeting (Ctrl + click to follow the link):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86384886669?pwd=ZzdpUGc4T2pGMGI0OEQ2K1U3WWg3QT09>

Alternately, log into Zoom and enter the following meeting information:

Meeting ID: 863 8488 6669

Password: 134914

Assorted Buzziness

2021 Bee School and Youth Program

Sign up now! The postmark deadline is April 7th to allow us to order and print materials. The Youth Program is a great opportunity for youngsters aged 12 to 19 to get started in beekeeping. If you're willing to serve as a mentor, let Rachel know as soon as possible. texasbeegirl@gmail.com

2021 PBA Officers

We'll be forming a nomination committee and looking for people to serve on the Board.



Pineywoods Beekeepers
Association

2021 Bee School

Learn how to be a beekeeper!

Register now for our 16th annual course including hands-on management skills and the option to acquire your own honey bee colony.

Increase quantity and quality of your garden produce, help the honey bees, and help yourself to home-grown local natural honey!

**Classroom
instruction and
demos
April 17 and 24,
10am-4pm**

**Texas A&M AgriLife
Extension Service
Office in Lufkin**

**Hands-on practice
in the bee yard
May 1
beginning at 10am**

**\$60 course fee
includes textbook,
handouts, and
snacks**

For more info, contact
Rachel Payne
936-715-0362
texasbeegirl@gmail.com

Bee helpful and volunteer! PBA sometimes has opportunities to have educational booths at local events and welcomes volunteers!

6/4-5 – **Main Street Heritage Days**, San Augustine. Fri noon-7pm, Sat 10am-5pm. Art & craft & food vendors, pancake breakfast, tractor displays, historic tours, kids' activities, reenactments, book author corner, and more. PBA has been invited. If you'd like to take an observation hive, contact Rachel for further details. texasbeegirl@gmail.com 936-715-0362

What's Buzzing

In February, Washington state beekeeper Ted McFall gave a zoom presentation on the Asian Giant Hornet to our PBA. He has the only colony of bees destroyed by the Asian Giant Hornet in the US. Ted is now featured in a Discovery+ documentary titled "**Attack of the Murder Hornet.**" It is an important subject in a very well-done documentary. Discovery+ is offering a free week trial of streaming content. <https://www.discoveryplus.com/>

Update on Chinese flea beetle, excerpt from TBA Journal: The Environmental Assessment from APHIS seeking to justify the issuance of permits for release of the two non-native insects, *Bikasha collaris* (aka Chinese flea beetle) and *Gadirtha fusca* Pogue (aka Chinese moth), for biological control of the Chinese tallow tree was released for an initial thirty-day comment period on January 21, 2021. Texas beekeepers flooded APHIS with their comments! APHIS has extended the comment period to April 23, 2021. To date there have been more than 800 comments, overwhelmingly in opposition to the release. A majority of the comments have been from Texas beekeepers. Not only are the responses from Texas beekeepers impressive in number, but in content. You have done a fantastic job responding to this critical issue! TBA, Texas Honey Bee Education Association (THBEA) and Real Texas Honey (RTH) have all filed responses. You can review these responses at <https://texasbeekeepers.org/flea-beetle-appeal/>. Again, responses will be accepted through April 23, 2021. You do not have to be a beekeeper to respond. There are many comments from non-beekeepers who do not support the release of non-native insects into the environment and who want to support beekeepers and honey bees.

Another excerpt from TBA Journal: **Hives for Heroes** is a national military veteran 501(c)(3) non-profit organization focusing on honey bee conservation, suicide prevention, and a healthy transition from service. Through the national network of beekeepers and veterans we provide purpose, education, and healthy relationships fostering a lifelong hobby in beekeeping. The core of the Hives for Heroes network is centered around 1 NewBEE veteran working with 1 Mentor Beekeeper on 1 Bee Hive. In the first year, NewBEEs will follow their Mentor's instruction. By year two, they will serve with others in a community yard. In year three, they will have the opportunity to lead as new mentors in the organization. As a TBA Beekeeper/Mentor, you will fill the first vital role of introducing and educating a NewBEE in your apiary for a year of beekeeping activities. After a year of working with you, you will hopefully be able to split your hive and present it to your NewBEE. This colony will be moved to a community yard where your NewBEE will continue to care for the bees on his or her own. After a second successful year, your NewBEE will graduate to becoming a Mentor in the program. You can register as a mentor here: www.hivesforheroes.com. Mentors do not need to be veteran and we ask that they have at least 3 years of successful beekeeping experience.

The **Bee Informed Partnership's Colony Loss and Management Survey** will be launched on April 1st. This is a voluntary survey that collects information from beekeepers about the number of colonies they lost over the past year, as well as the management practices that were implemented. The results help highlight the challenges beekeepers face, as well as influence the programs and financial aid made available to the industry. <https://beeinformed.org/citizen-science/loss-and-management-survey/>

Registration for the **2021 Sentinel Apiary Program** season is open through April 23rd. Sentinel is a citizen science program that serves to reduce barriers to regular colony inspection and sampling on an individual level, as well as keep an eye on Varroa and Nosema loads regionally. The goal of the Sentinel Apiary Program is to become an early warning system to alert beekeepers of potential problems due to increases in Varroa/Nosema. Participants choose a kit size (4, 8, or 12 colonies), and receive materials needed for six months of sampling. Each month, participants inspect and sample their colonies, sending their notes and samples to the University of Maryland lab for processing. A report will be available within roughly two weeks of the samples' arrival to the lab. A 12-colony kit will give clubs or larger operations the opportunity to monitor more colonies with a single kit. Participants will be permitted to split this kit among apiaries (as they will with the 4- and 8-colony kits this year) if they choose. Each month's samples from split kits must be returned together in a single shipment, and we request that samples are shipped as soon as possible after sampling for the most accurate lab results. <https://beeinformed.org/citizen-science/sentinel-apiaries/> **Maybe you'd like to get a kit and prepare a program for one of our meetings?**

Texas Bee Supply offers education as well as supplies. Join their mailing list to receive monthly tips and a monthly magazine by e-mail. You'll find a variety of videos on their website. They also have a live monthly webinar. <https://texasbeesupply.com/>

4/14, 15, 21, 22 – **Beekeeping 101 Online Series**, 6pm-7:30pm, \$45. This live, online course will cover the basics of beekeeping to get you prepared to have your own hives with the opportunity to interact with instructors. Through this four-part series, we will cover honey bee biology, beekeeping equipment, managing a hive, and pests and disease management of honey bees. You'll learn what to expect those first early years as a beekeeper! <https://agriferegister.tamu.edu/productListingDetails/3364>

- April 14: Honey Bee Biology
- April 15: Beekeeping Basics
- April 21: What to Expect the First Year
- April 22: Risks of Honey Bees

All sessions will be recorded. Beekeeping catalogs and a journal will be mailed to the address provided during registration.

Field Days Options: April 16, 17, or 28. Leon Springs area of San Antonio (south of Boerne, north of La Cantera). The organizer will contact registrants with further information.

As a reminder, Nathalie Misserey and Les Crowder hold a weekly hour-long Question and Answer session through the "**Chat With The Mindful Beekeepers**" group on Thursdays from 5 to 6 p.m. via Zoom. The link to register for the meeting is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUocevqz4sG9WtaULXqRul8YYvwqOKWhol?fbclid=IwAR0w-dQpP8aqxG01X9jSQEA8GUogKgVeGrIRsMg52hQDRKizl1SskhMQioU>

Nathalie is a Texas Master Beekeeper and vice president of the Hays County Beekeepers Association. Les is a biologist and professional/expert beekeeper who is the author of "Top-Bar Beekeeping: Organic Practices for Honey Bee Health". Les is the president of the Hayes County Beekeepers Association.

At Home Beekeeping Series

This series will be offered the last Tuesday of each month from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Each session includes updates on timely beekeeping topics as well as a Q and A session.

- April 27 – **Biology and Management of Swarming**
 - Mike Goblirsch, USDA
- May 25 – **Working with Mosquito Control to Protect Bees**
 - Kristen Healy, Louisiana State University
- June 29 – **Reading a Honey Bee Frame**
 - Kate Ihle, USDA

This online series is presented through Zoom, an online video platform, and through Facebook Live. <https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/bees-pollinators/at-home-beekeeping-series/>

4/22-4/24 – Spring 2021 Texas Master Beekeeper Exams

Registration is open. The exams will be held virtually. Exam sessions will be available for Apprentice, Advanced, and Master levels. <https://masterbeekeeper.tamu.edu/2021-spring-exam-registration/>

6/19 – **TBA Summer Clinic**. Virtual clinic with Dr. Tom Seeley. Details to follow. Here's a link for more info about Dr. Seeley. <http://pages.nbb.cornell.edu/seeley.shtml>

Buy and Sell

Wanted: Walter Gray, in Nacogdoches Co., is interested in bees to pollinate his fruit trees and garden. walterman99@yahoo.com

Wanted: Trinity Smith will be moving back to the area and is eager to return to beekeeping. He's interested in helping you in your bee yard in exchange for bees and will need a flexible schedule. tss.honeybees@gmail.com

Wanted: Jay Jelinek lost a hive last year and is looking for guidance and direction in resurrecting it. He's also looking for a 9-frame manual radial extractor on legs. jjelinek1020@gmail.com or 936-637-4963

For sale: 4-frame nucs in cardboard nuc boxes. Brood, food, and a new queen, \$150. Can do frame exchange if necessary. Can transfer frames into your equipment if desired. Delivery available. Jason Yankie 936-465-4340 jyankie@yahoo.com

For sale: 2021 Floyd bees ~ Varroa-resistant queen cells, \$4. Caged mated proven queens, \$20, starting 4/3. NUCS (nucleus starter colony) - 5 frames established comb/feed/brood/proven new queen in your box in Groveton, \$120, start late April/early May. Call for availability and to reserve. Rodger Floyd - After dark 936-831-2818 floyd@consolidated.net



Beekeeping supplies are available at Atwoods in Nacogdoches, Lone Star Farm & Home Center in Nacogdoches and Corrigan, Circle Three Feed in Jasper, Motts Hardware/TKC Knives in Spurper,

Fairmount Lumber & Hardware in Hemphill, and Tractor Supply in Center, Hemphill, Lufkin, and Nacogdoches. 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

April sees the honey flow getting heavier with the continuance of the wildflowers along with the yaupon holly that flows to mid-April and with the privet hedge starting about the time the Yaupon stops and flowing to May 1st. This early flow is the first excess honey that can be captured in Deep East Texas. The timing of extracting the honey should be about May 10th. Be sure the frames are well-capped before extraction.

Supering and queen evaluation take precedence over possible extraction this month.

- Rule Number One: If you want honey, don't be behind on your supers. Supering after the fact of the nectar flow is just a miss until next year.
- Rule Number Two: After splits you must evaluate the queen situation in each hive. Whether you are using queen cells or live mated queens, you must evaluate them about two weeks after their introduction to the hive. Live queens can be rejected and killed at times. Queen cells are always a maybe. You can only know after they return, if they do, if they have been mated correctly. It takes 12 to 20 drones to create a well-mated queen bee. At the first two-week mark you will be noting if she has returned and if she is laying eggs (note late queens coming back in the third week will likely be bad). The next time you will note is at the one-month mark.

If you are using full-box splits with a lot of bees, you should want to see a large laid-out area at 30 days with minimum drone cells. The larger the laid-out area, 6 to 8 frames, the higher the queen quality. If this is what you find, super this colony immediately. This queen will make you honey. However, if the brood area is extremely small and there are no eggs, spotty brood, just drone brood, or the brood just doesn't exist, kill the bad queen bee and replace her. She is a bad queen and will not improve (Note: A queen will only lay out an area as big as there are nurse bees to cover it). If it is late into the season you may also stack this super on a good queen for an extra boost on colony expansion and more honey.

Smaller 2- or 3-frame nuc starts should be evaluated based on their bee resource levels. These small starts should have extremely small entrances and, if possible, be kept in a different apiary yard a couple of miles from your main one. (NOTE: If there is a dearth of nectar, small colonies normally are robbed out).

Package bees ordered back in January will arrive with new queens and will need installation into hives. Swarm control will need to continue during the nectar flow time with extra supers. Keep those bees working. Continue to feed small hives or hives that you are still working to grow for brood production.

Comb-Grown Goodness

Fruit Dip

<https://celebratingsweets.com/light-honey-vanilla-cream-cheese-fruit-dip/>

4 ounces reduced-fat cream cheese, softened
One 5- or 6-ounce container vanilla Greek yogurt
¼ teaspoon pure vanilla extract
1 heaping tablespoon honey, plus more, if needed

Using a hand mixer or stand mixer, beat all ingredients for several minutes, until smooth and creamy. Taste and add more honey, if desired. Refrigerate until ready to serve. Serve with fresh fruit, graham crackers, or cookies for dipping.

Honey-Glazed Radishes with Sunflower Seeds

<https://honey.com/recipe/honey-glazed-radishes-with-sunflower-seeds>

1 lb. radishes, trimmed and halved
1/4 cup balsamic vinegar
3 T honey
1/3 cup water
1/4 tsp. salt
3 T sunflower seeds, divided
parsley, chopped, for garnish

Combine radishes, vinegar, honey, water, and salt in medium saucepan and bring to a quick boil. Reduce heat and simmer over medium for 10-12 minutes until liquid has reduced. Stir in 1 1/2 T sunflower seeds. Place radishes into a serving dish and top with remaining 1 1/2 T sunflower seeds and parsley.



Steven Josephsen captured a picture of a honey bee on a crabapple blossom. He also captured a swarm in his yard.

