

# The Bee Line

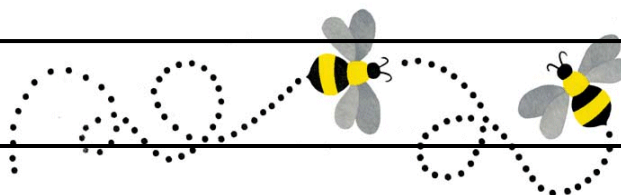
**Pineywoods Beekeepers Association**

Next Meeting Thursday, May 12, 7:00 pm

Angelina Co. Chamber of Commerce

1615 South Chestnut, Lufkin

Volume 16 Issue 5



May 2016

## May Program

Our PBA President Mike Bordelon will demonstrate his “Miller Method of Raising Queens and Splitting Hives” – popular apiary challenges for the intermediate beekeeper and beyond! Have your questions and bee yard observations ready for a good discussion!

## Refreshments

Beverages: Terry McFall; Snacks: Karen Mitchell and Joanie Kochanek

Bringing beverages or refreshments? If unable to attend, please notify Rachel Payne at 936-715-0362 (h), 903-288-0610 (c), or [rachelpayne519@yahoo.com](mailto:rachelpayne519@yahoo.com) so that we may supply them.

## Welcome to our Brood...

Roy Cox, Nathan Hendry, Wyvonne Hill, Chris Morgan, Cat Moutos, Ryan Nelson, Nathan Perkins, Steve Sullivan, Levi and Tim Wilson

## You're the Bee's Knees!

4/23 – Rachel Payne and family for stocking her observation hive and manning a booth for the Ellen Trout Zoo “Bears, Blooms, & Butterflies Earth Day” in Lufkin.

4/23, 30 – Member teamwork for our successful PBA Bee School class sessions:

Marie C. Kocyan – Organizing

Terry McFall – Hospitality/Registration/Instruction

Melony Jackson – Registration

Robert Jones – Slideshow Instruction

Cecil Hunt – Video Instruction/Demonstration

Bob Ham – Demonstration

Scott Martin – Instruction

Don Lymbery – Question & Answer

Rodger Floyd – Question & Answer

5/2 – Terry McFall for his presentation on “Honey Bees, Native Bees, and Pollination” to the Jasper Master Naturalists.

5/3 – Mike Bordelon for demonstrating how to make creamed honey and James and Cindy Dotson for demonstrating mead-making to the Deep East Texas Beekeepers Association.

### **Assorted Buzziness**

#### **PBA 2016 Bee School**

Our two class sessions are completed, and lastly will be the ever exciting hands-on bee yard practice at our Bee Yard Day to be held Saturday, May 21, at our PBA Moffett Apiary. Some limited protective gear will be available. Questions contact Marie C. Kocyan [redcutridge@yahoo.com](mailto:redcutridge@yahoo.com) 936-632-2272

In leading again this year's 2016 Bee School class time, we had a good time and success in bringing out the necessary things to these new bee students. We had many good question-and-answer times at each break with input from our veteran beekeepers. A special thanks to the following for being there: Cecil Hunt for computer and overhead viewer supplied with extra audio speakers and personal input, Terry Mc Fall for wireless mike, student packets, money collection, overhead teaching presentation, input, hive demonstrations, and donuts, coffee with goodies, Scott Martin for overhead teaching School Presentation, and input, Bob Ham for hive demonstrations and box/frame building practices, Don Lymbery for help and questions and answers during the school, Rodger Floyd for his long-time experience and diverse expert help with question and answers, as well as supplying queens and nucs for the students. There were others at times that were there that helped. I cannot recall everyone, but a big thanks to all them as well. We had 13 students along with 19 parents and auditing students so overall there were about 32 at the class. I again want to thank those who at the last minute took a part so Marie could be with her family. We hope to see many on the field day in Moffett and will be meeting at 10:00 am at the Agri-life center to trailer everyone to the Apiary on May 21, 2016. Again, a big thanks to everyone who sacrificed the time and made the effort to make this a good school. I had many good words from all of our students, with one lady who had attended other bee schools saying we were the best to date she had been to. I believe that is because we all have a love for the honey bee and give it our best at these events.

Thanks again to all,  
Robert M. Jones

#### **PBA 2016 Youth Program**

Note the Assembling Day scheduled for Saturday, May 7, is being postponed to a date to be announced. Youth in the program will be informed – be sure to attend the Bee School Bee Yard Day on Saturday, May 21!

### **Buy and Sell**

For sale: The rest of Claude Smithhart's equipment. Call Robert Jones at 936-240-6597.  
1 used full body suit with veil (size L)                      \$70 – used, but in perfect condition

5 cases (12 each) 32 oz. plastic jars	\$12 each – new, unused
14 sheets Duragilt with metal ends (5 5/8" x 16 7/8")	\$1 each – new, but old stock item
9 wax sheets (4.75"x16.5") (metal ends) 2 lbs.	\$17 – new but old stock item
same wax sheets without metal ends 2.5 lbs.	\$21 – new but old stock item
4 2-gal buckets with perforated lids	\$4 each – old, but usable

Robert Jones would like to thank all who purchased Claude Smithhart's equipment at the Bee School. "We don't have much left. Out of three pickup truck loads we have about a wheel barrow left. The total including the extractor was \$4080 that we will return to Mrs. Patti Smithhart. She was very grateful that new beekeepers had her late husband's equipment and thought that Claude would have been pleased with how it was dispersed. Our prayers continue with Patti and all his family."

Wanted: Jesuz Vasquez would like to buy several medium surplus honey supers. 409-594-4251 (cell)

Wanted: Pam Reader would like to buy honey by the gallon. 409-579-3232 (cell)

For sale: 2 hives of bees (both are 1 double and 2 medium supers and full of honey), over 22 empty hives, about 15 nets that go over hives, 2 sets of gloves, 1 mesh headset, 1 bee headset and jacket, smoker, and other misc items. On farm in Leon County, ~90 mi away. Would prefer to sell everything together and insists upon several jars of honey in pending transaction. \$500 for all. Wayne Robeson 214-846-7122 (lives in Nacogdoches)

For Sale: Varroa resistant caged mated Queens (\$18)available now and call to reserve 5 frame nuc of established bees and new queen in your box (\$90) available starting May 21; pick up in Groveton. Rodger Floyd 936-831-2818 evenings.

Beekeeping Supplies now available at Atwoods in Nacogdoches, Lone Star Farm & Home Center in Nacogdoches and Corrigan, Lufkin Farm Supply & Nursery in Lufkin, and Circle Three Feed in Jasper.

Ongoing bulk white granulated sugar source in Tyler – approx 35 cents/lb by the 55-gallon drum or smaller portions to your container. Les Jeske 903-561-2085 PM 4011 Birdwell Drive, Tyler 75703.


Another of our PBA members, Joe Henderson, passed February 2 from illness. Joe was an enthusiastic new beekeeper and called our beekeeping adviser Rodger Floyd often with questions and for inspection visits to his bee yard. We will miss Joe and his exuberance in caring for his honey bee colonies. <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/lufkindailynews/obituary.aspx?pid=177584858>



## What's Buzzing

The **American Beekeeping Federation** is offering a free membership to new members until Dec 31, 2016. From their website: "Our 2016 Complimentary Membership is free to anyone who has never been a member of ABF. You will receive electronic access to our educational webinars, discounted conference pricing, the monthly ABF E-Buzz, and much more!" <http://www.abfnet.org/>

Nicole Traub works with the Texas Invasive Species Institute at Sam Houston State University. They are working on a pollinator health research project with the USDA. They are trying to contact apiaries so they can collect small samples of honey bees to check for internal and external pests such as varroa mites and small hive beetles. They are also doing molecular work to see if the honey bees have hybridized with African honey bees. If you're interested in participating, please contact her at 936-294-2503 or [traub.nikki@shsu.edu](mailto:traub.nikki@shsu.edu). She or one of her colleagues will visit participating apiaries to collect the bees. The apiary owner would pull one frame and knock it against a plastic tub they would bring (pre-filled with ethanol to kill the bees and beetles and preserve them). They would take the bees back to their lab for dissection and quantification of beetles and mites. They aim to collect 100-150 bees from each hive sampled.




**TEXAS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION**

### Summer Clinic 2016

Saturday June 18th

Lone Star Convention & Expo Center  
9055 Airport Road, Conroe, TX 77303


**Building the Future of Beekeeping Through Education**



Featuring Guest Speaker:  
**Ross Conrad**

Author of: *Natural Beekeeping: Organic Approaches to Modern Apiculture*

Classes Available for ALL Levels of Beekeeping

<i>Bee Biology and Behavior</i> <i>Getting started with Beekeeping</i> <i>Pest Management (Varroa)</i> <i>Swarm Capture</i> <i>Top Bar Hives</i> <i>Making a business out of a hobby!</i> <i>Raising Queens</i> <i>Queen Breeding and Sperm Viability</i> <i>Drones</i> <i>Marketing your Honey</i> <i>And more...</i>	<i>Live Hive Inspection</i> <i>Honey Extraction</i> 
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Vendors and Exhibitors  
Selling and Displaying  
the Newest Innovative  
Beekeeping Supplies

Register at [texasbeekeepers.org](http://texasbeekeepers.org)  
\$50 per person, \$90 per couple, \$25 for age 15 and under  
(Includes Lunch)

## From the Hexagonal Office

by Mike Bordelon

May will be a very busy month with my presentations on making cream honey at the Bee Club in San Augustine on May 3, bee presentations for Shelby County Schools on May 6, and Center Intermediate on May 12 for Safety Day, as well as making "splits" presentation for the May PBA meeting. (I really appreciate the assistance of James Dotson in all these presentations.) Since our last meeting, Brian Yoder visited my bee yard several days ago. We went through a number of hives and found one with 6 queen cells on a "Miller" frame. We cut out 3 of them for his split. I also visited Chandra Atholi's yard, and we made 2 splits from his 3 hives.

President's Project – The long hive is 90% complete. It should be ready for bees in a week. The nuc I plan on using is from a hive that produced several queen cells on a frame I call a "Miller" frame. I will demo that at the upcoming bee club meeting.

## BEE AWARE FOR MAY

In the wild, bees build vertical combs that twist and weave in different directions horizontally. Brace combs (also called ladder combs or burr combs) are common in both managed and feral cells. Burr combs on top bars or attached to bottom bars will stick bee boxes together. Bees will store honey and

build drone cells in this burr comb. This burr comb should be removed on a regular basis. Ideally, all of the hive components should be scraped clear at least three times a year.

## Comb-Grown Goodness

### Blackberry Cupcakes with Honey

<http://familyspice.com/baking-with-honey-blackberry-honey-cupcakes/>

16 oz blackberries, frozen and thawed, divided  
14 oz cream cheese, softened  
8 oz butter, unsalted, softened  
1 ¼ cup honey, divided  
4 Tbsp amaretto  
1 ¾ cup all-purpose flour  
½ tsp baking soda  
1 tsp baking powder  
1/8 tsp salt  
½ cup butter, unsalted, softened  
½ tsp vanilla extract  
3 large eggs  
8 oz fresh blackberries



Prepare the frosting first and chill until ready to use: Place 8 oz thawed blackberries in a food processor with a metal blade; pulse until blackberries are puréed and smooth. Strain out as many seeds as possible. In the bowl of a stand mixer with whisk attachment, whisk together cream cheese and 8 oz butter until smooth and fluffy. Whisk in ½ c honey and 2 Tbsp amaretto until fully incorporated. Slowly whisk in the strained blackberry purée and whip until completely mixed. Transfer frosting to a pastry bag and refrigerate until ready to use.

Preheat oven to 325° and line two 24-cup mini muffin pans with liners. In a small pot over low heat, combine ¾ cup honey and 8 oz thawed blackberries. Heat mixture until honey is softened, about 5 minutes. Remove from heat and purée with an immersion blender.

In a medium-sized bowl, whisk together flour, baking soda, baking powder, and salt. In a stand mixer with a whisk attachment, whisk butter, 2 Tbsp amaretto, and vanilla extract until fluffy. Add eggs, beating after each addition. Alternate adding the flour mixture and the blackberry mixture until just combined, scraping down sides of the bowl between mixes. Divide batter evenly into prepared muffin pans. Bake until edges of the cupcakes are lightly golden, 17-20 mins. Cool cupcakes completely prior to frosting with chilled frosting. Top each cupcake with 1 fresh blackberry. Refrigerate cupcakes until ready to serve.

*Editor's note: If you've been picking as many blackberries as I have, you'll probably agree this is a great time to try this recipe!*



Central Texas Beekeeping School in Brenham: Terry McFall, Michelle and Scott Martin, and Melony, Jonathan, and Rebekah Jackson. Terry and Scott are participating in the Texas Master Beekeeper Program. Scott passed the Advanced level exam and Terry will take it this Fall.

Linda Bordelon's beekeeping display won a blue ribbon at the Special Educational Exhibits at the Center Garden Club's 50th Flower Show. She won the Horticulture Sweepstakes with 39 1st place entries, and the 3 Merit Awards given in Horticulture for her ornamental cabbage, peppermint sage, and LA Iris. Mike was helping a PBA member do splits while she was at the Flower Show. He came when he finished to talk to the public about bees.

Rachel Payne, with children Olivia and Jesse, took an observation hive and manned at a table at the Pineywoods Native Plant Center's Earth Day Celebration.

Ginger Lymbery made a "Welcome to Our Hive" plaque which was auctioned for our Youth Program and was sold to Linda Bordelon for a bid of \$100. It was a birthday gift for Mike, shown here in front of his honey kitchen.

