

The Bee Line

Pineywoods Beekeepers Association

Next meeting Thursday, May 13, 6:30 pm

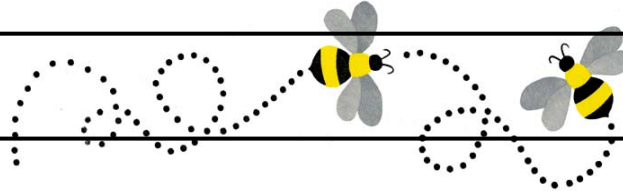
Angelina Co. Chamber of Commerce

1615 South Chestnut, Lufkin

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

Volume 21 Issue 5

May 2021



May Program

Karen Mitchell, our current PBA President, will tell us about the Layens hive, a horizontal hive developed by Georges de Layens.

Beverages: Ginny Aaron; Snacks: Karen Mitchell, Kenny Standridge

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.

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

Ginny & Izzy Aaron, Bazley family (Abby, Emma, Kara, and Kaylee Blair), Taylor Boyter Brandon Brewster, Robert Cain, Jennifer Crenshaw, Royce DuBose, Angela Farmer and family, Dustin & Chloe Fore, Jarrad Grumbles, Barner & Brenda Hooks, Kevin Langford, Jerry & Lacy Laurent, Brian & Amanda Lawson, Miki Lynn, Lanny Marshall, Joe Messimer, John Nichols, Richard Peters, Donald & Janey Phillips, Kyla Philpott, Crawford Powell, Jeff Rab, Caleb & Lauren Stacy, Ronnie & Aubrey Thompson

You're the Bee's Knees!

2021 Bee School – Thank you to Janet Haney, Robert Jones, Steven Josephsen, Mike and Joanie Kochanek, Karen Mitchell, and Ryan Nelson for teaching and helping on the first two days of Bee School.

Rachel Payne took her observation hive to talk to a group of homeschoolers at Caddo Mounds State Historic Site (4/28) and at Pecan Park (5/3), and had a group visit her bee yard (5/7).

Assorted Buzziness

Jeremy Thomas from KTRE did a piece on our Bee School and Youth Program. He got some footage from Robert Jones' beehive and interviewed a couple of our Youth Program participants.

https://www.ktre.com/2021/04/24/east-texas-teens-learn-ins-outs-beekeeping/?fbclid=IwAR2NFivRUj5qnInyP_GZqGdMRHKj9wJvBL6eEg5ssTHfHHe9SHmg2tPu400

2021 PBA Officers

Talk to Joanie Kochanek or another Board member if you're interested in filling a position.

Bee helpful and volunteer! PBA has the opportunity 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 Payne for further details. texasbeegirl@gmail.com 936-715-0362

What's Buzzing

Wax moth control – At our April meeting, there was some discussion about wax moth control. Here are some highlights of an article Robert Jones dug up.

<https://www.clemson.edu/extension/beekeepers/fact-sheets-publications/wax-moth-ipm-publication.html>

- preventive cultural practices – maintain strong and healthy colonies, high bee-to-comb ratio, extract honey within two days of removing supers, prevent brood storage in honey supers as small amounts of pollen and cast larval skins are more attractive to wax moths than cells that have just held honey, place wet supers only on strong colonies for clean-up
- genetic control – keep bees that have been selected for resistance to disease and other pests, keep bees selected for hygienic behavior
- mechanical control – homemade traps (One version uses a 2-liter clear soda bottle with lid secured. A 1.25-inch (3.2 cm) diameter hole should be cut in the side of the bottle just below the shoulder of the neck. The ingredients for the bottle trap include one cup white vinegar, one cup granulated sugar, one cup water, and one banana peel. The bottle should be set aside a few days until the contents begin to ferment after which the bottle should be suspended a few feet off the ground using wire or string making a noose opposite the side of the entrance hole. Wax moth adults will be attracted by the trap contents and will enter the bottle entrance and die because they are unable to escape.)
- physical control – Be careful storing supers of drawn comb. Some options:
Freeze the comb, allow it to thaw in a wax moth free room til dry, then store in tightly sealed bags.
Store supers or frames by wire from the roof or rafters of a room which has good light and ventilation.
Store in a building with open air windows and ceiling covered with hardware cloth to exclude bees and wax moths. Stack supers of drawn comb with at least one inch between supers.

- biological control – *Bacillus thuringiensis* (subspecies *aizawai*) is formulated to kill young wax moth larvae as they attempt to feed on comb and must be used as a preventive before combs are infested. It leaves no residue on comb and it is harmless to bees and humans. Sold under trade name Certan. Mix one part Certan to 19 parts water. Spray both sides of every frame (1 oz for deep frame, 2/3 oz for medium frame). Allow to dry before placing in storage. Solution must be used the same day it's mixed. One application gives protection in stored comb until the next season.
- chemical control – paradichlorobenzene (PDB) crystals. Stack up to 5 supers, taping any cracks. Place 3-4 T crystals on a piece of paper or cardboard on top of frames of top super with a lid to cover the stack. Replenish as needed. Let supers air out a day or two before placing on colonies.

Apparently, Bt is not harmful to honey bees. Here are a couple of articles regarding that.

<https://www.beeeculture.com/catch-the-buzz-bt-pesticide-has-no-effect-on-honey-bees/>

https://entomology.umd.edu/uploads/4/4/1/3/44130801/bee_nto_paper.pdf

Links from last month's presentation on swarms & bait hives

- **5-frame nuc box** – These are great for capturing swarms.

<https://www.beesource.com/threads/build-it-yourself-equipment-plans-in-pdf-format.367102/>

Scroll down to "5 Frame Nuc – D. Coates Version"

- **Bait hive** – Bait hives should be about 40L in volume, equivalent to an 8-frame deep hive body.

<https://cmcba.net/downloads/SWARMTRAPDETAILSYT2018.pdf>

5/29 – BuzzFest at BeeWeaver, Navasota, 11am – 3pm. \$5 per person, children 3 and under are free. An interactive honey bee festival. Bee experts from all over Texas will be on hand to help teach and thrill you with all the honey bee blitz humanly possible! This year's theme is Health & Happiness. Venom therapy, honey, pollen, and beeswax pros will be ready to share their expertise. Tasting and sipping hall, WildFlyer Mead taps, Food Trucks, live hive events, waterslide, dunking booth and MORE!

<https://beeweaver.com/buzzfest/>

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>

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.

- 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/>

Buy and Sell

For sale: 5-frame nucs installed in your box, \$175. All have freshly mated 2021 queens. Bob Love 936-366-0033 bobhunts2@yahoo.com

Wanted: Ricky Goleman would like for someone to put beehives on his land in Huntington. 936-404-2856

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

Wanted: Trinity Smith is interested in buying a queen, drone, and worker for preservation. Perhaps you have a queen who's about to be...ahem...retired? He's also 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

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

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 Spurger, 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

May is the first time you will be able to possibly extract excess honey. On colonies that have the extra bee resources, you will see excess only if the weather allows for it. Too much rain means that no extra resource will be there. If there is extreme drought, the resources will not be there. Rainfall, along with warm days, are essential to good nectar flows. The warmer the days, the better the nectar flow will be and the cooler the days, the slower the nectar flow will be. Either too much or too little rain and the nectar production will be low.

Always prepare for the flow by knowing the traditional days it starts and stops. Keep a watch on these seasonal plants to be sure of the actual timing of the nectar production. This will keep you ahead on supers.

The mid to the last week of May starts the last big nectar flow of the Tallow, which is the largest nectar flow in Deep East Texas. This flow will end in the third week of June. It flows a very long time and produces the majority of what we extract.

This is a good time to have new foundation pulled and extra honey captured. The plan is still not to get behind on adding your supers. Swarms will continue during this heavy nectar time. Continue to feed small growing hives for brood production.

Comb-Grown Goodness

JUN Tea (Kombucha brewed with honey instead of sugar)

<https://www.kombuchakamp.com/jun-tea-recipe-flavoring-continuous-brew>

1 gallon purified or bottled chlorine-free water

4-6 tea bags or 4-6 teaspoons loose leaf green tea

1 cup honey

SCOBY

1-2 cups strong starter liquid, aka well-fermented Kombucha
fruit, juice, flowers, or other flavorings (optional)



1. Boil 4 cups (1 liter) of purified water.
2. Add hot water & tea bags to pot or brewing vessel.
3. Steep 7-15 minutes, then remove tea bags.
4. Add sugar and stir to dissolve.
5. – If the vessel is empty, add 2-3 quarts of purified water, then add the hot tea solution. (*adding cold water first helps keep the vessel from heating up*)
or
– If the sweet tea was made in the vessel, then simply add 2-3 quarts of purified water.
NOTE: The amount of water added depends on vessel size. If exactly one gallon or a little smaller, then leave enough space for the culture, starter liquid & 1-2 inches from the top for breathing room. If your vessel is larger than one gallon, add no more than 3 quarts of cold water to the 1 quart of hot sweet tea.
6. Check to make sure the sweet tea is body temperature or below. A clean finger is the perfect tool!
7. Once it is, add SCOBY and starter liquid.
8. Cover with cloth cover and rubber band or a custom brewer cap.
9. Say a prayer, send good vibes, commune with your culture (optional but recommended).
10. Place the container in a warm, ventilated area out of direct sunlight for 7- 21 days (depends on taste). 75-85°F is the best range, 80°F is ideal. It may or may not get fizzy. The SCOBY may rise to the top or sink to the bottom, doesn't matter, the new culture will always form at the top.
11. After 7 days, or when you are ready to taste your KT, gently insert a straw beneath the SCOBY and take a sip. If too tart, then reduce your brewing cycle next time. If too sweet, allow to brew for a few more days. Continue to taste every day or so until you reach your optimum flavor preference. Your own Kombucha Recipe may vary.
12. Set aside your SCOBY(s) and starter liquid (2 cups if possible) for the next batch from the top of the current brew. You may put them in any vessel or a SCOBY hotel.
13. Decant & flavor your kombucha (optional).

Editor's note: I have Jun SCOBYs I can share, as well as "regular" kombucha SCOBYs.



Youth Program participant Izzy Gima-Aaron helped her mom capture a swarm on the first day of Bee School. The Youth assembled their boxes and frames - Kara Bazley had something come up, but sisters Abby and Emma and Kaylee Blair were there, along with Kaylee's daughter Ember, who helped by sorting top bars and bottom bars.

We had over 30 students at Bee School this year!