

The Bee Line

Pineywoods Beekeepers Association

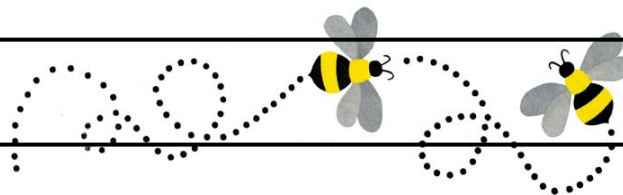
Next Meeting Thursday, September 12, 6:30 pm

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church

919 S John Redditt Dr, Lufkin

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

Volume 19 Issue 9



September 2019

Jordyn Stoehr, one of our PBA Youth Program participants, will share her experiences in the bee yard this past year. In addition, PBA member Rodger Floyd will talk about his role as her mentor. If you know a youngster who's interested in beekeeping or think you might like to be a mentor, this is NOT the month to miss!

Beverages: Karen Mitchell; Snacks: Joe Moran, Aaron and Christi Diggins

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 to our Brood...

Jim Carpenter, Trevor & Cassandra Dallas-Orr, Aaron & Christi Diggins, Jay & Patricia Jelinek, Sheila Long

You're the Bee's Knees!

8/1 – Rachel Payne presented “Beauty and the Bees: Mathematics in the Apiary” to the East Texas Beekeepers Association in Whitehouse.

8/26 – Robert Jones spoke to the bee club in Kirbyville.

Assorted Buzziness

We'll be voting on the **2020 Board of Directors** at November's meeting. The Nominating Committee will be chaired by Immediate Past President Mike Kochanek. If you're interested in serving on the Board, please contact Mike at mikekochanek44@gmail.com.

We still need a volunteer to help with the **hospitality bin** (set up about half an hour before meetings, take down after, and take bin home). If interested, contact Marie Kocyan at redcutridge@yahoo.com or 936-632-2272.

PBA Member Request - Trinity Smith, PBA member and student at Blinn College, is doing a project that he plans to get published – an anthropological perspective study on beekeeping. His topics include different methods (including, but not limited to, hive type, extracting methods, pest/disease control) and how they vary from region to region, even abroad. He would like to know about your practices, particularly if your family has several generations of beekeepers. Do you have family members who do things a certain way and only that way, and why? Please send all responses to him at tss.honeybees@gmail.com and let him know whether it's ok to include your name in his study.

What's Buzzing

9/7 – **Brazos Valley Bee School**, 7:30am – 5:30pm, College Station. \$70 per person, \$125 per couple, \$15 for kids ages 12-17. Lunch included (beef & chicken fajitas with all the fixin's catered by J. Cody's of Bryan, TX). Additional information at the following site:

https://www.bvbeeks.org/events/bee-school/?fbclid=IwAR3i0g_d2UHVQKR2XIUhi2_Owzggf7k7Swz56Sx8yG0uM-G2bJfXX43eJdo

9/7 – 9/21 – **Pollinator Partnership's 3rd Annual Mite-A-Thon**. Participants will monitor the level of mites (number of mites per 100 bees) using a standardized protocol utilizing two common methods of assessment (alcohol wash or powdered sugar roll) and then enter data, including location, total number of hives, number of hives tested, local habitat, and the number of *Varroa* mites counted from each hive. The published information will not identify individual participants. For more information or to view previous Mite-A-Thon reports, visit <https://www.pollinator.org/miteathon>

9/27 – 10/20 – **State Fair of Texas**. John Talbert created a Facebook page for the TBA State Fair Booth & Creative Arts Show to expand information to the local clubs about the TBA State Fair of Texas event.

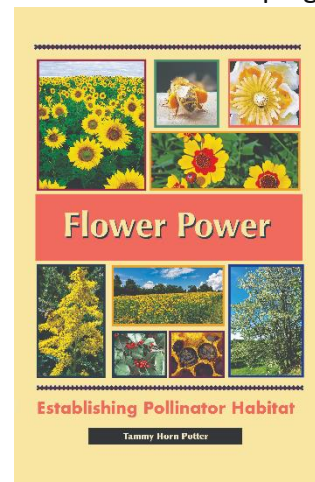
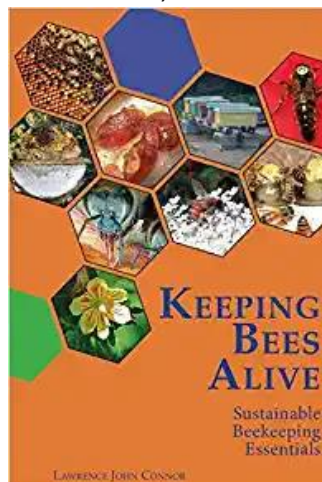
https://www.facebook.com/TexasBeekeepersAssociation/?hc_location=group

11/7 – 11/9 – **Texas Beekeepers Association Annual Convention**, San Antonio. More details coming. Full conference \$125 for TBA members (\$160 for non-members) by Nov 6. Prices increase after Nov 6.

<https://texasbeekeepers.org/>

Keeping Bees Alive: Sustainable Beekeeping Essentials by Dr. Lawrence John Connor. Dr. Connor has written several books and dozens of articles. In his newest book, he discusses sustainable beekeeping, looking at the causes of colony loss and detailing how to keep colony numbers stable and growing. He also reviews concepts of biodynamic beekeeping.

Flower Power: Establishing Pollinator Habitat by Tammy Horn Potter. Chronicles one person's "leap of faith" toward long-term land management that blends forestry, politics, energy industries, and apiculture.



Upcoming events – opportunities to share your love of bees and beekeeping. If interested in helping, contact Rachel Payne at 936-715-0362 or rachelpayne519@yahoo.com

9/28 – Nacogdoches Farmers Market Fall Fling, 9am – 2pm. Variety of children’s activities and shopping.

Buy and Sell

For sale: Bee signs (examples below), up to 2’x2’. Price varies. Joe Moran leathercraft45@yahoo.com or 936-671-0660



For sale: New Dadant bee blower. Retail for \$575, asking \$400. Would take less if a nuc or two is included. Paul Nicoletto pfn1911@hotmail.com or 409-679-2717

For sale: New XXL ventilated bee suit, \$80. Billy Mack Lovelady 903-363-3821 rockinl5123@yahoo.com

For sale: **PBA honey**. Funds support PBA educational programs. 12-oz bears \$6, 1.5 lb pint \$12, 3 lb quart \$20. Contact Rachel Payne at rachelpayne519@yahoo.com or 936-715-0362

Beekeeping supplies are 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 Hemphill and Lufkin, Fairmount Lumber & Hardware in Hemphill. 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

September is another normally hot month but proves to be a transition time from no nectar flow to the fall weed flow at about the third week of the month in Deep East Texas.

The last queens and splits should be finalized and completed before the third week. Anything that is bad or not quite right should be remedied by removal of the queen. You only want good thriving queens going into this final phase before wintertime.

Complete all evaluations of every hive and be satisfied with your evaluations. The last look will come at the end of the weed honey flow and you may need to stack together some more supers at that time.

Get an extra super on everything before the third week to capture 40 to 60 lbs of honey for wintering for every hive. The resources and the number of bees going into the winter will decide if they make it or not through the coming winter. Every hive, at a minimum, will need a medium honey super, or at best, an extra deep super to have enough resources. This should be your goal for every hive.

Beekeepers to the Rescue!

By Joanie Kochanek

When TX Master Naturalist Lori Horne received a call from Martin Dies State Park Manager Pablo Ramirez about bees in a tree at a campsite, she contacted Joanie Kochanek, also a Master Naturalist. Joanie and husband Mike are beekeepers who live close to Martin Dies. The Texas Master Naturalists provide volunteers for various park projects and activities throughout the year. After Mike and Joanie drove over to see the hive, they realized more experience was necessary for this task! Terry McFall, longtime PBA member and TBA Master Beekeeper, was contacted. After viewing the large beautiful hive hanging from branches, he quickly came up with a viable plan to retrieve it, rather than destroy it. Pablo arranged a hydraulic lift for their use, as the hive was about 15' up.



On Tuesday, July 30, 2019, Terry, Mike, and Joanie arrived at the park with bee gear and equipment needed. As thunderstorms were forecast for the day, they knew this had to be accomplished fairly quickly. They all got prepared with bee jackets and gloves. With Pablo operating the bucket lift, up Terry went, first time in a bucket! This was an established large hive, with delicate combs and bees just hanging from two limbs in a fork. Each comb had to be carefully sliced off of the tree with a knife, and placed into a tote, lowered down and then put into frames and a box. With honey dripping, bees getting angry, Mike and Joanie heard an occasional “ouch” from the bucket, knowing poor Terry was bearing the brunt of the bees’ ire. Several park visitors, in awe of such a sight, watched from a long distance. Terry and Mike then worked on transferring the brood comb into frames, carving it to fit, held

together with rubber bands. Luckily, the queen bee was spotted by Joanie, caught, later placed in the box. After about 3 hours of work, Joanie and Mike transported the hive to their bee yard. A little bit of honey was saved, and they have called it "572 honey," the campsite number. Beautiful honey, although a bit of a smoky taste. And Park Ranger Amy Kocurek received pieces of comb for the Nature Center. Whether the bees will stay in their new home will remain to be seen. Quite an adventure!



Comb-Grown Goodness

Ginger Lemon Soda

Bee Culture, November 2015

- ¼ c grated fresh ginger
- 1 medium lemon, thinly sliced, plus more for serving
- 1 c boiling water
- 1/3 c honey
- Ice cubes
- 3 c soda water

Place ginger and lemon slices in heatproof bowl. Pour boiling water over and let steep for 15 min. Strain into pitcher and stir in honey. Add ice cubes and top with soda water. Garnish with extra lemon slices. Serves 4.