

The Bee Line

Pineywoods Beekeepers Association

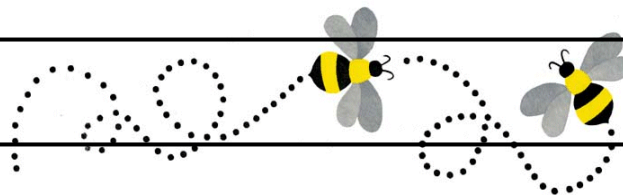
Next meeting February 13, 6:30 pm

Lufkin VFW Post 1836

1800 Ford Chapel Road, Lufkin

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

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February 2025

February Program

PBA Apiary Manager Ricky Davis will give an introductory lesson in queen rearing. Raising your own queens can save you money and allow you to propagate the traits of your favorite queens. Sharing queen cells provides a convenient means of adding genetic diversity to fellow beekeepers' apiaries.

Assorted Buzziness

2025 dues are now due! \$15 e-mail membership or \$20 postal membership, per family. Pay at the meeting or send a check or money order (payable to Pineywoods Beekeepers Association) to Treasurer Mike Hartman, PO Box 536, Lufkin, 75902.

Now is a good time to renew your Texas Beekeepers Association membership, as well as your subscriptions to *The American Bee Journal* and *Bee Culture* magazines. Here are the links you'll need:

<https://texasbeekeepers.org/>

<https://www.dadant.com/catalog/books-subscriptions/american-bee-journal/us-delivery>

<https://www.beeculture.com/magazine/>

2025 Bee School will be held February 15th and 22nd (classroom) and March 1st (bee yard). At the time of this publication, we have 15 students.

What's Buzzing

Earth Day at the Zoo - Debbie Pope is in charge of a booth and wants to talk about pollinators. She's looking for "someone who can give a demonstration of the process the bees go through." This will be a Saturday in April, date to be determined. You can reach her at 936-240-5624 or dfpope55@gmail.com.

Andrena androfovea is a new bee species discovered in Texas and Oklahoma.

<https://www.texasstandard.org/stories/new-bee-species-texas-oklahoma-andrena-androfovea/>

Roy Stark (Kirbyville) has 15 nucs for sale. \$200 each, or \$175 if you bring 5 frames to swap. Next spring, he'll release a new line of queens for sale, "Texas Pride Queens." They're a mix of Italian and Russian

VSH bees that he's been working on for 10 years. Each nuc includes a Texas Pride Queen. roystark52@gmail.com or 409-423-0263

At-Home Beekeeping Series presented by the Lawrence Co. Alabama Extension Office. 6:30-7:30pm. Recordings from this series are available **for only two weeks** after each session on the Lawrence County Alabama Extension Office Facebook page. <https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/bees-pollinators/at-home-beekeeping-series/>

2025 Dates and Topics

February 25 — Honeybee Nutrition

Priya Chakrabarti Basu, Mississippi State University

March 25 — Colony Losses in the United States of America

Geoff Williams, Auburn University

April 29 — Honeybee Nest Architecture

Michael Smith, Auburn University

May 27 — TBD

Melanie Kirby, Institute of American Indian Arts

June 24 — TBD

Liz Walsh, United States Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service

Seasonal Tips

Robert Jones

February is normally another mixed cold winter month. In Deep East Texas, below freezing cold days or weeks can be followed by a day or week of warming. The idea is still to keep that feeder full for each colony. Failing to do so could lose the hive. The earliest honey producing flows will come this month in the first to third week from the May-haws in the rivers and streams of Deep East Texas along with fruit trees (peaches, apples, blueberries). Even though this early resource is there, do not stop feeding. Some of the most extreme and devastating deep cold freezes happen in this month while the hive is trying to expand.

Two things you may notice during this month are colony loss from long freezing cold periods and dead bee larvae dumped out front of the hive porch. This should be the hardest month for survival for the colony. At the end of the month, hives should be inspected for the presence of drones. This is the time for deciding when to set up cell building colonies. Without the presence of plenty of drones there is no need to make a queen building colony. This is the key factor one would look for to set the builders and do the grafting.

Traditionally in Deep East Texas, builders are set up the last week of February into the first week of March. If you medicate your colonies, the end of this month on a warm day would be the best time to do so.

Comb-Grown Goodness

Honey Lemonade

<https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/282122/honey-lemonade/>

3 ½ cups water, divided

1 cup honey

1 ½ cups lemon juice

Combine 1 cup water and honey in a saucepan over medium heat; cook, stirring constantly, until well combined. Remove from heat; cool 15 to 20 minutes. Transfer cooled honey syrup to a pitcher. Add remaining 2 1/2 cups water and lemon juice; stir to combine. Taste and adjust accordingly.



Spicy Honey-Peanut Baked Chicken Thighs

<https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/272350/spicy-honey-peanut-baked-chicken-thighs/>

4 bone-in chicken thighs

1/4 teaspoon salt, or more to taste

1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper, or more to taste

6 tablespoons powdered peanut butter

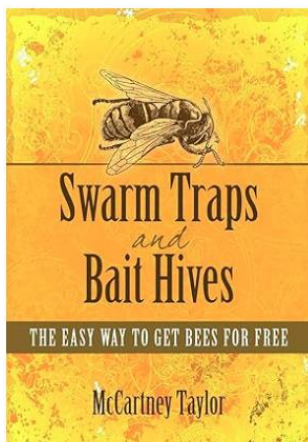
4 tablespoons water

2 teaspoons hot honey

1/2 tablespoon soy sauce

1/8 teaspoon garlic powder

Season chicken thighs on both sides with salt and pepper. Mix peanut butter powder and water together in a large bowl until fully incorporated. Stir in hot honey, soy sauce, and garlic powder; mix until well combined. Add chicken thighs and turn in marinade, making sure both sides are well coated. Cover bowl and refrigerate 8 hours to overnight. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Transfer chicken thighs to an oven-proof dish. Bake in the preheated oven until chicken is no longer pink at the bone and the juices run clear, 35 to 45 minutes.



This is the book Don Lybery mentioned at our last meeting. It's a small book and quick read, but it has good information.