

The Bee Line

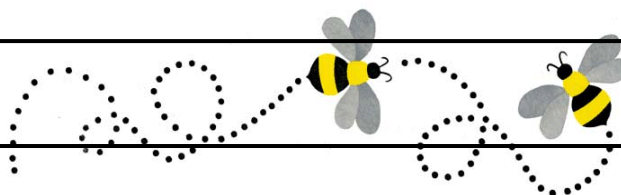
Pineywoods Beekeepers Association

Next meeting Thursday, February 11, 6:30 pm

Your home

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

Volume 21 Issue 2



February 2021

February Program

When to feed, what to feed, what about pollen substitute? More colonies are lost in February and March than any other time. What about varroa mite control? Getting supplies and equipment fixed up, painted, and ready. These are some of the topics that will be discussed at our February Zoom meeting.

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84934465256?pwd=YVBZWUNJMKhCTmplc2NiS2swR095QT09>

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

Meeting ID: 849 3446 5256

Password: 211692

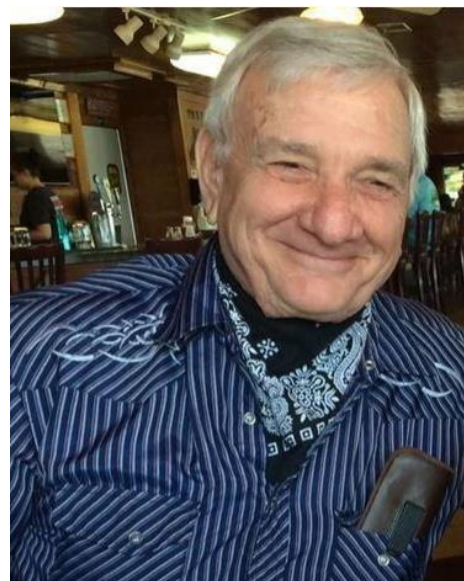
Welcome to our Brood...

Miki Lynn, Mary & Chris Steely, Patrick & Rebecca Wilson

With sadness, we announce the passing of Lloyd Duplant on January 4th. I didn't learn about it soon enough to include it in our January newsletter. Mr. Duplant was a PBA member for a while, though not currently. (He used a machine with his voicebox to allow him to speak, if that helps you place him.) He attended meetings at other clubs and gave bee presentations to various groups in Hemphill.

There will be a memorial service with military honors at the VFW Hall in Hemphill when it is safe to gather, due to Covid restrictions. Date to be determined. Our sympathy goes out to Paula and their family.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/lloyd-duplant-obituary?pid=197456509>



Assorted Buzziness

The Board will be meeting after our February meeting. Some items that will be discussed are a return to face-to-face meetings and plans for Bee School. Board meetings are open to all members.

What's Buzzing

2/20 – **Attack of the Murder Hornets** premieres on discovery+. The documentary follows beekeepers and scientists as they attempt to track down a nest of Asian giant hornets. Ted McFall, son of PBA Treasurer Terry McFall, is one of the beekeepers featured. <https://www.discovery.com/dnews/murder-hornets-are-subject-of-upcoming-discovery--documentary->

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.

- February 23 – **Understanding and Integrating Honey Bee Nutritional Ecology Into Beekeeping Practices**
 - Pierre Lau, Texas A & M University
- March 30 – **Behavioral Resistance to *Varroa***
 - Jennifer Tsuruda, University of Tennessee
- 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/>

The Rangel Honey Bee Lab at Texas A&M University is conducting a student-organized survey to better understand how COVID-19 has impacted Texas and Louisiana beekeepers. The purpose of this survey is to identify what beekeeping practices, operations, and/or available learning opportunities have been most impacted by the pandemic in 2020 and into 2021. By identifying what aspects of beekeeping have been impacted by COVID-19, their goal is to help the industry determine what solutions can be applied in the future to mitigate these issues.

They invite backyard, sideliner, and commercial beekeepers with any level of experience to participate in this study. The survey is very short and should only take about 5-10 minutes to complete. You must be a beekeeper and be 18 years or older in order to participate. All survey responses are anonymous, and no personal information is tied to an individual's response. These survey results will be compiled and analyzed for a future publication by their lab.

The survey can be found and completed at: <https://forms.gle/DTdGggPDpDbuAZwQ7>

If you want to participate and have questions or comments regarding this study, please contact them at: tamuhoneybeesurvey@gmail.com.

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

Registration begins February 22nd. 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/>

Buy and Sell

Wanted: Mary Steely needs to relocate a hive from a meter box and is looking for a free/loaner/cheap box to put bees in. She's located in Grapeland. 903-948-7858 marykay.steely@yahoo.com

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

Wanted: Trinity Smith has moved 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. tss.honeybees@gmail.com

Wanted: Jay Jelinek is 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. Ready mid March. Jason Yankie 936-465-4340 jyankie@yahoo.com

For sale: 2021 Floyd bees ~ Varroa-resistant queen cells, \$4, start 3/11 for a few days through weekend. 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 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, Lufkin Farm Supply & Nursery in Lufkin, 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

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

Chocolate, Coconut, and Almond Bars with “Caramel” Filling

<https://www.vitacost.com/blog/chocolate-coconut-almond-bars-with-caramel-filling/>

Almond Bar Base

17-20 dates, pitted
1 cup unsweetened shredded coconut
½ cup raw almonds
¼ cup water
1 Tbsp. honey

“Caramel” Filling

¼ cup almond butter
13-15 dates, pitted
¼ cup honey

Dark Chocolate Topping

½ cup dark cocoa powder or carob powder
¼ cup coconut oil, melted
¼ cup honey



Editor's note: I think I've shared this recipe before, but it's so good it needs to be shared again.

Line an 8x8 pan with parchment paper. Set aside. In a food processor, pulse all base ingredients until pieces are small, chunky bits. Pour base mixture into the prepared pan. Evenly press layer into pan; set aside. In the food processor, pulse all “caramel” ingredients until almost smooth and pour mixture evenly on top of base layer; set aside. In a small bowl, mix chocolate topping ingredients until well combined. Pour into pan, evenly covering caramel layer. Place pan in freezer for 30 minutes. To serve, cut into individual slices.

Homemade Dark Chocolate Honey Mints

<https://coconutsandkettlebells.com/homemade-dark-chocolate-honey-mints/>

Honey Mint Filling:

2 tsp coconut oil

4 tsp raw honey

1/2 tsp peppermint oil

Homemade Magic Shell:

1/3 cup cacao powder (or cocoa powder)

1/3 cup coconut oil



For magic shell, heat coconut oil on the stove or in a glass bowl in the microwave. Once the coconut oil is liquid, gently “fold” the cacao powder into the coconut oil until well combined. To make mints, get a 12-cup mini muffin pan, and carefully spoon out 1/2 tsp magic shell into each cup. Chocolate should lightly coat the bottom. Once chocolate is in each cup, lightly “swirl” the chocolate around so that it comes up the side of each cup. Put pan in the freezer. Remove tray from freezer, and spoon 1/2 tsp honey filling into each cup. Try to lightly “press” the honey down with the back of the teaspoon so that it lays somewhat flat in the cup. Return tray to freezer. After about 5-10 minutes, remove tray from freezer and spoon remaining homemade magic shell in each cup so that honey is completely covered. Cups will be between 1/2 and 2/3 full. Put tray back in freezer until chocolate sets (about 10 minutes.) Store in freezer.



Joanie Kochanek took these pictures of bees visiting her camellia blossoms.