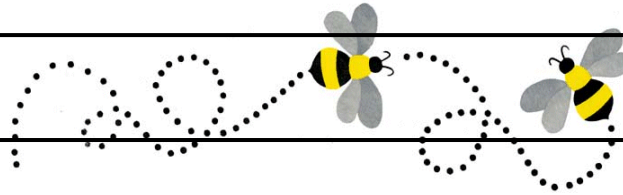


# The Bee Line

**Pineywoods Beekeepers Association**  
Next meeting Thursday, March 11, 6:30 pm  
Your home  
<https://www.pineywoodsbeekeepers.org/>

Volume 21 Issue 3

March 2021



## March Program

Kacy Cole, manager of the Paris branch of Dadant, will talk about the equipment a new (or possibly a more seasoned) beekeeper needs. He'll also discuss what to expect in the bee yard in the next few months.

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86720967726?pwd=OC9JSmVpS0xidHhoTVBhRHFFbXRNUT09>

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

Meeting ID: 867 2096 7726

Password: 156002

## Assorted Buzziness

### 2021 Bee School and Youth Program

We're making plans! Tentative dates are April 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>. We're waiting on confirmation, so mark your calendar in pencil. You'll get an e-mail as soon as we have firm dates, and it will include information you can print and/or e-mail to family or friends. We'll also be accepting applications for our Youth Program. This is a great opportunity for youngsters aged 12 to 19 to get started in beekeeping, but it means we'll need mentors. If you're willing to serve as a mentor, let Rachel know as soon as possible. (Include your area and how many students you're willing to mentor.)

[texasbeegirl@gmail.com](mailto:texasbeegirl@gmail.com)

## What's Buzzing

**Congratulations to Justin Daniel!** He passed the Apprentice Level exam of the Texas Master Beekeeper Program. (There's a link to info about the TMBP on the next page.)

**Texas Bee Supply** offers education as well as supplies. Join their mailing list to receive monthly tips and a monthly magazine by e-mail. You'll find a variety of videos on their website. They also have a live monthly webinar. <https://texasbeesupply.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. Ready mid March. Jason Yankie 936-465-4340 [jyankie@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto: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

March normally sees a warming trend along with the blooming of many wildflowers and plants across Deep East Texas.

Expect early dewberry bloom, sweet clover, hairy vetch, dutch/red clovers with the ending of the month seeing hawthorn, Yaupon holly, black locust, and other early-flowering bushes and trees.

This is the month for grafting, cell building, splits, early swarms, and the first hive supers added at the end of the month. Keeping bees is really a type of farming. Each and every year you will see winter losses. This month is the time to regain those losses by splitting your hives. There are actually two main reasons to split; hive loss replacement and swarm control. This can be done by the purchase of queen cells or live queens. If you have the understanding of the cell builder, queen bee calendar, and know-how to graft, you can do your own.

You can also do this by natural splits made from making a hive queenless and the bees making emergency queen cells or looking for hives that have swarm cells and using those cells also for making splits. The main idea is to propagate new queens and hives to the level you intend to keep. Swarm cells can be friends or enemies according to how you intend to manage your colonies.

When the first honey flow starts, it is natural that the bee colonies that are strong want to propagate and split. This, added to hive crowding, along with early weeks of stormy spring weather, is a catalyst for swarm cell building. Since we cannot control the weather we move to what we can control. With colony crowding, if you can keep a colony always building and never crowded, you have some hopes of keeping your old queen out of the trees along with half the hive. Putting supers on ahead of the colony growth is one key factor in stopping over-crowding.

The other is to keep the nest mixed up by checkerboarding (putting in foundation frames) just in and around the nest area. This manipulation keeps the bees rebuilding the nest and away from building queen cells. The last control method is to replace the old queen with a new one. New queens will not normally swarm in their first year of service.

The main goal for this month is maintaining or expanding your apiary. The rule that we should use for feeding is to feed up to the time of supering a colony with honey supers. New starts should always be fed to support hive expansion with more brood.

### **Comb-Grown Goodness**

*I dug up these recipes after having lost power for 9 days during Snowmageddon. You can make candles for the next power outage or to simply give as gifts. Lotion would also make a nice gift, especially during the cold months when hands tend to be chapped. (Mine were pretty bad from all the dishwashing when we couldn't run the dishwasher.)*

### **Beeswax Candles**

<https://wellnessmama.com/76597/beeswax-candles/>

- 1 lb pure filtered beeswax
- 1/2 cup coconut oil
- 3 half-pint canning jars
- 60 ply cotton braided wick #4 cut into 6 inch pieces

A metal pitcher (or an empty coffee can)  
pot large enough to fit your pitcher to use as a double boiler  
bamboo skewers



1. Place beeswax in pitcher or coffee can.
2. Put the pitcher in the pot and fill with enough water to come up the outside of the pitcher without spilling into the pitcher. The water will eventually boil so you don't want to fill it so high that the water bubbles into the pitcher.
3. Bring the water to a boil and then keep it at a gentle boil until all of the beeswax has melted.
4. While the beeswax is melting, prepare the wicks by cutting 3-4 pieces 6 inches long. I was able to fill 3 candles by filling just to the bottom of the threads on the jar but it is not a bad idea to have an extra wick ready just in case.
5. Once the beeswax is completely melted, remove from heat and add the coconut oil. Stir gently with a bamboo skewer until the coconut oil is melted and incorporated.
6. Pour a small amount of wax into the bottom of each jar so that there is about a half-inch at the bottom. Return the pitcher to the hot water to keep the wax melted.
7. Place a wick down into the wax in the center of each jar. You can use a skewer to make sure it is placed correctly by pushing down the wick and holding it there for a few minutes.
8. Let the wax cool until it is solid enough to hold the wick in place, approximately 5-10 minutes.
9. Wrap the top end of the wick around a bamboo skewer until it is taut with the skewer resting across the top of the jar. You might need to use a small piece of tape to keep the wick from slipping off of the skewer.

10. Hold onto the skewer and pour remaining melted wax into each jar. Leave about an inch of space at the top.
11. Reposition the skewer holding the wick as needed so that it is in the center of the jar.
12. Let cool completely! This can take several hours but it is best to leave them over night.
13. Trim the wick to about 1/2 inch. Do not trim any shorter than this because this will make a smaller flame and it is more likely the candle will tunnel. After you light the candle, if it is flickering wildly or smoking, simply blow it out, trim the wick a bit more and re-light.
14. During the first burn keep your candle lit for at least 2.5 hours and preferable until the entire surface has melted.

*Editor's note: The recipe author experimented with all-beeswax candles and two blends (one with palm shortening and one with coconut oil). She found that the version with coconut oil did best - it burned a long time without tunneling.*

### **Non-Greasy Homemade Lotion**

<https://www.deliciousobsessions.com/2014/06/lightweight-non-greasy-homemade-lotion-recipe/>

- 1/2 cup distilled water
- 1/2 cup pure aloe vera gel
- 1/2 cup grated beeswax or beeswax pastilles
- 1/4 cup fractionated coconut oil (can sub virgin coconut oil or refined coconut oil)
- 1/4 cup jojoba oil (sweet almond or grapeseed oil also work)
- 1 tsp Vitamin E oil or rosemary extract
- 16 drops essential oils (your choice)

Combine water and aloe vera gel in a separate bowl or measuring cup. Place beeswax and oil in a double boiler and heat water on medium until beeswax is melted. Bring water mixture to around the same temperature as beeswax mixture. (Either in a double boiler or in the microwave.) Add beeswax and oil to a food processor and let cool for a few minutes (not too long or it will start to harden). Turn on the food processor and VERY slowly pour water/aloe mixture in. Continue slowly pouring as the mixture starts to emulsify. Stop occasionally to scrape down the sides of the bowl. Continue blending and pouring for up to 15 minutes or until you are happy with the consistency of your lotion. Add vitamin E oil or Rosemary extract and essential oils and mix well. Place finished lotion in containers and use within 3 months.

### **Lotion Bars** (same site as above recipe)

- 1/3 cup grated beeswax or beeswax pastilles
- 1/4 cup fractionated coconut oil (can sub virgin coconut oil or refined coconut oil)
- 1/4 cup jojoba oil (sweet almond or grapeseed oil)
- 8-10 drops essential oils

Combine beeswax and oil in a double boiler (or glass or bowl in a pan of 1-2 inches of water). Heat water on medium heat until the beeswax is melted, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat and stir in essential oils. Pour into molds immediately as essential oils tend to want to separate. Let cool and enjoy!