

# The Bee Line

## Pineywoods Beekeepers Association

Next meeting Thursday, March 9, 6:30 pm

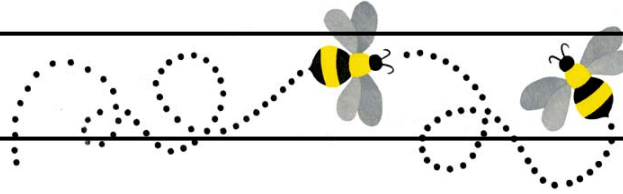
Angelina Co. Chamber of Commerce

1615 South Chestnut, Lufkin

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

Volume 23 Issue 3

March 2023



### March Program

PBA members Terry McFall and Jesus Vazquez will talk about how to build bait hives so you can catch swarms the easy way!

### Refreshments

Beverages: Richard Peters (tea), Mike Hartman (water); Snacks: Edward & Wendy Doucet, Richard Davis, Todd Lykke

Bringing beverages or refreshments? If unable to attend, please notify Rachel Payne at 936-715-0362 or [texasbeegirl@gmail.com](mailto:texasbeegirl@gmail.com) so that we can supply them.

### Welcome to our Brood...

Ryan Ragsdale

### You're the Bee's Knees!

2/6 – Steven Josephsen spoke at the Texas Forestry Museum about “How to Start Keeping Bees.”

### Assorted Buzziness

**2023 Bee School** will kick off Saturday! We have over 20 students signed up.

**2023 dues are now due!** Non-renewing members will be dropped this month. \$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 Walter McLendon, 1006 Copeland St, Lufkin, 75904.



### Did you know...?

Honey bees can be trained to detect explosives.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/id/wbna16112401>

**Bee helpful** and volunteer! PBA may have educational booths at some events and welcomes volunteers! Contact Rachel Payne at 936-715-0362 or [texasbeegirl@gmail.com](mailto:texasbeegirl@gmail.com)

4/1 – Nacogdoches Farmers Market Spring Fling, 9am – 1pm. Activities and games, special performances, and lots of local vendors. Deadline for application is 3/20.

## What's Buzzing

### At-Home Beekeeping Webinar

Each presentation will be held on the last Tuesday of the month. You can watch these presentations live via Zoom or on the Lawrence County Alabama Extension Office Facebook page. There is no need to register in advance for these sessions, you can just log on a few minutes before the presentation begins. If you are unable to attend the live session, recordings of these presentations will only be available on the Lawrence County Alabama Extension Office Facebook page for 2 weeks after each presentation. <https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/bees-pollinators/at-home-beekeeping-series/>

Topics include:

#### 2023 Dates and Topics

March 28 – **BMPs from BIP: The National Loss and Management Survey**

G. Williams, Auburn University

April 25 – **TBD**

L. Bartlett, University of Georgia

May 30 – **Water Foraging**

T. Webster, Kentucky State University

June 27 – **TBD**

E. Walsh, USDA-ARS

## 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, or 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 to 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 bee 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**

### **Honey Balsamic Salmon Fillets**

*The Beekeeper's Bible*

4 7-oz skin-on salmon fillets  
3 T honey  
2 T aged balsamic vinegar  
1 t sugar  
1 T peanut oil  
4 scallions, sliced

Wipe the salmon dry with a paper towel and place in a shallow dish, skin side down. Whisk the honey with the vinegar and sugar and spoon over fish. Heat the oil in a large nonstick skillet over high heat. When the oil is hot, add the fish, skin side down, and cook for 4 to 5 min, until the skin is crisp and the salmon is nearly cooked through. Preheat the broiler to high. Spoon any remaining honey mixture over the salmon and place the pan under the grill for 2 min, or until the fish is cooked through. Serve with the scallions sprinkled over.

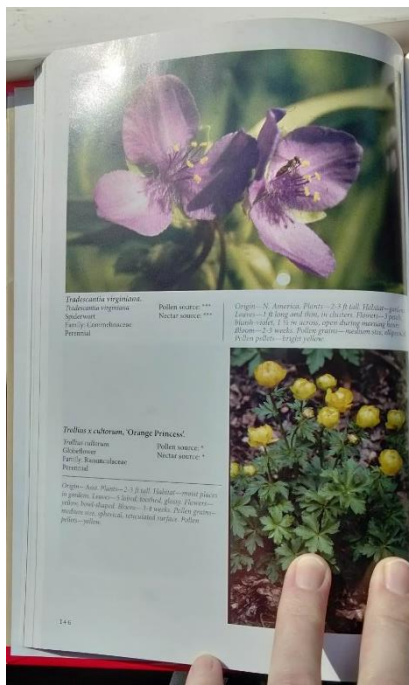
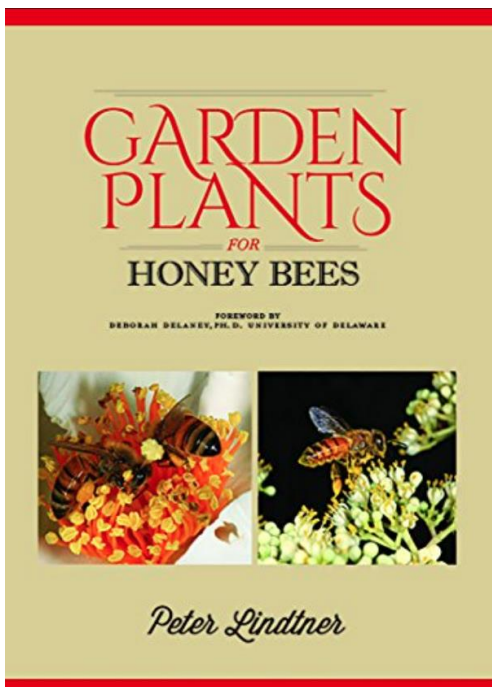
## Grape and Almond Salad with Honey Yogurt Dressing

<https://honey.com/recipe/grape-and-almond-salad-with-honey-yogurt-dressing>

- 1/2 cup sliced skin-on almonds
- 1/2 cup plain yogurt
- 2 T vegetable oil
- 2 T honey
- 1 T apple cider vinegar
- 1 tsp. Dijon mustard
- 1/4 tsp. kosher salt
- 4 cups seedless grapes, sliced in half
- 2 cups apples, cored and chopped
- 1 cup celery, sliced



Preheat oven to 350°F. Spread almonds on a baking sheet and place in oven for 12-15 minutes or until lightly toasted; cool. In a mixing bowl, whisk together yogurt, oil, honey, vinegar, mustard, and salt until smooth. With a rubber spatula, gently fold in almonds and grapes.



A lot of us are planting or getting ready to plant spring vegetables. If you're seriously interested in planting for honey bees, you might want to get this book. Plants have been evaluated by their nectar and pollen source - one star being the least resourceful and five stars being the most resourceful. It gives a very brief description of each plant and its leaves, flowers, and pollen.

If you just want something quick and easy, you can order a "Bee Happy Seed Mix" that was created by beekeepers.

<https://texasbeekeepers.org/shop/bee-happy-seed-mix/>

[https://www.seedsource.com/catalog/detail.asp?product\\_id=4505](https://www.seedsource.com/catalog/detail.asp?product_id=4505)