

The Bee Line

Pineywoods Beekeepers Association

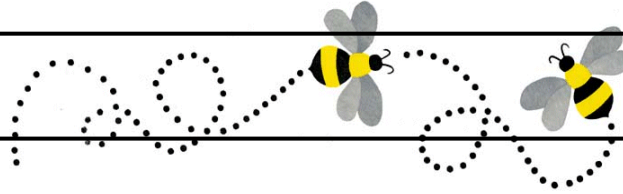
Next meeting Thursday, December 8, 6:30 pm

Angelina Co. Chamber of Commerce

1615 South Chestnut, Lufkin

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

Volume 22 Issue 12



December 2022

December Program

It's party time! No speaker this month, just food and fellowship for the holidays. Turkey and ham are on menu, as well as dressing, gravy, cranberry sauce, green beans, creamed corn, sand tart cookies, coconut cake, sweet and unsweet tea, and eggnog. Bring a side dish or dessert to share, along with a serving utensil. If you'd like to participate in the white elephant gift swap, bring a wrapped gift (\$25 spending limit).

You're the Bee's Knees!

Thank you to Edward and Wendy Doucet, Joanie and Mike Kochanek, Terry McFall, and Richard Peters for moving the club hives from Jasper to Lufkin. To Jesus Vazquez for extracting the PBA honey (over 5 gallons). Mike Hartman for letting us use his property for the club hives. Edward Doucet and Mike Kochanek for performing OA treatment on the club hives. Bob Love for donating some bottom boards.

Welcome to our Brood...

Mike and Melinda Hartman, Hannah Hensarling

Assorted Buzziness

Elections for the 2023 Board of Directors will be held this month. If you'd like to volunteer for a position or nominate someone else, please contact a current Board member. The current slate is...

President – Walter McLendon

Vice President – Bob Love

Secretary – Hannah Hensarling or Joanie Kochanek

Treasurer – Walter McLendon

Newsletter Editor – Rachel Payne (only if no one else is interested)

Program Coordinator – Edward Doucet

Apiary Manager – Bruce Doyle

SFASU Liaison –

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:

December – **No Scheduled Webinar**

2023 Dates and Topics

January 31 – **Seasonal Efficacy of Varroa Treatments**

C. Jack, University of Florida

February 28 – **TBD**

E. Amiri, Mississippi State University

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

Buy or Sell

For sale: 120 gallons honey in 5-gallon buckets, \$210 each. Jesus Vazquez 409-381-8503.

Seasonal Tips

Robert Jones

December, like November, should be a time of rest and relaxation because the time for the new bee season comes January 1st. Remember early in this month to make arrangements for queens and new colonies.

Look at your successes and failures for the past year. Work on repeating the things you were successful at and try to remember the lessons you were taught by the failures you had. You don't want to repeat those. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Comb-Grown Goodness

Rather than food or drink recipes this month, here are some recipes for using that beeswax that you've got left over from extracting. Since there's not much to be done in the apiary at this time of year, it's a great time to play around with other things!

The BEST Reusable Beeswax Wrap Recipe

<https://blog.mountainroseherbs.com/the-complete-guide-to-diy-beeswax-wraps-including-a-beeless-vegan-food-wrap>

Makes 2 to 3 12x12-inch cloths.

100 percent cotton fabric, organic if possible
0.35 oz. sustainably sourced pine resin
1.25 oz. beeswax pastilles or grated beeswax
1 Tbsp. organic jojoba oil
Large popsicle stick or other compostable stirrer
Parchment paper
Dedicated paint brush

Wash and dry fabric.

Cut fabric into desired shapes and sizes.

Place pine resin, beeswax, and jojoba oil in a double boiler or glass measuring cup and set in a saucepan. Add water to saucepan until the mixture inside the double boiler or measuring cup is below waterline. Turn burn to medium-high heat. Allow ingredients to melt and meld together, about 20 to 25 minutes.

Meanwhile, preheat oven to 300° F. Cover large cookie sheet with a sheet of parchment paper larger than your biggest piece of fabric.

Spread a fabric piece (or pieces, depending on size) flat on parchment paper. Brush mixture lightly onto fabric. It might solidify, which is fine, as you'll be able to redistribute later. It's easy to oversaturate, so remember that it's easier to add more than take the excess away.

Put cookie sheet in oven for 2 minutes, or until fabric looks wet. Remove from oven and look for any dry spots. Brush mixture over these uncovered areas, applying more coating as needed. If you notice unevenness after adding more, you can place it back in the oven for a few minutes to smooth. Place the next wrap(s) you are going to make on top of the finished fabric to soak up any excess coating mixture. Work quickly, as you don't want the wax to begin to solidify. Once you've pressed any excess onto the new cloth, peel apart and hang your completed wrap(s) to dry. Drying only takes a few minutes.

Repeat steps with additional pieces of fabric until you are out of coating mixture.



Wood Butter

<https://creative-culinary.com/wood-butter/#wprm-recipe-container-56734>

4 oz pure beeswax
16 oz mineral oil

Bring a large saucepan filled with water to a gentle boil.

Place your beeswax inside a 2-quart glass measuring cup or a 1-quart glass jar; set the glass into the gently boiling water.

Place the container of mineral oil inside another medium saucepan filled with water and heat to low. The mineral oil just needs to be warmed to mix with the beeswax; no need for a rolling boil.

Once all the wax has melted, turn off the stove and carefully add the warmed mineral oil to the beeswax, stirring with a spoon to combine. Using a towel around the handle of the measuring cup, carefully pour the liquid into each jar fit with a canning funnel, filling them almost to the top. Finish filling all jars and wait for the wax to cool and firm up before using. *Note: The recipe I used called for 1 part beeswax and 5 or 6 parts mineral oil, but I couldn't find the link. I mention it to point out that you have some leeway in the ratio; good to know if you want to stretch your beeswax a little further.*



Lip Balm

<https://thecoconutmama.com/homemade-lip-balm/>

3 tablespoons coconut oil
1 tablespoon almond oil (jojoba, olive, or avocado oil may be used instead)
2 tablespoons (1 oz) beeswax
20 drops essential oil (optional)
½ teaspoon honey (optional)
8-10 lip balm tubes or tins



Remove the lids from the lip balm tubes and secure them upright with a large rubber band.

Measure the coconut oil, sweet almond oil, and beeswax and pour them into a double boiler pot. Turn the heat on low-medium heat and let the oils and wax melt completely. Remove from the pan from heat and stir in the raw honey and your favorite essential oils (if using).

Pour the mixture into the upright tubes (or lip balm tins). Allow the lip balm to set, and then cap the containers. This recipe will fill 8-12 lip balm tubes.

Store your homemade lip balm out of direct sunlight. This product has a shelf life of two years if stored at room temperature.

Lotion Bars

<https://www.ouroilyhouse.com/the-easiest-homemade-lotion-bars-with-essential-oils/>

1 cup of coconut oil
1 cup cocoa butter or shea butter (or you can use a combination of the two)
1 cup beeswax
15-30 drops of essential oils (optional)
Silicon molds or metal tins



Melt all the ingredients, except the essential oils, in a double boiler. You can make your own double boiler by placing a glass bowl over a medium-size saucepan. Bring the water to a boil until the ingredients are melted. Once ingredients are melted, remove the bowl from the heat. Let mixture cool slightly and then stir in essential oils. Pour the mixture into silicon molds or metal tins. Allow the mixture to cool completely, then pop the bars out of the molds. Store in an airtight container for up to one year.

Beeswax candles are another product you can make. While there's no recipe (after all, it's just beeswax), you do need to choose the correct wick for your candle. Here are some articles to help guide you through the process. Some crafters use a "real" wax-melting pot, like you can find at Hobby Lobby, but a large pineapple juice can with the lid cut off works just as well and is a lot cheaper. The downside is it doesn't have a handle, but maybe you could get creative and make one!



<https://www.beekeeping.com/the-right-size-wick/>

<https://www.theprairiehomestead.com/2015/02/how-to-make-beeswax-candles.html>

If you're interested in crafts like this, you might enjoy *Beeswax Alchemy* by Petra Ahnert, *Beehive Alchemy* also by Petra Ahnert, *Beekeeper's Lab* by Kim Lehman, or *The Beekeeper's Bible* by Richard Jones and Sharon Sweeney-Lynch.



This is a group picture from moving day. On the next page is a picture of Steven Josephsen with his candy board and several shots from the oxalic acid treatment demonstration at the PBA apiary.

