

# Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association

**NEXT MEETING:**  
**TUESDAY JULY 23rd**  
**7:00-9:00 Program**  
**Georgetown Public Library**

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## Meeting Night Changes

Tuesday July 23rd  
**Tuesday August 20th**  
Tuesday September 24th

Meetings are the 4th  
Tuesday of each month  
except August when room  
availability caused a change.

## July Program

7:00 pm Randy Oakley - Making Vertical Beehive Splits  
8:00 pm Randy Oakley - Above subject continued

Randy will be talking in depth about this part of the scholarship program that our young recipients are learning.



**I was thinking about the WCABA mentoring program when I came across this article on HoneyBeeSuite.com. I thought you might be interested. In addition I followed with some thoughts of my own.**

*from Phil Ainslie, President*

## **Not every new beekeeper needs a mentor**

### **By Rusty Burlew**

Not for one minute do I believe that every new beekeeper needs a mentor. Furthermore, some mentors do more harm than good. The thing is, anyone can call themselves a mentor. In beekeeping, no qualifications are required. Now, I agree that it's nice to watch someone open a hive if you've never done it. It's helpful to see someone hold a hive tool and manipulate the frames or point out brood and honey and hive beetles. But is it necessary? No.

#### **Mentoring is communicating**

Bad mentors are everywhere in this business. I've seen three-month beekeepers "mentoring" beginners, teaching them how to overwinter when they've never overwintered themselves. Conversely, I've known mentors who've been keeping bees since the last ice age but have no ability to teach. It doesn't matter how much you know if you can't communicate.

Mentoring is much more than a skilled beekeeper teaching an unskilled one. Since it's a one-on-one relationship, issues of compatibility can enhance or destroy the learning process. Before I began this website, I was more open-minded about mentoring. It was common and accepted, and I thought it was okay. What changed my mind were things people wrote:

*"My mentor put my bottom box on the top, but I don't know why."*

*"Why did my mentor shake my bees onto the ground? He said everyone did it."*

*"When my bees died my mentor said it was a bad queen. What was wrong with her?"*

*"My mentor said not to worry about mites the first year. Now they're dead."*

What I see in these comments is a mentor who didn't know, didn't care, or couldn't teach. We cannot all be mentors. Take me, for example. I'm far too impatient for mentoring. I like to get in, do the job, and get out. "You missed it? How could you miss it?"

#### **Good mentors are rare**

Do good mentors exist? Absolutely. But like good teachers, they are scarce. Even now, I can recall every teacher who made a lasting impression on me: my seventh-grade science teacher, my ninth grade English teacher, my tenth-grade physics teacher. I remember them because they were remarkable. They inspired, motivated, and encouraged. They made me want to learn, a trait that set them apart from the others.

The beekeeping mentor needs to explain the why of everything. Why did you move that frame? How do you know they will swarm? Why do you think the queen is weak? Conversely, the newbie should ask why. Over and over. Don't let your mentor off the hook for a second. Make him explain.

#### **Don't do what doesn't make sense**

I firmly believe that when a new beekeeper doesn't understand an instruction, he shouldn't follow it. Why would you do something you don't understand? This applies to advice from mentors, speakers, YouTube, books, magazines, and websites including this one. Keep asking until you understand and pay attention to your misgivings. You have a built-in b.s. meter for a reason. Trust it.

To me, the idea that everyone needs a mentor is just one more in a long string of beekeeping myths and half-truths. If you can find a good mentor, you are lucky indeed. If you can't find one that suits you, you can succeed just as well.

Common sense and respect for your bees will solve most beekeeping problems. Reading, thinking, and planning will help with the rest. Above all, never doubt that you can do this—with a mentor or without.

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## **Some of My Thoughts on Mentors and Mentees.**

#### **For mentors:**

1. If you don't know the answer to a question. Admit it. A good reply is I don't know but I'll check with somebody more experienced.
2. Respect the other person's privacy and values. Do not assume they believe as you do regarding religion, politics, sexual matters, etc. Mentoring is not the time or place for such matters.
3. Realize that the people you mentor assume you are the expert. Few of us are truly experts. We're just more experienced.
4. If you make a mistake while mentoring, point it out. They can learn from your mistakes. In fact, discuss some of your mistakes, this opens the door to more learning and valuable questions.
5. Let the person you are mentoring do the work. Explain what needs done, and let them do it. Another way is to show them once and let the mentee perform the function the next time. You have to decide which works best. Some people are good hearing learners but many people are better visual learners, and most are hands on learners.

6. How much experience is needed to be a mentor. That depends on the mentor. Most can do basic mentoring after a full years' experience. In spite of my experience, I could not mentor someone wanting to do queen rearing. I recognize my lack of skill in queen rearing and I would decline the opportunity. In this case I would make a referral or send a note to the general membership for help from someone experienced in this area.
7. Encourage new beekeepers to start small and work up to a larger operation if their goal is to have multiple hives. Most new beekeepers find multiple hives overwhelming.

### **Mentees:**

1. Our mentors are volunteers. Please respect their time. Family first, bees somewhere down the list.
2. Write down your questions. I was guilty of saying to myself after the mentor left, "Curses, I forgot to ask such and such".
3. A visit is not always needed. E-mails will often resolve some basic issues. Consider taking picture or video of the problem.
4. Share your success. Mentors like to see your successes. We can also learn for the mentee.
5. Respect your mentors' values. Male/female or vice versa mentoring may result in misunderstandings or worse.
6. Ask an experienced beekeeper if you can help them with their operation. Another good way to learn is to tag along or help a commercial beekeeper.
7. Before you decide a You-Tube is gospel, ask your mentor to view the You-Tube video and give you his or her thoughts. You-Tubing is a good way to learn, but go to a reputable site. Several universities have very helpful videos.
8. Realize that bees die in spite of all our work. Currently the hive loss across the U.S. is 30-40%.
9. Realize that sometime bees just don't like the home you have assigned them and abscond in spite of your best efforts.
10. Keep learning. Check out material from the club library. We have a large library of books to choose from. They run the gamut from basic and up.
11. Seek out classes in your area. There are seminars offered by area bee clubs. Some bee suppliers offer classes for a fee. We have a member of our club that gives a class on beginning beekeeping.

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## **Long Term Exposure to Common Pesticide Damages Honey Bee's Ability to Fly**

*Extract from Catch the Buzz*

Biologists at the University of California San Diego have demonstrated for the first time that a widely used pesticide can significantly impair the ability of otherwise healthy honey bees to fly, raising concerns about how pesticides affect their capacity to pollinate and the long-term effects on the health of honey bee colonies.

Previous research has shown that foraging honey bees that ingested neonicotinoid pesticides, crop insecticides that are commonly used in agriculture, were less likely to return to their home nest, leading to a decrease in foragers.

A study published April 26 in Scientific Reports by UC San Diego postdoctoral researcher Simone Tosi, Biology Professor James Nieh, along with Associate Professor Giovanni Burgio of the University of Bologna, Italy, describes in detail how the neonicotinoid pesticide thiamethoxam damages honey bees. Thiamethoxam is used in crops such as corn, soybeans and cotton. To test the hypothesis that the pesticide impairs flight ability, the researchers designed and constructed a flight mill (a bee flight-testing instrument) from scratch. This allowed them to fly bees under consistent and controlled conditions.

Months of testing and data acquisition revealed that typical levels of neonicotinoid exposure, which bees could experience when foraging on agricultural crops—but below lethal levels—resulted in substantial damage to the honey bee's ability to fly.

"Our results provide the first demonstration that field-realistic exposure to this pesticide alone, in otherwise healthy colonies, can alter the ability of bees to fly, specifically impairing flight distance, duration and velocity" said Tosi. "Honey bee survival depends on its ability to fly, because that's the only way they can collect food. Their flight ability is also crucial to guarantee crop and wild plant pollination."

Long-term exposure to the pesticide over one to two days reduced the ability of bees to fly. Short-term exposure briefly increased their activity levels. Bees flew farther, but based upon other studies, more erratically.

"Bees that fly more erratically for greater distances may decrease their probability of returning home," said Nieh, a professor in UC San Diego's Division of Biological Sciences.

This pesticide does not normally kill bees immediately. It has a more subtle effect, said Nieh.

"The honey bee is a highly social organism, so the behavior of thousands of bees are essential for the survival of the colony," said Nieh. "We've shown that a sub-lethal dose may lead to a lethal effect on the entire colony."

Honey bees carry out fundamentally vital roles in nature by providing essential ecosystem functions, including global pollination of crops and native plants. Declines in managed honey bee populations have raised concerns about future impacts on the environment, food security and human welfare.

Neonicotinoid insecticides are neurotoxic and used around the world on broad varieties of crops, including common fruits and vegetables, through spray, soil and seed applications. Evidence of these insecticides has been found in the nectar, pollen and water that honey bees collect.

"People are concerned about honey bees and their health being impaired because they are so closely tied to human diet and nutrition," said Nieh. "Some of the most nutritious foods that we need to consume as humans are bee-pollinated."

Furthering the agenda to help America's farmers, the Department of Labor (the Department), Employment and Training Administration and Wage and Hour Division, today is posting online a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) to solicit public comment on proposed changes to improve the H-2A temporary agricultural labor certification program. These proposed changes would modernize the Department's H-2A regulations in a way that is responsive to stakeholder concerns and enhances employer access to a legal source of agricultural labor, while maintaining the program's protections for the U.S. workforce and enhancing enforcement against fraud and abuse.

# Williamson County Area Beekeeping Association

## Meeting Summary - June 25th, 2019 meeting.

The meeting was opened by Phil Ainslie, President, at 7 pm.

### President's Announcements

1. The WCABA is still in need of mentors to support our members. Consider being a mentor. You can get more information from the WCABA website under "Mentor/Mentee program". You may know more than you think, and you can help a fellow member. Give it a go !!
2. The swarm list/ cut out list can also be found on our website. As of May we had 20 members on the list. If you wish to be added, please contact a member of the board.
3. Bee Buzz will be at Rudy's BBQ, at the IH35 location, in Round Rock from 2 pm -4pm. This is an informal , come and go, meeting to talk about any aspect of bees that you please. The meetings will be on the Sunday following the monthly WCABA meeting.
4. Rachel Glass has been working to update the website, and make it user friendly. If you have any suggestions regarding the website, please don't hesitate to contact a board member. We would love to have your input.
5. Floor was opened up for announcements; there was none.

Beekeeping 101 - The modern beekeepers curse: Varroa Mites, presented by Jim Colbert.  
Very informative talk regarding testing, and the various treatment approaches, for varroa mites.

Kay Freund, a member, sells wands for oxalic acid treatments @ \$75.

Good websites for information are:- [www.honeybeehealthcoalition.org](http://www.honeybeehealthcoalition.org)  
[www.scientificbeekeeping.com](http://www.scientificbeekeeping.com)  
or [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) has a plethora of information on all aspects of beekeeping, including varroa mite management !!

Beekeeping 102 - Gimme that Honey, presented by Tara Chapman, founder and owner, of Two Hives Honey.

A wonderful, and informative presentation on the process of extracting honey. Tara demonstrated the use of the tools she uses for honey extraction, and answered questions from the floor.

Members Present:- 81

Door Prizes. - 6 lucky winners

Thanks went out to Larry Byrn for making his wax melter available for viewing during the break.

The meeting was closed by Phil Ainslie, President.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 23rd at the Georgetown Library.

Gillian Mattinson.  
Secretary, W.C.A.B.A.

# WCABA Presented with a New Solar Wax Melter



Presented to the club by long time beekeeper Larry Byrn and his wife.  
The solar wax melter is fully self-contained and comes with complete instructions.  
To sign up to use the solar wax melted see Jimmie Oakley at the Bost Farm,  
or call him at 512/507-3009 for a Reservation.  
Thank you to the Byrn's!



## How to Make a Vertical Beehive Split: A Key to Sustainable Beekeeping

Central Texas beekeeper, Randy Oakley, will share the why and how-to of making vertical beehive splits. He will give the details of how he has used this duplicatable beekeeping technique over the past five years to:

- > Increase his colony numbers
- > Annually requeen each colony
- > Improve winter survivability of colonies
- > Successfully requeen Africanized colonies
- > Control Varroa mite populations
- > Increase honey production
- > Prevent swarming
- > Raise queens
- > Produce two queen colonies



*Randy Oakley*

Randy Oakley has been practicing the art of beekeeping for over 40 years. Three generations of the Oakley Family currently help-out in the family bee business producing local bees and beehive products as well as teaching others sustainable methods of beekeeping for central Texas. They manage 200 plus beehives along the I35 corridor between Austin and Waco, Texas



*Teaching in the Classroom*



*Hands-on in the Beeyard*

# The Honey Princess Report

This month I attended the TBA Summer Clinic in Conroe, Texas. The event was highly attended; several beekeepers traveled out of state to come to this event! We had many wonderful speakers and classes on a variety of topics; Mead Making, Honey infusions, the History of the Honeybee, and much more. Visitors could meander around the booths enjoying honey tasting, entering raffles, observing the painted hive contest, and learning about bees and beekeeping. I personally enjoyed meeting the Texas Honey Queen, Mary Reisinger, the Collin County Honey Queen, Virginia Allen, and the Collin County Honey Princess, Morgan Kiser. We are looking forward to seeing each other again at the Texas State Fair in October!

Bailey Brett

2019 WCABA Honey Princess



Bailey Brett, 2019 WCABA Honey Princess, attending the TBA Summer Clinic in Conroe.



2019 Collin County Honey Queen, Virginia Allen, 2019 Texas Honey Queen, Mary Reisinger and 2019 WCABA Honey Princess, Bailey Brett.

# Scholarship Recipients Go for the Gold!

The extracting season is fully under way as indicated by the use of the WCABA club extracting equipment. The two extracting setups are being fully utilized both on weekends and during the week. It's great to see the excitement and anticipation of those picking up equipment, and the joy and satisfaction as they return it (all clean) after they have harvested what is turning out to be a very tasty crop.

The same can be said for the current (and past) recipients of the Ed Wolf – Robert Bost Scholarship Program. The last Thursday in June (the 27<sup>th</sup>) both groups gathered at the Bost Farm Honey House to use the available equipment to render what the bees provided. Through the generosity of Cindy Hoskins (Levi's mother) there was pizza too!



*Quinn pulls a nice honey frame*

With two groups of young beekeepers keeping hives at the Georgetown Heritage Garden the chore of pulling honey for the occasion was something like controlled confusion (lots of cars, lots of people), but the teamwork was great to see. Everyone was able to pull some frames to extract.

Back at the honey house the two groups split up with the older boys (advanced group) using the Bost electric radial extractor, and this year's recipients using the WCABA hand crank operated three frame extracting equipment for their first-time extracting experience.



*Bailey has honey to extract too*



*Eli & Josh Crozier scratch frames, and Quinn & Aaron Bramwell spin them as they team up to extract honey*



*Shannon Brett assist Bailey in inserting frames into extractor*

Both WCABA extracting systems were set up so the younger kids worked in teams to render their honey frames. Scratching, scraping, and spinning all the deep frames in the tangential extractors took some time, but the enthusiasm never waned for what they were doing, and they slowed only momentarily to snag a piece of pizza when it arrived.



To finish the process, the liquid gold was strained not once, not twice, but three times to clear the wax flakes, and bee's knees, and any other impurities present in the final product before bottling took place.



*Quinn Bramwell and Eli Crozier are mesmerized by the first stream of honey*



*Josh Crozier pours honey for the third straining*



*Quinn, it's finally time to bottle!*



*Bailey is rewarded after a long evening of extracting*



Aaron Bramwell tries to squeeze out one more honey bear

Everyone took a turn at the tedious process of putting the precious yellow liquid into the small opening in the honey containers. It was not without slops and drips, and maybe there were some sticky moments, but when the honey bears and queenline containers were all lined up there was a satisfied look on the faces of all the participants (kids and parents alike) in a sweet job well done. You will find that you have many more friends now that the word is out that you have honey. Congratulation on your first honey crop.



**FACT:** *One ounce of raw, unfiltered HONEY contains approximately 20 vitamins, 18 amino acids, 16 minerals, and a ton of antioxidants and phytonutrients. Raw honey is an antibacterial, antiviral, and antifungal substance. It is also highly nutritious. It contains significant amounts of B2, B3, B6, C, magnesium, potassium calcium, sodium chlorine, sulphur, and phosphate...  
...And YOU made IT!*



Proud group of fathers and beekeeping youngsters: Shannon Brett, Bailey & Reece, Aaron Bramwell & Quinn, and Josh Crozier & Eli; and look at all that HONEY!





## July Column from S.S. Brantley Marshall Beekeepers Association

August normally is a hot and dry month with “Dog Days” plaguing us most of the time. There will be little for the bees to work unless they find plants blooming in the woods and creek bottoms where some moisture and shade keeps some blossoms going. Bitter Weeds will become very noticeable in the fields and along the roadsides. Nectar from Bitter Weeds does make a very desirable honey. Hopefully, you completed extracting before they began to bloom.

With extraction completed, you have to decide how to store your supers. Remember honey supers that have not had any brood reared in them and therefore do not have any honey bee cocoons present, are not really interesting to the wax moth. However, you still cannot store extracted supers off the hive without providing wax moth protection. If you have a few hives with two or three supers on each, you may decide to return the extracted supers to the hive for storage and to be protected by the bees from the ever present wax moth.

The approved “off-hive” storage method is to stack supers in a cool dry location under paramoth crystals. I prefer to start with a Telescoping Outer Cover upside-down on the floor. Line it with several thicknesses of newspaper. Stack supers two-or-three high on the newspaper. Place an approximately 8x8 inch sheet of paper on the top super and add  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of paramoth crystals. Make sure to use the ParaDicloroBenzene paramoth crystals – **DO NOT USE NAPHTHA MOTH CRYSTALS**.

You can add another stack of two or three supers, followed by another paper with paramoth crystals, if you wish, or start another stack. Cover the top of the stack with another Outer Cover. The paramoth crystals will vaporize and permeate the stack of supers from the top down, repelling wax moths. They vaporize faster in hotter weather. Periodically check the amount of crystals remaining and add more, as needed.

The beekeepers activities in the beeyard are now focused on helping the bees weather the hot dry summer dearth period. Be

aware that your bees may be cranky and bad tempered during the summer dearth. Use caution when working in the apiary and wear protection to reduce stinging incidents. Make sure fresh water is readily available. Your bee’s water intake will increase as they use evaporation to help cool the hive. Ventilate the hive by sliding the Outer Cover back and resting it on the edge of the Inner Cover.

Make sure there are remaining stores in the hive, especially if you extracted most of the honey. There may be little or no honey in the brood chambers. Determine your hive’s condition by inspecting frames from the brood chambers. If you are pressed for time, you can feel the hive’s weight by lifting the back edge using the “two-fingered lift” technique. Just make sure the boxes are not stuck together when you try the lifting the edge. If the hive is light or you do not see much stores in the brood frames, consider feeding with 2:1 syrup.

It is also time to do a mite count. According to all published literature, mites must be controlled to prevent the hive from collapsing. To do a mite count, you will need a plastic dishpan, a  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup measuring cup, some powdered sugar and a wide-mouthed jar with 1/8-inch hardware cloth replacing the solid lid. Pull a frame containing open brood and shake the attending nurse bees into the dishpan. Scoop up  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of bees and pour them in the jar and cover with the hardware cloth lid. Dump the rest of the bees back into the hive. Add a spoonful of powdered sugar through the hardware cloth lid. Roll or shake the jar in your hands for 90 seconds. Let the jar sit while you replace the frames back into the hive. Now, pour the powdered sugar through the hardware cloth into the bottom of the dishpan, shaking the jar to be sure all of the mites have been dislodged. Add some water to the pan to dissolve the sugar and count the mites. Since your  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of bees was about 300 bees, divide your mite count by three to get the count per hundred bees. If there are three or more mites per hundred bees, consider treating your hive.

# Religion of Bees

By Rev. Paul Crown

When people first see this large guy dressed in all black, they unconsciously think to themselves, “Was that someone from the Matrix, Batman or a Star Wars Jedi?” They normally settle on Priest. The black cassock is the forerunner to the modern business suit, attire that I wear as an outward sign of my commitment to study Holy Orders and become a Priest. The theology that I am studying is Catholic in the sense that it is Apostolic, yet liberal in the sense that Priests marry and raise families, and answer to the majority opinion of local Bishops rather than a far away Pope. However, this is not the religion that I want discuss today, but rather the religion of Bees.



Early in life it was determined that I was allergic to just about everything. I once took an allergy test, and the doctor administering the test said the results concluded that it was ONLY safe for me to eat white bread and drink water. He prescribed a series of shots to be given at home by my mother. Before long, I said enough was enough—no more shots. That was when I had read that the miracle of regular doses of honey could accomplish the same as the shots, but taste “oh so much better”. Whether the honey did the trick, or I just grew out of the allergies with age, today almost all of my allergies are all but forgotten. For a majority of my adult life, the only allergy that remained that I still had to contend with was Spring pollen. Each March, my eyes and nose would run, and I would live on daily doses of antihistamines. About 10 years ago, my wife introduced a second Bee miracle: crumbles of bee pollen on my breakfast toast each morning. Like the honey before, she strived to source the bee pollen from a local hive. Today, I quite religiously have a bit of local honey and pollen at breakfast everyday.

Having, obviously, held a grand view of bees for a very long time, it is surprising that I didn’t start tending bees sooner. In January of this year, a coworker began discussing that he had purchased acreage next to a golf course, but nearly half of the land amounted to a 100 foot wide strip that followed the golf course perimeter. We discussed what types of animals that he might raise in order to earn an agricultural exemption of property taxes. Bees jumped out as the winner. He didn’t want to tend bees, but I was excited to. I would supply the hives, and he would supply the land. I would keep the honey and he would get the exemption.



The unconventional type of guy that I am read up on bee hives, the races of bees, the diseases that they are susceptible, how to combat those diseases, who makes more honey and who is the most docile. Just like any good religion, everyone had their own opinions. I settled on top bar hives with Russian bees. The top bar hive allowed me the freedom to build the hive with my unique flair. I also wanted, what I have perceived as the long term goal: hives of strong bees that need little intervention from me. I built several hives using rough cedar planks, 5' long by 17" wide at the top. I screened in the bottom, and set an A-frame roof on top. The outside was painted with a solution of linseed oil and beeswax. After two weeks of drying time, they got a second coat. I drilled three entrance holes on the end, and painted an ultraviolet blue line at each entrance. For those keeping track, I had so far spent \$200 and had two pretty cedar top bar hives. Hives in place, and leveled, now for the bees.



The USDA-Agricultural Research Service Honey Bee Genetics and Physiology Lab in Baton Rouge has isolated and setup a breeding program for raising a strain of

Russian bees that have consistently shown to have a resistance to the varroa mite. While the strain has not shown any signs of problems with nosema spores or tracheal mites, both are still being researched. Part of the Russian's resistance to varroa mites stems from the bees natural inclination to attack the mites. When researchers examined dead mites from a hive, they found numerous bite marks on the mites, and frequent dismemberment with missing legs or antenna. This race or strain of bees is being bread by the Russian Honeybee Breeders Association, maintaining 17 genetic lines each divided into three blocks. The drones of the several blocks are rotated among the different lines to maintain a healthy diverse gene pool.

In January, I contacted a number of the Russian breeders only to find that everyone had placed their orders for NUCs and Queens in the fall of last year. Finally, one agreed to sell me two NUCs that he hoped would be built up by early May. In the meantime, I discovered the proper transport of bees across state lines involved permits and inspections. I applied and obtained a permit to transport hives from Mississippi to Texas. Luckily, the Mississippi hives had been recently inspected. A copy of the Mississippi inspection certification satisfied the Texas Apiary Inspection Service. When arriving in Mississippi, the beekeeper pointed out that only one of the NUCs was built up as much as he likes them before selling. To compensate for the lack luster second NUC, he would give me a third for free. Since I was transporting the NUCs inside an automobile, I put mesh laundry bags around each NUC. This kept contained the few bees that managed to get out of the NUC. Total cost for registering the hives and obtaining an import permit: \$100. Total cost for the 2 paid for NUCs and the 1 freebie: \$300.



Much has been said about getting a good beekeeper's suit. I researched the pros and cons of each, and settled on a \$240 suit, partly because it came in XXL and partly because it was aerated—meaning it could breathe. Just before submitting an order, I saw an ad for a \$30 XXL. It wasn't aerated, but it was cheap. I gave in to temptation and bought the \$30 suit, and was reminded again "too good to be true" is too good to be true. Their version of XXL could be worn by my 12 year old daughter, but I couldn't even get both pants legs on. Before the original suit arrived, I worried that it too might be too small, alas, while snug, I was still able to wear it. While I have been stung now a half a dozen times, only one was while I was wearing the suit—an unprotected ankle, I am undeterred.



The Mississippi NUCs that I purchased are for a Langstroth hive. This does not exactly fit the top bar hive that I have built. Each frame has to have its sides cut at a 60 degree angle, and holes drilled through the frame to allow yarn to pass through and tie to the bar. I prepped the frames and put them in their new homes. Now we let bees do what bees do. By the end of the first week, the strong and healthy hive got up and left; no partial swarm, they just all left. The other two are doing just fine. If the religion of bees is balanced, then it would explain why I found my first swarm of Italian bees the same week. They had moved into a telephone capsule at the edge of the road. I moved as many bees and a frame of honey and brood into a NUC placed next to the capsule. I couldn't find the queen. I will go back tomorrow to see if they follow their queen to the NUC, or if I only have a box of bees. Regardless, bees and I will be spending lots of time together for many years to come.



### **New Members**

Valerie Warwick & Craig Scofield	Round Rock
Steve Shiller	Coupland
Sas & Carmel Wakim	Round Rock
Chip Measles	Madisonville

### **Renewing Members**

Anne Couch	Round Rock
Zane Baird	Round Rock
Barbara Lusinger	Fort Worth
Jimmy Shields	Georgetown

Visit Our Website:

[www.wcaba.org](http://www.wcaba.org)

Email Us At:

[info@wcaba.org](mailto:info@wcaba.org)

Write to:

4355 County Road 110,  
Georgetown TX 78626

**Texas Beekeepers Association**

**Annual Convention**

**November 7th - 9th, 2019**

**San Antonio Airport Hilton**