

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

www.wcaba.org

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Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we are still having our member meeting in January virtually at 7 pm, January 26th (fourth Tuesday) via “Zoom” software. ***Click Zoom meeting link below.*** This will allow up to 100 WCABA members to listen in and watch our Beekeeping 101 session as well as conducting a Q&A. You do not need to sign up for an account to join the meeting just a device and internet connection are required. If you are planning to join from an iPhone or iPad, be sure to download this application first: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/zoom-cloud-meetings/id546505307>

We look forward to seeing you Tuesday night @ 7PM!

Topic: January Virtual Member Meeting

Time: Jan 26, 2021 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84818039382?pwd=K3psVkV2R0VmbII1MFNTR05QSmU3UT09>

Meeting ID: 879 6119 9854

Passcode: 956092

PROGRAM

Speaker: Jimmie Oakley

will be presenting a program on ‘Bees in Nature’ at the January 26th WCABA meeting starts at 7pm.

Jimmie was born in Oklahoma, he grew up in Texas, and he got his start in commercial beekeeping in North Dakota. Most of what he has learned in his 45 years in beekeeping has been through experience on the job, which he will bring to bear in his Powerpoint program to give you some understanding of how important it is to know what bees do, when they do it, and why they do it, so you can develop a natural rhythm that is in harmony with your bees to make them like you better, and make you a better beekeeper. JO



Jimmie Oakley - Beekeeper since 1975

From the President...

Welcome to WCABA. As we begin the new year it's a good time to get ready for the new year. Although Texas winters are rare, we still have enough cold nights and days with cooler temps that that we need to make sure that the bees don't starve. Although you don't want to open the hive often during the colder weeks, you should try to inspect your hives "quickly". Choose a calm day and grab your smoker and gear. While you may not always need to open your hive, there are lots of interesting things to do in the Texas "winter" bee yard. The main question you want to answer in the winter is: are the bees alive and well? If your bees aren't visible outside, how can you tell if they are OK if you don't want to open the hive and disturb your bees? The easiest way is to try and eavesdrop on them. Although bees don't use much sound for communication – they don't have ears – they make sounds that we can hear as they move around and use their wings to control their indoor environment. In cool weather, they may be tightly clustered and not making much noise. You may hear a familiar buzzing, but you may hear only a faint, breathy, whisper. Both sounds tell you that there are live bees in the hive. Although the familiar hum is reassuring, the softer sound doesn't necessarily indicate a weak or failing hive, just one that is more clustered at the moment. The next step is to assess the weight of the hive by gently lifting the back end to see how heavy it is. In January, it should still feel pretty heavy compared to its fall weight because in early winter the bees don't use up a lot of honey. But the bees will soon be ramping up their consumption of stores (both brood and honey) as they start the brood build-up after mid-winter.



Shannon Montez - President

If you think your hive may be light, you should feed them to make sure they don't starve. You should plan on feeding loose sugar, fondant, home-made sugar bricks or **winter patties**. In cold weather, opening the hive does have some cost to the bees both because of the disturbance and the sudden loss of warmth in the hive. But if the bees are in danger of running out of food, the cost is balanced out. Choose a time when the temperature is at least in the mid-50's, on a windless day. Sugar boards are a very good option as well, but right now, it's too cold to feed sugar syrup. When you do check your hive, your most important task is to make sure they are not starving. Take time now to anticipate your upcoming needs instead of playing catch-up once the season has begun.

*some of this information was garnered from <https://www.betterbee.com/>

Cool Bee Facts from your president:

1. The practice of beekeeping dates back at least 4,500 years
2. Approximately one third of the food we eat is the result of honey bee pollination
3. In their 6-8 week lifespan, a worker bee will fly the equivalent distance of 1 ½ times the circumference of the Earth.
4. A productive queen can lay up to 2,500 eggs per day.
5. Mead, which is made from fermented honey, is the world's oldest fermented beverage.

<https://www.beeponds.com/101-fun-bee-facts-about-bees-and-beekeeping/>

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED?

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Ed Wolfe – Robert Bost Beekeeping Scholarship

The Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association has a youth program honoring two long-time beekeepers and WCABA members, Ed Wolfe and Robert Bost, who both actively promoted learning about bees and beekeeping in Williamson County.

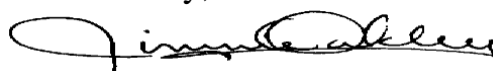
A scholarship is given annually to furthering the apiculture sciences with emphasis on sustainable beekeeping. This award is presented to school age students (12-18yrs) living in the area served by WCABA. The award consists of a beehive with bees and equipment necessary to complete the year-long plus project.

Following a course curriculum the recipient will be expected to meet regularly according to a set schedule to work the bees, and (1) keep records of activities with dates, pictures, and other pertinent data; (2) participate in the Hill Country Fair Honey Booth promotion in support of the future scholarships; (3) give an interim progress report to the Williamson County Area beekeepers at the November meeting; (4) attend the WCABA meeting in July the following year to give a concluding report and receive appropriate recognition. He/She also will be encouraged to attend the monthly meeting and will be entitled to use the club's honey extraction equipment. Optionally, recipients can enter honey in the WCABA Tasters Choice competition, send honey to the Texas State Fair and enter in the Texas Beekeepers Honey and Wax contest at the state convention.

A mentor will be made available to instruct and assist the recipient in sustainable beekeeping techniques and good beekeeping practices. Parents are encouraged to join WCABA in support and encouragement of the recipient and the program.

Applications must be **mailed** to the Awards Committee, by **February 15th**. You will be interviewed in **February** by scholarship committee members before the WCABA **meeting** on the **fourth Tuesday** to allow for proper consideration of the applicant. The winners will be notified and asked to **attend** the WCABA meeting on the **fourth Tuesday of March** for the scholarship presentation, unless prohibited by Covid restrictions. Alternate instructions will be provided.

Sincerely,



Scholarship Committee
425 Sapphire Lane
Jarrell, Texas 76537

Applicants for Wolfe-Bost Scholarship Needed

The deadline is fast approaching for submission of applications by those interested in the Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost Memorial Scholarship (WCABA Youth Scholarship Program).

If you know of a school age boy or girl (12-18yrs) who is interested in learning about bees and beekeeping, please encourage him/her to submit an application before the **February 15th deadline**.

This is an essay contest administered by the WCABA Scholarship Committee. and is presented annually to contest winners. It is intended to promote and encourage area youth to become knowledgeable and interested in honeybees, honey production and sustainable beekeeping.

Interested parties may contact Jimmie Oakley, Scholarship Chair at: jimmie.oakley@gmail.com to get a current application or go online at wcaba.org and check out Opportunities – Scholarship. Apply Today !!!

What You Could Learn in the Program



Scholarship Recipients receive nucs



Installing and feeding the nuc



Later checking the hive



Smoking the bees



Reading the frame



Working the hives in the scholarship apiary



Uncapping the honey frames



Extracting the honey



Job well done at the Honey House

Bee Research Pearls

Bee neighborly -- sharing bees helps more farmers

August 18, 2020

University of Minnesota

Summary:

A new article shows the benefits of cost-sharing the conservation of wild bee habitats on agricultural lands, especially in nearby farming communities, can help overcome the tragedy of the commons.



Phil Ainslie - WCABA Secretary

The researchers found that if 40 percent of landowners were to provide space for wild bee habitat, those landowners would lose one million dollars themselves, but generate nearly two and a half million for their neighbors. If the landowners were able to work together so that those who benefitted paid into the cost of the bee habitat, then everyone could come out ahead. Especially relevant in the equation is the size and patterns of farms clustered together, which the researchers say is often overlooked in this kind of analysis.

Scientists 'scent train' honeybees to boost sunflowers' seed production

September 17, 2020

Source: Cell Press

Summary:

If you want a dog to hunt something down, it helps to let them sniff an item to pick up the scent. Now, researchers have found that scent training honeybees might work in a similar way -- and that this approach could make bees more efficient in pollinating crops. The findings show that honeybees given food scented with sunflower odors led to a significant increase in sunflower crop production.

"We show that it's possible to condition honeybees to a rewarded odor inside the colony, and this experience modifies the bees' odor-guided behaviors later," says Walter Farina of Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina. "The most surprising and relevant result is that the foraging preferences for the target crop are so prolonged and intensive that it promoted significant increases in the crop yields."

To raise bees with a memory that would support later foraging on sunflowers, the researchers first developed a simple synthetic odorant mixture that the bees associated with the natural floral scent of sunflowers. Next, they fed the hives with scented food. They found that those early experiences and memories of the scent of sunflower influenced the bees' later foraging preferences, as inferred by decoding their waggle dances.

The researchers say they are now studying other pollinator-dependent crops, including almonds, pears, and apples. Ultimately, their goal is to develop an array of new odor mimics to improve pollination efficiency and productivity of many important agricultural crops.

Pesticide deadly to bees now easily detected in honey

November 24, 2020

University of Waterloo

Summary:

A common insecticide that is a major hazard for honeybees is now effectively detected in honey thanks to a simple new method.

Researchers at the University of Waterloo developed an environmentally friendly, fully automated technique that extracts pyrethroids from the honey. Pyrethroids are one of two main groups of pesticides that contribute to colony collapse disorder in bees, a phenomenon where worker honeybees disappear, leaving the queen and other members of the hive to die. Agricultural producers worldwide rely on honeybees to pollinate hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of crops.

"Pyrethroids are poorly soluble in water and are actually suspended in honey," said Janusz Pawliszyn, a professor of chemistry at Waterloo. "We add a small amount of alcohol to dissolve them prior to extraction by the automated SPME system."

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency tests for chemical residues in food in Canada. Maximum residue limits are regulated under the Pest Control Products Act. The research team found that of the honey products they tested that contained the pesticide, all were at allowable levels.

Phil's Dry Pollen Supplement Feeder (springtime)



*Homemade pollen feeder with PVC tube, cap and downspout.
Notice the open end is downward to keep rain out and
hanging to keep mice out*



Same thing, only disguised as a bee (Bost Farm)

Winter Comes on ... Sunday!

by Jimmie Oakley

It has been one of my 'pet' saying that "we have winter in Texas on Tuesday and Thursday and that is not always in the same week." That is to say, that we don't have much winter in Texas, if at all. And if we do it is usually only a couple of days that the rest of the country wouldn't call winter.

Well surprise, surprise, winter came to Texas on Sunday the 10th (and possibly Monday) where the central Texas and the Georgetown area receive several inches of snow and sub-freezing temperatures overnight that sent many of us beekeepers scurrying to cover our bases (or beehives) and to get our operation ready for real winter.



Wow! 4 3/4"

If your hives have 15+ pounds of honey you may be in fair shape but be mindful to at least check each hive when weather permits, even if you only do a "hive lift", tipping the entire stack forward using the back handle of the bottom box to get an idea of the relative weight in the hive, reflecting the honey stores.

During this cold weather your bees will spend much time in a cluster to conserve heat, but they must have access to their stores (honey, syrup, candy board, or dry sugar) to maintain that heat by burning calories derived from their food source.

Although your bees need food during the cold days of winter (and we still have February to go) you need to be just as mindful that most bees starve out in the springtime when the hive has started raising brood and experience some extended period of cold or nonflight event where they use up their stores feeding all the new baby bees.

So, let this be a wakeup call to us all to keep an eye on how much reserves our hives have and be prepared to provide sufficiently for their needs now, and in the weeks to come till nectar flows again.



It's not frost on the pumpkin, but snow on the hay bales (kind of looks like Frosted Shredded Wheat)



Hives at the Bost Farm (two with piggyback nucs)



Try tipping hive forward using bottom handle to judge weight.



Dry sugar on cardboard can provide a supplemental feed to carry the bees over till spring

It's Good to be back in WCABA!

Hello fellow beekeepers! A few months back, I caught the “keeping fever” again and decided to get back into beekeeping. I can’t wait to get stung, NOT!

Currently, I’m your club Bee Procurement Coordinator, receiving, logging and processing your queen and nuc orders. Hey, order early and often!

A brief bio:

I think(?) in 2010 and 2011, I was your WCABA President. This was when we met in the basement of the First United Methodist church in Georgetown. Remember that? This was an era of phenomenal growth of WCABA. At that time, we were in the early/start-up phase of fetching bees and queens for the club.



Gary Bible, WCABA President 2010 and 2011

I remember making 4 trips to Louisiana (one for packages from Avoyelles, 3 for nukes from Merrimack), one trip to Rogers to the Walker bee farm for packages and a trip to Blue Ridge to pick up nucs.

I always found bee fetching to be an “adventure”. Have I got stories! Most involve close-quarter, unplanned, adlibbed meetings in a truck extended-cab with fellow keepers. We swapped many bee stories (some were true), made a few stops here and there, endured EXTREME FATIGUE due to long hours and made lots of phone calls to the Bost “base”. Did I say fatigue? Yep, the trip usually started around noon from the Bost farm in the hopes of arriving around 6 or 7 pm in various locations in Louisiana. Then a couple of hours of loading and securing hundreds of packages or nucs, and then with fingers crossed, the trip home. We prayed for a caffeined-up driver, cool weather to keep the bees cool, and for no “travel events” (accidents). Do you know bee packages and nucs are very heavy?

Altogether a bee fetching trip averaged about 18 hours; the worst part was staying up all night. If all went well, 3 or 4 very “spent” beeks would roll into the Bost “staging area” in the early hours of the morning. Then the only thing left to do was to unload them so they could be picked-up by anxious club members. I was always very happy to see several club members waiting to help us unload. Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition, uh bees. Thank you!

And, it was very satisfying to pick up your bees at the end of the process, take them home and hive them, if..... you weren’t too tired. Many times, I took my bees to my hive area, set them down, open them up and let ‘em free-fly until hiving day. Whew! Those were days of fatigue and joy of another successful bee delivery!

Anyhow, this old dude is happy to be back into it! I missed you, maybe as much as the bees!

Two suggestions I leave with you:

1. Order early and often.
2. If you have questions, I’m at glbible@austin.rr.com or cell – 512-923-0410

Hey, it’s great to be back with the best bee club in Texas

Gary Bible

WCABA Bee Procurement

P.S. If when you get a chance, thank every club officer you see. These people WORK HARD to ensure WCABA remains the best bee club in Texas.

January 2021 Bee and Queen Sales Update

The sale of bees and queens in the WCABA Bee Procurement Program is well underway.

As of January 23rd, the membership has placed 35 orders that has amounted to 86 nucs and 29 queen

There is still time to place an order before the **February 28th deadline** through the club if you are a current member. The official order form is in this newsletter for your convenience with a nuc price of \$150 each and the marked and clipped queens for \$35 each.



Gary Bible – Bee Procurement Coordinator

Delivery dates for the nucs and queens with pick up at the Bost Farm is yet to be determined, but we think it will be mid to late April. Each order is confirmed by e-mail and each order will receive a “Pickup Voucher” with a specific date and number of nucs/queens the member is entitled to claim. As always, your patience is appreciated while the final details of the club’s bulk order for nucs and queens is worked out. For now, **mail your request and check**, or bring your request and payment, if and when, we have a face-to-face meeting.

Gary Bible - WCABA Bee Procurement Coordinator

E-mail: glbible@austin.rr.com - Cell: 512-923-0410

W.C.A.B.A. Club 5-Frame Nuc & Queen Order Form - 2021

Name _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ e-mail: _____

I want to order: ***Are you a current member? [] Yes!*** please print

No. _____ **5 Frame Nuc** (Based on group order of 100 nucs) **\$150.00/ Nuc.**

Nuc with three frames brood, mated queen, "NOT" marked or clipped.

No. _____ **Honey Bee Queen** (Based on group order of 100) **\$35.00/ Queen**

BeeWeaver marked & clipped Queen from mite tolerant and virus resistant stock.

How will you pay? CASH or Check # _____

TOTAL \$ AMT

Mail remittance to:

Check Preferred

OF ORDER

<div></div>

WCABA Order / GARY BIBLE - 150 Sundance Trail, Liberty Hill, TX 78642

*MUST be Current Member - Nuc order **deadline:** Must be postmarked by February 28th or while supplies last.*

Limit 10 nucs per family, or 4 if Newbie. No individual resale or ownership transfer permitted on nucs ordered.

All secondary transactions and scheduling must come through the club for tracking & delivery purposes.

Special Instructions:

What Next? – Order Equipment!!

Now that you have decided to order bees for delivery in the spring you may wonder, What Next? If you don't already have beekeeping equipment maybe I can make some suggestions.

Below is the list of wood ware, beekeeping equipment, and protective gear that we have ordered for the recipients in our scholarship program over the past years as a minimum required to start beekeeping with your first package or nuc of bees.

Since there is not a local beekeeping supply outlet (except maybe Tractor Supply) there are some alternatives, but they all require ordering on-line or by phone and awaiting shipment.

Mann Lake is a major manufacture of beekeeping supplies and there are two outlets in our area that I am familiar with. Mann Lake Ltd at 1600 Commerce St. Marshall, TX 75672 Ph.844/433-6033. If you go to their website (www.mannlakeltd.com) it takes you to the main office in Hackensack, MN, and an on- line catalog. You can place orders there and it would ship out of the Texas location.

Texas Bee Supply also carries a Mann Lake product line. The address for Texas Bee Supply is 4665 C.R. 633, Blue Ridge, TX 75424. Ph. 800/356-4229. Their website is: www.texasbeesupply.com/

Dadant & Sons, Inc. have a managed outlet in Paris, Texas, but we haven't visited there in a while. The store location is at 1169 Bonham St in Paris, TX 75460. Their toll-free number is 877/632-3268. The company website is www.dadant.com where you can access an on-lone catalog.

I hope this information is encouraging and helpful. Allow yourself enough lead time to get your equipment, get it painted, and get ready to receive your bees...order now!

Thanks, Jimmie Oakley – WCABA Scholarship Chair.

WCABA Beekeeping Equipment Suggested Order- 2021					
Pricing: Mann Lake Ltd. - Marshall, TX					
Qty	Unit	Item Number	Description	Price	Total Price
1	1	KD800	9 5/8" Deep Hive Body Commercial Grade (unassembled)	16.95	16.95
1	1	KD801	9 1/8" Grooved TB & Grooved BB Frame (unassembled) (case of 10)	14.50	14.50
1	1	FN710	8 1/2 x 16 1/4 Rite-Cell beeswax coated sheet (blk, case of 10)	16.95	16.95
1	5	WW365	Flat Wood Migratory Cover (assembled)	13.95	13.95
1	1	WW314	10 Frame Solid Bottom Board w/reducer (assembled)	18.95	18.95
1	1	FD100-WD	Boardman Entrance Feeder	4.20	4.20
1	1	HD120	10 Frame Metal Bound Queen Excluder	6.50	6.50
1	1	HD556	4"x7" Stainless Steel Smoker w/Guard & Wood Bellow	39.95	39.95
1	1	CL130	Plastic Helmet	10.95	10.95
1	1	CL100	Square Folding Veil w/elastic bottom	15.95	15.95
1	1	CL165	Cowhide Leather Gloves Economy - small or medium	19.95	19.95
1	1	HD660	Bee Brush	6.25	6.25
1	1	HD584	9" Standard Hive Tool	5.25	5.25
			Total Equip		190.30
1	1		5-Frame Nuc Bees w/Queen (from WCABA Procurement Program)		150.00
			Total w/ Bees		\$340.30

Membership Report: Shirley Doggett

Membership Report January 2021

New members: (2021)

Robert Ball.	Georgetown
John Thomas D. Bari.	Round Rock
Craig Devine and family.	Georgetown
Keith Harpole.	Hutto
John Horrigan.	Burnet
Nancy Kunschik.	Taylor
Nicole Narlo.	Georgetown.
Katieann Prescott.	Georgetown
Victoria Rodriguez.	Bastrop
Jan & Diane Shadden.	Leander
Jeff Smith.	Sandia.
Amy & Doug Wallingford.	Georgetown



Shirley Doggett - Membership

Renewing members: (2021)

Courtney Ahrenholtz.	Leander	Robert McCannon	Florence
Ann Bierschenk.	Georgetown	Holly Medina Family	Cedar Park
Curtis & Laura Cassens.	Georgetown	Clark & Cindy Meier	Liberty Hill
Tom & Sharon Cloninger.	Austin	Butch & Darcy Miller	Hutto
Paul Davis.	Georgetown	Karen Miller	Georgetown
Brandon Deaver	Round Rock	Gary & Rose Morris	Round Rock
Jessica Doleva.	Georgetown	Jason Rask	Georgetown
Chris & Carmen Gagne.	Leander	Ernie & Carla Schreiber	Lake Jackson
Rachel & Steven Gavenda.	Austin	Alice Schultz	Georgetown
John & Helen Hibbard.	Liberty Hill	Jim Smith	Georgetown
Vicky Kennedy.	Burnet	Sharon Stephenson	Hutto
Monty Kizer.	Bartlett	Tim Urban Family	Georgetown
Chris Lamb	Hutto	Gene Wallace	Georgetown
Gillian Mattinson.	Georgetown	Valerie Warwick	Round Rock
		Pamula Yeamans	Bastrop

Members (old and new) are WELCOME to pay their dues through their financial institution's Bill Pay feature, but you NEED to notify Membership Director, Shirley Doggett, of your action (by email or phone) so I can process your membership application appropriately and you get the proper credit.

[email: sdoggett@mindspring.com or Ph. 512/924-5051]

Texas Beekeepers Association is still offering one-year complimentary memberships for new beekeepers. If you think you should have had one and it has not been offered to you, please talk to me about it.

Shirley

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



Dues: **\$20.00** per year - individual or **\$25.00** - family membership

New Member / Renewing Member

(circle one)

Date: _____

Name: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Cash or Check # _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: () _____ e-mail: _____

(please print)

To save postage cost may we send your Newsletter via e-mail? Yes[] No[]

Instructions: print , fill out, and bring to club meeting , or mail with check to Membership

Mrs. Shirley Doggett - 400 C. R. 440 - Thrall, TX 76578 - Ph.512/924-5051

Classifies Ads:

Name: Gary Carlile

Email: garyc@lonewolf-assy.com

Subject: Early Queens

I have a couple of STRONG hives that I want to split very early. Hawaii vendors want to sell 25 queens at minimum. I only need 10. Do you know anyone who might be interested in some or all of the extra 15? Am hoping for late Feb or very early March delivery. Please contact me asap.

Free beginners' class for members. Every other Saturday at the Oakalla Tx library.

Contact Alaine Heivilin gonefishing5454@gmail.com .

Beekeeping Management Class

\$130.00

Learn how to become a successful beekeeper in this one-day beekeeping workshop. Beekeeping has a number of challenges. In this course, we will present a [proven model and approach](#) for keeping bees in Texas. You'll learn how to build and maintain a productive apiary, how to produce backup bee colonies, how to manage diseases and parasites in your apiary and more.

If interested, please contact Randy about a proposed 1-day class in March at the Bost Farm for WCACA member convenience.

Oakley Family Apiaries: (254) 307-2337

www.oakleyfamilyapiaries.com

Rangel Bee Lab Conducting Covid-19 Impact Survey

"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 study is to identify what beekeeping practices, operations and/or available learning opportunities have been most impacted by the pandemic in 2020 and 2021. By identifying what aspects of beekeeping have been impacted by COVID-19, our goal is to help the industry determine what solutions can be applied in the future to mitigate these issues. We 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 our lab.

The survey can be found and completed at: <https://forms.gle/DTdGqgPDpDbuAZwQ7>

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

Please share this and help us advertise the study with all of your beekeeper contacts. The more responses we get, the better able we will be at understanding the effects of COVID-19 on our regional beekeeping operations.

Thank you for your continuous support. Have a safe and enjoyable holiday season!"

Sincerely, Pierre Lau - PhD Candidate

Department of Entomology Texas A&M University
College Station, TX 77843-2475

Janice and John G. Thomas '59 Honey Bee Facility



The Pollinators

(A Documentary)

submitted by Phil Ainslie

The Pollinators buzzed right through a challenging 2020!

While we had tremendous successes this year, like most people we are eager to turn the page to a New Year.

We learned a couple

of very important things this year: One is that our entire world can change suddenly and unpredictably, but we as a society can adapt and innovate to whatever comes our way. The other is that *the story of The Pollinators is more relevant than ever.*

This devastating pandemic has been a reset for so many people and has refocused awareness of nature, food systems and our environment. Protecting all pollinators, our fragile eco systems and supporting our local sustainable agricultural communities is critical to us all.

The Pollinators started out this year with dozens of events and screenings scheduled through the spring and summer. Like everything in our world, that all changed with the pandemic outbreak. We had to curtail all our public screenings beginning in early March, but we were able to adapt many community screenings to virtual ones and postpone public screenings until theaters open again. We are looking forward to many events in 2021, including more outdoor screenings which are super fun.



For Your Consideration. Our innovative and crowd sourced theatrical release brought out so many enthusiastic audiences across the U.S. to see **The Pollinators**, we even managed to achieve eligibility for an Academy Award! While being *eligible* does not mean we will get an actual *nomination*, we are beyond thrilled to even *BE* considered eligible. We are so proud that our independent backyard-based documentary has been so well received and this eligibility is definitely something we never anticipated. We know that an actual nomination is a long, long, long shot due to the well-funded marketing campaigns that higher budget and studio backed films are mounting, but who knows? It really depends on how the Academy members feel about the film. And hey, it's 2020!

"The trials of the humble honeybee are magnified to epic proportions in the meticulous, magnificent documentary"..."an intelligent vision of nature. What's pleasing to the eye is pleasing to the earth — a sentiment the film rigorously supports with science."

-The New York Times

Our scrappy 'indie' spirit means we believe anything is possible. Of course, this would not be happening without our passionate audiences, so thank you for coming out and for spreading the word about **The Pollinators**. We are so grateful.

The winter season is a great time to watch **The Pollinators** at home and we are now available on many different platforms: [Amazon Prime](#), [AppleTV](#), [GooglePlay](#), [XBox](#), [Vudu](#), [Kanopy](#), [Curiosity Stream](#) and others.

We are also thrilled to announce that the film will be available on a new streaming service [Discovery+](#) starting in early January 2021.

The Pollinators is available for educational screenings through [Collective Eye Films](#) if you want to suggest it to your schools. Some of our favorite Q & A's this year were with university and high school level classes who incorporated the film into their curriculums and took part in enthusiastic conversations about bees, agriculture and our food system.

The Pollinators is indeed a great conversation starter and has gotten a great response from students and teachers alike.

Indeed, it is an important story most people don't know they need to know.

Here are some of the other incredible milestones from 2020:

🐝 Taking part in an esteemed international panel organized by the the **Food & Agriculture Organization** of the **United Nations** in observance of [World Bee Day](#).

🐝 Screening for the [American Academy Advancement of Science](#) conference in Seattle.

🐝 Garnering our 11th film festival award: Best Documentary feature film at the San Luis Obispo Film Festival.

We were a *Critics Pick* in the [New York Times](#) and also had a great review in [The Guardian](#) that accompanied our digital release. If you want to catch up on some of the wonderful podcasts and conversations we took part in, here are a few notable links: [Bill Moyers.com](#), [Beekeeping Today](#), [Beekeeping Confidential](#), [Blister Podcast](#), [Epic Gardening](#), [Market Place Morning Report](#) & [Democracy NOW!](#). This is a fun [promo](#) for *The Pollinators* created earlier in the year by our dear friend Vin Liota. The full trailer for *The Pollinators* is [here](#).

This has been an unprecedented year for us all in myriad ways and while it has been tremendously challenging, we have adapted and continued to make great strides in getting *The Pollinators* out to the world. Above all, we want to express our heartfelt appreciation for your amazing support and for spreading the word. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you or your community is interested in putting something together next year, it is literally right around the corner.

Feel free to share this note with your friends and please send us a note to say hello anytime. You can reach us at thepollinatorsnet@gmail.com

We look forward to 2021 buzzing with positive vibes and wish you and your families a safe and healthy New Year.

We know that anything can happen.

Peter Nelson, Sally Roy & *The Pollinators* team

Website thepollinators.net

Twitter [@pollinatorsfilm](https://twitter.com/pollinatorsfilm)

Instagram [@pollinatorsfilm](https://www.instagram.com/pollinatorsfilm)

Facebook [@thepollinatorsfilm](https://www.facebook.com/thepollinatorsfilm)



Audience Award at Newport Beach Film Festival 2019

Excellence in Environmental Filmmaking at SFDocFest 2019

Best Cinematography in a Documentary Feature at Woods Hole Film Festival 2019

Gaia Prize for Environmental Filmmaking at Middlebury New Filmmaker Festival 2019

Best Feature Length Documentary at Germinate International Film Festival 2019

Best Documentary Feature at Chesapeake Film Festival 2019

Rob Stewart Eco Warrior Award at Vancouver International Film Festival 2019

Best Documentary Film, Reading Film Festival 2019

Audience Award, Reading Film Festival 2019

Audience Award, Environmental Films, Sedona International Film Festival 2020

Best Documentary Feature, San Luis Obispo International Film Festival 2020

Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association
Treasurer's Report - Executive Meeting January 21, 2021

Profit and Loss

ACCOUNTS	Jan 01, 2020 to Dec 31, 2020	Jan 01, 2021 to Jan 21, 2021
Income		
Direct Public Support - Queen/Princess Program	\$1,000.00	
Program Income - Bee Procurement	\$45,135.00	\$12,420.00
Program Income - Membership Dues	\$4,623.00	\$375.00
Total Income	<u>\$50,758.00</u>	<u>\$12,795.00</u>
Cost of Goods Sold		
Bees	\$37,769.25	\$0.00
Total Cost of Goods Sold	<u>\$37,769.25</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Gross Profit	<u>\$12,988.75</u>	<u>\$12,795.00</u>
Operating Expenses		
Donations and Gifts	\$829.85	
Dues	\$50.00	
Honey Extracting Equipment	\$390.30	
Insurance	\$1,207.00	
Permits	\$100.00	
Scholarship Program Expenses	\$4,380.98	
Speaker Fees	\$525.00	
Travel Expenses	\$176.98	
Venue Rental Expense	\$400.00	
Website Maintenance and Online Meetings	\$283.79	
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$8,343.90</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Net Profit	<u>\$4,644.85</u>	<u>\$12,795.00</u>

Balance Sheet

ACCOUNTS	As of Dec 31, 2020	As of Jan 21, 2021
Assets		
Total Cash and Bank	\$24,184.87	\$26,979.87
Accounts Receivable	\$37.00	\$37.00
Bee Procurement Downpayment	\$2,600.00	\$12,600.00
Total Assets	<u>\$26,821.87</u>	<u>\$39,616.87</u>
Liabilities		
Total Liabilities	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Assets & Liabilities	<u>\$26,821.87</u>	<u>\$39,616.87</u>
Equity		
Retained Earnings - Prior Years	\$22,177.02	\$26,821.87
Retained Earnings - Current Year	\$4,644.85	\$12,795.00
Total Equity	<u>\$26,821.87</u>	<u>\$39,616.87</u>

Bee Procurement Program - 2021

Income	
Program Income - Bee Procurement	\$12,420.00
Cost of Goods Sold	
Bees	<u>\$0.00</u>
Gross Profit	<u>\$12,420.00</u>
Expenses	
Insurance	\$0.00
Permit	\$0.00
Travel Expenses	\$0.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$0.00</u>
Net Profit	<u>\$12,420.00</u>

Notes:

Bee Procurement Downpayments	\$12,600.00
Bee Procurement Commitment	\$38,750.00