

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA OCTOBER, 2020 NEWSLETTER

www.wcaba.org

2020 Club Officers:

PRESIDENT: Phil Ainslie

254-718-3255

beeuser46@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT:

Shannon Montez

shannon.montez@yahoo.com

MEMBERSHIP: Shirley Doggett

co chairs: Fred & Cecilia Richter

512-924-5051

sdoggett@mindspring.com

PROGRAM: Linda Russell

russell6083@yahoo.com

NEWSLETTER: Jimmie Oakley

512-507-3009

jimmie.oakley@gmail.com

SECRETARY: Gillian Mattinson

512-961-9955

gillmatties@gmail.com

TREASURER: Barbi Rose

512-799-0616

barbirose@yahoo.com

HISTORIAN: Matt Ludlum

601-454-9966

matt.ludlum@gmail.com

PAST PRESIDENT: Jim Colbert

512-863-7183

colbertj@hotmail.com

LIBRARIAN: Chris Huck

832-904-7283

wcaba.librarian@yahoo.com

REFRESHMENTS:

Provided by Red Poppy Coffee

Lisa Hoekstra

SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR:

Jimmie Oakley

512-507-3009

jimmie.oakley@gmail.com

QUEEN CHAIR:

Ginny Stubblefield

512-636-6813

ginny@options2sell.com

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we are going to have our October member meeting virtually at 7 pm, October 27th (fourth Tuesday) via “Zoom” meeting 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: October Virtual Member Meeting

Time: Oct 27, 2020 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5711855597>

Dial in: +1 346 248 7799

Meeting ID: 571 185 5597

PROGRAM

Speaker: Randy Oakley

Randy will share what they are doing in their beehives this month in preparation for winter and to insure healthy outcomes in the spring. He will also discuss how you can apply these procedures in your own apiaries.



Topic: Varroa mite sampling and treatment.

Addressing nutritional needs for fall colonies & winter stores.

Assessing colony/queen health & combining weak hives.

Reducing hive size.

Speaker Bio:

Randy Oakley has been a beekeeper most all his life, being raised in a beekeeping family...



Our family began keeping bees in 1975. I was nine years old when my family moved from Dallas, Texas to pursue the life of a migratory beekeeper. We expanded from 40 to 600 colonies over the next ten years. We would winter the bees in southeast Texas and then relocate the beehives to North Dakota for the summer honey flow.

During and after college, I pursued other types of work for a while, but then I began to feel drawn back to beekeeping. My children were becoming older, and I knew that it was part of the heritage that I wanted to pass on to them, plus the rural life of a beekeeper afforded a context for deeper and more meaningful relationships.

Honeybees are fascinating. But more than simply a fascination with bees as insects, I feel like an honorable, honest living should be possible from keeping bees. There are so many facets of the enterprise of beekeeping that one could develop into a livelihood.



Randy making Piggyback Splits with the WCABA Scholarship Program Recipients in Georgetown



TEXAS BEEKEEPING SIMPLIFIED
www.OakleyFamilyApiaries.com



Randy offers Hands on Instruction in the Beekeeping Management classes he teaches at his Elm Mott farm

Increasingly, I have felt challenged to play a part in establishing a protocol that people can follow to become successful small-scale beekeepers in the parts of Texas that share our climate.

Learning from the bees themselves (Wisdom of the Bee Tree) as well as from successful beekeepers in other regions, I have been working on an approach for managing bees that will help beginning beekeepers become successful beekeepers. I teach this approach in my classes, and we provide all that's needed to implement this approach.

Join us as we learn from Randy's experience and training on Tuesday evening October 27th at 7PM in our Virtual Meeting.

Research Pearls

Insecticides are Becoming More Toxic to Honey Bees.

During the past 20 years, insecticides applied to U.S. agricultural landscapes have become significantly more toxic -- over 120-fold in some midwestern states -- to honey bees when ingested, according to a team of researchers, who identified rising neonicotinoid seed treatments in corn and soy as the primary driver of this change. The study is the first to characterize the geographic patterns of insecticide toxicity to bees and reveal specific areas of the country where mitigation and conservation efforts could be focused.



Phil Ainslie - President

This research is part of a larger project to investigate the various stressors impacting pollinator populations across the United States. One tool created within this research project is Beescape, which allows users to explore the stressors affecting bees in their own communities.

County-level analysis reveals a rapidly shifting landscape of insecticide hazard to honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) on US farmland. *Scientific Reports*, 2020; 10 (1) DOI: [10.1038/s41598-019-57225-w](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-019-57225-w)

Bumblebees Speed up Flowering

A research team led by ETH Professors Consuelo De Moraes and Mark Mescher has now discovered that one peculiar bumblebee behavior may help to overcome such challenges by facilitating coordination between the bees and the plants they pollinate. The group has found that bumblebee workers use their mouth parts to pinch into the leaves of plants that haven't flowered yet, and that the resulting damage stimulates the production of new flowers that bloom earlier than those on plants that haven't been given this "nudge."



"Bumblebees may have found an effective method of mitigating local shortages of pollen, researcher " De Moraes says. "Our open fields are abuzz with other pollinators, too, which may also benefit from the bumblebees' efforts." But it remains to be seen whether this mechanism is sufficient to overcome the challenges of changing climate. Insects and flowering plants have evolved together, sharing a long history that strikes a delicate balance between efflorescence and pollinator development.

Bumble bees damage plant leaves and accelerate flower production when pollen is scarce. *Science*, 2020; 368 (6493): 881 DOI: [10.1126/science.aay0496](https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aay0496)

Honeybee Lives Shortened After Exposure to Two Widely Used Pesticides

The lives of honeybees are shortened -- with evidence of physiological stress -- when they are exposed to the suggested application rates of two commercially available and widely used pesticides, according to new Oregon State University research.

In a study published in the journal *PLOS ONE*, honeybee researchers in OSU's College of Agricultural Sciences found detrimental effects in bees exposed to Transform and Sivanto, which are both registered for use in the United States and were developed to be more compatible with bee health.

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According to the researchers, this is the first study to investigate "sub-lethal" effects of sulfoxaflor, the active ingredient in Transform, and flupyradifurone, the active ingredient in Sivanto. Sub-lethal effects mean that the bees don't die immediately, but experience physiological stress resulting in shortened lifespan.

In the case of Transform, the bees' lives were severely shortened. A majority of the honeybees exposed to Transform died within six hours of being exposed, confirming the severe toxicity of the pesticide to bees when exposed directly to field application rates recommended on the label, the researchers said.

The average life span of a worker honeybee is five to six weeks in spring and summer, so if you are reducing its life span by five to 10 days, that's a huge problem," Sagili said. "Reduced longevity resulting from oxidative stress could negatively affect colony population and ultimately compromise colony fitness."

Priyadarshini Chakrabarti, Emily A. Carlson, Hannah M. Lucas, Andony P. Melathopoulos, Ramesh R. Sagili. **Field rates of Sivanto™ (flupyradifurone) and Transform® (sulfoxaflor) increase oxidative stress and induce apoptosis in honey bees (*Apis mellifera* L.).** *PLOS ONE*, 2020; 15 (5): e0233033
DOI: [10.1371/journal.pone.0233033](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0233033)



Average life span of a worker honeybee is only five to six weeks in spring and summer

The Buzzing of Bees Can Warn of Nearby Poisons

Everyone has heard of the canary in the coal mine, which sways or drops dead in the presence of poisonous gas, alerting miners to get out. Now a University of Montana research team has learned to understand the collective buzzing of bees in their hives, which can provide a similar biological alert system.

But bees evidently provide a lot more information than canaries. The researchers, who work for a UM spin-off technology company called Bee Alert Technology Inc., have found that the insects buzz differently when exposed to various poisonous chemicals.

"We found bees respond within 30 seconds or less to the presence of a toxic chemical," said Research Professor Jerry Bromenshenk. "The military is interested in that for countering terrorism. But the real surprise was that the sounds bees produce can actually tell what chemical is hitting them."



Better than a Canary

"We think this new technology can help bees and revolutionize beekeeping," Debnam said. "If you took a picture of beekeeping from 1947, it would look just like a bee yard today -- with the same smoker and other tools. Our audio technology might be one of the bigger things to come along."

Story Source: [University Of Montana](#).

President's Note: Announcing Virtual Executive Board Meeting on November 19th at 7PM

Mentors, Mentors, Mentors: the club is still in need of mentors for our members. If you have a year or so experience (been there , done that) you could help out another...VOLUNTEER!! Please contact the board via the website under "contact us" or contact Phil Ainslie, President, at beeuser46@gmail.com

2020... What a Year

THE YEAR BEGAN innocently enough, with the club meeting regularly in the Hewlett Room in the Georgetown Public Library. The club was taking orders for bees and queens as in years past, and scholarship kids were preparing for a new year, then ... **BLAM!** Covid -19 Hit!

Needless to say, it has affected every facet of our lives, from work, to play, to church, to shopping, to school, to beekeeping, to well; everything!

CLUB MEETINGS

We had our last physical, in person, meeting in February, and it was a big one with a packed house, and lots of bee and queen orders. By March the Library had closed and the club was meeting for the first time ever, virtually (viaZoom).

BEE & QUEEN PICKUP

With many businesses shut or shutting down, with the possible pickup and delivery of the bee and queen order in question, WCABA had to rethink how to secure and deliver of the \$43 thousand dollars of bees and queens the club had ordered. In an abundance of caution the Bee & Queen Porcurment team opted to offer a drive-through pickup model to the membership for securing their purchase at the least possible risk to all involved. Again, first time ever for us, and it worked very well if I do say so myself.



Large crowd attends February WCABA meeting



Traffic Flow for drive-through pickup of bees



Linda and Dodie as Runners



Jim Ray loads nucs



Linda, Gillian, Barbie, & Shannon (Masked Banditos?)

OTHER LOSSES noted: No Ice Cream Social in August, and no Honey Tasting or Judging in September.



Ice Cream Social



Honey Tasting



Honey Judging

NOT ALL IS LOST

Yet, many of us are still keeping bees, we have made honey, we have used the extractor, we have sold some honey, we are preparing our bees for winter and already looking forward to next year. Beekeepers are like anyone in agriculture, eternal optimists. Have to be to keep going in Hard Times. It may be hard to beat this thing, but we are doing what we can to be safe (wear a mask, keep a distance, wash hands) and to keep our bees safe, (keep 'em fed, good queen, test for mites, treat when necessary). **We're all in this together.**

2021, BRING IT ON!

Jimmie Oakley - Editor

TEXAS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION PRESENTS



2020 Virtual Convention

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH

FEATURING SPECIAL KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**DR. SAMUEL
RAMSEY**



**DR. DAVID
TARPY**



**DR. FERHAT
OZTURK**



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REGISTER TODAY AT
WWW.TEXASBEEKEEPERS.ORG

Scholarship Hives “prep” for Winter

The 2020 Scholarship youth have made further preparation for wintering their hives at the Georgetown Heritage Garden during the past couple of scheduled meetings.

On Thursday, October 1st the youngsters performed an alcohol wash mite count on their hives as a follow up to the Apiguard mite treatment performed in the month of July (see pics at end of article). The counts were all at acceptable levels, but future treatment is still being considered for overwintering.

On the 15th of October the recipients returned to the Garden to do a “deep dive” into the hive, both parent and piggyback colonies, to map the brood nest, pollen and honey stores, and gage the vigor of the bees that will be overwintering into next spring.



Garrett and Michael Rogers (with clipboard in hand) stand ready as Randy explains what to do



Randy emphasizes good record keeping as part of the process



Sterling and Julie Kinghorn break down the hive to inspect yhe parent colony



Julie points out something important to Sterling



Michael gives a look as Garrett examines the frame for brood & stores



Misty and Emily team up to lift deep box back in place on the parent hive



Emily inspects the Piggyback nuc on top to complete the process as her mom takes notes

Having a good idea of the location of the brood nest and the allocation of the resources in the hive helps a beekeeper know if and when attention might be needed during the idle months coming up. This could help avoid bee loss and possible starvation in the spring (never a good thing).

Keeping up with what is going on, or being done, in the scholarship beeyard is a good way to remind yourself what you might be considering in keeping your bees healthy, happy, and productive.

Jimmie Oakley – Scholarship Committee Chair

Hey! Lookin' for ME?

Testing for Varroa mites in the Scholarship Bee Yard



THE CONCEPT: Separate Varroa mite from honey bee using alcohol wash (70-90% proof)



Sterling with brood frame



Randy with tub full of nurse bees



Aydon straining mite sample



THE PROCESS: Randy Oakley demonstrates the steps in securing mite sample and determining the count



Shake 300+ bees into wide shallow tub for inspection of sample (for queen)



Determining queen not there so scoop up ½ cup (approx. 300)



Pour ½ cup bee sample into test chamber and secure lid



Use swirling motion 1 to 1.5 min. to dislodge mites from bees



Separate test chambers



Dispose of spent sample of (dead) bees



Pour remaining alcohol through nylon strainer



Count the numbers of mites in the sample

The Honey Bee Health Coalition states: Varroa mite infestation represents one of the greatest threats to honey bee health, and honey production. When honey bee colonies are untreated or treated ineffectively colonies can fail and beekeepers can incur major economic losses, and, ultimately, agricultural food production may be impacted. In addition, colonies with Varroa are a source of mites that can spread to other colonies, even in other apiaries, through drifting, robbing, and absconding activity of bees. All beekeepers should remain vigilant to detect high Varroa mite levels and be prepared to take timely action in order to reduce mite loads. Effective mite control will reduce colony losses and avoid potential spread of infectious disease among colonies.

Let's all do our part; sample and treat when necessary. JO

Membership Report: Shirley Doggett

Membership Report October 2020

New members

Bill Gregory. Georgetown
Mary El-Baz. Pflugerville



Thanks
Shirley

Membership RENEWALS being accepted NOW!

Want to beat the New Year rush in renewing your membership in WCABA?

All membership application for new and renewing members submitted after October 1st will be applied to the next calendar year. Use form below and help Shirley out by sending in your renewal early this year.

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

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
of the
WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
CONSTITUTION

Article I
Name

The name of this organization, a non-profit association, shall be Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association.

Article I
Purpose

The Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association is organized to engage in agriculture and backyard beekeeping education, disseminate information to the public activities, fellowship beekeeper, support and promote beekeeping.

Article III
Membership

Any individual or family interested in becoming a member of this association may become a member by paying the membership dues provided for in Section III-a of the by-laws of this association. WCABA Associate members defined in Section III-b of the by-laws may attend any meetings but will have no vote in the business of the association. The period of membership shall be from January 1 through December 31 each year.

Article IV
Officers

The officers and the governing body of this association shall be:

- | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| a. President | e. Editorial Director | |
| b. Vice-President | f. Secretary | i. Two directors at large |
| c. Membership director | g. Treasurer | j. Historian |
| d. Program director | h. Past president | |

Article V
Meetings

The Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association shall meet at a place and time to be designated by the majority vote of the Executive Board. There shall be no scheduled meeting in December due to the holiday season. A quorum at the meeting of the Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association shall consist of fifteen members present.

Article VI
Constitution Changes

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members of the association present, the amended changes presented at any regular meeting, and voted on at the following meeting. The constitution may be amended after review by the executive board and by approval of two-thirds of the members attending the monthly members meeting. The proposed changes will be sent out to the membership with the newsletter for review before the membership vote. It shall be the policy of the board to review the constitution and by-laws each October of even years unless the board deems it necessary to make changes sooner.

BY-LAWS

Section I

Officers

- a. The President, Vice-President, Membership Director, Program Director, Secretary, Treasurer, Editorial Director, and Historian shall be elected by a majority voting at the regular meeting in November of each year and shall take office at the January meeting. The Executive Board shall consist of the officers listed above, the past president, and two members at large. The members at large are not elected but are appointed by the executive board to serve as volunteers on the board. The board of directors will appoint the two directors at large.
- b. The nominating committee shall consist of three members appointed by the President before, but no later than the October membership meeting. The nominating committee shall select a slate of officers for the next year. The list of candidates shall be present and elected at the November meeting. Nominations from the floor may be accepted. The nominee by committee or from the floor must be a member in good standing and willing to serve in the office. The names proposed by the nominating committee to the general membership will be posted in the newsletter before the election.
- d. All officers shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected or appointed.
- e. In the case of death or resignation of an officer of the association, the Executive Board shall fill the vacancy by appointment for the remainder of the year. In the case of the office of President, the Vice-President will serve the remainder of the year and a new Vice-President shall be appointed from either the membership at large or from the present officers.
- f. Any officer being absent for three consecutive executive or regular meetings, without just cause, shall be replaced and a new officer appointed by the executive board to complete the remainder of the term.
- g. Officers are encouraged but not required to be members of the TBA.

Section II

Duties of Officers

- a. The President shall preside at all meetings of the association and of the Executive Board. He or she shall have general supervision of the officers of the association. He or she will be the official spokesperson for the organization and sign all official correspondence. He or she may call a meeting of the Executive Board at any time and place he or she selects. He or she shall appoint all committees. Committees may include but are not limited to educational seminars, scholarships, outreach, etc. The President may appoint or seek volunteers for equipment procurement, bee procurement, meeting snacks, honey bee queen advisor, etc.
- b. The Vice-President, in the absence of the President shall preside and assume all the duties and privileges of the President. He or she will assist the President as needed.
- c. The Membership Director shall collect all membership dues and keep an attendance record of all meetings. Records of past members may be kept for two years or as designated by the Board.
- c. The Program Director shall be responsible for a program at each monthly meeting.
- d. Editorial Director shall be the association reporter and editor of the association's monthly newsletter.
- e. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the association and the Executive Board and publish the minutes in the newsletter. He or she shall carry on the correspondence of the association. The Secretary will keep a copy of the Constitution and By-laws. The Constitution and By-laws will be provided to any new member of the Executive committee. Also, the Constitution and By-laws will be made available to any member desiring a copy. The constitution and by-laws will be posted on the WCABA website for view by the general public.
- f. The Treasurer shall accept from the Membership Director all membership dues and all other money collected by the association. He or she shall dispense the funds of the association for the incidental expenses of the association as directed by the Executive Board. An oral report shall be given at monthly meetings. An oral and printed report shall be given at the Executive Board meetings. The monthly bank statement shall go to the treasurer and president. The president or a quorum of the board may request audits at any time.
- g. The Historian shall keep records of past events, programs, newsletters, and any information that may be of interest to future members. Also, the Historian will keep an after-action file on club events. These reports are to be a review of the event and suggestions on how to improve the event. The report is to be provided by the

facilitator or committed chairman of the event. This file is to be made available for review by individuals planning future similar events. It will be the responsibility of the Historian to remind the facilitator or chairman to submit this report.

h. The Executive Board shall act as directors of the association. They shall have charge of expending the funds of the association, as provided under Section II Paragraph F.

i. Members at large (two): Provide member perspective and assist in coordination or facilitation of projects as needed.

k. Any current member may attend the board meetings. Only board members may vote on board business.

Section III

Dues

a. The association shall collect an annual membership fee to be determined by a general vote at the November meeting. These dues are payable and due at the first meeting in January. Any member in arrears for dues greater than 3 months shall cease to be a member until the member has provided payment of current membership dues. Members paying their dues on or after October first shall be deemed to have paid for the following year.

b. Children of members and students interested in beekeeping may be an Associate member and shall pay no dues until age 22.

Section IV

Dissolution of Assets

If for any reason the Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association is dissolved or disbanded, the remaining assets, after all, bills are paid, will be given to the State Entomology Department at Texas A&M University.

The Constitution and By-Laws were revised* and adopted (*per Article VI*) - November 2020

**only changes were grammatical in nature*

WCABA Officers Nominations

Fall has arrived and with it the nominations for the 2021 WCABA Club Officers

President – Shannon Montez

Vice President – No Nominee

Membership Director – Shirley Doggett

Program Director – Linda Russell

Editorial Director – Jimmie Oakley

Secretary – Phil Ainslie

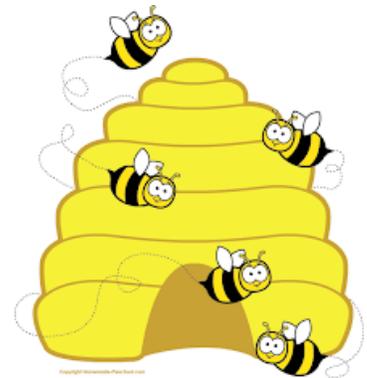
Treasurer – Barbi Rose

Historian – Matt Ludlum

Past President – Phil Ainslie

Director at Large – Appointed by new Board

Director at Large – Appointed by new Board



Williamson County Area Beekeeping Association

Meeting Summary - September 22nd meeting.

The meeting was held on the virtual platform and was opened by Phil Ainslie, President.

President's Announcements

- Membership renewal for the 2021 year is now open.
- The executive committee reviewed the WCABA constitution at the September board meeting and no changes were made. The constitution to be posted in the October newsletter.
- The following WCABA executive officer positions will be open for next year: President, Vice President and Secretary. You must be in good standing. to vote, or to be considered for one of the positions.
- Again there is a great need for mentors for our fellow members, so if you are interested please contact the board via the website under "contact us" or contact Phil Ainslie, President, at beeuser46@gmail.com
- Please visit the market place on the website to see what is available for purchase, or if you have items for sale, this is a great place to advertise bee related items.
- Nucs and Queens will be available for purchase in the New Year. Delivery will be determined later, possibly in April.



Gillian Mattinson - Secretary

Beekeeping Presentation - Mentoring by Alaine Heivilen, our very own WCABA mentor!

Take away from the presentation was that mentoring could be fun, and beneficial to both parties. It does not have to be time exhaustive, and you may have more knowledge and skills than you think. Why not sign up and be a mentor?

Hives for Heroes by Steve Jimenez

Great presentation that also highlighted the benefit of mentors and how Hives for Heroes provides a great and valuable service to our veterans.

Members Present:- 33 virtual participants .

Phil Ainslie, President, closed the meeting.

The next meeting to be held on Tuesday October 27 via the virtual platform.

Gillian Mattinson.

Secretary, W.C.A.B.A.



ONLINE RAFFLE

With over \$10,000 in prizes - you won't want to miss this!



\$1947 value

Honey Extractor

Get Your Tickets!!

Our raffle provides funding for the non-profit Texas Honey Bee Education Association. THBEA provides partial funding for the Texas Honey Queen Program, youth education grants, public information materials on "How to Help the Honey Bees," beekeeper education with the Newbees' Guide to Texas Beekeeping, and funding for honey bee research and advocacy.



2 Prizes to Win

Complete Hive Kits with Live Bees

Starting mid-October, buy your tickets online at:

www.thbea.com/raffle2020

**Ticket sales limited to Texas Residents.



2 Prizes to Win

Nucleus Colonies

THANK YOU TO

Dadant

Mannlake

Moore Honey Farm

Texas Bee Supply

Winding Creek Apiary

Silver Linens Jewelry

Prime Bees

Jorge Mata



\$1100 value

Handmade Bee Pendant Necklace

FOR DONATING THESE PRIZES



\$500 value

Original Artwork

.... watch for even more prizes!