



**Next Meeting:**  
**Thursday, March 24, 2016**

7:00-8:00: Beekeeping 101 / 201  
8:00-9:00: Program

First United Methodist Church  
Georgetown (MMC bldg.)

Beekeeping 101: Laura Colburn  
**"Installing a Package"**

Beekeeping 201: Chris Doggett  
**"Pests and Diseases"**

Program Speaker: Tanya Phillips  
**"Top Bar Hives"**

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## Attracting Pollinators to Your Garden

In a recent article in *The Austin American Statesman*, Teresa Woodard interviewed author, Rhonda Fleming Hayes, a master gardener, about her new book titled **"Pollinator-Friendly Gardening"**. Teresa talked with Rhonda about how to plant your own pollinator-magnet garden, plant-pollinator relationships, and practical steps gardeners can take to make a difference in the pollinator world. Here is an edited transcript from their interview:

**Q: What value do pollinators bring to our gardens?**

**A:** By now, most folks have heard the sound bite that bees are responsible for every third bite of food we eat. Without bees and other pollinators like butterflies, birds, moths, flies and bats, our dinner plates would be lacking in color, flavor and nutrients. Bees are in trouble for a number of reasons, but the major issue is habitat loss, including millions and millions of acres just in our country. While many environmental issues are distant, abstract problems, the great thing about pollinators is we can help them right in our own backyards. Garden by garden, I hope we can make up for this habitat loss by planting more food for them, and more food equals more flowers.

**Q: What plant traits do pollinators value?**

**A:** In general, bees like flowers in blues and yellows with a shallow landing area. Butterflies are attracted to reds, purples and pinks, and prefer flat, daisy shapes. A good way to identify good, local pollinator plants is to observe plants in your neighbors' gardens or a nearby botanical garden. Walk around and see what flowers have the most pollinator visitors.

**Q: What are five universal must-haves for a pollinator garden?**

**A:** I recommend five natives: milkweed, aster, goldenrod, salvia, and liatris. A couple of bonus must-haves are zinnias and sunflowers since they're so cheap and easy to grow and attract so many species of pollinators.

**Q: Besides flowers, what trees and shrubs are valuable to pollinators?**

**A:** Don't just think of a single flower bed, think about your whole yard - trees, shrubs, ground covers, vines, herbs, vegetables, and fruit bushes. They all have value for pollinators. Fruit trees are especially important in the spring time as one of the first major sources of nectar and pollen.

**Q: In your book, you talk about creating a season-long buffet of overlapping blooms. What are some of the challenges to making this happen?**

**A:** Spring blooms are something that people need to really work on. In summertime, it's easy to throw out a few flowers and get bees, but in spring, they're really hurting. One of the first sources of nectar is one of the most reviled flowers - the dandelion. So think about leaving some dandelions in a part of your yard or wait to mow until they've bloomed. Spring blooming bulbs are other good early nectar sources. Annuals and herbs can also help fill in gaps between various bloom times.

**Q: What are a few easy steps for homeowners to make their backyards more pollinator friendly?**

**A:** First, plant more flowers. The busier people get, the more they choose foliage over flowering plants. But, those flowers are what are lacking for pollinators.

Second, avoid pesticide use. I have a visible, quarter-acre in the city and don't find the need for pesticides. Still, I get great compliments all the time.

Third, allow for nesting sites. Honey bees go back to hives, but many wild bees are ground nesters and need bare soil for nesting. This can worry some people, because they don't want to come upon a nest of bees with their mower or shovels. So I always say possibly there's a corner of the yard, slope or unused area to leave unmulched for these nesting bees. Other bees use hollow stems or beetle tunnels in old logs for nesting, so consider leaving pruned debris and fallen branches in a spot for them.



Photo by Mary C. Gardner



## New Members and Membership Renewals

### Welcome to our new members:

Melinda Barati, Austin; Chris Brashear, Granger; Cecilia Cervantes, Austin; Traci Cox, Georgetown; Lodney Davis, Burleson; Aaron Dyer, Georgetown; Ron Dyer, Georgetown; Marcela Faidley, Austin; Jake French, Georgetown; Linda Hall, Leander; Jordan Heivilin, Lampasas; Mike Hoff, Florence; Chris Kenson, Burnet; Matthew Ludlum, Austin; James Maduzia, Georgetown; David H. Smith, Georgetown; and David Tatum, Liberty Hill.

### Renewing members are:

Don Atkins, Bertram; Jason Collar, Georgetown; Karen Flanagan, Austin; Charles Goertz, Austin; Elmer Goertz, Pflugerville; Jacob Gotta, Cedar Park; Jennifer Gray, Spicewood; Robyn Guerrero, Austin; Fred Herber, Leander; Kevin Herring, Briggs; John Horrigan, Burnet; Jim Houstoun, Austin; Bruce Jefferies, Horseshoe Bay; John Latham, Thrall; Mary Marcotte, Georgetown; Amy Marietta, Austin; Mario Martinez, Georgetown; Albert Morgan, Austin; David Neighbor, Bertram; Stephanie Norsworthy, Round Rock; Hem Ramachandra, Austin; Heidi Schneider, Georgetown; Jim Smith, Round Rock; Tom Symons, Austin; Denise Wilkinson, Georgetown; Wayne Ziechang, Bartlett.



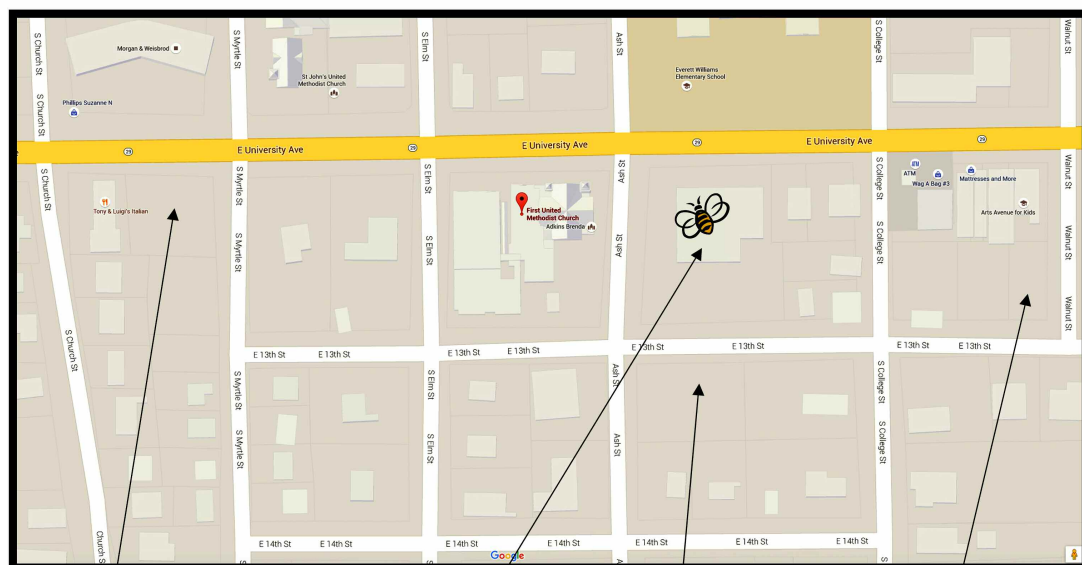
### "Thank You!" to our Refreshment Hosts:

Rose Morris, Patricia Bruno, Barbi Benjamin



# Parking! Parking! Parking!

Please consider carpooling on Maundy Thursday.



Additional parking in lot east of Toni and Luigi's. Enter from Myrtle Street.

First United Methodist Church Bldg. (MMC) where we meet.

Parking lot we should leave open for church service.

Small parking lot that may be available. It has been chained closed at times.

Our meeting on March 24, 2016 coincides with the Maundy Thursday church service at First United Methodist Church. Since we meet in the McKinney Christian Ministry Center (MMC), there will be many people trying to find parking at the same time that night.

**The church has asked that we NOT use the parking lots adjacent to and around the church.** There are several options available to us that will accommodate that request.

There is a parking lot 2 blocks west at the corner of Myrtle and Hwy 29 that holds about 80 cars and we can use it. It is owned by the church and they have given us permission to use it.

We can also park in the grass on the south side of the MMC building where we meet, as long as it is **NOT RAINING AND THE GROUND IS DRY**. I asked several times to be sure that was OK and was told each time that we could park there.

There is also limited parking along side streets in the neighborhood, but we need to be respectful of the residents and do not block drives. The streets are also narrow and we don't want to block traffic.

There is also a small parking lot on 13th Street, two blocks east of the MMC, at the corner of Walnut and 13th street. I have not been able to find out who owns it or if we can park there, but it is frequently open. There have been times when it has been chained closed. Park there at your own risk.

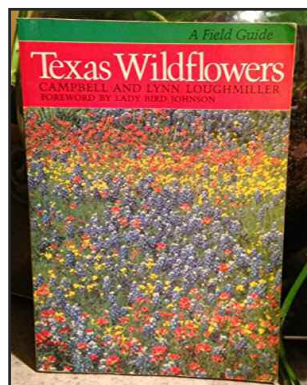
There are also many parking spaces across Hwy. 29 along Ash and College Streets at the school. The problem with those is crossing Hwy. 29 safely. There is no light and it is a 4 lane highway, so be careful if you choose that option.

The map shows the area and the parking lots.

Finally, we can limit the number of cars we bring by carpooling.

First United Methodist Church has been gracious to us by letting us use their facilities at a reasonable rate and I hope we can take this opportunity to show them how much we appreciate them.

Thanks in advance,  
Jim Colbert, VP



## BOOK NOOK by Holly Medina

**Texas Wildflowers A Field Guide,**  
by Campbell & Lynn Loughmiller,  
with Foreword by  
Lady Bird Johnson.

This is a really great resource that offers beautiful pictures and a wealth of information of the beloved Texas Wildflowers. It's a must read, especially during this time of year when the flowers will soon be blooming on the roadsides.



## Door Prizes!

Door prize items in January were donated by:  
Laura Colburn, Moore Farm, Holly Medina,  
Youngblood's Better Bee Equipment.

Winners were: Charles Powell, Diane Stromberg,  
Frank Morgan, Fred Richter, William Janke,  
Mark Spilotro, George Richards, and Luke Fowler.



## President's Message

This year has had a strange winter, though some things in nature never change. The purple martins that nest here arrived on cue on February 17th, the bluebirds are nesting but where are the barn swallows and the humming birds? As I write this there is stormy weather over Texas so I hope you all had rocks on the beehives to keep lids from blowing off and that no one lost bees in all the rain.

This is the time to make sure all our equipment is ready for the bees. Check stored frames for wax moth, build or repair supers, find the mislaid hive tools and ready whatever kind of foundation you decide is best for your bees. Packages of bees arrive in April, so make sure you are ready to install them. Jimmie Oakley will advise us on which of three Saturdays in April our bees will be available for pick up. That will be at Mary Bost's farm as usual – see website for directions – and Jimmie Oakley will be demonstrating installation of bees into hives when the bees arrive at the Scholarship Orientation on the third weekend.



Chris Doggett, WCABA President

Remember to keep feeding your hives as necessary until the honey flow begins sometime in April. The bees are bringing in pollen like crazy this past few weeks, from a yellow color to a purple. Pollen is not enough for their needs, so keep with that 1-1 sugar solution. My strongest hives are getting through a quart of sugar solution in less than a day.

As the weeks into April progress, make sure your bees have enough room in the hive. They will need space for laying eggs as well as storing honey. If you have overwintered in more than one hive box, check that the bees have not moved entirely into the top box. If they have you will need to swap the bottom two boxes around – bees move upwards not down! Be ready with supers once you have 8 or more frames full in existing hives.

Chris Moore, president of TBA, told us at our February meeting how to make splits from strong hives. Now is the time to do that if you wish. Remember to give Shirley Doggett your name if you are a first year beekeeper and you will have a year's free membership of Texas Beekeepers Association. The same is being offered by the American Beekeeping Federation, though theirs is free until December. Go to **abfnet.org** for information on this.

Look forward to seeing you at our meeting on March 24th.

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## Introduction of the New Recipients of the Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost Memorial Scholarship

At 7PM, before the Beekeeping 101 Session, Jimmie Oakley will introduce the scholarship kids for this year and recognize the recipients who have completed the program from last year with certificates.

The Texas Honey Queen, Hope Pettibon, will be in attendance and make the presentations, assisted by the WCABA Honey Queen, Emma Wall, and the Honey Princess, Elise Gardner. Come join us!

Later Jimmie will direct the scholarship winners, assisted by parents and last year's recipients in assembling their hives in a separate area.

If you did not get to contribute to the scholarship program by donating honey for the Hill Country Fair last November, perhaps you would like to make a donation of cash or a check. This program is crucial in our efforts to get more young people interested in and involved with beekeeping, and the more money we raise, the more scholarships we can award. See Shirley Doggett or one of the other ladies at the registration counter to donate.



# Do You Smell Bananas?

by **Elise Gardner** (WCABA Honey Princess & Apprentice Master Beekeeper)



Recently I had an altercation with my bees, leading to an allergic reaction. Did I know I was allergic to bees? No. Had I ever been stung before? Yes! Many times in fact, seeing as I have been keeping bees for 3 years.

The hive I was working with when this happened was one I had been having minor issues with, starting when it was given to me, a couple of weeks ago, by a neighbor who had left it alone in his backyard for 4 years. Who can pass up FREE BEES, right! All I had to do was move them across the street. Well, we soon came to realize (after my allergic reaction) that these "rescue" bees were Africanized.

On March 11, I didn't make it to my scheduled appearance at Spicewood Elementary for a day of teaching kids about bees during their STEAM day. Instead, I visited the emergency room! I had wanted to take an observation hive to the school, so I decided to pull frames from my new hive because it was the most prolific and there was honey in it. As I was standing there, being stung numerous times, ready to cry in defeat, I began smelling bananas. BANANAS??? I knew immediately that it was pheromones from the bees, but I had never known that you could smell them so strongly! I decided to do a little research.

I discovered that there are a number of kinds of honey bee pheromones that perform different functions and have different scents that sometimes even humans can smell. The banana scent means "sting"; a lemongrass odor mimicks the "come home" signal scout bees emit when they find a new home.

Some different types of bee pheromones are:

- **Alarm pheromones** - 1st stage is released by the mandibular gland; 2nd stage comes from the sting gland when a bee stings something - they attract other bees to the location (these smell like bananas).
- **Brood recognition pheromones** - emitted by larvae and inhibit the production of eggs as well as allow nurse bees to distinguish between worker larvae and drone larvae.
- **Drone pheromones** - produced by drones to attract other drones to congregation sites where they can mate with virgin queens.
- **Egg marking pheromone** - emitted by the Dufour's gland - these pheromones allow worker bees to distinguish between eggs that are laid by a queen and eggs that are laid by a worker.
- **Attractant pheromone** - emitted by the Nasonov gland of the worker bee and used for orientation, navigation and recruitment.
- **Footprint pheromone** - this pheromone is left by the bees when they walk and is helpful in enhancing Nasonov pheromones when searching for flowers.
- **Other pheromones** - like rectal gland pheromones, tarsal pheromone, wax gland and comb pheromones.

All of these pheromones are very important and useful to the bees, and I know first hand, the banana scented attack pheromone certainly does function as it's supposed to! So the next time you're working your bees if you smell bananas... WATCH OUT! and make sure you've got your smoker handy (it helps mask the smell of the pheromones).

At the end of the day this turned out to be a good experience for me. I learned a lot about bees that I had not known before and I have more interesting information to share while teaching others about bees. I figure I'm much more qualified to teach about bee stings and especially allergic reactions, now that I've actually had one myself!

## Buzzword:

### • Pheromone •

A chemical substance that is usually produced by an animal or insect and serves especially as a stimulus to other individuals of the same species for one or more behavioral responses, including attracting a mate.

"Honey bee pheromones are mixtures of chemical substances released by individual bees that cause changes in the behavior of other bees. There are many different types of pheromones that can be released, each performing a different function."

## What's Reducing Queen Viability?

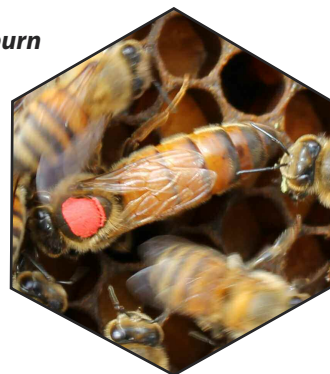
by **Laura Colburn**

It's been said that queens used to last for five years, but now beekeepers can expect two years, if they're lucky, and many have begun to requeen every year. Researchers are trying to explain the reduction in queen viability and it is multi-fold.

Research at the Texas Bee Lab at Texas A&M has shown that wax contaminated with miticides and pesticides reduces the quality and quantity of sperm produced by drones and causes drones to take longer to reach sexual maturity. These miticides also cause queens to produce pheromones less attractive to workers, which in turn causes them to take less care of their queen. They tend to her less, feed her less, which reduces her ability to lay as many eggs.

Beyond chemical exposure, other factors have also been found to impact queen failure: stress during transport. The USDA Bee Research Laboratory in Maryland recently conducted real-world testing with queens shipped from California, Georgia, and Hawaii to the lab in Beltsville, MA by USPS Priority Mail or UPS Next Day Delivery in July and September. Researchers found as many as 20% of the mated queens experienced temperature extremes of 46.4 and 105.8. These extremes reduced sperm viability by 50%. (Source: Kim Kaplan, Bee Culture Magazine, February 2016)

To read more about this study on the effects of temperature extremes during transport, visit the scientific journal PLOS One at <http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0147220>





## TBA Delegates Meeting

The Texas Beekeepers Association had a delegates meeting on February 20, 2016 at Texas A&M Honey Bee Lab. The meeting was very well attended by representatives from many different clubs, including myself and Jimmie Oakley. It covered many topics of interest ranging from how to start a new club to a discussion of Africanized Mitochondrial DNA. No matter what the subject, the speakers were able to "hit the bulls eye" on making it interesting to both novice and experienced beekeepers. The meeting was well paced and the speakers were able to stick to a rigid time frame (for the most part!).

One of the most interesting segments was the open discussion session. We broke into small groups and discussed topics of interest to the people in those groups. Another interesting session was a presentation by Chris Moore on the Real Texas Honey program and the lack of consistency in labeling honey in Texas. Take a look at the labels on honey the next time you go to the store. See if you can figure out what Pure, Grade A, local, or other terms mean. You might also find it interesting to read the fine print and see where some of the "name brands" get their honey.

Another fun and informative part of the day was a tour of the bee lab and the grounds and the opportunity to talk with some of the students. They are an amazing group of people and their enthusiasm is contagious. After talking to them about their fields of interest, one cannot help but get caught up in their enthusiasm and come away refreshed and excited to get home and get out into the bee yard. All in all it was a great way to spend a Saturday.

*by Jim Colbert, WCABA Vice President*



The TBA Delegates meeting was very well attended as representatives from many different clubs were present.



During the afternoon session the delegates participated in breakout discussion groups with their area director.



Dr. Juliana Rangel presented a program on recent developments at the A&M Honey Bee Lab and introduced her staff of young scientist.



Chris Doggett and Jim Colbert accompany Tanya Phillips to look at a cache of burlap bags for give-away at the Honey Bee Lab.



# Helpful Tools and Hardware

The basics every beekeeper needs are protective clothing, a hive tool (or two), smoker, and a home for the bees. In addition to this standard equipment, there are a few extras that help the beekeeper and make the bees' home extra special.



by Laura Colburn

## Tools

### Wedge



A small wedge of wood drops easily into your pocket and makes putting your hive back together a breeze. No more sliding boxes back to front and creating a dam of bees at the front. And no more squashing lines of bees around the edges of your boxes. Place your wedge at the rear center of your exposed box with the wide end hanging off the back a bit. Give a few puffs of smoke around the edge of the exposed box, then set the front corners of the next box on top and lower the back end onto the wedge. Give another puff of smoke at the back and wiggle the wedge out.

Where can you get a wedge? Anywhere sidewalk construction has been recently completed. I've found two such wedges that way. You can also make a wedge using scrap wood. It should be about three or four inches in length and about an inch high at the wide end.

### Magnifying Glass

Feel like Sherlock on the hunt for clues. You haven't seen your queen or haven't mastered identifying her (yet). A magnifying glass helps you see those tiny eggs she recently laid or the first instar larva. If it's difficult for you to see up-close, a magnifying glass is an important tool to have in the bee yard.

### Frame Hanger

This tool hangs over the side of an open hive allowing you to hang up to three frames while you work.



### One-Handed Queen Catcher

At some point you will need to catch your queen. And you want to do it without risking damaging her. A one-handed queen catcher allows you to place the opening over her on the frame then carefully close the sliding screen.

### Small notebook

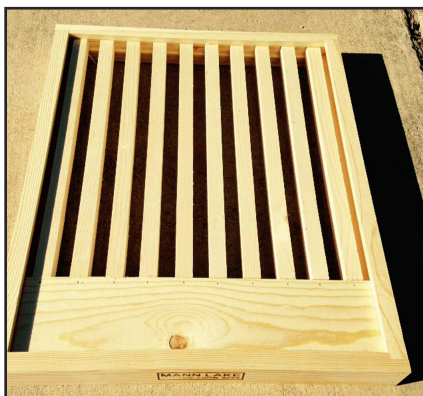
Carry a small pocket-size notebook to your bee yard to make quick notes about what you observed so you don't have to remember it all for your in-depth notes back at the house.

### Twist-Up Crayon

As you go through your hives looking for honey, pollen, and brood, quickly mark the tops of your frames with a wax crayon. When you're done with each box, make a note in your field notebook. I like to mark each frame with codes for honey, pollen, eggs, larva, and capped brood. As the seasons progress you can also see how the bees are managing their space or beginning to backfill frames previously used for brood. If you see a queen cell and plan to let it hatch, mark the top of that frame and date it so you can find it quickly again.

## Hardware

### Slatted Rack



This hardware goes above your bottom board (screened or solid) and below the hive. Each slat corresponds to the frames above. The benefit of this piece of hardware is it provides a gathering place for foragers on their way in and out of the hive so they don't have a traffic jam, and it allows the fanning bees lots of space to send air up into the hive.

In the heat of Texas summers, many beekeepers observe bearding on the front of their hives as the bees are trying to cool off. The slatted rack helps them manage the heat in the hive much better. And finally, because the foragers and fanners have a place below the frames to gather, the queen tends to fill those bottom frames with more eggs.

### Screened Bottom Board

Part of your Integrated Pest Management, a screened bottom board allows Varroa mites to fall through and die on the ground. It also provides additional ventilation, which is important throughout the year. Do not combine a screened bottom board with a solid bottom board because debris will collect on the solid board and make an ugly mess you have to clean up.

### Robber Screen



A new hive or one that is weak is prone to robbing and has limited defenses to keep the invading bees away. A robber screen allows access for the foragers while blocking the entrance to robbers. The screen fits in the entrance of the hive and up the front about 6 inches. The foragers crawl up and over but the robbers butt into the screen because they're looking for quick access. The screen also slows any robbers who do find their way over the screen, which helps the guard bees defend the entrance.

## Spring Checklist

March and April are when the beekeeper needs to kick it into high gear to prepare for the major honey flow.

### In the Beeyard:

- ☐ Work bees on warm, sunny days
- ☐ Reverse brood boxes
- ☐ Add a second brood box to needy colonies
- ☐ Feed your bees - keep feeders full of 1:1 syrup
- ☐ Make new colonies with package bees
- ☐ Make nucs from strong colonies
- ☐ Consider combining weak colonies with strong colonies
- ☐ Keep an eye out for swarms
- ☐ Remove medication before the supers go on
- ☐ Add supers when bees have filled 6-8 frames with honey  
(Empty supers may be added either above or below full supers)

### In the Garden:

- ☐ Plant annuals, wildflower transplants (such as: bluebonnet, larkspur, poppy), perennials and vines, ornamental grasses
- ☐ Prune, divide, and move perennials, roses, shrubs, and trees (DO NOT prune red oaks and live oaks unless damaged)
- ☐ Consider installing drip irrigation for water conservation
- ☐ Add compost and organic fertilizer to vegetable gardens
- ☐ Plant vegetables: Chard, cucumber, eggplant, spinach, peppers, pumpkin, summer & winter squash, tomatillos (you need at least two!), tomatoes, beans, cantaloupe
- ☐ Plant herbs: chives, catnip, comfrey, fennel, horseradish, feverfew, oregano, thyme, rosemary, Mexican mint marigold, peppermint, lemongrass



## Beekeeping 101: Installing a Package

Beekeeping 101 for March will be "Installing a Package", just in time for the WCABA's delivery of packages from R Weaver Apiary in April. Laura will go over pre-install preparation and tools you'll need to make the process smooth for you and the bees. She'll also share a video of an installation, and discuss what to look for in the weeks following setting up your new hive.

If you're receiving a package this spring and have never installed one before, this will be an important information session. If you have installed a package and it was a little bumpy, you might learn some new tips for making it better next time.

## WCABA (Basic) Beekeeping Equipment List

The Equipment Listed Below is the suggested Minimum Needed to Start Beekeeping

### Mann Lake Supply 2016

Qty	Unit	Item Number	Description	Price	Total Price
1	1	KD800	9 5/8" Deep Hive Body Commercial Grade	\$16.50	\$16.50
1	1	FR801	9 1/8" Grooved Top Bar & Grooved Bottom Bar Frames (case of 10)	\$12.00	\$12.00
1	1	FN710	8 1/2 x 16 1/4 Rite-Cell beeswax coated sheet (black, case of 10)	\$14.00	\$14.00
1	1	WW690	Varroa Screened Bottom Board (assembled)	\$28.95	\$28.95
1	1	WW365	Flat Wood (Migratory) Cover	\$11.95	\$11.95
1	1	FD-100	Plastic Boardman Entrance Feeder	\$3.65	\$3.65
1	1	CL100	Square Folding Veil w/Elastic	\$15.50	\$15.50
1	1	CL130	Plastic Sun Helmet	\$9.50	\$9.50
1	1	CL605	Economy Leather Gloves (Medium)	\$12.95	\$12.95
1	1	HD584	9" Hive Tool	\$4.50	\$4.50
1	1	BM847	First Lessons in Beekeeping	\$15.95	\$15.95
1	1	HD660	Bee Brush	\$4.95	\$4.95
1	1	HD556	4x7 Stainless Steel Smoker w/Shield	\$38.95	\$38.95

**Subtotal:** \$189.35

**Taxes (8.25%):** \$ 15.62

**Total:** **\$204.97**





## Honey Bunny Easter Candy

### Ingredients:

- 1 cup honey
- 1/4 cup peanut butter (or almond, cashew, or other nut butter)
- 1 Tbsp. butter OR 1/2 Tbsp. coconut oil
- 3 + Tbsp. cocoa or carob powder

### Directions:

1. Pour honey into a heavy duty saucepan. Heat on medium until it begins to boil. Reduce temperature.
2. Keep boiling, stirring frequently, until mixture reaches 295° on a candy thermometer.
3. Meanwhile, dab a bit of coconut oil or butter on the inside of your molds to ensure that no candies stick. Don't put a thick layer or the details of the mold will be obscured.
4. Once honey has reached 295°, turn heat off and stir in peanut butter (or other nut butter), butter OR coconut oil, and 3 Tbsp. (or more, to taste) of cocoa or carob powder. Keep the pan on the burner, so it won't set up too fast. Work quickly!
5. Pour hot mixture into heat proof candy or sucker molds. Any extra can be poured onto a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.
6. Place the molds and any extra candy into the freezer for about 20 minutes until hardened. Pop out of the molds and store in a single layer in the fridge or freezer. For Easter Baskets, I wrap each one individually in a baggie that I've cut in half then tie the whole thing up with colorful ribbons.



Recipe courtesy of  
TheNerdyFarmWife.com

## WCABA MEETING MINUTES

February 25, 2016

1. **Opening the Meeting:** Vice-President Jim Colbert opened the meeting.
  2. **Beekeeping 101:** Laura Colburn spoke about "Beekeeping Equipment"
  3. **Beekeeping 102:** Chris Doggett and Chris Moore led the discussion of "Checkerboarding and Swarm Prevention".
  4. **Door Prizes:** Door Prizes were announced.
  5. **Announcements:**
    - Jimmie Oakley discussed the Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost Memorial Scholarship program. He has received applications and Jimmie will introduce our next recipients at the March meeting. Jimmie had a brief discussion with the applicants about the Scholarship program and what it means to members to help young beekeepers.
    - There was a request to sign up for one or two meetings to bring refreshments. Of course, bringing extra goodies is always welcome.
    - Jim Colbert explained he has about 20 people requesting mentors and has only 2 mentors so far. He encouraged everyone to remember what it was like for "new-bees" and help them whenever possible.
    - Swarm List – Mary Bost has handed that responsibility to Jim Colbert. Just remember, anyone willing to remove swarms is getting free bees!
    - Central Texas Beekeeping School is being held in Brenham on Saturday, April 16. For more information about all of the classes offered and to register, go to [www.centraltexasbeekeepers.org](http://www.centraltexasbeekeepers.org).
- Texas Beekeepers Association will have a Summer Clinic on Saturday, June 18, at the Lone Star Convention & Expo Center, 9055 Airport Road, Conroe, TX 77303. Classes will be available for all levels of beekeeping. Register at [texasbeekeepers.org](http://texasbeekeepers.org). The fee is \$50 per person, \$90 per couple, \$25 for age 15 and under. The fee includes lunch.
- Jim Colbert reminded everyone our next meeting takes place on Maundy Thursday. The First Methodist Church members will be having a Maundy service and have asked members of the WCABA not to use their parking lots. Jim said there is plenty of parking directly east of Tony & Luigi's Restaurant.
6. **Guest Speaker:** Chris Moore, owner of Moore's Honey Farm, spoke on "Making Splits".
  7. **Meeting Attendance:** 129 present
  8. **Meeting Adjourned:** President Chris Doggett adjourned the meeting
  9. **Date for Next Meeting:** Our next meeting will be on March 24, 2016.

- Ginny Stubblefield, Secretary, WCABA

Williamson  
County  
Area  
Beekeepers  
Association

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facebook

If you have a  
bee-related  
announcement you  
would like to appear in  
the Buzzword newsletter, please  
contact  
Mary Catherine Gardner:  
[marycgardner@austin.rr.com](mailto:marycgardner@austin.rr.com)

*BusyBeeChic*

WCABA Honey Princess,  
Elise Gardner,  
has started a bee blog.  
Check it out at:  
[www.BusyBeeChic.com](http://www.BusyBeeChic.com)





## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

### WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Dues \$15.00 per year - individual or family membership

New Member / Renewing Member (circle one)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Support TBAs "Real Texas Honey" Program

It has become increasingly important for us to support our local honey producers due to the growing problems consumers face of not knowing what they are getting when they grab a bottle of honey off the grocery store shelf. Honey imported from China is contaminated with heavy metals and antibiotics; "ultra-purified" honey has all its beneficial ingredients filtered out, including pollen (which is the only absolute way to identify where the honey comes from); and you will even come across



We are selling t-shirts at our WCABA meetings to help support the "Real Texas Honey" Program.

fake honey, a blend of honey and other sweeteners like cheap corn syrup and artificial sweeteners. It truly is a case of "you get what you pay for" with honey, so go ahead and spring for the artisanal brand, or better yet, find a local beekeeper to support!

TBA has launched a "Real Texas Honey" program with the goal of connecting consumers with real local beekeepers. They are currently trying to get Texas beekeepers to sign up, so if you sell honey, make sure to visit the website and register, and if you want to take advantage of the health benefits of buying local honey, log on to find a beekeeper near you. The more participants the better the program will work! Visit **RealTexasHoney.com** for more information.

## Oakley Honey Bee Removal

Austin: (512)981-9216

Waco/Temple: (254) 340-4415

beekeepers@livehoneybeeremoval.com

www.LiveHoneyBeeRemoval.com

### Randy Oakley

Live Honey Bee Removal  
& Relocation Specialists  
with 35 years of  
Beekeeping Experience

#### Live Honey Bee:

- Removal
- Relocation
- Repair



## Oakley previously Better Bee Equipment Bee Equipment

Available Assembled  
and Painted

### Samuel Oakley

(512) 694-2478

BetterBeeEquipment.com

OakleyBeeEquipment@gmail.com







## The Bees are Coming!

Jimmie Oakley, Order Coordinator, says the Bee and Queen procurement order has been closed with a final total of 225 three-pound packages of bees with marked and clipped wing queens, plus an additional 83 queens, secured from the **R-Weaver Apiaries** in Navasota.

Packages are to be distributed on Friday and Saturday of the last three weekends in April (April 15-16th, April 22-23rd, April 29-30th) at the **Bost Farm at 4355 C.R. 100, SE of Georgetown.**

The supplemental order distribution will occur two weeks later on Saturday, May 14th. The queens will be distributed the initial weekend (Apr. 15 & 16th).

Jimmie will be demonstrating installation of bees into hives when the bees arrive at the Scholarship Orientation on the third weekend.

Refer to the "Pickup Voucher" you received via your email address for your assigned date. If you have special circumstances that conflict with the assigned date, please contact the coordinator for consideration.

***Packaged bees and caged queens are perishable!  
Claim your purchase in a timely manner to avoid  
unnecessary loss of bees or queens.***

Remember to assure proper accounting of the orders you **MUST** present your Pickup Voucher to claim your bees or queens.

If you have any questions, please contact Jimmie Oakley, the Bee/Queen order facilitator, at: [jimmie.oakley@gmail.com](mailto:jimmie.oakley@gmail.com)

Remember that you can order bee boxes, frames, top and bottoms from **Oakley Bee Equipment** (previously Better Bee Equipment).

## Texas Master Beekeeper 2016 Spring Exam

Consider signing up to take the 2016 Texas Master Beekeeper spring exam (which is only offered twice a year), on **April 15, 2016**. Registration is now open and is limited to 45 people for the Apprentice level exam, so register soon to secure your spot.

Once you submit your information you will need to mail a check or money order of **\$50.00** to: Texas Apiary Inspection Service, 2475 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-2475.

Make checks payable to AgriLife Research Department of Entomology. Once they receive your payment they will send you a confirmation e-mail containing important exam day information.

**Payments must be postmarked by April 8th.**

If you have questions about the program, visit **<http://masterbeekeeper.tamu.edu/>** or contact the Texas Apiary Inspection Service by emailing: [tais@tamu.edu](mailto:tais@tamu.edu)



**Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association • 4355 County Road 110, Georgetown, Texas 78626 • <http://www.wcaba.org/> • email: [info@wcaba.org](mailto:info@wcaba.org)**

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Georgetown, Texas 78626