

# WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA OCTOBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

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

## 2024 Club Officers:

**PRESIDENT:** Shannon Montez  
[president@wcaba.org](mailto:president@wcaba.org)

**VICE PRESIDENT:**  
Nancy Kunschik  
[vicepresident@wcaba.org](mailto:vicepresident@wcaba.org)

**MEMBERSHIP:** Shirley Doggett  
[membership@wcaba.org](mailto:membership@wcaba.org)

**PROGRAM:** Linda Russell  
[program@wcaba.org](mailto:program@wcaba.org)

**NEWSLETTER:** Jimmie Oakley  
[newsletter@wcaba.org](mailto:newsletter@wcaba.org)

**SECRETARY:** Phil Ainslie  
[secretary@wcaba.org](mailto:secretary@wcaba.org)

**TREASURER:** Barbi Rose  
[treasurer@wcaba.org](mailto:treasurer@wcaba.org)

**HISTORIAN:** Matt Ludlum  
[historian@wcaba.org](mailto:historian@wcaba.org)

**PAST PRESIDENT:** Phil Ainslie  
[pastpresident@wcaba.org](mailto:pastpresident@wcaba.org)

**LIBRARIAN:** Chris Huck  
[librarian@wcaba.org](mailto:librarian@wcaba.org)

**SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR:**  
Jimmie Oakley  
[scholarship@wcaba.org](mailto:scholarship@wcaba.org)

**QUEEN CHAIR:**  
(vacent)

**WEB ADMINISTRATOR:**  
Rachel Glass  
[webmaster@wcaba.org](mailto:webmaster@wcaba.org)

**DIRECTOR AT LARGE:**  
Ken Browning

**DIRECTOR AT LARGE:**  
Ann Bierschenk

**4th TUESDAY, October 22, 2024 @ 7PM**  
**Georgetown Library Hewlett Room (2nd floor)**  
**NOTE: November meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday November 19th**

PROGRAM:

## PERSONAL EMPOWERMENT

### Guest Speaker – Bruce Ford

Bruce Ford lives with his family on a 16 acre organic farm in central Texas where he practices with different compost designs, microbial brewing with compost and soil microbe philosophy, beekeeping, rainwater catchment, radio communication, growing native plants, herbs and medicinal plants by propagation from seeds and cuttings with a greenhouse.

Bruce is active with the Fayette County Beekeepers Association and an active member of the Bastrop County Beekeepers and Texas Beekeepers Associations. He establishes and maintains honey bee yards and mentors individuals in the fine art of honeybee apiary development in central Texas. Bruce is a leader in the grassroots homestead movement in central Texas and mentors' families on food security and food forests.



## ZOOM Notes:

We would certainly enjoy your presence at the next meeting on Oct. 22nd (**forth** Tuesday), but if you can't, then tune in to broadcast virtually via "Zoom".

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 there Tuesday night @ 7PM!  
GT Library - Hewlett Rm– 402 W 8th Street Georgetown 78626

Topic: WCABA Member Meeting (and Beekeeping 101)

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82475068933?pwd=aHRiRjc3bS9kYXJGS2g5THVpOEEx2UT09>

Meeting ID: 824 7506 8933. Passcode: 909659

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82475068933?pwd=aHRiRjc3bS9kYXJGS2g5THVpOEEx2UT09>

# The Changing of the Guard ...

## a note from your President

Every year, our club holds an election of officers who serve on the board to take care of the business of the club. Many of our officers have been serving on the board for an extended period of time, while some have had other commitments and had to move on from serving. We have been so fortunate throughout the years to have several board members who have continued to serve in an important capacity.

Shirley Doggett has been responsible for membership. Shirley serves a key role in maintaining our current membership roster. Not an easy task sometimes. While you may think your handwriting is perfectly fine, some of us older folks have a difficult time figuring out how to spell some names and deciphering those email addresses.

Phil has played several key roles on our board. He has served as the president and currently serves as the secretary. While our board meetings may often last close to two hours, Phil takes meticulous notes so that you are kept aware of the decisions of the board. He has been one of our primary presenters for the beginning beekeepers. On top of this, he answers many of the general questions that come through our website and will often go out and present when we receive requests for speakers. Phil has a wealth of knowledge.

Barbi has served as our treasurer and even after moving out of town has graciously volunteered to stay on as treasurer. If you attend the TBA convention in November, you'll certainly run into Barbi as she's also involved with TBA (as a Director).

Matt has served as our tech guru and you'll often see him furiously working to set up all the presentations and sound for our meetings. In spite of having little ones, who make their presence known at our board meeting, Matt helps run the Zoom presentations for our member meetings and helps set up our board meetings so that we're able to meet virtually.

Jimmie has been the cornerstone of our board. He has been involved with our club since the mid 80's and is responsible for ensuring that we stay on track throughout the year. Jimmie runs our scholarship program and if we had to pay him for the time he has put into helping our club, we would be running a deficit. Fortunately, we're blessed that he is invested in our club.

In beekeeping there are phases where you must anticipate what is about to occur, and this includes phases for our club. This is what our Program Director; Linda has had to anticipate. Linda has been responsible for booking our speakers and ensuring that you stay informed with some great speakers. We've been fortunate to have Linda serve our club as long as she has; unfortunately, Linda's had other commitments and we're in need of a new program director for next year. It's a great opportunity to meet some very interesting speakers.

Nancy has served as our Vice President, and I was hoping she'd stay longer but no such luck.

When I first became involved with the board, I had only been a beekeeper for six months. I had no idea what a Deep or Super was and even now, can rarely find the queen. I guarantee I've made every mistake in the book. Fortunately, these things don't disqualify me from serving on the board. Our club only exists because of all of our volunteers.

*As people come and go, we look forward to others to fill in where there is a need. Our volunteers have made our club into a great organization that has been in existence for years, but it does not happen without contribution from our volunteers. I am hopeful that as you read this, you are thinking about how you can contribute.*

*Shannon*



Shannon Montez - President

# Bridge Comb: What is it? And why is it a Problem?

Submitted by Phil Anslie

Honeybees build comb for several reasons - to raise their young, create honey, and store food supplies for winter consumption. Ideally, they'll form a comb within the frames their beekeeper provides, but sometimes, this isn't the case. Our last blog post discussed **burr comb** and found that it was built when the bees found extra "space" in the hive. Being efficient, they want to fill all the space available because it's easier to maintain.



Usually, the comb is built vertically and extends to a uniform thickness, allowing for a "bee space" width between combs. "bee space" is approximately 3/8" — the space required for bees to move around between the sheets of comb.

However, bees sometimes build comb sideways, joining two or more frames. This is referred to as bridge comb and is another type of burr comb. It's a nuisance and causes considerable damage to comb, brood, and honey stores when frames are removed from the hive.

## Bridge Comb Equals Loss

Bridge comb is problematic for many reasons, and all of them equals loss. Building comb requires a lot of effort on the part of bees. When the comb is torn upon removing frames, that effort is wasted. Bridge comb that connects two or more frames always results in loss when a connected frame is removed. This loss may include:

- Empty comb
- Comb containing honey or pollen
- Comb containing eggs or brood
- Loss of bees who are trapped or crushed

Therefore, beekeepers should be diligent in its removal and do what they can to prevent its formation in the future.

## Why do Bees Build Bridge Comb?

Understanding why bees build bridge comb is the first step towards its prevention. Unfortunately, it's a common problem, and even the most experienced beekeeper may encounter bridge comb at least once or twice a year.

Bees build bridge comb for the following reasons:

- First, the hive is not level — because gravity impacts comb development, a hive that is not level is more likely to have bridge comb.

- Improperly built hive components — when hive components allow spacing to be more than the bees require — bee space — bridge comb is more likely to appear. Therefore, it's best to purchase all hive components from the same manufacturer. Parts from different manufacturers may not fit together correctly.
- Bee space is not right — when the frames are not correctly inserted into the hive body or when a frame is omitted, bridge comb may result.

## The Challenges of Bridge Comb

Bridge comb is not a problem to the bees; to them, it's just comb. To the beekeeper, however, bridge comb is a problem for the following reasons:

- It makes **hive inspections** difficult — the comb is torn when it's attached to multiple frames or the interior of the hive body.
- Bees can be injured or killed when the comb breaks away and falls.
- Breaking and falling comb can cause bees to become aggressive.
- Bridge comb causes a reduction in honey production due to wasted effort on the part of the bees.
- Brood in the bridge comb that is removed dies.

## Prevention of Bridge Comb

Take the following measures to reduce the creation of comb in unwanted spaces:

- Ensure that the hive is level
- Provide frames with **foundation**, clearly defining where the comb should be built
- Perform frequent **hive inspections** to keep an unwanted comb in check
- Ensure all components fit together correctly, eliminating gaps and spaces beyond “bee space” whenever possible

Any wayward-formed comb can sometimes be nudged back into alignment within a frame if caught in the early stages.

## Bridge Comb Removal

Bridge comb should be removed as soon as it's discovered using a **hive tool** or a sharp knife. Brush all visible bees from the comb before removing it from the hive. Inspect the comb upon removal, ensuring that the queen is not in the comb.

Do not discard bridge comb in the apiary. The scent can draw **predators** and/or robbers to your apiary.

## Choosing to Leave Bridge Comb

When a bridge comb is found in the brood box, a beekeeper may allow it to remain. If the comb contains a lot of brood and the bees are working it, you may decide to leave it as is to increase the number of bees in your hive, especially in the spring when you want the number of bees to proliferate. You can remove the comb later when the weather cools again in the fall and winter. In closing, it's best to stay on top of bridge comb, removing it as soon as it's discovered.

From an article written by Scott Derrick, “The Buzz Newsletter.”

# Practical Experiences in the Bee Yard

**OCTOBER** in most of the ArkLaTex should continue to be very warm. Weeds and flowers in fields and river bottoms will continue to bloom and produce some nectar and plentiful pollen. I live on a dead-end street and the city doesn't seem concerned about pristine roadside and ditch management past my driveway. Consequentially I have Tallow bushes and Vitex growing in the ditch, along with some Goldenrod. Four of the Goldenrod plants in the middle of the Tallow and Vitex jungle are about eight feet tall. There are five or six bud stalks at the top of each Goldenrod plant, each about six inches long and already showing the beginnings of the yellow Goldenrod blossoms. Soon, the hives in my yard will have a really close source of Goldenrod pollen and nectar to collect for winter stores.



*Stanford Brantley*

My area does not have an abundance of forage sources for the bees to work. If I am lucky, there will be fields with Golden Sunflowers for the bees to investigate. Horsemint and some of the other well-known nectar sources are not abundant in my part of the bee range.

If you are not sure of the fall forage in your area, check your hives to see how much food they were able to store in the later part of the nectar flow. A minimum of a full super of stores is necessary for a hive to survive our winter. If your hives are short on stored food, feed 2:1 sugar syrup. The heavier mixture will in most cases induce the bees to store the syrup for winter food. Your goal is to ensure the hive goes into winter well fed, with healthy "fat" bees and sufficient stores to get the hive into spring and ready to expand early.

While you are checking stores is a good time for a mite check. We can expect the bee population in a hive to decline as we move into the colder months. You want to reduce your mite load to acceptable levels to help your hive survive the winter. If the mite count is too high, do a treatment before the weather gets cold. There are some treatments that can be done with the supers in place, other require the supers to be removed. **READ** the package label and **FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS!** If you select HopGuard II as a treatment, be advised the hive needs to be well vented to prevent killing the bees.

Later in the winter, we sometimes feed pollen patties to help prepare the hive for early spring expansion. The hive beetle is also fond of pollen patties.

They like to hide underneath the patty and lay their eggs. There is a relatively new product available to help deal with the beetle problem. It is marketed under the name of Internal Sugar Brick & Pollen Patty Tray/Feeder Shim. It is a very shallow super with a screen to hold the pollen patty off the Top Bars or Inner Cover. This prevents beetles from hiding underneath the patty to escape the bees. It is available from some bee equipment suppliers. I suggest you consider them or a similar product if you plan to use pollen patties. Here is a link



*Pollen Patty Feeder Shim*

to a video showing the tray and how it is used: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b5gCsIkPGT0>

The link unfortunately begins with an ad but you can skip it.

I am still getting calls from beekeepers about a hive having no bees but everything looked ok ten days ago. One possibility is that the brood box became honey bound and the queen had no space left to lay eggs. When the queen has no place to lay her eggs, she will often abandon the hive, regardless of the time of year. On double brood box hives, it is easy to check the top brood box but more difficult to check the bottom box. Always take the time to check the bottom brood box to see if the frames have space for the queen to use. If the bottom box is full of honey and pollen, consider adding a box of foundation between the top and bottom brood boxes. The bees will draw the foundation and use the additional space for eggs. The box of drawn comb can be removed when the laying season is over and you will have a box of drawn comb for future use.

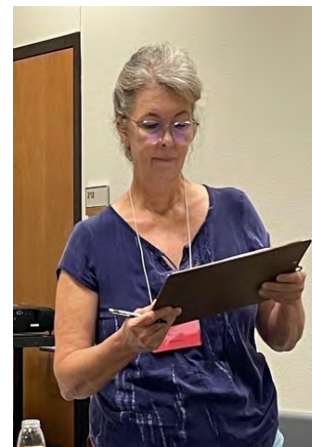
*Stanford*

# WCABA Honey Tasting & Judging at September Meeting

Submitted by Jimmie Oakley

**The Williamson County Area Beekeepers** held their annual Honey Tasting and Judging at the regular monthly meeting in September in celebration of National Honey Month.

Participation was up from last year in both judged honey submitted and taster's choice honey samples. The count was 24 entries being submitted in the Taster's Choice Contest and seven jars in the judging of honey going to the Texas Beekeeper's Booth at the State Fair of Texas in Dallas.



*Ann Bierschenk - Taster's Choice Contest Secretary*



*Club Members Participating in Taster's Choice Contest*

The Taster's Choice Competition was set up in the adjacent meeting room to the Hewlett room on the second floor by Jimmie Oakley and Linda Russell and monitored again by Ann Bierschenk. Ann logged the twenty-four samples, recorded the name of the beekeepers and the location and source of the honey, and assigned a number to each sample.

The competition is quiet simple, it's all about taste. The judging is subjective based on the individual palate because everybody tastes, and everybody judges. As all of the small samples of honey were lined up on the table, all who participate in the tasting got three votes to mark by the ones they thought deserve their vote, and the one getting the most marks was declared the "Taster's Choice" for 2024.

That's easy enough, right? The hard part was that you only got three votes.

The honey going to the State Fair of Texas in Dallas was judged on merit according to the 100-point scoresheet and all the entries received points sufficient to be recognized as Blue Ribbon quality this year. The Judging was conducted by Dodie Stillman (past president of TBA and participant in state contest) and Gene Wallace (veteran judge from past club contest). They took their task seriously and examined each bottle for compliance and product quality.



*Honey Judges: Doddie Stillman and Gene Wallace look at the quality and presentation of each entry before scoring*

## Honey Judging & Tasting (con't)

After the members completed the tasting part of the evening Randy Oakley of Oakley Family Apiaries of Elm Mott gave a presentation on “Lessons from the Be Tree” and how it relates to Beekeeping Management Based on Honey Bees in Nature.

With the honey judging done, and tasting complete, and the votes tallied it was time to recognize and announce the winners. The winners in honey judging were Dodie Stillman – Round Rock, Randy Oakley – Elm Mott, Gene Wallace – Georgetown, Ann Bierschenk – Georgetown, Jimmie Oakley – Round Rock. Congratulations!



*Lessons from the Bee Tree was the program by Randy Oakley*



*Judged Honey Going to the TBA Honey Booth at the State Fair in Dallas*

In the Taster’s Choice competition there was a total of 124 votes cast (meaning ~41 members participated) and every sample got at least one vote. Third place (white ribbon), a tie with 8 votes, was awarded to Gene Wallace – Georgetown, and Justine Peterson (a scholarship recipient) - Austin.

Second place (red), a tie with 10 votes, was awarded to Layla Hoffen (Southwestern Univ.



*Amber Chun smiles as she watches her girls, Ellie and Elsie, in their first Tasters Choice competition.*

student), and Keith Barinard - Georgetown. First place this year (blue) went to Jimmie Oakley with a total of 27 votes (*this is embarrassing to the editor.*) The winning samples for 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place were labeled as wildflower honey and first place was Indian Blanket (Gaillardia) according to the tally sheet that was gathered at the Sun City Community Garden (must be something they are growing at the garden, maybe???). Congratulation to the winners and all the tasters. You made it happen!



*Tasters Choice: Gene Wallace, Justine Peterson, Layla Hoffen, Keith Brainard, & Jimmie Oakley*

*Jimmie*

# Scholarship Recipients to Sell Honey at the Hill Country Fair

by Jimmie Oakley

The Scholarship Program will hold a fall sale of honey to raise money for future scholarship recipients in the “honey booth” at the Hill Country Arts and Crafts Fair to be held on Saturday November 2<sup>nd</sup> (9-5PM) and Sunday the 3<sup>rd</sup> (11-4PM) at the Sun City Texas Social Center at 2 Texas Drive in Georgetown.

In addition to selling honey the youngsters will be able to talk about bees, beekeeping, and the value and benefits of honey with visitors to the booth. There will be an observation hive with live bees to enhance the conversation with the general public. The booth will be located at site #824 in the Memorial Garden Area at the Fair (off the back patio across from the lagoon).

The marketing of the scholarship honey in this way will complete the cycle the youngsters are learning about in production, processing, packaging, and selling of the fruits of their labor.

Additional help may be required to cover the time the booth will be open, and a volunteer signup sheet will be available for those wishing to help out. Also, donations of honey and money will be accepted at the October 22<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Show our scholarship youngsters your support by being a part of this worthwhile activity. See Jimmie Oakley, Scholarship Committee Chair, for more details, to donate, or to sign up.



*The Honey Booth (#824) at the Hill Country Fair at Sun City*



*Scholarship Recipients and family work in the Honey Booth at the Hill Country Arts and Craft Fair 2023*



*Learning about bees from the Observation Hive in Honey Booth*



# Tawny (Raspberry) Crazy Ant

by Jimmie Oakley

A new exotic invasive pest ant species to Texas ... Wait A Minute. I'm getting ahead of myself. Before I tell you the what of this article, let me tell you the why.

As you may recall, earlier this year WCABA allowed me to establish a bee yard at the Heritage Garden in Georgetown where the scholarship kids had housed the bee hives in that program. It presented a great opportunity to use it as a teaching bee yard for the benefit of members (or the public) to get a closer look at the inside of a beehive and its occupants. Many of you took advantage of that, and we conducted a workshop on the Saturday following each of our regular monthly meetings. It was working fine TILL...

Yes, this is where the plot thickens. The enclosure for the bees at the Heritage Garden is large and covered with a thick layer of crushed granite; a good surface that drains well but does allow for vegetation growth. The scholarship girls had their hives setting on plywood platforms, but I always use construction cinder blocks to raise my hives up off the ground. It allows for better air circulation and keeps the fire ants from building under the flat hive bottoms. It has been a successful environment to keep bees and has really benefited the gardeners there.

After conducting a Saturday workshop once a month since April, it is with regret that Mother Nature called a halt to that activity. The first inkling of a problem actually occurred in 2023 when one of the scholarship hives was overrun by what I considered "sugar ants". I broke up the onslaught on the hive by using diatomaceous earth to form a barrier between the trail of ants and the effected hive. The assault untimely resulted in the hive having to be reconstitutes (started over).

In the middle of July, we received a call from a gardener, Britt Paige, reporting that one of the beehives was being overrun by ants and maybe we should investigate; we did. What resulted was that in a two weeks' time the ants drove the bees out of first two then two more of the existing hives before I finally threw in the towel and removed the lone surviving hive. I made a feeble attempt to create barrier again with diatomaceous earth to break up the march of the ants, but this time nature took its course. JO



*Tawny Crazy Ant - Nylandereria fulva*



*Bee hives at the Heritage Garden*



*Bees hanging out of hive under attack, note the ants on the top cover and line of ants trailing up the side of the hive*

# Tawny (Raspberry) Crazy Ant, *Nylanderia fulva* (cont.)

Submitted by Jimmie Oakley

## Urban and Structural Entomology Program at Texas A&M University

A new exotic invasive pest ant species to Texas was found around **Houston (Harris County), in 2002**, and has begun to spread largely through human assistance. The ant has recently been identified as *Nylanderia fulva* and the new proposed common name is the **tawny crazy ant (formerly Raspberry crazy ant)**. Currently, little is known regarding the biology of this ant. The Center for Urban and Structural Entomology at Texas A&M University has investigated numerous management strategies, diet preference, colony growth and immature development, and this species' ability to translocate pathogenic microorganisms.

### Identification: How do I spot them?

Appearance of many (millions) of uniformly-sized 1/8 inch long, reddish-brown ants in the landscape; foraging occurs indoors from outdoor nests.

Ants that form loose foraging trails as well as forage randomly (non-trailing) and **crawl rapidly and erratically (hence the description "crazy" ant)**.

Ant colonies (where queens with brood including whitish larvae and pupae, See image on right) occur under landscape objects like rocks, timbers, piles of debris, etc. These ants do not build centralized nests, beds, or mounds, and **do not emerge to the surface from nests through central openings**.

Their bodies have numerous, long, coarse hairs. The **antenna has 12-segments with no club**. There is a small circle of hairs (acidopore) present at tip of the abdomen (as opposed to the typical stinger found in many ants)

### Impact: What do they do?

In infested areas, large numbers of tawny crazy ants have caused great annoyance to residents and businesses. In some situations, it has become uncomfortable for residents to enjoy time in their yards. Companion animals may, in some cases, avoid the outdoors as well, and wildlife such as nesting songbirds, can be affected.

### What affect do they have on wildlife?

Wildlife such as nesting songbirds is irritated by the tawny crazy ants. **Masses of crazy ants covering the ground and trees likely affect ground and tree-nesting birds** and other small animals and cause wildlife to move out of the area.

The ants are **even displacing red imported fire ants in areas of heavy infestation**. However, after experiencing the tawny crazy ant, most residents prefer the fire ant.

### Nesting and nesting behavior:

Raspberry crazy ant colonies can be found **under or within almost any object or void**, including stumps, soil, concrete, rocks, potted plants, etc.

Nests **primarily occur outdoors**, but worker ants will forage indoors, into homes and other structures.

Nesting occurs **under almost any object that retains moisture**.

### Food and feeding behavior:

Worker ants commonly “tend” sucking hemipterous insects such as aphids, scale insects, whiteflies, mealy bugs, and others that excrete a sugary (carbohydrate) liquid called “honeydew” when stimulated by the ants. Workers are attracted to **sweet parts of plants including nectaries**, damaged, and over-ripe fruit.

### Seasonal abundance:

Few worker ants forage during cooler winter months.

In spring foraging activity begins and colonies grow, producing millions of workers that **increase in density dramatically by mid-summer (July-August)**.

Ant numbers **remain high through fall (October-November)**.

### Distribution: Where are they found?

The tawny crazy ant has now been confirmed in the following counties: Angelina, **Bexar**, Brazoria, Brazos, Calhoun, Cameron, Chambers, Colorado, Comal, DeWitt, Fayette, Fort Bend, Galveston, Goliad, Gonzales, Hardin, Harris, **Hays**, Hidalgo, Jasper, Jefferson, Jim Hogg, Lavaca, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Nueces, Orange, Polk, San Augustine, **Travis**, Victoria, Walker, Wharton, and **Williamson counties**. New infestations are suspected beyond these areas of infestation. However, sample identifications have not been confirmed. This ant has the potential to spread well beyond the current range in coastal Texas. However, it is a semi-tropical ant and potential northern distribution will be limited by cooler weather conditions.



### Management: What can you do for them?

Many of the typical control tactics for other ants do not provide adequate control of the tawny crazy ant. Because colonies predominantly nest outdoors, reliance on indoor treatments to control these ants foraging inside structures is not effective.

**Cultural control:** At the foundation of any IPM strategy are cultural control methods beginning with the removal of harborage such as fallen limbs, rocks, leaf litter, and just about anything sitting on the ground that isn't absolutely necessary. Cultural methods can also include altering the moisture conditions in a landscape. Crazy ants prefer humid, wet conditions so reducing the amount of irrigation, repairing leaks, and improving drainage should help.

**Chemical control:** Effective products involved with the treatments are not readily available to the consumer. If you suspect your house or property is infested with these ants, call a professional pest control provider. There are treatments available for this ant that offer temporary “buffer zones” using contact insecticides applied to surfaces, but these treatments are often breached within 2-3 months post application.

JO

## Sharing the Sweet

# Honey Granola

Beekeeping allows one to have lots of honey to use for all sorts of delicious and healthy recipes. My friend, Jan gave me a recipe for granola that I have made in the past. But, since I have lots of honey from my bees, I decided to doctor up Jan's granola recipe. Below are both versions which I can highly recommend to be used as a breakfast cereal in the morning or a snack later in the day. You can even add or subtract ingredients to your liking and taste. And now that I have gone to all the trouble to find this recipe, I think I will put together a batch for myself.



*Ann*

Ann Bierschenk - Dir.@Large

### **Jan's Granola**

Mix in a very large pan:

- 1 Old Fashioner Quaker Oats (42 ounces)
- 1 cup dry milk
- 1 cup coconut
- 1 cup crushed pecans
- 1 cup wheat germ

Pour over dry ingredients:

- 1 ½ cup **honey**
- 1 ½ cup Canola oil

Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes, stirring every 5 minutes.



### **Ann's Granola**

Mix in a very large pan:

- 1 Old Fashioner Quaker Oats (42 ounces)
- 1 cup dry milk
- 1 large bag of coconut
- 1 cup crushed pecans
- 1 bag of chopped dates
- 2 cups of wheat germ

Pour over dry ingredients:

- 1 pound jar of **honey**
- 1 ½ cup Canola oil or Coconut Oil

Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes, stirring every 5 minutes.



# Membership Report: Shirley Doggett

October 2024

**New Members:** \*

Danica Bingham  
Linda Watts

Georgetown  
Liberty Hill

**Renewing Members**

Dodie Stillman

Round Rock



*Shirley Doggett - Membership*

**\*New members-** please remember that Texas Beekeepers Association still gives one-year free membership to those people that are new to beekeeping. Let me know if you are interested in this.

Best Wishes  
*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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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:

Mrs. Shirley Doggett - Membership - 400 C. R. 440 - Thrall, TX 76578

# ...we have to hang up the hive tool.\*

Submitted by Scott Gunter - Georgetown

Good morning all,

We have enjoyed our journey with bees and are very appreciative. We couldn't have done it without WCABA. We began the journey in May of 2021 having originally received Ag Exemption even though we were short the exact required land by less than 1 acre, but they denied us the following year. We have been pushing through since then trying to learn in the journey despite losing the Ag Exemption option. We are also so thankful for Naaman's scholarship! It helped us all learn so much. We hope that someone starting the process may want to buy our equipment and bees. We have 5 healthy hives; all were treated with Apiguard in August. All of our equipment is 8 frame deep boxes. Additionally, we have the following items:



## Gently Used. (All used one harvest this year)

- (1) MannLake Italian made HH190 6/3 hand crank extractor. (w/large plywood platform that attaches same as one WCABA loans out).
- (1) Mann Lake uncapping Tank.
- (1) Double Stainless Steel Sieve set.
- (1) Plastic Uncapping Scratcher
- (1) Plastic Uncapping Roller.
- (1) Pierce Manual Uncapping Knife.

## New

- (78) Double waxed Deep Plasticell Foundations (8 3/8" x 16 3/4")
  - (80) Deep Select Pine Frames Grooved Top and Bottom 9 1/8" (unassembled) with nails.
  - (8) Deep Select Pine Hive Boxes (unassembled) with 2 lbs 2 1/4" 7D galvanized nails.
  - (36) Assembled Deep frames with double waxed Plasticell foundation.
- Hive Staples

## Used

- (1) 5 gallon bucket with Honey gate.(10) Used painted bottom/tops
- (10) Used 8 Frame Deep Hive Boxes
- (20) Frame Feeders with Ladders
- (5) 8 frame Queen excluders
- (1) 5 Gallon bucket organizer

And approximately 3-5 hive boxes of frames of comb that were frozen and are currently being preserved for next Spring.

As well as....

Bee brushes, Hive Tools, Varroa Mite Easy Check, buckets, Full Bee Suits, Smoker fuel (burlap, pellets), Helmets with Veils, etc....



new 3-frame extractor



new & gently used equipment

Thanks for anyone you can point our way that may want to buy any or all of our equipment & bees. *Scott*

\*Contact Scott Gunter: (314)753-9143. Email- [bhrcricket@gmail.com](mailto:bhrcricket@gmail.com)



# TEXAS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Convention and Business Meeting

November 15 & 16, 2024

Austin Southpark Hotel

4140 Governors Row, Austin, Texas 78744

## Keynote Speaker

Frederick Dunn of YouTube fame will start off our festivities this year. Mr. Dunn easily relates to beekeepers of all levels and it's a treat to see him speak in person. He is so excited to be coming down to Texas and meeting our wonderful TBA members.



## THBEA presents the Researchers

Do you re-queen each year? This is a common practice, but what does the research tell us? Find out when **Dr. Katie Lee** from the University of Minnesota presents her latest research on the topic.

We live in an Africanized Honey Bee zone. When bees go defensive, don't assume they are genetically predisposed to behave like that. They could be hungry or maybe it's just the weather.

**Dr. Elizabeth Walsh**, from the USDA Honey Bee research lab in Baton Rouge, presents her findings and tips for determining why your bees are now defensive.

Tropilaelaps... What is that? It's a mite that makes varroa destructor look timid. Yes, everyone agrees they will be coming. What is the latest research and are there even treatment solutions?

**Dr. Rogan Tokach** from Auburn University brings up-to-date date research on the fast spreading parasite that will soon make an appearance in our colonies.

Bee-ing healthy is a goal we all have for our bees. We know the basics of pollen and nectar, what else? Could gut microbiota play a role in bee development and health? On Friday, you can hear Texas A&M's newest associate professor **Dr. Erik Motta** tell us all about gut microbiota.

[Register today at www.texasbeekeepers.org](http://www.texasbeekeepers.org)



# TEXAS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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4140 Governors Row, Austin, Texas 78744

## Convention Events

### Texas Honey Show 2024

The Honey Show is back and better than ever. We are excited to offer some new categories. Honey Salsa will be a category this year, we can't wait to see the fusion between two great products from our state Texas Honey and Salsa. Also calling all of you quilters. Time to show off your best bee quilt. We revamped some rules and can't wait to start getting your entries.

### Texas Master Beekeeping Testing

November 14 the day before the festivities begin, show up and take your next test along the path towards being a Master Craftsman Beekeeper.

### The Workshops

Come early, let the family enjoy all the fun things to do in the Austin area while you enhance your knowledge. We will be offering two workshops this year geared to upping your beekeeping game.

World renowned researcher and Texas A&M's very own **Dr. Juliana Rangel** will give a queen rearing workshop. Classroom instruction along with hands-on in hive instruction (yes, bring your suit). Also included is a queening grafting kit with a \$50 dollar value. Seats are limited and going fast.

Did you get some bees this past spring? How are they liking? What's your onite count?

If you don't know now, you'll want to know soon, because the wax moths did not get your bees. If you've now and have enough experience to be dangerous, but still unsure about what to do next.

**Dodie Stillman** and **Becky Barajas** have the workshop to help you take that next step.

### Annual Vendor Trade Show

We have over 40 vendor spots filling up fast. Our vendors will be set up all day on Thursday the 14th. Even if you can't make the whole convention, stop by to show them support on Thursday at no charge. Many vendors will also be taking orders early and providing pickup on Thursday at the convention.

### The Professional Beekeeper's luncheon Friday

Lunch will not be provided on Friday, but rest assured we have it covered for Saturday. The area around the hotel offers plenty of Friday lunch options. We will be offering a special luncheon for beekeepers trying to make a living in the state on Friday. It is an extra cost, but you won't be sorry. **Dr. Garrett Slater** will provide the programming. His topic will be commercial beekeeping management practices. Seats are limited, get your ticket early. After the luncheon we would like to have an open discussion on commercial beekeeping issues in the state so stick around for that if you have an opinion.

### Friday Awards Banquet & Auction

Friday night come and support the Texas Honey Bee Education Association. We will have a dinner banquet and afterwards the auction gets going. Can't make the banquet?

The doors will open up to the public for the auction at 8:00.

### Texas Beekeepers Association Annual Meeting

The Annual Membership Meeting and Election of Officers of the Texas Beekeepers Association will take place at the Annual Convention. All members are invited to attend and participate.

[Register today at www.texasbeekeepers.org](http://www.texasbeekeepers.org)