WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

www.wcaba.org

2025 Club Officers:

PRESIDENT: Shannon Montez
president@wcaba.org

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vicepresident@wcaba.org

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membership@wcaba.org

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program@wcaba.org

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pastpresident@wcaba.org

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SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR: Jimmie Oakley
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QUEEN CHAIR:
(vacant)

WEB ADMINISTRATOR: Sean O'Neil
webmaster@wcaba.org

DIRECTOR AT LARGE: Ken Browning

DIRECTOR AT LARGE: Ann Bierschenk

4th TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2025 @ 7PM
Georgetown Library - Hewitt Room(2nd Floor)

PROGRAM:

Beekeeping 101

Speaker: **Phil Ainslie**

Bee Biology & Beekeeping Equipment (con't)

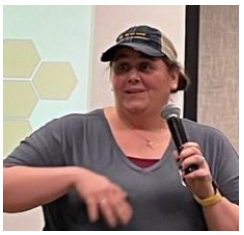
Phil will present a general overview of honeybee biology and beekeeping equipment for the beginning beekeepers.

Phil Ainslie - Secretary

Beekeeping 201

Speaker: **Becky Barajas** - Spring Decisions

Becky will be discussing the decisions that we will need to be making as spring approaches from nutrition, requeening, treating and other things.



Becky at WCABA Meeting

Becky and Friends

Becky Barajas has been an avid beekeeper for 11 years, from stewarding 2-40+ colonies, sitting on local and national boards, running conferences and clubs, winning dozens of ribbons, collecting honey from around the world (over 200 so far), writing for Bee Culture, volunteering with EAS, ABF, BIP and others. She loves to travel educating all age groups on beekeeping.

We would certainly enjoy your presence at the next meeting on February 25th (***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=aHRiRjc3bS9kYXJGS2g5THVpOEx2UT09
Meeting ID: 824 7506 8933. Passcode: 909659
Topic: **Beekeeping 201 Meeting** (concurrently)
Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83978758570?pwd=aElyMzBvODBMZjhJakcrTHFZcXFwQT09
Meeting ID: 839 7875 8570. Passcode: 344046

Spring is in the Air?

a note from your President

Shannon Montez - President

For those of you who have lived in Texas a while, you've grown accustomed to the few days of cold then poof, spring arrives. If you're new to Texas and pulled out all of your northern winter wear, don't put the storage boxes away. The cold will be gone in a few weeks. If you're confused about the weather, just imagine your bees. They've been cooped up over the last month and every time a ray of sunshine comes out, you can find a few bees buzzing about the hive. If you left your bees to over "winter" you should start thinking about checking on your hives. While you probably don't want to spend a lot of time in the hive, you can still do a quick check to make sure your hive still has signs of life. Puxatawnie Phil has forecast 6 more weeks of cold weather, so don't spend too much time inspecting your hive. Your bees have sealed up the hive and done a great job at insulating for the cold months and you'll find that it takes a little muscle to pry open the top. Someone suggested "knocking" on the hive and listening for the buzz of the bees. If you left enough resources for your bees over the winter, they should have made it through the worst of the weather. I always have to remember it's nature and it doesn't matter what we do. If they can survive in a tree trunk in the frigid weather of Ohio, then they can certainly survive 3 weeks of cold weather here.

The time for placing an order for Nuc's is quickly coming to an end. While we still have enough Nuc's to supply all the orders, we always find there's a last rush of orders and have to turn people away. Please don't wait to place your order. If you haven't checked your hives, just do a cursory check. If you're new to beekeeping, and placing your first order, you only need to order the Nuc and won't need to also order a queen. I don't think we can say this enough. Think about ordering 2 Nucs. It gives you a good comparison in case one of your hives has issues. The Nuc comes with everything you need to get your hive started and if you take care of your hive after you take it home, you should be able to extract a little honey in the fall.

If your hives are doing well, you should probably consider requeening your hive. Due to all the elements in the environment such as pesticides, the queens are not as productive as they used to be. Years ago, a beekeeper could keep the queen for up to 5 years and be the envy of the neighboring beekeepers. Unfortunately, if you want your hive to thrive, it's highly recommended to requeen your hive yearly.

We're looking forward to seeing everyone at our meeting on Tuesday.

Shannon

Honeybee Research Pearls

Compiled by Phil Ainslie

Native bee populations can bounce back after honey bees move out

Phil Ainslie - Secretary

The research, published in the Journal of Insect Science, examined the effects of migratory beekeeping -- the practice of moving honey bee colonies to a different location for part of the year -- on native bee populations.

The researchers found that when managed honey bees were moved into an area, the population of native bees decreased in abundance and diversity. However, in places where apiaries were kept for years and then removed, the native bee populations once again increased in both total numbers and species diversity.

Margarita López-Uribe, the Lorenzo L. Langstroth Early Career Professor of Entomology in the College of Agricultural Sciences and co-author of the paper, said the findings suggest that while migratory beekeeping can be a disturbance to native bees, it may also be possible for those populations to recover.

"Because these sites rebounded only one year after the apiaries were removed, it suggests that the populations temporarily decreased due to native bees being displaced and not because they died out," she said. "These bees were also likely able to rebound because the landscape had an abundance of flowers and minimal agriculture and pesticide use."

However, she added that results might be different in areas where floral diversity and space for bees are lower and if there's a higher density of managed honey bee colonies.

According to the researchers, insect populations are declining across the globe, which can be attributed to many human activities including changes to insect habitats and the introduction of non-native species. While these exotic species can sometimes have a positive effect on crop plants, they can also compete with native species for resources, such as honey bees vying with native bees for flowers.

Because honey bees are so widespread, the researchers said it can be difficult to design studies that examine this competition between honey bees and other bee species. For this study, they traveled to the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau in China, an area in which honey bees don't live in the wild and are only present due to migratory managed apiaries, which include about 60 to 100 colonies each. Overall, the researchers said the findings suggest that while the introduction of managed honey bees lowers the abundance of native bees, the long-term effects likely depend on how many honey bee colonies are introduced and how long they are present. Future studies could examine the effects of these honey bee densities and durations on native bee abundance, community composition and pollination services over multiple seasons. Sleep is no light matter for bees.

Artificial light found to disrupt the circadian cycle of vital ecosystem and economic pollinators

Now, researchers at the University of California San Diego have found that light disruption is not only a health concern for humans. A new study led by PhD candidate Ashley Kim and Professor James Nieh in the School of Biological Sciences has found that artificial light disrupts the circadian rhythms of honey bees and poses a threat to their essential role as pollinators.

"Our research shows just how sensitive honey bees are to changes in their environment, particularly to something as seemingly benign as artificial light," said Kim of the study, published in Scientific Reports. "By disrupting their circadian rhythms, we see clear evidence of reduced sleep periods. This raises significant concerns, not only for bee health but also for the health of ecosystems that depend on them for pollination."

Honey bees generally prefer to nest in dark environments, although a small amount of light can enter from the hive entrance. Sleeping bees typically remain immobile but exhibit subtle movements if disturbed by nestmates. However, bees sleep outside when they swarm or when they form "bee beards" outside the nest on hot evenings, which are increasing under climate change. While the prevalence of artificial light at night (ALAN), or light pollution, on sleeping honey bees varies from region to region, modern urban environments are increasingly exposed to artificial light conditions, especially as temperatures rise. Because there has been a resurgence of urban beekeeping in many areas to support bees and their critical pollination services, bees that experience hotter weather are now potentially more exposed to ALAN.

Researchers learn how nectar-laden honey bees avoid overheating

As temperatures rise, the bees change how they fly to decrease the heat they generate from metabolism, which helps the insects avoid overheating and save precious water.

Honey bees carrying nectar have the remarkable ability to adjust their flight behavior to avoid overheating when air temperatures increase, according to research led by a University of Wyoming scientist.

Jordan Glass, a postdoctoral research associate in UW's Department of Zoology and Physiology, conducted the study to determine how high air temperatures may limit the ability of honey bees to forage for nectar. His research findings appear in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Insect pollinators are declining at an alarming rate, due in part to climate change. While it is thought that extremely hot, dry conditions should limit when a honey bee can forage, Glass and colleagues found that these pollinating insects have the ability to remain active in significant heat. In fact, this study showed that honey bees can carry the same amount of nectar without a threat to their lives in temperatures ranging from 77 to 104 degrees Fahrenheit.

Specifically, their results demonstrated that the honey bees' flight muscle temperatures and metabolism increased while carrying nectar at 68 and 86 degrees. However, at 104 degrees, muscle temperatures did not change, and flight metabolism only slightly increased with increasing nectar loads.

"Bees apparently increase flight efficiency by lowering their wingbeat frequency and increasing stroke amplitude to compensate, reducing the need for evaporative cooling," wrote Glass, who led the research as a doctoral student at Arizona State University.

In other words, as temperatures rise, the bees change how they fly to decrease the heat they generate from metabolism, which helps these insects avoid overheating and save precious water.

Practical Experiences in the Bee Yard


Stanford Brantley

My area of the Ark-La-Tex has not yet had any snow in 2025 but had several nights in the low 20s. I am hoping we do not have a repeat of last year when everything, including the Chinese Tallow, froze to ground level.

FEBRUARY is the first time many beekeepers open their hives for a quick check of the brood nest, the queen's brood pattern, if any, and the amount of remaining stores. It is also a good time to remove any mite strips placed in the hive late last year.

If you find there is little food remaining in the hive, you can add granulated sugar on top of the inner cover. Sugar bricks are another way to feed but you must add a spacer due to the thickness of the sugar brick. If you do not have a spacer, you can add another empty super to protect the brick and still allow the Outer Cover to properly seat and seal the hive. If you are not familiar with sugar brick feeding, check with your local bee supply stores about their use.

It is generally agreed a hive should have at least two 9 5/8" frames of honey at this time of the year. A strong hive may have six to eight frames of brood and ten to twenty pounds of honey. Open fed dry pollen substitute or pollen patties inside the hive will greatly aid in the production of new bees, giving the hive a head start on the coming season.

The topic of feeding honey back to a hive of bees is usually a lively discussion. If you know where the honey came from and you can be sure it is not diseased, it is generally considered OK to feed it at a suggested dilution rate of 80% honey to 20% water. It is not recommended to feed honey from unknown sources because of the risk of disease or toxins it may contain.

While making early inspections, you may find a dead hive, commonly known as dead-outs. Disassemble the hive and examine the frames for wax moth damage. Store undamaged frames in a freezer for at least two days to kill any eggs or larvae from beetles or moths. After removing the frames and letting them return to room temperature, store them in air-tight garbage bags for reuse in the spring.

If you find frames with bare spots on plastic foundation, now is a good time to add melted wax to those bare spots. For new beekeepers with limited experience using plastic foundation, bees will not draw comb on plastic unless it is coated with wax. This is why you see foundation manufactures advertise that their foundation includes two or three applications of wax.

Find something during an inspection that does not look right and need help? Check with the local bee club in your area for assistance. Other sources include the Texas Apiary Inspection Service at Texas A&M (https://txbeeinspection.tamu.edu/contacts/) or their new extension office in Overton, Texas, Garett Slater (https://entomology.tamu.edu/people/slater-garett/)

Some nectar will be collected in February from early blooming fruit trees, dewberry vines, dandelions and henbit. Not familiar with henbit? Here is an interesting article about henbit. https://susanalbert.com/look-down-henbit-and-chickweed/. Both henbit and chickweed are common in the Ark-La-Tex area.

As your hives become more active, make it a practice to closely observe the activity at the landing board. You will notice the color of pollen on foraging bees is not always the same and changes as spring progresses. Early blooming Elm pollen will be light yellow or grey, depending on the type of Elm in your area. You will see green pollen as the Oaks begin to bloom and red pollen from Maples. A Google search on "pollen color chart" returns numerous links. You can find online charts as well as printed charts you can purchase. Check to see if the chart includes trees and flowers for your area.

I encourage every beekeeper, new or experienced, to maintain a record of the date various plants begin to bloom in their area. These observations help in your planning to have the hives in your apiary ready to gather the first nectar available. If you have never recorded blooming dates, this February is a good month to start.

Stanford

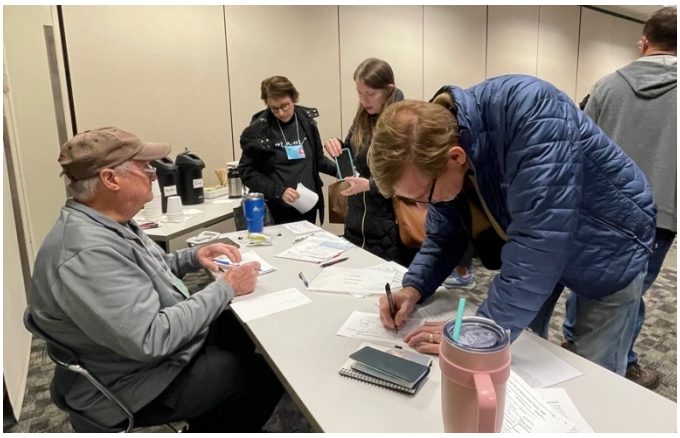
Come and Get 'Em! - WCABA 2025 Nuc and Queen Pickup Facts

Gary Bible – Bee Procurement Coordinator

When: Saturday, April 12th from 7 am to 12 Noon
Where: The Bost Farm – 4355 County Road 110, Georgetown, Texas 78626
Why: To replenish/start your bee stock
How: Bring your Pickup Voucher(s), truck, bee suit and securing gear (bungees/straps)

More Important facts:

- Face-to-face ordering will be available at the February 25th club meeting.
- Make checks payable to "WCABA" ------ NOT TO GARY BIBLE!
- Pickup Vouchers will be emailed 2 weeks before pickup date. Monitor your email.
- No paper Pickup Voucher? – No nuc/queen pickup!



Kem Browning at the B&Q Ordering Table at the Club Bee Meeting

- We will close nuc and queen distribution at noon on April 12th.
- If you can't **pickup** on **April 12th**, send a friend or member.
- We expect you to get out of your vehicle and secure your nucs.
- Immediately take your nucs to your bee yard and load them into your 8/10 frame deep.
- Caged queens can remain "viable" 5-7 days; we recommend immediate placement.
- If you cannot "load" your nuc(s) on the same day, open the nuc(s) and let them free-fly
- If you have issues/questions about your nuc(s) call or text Gary Bible at 512-923-0410
- May the "Bee force" bee with you!

Loading member nucs on pickup day at the Bost Farm

Gary Bible- Bee Procurement Coordinator

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED?

Ed Wolfe – Robert Bost Beekeeping Scholarship

The Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association has a youth program honoring two long-time beekeepers and WCABA members, Ed Wolfe and Robert Bost, who both actively promoted learning about bees and beekeeping in Williamson County.
A scholarship is given annually to furthering the apiculture sciences with emphasis on sustainable beekeeping. This award is presented to school age students (12-18yrs) living in the area served by WCABA. The award consists of a beehive with bees and equipment necessary to complete the year-long plus project. A mentor will be made available to instruct and assist the recipient in sustainable beekeeping techniques and good beekeeping practices.

Applications can be obtained on-line at: **wcaba.org**. (click)Youth Education, (click)Scholarship Application (4-pages). Application must be **mailed** to the Awards Committee, by **March 15th** for consideration. Jimmie Oakley Scholarship Pgm. Chair

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W.C.A.B.A. Club 5-Frame Nuc & Queen Order Form - 2025

Name_____ ORDER # ___

Address _____ **City/State/Zip**_____

Phone_____ e-mail:_____

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

No._____ **5 Frame Nuc** (Based on group order of 100 nucs) **$175.00/ Nuc.**
Nuc with three frames brood, mated queen, "NOT" marked or clipped.

No._____ **Honey Bee Queen** (Based on group order of 100) **$40.00/ Queen**
BeeWeaver marked & clipped Queen from mite tolerant and virus resistant stock.

How will you pay? CASH or Check # _____ **TOTAL $ AMT**

Mail remittance to: Check Preferred **OF ORDER**

WCABA Order/ Gary Bible - 150 Sundance Trail, Liberty Hill, TX 78642

Must be Current Member - Nuc order ***deadline:****Must be postmarked by February 28th or while supplies las.t*
Limit 6 nucs per family, 4 nucs for new members . No individual resale or ownership transfer on nucs once order

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

Special Instructions:

Reprint of Press Release from:

Honey Bee Health Coalition February 6, 2025

Severe and Sudden Losses of Managed Honey Bees Across the Nation

Submitted by Jimmie Oakley – Editor

As commercial beekeepers in the USA inspect their bees after winter, to transport over 90% of the nation's managed honey bees to pollinate California almonds, they are discovering alarming colony losses. These losses are severe, broad, and may impact food security through inadequate pollination services. *Survey results are still accumulating, but information gathered from 234 beekeepers found average recent losses well over 50%, with a combined financial loss of over $139M. Combined with losses during other times of year, this additional loss puts many beekeepers at a loss rate of 70%-100% over the past 12 months.*

The symptoms of loss are reminiscent of Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) conditions which occurred in 2007 -2008 when bees suddenly disappeared from their colonies. During recent inspections by field scientists, deceased colonies often died with ample honey stores, leaving small patches of brood, with most or all the adult bees missing. Another symptom has been the rapid dwindling of surviving colonies, often within ten days of passing health inspections.

Similar severe losses were seen two years ago, when beekeepers in Florida lost up to 90% of their colonies, incurring $4.28 million in lost revenue. At that time, these beekeepers worked alongside the USDA-ARS Bee Research Laboratory in Beltsville, MD to sample and identify parasites, pathogens and pesticides involved in the crashes. Chemical exposures were also analyzed, recently presented and are awaiting publication. The eTort to sample, analyze pathogens, and calculate economic impacts are well documented here: https://doi.org/10.3390/biology13020117.

In January 2025, beekeepers again discovered sudden losses. In response, surveys were shared to determine the extent of the problem and samples were collected. This effort garnered the participation of many beekeepers, and mobilized a multi-organization working group.

Gathering Information

A collaborative eTort between Project Apis m., American Beekeeping Federation, American Honey Producers Association, apiculture extension programs and beekeepers such as Bret Adee allowed for the rapid collection of real time information to determine if these losses were regional or widespread. Surveys and interviews quickly determined these losses are nationwide and severe. The cause has not yet been identified, however the usual causes of loss, including winter management and high levels of parasitic mites, are not currently indicated causes of these losses.

Gathering Samples

The Bee Research Laboratory, USDA-ARS Beltsville, MD, collected samples from commercial operations' surviving colonies and from remnants of dead colonies. Priority was placed on collection of material that could identify the causes of such severe losses. A wide screening for pathogens and pesticides was conducted in California. Beekeepers provided access to colonies and providing detailed management history of their operations. Field scientists at the USDA-ARS collected dying bees, sampled dwindled colonies, wax and stored pollen from surviving and dead

colonies. Thanks to this swift collaborative effort, a comprehensive analysis of pathogen, parasite and chemical residues will be performed. In addition to the disease and pesticide analyses from Beltsville, USDA-ARS, laboratories in Tucson, Baton Rouge, Davis, Stoneville, and Logan will apply their expertise analyzing field data, weather patterns, and chemical risks as factors in these sever losses. Samples will be analyzed for:

- Known Virus levels in dying and surviving bees
- Parasitic Varroa mite genes of resistance to Amitraz treatment (with assistance from the USDA ARS Baton Rouge Bee Lab)
- Pesticide residues in adult bees, wax and pollen
- Genetic screening for novel viruses and metagenomic analyses of composition of microbial communities

Next steps

Samples are being analyzed, and additional information will be shared as it becomes available through social media and updates from the organizations listed below, including:

- A free public webinar will be offered by scientists who collected and analyzed samples in early March through Project Apis m. www.ProjectApism.org.
- Beekeepers involved will receive updates directly.
- Findings that will directly impact beekeeper management, such as amitraz resistance in Varroa samples and clear pathogen signals, will be shared broadly and promptly through public announcements and beekeeping organizations.
- Pesticide residue analysis and RNAseq will be shared through peer review publications.

Beekeepers are encouraged to share their information in the survey before Feb 10 https://forms.office.com/r/YKNpRBGkir

Beekeepers experiencing losses are encouraged to submit ELAP claims right away: https://www.fsa.usda.gov/resources/programs/emergency-assistance-livestock-honeybees-farm-raised-fish-elap

For more information, contact: Dr. Zac Lamas (ORISE Fellow- Beltsville and Field Sampling Coordinator) Zaclamascontact@gmail.com (603) 748-5334
Information provided by:

Project Apis m.
American Beekeeping Federation
American Honey Producers Association
Adee Honey Farms

It is too early to tell what the ramifications of this will be as losses are still being reported and we haven't seen the full extent yet. We will recommend that you order your spring bees now if you haven't. There will most likely be a shortage of bees this year, more queens will be needed to fight attrition and help restore lost colonies at the very least. So expect commercial operations to need far more queens than normal, this will trickle down to the small scale keepers.

Gary Barber - President - Texas Beekeepers Association

Gearing Up for the Apprentice Beekeeper Exam

Sean O'Neil -VP

If you're working toward your Apprentice Beekeeper certification, now's the time to buckle down and study! Last month's 201 session covered everything to give you the foundation needed to pass the test. If you missed out, a recording can be found here: https://bit.ly/3X3tVee

Mark your calendars—**the test is happening on Friday, February 28, 2025, in Brenham, TX @ 8am**. This is the first big step in the Master Beekeeper Program and passing it will set you on the path to deeper beekeeping knowledge and experience. If you haven't already, make sure to go over the study materials and you should be more than ready to take the test if you have at least a year of beekeeping under your belt.

Sean O'Neil Presents Beekeeping 201 on Apprentice Beekeeper

To help you out, here's the **study guide**: https://bit.ly/3CuAAXC and the **test registration info**: https://bit.ly/4jZ1UhA. Best of luck to everyone taking the exam—I can't wait to see more certified Apprentice Beekeepers in our club!

Sean

If you have decided to order bees for delivery in the spring you may wonder, What Next?
If you don't already have beekeeping equipment here are some suggestions on what to buy. JO

Suggested Beekeeping Equipment Order					
				Dadant	**Mann Lake**
Qty	Unit	Item Nbr.	Description	Price	Price
1	1	see catalog	9 5/8" Deep Hive Body Commercial Grade (unassembled)	27.95	23.75
1	1	see catalog	9 1/8" Grooved TB & Grooved BB Frame (unassembled) (case of 10)	20.75	18.95
1	1	see catalog	8 1/2 x 16 1/4 Rite-Cell beeswax coated sheet (blk, case of 10)	20.00	29.50
1	1	see catalog	Nails, 7d Box Galvanized & 1 1/4" Frame	13.70	12.60
1	1	see catalog	Flat Wood Reversable Migratory Cover	18.95	18.50
1	1	see catalog	10 Frame Solid Reversable Bottom Board	23.95	28.00
1	1	see catalog	9 1/8 Frame Feeder w/cap & ladder	15.90	14.25
1	1	see catalog	10 Frame Metal Bound Queen Excluder	11.95	11.95
1	1	see catalog	3"x6" Stainless Steel Smoker w/Guard & Wood Bellow	55.95	57.75
1	1	see catalog	Plastic Helmet	16.95	16.95
1	1	see catalog	Square Folding Veil w/elastic bottom	22.95	20.95
1	1	see catalog	Cowhide Leather Gloves Economy - small or medium	25.95	25.95
1	1	see catalog	Bee Brush	8.95	9.40
1	1	see catalog	9" Standard Hive Tool	8.95	10.95
			Total Equip	292.85	$299.45
1	1		5-Frame Nuc Bees W/ Queen	175.00	175.00
			Total w/ Bees	$467.85	$474.45

Membership Report: Shirley Doggett

February 2025

Shirley Doggett - Membership

New Members

Allyssa and Wade Elliott.	Georgetown
Steve Gavenda	Austin
Mike Hendly	Georgetown
Bill and Linda Krueger.	Wimberley
Mandy and Johnny Martinez.	Jarrell
Greg Mox.	Killeen

Renewing Members

Roger Allen.	Salado	Lloyd Anderson and Jain Smiley.	Killeen
Arlisha Baldwin.	Cedar Park	Jonathan Begley.	Florence
Ann Bierschenk.	Georgetown	Keith Brainard.	Georgetown
Brent Betts	Georgetown	Sadie Pitzenberger	Cedar Creek
Kenneth Browning.	Liberty Hill	Aaron Carpenter.	Round Rock
Garbino Colvillo.	Coupland	Dan Ernst	Liberty Hill
Lori Esch	Georgetown	Shelley and Mark Franklin.	Georgetown
Wesley Freeman.	Round Rock	Kathy Fulton.	Georgetown
Charles Gersbach and family.	Bartlett	Brian Gray.	Taylor
Robyn Guerrera.	Austin	Rayford and Carla Harmon.	Belton
Dennis Hefner.	Killeen	Dean Hewitt.	Hutto
Shawn and Denise Hoss.	Georgetown	Nan Helmke.	Belton
Cheryl Hullum.	Jarrell	Paul and Jen Illingworth	Georgetown
Albert Janecka.	Taylor	Dave Johnson.	Jarrell
Gerard Liboiron.	Georgetown	Roy and Caroline Markham.	Round Rock
Buddy and Cherie Miller.	Marble Falls	Butch and Darcy Miller.	Coupland
Lisa Mills.	Marble Falls	Shannon Montez.	Round Rock
Cal Newnam.	Georgetown	John Norman.	Florence
Steven Pereyda.	Bertram	Gaylon and Kristie Powell.	Jarrell
Jason Rask.	Liberty Hill	Jim Rattigan.	Round Rock
Roy Rector.	Taylor	Penny Roberts.	Marble Falls
Dennis and Linda Rose.	Marble Falls	Mike and Chloe Swan.	Georgetown
Jim Sweeney.	Copperas Cove	Brian Ullrich.	Bertram
Harold and Henry Vanicek.	Meadow Lakes	Donald Williams.	Salado

***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.

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

What a delight to look out my kitchen window one cool December morning to see a 3x3 foot mound of rosy pink blooms. It did not take long for the flowers to be covered in bees. Rock rose is not a member of the rose family but rather a mallow and is also known as Rose Mallow, Rose Pavonia or Pavonia Lasiopetala. It requires little care with optional pruning and watering during long hot dry summer dry spells. Pavonia blooms late spring through fall, often after a rain or watering. The blooms are solitary, open in the morning and fade late afternoon. It gives tons of seeds. Other mallows the bees love are Turk's cap (Malvaviscus Drummondii) and Winecup (Callirhoe involucrata). All are native and grow well both east and west of the I35 corridor.

Nancy Kunschik

Give them a try this year! Bee sweet, **Nancy Kunschik**

Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association

Treasurer's Report - As of February 22, 2025

Profit and Loss

ACCOUNTS	Year to Date
Income	
Program Income - Bee Procurement (2025)	$32,055.00
Program Income - Membership Dues	$1,710.00
Total Income	$33,765.00
Cost of Goods Sold	
Bee Procurement Program Nucs	$43,500.00
Total Cost of Goods Sold	$43,500.00
Gross Profit	($9,735.00)
Operating Expenses	
Total Operating Expenses	$0.00
Net Profit	($9,735.00)

Balance Sheet

ACCOUNTS	As of February 22, 2025
Assets	
Total Cash and Bank	$70,450.90
Total Assets	$70,450.90
Liabilities	
Bee Purchase Commitment	$29,150.00
Total Liabilities	$29,150.00
Assets & Liabilities	$41,300.90
Equity	
Retained Earnings - Prior Years	$51,035.90
Retained Earnings - Current Year	($9,735.00)
Total Equity	$41,300.90

Bee Procurement Program - 2025

Income	
Program Income - Bee Procurement	$32,055.00
Cost of Goods Sold	
Bees	$43,500.00
Gross Profit	($11,445.00)
Expenses	
Permit	$0.00
Travel Expenses	$0.00
Total Expenses	$0.00
Net Profit	($11,445.00)

Notes (as of January 31, 2025):

Merrimack Purchase 300 Nucs $43,500.00

- Merrimack Commitment = $52,500
- Less Volume and in-person pick-up discount = $9,000
- Net Merrimack Amount = $43,500