WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATI0N

WCABA APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER

www.wcaba.org

2024 Club Officers:

PRESIDENT: Shannon Montez
president@wcaba.org

VICE PRESIDENT:
Nancy Kunschik
vicepresident@wcaba.org

MEMBERSHIP: Shirley Doggett
membership@wcaba.org

PROGRAM: Linda Russell
program@wcaba.org

NEWSLETTER: Jimmie Oakley
newsletter@wcaba.org

SECRETARY: Phil Ainslie
secretary@wcaba.org

TREASURER: Barbi Rose
treasurer@wcaba.org

HISTORIAN: Matt Ludlum
historian@wcaba.org

PAST PRESIDENT: Phil Ainslie
pastpresident@wcaba.org

LIBRARIAN: Chris Huck
librarian@wcaba.org

SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR:
Jimmie Oakley
scholarship@wcaba.org

QUEEN CHAIR:
(vacent)

WEB ADMINISTRATOR:
Rachel Glass
webmaster@wcaba.org

DIRECTOR AT LARGE:
Ken Browning

DIRECTOR AT LARGE:
Ann Bierschenk

Meeting: **4th** TUESDAY, April 23, 2024 @ 7PM
Georgetown Library Hewlett Room (2nd floor)

PROGRAM:

Beekeeping 101

Speaker: **Phil Ainslie**

What to Look for after Nuc Installation

Since the 5-frame nucs have arrived, Phil will be covering what to be looking for and fielding question about what you found. Pictures would be helpful.

Phil Anislie – WCABA Secretary

Beekeeping 201

Speaker: **Freddie Benjamin**

Protecting Your Honey Bees from Pests, Parasites, and Diseases

Freddie Benjamin

Freddie is an active member of the beekeeping community, with four years of experience under his belt. Currently tending to 12 hives, he serves as the treasurer, mentor, and instructor for the Bastrop County Beekeepers Association. Committed to advancing his knowledge, Freddie is diligently pursuing his Texas Master Beekeepers certification. He is also engaged with other beekeeping organizations, including the Austin Area Beekeeper Association and Fayette County Beekeepers.

ZOOM Notes:

We would certainly enjoy your presence at the next meeting on Apr. 23rd (***fourth*** 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

Caring for your lawn

…a note from your President

Shannon Montez - President

As I drive through my neighborhood, I see so many beautiful green yards, weed free. Then as I pull into my driveway, I look to the back and see a multitude of "weeds". While I have the urge to head back to Lowes to get fertilizer, all I have to do is do a walk-through of the yard and see a multitude of bees who just love the small yellow flowers that are so profuse in the yard. This is a crucial time of year for many of our yards and while we may want to win the yard of the month, the bees don't really care if you get that lovely sign to place in the front. While we've been told that weeds are bad, there are actually a lot of good uses for some of the weeds that we may see in our yard. The last few times I've mowed the back part of the property, I realized how happy the bees were that we had let things grow over a bit. One of the weeds with small yellow flowers was a huge source of pollen for the bees.

What I think is a stupid weed and try to pull every time I see it is actually something the bees love. The **Cranesbill geranium (Geranium spp.)** is a plant that produces blooms in shades of pink, purple, or white, and attracting bees. Even better, it seems to be drought resistant.

Cranesbill Geranium

Joe Pye Weed

Joe Pye weed is something that has multiplied profusely in my front landscaping. It does get a little tired in the heat of the summer but the bees and butterflies love this plant.The pinkish-purple flowers of Joe Pye weed not only attract bees but also draw in a variety of butterflies due to their sweet nectar.

Thistles (Cirsium spp.) are a bane of any gardener. I even bought a special tool to pull these out by the root. Dandelions are also an important early food source for bees. They are found in bloom from March – October in many regions. However not only are the blooms great at attracting bees, but dandelion root is also a good herb for issues with your liver and makes a great alternative for coffee. In warmer areas, a few dandelions are often found nestled in warm corners of the yard – even in Winter.

Creeping Charlie

Creeping Charlie is an invasive ground cover that has a variety of uses. Bees enjoy the pollen but a note of caution- it is very difficult to eradicate and you are better off landscaping with plants that don't take over everything. While you may just want to rely on your beautiful plants in your landscaping, keeping away from pesticides will be a bonus for you and your peers. Nature has so much to offer including what we call weeds. Enjoy the profuse blooms that we see now because the summer dearth is right around the corner!

Shannon

Beekeeping opens many doors.

Sabrin Lopez, author
Contributed by Phil Ainslie,

HONEY BEES not only produce golden honey, but they play a crucial role in the mortality and productivity of flora. Beekeeping is a fascinating venture that embraces environmental responsibility, personal fulfillment, and potential economic gain. This exploration into beekeeping guides novices seeking to dive into this remarkable practice, detailing the steps to set up their first hive and foster a thriving bee colony.

Beekeeping opens many doors.

Honey bees not only produce golden honey, but they play a crucial role in the mortality and productivity of flora. Beekeeping is a fascinating venture that embraces environmental responsibility, personal fulfillment, and potential economic gain. This exploration into beekeeping guides novices seeking to dive into this remarkable practice, detailing the steps to set up their first hive and foster a thriving bee colony.

Preparing the appropriate environment for your beehive is crucial as you embark on your beekeeping journey. Ensure your selected site is easy to access, gets adequate sunlight, and has an ample supply of nectar and pollen from plants around it.

One of the first significant decisions a novice beekeeper must make is choosing the right beehive type. There are several designs available, but the three most common types are as follows:

- **The Langstroth Hive**: Named after its inventor, Rev. Lorenzo L. Langstroth, this is the most common in North America. It is designed for easy honey extraction with less disturbance to the colony.
- **The Top-Bar Hive**: Favored for its simplicity and lower costs, this type does not require heavy lifting but necessitates more regular inspections.
- **The Warre Hive**: This design represents a middle ground between the Langstroth and top-bar hives. It allows bees to build their comb naturally.

Choosing the proper beehive largely depends on your personal goals, resources, and how much time you can devote to beekeeping. The Langstroth hive is popular for commercial beekeeping or honey production. However, the top bar or Warre might be ideal for a hobbyist interested in a more hands-off, natural approach.

Regardless of the hive type, its proper setup and placement greatly influence the colony's success. So, take your time, research, and make the best choice for you and your soon-to-be buzzing friends.

Acquiring bees for your first hive

After setting up your hive, the next step is to populate it with bees. There are different methods to acquire your bee family:

1. **Buying a package**: This is a common and convenient way to start. The package typically includes a queen honey bee and a certain number of worker bees. Ensure the supplier is reputable to avoid weak or sick bees.
2. **Purchasing a nucleus (nuc)**: A nuc is a mini-hive with a queen honey bee, workers, and broods. It's like a ready-made family that can quickly adapt to a new hive.
3. **Catching a swarm**: This is an advanced method and is advised for more experienced beekeepers. It involves catching a swarm of bees in the wild.

Once you have your bees, the next step is introducing them to their new home: the beehive. This should ideally be done during warm weather when flowers are in bloom. Avoid stormy weather or evenings, as bees may not orient properly.

Gently shake the bees into the hive and carefully cork the queen in while ensuring she can access honey. Over the next few days, the workers should chew through the wax to release the queen. Smooth integration can take a week or so.

During this process, it is crucial to monitor the behavior of your bees, ensuring they are comfortable and adjusting well to the hive. Their well-being will shape the success of your beekeeping venture.

Starting your beekeeping journey requires some essential tools and protective gear. Here are the essentials:

- **Beehive box**: These are the actual homes for your bees. They come in various sizes and dimensions, catering to bees and honey production capacities.
- **Bee suit**: A full-body suit, including gloves and a veil, will protect you from bee stings. Opt for a light-colored suit, as darker colors can agitate bees.
- **Smoker**: The smoker calms bees by blocking their pheromone communication, making hive inspections less disruptive.
- **Hive tool**: This tool separates that are stuck together due to propolis, the bees' "glue."
- **Bee brush**: This tool gently brushes bees off frames during hive inspections.
- **Frame lifter**: Also known as a frame grip, it aids in lifting and handling individual frames.
- **Bee feeder**: Handy during dearth periods, a feeder ensures that your hive gets essential nutrients.
- **Queen marking pen**: This tool helps identify and keep track of the queen bee by gently marking her without harm.
- **Uncapping fork**: This is required during honey extraction to remove wax cappings from honeycombs.
- **Honey extractor**: This is a key tool for harvesting. It spins honey out of the frames without destroying the comb structure.

Acquiring and adequately using these tools acts as your first line of defense and makes handling the hive easier and safer. It's an investment in ensuring a successful and rewarding beekeeping journey.

Inspecting your hive

Regular hive checks are imperative to ensure the colony's health and productivity. During an inspection, you're looking out for a few key things:

- **Queen presence**: Spotting the queen, or proof of her (like eggs), assures you that she's still there and laying.
- **Diseases and pests**: Look for signs of disease or pests such as varroa mites or foulbrood.
- **Honey and pollen stores**: Ensuring the bees have enough food is essential, especially in cooler climates.

Inspections should ideally be conducted on warm, dry, sunny days when most bees are foraging. Limit the inspection duration to 10–15 minutes to avoid disrupting the colony too much.

Harvesting honey from your bees

Photo by Laurel Gougler

One of the most rewarding parts of your beekeeping journey is undoubtedly harvesting your bees' honey. However, it involves a careful process to ensure both the bees' safety and the honey's quality.

Step 1. Ensure your bees have an excess of honey. Honey is vital for their survival during winter, so only harvest the surplus. Ideally, the time frame to collect honey is mid-summer to early fall, when the hive is bursting with honey produced from spring and summer blooms.

Step 2. Start by donning your protective gear, including a beekeeper's suit, gloves, and veil to protect against bee stings. Using a smoker to calm the bees makes removing the honey-filled frames easier.

Step 3. With your hive tool, carefully remove the frames filled with capped honey. These caps can be sliced off using a heated knife or puncture roller, revealing the golden honey.
Step 4. You'll need an extractor to spin out the honey from the frames. A manual extractor works perfectly fine for smaller harvests, but electric extractors can save time for larger quantities.
Step 5. Filter the spun honey to remove any leftover wax pieces before letting it settle in a clean, warm environment. After 1–2 days, the honey will be ready for bottling.

Respecting the bees and their hard work is integral to this process, so always operate gently, avoid squashing bees, and leave them with enough honey for their needs. Enjoy the fruits of your collective labor, knowing you played a part in this sweet gift from nature.

Common challenges and risks in beekeeping

Like any venture, beekeeping does come with its share of challenges, and being prepared can significantly enhance your success. Some common issues you may face include:

- **Disease**: Diseases are a widespread concern in beekeeping. Bee colonies may suffer from illnesses like American foulbrood or varroa mites. Regular hive inspections help in early detection and control.

- **Pests**: Various pests, such as wax moths, mites, and small hive beetles, can pose a serious risk to your colony. Maintaining hive cleanliness is an effective preventative measure.

- **Absconding**: Absconding happens when an entire colony abandons the hive. It could be triggered by a lack of food, disturbances, or poor hive conditions. Providing adequate resources and minimizing interference can help deter this behavior.

Understanding these potential challenges can better equip you to handle them efficiently, promoting a thriving bee colony.

Advantages and rewards of beekeeping

Beekeeping is an enriching activity, yielding tangible and intangible benefits alike:

- **Environmental contribution**: Keeping bees contributes to pollination, which is crucial for our ecosystem's healthy functioning and food production.
- **Health benefits**: Beekeeping is a therapeutic hobby that promotes mental wellness. It encourages outdoor activity and fosters a connection with nature.
- **Economic profit**: Honey, beeswax, propolis, pollen, and other hive products can be sold or used personally, offering considerable economic benefits.

Start your beekeeping journey today!

Embarking on a beekeeping journey is a fascinating and rewarding exploit, full of lessons, challenges, and sweet victories. While the way may be strewn with hurdles, your preparation, due diligence, and passion can help bridge the gap between novice enthusiasm and expert mastery. The world of beekeeping awaits you with all its buzz, honey, and the promise of a deeper connection to the natural world. Begin your journey today and savor the richness beekeeping adds to your life.

Beyond these, the sheer joy of watching your colony thrive and grow, the wonder of observing their complex social systems, and the satisfaction of your first honey harvest make beekeeping a uniquely rewarding pursuit.

*About the author… **Sabrina Lopez**, an impassioned environmentalist and storyteller with a background in environmental science,*

Practical Experiences in the Bee Yard


Stanford Brantley

MAY nectar sources become more abundant and varied. This spring seems to have gotten an early start with many of the roadside flowers appearing by late march early April. I first notice the edge of the highway pavement becomes red with the crimson clover, perhaps due to the warmer ground next to the pavement. As the roadway bloom seems to peak, the fields begin to shine with blooms. If you are in East Texas, the highways medians turn pink with the Indian Paint Brush.

Beekeeping gets more exciting in May as the nectar flow increases. The pace of life inside the hive is at its highest of the year. The beekeeper's tasks in the apiary are also at their peak.

Inside the hive, a process begins that results in swarms becoming more numerous. An abundance of nectar is being brought into the hive. The bees start looking for room to store the fruits of their foraging. As storage in the super becomes full, the bees start putting the nectar in the brood nest. The queen is in full laying mode and looking for empty brood cells to lay eggs. As available brood cells diminish and the queen feels like she does not have enough room to lay, the colony senses her stress and gets the swarming urge. Once the colony decides to swarm, there is not much the beekeeper can do to prevent it from happening. I would suspect that by making two-frame or three-frame splits, there would be one of the splits that would still feel like they needed to swarm.

When you get a swarm call in the middle of the day and are able to get the bees into a catch box, don't forget that many "scout' bees are flying around looking for the swarm's new home. I prefer to leave my catch box at the swarm site until dark and let the scouts come back. If you don't do this, you may get another call the next day saying there are still a lot of bees in the area. Let all the bees come home at night before you move the box.

There will be some frames of honey capped in May. If desired, you may extract these frames and return the "wet" comb to the super. This action in many instances will excite the bees to refill the extracted comb with more nectar, providing a bigger harvest later in the year.

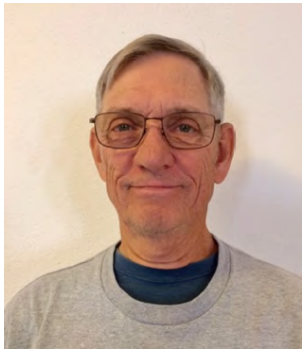
New colonies can be started in May. Queens need numerous drones with which to mate. The colony will usually produce sufficient drones during May and June to meet that need.

It is also a good time to get new comb drawn. New frames of comb are always needed to replace the old dark comb that has been in the hive for years. A general rule is to add frames of foundation below the excluder to encourage the bees to draw it out. This may result in the Queen beginning to lay in the freshly drawn comb. Another method that I have used to keep the queen from laying in the new comb is to turn the excluder ninety degrees and place it back on the brood chamber. This "excludes" the queen as she moves about the center of the brood nest but leaves a two or three inch space "not excluded" at the front and back of the brood nest, This encourages workers to easily gain access to the foundation and begin to draw it out. When you see that the bees are working the foundation, you can turn the excluder back to its normal orientation covering the entire brood area. Check to make sure the queen is not trapped above the excluder.

I suggest you consider a mite count in the early part of May. If the count exceeds the 3 mites per 100 bees threshold, you may need to do a treatment to keep the hive from crashing before you can extract honey. If a high mite infestation causes a decrease in the bee population, the hive could be taken over by hive beetles and result in the sliming of you honey supers. I hope this never occurs but if it does, about all you can say is "What a waste" and start cleaning up the mess. If you decide to do a mite treatment before extracting honey, you must carefully choose the right miticide and follow product instructions. Make sure the product you choose is safe to use with unextracted honey in the hive.

Stanford

Saturday, April 20th Nucs and Queens Pick Up Day Directions



Gary Bible - Procurement Coordinator

Nuc and Queen Pick Up is almost here! Below are "Pick Up Directions" from WCABA.
The Bost Farm address is 4335 County Road 110, Georgetown, TX 78626.

1. Watch the turn (at CR 110) into the Bost Farm! There is a deep bar ditch there!

2. If you cannot pick up that day, send a friend to pick up your order.

3. **BRING YOUR PRINTED VOUCHER**. **NO VOUCHER … NO PICK UP**.

4. Follow the posted signs/directions. Bring your Pickup Truck and your bee suit.

5. Pick up time is 7 am until 3 pm. If you arrive at 3 pm, we will not be "happy" to see you. Please try to be there NLT 2:30 pm. Our Pick Up business will shut down at 3 pm sharp. All people helping that day are beekeepers. They (also) need to go and work their bees.

6. Secure/tie down your nucs away from the Pick Up point. Drive about thirty yards down the lane, get out of your vehicle and secure your nucs.

7. Take your nucs directly to your bee yard and install them, or if installing them later, open their entrance to let them free-fly. WCABA will not be responsible for nuc losses due to "cooked" nucs.

8. If you cannot find the nuc queen and/or have other nuc issues, call or text me at 512-923-0410. Note: We will not be able to respond immediately but will get back to you ASAP.

9. Extra nucs are NOW available for sale. If you desire to order a nuc or two, call or text me.

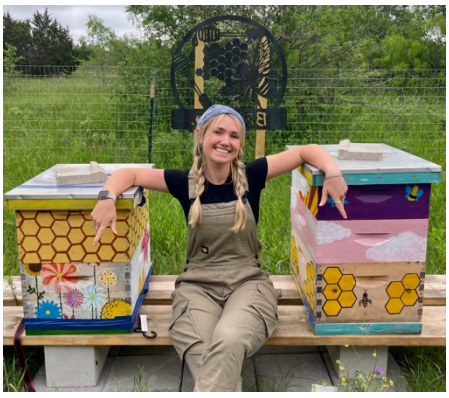
10. Consider helping at the Bost Farm at next year's "Pick Up." We need your help. As the signs nowadays say "We Are Hiring!"

See you on April 20th. Have a great bee year!

Gary

Gary Bible, WCABA Bee Procurement Coordinator
glbible@austin.rr.com cell: 512-923-0410

Southwestern University Student Starts BEE-Co on Campus



Layla Hoffen SU Environmental Studies Major

My name is Layla, I'm a sophomore Environmental Studies major at Southwestern University, and I love bugs! I got the opportunity to start beekeeping when I was around 14 when my mom picked it up as a hobby. When I came to school a couple years ago, I got all unpacked and settled in my new dorm- but something was missing. Like many incoming freshmen (I'm sure), I looked around campus and decided that SU needed a beekeeper! But… also, like many college students, I was not making very much money, and bees (as y'all know) can be very expensive. Luckily, my school had no shortage of bees- they just happened to be living in the walls of campus buildings! I started building out my apiary in our school's garden by doing cut-outs and trap-outs from these buildings, which is not something I had any experience with at the time.

With no one to really guide me at school, I started reaching out to the Georgetown community for assistance and advice- which is how I got to know both Jimmie Oakley (WCABA) and Sarah and James Denman from Bee Salty, both of whom have been incredibly kind and generous with their time and resources to mentor me. I never expected to receive such willingness to help from total strangers, but it truly takes a village- even GFD came out one time so I could borrow their thermal imaging equipment to see a hive in a wall!

Soon, the president of my university caught wind of my work. She requested that I start an organization to rear fellow student beekeepers, and connected me with
Konrad Bouffard from Round Rock Honey, who donated brand new suits, hive bodies, and a nuc to my future organization. I drew up a grant proposal to build a teaching apiary on my school's outdoor learning site, and after a long, tedious, 9 months of pushing through administrative red tape and setbacks, I received a $5,000 sustainability grant to carry this forward. This spring, I was able to construct an equipment shed with an attached screened-in observation deck (for folks to observe the bees and wildlife without suiting up), and a fenced-in enclosure that now hosts 7 rescued and donated hives. I call my organization BEE-Co (Beekeeping Education and Engagement Community), and we meet every week for hive checks or in-the-classroom learning opportunities (like beeswax candle making, hive box painting, or native bee hotel making).

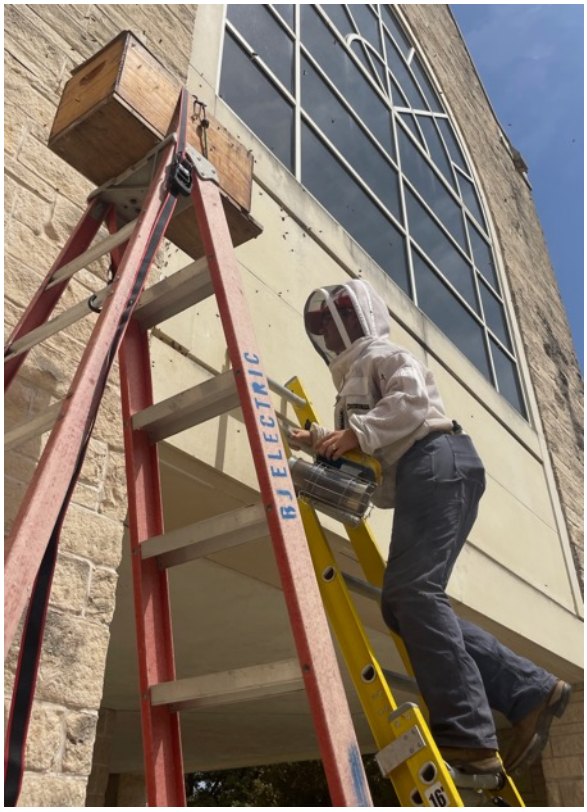
In addition to being fun and educational, BEE-Co also totally fulfills my university's Bee Campus USA education commitments. Bee Campus USA is an initiative of the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation that provides recognition for universities in the U.S. that are committed to preserving local biodiversity through protecting native pollinator habitats, limiting the use of synthetic pesticides, and engaging in public awareness initiatives. Through the habitats I have been able to create (a Certified Monarch Waystation, 10 native bee homes, and of course, the apiary), reducing pesticide usage (by doing cut-outs), and creating learning opportunities for the SU community, we are able to maintain all of these responsibilities and more.

Because beekeeping is such a niche (and expensive!) hobby, and one that I would argue requires an experienced mentorship program, not many young folks my age have the opportunity to suit up and be able to learn. I created this organization not only to pique interest in bees and beekeeping, but to instill life-long pollinator-focused sustainability practices in SU students. When I think about the impact that this could have, even if it just means growing up and not using chemical pesticides in your lawn, not swatting at foragers, or letting your yard stay messy over the winter, it brings me so much joy. I have truly been blessed to have had this opportunity, and can't wait to see how it will grow!"

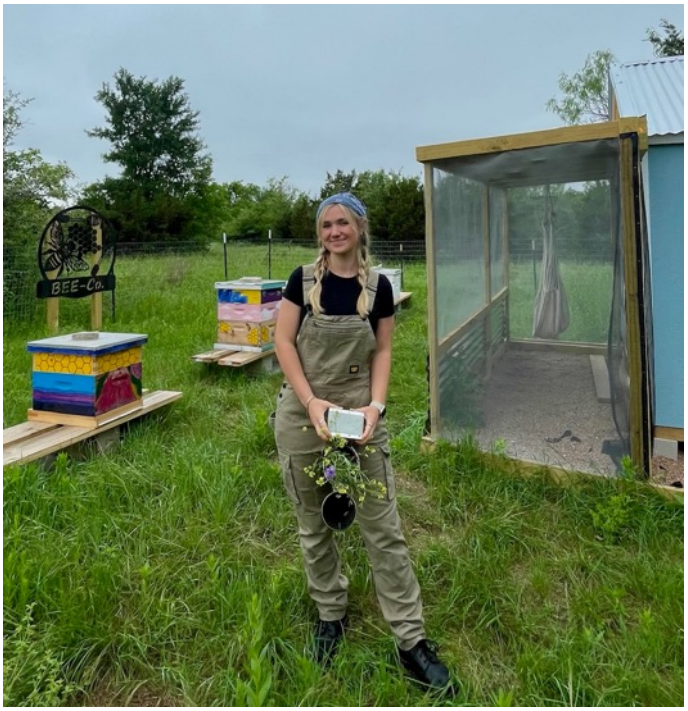
Layla Hoffen '26
BA Environmental Studies and Business
MOSAIC Ambassador, Bee Campus USA Representative, Campus Beekeeper
Zeta Tau Alpha Historian

…more BEE-Co on Campus

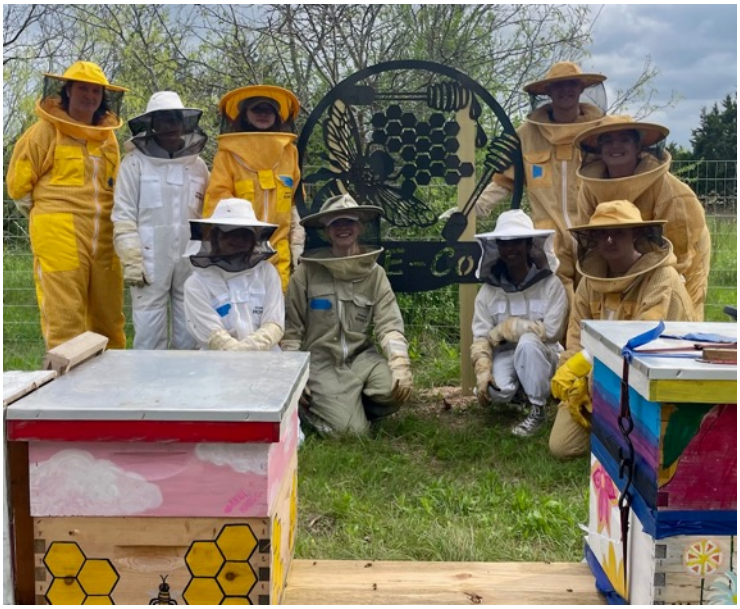
Photo credits to: Layla Hoffen '26



Bee rescue on SU campus add to number of hives



Equipment shed with an attached screened-in observation deck



An organization to attract & teach fellow student beekeepers

Up close and personal…hands on beekeeping

2024 Scholarship Recipients Get Started

by Jimmie Oakley – Scholarship Chair

The new Scholarship Recipients for 2024, Riley Casey and Alys Bice, both of Georgetown, were at the Bost Farm recently to assembly beekeeping equipment and hive their bee nucs into their newly painted boxes.

The girls came to the Farm on the Saturday that the club order of nucs arrived from Jennings, Louisiana, and were eager to get the fresh bees into their equipment. With instruction from both Jimmie Oakley, Scholarship Program Chair and Sean O'Neil who volunteered to help out, they proceeded with the necessary steps to accomplish the task.

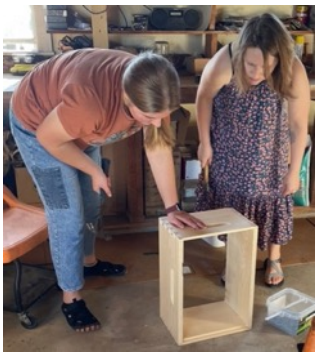
Also there to help out was Riley" mom, Kristen, and Alys' mom, Lauren, and her little sister. Additionally, Gwendolyn Hanna and her mom, Andrea, were there to observe and experience.

Each of the recipients moved the nuc frames from the nuc box over into the new hive body assuring the frames stayed in the same order to maintain the brood nest intact. Neither of the nuc queens in the nucs were spotted. With a feeding of 1x1 sugar syrup the hives were closed up till the next scheduled hive check at the end of the month.

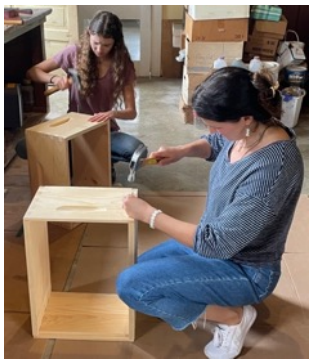
Everything went according to script, and no one got stunt, yea!

Welcome and congratulate these new beekeepers in their efforts to get started. *Jimmie*

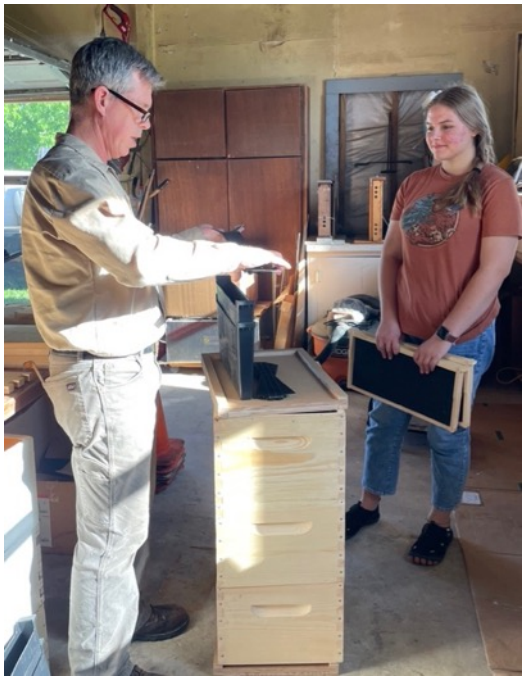
Assembling Equipment at the Bost Farm



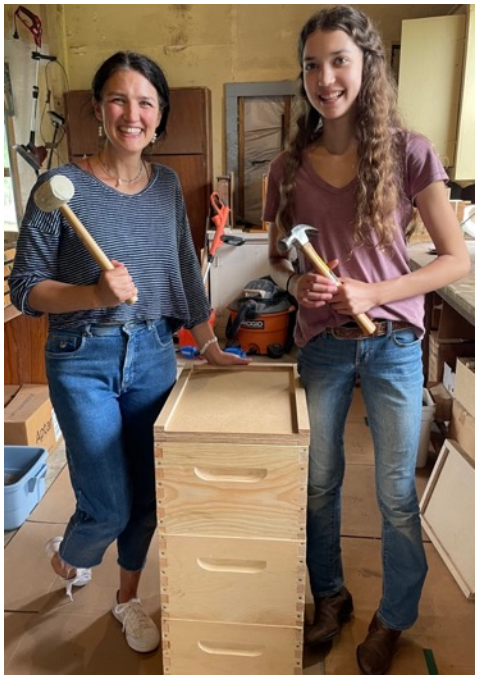
Alys & Lauren work on box



Riley gets help from her Mom



Randy, Program Mentor, explains about feeders

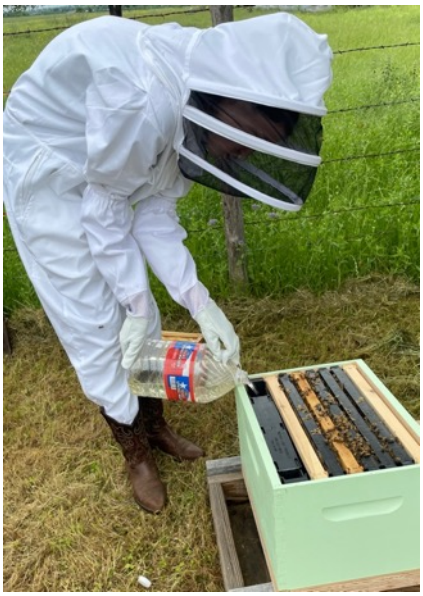


Kristen & Riley smile at the accomplishment

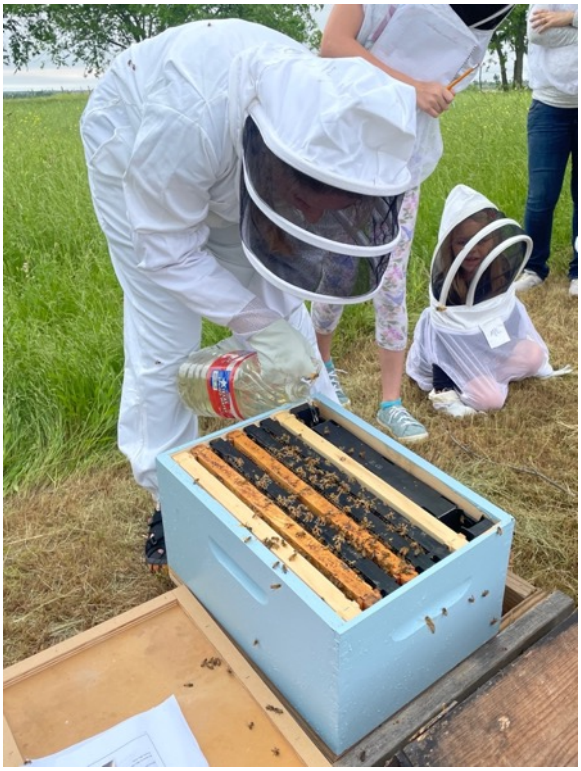
Installing Nucs at the Bost Farm

Riley inspects the frame for queen as she transfers nuc frames into hive box

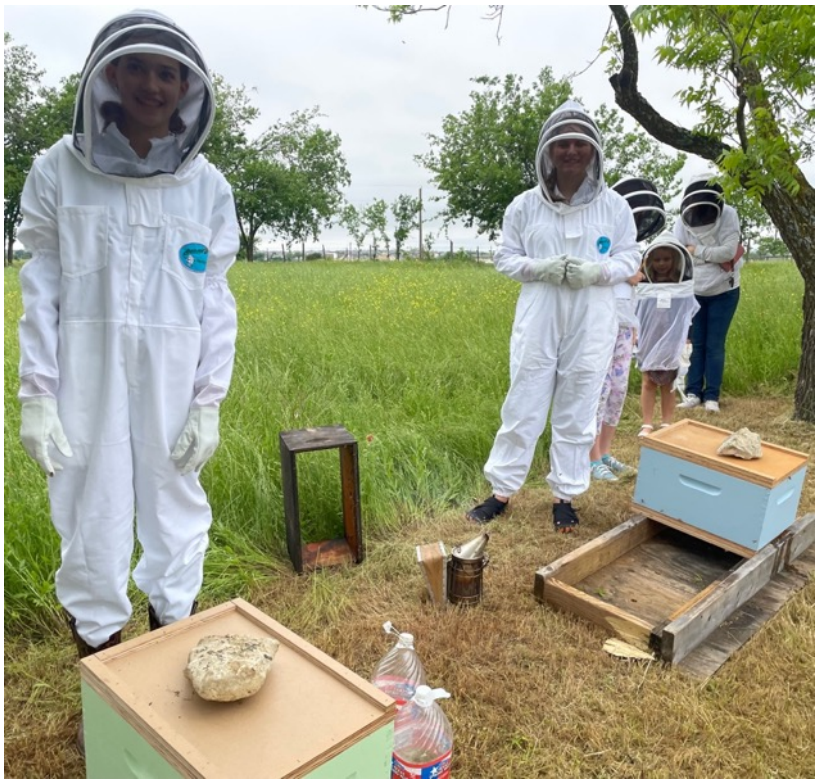
Sean looks for queen with Alys before she moves the nuc frame into the hive body



Riley Casey fills her feeder with 1x1 sugar surup before closing the hive.



Alys fills her frame feeder with sugar syrup after moving all her nuc frames to her hive box



Riley Casey and Alys Bice look pleased as they complete the hiving (transfer) of their nuc into their new home at the Bost Farm Scholarship beeyard

2023 Scholarship Recipients Perform Vertical Split of Hives

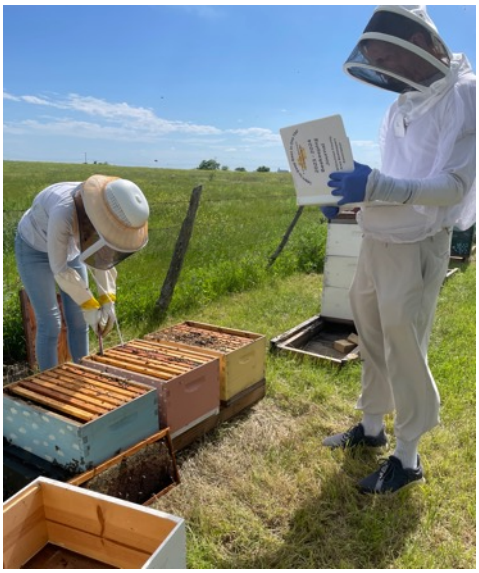
by Jimmie Oakley – Scholarship Chair

The 2023 Scholarship Recipients have taken big steps in the second year of beekeeping in the multiple year program. Making splits and exercising swarm control measures are something every beekeeper should master to be successful in keeping hives healthy and productive year after year.

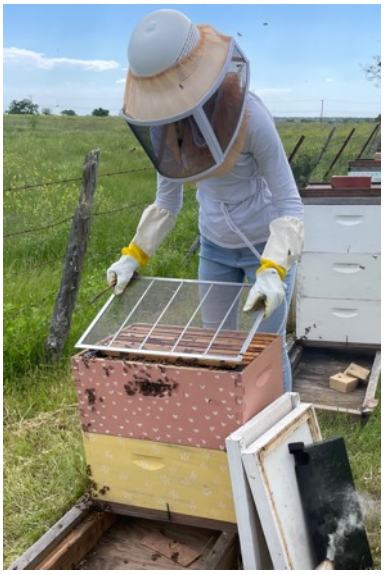
All of the ladies successfully accomplished the vertical split procedure to make a nucles of bees in the third hive box and set if above a queen excluder to receive a new queen when the split is finalized.

Eventually the nuc will be used in swarm control and prevention once the new queen is accepted and established in a couple of weeks.

There are lots of bees and lots of potential for a good honey crop and a sustainable operation if the recipients can get past this critical spring maneuver. Good luck ladies!



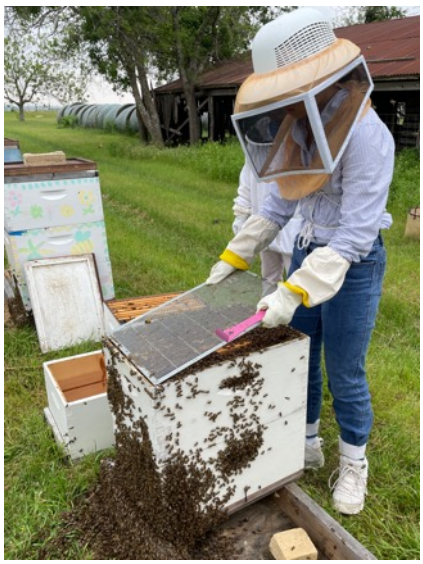
Justine spreads out hive boxes and Scott inventory resources for vertical split



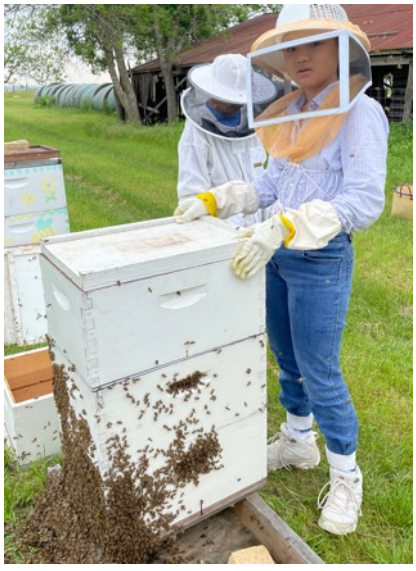
Justine makes up nuc and then consolidates the rest into two boxes.

Justine has placed a queen excluder on top of parent hive and is ready to close

Annabelle has many bees as she performs her vertical split of hive

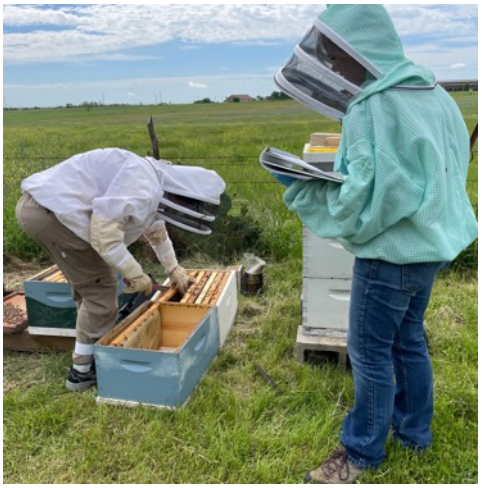


Nuc made up, Annabelle slips excluder over parent hive before replacing nuc



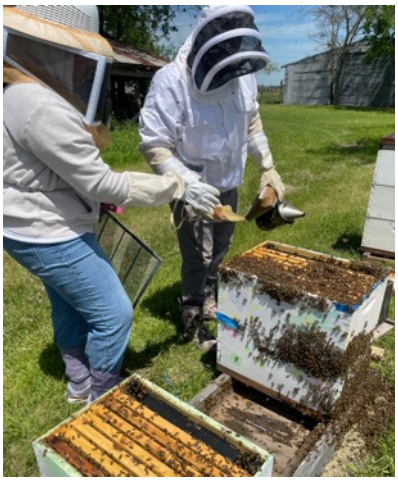
Boxes combined to allow bees to cover brood in third box after replacing lid

Scholarship Splits Ready for New Queen



Mother-Daughter, Darla & Caiya Ward work together to make the vertical split

Mission accomplished, split done, thumbs up



Father-Daughter, Gigi & James Muniu accomplish split working with many bees

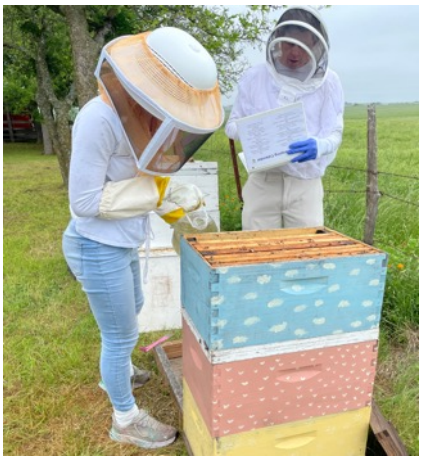
Annabelle places new queen down between frames of divided nuc(solid bottom in place)

Placing cover back on top of new split (notice backward facing entrance on top box)

Caiya holds up the new caged queen to be put into her vertical (top box) split

Feeding split hive(backward entrance)

Closing split, new queen inside, yea!



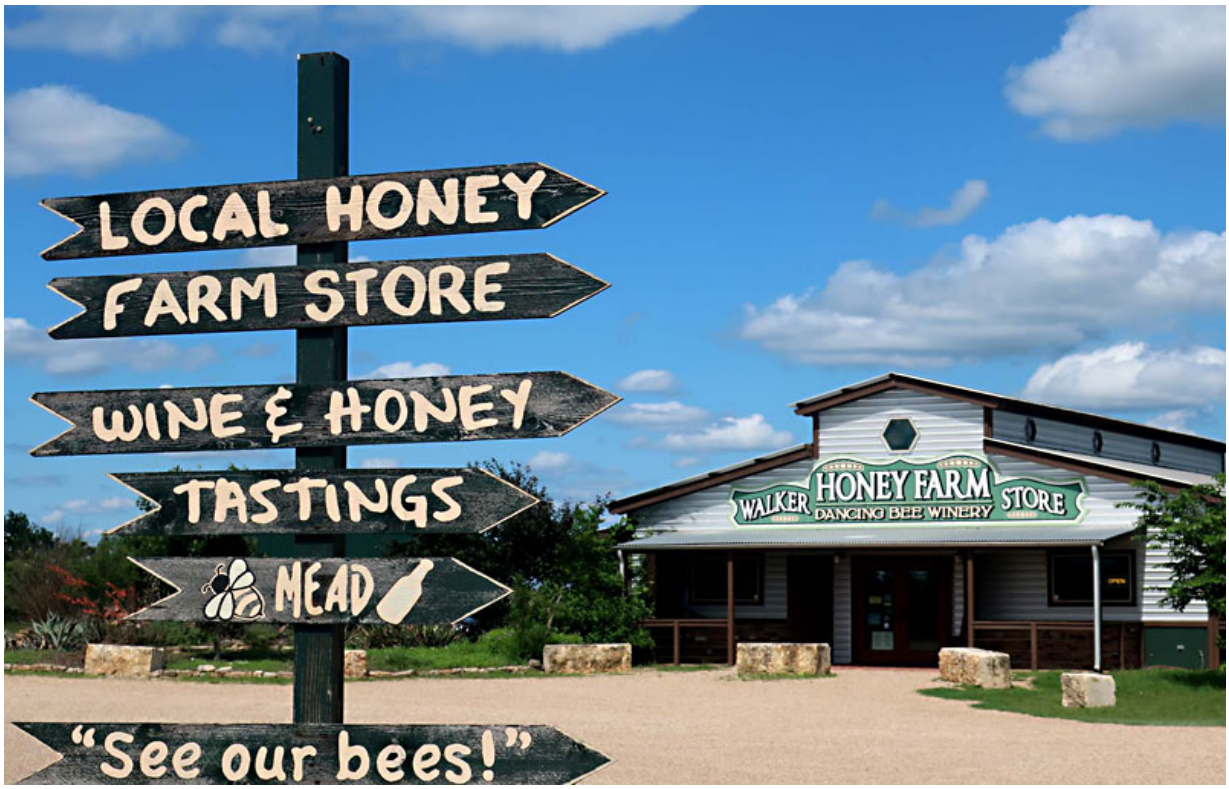
Justine Feeding newly queened split hive.

Elizabeth "Beth" Ann (White) Walker*

AUGUST 3, 1932 – APRIL 16, 2024

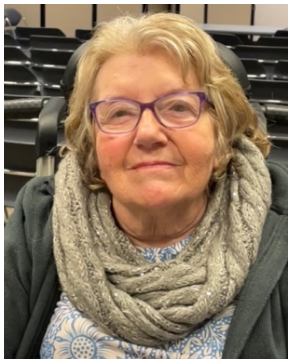
Elizabeth "Beth" Ann (White) Walker, age 91, of Rogers, Texas passed away on Tuesday, April 16, 2024. A funeral service will be held at 10:00am Thursday, April 25, 2024 at the First Church of the Nazarene in Temple. Burial will follow at 2:00pm at the Rockdale Cemetery in Rockdale. The family will receive visitors from 5-7:00pm Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at Scanio-Harper Funeral Home.

**Wife of a G.C Walker, Walker Honey Farms, a long time supplier of queens and nucs and supporter of WCABA in the early years of the bee club. Great lady, she will be missed.*



Membership Report: Shirley Doggett

April 2024



Shirley Doggett - Membership

New Members: *

Norma Beissner	Liberty Hill
Ben Carr.	Bertram
Glenn George.	Leander
Renate Sims.	Round Rock

Renewing Members

Brent Betts	Georgetown
Keith Breinard.	Georgetown
Eric Larson.	Liberty Hill
Brad Norsworthy.	Round Rock
Albert Janecka.	Taylor

***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

Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association

Treasurer's Report - As of April 19, 2024

Profit and Loss

ACCOUNTS	Year to Date
Income	
Program Income - Bee Procurement (2024)	$56,385.00
Program Income - Membership Dues	$3,065.00
Program Income - Scholarship Program	$24.00
Total Income	$59,474.00
Cost of Goods Sold	
Total Cost of Goods Sold	$48,013.20
Gross Profit	$11,460.80
Operating Expenses	
Dues	$50.00
Insurance	$1,688.00
Library Resources	$111.77
Meeting Supplies and Refreshments	$61.62
Permits	$257.76
Speaker Fees	$275.00
Total Operating Expenses	$2,444.15
Net Profit	$9,016.65

Balance Sheet

ACCOUNTS	As of April 19, 2024
Assets	
Total Cash and Bank	$56,689.57
Bee Procurement Downpayment	$0.00
Undeposited Funds	$0.00
Total Assets	$56,689.57
Liabilities	
Total Liabilities	$0.00
Assets & Liabilities	$56,689.57
Equity	
Retained Earnings - Prior Years	$47,672.92
Retained Earnings - Current Year	$9,016.65
Total Equity	$56,689.57

Bee Procurement Program - 2024 (in process)

Income	
Program Income - Bee Procurement	$56,385.00
Cost of Goods Sold	
Bees	$48,013.20
Gross Profit	$8,371.80
Expenses	
Insurance	$0.00
Permit	$257.76
Travel Expenses	$0.00
Total Expenses	$257.76
Net Profit	$8,114.04

Notes (as of March 21, 2024):

BeeWeaver Commitment 125 Queens	$4,513.20
BeeWeaver Downpayment - complete	$4,513.20
Merrimack Commitment 300 Nucs	$52,500.00
Merrimack Downpayments - complete	$43,500.00
In-person pick-up discount	($9,000.00)