

# WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA JANUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

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

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**DIRECTOR AT LARGE:**  
Ken Browning

**DIRECTOR AT LARGE:**  
Ann Bierschenk

**4<sup>th</sup> TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2025 @ 7PM**  
**Georgetown Library - Hewitt Room(2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)**

## PROGRAM:

### Beekeeping 101

**Speakers: Phil Ainslie**

### Bee Biology & Beekeeping Equipment

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



*Phil Ainslie - Secretary*

### Beekeeping 201

### 101 for 201 Beekeeping:

### Getting started as a Texas Master Beekeeper

**Speaker: Sean O'Neil**

Sean will give insight to the new and improved Texas Master Beekeeper program. The TMBP has been revised and provides a wealth of information to help you be successful in beekeeping. Watching all the comments on social media, it appears that there is a wide range of them. Which ones are our members interested in?



*Sean O'Neil - V.P.*

We would certainly enjoy your presence at the next meeting on January 28th (**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 8<sup>th</sup> 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

# Happy New Year!

## a note from your President

As we welcome 2025, I want to also welcome our members back. I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and enjoyed time with family and friends. I also want to welcome new board members Sean and Nan. I'm excited about our new leadership team and look forward to their contributions. Sean brings a diverse background and some expert tools made from his 3D printer. As our program coordinator, Nan brings in some new ideas for speakers to our meetings. As many of you are aware, we've worked hard to bring you speakers who can continue to educate you at our monthly meetings.



*Shannon Montez - President*

If you are a new member, we look forward to seeing you at our meetings. If you are a returning member, welcome back. Many of you have been beekeeping for years but some may have just taken up the challenge this last year. You are now an experienced beekeeper. If you see someone asking questions at our meetings, don't be afraid to help answer questions from our newer members. Any time you inspect the hive, you become more experienced as a beekeeper and more of an expert, thus giving you validity to answer the same questions you had as a new beekeeper.

One of our biggest endeavors is our annual Bee Procurement program. This has been something that we work hard at offering to each of you. While some of you may join our club just to get a Nuc or Queen at an affordable price, it's something that we've been working on since last fall. We've established a longstanding relationship with Merrimac Valley Apiaries in Louisiana and Bee Weaver in Navasota. Both have been reliable partners. While beekeeping is certainly not a cheap hobby like knitting, it's something you'll find very rewarding. As my mentor recommended at the start of beekeeping, I highly recommend getting two Nucs. You'll have a point of reference should one of your hives have issues.

For those of you waiting to purchase a Nuc, please don't delay. The deadline (*Feb 28*) will come quickly. I can't tell you how many panicked emails we've gotten because someone needs a replacement for their hive that swarmed. If you started beekeeping last year, you may want to consider purchasing a new queen for your hive. Unfortunately, our queens are not as productive as they used to be and if you want a thriving hive, you should consider requeening your hive yearly. If you need some tips on how to effectively do this, make sure you come to our meetings. There's nothing more discouraging than dropping \$40 for a new queen only to find your hive queenless a few weeks later. As we go through the year, our speakers will walk you through each season of beekeeping. *Come and Learn! Shannon*



*The Queen and her workers*

# New to beekeeping?

## A novice guide to starting your first hive

Contributed by Phil Ainslie

### 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.

### Understanding the basics of beekeeping

Beekeeping, aptly referred to as *apiculture*, is an ancient practice that dates back thousands of years. Bees play an integral role in our ecosystem, serving as pollinators for plants, thus improving crop yield and diversity. They are admired for their complex social structures and their efficiency in collectively working toward the betterment of the hive.

A typical bee colony consists of three types of bees: a queen, workers, and drones.

The **queen bee** is the only reproductive female bee in the colony, laying as many as [3,000 eggs per day](#) during peak season. **Worker bees** are infertile females carrying out various roles—from foraging for food to nurturing larvae. Their unwavering dedication earns them their name. **Drone bees** are the fertile males whose primary role is to mate with the queen.

Before diving into beekeeping, it's essential to familiarize yourself with local guidelines and regulations concerning beehive placement, honey extraction, and potential disease control. Knowledge about common bee diseases and pests that could affect your hive is also necessary. Reducing risks and maintaining hive health is critical not just for your bees but for neighboring colonies and the broader bee population.

Understanding these basics effectively equips you for the next stages of creating and maintaining your own hive. This journey requires diligence, an enduring curiosity, and a willingness to engage with nature in a manner that few other hobbies can offer.

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

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

Regardless of the hive type, its proper setup and placement greatly influence the colony's success. So take your time, do your 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 has access to 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.

Through this process, it is crucial to monitor the behavior of your bees, ensuring they are comfortable and adjusting well to the hive, as 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 different 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 is used to [separate hive boxes and frames](#) that are stuck together due to propolis, the bees' "glue."
- **Bee brush:** This tool gently [brushes bees off of frames](#) during hive inspections.
- **Frame lifter:** Also known as a frame grip, it aids in lifting and handling individual frames.
- **Bee feeder:** Especially useful during dearth periods, a feeder ensures that your hive gets essential nutrients.
- **Queen marking pen:** This tool helps in identifying and keeping 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 harvesting tool. 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 more manageable 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 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. The duration should be limited to 10–15 minutes to avoid disrupting the colony too much.



*Inspecting the Hive (Photo by Laurel Gougler)*

## Harvesting honey from your bees

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.** Make sure your bees have an excess of honey. It's vital for their survival during winter, so only harvest the surplus. Ideally, the time frame to collect honey is late summer to early fall, when the hive bursts 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, revealing the golden honey.

**Step 4.** You'll need an extractor to remove the honey from the frames. A manual extractor is 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 them](#), and leave them with enough honey for their needs. Enjoy the fruits of your collective labor, knowing you contributed to 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** is 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.
- **Abandoning occurs** when an entire colony abandons the hive. It can 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 incredibly rewarding activity, yielding tangible and intangible benefits alike:

- **Environmental contribution:** Beekeeping contributes to pollination, which is crucial for the healthy functioning of our ecosystem and for food production.
- **Health benefits:** Beekeeping is a therapeutic hobby that promotes mental wellness. It also 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 financial 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.

*Author: Sabrina Lopez: About the author... **Sabrina Lopez**, an impassioned environmentalist and storyteller with a background in environmental science, seamlessly weaves her love for nature into compelling narratives that serve as a call to action, encouraging readers to appreciate and safeguard our delicate ecosystems. In her tranquil writing retreat, surrounded by cherished rescue animals, Sabrina draws inspiration, using her stories to underscore the interconnectedness between humanity and the broader web of life, instilling a sense of urgency and purpose in environmental stewardship.*

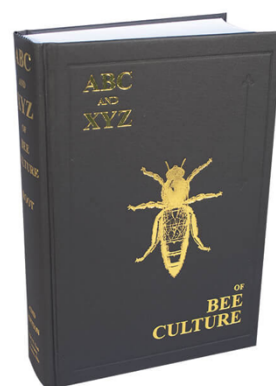
# Practical Experiences in the Bee Yard

**JANUARY 2025!** What a difference from January 1972 when my sister (retired U.S. Army nurse) and I (retired U.S. Army) returned to our birth place in Jefferson, Texas. We began rebuilding our lives in the civilian world. She bought local honey from two beekeepers in the area. Since both beekeepers were in their eighties, she was concerned about a long-term source of local honey. One day she informed me that we were going to become beekeepers and harvest our own honey. A nurse aid at the county hospital where she was employed told my sister her husband needed help assembling bee hives. He was making boxes from scrap 1x12 lumber discarded by a local cabinet plant. And so our beekeeping adventure was born.



*Stanford Brantley*

In 1972 there were no bee clubs in this part of the Ark-La-Tex. You learned about beekeeping by reading books (The ABC and XYZ of Bee Culture) or catalogs from bee supply companies like Walter Kelly. If you were lucky, you found a nearby beekeeper who would share their knowledge with you. Several years later, I learned about the beekeeping magazines “Gleanings in the Bee Culture” and “The American Bee Journal”.



Word got around that we were becoming beekeepers and calls starting coming in. “I’ve got some bee boxes and equipment that has been in my barn for years. Come see if you can use any of it. If you want them, come get them.” Much of our initial supplies came this way. I am probably one of very few beekeepers who owns a piece of aluminum foundation that was used for a while by commercial beekeepers.

At the end of our first season, an old high school classmate offered the use of a two-frame reversible Walter Kelly hand-crank stainless steel extractor and a couple of “cold” capping knives. We were excited and ready to extract our first honey. We did that first extraction in my sister’s kitchen. 3900 pounds in my sister’s kitchen. Afterwards she said, “Never again in my kitchen!” Fifty years later, I’m still a beekeeper.

Your beekeeping task for January should be to determine your goal for the coming year. Now, with access to the internet, Google, Facebook, YouTube, major bee conventions, and local bee clubs, there is more than enough information, training and products to purchase to make you a better beekeeper.

In January you should be ready to order queens, Nucs, colonies or package bees. Order early and get your name on the supplier’s lists for spring delivery.

Hives in this area will contain colonies of bees ready to wake up from the winter. Some pollen will begin to be available from Oak, Elm and Maple.

Inspections may be done on warm days when temperatures reach 60 or above. Make it quick and don’t keep the hive open too long. If you pull a frame with the queen on it, be aware she is not heavy with eggs and can fly off the frame.

Clean any deadouts and get all empty equipment ready for the swarms that may start to show up as early as mid-March. If you lock your deadouts in the garage or shop, a swarm can’t get to them. Place the used hive bodies in a sheltered place so swarms can find them. The empty boxes smell like home to a passing swarm. Always check the boxes carefully before you pick them up again, they may contain a resident swarm.

Check with your local bee club for available beekeeping classes. What! No local bee club available? Start one with the help of the Texas Beekeepers Association. *Stanford*

# **Order Your Beehive For 2025 ... And What I Know Right Now!**

Gary Bible – Bee Procurement Coordinator

Nuc and Queen ordering is well underway. To date, I have received orders for 36 Evergreen Nucs and 26 Bee Weaver Queens. I am sure we will reach the 300 Nuc order threshold. Our order deadline is February 28<sup>th</sup>. Do not delay in ordering!

**At the Tuesday January 28<sup>th</sup> WCABA meeting we will have an on-site Nuc and Queen order table with volunteers, directions and Order Forms available. We encourage you to order in-person then.**

The **Nucs** come from Louisiana (Evergreen Honey Company) with 5 frames, a healthy Italian mite-resistant, laying queen, with 2 or 3 frames of brood and a frame or two of honey and assorted bees.

The **Queens** are from Bee Weaver (Navasota) are hybrid, mite resistant, marked **BLUE**, and clipped. These queens are excellent!

The club members pick up date will be **April Saturday 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup>**. I am hoping we can preclude the 19<sup>th</sup> as that is Easter weekend. When we make the final decision on delivery date, we will post it in the club newsletter and/or send the information via your Pickup Vouchers. Keep alert for this info.



*Marked & Clipped Mated Queen*



*Five (5) Frame Nuc: brood, bees & queen*

Overnight pickup will be accomplished by our experienced team of four, that will drive to Jennings Louisiana, load, and drive the 300 nucs in the wee hours to arrive at the Bost Farm anywhere from 3 to 6 am on that Saturday morning. The nucs will be stationed in the Bost bee yard and distribution will be akin to the McDonalds/Wendys drive through method using the Voucher System. Bring your printed vouchers or deal with me, ugh! No vouchers, no bees!

**NOTE: THERE IS A CHANGE TO QUEEN AND NUC PICKUP HOURS.**  
**PICKUP HOURS ARE FROM 7 AM TO 12 NOON. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

This is due to our voluntary beekeepers needing to return home to their own bee yard and “work” their new bees also. We are asking for “grace” from you.

We need club volunteers for nuc screening, placement, and loading/handout. Consider helping our club with this activity. Just show up, we will tell you what needs to be done.

Directional signs will be placed at the Bost Farm informing you where to go and what to do. That is all for now. You will be receiving the FINAL PICKUP DATE ANNOUNCEMENT via Newsletter and/or Pickup Vouchers very soon.

If you want to volunteer to be involved in our yearly adventure, contact me and I will pass your name along.

I am impatiently awaiting the 2025 Nuc and Queen “Bee Happening” at the Bost Farm!

Comments or questions? I am at [glbible@austin.rr.com](mailto:glbible@austin.rr.com) or cell 512-923-0410. I can talk bees 24/7 unless I’m asleep (ask my wife, I may talk in my sleep too).

**Gary Bible** – WCABA 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 15<sup>th</sup>** 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 last  
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:



## You've Ordered your Bees, What's Next ? Order Equipment !

Now that you have decided to order bees for delivery in the spring you may wonder, What Next? If you don't already have beekeeping equipment maybe I can make some suggestions.

Below is a list of wood ware, beekeeping equipment, and protective gear that we have ordered in the past for the recipients in the scholarship program as a minimum requirement to start beekeeping with their first package or nuc of bees.

There is a local beekeeping supply outlet, **The Bee Supply** 1205 Round Rock Ave, Round Rock, TX 7868, that carries a Mann Lake product line. The main address for The Bee Supply is 4665 C.R. 633, Blue Ridge, TX 75424. Ph. 800/356-4229. Their website is: [www.thebeesupply.com/](http://www.thebeesupply.com/).

There are some alternatives, but they require ordering on-line or by phone and awaiting shipment.

**Mann Lake** is a major manufacture of beekeeping supplies and there is an outlets in our area that I am familiar with. Mann Lake Ltd at 1600 Commerce St. Marshall, TX 75672 Ph.833/215-3040. If you go to their website ([www.mannlakeltd.com](http://www.mannlakeltd.com)) it takes you to the main office in Hackensack, MN, and an on- line catalog. You can place orders there and it would ship out of the Texas location.

**Dadant & Sons, Inc.** has a managed outlet in Paris, Texas, but we haven't visited there in a while. The store location is at 1169 Bonham St in Paris, TX 75460. Their toll-free number is 877/632-3268. The company website is [www.dadant.com](http://www.dadant.com) where you can access an on-line catalog.

All of these supply companies have free shipping on orders over a certain minimum dollar amount. Note that these prices are from on-line or 2024 Catalog and may vary in final order inquiry.

I hope this information is encouraging and helpful. Allow yourself enough lead time to get your equipment, get it painted, and get ready to receive your bees...order now!

Thanks, Jimmie Oakley – WCABA Scholarship Chair

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 Reversible Migratory Cover	18.95	18.50
1	1	see catalog	10 Frame Solid Reversible 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

# How I've started using 3D printing in my beekeeping...

by Sean O'Neil

Like many of you, I was intrigued by our recent speaker who covered his friend's foray into 3D printing for beekeeping. Inspired, I did some research and quickly bought a printer of my own.

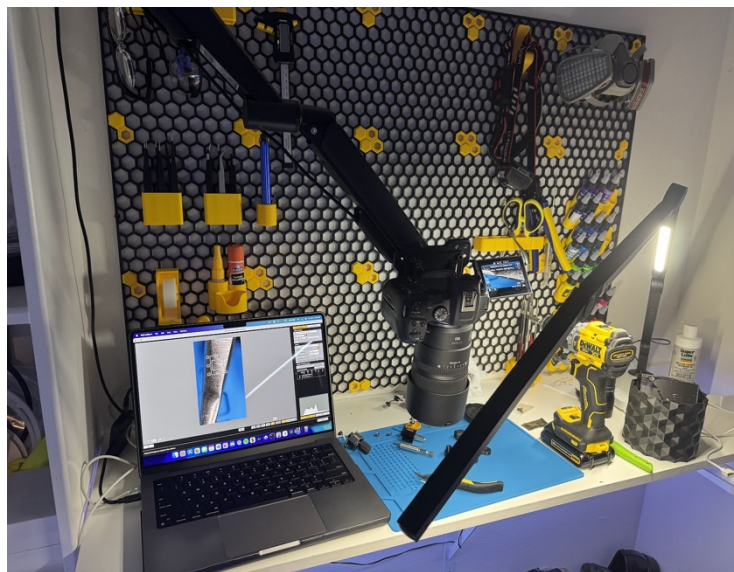
Beekeeping is a constant learning process, but I've never been much of a woodworker. Spinning blades and splinters? No thank you. I happily buy my boxes at The Bee Supply. However, 3D printing has opened a whole new realm of possibilities for me. With calipers in hand, I can create and implement designs accurate to a tenth of a millimeter—oh, the power!

As a beekeeper, challenges are part of the job. Equipment wears out, some parts are hard to come by, and sometimes the tools you want simply don't exist (or maybe not for the price you want!). I love experimenting with my hives, and 3D printing has opened up a vast array of possibilities without breaking the bank.

Iterating on designs is simple and cost-effective. I can go from idea, to design, to "thing in my hand" in less than an hour and about \$0.30 in materials. In terms of the machine itself, you can get started for around \$250, though fancier devices can push up to \$1,000 and beyond.

While there are plenty of "click-and-print" designs available, I've been especially fascinated by creating my own beekeeping components. With some time spent at YouTube University™ to learn the basics, I've now designed several tools to improve my beekeeping experience:

- **Bee Scoop:** Measuring "a cup of bees" accurately is often required in beekeeping tasks. I designed a bee scoop modeled after a Spam can. A simple container with a handle was a perfect first design project.
- **Bee-Themed Organization:** To keep my workspace tidy and aligned with my hobby, I've printed a variety of bee-themed organizational tools, including custom-fitted holders for all my favorite tools. These additions not only add personality but also keep everything in its place.
- **Bee Spice Meter:** A little gadget I stick on the side of my hives with a slider to indicate how "spicy" that hive is. It's a fun and functional way to keep track of temperament.
- **Ant Trap:** Ants can be a nuisance, sneaking into hives to steal honey. I created a specialized ant trap that (hopefully) catches these intruders without disrupting the hive.



*My Computer - Printer Setup*



*Bee Spice Meter*



*Ant Trap*

3D printing has only begun to scratch the surface of what's possible in my beekeeping journey, but it's already proven to be an invaluable tool. As winter gives way to spring, I'm eager to put my creations to the test and dream up even more ideas for the year ahead. Whether it's building better tools, solving hive-specific challenges, or just making beekeeping a little more fun, 3D printing has opened a new frontier of possibilities.

If you've ever been curious about 3D printing or how it might enhance your beekeeping, I'd encourage you to take the plunge. Feel free to chat me up about it at the next bee club meeting, too—I love talking about this hobby almost as much as I do about bees!

*Sean*

# Membership Report: Shirley Doggett

January 2025

## Renewing Members

Logan Peters.	Liberty Hill
Jim Ray	Georgetown
James Kimani.	Hutto
Tomi and Sloan Stanley.	Liberty Hill
Helen Dorrance and Scott Bowman.	Leander
Jimmy Shields.	Georgetown
Benjy Cox.	Dale
Gregory Willy.	Round Rock
Bill and Debbie Soja.	Liberty Hill
Richard and Amelia Hinds.	Florence
Diane Shadden.	Leander
Eric McDaniel.	Georgetown
Ken Barnes.	Georgetown



Shirley Doggett - Membership

## Renewing Members

none

**\*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 for the holidays and New Year

*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

# WCABA Executive Board minutes November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Phil Ainslie, Jimmie Oakley, Ann Bierschenk, Matt Ludlum, Kenneth Browning, Linda Russell, Nancy Kunschik, Sean O'Neal, Shirley Doggett, Barbi Rose

- Board Minutes from Sept. 2024: The board approved.
- Treasurer's report by Barbi Rose: The current balance is \$51,200.
  - This month, a check will be sent to Merrimack as a deposit on our annual nuc order.
- Little Lemon snack service: Matt Ludlum told them of the cold coffee we received at last month's meeting. We will continue using them for the monthly meeting drinks and snacks.
- Program report by Linda Russell:
  - Phil Ainslie will give the Beekeeping 101 presentations for the next few months.
  - We will continue to use two rooms—one for 101 and another for 201, while the larger room will be for 101.
  - We proposed inviting the TBA Honey Queen to a future meeting.
- Scholarship report by Jimmie Oakley:
  - The dual presentation was well accepted. The committee felt that the recipients showed how well they worked together.
  - It is time to begin the scholarship application process. We will accept 2-3 applicants.
  - It was proposed that we reimburse Randy Oakley for the scholarship education trips at 67 cents per mile. The distance from his home to the library is 90 miles.
- The Heritage Park teaching yard: Jimmie will inquire about the infestation that caused the closure. He hopes we can eventually resume classes there.
- Nuc and queen procurement:
  - The proposed queen price will be \$40.
  - The proposed nuc price will be \$175
  - Barbie will send an initial installment check to Merrimack for the bees.
- Club website: Seon O'Neal reported that he will continue tweaking the site. Phil Ainslie and Matt Ludlum will also have administrative rights, and Jimmie Oakley can post the newsletter.
- Membership report by Shirley Doggett: Enrollment for 2025 has begun. Shirley has worked out some help for registration in early 2025.

*Phil*



## Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association

### Treasurer's Report - As of December 31, 2024

#### Profit and Loss

ACCOUNTS	Year to Date
<b>Income</b>	
Program Income - Bee Procurement (2024)	\$56,830.00
Program Income - Membership Dues	\$4,165.00
Program Income - Scholarship Program	\$24.00
Total Income	<u>\$61,019.00</u>
<b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>	
Total Cost of Goods Sold	<u>\$48,013.20</u>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<u>\$13,005.80</u>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	
Donations and Gifts	\$3,412.79
Dues	\$50.00
Insurance	\$1,688.00
Library Resources	\$111.77
Meeting Supplies and Refreshments	\$487.40
Permits	\$257.76
Scholarship Program Expenses	\$1,454.91
Speaker Fees	\$825.00
Travel Expenses	\$735.00
Website and Zoom	\$620.19
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$9,642.82</u>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<u><u>\$3,362.98</u></u>

#### Balance Sheet

ACCOUNTS	As of December 31, 2024
<b>Assets</b>	
Total Cash and Bank	\$46,685.90
Bee Procurement Downpayment (2025)	\$4,350.00
Total Assets	<u>\$51,035.90</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Total Liabilities	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>Assets &amp; Liabilities</b>	<u><u>\$51,035.90</u></u>
<b>Equity</b>	
Retained Earnings - Prior Years	\$47,672.92
Retained Earnings - Current Year	\$3,362.98
Total Equity	<u><u>\$51,035.90</u></u>

#### Bee Procurement Program - 2024

<b>Income</b>	
Program Income - Bee Procurement	\$56,830.00
<b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>	
Bees	<u>\$48,013.20</u>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<u><u>\$8,816.80</u></u>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Permit	\$257.76
Travel Expenses	\$735.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$992.76</u>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<u><u>\$7,824.04</u></u>

#### **Notes (as of March 21, 2024):**

BeeWeaver Purchase 125 Queens - Complete	\$4,513.20
Merrimack Purchase 300 Nucs - Complete	\$43,500.00
• Merrimack Commitment = \$52,500	
• Less In-person pick-up discount = \$9,000	
• Net Merrimack Amount = \$43,500	

# Great TEXAS Turnout at ABF Convention in Reno



**Andy Knight** (past TBA Director and owner of Magnolia Bee Supply and wife **Sandra Knight** Blue shirt is TMBP Master Beekeeper and ABF speaker **Dan Brantner**, owner of Texas Honey Company. Back row, yellow shirt, **Gary Barber**, current TBA President and owner of Honey Bees Unlimited. Slightly in front of Gary is our TAIS Inspector, **Heather Blackburn**. Our head Apiary Inspector, **Angela Steinhauer** is kneeling at the front in light blue shirt, and Bill Baxter, long-time inspector didn't make it to the photo shoot. **Brian Van Middendorp** is in the back left corner, next to him is **Tim Branam**, a TBA Director. In the blue shirt is TBA vice president **Jimmy Middelbrooks**. I'm kneeling in front of Jimmy, and kneeling in front of me is **Dr. Ozturk**, **Dr Ozturk's daughter** is standing with the Texas Honey Queen, **Oceanna Escibano**. **Monica Siwiak** is next to our Texas Honey Queen. Monica "cleaned house" at the ABF Honey Show, with 2 Best in Show awards, 7 first place ribbons and a second place showing. **Blake Shook**, The Bee Supply, **John Talbert**, Sabine Creek Honey, and **Clint Walker**, Walker Honey Co. Texas (and WCABA) was well represented with a little over 70 attendees at the National Convention.

*Dodie Stillman*