



EAST TEXAS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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PRESIDENT: Andrew Bellefeuille

TJC' S WEST CAMPUS 1530 LOOP 323 S SW

6:45 PM

REPORTER: DICK COUNTS

FEBRUARY REPORT

Thursdays program will be Mr. RANDY FAIR from MANSFIELD, LA, showing and talking about the SMALL HIVE BEETLE, the traps he is building and how he keeps bees. This is a program you will not want to miss. We will also have our Raffle and Auction.

You also will get to meet most our scholarship students. We have a great bunch of kids and they are anxious to meet you.

Last month we had 86, yes 86, present to get our year kicked off. A lot of these were

kids and their parents coming to see what we are about. Which is of course bees. We had 13 applications and with your help in being sponsors we were able to accept 10 students. I am excited about this years class as we have not only 10 students, but also 18-19 adults wanting to learn about bees. So with that many I have had to make two classes, one with the kids and 3 adults on Friday afternoon and 15 adults on Saturday morning. First class was January 15 and 16th. Remaining class dates are February 5 & 6th, March 5 & 6, April 9 & 10 and if the bees are ready April 23& 24th.. This year has great promise of being a very good honey year. We have plenty of moisture in the ground and a promise of an early spring. This winter has been colder than usual, which also is good for the plants.

One of our friends has retired from beekeeping and donated a lot of used equipment to be used for the

Early Spring

Early spring was trying to chip away at Old Man Winter this week although if you didn't look fast you might have missed it. I checked on my bees this week and the results were mixed. As I expected a couple hives were not making it and I combined them with stronger hives to save all the bees I could. Several of my hives had excellent brood patterns with nearly capped larvae so I flipped my hives by putting the empty lower brood box on top and the one with the queen laying on the bottom. I know this action will prompt some discussion at the meeting and I am not a hard and fast follower of flipping hive boxes, but I do it on a case by case basis after inspecting each individual hive. I only flip the hive if there is no activity or significant stores in the bottom box. (A few workers on some center frames does not constitute activity in my opinion). If there are eggs or larvae present in the bottom box I usually leave them alone. If there is no brood in the bottom, just frames of honey and pollen, then I compare this to the food stores in the upper and may swap one or two frames if necessary. I do not break into the grouping of brood frames when introducing the new frames; instead they are placed to the outside of the box.

I like early spring because having been raised in a part of the country where it's cold for 6 months of the year I am always happy to see winter leave. In fact I just called my family today to let them know that while it

HONEY QUEEN CHAIRPERSON REPORT VI BOURNS

It is hard to believe Feb. is already here. It has been a cold Jan. so maybe Feb. will bring us signs of spring. Kellie made it back from Kentucky ok for which we are grateful.

It is a busy time getting new pictures and recipes for the brochures ready to go to print for Queen Kellie and Princess Margaret. Sorry to say we did not meet our deadline to get them for this meeting but should have them for March.

We are starting to get requests for them to talk with groups and schools about the honey bee, also to give cooking demonstrations with their new recipes.

You will be in for a real treat this meeting, I have previewed what they plan to bring for the break and they sound wonderful, as sweets always are. This year I will have pictures of the young ladies to put in back of their samples so you can identify them.

Brenda Claire talked with me at the last meeting about getting publicity out to the public regarding our "Cooking With My Honey" cookbooks". She had some great ideas and has proceeded to advertise them on e-bay and planning to do so on Amazon.

