



EAST TEXAS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



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RESIDENT: Andrew Bellefeuille

TJC' S WEST CAMPUS 1530 LOOP 323 S SW

6:45 PM

REPORTER: DICK

MAY REPORT

Busy, busy, busy as a bee. Between finishing up my class of 18, getting everyone their bees. Swarm calls, bees in house, trees and barns, even swimming pool pumps, you name it we've had many calls this spring

This spring has been cold, normally the privet hedge blooms by the first week of April, it was the 26th before I saw the first blooms. Usually by this time the red clover has dried up, yet you can still find it blooming. This last week has turned hot and the bees are really bring in the nectar so make sure you have plenty of supers on your hives.

As you read this letter you will see our new Presidents article and a goodbye letter from Joe Moench. We are very fortunate to have such good men to lead our club. I appreciate your support.

Randy Bobo educated about 400 kids. If you speak, show anyone about bees please let me know. Be sure to read Vi's Honey Queen report. Also if you find a function for the Queen please go thru Vi for arrangements. Her phone is 903-316-9300

If you remove bees, please bring your method of vacuuming box for everyone to see

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The following is our new presidents news article. WELCOME ANDREW. I want to thank everyone for their support in electing me as your new president. I will try to live up to your expectations and hope the coming year will be full of interesting discussions and learning within the club.

I thought I would introduce myself to those who don't know me. I am originally from Vermont and got into beekeeping when I moved to TX and couldn't make maple syrup anymore. I used to make syrup (called "sugaring") every year with my grandfather and it was an event which always signaled the end of a long winter and the welcomed beginning of spring.

I think beekeeping is like sugaring in many ways: the work is seasonal with most occurring in the spring, nature does the hardest part by supplying both the sap for syrup and the nectar for honey, and man reaps the rewards! Both the sugarhouse and the honey house are places of fellowship where friends meet and discuss everything from sap or honey flows to where they tapped trees or have bee yards. Often we just catch up with each other and enjoy the sounds and aromas of each respective "house"

The Buzz from Over Here

Well howdy folks, Just want to say a big Thank You to all for allowing me to be the Pres. of the ETBA for the last 3 years. It has been a wonderful experience and a pleasure. I appreciate all the help from Dick Counts and others for helping me through the meetings every month. It is amazing how that you can write down a bunch of stuff to talk about and after 5 or 10 minutes you say all your notes and then....Duh.... mental block. But Y'all were gracious and kind to help me stumble through month after month. To be able to stand and give the prayer to thank the Good Lord for His wonderful creation the honeybee was worth it all to me. And to give my thoughts and views over the months were getting easier also. So May His grace continue to be on me and the ETBA for years to come. Congrats to Andrew and I hope that he has as much fun as I did as Pres. Thanks to all the others who were elected. Joe Moench.

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HoneyChairperson Report

The feature in the Tyler Morning Telegraph on April 12th has sparked a lot of unexpected interest.

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Once again if you are interested in pickup swarms or removing bees in your area please call me. 903-566-6789.

Eastman report: All outdoor observation hives have been installed, most queens are marked with a white dot. This year I added a nuc box to the top of the hive. It is connected to the OB hive by a hole matching the ventilation hole and has a small Queen excluder in place. All hives now have a total of 11 frames. Five deep frames in the nuc and the standard frames in the hive. HOPE: the hope is that by winter the bees will have stored enough honey to over winter by moving the Queen into the nuc, which I will do in November. I expect that very few bees will be seen in the glass area during the winter. If this works it means that the Queen can be put back downstairs in late winter instead of early May as we are now doing.

Vi and I have been doing schools this week and shown bees to about 125 first graders and 400 plus 4th graders. Also Joe Moench will be talking about bees to the Texas Naturalist while this meeting is going on. I know some of you have also done some schools, please let me know so you can get credit for it. This credit will get you 5 cents worth of candy, but more important we can brag on you.

**BE SURE TO
PUT PLENTY
OF SUPERS ON YOUR
HIVES**

As with sugaring I am always amazed at the end product I receive from keeping bees. Honeybees are so amazing and also very forgiving especially to a mediocre beekeeper like me when after numerous blunders I still end up with honey. They do offer their "advice" and "corrections" which are frequently difficult to ignore and at these times I try to remember that they are letting me know that a different tact or time would be better suited for the task I have decided upon that day. I am always curious about what has created the flavor of each year's honey and try in vain to pinpoint what was blooming and what weather conditions were responsible for the wonderful gifts I taste.

Spring is now here and my bee yard is really active. Supers are on and swarm calls have started. This year the swarms seem to be larger than in past years and I would be interested to hear from others who collect swarms. In closing, I'm grateful to be involved with such a worthwhile group and endeavor. I think my grandfather might have enjoyed beekeeping almost as much as sugaring. Although I lost him in 2004 and still miss him very much, as I walk through my bees I can almost hear him whistling beside me.

Thank you again for your support and I look forward to our fellowship this year.

Houston Chronicle and the Dallas Morning news picked it up from the news wire and ran the story about Dick and Kelly removing bees from a 55 gallon drum and wiring the brood into frames to begin what bees do; unfortunately, a few days later Kellie told us they were gone. A big disappointment to everyone, but never the less a learning experience!

If you were not able to see it, the photographer has promised to have us a copy for viewing at the meeting this Thurs. Our only disappointment was the reporter lost the CD of Kellie's queen picture.

We also got a call from a radio station who booked a telephone interview with Kellie on May 4th. Hopefully we can play that for you at the June meeting.

The Bluebird Festival on the 25th was very windy but no rain. Kellie met "Elvis" and made rounds with Charlie Burfoot to help sell raffle tickets, which netted \$97 for the club. Gloria Harmon and Don Johnson donated also, bringing the grand total for ETBA to \$273.85. Many thanks for all the hard work and interest.

May is a busy one for Kellie since it is the end of school; but she has made time to talk about her role as our Honey Queen and pollination on the 16th at the Bruce Miller Nursery Customer Celebration Day with fun and food in Edgewood. They are expecting a large crowd so lets all go and support Kellie, buy plants, and eat some good food.

Vi Bourns, Chairperson