



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

JULY REPORT

Of course you missed a great meeting last month, but 77 members enjoyed the get together.

June 20th Vi and I along with the Brantley's made the trip to Austin to attend the Texas Beekeepers Association Summer Clinic held at Dr. Albert Molinars home near Webberville.

I counted 75 people in enjoying Bar B Que and 5 how to stations, such as Equipment, installing bees, working the hive, medicating for mites and beetles and of course extracting honey. A good time was had by all, you really should try to make next years clinic.

Our program this month is Dana Nance from Bruce Miller Nursery in Edgewood. Dana hosted our Queen Kellie Lenamond speaking to visitors and employees at the nursery. Dana has years of experience and will be able to tell you which plants our bees work. Come early to be sure and get a good seat.

We are planning on having our own Summer Picnic/clinic on July 18th at Mike and Tammy Lenamond's home near Wills Point. Directions and a map will be available at this meeting.

A directors meeting has been called to begin a 6:15 before the meeting. Subjects- The Summer Picnic, the Fair, State Convention.

Four of us extracted some of our hives on June 27 production ranged from one gallon per medium super to

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Summer Vacation, Kids and Bees

Well, it's REALLY summer now and so outrageously hot and dry already that I fear for us all in the coming weeks of July and August. Texas summers are hard on all living things and this one has started earlier than most. My once green pastures are quickly browning. The vitex and mimosa trees still have a few blooms left and the bees are valiantly working those last remaining blossoms, but despite their efforts I still don't have a honey crop. They are also gathering huge loads of pollen from the Rose of Sharon bushes but I am afraid these too may soon dry up. Each afternoon I see them out on their front porches just trying to beat the heat like the rest of us. There is no summer vacation for the bees.

My farm animals are also suffering from the sweltering temperatures and lack of rain. My wife and I are constantly checking waterers and fans to be sure that all animals are as comfortable as possible in these brutal conditions. In fact, just about the only creatures on the farm who are relishing the summer are our children. I am "dad" to twin 7 year olds, a boy and a girl, and they are still giddy with liberty from school and brown as berries from swimming which is just about the only outdoor activity that's still enjoyable. Since the time that I first joined the ETBA and the twins were in Pre-K, my wife and/or I have brought an observation hive to their school to talk about bees.

The Buzz from Over Here

by Eddie Collins

I was reading the May/June 2009 TBA journal and was surprised to see a picture of my daughter Connie in there with our clubs honey queen Kellie. A BIG thanks to Vi for all she is doing for the ETBA queen program and for Kellie in particular.

Well I have more bee hives this year and even with the hot weather they seem to be the best bees I've had in several years. So what went wrong? Why so little honey? So far I've been averaging less than 1 medium per hive where in best years I've got 3 to 4 per hive. If Dick's saying "this year is not as good as last year" holds true then should we be worried about next year? As for me I'm saying next year is going to be the best ever so start getting your bees / planning ready!!!!

This past month I made a trip to the Beaumont area to pull honey on the tallow flow. Wow; I mean WOW. In one bee yard there was over 300 bee hives and each one still made over 2 deeps of honey.

It was mentioned that this year was not as good as in the past and I asked if it was because of the amount of hives

