



# 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

## SEPTEMBER REPORT

Once again you have outperformed the attendance we had last year, 82 beekeepers were counted at our last meeting. A great showing for our club. However, interest in bees keeps flowing in. I now have 10 persons wanting to take the class on beekeeping, with our 2-3 scholarship students that we should have, the class will soon be full.

This has been a weird year for our bees, see Andrew's article to see how much we maybe causing it, It is hard to talk about COLD weather in August, but with the rain in April and most mornings in May being under 50 degrees our bees really had no chance. Almost everyone had about a 50% reductions in honey that was harvested. Speaking of honey— please bring your own honey in one pound jars for our FAIR display.

And speaking of the FAIR, plan on working whatever you can this year. The FAIR has made a lot of changes and promises to be great for our school kids. As our FAIR ends the State FAIR begins, I would like to encourage you to work one day and help out John Talbert, if you do be sure to take a jar of your honey for display.

Also we are asking you to encourage the kids that you know to become interested in BEES and write an essay for the 4H contest, they can win CASH prizes. Our own Mike Rappazzo was written up in the latest American Beekeeping Journal, way to go Mike.

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The month seems to have flown by with nothing to show for its passing. Due to the "hope" and "change" given us, beekeeping has taken a backseat this month. I have caught up on some reading and it was nice to see the bee lab progress in the TBA Journal. For those of you that do not receive the Journal feel free to see Mr. Brantley for an application to the Texas Beekeepers Association, he will even pay the postage for you.

This leads me to the topic of this month's article. I was reading another publication and read an article about a study conducted by Penn. State University and the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) looking for causes of Colony Collapse Disorder or CCD. Now, I always take the results of studies with a grain of salt even if the sources are reputable. Depending upon the questions asked and the research criteria I am sure you could find a study scientifically showing Elvis landed on the moon with Neil Armstrong, or not, depending on your level of conspiracy thinking. That notwithstanding, I was alarmed to read that 91 colonies were tested from 13 different apiaries in Florida and California and every colony had detectable amounts of 50 different pesticides.

## QUEEN CHAIR PERSON REPORT Vi Bourns

Congratulations to the committee who worked tireless hours to get the recipe book ready to go to press! Everything was submitted Friday and we are waiting on the proof before they print it.

A special thanks to all of you members who were so kind to give us recipes and to place 146 orders so we had an idea of the number of books we needed to order. The directors decided we could sell 500 books, so we all still have work to do. We have been told that we can sell them at the convention—a big bonus for us.

Please be prepared to give your money to Don Johnson on the 3rd.

Now for the next thing to think about before the Christmas Party!! We are looking for a young lady or ladies who are willing to represent ETBA as the Honey Queen or two Honey Princesses who can serve together for a year, then one can become queen the following year. Please contact me for an application and the requirements if you know someone or have any questions. My card will be on the back table by the donation basket.

I will be asking Queen Kellie to share what it has meant to her to serve this year., and why it is an important opportunity for a young lady. Ladies, Gloria Harmon and I will be asking for your help to do a special project for the Queen's luncheon at the state convention. Gloria has a great idea that will stimulate interest. Sense we are the hosts this year.

The plans are in place for Kid's day already, the young people have volunteered to work up a table related to beekeeping and they will have experienced beekeepers selected to

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Be sure to read Vi's article about the "cookbook". We have over 150 books sold, so we are now ordering 500. If you did not get your order in please do so at this meeting. We will have them available for the Convention. This is going to be a great book with 250 HONEY recipes. We had about 280 but had to cut back to 250, One that came too late was a Mesquite Corn Bread, sounded really good. Remember this cookbook is going to be one of a kind and will make good Christmas gifts.

The beetles have everyone concerned. I have seen more in the honey supers that have come in to my honey house than ever before. There are several good traps on the market. What is needed is a good "ATTRACTANT". Remember the 8 mesh screen we are using for the Varroa mite will not permit the ADULT beetle to fall thru. Several research centers are working on the beetle but none that I know of is working on an attractant. We know that rotten fruit attracts the beetle, so maybe you can come up with something.

As you see below Dana Nance is coming to tell us about the plants in her nursery that the bees work. She will also printed material for you. A lot is going on in our club and we need you to be a part of this. With the state convention being in Tyler year we need you.

Dana Nance  
Manager of  
Miller Nursery in  
Edgewood is our

YES, Fifty not five or even fifteen, but FIFTY!! I read the article several times to make sure I had not misinterpreted the statement. Unfortunately I had not. Other pathogens were found as well, but were not what I found the most troubling. I cannot stop bacteria, viruses and fungi from being in the environment but we do have the ability to curtail our pesticide application. We have built up the resistance of viruses to the point where they are not being killed by previously effective methods so we are developing stronger ways to kill them. The logic is flawed in my opinion but unfortunately I do not have a solution. I know a great amount of good has come from science and I am in no way advocating going back to living in caves and being hunter gatherers just responsible people.

The study did not find a direct link to CCD from anything in particular but it definitely made me think. If there are Fifty different pesticides at that point in the food chain what about higher up? Humans have extended their life spans to double or even triple what they were hundreds of years ago but with that we have unleashed other evils on the world. "Give me spots on my apples but leave me the birds and the bees". Not my line but an appropriate one nonetheless. We often act in the short term but don't think of the long term consequences of our actions.

help at the convention. Come see a sample of the skep and get instructions on how you can help us.

Kid's day at the convention is coming along on schedule. Our young people have volunteered and are already preparing to set up a table and use their talents by showing other children the art of beekeeping in hopes that they too will catch the "Bee Fever" and we will have another generation beekeepers. Each student will have an experienced beekeeper working with them from our club.

Queen Kelly is working on a special quilt to be displayed and auctioned off. Our past Honey Queen, Connie Collins is trying to work it into her schedule to be there also.

After kids day, there is a special reception from 6-8pm where you can meet Honey Queens from all over Texas—it is called the "Bee Buzz." Each queen will bring their special honey recipe for you to eat and the hotel will provide snacks too and drinks. It is a good time to rekindle old relationships with fellow beekeepers. GOOD FOOD—GOOD FRIENDS!

ATTENTION 4-H'ERS: you have a special opportunity to do a honey bee project for your area instead of goats, pigs, or cows. Dick has been in touch with some of you and your counselors about this. He also some information from A&M to give you if you are interested in writing an essay and possibly winning a cash award.

Hope you see all of you at the meeting Thurs.