



# EAST TEXAS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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WEBSITE: easttexasbeekeepersassociation.com



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PRESIDENT: Andrew Bellefeuille

TJC' S WEST CAMPUS 1530 LOOP 323 S SW

6:45 PM

REPORTER: DICK

## OCTOBER REPORT

Attendance is holding steady, September again had 81 present to hear about plants and flowers. Our speaker Dana Nance did a wonderful job. She has offered her help anytime any of you need it.

Our October meeting brings us Billy Hummer of Hummer & Son Honey Co in Shreveport . Billy also sells equipment

If need something he can be reached at 318-742-3541/ fax 318-752-9090 Come hear Billy. I have ask him to talk about the Small Hive Beetle, for sure.

As a reminder, DON'T FORGET November is our Honey Tasting Contest. So bring your honey in a one pound unmarked jar. This contest is always great fun and we need to give Bill LaPreye some competition. Also November is when we chose our next BEEKEEPER OF THE YEAR.

By the time you read this the FAIR will be almost over and you will have seen our NEW display setup,

built and furnished by Jerry Lopez. Please shake his hand and give him a big THANKS for a job well done. And I want to THANK you for all the great help for working the fair. As you will hear on meeting night we will have had kids coming at 9:00 for three days and of course we will have them again on Friday.

Also the State Fair will have started and I will be going to work that booth on Friday. We need honey to display and I will be glad to take yours. Please bring in

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The East Texas Beekeepers Association lost a long time member and supporter in September. Mr. Ralph Johnson passed away. Mr. Johnson was an avid supporter of the Honey Queen Program and health permitting, never missed a meeting. I will miss his presence in the front row.

Two weeks ago my eight year old daughter, Katie, went on a swarm call with me for the first time. The swarm was in a small magnolia tree at an apartment complex. The swarm was very docile which allowed her to put on a bee suit and help collect them. She smoked the bees and handed me pruners to trim branches. I got them into a box and she smoked them a little to calm them back down. We loaded them onto the truck to leave and the manager paid us for our work, including \$4.00 extra for Katie saying, "This is for your helper!" The look of amazement on my daughter's face when I handed her the money was terrific. It was almost as good as the look of bewilderment on the faces of the manager and her staff as they watched an eight year old girl fearlessly work bees!

As we pulled away Katie counted her money and couldn't wait to tell her twin brother that she was a real beekeeper and made money, which he hadn't. I then told her that we were only half done. We needed to go home and get the hive set up with frames and syrup. She was excited to finally go to the bee yard and see inside the hives. She helped get the drawn frames out of storage and carried them to the bee yard. Once again, she wanted to run the smoker which she did very well and only engulfed me once or twice in thick pine straw smoke.

## The Buzz from Over Here

by Eddie Collins

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A bear, one pound or your next size up. Glass or Plastic. After the Fair the honey is donated to an orphans home, so you will not get it back.

Our bees are still stressed and most I have looked at are short on stores. If this the case with your bees you must start feeding now for them to make it. Now is also the time to start powered sugar treatment for the mites. No new or good news on the beetles.

Believe it or not I am still getting swarm and bee removal calls. Most recent was a swarm the size of a basketball. You may want to plan on setting out traps next year as I am finding bees in gourds, bird houses, squirrel and duck boxes, smokers (grill) and lots of trees

This may ( I hope) be an early warning. Black BEARS are moving in to East Texas. Be on the look out if you have bees in or close to woods.

Be sure to READ Vi's article on the Queen and Kids Day. We are moving along on the State Convention and expect a good time to be had by all. Make your plans now to attend and help out as needed.

Joyce Steel in Longview has 2 fume boards and 2 small supers for sale, 903-758-1564

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Last week the rainy weather kept us from the bee yard so we were both anxious to see how the bees were progressing. We returned to find that the syrup was gone but the bees were thriving. I pointed out the brood and pollen but Katie didn't need any help to see that they were making honey. I explained that they were working hard to get ready for winter and would eat the honey and pollen they stored now. We found the queen which is always exciting. I must confess a secret even after keeping bees for a few years, that I still get excited when I see the queen. We carefully put her back in the hive and Katie put on a new bag of syrup and closed the lid.

We cleaned up and went to the house to tell her brother and mother all we had seen and learned. It is times like this that I feel truly blessed and the troubles of the world disappear. I wish everyone such happiness and peace.

OCTOBER  
MEETING FEATURES  
BILLY HUMMER  
SPEAKING