



EAST TEXAS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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NOVEMBER REPORT

Things have really been popping around Tyler. Our ending the East Texas Fair and getting ready for the State convention has really kept Vi and I busy, and believe it or not last week I was still removing bees from a house. We had a great meeting last month, but I failed to get the number in attendance, sorry.

Number one on our list for this meeting is our annual honey tasting contest, Be sure to bring your honey in an UNMARKED honey bear, See Gloria.

Number two is the arrangements being made for our "KIDS LEARNING ABOUT BEES" which will start the morning of November 12th. Vi will need you to be there by 9:00 AM to get ready for the kids which will start coming at 10:00 and end at 3:00. As of this writing we have 400 scheduled and are hoping for 500.

There will be a CALLED directors meeting at 6:00 PM.

The COOKBOOKS ARE HERE, if you prepaid you may begin picking them up at 6:15 from Vi. If you wish to purchase more please wait until Don Johnson is ready. We are asking everyone present to sign a cookbook for Mr. Knight. You will be very pleased in the quality of the books, Vi and have sold almost 50 extra book just by people seeing them, 14 as a result of Kellie giving a cooking demo. Everybody is excited to find a all honey cookbook. Looks as though we may have to reorder.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Two months ago I requested a little rain in our opening prayer. In retrospect I should probably have quantified this request as my rain gauge has captured 23 inches of the wet stuff in the past 60 days. Since I was not there when He made the mountains I should have known that a "little" may take on a different meaning from His perspective. I am afraid to look at any persimmon seeds this year because instead of seeing a knife or a spoon I might find a row boat!

I feel a common bond with my bees during this inclement weather which forces us all inside when we really need to be outside working. Whenever the sun pops out and shines for even the briefest period of time we all race outside and work feverishly until the rain comes again. The good thing about bad weather is that we beekeepers can always use the time to work on woodenware.

All this rainy weather has also kept me from checking on the bees but on the few nice days we've had I've seen them working the last remnants of goat weed and all the goldenrod in my fields so I know they are there. They are lumbering back into the hives with plenty of pollen so I know they are indeed getting something accomplished.

I have two hives that I am feeding now and I know that they must have gone through their syrup during this last deluge. Everyone should check their hives now to make sure they "heavy".

Honey Queen Chair- person

The COOKBOOKS are here and are ready for you to enjoy and buy more if you desire. Again , I can't say THANKS enough to everyone who contributed to the success of this book of art.

The time we have all been working toward is almost here! Keep Nov. 12-15 open to attend and give your support to Queen Kellie and all of those who have worked so hard these past several months to make our TBA convention a success. We have planned lots of fun, food and renewed friendships for everyone. You will get to hear important information for beekeepers of all levels of knowledge. Noted researchers will be sharing about the Crazy Raspberry Ant and the growing invasion of the small hive beetle. Dick and Dr. Lucy Perry are working on an attractant for the beetle.

So many of you have been and are working on Kid's Day. It is important for all of you to be at our local meeting this month to get a paper copy of our plans for that day and to connect to who you will be working beside to interest a future beekeeper. We will hear committee reports, introductions and we will answer questions.

The highlight of our meeting will be a DVD of Queen Kellie and the other Queens from Texas at the

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Our local Fair ended with our new booth display getting lots of comments. Jerry Lopez did a great job. When you see Jerry please give him a great big East Texas "THANK YOU". You will also be able to see the new display at the Convention.

On October 1 Vi met Kellie at the State Fair for 2 days of cooking demonstrations, on the 2nd I followed to work the Honey booth. If you haven't tried working this great looking booth you should give it a try. There is a stream of Fair goers almost continually.

Now is the time to make plans for our annual Christmas Party, Reservations have been made at Traditions Restaurant and we will have room for you and your spouse. We always have a great time in honoring those who deserve it. Our own Mr. John Knight will have turned 103 so come on out for his birthday party. We will also honor our "BEEKEEPER OF THE YEAR", who as of this writing is unknown. Also several people have worked hard to make this year special in many ways. You deserve to be a party to these honors.

We are having a lot of interest expressed by the general public in our bees. So Eddie Collins has volunteered to host a free beginners Clinic on November 14, Saturday afternoon at 1:30 PM at the convention. Please encourage your friends to attend.

**NOVEMBER
OUR RAFFLE/
AUCTION
MEETING**

they are "heavy". There is nothing terribly scientific about checking - you simply go to the back of your hive and lift it up slightly. If the hive comes up easily then you need to feed. If you don't know whether it is light or not then you need to feed. If the hive takes effort to lift then it should be OK or you have screwed it to the stand and don't remember doing it. I did that one year but realized my mistake when two other hives lifted up. I have mentioned before that you may not have elected the smartest beekeeper as your president.

Once we come out of all this rain and have a good long period of warmer sunny weather I'm going to experiment with one of my hives that resides in a log. I want to cut off the back of the log and make an observation hive out of it in order to see how the bees handle the small hive beetle in a more "natural" environment. I'm curious to see if the beetles congregate in certain areas not present in a standard hive body. I know it is illegal to keep bees in a log instead of a standard hive but I am willing to take the risk because I really want to see the interaction firsthand. It may show me nothing of any value other than being a cool conversation piece. It may also end up like the melted piece of plastic foundation I brought to the last meeting - a good example of another thing NOT to do.

In closing, I suppose my "hope" and "change" message for this month is that I hope for a change to some drier weather. Check your bees and feed if they need it. Stay dry and build your frames and boxes for spring. Happy Thanksgiving to you all!

Texas State fair demonstrating their cooking skills and serving samples of their special recipes. Kellie and I rode rides on the midway, but Jimmy Oakley wasn't there to take pictures. TOO Bad!!!

I will tell you of a exciting opportunity that was offered to Kellie several months ago and is now becoming a reality. This required pictures of Kellie newest experiences with her bees captured on camera by her mom, Tammy. I will ask Kellie to narrate while all the pictures are shown.

In Oct. Kellie did a cooking demonstration in Ore City for the Master Gardeners to everyone's delight. We sold 14 cookbooks and she did her very first signing; another new experience for her! Plus the club donated an extra \$50.00 to the Queen's Fund.

It has been a fun, exciting, and challenging experience to be ETBA Honey Chairperson and to watch Kellie as she grew into a beautiful young lady who will be trying out for the Texas Honey Queen at the convention.

Kellie, we all wish you the very best in life that God has planned for you as you finish this school year and start your college days that will prepare you for you the working world.