



EAST TEXAS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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PRESIDENT: Andrew Bellefeuille

TJC' S WEST CAMPUS 1530 LOOP 323 S SW

DECEMBER REPORT

As you know I like to report numbers. Well our November meeting brought 87 friends and families out for our meeting. Better yet our State convention had 173 people sign up to learn more about the honey bee. More numbers later, or better yet be at the next meeting to hear all of the news.

Our honey tasting contest had lots of entries and it took quite a while for everyone to finish and vote. As usual I never know who won, until this meeting. You really need to meet with us to find out who has the most popular honey and who our Beekeeper of the Year is. As usual I don't know who that is either.

I have just finished adding Andrew and Vi's articles to this letter. I must say you learn all there is to know about the convention and KLAB, kids learning about bees. However I guess I might say a few words,

Such as 440 kids showed up for our KLAB, equally important was our own youngsters that were matched with an experienced beekeeper at the nine tables containing bee demo's and equipment. EVERYONE from the convention just raved about the excellent job you guys did. You really made ETBA look good.

We SHINED in all areas, such as 173 present for the convention, 72 present for the Queens luncheon, 102 present for the banquet and auction. Our local auctioneer Larry Lough volunteered and help raise \$7340 for our Queen program.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I'm jumping right in this month!

If you have not begun to feed your light hives, start now. Feed a 2:1 sugar water mix so the bees don't waste valuable energy drying the mixture. You can make this mix by weight or volume and the bees will not complain or take you to task on your methodology – they will just be thankful for the gift and will start to store it immediately. Another of the many reasons I love beekeeping: bees forgive us of our sins against them and are appreciative of our most modest gifts.

I am still high from the convention so everyone must suffer through more expounding about my children and bees. My twins and I participated in the Kids and Bees program at the convention and it was an amazing experience. I watched incredulously as my daughter, Katie, delivered the entire talk on Stings and Swarms. My son, Will, told the groups how long bees lived during the spring and summer and got laughs explaining the tribulations of being a drone or "boy bee" as winter approached. I know that the lifespan of bees doesn't really fall within the scope of discussing Stings and Swarms but my kids are eight and it was a long day for them. My boy could only hand out so many pencils without going a little nutty. As a father I have never been more proud of them. It was incredible to see them talking so authoritatively and confidently to groups, some large and composed of kids much older than they are.

Honey Queen Chair- person

Today is the day after Thanksgiving and we have many things to be thankful for as we look toward the Christmas season and the year of 2010. This past year has been full of adventure and new friendships as I came to know each of you. I once read that people come and go in our lives for a reason, the more birthdays I have, the more I see this coming true. Everyone we meet impacts our lives in one way or another; and you., my fellow beekeepers have certainly impacted mine.

Our cookbooks have become the success as a fund raiser for the Honey Queen-Princess program we had hoped for. It took a joint effort for all of us. Any suggestions for the next one?

As I look over this past month and see how all of you worked so hard to make the TBA convention the success it was, you truly amazed me. We have such wonderful and talented youth and their preparation for KLAB, as it is now called, and the adults who worked along side them surpassed my greatest expectations. From the bottom of my heart I say with sincere gratitude a big thank you for a job well done!!!

We are so proud of Kellie for being runner up for Texas Honey Queen.

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So you see, you can be very proud of yourself, ya did good.

For those of you that worked the FAIR and saw the picture of the bee drinking water on a bird bath, which won all of the awards, I have a surprise for you. The photographer Mr. Dan Eudy will be at this dinner.

Also don't forget we will be announcing our Honey Tasting Winner, and of course our "BEEKEEPER OF THE YEAR" winner.

Your support this year has just been fantastic, especially at the convention. A lot of this is because of our youth program efforts, we are not just a club of old beekeepers that gather for coffee anymore, we are growing, providing our youth opportunities, and helping to educate the public. For my part just keep up the good work and THANKS

I just have to say something about what you should be doing. Lift the back of you hive, if light start feeding a 2-1 sugar syrup.

Hope to see December 3 at Traditions and you can start eating at 6:00 PM. If we don't see you MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A SAFE NEW YEARS

dick

DECEMBER REPORT
ON HONEY TASTING
AND BEEKEEPER OF
THE YEAR

Continued from page 1 column 2

Jan Aerts' skep collection was excellent and quite interesting. I always enjoy talking to Jan because he is so knowledgeable and interesting. I would like to acknowledge the many other young people working the convention from the Honey Queens to the young men working the booths. They all did such a fantastic job and there should be many proud parents out there.

I also want to thank the humble honeybee for bringing so many people together and providing young and old the opportunity to share a common focus. There are very few things in this technological age that can equally hold the interest of a 103 year old and an 8 year old. The convention exposed many young people to the wonder of the honeybee and hopefully their exposure will stick with them longer than their candle or free pencil. Ideally it will spark their interest in bees and just as importantly, how bees help to provide the foods that they eat – not the grocery store or Wal-Mart. This is a big concept for both adults and kids to understand and one that I feel is extremely important. Once again our urbanized, concrete covered, technological, hand sanitized, bio-tech society has removed us from one of the most basic foundations of our civilization. We have many, many things to be thankful for in this world and the honeybee is truly the unsung hero of our agriculture.

I wish everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving and look forward to seeing everyone at Traditions next month!

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She will be our Honey Queen until she leaves for college in September, and will return as her schedule permits.

At the last meeting our Directors approved the appointment of a Honey Princess. A committee was selected who made a home visit, and recommended Miss Merry Margaret Holloway, 14 year old daughter of Mark and Susan, to fill that position.

Queen Kellie will crown her at our Christmas party Dec 3rd at Traditions Restaurant on Broadway.

As usual I hope all of you will be there to support our Queen and Princess, then to help us find local organizations for them to talk with so they can educate our community about the value of the honey bee and of natural honey.

Their brochures will be available for you to pick up and give to your friends and people you come in contact with by Feb.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you Dec. 3rd at Traditions.