WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATI0N

WCABA OCTOBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

www.wcaba.org

2025 Club Officers:

PRESIDENT: Shannon Montez
president@wcaba.org

VICE PRESIDENT: Sean O'Neil
vicepresident@wcaba.org

MEMBERSHIP: Judee Brinley
membership@wcaba.org

PROGRAM: Nan Helmke
program@wcaba.org

NEWSLETTER: Jimmie Oakley
newsletter@wcaba.org

SECRETARY: Phil Ainslie
secretary@wcaba.org

TREASURER: Barbi Rose
treasurer@wcaba.org

HISTORIAN: Matt Ludlum
historian@wcaba.org

PAST PRESIDENT: Phil Ainslie
pastpresident@wcaba.org

LIBRARIAN: Chris Huck
librarian@wcaba.org

SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR: Jimmie Oakley
scholarship@wcaba.org

QUEEN CHAIR:
(vacant)

WEB ADMINISTRATOR: Sean O'Neil
webmaster@wcaba.org

DIRECTOR AT LARGE: Ken Browning

DIRECTOR AT LARGE: Ann Bierschenk

4th TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2025 @ 7PM
Georgetown Library - Hewitt Room (2nd Floor)

PROGRAM: Options for Winterizing Your Bees

Speaker: Randy Oakley, Oakley Family Apiaries

Winterizing your hives can go a long way in getting the bees through the cold months and better prepare them for what happens to them in the Spring. Explore winterizing techniques that will help you and help your bees.



Randy Oakley

SPEAKER BIO:

Randy Oakley has grown up around bees since 1975 when his dad bought 30 beehives and started the family beekeeping business. Three generations of the Oakley's now contribute to producing local bees and beehive products at Oakley Family Apiaries. They manage 400 colonies along the I-35 corridor between Austin and Waco.

Randy has spent the last ten years refining his holistic beekeeping protocol, *"Lessons from the Bee Tree"*, which equips aspiring beekeepers to sustainably manage from two to hundreds of beehives. More information about his beekeeper training and beehive products can be found at www.OakleyFamilyApiaries.com

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We would certainly enjoy your presence at the next meeting on October 28th (***fourth***Tuesday), but if you can't, then tune in to broadcast virtually via "Zoom". If you are planning to join from an iPhone or iPad, be sure to download this application first: https://apps.apple.com/us/app/zoom-cloud-meetings/id546505307

We look forward to seeing you there Tuesday night @ 7PM!
GT Library - Hewlett Rm– 402 W 8th Street Georgetown 78626

Topic: WCABA Member Meeting (and Beekeeping 101)
Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82475068933?pwd=aHRiRjc3bS9kYXJGS2g5THVpOEx2UT09
Meeting ID: 824 7506 8933. Passcode: 909659

Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kgiOC6z7D

Winterizing Your Bees: Four Steps to a Strong Spring

by Randy Oakley

As temperatures drop, a little preparation now can make the difference between a thriving colony in spring and an empty box. Here are four simple steps to get your hives ready for winter.

1. Configure your hive properly

Bees naturally store extra honey above the brood nest, which lets them eat their way upward through the winter. Make sure your top box is full of stores going into the cold months. If it's light, feed a 1.5:1 sugar syrup to help them fill it.

2. Control Varroa mites

Hives carrying a heavy mite and virus load rarely survive winter. Around the beginning of December, colonies tend to go broodless, which leaves mites exposed on the adult bees. That makes it the ideal time for an oxalic acid dribble treatment. Watch @ *Winter oxalic acid mite treatment at Oakley Family Apiaries*

3. Insulate the top of your hive

Place a ½" to 1" foam board on top of the hive cover. This keeps condensation from forming and dripping onto the clustered bees, where it can chill them.

4. Add emergency feed

Give your bees a safety net by adding dry sugar with a frame feeder or a Mountain Camp feeder. On warm winter days, bees will gather water and turn the sugar into food, so it's there if their honey stores run low.

A focus on winterizing that starts in early fall gives your bees their best shot at coming through winter strong and ready to build up in spring.

For more beekeeping tips, visit **www.OakleyBeekeeping.com**



Elections Coming Up

…a note from your President

With our November election coming up, it's a good time for more members to consider taking part in running WCABA. We'd welcome some new people around the board table. Bringing in new talent helps keep the club's traditions going.

First, thank you to everyone on the board for the time you put into the club. Phil Ainslie is stepping down as secretary after serving WCABA over the years as treasurer, president, secretary and longtime Beekeeping 101 instructor. He also spent many years valiantly fielding our incoming email questions. Those questions now have a home on our members' forum, so please stop by and contribute! Thank you, Phil, for what you taught me and for the many years you've given the club.

That leaves us looking for a new secretary. You don't need to be an expert beekeeper to consider the role. Being organized, keeping accurate meeting records and following through are important. If you're interested, please talk with us about the responsibilities and time involved.

All members are welcome to attend board meetings, whether or not they hold a board position. We meet every other month, a week before the general meeting. Only board members vote, but attending is a straightforward way to learn how the club operates, hear what's being discussed and bring your own ideas. You can come without committing to an office and see if it's a fit for you.

We'll be gathering interest at our October 27 meeting as the nominating committee puts together a slate for publication before November's election. We'll elect officers at our November 24 meeting, and additional nominations from the floor may be accepted for willing members in good standing. If you're interested in secretary or another role, talk with a board member beforehand or find us at check-in.

If you've been wondering whether there's a way for you to help, this is it, please come talk with us!

Sean

A decision to be made

…a note from the Editor

Many beekeeping clubs, well clubs of all stripes, have "incorporated" for obvious reasons. In our case I feel the financial liability we share as individuals for WCABA's actions and activities underlies the need for this change to a 501(c) nonprofit organization. We support a good cause and yet we want to protect our personal assets. We want to be able to oversee our organization without having to own it. Organized as such, we look more official to potential doners, and it still gives us access to public and private grants. We will have to be willing to pay the fees and stay in compliance. We will have to have a board of directors, which we do, and there are rules about holding meetings and keeping records. We can do all of this. Our next step is to vote in the affirmative to the indicated changes to the Constitution and By -Laws and then submit the IRS Form 1024 application for recognition as a Section 501(c)(5) organization.

There is a reprint of the WCABA Constitution and By-Laws with additional changed text in blue and deleted text in red in this Newsletter(see p.16-18). It is here for the membership to review and then the club will be able to vote on it at this October membership meeting. I urge you to read through both documents, a total of three pages, and be prepared to support this effort at the October meeting. We will then be in a position to apply for the IRS 501(c) classification change.

If you have questions, concerns, or suggestions, please contact any member of the Revision Committee:
Jimmie Oakley (512-507-3009) Ann Bierschenk (512-797-54511) Judee Brinley (512-966-8436)

Jimmie

(meeting minutes)

Constitution & Bylaws Approval

The September membership meeting of the Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association was held in the Hewitt Room of the Georgetown Library **on Tuesday, September 22, 2026**. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 by Vice-President Dusty Brinley.

Proposed changes to the **WCABA Constitution and Bylaws** that will align with IRS 501 (c)(5) designation were introduced and presented to the membership by **Jimmie Oakley**, revision committee chair. This was a first reading of the proposed changes with the vote on the changes to be taken at the next membership meeting in October per Article IV of the Club's Constitution.

Vice President Dusty Brinley called for a motion to approve the changing of the Constitution and Bylaw as proposed. **Dean Hewitt** made the motion for approval of the changes, and **Warren Sanders** seconded the motion.

A vote of the membership was taken at **7:09 PM**. The motion **passed unanimously, with all members voting in favor and none opposed**.

The revised WCABA Constitution and Bylaws changes were approved on first reading and will be votes on again at the October meeting.

Judee Brinley - Membership

Research Pearls

Compiled by Phil Ainslie

Honey bees have sharper eyesight than we thought

- **Key Discovery:** University of Adelaide researchers found that western honey bees have significantly better vision than previously understood.
- **Previous Testing Flaws:** Earlier measurements of bee visual acuity were mostly conducted in dark laboratories, ignoring how bright daylight changes the eye's resolution and physiology.
- **Research Method:** Scientists took electrophysiological recordings of neural responses in single retinal photoreceptors as objects passed through the bees' field of vision.
- **Clear Object Resolution:** Honey bees can clearly see objects in the frontal part of their eye as small as 1.9 degrees (about the width of a thumb at arm's length), which is 30% sharper than past records.
- **Detection Limit:** Bees can detect objects they cannot see clearly down to 0.6 degrees (one-third of a thumb width at arm's length)—five times smaller than previous behavioral experiments indicated.
- **Survival Benefits:** Sharper vision allows bees to spot potential predators much earlier and perceive environmental landmarks better for navigation.
- **Broader Applications:** The findings improve our understanding of bee cognitive experiments and offer valuable insights for developing bio-inspired robotics and robot vision.

As far as animals go, honeybees are world-class dancers.

- **The Honeybee Waggle Dance:** Honeybees use the "waggle" dance to communicate the direction and distance of food sources to their nestmates, though these recruitment efforts do not always succeed.
- **The Study:** Led by Virginia Tech researcher Margaret Couvillon and former Ph.D. student Laura McHenry, a study tracked tagged bees in clear-walled hives to understand why some waggle dances fail while others succeed.
- **Initial Hypothesis:** The researchers initially hypothesized that bees with similar, highly accurate "dance styles" would yield more successful food recruits.
- **Surprising Findings:** Contrary to expectations, bees that gave slightly exaggerated instructions (longer runs that told recruits to overshoot the food source) were more successful than those providing exact distances.
- **The Benefit of "Overshooting":** Researchers theorize that overshooting gives foragers a second chance to spot the food source—once while traveling past it and again on their way back.
- **The Power of Individuality:** The study concluded that unique, diverse communication styles among individual bees enhance overall foraging success, adding effective communication to the known benefits of behavioral and genetic diversity in honeybee colonies.

Phil

Practical Experiences in the Bee Yard



Stanford Brantley

OCTOBER should bring some relief to the heat that had us in the oven for the past few months. Hopefully, all of our dry areas have received some rain during September and our bees have found some nectar and pollen. When we watch the evening news, it is reporting either a heat wave or a flash flood. As long as the bees are alive, they will do the best they can in adverse conditions but you can assist when nature does not. Make sure to have a water source available and do not let it run dry. A friend fills a large container with water and places a burlap bag in the container. Part of the burlap bag is draped over the edge of the container to help hold it in place. The bag absorbs water and gives the bees a nice safe place to land and drink without risk of drowning.

So far this has not been a very good year for the bees to store honey. Hives may not have enough stores to survive the winter. More nectar and pollen may become available as cooler weather arrives. However, you may need to do supplemental feeding to make sure you have "fat bees" going into the winter months. Feeding pollen either in dry or patty form and providing a 2:1 sugar water mixture will increase you chance for having strong hives emerge next spring.

I have successfully over-wintered bees in East Texas using single brood hives with a honey super on top. The bees will not starve as long as the super was full of honey and the mite count low at the beginning of winter.







I have previously mentioned that the local school maintenance staff contacts me when he finds bees on the school property. I recently answered a knock on my front door to find him standing there with a big grin on his face. He told me he had found some more bees and asked if I could capture them. He laughed and said they were inside the fire hydrant at the old shop building. Bees inside a fire hydrant -- that was a new one for me! So we drove to the school and looked at the situation. I discovered someone had removed the cap from the 2½ inch hose connection on the hydrant. The scout bees had found a really cool place to call home and the swarm had moved inside. The interior of the hydrant was filled with newly drawn comb.

I enlisted the help of a couple of local bee club members who thought it would be fun to remove bees from a fire hydrant. We set up a 10x10 tarp over the area to protect us from the sun on a hundred degree day.

Our first step was to place a Nuc box at the correct height for the plug opening. We carefully opened the cap on the other side of the hydrant. Using Bee Go and a steady stream of smoke from the back side, we soon had the bees marching out of the hydrant and into the Nuc box. When all of the bees were out of the hydrant, we removed the comb from inside and carefully replaced the caps to prevent another swarm from finding a home. The Nuc full of bees was relocated that night to their new home in the country. On last report a couple weeks later, they were doing well.

As a longtime member of the Texas Beekeepers Association, I encourage any beekeeper wanting to learn more about this vocation of ours to take advantage of activities planned by the state association. A new facility housing a Texas A&M Honey Bee Laboratory will be opening Thursday, November 18 in Overton, Texas. Following the bee lab opening, the Texas Beekeepers Association annual convention will be held in Tyler, Texas November 19-21. The three day convention will include a variety of speakers and classes. If your questions are not covered, many beekeepers in attendance will join your discussion and try to provide answers. See you there! https://texasbeekeepers.org/annual-convention-2026/)

Stanford

WCABA Celebrates National Honey Month with Honey Judging and Tasting

by Jimmie Oakley

September was National Honey Month and again WCABA celebrated by conducting honey judging and holding our annual Taster's Choice Competition. This year was somewhat different in that we tried to combine our local honey judging with the honey judging sponsored by the Texas Beekeepers Association of polished and black jar honey. Fortunately, the Taster's Choice Competition remained the same.

Because of the recent program at our club meeting encouraging our members to get ready for the ABF and TBA Honey Shows it was felt there was a great opportunity to increase awareness and participation in the statewide and the national competition by changing the submissions of judged honey in our local judging from 2# glass Queenline jars to the 1# Queenline size instead. This would qualify the entry for both then State Convention(TBA) and the Federation Convention (ABF). Unfortunately, there was some confusion resulting in fewer entries for the judging of honey going to the TBA Honey Booth (3) and not all that many 1# entries going to the State Fair Competition. Dodie Stillman was involved in that TBA sponsored event and she took the club's entry to Dallas for the State Fair Competition.



Dodie Stillman judging honey at the State Fair along with Shannon LaGrave and Katie Capeheart

In last year's State Fair Competition, I won a Third Place (white ribbon) in the Creative Arts Beekeepers Honey Contest at the State Fair of Texas. This year Dodie took a jar of my honey, and I got an Honorable Mention (yellow ribbon) in the competition. I am so pleased that we are able to produce such fine quality honey in our area. Thank you, Dodie, for facilitating that effort for us.



Judged Honey in Light Amber Class - Honorable Mention

The Taster's Choice Contest has been going on for as long as I have been a member of WCABA. My first recollection was when the club met in Round Rock in the old Farmers State Bank building on Main Street. The bank had been converted into a Senior Citizen Center. We user popsicle sticks to do the sample tasting. The rules haven't change; submit, taste, vote.



Honey Tasting in Round Rock ~2006 at the Senior Citizen Center on Main St.



Dusty, Adam & Judy Brinley appraise "Honey Tasting" setup

While the honey tasting was being set up in the Hewlett room at our September meeting the membership was being treated to a special presentation on the *Sensory Analysis of Honey* by Dodie Stillman in the Friends room. It worked out well because the table setup there facilitated all the honey samples that were under consideration.

WCABA Celebrates National Honey Month (con't)



Dodie Stillman

When the sensory training was completed, the membership was able to use what they had learned in making their choice for the best honey in the Taster's Choice competition.

Again, this year Ann Bierschenk stepped up to serve as secretary of the contest, assisted by Judee Brinley.

Member names were taken, samples were logged in, source were declared, and sample numbers affixed to the jars. The small jars of honey were spread out the length of the table, toothpicks made ready, and when the members returned from Dodie's presentation the tasting and voting began.



Ann Bierschenk, Competition Secretary, oversees the voting

The Taster's Choice judging is more subjective based on "your" taste, and I noticed the decision took longer than in years past. More thought and consideration given, maybe?

This year's contest had fewer entries (23 vs. 30 last year).

There was a total of 117 votes cast (meaning ~40 members participated) and every sample got at least one vote. Third place (white ribbon) with 10 votes was George Creel from Georgetown. Second place (red) went to Tanya Scafe from Round Rock with 11 votes. First place this year (blue) went to Darla Ward from Georgetown with a total of 15 votes. The winning samples for 1st & 3rd place were labeled as wildflower honey and 2nd place was mesquite, according to the tally sheet.

Now because I have room, let me give Honorable Mentions to Kenneth Browning of Liberty Hill with 9 votes, and Judee Brinley of Georgetopwn and Dean Hewitt of Hutto with 8 votes each.

Congratulation to the winners and all the tasters. Let's do it again next year! *Jimmie*



Sensory Analysis of Honey presentation by Dodie in the Friends Room



2026 Tasters Choice Competition Winners: 1st Darla Ward, 2nd Tanya Scafe, 3rd George Creel

What's Going on at The State Fair of Texas

by Jimmie Oakley

The (Official) State Fair of Texas is held the Fall of every year in Dallas, dating back to the late 1880's. In various forms and with different supporters and sponsors, this marks the 140th year of meeting.

Of all the activities and events being held at the Fair, the Texas Beekeepers Association Honey Booth located in the Food and Fiber Building on the east side of Fair grounds is of primary interest to us.

The TBA Honey Booth is where us beekeepers can proudly exhibit and display the prized product of our hives and the work of our hands.



Again this year WCABA has sent containers of beautiful extracted honey to grace the shelves in the TBA Honey Booth for the 24 day run of the Fair. At the end of the Fair the honey from the display will be donated to the Happy Hill Farm Children's Academy in Granbury.

There is opportunity to work in the TBA Honey Booth in addition to displaying your honey. For those willing to share a half day (6 hours) of service in the booth talking about bees and honey you get free admission to the Fair for the rest of the day. I have done this on more than one occasion, and it is very rewarding. People are very interested in bees, and you will be surprised just how much beekeeping knowledge you possess when you start to share. *(Pictures from TBA Journal>>*





Jimmie Oakley



Ann Bierschenk



Dodie Stillman

<<<Honey Going to the TBA Honey Booth

By the time you read this the Texas State Fair will just about be over, but we need to make this a must do experience next year to get the full beekeeping experience.

To Do: Honey to the Fair, Work the Booth!

See you there.

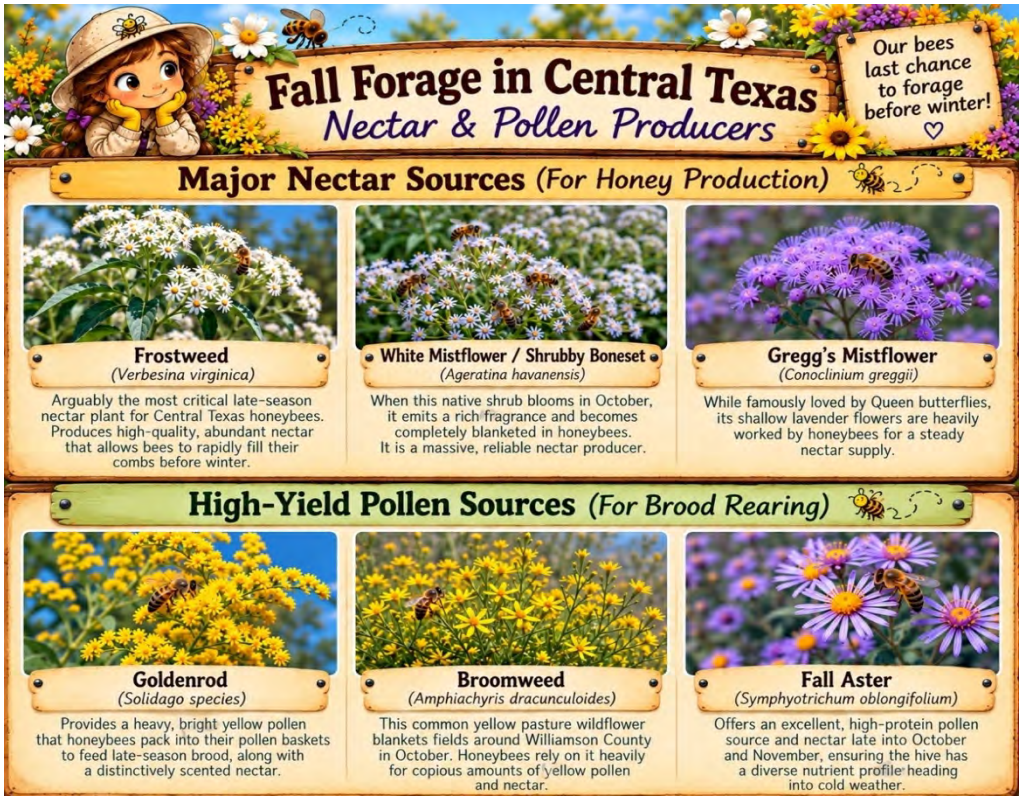
Jimmie

Bee Detective: Case Files from the Apiary

Case File #5: The Mystery of the Winter Bees



It was a beautiful October morning in Central Texas, and there was finally a hint of fall in the air. The mornings were crisp, the evenings were getting cooler, and the relentless summer heat was beginning to loosen its grip. Across Williamson County the fall wildflowers were making their appearance. Goldenrod and broomweed painted the fields with splashes of yellow, while delicate purple asters and mistflowers offered a welcome touch of color. After the summer nectar dearth, these late-season blooms are providing honeybees with opportunities to gather precious nectar and pollen before winter. Bea assessed the hive entrance to see foragers that were coming and going, and even some returning with pollen packed into their pollen baskets (corbicula). Everything seemed perfectly normal, so Bea dived into the hive for a quick fall inspection. Once in the brood nest, she noticed something suspicious. Pulling out her magnifying glass, she decided, “something doesn’t add up. The flowers are blooming, the bees are still working, and there’s plenty of activity at the entrance. But something very different is happening inside this hive!”



Clue #1: The Disappearing Nursery

During the summer, a productive queen may lay well over a thousand eggs a day. But as the seasons change, daylight decreases, nectar availability shifts, and the colony often begins to prepare for winter, which leads the queen to

reduce brood production. Bea sees less frames of brood than the previous inspection. Is the queen failing? “Not so fast!” Bea exclaimed. A shrinking brood nest in fall can be perfectly normal. The colony is adjusting its population and conserving resources for the months ahead. Here in Central Texas, brood rearing will likely continue through much of winter, depending on weather and available resources. The key is recognizing the difference between a normal seasonal slowdown and a colony experiencing queen or health problems. Despite the number of frames with brood being less, Bea is seeing brood in all stages (eggs, larvae and capped brood), so there is an active queen laying in the colony.

Clue #2: The Bees That Refuse to Grow Old

Bea remembered something extraordinary. Most summer worker bees live only 4-6 weeks, working tirelessly through nursing, housekeeping, guarding, and foraging. But the bees being raised for winter are different. These special workers can live for several months! How is that possible? A remarkable physiological adaptation involving larger nutrient reserves in their fat bodies and higher levels of a protein called vitellogenin. Think of the fat body as a bee’s internal nutrition and metabolic support system. These reserves help winter bees survive extended periods when raising replacement workers may be limited. “Well, I’ll bee!” Bea exclaimed. “These aren’t ordinary summer workers. They’re the colony’s winter survival team!”



Did you know that winter bees have a special scientific name? **Diutinus bees**
Here’s the fascinating part: You can’t identify a diutinus bee simply by looking at her! Her special adaptations are physiological, not obvious external differences. Another detective-worthy fact: Diutinus bees aren’t found exclusively in winter. They can also develop during extended periods of reduced brood rearing. The bees that will help your colony survive winter are often being raised long before the first cold front arrives.

Clue #3: Is the Enemy Stealing Their Strength?

Just when Bea thought she had solved the mystery, she remembered a familiar villain, the VARROA mite. Varroa mites don’t simply feed on a bee’s hemolymph (bee blood) as once believed. Research has demonstrated that they primarily feed on the bee’s fat body tissue. That’s the very tissue winter bees depend upon for long-term survival! Varroa also transmits harmful viruses, including deformed wing virus, which cripple your foragers and can lead to starvation. A colony might look strong in October but

still be raising compromised winter bees if mite levels were high during late summer and early fall. Bea knows she completed a mite treatment only 2 weeks ago and this hive had a 1% alcohol wash after treatment, so mites are not this hives issue. “Now that’s an important consideration!” Bea declared. “A hive full of bees doesn’t necessarily mean a hive full of healthy bees!” Which is why monitoring and managing Varroa during late summer and early fall is so important. Waiting until winter to address a serious infestation may be too late to protect the generation of bees needed for winter survival. There is still time for mite treatment should a mite check reveal there is an infestation of Varroa mites (3% on a mite wash). Bea’s favorite resource for mite treatment information is the **Honey Bee Health Coalition** website. Check it out!

Clue #4: The Winter Bees’ Secret Assignment



Unlike their short-lived summer sisters, diutinus bees must help maintain the colony through periods of reduced brood production and limited forage. When temperatures drop, worker bees gather into a thermoregulatory cluster, generating heat through their flight muscles and helping protect the queen and any developing brood. Here’s the catch, they need adequate nutrition, a healthy population, and manageable parasite levels to accomplish their mission. It all begins when the bees destined to survive winter are being raised.

Bea’s Detective Field Notes

Before closing this case, Bea has a few questions for every beekeeper:

- **Have you checked your Varroa levels?** Don’t assume a strong-looking colony is mite-free. Monitor and manage mites using an appropriate integrated pest management plan.
- **Is your colony raising healthy bees?** Evaluate brood patterns, colony strength, and signs of disease during suitable inspection weather.
- **Are nutrition and food stores adequate?** Developing winter bees need good nutrition, including access to quality pollen or appropriate supplements when necessary.
- **Are you thinking ahead?** By the time a winter survival problem becomes obvious, the opportunity to raise healthy winter bees may already have passed.

Case Closed!

Bea is satisfied. The mystery wasn’t why the hive was slowing down, it was remembering how these remarkable bees were preparing to survive a season that hadn’t even arrived!

Detective Bea’s Final Finding: Winter survival doesn’t begin with the first freeze. Healthy winter colonies begin with healthy winter bees. Protect the bees today that your colony will depend on tomorrow.

Until next time, keep your eyes open, your hive tool handy, and your detective instincts sharp!

— *Bea the Bee Detective*

Membership Report: Judee Brinley

October 2026

New Members

Vicky Kennedy	Burnet
Marlis & Heather Oliver	Georgetown

Renewing Members

Nancy Kunschik	Taylor



Judee Brinley - Membership

September Meeting Summary:
- Attendees: 50
- 10 guest

Membership:
- New Members: 3total (1 renewals, 2 joined the club)
- Total Memberships: 191

***New members**- please remember that Texas Beekeepers Association still gives one-year free membership to those people that are new to beekeeping. Let me know if you are interested in this.

Judee

TWO HIVES FOR



Three story hives on each end FOR SALE
Two three story bee hives (all 8-frame deeps) for sale for $800.00 ($400 each).
We are selling two hives, each with a strong colony of bees. The price is reduced because both hives have minimal damage in top corner of one box. Despite this cosmetic issue, the boxes remain, functional and the colonies are thriving.
If interested, please email: scottstuff@myyahoo.com
Best regards. Scott Peterson Austin, TX 78717 Cell: (512) 799-7268
scottbusiness@austin.rr.com http://www.linkedin.com/in/scott-peterson

Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association
Treasurer's Report - As of July 31, 2026

Profit and Loss

ACCOUNTS	Year to Date
Income	
Program Income - Bee Procurement (2026)	$58,200.00
Program Income - Membership Dues	$3,290.00
Total Income	$61,490.00
Cost of Goods Sold	
Bee Procurement Program Nucs & Queens	$51,300.00
Total Cost of Goods Sold	$51,300.00
Gross Profit	$10,190.00
Operating Expenses	
Bank Charges	$50.00
Dues	$50.00
Insurance	$1,873.00
Meeting Supplies and Refreshments	$473.58
Permits	$206.26
Speaker Fees	$575.00
Travel Expenses	$1,863.04
Total Operating Expenses	$5,090.88
Net Profit	$5,099.12

Balance Sheet

ACCOUNTS	As of July 31, 2026
Assets	
Total Cash and Bank	$61,472.68
Total Assets	$61,472.68
Liabilities	
Bee Purchase Commitment (2026)	$51,300.00
Less Payment Installments	($51,300.00)
Total Liabilities	$0.00
Assets & Liabilities	$61,472.68
Equity	
Retained Earnings - Prior Years	$56,373.56
Retained Earnings - Current Year	$5,099.12
Total Equity	$61,472.68

Bee Procurement Program - 2026

Income	
Program Income - Bee Procurement	$59,800.00
Cost of Goods Sold	
Bees	$51,300.00
Gross Profit	$8,500.00
Expenses	
Wire Charge	$50.00
Permit	$206.26
Travel Expenses	$1,863.04
Total Expenses	$2,119.30
Net Profit	$6,380.70

Notes (as of January 24, 2026):

BeeWeaver Commitment 120 Queens — $4,800.00
- Payment Installment = $4,800

Evergreen Purchase 300 Nucs — $46,500.00
- Evergreen Commitment = $54,000
- Less Volume and in-person pick-up discount = $7,500
- Net Amount = $46,500
- Payment Installments = $46,500

TEXAS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

TBA CONVENTION KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Texas Beekeepers Association Convention · Tyler, Texas · November 19-21 2026

DAVID TARPY



Professor of Applied Ecology and Extension Apiculturist at NC State

His research interests focus on the biology and behavior of honey bee queens—using techniques including field manipulations, behavioral observation, instrumental insemination, and molecular genetics—in order to better improve the overall health of queens and their colonies.

EXPLORING HONEY BEE QUEEN BIOLOGY, BEHAVIOR, AND COLONY HEALTH

BEYOND THE HIVE

BUILDING BETTER BEEKEEPERS



DANIELLE FLEMING

Danielle Fleming is a Master Beekeeper through Texas A&M and brings a wealth of knowledge and passion. While currently serving as a Director on the TBA board, Danielle has developed extensive knowledge in beekeeping, hive products, honey production, and apitherapy. As one of Texas's leading apitherapists, Danielle works directly with clients as well as educates the public and beekeepers about the therapeutic uses of honey, bee venom, propolis, and other hive products.

Apitheraphy 1 & 2

2026 TBA Annual Convention

Tyler, Texas | November 19-21

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
of the
WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION

Article I
Name

The name of this organization shall be Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association (WCABA or Association). ~~It is a 501 (c) (7) non-profit organization.~~

Article II
Purpose

The Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association is organized and operated exclusively for the promotion of agriculture within the meaning of Section 501(c)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code, including the betterment of beekeeping and agriculture practice, education of members and the public on honey bees and responsible beekeeping, and related programs and resources. The Association may provide ancillary member services, including group purchasing programs, that support and are incidental to these exempt purposes. ~~to engage in agriculture and backyard beekeeping education, activities that support and promote beekeeping, fellowship beekeepers, and disseminate information to the public.~~

Article III
Membership

Any individual or family interested in becoming a member of this Association may become a member by paying the membership dues provided for in Section III-a of the By-Laws of this Association. WCABA associate members defined in Section III-b of the By-Laws may attend any and all meetings but will have no vote in the business of the Association. The period of membership shall be from January 1 through December 31 each year.

Article IV
Officers

The officers and the governing body of this association shall be:

a. President
b. Vice-President
c. Membership Director
d. Program Director
e. Editorial Director
f. Secretary
g. Treasurer
h. Historian
i. Past President
j. Director at Large
k. Director at Large

Article V
Meetings

The Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association shall meet at a place and time to be designated by the majority vote of the Executive Board. There shall be no scheduled meeting in December due to the holiday season. A quorum at a meeting of the Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association shall consist of fifteen members present.
(revised September 25, 2018)

Article VI
Constitution Changes

This Constitution may be amended by a motion passed by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Association present, the amended changes presented at any regular meeting, and voted on at the following regular meeting. The Constitution may be amended after review by the Executive Board and by approval of two-thirds of the members attending the monthly regular meeting. The proposed changes will be sent out to the membership with the newsletter for review prior to membership vote at the next regular meeting. It shall be the policy of the board to review the Constitution and By-Laws each October of even numbered years unless the Board deems it necessary to make changes sooner.

Article VII

IRS Restrictions

No part of the net earnings of the Association shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its directors, officers, members, or other private persons, except that the Association shall be authorized to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments in furtherance of its exempt purposes.

No part of the activities of the Association shall consist of participating or intervening in any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

BY-LAWS

Section I

Officers

a. The President, Vice-President, Membership Director, Program Director, Editorial Director, Secretary, Treasurer, and Historian shall be elected by a majority voting at the regular meeting in November of each year and shall take office at the January meeting. The Executive Board shall consist of the officers listed above, the past President, plus two Members at Large, not elected, but appointed by the Executive Board to serve as volunteers on the board.

b. The nominating committee shall consist of three members appointed by the President prior to, but no later than, the October membership meeting. The nominating committee shall select a slate of officers for the next year. The list of candidates shall be present and elected at the November meeting. Nominations from the floor may be accepted. The nominees selected by the committee or from the floor must be a member in good standing and willing to serve in the office. The names proposed by the nominating committee to the general membership will be posted in the newsletter prior to election.

c. All officers shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected or appointed.

d. In the case of death or resignation of an officer of the Association, the Executive Board shall fill the vacancy by appointment for the remainder of the year. In the case of the office of President, the Vice-President will serve the remainder of the year, and a new Vice-President shall be appointed from either the membership at large or from the present officers.

e. Any officer being absent for three consecutive (regular or executive) meetings, without just cause, shall be replaced and a new officer appointed by the executive board to complete the remainder of the term.

f. Officers are encouraged, but not required, to be members of the Texas Beekeepers Association.

Section II

Duties of Officers

a. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association and of the Executive Board. He or she shall have general supervision of the officers of the Association. The President will be the official spokesperson for the organization and sign all official correspondence. The President may call a meeting of the Executive Board at any time and place he or she selects, with a seven day notice. The President shall appoint all committees chairs. Committees may include but are not limited to educational seminars, scholarship, outreach, etc. The President may appoint or seek volunteers for equipment procurement, bee procurement, meeting snacks, honey queen advisor, etc.

b. The Vice-President, in the absence of the President shall preside and assume all the duties and privileges of the President. He or she will assist the President as needed.

c. The Membership Director shall collect all membership dues, turn them over to the Treasurer for deposit, and keep an attendance record of all meetings. Records of past members may be kept for a period of two years or as designated by the board.

d. The Program Director shall be responsible for a program at each monthly meeting.

e. Editorial Director shall be the Association reporter and editor of the Association's monthly newsletter.

f. The Secretary shall be responsible for recording and maintaining accurate ~~keep the~~ minutes of all of the Association and ~~of the~~ Executive Board meetings. ~~and~~ Meeting minutes shall be approved by the Executive Boare, inclufing the Directors at Large, and submitted to the Editoral Director for ~~publish~~ publication ~~the minutes~~ in the Association newsletter. He or she shall carry on the correspondence of the Association. The Secretary will keep a copy of the

Constitution and By-Laws. The Constitution and By-Laws will be provided to any new member of the Executive Committee or membership. The Constitution and By-Laws will be posted on the website for view of the general public.

g. The Treasurer shall oversee the financial affairs of the Association, including deposits, payments, and maintenance of accounting records, and ensurre that all reports and returns shall be filed in a timely manner with the IRS and any other regulatory agency. The Treasurer shall provide and/or publish in the newsletter financial reports to the membership and Executive Board at regular intervals or in a timely manner. ~~accept from the Membership Director all membership dues and all other money collected by the association.~~ He or she shall dispense the funds of the Association for the incidental expenses of the Association as directed by the Executive Board. ~~An oral report shall be given at monthly meetings. An oral and printed report shall be given at the Executive Board meetings. The monthly bank statement shall go to~~ The Treasurer and the President shall have electronic access to the Association's bank statement and shall review in a timely manner. The President or a quorum of the Executive Board may request an audit or review of the Association's financial record at any time.

h. The Historian shall keep records of past events, programs, newsletters, and any information that may be of interest to future members. In addition, the Historian will keep an after-action file on club events. These reports are to be a review of the event and suggestions on how to improve the event. The report is to be provided by the facilitator or committed chairman of the event. This file is to be made available for review by individuals planning future similar events. It will be the responsibility of the Historian to remind the facilitator or chairman to submit this report.

i. The Executive Board shall act as Directors of the Association. They shall have charge of expending the funds of the association, as provided under Section II Paragraph F.

j. Members at Large (two): Provide member perspective and assist in coordination or facilitation of projects as needed, and can approve meeting minutes as representatives of the general membership.

k. Any current member may attend the Executive Board meetings. Only Board members may vote on board business.

Section III

Dues

a. The Association shall collect an annual membership fee to be determined by a general vote at the November meeting. These dues are payable and due at the first meeting in January. Any member in arrears for dues greater than three months shall cease to be a member until the member has provided payment of current membership dues. Members paying their dues on or after October first shall be deemed to have paid for the following year.

b. Children of members and students interested in beekeeping may be an associate member and shall pay no dues until age 22.

Section IV

By-Law Changes

The By-Laws may be amended by a motion passed by a majority vote of the members of the association present, the amended changes presented at any regular meeting and voted on at the following regular meeting. The By-Laws may be amended after review by the Executive Board and by approval of a majority of the members attending the monthly regular meeting. The proposed changes will be sent out to the membership with the newsletter for review prior to membership vote at the next regular meeting. It shall be the policy of the Board to review the Constitution and By-Laws each October of even numbered years unless the Board deems it necessary to make changes sooner.

Section V

Dissolution of Assets

Upon the dissolution of the Association, assets remaining after payment of all liabilities shall be distributed for one or more purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code, or to one or more organizations exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or to a federal, state, or local government for a public purpose.

~~If for any reason the Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association is dissolved or disbanded, the remaining assets, after all bills are paid, will be donated to the Dr. Nevin Weaver Honey Bee Excellence Fund (endowment) at Texas A&M University~~

The Constitution and By-Laws revised and adopted on ~~September~~ ~~26, 2014~~