WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER

www.wcaba.org

2026 Club Officers:

PRESIDENT: Sean O'Neil
president@wcaba.org

VICE PRESIDENT: Dusty Brinley
vicepresident@wcaba.org

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membership@wcaba.org

PROGRAM: Dodie Stillman
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NEWSLETTER: Jimmie Oakley
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HISTORIAN: Matt Ludlum
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PAST PRES: Shannon Montez
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LIBRARIAN: Chris Huck
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SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR: Jimmie Oakley
scholarship@wcaba.org

QUEEN CHAIR:
(vacent)

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

DIRECTOR AT LARGE: Ken Browning

DIRECTOR AT LARGE: Ann Bierschenk

4th TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2026 @ 7PM
Georgetown Library - Friends Room (2nd Floor)

PROGRAM: NEW START TIME FOR Beekeeping 101

Beekeeping 101 [6:30 PM - Friends Room]

Speaker: **Sean O'Neil-Texas Master Beekeeper Program**

Utilizing Dr. Garett Slater's *Texas Master Beekeeper Program* curriculum, Sean will go through the basics of beekeeping found in the 10 modules course during our monthly meetings, so that by the end of the year you've learned everything you need to pass the *Apprentice* certification exam. This month's module is titled Spring Inspection & Colony Management, a timely subject.



Sean O''Neil

Beekeeping 201 **The Piggyback Split: Harnessing the Power of Swarming**

Speaker: Randy Oakley - Elm Mott, Texas

Randy Oakley will teach you how to "Never Buy Bees Again!" by establishing a spring splitting practice via the "Piggyback Split". He has taught this technique to hundreds of beekeepers over the past ten years, enabling them to "Never Buy Bees Again!"



Randy Oakley

SPEAKER BIO:

Randy Oakley has been practicing the art of beekeeping for 50 years. Three generations of the Oakley Family currently help out in the family bee business producing local bees and beehive products as well as teaching others sustainable methods of beekeeping for Texas. They manage 400 colonies along the I35 corridor between Austin and Waco, Texas. More information about their 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 February 24th (***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 - Friends Room– 402 W 8th Street Georgetown 78626
Topic: **WCABA Member Meeting Speaker Presentation**
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

I Have a Confession

…a note from your President



Sean O'Neil - President

I have a confession. The only reason I joined the Williamson County Beekeepers Association was for the discounted bees. At least that is what I thought I was doing. It turned out I was signing up for a lot more than I realized.

On my first nuc pickup day, I showed up in a hatchback… a *hatchback*. I spent the whole drive home white knuckling the steering wheel, convinced the entire colony was about to stage a jailbreak into my back seat. Luckily, thanks to Jimmie Oakley's exacting standards with entrance screens, I had *very few* loose bees.

The next year I came back with a truck. (Bees have a way of doing that to you.) But I wasn't just picking up my own nucs anymore. I was helping lift boxes into other people's cars, telling new folks not to worry, tentatively answering the same questions I had been asking a few months earlier. Somewhere along the way, the club stopped being a place I bought bees from and became a community I didn't know I was missing.

Now somehow, I am the one up front at the 101 meetings, teaching the same material I was soaking in from Phil Ainslie just a few years ago. I guess that is how this works. Someone helps you, and you turn around and help the next person. Beekeeping has run on that chain for thousands of years and it feels great to be a link in that history.

*Which brings me to bee pickup day next month**. We will need hands! If you can lift a nuc and show up in the morning, come help us get boxes into cars and calm some nerves. It's one of the best mornings on the calendar (mid-April) and extra help makes it even better for the new folks picking up their first bees.

Even if you can't stay to help, if you have some spare time, pull off to the side and join or add to our potluck breakfast. Coffee, tacos, kolaches, whatever... Last year I was left unattended with far too many donuts for one person.

So come out. Help someone load their first bees into their car. Watch them drive off grinning the same way you did. And if they show up in a sedan… well, they'll figure it out.

Sean

**Sigh up to volunteer at the registration desk at the meeting.*

Research Pearls

Compiled by Phil Ainslie

Simulations predict how pesticides may affect honeybee colonies

April 22, 2025, Source: American Chemical Society



Phil Anslie - Secretary

Honeybees are essential pollinators for agriculture and natural ecosystems. Stressors like climate change, habitat loss and pesticide exposure threaten their ability to forage for pollen, a critical resource for colony survival. Researchers demonstrate that an artificial intelligence (AI)-based monitoring system combined with a computer model can link the exposure of neonicotinoid pesticides on individual honeybees to the health of the whole colony.

Using their new approach, the team members found that even low neonicotinoid pesticide exposure led to less efficient pollen foraging on the individual and colony levels, which confirms their previous studies. "We were surprised that we could replicate the findings of our first field experiment in 2019," says Silvio Knaebe, one of the researchers. "Honeybee colony behavior varies so much that statistically significant effects are difficult to detect."

Given these initial results, the researchers say their new model, with pollen-foraging behavior as a key parameter, could be a unique candidate for pesticide risk assessment in the field at both the individual honeybee and colony levels.

The authors acknowledge funding from the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft) via the Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (Bundesanstalt für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung), Germany.

New pollen-replacing food for honeybees brings new hope for survival

Healthier honeybees offer potential to boost crop yields

April 16, 2025, Source, Washington State University

Scientists have unveiled a new food source designed to sustain honeybee colonies indefinitely without natural pollen. The research details successful trials where nutritionally stressed colonies, deployed for commercial crop pollination in Washington state, thrived on the new food source. The trials where on nutritionally stressed colonies, deployed for commercial crop pollination in Washington state, thrived on the new food source.

This innovation, which resembles the human-made diets fed to livestock and pets all their life, contains all the nutrients honeybees need. It's expected to become a potent strategy for combating the escalating rates of colony collapse and safeguarding global food supplies reliant on bee pollination.

The newly developed food source resembles human "Power Bars." These are placed directly into honeybee colonies, where young bees process and distribute the essential nutrients to larvae and adult bees.

The newly developed food source resembles human "Power Bars." These are placed directly into honeybee colonies, where young bees process and distribute the essential nutrients to larvae and adult bees.

A critical discovery within the research is the role of isofucosterol, a molecule found naturally in pollen that acts as a vital nutrient for honeybees. Colonies fed with isofucosterol-enriched food survived an entire season without pollen access, while those without it experienced severe declines, including reduced larval production, adult paralysis, and colony collapse. The new feed also contains a comprehensive blend of the other nutrients honeybees require.

Sweet: Honey reduces cardiometabolic risks, study shows

November 17, 2022, Source: University of Toronto

Researchers have found that honey improves key measures of cardiometabolic health, including blood sugar and cholesterol levels -- especially if the honey is raw and from a single floral source.

The researchers conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis of clinical trials on honey, and found that it lowered fasting blood glucose, total and LDL or 'bad' cholesterol, triglycerides, and a marker of fatty liver disease; it also increased HDL or 'good' cholesterol, and some markers of inflammation.

Khan said that while processed honey clearly loses many of its health effects after pasteurization -- typically 65 degrees Celsius for at least 10 minutes -- the effect of a hot drink on raw honey depends on several factors, and likely would not destroy all its beneficial properties.

"These results are surprising, because honey is about 80 per cent sugar," said Tauseef Khan, a senior researcher on the study and a research associate in nutritional sciences at U of T's Temerty Faculty of Medicine. "But honey is also a complex composition of common and rare sugars, proteins, organic acids and other bioactive compounds that very likely have health benefits."

The median daily dose of honey in the trials was 40 grams, or about two tablespoons. The median length of trial was eight weeks. Raw honey drove many of the beneficial effects in the studies, as did honey from monofloral sources such as Robinia (also marketed as acacia honey) -- a honey from False Acacia or Black Locust Trees -- and clover, which is common in North America.

Future studies should focus on unprocessed honey, Khan said, and from a single floral source. The goal would be higher quality evidence, and a better understanding of the many compounds in honey that can work wonders for health. "We need a consistent product that can deliver consistent health benefits," said Khan. "Then the market will follow."

Phil

Practical Experiences in the Bee Yard



Stanford Brantley

MARCH is the month **when** spring starts in our area. Early blooming trees include Plum, Hawthorn and Bradford Pear. Later blooms include Black Locust, Red Bud, Wild Cheery, Wild Onions, Laurel, Blueberries, Red Maple, Hairy Vetch, Chickweed and Dollar Weed.

March is therefore the month beekeepers need to be in the "get with it" mode. We expect to see some warm days that will allow for hive inspections to take place. I like to do inspections on calmer days when the temperature is 60 degrees or higher. The inspections should not be long in duration but should allow us to determine how much brood is in the hive and how much pollen is stored near the outer edge of the sealed brood pattern. An arc of honey should be just beyond the pollen. I look for a brood pattern containing eggs, larvae and sealed brood. As long as I can see eggs and C-shaped larvae I do not spend time looking for a queen.

Let's talk about the queen. Her mission is to lay eggs. When you pull a frame that is **solid** brood, eggs and larvae about to be capped, do not waste time looking for the queen on that frame. She will not be there because she will be looking for an empty cell to deposit another egg. Check those frames that still have empty cells and you will have a much better chance of finding her.

As you pull a frame up from the brood chamber, look at the next frame. That is where you have a good chance of seeing her because you have just removed her cover when you pulled the frame you have in your hand.

Italian queens have orange colored legs and usually a long abdomen with yellow coloration on its underside. Many times you can get a flash of these colors as she goes around to the other side of the frame.

Feed dry pollen powder in a covered (rain proof) container in the bee yard for the bees to access as they need or place small pieces of pollen patty in the hive. Use small pieces of patty so the hive beetles can't nest under them.

For our ArkLaTex area, we generally add supers around the first of March. The eggs laid by the queen in March will be the field force bees that will forage the honey crop this spring. Or, if you were not successful in your swarm prevention activities, they will be the bees that swarm out of the hive just before the nectar flow starts.

If you use double brood boxes and like to reverse them for the new season, do so before you add your supers. Separate the brood boxes and inspect them to determine if the cluster is in the top brood box. If it is, remove the bottom brood box from the bottom board and place the box containing the cluster on the bottom board. Then set the original bottom box on top of the cluster's box. Since the cluster and the queen are now in the bottom box, as she fills its frames with eggs and looks for more room she will move up into the vacant top brood box. The available laying space reduces the feeling of crowding and helps reduce the tendency to swarm.

Mid-March would be a good time to reactivate your swarm boxes. Early swarms will start as the weather warms. Expect swarming to increase April through June. Be prepared to capture swarms to increase your hive count. You could also capture the swarm queen and then the join the swarm bees to an existing weak hive or to a strong hive with a young queen. This would increase the hive's work force and allow the field bees to make the most of the remaining nectar flow. When the flow is over, this would be a great hive to split. Add a mated queen to the split and begin a new colony for the next year.

As a final note, I have been around a long time and have been a beekeeper for many years. I continue to have new experiences. Had one more new-to-me experience Valentine's weekend. My old ticker suddenly began to beat erratically and necessitated a trip to the ER. A few hours later I had a pacemaker installed. Stayed overnight and came home pumping a good rhythm. Life is good.

Stanford

Lifetime Membership Awarded, Members Recognized



Past President Shannon Montez is presented a Lifetime Membership plaque by current President Sean O'Neil

As a result of the efforts of Membership Director, Judee Brinley, a number of lifetime members were honored at the February 24th meeting of the Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association. With over a dozen lifetime members on our club roster, hard plastic permanent, magnetic name badges were made and presented to the regular attendees as additional recognition for their contribution to the club.

President Sean O'Neil took the opportunity to make the presentation of a plaque acknowledging the Lifetime Membership status of past president Shannon Montez.

Shannon served successfully as VP and then President for the last eight years. She guided the club very well and conducted very efficient Board meetings. She initiated some very forward-looking programs and proved to be a great asset to the club. It is an honored to have her among the ranks of Lifetime Members

Jimmie – Editor (and Lifetime Member too)



Lifetime Members Present: Jimmie Oakley'19, Shannon Monte'26, Linda Russell'24, Paul 'Stoney' Stonebrook'23

Caring for Your Bees on Pickup Day

Dusty Brimley – Procurement Coordinator

Why Shade, Timing, and Gentle Handling Matter

Spring bee pickups are an exciting milestone, especially for newer beekeepers. Whether you're bringing home a nuc or a queen, it's important to remember that you're transporting a **living colony or the heart of one**. A little planning on pickup day goes a long way toward setting your bees up for success.



Dusty Brinley

Nuc Hives: Handle with Care

Nuc hives contain brood, food stores, worker bees, and a laying queen — all in a compact space. Because bees generate heat, nucs can **overheat quickly**, even on mild days.

When picking up a nuc:

- Keep it **shaded and well ventilated**
- Never leave it in a parked vehicle or direct sunlight
- Plan to go **straight home after pickup**



CAUTION: Nuc FULL of bees can overheat quickly

The best option is to install your nuc into its permanent hive as soon as you arrive at your apiary. If you're unable to install immediately, place the nuc next to the hive where it will be installed, keep it shaded, and open the screened entrance so bees can ventilate. Nucs can remain this way as long as bees are flying and airflow is maintained — but heat buildup is the biggest risk to avoid. Install them into their permanent hive that evening or the next day.

Queen Bees: Small Cage, Big Responsibility

Queen bees are even more temperature-sensitive than nucs. A queen cage contains the queen, a few attendants and should be handled gently at all times.

For queen pickups:



Caged Queen ready for introduction

- Keep the cage out of direct sun
- Avoid heat or cold extremes (ideal range is roughly room temperature)
- Transport the queen upright in a secure, shaded spot inside your vehicle

Install queens as soon as possible, preferably in the late afternoon or early evening. In most cases, queens should **not be released immediately**. Hanging the cage between brood frames and allowing the colony to chew through the candy over a few days greatly improves acceptance.

A Few Final Reminders

- Have your hive equipment assembled **before pickup day**
- Wear protective gear when opening nucs or installing queens
- Feeding light syrup can help calm bees and support early success
- When in doubt, prioritize **shade, ventilation, and patience**

Caring for Your Bees (con't)



Transferring bees from nuc to bee hive

These simple steps may seem small, but they make a big difference during one of the most vulnerable moments in a colony's life. A little shade, good airflow, and a calm approach on pickup day can mean the difference as you set up your bees to thrive.

Thank you for taking the extra care to give your bees the best possible start. We're excited to see your colonies grow this season and grateful to have such thoughtful beekeepers in our club.

Pick-Up Date & Location Information

Once all details are finalized, the **pick-up date and location will be sent via email in your official *Pick-Up Voucher*.** Please keep an eye on your inbox, as this voucher will serve as your confirmation and entry for pick-up.

Based on previous years, pick-up can be anticipated to occur in mid-April, on a Saturday between 7:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

Final details are still being coordinated and will be shared as soon as they are confirmed. Thank you for your patience and flexibility as we work to ensure a smooth, safe, and successful pick-up for both beekeepers and bees.

Wishing you strong queens, gentle bees, and a great start to the year,

Dusty - VP, Nuc/Queen Procurement Coordinator

International Queen Bee Marking Colors

To help beekeepers easily identify the age of a queen, beekeepers around the world use an **international queen bee marking system**. Queens are gently marked on the thorax with a small dot of paint, using a color assigned to their birth year. The colors rotate on a simple five-year cycle that's easy to remember with the phrase **"Will You Raise Good Bees"**: **White, Yellow, Red, Green, Blue**. This system allows beekeepers to quickly tell whether a queen is new, established, or nearing the age when replacement might be considered—making inspections, nuc installations, and queen pickups smoother and more informative.

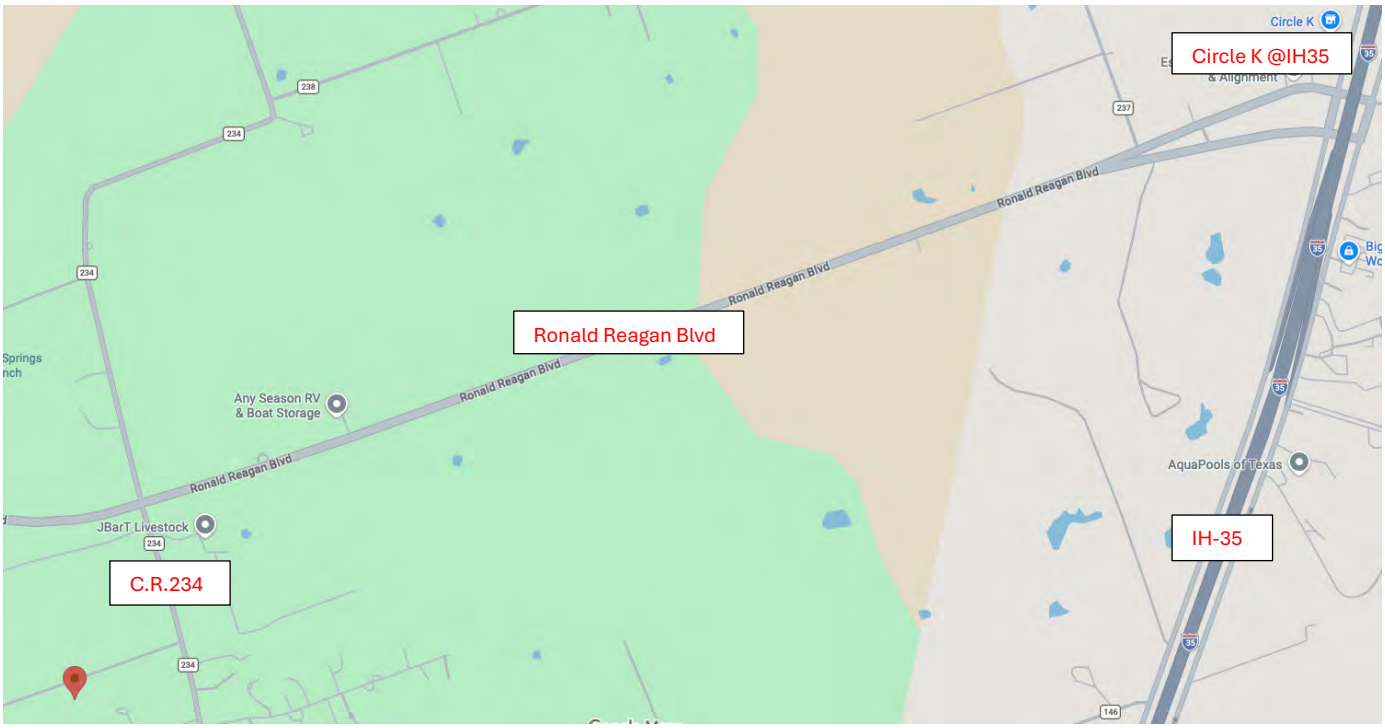
Dusty

International Queen Marking Color Code:

Color:	For Year Ending In:
White (or gray)	1 or 6
Yellow	2 or 7
Red	3 or 8
Green	4 or 9
Blue	5 or 0

Nuc & Queen Pickup Location

Jarrell



Brinley's Sugar Ranch ***Driving Directions*** *Georgetown*

Sugar Ranch (215 Burson Lane 78633) can be reached easily off of IH-35 by going west on Ronald Reagan Blvd or by going east off Hwy 195 on Ronald Reagan Blvd to where they junction with C.R. 234. Turn south and the Sugar Ranch is west off of the county road. Look for the Stone Gate and the bee pickup event signage. *JO*



The Stone Gate at the entrance of Burson Lane off C.R. 234

This will be a <u>new distribution site this year</u> and it may be a concern to some to find the location on the distribution day We are making every effort to make it easy to find and to get to. It may be helpful to drive to the Sugar Ranch once before pickup day to assure you understand direction and can find it.
For questions or clarification contact Dusty Brinley: 512-966-8437 or Jimmie Oakley 512-507-3009.

Scholarship Recipients Perform Spring Mite Check

Submitted: Jimmie Oakley



Recipients gather to check hives

The 2025 Scholarship Recipients, Anna French and Liam Bierschenk, gathered at the Heritage Garden on March 3rd, to check their hives and do a spring mite check. After wintering over (maybe 4-5 days of sub-freezing weather) the hives needed an inventory of stores (honey and pollen). The hives still had frames of honey, plus the bees had the feeder of dry sugar that the recipients had provided for them the first part of December. The bee population in both hives was better than expected.



Anna shows a pretty frame of brood

With the hive check complete it was time for the all important 'mite check'. Finding the brood and then checking for the presence of the queen among the ~300 bees taken for the sample is very important. With that assurance the sample is taken, emersed in 90-100 proof alcohol, and swirled sufficiently to separate the mites form the deceased bees in the sample. With a high enough mite count (>3) per sample, treatment is dictated. Both hives were under the 3 mite threshold.

Usually, the hives would be subject to a formic acid treatment using Formic Pro, but because of the low mite count it was decided not to treat the hives at this time.



Liam's hive shows good brood

Changing times and conditions call for a change to treatment protocol, and this looks like a good call.

With this spring mite testing and treatment protocol met, the youngsters have entered the new season. Hopefully all will go well.

Jimmie Oakley –
Scholarship Chair



More dry sugar for spring buildup



All eyes are checking for the queen in the mite test sample

Membership Report: Judee Brinley

March 2026

New Members

Kumar & Aparna Aswapathi	Austin
Zane Baird	Round Rock
Adriana & Kevin Baker	Taylor
Shannon Black	Georgetown
Max & Tamara Conley	Rosanky
Larry Holloway	Hutto
Takako Jordan	Round Rock
Hattie Olson	Leander
Tim & Donna Vanecek	Taylor
Tim Wallace	Georgetown



Judee Brinley - Membership

Renewing Members

Roger Allen	Salado	Lloyd Anderson	Killeen
Sue & Bill Browne	Round Rock	Vicky Carroll	Florence
Amber Chun	Georgetown	Teresa Estrada	Georgetown
Kathy Fulton	Georgetown	Greg Gersib	Taylor
Judith Haller	Austin	Dannie Hefner	Killeen
Nan Helmke	Belton	Melissa Henry	Georgetown
Steve Hoskins	Belton	Dave Johnson	Jarrell
Michelle, Quinn & Carter Klingemann	Round Rock	Susan & Tim Kruger	Hutto
Nancy Kunschik	Taylor	Chris Lamb	Hutto
Eric Larson	Liberty Hill	Matt Makarczyk	Taylor
Butch Miller	Coupland	Lisa Mills	Marble Falls
James Muniu	Liberty Hill	Steve Pereyda	Bertram
Sadi Pitzenberger	Cedar Creek	Jim Rattigan	Round Rock
Penny Roberts	Marble Falls	Chuck Saxon	Jonestown
Renat Sims	Liberty Hill	Douglas Skelley	Georgetown
Blake & Nikki Taliaferro	Round Rock	Harold Vanicek	Georgetown

February Meeting Attendance: 82 members
Total Memberships (Individual and family): 147
Total Members (Including family members): 205 individuals

***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

Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association
Treasurer's Report - As of March 21, 2026

Profit and Loss

ACCOUNTS	Year to Date
Income	
Program Income - Bee Procurement (2026)	$49,540.00
Program Income - Membership Dues	$2,370.00
Total Income	$51,910.00
Cost of Goods Sold	
Bee Procurement Program Nucs	$50,500.00
Total Cost of Goods Sold	$50,500.00
Gross Profit	$1,410.00
Operating Expenses	
Bank Charges	$25.00
Insurance	$1,873.00
Meeting Supplies and Refreshments	$360.19
Speaker Fees	$200.00
Total Operating Expenses	$2,458.19
Net Profit	($1,048.19)

Balance Sheet

ACCOUNTS	As of March 21, 2026
Assets	
Total Cash and Bank	$78,205.37
Bee Procurement Downpayment (2026)	$26,300.00
Undeposited Funds	$1,320.00
Total Assets	$105,825.37
Liabilities	
Bee Purchase Commitment (2026)	$50,500.00
Less Payment Installments ($25,500 + $800)	($26,300.00)
Total Liabilities	$24,200.00
Assets & Liabilities	$81,625.37
Equity	
Retained Earnings - Prior Years	$56,373.56
Retained Earnings - Current Year	($1,048.19)
Total Equity	$55,325.37

Bee Procurement Program - 2026

Income	
Program Income - Bee Procurement	$51,140.00
Cost of Goods Sold	
Bees	$50,500.00
Gross Profit	$640.00
Expenses	
Wire Charge	$50.00
Total Expenses	$50.00
Net Profit	$590.00

Notes (as of January 24, 2026):

BeeWeaver Commitment 100 Queens — $4,000.00
- Payment Installment = $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 = $25,500

Williamson County Area Beekeeping Association Executive Committee Minutes

January 15, 2026

- Attending: Phil Ainslie, Matt Ludlum, Judee and Dustee Brinley, Ann Biershenk, Dodie Stillman, Sean O'Neal, Jimmie Oakley, Ken Browning,
- Bee Procurement:
    - WCABA will not combine procurement with other beekeeping clubs due to the complicated logistics involved.
    - Nucs per members: 4 for new members and 6 for existing members
    - The committee agreed to pay the difference to upgrade John Hibbard's trailer tires for increased safety. John was contacted before the executive meeting, and he accepted the tire upgrade proposal.
    - Unloading and pickup: The exact area is yet to be determined. A request will go out for volunteers to help with unloading and distribution. Distribution will close at noon.
    - Ken Browning agreed to help with the sales records.
- Programs:
    - Charlie Agar will be the January speaker.
    - Tara Chapman: February
    - Randy Oakley: March
- Beekeeping 101: Sean O'Neal will teach 101 and the presentations will follow the Texas Master Beekeeping Apprentice program.
- Treasurer's report: The report was tabled until the next meeting. Phil Ainslie reported an account balance of $47,365.
- Lifetime memberships:
    - The committee approved lifetime memberships for Linda Russell and Shannon Montez. In addition, Judee Brinley is making arrangements to give lifetime member identifier badges to each of our lifetime members.
- Member name badges:
    - A discussion ensued regarding the distribution of name badges. Judee will no longer sort the name badges. Members will be responsible for retrieving and filing their badges. Further changes may be needed to make the process more efficient.
- Website and Facebook:
    - Sean O'Neal set up a classified page for the website.
    - Swarms, cutouts, management service postings:
        - Management and cutouts: WCABA will refer inquiries to the TBA list.
    - Swarms:
        - WCABA will provide a list of our members who perform standard swarm removal. A listing by counties was recommended.

Phil Ainslie, Secretary

Books and Bees 2026
Saturday, April 11th

4000 Galleria Parkway, Bee Cave Public Library

We are proud to announce the fifth year of our award-winning Books and Bees Festival! As a hub of literacy for children and adults, our **Bee Cave Public Library** hosts programs year round that serve hundreds of families in the area and beyond. As a Bee City USA affiliate, the City of Bee Cave is dedicated to educating the public and helping conserve this most important insect. Our one-of-a-kind Books and Bees Festival helps accomplish our two missions - share fantastic literature with kids and adults alike, featuring high-profile, bestselling authors – and teach our residents and their kiddos more about bees! We have so many fun activities, entertainment and readings in store, you will not want to miss this FREE event!

This festival is truly a work of HEART and we appreciate so much the generous sponsors who have helped make this possible. Let's spread the love of reading and our environment to the whole area through this fantastic Books and Bees Festival!

Questions about the festival? Please contact Gretchen Hardin for general requests at ghardin@beecavetexas.gov, Crystal Cotti for media requests at ccotti@beecavetexas.gov, and Chelsey Jimenez with sponsorship requests at cjiminez@beecavetexas.gov

There is a honey tasting where the attendees are the judges. They taste the honey and vote on their favorite (Tasters Choice Contest).** It is a very family friendly event. There are numerous book authors who discuss their latest works. The emphasis is on bees and other pollinators.*

More Texas Beekeepers are needed in order to have this event.

Andrea Kuhnert 636-591-8830

Submitted by Dodie Stillman – Program Chair

WILLIAMSON COUNTRY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP / CONTACT UPDATE FORM

Date: _____

[ ] **New** Membership or [ ] **Renewing** Membership

[ ] Individual $20.00 per year or [ ] Family $25.00 - individuals living same household

[ ] Update Contract Information - [ ] Request Badges

To pay your membership, bring this form and payment to the meeting or mail to:

Judee Brinley – Membership

50100 Flintrock Drive – Georgetown TX 78626

Checks must be made payable to WCABA

Update Contact Information

Name:_____Family names:_____

Phone: ( )_____ _____

Address:_____

City/State/Zip:_____

E-mail:_____

(please print e-mail address neatly)

To save postage cost may we send yout Newsletter via e-mail? [ ] Yes [ ] No

New Member only: Would you like a FREE 1-year Membership in Texas Beekeepers Association?

[ ] Yes [ ] No

Request Badges:

List names for family membership badges needed _____

_____

Addition Instructions:

(revised 2-2026)