WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

www.wcaba.org

2026 Club Officers:

PRESIDENT: Sean O'Neil
president@wcaba.org

VICE PRESIDENT: Dusty Brinley
vicepresident@wcaba.org

MEMBERSHIP: Judee Brinley
membership@wcaba.org

PROGRAM: Dodie Stillman
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 PRES: Shannon Montez
pastpresident@wcaba.org

LIBRARIAN: Chris Huck
librarian@wcaba.org

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, SEPTEMBER 22, 2026 @ 7PM
Georgetown Library - Hewlett Room (2nd Floor)

PROGRAM:

Honey Judging – Honey for Competition at the State Fair of Texas
Honey Tasting – Tasters Choice Competition
Guest Speaker – Dodie Stillman
Learning to Appreciate Honey



Dodie Stillman presents Sensory Analysis of Honey

Bring your extracted honey in a 1lb. glass jar to the meeting be entered in the Texas State Fair Honey Competation, or a 2lb. jar for display in the TBA Honey Booth, or in a 4 oz. (baby food size) jar for entry in the WCABA Tatsters Choise Contest. (more information page 6)

Come experience a high level overview of training in the *Sensory Analysis of Honey*. Dodie will share some of the things she learned, with 2 hands-on tasting exercises, so everyone understands about taste, flavor, and texture. Next, she will share several honeys, each with a unique flavor profile.

Finally, everyone can take their new knowledge and use it while tasting and describe the honey entries in the evenings Taster's Choice Contest! ***Don't miss it!***

Bio: Dodie Stillman is a member of the Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association (WCABA), and Past President of the Texas Beekeepers Association (TBA). She is also a Master Craftsman Beekeeper in the Texas Master Beekeepers Program.

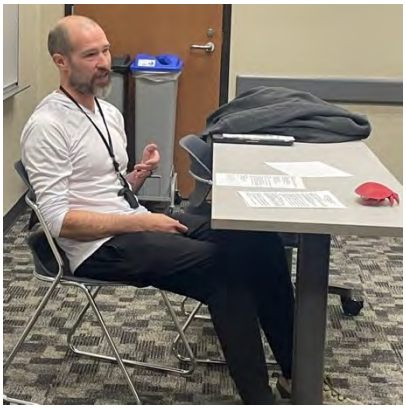
In 2017, she served as the TBA Honey Show Secretary, and has continued her involvement in Texas Honey Shows at the Texas State Fair, and just recently at the first Abilene Fair and Rodeo Honey Show.

We would certainly enjoy your presence at the next meeting on Sep. 22nd (***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 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

Six New Apprentices*

…a note from your President



Sean O'Neil – President
Beekeeping 101
Meet Ms. Varroa Mite

I'll admit, I was a little worried no one would show up. When we started planning this year's Beekeeping 101 classes, I wasn't sure how many people would come to the first one, much less return for the rest of the series and eventually sit for the Texas Master Beekeeper Apprentice exam.

Instead, we repeatedly found ourselves with standing-room-only crowds. We even had to move into the larger room. Putting these classes together has been a lot of work, but a labor of joy. I was grateful to see so many people ready to learn.

This past weekend, all of that effort paid off when six new apprentices earned their certification.*

I could not be prouder of everyone who took the exam. I also know there are more waiting in the wings who are perfectly capable of passing after making it through their first year of beekeeping and sitting in our 101's.

I continue to be impressed by the strength of our club. Our membership keeps growing, and WCABA is well regarded throughout the state's beekeeping community. At this point, I have lost count of how many certified apprentices we have, but I know we are into the double digits. We also have members participating at every level of the Master Beekeeper Program.

If you have not looked into the program yet, I encourage you to give it a try. It is a great reason to keep learning, challenge yourself, and discover just how much there still is to know about bees.

See you are next meeting.

Sean

Advanced Level - TMBP



Full house for the WCABA Texas Master Beekeeping Program Apprentice Level session

*see page 13 for Apprentice picture

Things you need to know

…a note from the Editor

As the Editor you seldom hear from me. I'm pasting in the text copy, changing the margins, inserting the pictures, adding the captions; you know, Editor stuff. Well, this month there are several things you need to know about.

The **honey tasting and judging** will have a few new wrinkles you need to know about. First, there is opportunity for you to get your honey "judged" at the Texas State Fair in the Texas Beekeeper Association sponsored State Fair Honey Judging in the Creative Arts Building. Dodie Stillman will be going to the Fair and she said she can take your entry. It needs to be in a one pound Classic or Queenline jar and meet the requirements that have been demonstrated at the last club meeting for polished extracted honey. (see p.7)



1# Queenline

If you want your honey judged at the club meeting, as in past years, it needs to be in a 2# jar with affixed label for display in the TBA Booth. (see p.6)

And of course we will have the honey tasting competition, The Tasters Choice. Bring your honey in the 4-6oz (baby food) size jar.



baby food size



Honey Displayed in TBA Booth

In our effort to get a **more desirable 501(c) classification** under the IRS Tax Code it has become necessary to make changes in our club Constitution and By-Laws to align and better reflect our purpose to promotion agriculture to the betterment of beekeeping and the education of our members.

At past Executive Board meetings, it was discussed and agreed that the club should pursue the classification change. Dodie Stillman, program director, has revived that effort. Barbie Rose, the treasurer, in her dealings with the TBA had contacts with legal sources that were able to offer valuable advice that moved the project along. Applicable text has been edited into the existing document that is posted on the WCABA website. The Constitution (Article IV)and By-Laws (Section IV)have clauses that provide for revision and change, but changes to both documents must be presented and voted on by the membership before taking effect. The Executive Board has undertaken to present those proposed changes and a copy of the Constitution and By-Laws with changed text in blue and deleted text in red is 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 the 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 next (October) meeting. We then will 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

Research Pearls

Compiled by Phil Ainslie

Honey bees have their own personal flight paths and fly them with stunning precision

June 14, 2026. Source: University of Freiburg

- **Individual Flight Routes:** Researchers at the University of Freiburg discovered that honey bees create and repeatedly follow their own unique flight paths between their hive and food sources with centimeter-level precision.
- **Drone-Based FLO Tracking:** Using "Fast Lock-On (FLO) Tracking," a drone tracked bees wearing tiny reflective markers, capturing high-resolution 3D flight data in milliseconds across natural landscapes.
- **Role of Visual Landmarks:** Prominent features like trees and hedges helped bees maintain exceptionally strict routes, whereas visually uniform areas like cornfields caused higher path variation and uncertainty.
- **Reassessing the Waggle Dance:** While the waggle dance communicates directions with up to a 30-degree deviation, the study proves that bees themselves possess far superior spatial precision—deviating by only a few degrees—when navigating familiar routes.

Native bee populations can bounce back after honey bees move out

February 11, 2025. Source: Penn State

- **Study Overview:** A study led by Penn State researchers published in the *Journal of Insect Science* examined the impacts of migratory honey bee colonies on native bee populations in the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, China.
- **Impact of Honey Bees:** When managed honey bees (typically 60 to 100 colonies per apiary) were introduced to an area, native bee abundance and species diversity declined due to resource competition.
- **Population Rebound:** In areas where honey bee colonies were removed after decades of use, native bee populations rebounded in total numbers and species diversity within just one year.
- **Temporary Displacement:** Researchers suggest that the decline was due to native bees being temporarily displaced rather than dying out, aided by low pesticide use and abundant floral landscapes.
- **Effects on Dominant Species:** While overall native bee numbers recovered after honey bee removal, the dominant native species (*Andrena sp. 3*) remained low.
- **Increased Diversity:** Native bee phylogenetic diversity was higher in areas with past or present honey bees, likely because the reduction in the dominant native species allowed other species to access foraging and nesting resources.
- **Broader Implications:** Though the study took place in China, researchers note the findings are applicable globally, though recovery depends on the density of managed honey bees, duration of presence, and local habitat quality.

Phil

Practical Experiences in the Bee Yard



Stanford Brantley

SEPTEMBER is an important month in our area of the ArkLaTex. Beekeepers should complete any extracting they want to accomplish before the fall flow of Goldenrod nectar becomes available. If the harsh drought conditions continue across our area, a fall nectar flow is not certain. Conditions between now and the first frost in November will dictate what beekeepers must do to prepare our colonies to make it through the coming winter. Feeding supplementary 2:1 sugar water will help the bees survive the dearth conditions and become "fat bees" that have a better chance of surviving winter and be ready to gather a honey crop next spring.

Reports from different beekeepers indicate the weather really took a toll on honey production. Most of the extractions reported so far had less honey than last year. When selling your honey, be mindful of possible shortages in your area and price your honey accordingly. You paid for that honey with a lot of work and sweat.

I have heard reports of bees being really aggressive this year. Hives that have not been upset by mowers or weed eaters have responded with usual aggression during these hot dry days. One local beekeeper suffered sufficient stings to require a trip to the ER because of swelling. He was held for several hours to ensure the process was stabilizing. He now carries an EpiPen on his belt at the recommendation of his doctor. Moral of the story – Bees can be great one day and act completely different the next. Hot and dry conditions can cause normally gentle bees to react differently. Always treat honey bees with the respect they deserve. Be aware of the conditions and pay attention to bee behavior. Recognize the bees giving you warning signs and know when to leave the hive alone. Take no chances; protect yourself to the best of your ability.

There are some last-minute chores for the beekeeper as we move toward the end of summer. Finish any planned extractions before the Goldenrod blooms. After the final extraction, decide how to handle your extracted supers – whether to put them outside for the local bees to clean or to put them back on the hives to lick up the spilled honey. I always feel like the bees doing the foraging work should get the cleanup opportunity, so my preference was to return the wet supers to the hives.

If you return the supers to the hives, do so late in the afternoon to allow the smell of wet honey to abate before morning. Even so, protect any weak hives by adding an entrance reducer with the smallest opening so the hive entrance is easiest to defend.

Once the extracted supers are cleaned by the bees, you can leave them on the hives for the bees to protect or store them off the hives till spring. If stored off the hives in your garage, shop or honey house, they must be protected from wax moth damage using Certan or PDZ crystals.

Now is a good time for a post-extraction mite check. Your goal is to lower the varroa load going into the winter period. If your mite check is not where you would like it to be, now is a good time to do a varroa treatment. After the treatment is completed and the strips are removed, do another mite check to verify the treatment was successful. If the mite check is still high, repeat treatment using a different miticide to reduce the mite load or you may lose the hive over the winter,

If you lost hives this summer and need to make an increase for the coming spring, September is a good time to start new Nucs. Overwintered Nucs started now should be ready to expand and make honey next spring. You will need to order mated queens to place in the Nucs because there are no drones available to mate with any virgin queens. The latest publications indicate you can still order mated queens. A quick Internet search should provide several sources.

Stanford

Honey Judging and Tasting at September Meeting

Everyone is welcome to join in the festivities to celebrate National Honey Month at our September meeting. We will have a big honey tasting and also honey judging for honey going to the State Fair of Texas in Dallas and/or Texas Beekeepers Association Honey Show in Tyler.

The club's extracting equipment has been very busy this year and reports are that good honey has been extracted, so if you have extracted honey this year you are encouraged to bring a baby food size container of your best to see how it stacks up against the other club members participating in the "Taster's Choice" competition. It's all for fun and you might be a winner.

Honey going to the State Fair for judging and display in the Texas Beekeepers Association Honey Booth needs to be in a one pound classic glass or queen-line jar with metal or plastic lid. Honey going to the TBA Convention in Tyler needs to be in two (2) one pound classic glass or queen-line jars with metal or plastic lid.

I encourage you to bring your honey and help make this a fun and memorable event.
Thx. Jimmie Oakley – Event Coordinator

HONEY JUDGING

Honey judging is of extracted honey only and it is a judgement of the beekeeper's product presentation. The jar of honey is judged on a set of requirements totaling to a 100 point. For each infraction points are deducted from the total. Attention is paid to container appearance, level of fill in the jar, absence of any foreign matter as well as bubbles and crystals. Finally, the brightness of the honey, the density and lastly the flavor of the honey. Remember these things as you prepare your honey for show/judging.

At this meeting we will inspect and prep honey for the State Fair judging. After competition, honey will be displayed at the Fair for the 3 weeks and then donated to a Children's Home in Cleburne.



Gamber Classic Glass *Dadant Queenline Glass*

THE TASTER'S CHOICE



SUBMIT



TASTE



VOTE

Judging in Taster's Choice is subjective base on the preference of those doing the tasting. Each participant gets three votes to give to the one's they think best with the top three vote getters receiving the blue, red, and white ribbon respectively. Bragging rights for the year are on the line. Come join the fun. *Jimmie*

Preparing Honey for Show

*Note: *Bees make the honey and you are not winning on the honey, but your presentation of the honey. Judges look at how you present the honey and taste is a secondary (sometime deciding) factor.*

Make sure you present your honey in the container called for by the contest.
Use the right container: Queenline Jar – 1#, 2# - and good lid!!

Cleanliness is next to…
Make sure you containers are clean. Wash in dishwasher by themselves.
Never touch the jar with your hands after that; use lint free cloth (flower sack towels) or photo gloves.

Pick the Jar Well (blemish free). Look carefully for bubbles or flaws in the glass, even the bottom.

Put Good Honey in your Jars. Honey Quality Check - Choose only fully capped frames (moisture) and taste it for flavor (no bitter weed, leafy spurge, goldenrod).

Filling your Jars: Slowly, holding with a towel, tipped at an angle to prevent bubbles.

Fill Level of Jar: Up to the top screw thread (the first time). Reduce lever before entering into the contest. This allows for removing bubbles and/or debris later.

Cover Jar with Plastic Wrap: Judges look under the lid and no honey should be there, remove the plastic wrap before giving to judges.

Bottle Honey Early as Opposed to Late: Give your honey time to settle up and provide opportunity to skim or remove bubbles and/or debris. Remove top layer with a silver spoon to above the inside fill line. You should not see empty space below the lid.

*Honey is judged on three categories, Light, Amber, & Dark, the Appearance of the Bottle (cleanliness of the bottle inside and out, no honey under the lid), the Uniform Fill (up to fill line), Free of Foreign Matter (granulated crystals, bubbles, foam, wax, lint), Flavor, and Brightness(clear, sparking, transparent).

Hints: You can heat honey slowly and allow bubbles to rise by leaving the jar in a closed, parked car all day (in Texas = 100+ degrees).

To remove specks, wax, or lint try long wooden squares to move the foreign matter to the top and dip off with silver spoon.

Polish jars with silk cloth.

Use individually cut moist square of lint free cloth (white men's handkerchief) to wipe underside of lid before presentation.

Store honey in room temperature above 57 degrees to avoid granulation.

Bee Detective: Case Files from the Apiary

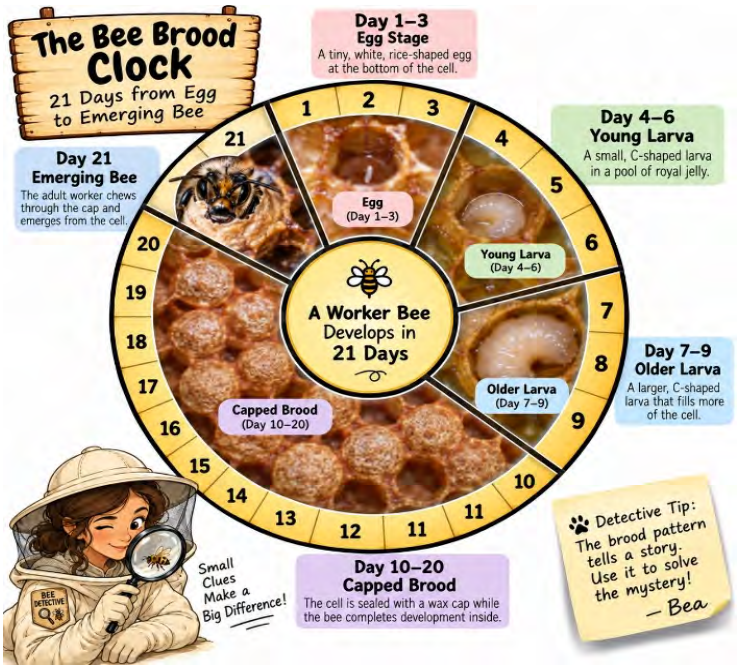


Case File #4

The Case of the Missing Queen

It was a warm September morning when Bea arrived at the apiary. A local beekeeper called Bea with concerns about his hive. This hive was a nucleus colony from earlier in the spring. He was sure the hive was in good condition on his last inspection at the beginning of August. The stored resources of honey and pollen were adequate, and the queen was spotted along with brood in all stages of development. This recent inspection revealed less brood than the beekeeper expected and he could not find the queen anywhere.

Bea couldn't wait to jump into action and start her investigation. The beekeeper has 6 hives in his apiary and of all his hives this was the only one he had a concern about. The hive looked fairly normal from the outside. There were forages occasionally coming in and out and many bees were hanging out on the front porch. Bea smoked the bees, pulled off the top cover and started to inspect the top box. She could see the colony did indeed have the resources stored they needed. Bea pulled the top box and dived into the brood nest. As she inspected, something didn't seem quite right. There were bees on the frames and plenty of capped brood, but the brood nest seemed smaller than expected. Frame after frame, Bea searched, but no queen. She went through the brood box again. Still no queen. **Had Her Majesty disappeared?**



CLUE #1: Read the Brood

Bea reached for her magnifying glass. "Not so fast! You don't always have to find the queen to know whether she's been here. Let's look for clues."

Bea began looking for her **fingerprints**.

Eggs? **None.**

Tiny young larvae? **None.**

Older larvae? **None.**

Capped brood? **Plenty.**

Now *these* were important clues. Worker brood follows a predictable timeline: an egg remains an egg for about **3 days**, followed by approximately **6 days as an uncapped larva**. Worker brood is capped at about **day 9** and the adult worker emerges around **day 21**. If Bea sees freshly laid eggs, she knows the queen has been active within roughly the last three days. Tiny larvae tell her the queen was laying within the past several days. This hive had **only capped brood**, so Bea did the math. **No eggs + no larvae + only capped brood = the queen has not been laying in the hive for at least 9 days.** Now the missing queen was becoming more than just a suspicion.

BEA'S DETECTIVE TIP: Use Your Phone!

Eggs are tiny and can be surprisingly difficult to see. Before declaring a colony queenless, use your smartphone. Take a clear photograph of the brood comb, step away from the hive, and **zoom in on the cells**. You may spot tiny eggs you completely missed during the inspection.

Good sunlight helps, too. Stand with the sun over your shoulder and tilt the frame until the light reaches the bottoms of the cells. Finding eggs is often easier than finding the queen.

CLUE #2: Consider the Season

It's September in Central Texas, so Bea knows she shouldn't expect the brood nest to look exactly like it did during the spring buildup. As summer ends and fall approaches, brood production can naturally decrease as colony growth and available forage change. Less brood doesn't automatically mean a bad queen. But ***less brood* and no recent brood at all are two different clues**. A healthy queenright colony may have a smaller brood nest this time of year, but Bea still expects to find some evidence of recent laying (brood in all stages of development). Despite using the techniques to find tiny eggs and larvae, Bea decided this hive has only capped brood.

CLUE #3: Look at the Whole Crime Scene

Before making a decision, Bea checks the rest of the colony. Are there queen cells? Are there multiple eggs in cells? Is there abnormal drone brood? Does the brood pattern suggest a failing queen? Is the colony population adequate? Are mites or disease contributing to the problem? Most importantly, Bea asks: **Is this colony strong enough and does it have enough time to recover before winter?** That question matters much more in September than it did in April.

Bea's Verdict: We Have a Queen Problem

At this point, the evidence suggests the beekeepers' hive is queenless or has a queen that is no longer laying. Now Bea has another mystery to solve: **What should the beekeeper do about it?**

1. Purchase a mated queen. If a quality mated queen can be found, requeening may be the quickest way to restore brood production. Unfortunately, queens can become more difficult to source as the season progresses.

2. Let the colony raise its own queen. This may be possible if the colony has or is given appropriately aged young brood. But September isn't spring. Raising a queen, allowing her to mature, mate successfully and begin laying takes valuable time. The colony can lose roughly a month of brood production in the process, and successful mating depends on suitable weather and adequate drones.

3. Combine the colony. Sometimes the best fall management decision isn't trying to save every individual colony.

Bea's Suggestion: Spring is about making more colonies, and Fall is about making stronger colonies. Taking a colony that is a potential winter loss and combining it with another hive in the fall isn't necessarily failure. When combining two questionable colonies, or a weak colony with a strong one, it can create one robust colony with a much better chance of making it through winter and starting out spring strong; now that is good beekeeping!



CASE CLOSED: The hive's queen was never found, but Bea didn't need to find her, because the brood told the story. The hive still has bees, capped brood and resources that could strengthen another healthy, queenright colony. Rather than gamble on getting this colony successfully queenright before winter, the beekeeper decided that combining it with a stronger colony is the best option for his bees.

Until next time… Bee Curious.

Bea

September is National Honey Month

Did You Know?: National Honey Month, initiates by The National Honey Board in 1989, marks an important time for honey producers and beekeepers across the nation. In the United States, honey collection typically concludes in September as bees begin to secure their hives and prepare for winter. National Honey Month provides opportunity to recognize the dedicated people who bring honey into our homes. Now You Know. Let's Celebrate! *N H B*



My First Honey Harvest…

submitted by Debra Peters



Installing my nucs with high hopes

I'm a first-year beekeeper. I didn't expect to get any honey this year, but one colony went absolutely gangbusters for me. I decided I could steal 3 filled and capped frames from the honey supers. After doing a little inspection work in the hive, I realized that the bees were more than a little defensive, so I put on my beekeeping gloves before trying to retrieve the 3 frames. I'm very glad I did, as the bees took great exception to my thieving ways and took it out on my poor gloves. But with the frames properly secured away from all bees, both the producers and any robbers, I made my way out of the beeyard and back to my garage... with only a few bees following me most of the way back.

After cooling down and cleaning up a little, next it was time to set up for the extraction. I decided the garage was the place to do the extraction - big enough to set out the equipment needed, without crowding, and closed so that no bees would "help" me with my work. First up: Set up a fan so there was air moving (the garage kept the bees out, but it also kept all the air movement out). Then, put down a tarp, because even though I know I'm going to be neat and clean, honey has a way of making a mess of our best plans (pun intended). Then, out comes all the equipment, acquired based on the very helpful extraction demo given by Jimmie Oakley at the June club meeting. Carefully arranging the equipment in the nice linear path recommended during the demo, I was ready to attack the first frame.

Pulling it from the containing box, I very carefully braced it on the crossbar above the uncapping tank. I took the uncapping knife and started pushing it down the frame, with a small sawing motion... but not enough sawing, as comb started pulling free from the foundation. Well THAT'S not what I wanted. Slow down, try a little more patience and a little more sawing. I got to the bottom of the first side of the frame without pulling ALL the comb off the foundation, so I guess that's a success. Flip the frame around and try the second side. That one went better. And I didn't even get too much honey on my hands. Got that into the extractor and grabbed the second frame. I'd like to say I got better with practice, and the frames might even give slight evidence to the statement, but I still feel like I'd be lying about it. Maybe next year.

Once all three frames were set into the extractor, it was time to get my "real workout". I THOUGHT the workout would be turning the crank fast enough. What I really got a workout at was trying to keep the extractor from vibrating all over the garage. And trying to keep the crank handle on the shaft. After the second time of it coming off, I finally figured out the trick to screwing the set-screw to properly hold it, and I was finally on my way. I spun the first side "halfway", flipped the frames around, spun that side down "all the way", flipped things back and spun some more, realized I had missed some cappings on the frames, so opened them

and spun again... And got a real workout.

Getting the honey out of the extractor is not as easy as you might think. The first part runs out easy-peasy. But then it gets below the level of the outlet gate, and that's where the fun begins. Of course, I used my scraper to scrape the honey off the sides and down to the bottom of the extractor, but how to get the last pound or two out? Tipping and scraping got most of it out. But there was still that last bit left. I'll be honest, by that time I was hot, tired, and feeling a little out of ideas. If I had a helper around, I might have worked harder to get the last drops out. But I decided I would be kind to the bees and just put the extractor out in the front yard and give a free meal to any passing bee that wanted one.

Three frames worth of honey was now in my collection pail. Having heard various experts say to let the honey rest, I put the lid on the pail and set it to rest for a day. That's all I could get myself to wait, and I really wanted to see how much honey I had extracted. My guess was about 10 pounds. (I was close - I bottled 11 pounds.) I set up a card table and put my mostly-empty 5-gallon pail on the table, with the honey gate hanging over the edge, set up a chair, and grabbed my first bottle. Opening the honey gate, the beautiful, sweet result of the Spring and Summer efforts of thousands of bees flowed into the jar, pretty as you please. Just at the right time, I closed the gate, put the cap on, and there was the first bottle of my very own honey. Satisfaction. Now repeat that. Oops... don't get fingers in the honey... well at least don't put the sticky fingers on the bottl... umm... there's now a sticky mess on the bottle. Good thing there's a sink nearby. Or maybe I'll just keep this bottle all for myself and lick the sides clean. Nobody needs to know.



Letting my honey "rest" before bottling

Here's the thing... resting definitely gives the honey time to get the bubbles and such up to the surface, leaving the body of honey "cleaner". This means that as you bottle, the first honey will come out relatively bubble-free. But... 11 pounds of honey, in a 5-gallon pail, barely comes above the honey gate. So very shortly I had bubbles trying to come out with the honey. That's when I started tipping the pail. And holding on tight, because I REALLY didn't want to dump honey all over the floor. I succeeded. Nary a drop hit the floor. The last few bottles weren't as pretty as the first, though I'm sure everyone will be just as tasty. And I happily concluded my first year's harvest, with honey for myself, plus some to give to friends and family.

Debra



More than I expected... some to share

Membership Report: Judee Brinley

September 2026

New Members

Chad & Stephanie Crutchfield	Georgetown
Kindra Mullert	Georgetown
Tiffany O'Brien	Taylor

Renewing Members

Becky & Chris Barajas	Round Rock
Chris Huck	Georgetown



Judee Brinley - Membership

August Meeting Summary:
- Attendees: 63
- 5 guest (3 joined the club)

Membership:
- New Members: 5 total (2 renewals, 3 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

WCABA Members Test for Apprentice Level Certification in Texas Master Beekeeping Program



photo: Sean O'Neil

Those testing at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office (Georgetown) on August 12th Apprentice Level-Louise Chandler, George Creel, Anna French, Debra Peters, Jim Smith, Leona Stidham. Advanced Level- Kevin Moss and Amanda Wright. **Congratulations !!!**

A special thanks to Sean O'Neil for leading our 101 class through the apprentice level information, everyone passed with flying colors!!! DS

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

Classified Ad

Wooden Top Bar Beehive - Ready for Bees!



Used Top Bar Hive FOR SALE - Great Condition

Get your backyard apiary started with this sturdy, handcrafted Top Bar Hive.
Perfect for beginner or experienced beekeepers looking for a low-maintenance, ergonomic beekeeping solution that's easy on the back!

Features:

* Durable Construction: Solid natural wood body with a bold red trim accent.
* Weather-Resistant Roof: Protective corrugated metal roof to shield your colony from rain, wind, and harsh sun.
* Elevated Design: Sturdy integrated four-leg stand keeps your hive raised off the damp ground and at a comfortable waist-high working level.
* Secured Latch System: Features reliable hook-and-eye safety latches to keep the top securely fastened against weather and pests.

Condition: Great pre-owned condition—solid, clean, and ready for your new bee hive!
Price: $150 (or best offer) …. **Pick-up location:** Hutto area
Message me if you're interested or have any questions:

Jennifer Sharp
512.300.6889
4jsharp@gmail.com

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. He or she will be the official spokesperson for the organization and sign all official correspondence. He or she may call a meeting of the Executive Board at any time and place he or she selects. He or she shall appoint all committees. 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 bee 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 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 keep the minutes of the meeting ~~of the Association and~~ of the Executive Board and publish the minutes in 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. 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 asceses 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.

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~~