WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA August 2025 NEWSLETTER

www.wcaba.org

2025 Club Officers:

PRESIDENT: Shannon Montez
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QUEEN CHAIR:
(vacent)

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

DIRECTOR AT LARGE: Ken Browning

DIRECTOR AT LARGE: Ann Bierschenk

4th TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2025 @ 7PM
Georgetown Library - Hewitt Room (2nd Floor)

PROGRAM: **Oceanna Escribano**

Topic: The Overlooked Powerhouse of Bee Health and Honey Production



Speaker Bio: My name is Oceanna Escribano, and I just graduated from the University of Texas at San Antonio, concentrating in plant biology, with plenty of pollen and lab time along the way. My passion for pollinators and sustainable agriculture stems from my family's beekeeping heritage, which has inspired me to combine hands-on experience with scientific research to make a meaningful impact.

As an alumna of UTSA's Honey Pathway program, I had the opportunity to study the medicinal properties of honey, focusing on local Texas varieties, under the guidance of Dr. Ferhat Ozturk. I also explored honeybee behavior during the 2023 annular and 2024 total solar eclipses, uncovering fascinating insights into how bees respond to these unique events. My journey in beekeeping grew even richer through an apprenticeship with Bee Mindful, where I learned from the expertise of Les Crowder and Nathalie Biggie. This year, I passed the Texas Master Beekeeper Program Apprentice level exam, officially earning the title of apprentice beekeeper!

As the 2025 Texas Honey Queen, I'm excited to share my love for honeybees with the public, raising awareness about their critical role in ecosystems, as well as promoting the value of Texas honey. I am honored to represent the Texas Beekeepers Association, and I owe special thanks to the Alamo Area Beekeepers Association for sponsoring me and supporting my journey in this incredible role. Their mentorship and encouragement have been invaluable in shaping my beekeeping experience and advocacy efforts.

Whether in the lab, garden, or community, I'm dedicated to making a positive impact through education, research, and environmental stewardship. I look forward to serving this amazing community and advocating for the future of beekeeping in Texas.

We would certainly enjoy your presence at the next meeting on August 26th (***forth*** 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**
Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82475068933?pwd=aHRiRjc3bS9kYXJGS2g5THVpOEx2UT09
Meeting ID: 839 7875 8570. Passcode: 986569One tap mobile
+13462487799,,83978758570#,,,,*986569# US (Houston)
+12532050468,,83978758570#,,,,*986569# US

Pollinator Plants …a note from your President

Shannon Montez - President

As we close out summer vacation, we've started to experience the summer dearth. Everything is dry and all the flowers have started to dry out. You know you're in Texas when mowing the lawn and a plume of dust follows you on your path. The rain we had a few weeks ago really did help with many of the reliable blooms we'll find. One of my plants that's survived throughout the years is the "Bluebeard". (Caryopteris x clandonesis 'Minbleu' Petit Blue. This plant is loved by the bees. While they love this plant for the pollen, I love this plant because it requires very little work on my part. I rarely water this plant, and regardless the season, it always seems to be blooming. Even better, if you stop and look, you start seeing more and more bees. The first two years with this plant, it seemed to limp along. After over 5 years, this small plant has spread out and is one of my most reliable bloomers. I have this is two different areas of the yard; one with direct sun and the other with slight shade. Regardless of the location, they have both thrived. This plant has plenty of blooms. This plant is about 3" high and has a spread of around 5".





Another plant that has surprised me is the Mealy Cup Sage. Most Sage plants have abundant blooms. This is the first year that I've had it planted by our pool but it has absolutely thrived. When I planted it, it was a little scrawny and I had to keep fighting to keep it alive. After finally getting established, this plant has taken off. This plant is about 3" tall and has a spread of about 3" and long purple trumpet blooms. Even better is that if I stand there long enough, I'll see 3-4 Bumble Bees on this plant. It's so cool to watch these bees hop from flower to flower as they keep finding another bloom to land. This sage has beautiful purple flowers that run down the stem and may get a little tired from the heat if they haven't seen water in a week. But give them a good dousing and they perk back up. These started blooming in the spring and haven't stopped blooming yet. The other thing I like about these is that I planted them by my Artemesia which will spread and needed something to balance. I think I found the companion plant because this Sage has spread right into the Artemesia and they both seem to complement each other.





The one thing about Texas is that if the deer don't kill your plants, then wait a minute and the heat will certainly kill off your plants. Neither care that you spent a pretty penny at the local nursery. If you're looking for something low maintenance, that your bees will love, then consider both of these plants. Although plants are my passion, I've really had to learn some hard lessons about what works here in Texas. Hopefully you're enjoying your summer, and rain is in the forecast.

Shannon

Research Pearls

Compiled by Phil Ainslie

Beehive sensors offer hope in saving honeybee colonies.

Innovation allows for remote monitoring of beehive health.

The Electronic Bee-Veterinarian, or EBV, uses low-cost heat sensors and forecasting models to predict when hive temperatures may reach dangerous levels. The system provides remote beekeepers with early warnings, allowing them to take preventive action before their colonies collapse during extreme hot or cold weather or when the bees cannot regulate their hive temperature because of disease, pesticide exposure, food shortages, or other stressors.

"We convert the temperature to a factor that we are calling the health factor, which gives an estimate of how strong the bees are on a scale from zero to one," said Shamima Hossain, a Ph.D. student in computer science at UCR and lead author of a paper explaining the technology.

University of California – Riverside

Honeybee dance 'styles' sway food foraging success.

While not as deep and complex as a Super Bowl half-time show, the bees' moves, known as the "waggle" dance, convey particular food foraging instructions to their nestmates. The dancer's direction explains to other bees which way to go, and the duration of the waggle dance, or the "run," shows how far to go. Once other bees have been convinced to follow the directions, they are "recruited." After receiving the instructions, these recruits leave the hive to find the food their sisters were excited about.

Unfortunately, many of these recruited bees do not always successfully find the food they set out to find. Margaret Couvillon, associate professor in the Department of Entomology in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and her former Ph.D. student, Laura McHenry, wanted to find out why.

Based on the data from these dances, Couvillon and McHenry found that similar dance communication did not result in the most successful foraging, which was their original hypothesis. Dances that had a longer run, effectively telling the recruits to overshoot the food source, were more successful than dances describing similar, more accurate distances. This pattern suggested that the "overshooting" instructions may have led to additional opportunities to find the food, once on the way past the food source and again on the way back to the hive. They theorized that the foragers having a second chance to find the food source increased their chance of finding it.

What does this mean for understanding the honeybee waggle dance? One takeaway is the importance of these unique communication styles, where individual dance mannerisms enhance communication success. If every bee communicated the same, the likelihood of foragers reaching the food would decrease compared to having diverse styles.

Honey bees experience multiple health stressors out in the field.

It's not a single pesticide or virus stressing honey bees and affecting their health, but exposure to a complex web of multiple interacting stressors encountered while at work pollinating crops, according to new research. Even after decades of research examining the role of specific pesticides, parasitic mites, viruses, or genetics, scientists have been unable to explain increasing colony mortality. This made the research team wonder if previous studies were missing something by focusing on one stressor at a time.

Not all stressors are the same, however. Some are more influential than others—what researchers call the social media influencers of the bee world—and have an outsized impact on the architecture of a highly complex network and its co-stressors. They also found that most of these influencer stressors are viruses and pesticides that regularly appear in combination with specific other stressors, compounding the adverse effects through their interactions.

From Québec to British Columbia, honey bee colonies pollinate some of Canada's most valuable crops—apples, canola oil and seed, highbush and lowbush blueberry, soybean, cranberry, and corn. The study covered multiple time scales, providing numerous snapshots rather than the usual single snapshot in time. The research team found that honey bees were exposed to an average of 23 stressors at once, which combined to create 307 interactions.

More research is needed to unravel how the stressors interact and impact honey bee mortality and colony health going forward, says French. "It's teasing apart which of these compounds might have that relationship and how we can build off this to study those specific relationships."

York University

Bees Can Recognize Human Faces

Bees are good at learning. They will stick out their tongues expecting a bit of honey reward if they get a particular stimulus—in this case if they fly toward a specific face. So the researchers could see how well they learn and if they can learn different faces. And the answer is they can. Bees are good at learning. They will stick out their tongues expecting a bit of honey reward if they get a particular stimulus—if they fly toward a specific face. So, the researchers could see how well they learn and if they can learn different faces. And the answer is they can.

Phil Ainslie - Secretary

The real question is if bees do this in everyday practice, and the answer is probably not. There’s no real need for them to distinguish one big mammal from another. But the fact is that they can, and it’s fascinating how well they can learn and discriminate between different things in their environment.

It’s also important to remember that bees don’t have very good eyesight. Even though they can see human faces, their eyesight is not nearly as good as their sense of smell, which is the primary means of communication.

Cambridge study in 2004

Practical Experiences in the Bee Yard


Stanford Brantley

AUGUST is hot and dry in most areas of Texas. There is very little forage for the bees to work. In my area of East Texas, we do have a good crop of Goatweed that continues to provide large quantities of pollen. Most hay farmers hate Goatweed and try to eliminate it from the pastures and hay field fence rows. The Goatweed will produce pollen until seed set and then all is over until next year.

Colonies can become very cranky during this period of dearth. Care should be taken when entering the apiary. Some of the hive bees may be ready to welcome you upon your arrival. This is the time of the year to carry your hat and veil in your vehicle and put it on before you step out. If you wear a full suit, it is a good idea to put it on before you drive close to the apiary.

Take care when opening the hives as colonies can become overly excited. You may need to use more smoke than usual to help calm the bees. Work them gently and pay attention to signs they are becoming agitated.

Once extraction is completed and any necessary mite treatments have been done, you may begin to feed 2:1 sugar syrup or commercially prepared liquid feed available from bee supply dealers. The supplemental feeding will help the bees thrive during the dearth period and be prepared to make the "fat bees" necessary to get the colony thorough winter.

Feeding pollen patties during this time of the year can cause problems with hive beetle infestations. The Small Hive Beetle like to place their eggs where the honey bees cannot get to them. If they can successfully hide the eggs until they hatch, the beetle larvae can soon slime the honey and cause the bees to abscond. A good hiding place is underneath a piece of pollen patty that is so large it takes the bees a longer time to eat it. If you choose to use pollen patties, cut the patty into small pieces that the bees can eat in two or three days. You can also help the bees control the beetle by using a support that keeps the patty off the floor of the inner cover so the bees can get under it to remove the beetles and their larvae.

There are several reasons that bees gather on the outside of the hive during hot and dry weather. They fact that they do is not necessarily an indicator of a problem. However, one bad reason they might gather on the outside of the hive is an increasing population of beetles inside the hive. If you notice a large number of bees gathering on the outside of the hive, it is a good idea to check inside to make sure the beetle population is not taking over.

Another reason large numbers of bees gather on the outside of the hive, particularly on hot afternoons, is to relieve the heat load of the hive. Large numbers of bees will crawl out of the front entrance and gather on the exterior vertical surfaces of the boxes. This phenomenon is called bearding and is not an indicator of a problem in the hive. The bees are trying to lessen the heat inside the hive by moving many heat-producing bee bodies outside.

There are a couple things you can do to help your hives deal with the hot and dry temperatures. Use a shade board, a 2 foot by 2 foot piece of plywood on top of the hive (weighted down with a bricks or rocks so it can't blow away) or a 4x8 sheet of plywood mounted vertically to protect the back of the hive from the blistering afternoon sun. Increase air flow through the hive by setting the leading edge of the Outer Cover on the Inner Cover.

Bees will use larger quantities of water during this hot dry weather. If your hives are not near a stream, pond or lake, you will need to establish a reliable water source. Do this early in the season so your bees will become established in finding and using this source. This is particularly important if your hives are in an urban neighborhood or you have neighbors living nearby. If your bees do not have a convenient, reliable water source, they will visit your neighbors looking for water. Your honey bees in your neighbor's flower pots or swimming pool area can cause strained relations very quickly.

Stanford

The Article that didn't want to Bee…

by Sean O'Neil – Vice President



Sean O'Neil - VP

Every month I try to come up with something new to write about bees. Some months it's easy. This month, nothing. I sat down with a blank page and stayed there. Mites? Feeding? Swarm stories? Old news. The cursor blinked back at me like it knew I was stalling.

So, I closed the laptop and went for a walk. Out in the fields, the bees didn't seem to be having the same problem. They were there; steady, back and forth, flowers to hive, hive to flowers. No overthinking. No deadlines. Just the usual late-summer push to get things stored away.

I stood there watching them and realized that was the article. Bees don't wait to feel inspired. They don't debate topics. They just keep working at the task in front of them. There's a quiet reassurance in that rhythm... something worth noticing when our own heads get stuck.



So, this month's newsletter piece is less "how-to" and more "note-to-self": if you're feeling stuck, get up, walk outside, and let the bees remind you what steady work looks like. They'll be out there doing their part whether or not I manage to fill the page.

Sean



Honey Tasting & Judging at ***September*** Meeting

by Jimmie Oakley

It's not too early to be thinking about the Honey Judging and Tasters Choice Contest that is always held at the WCABA regular meeting in September when we celebrate National Honey Month.

In regard to that I would like to cover for our new members and remind our veterans of what we do and why and maybe offer some tips as you prepare for the September event.

As far back as I have been a member of WCABA we have had a "honey tasting" as a fun thing to do as the summer harvest season drew to a close.

Texas is blessed with some really fine flavored honey and many of them come from our area, so bring your baby food size jar of your honey to be placed with all the others as we once again do the "TASTING", just for the fun of it. There will be a first (blue), second (red) and third place(white) ribbon presented and the bragging rights for the next year that go with it if you are a winner.



Honey Tasting had lots of entries to sample in 2024

The judging is all subjective based on the individual palate because everybody tastes, and everybody judges. As all of the small samples of honey are lined up on the table, all who participate in the tasting get three votes to mark by the ones they think deserve their vote, and the one getting the most marks is declared the "Tasters Choice" for 2025. That's easy enough, right? The hard part is that you only get three votes.



Honey Judged and Going to the State Fair

On the Honey Judging side, there are actually judges (3) that are tasked to judge the honey going to the State Fair of Texas held in Dallas in October. Any club member can submit a 2lb. container of their honey to be judged against the standard and then to be donated and sent to the Fair where it will be on display in the Texas Beekeepers Association Honey Booth while the Fair is in progress. The honey will then be donated to the Happy Hills Farm in Granbury, Texas in support of their work with children.

The judging is based on a 100-point system where credit is given for container appearance and fill level, the freedom for foreign material, and the flavor and brightness of the honey. Each entry will be presented with a ribbon based on how the honey stacks up again the standard.

I hope this may become one of your favorite parts of the beekeeping year. JO



The winners of the Tasters Choice Honey were (l to r) are Gene Wallace, Justine Peterson (scholarship recipient), Layla Hoffen (Southwestern U student), Keith Brainard, and Jimmie Oakley



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. Now You Know!



Honey Extracting in Full Swing for WCABA Members

by Jimmie Oakley

July is always a good time to extract honey in central Texas because the honey flow is winding down and it leaves plenty of time to get mite treatments done afterwards. We had good reports of members taking advantage of our equipment and facilities last month, but it hasn't slowed down yet.

In **August** several members borrowed the clubs three frame manual extractors to crank out this year's crop, and there was one member who claimed the use of the three-frame electric extracting setup to get the job done. All in all, it has been a busy and apparently prosperous season from the reports I hear.

Dan Ernst, a member from Liberty Hill, picked up the extracting setup the last week of July to get his crop off for they year. **Matt Ludlum**, our faithful audio/video guy at the meetings, utilized the equipment second weekend in August which included his own Maxant hand extractor which is set up to handle medium frames radially. He graciously left a new fume board and repellant for club use (ask Jimmie Oakley for more information). **Lloyd Anderson**, an old hand at this, showed up the middle of the month with a friend beekeeper to claim use of a three-frame electric powered extractor that Jimmie happens to have on hand.

In addition to all the borrowing and usage of the WCABA club's equipment, there is also the **Bost Farm Honey House** that is being used by some members (either by invitation or request) to handle larger volume honey extracting loads.

Former scholarship recipient **Justine Peterson** and her dad, **Scott**, pulled honey from their (2) hives there at the Bost Farm and extracted the same day (July 26). Lots more honey this year, great success!



Julie & Scott pull honey



Julie uncapping frames



Scott straining honey



Julie bottles honey



Julia, Scott & Justine Peterson

Michelle Klingemann stepped up to electric this year, enlisting the help of her siblings, plus a friend.



Michelle & Carter uncap



Carter checks extractor



Ladies get the last drop



Quinn strains the honey



Carter, Quinn, Michelle, Christy

WCABA Members Extracting (con't)

Susan and Tim Kruger reserved the Bost extracting facility the second weekend in August to meet the needs of their growing apiary and increased honey volume. To add to the event a friend and her youngsters got their first experience extracting honey and even to take some home as a reward for their labor.



Susan instructs Ayrik



Sydney assisted by Susan



Sydney and Ayrik each get a honey bear



Tim,Sydney,Susan,Ayrik,Kendra,Abby

Ryan Ohendalski, from Hutto has already outgrown manual extracting and lobbied for an upgrade. The third Saturday in August his family and his honey came to spend the day at the Bost Farm to take care of it.



Ryan coaches wife Courtney



Ryan instructs daughter Rory



Ryan strains extracted honey



Courtney, Rory, Remi, Rhett, & Ryan

Bost Farm (Honey House) Gets Reprieve



At last month's writing a lot of things were up in the air because I had found out the contract of sale had been signed on the Bost Farm and we were going to have to vacate the land (the honey house) sooner than later. Well, a month has passed and by some grace it is not sooner after all, but somewhat later now. Instead of being out of the honey house and off the land by September 11, we have been given till the first of December. That means more time for extracting, time to treat, time to move the bees to other locations, and time to locate a new storage facility. We should be able to finish out the season at the Farm. A blessing indeed. *Jimmie*

Working on a Merit Badge…

submitted by Caiya Ward



Trevor Suggs - Eagle Scout

Hello! My name is Caiya, and I was a scholarship recipient in 2023. This past July, I hosted Trevor Suggs, an Eagle Scout in Troop 405, who was working on his gardening merit badge. One of the requirements of this merit badge was to harvest honey, so he reached out to us, wondering if he could possibly join us this summer to harvest honey from some of our hives as well as process the honey.

When he arrived at my house to help harvest from my personal hives, he had to try on every hive suit in order to find one that fit him (he's about 6'4"). After finding a suit that fit him, we were able to harvest a few frames of honey from my hive. Since he was a beginner, I had him man the smoker. Sadly, from that hive, we only pulled six frames of honey



Trevor, Caiya , and Darla pulling honey from hive

Fortunately, a few days earlier, we had pulled three boxes of honey from my scholarship bees at the Bost Farm that I still have and that are going strong.



Darla & Cayia Ward,and Trevor Suggs

Once we loaded all the frames in the truck, we began driving to the Bost farm to teach him how to extract the honey from the frames. After Jimmie had shown him some of the basic techniques for harvesting (Jimmie gave him the very excellent nickname of "Tall-Boy"), we got straight to work extracting the honey.

Trevor and I took turns uncapping the wax. After 3-4 cycles on the extractor, we had extracted the honey and began bottling it!



Mr. Oakley demonstrates process of uncapping



Cayia removes wax caping from frame of honey

While bottling, cleaning, and eating a lot of the honey, we had a great time! It's fun to work with company. After all, there's no better teacher than experience! Though, personally, I don't think he got the whole experience, because he didn't get stung!

Caiya

Stingless Bees?

by Ann Bierschenk – Director at Large

Last year at the start of the school year my son said to his kids, "If everyone makes all A's all year long we will go on a cruise." He said that not realizing his kids would rise to the occasion of such a high expectation and off on a cruise to the Yucatan they went this summer. The cruise was the topic of conversation for several weeks leading up to the trip. During the trip I received a text from my grandson **Liam**, who is a scholarship recipient this year. The text said, "We were at the Mayan Bee Sanctuary in Cozumel . . . strangely the bees have no stingers. Would you like some honey?"



Stingless Bee Honey For Sale

The Mayan Melipona Bee Sanctuary Project supports the Melipona Stingless Bees and their Mayan Bee Tenders of Yucatan and Mesoamerica. The sanctuary works to conserve and protect the ancient Mayan beekeeping practices that have been in continuance for more than 3200 years and to protect the Melipona Bees. The Project works to create new bee yards and combat the decline of the critical pollinators. Tendering the bees was once a practice of only men but is now gaining popularity among the women who are creating their own sanctuaries and honey businesses. Melipona honey is known for its medicinal properties, traditionally used for wounds, eye infections and respiratory infections.


Bees in Ancient Maya Codices

The Mayan Stingless Melipona Bee, is also known as 'Royal Lady Bee' or Xunan Ka'ab in Mayan. Xunan Ka'ab is the only honey bee native to North America. It is recognized by its distinctively unique, pyramid-shaped comb. The Melipona Bee may be stingless but they have been known to bite intruders. They also emit a pheromone that signals other bees to protect the hive.

To learn more google Mayan Melipona Bee.

Ann

Membership Report: Judee Brinley

August 2025



Judee Brinley - Membership

New Members

James Parson	Austin
Rachel Perez	Georgetown

Renewing Members

***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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Dues $20.00 per year - individual or $25.00 - family membership

New Member / Renewing Member

(circle one)

Date:_____

Name:_____ Amount: $ _____

Address:_____

City/State/Zip:_____

Phone: ( )_____e-mail:_____(please print)

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

Instructions: print, fill out, and bring to club meeting , or mail with check to:

Judee Brinley - Membership - 50100 Flintrock Drive Georgetown. TX 78626

Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association
Treasurer's Report - As of August 22, 2025

Profit and Loss

ACCOUNTS	Year to Date
Income	
Program Income - Bee Procurement (2025)	$58,620.00
Program Income - Membership Dues	$3,040.00
Program Income - Scholarship Program	$20.00
Total Income	$61,680.00
Cost of Goods Sold	
Bee Procurement Program Nucs	$48,900.00
Total Cost of Goods Sold	$48,900.00
Gross Profit	$12,780.00
Operating Expenses	
Bank Charges	$25.00
Donations and Gifts	$2,500.00
Dues	$50.00
Insurance	$1,873.00
Meeting Supplies and Refreshments	$369.72
Permits	$206.26
Speaker Fees	$200.00
Travel Expenses	$954.94
Website and Zoom	$280.51
Total Operating Expenses	$6,459.43
Net Profit	$6,320.57

Balance Sheet

ACCOUNTS	As of August 22, 2025
Assets	
Total Cash and Bank	$57,356.47
Total Assets	$57,356.47
Liabilities	
Bee Purchase Commitment	$0.00
Total Liabilities	$0.00
Assets & Liabilities	$57,356.47
Equity	
Retained Earnings - Prior Years	$51,035.90
Retained Earnings - Current Year	$6,320.57
Total Equity	$57,356.47

Bee Procurement Program - 2025

Income	
Program Income - Bee Procurement	$60,062.41
Cost of Goods Sold	
Bees	$48,900.00
Gross Profit	$11,162.41
Expenses	
Permit	$206.26
Travel Expenses	$954.94
Total Expenses	$1,161.20
Net Profit	$10,001.21

Notes (as of January 31, 2025):

Merrimack Purchase 300 Nucs $43,500.00

- Merrimack Commitment = $52,500
- Less Volume and in-person pick-up discount = $9,000
- Net Merrimack Amount = $43,500



Save the Date, Save the Money. Join TBA Today! **Tickets: $145/Members $165/Non-Members**
More Info: https://texasbeekeepers.org/annual-convention-2025/