WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA NOVMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

www.wcaba.org

2026 Club Officers:

PRESIDENT: Sean O'Neil
president@wcaba.org

VICE PRESIDENT: Dusty 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

3rd TUESDAY, November 17, 2026 @ 7PM
Georgetown Library - Friends Room (2nd Floor)
>>ELECTION of OFFICERS<<

PROGRAM: **Bees Wax and Making Luminaries**



Dodie Stillman - Program Chair

After the club business is taken care of **Dodie Stillman** says, "let's chat for a bit about bees and the wax they make." She will talk about how to render the wax and get it into a useable form, then cover many of the ways you can use the wax, including a few basic recipes. Next, she will set up several crock pots of melted wax to create a luminary! These luminaries make perfect gifts, so you can now make them for everyone on your list! She will show you how.



Bio: Dodie Stillman is a member of the Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association (WCABA), Past President of the Texas Beekeepers Association (TBA). She is a Master Beekeeper in the Texas Master Beekeepers Program. In 2017, she served as the TBA Honey Show Secretary, a show that saw a dramatic increase in Honey Show events and exhibitors.

We would certainly enjoy your presence at the next meeting on Nov.17th (***third*** 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

Strong Looking Hive

…a note from your President

by Sean O'Neil - President

Sometimes, when you approach a hive for an inspection, you can tell it's strong before you ever pop the cover. You just have to watch the activity at the entrance.

That's how I feel looking at WCABA these days. Before you even walk in, you can hear the noise down the hall and tell we're buzzing. There might be a line out the door if not for Judee's check-in management and all the work she's put into making that process smoother this year.

At last count, we had 191 members. And according to our survey, people have been sticking around this club for years. It's great to have so many experienced beekeepers to learn from and spend time with!

At our bee pickup event, we had so many extra hands that we hardly knew what to do with all the help. A special thanks to Dusty for taking the reins after Gary Bible's many years of coordinating the effort, and helping everything flow smoothly.

A strong hive is made up of a lot of bees doing their part, and this club is no different. Thank you to everyone who shows up, pitches in, shares what they know, and makes WCABA such a rewarding community to be part of.





TEXAS MASTER BEEKEEPER

Sean

501(c)(5) Designation Moving Forward

…a note from the Editor

As required WCABA voted at the October club meeting to approve the amended Constitution and By Laws to come into compliance with the current Federal laws that will allow us to submit the IRS Form 1024 application for recognition as a Section 501(c)(5) nonprofit organization.

The amended Constitution and By Laws as approved are published in this issue of the Newsletter (p.16-18).

In visiting with Barbi Rose, the Treasurer, the amended documents will be submitted along with Form 1024 and the appropriate fees to the IRS to see if we can qualify for the Nonprofit designation.

We want to thank everyone who has worked on this project and to the membership for your support of this change.

Jimmie

(meeting minutes excerpt)

Constitution & Bylaws Approval *

The October membership meeting of the Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association was held in the Hewitt Room of the Georgetown Library **on Tuesday, October 27, 2026**. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by President Sean O'Neil.

Proposed changes to the **WCABA Constitution and Bylaws** that will align with IRS 501 (c)(5) designation were brought to the members attention as published in the October Newsletter. This was a second reading of the proposed changes and a vote on the changes was taken per Article IV of the Club's Constitution.

President Sean O'Neil called for a motion to approve the changing to the Constitution and Bylaw as published. **Warren Sanders** made the motion for approval of the changes, and **Dodie Stillman** seconded the motion.

A vote of the membership was taken at **7:10PM**. The motion **passed unanimously, with all members voting in favor.**

***This clears the way to submit the Form 1024 application for the Section 501(c)(5) with the IRS – The Editor**

Discount Honey TESTING at the New Overton Lab

See complete details on page 9.

Submitted by:Dodie Stillman

Hey!! I just got a notice about a second honey testing opportunity, that I can save folks some money on!!! Agrilife will run all their tests on honey if it can be hand delivered to the lab on the 19th. And guess what??!! I'm going that way!!! If you want honey tested let me know and I'll send you the info*… **$30 per sample**!! But I have to have the samples in my hand by the (Tuesday) the 17th. So folks you need to bring it to the bee meeting.

*Sample In-Take Forms will be available at the meeting *Dodie*

Checks only ($30) made out to **AgriLife Extension Service**



THIS IS WHAT YOU GET !!!

Research Pearls

Compiled by Phil Ainslie

Where did western honey bees come from? New research finds the sweet spot



Phil Ainslie - Secretary

Asian Origin: New research led by York University reveals that the western honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) most likely originated in Asia—specifically Western Asia—settling a decades-long scientific debate that previously favored an African origin.

 Global Expansion: From Western Asia, the species expanded independently into Africa and Europe, branching into seven geographically and genetically distinct evolutionary lineages.

 Methodology: The research team reconstructed the bees' dispersal patterns by sequencing 251 genomes across 18 subspecies from their native ranges.

 Genetic "Hot Spots": Out of more than 12,000 genes in the honey bee genome, a core set of just 145 genes showed repeated signatures of adaptation. These genes regulate worker and colony behavior, enabling the bees to survive in vastly different climates (from tropical rainforests to cold temperate regions) and leading to roughly 27 distinct subspecies.

 New Lineages Discovered: The genomic sequencing also uncovered two previously distinct lineages located in Egypt and Madagascar.

 Significance: Understanding the evolutionary roots and genetic adaptability of this vital global pollinator helps scientists better comprehend colony fitness, diversity, and climate adaptation. (Published in *Science Advances* on December 4,2021).

Honey bees are bullying other bees, scientists discover

 Aggressive Dominance: A two-year study by Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) found that honey bees frequently use aggression to chase, displace, and intimidate wild pollinators (such as bumblebees, solitary bees, and hoverflies) away from food sources.

 Study Methodology: Researchers spent 93 hours observing five pollinator groups visiting bramble and ivy flowers across five sites in and around Cambridge, England, each within 300 meters of a honey bee colony.

 Impact on Wild Pollinators: High honey bee concentrations correlated with fewer wild pollinators—doubling honey bee density on bramble led to a 14% drop in bumblebees, while higher numbers on ivy reduced solitary bees and hoverflies.

 Active Avoidance and Chasing: Other insects actively avoided honey bees in 28% of interactions on bramble and 36% on ivy. In at least 20% of the encounters honey bees won, they physically pushed aside or chased away competitors.

 The Ivy Bee Exception: The non-native ivy bee was the only wild species observed successfully pushing back, actively defending its feeding spots and frequently winning contests against honey bees.

 Climate Change and Beekeeping Risks: A sharp rise in UK beekeepers (from 19,000 in 2010 to 47,000) combined with rising temperatures threatens to worsen competition. Heat stress reduces flower nectar while simultaneously boosting honey bee foraging activity and slowing down heat-sensitive wild pollinators.

 Conservation Goal: Published in *Ecological Entomology* (October 22, 2026), the study aims not to discourage beekeeping, but to highlight the need for conservation strategies that help wild and managed pollinators coexist, especially in hive-dense urban areas. *Phil*

Practical Experiences in the Bee Yard



Stanford Brantley

NOVEMBER is a "do it now before it is too late" month for beekeepers. The honey bee year is winding down to a slower pace as the hibernation months may soon be arriving. I say "may" because the ArkLaTex area may still have 95 degrees on Christmas day! If those warm spells last for a couple of weeks, the colony starts to think spring has arrived and begin to produce small areas of brood.

By now most of the winter stores will be in the hive. Determine the weight of the hive using two fingers to lift the back of the hive. The hive probably has sufficient stores if you have difficulty lifting it. If it lifts without much effort, better look inside and check the stores.

A word of caution: Never pull frames of honey out of the brood chamber to extract. This practice will probably cause your hive to starve before spring.

We talk about needing "fat bees" to populate the hive during the winter period and using 2:1 sugar water to help the bees build up stores. I recently heard of a different approach that was new to me but could already be practiced by other beekeepers. This technique was to mimic a nectar flow by feeding 1:1 sugar water. This causes the queen to produce frames of brood before the bees begin to cluster. When these brood emerge, they will be the "fat bees" for a vibrant colony that should survive any type of winter weather.

So, what do you do in the apiary this time of the year? Determine if there are sufficient stores in each hive and feed if not. Install entrance reducers set to the smallest opening to prevent robbing. Provide top ventilation for each hive to help control moisture buildup in cold weather. Test for mites, treat if needed, and test again.

There are several ways to provide top ventilation for a hive. If you have a notched Inner Cover, slide the Telescoping Outer Cover forward to open the notch. For Inner Covers without a notch, place a small stone, twig or thin piece of wood on the edge of the Inner Cover before adding the Telescoping Cover. For Migratory tops, place a 10-penny nail or small stick on the edge of the top box to create a vent.

Outside of the apiary, this is the time to work on old equipment. Check and repair old hive bodies with wood putty to keep them useable. Change out old black frames. Scrape excess wax from usable frames. Discard boxes and frames that are no longer usable. Inventory useable equipment to determine if replacement or additional equipment needs to be purchased. Determine need for ordering new queens and start checking your queen vendors to know when they start taking spring orders. Be ready to order as early as possible. New beekeepers, check with experienced members of your bee club for information about preferred queen vendors.

I was given a copy of the 2026-27 edition of the Go Texan magazine at an October bee club meeting. It is a production by the Texas Department of Agriculture. This recent issue includes an article featuring TBA president Jimmy Middlebrooks. It is a good article about agricultural and business aspects of beekeeping in Texas, worth your time to read. You can find the magazine online at the Texas Department of Agriculture website. Look for "Ag's Leading Ladies" in large letters on the front cover. The beekeeping article is located on the inside of the back cover. (https://www.gotexan.org/)

November is also the month for the TBA Annual convention, held this year in Tyler Texas. Additional festivities begin on Thursday the 19th with the ribbon-cutting for the new Texas A&M Honey Bee Diagnostic Lab in Overton, Texas. Headed by Dr. Garett Slater, the lab will be able to assist local Texas beekeepers with answers to problematic situations that may arise in their apiary.

Following the bee lab ceremonies and tour, there will be a social gathering of beekeepers at the convention site, the W. T. Brookshire Conference Center, 2000 W Front St, Tyler, TX. Convention activities begin Friday morning, November 20. This link gives a description of events: https://texasbeekeepers.org/schedule-of-events/. See you there!

Bee Detective Case Files from the Apiary



Case File #6

The Case of the Winter Survivors

THE CRIME SCENE: Where Have All the Bees Gone?

It was a cool November morning in Central Texas when Bea the Bee Detective arrived at the apiary. As expected, the busy summer traffic has slowed down, fewer bees were coming and going, and the once-crowded colonies seemed noticeably quieter. Just 4 weeks ago the fall days were keeping worker bees busy bringing in yellow pollen. "Curious!" Bea exclaimed, opening her detective notebook. "The fall flowers are disappearing, the queen is slowing down, and the population is shrinking. How on earth will these bees survive until spring?"

The coldest months in Central Texas are still ahead of us. January and February can bring freezing temperatures, prolonged cold fronts, and stretches of weather that keep bees confined to their hives.

The mystery: How does a colony survive months ahead of cold weather, limited forage, and declining populations?

CLUE #1: The Disappearing Workforce

Remember last month's investigation of *diutinus bees*, our remarkable long-lived winter workers? As fall progresses, the short-lived summer bees gradually disappear. Meanwhile, the queen reduces her egg laying as the days shorten and forage becomes scarce. During colder periods, she may temporarily stop laying altogether. The colony is shifting from producing thousands of busy workers to conserving resources and

Case File #6 The Case of the Winter Survivors (con't)

protecting the bees that will carry it through winter. Unlike summer workers that may live only several weeks, healthy winter bees can survive for months!

But Bea noticed something concerning. Some colonies were now occupying only a fraction of their hive space. "Aha! A hive that's too big for its shrinking population may present another winter challenge!" Bea noted. Bees don't heat their entire hive; they concentrate their warmth within the winter cluster. But excessive unoccupied space can make it harder for a small colony to defend against pests, and poorly arranged frames may leave valuable food stores out of reach. A smaller cluster also has fewer bees to generate and conserve heat during prolonged cold spells.

"Could two smaller colonies survive better as one?" she wondered. November may offer some of our last favorable weather for inspecting colonies and making adjustments. Two small but healthy colonies might benefit from being combined into one stronger winter colony. Of course, there's a royal decision to make! Which queen stays? Consider each queen's age, brood pattern, temperament, and the colony's performance throughout spring and summer. A younger queen isn't necessarily the better queen. Choose based on performance and health and never combine a diseased colony with a healthy one. Smaller colonies occupying a double deep hive may also benefit from being consolidated into a single deep, provided their bees and necessary food stores can be properly accommodated.

CLUE #2: The Case of the Full Pantry and the Starving Bees

Bea remembered another important fact. A colony could have plenty of honey stored in its hive and still starve during a winter freeze! How can bees starve when their pantry is full? The cluster gradually moves toward available food, but during prolonged cold, movement becomes limited. Even a hive containing plenty of honey can perish if the cluster becomes isolated from its food supply. Before winter, beekeepers should consider not only the weight of their hives but also the arrangement of frames. Accessible honey above and alongside the cluster is especially important. A well-organized single deep may serve a smaller colony better than two poorly arranged boxes. **The secret isn't just how much honey is stored. It's whether the bees can reach it!**

CLUE #3: The Case of the Leaky Roof and Emergency Rations

As winter bees consume honey to generate heat, they also produce moisture. Warm, humid air rises from the cluster and can condense against the cold inner cover. While healthy bees can withstand surprisingly cold temperatures, **cold water dripping directly onto the winter cluster can be dangerous!**

Bea knew that a little preparation could help prevent this winter mystery. Insulating the top of the hive, managing moisture by providing a small amount of ventilation and slightly tilting the hive forward when appropriate can help keep the cluster dry.



Another consideration Bea thought about. What if the bees' winter pantry begins running low? It takes energy for the bees in a cluster to keep warm, and they will consume their stored honey for energy. Emergency rations such as sugar bricks, fondant, or dry granulated sugar using the *Mountain Camp method* can provide much-needed food directly above the cluster, where bees can reach it during cold weather. Dry sugar and sugar bricks can also absorb some of the condensation, helping to manage moisture while providing emergency carbohydrates.

The detective's discovery: A dry cluster of bees and accessible food are essential for winter survival. Emergency sugar can offer an extra layer of protection, but it doesn't replace adequate honey stores, proper hive preparation, or moisture management.

CASE CLOSED: The Secret of Winter Survival!



Bea was satisfied. "So that's how they do it! Fewer mouths to feed, long-lived winter bees, a strong cluster, and a pantry stocked with enough food to last until spring!" But Bea knew one final secret: **A colony's winter survival often depends on the preparations made before the coldest weather arrives.** November still offers Central Texas beekeeper's opportunities to assess their colonies and make thoughtful adjustments. Once January and February's freezing weather arrives, those opportunities are limited. Prepare your bees now, so they'll be ready when spring returns!

Until our next investigation...

Bee Curious! *Bea*

Central Texas Honey Lab Discounted Group Testing Opportunity

Monica Siwiak

I'm excited to share a special opportunity that **Dr. Garett Slater** and I would like to extend to beekeepers in Travis, Williamson, Hays, and other surrounding counties! Following the overwhelmingly positive response to our inaugural Honey 101 lab testing program, the new Texas A&M AgriLife Honey Bee Lab in Overton, Texas, is re-opening for another round of honey sample testing!

I will be visiting bee clubs and asked Dr. Slater if we could offer our beekeepers a special "group pricing" discount of $30 per sample if we can get at least 25 participants and he enthusiastically agreed. These tests normally cost $50 per sample if they are mailed in. If we can get several clubs to participate with in-person drop off to bypass the shipping, I will gladly hand deliver these to the lab in Overton on Nov 18th and each beekeeper gets a $20 discount!

To participate the beekeepers would have to:

1. Provide a minimum of **4 oz of honey** in a clean container (that will not be returned) **with their name clearly written or labeled.**
2. Provide a **check for $30 made out to "AgriLife Extension Service"**
3. Fill out the attached **Honey in-take form**.
4. Place honey, check, and paperwork **sealed in a quart or gallon zip lock bag.** (They can put the honey bottle inside an additional Ziplock baggie to contain leaks and protect paperwork if they choose)
5. Drop off at coordination TBD with Dodie Stillman at Travis County and Williamson County meetings.

I have attached the honey in-take form for the beekeepers interested in participating in this discounted group sampling. I will have some of these printed and available at the bee club meetings along with some zip lock bags for onsite packaging. Unfortunately, **I will not have the capability to accept cash or credit card payments** for this event so please let your beekeepers know that this offer can only be taken by check made to "AgriLife Extension Services" submitted with their sample. If they want to submit multiple samples, they can submit 1 check reflecting the quantity of tests requested. Please make sure every sample collected for testing is contained in a gallon zip lock bag so the name on the bottle matches the paperwork and check and no items get separated.

Thanks for passing this info along. Let's see if we can get a good number of samples collected and create a heavily saturated map of honey floral source data in your counties! Please encourage your beekeepers to make an account at www.txmbp.org so they can see county map samples and archive their own contributions to the map!

Best Regards,

Monica Siwiak | Extension Program Specialist
Entomology | Fort Bend County
1402 Band Rd. #100 | Rosenberg, TX 77471
ph: 281.342.3034 | mobile: 281.627.7700 | monica.siwiak@ag.tamu.edu

Dodie Stillman, Master Craftsman Beekeeper



Dodie Stillman- Master Craftsman

After finding out that both her grandfathers kept honey bees, she knew it would be in her future. In 2011 Dodie started attending the Austin Area Beekeepers Meet-ups and the Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association meetings. After spending a year attending classes and learning about bees she was able to purchase her first 2 hives. Still searching for more information she jumped into the inaugural class of the Texas Master Beekeepers Program and became one of the first official Master Beekeepers in the state of Texas. After keeping her Langstroth hives up and running productively for 5 years, she started her first Top Bar hive. In 2025, Dodie became a student of the Italian Honey Sensory Registry, expanding her expertise in honey evaluation and sensory analysis.



Dodie operates "drone" controls

Dodie's volunteer efforts are numerous, from helping at early AABA Seminars to the last couple of years working on the Texas Beekeepers Association (TBA) Conventions and Honey Shows. In 2017, she served as the Honey Show Secretary, a show that saw a dramatic increase in Honey Show events and exhibitors. She has continued working with TBA, contributing on the Legislative Committee and the Event and Honey Show Committees. She is a past president of the Austin Area Beekeepers Association, and a former Director and past President of the Texas Beekeepers Assn, as well as a current Texas Master Beekeeper Program Board Member.

Dodie's Master Project was Mapping Drone Congregation Areas.

Presentation Topics

Beginning, and Intermediate Beekeeping, What to Expect when you are Inspecting, Honey Extraction, It Is Your Beeswax, Requeening your Colonies, Honey Bee Pests and Diseases, Drones and DCA Mapping, Honey Sensory/Tasting and any number of other topics.

Master Craftsman Presentations

- Drones and DCAs: Mapping DCAs in Texas
- Advocating for Honey Bees in Texas

Contact Information

texasbeek@gmail.com

512-560-7550





Master Craftsman Beekeeper

TEXAS MASTER BEEKEEPING PROGRAM LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Master Course

Our Master Level Course provides education through guest speakers covering each of the program's eight majors. Participants will learn about specialized topics in honey bee biology, management, research, and the beekeeping industry. While we recommend completing the Apprentice and Advanced courses first, registration is open to anyone interested in expanding their beekeeping knowledge.

- **Dates:** 8 weeks from December 1 – January 29th
- **Live Sessions:** Tuesdays, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM Central
- **Registration:** **https://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu/s/product/texas-master-beekeeper-course-master-level/01tQn00000FmdWIIAZ**

For **our other courses**, see them listed below:

Apprentice Level Course

The Apprentice course is our introductory beekeeping course, designed for individuals who are new to beekeeping or interested in getting started. Whether you're considering your first hive or have recently begun keeping bees, this course provides the basics of honey bee biology, colony management, and essential beekeeping practices.

- **Dates:** January 25 – March 29, 2027
- **Live Sessions:** Mondays, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM Central
- **Registration:** https://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu/s/product/texas-master-beekeeper-course-apprentice-level/01tQn00000ELXaPIAX

Advanced Level Course

The Advanced course builds on the fundamentals covered in the Apprentice course and is designed for beekeepers looking to expand their knowledge of honey bee health, colony management, and more advanced beekeeping practices. While we encourage participants to complete the Apprentice course first, you do not need to have completed it to register for the Advanced course.

- **Dates:** January 26 – March 30, 2027
- **Live Sessions:** Tuesdays, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM Central
- **Registration:** https://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu/s/product/texas-master-beekeeper-program-advanced-level/01tQn00000ESqgLIAT

Self-Paced Learning

Both courses are offered online through StreamYard. Although we encourage participants to join the weekly live sessions, live attendance is not required**.** All sessions will be recorded and made available afterward, allowing you to watch the lectures and complete the coursework at your own pace.

We look forward to another great year of beekeeping education and hope you'll join us!

Cheers,

Garett Slater
Assistant Professor and Honey Bee Extension Entomologist
Department of Entomology | Texas A&M AgriLife
1710 FM3053 | Overton, TX 75684
Ph: 701-928-0418 | garett.slater@ag.tamu.edu

2027 WCABA Officers

Slate of Officers nominated to serve WCABA for 2027

Nominations Committee: Shan O'Neil, Judee Brinley, and Jimmie Oakley.

*President – Dusty Brinley
*Vice President – Leona Stidham
Membership Director – Judee Brinley
Program Director – Dodie Stillman
Editorial Director – Jimmie Oakley
*Secretary – Linda Watts
Treasurer – Barbi Rose
Historian – Matt Ludlum
*Past President – Sean O'Neil
*Director at Large -George Creel
*Director at Large –Louisa Chandler
**New candidates* for office



Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the meeting.

WCABA Membership Survey – We Want to Hear from YOU!

The Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association (WCABA) Board is committed to making our club the very best it can be! We value our members and want to ensure the meetings, educational opportunities, newsletter, and club activities reflect your interests and needs.

Your voice matters! Whether you're a brand-new beekeeper or have years of experience, your feedback will help us grow, improve, and create a welcoming, engaging, and educational community for everyone.

Simply scan the QR code below or click the survey link to participate.

Survey Link: https://forms.gle/MokxPaKFp6yLeKTR6

The survey will close Friday, December 4th.



Membership Report: Judee Brinley

November 2026

New Members

Rick & Criss Smetana	Thrall
Stan Parker – Breanna Hanson	Georgetown

Renewing Members

George Creel	Georgetown
Scott, Julia, Justine Peterson	Austin
Jim Ray	Georgetown



Judee Brinley - Membership

October Meeting Summary:
- October 27 Meeting Attendance: 54
- 7 guests (2 joined the club)

Memberships:
- Memberships Collected: 5 total (3 renewals for 2027, 2 new memberships)

***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



Three story hives FOR SALE

Two three story bee hives (all 8-frame deeps) for sale for $800.00 ($400 each). We are selling two hives, each with a strong colony of bees. The price is reduced because both hives have minimal damage in top corner of one box. Despite this cosmetic issue, the boxes remain, functional and the colonies are thriving.

If interested, please email: scottstuff@myyahoo.com

Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association

Treasurer's Report - As of November 12, 2026

Profit and Loss

ACCOUNTS	Year to Date
Income	
Program Income - Bee Procurement (2026)	$58,200.00
Program Income - Membership Dues	$3,670.00
Total Income	$61,870.00
Cost of Goods Sold	
Bee Procurement Program Nucs & Queens	$51,300.00
Total Cost of Goods Sold	$51,300.00
Gross Profit	$10,570.00
Operating Expenses	
Bank Charges	$50.00
Dues	$50.00
Insurance	$1,873.00
Meeting Supplies and Refreshments	$601.76
Permits	$206.26
Professional Fees	$321.00
Speaker Fees	$675.00
Travel Expenses	$1,863.04
Total Operating Expenses	$5,640.06
Net Profit	$4,929.94

Balance Sheet

ACCOUNTS	As of November 12, 2026
Assets	
Total Cash and Bank	$61,343.50
Total Assets	$61,343.50
Liabilities	
Bee Purchase Commitment (2026)	$51,300.00
Less Payment Installments	($51,300.00)
Total Liabilities	$0.00
Assets & Liabilities	$61,343.50
Equity	
Retained Earnings - Prior Years	$56,413.56
Retained Earnings - Current Year	$4,929.94
Total Equity	$61,343.50

Bee Procurement Program - 2026

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

Notes (as of January 24, 2026):

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

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

TEXAS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

TBA CONVENTION KEYNOTE SPEAKER

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

DAVID TARPY



Professor of Applied Ecology and Extension Apiculturist at NC State

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

EXPLORING HONEY BEE QUEEN BIOLOGY, BEHAVIOR, AND COLONY HEALTH

BEYOND THE HIVE

BUILDING BETTER BEEKEEPERS



DANIELLE FLEMING

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

Apitheraphy 1 & 2

2026 TBA Annual Convention

Tyler, Texas | November 19-21

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

CONSTITUTION

Article I
Name

The name of this organization shall be Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association (WCABA or Association).

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.

Article III
Membership

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

Article IV
Officers

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

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

Article V
Meetings

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

Article VI
Constitution Changes

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

Article VII

IRS Restrictions

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

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

BY-LAWS

Section I

Officers

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section II

Duties of Officers

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

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

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

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

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

f. The Secretary shall be responsible for recording and maintaining accurate minutes of all of the Association and Executive Board meetings. Meeting minutes shall be approved by the Executive Boare, inclufing the Directors at Large,

and submitted to the Editoral Director for publication in the Association newsletter. He or she shall carry on the correspondence of the Association. The Secretary will keep a copy of the Constitution and By-Laws. The Constitution and By-Laws will be provided to any new member of the Executive Committee or membership. The Constitution and By-Laws will be posted on the website for view of the general public.

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

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

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

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

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

Section III

Dues

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

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

Section IV

By-Law Changes

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

Section V

Dissolution of Assets

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

The Constitution and By-Laws revised and adopted on October 27, 2026