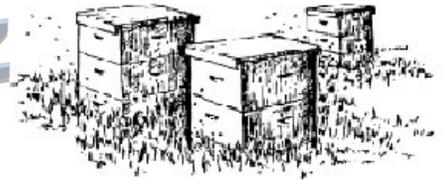




Fort Bend Buzz

newsletter of the
Fort Bend Beekeepers Association



January, 2014

The Fort Bend Beekeepers Association meets on the second Tuesday of the month (except December) at 7:00 pm in Fort Bend County's "Bud" O'Shieles Community Center, 1330 Band Rd., Rosenberg, Texas. Visitors (and new members) are always welcome (membership dues are \$5.00 for the calendar year). Our first meeting for 2014 will be Tuesday, January 14. The Association provides coffee and lemonade for meeting refreshments while members volunteer to bring snacks.

Ask a dozen beekeepers...

Here is this month's Q (from one of our members) and an A:

Q: I've often wondered what the most important thing is in managing hive pests and disease.

An A: This is a great question (?) since keeping bees includes "things" like hive components, tools, and medications. It also includes "things" the beekeeper does (beekeeping practices).

The second part is easiest: regular hive inspections are critically important to maintaining a healthy colony. The beekeeper must stay on top of the hive's vigor, honey and pollen stores, brood development, etc. Observations during these inspections are what should guide the future course of action such as feeding, adding boxes, requeening, hive treatments, etc. Focusing on strong healthy hives is the key to managing pests and disease.

What if we mean a "thing" that we can order out of the bee supply catalogue? Catalogues are full of stuff including the "things" we prescribe based on our inspections. Most beekeepers would agree that the screened bottom board is the most important "thing" in the hive stack. Varroa mites are insidious parasites. They cling to bees and feed on them, shortening their lives to the detriment of the whole colony. A mite that loses its grip on its host just waits to jump aboard the next bee to come along. The screened bottom board lets them wait outside the hive. Mites that fall off (or are

groomed off) by other bees are not likely to find a new host on the ground below the hive.

November Meeting Notes

Forty-nine members and guests attended our last meeting of 2013.

George Rodriguez reported on the Texas Beekeepers Association's annual meeting in Plano. One piece of business at the meeting was an increase in individual, family and club dues starting in 2014. Also, the TBA plans to list on its web site those members names with local honey for sale as well as those that do removals. While he had the floor, George announced that the Brazoria County Beekeepers Association had published a cook book and he had a few for sale at \$8 each (they were quickly snapped up).

Harrison Richardson also attended the TBA meeting and he reported on some of the program topics, including the presentation by Jerry Hayes who writes the popular "Classroom" article for the American Bee Journal. Harrison also reviewed some of the honey bee research that is ongoing. Mississippi State University Extension has published a comprehensive report on small hive beetles that you can "Google" and download. An important recommendation in the report is to sanitize slimed comb with a 5% bleach solution to kill yeast spores that can cause honey to ferment. Randy Oliver, another frequent contributor to the ABJ, reported on the results of double-blind studies of pollen substitutes for

feeding bees.

Will Rainey, member of the Harris County Beekeepers and Brazoria County Beekeepers, has been volunteering at the Houston Arboretum. He reported that they are looking for a volunteer to coordinate an adult beekeeping program.

Jack Richardson presented a short "show and tell". He showed how to add chicken wire to a frame to hold comb from cutouts. He also gave pointers for assembling hive bodies and supers. Well-made equipment should last for many years. He recommends painting inside the finger joints before assembling boxes. Assemble the box with quality wood glue, making sure that the sides are "square". Carefully caulk even tiny cracks and prime the wood before at least two coats of quality light-colored house paint that you buy at a bargain because the colors were mixed wrong.

Kelly Morris reported that he has started taking a Pepcid and a Benadryl before working bees to avoid allergic reactions.

Door prizes:

Brazoria County Beekeepers Assn. cook book - won by Doug Rowell
ceramic skep honey jar (donated by Stephanie King) - won by Greg Pendley

soft sided 6-pack cooler (donated by Albert Smaistrila) - won by Jerry Emerson

wildflower seeds (donated by Jerry Emerson) - won by Cynda deBons

Treasurer's Report

Our November, 2013 balance was \$3,464.62. Since that time we collected \$5.00 in dues (one new member at \$5.00), spent \$8.00 for one of the Brazoria County Beekeepers recipe books for a November meeting door prize and submitted our Texas Beekeepers Association dues for 2013 and 2014. Our treasury balance is \$3,411.62, consisting of \$42.00 in cash (to make change) plus a Wells Fargo checking account balance of \$3,369.62.

A financial summary and property inventory for 2013 is presented below. The main highlights are the 103 paid members at year-end and the \$1,243.75 in donations received:

Fort Bend Beekeepers Association 2013 Financial Summary	
Opening balance (Jan. 1, 2013)	\$1,771.83
Income	
member dues paid (103 at \$5.00)	\$515.00
donations	\$1,243.75
extracting equipment income	<u>\$120.00</u>
Total Income	\$1,878.75
Expenses	
Texas Beekeepers Assn. dues	(\$50.00)
meeting door prizes	(\$8.00)
outreach flyers	(\$100.00)
outreach educational banners	<u>(\$80.96)</u>
Total Expenses	(\$238.96)
Ending Balance (Dec. 31, 2013)	\$3,411.62

Fort Bend Beekeepers Association December 31, 2013 Property Inventory			
<u>Description</u>	<u>Date Acquired</u>	<u>Initial Cost</u>	<u>Member Contact</u>
Four Framed Beekeeping Posters	various	unknown	Jeff McMullan
Learning Hive	8/28/2009	\$144.49	Jeff McMullan
Red Wagon	10/16/2009	\$45.98	Jeff McMullan
Extracting Equipment	8/19/2011	\$583.33	Jim Lynch
Dadant Junior Bench Extractor with stand stainless steel double sieve serrated cold uncapping knife uncapping fork Dadant uncapping tub set			
Solar Wax Melter	1/10/2012	donated	Nancy Hentschel
Frame Assembly Gear	3/5/2012	\$157.88	Nancy Hentschel
Workmate portable work bench foundation form board wire crimper eyelet punch spur embedder wiring device and wire frame assembly jig			
Outreach Banners	11/7/2013	\$80.96	Jeff McMullan

Super Painting Contest

At our January meeting we will review the rules for our Super Painting Contest to be judged at our March meeting. Decorated shallow or medium supers (8 or 10 frame) can be entered in one of three categories: KIDS (through 12 years), TEENS (age 13 to 19), and ADULTS (20 and older). Winners will be determined by member ballot and announced at the March meeting. In addition to awards, winners get bragging rights for a whole year.

Elections

At our November meeting, Jack Richardson was appointed to head a nominating committee for the election of officers. Jack will report on the committee's slate of nominees at our January meeting. We will be voting after additional nominations from the floor. If you are interested in serving as an officer, please let Jack know.

Dues Are Due

Membership dues for the Fort Bend Beekeepers Association are \$5.00 for the calendar year. All member dues for 2014 are now due. Don't forget to stash a five dollar bill in your wallet and get your dues paid at our January meeting.

Our member rosters show who has not yet paid dues by their names being *in italics*. Of course everyone's name is that way at our first meeting of the year, but if you don't get this chore done, your name will show up in dreaded italics on our member roster.

Refreshments Sign Up and Swarm Call List

Our Association provides coffee and lemonade and members volunteer to bring a snack or dessert to the monthly meetings. At our January meeting, volunteers can sign up to provide refreshments for our 2014 meetings.

We'll also pass around a swarm call list that will be used to direct folks that contact our organization to members that capture swarms or do cutouts or those that want free bees.



<p>TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION</p>	<p>Boone Holladay</p>
<p>County Extension Agent - Horticulture Fort Bend County Jb.holladay@ag.tamu.edu (281) 342-3034 X 7034 1402 Band Road, Suite 100 Rosenberg, TX 77471</p>	
<p>Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socio-economic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. The Texas A&M System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas cooperating. If you have special needs in order to participate in this program, please contact Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service of Fort Bend County at (281) 342-3034.</p>	