

# The Bee Line

**Pineywoods Beekeepers Association**

Next Meeting Thursday, March 14, 6:30 pm

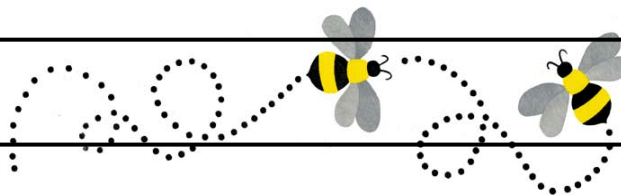
St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church

919 S John Redditt Dr, Lufkin

<https://www.pineywoodsbeekeepers.org/>

Volume 19 Issue 3

March 2019



## March Program

PBA President Roy Stark will talk about capturing swarms, building swarm traps, and the best placement of traps for catching swarms.

Beverages: Rachel Payne; Snacks: Bob Love, Jeff & Janet Haney

Bringing beverages or refreshments? If unable to attend, please notify Rachel Payne at 936-715-0362 or [rachelpayne519@yahoo.com](mailto:rachelpayne519@yahoo.com) so that we can supply them.

## Welcome to our Brood...

Michelle Kamman, Mike Moore, Jim & Judy Murray, Richard & Sharon Rogers

## You're the Bee's Knees!

3/1 – AgriLife Extension Agent Cary Sims spoke about “Bees and Honey” at the East Texas Fruit and Vegetable Conference.



Did you know...?

Honey bees use several dances in the hive to communicate the location of nectar and water to other bees. One well-known dance is called the waggle dance. They also use it to communicate the location of potential nest sites and their new home when swarming.

Rodger Floyd asked me to include this riddle: Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness.

## Assorted Buzziness

There will be a **Board Meeting** on March 14 at 5:30 pm, an hour before our normal monthly meeting. All members are welcome to attend.

**2019 PBA dues** are now due! \$10 email membership or \$16 postal membership, per family. Contact Treasurer Terry McFall, 1700 FM 252, Jasper, TX 75951 [tdmcfallclan@yahoo.com](mailto:tdmcfallclan@yahoo.com) 409-289-7387.

### 2019 Bee School

April 6, 13, 27. More details at meeting or contact Rachel Payne.

We value your input! What would you like to see on our website? What suggestions do you have to improve our club and our meetings? What topics would you like for our programs? Do you know of any speakers we should try to get? You can e-mail Rachel Payne at [rachelpayne519@yahoo.com](mailto:rachelpayne519@yahoo.com), who will forward your suggestions to the appropriate person(s).

**Bee helpful** and volunteer! PBA has the opportunity to have educational booths at local events and welcomes volunteers! Contact Rachel Payne.

3/30 – **6<sup>th</sup> Annual How-To Festival**, 9am-3pm, Nacogdoches Farmers Market. Hosted by Nacogdoches Public Library, local experts teach you how to do all sorts of things in mini-sessions throughout the day. Past PBA demonstrations have included “How to keep bees” and “How to help pollinators.” Ideas and presenters are welcome!

4/27 – **Earth Day Celebration**, 8am-noon, Banita Creek Park, Nacogdoches. Celebrate the wonders of Earth with art, crafts, and games.

5/17 – **Sawmill Sampler**, 6-8pm, Texas Forestry Museum, Lufkin. Discover what life was like in early east Texas sawmill towns. Sample a variety of beans in our Bean Cook-off and try food samples from local restaurants. Enjoy the live music, performances, and demonstrations. Adults \$10, children 4-12 \$5, children 3 and under free.

### What’s Buzzing

3/22 – **Texas Master Beekeeper Exam**, Washington Co. Fairgrounds, Brenham. Apprentice level: 8am-12pm, Advanced & Master levels: 1pm-5pm. Testing will be limited to 45 people for the Apprentice level test. \$75 exam fee. <https://masterbeekeeper.tamu.edu/2019-spring-exam-registration/>

3/23 – **Central Texas Beekeepers Association 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Beekeeping School**. 8:30am-5:30 pm, Brenham. \$65/adult, \$60/additional adult, \$25/student, \$10/child under 12, includes lunch and snacks. Beginner, intermediate, and advanced courses. <http://centraltexasbeekeepers.org/eleventh-annual-beekeeping-school---2019.html> or 979-277-0411



Pineywoods Beekeepers  
Association

### 2019 Bee School

Learn how to be a beekeeper!

Register now for our 15<sup>th</sup> annual course including hands-on management skills and the option to acquire your own honey bee colony.

Increase quantity and quality of your garden produce, help the honey bees, and help yourself to home-grown local natural honey!

**Classroom  
instruction and  
demos  
April 6 and 13,  
10am-4pm**

**Texas A&M AgriLife  
Extension Service  
Office in Lufkin**

**Hands-on practice  
in the bee yard  
April 27 beginning  
at 10am**

**\$60 course fee  
includes textbook,  
handouts, and  
snacks**

For more info, contact  
Rachel Payne  
936-715-0362  
[rachelpayne519@yahoo.com](mailto:rachelpayne519@yahoo.com)

3/30 – **Nacogdoches Farmers Market Spring Fling**, 9am-2pm, Nacogdoches Farmers Market. Activities and games, petting zoo, special performances, and lots of local vendors.

3/30 – **Angelina Master Gardeners Spring Plant Sale**, 8am-2pm, Angelina Co. Farmers Market. Wide selection of plants specifically for East Texas. Proceeds fund horticulture education projects for our area.  
<https://txmg.org/events/angelina-county-spring-plant-sale>

4/27 – **Barter Day**, 2:30pm, Nacogdoches Public Library. Bring your handmade or homegrown items to trade with others at a fun, outdoor afternoon outside the library. Anything you've make or grown is welcome, and you can find other local specialties to take home in exchange. Free. No registration.

### **Buy and Sell**

For sale: Varroa-resistant **queen cells**, \$4, starting 3/9, call for availability. Caged mated **proven queens**, \$20, 4/6, call for availability. **Nucs** (nucleus starter colony) – 5 frames of established comb/feed/brood/proven new queen in your box in Groveton, \$120, starting 4/15, call to reserve. Rodger Floyd [floyd@consolidated.net](mailto:floyd@consolidated.net) or call 936-831-2818 after 7 pm to reserve.

For sale: **PBA honey**. Funds support PBA educational programs. 12-oz bears \$6, 1.5 lb pint \$12, 3 lb quart \$20. Contact Rachel Payne at [rachelpayne519@yahoo.com](mailto:rachelpayne519@yahoo.com) or 936-715-0362

### **Seasonal Tips**

Robert Jones

March normally sees a warming trend along with the blooming of many wildflowers and plants across Deep East Texas.

Expect early dewberry bloom, sweet clover, hairy vetch, Dutch/red clovers with the ending of the month seeing hawthorn, Yaupon holly, black locust, and other early-flowering bushes and trees.

This is the month for grafting, cell building, splits, early swarms, and the first hive supers added at the end of the month. Keeping bees is really a type of farming. Each and every year you will see winter losses. This month is the time to regain those losses by splitting your hives. There are actually two main reasons to split: hive loss replacement and swarm control. This can be done by the purchase of queen cells or live queens or, if you have the understanding of the cell builder, queen bee calendar, and know-how to graft, you can do your own.

You can also do this by natural splits made from making a hive queenless and the bees making emergency queen cells or looking for hives that have swarm cells and using those cells also for making splits. The main idea is to propagate new queens and hives to the level you intend to keep. Swarm cells can be friends or enemies according to how you intend to manage your colonies.

When the first honey flow starts, it is natural that the bee colonies that are strong want to propagate and split. This, added to hive crowding, along with early weeks of stormy spring weather, is a catalyst for swarm cell building. Since we cannot control the weather, we move to what we can control. With colony

crowding, if you can keep a colony always building and never crowded you have some hopes of keeping your old queen out of the trees along with half the hive. Putting supers on ahead of the colony growth is one key factor to stopping over-crowding.

The other is to keep the nest mixed up by checkerboarding (putting in foundation frames) just in and around the nest area. This manipulation keeps the bees rebuilding the nest and away from building queen cells. The last control method is to replace the old queen with a new one. New queens will not normally swarm in their first year of service.

The main goal for this month is maintaining or expanding your bee Apiary. The rule that we should use for feeding is to feed up to the time of supering a colony with honey supers. New starts should always be fed to support hive expansion with more brood.

### **From the Hexagonal Office**

Roy Stark

This is the time of year that many hives are lost because the bees have used up their honey and pollen resources. Yes, bees can starve to death. There are some plants that are blooming but, because of the rain and fluctuating temperatures, the bees are unable to exploit these opportunities. Have you tried lifting your hives to see if there are honey stores? I have been feeding sugar water to put my bees in a position to survive until the weather improves. Each hive has a story to tell. Are you listening? If you have any lingering questions on how to read what the bees are telling you, pick up your phone and call someone in our club and discuss your concerns.

### **Comb-Grown Goodness**

#### **Honey Cake**

<https://www.kingarthurflour.com/recipes/honey-cake-recipe>

- 1 cup sliced almonds
- 1 ¼ cups whole wheat flour, white or traditional
- ¾ cup unbleached all-purpose flour
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¾ cup unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 1 cup honey
- 4 large eggs
- ¼ cup sour cream or yogurt



Preheat the oven to 325°F. Lightly grease a 9-inch round cake pan. Sprinkle ¾ cup of the sliced almonds in the bottom of the pan, reserving ¼ cup for the batter.

In a medium bowl, whisk together the flours, baking soda, and salt; set aside. In a large mixing bowl, mix together the butter, honey, and eggs. Stir in the reserved flour mixture, then the sour cream or yogurt and reserved almonds.

Scrape the sides and bottom of the bowl to be sure everything is evenly moistened, then mix for one minute more.

Gently pour the batter over the almonds in the prepared pan.

Bake for 50 to 55 minutes, until the edge of the cake pulls back from the edge of the pan. Remove from the oven and place on a rack to cool for 15 minutes. After 15 minutes, invert the cake onto a serving plate and allow it to cool before serving.

Decorate the top with powdered sugar if desired. Yield: 1 cake, 16 servings.

### Hot & Sweet Broccoli and Asparagus

<https://www.honey.com/recipe/hot-n-sweet-broccoli-and-asparagus>

- ¼ cup honey
- 2 T soy sauce
- 1 tsp. ground ginger
- ½ to 1 tsp. crushed red pepper
- 1 lb. broccoli, trimmed
- ½ lb. asparagus, trimmed
- 2 T olive oil

Combine honey, soy sauce, ginger, and red pepper. Cut up broccoli and slice stem. Diagonally slice asparagus. Heat oil in large skillet; add broccoli and asparagus and stir-fry over medium-high heat for 3 minutes. Add ½ cup water to pan; cover and steam vegetables for 2 minutes or until tender-crisp. Drain water from pan. Add honey mixture and cook uncovered until glaze is slightly thickened, ~ 2 minutes.



A couple of funnies for those of you who aren't on Facebook:

### Bee Math Explained

Similar to chicken math, but more expensive.



This is (1) colony



This is (2) colonies



This is (8) colonies



This is (15) colonies



A picture of a bee on a peach blossom taken by Cade Banks.

Several shots in Bakersfield, CA, taken by Dwayne Howell the last week of Feb. Almond trees as far as the eye could see!

Robert Jones talking about queen rearing at February's meeting. The pdf version of his presentation is on the website: <https://www.pineywoodsbeekeepers.org/articles/queen-rearing>