

# The Bee Line

**Pineywoods Beekeepers Association**

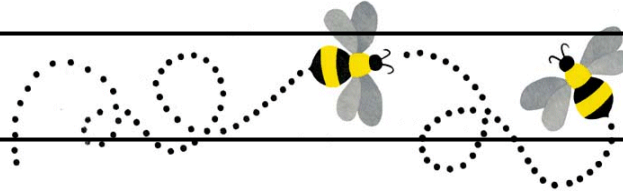
Next meeting March 12, 2026, 6:30 pm

Lufkin VFW Post 1836

1800 Ford Chapel Road, Lufkin

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

Volume 26 Issue 3



March 2026

## MARCH PROGRAM

Bob Love will talk about how to help bees through wildfire smoke. Susan Precup will have a slide show about early-blooming plants and how to help bees with early feeding. Then we'll have an open discussion about hive inspections and ideas on how to keep notes.

**Last call for 2026 dues!** Non-renewing members will be dropped this month. \$15 e-mail membership or \$20 postal membership, per family. Pay at the meeting or send a check or money order (payable to Pineywoods Beekeepers Association) to Treasurer Mike Hartman, PO Box 536, Lufkin, 75902.

## 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 in stopping over-crowding.

Another way 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 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.

## WHAT'S BUZZING

### **Queen rearing class** – March 14<sup>th</sup>.

Ricky Davis and Roger Gauthier will be hosting a queen rearing class at Roger's barn on March 14th at 9:00 am. Roger's address is 1084 Caver Road, Lufkin, 75901. His barn is approximately 1/4 mile past his house on the right side of the road. They will pull queen cells every five days for the month of March provided the bees cooperate. If there's a lot of interest, two sessions will be held. If you have questions or want to sign up, let Ricky know... [rickyd75901@yahoo.com](mailto:rickyd75901@yahoo.com) or 936-635-0561

**Angelina Co. Master Gardener Plant Sale** – March 28<sup>th</sup>, 8am til sold out, Farmers Market, Lufkin. Sales feature Texas-tough perennials, natives, roses, herbs, and ornamental grasses.

**Early Edible Sale** – March 28<sup>th</sup>, 9am-noon, Pineywoods Native Plant Center at 2900 Raguet, Nacogdoches. Offering edible plants only like tomatoes, peppers, and herbs.

**Spring Garden Gala Day** – April 11<sup>th</sup>, 9am-2pm, Pineywoods Native Plant Center. Features hard-to-find, "Texas-tough" plants, including native species, perennials, and shrubs. A link to the plant list can be found at <https://www.sfasu.edu/gardens/events/plant-sale>

**Free beekeeping class** – 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays at 5:30 pm at Nacogdoches Seventh Day Adventist Church playground April 15<sup>th</sup> – Nov 15<sup>th</sup>. Facebook post by Vasiliy Osadchuck from Ukraine with over 40 years' experience. Theory and hands-on for beginners plus advanced discussions for the pros.

**At-Home Beekeeping Series** presented by the Lawrence Co. Alabama Extension Office. 6:30-7:30 pm. Recordings from this series are available **for only two weeks** after each session on the Lawrence County Alabama Extension Office Facebook page. <https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/bees-pollinators/at-home-beekeeping-series/>

### **2026 Dates and Topics**

March 31 — Queen Concrete versus Proxy Measurements

Elizabeth Walsh, US Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service

April 28 — TBD

Esmaeil Amiri, Mississippi State University Extension

May 26 — TBD - Michael Goblirsch, US Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service

### TIME TO BEE ENTERTAINED!

What is smarter than a talking parrot?  
*A spelling bee.*



Why do bees hum?  
*Because they can't remember the words.*



What kind of bee can't make up its mind?  
*A maybe.*

What kind of bee is good for you?  
*Vitamin B.*

What is a bee's favorite line of Shakespeare?  
*To bee or not to bee.*



Who says zzub-zzub-zzub?  
*A bee flying backwards.*



Which singers do bees love?  
*Bee-yonce and Sting.*

Source: <https://listcaboodle.com/bee-jokes-for-kids/>

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Thank you to those who've helped with Bee School! This includes setting up, cleaning up, teaching, technology, providing snacks, and answering questions. I hope I haven't missed anyone!

Ricky Davis, Edward & Wendy Doucet, Roger Gauthier, Alan & Mitzi Higginbotham, Robert Jones, Joanie Kochanek, Miki Lynn, Terry McFall, Walter McLendon, Clay & Susan Precup, Garrett Slater, Mary Kay Steely, Nancy Walker

