

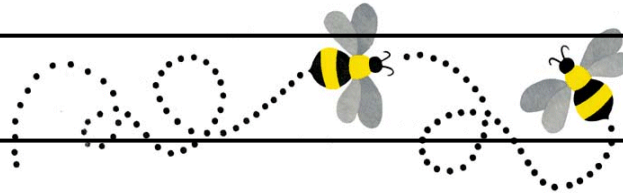
The Bee Line

Pineywoods Beekeepers Association

Next meeting to be determined
Angelina Co. Chamber of Commerce
1615 South Chestnut, Lufkin

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

Volume 20 Issue 4



April 2020

Due to COVID-19, we will not meet this month. Our meetings will resume when it is safe to do so.

Welcome (and welcome back) to our Brood...

Wayne & Karen Peterson, Kenny Standridge, Myrton Thompson

You're the Bee's Knees

3/5 – Rachel Payne spoke to the Nacogdoches County Master Gardeners about the importance of honey bees and ways to help them.

Assorted Buzziness

Last call for 2020 PBA dues – \$15 e-mail membership or \$20 postal membership, per family. Don't miss out on our monthly *Bee Line* newsletter – pay your dues to continue receiving issues. Contact Treasurer Terry McFall, 1700 FM 252, Jasper, TX 75951 tdmcfallclan@yahoo.com 409-289-7387.

We're still in need of a **Program Coordinator** and **Hospitality Volunteer**. If you're interested, see a Board member.

2020 Bee School has been postponed until further notice. \$60 course fee includes *Beekeeping for Dummies*, 4th Edition. A family member may audit (and share the textbook) at no additional charge. For more information, contact Robert Jones at 936-240-6597.

What's Buzzing

FREE April 2020 American Bee Journal download – Due to shelter-in-place declarations in various locations, Dadant & Sons is making the April issue of ABJ available for viewing as a pdf.

<https://americanbeejournal.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/ABJ-4-2020.pdf>

Potential EpiPen problems – EpiPen 0.3mg and EpiPen Jr 0.15mg auto-injectors and the authorized generic versions may have delayed injection or be prevented from properly injecting due to:

1. Device failure from spontaneous activation caused by using sideways force to remove the blue safety release
2. Device failure from inadvertent or spontaneous activation due to a raised blue safety release
3. Difficulty removing the device from the carrier tube
4. User errors

For more info, [https://www.drugs.com/fda/fda-alerts-patients-health-care-professionals-epipen-auto-injector-errors-related-device-](https://www.drugs.com/fda/fda-alerts-patients-health-care-professionals-epipen-auto-injector-errors-related-device-14354.html?utm_source=ddc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=FDA+Alert+-+FDA+Alerts+Patients+and+Health+Care+Professionals+of+EpiPen+Auto-Injector+Errors+Related+to+Device+Malfunctions+and+User+Administration&fbclid=IwAR0NahuaOKWkNwWI7uh_hszHna4aPoO-3g-k6qhXaWgDRXcoa4TonaSzZ5c)

[14354.html?utm_source=ddc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=FDA+Alert+-+FDA+Alerts+Patients+and+Health+Care+Professionals+of+EpiPen+Auto-Injector+Errors+Related+to+Device+Malfunctions+and+User+Administration&fbclid=IwAR0NahuaOKWkNwWI7uh_hszHna4aPoO-3g-k6qhXaWgDRXcoa4TonaSzZ5c](https://www.drugs.com/fda/fda-alerts-patients-health-care-professionals-epipen-auto-injector-errors-related-device-14354.html?utm_source=ddc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=FDA+Alert+-+FDA+Alerts+Patients+and+Health+Care+Professionals+of+EpiPen+Auto-Injector+Errors+Related+to+Device+Malfunctions+and+User+Administration&fbclid=IwAR0NahuaOKWkNwWI7uh_hszHna4aPoO-3g-k6qhXaWgDRXcoa4TonaSzZ5c)

Stay at Home Beekeeping Series: Distance Learning for Beekeeping Clubs was created by the apiculture/extension programs at various SEC Universities including Alabama Extension, Auburn University, University of Florida, University of Georgia, The University of Tennessee Knoxville, and Texas A&M University. The series is free of charge and will be available online from April 2 to May 28, 2020. Time for Q&A included.

The schedule to date is as follows, with all presentations being from 6:30pm to 7:30pm CST:

Apr 2: Ten mistakes beginners make, with Lonnie Funderburg (Blount Co. Beekeepers, AL)

Apr 7: Coping with pesticides, with Jack Rowe (Alabama Extension)

Apr 16: Learning from pandemics, with Dr. Jennifer Tsuruda (University of Tennessee)

Apr 30: Queen management essentials, with Dr. Juliana Rangel (Texas A&M University)

May 14: Bee and parasite biogeography, with Dr. Keith Delaplane (University of Georgia)

May 28: What's killing honey bees, with Dr. Jamie Ellis (University of Florida)

Register at <http://www.aces.edu/go/1196> or watch live at

<https://www.facebook.com/LawrenceCountyextension/>

Dr. Tom Seeley has created a YouTube channel in response to stay-at-home orders preventing his traveling to lectures.

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKmMQM2uMc7jNRg-](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKmMQM2uMc7jNRg-gz4jZHA/?fbclid=IwAR1eqy8bOvq53EHjVDfK5tjNrwX3Wdjxw-0ZNzmz4hN4ZmftmCBzYhQ0F2I)

[gz4jZHA/?fbclid=IwAR1eqy8bOvq53EHjVDfK5tjNrwX3Wdjxw-0ZNzmz4hN4ZmftmCBzYhQ0F2I](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKmMQM2uMc7jNRg-gz4jZHA/?fbclid=IwAR1eqy8bOvq53EHjVDfK5tjNrwX3Wdjxw-0ZNzmz4hN4ZmftmCBzYhQ0F2I)

The **2019-2020 Bee Informed Partnership annual Colony Loss and Management Survey** is now live. The survey is available to take throughout the month of April. <https://beeinformed.org/>

2020 North American Mite-A-Thon – This year, the Mite-A-Thon will have a **spring and summer session** in order to maximize data collection and distribution. The Mite-A-Thon is a tri-national effort to collect *Varroa* mite infestation data in honey bee colonies across North America, and all beekeepers can participate by testing their hives for mites, creating a rich distribution of sampling sites in Canada, the United States, and Mexico. The dates are May 2nd-17th and August 15th-30th.

<https://www.pollinator.org/miteathon>

Buy and Sell

For sale: Varroa-resistant QUEEN CELLS, \$4, 3/14. Caged mated PROVEN QUEENS, \$20, 4/4. NUCS (nucleus starter colony) - 5 frames established comb/feed/brood/proven new queen in your box in Groveton, \$120, start late April. Call for availability and reserve. FLOYD BEES/Rodger Floyd - After dark 936-831-2818 floyd@consolidated.net

For sale in Lufkin: Strong established honey bee colony – double deep, 20 frames, plastic foundation, 2019 new Floyd bees varroa-resistant queen, brood in top box. Hive components new in 2017: telescoping aluminum lid, inner cover, custom painted finger-joint boxes, screened bottom board, (not included: Boardman entrance feeder, SHB traps, cinder blocks). Should make a good 2020 crop of honey or several splits. \$375. Contact Erin at lesiber@gmail.com or 936-208-9577 or Marie C. Kocyan at redcutridge@yahoo.com or 936-632-2272 for photos.

Beekeeping supplies are available at Atwoods in Nacogdoches, Lone Star Farm & Home Center in Nacogdoches and Corrigan, Lufkin Farm Supply & Nursery in Lufkin, Circle Three Feed in Jasper, Motts Hardware/TKC Knives in Spurger, and Tractor Supply in Hemphill and Lufkin, Fairmount Lumber & Hardware in Hemphill. Shipley's Donuts has buckets with tight-fitting lids for inside-hive pail feeding - just make the holes. \$1 for small, \$2 for larger size.

Seasonal Tips

Robert Jones

April sees the honey flow getting heavier with the continuance of the wildflowers along with the yopon holly that flows to mid-April and with the privet hedge starting about the time the Yopon stops and flowing to May 1st. This early flow is the first excess honey that can be captured in Deep East Texas. The timing of extracting the honey should be about May 10th. Be sure the frames are well capped before extraction.

Supering and queen evaluation take precedence over possible extraction this month.

- Rule Number One: If you want honey don't be behind on your supers. Supering after the fact of the nectar flow is just a miss until next year.
- Rule Number Two: After splits you must evaluate the queen situation in each hive. Whether or not you are using queen cells or live mated queens you must evaluate them about two weeks after their introduction to the hive. Live queens can be rejected and killed at times. Queen cells are always a maybe. You can only know after they return, if they do, if they have been mated correctly. It takes 12 to 20 drones to create a well-mated queen bee. At the first two week mark you will be noting if she has returned and if she is laying eggs (note late queens coming back in the third week will likely be bad). The next time you will note is at the one month mark.

If you are using full box splits with a lot of bees you should want to see a large laid out area at 30 days with minimum drone cells. The larger the laid out area, 6 to 8 frames, the higher the queen quality. If this is what you find, super this colony immediately. This queen will make you honey. However, if the brood area is extremely small and there are no eggs, spotty brood, just drone brood, or the brood just doesn't exist kill the bad queen bee and replace her. She is a bad queen and will not improve (Note: A

queen will only lay out an area as big as there are nurse bees to cover it). If it is late into the season you may also stack this super on a good queen for an extra boost on colony expansion and more honey.

Smaller 2 or 3 frame nuc starts should be evaluated based on their bee resource levels. These small starts should have extremely small entrances and, if possible, be kept in a different apiary yard a couple of miles from your main one. (NOTE: If there is a dearth of nectar small colonies normally are robbed out).

Package Bees ordered back in January will arrive with new queens and will need installation into hives. Swarm control will need to continue during the nectar flow time with extra supers. Keep those bees working. Continue to feed small hives or hives that you are still working to grow for brood production.

From the Hexagonal Office

Karen Mitchell

Hello all,

Hopefully each of you are well and safe during this challenging time. I am missing each of you and the time we spend together talking about one of my favorite subjects - bees. Take time to surf the internet and learn how other folks are managing their bees. Not everything you see or hear is something worth trying! During one YouTube video, a man dressed in shorts and flip flops was earnestly discussing his new hive design and had to leave in a hurry. The bees discovered all the many exposed and very tender areas the stingers could access and he had not even opened the hive. That video made my day. It brought back memories of not-so-wise choices I have made over the years. When we meet again, maybe you can share what you saw or read and tried.

In the meantime, I pray each of you and your loved ones stay safe and well.

God bless,

Karen

Comb-Grown Goodness

Honey Pound Cake

<https://www.baking-sense.com/2017/03/02/absolutely-perfect-honey-pound-cake/>

3 large eggs plus 4 yolks, room temperature
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
½ cup honey
1 ¾ cups cake flour
¼ teaspoon table salt
1 teaspoon baking powder
½ cup granulated sugar
2 sticks plus 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, room temp



Preheat the oven to 350°F. Butter and flour a 9"x5" loaf pan or 12 cup Bundt pan. Combine the eggs, yolks, vanilla, and honey in a small bowl; whisk to combine and set aside. Sift together the flour, salt and baking powder in a mixing bowl. Add the sugar to the flour and mix at low speed for 30 seconds. Add the butter to the flour and mix until combined. Increase the speed to medium high and mix for a full 2-3 minutes. The batter will lighten in color and texture. If using a hand mixer add another minute to the mixing time. Scrape the bowl and beater thoroughly. On low speed, add the eggs in 3 increments, scraping the bowl after each addition. Mix just until the eggs are incorporated. Pour the batter into the prepared pan. Bake at 350°F until a toothpick inserted in the middle comes out clean (about 55 minutes).

Lavender and Beeswax Hand Cream

The Beekeeper's Bible

- 4 tbsp sweet almond oil
- 4 tbsp coconut oil
- 3 tbsp beeswax
- 6 tbsp glycerine
- 5-6 drops lavender essential oil

Prepare clean glass or ceramic pots with lids. Combine the oils and beeswax in a double boiler over low heat, stirring continuously to blend the ingredients. Add the glycerine very gradually while stirring. When the ingredients have fully combined, remove the pan from the heat and continue stirring until it is a creamy consistency. Add the lavender oil, mix well, then immediately spoon the mixture into the pots.

Jesus Vazquez demonstrates his swarm bucket and Terry McFall recommends *Honeybee Democracy* at the March PBA meeting. Justin Daniel's son helping in the bee yard.

