

The Bee Line

Pineywoods Beekeepers Association

Next meeting January 8, 6:30 pm

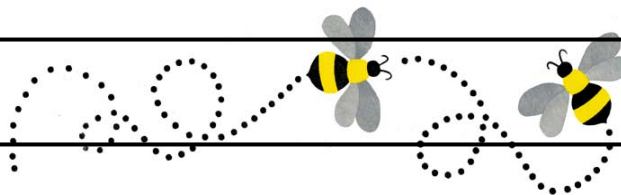
Lufkin VFW Post 1836

1800 Ford Chapel Road, Lufkin

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

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January Program

Program Coordinator Susan Precup will review a calendar of topics for 2026. She'd like to get input from the club about adding or deleting topics. Come with your suggestions!

2026 dues are now due! \$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. January is also a good time to renew your Texas Beekeepers Association membership, as well as your subscriptions to The American Bee Journal and Bee Culture magazines. PBA members can receive ABJ at a discount; see our Secretary for details.

Here are the links you'll need:

<https://texasbeekeepers.org/>

<https://www.dadant.com/catalog/books-subscriptions/american-bee-journal/us-delivery>

<https://www.beeculture.com/magazine/>

2026 Bee School

We have confirmed dates, and plans are underway for our 2026 Bee School. Classroom days will be February 21st and 28th and bee yard day will be March 7th (weather permitting). More information is available on our website. <https://www.pineywoodsbeekeepers.org/resources/bee-school>

What's Buzzing

2026 Board – Thank you to those who have agreed to serve as officers next year!

President – Ricky Davis

Vice President – Bob Love

Secretary – Joanie Kochanek

Treasurer – Mike Hartman

Training Coordinator – Rachel Payne

Newsletter Editor – Rachel Payne

Apiary Manager – Roger Gauthier

Free beekeeping class – 1st & 3rd Sundays at 5:30 pm at Nacogdoches Seventh Day Adventist Church playground April 15th – Nov 15th. 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

January 27 — Using Oxalic Acid Effectively

Cameron Jack, University of Florida

February 24 — Treating Newly Split Colonies with Organic Varroacides

Dan Aurell, Auburn University

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

June 30 — Queen Management Essentials

Juliana Rangel, Texas A&M University

Seasonal Tips

Robert Jones

January 1st is the beginning point for the beekeeping calendar in Deep East Texas for Angelina County and all the surrounding counties. This is the time that is critical to feed your bees. Some time on a warm day late in December on into the first week of January you should inspect the colony strength and resources.

Pollen patties, along with sugar syrup, can be added at the time of this inspection to push the queen for early brood production. (Note: Do not offer the pollen patty without syrup.) Do not go down into the hive looking for a queen or evidence of brood which will not be there. Rolling a queen at this point will lose the hive. Notice when you open the colony how many of the top bars have bees that come up on them and then count them. This indicates your hive strength.

Feed the bees the pollen patty resource according to the hive strength. Feed a whole patty for 8 to 10 frames of bees and ½ patty for 5 to 6 frames of bees. Two major reasons we feed in the early part of the year are to keep colonies that have wintered to this point from dying out due to a lack of resources and to support the colony expansion due to pollen which appears early in our area around the third week of January. Further south of Angelina County may see this happen in the second week of January.

The beginning of this natural pollen resource means that the hive will re-establish the brood nest since the queen will begin laying eggs for the first time in several months. (Pollen patties offered

after the natural pollen has started will not be taken up as quickly and this resource can become a haven for the hive beetles.) With the hive expanding and resources dwindling due to the honey being used for heating and brood expansion, January and February become the easiest months to lose hives because winter cold snaps bring us to below freezing, sometimes for a week at a time. If this happens and the resources (mainly HONEY or syrup) are not available, the hive will be lost and you will find them with their heads down in the comb with the nest in a ball shape but overcome and gone. Remember to keep that feeder full, especially this time of year, checking and filling only on warm days for inside colony feeders. Also, package bees are normally ordered from December to January 1st with delivery normally after April 1st.

Apple Cider Spiced Honey

<https://southerndiscourse.com/apple-cider-spiced-honey/>

Enjoy all the flavors of cinnamon-y spiced apples laced with golden sweet honey with this easy Apple Cider Spiced Honey. Get ready to drizzle it on everything from biscuits and cornbread to pancakes and sweet potatoes, even yogurt!

Ingredients

- 4 cups apple cider
- 2 cinnamon sticks
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ½ C honey

Instructions

- Bring 4 cups apple cider and cinnamon sticks to a boil in 5-6 quart pot on the stove top. Turn heat down to medium. Keep cider at a low boil for about 30-35 minutes, stirring occasionally. When cider reduces from 4 cups to ½ cup, it is ready.
- Remove from heat and take out cinnamon sticks. Stir in vanilla and honey. Pour in jar and allow to cool. The cider spiced honey will thicken as it cools. Will last in the refrigerated, covered, for up to 3 months.

How to Use Apple Cider Honey

- **Breakfast.** Drizzle it on gingerbread muffins, biscuits, pancakes, waffles, French toast or oatmeal!
- **Snack.** Use it to top yogurt, mix with peanut butter or as a simple fruit dip.
- **Appetizer.** Add a jar of Apple Cider Honey to your charcuterie boards or spoon it over baked brie with chopped pecans.
- **Dinner.** Drizzle over baked sweet potatoes or cornbread. Serve it with pork chops or Peppered Pork Loin. Use to create an apple vinaigrette salad dressing.
- **Dessert.** Bring some wow to bread pudding. Add to your apple pie filling. Drizzle a little over Fresh Apple Cake with a side of vanilla ice cream.
- **Drinks.** Stir a spoonful in hot tea or coffee and top with Cinnamon Whipped Cream for a little comfort in a cup.