Fort Bend Buzz

February 2024

the monthly newsletter of the Fort Bend Beekeepers Association

fostering safe, responsible, successful beekeeping

The Fort Bend Beekeepers Association meets on the second Tuesday of each month (except December). The February 13, 2024 meeting will be held at 7:00 pm both at Fort Bend County's "Bud" O'Shieles Community Center, 1330 Band Rd., Rosenberg, Texas. Visitors and new members are always welcome (membership dues are $10.00 per person for the calendar year). We will be called to order at 7:30 after 30 minutes of social time.

January Meeting Notes

President Danessa Yaschuk opened the meeting and greeted everyone. Vice President Joseph "Jody" Taylor had the following announcements:

- Whip-a-Stitch Embroidery is selling hats with the official FBBA logo. FBBA receives a $5 donation from every hat purchased. See Barbara if you are interested in buying a hat.
- Central Texas Beekeepers Association's 14th Annual Beekeeping School is on March 2nd in Brenham. This is one of the best one-day schools and we are fortunate for it to be so close to home. Registration is already open. The website is CentralTexasBeekeepers.org
- On Saturday (1/13/24), join us at Cinemark Rosenberg 12 for the 6:55 pm showing of The Beekeeper, staring Jason Statham. Wearing your beekeeper suit or jacket isn't mandatory but highly encouraged. We will do a group photo with those 'properly attired'. (You still have time to wash it!) This is an action movie rated R. As of yesterday, there were plenty of good seats still available, but we recommend getting your tickets online in advance.
- For those of you just starting in beekeeping, our Intro to Beekeeping group will meet prior to the regular meeting February thru May, from 6:00-7:00 pm. There will also be one, possibly two meet-ups at a nearby apiary for a little hands-on. Additionally, we have a private Facebook group where you can ask questions and post photos. If you are interested in joining the group, please sign the Intro to Beekeeping sheet being passed around and details and a registration form will be emailed to you.

Gene DeBons gave us a very interesting History Moment, about the introduction of African bees to Brazil. Most of us know the story of how a beekeeper unintentionally removed queen excluders from the hives, which allowed the 26 African colonies to swarm. However, it seems likely this story was either a convenient myth or only a part of how the African bees became established in Brazil. An article in December's American Bee Journal takes a close look at the information available from published accounts. The importation of the bees to Brazil by Dr. Warwick Kerr, is well-documented. He shipped 142 queens, but some died in transit, some weren't accepted or were superseded by the bee colonies, and some were eliminated from the program for their excessive aggressiveness, leaving 40 queens, of which 26 were determined to be the "most productive and hardworking"…. Their only "serious defect" being "its great aggression." It was firmly believed the aggression would be eliminated by crossbreeding with the Italian bees already established in Brazil. Because of this, the evidence suggests, it is likely that queen excluders were never used. In 1991, an interviewer asked Dr. Kerr,

"If he could live his life over again, would he do anything differently?" Dr. Kerr replied, "I would leave those African bees where I found them."

Lynne Jones gave a presentation on some of the hive types available, their advantages and disadvantages, and the basic equipment needed to get started in beekeeping. The two most popular hive types are the Top Bar and the Langstroth (standard set-up, Horizontal, all Mediums, and hives made from insulated/manufactured materials). For protective gear, a jacket or full suit in triple-layer ventilated material is highly recommended. There are many options for gloves ranging from thin nitrile gloves to thick, PVC-coated gloves. Depending on the attitude of your bees on any given day, you may need a variety. You will definitely need a smoker and at least two hive tools. A bee brush, frame grip and frame holder are things you might use, but not necessities. Regardless of whether you are starting with a Nuc or a package, you will need to feed your bees. There are a variety of feeders, but an internal feeder is the best option because it is less likely to set off a robbing frenzy. (If you want a PDF copy of the presentation, send an email to: info@FortBendBeekeepers.org)

Danessa and Lynne then conducted the door prize drawings. Thank you to those who donated door prizes and congratulations to those who won.

Attendance was 35.

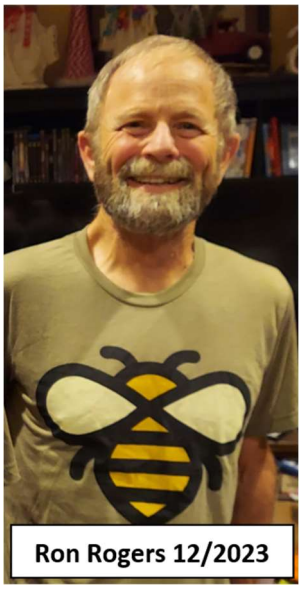
Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report as of January 28, 2024.

Our reported treasury balance on December 31, 2023 was $785.16. Since this report we received $260.00 in payments ($250.00 dues, $5.00 donation from hat purchases & $5.00 member donation). We re-credited $100 to our account for a check never cashed. The only expense was $15.59 for the monthly Squarespace fee. (The monthly fee increased from 12.99.) The resulting balance is $1,129.57 ($1079.57 in the checking account, plus $50.00 in cash to make change.)

Sad News

It is with a heavy heart that we announce FBBA member Ron Rogers passed away on January 18th. Ron became a member in 2017 and humbly considered himself a bee landlord rather than a beekeeper.


Ron Rogers 12/2023

https://www.garmanycarden.com/obituary/ronald-rogers

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

Boone Holladay

County Extension Agent– Horticulture
Fort Bend County
jb.holladay@ag.tamu.edu
281 342-3034 ext. 7034
1402 Band Road, Suite 100
Rosenberg, TX 77471

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas cooperating. Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aid or services are required to contact Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at 281-342-3034 five working days prior to the meeting so appropriate arrangements can be made.

		Dues	Mentor	Donation	Other	Web/Email	Speaker	Mentor	Donation	Other
Previous Balance on 12/31/2022 (includes $50 cash)	1,188.28									
January										
Dues	$ 190.00	$ 190.00								
Donation	$ 10.00			$ 10.00						
Returned item & fee reimbursement	$ 17.00				$ 17.00					
Network Solutions	$ (206.90)					$ (206.90)				
Pedestal Stand (Amazon)	$ (36.28)									$ (36.28)
AAA batteries for wireless mic	$ (17.47)									$ (17.47)
Speaker Honorarium	$ (100.00)						$ (100.00)			
Returned item fee (bounced check)	$ (17.00)									$ (17.00)
Squarespace	$ (12.99)					$ (12.99)				
total matches Jan treas. report submitted 2/5/23	$ 1,014.64									
February										
Dues	$ 170.00	$ 170.00								
Honey.com printed materials	$ (9.95)									$ (9.95)
Squarespace	$ (12.99)					$ (12.99)				
total matches Feb treasurer report submitted 3/1/23 & 3/9/23	$ 1,161.70									
March										
Dues	$ 130.00	$ 130.00								
Perfect Pocket Hive Tools	$ (100.00)		$ 25.00							$ (100.00)
Squarespace	$ (12.99)					$ (12.99)				
total maches Mar treasurer report submitted 4/4/23	$ 1,178.71									
April										
Dues	$ 210.00	$ 210.00								
Speaker Honorarium	$ (100.00)						$ (100.00)			
Laser engraving on hive tools	$ (40.00)									$ (40.00)
Network Solutions	$ (42.99)					$ (42.99)				
Squarespace	$ (12.99)					$ (12.99)				
total maches Apr treasurer report submitted 5/4/23	$ 1,192.73									
May										
Dues	$ 30.00	$ 30.00								
Speaker Honorarium	$ (100.00)						$ (100.00)			
Squarespace	$ (12.99)					$ (12.99)				
total maches May treasurer report submitted 6/16/23	$ 1,109.74									
June										
Dues	$ 70.00	$ 70.00								
Zoom annual fee	$ (159.80)					$ (159.80)				
Squarespace, annual	$ (272.79)					$ (272.79)				
Squarespace	$ (12.99)					$ (12.99)				
Checks and deposit stamp	$ (48.98)									$ (48.98)
total matches June treasurer report submitted 8/6/23	$ 685.18									
July										
Dues	$ 70.00	$ 70.00								
Squarespace	$ (12.99)					$ (12.99)				
total matches July treasurer report submitted 8/8/23, 2nd correction	$ 742.19									
August										
Dues	$ 90.00	$ 90.00								
Squarespace	$ (12.99)					$ (12.99)				
total matches Aug treasurer report submitted 9/23/23	$ 819.20									
September										
Dues	$ 10.00	$ 10.00								
Squarespace	$ (12.99)					$ (12.99)				
total matches Sep treasurer report submitted 1/8/24	$ 816.21									
October										
Dues	$ 40.00	$ 40.00								
Texas Beekeepers Assn. club dues	$ (50.00)									$ (50.00)
Squarespace	$ (12.99)					$ (12.99)				
total matches Oct treasurer report submitted 1/8/24	$ 793.22									
November										
Dues	$ 100.00	$ 100.00								
Rusling Woodworks plaque engraving	$ (82.08)									$ (82.08)
Squarespace	$ (12.99)					$ (12.99)				
total matches Nov treasurer report submitted 1/8/24	$ 798.15									
December										
Dues	$ -	$ -								
Squarespace	$ (12.99)					$ (12.99)				
total matches Dec report submitted 1/8/24										
	$ 785.16	$ 1,110.00	$ 25.00	$ 10.00	$ 17.00	$ (825.37)	$ (300.00)	$ -	$ -	$ (401.76)

TOTAL INCOME $ 1,162.00

TOTAL EXPENSES $ (1,527.13)

Fort Bend Beekeepers Association
December 31, 2023 Property Inventory

Description	Date Acquired	Initial Cost	Member Contact	
Beekeeping Posters, framed (qty 3)	various	unknown	Boone Holladay	
Learning/Observation Hive	08/28/09	$144.49	Jeff McMullan	
additional frame photos	02/25/16	$98.37	Jeff McMullan	
additional hive body/btm bd	11/20/16	$70.95	Jeff McMullan	
		$313.81		
Outreach Exhibits				
FBBA Banner	Sep-2022	$225.00	In FBBA cabinet	
banners	11/07/13	$80.96	Jeff McMullan	
posters and easels	02/08/16	$193.30	Jeff McMullan	
		$274.26		
Red Wagon	10/16/09	$45.98	Jeff McMullan	
Extracting Equipment				
extractor, stand, etc.	08/19/11	$583.33	Danessa Yaschuk	
pin uncapper	11/08/14	$15.15	Danessa Yaschuk	
honey refractometer	11/30/16	$71.64	Danessa Yaschuk	
		$670.12		
Frame Assembly Jig	03/05/12	$157.88	In FBBA Cabinet	
Public Address System (old)	06/21/14	$620.22	In FBBA Cabinet	
Public Address System (new)				
6-channel mixer	May-2022	$314.94	In FBBA Cabinet	
wireless microphone system	May-2022	$151.01	In FBBA Cabinet	
multimedia speaker for pc	May-2022	$161.29	In FBBA Cabinet	
		$627.24		
Web Camera & Tripod	Jul-2022	$61.67	In FBBA Cabinet	
LCD Projector	Apr-2022	$681.96	In FBBA Cabinet	
Gray Cart for meetings	07/07/16	$121.25	In Community Center Closet	
Storage Cabinet, Locked w/ Castors	05/01/22	$689.47	In Community Center Closet	
Mentoring Program Supplies:				
20 Beekeeper's Journals		$144.20	In FBBA Cabinet	$7.21 ea
56 extra Journal fillers		$61.04	In FBBA Cabinet	$1.09 ea
10 "The Beekeepers Handbook"		$219.40	In FBBA Cabinet	$21.94 ea
		$424.64		
Swarm Traps, 7 remaining (of 18)	11/03/14	$54.62	Boone Holladay	as of 1/1/2022