

Montgomery County Beekeepers Association

Minutes for Monthly Meeting

10/20/2025

Apprentice meeting started at 6:15pm

Speaker: Nadia Clark

It's best to have a ventilated bee suit, since it will be much cooler than a non ventilated one.

Smokers are a fire hazard, so do not put lit smokers on the grass. If you have telescopic lids you can definitely put it on the metal part of that. You must also be mindful of what smoker fuel you use. Some people say to use dryer lint, but it's not ideal since there can be harmful vapors/ they can't melt from synthetic fibers. Good fuels include pine needles, burlap, pinecones, smoker pallets, oak/ceder bark etc. You also want the fire to be in the bottom of the smoker, not the top. This will prevent the fire from going out quickly, and there will be more embers. You also want to make sure your smoke is relatively cool, not hot smoke. Always have water/fire extinguisher on hand.

When you have a hive, you can put them above ground level on stands or on the ground. Usually about a foot/ foot and a half off the ground. This prevents skunks and raccoons from breaking in, since they will have to stand up to be eye level with the entrance, and the bees can fend them off easier.

If your hives have honey supers, it's best to remove them for winter. This way it's easier for bees to warm their hive and easier for them to protect it. You should freeze these supers to kill the pests.

When starting out, it's essential to learn the main things you are looking for: bees, the queen, eggs, queen cells, nectar, capped honey, and pollen.

Good control for small hive beetles are traps, such as unscented swiffer sheets or oil traps.

It is very important to have a water source for your bees, especially if you or your neighbors have a pool you don't want bees in. Bees also prefer dirty water over clean water, so no need to clean the water often.

A good mite treatment right now is thymol (Apiguard). Make sure to read the label!

It's very important to remove mite treatments EXACTLY when it directs to, as longer than recommended time can cause mite resistance.

Apprentice meeting concluded 6:50pm

Main Meeting

Meeting started at 6:59pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Main Speaker: Angela Steinhauer with the Texas AM Agrilife Research/ Inspection Service

The Inspection Service's mission is to keep bees healthy. The office was founded in 1899, because Foulbrood was running through the state. In 1906, it was discovered that American Foulbrood and European Foulbrood were separate diseases. Fortunately, American Foulbrood has not been seen in Texas for 9 years. The tracheal mite was discovered in the state in 1984, but has not been seen for many years. The varroa mite was discovered in Texas in 1987, and sadly some were seen to be Amitraz resistant, but there are some new non Amitraz treatments that are being formulated. A permit is required if you are needing to take bees across state lines. You also need beekeeper registration to do bee removals, master beekeeping program, and some tax appraisal districts require it to keep bees for AG exemption.

The TAIS also provides state education about bees, since it is important for the public to know about bees as well. The yellow legged hornet is currently a potential threat for honeybees, since they take forager bees coming back to the hive. The bees will see this and then stay in the hive, and this causes them to starve to death.

Currently they are only in Georgia and South Carolina, but it is highly recommended that if you are to see something that you think could be one, you kill it and send it to the Texas Apiary Inspection Service. Or at least take a picture and send it to verify.

If you have the choice to plant flowers or blooming trees for your bees, it's best to plant blooming trees since they typically give much more nectar than flowers.

Presentation concluded at 7:40pm

Youth Presentations:

Youth presentation by Isabella

Youth presentation by Mason

Meeting concluded at 7:49pm