



January, 2022

Fort Bend Buzz

the monthly newsletter of the Fort Bend Beekeepers Association

fostering safe, responsible, successful beekeeping

Our plan is for the January 11, 2022 meeting of the Fort Bend Beekeepers to be held at 7:00 pm in Fort Bend County's "Bud" O'Shieles Community Center, 1330 Band Rd., Rosenberg, Texas. Of course COVID-19 can throw a monkey wrench into almost anything these days, so stay informed. Visitors (and new members) are always welcome. Membership dues are \$5.00 for the calendar year, so don't forget to stash a five dollar bill in your wallet and get your dues for 2022 paid at our January meeting. The meeting will be called to order at 7:30 after 30 minutes of social time.

Ask a dozen beekeepers...

Here is this month's Q (from one of our members) and an A:

Q: 2021 was horrible! How about some New Year's resolutions that will help us be better beekeepers and make 2022 a great year?

An A: It is an understatement that 2021 has been hard on all of us. We have lost so many good friends, partners, and family. There has been significant cultural and political unrest and division. We have dealt with COVID-19 and quarantines. We have dealt with supply chain shutdowns and soaring prices on just about everything. Oh, and don't forget our frigid visit from winter storm Uri last February.

The half-life of New Year's resolutions is probably a week or less. That means that after a week, only half are still around, a fourth after two weeks and an eighth after three. By the end of January, often little remains of our best-intentioned plans for the new year. Nonetheless, let's consider a few resolutions for 2022 (we need to at least give it a try):

"I resolve to not let COVID-19 turn me into a hermit." It sometimes seems that this pandemic had sapped all the joy out of 2021. The new year offers a fresh start. Continue to make every effort to get your day to day life back to where it was before the pandemic BS. Get vaccinated and boosted. The fact is, avoiding infection is just a bit more than common sense and

thinking about how you'll deal with this disease. It's like permanent flu season on steroids. Quarantine yourself if you have been exposed, but realize that you can avoid infection without hiding under the bed.

"I resolve to plan ahead for my beekeeping chores in 2022." There are lots of things that we know that we'll have to deal with, so planning ahead requires little ESP. Are you ready for late-winter feeding? Prepared for swarms (from your backyard or elsewhere)? Traps ready to go up? Equipment assembled and painted, ready for splits (or swarms) and supering? If you plan requeening, are the new queens on order? You really don't have to plan a whole year in advance, just stay a month or so ahead of what is likely to be coming. It will help relieve any stress you may be feeling as a beekeeper.

"I resolve to increase my knowledge of honey bees and beekeeping." Going to beekeeper meetings is an easy start, but don't expect to learn everything by chit chatting with beekeepers. Instead use what you hear at meetings to guide more learning. Find reliable sources of information on the internet. Buy and read one of the many thick reference books about keeping bees. "The Hive and the Honey Bee" can become a daily resource. Dig deeper to increase your fundamental knowledge and be willing to share what you have learned.

Last but not least: "I resolve to make new friends and lend a hand to new beekeepers." New beekeep-

ers show up at our meetings looking for help getting started with bees. I'm sure that many of them are overwhelmed, especially by the strange vocabulary of beekeeping (a lot of it originated in the mid-1800's with the advent of removable frame hives.) New beekeepers need a lot of help with our lingo!

Election of Officers

Officers for 2022 were elected at our November meeting. The following candidates were nominated, seconded, and elected: Lynne Jones, Secretary-Treasurer; Danessa Yaschuk, Vice-President, and Craig Rench, President. Jeff McMullan consented to continue as our newsletter editor and was also confirmed by acclamation.

November Meeting Notes

We had 30 members and guests attend our in-person November meeting. Others joined the meeting on Zoom.

Good food and fellowship was enjoyed by everyone prior to the start of the meeting. Then President Craig Rench opened the meeting and officially greeted everyone around 7:30 or so.

Gene DeBons gave a quick review of the book, [A Journey Through Texas: A Saddle-Trip on the Southwestern Frontier](#), by Frederick Law Olmsted, published in 1857. The book is an account of the tour of Texas and Louisiana by Frederick and his brother John, which began in the winter of 1853 and ended in

November Meeting Notes (continued)

the spring of 1854. He describes Texas and its people as they were just prior to the Civil War. The book is considered one of the best accounts of the American West ever published and has been republished numerous times. Hard-copy reprints can be purchased at a reasonable cost, but it is also available for Kindle from amazon for \$6.49 or with a goodreads.com membership it can be downloaded for 99 cents. The original book has been scanned and can be read online for free at: <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph2407/m1/>.

Danessa showed photos of the Centerpiece created from the bee-related items donated by our members. The Centerpiece was donated to the Texas Beekeepers Association for auction at the November Convention which took place the previous weekend in Galveston. Then, she and Harrison Rogers spoke briefly about Real Texas Honey™ a non-profit organization that promotes honey 100% produced by honey bees in Texas. If you are interested in becoming a member of Real Texas Honey, you can learn more and submit an application on the website: realtexashoney.com.

The presentation for the meeting was a video recording of an October 5th webinar hosted by the Washington State Department of Agriculture. Dr. Samuel Ramsey gives a presentation on his experience as a bee researcher working in the Asian Giant Hornet's native range in Thailand. Though the Asian Giant Hornets (aka Murder Hornets) are currently no threat to Texas bees (they have only been found in Washington State), their behavior is common for hornets (and wasps) and very interesting. Dr. Ramsey said, "...there are multiple hornets that do what they do, they do it the best and are the most feared for it..." (A sincere apology to those who attended via Zoom. It was not realized until almost to the end of the video that there was no audio.) The video, with audio, is available on YouTube. https://youtu.be/nSs_-vTEHpQ?t=85 or go to youtube and search for "Beekeeping and Vespa mandarinia II Ramsey".

Craig thanked October Smith, Manager of Long Acres Ranch, for allowing us to meet there while our "home" at the O'Shieles Community Center in Rosenberg was unavailable. Danessa then presented a gift of appreciation to October.

As the meeting closed, Danessa and Lynne conducted the drawing for donated door prizes.

Treasurer's Report

Our reported November treasury balance was \$3,601.96. We've had no income since our last report. Expenses for the month totalled \$38.97 (\$12.99 monthly website costs for November and December and \$12.99 for annual domain registration). The resulting balance is \$3,562.99 (\$3,512.99 in our checking account plus \$50.00 in cash to make change). A financial summary and year-end property inventory for 2021 are presented at right. We spent \$60.38 more than we took in during the year.

Fort Bend Beekeepers Association 2021 Financial Summary

Opening balance (Jan. 1, 2021)		\$3,636.36
Income		
2021 dues paid (94 at \$5.00)	\$470.00	
2022 dues prepaid (14 at \$5.00)	\$70.00	
donations	\$340.00	
mentee fees	\$25.00	
Total Income		\$905.00
Expenses		
website expenses	\$523.72	
Texas Beekeepers Association dues	\$50.00	
Zoom subscription	\$159.80	
speaker expenses	\$50.00	
TBA Annual Meeting centerpiece	\$31.86	
Wes Carew memorial donation	\$100.00	
TAMU Weaver endowment	\$50.00	
Total Expenses		\$965.38
Ending Balance (Dec. 31, 2020)		\$3,575.98

Fort Bend Beekeepers Association December 31, 2021 Property Inventory

<u>Description</u>	<u>Date Acquired</u>	<u>Initial Cost</u>	<u>Member Contact</u>
three framed beekeeping posters	various	unknown	Boone Holladay
Learning Hive	various	\$313.81	Jeff McMullan
red wagon	10/16/2009	\$45.98	Jeff McMullan
extracting equipment			Jim Lynch
extractor, stand, etc.	8/19/2011	\$583.33	
pin uncapper	11/8/2014	\$15.15	
honey refractometer	11/30/2016	<u>\$71.64</u>	
		\$654.97	
frame assembly gear	3/5/2012	\$157.88	Nancy Hentschel
25 frame assembly jig	5/8/2018	donation	Lynne Jones
outreach exhibits			
banners	11/7/2013	\$80.96	Jeff McMullan
posters and easels	2/8/2016	<u>\$193.30</u>	Jeff McMullan
		\$274.26	
public address system	6/21/2014	\$620.22	Lynne Jones
7/18 remaining swarm traps	11/3/2014	\$54.62	Boone Holladay
Mentoring Program supplies:			Lynne Jones
19 Beekeeper's Journals		\$136.99	
56 extra Journal fillers		\$61.04	
8 "The Beekeepers Handbook"		<u>\$190.00</u>	
		\$388.03	
gray cart for meetings	7/7/2016	\$121.25	Boone Holladay

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