



**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Next Meeting: MONDAY, JUNE 17

Location: The Bee Supply  
1205 Round Rock Ave #119, Round Rock, TX 78681

Doors open: 6:00 PM  
Meeting Begins: 7:00PM

Bring a SNACK to share  
Door Prizes

<b>From the PRESIDENT</b> Becky Barajas	<b>Contributor</b> Jasper Horton	<b>Contributor</b> Freddie Benjamin
<p>Here in Round Rock, I have seen the entire assortment of resources available to bees this spring. There has been some robbing going on, some hives barely maintaining enough food, as well as the need to add additional supers or removing honey-bound frames from a hive that is thriving.</p> <p>If your situation has you thinking about removing honey, please keep a couple things in mind. First, make sure your bees have plenty of food for themselves! Keeping 3-4 full frames of honey year-round will ensure enough for the bees to maintain and thrive.</p> <p>Second, if you have extra frames of honey, consider putting them in the freezer. You can return these frames to the hive later if the bees need more food. Any frame that is void of brood and has more than 70% capped honey is safe to remove from the hive.</p> <p>Third, if there is too much uncapped honey it may mean the nectar is too high in moisture. This can lead to fermentation even after bottling it. Be sure to have fun and enjoy one of the many sweet parts of beekeeping!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Beehive Forecast!</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Busy bee activity is on the rise as we head into the full swing of summer.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Warm temperatures and late spring blooms are bringing high traffic to hive entrances.</li> <li>• Inside the hive expect a football-sized or larger cluster working tirelessly.</li> <li>• Honey, nectar, and pollen stores are plentiful within the brood nest, supporting the growing bee population.</li> </ul> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be on the lookout for queen cells, a sign your hive is preparing to swarm. To avoid overcrowding, consider adding a super or splitting the hive to create more space for expansion.</li> <li>• Ensure your bees have ample access to fresh water for hydration and hive cooling.</li> <li>• As always, stay vigilant against common beehive pests like beetles, mites, and moths.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Beekeeping in Texas Heat: Self-Care</b></p> <p>Texas bees face scorching summers, but the beekeeper’s well-being matters too.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>For the beekeeper</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-prioritize hydration and sun protection</li> <li>-wear a ventilated bee suit and gloves</li> <li>-remember to take breaks, seek shade, and care for yourself.</li> <li>-conduct hive inspections early or late in the day to avoid midday heat</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>For the bees:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-provide shade for your hives to prevent overheating</li> <li>-ensure proper ventilation using a screen bottom and large entry openings</li> <li>-limit hive manipulations during extreme temperatures</li> <li>-recognize signs of bee stress, such as bearding</li> </ul> <p>By following these guidelines, you’ll keep both yourself and your bees buzzing all through the summer!</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> </div>

## From the V. PRESIDENT

Elissa Sexton

## From the Secretary

Joy Mills

### Different Honey Extraction Techniques

There are several ways to extract honey from honeycomb. Each method should suit your situation. For hobby beekeepers, or beekeepers that have less than 10 hives, the “crush and strain” method or manual extraction with a hand crank extractor are two methods you may choose. The “crush and strain” method is done with a bucket and a mesh bag. You would crush the honey into a bag over a bucket and the honey runs through the tiny holes in the bag keeping the comb and any other debris out of the honey.

The manual extractor works with a hand crank. When the temperature is warm the honey cells are uncapped using a blade or knife. The frames are placed in the extractor and spun using a hand crank. As the frames spin, the honey will be pulled from the cells and drip down to the bottom of the extractor. The Austin Area Beekeepers Association has extraction equipment available for members to borrow. If interested contact Becky, the club president.



For the apiarist with many hives and high honey production, it may be a good idea to invest in a centrifugal extractor. These extractors can hold many frames and spin automatically using electricity. This method along with manual extraction keeps the comb intact unlike the “crush and strain” method.

An atypical way of extracting honey would require a different style of hive. A **Flow Hive** allows the beekeeper to simply twist a handle and watch honey flow directly out. A long metal rod is inserted like a key into the frame to open the plastic comb walls and allow the honey to flow through a tube inserted at the base of the frame, straight into the honey jar!



However you choose to extract honey, the outcome is always delicious!

### Meeting Minutes: May 20

\*Minutes from April 15, 2024, read and approved

\*Presentation by Jasper Horton on Agricultural Exemptions for apiarists in the Austin area, specifically Travis County.

\*The possibility of holding our monthly meetings at Zilker Park is getting closer to a reality. We have one more hoop to jump through!

\* A lot of fun was had by all those present playing **BEE TRIVIA**. Winners of each question chose a gift from the prize table and many went home with new “Bee Treasures”

### Coming up Next

- Our guest on June 17<sup>th</sup> will be **Nona Evans** speaking on honey and honey production
- The Club is on the lookout for any member who may have the skills, experience, and willingness to volunteer for updating and maintaining our **WEB SITE**