



A P R I L 2 0 2 6

Monthly Newsletter for the Austin Area Beekeeping Community

IN THIS ISSUE

Elissa: Flow & Events | Rachel: Financials | Kellie: Honey-Lemon Muffins & March Flora

VOL: 29

FEATURE ARTICLE

What does a flow look like, and are we in one?

by Elissa Sexton, President

If you've ever heard a beekeeper say, "the bees have a flow going," they're talking about one of the most exciting and productive times in the life of a hive: the nectar flow.

A nectar flow occurs when flowers in the surrounding environment are blooming abundantly and producing large amounts of nectar. During this period, bees take full advantage of the opportunity, foraging and bringing nectar back to the hive in steady streams.

Inside the colony, this surge of activity fuels a remarkable transformation. Worker bees process the nectar into honey, storing it in wax comb for future use. With resources plentiful, the colony becomes highly active—building new comb, expanding brood (baby bees), and strengthening the overall hive.

For beekeepers, a strong nectar flow is a welcome sign. It often means the potential for surplus honey production, healthy colony growth, and thriving bees. You'll notice increased flight activity at the hive entrance, as foragers come and go throughout the day, often heavier on their return trips.

In contrast, when there is no nectar flow—sometimes called a "dearth"—resources become limited. Bees slow their activity, conserve energy, and may rely on stored honey to survive.

In short, when the bees have a "flow" going, nature is in sync, flowers are flourishing, and the hive is hard at work turning nectar into the golden reward we all enjoy: honey.

FINANCIALS:

Account	Starting Balance	Debits	Credits	Ending Balance
Checking	2105.28	220.83	25	2301.11
Savings	5020.03	0	0	5020.03
Square	94.88	0	0	94.88
Grand Total	7220.19	220.83	25	7416.02

Each year we rely on the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (USDA-NASS) honey report, but it does not fully capture the scope of honey production across Texas. The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service publishes annual crop reports and is finishing the **2025 Texas Honey Report**, and we need your help. This report will be published statewide, and accurate numbers depend on beekeeper participation. Please take 2–3 minutes to complete this short (10-question), anonymous survey about your 2025 honey production

However, please complete the honey production section as accurately as you can — even estimates are helpful. [Survey Link](#)



FROM THE KITCHEN

Hot Honey Ginger Shrimp

by Kellie Sherrill, Vice President

This quick and easy, sweet and spicy dish combines honey, ginger, shrimp and garlic, and can be served over steamed vegetables or pasta.

Prep Time: 10 mins | Cook Time: 10 mins | Total Time: 20 mins

INGREDIENTS

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 1 teaspoon chopped garlic
- ¼ yellow onion, chopped
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 3 teaspoons honey
- 1 pound medium shrimp - peeled and deveined
- salt and pepper to taste

INSTRUCTIONS

Heat the olive oil and red pepper flakes in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the onions, garlic, ginger and honey; cook and stir until fragrant. Add the shrimp, and cook for 5 minutes, stirring as needed, until shrimp are pink and opaque. Serve immediately.

CALENDAR

Events for April & May

Beekeeping and Gardening Events: April–May 2026

Spring in Central Texas is one of the most active and rewarding times for both beekeepers and gardeners. As nectar flows begin and native plants come into bloom, a variety of events offer opportunities to learn, connect, and grow.

Day in the Life of a Beekeeper

Date: Mid-April (varies by session)

Hosted by: R. Weaver Apiaries

Participants get hands-on experience with hive management, bee behavior, and honey production through guided apiary tours.

Texas Beekeepers Association Local Meetings

Dates: Ongoing through April and May

Local clubs across Texas host monthly meetings focused on seasonal hive management, swarm control, and networking with experienced beekeepers.

Two Hives Honey Workshops

Dates: Various throughout spring

These workshops typically include beginner beekeeping classes, hive inspections, and pollinator education sessions. Ideal for both new and experienced beekeepers.

Gardening and Pollinator-Friendly Events

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Spring Programs

Dates: Ongoing through April and May

Weekly events such as “Tuesday Twilights” feature garden tours, native plant education, and seasonal programming in one of Texas’s premier botanical spaces.

Home and Garden Workshops (Statewide)

Dates: Various throughout April and May

Offered through local extension programs and community groups, these workshops cover topics like native landscaping, sustainable gardening, and spring planting strategies.

World Naked Gardening Day

Date: May 2, 2026

A global, informal celebration encouraging people to connect with nature through gardening. Participation is typically private or within small groups.

Additional Spring Events

Fiesta San Antonio

Dates: April 16–26, 2026

This large regional festival often includes floral displays and cultural events that celebrate the season.

Sherwood Forest Faire

Dates: Weekends through April

A unique event featuring traditional crafts, herbal knowledge, and historical approaches to plants and gardening.

What's in Bloom

for the Honey Bee in

Austin, Texas – April



Texas Bluebonnet
(*Lupinus texensis*)



Blue Curls
(*Phacelia congesta*)



Pink Evening Primrose
(*Oenothera speciosa*)



Blackfoot Daisy
(*Melampodium leucanthum*)



Agarita
(*Mahonia trifoliolata*)



Texas Redbud
(*Cercis canadensis*'
var. *texensis*)

— Nectar & Pollen Sources for Honey Bees —