

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Next Meeting: **MONDAY, MAY 20**

Location: The Bee Supply

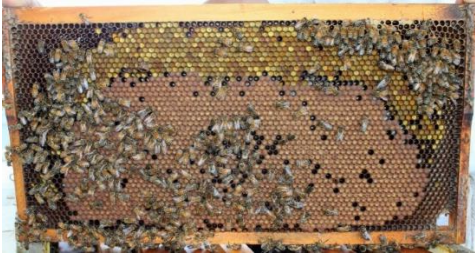
1205 Round Rock Ave #119, Round Rock, TX 78681

Doors open: 6:00 PM

Meeting Begins: 7:00PM

Bring a SNACK to share

Door Prizes

<p>From the PRESIDENT Becky Barajas</p>	<p>Contributor Jasper Horton</p>	<p>Contributor Freddie Benjamin</p>
<p>To feed or not to feed.....</p> <p><i>That is the ultimate spring question and the answer depends on the resources you have at hand! Consider the following situations:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are natural sources of nectar scarce due to seasonal changes, drought or weather conditions? 2. Are the food stores within the hive depleted before the nectar flow has begun? 3. Has the hive been recently split or has swarmed, and does the colony need support to build up sources? 4. Does the colony appear weak or is it recovering from disease or pest issues? <p><i>It takes quite a bit of resources and energy (approximately 8-10 pounds of honey) to make one pound of wax and only bees that are between 6-12 days old are capable of making wax. Since wax is the foundation for storing all resources, this is the first visual cue to understanding what your bees need. They require a minimum of 10 frames of drawn comb to supplement their growth and vitality. The typical supplemental feed for bees is a sugar syrup (a mixture of sugar and water) during the spring and summer months.</i></p> <p><i>Always consider the health and activity of your bees, local climate conditions, and the time of year when deciding whether to supplement feed.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>-Becky</i></p>	<p>The Look of a Healthy Bee Hive</p> <p>A healthy beehive boasts a uniform brood pattern with tightly capped cells. To assess brood health, inspect individual cells for larvae that are plump and pearly white. Discoloration, like yellow, brown, or gray, or a twisted, curled appearance can indicate disease. Pay attention to capped cells – sunken or perforated cappings might signal problems. If you suspect disease, don't hesitate to consult your fellow beekeepers for further diagnosis and treatment recommendations.</p>  <p>I like the look of the bee bread across the top of this frame. It's ready to feed that brood</p>	<p>What is Hive Robbing?</p> <p>Imagine you're a bee going about your day, minding your own buzziness, when suddenly, you stumble upon the beehive equivalent of a heist! Robbing in beekeeping is like a honey heist, where bees from one colony sneak into another hive to swipe their sweet stash. It's like a bee version of Ocean's Eleven, but with more buzz and less George Clooney. The defending bees put up a valiant fight, but sometimes the robbers make off with the loot. It's a high-stakes game of 'hive and seek' that keeps beekeepers on their toes and colonies buzzing with excitement (and a little drama)! Here are a few triggers that contribute to robbing among bee colonies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -A lack of nectar sources in their 'home hive' can prompt bees to rob neighboring hives -Weaker colonies, which may be suffering from disease, a poor queen, or low population, are more vulnerable to robbing -Beekeeping practices inadvertently encourage robbing. For instance opening hives for inspection during times of scarcity can release scents that attract other bees. -Feeding hives excessively that allows other bees to detect the presence of supplementary food can trigger robbing -Hives places too closely together may increase competition if resources in the area are scarce. <p>It might be wise to use robbing screens or guards to protect weaker hives.</p>

From the V. PRESIDENT

Elissa Sexton

When should you add honey supers to your hive?

That's a great question! A lot of that has to do with your bee numbers and the amount of comb the bees have drawn out. It is not based on the time of year, although it typically happens as we go into the Spring Flow.

First, check the bottom box or brood box, it should be at least 80% full. This implies that the bees are using 80% of the frames for brood, pollen, nectar, etc. Meaning, if you are using a 10 frame Langstroth box then at least 8 frames should be in use with brood and resources.



Second, it's important to find that sweet spot where you have enough space for new eggs and plenty of resources to support them. You don't want the box to become honey bound. Should the queen run out of space to lay eggs, she may decide to abscond. Also, you don't want to add the honey super too early. If the bees have too much space to guard, they may not have the numbers to fend off pests like hive beetles and wax moths.



The flow seems like it's just around the corner! So, check your hives, take inventory of the equipment you may need and be prepared for the transition.

APRIL'S MEETING PRESENTATION

Using Technology in Beekeeping

Using weight sensors to monitor bee hives is a fantastic way to gain insight into the health and productivity of a bee colony. At the April meeting of the Austin Area Beekeepers Association, we were treated to a very special presentation by Suchir Kumar and Naithruv Kashyop from Westwood High School.

These young men developed an algorithm and data collection process for predicting the possibility of colony collapse disorder within a 3-4 day period. They used the hives belong to Marlon Menezes, a member of the club, who provided the weight sensors, microcontroller, wireless communication tools, and power source. And BEES, of course!

By monitoring the weight data to track trends, a steady increase in weight often indicates that bees are actively foraging and bringing back nectar. A consecutive drop in weight might suggest theft or swarming.

Understanding long-term trends can help make decisions about hive management and honey harvesting. The benefits of using weight sensors include:

- Non-Intrusive Monitoring (not disturbing the bees as much by opening the hive)
- Real-Time Alerts (immediate updates on significant changes)
- Data-Driven Decisions (historical detailed data helps make informed decisions)
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This technology can simplify the management of bee hives and provide a wealth of data that contributes to sustainable beekeeping practices.

SECRETARY'S REPORT by Joy Mills

Meeting Minutes: April 15, 2014

*Minutes from March 18, 2024, read and approved

*Financial news: All monies and bank accounts have been transferred into the names of the new board members.*Begin discussion of new cookout activity

*Chrissy/Bart will make a list of the club's assets; the board will decide how to 'lend out' equipment and resources.

*Continue looking for a central/cost effective location to hold monthly meetings

*Deviled Potatoes were the winner in the Snack-Share Competition

TREASURER'S REPORT by Jasper Horton

Account	Starting Balance	Debits	Credits	Ending Balance
Checking	\$7,327.81	\$5,203.63	\$324.39	\$2,448.57
Savings	\$0.00		\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Square	\$324.39	\$324.39		\$0.00
Grand Total	\$7,652.20	\$5,528.02	\$5,324.39	\$7,448.57

