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Monthly Newsletter for the Austin Area Beekeeping Community

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FEATURE ARTICLE

Honey Harvest Time: The Sweetest Day of the Beekeeping Year by Elissa Sexton

For many of us, this is the month we've been waiting for. After months of checking brood patterns, watching nectar flows, adding supers, and hoping the weather cooperates, it's finally time to ask the big question:

"Is the honey ready?"

The bees have done all the hard work—now it's our turn not to mess it up!

A good rule of thumb is to harvest only honey that is mostly capped. Those little white wax caps are the bees' way of saying, "We've finished drying this honey and it's ready for storage." If you extract uncapped honey, it may contain too much moisture and could ferment later. Nobody wants sparkling honey...unless you were accidentally trying to make mead!

Before pulling supers, take a moment to make sure you're leaving enough honey for your bees. Every colony is different, and what they need depends on your local climate, forage, and how long until the next nectar flow. The goal is to enjoy some of the harvest while making sure your bees have plenty of food to thrive.

Harvest day can be exciting—and just a little sticky. Wear clothes you don't mind decorating with honey, have plenty of buckets and towels nearby, and expect curious bees to investigate every drop. It's amazing how quickly a clean honey house can become a delicious disaster zone.

Once the frames are extracted, strain the honey, let it settle, and then bottle up your liquid gold. There's nothing quite like tasting that first spoonful of honey produced by your own bees. Every jar tells the story of the flowers, weather, and hard work of both the colony and the beekeeper.

Don't forget to return the wet supers to the bees so they can clean up the remaining honey. They'll have those frames polished in no time, making storage much easier for you.

Most importantly, take a moment to appreciate what your bees have accomplished. Honey harvest is more than collecting a sweet reward—it's celebrating another season of learning, caring for our colonies, and being part of the remarkable world of honey bees.

Happy harvesting, and may your extractor spin smoothly, your jars fill quickly, and your kitchen stay only slightly sticky!

NEXT MEETING

Monday, July 20, 2026

Lamar Senior Activity Center

2874 Shoal Crest Ave · Austin TX 78705

6:00 PM	Doors open — Meet, Greet & Eat
6:30 PM	Business Meeting
6:45 PM	SPEAKER: Andy Knight: Using Technology for Laymen's Hives
7:45 PM	Door Prizes
8:00 PM	Meeting Ends

**BRING:
SNACKS TO SHARE!**

FROM THE KITCHEN

Classic Honey Baked Beans



Prep Time 20 min
Cook Time 1hr 15 min
Ready In 1hr 35 min
Servings 8

Ingredients

3/4 cup Honey
 6 slices low-fat and low-sodium bacon
 3/4 cup chopped onion
 3 15-ounce cans navy beans
 3/4 cup ketchup
 2 tablespoons prepared mustard
 2 tablespoons of Worcestershire sauce

Directions

Preheat oven to 350F.

Saute bacon until slightly crisp and remove from skillet. Crumble and set aside.

Saute onion in the same skillet until tender and translucent.

In a medium-size bowl combine and blend honey, bacon, onion, beans, ketchup, mustard and Worcestershire Sauce

Transfer combined ingredients into a 2-quart baking dish coated with cooking spray.

Cover dish with foil.

Bake for 30 minutes. Take dish from oven and remove foil.

Return ingredients to oven and bake an additional 45 minutes, uncovered.
 Serve

WHAT'S BLOOMING

July Flora: Austin & Central TX

Here are common pollinator-friendly plants in bloom around the Austin area this month. Bloom timing varies with rainfall, temperature, and microclimate — keep an eye on what's actually opening near your apiary.

POLLEN / NECTAR PRODUCING FLOWERS

Blooming in July in the Austin, TX area

1. BLACK EYED SUSAN <i>(Rudbeckia hirta)</i>	2. BLANKET FLOWER <i>(Gaillardia pulchella)</i>	3. TEXAS LANTANA <i>(Lantana urticoides)</i>	4. LEMON BEEBALM <i>(Monarda citriodora)</i>
Blooms: May – July Attracts: Bees, butterflies, and other pollinators	Blooms: May – July Attracts: Bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds	Blooms: April – October Attracts: Bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds	Blooms: May – July Attracts: Bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds
5. GREGG'S MISTFLOWER <i>(Conoclinium greggii)</i>	6. YELLOW BELLS <i>(Tecoma stans)</i>	7. MEALY BLUE SAGE <i>(Salvia farinacea)</i>	8. FLAME ACANTHUS <i>(Anisacanthus quadrifidus var. wrightii)</i>
Blooms: July – November Attracts: Bees, butterflies, and other pollinators	Blooms: May – October Attracts: Bees, hummingbirds, and butterflies	Blooms: April – November Attracts: Bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds	Blooms: June – November Attracts: Bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds

Plant natives when possible. These flowers provide essential pollen and nectar for pollinators and support a healthy ecosystem in the Austin, TX area.

Watch for: Strong nectar flow is on — stay ahead of supers, monitor for swarm cells weekly, and keep an eye on water sources as temperatures climb.

FROM YOUR BOARD

FINANCIALS *by Rachael Lam*

Account	Starting Balance	Debits	Credits	Ending Balance
Checking	2386.27	200	143.22	2329.49
Savings	5020.03	0	0	5020.03
Square	0	0	167.09	167.09
Grand Total	7406.3	200	310.31	7516.61

CALENDAR

Events for July

Honey Harvest Party

- **Date:** Saturday, July 11, 2026
- **Time:** 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- **Location:** Two Hives Honey Ranch, 7617 Nez Perce Trace, Manor, TX [[1](#), [2](#)]

Virtual Gardening for Wildlife Series

- **Date:** Sunday, July 19, 2026
- **Time:** 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- **Location:** Online / Live Streamed by the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Summer Film Series: Disneynature Wings of Life (A documentary spotlighting the critical roles of bees, butterflies, and bats)

- **Date:** Tuesday, July 21, 2026
- **Time:** 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM
- **Location:** Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, 4801 La Crosse Ave, Austin, TX

Intro to Beekeeping Class

- **Date:** Saturday, July 25, 2026
- **Time:** 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- **Location:** Two Hives Honey Ranch, 7617 Nez Perce Trace, Manor, TX

National Honey Bee Day Celebration

- **Date:** Saturday, August 15, 2026
- **Time:** Varying morning tour times
- **Location:** Bee Friendly Austin apiary network, stretching from Dripping Springs to Georgetown, TX
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Top Austin Farmers Markets for Local Honey

Texas Farmers' Market at Mueller

- **The Buzz:** Features the Austin Honey Company, which sells hyper-local raw honey harvested straight from hives across Austin neighborhoods.
- **Schedule:** Every Sunday from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM.
- **Location:** 2006 Philomena St, Austin, TX 78723