

Marshall Beekeepers Association

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An Idea Becomes Reality

Beekeepers Club in Harrison County

There is an old saying that “time really flies when you’re having fun”. It seems like yesterday, that the idea of creating a bee club in the Marshall area was presented to me by Mr. Stanford Brantley. As Mr. Brantley stated “Marshall needs a bee club because the one in Tyler is too far away for most people to drive to”.

Running with this idea Brantley and I met with Mr. Randy Reeves of the Harrison County Extension Office to discuss the feasibility of establishing a bee club. Based on the conversations we decided to have our first meeting in April. Thanks to the tireless efforts of Randy, the Marshall News Messenger, and Jack Dillard our first meeting had 33 people present.

To say that the meeting went well would be an understatement. In fact we had eleven first time beekeepers in attendance. Since then we have had our second meeting, and it looks like an idea has become reality.

Educating the Public

Lessons in building a Hive

One of the goals of the Marshall Beekeepers Club (MBA) is to educate the public about honeybees. As part of this ongoing process Mr. Brantley recently gave a class on constructing a standard hive body with frames. Mr. Brantley was careful to advise those in attendance on the importance of maintaining standard equipment when keeping honeybees. “Not having boxes that fit the frames can be a nightmare for a beekeeper, so keeping them the same is essential”. After completion, the hive body with frames was donated to a beginning beekeeper. (See photo below)

In another lesson Mr. Beasley used technology to showcase a video on the proper way to install a 3lb package of bees. This proved to be very beneficial, as many of those in attendance had recently ordered packages of bees.



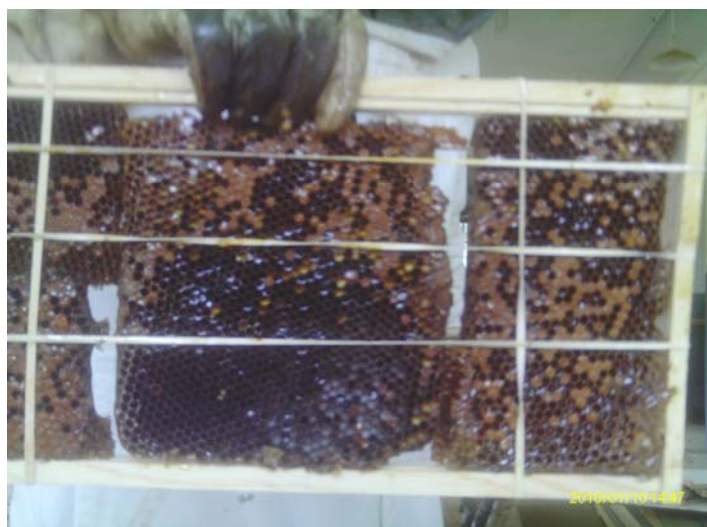
Winners of the donated bee supplies.

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Removing one of the hives in the Bee House



Frames of brood from the bee house

In The News

The House of Bees

Located south of Marshall on 2625 sits an old abandoned building that has become known as the house of bees by locals in the area. After receiving a call from the landowner, Mr. Beasley found himself face to face with what he thought was five monstrous hives located within the walls of the building. After careful consideration and with the permission of the landowner it was decided to remove the bees as quickly as possible.

Compounding the bee problem was the manner in which the bee house was constructed. According to Brantley "the walls of the building did not conform to standard building practices" making bee removal difficult at best.

Featured on KSLA Channel 12 news the house of bees was discovered to have in excess of 200, 000 bees, and over 25 gallons of honey dripping from its walls. In the end however the operation was a success leaving both the bees and the landowner happy with the outcome. See the story on www.ksla.com

Officers Elected

By unanimous vote the officers of the MBA were elected at our second meeting held in May. Stanford Brantley was elected as the club president, while Bill Spray was elected to the position of vice president. Secretary is James Beasley, and treasurer is Beth Derr.

Dues Established

Officers of the MBA recently voted to set club dues at \$20.00. This membership covers an entire family for the period of one year.

DADANT'S MAKES DONATION

Dadant's of Paris, TX recently donated beekeeping supplies in the form of frames with foundation and a DVD about the life of a beekeeper to the Marshall Beekeepers Association. These items were in turn given to beginning beekeepers within the MBA. It is with sincere gratitude that we would like to thank Dadant's for their generous gift to the MBA.

Upcoming Events

1. **Smoker Fuel Class:** Learn what fuels make for the best smoke.
2. **Beehive Tool Box:** Have what you need at a moment's notice.
3. **Swarm Traps:** Learn how to build and place a swarm trap increasing your chances of catching free bees.