



Spring Keeping

A healthy bee season starts early!

The Panhandle Spring is a wild animal. She comes in with surprise and might. She breaks our resolve for outdoor work or play with frosty temperatures and early pollen clouds. The seemingly pleasant afternoons that change with the fury of the wind can almost make a bee keeper question his or her sanity. I did say almost.

Vigilant keepers use the cold winter months to look ahead to February when it will be time to flip the overwintered brood boxes. This simple act can give top-box dwelling colonies room to expand as brood rearing begins.

Understanding this means that the keeper has already been eyeing colony food supply and supplementing early to help maintain the colony and support brood production. Most of these spring bees will have a great need for feed as their winter stores have more than likely been consumed. A 1-1 ratio of sugar water with a few drops of lemongrass oil, will provide sustenance until Spring lets go of her first blossoms.

Continued on next page...

PDBC Officers and INFO

Contact info:

palodurobeeclub@gmail.com

Website:

palodurobeeclub.com

President: Steve Walton

Vice President: Rachele Mullins

2nd Vice: George Nester

Secretary: David Horsley

Treasurer: Martha Walton

Communications Director:

Paige Nester

Programs Director: Erin Jones



Keeping an eye on fast-growing colonies means the time to split for swarm-control or colony expansion is near. Most new keepers underestimate how fast hives will build up. Proper management is essential. Study up, be prepared and find yourself some good queen stock to replace the old ladies. You will be glad you did.

If you want more info on Spring splits Creek House Honey Farm is hosting a Spring split class and giving a special rate to PDBC members. The class is Saturday, March 23rd at 3:00. If you are interested, please visit creekhousehoneyfarm.com to register. A portion of the earnings will be put back into PDBC.

Good luck fellow BEEKS!

"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold, when it is summer in the light and winter in the shade." –Charles Dickens

Coming soon...

***The **April 4th** PDBC meeting will be at the new WT Ag Building. (Specific location to be announced)

Member John Allen will speak about catching swarms and doing cut-outs.

***Looking ahead to our **May 2nd** meeting we will have native plant expert Neill Henders with us to discuss beneficial pollinator plants that thrive in our area.

***Summer brings opportunity to serve in our outreach program at local farmer's markets and community events. At the **June 7th** meeting we will share some beekeeping FAQ and discuss good answers to share with the public.

IF YOU MISSED IT...A BRIEF MEETING REVIEW

IF YOU MISSED IT: At the March meeting we took member information and payment of dues. We voted in club bylaws and did general club business. We also discussed our committees and gave members opportunity to sign up to be a part of one or more of them. Committees and Chairs are as follows:

Hospitality: George and Kate Herring

Programs: Programs: Erin Jones

Outreach and Fundraising: George Nester

Please email palodurobeeclub@gmail.com if you have interest in joining PDBC or in signing up for a committee. It will take all of us to make this work!

