



Elm Fork Beekeepers Association

General Meeting, August 20, 2020

President: Jan Hodson



□ Welcome and Officers Reports

- The TBA conference, November 5-7, Allen, TX is Cancelled. They might have some type of virtual meeting.
- The new honey bee license plate is now available. \$22 of the \$30 fee goes to THBEA.
- If you happen to know of another location where we can have our meetings that will hold 100 people with parking, please let us know.
- We now have a honey recipe section started on our website. You can send recipes to me or to webmaster.elmfork@gmail.com.
- Also, if you have any favorite tips or tools you would like to tell us about let me know for future meetings.
- Same thing for speakers/subjects you would like to hear from/about.



Dues are Past Due!

- Yearly dues were due July 1!
- \$25 per year, mail or drop off at the Agrilife extension office:

Elm Fork Beekeepers Association
301 S. Chestnut Street
Gainesville, TX 76240

- Or you can pay online using PayPal \$2 fee
elmforkbeekeepers.org
- Thank you if you have already paid!



Please use -

**North Texas Bee Trader
Facebook Public Group**

To buy, sell or trade bees and
beekeeping equipment.



□ Extraction Party 3pm, August 22th

- **Location: Mountain Springs Community Center**
- **Members and immediate family are welcome**
- **You do not have to bring honey frames to attend!**
- **A list of extraction supplies was emailed to members.**
- **Food – TexMex build your own tacos provided by the association, potluck for sides and deserts**

Please respond to the evite or send me an email tonight! I need to know how much food to buy!



□ Michael Barber – Vice President

- Speakers



- Scholarship Program

- Nominations Committee

- Secretary – Louann Barfknecht


- Treasurer – Julie Haza



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- **Communications – Susan Pritchard**
 - **Education Coordinator -Byron Compton**
 - **Webmaster – Stacy Branam**
 - **Director at Large – Tim Branam**
 - **Hospitality: Melanie Clinton & Dana Moss**



A few blooming nectar plants:

- Trumpet vine
 - Yellow Neptunea
 - Nightshade family
 - Cotton
 - Snow on the prairie
 - Bitterweed/sneezeweed
 - Greggs Mistflower
 - Grass
 - Take pictures of bees on nectar plants and email to janrhodson@gmail.com or text to 214-417-9071
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Trumpet Vine

Campsis radicans

Order: Lamiales

Family: Bignoniaceae

Perennial, native to eastern North America

Photo: Michael Barber



Yellow Neptunia, Yellow Puff, Yellow Sensitive Plant

Neptunia lutea, Fabaceae
(legume) family

Perennial, native, The leaflets are sensitive to the touch and will fold when disturbed.

Forage value is good for livestock and deer. The seeds remain intact for several months and are eaten by dove, quail, and turkey.



Silver Leaf Nightshade

Solanum elaeagnifolium
Solanaceae (nightshade)
family

Though poisonous to livestock, deer and turkey eat the berries, quail eat the seeds. The plant is prized as a wildflower in Europe.

Photo by: Michael Barber



Cotton

Native, Perennial South TX and Mexico

It has been hybridized

You can grow small patches of organic cotton it comes in many colors. Order online.

<https://www.wikihow.com/Plant-Cotton-Seeds>



Natural cotton blooms from mid June till the first hard freeze.

However most growers spray the plants with growth inhibitors that causes the plants to fruit simultaneously. Then it is defoliated long before frost to make it easy to harvest by machine.

Native cotton has nectaries in the blossom, like most plants. It also possesses extra-floral nectaries underneath the leaves. The plants would produce so much nectar the bees, butterflies and hummingbirds could not keep up. Seed breeders succeeded in breeding nearly nectar free plants, thinking all bugs are bad!

Snow on the Prairie – *Euphorbia bicolor*

Euphorbiaceae (Spurge) family – Blooms July-November

The plant is poisonous to livestock. The seeds are eaten by dove, quail and songbirds.



Range plants of North Central Texas – Ricky Linex

Bitterweed, Sneezeweed – *Helenium amarum*

Family – Asteraceae (sunflower family)



Please send pictures to
janhodson@gmail.com

Greggs Mistflower / Ageratum

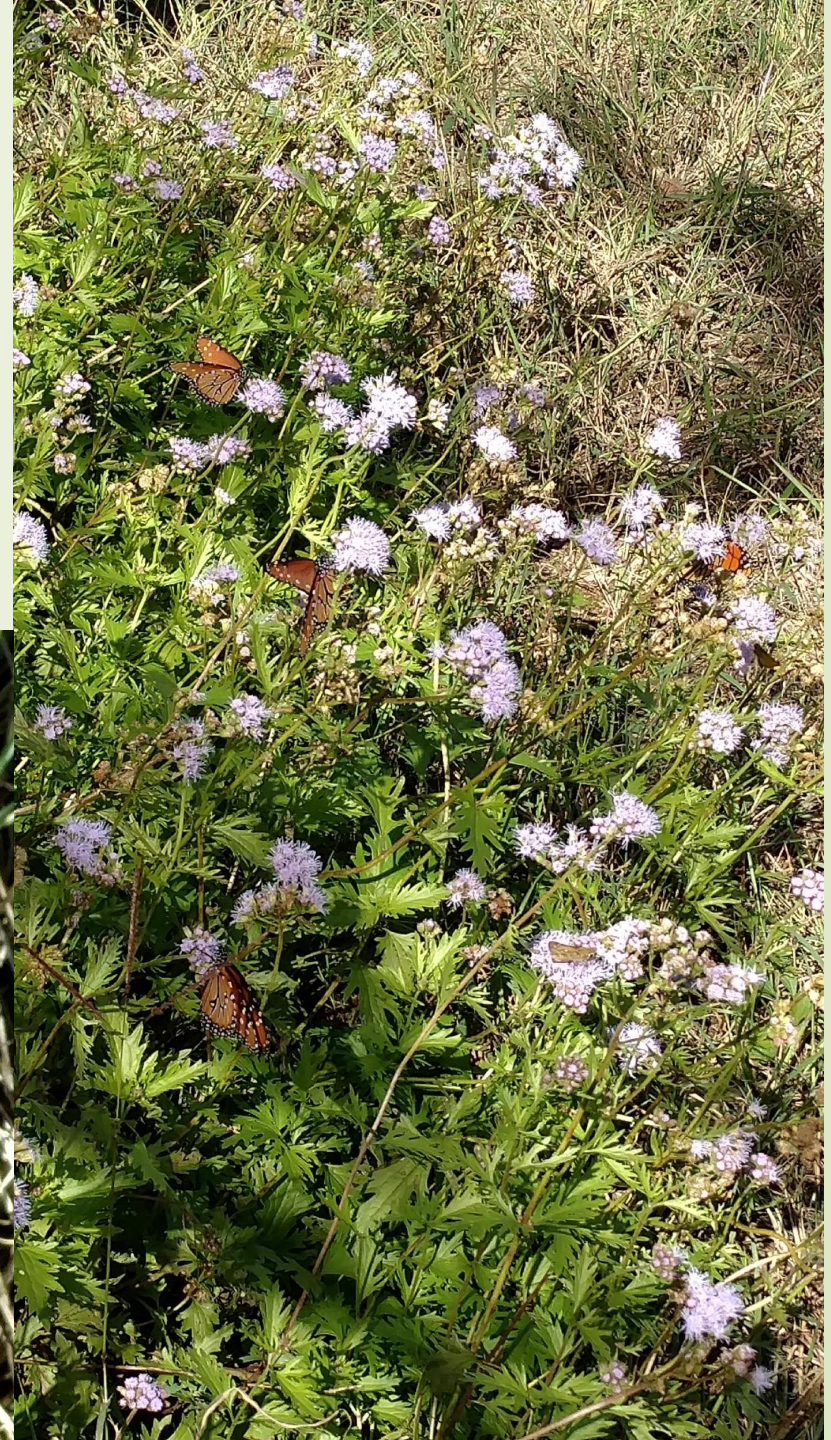
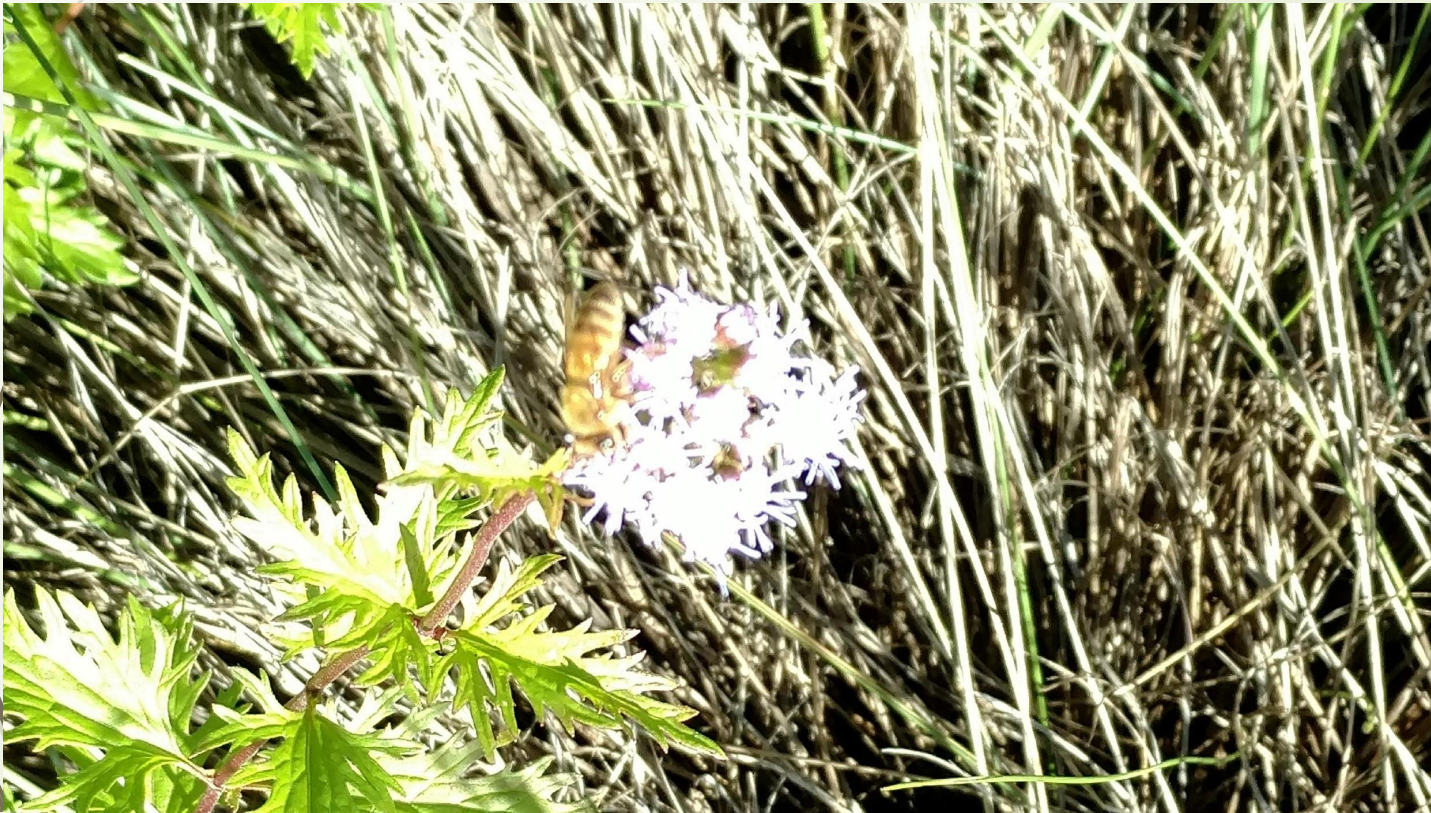
Eupatorium greggii

Asteraceae (sunflower family)

Perennial

Native to the Texas Trans-Pecos

Bloom: May-frost



Warm Season Grasses

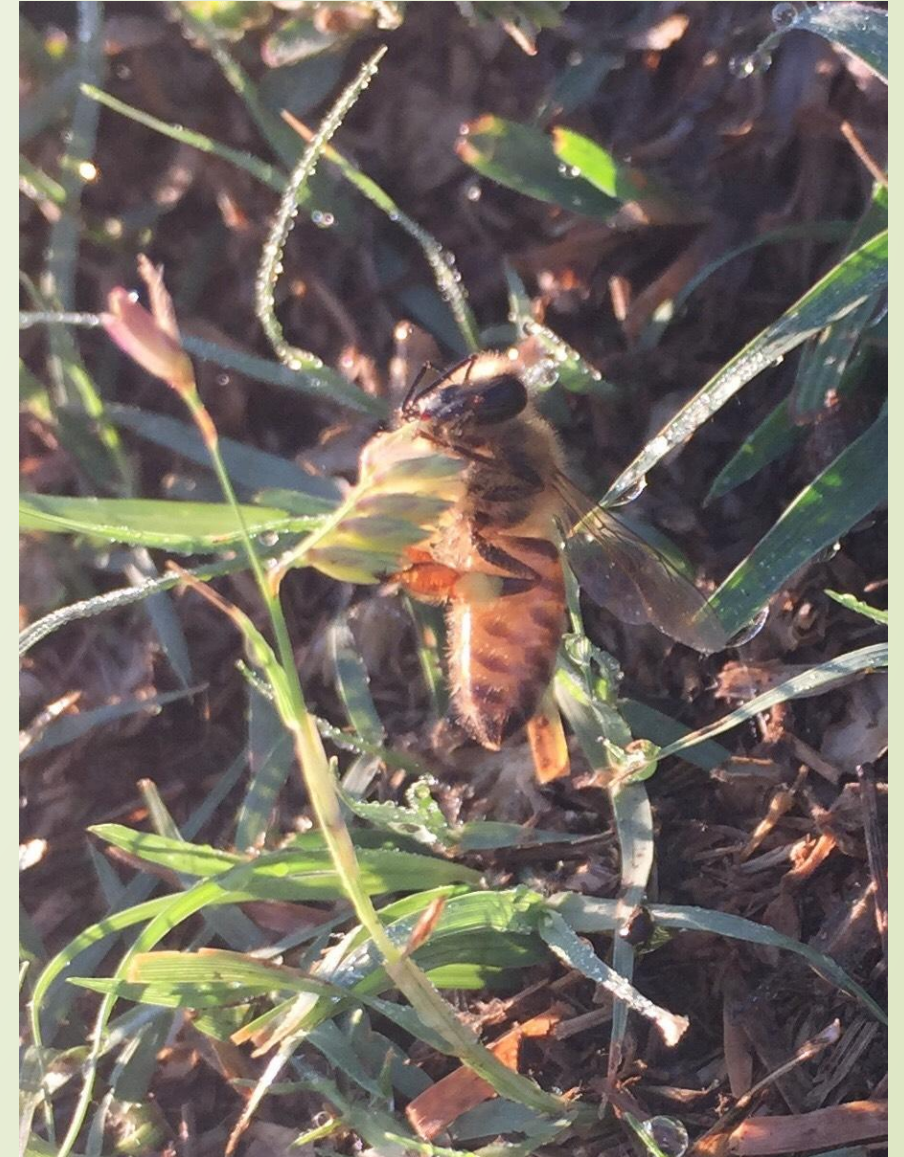


Photo: Michael Barber



August Monthly Tips:

- ❑ Check for swarm cells
- ❑ Check honey, pollen and brood pattern on frames. Some of my colonies are short on pollen.
- ❑ Over the next two months make sure your bees have a combined total of 5-6 deep frames of honey stored for winter. If not, start feeding!
- ❑ Very strong hives can be split in late August.
- ❑ It's still hot! Keep your girls cool! Provide a close clean water source and ventilation.
- ❑ Test for varroa and treat
- ❑ Do not hesitate to call your mentor, another club member, or me (940-637-2702) if you have a question!

Handy Tips and Tools:

Watch out for Robber Flies! They are pretty bad again this year. Once they get a taste for honey bees they seem to focus on them.

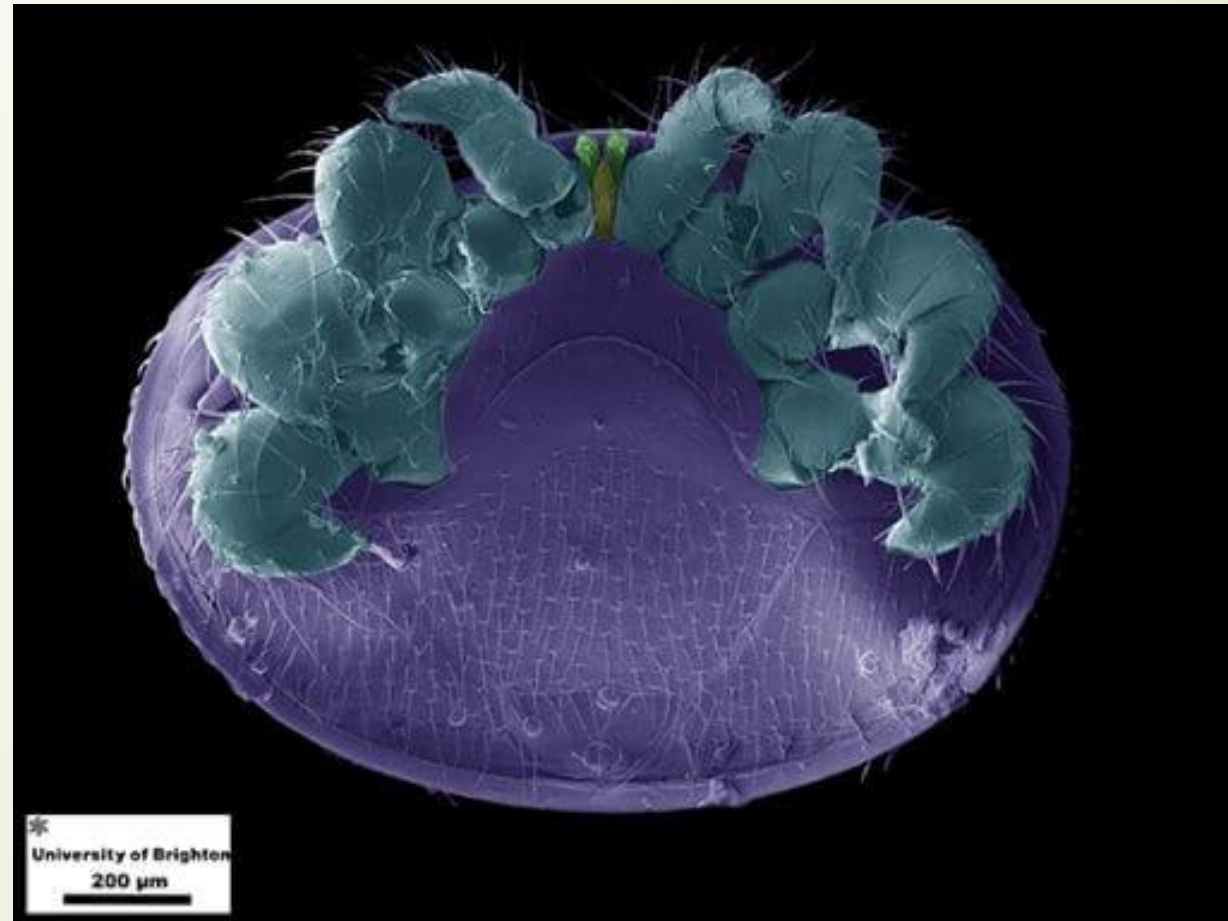




Tips and Tools:

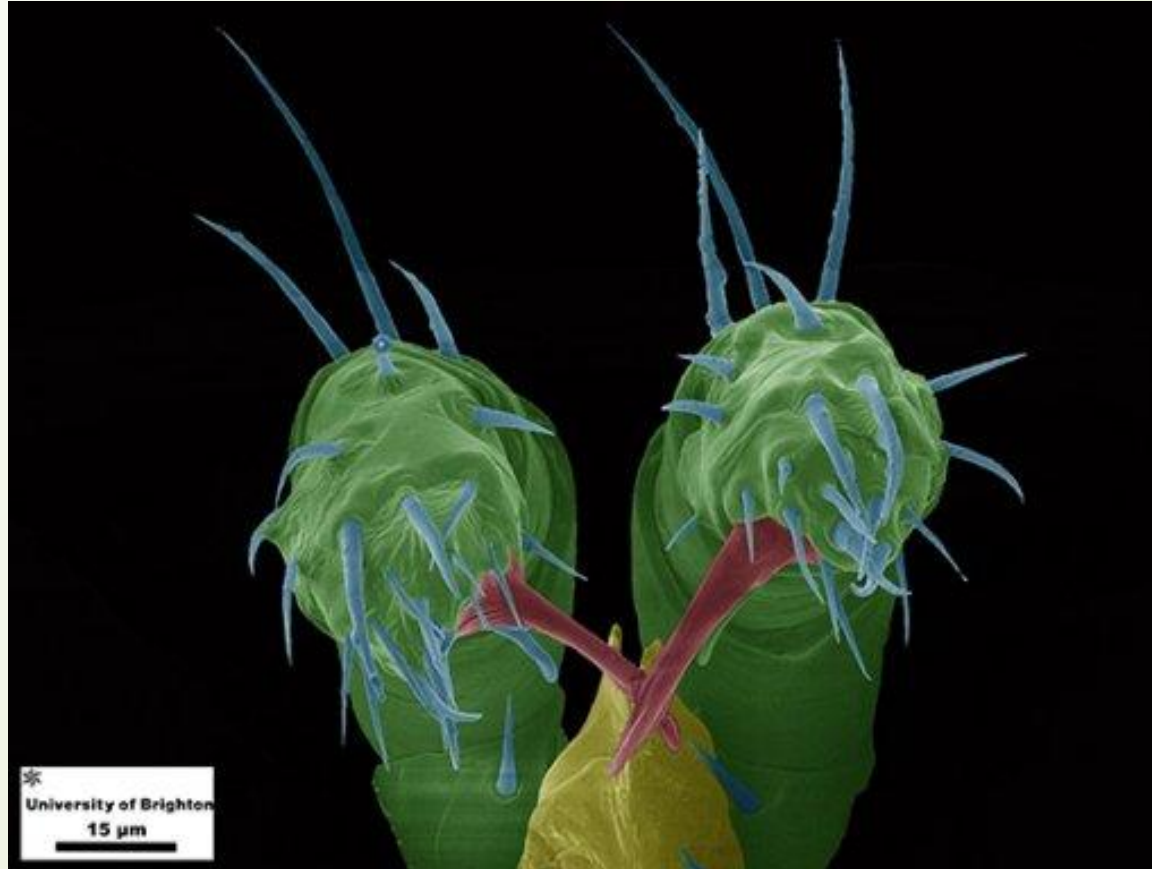
- What is Varroa?
- How do I test for Varroa?
- What do I do?

Varroa is usually not seen in a visual inspection. If you can see them easily it is probably too late to save your hive



Varroa Mite Underside

Varroa mouth and claws



They punch a large hole in the bee to suck the bee's fat which weakens the bee. They also transfer viruses into the bee like mosquitoes transfer disease. It's the viruses that build up and kill the hive

Vitellogenin is the Main Storage Protein in Honey Bee Haemolymph

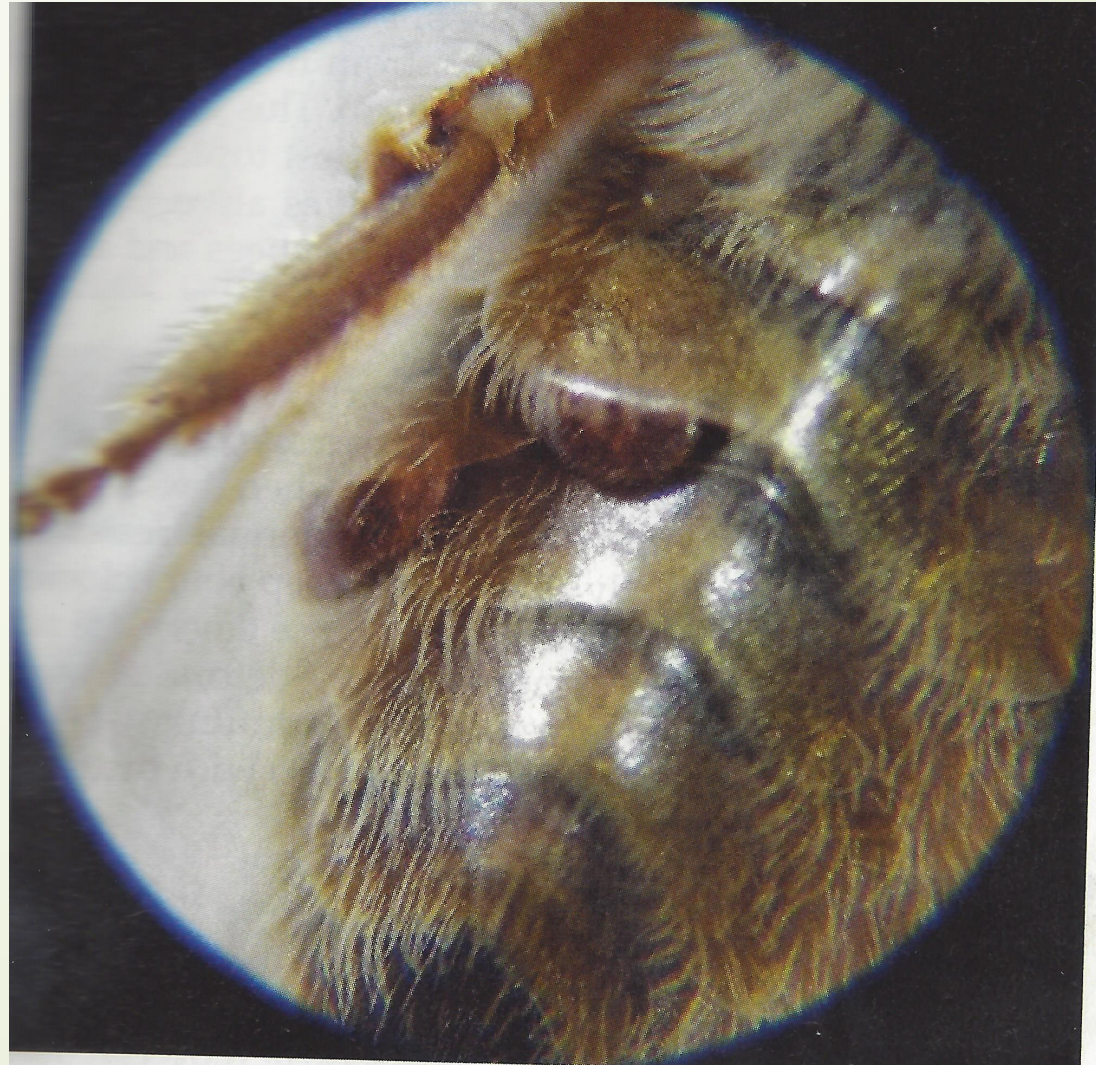


Fat bodies in the abdomen of a forager (left) and nurse or winter bee (right). From Keller (2005).

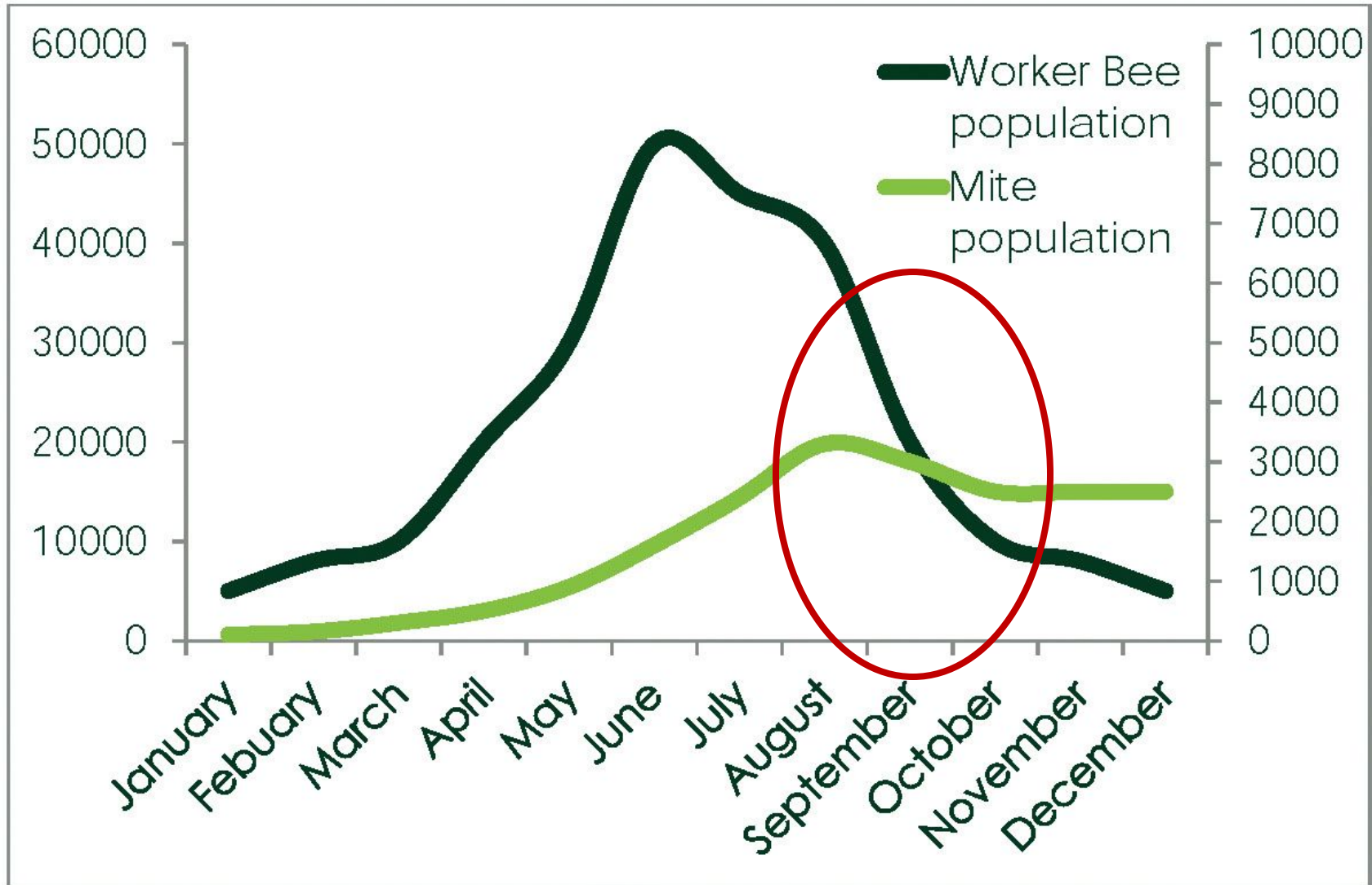
Varroa on bee. Can you see them?



How about this one?



You Must Manage Varroa!





For more detailed information refer to:
<https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroa/>





Board Meeting:

Members are always welcome at our board meetings.

Next board meeting Sept 3rd, 6:30 pm. Check the website calendar for the link.

Next Meeting:

Sept 17^h, 6:30 pm

Check the website home page for the link.

Location: Your house via Zoom

Speaker: Steven Coy

Steven Coy is a second generation commercial beekeeper with more than 20 years experience. In 2014 he started the Coy Bee Company, LLC so that he could focus on producing Russian queens. He is a charter member of the Russian Honeybee Breeders Association and has been breeding Russian bees since 2001.

He believes in serving the U.S. Beekeeping industry where he can. He currently serves as an Executive Board member of the American Honey Producer's Association, and is the Vice-president of the Mississippi Beekeepers Association.

He is a past President of the Russian Honey Bee Breeders Association as well as the former Secretary/Treasurer for the Pollinator Stewardship Council.

He also served as the U.S. Bee Industry representative on EPA's Pesticide Protection Dialogue Committee (PPDC).

He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Plant Science and a Master's Degree in Biology from Arkansas State University. In addition to his work as a beekeeper, he also worked as a Research Technician at the USDA Biological Control Research Unit in Stoneville, MS, and as a Research Assistant at Arkansas State University.

He is also the co-author of the only newly released book on Russian Bees.