



► Announcements

► Our Topic this Month: Pest Control Strategies

► Bio for Donovan (Donny) Johns

Twelve years ago we found out that giving our toddler honey at night helped her not to cough and allowed her to sleep soundly for the first time in her life. We bought Round Rock Honey at the time and in an effort to get the honey at a more affordable price (or so I thought), I started beekeeping with one hive for the fresh honey. 10 years later we have 200 hives – give or take a few at any given time of year as any experienced beekeeper will tell you. I found beekeeping not very easy, I was enamored with watching the bees and I knew I needed guidance to keep from losing my investment. As fate would have it I heard of an educational program.

I took a 5 year Master Beekeeper course through the Texas Apiary Inspection Service - achieving the Master Level a few years ago Today, we make and sell Texas honey, Creamed honey -several delectable flavors and Homemade Soap that we add our beeswax to. I travel several thousands of miles across Texas ensuring our honey comes from many different sources and we have begun to sell bees annually and now seasonally to new and experienced beekeepers.

I currently serve on the Board of Directors for the Wise Texas Bee Club of which I helped to start and I am “the responsible person “ to the State concerning the Club . We have instituted an annual mentor program for minors , we supply all equipment , a mentor and a starter hive for 2 winners of written essays and a parent of each winner is supplied a suit to participate as well.

► Next Month: Queen Rearing - Stan Brandon

- Stan will be talking about some of the things he learns in the class he is taking on queens and artificial insemination.



➡ Announcements

- ➡ Registration is still open: TBA Summer Clinic, June 25th, Conroe, TX Fee: members \$85
 - ➡ If anyone wants to ride down with me. I have 6 passenger van. I will be leaving Friday afternoon and coming back after the conference Saturday.
 - ➡ Jan Hodson– 940-637-2702
- ➡ Save the date: The Extraction Party is scheduled for Sat, August 20th, @ Mountain Springs CC (See attached flyer)
- ➡ TBA Conference November 3-5, Temple, TX

June Monthly Tips:

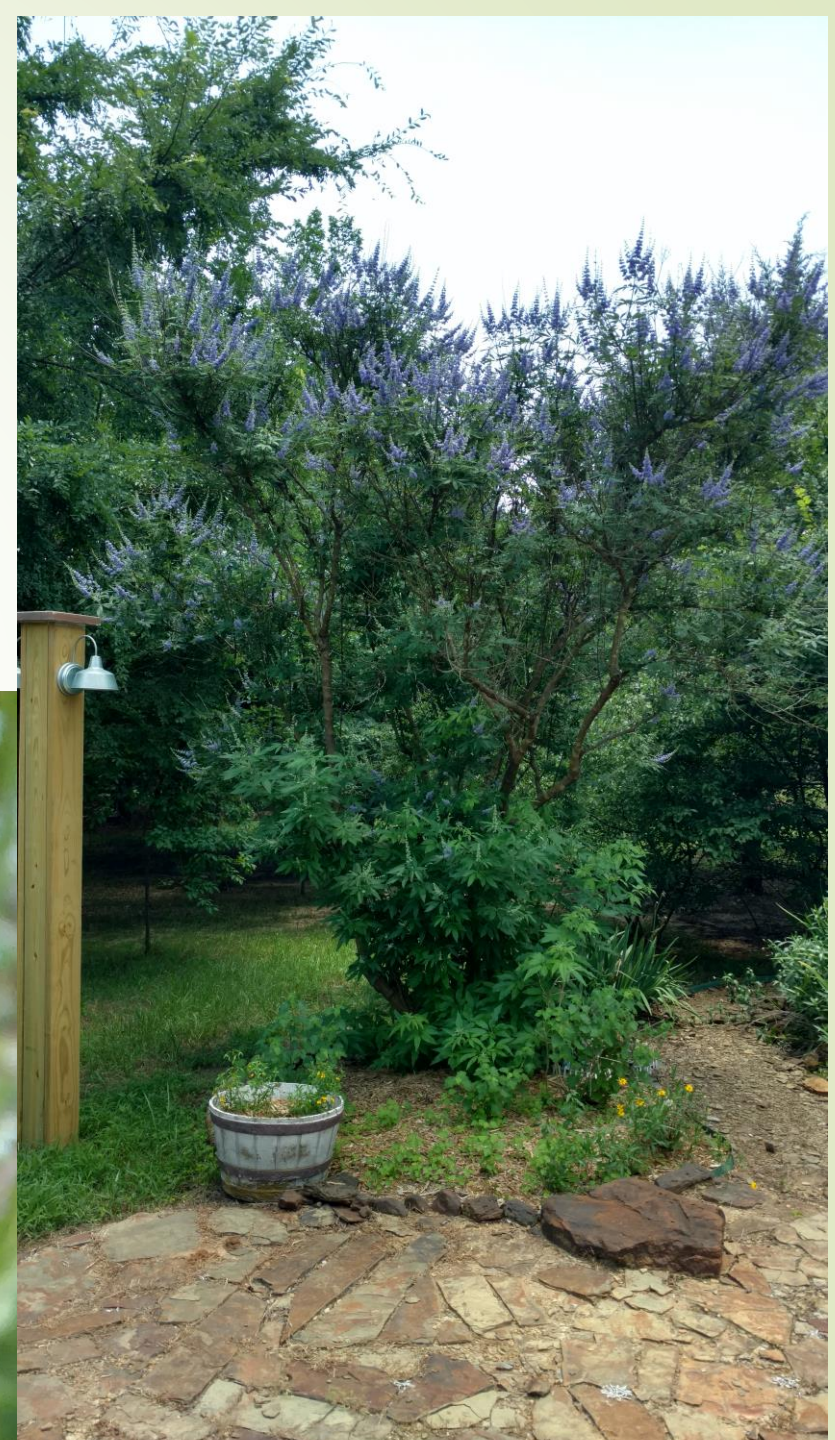
- **New hives:** Check honey and pollen stores. Feed syrup and pollen if needed for colony buildup. When 75-80 percent of the frames are full, add a box.
- **Check for pests** (SHB, moths, roaches, ants), strong hives will keep pests in check.
- **Nectar flow is still going.**
- **During good honey flow minimize brood box inspections.**
- **Do not medicate during honey flow.**
- **You can harvest when the honey is at least $\frac{3}{4}$ capped and passes a shake test.**
- **Capped honey may be harvested and the empty frames returned to the hive for the bees to cleanup residual honey.**
- **Watch out for robbing!**
- **Freeze empty frames of comb for several days to kill any pest eggs/larva before storing. You can also freeze frames of honey and extract them later.**
- **Keep your girls cool! Provide a close clean water source and ventilation.**
- **Do not hesitate to call your mentor, another club member, or me (940-637-2702) if you have a question!**



A few blooming nectar plants:

- Vitex/Chaste Tree (Non-Native, Europe & Asia , Species: Vitex Agnus Castus)
- Zexmenia (Asteraceae Wedelia Hispida) Native to southern Texas, Perennial
- Basil
- Purple Prairie Clover (Native Perennial, Species: Dalea Purpurea Family: Fabaceae, Legume Family)
- Monardia: Horse Mint/Spotted Bee Balm/Bee Balm
- Watermelon
- Squash
- Cantaloupe
- Death Camas
- Illinois Bundle Flower
- Soapberry
- Salvia
- Persimmon
- Take pictures of bees on nectar plants and email to janrhodson@gmail.com or text to 214-417-9071

Vitex Tree, Caste Tree,
(TX Lilac ?)
Vitek's Agnus Castus
Non native,
Europe & Asia



Zexmenia

Asteraceae Wedelia Hispida

Native to southern Texas, Perennial



Basil



Purple Prairie Clover

(Native Perennial, Species: *Dalea Purpurea* Family: Fabaceae, Legume Family)



Monarda species: Horsemint, Spotted Beebalm, Beebalm, Lemon mint

Labiatae (Mint)
family

Has square
stems

Spotted Beebalm
Monarda Punctata
Has yellow flowers
with brown dots



Wild Bergamot
Mormon Tea
Fistulosa



Horsemint/Lemon beebalm
Citriodora



Watermelon Blooms

Photo by:
Michael Barber



Squash

Photo by: Michael Barber



Cantaloupe

Photo by: Michael
Barber



Nutthall's Death Camas (poison onion)

Photo by: Justin Hartman

Zigadenus nuttallii, liliaceae (lily) family
Native, perennial

All parts of the plant are poisonous,
even when dry. The plant has a large
black coated bulb. Other species are
found in east and west TX all are
poisonous

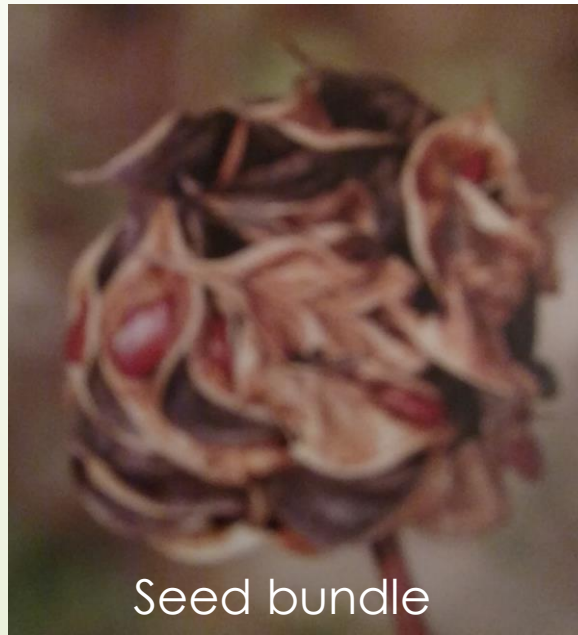


Illinois Bundleflower

Desmanthus illinoensis,
fabaceae (legume) family

Native, perennial

Premier forb that is highly palatable to all classes of livestock and deer. Seeds are eaten by quail, dove, turkey, and songbirds



Seed bundle



Photo by: Michael Barber

Soapberry, Western

Sapindus saponaria var. *drummondii*,
Sapindaceae family

Native, deciduous tree

Produces yellowish translucent fleshy fruit with a single seed, contains saponins, and can be used as a soap substitute. Fruits are toxic and can cause contact dermatitis in some individuals.

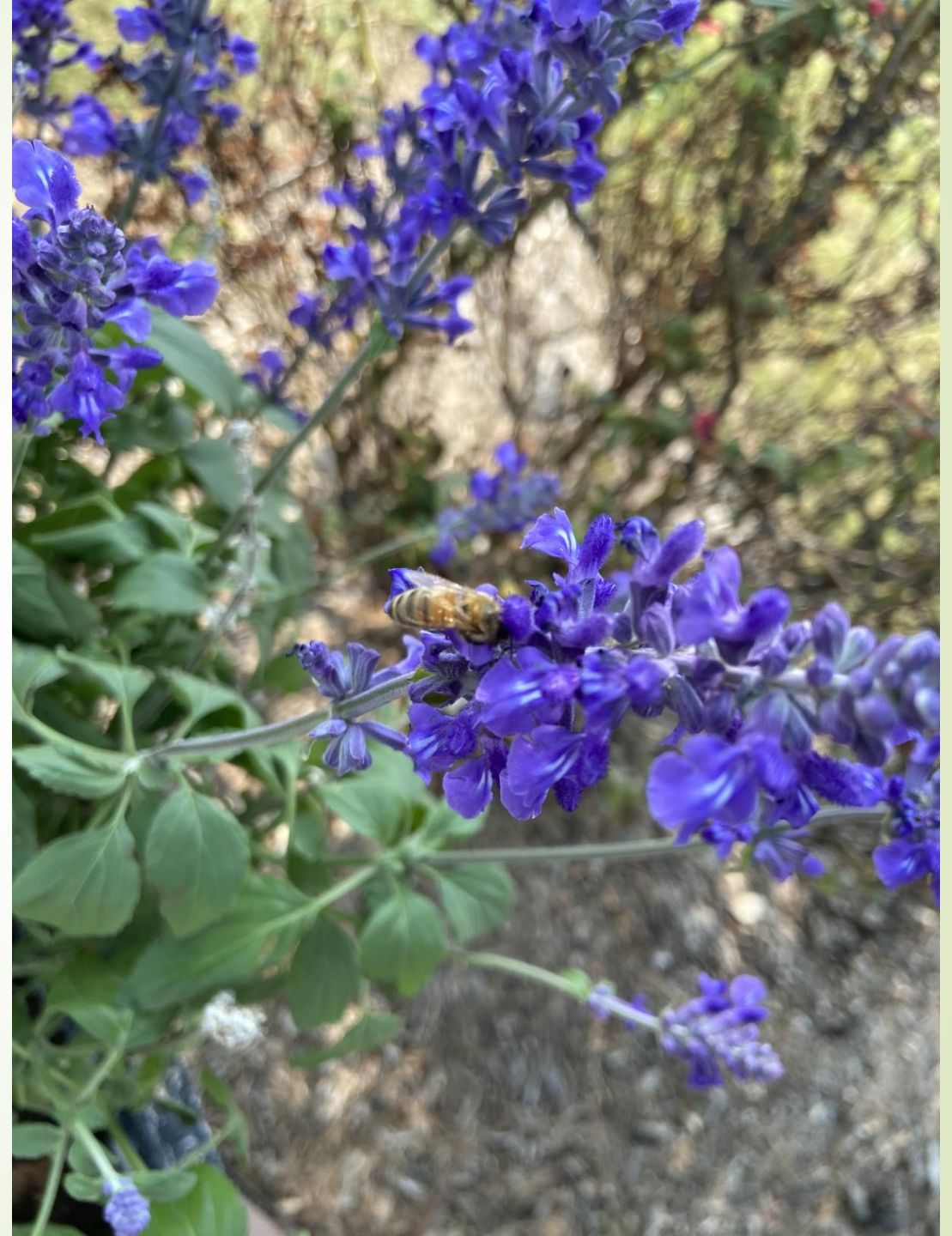


Photos by: Michael Barber

Photo by: Michael Barber

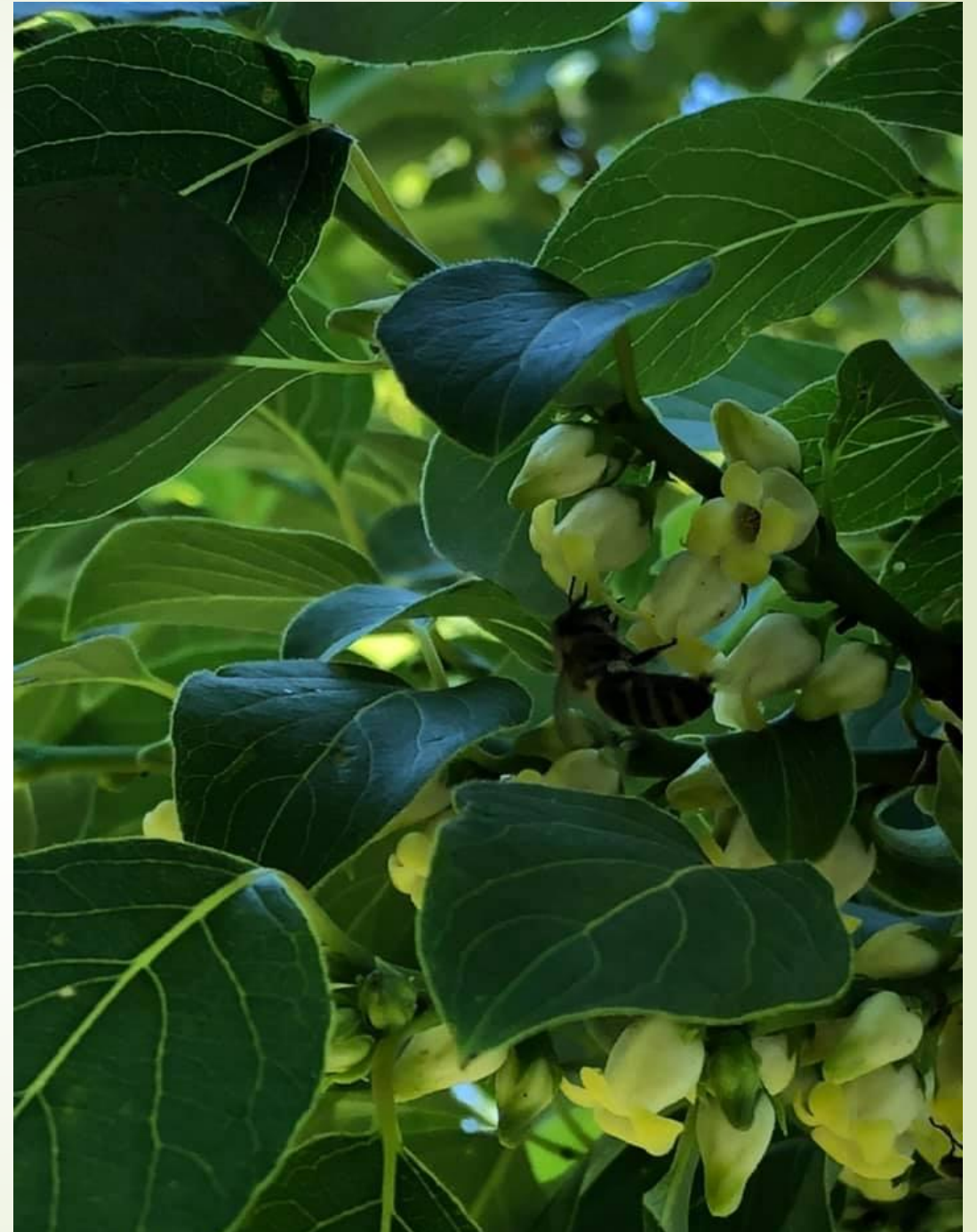
Saliva

There are many cultivars along with native salivas. Bees prefer the blue and white, over red species. They sometimes cross pollinate. I have had white ones produce blue flowered plants from seed.

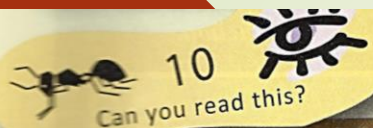


Common Persimmon Native

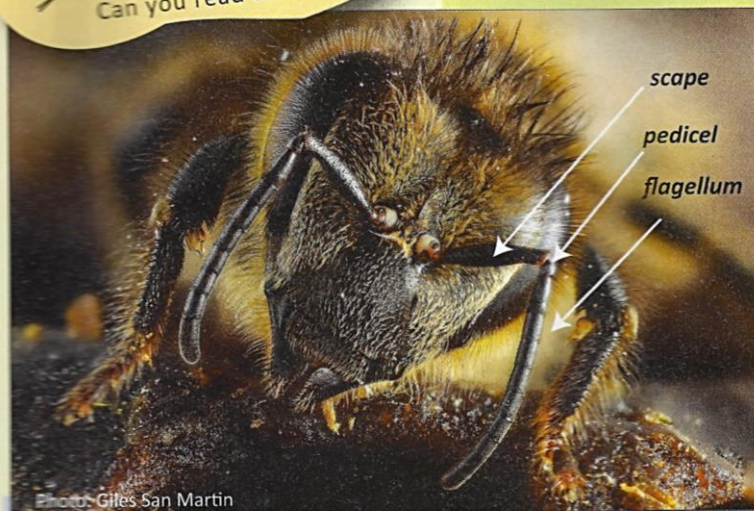
Photo by: Justin Hartman



Learn Something New Today!



Antennae Up



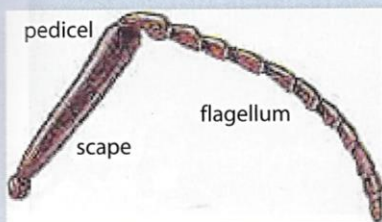
Parts of the Antenna

The antenna has 3 major areas.

The **scape** attaches the antenna to the head. It is the longest single segment of the antenna.

The **pedicel** is the second section.

The **flagellum** is divided into "segments". Drones have more segments than the workers and the queen.



When someone says, "keep your antennae up" it means pay attention or be aware.

Take a good look at a honey bee or any insect for that matter. The antennae are constantly moving. This is how insects sense their surroundings. The bee is using the antennae to touch, smell, taste, and pick up sound vibrations. All these signals give the bee's brain a workout.

The Amazing Antennae

Fill in the blanks using words from the list below.

- cell
- communicate
- drone
- measure
- sensors
- temperature
- tongue
- worker and queen

Bees use their antennae to help _____ the size and depth of each _____ while building comb.

They _____ by touching their antennae during the bee dances.

In honey bees, the taste _____ on the very tip of the antennae are more sensitive than those actually on the _____.

A _____ bee has 12 antenna segments.

The _____ have 11 antenna segments.

Bees use their antennae to tell the _____.

Antenna Cleaner

How does a bee clean their antenna? The antenna is placed in a notch on the front leg that has stiff comb like hairs. When the bee bends its leg, the antenna is held in place. It is pulled through that notch so pollen can be removed. Not only do the worker bees have an antenna cleaner but the queen and the drones have one too.



Produced by Kim Lehman -www.kimlehman.com

www.beeeculture.com

April 2022

English Lesson

Antennae are both of the antennae.

Become a Bee Buddy

Send two self-addressed stamped envelopes and the following information to: Bee Buddies, PO Box 117, Smithville, TX 78957.

Name _____
Address _____
Age _____
Birthday Month _____
E-mail (optional) _____

We will send you a membership card, a prize, and a birthday surprise!

Send all questions, photos, and artwork to: beebuddiesclub@gmail.com or mail to the above address.

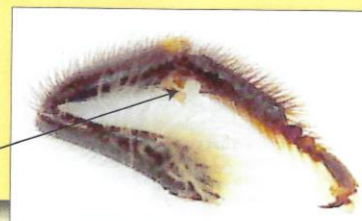
Clean Your Antenna Activity

Illustrate bee antenna cleaning using a chenille stick, sugar and Velcro.

1. Pour a little sugar on a plate.
2. Cover the chenille stick by rolling around in the sugar.
3. Fold a piece of Velcro in half loop side in to create the notch on the front leg.
4. Place the chenille stick in the fold and pull through the "hairs" to remove the "pollen".
5. Well, that was easier than taking a bath!

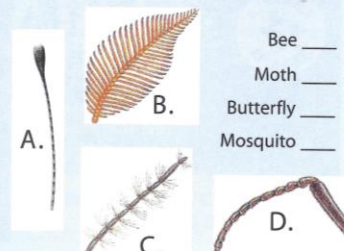
Front Leg of a Honey Bee

Antenna cleaning notch



Antennae Are Not Created Equal

Insect antennae are adapted to specific needs. A male moth has feathery antennae. A butterfly has long antennae with a knob at the top. A mosquito is bristle like. Can you match the antennae to the insect?



Bee _____
Moth _____
Butterfly _____
Mosquito _____



Little Stingers:

- A weed (or wildflower) is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except learning how to grow in rows.
- Driving Tip: If you rear-end a car on the road, your first move should be to end your phone call.
- What a frustrating day! I put \$5 in the change machine this morning... and I'm still me.
- God made man before woman so as to give him time to think of an answer for her first question.
- I was always taught to respect my elders, but it keeps getting harder to find one.
- Some people hear voices. Some see invisible people. Others have no imagination whatsoever.