

THBEA Report to TBA Members

November 2024

Texas Honey Bee Education Association (THBEA) is a non-member, IRS designated under section 501(c)(3) non-profit, controlled entity of TBA. THBEA's current directors, appointed by the TBA Executive Committee are: Jerry Maxwell (Chair), John "Skip" Talbert (Vice-Chair), Byron Compton, Gary Barber, Kirk Kirksey, Randy Oakley, Leesa Hyder, (Secretary), Russell Kaskel (Treasurer)

THBEA began in 2016, and according to its founding documents is organized exclusively to:

- **enhance and expand the awareness** of the contribution of honeybees to agriculture and to society,
- **create additional appreciation and interest in the profession of beekeeping** through studies in technical and scientific subjects,
- **strengthen beekeepers' skills** through education programs, and
- provide resources for continuing **bee research** particularly in areas that will advance bee culture, improve pollination, and conserve biodiversity.

In 2024, THBEA had many successes:

- **Fundraising**
 - Estimate \$14,496 from the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) from the annual sale of the honeybee themed specialty license plate sales and renewals. A total of \$65,860 from TDA has been received since the partnership began.
 - Raised \$5,985 from the raffle at the Summer Clinic in June. Silent and live auctions will be held at the 2024 TBA Convention.
- **Grants Awarded**
 - Awarded \$10,000 to TBA-member associations and other youth organizations to help start and support youth beekeeping programs. 2024 awardees are:
 - Anderson County Beekeepers
 - Brazos Valley Beekeepers Association
 - Fannin County 4-H Club
 - Houston Area Beekeepers Association, and
 - Trinity Valley Beekeepers Association.
 - Youth Beekeeping Grants, **Sharing the love of beekeeping with the next generation.** Funds from the THBEA Youth grant can be used to
 - Create new youth-beekeeping education programs in organizations that do not currently have them.
 - Re-start an organization's inactive youth education program.
 - Assist organizations with limited resources to expand an existing youth education program.
- **Sponsorships**
 - Sponsor university affiliated researchers from across the country to speak at TBA events

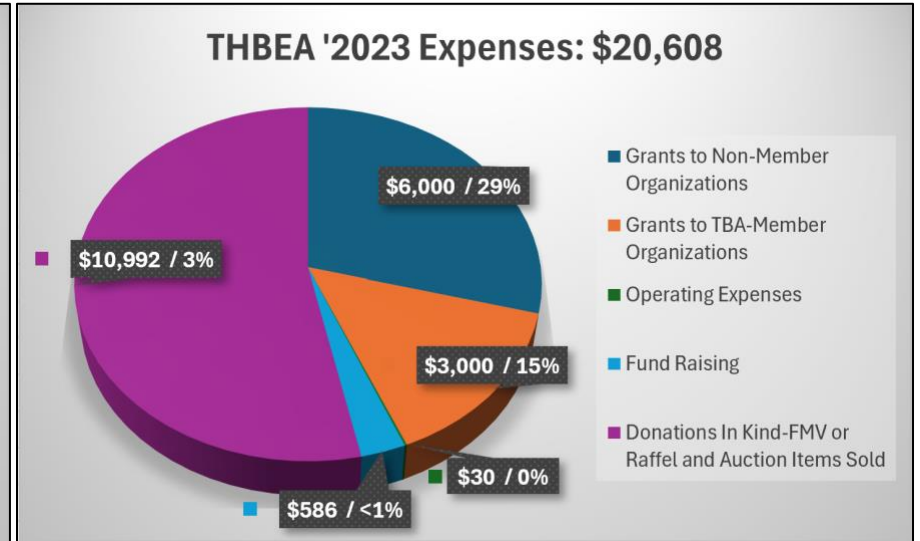
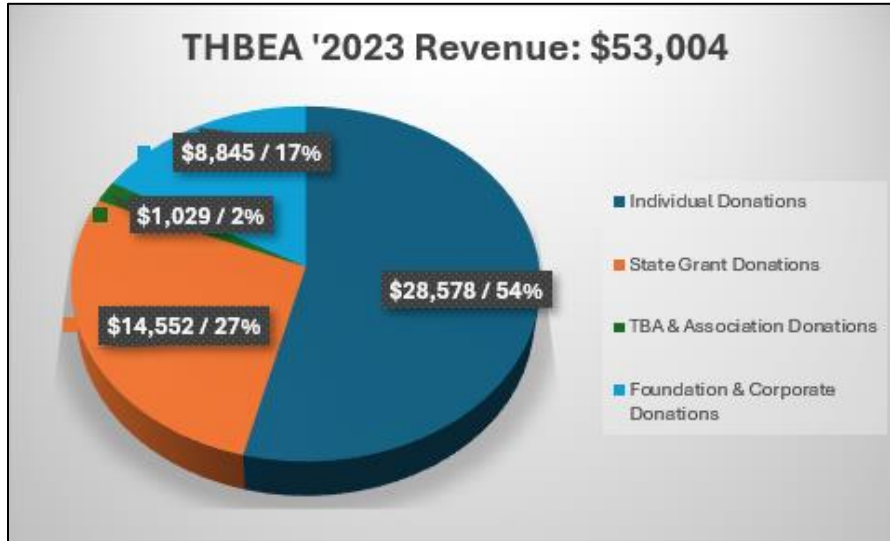
THBEA looks to focus in 2025 on these additional potential projects:

- Increase the number and amount of youth grants. Work with FFA, 4H and public schools directly to encourage and support beekeeping education for youth.
- Review and research current print media, update accordingly, and print as needed. Work in conjunction with TAIS for Spanish translations of our most popular brochures.
- Create a practical beekeeping award program for both adults and youth in TBA affiliated clubs.
- Continue support of the TBA Honey Queen Program.
- Invite Graduate students to present their research projects at TBA events.

THBEA receives funding from:

- Contributions from beekeepers and those interested in supporting the beekeeping industry in Texas.
- Contributions from TBA members and local TBA member associations throughout the year.
- Funds raised through raffles, auctions and various other avenues at TBA events.
- Grants from other 501(c)(3) organizations whose goals are in line with THBEA
- Grants from Texas Department of Agriculture for sales of the honeybee themed TxDMV specialty license plate. THBEA receives \$22 for new plates & registration renewals.

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THBEA expects to end 2024 with net assets of ~\$ 153,700, of which \$14,496 (est.) is temporarily restricted by donors.

Respectfully submitted by Jerry Maxwell, THBEA 2024/2025 Chair – Thank you for the opportunity to serve.