

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA May 2003 NEWSLETTER

DATE: **SATURDAY**, May 24, 2003
TIME: 11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
PLACE: Bill and Julie Hein home near Jarrell
PROGRAM: Field Day/Picnic
HOSTS: **Hein Family and WCABA Members**

PRESIDENT

Frank Hunt
512/478-8905
Huntt@aol.com

1 st. V.P.

MEMBERSHIP

Jeann Schmidt
512/869-4107
jfwschmidt@juno.com

2 nd. V.P.

PROGRAM

Harold Kind
512/246-8455
haroldkind@cs.com

3 rd. V.P.

NEWSLETTER

Mary Bost
512/863-3656
bostbees@juno.com

SECRETARY

Barbara Hunt
512/478-8905
Huntt@aol.com

TREASURER

Deane Thomas
512/930-5122
sand-t@cox-internet.com

HISTORIAN

Jimmie Oakley
512/388-3630
jloakley@juno.com

Jimmie Oakley and Frank Hunt gave an excellent program last month on swarming. Jimmie gave some basic information during Basic Beekeeping and continued this information as he talked to the general meeting group; then Frank showed us some of the paraphernalia he uses when retrieving swarms with some entertaining descriptions of some of his experiences.

Bill and Julie Hein have offered their home for our picnic and field day this month. We hope for a pretty day with mild weather. We had a great time at their place last year—they have a nice, long porch for our picnic, and we can set up our demonstrations under the trees where we can sit and enjoy the presentations about beekeeping. Be sure to **bring folding or lawn chairs** unless you prefer to stand while listening or sit on the edge of the porch while eating.

Many of you signed up at the last meeting to bring food to the picnic, but if you didn't get to put your name on the list, you can still bring a dish or two to share: meat, vegetable, salad, and dessert are the choices. The Heins will provide tea, water, ice, pickles and condiments. Others will bring bread (one person indicated "homemade bread"—goodie) and pickles. If you think of a picnic item you would like to bring, I'm sure others will enjoy it. This would be a good time to bring a friend who is interested in bees, too. Look for the map/directions to the Hein home as well as more information about the Field Day later in this newsletter.

Jimmie Oakley is arranging for an interesting and varied program for you to enjoy. Some of it may be a repeat of something you have heard before but we have many new members who were not present for it; also, most of us can benefit by sitting in on a presentation that we have heard or seen before in order to reinforce what we know.

We welcome David Zuelke of Taylor as a new member to WCABA. Others who renewed their membership at the meeting were Reed and Susan Moore, Elgin, and Brian Rodgers, Georgetown. Members renewing by mail since the last meeting are Ron Imken, Round Rock; Hank Secora, Leander; Bob Ruckreigel, Round Rock; Elroy Lieberum, Thrall; James Qualls, Taylor; and Gary Bagley, Liberty Hill.

Bill Victor of Hutto and his daughter, Brenda Raesz Robertson, both former members of WCABA, visited at the last meeting. Brenda has offered to donate a number of beekeeping items in memory of her late husband, Michael Raesz. We appreciate her thoughtfulness, and these items will be put to good use. Also, a new member, Mark Jones, has offered to donate several items that he has manufactured but is replacing with new models. A decision regarding how best to make these available to our members has not yet

been made but stay tuned: you may be able to pick up a needed item at a reasonable price.

A number of nice door prizes were donated at the last meeting. Donors were Leslie Moore, Darryl Smith, Lydia Miller, Meghan Cantlon, John Sivells, Barbara and Frank Hunt, Donnie and Wilbur Brinkmeyer, Beth Walker, and Kay Oakley. Winners were Gary Rowland – Audubon calendar; Susan Moore – bee sign; Leslie Moore – bee scene; Jimmie Oakley – dozen eggs; Bill Hein – dozen eggs; Cherie Miller – parts for 10 frames; Lydia Miller – bee cage; Wilbur Brinkmeyer – decorated egg; Donnie Brinkmeyer – rose with bee; G. C. Walker – pin wheel; Adela Hein – bee sign; David Zuehlke – knick knack holder; John Sivells – rose with bee; and Meghan Cantlon – box of bee candy.

Karin Cantlon came today to get the club's extracting equipment. It's exciting to realize that many of us will soon be harvesting our honey crop. If you plan to use this equipment, you may want to decide the date you want to use it and contact Robert Bost to get your name on his calendar. You can e-mail him at bostbees@juno.com or phone him, (512) 863-3656. As the equipment is needed by more members, the time for using it is for a three day period, and most of our members prefer to use it on the weekend; however, circumstances can alter use (such as a rainy period—we might have rain) and he tries to work with members so that it fits everyone's schedule.

Maghan & Karin Cantlon on the move!



The February 2003 issue of the American Bee Journal has two stories concerning handling neighbors' complaints about bees. Both had some good points and if you have neighbors near you, it may be worth your while to read both articles. To summarize the ideas in one of the articles, they are as follows:

Don't be antagonistic. Be understanding and sympathetic, especially if children are concerned. If someone has been stung, admit that you don't know if it was your bees that were at fault; it may have been a feral bee or a wasp or yellow jacket. Be concerned and honest and take the complaint seriously.

Begin the process of education. Explain that honey bees usually don't sting unless threatened and that the stingers are barbed and stay in the person's skin when the bee pulls out, resulting in its death whereas other stinging insects don't have barbed stingers, can sting at will and repeatedly and are therefore more aggressive.

Focus on the fact that honey bees do much for the environment. Bees help homeowners have more attractive landscaping as well as gardens, that without honey bees one third of all crops would be significantly reduced.

Offer suggestions. Tell the parents to check the pool before the child swims and remove any bees or other insects with a stick. Since bees don't like to be around people, they will try to avoid children playing in a pool. Show them how to remove a stinger with a scraper, explaining that removing the stinger quickly removes most of the formic acid which causes the discomfort. Talk to the children, suggesting that they move away when bees are around; duck under water if one alights on you; don't splash water on them as that will only make them angry; and stay calm and the bee will usually fly away.

Bring gifts of honey. Honey is the perfect peace offering. Your neighbor will realize you are wanting to be conciliatory, and that insects exist in the world and one simply has to learn to deal with it.

Saturday, May 24, 2003

Hosted by: Bill & Julie Hein – Jarrell, Texas

Registration

11:00 – 12:00 Arrival, Registration & Getting Acquainted. Sign up and get information & raffle tickets under the big canopy.

Picnic

12:00 - 1:00 Pot Luck Dinner “Out on the Porch”. Drinks provided by the Hein’s. Meats, Salads, Vegetables, and Desserts provided by the Membership. Paperware by WCABA.

Demonstrations & Presentations

1:00 – 1:30 Hive Fit for a Queen – Complete Hive System, by Mark Jones – Leander
1:30 – 2:00 Extracting at Home – Hot knife vs Scratcher, by The Hein Family – Jarrell
2:00 – 2:30 Queen Rearing – A New Way, by Frank Hunt – Austin
2:30 – 3:00 Meet the Queen (honeybee) – Caging & Marking, by G.C. Walker – Rogers
3:00 – 3:30 Queen Marking & Clipping (Drone substitutes), by Jimmie Oakley – R.R.
3:30 – 4:00 Alternative Beekeeping – Top Bar Hives, by Randy Oakley – Mustang Ridge
4:00 Clean Up - All

Directions: Go north on Interstate 35 out of Georgetown toward Jarrell and take Theon Rd. (exit 271) staying on the service road until you come to C.R.314. Turn right (east) on C.R.314 and proceed approx. 3mi. to junction of C.R.312 & C.R.322. Turn left (north) on C.R.322, the Hine’s live in the “log house”, first house on the left.



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Used 5 3/8 Boxes w/frames, \$2 each; Used 5 3/8 Boxes w/fdn.

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Bee Suits w/zipper veil, Smokers, Helmets, Uncapping Knives, Bee Veils.

G.C. WALKER, 8059 E. U.S. HWY 190, Rogers, TX 76569

Phone: 254/983-2891 E-mail: Walker2bee@aol.com