

# WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

## WCABA AUGUST 2003 NEWSLETTER

DATE: Tuesday, August 26, 2003  
TIME: 7:00 P.M., Ice Cream Social; 8:00, General Meeting/Program  
PLACE: Community Center, 205 Main Street, Round Rock  
PROGRAM: Ice Cream Social and Upcoming Events  
HOSTS: **Frank & Barbara Hunt, Skip & Gayle Shaw**

### **PRESIDENT**

Frank Hunt  
512/478-8905  
[Huunt@aol.com](mailto:Huunt@aol.com)

### **PLEASE REMEMBER TO RETURN LIBRARY BOOKS**

1 st. V.P.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Jeann Schmidt  
512/869-4107  
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No matter how much we read, study, and listen about a subject, bees in particular, there is always something new to learn. We certainly found that out when listening to our speaker, Robert Bryce, last month. He had a wealth of information that isn't found in the usual beekeeping publications about the various native bees found in Texas.

2 nd. V.P.

### **PROGRAM**

Harold Kind  
512/246-8455  
[haroldkind@cs.com](mailto:haroldkind@cs.com)

The program this month will be an informative session covering some of the important upcoming events in WCABA and the State that offer each member an opportunity to get involved in presenting and promoting the honey we all work so hard to make. There are several local and area events that everyone needs to know about as well as some important TBA events that will be discussed and explained to peak your interest. Jimmie Oakley will present a program covering these events and provide his own experiences from past years (along with some pictures). Everyone will have an opportunity to sign up to help make these events better than ever.



3 rd. V.P.

### **NEWSLETTER**

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### **SECRETARY**

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We voted last month to have an ice cream social this meeting. The following people signed the sheet to bring ice cream: Jimmie Oakley, Ellen Piekarski, Skip and Gayle Shaw, Harold Kind, Jeann Schmidt, Benjy Cox, Wilbur and Donnie Brinkmeyer, Randy Oakley, and Robert and Mary Bost. The hosts will furnish cookies. If you like to add chocolate syrup or sprinkles or some such condiment to your ice



cream, feel free to bring some. We always have a good time indulging in this summertime delight.

This would be a good time to invite someone interested in bees and beekeeping to come to our meeting. New members can join WCABA for half price—only \$5.00—after June, and by the time we start renewing our 2004 memberships, they can know if they will receive \$10.00/year worth of benefit from receiving the newsletter, learning from other beekeepers, getting a discount on queens and packages of bees, and even having some of the supplies delivered to them at the meetings when G. C. Walker returns from Colorado. Two people have expressed an interest in learning about bees recently, and I have promised them a complimentary newsletter. Let me know anytime you would like someone to receive a newsletter.

We were happy to welcome new members Konrad and Elizabeth Bouffard of Round Rock to our last meeting. Guests were Guy and Brandon Woodward, Pflugerville; David Felps, Cedar Park; and Lori Hodge, Marble Falls.

Door prizes were donated last month by Elaine Schorn, Doug Branch, Kay Oakley, Jacque Phillips McBride, Wilbur Brinkmeyer, and Stan Temmerman. The lucky winners were Ellen Piekarski – decorated thermometer; Robert Bost – sachet pillow; Mary Bost – coffee mug; Frank Hunt – dozen eggs; Barbara Hunt – bee whirligig; James McCoy – bee; Randy Oakley – candles; Gayle Shaw – bee; Ernest Shaw – skep; Lori Hodge – dozen eggs; and Cherie Miller – plush bear.

A phone call from Taysha Howe reports that Herbert Konze is critically ill in the hospital in Temple. Be sure to keep him and Alma in your prayers and thoughts.

Christy Oakley, sponsored by WCABA, was the Texas Beekeepers Association Honey Queen for 1993. She added a new title, Mother, to her name July 29, when she and her husband, Kevin, became the proud parents of their son, Joseph Ryder Chartier. He weighed in at 8 pounds, 11 ounces, and was 21 inches long. Jimmie and Kay Oakley are the proud grandparents (they just might have a few pictures).

Robert and I are pleased to report that our twin great-grandbabies now weigh about 2 pounds each and are “in the growing stage and out of the survival stage”, according to their grandmother but have a long way to go before they can leave the ICU nursery. “Fervent prayer... availeth much” and we thank you for your prayers.

A recent note from Cara Walkup says she “has 2 brood boxes and 4 shallow supers for sale (best offer) in my garage. Some frames are nicely “waxed out”, some are brand new. Anyone who’s interested can come by and look. My phone number is 244-1891.” Cara lives in Round Rock and you can get directions from her when you phone. Also, check the classified ad for bees and equipment for sale later in this newsletter.

I was reading some interesting information about gathering, storing and ripening nectar in the book, *The Hive and the Honey Bee*, a Dadant Publication edited by Roy A. Grout. Although quite a bit of it is technical and refers to research on the subject, I will excerpt some of the more interesting facts.

“Nectar is a sweet liquid secreted by plant nectaries usually located within the flowers, but in some species they are situated elsewhere.” ( Cotton is an example of plants with nectaries located under the leaves.Ed.) Nectar is composed “almost entirely of sugar and water, but the proportion of these ingredients varies widely.”

Sight and smell enable bees to locate sources of pollen and nectar, and the bee's technique used in visiting flowers depends upon whether she seeks pollen only, nectar only, or both. When the foraging bee is collecting nectar only, she carries her hind legs well apart and hanging at ease beside the abdomen while flying. Upon alighting, the proboscis is brought forward from its inactive position beneath the "chin" and is inserted into that part of the flower where the nectar accumulates, usually at the bottom of the corolla. Bees are guided to nectaries by the difference in the odor of the nectaries and the rest of the flower. A bee may visit numerous flowers to get her load of nectar: the author indicated from 100 to 1400 flowers, depending upon the abundance or scarcity of nectar.

When loaded with nectar the foraging bee hurries through the hive entrance to a place among her fellow workers on the comb. If the flow is weak she walks about until she meets a house bee to which she gives part of her load, usually distributing it among three or more bees. As they approach each other, the field bee opens her mandibles wide apart and forces a drop of nectar out over the upper surface of her proboscis. The house bee stretches out her proboscis to full length and sips the proffered nectar from between the mandibles of the field bee. While the nectar is being transferred, the antennae of both bees are in continual motion, and those of one bee are constantly striking those of the other, and the house bee will stroke the "cheeks" of the field bee with her forefeet as if eagerly coaxing for more.

In the manufacture of honey from nectar, two distinct processes are involved: One brings about a chemical change in the sugar and the other results in a physical change whereby surplus water is eliminated. The sugar content of nectars is variable with various amounts of sucrose present in almost all nectars. Due to the action of the enzyme invertase, sucrose, a compound sugar of the nectar, is changed in the hive into two simple sugars, glucose and fructose. The house bee goes through a number of activities in which she forces the nectar she has received into cells. If the cell is empty, she appears to "paint" the nectar onto the top and back of the cell; if it already contains unripe honey, she simply adds to the contents.

The rate at which water can be eliminated from fresh nectar and unripe honey is influenced by a number of factors: weather and honeyflow conditions, colony strength, amount and concentration of nectar brought in per unit of time, extent of available storage cells, temperature, humidity, movement of air within the hive, and ventilation.

### **Honey Oat Muffins** (Taste of Home magazine)

1-1/2 c. quick-cooking oats	1 c. all-purpose flour	1/2 c. packed brown sugar	3/4 tsp. salt
3 tsp. baking powder	1 egg	2/3 c. milk	1/2 c. vegetable oil
1/4 c. honey	1/2 c. raisins, optional	1/2 c. chopped walnuts, optional	

In a bowl, combine the oats, flour, brown sugar, baking powder and salt. In another bowl, combine egg, milk, oil and honey. Stir into dry ingredients just until moistened. Fold in raisins and walnuts, if desired.

Fill greased or paper-lined muffin cups two-thirds full. Bake at 400 degrees for 15-18 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean. Cool for 5 minutes before removing from pan to a wire rack. Yield: 1 dozen.

### **Classified Ads**

**For Sale:** 4 colonies of bees, 12 frame motor driven extractor, and other miscellaneous equipment. Carl Goericke, 1402 Glenwood Drive, Austin, TX 78723 or Phone (512) 452-7332

Bees

Queens

Honey

# **Walker Apiaries**

**WALKER HONEY COMPANY**  
**PO BOX 615 ROGERS, TEXAS 765690165**  
*"a texas family concern since 1928"*

Clint Walker III, Ph.D.  
(254) 983-BEES

Janice Glisson Walker  
Fax (254) 893-2337

## **FOR SALE NEW & USED BEESUPPLIES**

**...If You Need It, We probably Have It ...**

New #1 deep frames, \$60 per 100 or in lots of 500, \$55 per 10;

New 6 1/4 Boxes; New Western Cedar bottoms and tops.

6 1/4 budget-grade frames, \$45 per 100 or in lots of 500, \$40 per 100.

Used 8 and 10 frame bottoms and tops, \$1 each in lots of 100;

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

Nose Trucks and Barrel Trucks; Crimp Wired Foundation, 25# for \$95

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](mailto:Walker2bee@aol.com)

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Beekeepers Association  
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