

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA SEPTEMBER 2004 NEWSLETTER

DATE: Tuesday, September 28, 2004
TIME: 7:00 – Honey Tasting & Judging; 8:00 – General Meeting
PLACE: 205 Main Street, Community Center in Round Rock
PROGRAM: Honey Tasting and Judging – Awarding of Ribbons
HOSTS: **Randy Oakley, Donnie & Wilbur Brinkmeyer**

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The ice cream social last month was, as usual, lots of fun and good eating with time for visitation, followed by Jimmie Oakley's presentation of important upcoming events. A brief summary of his excellent overview follows.

The program this month, the honey tasting event and the honey judging, is always a fun time. We hope you are planning to bring a small jar (such as a baby food jar) of your honey to the meeting Tuesday evening so everyone can taste the different flavors and compare their honey with the rest of the honeys. Jimmie Oakley gave a very good overview at the last meeting of the way we do the "Taster's Choice", but in case you missed it, here's what we do: each jar is placed on the tasting table (Jimmie will keep tab on who brought each jar), sticks are provided for each person to dip into the honey, and then each person will get to vote for the three honeys he/she likes best by placing a mark in front of those jars. The one with the greatest number of marks gets a blue ribbon, the next highest marks gets a red ribbon, and the third highest gets a white ribbon. This is for fun and bragging rights only.

Honey to be judged must be from this year's harvest and must be in a two-pound queenline glass jar. Aspects for judging are taste, color, clarity, absence of bubbles, wax or any debris. Ribbons –blue, red, and white—are based on the total points received per entry, and there can be more than one winner of each color ribbon. This honey is then sent to the State Fair in Dallas to be displayed in the TBA Honey Booth, and at the end of the Fair, the Texas Honey Queen will present it to the Happy Hills Children's Home. Jimmie says, "It is an honor to have one's honey displayed at such a prestigious event and to know it is being donated to a worthy cause." If you need a two pound queenline jar, contact Jimmie at (512) 388-3630.



The State Fair in Dallas begins September 24 and runs through October 17 this year. The Texas Beekeepers Association has a Honey Booth in the TDA Food and Fiber Building and volunteer beekeepers work the booth. In return for working in the booth for a specified five hours of duty, beekeepers receive free admission and parking to the grounds. Those members who have worked the booth in the past report having a wonderful time. If you are interested in doing this, talk with Jimmie Oakley and sign up for a tour of duty.



November activities to put on your calendar are **Wesley Fest**—November 6 & 7, in Georgetown; **TBA Convention**—November 11 – 13 in Arlington; **WCABA Meeting** – November 23, election of officers for 2005 and the reports from the 2004 Ed Wolfe Memorial Scholarship winners of their experiences as first-year beekeepers. More information about these upcoming events will be in the October newsletter.

I received an e-mail from Nial and Darla Chase informing us that their 18 month tour of duty in Argentina had been moved up from October to a September 17th departure date, but that they would send their honey for tasting and for judging by friends. I have asked them to write us if they get to tour some interesting bee activities while in Argentina, and I'll put it in the newsletter.

Jean Plentl called to say she would be happy to have a beekeeper place hives of bees on her place in Florence. She said she had quite a bit of acreage with wildflowers and other nectar sources. If you are interested, her address is 1600 C.R. 223, Florence, Tx 76527 and her phone number is (254) 793-2333.

We are happy to welcome Suzan, Troy, and Amanda Gibson of Belton as new members to WCABA. We can thank Nial and Darla Chase for recruiting them. Do you know someone who you think would like to get involved in the wonderful world of beekeeping? Encourage them to visit and join for only \$5.00 during the last half of the calendar year. Guests at the August meeting were Melissa Freeman, Round Rock, and Bridget Afza, Elgin.

The club's extracting equipment has had the busiest use this year of any time I can remember. That's great! It means that nearly all of us have had a better than average honey flow, and now we're getting to reap the golden rewards. We hope you have made enough honey that you will be able to donate some of it to the WCABA honey booth at Wesley Fest in November. You'll hear more on this next month.

Door prize donations last month were made by Jody Young, Wilbur Brinkmeyer, Barbara Hunt, and Deborah Jordan. Lucky winners were Shirley Kinningham, dish towels; Emmanuel Hein, mead; Jody Young, bee wind chimes; and Melissa Freeman, basket of plants.

Are you interested in WCABA getting miticide strips in order that members can install them in their hives this fall? If so, you will need to let me know by the time we meet next Tuesday. For those of you who have only a few hives, getting them through the association is easier than ordering packs of 10 strips from a bee supply house. Treating your hives in the fall after you have harvested your crop of honey is

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