

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA NOVEMBER 2004 NEWSLETTER

DATE: Tuesday, November 23, 2004
TIME: 7:00 – Basic Beekeepers; 8:00 – Gen. Meeting/Program
PLACE: 205 Main Street, Senior Community Center in Round Rock
PROGRAM: Reports: Scholarship winners, Wesley Fest, TBA; Officer Elections
HOSTS: **Buddy & Cherie Miller, Lance Powell**

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Kay Oakley gave a very interesting demonstration on using the products of the hive at our last meeting and, assisted by her grandsons, passed out Pecan Tarts, made hand cream, face scrub, and provided recipes of the products she made. Thank you, Kay, for presenting a very good program.



November is the month when our Ed Wolfe scholarship youngsters give their reports on their experiences as beekeepers. We shall look forward to hearing from **Katelyn Heisch, Lanie Robbins, Lance Powell, and Daly Young**, our 2004 recipients. Jimmie Oakley will report on the TBA convention which was held in Arlington recently, and we'll also hear about the Wesley Fest honey booth. One other important item of business: WCABA officers for 2005 will be elected.

Our association and our youth program in particular has received some very good publicity this year in the *Williamson County Sun*. The County Life editor, Amy Burroughs, has followed our program through the year with good stories and pictures, and we want to show our appreciation by recognizing her during our program Tuesday evening. Please take time to express your appreciation when you visit with her.

The weather was truly beautiful for the Wesley Fest and many customers seemed pleased to be able to buy local honey. We thank all those of our members who donated honey for the Wesley Fest booth. Because of your generosity, the amount of honey the club needed to buy was relatively small. Those who donated honey were Kenneth Miller, G.C. Walker, Randy Oakley and sons, Robert and Mary Bost, Jimmie Oakley, Wilbur Brinkmeyer, and Katelyn Heisch. If you had planned to donate money for the fund, which is used to support our youth program, it's not too late; your contribution will be gratefully accepted.

We also appreciate all those who worked in the booth: Jimmie and Kay Oakley, Bill and Julie Hein, Nathanael and Emanuel, Deborah Jordan and Joel, James, Thomas and Ashley McCoy. Randy Oakley, Joshua, Caleb, Samuel, Daniel, Benjamin, Abigail and Anna Oakley, Kim Arnett, Frank and Barbara Hunt, Lanie Robbins, Tasha and Katelyn Heisch, Marcus and Daly Young. Thanks to you all.

We welcome Grant Rushton of Gatesville as a new member. He indicated his brother is also interested in beekeeping and will probably be joining soon. Also, Doug Branch and G.C. and Beth Walker renewed their WCABA membership by paying their dues for 2005. Our membership chairperson, Jeann Schmidt, will be happy to take your dues when you register Tuesday; by paying now, you will avoid standing in line to pay your dues in January. Dues for the calendar year, January through November, are still a minimal \$10.00, and this includes receiving the monthly newsletter, use of the club extracting equipment, good programs and helpful information through the Basic Beekeeping discussions, use of the club library materials, and good fellowship with exchanging ideas and experiences about beekeeping activities.

One other benefit of belonging to WCABA is that it entitles you to a discount when you subscribe to one of the bee magazines: Bee Culture, American Bee Journal, or Speedy Bee. If you would like to have one of the coupons to send in with your subscription, check with Jeann Schmidt or me Tuesday night.

Door prize donations last month were given by Frank and Barbara Hunt, G.C. Walker, and Kay Oakley. Lucky winners were Katelyn Heisch and Kay Oakley, bee refrigerator magnets; Frank Hunt and Jody Young, apricot honey; and Daniel Oakley, hand rolled beeswax candle.

Jimmie and Kay have returned from the TBA Convention in Arlington, Texas with contest winners and ribbons to prove it. Randy Oakley picked up two white ribbons for his entries in the photo contest and his round comb honey. Caleb Oakley won a 2nd place red ribbon in the light amber honey class. Jimmie won a red ribbon in white honey, while Joshua Oakley took the blue ribbon in that class. Jimmie also won 2nd place in the photo contest. The ribbons, honey, and photos will be on display at the meeting.

We extend our condolences to Jimmie Oakley and his family in the death of his uncle. Jimmie will be traveling to Oklahoma for the funeral Tuesday, returning Thursday; hence the slight delay in sending out this newsletter.

How does one choose which article in which bee magazines to write about? This month, in Bee Culture, there were several articles that I thought our members would find interesting: one by James E. Tew on various insect nests he found when painting his house; another by Ann Harman on a variety of bee books that would make interesting winter reading; another by Connie Krochmal entitled "Honey Plants, Spring Blooming Bulbs"; but I chose to excerpt a part of Bob Brachmann's "Characteristics of Russian Bees".

Brachmann is a commercial beekeeper who has operated in California and New York since 1987. He sells honey, nucs, pollinates, and raises queens for his own use as well as to sell. He states, "Russian bees are not a race or a color. They are a group of bees imported from over a huge area in eastern Siberia. A majority tend to be darker bees. Genetically they are predominantly Caucasian but also contain Carniolan

and some Italian lineage. They do have some common characteristics though.” He then gives a comparison of several characteristics, listing each in 1,2,3 order.

- A) Wintering ability—Russian, Carniolan, Italian (this is more important in the North than in Texas-MB)
- B) Winter honey consumption—Russian, Carniolan, Italian
- C) Spring buildup—Italian, Carniolan, Russian
- D) Speed of buildup—Russian, Carniolan, Italian
- E) Swarming—Russian, Carniolan, Italian
- F) Bee populations throughout the year—Italian, Carniolan, Russian
- G) Tracheal mite resistance—Russian, Carniolan, Italian
- H) Varroa mite resistance—Russian, Carniolan, Italian

The author concludes: “If you’re operating only pure Russian apiaries you should not need to treat every year for Varroa. It’s too early to determine if an all Russian apiary can thrive indefinitely with no treatment. If you run mixed apiaries or Russian hybrids you will need to treat, though my experience indicates that you can extend the period between treatments. In all cases, the amount of Varroa pressure from outside sources must be taken into consideration.”

Pumpkin Pudding with Honey Pecan Sauce

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup honey	2 tsp. pumpkin pie spice	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup canned pumpkin
1 cup evaporated skim milk		6 egg whites

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In medium bowl, combine all ingredients except egg whites; blend well. Beat egg whites to stiff peaks; fold into pumpkin mixture. Pour into 6 1-cup soufflé dishes or oven-safe molds sprayed with non-stick cooking spray. Place in 9 x 12 baking dish; fill with hot water almost to top of soufflé dishes. Bake 45-50 minutes or until knife inserted in center comes out clean. Unmold warm pudding onto dessert plates; top with Honey Pecan Sauce. Garnish with lemon curls and mint leaves if desired.

Honey Pecan Sauce

Mix $\frac{1}{3}$ cup honey and $\frac{1}{2}$ cup pecan halves; stir in $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. rum flavoring. Spoon over warm pudding. Makes 6 servings.

Bees

Queens

Honey

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New #1 deep frames, .70 cents each

New 6 ¼ Boxes; New Western Cedar bottoms and tops.

6 ¼ new frames, .65 cents each.

Used 8 & 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.

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