

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA FEBRUARY 2005 NEWSLETTER

DATE: Tuesday, February 22, 2005
TIME: 7:00 p.m.—Basic Beekeepers; 8:00 – Gen. Meeting, Program.
PLACE: Round Rock Community Center, 205 Main Street
PROGRAM: Installing Packages of Bees, Splitting Hives; by Jimmie Oakley
HOSTS: **Jill Robbins, Mary Bost**

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We were treated to a very informative program last month when Dr. Clint Walker briefed us on what is happening in the beekeeping world at this time. It wasn't a rosy picture but it made us realize how necessary it is to do the best job of managing our bees that we possibly can. Due to the severe decimation of hives in the holding yards in California, bee breeders are being stretched to their limits to supply their customers with packages of bees and queen bees, and Clint said that most of the bee breeders are booked solid through May. We appreciate his holding open a limited number of packages for WCABA members. At the time of this writing, we have received orders for 40 packages, and Clint said he could extend that number to a few more but there will be a limit. March 1st is the final date for ordering packages through our association. If you plan to order packages of bees, you must do so now.

Note: All packages will be 3# with queen marked and clipped, for \$56.00. The package bees will be delivered to the Bost Farm on Saturday, April 2 (not the date originally set). If you are unable to pick up your bees Saturday afternoon, talk with Mary Bost or Jimmie Oakley about making arrangements for when you can pick them up. Payment for your bees should be made out to WCABA and must be received by Mary by March 1.

Queen bees will be available through the club order the first week of May, date to be set later, and the payment of \$12.00 each needs to be made by April 1. This should give us time to check our hives, observe how well the existing queen is brooding up and determine whether she should be replaced, as well as ordering the number of queens you will need if you make some splits.

Jimmie Oakley will lead the discussion on steps for successfully hiving packages of bees and also how to make splits from our strong hives when we meet Tuesday evening. If you are a novice, this program will be especially helpful; if you are an experienced beekeeper, you may pick up an idea or two or you may contribute ideas from your experiences. This should be a very practical session.

Notice: Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association is on the Web!

Our club web site is up and running. In addition to being a reference point about our club and beekeeping for the local community, it will serve to benefit club members as well. Our web site address is www.wcaba.org and you are encouraged to check it out at your leisure.

The club newsletter is available on the Newsletter page. It is in Adobe Acrobat (PDF) file format and you will need the Adobe Acrobat Reader to view the on-line newsletter. Adobe Acrobat Reader is a free download and a link is provided on the Newsletter page for those who need the software.

Other PDF documents on our site include our membership application on the Membership page for use by prospective new club members. The youth scholarship application form is also available on the Ed Wolfe Memorial Scholarship page.

A good variety of beekeeping and related web site references are provided on the Links page. This includes both domestic and international site links. Commercial advertisers in the club newsletter have a link in this section. All dues paid club members are able to post concise advertisements on our Beekeeping Link page. This could include things like honey, wax, comb honey, or equipment for sale.

We would like for our web site to meet the needs of the community and our club members. Any suggestions for additional web page ideas or additions to the current site are appreciated. You can email your advertisement needs as well as your new web site thoughts and ideas to webmaster@wcaba.org for publication and/or consideration for publication.

Please pass out our new web address to anyone you know who has an interest in bees or beekeeping. We sincerely appreciate the time, effort and expertise that Bill Hein has put into setting up this web site. We trust you will find it useful and informational.

Four of our WCABA members, Frank Hunt, John Howe, Wilbur Brinkmeyer and official delegate Jimmie Oakley attended the Delegates meeting which was held in Round Rock on February 12. John Howe reports that it was very interesting and he was glad he attended. Jimmie may have a brief report on it Tuesday night.

We are happy to welcome several new members to WCABA: Sharon Hulings, Elgin; Gary Kocurek, Round Rock; and Tom and Chat Lerma, Manor have sent in their membership dues since the last meeting. Also received by mail are renewals from Alma Konze, Jonathan and Theresa Clyburn, Robert Ruckriegel, and Thomas Payne. Renewing their membership at the last meeting were Chuck and Sandy Wohl, Shirley Kinningham, Stan and Gayle Timmerman, Jack Gilbert, Suzan Gibson, Wade Wheatley, Benji and Lisa Cox, James and Genevieve Friesenhahn, Bill and Julie Hein., Clyde Anderson, Steve Poldrack, Buddy and Cherie Miller, Andreas Kotziapashis. Also Kenneth Miller, Robert Yurk, Elmer Goertz, Marcus Young, Randy Oakley, Frank Fajkus, Greg Pekar, Jim and Sara Reeves, Louis and Dot Absnaider, and Charles Oliver. A reminder to those who have procrastinated and not paid their dues: you will receive a reminder postcard instead of a newsletter if you don't renew by March 15—please renew NOW.

Time is drawing to a close for sending in applications for the Ed Wolfe Memorial scholarships. Several applications have been received, and the deadline is March 5. Careful consideration should be given as to the youngsters interest in learning about beekeeping and his/her responsibility for caring for the bees.

Door prizes were donated at the last meeting by Jeann Schmidt, Barbara Hunt, Daly Young, Nathanael Hein, Clyde Anderson, Randy Oakley, and Wilbur Brinkmeyer. Lucky winners were Sandy Wohl, Bill Hein, Sally Tutor, Nathanael Hein, Charles Oliver Barbara Hunt, Abigail Miller, Joshua Oakley, Marcus Young, Steve Poldrack, and Jeann Schmidt.

Several people were present at our meeting who didn't register, and a few new people wrote their names but gave no address. If you see someone come in and you don't know who they are, please be friendly, introduce yourself and learn their names; if they are new, please ask them to register and write their address so we can send them a newsletter. Let them know they are welcome at our meetings.

We had a good start on signing the Host List last month, but we have several months—April, June, July, August, September, and October—with only one host so far. Please check with your spouse, if necessary, and choose one of those months to bring refreshments. Also, the Swarm Retrieval List needs names of beekeepers who are willing to retrieve swarms. Please indicate your phone number(s) and areas you will be willing to take swarms.

Do you have a bee-related book or tape you would like for our library to have? We have \$200.00 allocated for purchasing new library materials. Write the title, author, and any other pertinent information you think would be helpful on a paper and hand it to our librarian, Gayle Shaw, for consideration. Also, do you have a suggestion for a program, speaker, or field day that you would like for our program chairman, Jimmie Oakley, to use. Again, write it on a paper; he will be glad to pursue ideas.

CINNAMON GRAHAM SUNDAES

20 cinnamon graham cracker squares ½ gallon vanilla ice cream 3 Tbs. Honey 2 tsp. ground cinnamon

For each serving, place two graham cracker squares on a plate. Top with ice cream and drizzle with honey. Sprinkle with cinnamon. Yield: 10 servings.

Another “honey of an idea”: To prepare a boneless ham in a slow cooker, drizzle honey and pineapple juice over the ham before piercing it with whole cloves. Cook on low for 6-8 hours or until it's done. The results are juicy and delicious.

(These cooking ideas were taken from Taste of Home's Quick Cooking magazine, Nov./Dec. 2002 issue.)

Bees

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