

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA August 2005 NEWSLETTER

DATE: Tuesday, August 23, 2005
TIME: 7:00 P.M.—Basic Beekeepers; 8:00—Gen. Mtg./Program
PLACE: 205 Main Street, Round Rock
PROGRAM: “Ice Cream Social” w/ Dr. John Thomas guest speaker
HOSTS: **Lance Powell and Grant Rushton**

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We had a good crowd of over 40 people who came to the last WCABA meeting and received some very good information from Jimmie Oakley on the Small Hive Beetle, the latest bee parasite that beekeepers have to watch for, and an interesting presentation by guest speaker Tanya Jackson, Round Rock Senior Center Supervisor. Ms. Jackson covered the array of activities available to members of the Senior Center and encouraged those who qualify by age to join. She also had a handout showing the floor plan and the various amenities that will be available at the new Senior Citizen Center, which will be located in the 300 block of West Bagdad Street when it is completed in November, 2005. At that time, WCABA should be changing our meeting place. The new center will have several meeting rooms of various sizes available. Ms. Jackson Presents Program on Senior Center



Our meeting Tuesday evening will begin with an ice cream social during the usual Basic Beekeeping time, giving our members and guests an opportunity to do lots of visiting and talking bee talk as they enjoy this delectable summertime treat. Following a short business meeting, Dr. John Thomas, professor emeritus of Texas A & M and also the former executive secretary of TBA for a number of years, will talk about beekeeping, present and future. Dr. Thomas is always knowledgeable and can talk about bees and beekeeping at the drop of a hat.

A number of people signed up to bring ice cream or toppings for the ice cream social; however, if you didn't get to sign the sheet, you can still bring your favorite flavor or your favorite recipe of homemade ice cream. As a reminder, the following people signed up to bring ice cream: Marcus Young, Buddy Miller, Castellano Family, Arnetts, Oakleys, Brinkmeyers, Aaron and Ana Lerma, Russell and Sally Tutor, and Charles Oliver. Powell Fowler, Suzan Gibson, Melanie Medrano, Sharon Hulings, the Tutors, and Gayle Shaw will bring toppings. Steve Poldrack will bring cones and Greg Pekar will bring a gelatino machine.

If you don't gain five pounds, it won't be the fault of all those delicious calories!

A number of people brought door prize items to the last meeting. Donors were Jimmie Oakley, Amanda Gibson, Melanie Medrano, Barbara Hunt, Deborah Castellano, Steve Poldrack, Charles Oliver, and Wilbur Brinkmeyer. Lucky winners were Powell Fowler, Amanda Gibson, Nehi Hein, Mary Bost, Aaron Lerma, Michael Castellano, Mike Castellano, Clyde Anderson, Jeann Schmidt, Steve Poldrack, Charles Oliver, and Kay Oakley.

For those of you who are new members to WCABA, the next few months have some definite programs to look forward to enjoying. In September, we have our annual honey tasting (fun competition to see whose honey gets the most votes) and judging of honey to be sent to the State Fair in Dallas; in October, we get ready for the Wesley Fest (our fund raiser for scholarship money) and make plans to attend the TBA Convention; November is dedicated to hearing reports from our scholarship winners, hearing the report on the Wesley Fest and TBA Convention, and electing officers for the next year. So we encourage you to plan to participate in as much of these activities as possible.



Great turnout for our regular monthly meeting

Jimmie Oakley gave an excellent program in Basic Beekeeping last month on the Small Hive Beetle, the latest parasite to cause problems for beekeepers. Here is a brief review of the material he presented, plus some added information on diseases and parasites for which beekeepers need to be watchful. The first step in prevention of any of these problems is maintaining good sanitation in and around our hives as well as maintaining strong hive populations in order for the bees to do their part in remaining healthy.

The Small Hive Beetle was first discovered in Florida about four years ago, and from there it has spread across the southern United States but is also moving north, having been sighted as far north as Ohio. The SHB is "very small and hard to spot in a casual inspection of the hive. The adult beetle lays its eggs in the honey comb where the eggs hatch. As the larva mature, they defecate in the honey, destroying its value to the bees and to man." In the fall, the SHB leaves the hive and hibernates in the ground under the hive, then re-enters the hive in the spring as adult beetles and repeating the cycle. As more honey is lost to the beetle larva, the bees either abandon the hive or starve.

A "thumbnail sketch" of the SMB given in the Mann Lake catalog lists the following:

*White egg masses deposited by the adult female into crevices within the hive.

*Larvae tunnel through the combs, killing brood and ruining newly drawn comb.

*Cream-colored larvae feed on pollen and honey for 10-16 days before exiting the hive to pupate in the soil around the hive.

*Pupae are light tan to bluish tan in color.

*Winged adults emerge from the soil in 2-3 weeks, re-enter the hive to feed and reproduce.

*Life span is up to 6 months.

The best time to destroy the beetle is in its larva stage in the ground. Keeping the hive up off the ground and keeping the area clear of weeds and debris will facilitate being able to treat the ground under the hive if the beetles and their larva are discovered. The Mann Lake catalog lists a drench called Gardstar as a recommended treatment to kill larva that enter the soil.

Other diseases or pests for which the beekeeper needs to be watchful are American Foulbrood, which can be treated with Terramycin; Tracheal Mite, a parasite more common in the northern areas but can be treated with menthol packs; Varroa Mite, which has become resistant to the commonly used treatments—Apistan and CheckMite strips—but is now being treated with Sucroside, a non-chemical treatment; Nosema Disease, treated with Fumidil-B; Wax Moths, common to stored combs or in weak hives, treated with paradichlorobenzene (NOT moth balls); and Chalkbrood, which has no known treatment other than having a good, strong colony that does its own housekeeping. If you would like to know more about any of these diseases and pests, I suggest you ask our program chairman, Jimmie Oakley, to schedule such a program for Basic Beekeepers.

The current ABF Newsletter printed a cookies recipe submitted by Ellen Sundberg that won first place in the cookie contest in Reno. It is called

Honey Crunchies.

1 cup Honey	1 cup butter	2 eggs	2 cups flour	2 tsp. baking powder
½ tsp. salt	1 cup coconut	1 cup butterscotch chips		4 cups Rice Krispies

Cream butter and slowly add Honey, a little at a time. Add eggs, one at a time and beat well. Sift together dry ingredients and mix into creamed mixture. Add coconut, chips and cereal and fold in until well blended. Drop by teaspoonful onto ungreased baking sheet. Bake 12 minutes at 350 degrees.

Bees

Queens

Honey

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