

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA OCTOBER 2005 NEWSLETTER

DATE: Tuesday, October 25, 2005
TIME: 7:00 P.M.—Basic Beekeepers; 8:00—Gen. Mtg./Program
PLACE: 205 Main Street, Round Rock
PROGRAM: Preparing Your Bees for Winter
HOSTS: **Kim Arnett, Wilbur and Donnie Brinkmeyer**

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What a fun time we had at the September WCABA meeting! Everyone was invited to taste the samples of honey and vote for their favorite flavor. Haven Medrano's honey was awarded the blue ribbon in the "Tasters Choice", Michael Castellano won the red ribbon, Wilbur Brinkmeyer was third and Frank Hunt won honorable mention. Others who brought samples were Kim Arnett (who did a magnificent job of receiving and recording the samples as they were brought in), Amanda Gibson, Aaron and Ana Lerma, Caleb Oakley, Jimmie Oakley, Joshua Oakley, and Powell Fowler. While this was going on, everyone gathered round to watch the Nova video, "Tales from the Hive", a very factual documentary. It is available for checkout from our library.

We thank each of you who contributed a two-pound jar of honey that was judged and sent to the State Fair. All were blue ribbon winners, meeting a high percentage of the criteria for show honey. Those who contributed honey were Michael Castellano, Amanda Gibson, Aaron and Ana Lerma, Haven Medrano (all first year beekeepers), Caleb Oakley, Jimmie Oakley, Joshua Oakley, and Gayle Shaw. These jars of honey will be given to the Happy Hills Childrens' Home when the Fair is over.



Honey Going to the State Fair

Our program this month will be an informational one: getting bees ready for winter, medicating with TM patties, mite control strips, box repair and mouse guards. This should be of particular interest to new beekeepers but even experienced beekeepers may be reminded of tasks they should be planning to do before winter begins. Also, during Basic Beekeeping, Jimmie will be show how to set up the canopy and other items for our Wesley Fest booth.

The sale of honey in the WCABA booth at Wesley Fest is the source of money used to fund our youth scholarship program; consequently it is a very important effort on the part of all our membership to help in the booth and to donate honey to be sold in the booth. We ask that our scholarship winners commit to a time when they can be in the booth, talk with

onlookers about bees and their experiences as they were getting started in beekeeping as well as help with honey sales. The theme for Wesley Fest this year is “A Country Christmas”, so we’re looking for suggestions we can use to enter into the spirit and fun of the Fest. Don’t be bashful; if you have an idea, write us or tell us about it.

Wesley Fest will be held on the grounds of the Wesleyan Retirement Home (a beautiful setting), 1105 Church Street and Highway 29 in Georgetown on Saturday, November 5, and Sunday, November 6. Set up begins at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday; booths should be set up by 9:00 a.m. on Saturday and 11:00 a.m. on Sunday. Booths are open from 9 to 5 on Saturday and 12 to 5 on Sunday. Jimmie Oakley will have a sign up sheet for you to indicate what time you can work in the booth. More information will be available at the meeting Tuesday evening.

Don’t forget that the TBA Convention will be held in Corpus Christi the following weekend. This is always an interesting and informative meeting with lots of fun and good fellowship mixed in. If you are interested in going, check with Jimmie for more details; he is very involved as he is treasurer of this group and an active participant.

Congratulations to all of the Oakleys—Jimmie and Kay are the proud grandparents and Randy and Amy, the happy parents of a baby boy. Isaac Andrew Oakley was born September 29, weighing 9 pounds, 14 ounces and was 21 inches long. He was welcomed by brothers Joshua, Caleb, Samuel, Daniel, and Benjamin and sisters Sarah, Abigail, Anna, Elizabeth and Hanna. Congratulations, Oakley family.

For many of us, Fall is the time to subscribe or renew our subscriptions to one or both of the beekeeping magazines. Also, it’s time to pay dues to TBA and be able to receive the TBA Journal. Forms for all three will be available at the registration table or, if you can’t make the meeting, let me know and I’ll mail you one. Members of WCABA receive a 25% discount on the magazine subscription rates.

A number of nice articles were donated for door prizes last month. Donors were Kim Arnett, Sally Tutor, Frank and Barbara Hunt, Harold Kind, Wilbur Brinkmeyer, Amanda Gibson, Gayle Shaw, and Ana and Aaron Lerma. The lucky winners were Hannah Tutor and Haven Medrano - plumaria plant; Hope Tutor - prickly pear jelly; Juanita Duel, Shay Nicholson, Gabor Nicholson, Suzan Gibson, and Huck Medrano - key chain/ coin purses; Gayle Shaw - mead; Skip Shaw - pancake mix; Melanie Medrano - plant ornament; Harold Kind - honey dipper; Santos Medrano - bee stationery pack; Shepherd Medrano - pack of bee tissues, Noble Medrano - tin sunflower container; and Steve Poldrack - bee creamer.

I was very interested recently to see the heading, “Cure a sore throat with honey, lemon juice and whiskey” for a column in the Williamson County Sunday Sun newspaper. This column, *Ask Uncle Dave*, is written by Dr. David Ciambrone, a retired scientist. A new mom had written him asking about a cough medicine for sore throats and coughs that she remembered taking as a child. Uncle Dave’s response was “Yes,....it contained equal amounts of honey and lemon juice and a little bit of whiskey.” When doctors at a teaching hospital realized bees keep honey without refrigeration, “they found it contains natural antibiotics. When the honey is in a slightly acidic environment, it works even better.”

“The lemon juice is slightly acidic. The honey coats the throat, shutting off the air contact and coats it with antibiotics. The whiskey has alcohol which kills germs too and also enters the body and has some medicinal effects in the small amounts taken,” states Dr. Ciambone. He cautions, however, that if the sickness persists for a couple days, or there is a high fever, a doctor should be contacted for further medical treatment.

Another remedy given me by an Ophthalmologist, Dr. Kenneth Malamud, is one he recommends for sinusitis and/or laryngitis. It uses 1 tablespoon honey, 1 bag camomile tea, 1 cough drop (Halls or Ludens Honey Lemon cough drop), and enough water to make a syrup of the honey and cough drop. Fill a cup with water, heat in the microwave to boiling, add the camomile tea. Drink (or sip) while the tea is still hot. I have used this remedy and it is quite effective. With winter coming on, these simple home remedies should be helpful.

Although we usually think of planting flowers as being a spring activity, Connie Krochmal, an award winning gardening writer and a beekeeper, says in her article, “Autumn in the Bee Garden” in the October '05 issue of **Bee Culture**, “Many kinds of bee plants are suitable for Fall planting:...perennials, fruit trees, most ornamental shrubs, Spring flowering bulbs, and even flower seeds.” However, she adds that some of the bee plants, such as hollies, red maple, birches, flowering fruit trees, weeping willow, tulip poplar, and hawthorn, prefer Spring planting.

Annuals and perennials for spring flowering should be planted in the fall. These include borage, cornflower, and cosmos, and cold winter temperatures improve the rate of seed germination for garden phlox, mallow, purple cornflower, speedwell, and sea thrift. Also, this is a good time to divide perennials that are becoming crowded. Some species that prefer dividing in the Fall include purple coneflower, Shasta daisy, avens, basket of gold and black-eyed Susan.

Honey Apple Turnovers (recipe by Sandra Priest, Texas Honey Queen)

2 medium baking apples 10 tsp. Texas Honey 1 tsp. ground cinnamon 2 tbs. butter, melted
1pkg. 8 oz. refrigerated crescent rolls

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Peel, core, and slice apples. In medium baking dish, unroll dough and separate at perforations into 8 individual pieces. Place 2-4 apples pieces at the end of each strip of dough; pour 1 tsp. of honey in a line on dough. Do this to each of the 8 strips. Roll up and squeeze ends together sealing honey and apples inside. With melted butter and remaining 2 tsp. of honey, mix with cinnamon and brush over tops of turnovers. Bake 20-25 minutes or until dough on bottom is done and tops are golden brown. **Sandra Priest at Texas State Fair**



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