

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA APRIL 2006 NEWSLETTER

DATE: Tuesday, April 25, 2006
TIME: 7:00 P.M.—Beekeeping 101; 8:00—Gen. Mtg./Program
PLACE: Allen Baca Senior Center, 301 W. Bagdad, Bldg 2 Rm. 2
PROGRAM: Wildflower Video; Charles Oliver
HOSTS: **Wilbur and Donnie Brinkmeyer, Sharon Hulings**

PRESIDENT

Frank Hunt
512/478-8905
Huuutt@aol.com

1 st. V.P.

MEMBERSHIP

Jeann Schmidt
512/869-4107
jfwschmidt@juno.com

2 nd. V.P.

PROGRAM

Jimmie Oakley
512/388-3630
jloakley@juno.com

3 rd. V.P.

NEWSLETTER

Mary Bost
512/863-3656
bostbees@juno.com

SECRETARY

Barbara Hunt
512/478-8905
Huuutt@aol.com

TREASURER

Harold Kind
512/246-8455
haroldkind@cs.com

HISTORIAN

Kim Arnet
512/763-1197
quantaia@yahoo.com

The meeting last month was an exciting and ceremonious program. We welcomed our new scholarship winners, Nathan Exley, Kacey Hordnes, and Caleb Nicholson, presented them with their bee equipment and assisted them in building their brood boxes and frames; we awarded the 2005 scholarship winners, Michael Castellano, Ana and Aaron Lerma, Haven Medrano plus Amanda Gibson, with their achievement awards; and the TBA Honey Queen, Jessica Coker from San Antonio, crowned our WCABA Honey Queen, Meghan Cantlon from Marble Falls.



Robert Bost was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for serving as chairman of the Ed Wolfe Memorial Scholarship program since its inception in 1986. It reads in part, “Under his selection and guidance more than 75 area youth have advanced through the WCABA sponsored program of beekeeping, honey production, and apiary science. In honor of this service and acknowledgement of this achievement the WCABA membership has voted to add his name to the annual beekeeping scholarship program, to be known henceforth and forevermore as the Ed Wolfe—Robert Bost Beekeeping Scholarship.” Robert and I are deeply appreciative of this honor and wish to thank our WCABA friends for so honoring him.



Beekeeping 101, led by Suzan Gibson, will be an audience participation format with members telling their experiences in installing their packages of bees or their queens. Did you have any difficulty? Do you need to ask more questions? Are you keeping 1-to-1 sugar syrup feed on your bees? Have you checked to see whether there are eggs or larvae in a brood nest? Have you seen the queen—you know, the one with the white dot on her thorax?

One of our members, Charles Oliver, is moving back to Waco. We appreciate his input and support of WCABA while he was living in Round Rock. He has located his video on Texas wildflowers and has graciously offered to show it to us at this meeting. This should be a very

timely subject as we (and our bees) anxiously look for wildflowers this spring. The drought has really curtailed much of the wildflower bloom. Clyde Anderson has donated some wildflower booklets that we hope to distribute to each member family present.

Our bee distribution day on April 8 went very well. Most of the packages and queens had been disbursed by early afternoon, and then a number of people sat in on Jimmie Oakley's orientation and demonstration of hiving a package of bees. Thirty-nine packages and 55 queens were bought through WCABA from Walker Apiaries. **If you bought a package of bees, please bring the screened cage with the feeder can to the next meeting (or as soon as possible).**



We are getting swarm calls. If you are willing to be called to retrieve swarms, please sign the Swarm Retrieval list at the meeting or send me an e-mail (bostbees@juno.com) that includes the area you will serve and your phone number.

It was good to see Nial and Darla Chase and their grandson, Colter, and welcome them back to WCABA after their stint in South America. We hope they can attend our meetings while they are back in the States. A number of people have renewed their membership this past month but I had to leave the meeting early last time and will postpone recognizing their renewal until next month. Robert had entered the hospital that afternoon and I needed to see about him. He is at home now, following two weeks in the Georgetown Hospital, and is gradually regaining his strength. Thank you for your concerns and prayers.

Door prize donations last month were from Suzan Gibson, Karin Cantlon, Nial and Darla Chase, Deborah, Michael, and James Castellano, the Hunts, Abigail and Cherie Miller, Gayle and Skip Shaw, and the Tutor Family. Lucky winners were Harold Kind, Nial Chase, Darla Chase, Meghan Cantlon, Karin Cantlon, Wilbur Brinkmeyer, Wade Wheatley, Barbara Hunt, Ana Lerma, Aaron Lerma, Shay Nicholson, Abigail Miller, Ernest (Skip) Shaw, James Exley, Nathan Exley, Paul Exley, and Michael Tutor.

Jimmie Oakley has made arrangements for WCABA to meet in the building where we met last month—the Allen Baca Center for Senior and Community Activities at 301 W. Bagdad St, Building 2 in Round Rock. If you did not attend last meeting, Bagdad is the street behind where we used to meet and the Baca Center is about 4 blocks west of the old Center. If you come into town using RR 620, turn right on Mays St. (at the stop light), go about a block and a half and turn onto Bagdad, and go to Bagdad and Harris St. Go around back of the building into the underground parking lot; an elevator will take you to the first floor.

The city charges \$20.00 an hour to use this facility, and we are scheduled to meet from 7:00 to 9:00, so we'll need to keep that in mind and keep our meeting moving along. In the meantime, Jimmie is trying to

find another more suitable (and less expensive) location for our meetings. Any suggestions will be helpful.

Most of us look for locations for our bee yards that offer natural flora for the bees; however, if we have a few hives near our homes, planting something that will add to the natural habitat can bring us pleasure and the bees another source of nectar. In his article, “More Plants for a Bee Garden” in the April 2003 issue of *American Bee Journal*, Richard Dalby offers five types of plants that can be planted from seed or bought as started plants. The ones he suggests are “very hardy, easy to grow from seed, and should do well in the 48 contiguous states”.

The daisy-like perennials, *Coreopsis*, are “easy to grow, bloom in profusion from summer on into fall, and are generally free from pests and diseases.”

A native American plant known as **wild indigo**, rattlebush, indigo weed, and clover broom belong to the Pea Family and “have sturdy spikes of blue flowers that last from late spring on into summer.”

Another plant known as **Veronica** belongs to the Snapdragon Family. It is a “low-growing perennial with creeping stems and oval leaves. Roots form at the joints of the woody stems and send up flowering stalks bearing racemes of small flowers” and bees have been observed working these plants late into the fall.

Another group of plants, **Sage**, includes both the common garden sage and some more exotic species. Most of the sages “are hardy plants that will tolerate heat and drought and bloom from early summer into fall.”

Liatris, more commonly known as blazing star, **gayfeather**, and button snakeroot, belongs to the Composite Family. They are “characterized by long wand-like spires bearing masses of small flowers” which open at the top of the spikes first and then the flowering proceeds downward”.



2005 Scholarship Certificates of Achievement



2006 Scholarship Recipients



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Walker Apiaries

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Janice Glisson Walker
Fax (254) 893-2337

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G.C. WALKER, 8059 E. U.S. HWY 190, Rogers, TX 76569

Phone: 254/983-2891 E-mail: Walker2bee@aol.com

**Williamson County Area
Beekeepers Association
4355 County Road 110
Georgetown, Texas 78626**