

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA MAY 2006 NEWSLETTER

DATE: Tuesday, May 23, 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: “Small Hive Beetle, Revisited”, by Jimmie Oakley
HOSTS: **Tutor Family, Terri Hordnes**

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******Library materials need to be returned to the WCABA library******

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We thank Charles Oliver for sharing his taped pictures and commentary about Texas wildflowers at our last meeting. The recent rains have brought the late spring wildflowers to a profusion of blooms. It was with a happy heart that I observed the bees busily foraging on the Indian Blankets and the tallow tree blooms in our yard this week. I'm sorry, however, to hear that hail destroyed much of the wildflowers as well as young corn and other crops in some places in the Central Texas area. A number of homes and cars were also damaged by the storms. We extend our sympathy to those members who were adversely affected.

Jimmie Oakley will present the program this month, entitled “The Small Hive Beetle, Revisited”. Yes, we do have the Small Hive Beetle present in many of our hives here in Central Texas. We need to be able to identify this beekeeping pest and know the best procedure for working our hives to control it. Jimmie will have some beetles for you to observe and also some helpful handouts. We can't be too diligent in protecting our bees!

Mike McPherrren, our WCABA member who is working in Afghanistan, has sent two beautiful shawls he got at a bazaar in Kabul and asked that they be used as door prizes at the next meeting. I'm sure two lucky ladies will be as pleased with theirs as I am with the lovely shawl he sent me. Thank you, Mike.

We thank the Lerma family, Clyde Anderson, the Cantlons, and Suzan Gibson for donating the door prizes for the last meeting. Lucky winners were Logan Turner, Stephanie Nicholson, Darla Chase, and Barbara Hunt.

We are always happy to welcome back former WCABA members, so we were glad to see Mark Gaddy (from Pflugerville) last month. Other members who have renewed their 2006 WCABA membership recently are Robert Ruckriegel, Robert Yurk, Ted Costuras and family, Sharon Hulings, Jack and Lucia Gilbert, John and Taysha Howe, Nial and Darla Chase, Emmett Glosson, Royce Johnson, Grant and Katherine Rushton, Jonathan and Theresa Clyburn,

Albert Morgan, Stan and Gayle Timmerman, Deborah, Pat, and Joel Jordan, Rory and Tasha Heisch, Larry Rogers, Shirley Kinningham, Louis and Dot Absnaider, David and Jennifer Rushton, Richard and Georgia Bost, Chuck and Sandy Wohl, Jim and Sara Reeves, and David and Diane Forfia. If you know of any of our members who haven't been coming to our meetings, urge them to come back and be a part of our association. We need them; they need us.

I am pleased to report that Robert Bost is home after spending two weeks in the hospital. He has regained his strength and has overcome most of the problems that were making him ill. Thank you for your concerns and prayers.

Our WCABA Honey Queen, Meghan Cantlon, has been busy with her new duties as our honey industry representative. She has given a presentation to a school group, talked about the bees in the observation hive at the Serendipity booth during the Georgetown Poppy Festival, and was interviewed and videotaped with her hives for a documentary being made by a UT student, Mary Kate-Tate.



Our annual WCABA Field Day will be held on **Saturday, June 24**. I hope you will make plans to attend. We will have details in the June newsletter. These programs are always interesting, educational, and the fellowship is always enjoyable.

Another educational event is the TBA Convention, scheduled for **November 2 -5, 2006**, and will be "just down the road" in Kerrville. Special convention room rates are \$77.00 plus tax at the Inn of the Hills Resort and Conference Center. This is a very popular deer hunting area, so we are urged to make our reservations early. The price given is for all reservations made by October 13. More information is in the TBA Journal, or you can ask Jimmie Oakley.

Did you know that an easy way to liquefy granulated honey is to place the sealed container in the dishwasher and run it through the regular cycle as you wash a load of dishes? This method is easy, the honey returns to a clear liquid state, and it doesn't get hot enough to destroy the pollen and enzymes in the honey. John Howe told me about this method; I tried it and it works! I saw the same suggestion in "The Classroom", a question and answer feature by Jerry Hayes in the May '06 issue of American Bee Journal.

Another letter in "The Classroom" caught my eye. It was a series of 8 questions sent in by a 17-year-old youth who, with his 15-year-old brother, had started beekeeping after they caught and hived a swarm. They had some very good questions. One in particular should be considered by any novice beekeeper: how often should bees be checked? Jerry Hayes replied, "I think getting familiar with opening a hive, looking around at what is going on, what nectar is coming in, pollen, how the queen is laying etc., is really important for the new beekeeper. I'd take a look extensively every couple weeks if you want. After you know what is going on, then you'll normally decrease these kinds of comprehensive checks."

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