

# WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

## WCABA FEBRUARY, 2008 NEWSLETTER

[WWW.WCABA.ORG](http://WWW.WCABA.ORG)

(for meeting directions see website)

DATE: Tuesday, February 26, 2008  
TIME: 7:00 P.M.-Beekeeping 101; 7:45-Break; 8:00-Gen. Mtg/Program  
PLACE: Allen Baca Senior Ctr, 301W. Bagdad, (Large Meeting Room), Round Rock  
PROGRAM: Randy Oakley: Successful Requeening; Protecting Your Investment  
HOSTS: **Karin Cantlon, Kay Oakley**

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### NEWSLETTER

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A good crowd turned out to hear an excellent program given by Clint Walker last month. New WCABA President, Elizabeth Exley presided over her first meeting in the Baca Center dining room. Clint Waker covered some important findings that were reported at the National Beekeeping Conference and followed up with insight into how his breeding program is structured and what to expect from it this year.



We're looking forward to hearing another informative program this Tuesday, February 26. Randy Oakley will talk about "Successfully Requeening Your Hive; Protecting Your Investment." This is a very important topic to all of us who want to remain as viable beekeepers. By request, Jimmie Oakley will take a few minutes to tell what transpired at the delegates meeting in Dripping Springs Saturday. Some of us who didn't get to attend would like to hear about it.

The next two months will be very important to our members: first, applications for the Ed Wolfe--Robert Bost memorial scholarships for our school-age youths will be accepted through the month of February and winners will be introduced at the March meeting, awarded their woodware and equipment, and helped to construct their brood box. If you know of a boy or girl, ages 10-17, who is interested in getting started in beekeeping, ask Jimmie Oakley for an application or obtain one at the WCABA website. The app. needs to be completed and returned by March 1. Scholarship recipients Evan & Emly Tuuk and Michael Holman gave their reports for 2007 at the meeting. (see pictures at end of letter)

Second, we will be taking orders for queens and/or packages of bees through the month of March. Several members have already ordered their bees. Clint has asked us to limit our number of packages to 100; we shall honor his request, so it's imperative that you get your order turned in ASAP. First come, first served, but we ask you to be considerate of all our members. Order only what you need, and they are definitely **not for resale.** Orders for queens are unlimited at this time.



Please observe these guidelines for ordering bees: you must be a 2008 member of WCABA to order bees; please make checks for bees, payable to WCABA, separate from membership dues checks; a 3# package of bees (includes a marked queen) is \$70.00, unmarked queens are \$16.00, if marked, add \$1.00, clipped, add \$1.00. All bees ordered may be picked up at the Bost farm, 4355 C.R. 110, Georgetown, on April 19. If you are unable to attend the meeting Tuesday night, you can mail your checks to Mary Bost at the above address. For more information, e-mail Mary at [bostbees@juno.com](mailto:bostbees@juno.com).

We welcome new members to WCABA. New members this month are Gayle Suzanne Barron, Round Rock; Jennifer Martin, Georgetown; and Frank and Lu Morgan, Copperas Cove. Members who renewed at the last meeting are Jeann Schmidt, Benji and Lisa Cox, Tom Bunner, Kenneth Miller, Randy and Amy Oakley and Family, James and Kitty Lockhart, Kimberly and Bert Arnett, Gary Bible, Michael Holman and Family, Nancy Tuuk and Family, Veda Capps, Frank and Barbara Hunt, Chat and Ana Lerma, Hartley Family, Christophe and Lacy Vain, Janet Church, and Harold Kind. Renewing since the meeting are William and Evelyn Scott, John and Taysha Howe, Albert Morgan, Richard and Diana Bost, Shirley Kinningham, and Orion Lewis.

It's important that all our members keep in mind that memberships are by the calendar year—January through November. If new members paid \$5.00 during the last half of the year 2007, they should renew for 2008 at the \$10.00 dues rate. All 2007 members should be certain that they have renewed by March 15 or they should not expect to receive a newsletter. If in doubt, check with Sally Tutor, membership chair person.

Several of our members have been having a difficult time recently, and we want to remember them in our thoughts and prayers. Joel Jorden (2000 scholarship winner) wrote me that his mother, Deborah Jorden, is undergoing chemo treatments for inflammatory breast cancer, and he asked for our prayers. Doug Branch's wife, Suzanne, is having treatments for lung cancer and a brain tumor; we wish comfort and healing for her. G. C. Walker has been experiencing declining health and Hospice has been called to assist him.

A different sort of difficulty has afflicted another of our long time members: Jon and Theresa Clyburn of Georgetown lost their two-story home to fire two weeks ago. Luckily, all nine members of their family and their pets escaped unharmed. Two of their children, Sarah and Melissa were 1996 scholarship winners.

Something new has been added: our members can exchange ideas and information by having their e-mail address added to the Yahoo! Groups. Contact the Moderator at [wcaba-owner@yahogroups.com](mailto:wcaba-owner@yahogroups.com). I have read some interesting beekeeping discussions through this medium.

Door prizes at the last meeting were donated by Michael Holman, Wilbur Brinkmeyer, Elizabeth Exley, and Clint Walker. Lucky winners were Michael Tutor, pecans; Michael Holman, honey spoon; Frank Hunt, bee dish towel; Barbara Hunt, mead; Ron Giles, honey pitcher; James Lockhart, Walker queen bee; and Kay Oakley, Walker queen bee.

In last month's newsletter, a portion of Grant Gillard's article, "Everything I Never Wanted to Know About the Small Hive Beetle (and definitely was afraid to ask)" gave some pertinent ideas regarding how he planned to combat this "exotic pest". In the Feb. '08 issue of the *American Bee Journal*, he continues with several illustrations of possible traps and ways to entice the beetle into them as well as management techniques to deter their proliferation.

Management techniques he suggests include (1) strong, stress-free hives, using young, vigorous queens and preventing swarming; (2) getting hives out of shade and into full sun as SHB flourishes in times of high humidity while their eggs dry out if humidity is reduced; (3) using screen bottom boards as increased air movement “has been shown to desiccate the SHB eggs and reduce the population of hatching larvae”; (4) a top cover which lets in more air and light would take away from dark corners which SHB prefer; (5) using a queen excluder to keep brooding activities in the lower boxes as pollen and brood are very attractive to adult SHB and the beetles will be less apt to foul the honey supers; (6) Eliminate metal frame spacers as well as grooves in frames as both make good hiding places for SHB: fill in grooves with a hot glue gun if necessary; and (7) shop for hygienic behavior when requeening your hives.

To better understand the different traps Gillard discussed, it would be good to study the illustrations in his article. If you missed the January issue, I shall have both magazines at the meeting and you will be welcome to look at them. Also, if you would like to have one of the subscription blanks for ABJ, being a member of WCABA entitles you to a nice discount on the price and I will have several of those blanks with me. Ask for one.

I enjoyed seeing snow covering the ground and the shrubs when I visited near Kansas City recently, even the mud looked good, but I appreciated the mild temperatures when I returned. Guess I was meant to be a Texan.

Here is a recipe to enjoy on a chilly winter evening—or anytime. It’s from the brochure of Jenna Miller, 2004 Pennsylvania Honey queen. It sounds enticing.

**PopcornCrunch**

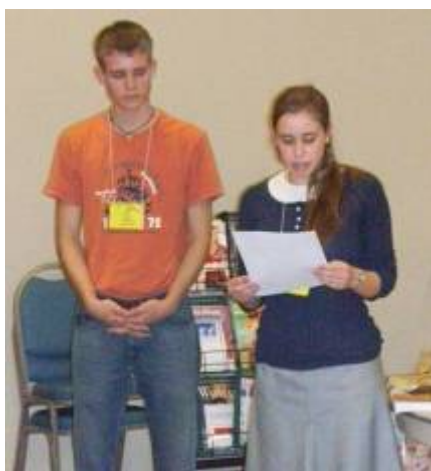
8 cups popped corn  
2 cups nuts

½ cup corn syrup  
1 cup butter

1 1/3 cups sugar  
½ cup honey

1 tsp. vanilla

Combine popped corn and nuts and spread on greased cookie sheet. Combine remaining ingredients in a saucepan. Bring to boil until mixture turns a caramel color. Pour hot syrup over corn-nut mixture. Separate into clusters with 2 forks.



Evan & Emily Tuuk



David Kohn (Beginning Beekeepers Inst.)



Michael Holman

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