

# WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

## WCABA MAY, 2008 NEWSLETTER

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

(for meeting directions see website)

DATE: Tuesday, May 27, 2008  
TIME: 7:00 P.M.-Beekeeping 101; 7:45-Break; 8:00-Gen. Mtg/Program  
PLACE: Allen Baca Senior Ctr, 301W. Bagdad, (Cafeteria Dining Room), Round Rock  
PROGRAM: Getting Acquainted with the County Extension Service; Zan Matthies  
HOSTS: Tutor Family. Kim Arnett

### **PRESIDENT**

Elizabeth Exley  
512/863-6798  
[lizexley@msn.com](mailto:lizexley@msn.com)

Jimmie Oakley gave an excellent program last meeting and I'm sure each of you, especially the "newbie" beekeepers, made good use of the outline he gave you for "Managing for a Spring Buildup".

1st. V.P.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Sally Tutor  
512/756-0471  
[tutorfamily@phreego.com](mailto:tutorfamily@phreego.com)

Our speaker this month will be Mr. Zan Matthies, the Williamson County Extension Agent. He is fairly new to this area and would like to talk with us about ways the extension service can be of help to us; also, he will want to hear any questions or concerns you may have that he can assist you in solving. Although many of our members live in adjoining counties, his comments should apply to all county extension agent services.

2nd. V.P.

### **PROGRAM**

Jimmie Oakley  
512/388-3630  
[jimmie.oakley@att.net](mailto:jimmie.oakley@att.net)

The book that nine of our WCABA members ordered, *First Lessons in Beekeeping* by Keith S. Delaplane, has come in and will be available for you to pick up at the meeting. Three people, Janice Hartley, Gary Bible, and Dan Hutton, have already paid; the rest should make out their check to me, Mary Bost; cash is acceptable, too.

3rd. V.P.

### **NEWSLETTER**

Mary Bost  
512/863-3656  
[bostbees@juno.com](mailto:bostbees@juno.com)

Welcome to new members Wayne Baker, Temple; Ron Mueller, Austin; and Eric and Valerie Emerson, Gatesville. A number of new members have joined WCABA in recent months. We hope they will feel welcome and that they will receive much helpful information by attending our meetings. We would like to remind them that added benefits include getting to use the club's extracting equipment (sign up with Mary Bost), getting a substantial discount on ordering either of the two bee magazines as well as the discount most of them received through the club bee order, receiving information and current ideas about beekeeping plus getting the WCABA newsletter either by e-mail or snail mail.

### **SECRETARY**

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### **TREASURER**

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### **HISTORIAN**

Kim Arnett  
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Thank you to those of you who signed the swarm retrieval list. I'm getting several calls nearly every day and it's so helpful to be able to give names and phone numbers to apprehensive people who have bees in the wrong places. If you haven't signed the list and would like to do so, please contact me with your name, phone number, and areas you will serve.

Door prizes for the last meeting were donated by Jimmie and Kay Oakley and Mary Bost. Winners were David Kohn, bee hot pads; Damaris Tutor, bee stationery; Valerie Emerson, bee motif daily journal; and Gary Bible, a dozen eggs.

Jeann Schmidt forwarded an e-mail to me with the subject: Cinnamon and Honey. It suggests that a number of ailments can be cured or alleviated by using these two common products on a daily basis. I'm tempted to try it on my arthritis. If you would like to check out this article, I'll have it at the meeting. If you would like a copy forwarded to you, write your name on the last page and I'll be glad to send it to you.

Another e-mail, titled Nutritional Food Chart, credits honey with healing wounds, aiding digestion, guarding against ulcers, increasing energy, and fighting allergies. I have a number of customers who buy local raw honey because it has helped lessen their allergy miseries. You probably have found other uses to alleviate health problems. Talk to long-time beekeepers and you'll probably hear other benefits extolled. Our grandparents used "home remedies" successfully, and nowadays some of the scientists are recommending some of those usages.

We hope the packages of bees you purchased last month are off to a good start. The queen should be laying in a smooth, uniform pattern of eggs which should now be covered with a light brown capping and the first young bees should be emerging. As the combs begin filling with brood and some honey and bee bread, you will want to place a queen excluder over the frames and add your first super. It's important that the hive not become crowded; bees tend to swarm if the brood nest is congested.

Why should we not let a hive swarm? When a hive casts off a swarm, the old queen takes about 60% of the forager population with her as they go to find a new nest. That means the hive will have a "protracted period of decline while a new daughter queen emerges, matures, mates, and begins egg-laying", according to Keith Delaplane in *First Lessons in Beekeeping*. Also, there is a possibility that the new virgin queen will not mate and return successfully to the hive; consequently, the hive will soon die. Also, the swarm that left the hive may not nest in a place suitable for retrieving the honey the bees make.

"It is important for a beekeeper to know the difference between queen cells made to replace a failing queen—called supersedure cells—and those made under the swarm impulse," writes Delaplane. They tend to be uniform in age and to occur on the comb face, not along the comb edge. Swarm cells, however, are more numerous, occur at various stages of maturity, and are associated with early honey flow. They also occur more along the bottom margin of a comb.

For those interested in a first class tour of the Dadant & Son's Bee Supply facility in Paris, Texas, or getting a closer look at the top notch commercial beekeeping operation of Randy Johnson outside of Paris, Texas, you are encouraged to attend the 2008 Texas Beekeepers Delegate Summer Clinic and Tour on Saturday, June 7, 2008. This is a yearly family event that is not just for delegates, but is open to all beekeepers. The clinic will provide valuable information to beekeepers on new developments in the beekeeping industry. There will be a morning tour of Dadant's (where you can place your bee supply order), a catered meal at noon, and various speakers and live bee exhibits in the afternoon. Those wishing to participate in the beeyard, please bring your bee suit, veil and gloves. The event is sponsored by Ray Latner, Dadant manager, and Randy and Arlene Johnson of Paris. See Jimmie Oakley for more details.

With summer right around the corner (and today, I think it's already here!) this recipe by a former Texas Honey Queen (1994) Miss Esther Wright, sounds like a COOL idea.

### Honey Ice Cubes

½ cup Honey

2 Tbsp. lemon juice

2 cups very hot water

Blend honey, lemon juice, and hot water; mix well. Pour into ice trays. Freeze. Serve in ice tea or punch (preferably in the shade of a big oak tree while watching your bees bringing nectar back to the hive).



Pictured: (l to r) Jessica Martin, Caleb Jones, Juliette Martin & Joseph Clarkson

### Scholarship Report

All of the Wolfe-Bost Youth Scholarship recipients are progressing well. Each has been through the first three weeks of checking (as seen above), and will complete their fifth week before the upcoming meeting. Each has learned how to check the hive, looking for eggs and then spotting the (marked) queen. Notice the stores of sealed honey around the top of the exhibited frame. If you purchased a 3lb. package of bees this Spring you may have noticed the same growth of your hive. Bring your own pictures to the meeting and share with others. Working with the kids and seeing their enthusiasm is contagious, *catch the fever*. Thanks to the mentors, David Kohn of Florence, Sally Tutor of Burnet, and Cherie Miller of Marble Falls, for giving of their time and energy to help these young beekeepers get a good start and a solid foundation in this important first year. Jimmie Oakley, Youth Scholarship Committee



Classified Advertisements

For Sale: 1 large and 1 small bee suit, \$50.00 each. If interested, call 512/255-2600 (Mrs. Vera Smith).  
Joel Jorden

For Sale: Beekeeper Tool Boxes like the one Frank Hunt won as a door prize, customized to your specifications. These boxes are 5-frame nuc boxes with screened entrance and specific places for tools. Also, I make beehives and observation boxes for sale.



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512/630-6163  
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**Bees**

**Queens**

**Honey**

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