

# WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

## WCABA NOVEMBER, 2008 NEWSLETTER

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

(for meeting directions see website)

DATE: Tuesday, November 25, 2008  
TIME: 7:00 P.M.—Beekeeping 101; 7:45--Snack Break; 8:00--Program  
PLACE: Allen Baca Senior Ctr, 301W. Bagdad, (Cafeteria Dining Rm), Round Rock  
PROGRAM: Scholarship Recipients' Reports, Wesley Fest & TBA, '09 Elections  
HOSTS: Elizabeth Exley, Van Harrison, Cindy Jones

### **PRESIDENT**

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1st. V.P.

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### **PROGRAM**

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3rd. V.P.

### **NEWSLETTER**

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Deryn Davidson gave a very interesting and informative program last month on propagating wildflowers. I'm happy to report that the Indian blanket and horsemint dead heads I had collected were treated as she described and planted, then the next day it rained....not a big rain but hopefully, enough to germinate the seeds and perhaps we'll get additional rain soon.

We'll be looking forward to hearing our Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost Memorial scholarship recipients' reports this month: their experiences, either good or bad, as well as their plans for next year. Also, since Wesley Fest honey sales are the source of funds for these scholarships, we'll hear how that turned out and recognize the people who helped with this effort. Several members sent honey to the TBA Convention; Jimmie Oakley will be presenting ribbons to the winners as well as give other reports on the Convention.

Officers for 2009 will be nominated and elected, also. Nominations from the floor may be made if you have asked permission of the nominee to have his/her name placed on the ballot. If you are asked to serve as an officer, we hope you will be willing to do so. Any organization is only as good as the people who are willing to make it be of service to all.

As we look ahead to next year, we need to remember that our membership dues of \$10.00 are for the calendar year—January through November. Some of us like to pay in November to avoid standing in line in January. Sally Tutor will be happy to accept your '09 membership renewal. Chris and Shirley Doggett, recent members, renewed their



membership last month. Also, Melanie Medrano paid her family's dues when she came to Wesley Fest, and my brother, Orion Lewis, gave me his renewal dues recently.

We welcome new members Sheryl Farley and Bob Carwell of Liberty Hill, and David and Carmen Heussner and Carmen Barruez of Cedar Park. These new members joined last month and paid yearly dues which entitles them to be '09 members. Anyone who paid half year dues in July, August, or September need to renew their membership for '09.

Do you know a school-age youth (preferably 10 to 14 years of age) who is interested in learning about bees and becoming a beekeeper? If so, he or she needs to contact Jimmie Oakley as soon as possible to get an application form and learn what is expected if they want to become a scholarship winner. These applications are evaluated in early March and the winners will be awarded their wood ware and equipment at the March 24th WCABA meeting. They will then be expected to assemble the hive and frames, paint the hive and the top and bottom boards, and be ready to install their package of bees in April.



We want to thank each of you who have so graciously served as hosts for our meetings this year. It's good to be able to take a break during the meeting, have a cookie or other snack and coffee or juice, visit with other beekeepers and meet new friends for a few minutes before beginning the next part of the program. It's time to sign the host sheet for 2009. The host sheet will be passed around Tuesday evening and we hope you will choose a date when you can bring a snack (the coffee and juice are furnished by our contributions to the "kitty").

The winter months are usually considered a "down" time for beekeeping activity; the bees have little nectar available during colder weather so they stay in their warm hive and do their housekeeping duties, keep the queen fed and warm, and eat stored honey. What if too much of their surplus honey has been taken for the beekeeper's use? It is necessary to check occasionally, add sugar water feedings (ratio:2 parts sugar to 1 part water), until it's almost time for the spring nectar flow when feeding changes to 1 to 1.

Mice also look for a warm place to nest when the weather turns colder. It's a good idea to reduce the entrance to the hive, making it more difficult for mice to enter. That also makes the hive warmer, reducing stress on the bees as they cluster around the queen to keep her warm.



Do some of your boxes need repairing? Why not do it now when you don't have other beekeeping chores that need your time? A coat of paint from time to time helps keep the wood from deteriorating so quickly. Do you have a brick, rock, or other heavy object on top of the hive to prevent hard winds from blowing it off? Check to see if the front of the hive is slanted down slightly to prevent rain (we may get some eventually) from running into the hive and causing mold or too much dampness.

Now that daylight fades more quickly in the evenings, a good activity is catching up on reading articles in *Bee Culture* or the *American Bee Journal*. Or perhaps you've been wanting to read a book about bees. Or do some internet searching for information about beekeeping. Perhaps you've been needing to order some supplies from a dealer; now is a good time to study and compare. And make plans for next spring's renewal or increase of hive numbers, whether it's buying packages of bees, making splits, or signing up to retrieve swarms.

A fellow vendor at Farmers Market bought honey, saying she wanted to make her Christmas cookies; they always made the house smell like Christmas and her adult children always asked her to make them. So of course, I had to have her recipe.

### **Nurnberger**

1 c. honey    ¾ c. brown sugar(packed)    1 egg    1 tbsp. lemon juice    1 tsp. fresh grated lemon rind  
2 ¾ c. flour    ½ tsp. soda    1 tsp. cinnamon    1 tsp. cloves    1 tsp. all spice    1 tsp. nutmeg  
½ c. cut-up citron (op)    ½ c. chopped nuts (op) or blanched almonds    8 drops anise oil flavoring

Bring honey to a boil; stir in sugar, egg, lemon juice and rind. Measure flour; blend dry ingredients; stir into flour and blend into honey mixture. Mix in citron and nuts (if using). Chill overnight.

Roll out the chilled dough ¼" thick. Cut into 2" rounds. Place on greased baking sheet. With fingers, round up cookies a bit toward center. Press blanched almond halves around the edge like petals of a daisy. Use a round piece of citron for each center. Bake at 400 degrees until set. *Immediately* brush with Glazing Icing (below). Remove from baking sheet. Cool and store to mellow. Makes about 6 dozen 2½ in. cookies. To mellow—store in an airtight container for 4-5 weeks. Add cut orange or apple...changing it frequently to insure freshness.

### **Glazing Icing**

Boil together 1 cup sugar and ½ cup water until first indication of a thread appears (230 degrees). Remove from heat. Stir in ¼ cup confectioners' sugar and brush hot icing lightly over cookies. (When icing gets sugary, reheat slightly, adding a little water until clear again.)

### **CLUB EXTRACTING EQUIPMENT NOTICE – LOST ITEMS**

***It has been noted that a couple of items from the club's extracting equipment setup is missing: the board with a nail through it that is used to hold frames when uncapping them, and the metal stand that the electric knife sits on when not in use. If you have used the club's extracting equipment and have either of these items, please return them ASAP to the Bost honey house or bring them to the next meeting.***

**Bees**

**Queens**

**Honey**

# *Walker Apiaries*

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