

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA DECEMBER, 2008 NEWSLETTER

WWW.WCABA.ORG

(for more information see website)

Important to Remember: NO WCABA MEETING in DECEMBER.

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our beekeeping members and friends! This is the first December WCABA newsletter we have ever written but we thought this might be a good opportunity to let you look ahead to beekeeping meetings and activities for 2009 as well as looking back and recalling what happening in 2008.

First, we would like to welcome the new members to WCABA. Some joined at the last meeting; others took advantage of the membership application in our web site and mailed us their dues and information. New members to our club are Jack Ward, Georgetown; Lynn and Michael Neu, Round Rock; Chris and Sandra Hill, Georgetown; and Lance and Laura Wilson, Austin.

Members who have renewed their memberships for 2009 are Juanita Duel, Salado; Elizabeth Exley, Georgetown; Gary Bible, Liberty Hill; David Kohn, Florence; Wayne Baker, Temple; Nial and Darla Chase, Killeen; Allen Chase & Family, Ft. Hood; Suzan Gibson, Belton; Veda Capps, Salado; Robert Clarkson & Family, Burnet; Jimmie and Kay Oakley, Round Rock; Harold Kind, Round Rock; Brian Johnston, Liberty Hill; Frank and Lu Morgan, Copperas Cove; Robert and Pam Yurk, Thorndale; Melanie Medrano & Family, Georgetown; Nathan and Dorothee Auldridge, Dripping Springs; Mary Bost, Georgetown; Richard and Diana Bost, Catoosa, Oklahoma; and Orion Lewis, Lenexa, Kansas. This is an excellent start on the new year. We trust the rest of our 2008 members will be coming to the January meeting to pay their \$10.00 dues.

Now would be a good time to circle fourth Tuesdays of each month (except December) to remind yourself of the WCABA meetings. Dates for 2009 are January 27, February 24, March 24, April 28, May 26, June 23, July 28, August 25, September 22, October 27, and November 24. Remember, if you come on the last (5th) Tuesday of March, June, or September, you won't find us meeting; we will have met a week earlier.

We had a good start on signing the '09 host list. Suzan Gibson, Juanita Duel and Veda Capps will be hosts in January; Wayne Baker and Stephen Gardipee in February; Cindy Jones, Carmen Heussner, and Gary Bible in March; and Janet Church and Shirley Doggett in September. Hopefully, we can fill in the blanks for April, May, June, July, August, October and November when we meet next month. Think about it and be ready to sign.

We received an e-mail from Clint Walker of Rogers, Texas, the middle of December informing us that Walker Apiaries will not be able to supply WCABA with package bees or queens in 2009. This is a serious issue, important to every member of our club. To appreciate Mr. Walker's position we quote: "When we ceased to ship package bees to the

industry a few years ago, we were glad to continue to supply them to WCABA. Our longstanding relationship with your organization and our belief that you guys are the best at the hobby beekeeping club business were all the incentive we needed to continue to do this order for you. During the last four years, we have produced packaged bees for WCABA, the USDA lab in Weslaco, Texas A&M and *no one* else!

Unfortunately, we need to concentrate all our spring energy on our own colony count. I regret to inform you that we will not be able to supply packages...or queens... for the club next spring.”

This means that the club is looking for another supplier to provide for the needs of our members. Clint said, “I will be glad to help arrange a new relationship between you and the new supplier of your choice if you would like my assistance.” We will be taking him up on that offer and will be announcing the results of that effort as soon as we have information. The bottom line is the club will be paying more for packages and queens in 2009 (if we can get them at all). We want to thank Clint, Domingo, and Walker Apiaries for the exceptional service and kind consideration we have received this past decade.



Our meeting place at the Allen R. Baca Center for Senior and Community Activities is available for 2009, and we will likely lock in the entire year unless something much better presents itself. We are always on the lookout though for a better meeting place, and open to suggestions; so please bring to the attention of the Executive Committee if you find something we should look at. Part of our problem is the fact that we have long met on the 4th Tuesday night and that seems to be a very popular time among those meeting at the Baca Center. How would you feel about meeting on a different night, a different week?

The Ed Wolf–Robert Bost Memorial Youth Beekeeping Scholarship is going into its 23rd year with 89 past recipients to its name. For over two decades the WCABA has answered the question of, “Where will the beekeepers of the future come from?” by providing opportunity for hopeful young beekeepers to spread their wings and see if they can fly in this very interesting and demanding hobby/profession. Should we as a club continue for another year in this effort to promote beekeeping, honey production, and apiary science among our young people? As long as we continue to have quality applicants apply for the scholarship, and we have funds to support the program, we would be delinquent in our duty to the industry, the community, and to the future not to. This past year we had four fine youngsters receive scholarships (Joseph Clarkson, Burnett; Caleb Jones, Spicewood; and Juliette & Jessica Martin, Andice) and we had three responsible mentors step forward (Sally Tutor, Burnett; Cherie Miller, Marble Falls; and David Kohn, Florence) to carry the program forward for another year. They all participated in the WesleyFest in Georgetown in November to raise money to fund another class of recipients.



Cindy Jones and her family volunteered to serve in the honey booth at the State Fair of Texas in Dallas last October. Her son Caleb is a current recipient of the Wolf-Bost scholarship sponsored by the WCABA, and here is her story about their experience:

GOING TO THE FAIR

“My family and I volunteered at the State Fair honey booth in Dallas. We wanted to do our part to spread the good word about beekeeping and honey, so I had signed up to work at the booth. We had no idea what a treat we were in for.”

“We arrived early and were very pleased with the attractive booth. Everything was very professional. Many beautiful jars of honey lined the back wall against a lighted background. Informative photos and posters were placed around the booth. The grand centerpiece was the live bee exhibit centrally located and ready for the inquisitive viewer. We got ourselves acquainted with how things worked and waited for the Fair to open to the public.”

“The people started coming; just a few at times and large crowds at other times. Literally hundreds of people came to see the bees—little children so small they had to be lifted up in their parents’ arms to be able to see the bees; the elderly in wheelchairs; people of all nationalities who flocked to see the bees with smiles on their faces, curiosity in their minds and appreciation in their hearts. We talked to some who didn’t know anything about bees and also those who had been beekeepers for many years. Some were concerned about the health of the bees, others were interested in becoming beekeepers themselves. There was quite a rainbow of people interested in bees.”

“Working the booth was a great opportunity to share information about bees and beekeeping. My family has only been in beekeeping since the beginning of this year, but we still had plenty we could share. It was a real blessing to have our eyes opened to so many people who are interested and supportive of our beloved bee. If we have the chance, I’ll be signing us up again next year.”
Cindy Jones, Spicewood, Texas



We appreciate Gary Bible’s volunteering to be our WCABA librarian for 2009. Harold Kind has done a faithful job as librarian for several years but asked to be retired. Thank you, Harold, for your willingness to serve in this capacity. Remember, if you have checked out books, CDs or other materials from our library, make returning them one of your New Year’s resolutions—one you won’t break.

Winter weather often brings on dry, chapped lips. Here are two helpful recipes.

HONEY LIP BALM

1 Tbsp. petroleum jelly

½ tsp. honey

Melt these in the microwave for 10 seconds, then stir to combine. Pour into a small container and allow to cool.

PEPPERMINT LIP BALM

1 Tbsp. cocoa butter

1 Tbsp. beeswax

2 Tbsp. sweet almond oil

5 drops peppermint oil

Melt the cocoa butter and beeswax in a small container in the microwave for 10 seconds, then stir in the oils. Pour into a small container and allow to cool.



Special Note **TO: the Editor:** Thank you **Mary Bost** for another wonderful year of service as Newsletter Editor. Your comfortable, easy style of writing, your useful news, your beekeeping tips, your good humor, and your (honey) recipes, are like getting a letter from home. We don't pay you for this, we couldn't afford to... you are *priceless*. We can't honor you enough, but we are surely honored to have a lady of your integrity and grace serving us in our organization. Our hope is for your continued good health and prosperity (and that you will keep writing the newsletter). All your beekeeping friends & neighbors in WCABA (JO)

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