

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA FEBRUARY, 2009 NEWSLETTER

WWW.WCABA.ORG

(for meeting directions see website)

DATE: Tuesday, February 24, 2009
TIME: 7:00 P.M.—Beekeeping 101; 8:00--Program
PLACE: Allen Baca Senior Ctr, 301W. Bagdad, (Cafeteria Dining Room), Round Rock
PROGRAM: Nutrition, Health, & Treatment of Honey Bees in the Spring
HOSTS: **Wayne Baker, Stephen Gardipee**

PRESIDENT

Elizabeth Exley
512/863-6798
lizexley@msn.com

1st. V.P.

MEMBERSHIP

Sally Tutor
512/756-0471
tutorfamily@phreego.com

2nd. V.P.

PROGRAM

Jimmie Oakley
512/388-3630
jimmie.oakley@att.net

3rd. V.P.

NEWSLETTER

Mary Bost
512/863-3656
bostbees@juno.com

SECRETARY

Cherie Miller
830/693-2007
csmiller@tstar.net

TREASURER

Kenneth Miller
512/856-0167
millerkd@hughes.net

HISTORIAN

Kim Arnett
512/763-1191
bertarnett@verizon.com

Two of our 2008 scholarship recipients, Jessica and Juliette Martin, had been unable to give their reports in November so they entertained us at our meeting last month with a clever skit about their activities; their mother, Jennifer Martin, “interviewed” the two girls, dressed as bees, about their beekeeping experiences (see the pictures).

I’m sorry the one spell of weather making travel a risk happened on the same day as our club meeting last month. It was certainly understandable that some of our members, including two of our officers who were in areas where icy conditions made travel hazardous, opted to be safe. It was a very important meeting as Jimmie Oakley led the discussion regarding opportunities for getting bees this Spring. Hopefully, you received the mail-outs regarding the various options available and that you have checked your hives and made your decision regarding ordering nucs, packages, and/or queens. If you still have questions, be sure to attend the meeting next Tuesday evening, ready to make your order.

If you decide to order the 3-frame nucs through WCABA, you will need to send your order and money to Mary Bost so she will receive it by March 1, or hand her your order and money at the meeting next Tuesday, February 24. Also, if you need to order queens, the same dates apply.



If you decide to order nucs or packages from Louisiana, you will need to contact Elizabeth Exley at 512/ 863-6798 to see if she can still accept your order. She has sent out an e-mail stating that the nucs were being ordered Feb. 11 and the packages on Feb. 14.

Another important date to remember: if you know a school age boy or girl who is very interested in learning beekeeping, urge him/her to send the **Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost** memorial scholarship application to 4355 C.R.110, Georgetown, TX 78626 to be received before March 1. **The Committee will meet on that date, Sunday, March 1 to choose the scholarship winners.** Remember, the application blanks can be obtained through Jimmie Oakley or by going to the web site listed above.

The 2009 Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost scholarship winners will be introduced to our WCABA membership at the March 24 meeting. They will receive their hive materials and beekeeping equipment and our members will assist them in constructing their brood box and frames. A special treat: the Texas Honey Queen, Nicole Pettibon, will also be introduced and will give a short talk on her activities as our Honey Queen.

Don't forget about the **TBA Winter Delegates Meeting** at the Saltlick BBQ Restaurant in Round Rock next to the Dell Diamond on State Hwy. 79 on **Saturday, February 21**. It's not often that a Delegates Meeting is at a location in our area, and the last time we had such an opportunity, several of our WCABA members attended and reported enjoying the informational meeting. You'll "learn more about TBA, how they have and are working to get the research bee lab going at Texas A&M (remember the hat that was passed around at our meetings so you could contribute to it?), and what our TBA leaders are doing to benefit all of us beekeepers," according to Jimmie Oakley, our WCABA delegate and TBA treasurer.

Let's please complete the **Host List** at our meeting this month. Jennifer Martin has graciously consented to be responsible for asking members if they can bring "goodies" one month. There are still openings in April, May, June, July August, October, and November. Also, we'll soon be receiving calls about bee swarms. If you are interested in retrieving swarms to start another hive or two, please sign Mary's **Swarm List** so she can give callers your name, number, and she needs to know what areas (towns) you'll serve. Thanks.

Four new members joined WCABA at our January meeting. We welcome Jason Bontrager of Cedar Creek; Pietro Caporusso, Austin; Rick and Saowanee Gommert, Rogers; Bobby Hepner, Round Rock; and Brian Shaefer, Cisco. Guests were Paula and Michael Shaefer, Round Rock and Len McLaughlin, Austin.

Members who renewed their membership for 2009 were Jonathan and Theresa Clyburn, Georgetown (and we thank them for their donation to the scholarship fund); Brit Schlinke, Austin; Clyde Anderson, Kingsland; John and Taysha Howe, Round Rock; Wilbur Brinkmeyer, Taylor; Benjy Cox, Dale; Deryn Davidson, Austin; Mike and Miranda Deur, Cedar Park; Leroy Hampleman, Georgetown; Frank and Barbara Hunt, Austin; Travis and Maureen Lane, San Angelo; Jennifer Martin and Family, Georgetown; Kenneth Miller, Elgin; Jeann and Olaf Schmidt, Georgetown; Brad and Georganne Schuch, Round Rock; Lance and Laura Wilson, Austin; Robert and Pam Yurk, Thorndale; and Capt. Albert Morgan, Austin.

We offer a belated “thank you” to Tom Bunner, Janet Church, Elizabeth Exley, and Suzan Gibson for the door prizes they brought to the November meeting. In January, door prizes were contributed by Tom Bunner, Harold Kind, Barbara Hunt, Frank Hunt, Clyde Anderson, Nathan Exley, Kay Oakley, and David Kohn. The lucky winners were Greg Martin, homemade bread; Carmen Heussner, bee pads; Randy Oakley, smoker stopper; Jack Ward, honey pot; Suzan Gibson, dozen eggs; Sarah Oakley, kitchen towels; Benjy Cox, kitchen towels; David Heussner, smoker stopper; Chris Doggett, smoker stopper; Michael Schaefer, honey dipper; and an unknown winner (my mistake), bee shelf ornament.

Much has been written about the varroa destructor mite, small hive beetle, and CCD for the past several months/years, but there are two other bee problems beekeepers should not overlook: nosema and American foulbrood, commonly referred to as AFB. “Few diseases are as deadly and contagious as American foulbrood”, states Ross Conrad in his article, **American Foulbrood—A Review** in the February 2009 issue of *Bee Culture* magazine. “AFB is a challenge to control because in its resting stage, the bacterium forms spores that are reported to remain viable for 50 years or more” in the honey and wax. The spores germinate after being ingested by the bee larva and as the disease progresses, it changes color from pearly white to a tan (coffee with milk color) and finally turning black.

To identify a hive with AFB, a probe such as a small twig or toothpick is inserted into the larval mass and is then slowly withdrawn. If infected, as the probe is removed from the cell, a rope-like residue will stretch for ¼ to ½ an inch before breaking.

Another sign of AFB is an irregular brood pattern with numerous empty cells among the capped cells, due to the diseased larva failing to hatch. The capped cells on infected combs will often have a sunken shape, a darker color than healthy brood, and a greasy appearance, as well as some small pin-sized holes.

Early in our beekeeping experiences, Robert and I found AFB in one of our bee yards. We were told we had to burn the hives; that was the hottest, most discouraging work we ever did. It was so hard to see all that beautiful honey burning and draining into a ditch which was then covered with dirt. For years after that we treated with Terramycin in extender grease patties, the recommended antibiotic. But then, resistance developed. Now, Conrad states, a new, more powerful antibiotic, Tylan, has been approved for use but only in active cases, not as a preventative.

“The ultimate long-term solution to the problem of AFB is the buildup of resistance to foulbrood by the bees themselves. Honey bees that show some degree of resistance to foulbrood can be found. Most notably, hygienic bees are considered to have some degree of resistance to American foulbrood due to their tendency to remove infected larva faster than their non-hygienic cousins. As a result, efforts to breed bees for foulbrood resistance should be incorporated into current efforts that are focused on developing resistance to Varroa,” recommends Conrad. Also, avoid used frames and boxes that may harbor the spore.

HONEY KRUNCH

Stacey Lindsey, TBA Honey Queen, 1988

1/3 c. melted butter

½ c. honey

3 qt. popped popcorn

1 c. peanuts

Blend softened butter and honey until well mixed. Pour over popcorn and nuts mixture. Stir well. Spread in a thin layer over a cookie sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 15-20 minutes until crisp.

**Williamson Co. Area
Beekeepers Association
4335 County Road 110
Georgetown, Texas 78626**