

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA MAY, 2009 NEWSLETTER

WWW.WCABA.ORG

(for meeting directions see website)

DATE: Tuesday, May 26, 2009
TIME: 7:00 P.M.—Beekeeping 101; 8:00--Program
PLACE: Allen Baca Senior Ctr, 301W. Bagdad, (Cafeteria Dining Room), Round Rock
PROGRAM: Excerpts from the latest DVD on swarms: SWARM plus!!
HOSTS: **Leroy Hampleman and Deryn Davidson**

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NEWSLETTER

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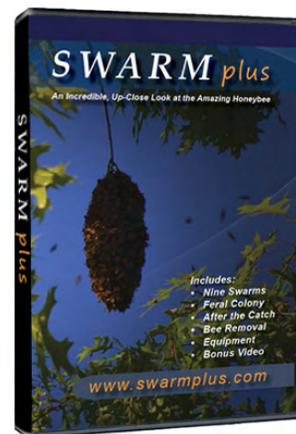
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What a great group of beekeepers—over 80 people—came to the last WCABA meeting and they heard two very informative programs. If you missed getting one of the handouts, you can go to the WCABA.org web site, click “Beekeeping” on the top bar, then click on “Document Library”. If you scroll down, you’ll see Hive Inspection Checklist. Check on the Checklist, which is in PDF, and you can download and print it. Thanks to Gary Bible for putting this information on the wcaba@yahoo.com info. If you haven’t subscribed to this group, you may do so by contacting lizexley@msn.com. And do check out our web site from time to time. Bill Hein, our WCABA webmaster, does an excellent job of keeping it up-to-date. Our thanks to each of you for your help.

Dave Duncan of Crestline, Ohio, has been a beekeeper for more than 25 years. Duncan has made a “How To” about retrieving bee swarms titled "Swarm Plus". We will select some significant excerpts from the DVD to view as a group to encourage us to seek after the elusive bounty of “free” bees. You will have the opportunity to sign up on the club’s swarm retrieval list. The DVD will become a part of the Club Library.



Nathan Exley, a 2006 Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost scholarship recipient, has continued to be a very active beekeeper, and he recently received a significant honor. He competed in the National Christian Forensics Communications Association Region 4 Invitational Tournament and made it all the way to the Finals in two Speech events—one of 8 state champions. Then he won one of the top 2 spots to the National championships in his Expository Speech, making him eligible to compete in the South Carolina event June 14th. Can you guess his topic?

When our club has had a Honey Queen in the past, we have supported her efforts to promote the beekeeping and honey industry with a token scholarship. At our business meeting Tuesday evening, our Executive Committee will propose that Nathan Exley, who is promoting the cause of bees and beekeeping, should be offered this stipend for expenses in consideration of his effort in the absence of a Honey Queen. We hope you will think so, too, and will vote affirmatively when the proposal is put before our membership.

This is a true story, one with cautions and information you might find helpful some time in the future. It was related by Cherie Miller, our WCABA secretary who lives near Marble Falls. She says that Sunday afternoon her neighbor, Mr. Leon Bailey, had ridden down on his gator to feed a calf and tend his stock when he was attacked and stung over 100 times by bees, necessitating his being taken to Austin by star flight for treatment. Three dogs (one dog was unconscious) and a calf were also stung many times. Cherie suggested that the animals be given liquid Benadryl and by the time she left, they seemed much better.

It was difficult to find the bees' nesting area; at first they thought the bees were coming out of some burning brush piles about ¼ mile upwind but they were difficult to find. When Cherie was alone, the bees were not there; however, when the firemen's respirators and the noisy trucks were there, 10 to 20 bees would start buzzing around aggressively. Cherie said, "I actually sat down where they had found Mr. Bailey and prayed for wisdom to locate the bees so he could be safe when he came home and needed to tend his animals." When the sun came out from the overcast sky, she was able to track the bees' direction in the sunlight and when she got close enough she could hear the bees and located them in a tree.

"The firemen started foaming the tree—but the bees were pouring out and taking to the air. I had brought a bottle of dish soap and we put it in the fire truck tank and really poured foam on the bees. We stuffed a towel into the trunk and topped it with expanding urethane. When I left, they had reduced the nozzle flow and were lightly keeping the soap foam on the bees to kill them as they landed," Cherie said

Apparently Mr. Bailey will be fine; also the dog that had been unconscious had tried to bite the vet and was moving around so she may be OK, according to Cherie. "It was a beautiful ranch and I really enjoyed working with the firemen and EMS personnel; they were great and very thorough and concerned," she said.

We welcomed six new members to WCABA last month. They are Roger and Babs Cheatham, Hutto; Martin and Inez Herber, Leander; Wilmot and Jin Parkhurst, Cedar Park; Ron Porter, Lampasas; Chuck Sparks, Pflugerville; and Brian Wood, Austin. Since the meeting, Elmer Goertz and Mike McPherren have renewed their memberships. Guests who attended were Wally Red, Charles Sayles, Terry Whisenant, Shane Hickman, Arthur Wade Capps, Bob Pope and Hamlin Pope.

We wish Pat and Janice Hartley many interesting experiences during their two-year sojourn in Germany. Luckily, Mr. Hartley's deployment will allow the family to go with him. Jimmie Oakley brought their hives back to Georgetown where he can tend them while the Hartley family is overseas.

The door prizes last month were donated by Mary Bost, Shirley Doggett, Elizabeth Exley, the Jones Family, and the Martins. Lucky winners were Rachel Jones, Joseph Clarkson, Jared Rutherford, Frank Morgan, Chris Doggett, and Nathan Exley.

The TBA Summer Clinic on Saturday, June 20, near Webberville, Texas, will offer an opportunity for you to be part of a quality Texas Beekeeping event right in our own back yard. The Clinic is put on annually by TBA and is preceded by a delicious, moderately priced, meal that offers time for conversation and fellowship. The demonstrations takes place at different stations which allows you to move about as you learn. Dr. Molnar's place will offer a beautiful setting for the event. We will need some of you local beekeepers to help out with the demonstrations. Please contact Jimmie Oakley if you are interested in participating. It will be appreciated.

Do you know how to identify and distinguish between supersedure cells and swarm cells? In his book, *First Lessons in Beekeeping* (pp. 25-26), Keith S. Delaplane gives a very clear explanation, including good pictures to show the difference. He writes, "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. Supersedure cells can occur any time in the active season when a queen is failing or is lost. Because they are made in response to a time-specific event—the loss of a queen—they tend to be uniform in age. They tend to occur on the comb face, not along the comb edge. They also tend to result in comparatively poor queens because their construction is not necessarily associated with resource-rich times of year. Swarm cells, on the other hand, are more numerous, occur at various stages of maturity, and are associated with early spring nectar."

If you see swarm cells being built in your hive, this is your warning that it needs more room. Break off the cells with your hive tool and add another honey super to your hive ASAP. Also, in hot weather, lifting the top cover, perhaps putting a small stick between the hive body and the top, will give better ventilation and reduce the swarming impulse.

Need a place to put a few hives? Marvin Mueller, who lives at 1010 C.R. 140 about 2 ½ miles northwest of Weir, would like to have some bees to pollinate his garden. He has 100 acres and is adjoined by another 400 acres that has a plentiful crop of wildflowers. If interested, call him at 512/ 217-9338.

Live Bee Removal & Relocation: Rapid response, dependable service, State Registered, 25years beekeeping experience. **Oakley Family Apiaries** For questions or estimates call: 512-279-0298

Lots of fresh squash—both yellow and zucchini—are showing up at Farmers Markets now. Here's a yummy-sounding recipe.

FRESH SQUASH & ONION

2 lb. yellow squash	1 med. onion, finely chopped	1 – 1 ½ tsp. salt
1 tsp. honey	½ cup water	1 Tbsp. melted butter or margarine

Wash squash and cut into 1 ½ inch slices. Place in saucepan with onion, salt, and honey; add ½ cup water. Cover tightly and steam about 10 minutes. Add butter and stir gently. Yield: 4 servings. Source: *Honey – God's Gift for Health and Beauty* by Joe M. Parkhill



WCABA
Scholarship
Orientation - Sat.
April 25, 2009



**Williamson Co. Area
Beekeepers Association
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