

# WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

## WCABA JULY, 2009 NEWSLETTER

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

(for meeting directions see website)

DATE: Tuesday, July 28, 2009  
TIME: 7:00 P.M.—Beekeeping 101; 8:00--Program  
PLACE: Allen Baca Senior Ctr, 301W. Bagdad, (Cafeteria Dining Room), Round Rock  
PROGRAM: Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Program & WCABA  
HOSTS: **Randy Oakley Family, Vanessa & Richard Red**

### **PRESIDENT**

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### **NEWSLETTER**

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We almost “busted our buttons” with pride as Nathan Exley, '06 Wolfe-Bost scholarship recipient, presented to our club the Expository speech he had given at the national convention in South Carolina recently. His topic advanced the cause of bees and beekeeping, and was well-received by those of us present at the last meeting. Nathan not only talks the talk, he walks the walk; he has enthusiastically worked his hives, retrieved swarms, and helps out at our meetings. Nathan will give his presentation at the Wildflower Center on Thursday night July 23<sup>rd</sup>. We are proud of our young people making a difference.



WCABA was well represented at the June 20<sup>th</sup> Summer Clinic—50 of the 98 people present were our club members (see pics last page). The next highest number of people representing a club was from the Dallas area, the Collin County Hobby Beekeepers, a very active club. These summer clinics are held at different sites each year, and judging by the enthusiastic responses from our members who attended, I hope we can be as willing to travel to future clinics as people who came all the way from some of these distant areas.

The Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation program sprays cotton fields in our area and we need to understand their process and procedures. Mr. Michael Hester and Mr. Art Janke from the Thorndale office will be present to explain and answer questions.

The next couple of months will be busy extraction months. Several people have already extracted honey. If you would like to use the club extracting equipment, remember that you need to call me, Mary Bost, to set a date to get the equipment. The first person to set a date is the one who can pick it up on that date and use it for three days, then return it clean and ready for the next person to use. (**Note: I will be out of town July 29-August 4; if you need it during that time, make arrangements with Jimmie Oakley.**)

We welcome new members, John and Susan Philpott of Georgetown; also, Clint Walker, Rogers, has renewed his membership. Our club continues to grow and we hope we can be of help to our new members. Guests were John Bush and Kimbriel Dean, Austin; and Lori Bockstanz, Austin.

Door prizes at the last meeting were donated by Leah Morie/ Youngblood, the Martin Ladies, Abigail Miller, Buddy Miller, Paul Exley and Cindy Jones. Lucky winners were Kimbriel Dean, Mikale Slaughter, Bailey Franklin, Lisa Roberts, Rachel Jones, Suzanne Ericson, Lori Bockstanz, Richard Red, and McCartney Taylor.

Comments about the Summer Clinic: “As a new beekeeper this year, I found all the demonstrations very helpful and informative.....the socializing was good with more opportunity to learn.” **Pietro Caporusso** ---  
---- “I found it to be worth every penny. The social experience with other beekeepers is always my favorite thing as it affords the opportunity to pick the brains of knowledgeable beekeepers. The discussion of extracting honey and the display of useful/useless equipment was a hit with me.” **Chuck Sparks** -----  
“It was fun and informative. Visiting with beekeepers from all over Texas was a treat. The demonstration stations were all beneficial and I don’t think I walked away from one of them without a new idea about something to try.” **Sally Tutor** ---- We greatly enjoyed the clinic. The host had perfect accommodations for such a warm day. The two demonstrations that we had hoped to see were the queen cages and powdered sugar application and they were presented! In all it was a very informative day with good food, good fellowship, and good education. **Jim & Sara Reeves**



Other WCABA members who attended the Summer Clinic were Gayle Suzanne Barron, Mary Bost, Gary Bible, Wilbur Brinkmeyer, Jason Bontrager, David Kohn and sons, Buddy Miller family, Kenneth Miller, Frank and Lu Morgan, Jimmie and Kay Oakley (and daughter Christy and grandson Joey from Colorado), Randy Oakley family, Tim Roberts family, Mikale and Judy Slaughter, Lance Wilson family.

The demonstration stations were Beekeeping Equipment by Blake Shook (CCHBA), Beehive Inspection by John Talbert (CCHBA), Honey Queen Introduction by Edward Priest (AABA), Varroa Mite Prevention by Randy Oakley (WCABA), and Honey Extracting by Dr. Albert Molnar (TBA and host of the Clinic).

Continuing Kirsten Traynor’s helpful suggestions in her article, “Beekeeping for Beginners” in the June ’09 *American Bee Journal*, “With your smoker in one hand and your hive tool in the other, you are ready to work the bees. When I approach an apiary, I always first watch bee flight at the entrances. You can learn a lot without ever opening up a hive. Are lots of bees flying in and out quickly? Are they carrying colorful loads of pollen in the pollen baskets on their hind legs? Is a mass of bees hanging out the front fanning their wings?”

If the bees are flying straight into the entrance, landing and running right in, they are bees belonging to that hive; if they hover in front of the hive, then dart in, they are probably robber bees. Instead of flying straight out, robber bees usually climb up the front of the hive and take off backward. Bees bringing in lots of pollen indicate the hive is raising their young who need protein. After the winter months, bees will locate pollen sources even when it’s not evident to human eyes. A mass of bees hanging on the front of the hive

may be fanning their wings to circulate air and lower the temperature in the hive. If so, you may want to see if they are crowded and give them more space.

When you are ready to work the hive, approach it from the back—never block the flight entrance with your body. From the side, puff a little smoke into the entrance, then wait a moment. If other hives are nearby, puff a little smoke in their entrance, too. Using your hive tool, crack the lid gently and puff in a little smoke, then allow the smoke to settle into the hive for about a half a minute.

Remember, when working a hive, patience is important; work slowly and carefully without making any sudden movements. Puff a little smoke onto the top of the frames to cause the bees to move down into the hive. Using your hive tool, gently loosen the frame closest to the side of the hive, then when you can move it easily, lift it out of the hive using both hands, being sure you lift it straight up to prevent crushing some of the bees. Always check to be sure the queen is not on the frame before setting it to one side. Continue lifting the next frame until you have inspected all of them.

What are you looking for? Besides noting the state of the hive, you are looking for eggs, larvae, capped brood, honey and pollen. It is not essential to see the queen (although that always gives you a thrill) but as long as you can locate eggs, you know the queen is alive and doing her job.

#### Dagar's Special Baked Beans

1 lb. white navy beans	1 ½ oz. vegetable oil	¼ cup minced shallots
½ tsp. garlic	¼ cup catsup	½ cup <b>honey</b>
½ Tbsp. molasses	½ tsp. Worcestershire sauce	1/8 tsp. salt
½ Tbsp. spicy mustard	4 strips bacon	

Preheat oven to 300 degrees. Cook beans in boiling water until semi-soft and set aside. Heat a large skillet over medium-high heat; add oil and sauté shallots, about 4 minutes. Add garlic and sauté 3 minutes. Add catsup and cook until thick, stirring constantly. Add honey and molasses, Worcestershire sauce, salt and mustard. Combine beans and shallot mixture in a 2-quart baking dish. Cover with bacon and bake at 300 degrees for 1 hour or until thick and bubbly. Serves 10. (Austin-American Statesman's Food Life section)

#### The TBA Summer Clinic presentations were both interesting and informative.

*(comments, page 2)*



Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> WCABA members turned out in record numbers to attend the TBA Summer Clinic hosted by Dr. Albert and Marjorie Molnar at their home in Webberville, Texas.

(left) Blake Shook of the Collin County Beekeepers Association presentation was on beekeeping equipment, its purpose, and uses.





(top left) Edward Priest of the Alamo Area Beekeepers shows how to make queen introduction cages for a sure fire system for requeening your beehives.

(middle-left) John Talbert of Collin County Beekeepers demonstrates the proper way top inspect a beehive.

(bottom-right) Randy Oakley of the Williamson County Beekeepers shows how powered sugar dusting and drone frames trapping can reduce Varroa mites without using chemicals in the hive.



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