

# WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

## WCABA NOVEMBER 2009 NEWSLETTER

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

(for meeting directions, see website)

**DATE:** Tuesday, November 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:** Reports of '09 Scholarship Recipients, Wesley Fest, TBA Convention  
**HOSTS:** Sally Tutor and Sara Reeves

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### **PROGRAM**

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### **NEWSLETTER**

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This has been a busy month for some of our WCABA members: State Fair activities, Wesley Fest, TBA Convention. We'll be looking forward to hearing about these activities at our meeting next Tuesday, November 24. Also, November is when we elect officers for the coming year and hear the reports from our scholarship winners. If you are not a scholarship recipient, but this is your first year to keep bees, we would enjoy hearing a short comment about your first year experience. Do come and share with us.

A hearty thank you to all who worked in the honey booth at the Wesley Fest: Josiah and Sherry Youngblood helped Jimmie Oakley set up and were joined on Saturday morning by scholarship recipient Paul Exley and Elizabeth. Sara and Jim Reeves came mid morning and worked till mid afternoon. WCABA Honey Queen Rebekah Jones, her sister Rachel and mother Cindy Jones worked Saturday noon till late afternoon; and Kristin and Jennifer Youngblood helped finish out the day. On Sunday Randy Oakley and sons Joshua, Caleb, Samuel, Daniel and Benjamin opened the booth and Tommy, Amanda, Jared and Tyler Rutherford worked until the rains came putting a damper on an otherwise good day. Harold Kind dropped by with his honey to add excitement to a gray day. You all are appreciated *Paul Exley & Josiah Youngblood (above), WCABA H.Q. Rebekah making the sale( right)*

Colter Chase, Paul Exley, and Jared Rutherford, our 2009 Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost Memorial scholarship recipients, will give their reports on their first year of working with bees for our program this month. This is always an interesting time for our members as these youth tell of their experiences, some



good, some disconcerting, some even bizarre, but all interesting and good learning experiences. In the past, some of the reports have included pictures, some have even gone high-tech using computers to tell their stories, but all remind us of some of our early learning experiences. Each recipient should also have a written report to be turned in to the scholarship committee.

Jimmie Oakley, TBA treasurer, writes, “The TBA Convention was very demanding but it was a successful event for all who attended. (Son) Randy and three of his boys attended along with (daughter) Christy and (son) Joey. The Oakley boys helped with registration, trade show setup and put all the honey, wax, and photo contest data on the computer. There was a record number attending both the Queen’s luncheon (73) and the awards banquet (102) and over \$7,300 was raised in support of the Texas Honey Queen program. The WCABA Honey Queen discharged her responsibilities and duties admirably. Her Dad escorted her into the banquet with Mom and Grandma, brother and sis all beaming proudly (see pictures in Honey Queen report). Next year’s convention will be in Kerrville, Texas

It’s time to be thinking about scholarship applications for 2010. Application forms can be found at our web site (see above) or check with Jimmie Oakley or Mary Bost. It has been decided to have an earlier deadline for accepting applications, allowing more time to get acquainted with the applicants in order to make a more informed decision before the March meeting. It is very important that the applicant has a real desire to learn about bees and beekeeping, and also that the parents indicate their support by their written statements.

We welcome several new members to WCABA. Pete Budde, Georgetown; Hem Ramachandra, Austin; and Reagan and Robert Seamans, Georgetown, joined at the last meeting. Robert Dickhout of Florence has mailed his membership dues and we look forward to introducing him at the meeting Tuesday evening. Guests were David Rembert, Jude Alvarado, and Jay Ewell.

It is good that there is much more interest being shown in bees, more people are aware of the problems facing this fascinating insect and they are reluctant to poison them. We think hobby beekeepers will do much to keep bees located where they can do a better job of pollinating gardens, flowers, and trees. If you know of someone who would like to become a beekeeper, tell them about WCABA and the perks members can enjoy: free use of club extracting equipment, discount when buying bees through the club order, a monthly newsletter with beekeeping tips, an informative program once a month combined with opportunity to ask questions, learn the latest information, and visit with other interested beekeepers. And all for a mere \$10.00 per year. Those new members who have recently joined and paid \$10.00 dues are already members for 2010. If you want to avoid waiting in line to renew your membership in January? Sally Tutor will be happy to accept your \$10.00 dues at this next meeting. Remember, membership in WCABA is by the calendar year—January through November (no meeting in December).

Do you enjoy having a break to enjoy a snack and conversation between the Beekeeping 101 and the business meeting/program? We really appreciate our generous members who sign up to bring cookies or other snacks and also help prepare the coffee/juice (drinks and paper goods are provided through your “feeding the kitty” with your quarters). The Host Sheet will be passed around at the meeting; please consider when you can bring a snack and sign your name under the appropriate date. We’ve been averaging about 75 people in attendance each month. We want to thank this month’s hosts, Sally Tutor and Sara Reeves.

Door prizes last month were donated by Mike Slaughter, Chris Doggett, Clyde Anderson, Shelly Franklin, Damaris Tutor, Jennifer Youngblood, and Sara Reeves. Lucky winners were Myrna Herber, Jack Ward, Jim Reeves, Hem Ramachandra, Veda Capps, Julia Hepner, Tim Roberts, Nathan Exley, and Amanda Rutherford.

This week we've seen a glimpse of coming winter months: temperatures approaching freezing, "cold" fronts bringing showers of rain or other changes, and we tend to think of jobs we need to do for our bees. First off, do your hives have sufficient honey to carry them through the months when there is little or no nectar to forage? If not, you will need to feed them with a syrup concentration of 2 parts sugar to 1 part water. If possible, the clustering bees will need to occupy empty cells in the center of the lower hive frames that are surrounded by stored honey (or syrup) and pollen. Clusters tend to move up, not down, and the empty cells allow them to remain clustered and thereby conserve heat. Remove extra supers and store them.

What if you find a queenless colony or one that is weak? It is better to combine such a colony with a stronger hive that will live through the winter, store the equipment that is not being used in a safe manner, then make splits next spring when the bees will be multiplying.

Do you have repairs that need to be made? This is a good time to repair or replace woodware or to construct new hives, frames, tops or bottom boards. It's also a good time to repaint wood that has been in use several years.

Don't forget to do some "figuring". Do you want to increase your number of hives? What will you need to order? Is it economically feasible to increase your number of hives? Do you need to replace some equipment?

Winter time is a good time to do some extra reading—books, bee magazines, catalogs. Do you subscribe to one or more of the helpful bee magazines? If you are a member of TBA or WCABA, you can receive a discount on the subscription price of *American Bee Journal* or *Bee Culture*.

Any effort you make now will result in better bee production next year, especially with expectation of more fall rains bringing a better crop of spring flowers. Happy 2010!

Jennifer Youngblood has donated a package of her homemade granola to our door prizes and has graciously consented to have her recipe printed in the newsletter.

### **Jenni Bee's Best Homemade Granola**

6 cups rolled oats	1 cup Honey
1 ¼ cup pecans	½ cup water
1 ¼ cup sliced almonds	2 tsp. vanilla
1 ¼ cup coconut	¾ cup olive or canola oil
1/3 cup sesame seeds (optional)	

Mix dry ingredients together. Mix wet ingredients in a separate bowl and pour into the oats mixture. Toast on greased cookie sheets at 325 degrees, mixing every 8-10 minutes until lightly browned. We serve with goat milk, raisins, or yogurt. We also double this recipe for our family. Enjoy!

## More Wesleyfest Workers and Activities



Jim & Sarah Reeves / Tom & Amanda, Tyler & Jered Rutherford, Randy & the Oakley Boys / Shelly, Jennifer, and Kristen Youngblood

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

# WCABA Honey Queen Report

East Texas Beekeepers Association hosted the Convention

We were at the Holiday Inn Select in Tyler, Texas



My Dad Escorted me to the Banquet.

I helped with the Queens Auction to raise money for scholarships.

“The TBA Convention in Tyler was a great time and enjoyed by all. I did lots of events and had a wonderful time. At the convention there was a whole lot of work to do. On the first day I participated in Kids Learning About Bees, which lasted several hours, and that evening I set up my table for the Bee Buzz. The next day I gave two speeches, attended the Queen’s Luncheon, helped with a school presentation and participated in the Queens Quiz Bowl. The last day of the convention I was able to go to some of the lectures, attend the Business Meeting, have some fun and finish off with the Queens Banquet and Auction”.

**Rebekah Jones WCABA Honey Queen**