

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA FEBRUARY, 2010 NEWSLETTER

WWW.WCABA.ORG

(for meeting directions, see website)

PRESIDENT

Gary Bible
512/548-6194
glbible@austin.rr.com

1st. V.P.

MEMBERSHIP

Sherry Youngblood
512/963-3954
jacksherry@inhishands.com

2nd. V.P.

PROGRAM

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

3rd. V.P.

NEWSLETTER

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

SECRETARY

Sara Reeves
512/793-2246
reeves@tstar.net

TREASURER

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

HISTORIAN

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

DATE: Tuesday, February 23, 2010
TIME: 7:00 P.M.—Beekeeping 101; 8:00--Program
PLACE: First United Methodist Church Georgetown Fellowship Hall
PROGRAM: Beekeeping Equipment, How Much and How to Order
HOSTS: **Per Signup Sheet for month of February**

What a great meeting we had last month! Eleven new members enrolled, 34 members renewed membership and there were 90 people—our highest number to date—who signed the register. There was only one problem: not enough time. We really could have used another 30 minutes to listen to Clint Walker tell us about what is being done to improve our honey bee stocks and how knowledgeable scientists and beekeepers are working together to reverse the trend of bee loss, especially among the commercial beekeepers.

For our February program, Jimmie Oakley will have a presentation on essential and optional beekeeping equipment necessary to get started for the first year of keeping bees. This will be especially helpful for all our members new to beekeeping. A typical supply list will be available and all the items on the list will be explained and demonstrated. This should give everyone time to place their orders with the supplier before the package bees arrive in April. In addition, there will be a presentation of the proposal to buy packages of bees, the order form and payment method. The handbook, First Lessons in Beekeeping, has been ordered from Dadant and Sons and will be available at the meeting for \$10.00. Everyone buying one will get a free Dadant supply catalog.

February 15 was the deadline for receiving applications to the Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost Memorial Scholarship program. It is very important that all of the scholarship applicants and their parents attend this meeting to hear the information regarding the beekeeping equipment and its use. Of course, the scholarship includes providing the basic equipment, but seeing it demonstrated will give them “a leg up” on knowing what to expect.

We will be buying 3 pound packages of bees with a marked queen from Walker Apiaries for \$90.00 per package. If you want the queen’s wing clipped, add \$2.00. Clint will refund \$5.00 for each package container with feeder can that is returned in good shape. The packages of bees will be brought to the Bost farm near Georgetown on Saturday, April 17. (More about this



later.) If you prefer to purchase bees from another source, it will be your responsibility; the club will not be responsible for going to any other source. Arrangements for buying queens for replacements or splits have not been made but we expect to have more information soon.

We were sorry to hear recently of the death of one of our members, Dean Futch of Copperas Cove. Dean had served as WCABA president for several years and had been active in our organization as well as in TBA, and had also helped organize Tri-County Beekeepers before his wife's health and then his health had caused him to discontinue his activities. Our thanks go to Mike McPherrren for notifying us about Dean.

It was good to have Allen Chase back with us following his recent deployment to Iraq. Their son, Colter, has been a 2009 scholarship recipient mentored by his grandfather, Nial Chase.



WCABA Past Presidents Dean Futch & Jimmie Oakley

Do you enjoy having a snack between the Beekeeping 101 and the business/speaker sessions? If so, we need more volunteers to bring "goodies" and everyone needs to drop some change in the "kitty" each meeting to help pay for the coffee, juice, and paper goods. Janet Church has agreed to be the Social Chair, so please see her to sign the host sheet for the month most convenient for you to bring snacks.

Shirley Doggett has agreed to be the door prize coordinator. If you bring an item to donate, please take it to Shirley and sign your name and the name of the item you are donating.

Door prizes at our January meeting were donated by Gary Bible, Youngblood Family, Barbara Hunt, Sara Reeves, Chris Doggett, Sally Tutor, Colter Chase, Suzanne Barron, and Clint Walker. Lucky winners were McCartney Taylor, Chat Lerma, Cindy Jones, Katherine Morris, Suzan Gibson, Jen Martin, Nick Kohn, Tyler Rutherford, Cindy Derrick, Kay Oakley and Caleb Jones.

We welcome the following new members to WCABA: Roberto Benevides, Austin; Joey and Luke Hollifield, Round Rock; Lynn Kelch, Killeen; Amy Moyle, Austin; Randy J. Paradise, Cedar Park; Wesley Schumacher, Austin; Dr. John G. Thomas, Bryan; Jim Thompson, Austin; Brian Wood, Austin; Frank Zago, Austin; and Matthew Zappitello, Austin. Two more applications for membership came in today's mail, and we welcome Keith Handley, Austin; and Vaughn Hamilton, Marble Falls. We trust all these new members will find our meetings informational, interesting and helpful.

Those who renewed their membership at the meeting or who have mailed their dues since then are Wes Aiken, Horseshoe Bay; Clyde Anderson, Kingsland; Gayle-Suzanne Barron, Round Rock; Pietro Caporusso, Austin; Allen Chase & Family, Fort Hood; Nial & Darla Chase, Killeen; Roger & Babs Cheatham, Hutto; Benjy & Lisa Cox, Dale; Brian & Angela Cox, Round Rock; Chris & Shirley Doggett, Thrall; Juanita Duel, Salado; Mark & Shelley Franklin & Family, Georgetown; Suzan & Amanda Gibson, Belton; Rick Gommert, Rogers; LeRoy Hampleman, Georgetown; Fred & Myrna Herber, Leander; and Martin & Inez Herber, Leander.

Also, John & Taysha Howe, Round Rock; Frank & Barbara Hunt, Austin; Paul & Cindy Jones & Family, Spicewood; Harold Kind, Round Rock; Shirley Kinningham, Cameron; Chat & Ana Lerma, Manor; Jennifer Martin & Family, Georgetown; Layne Muilman, Georgetown; John & Laura O'Banion, Georgetown; Curtis Payne, Moody; Richard & Vanessa Red, Georgetown; Wally Red, Georgetown; Jim & Sara Reeves, Buchanan Dam; Reagan & Robert Seamans, Georgetown; Brit Schlinke, Austin; Chuck Sparks, Pflugerville; McCartney Taylor, Austin; Beth Walker, Rogers; David Weinthal, Georgetown; and Brian Wood, Austin.

We welcome visitors, and hope they find our programs interesting and informative enough that they may decide to join WCABA; our dues are only \$10.00 per year, about the cheapest of any of the beekeeper associations in Texas. Visitors last month were E.E. "Mitch" Mitchamore (no city listed); Katherine and Zach Morris, Cameron; and Cindy Derrick, Austin.

Our members voted at the last meeting to move our meeting place from the Baca Center in Round Rock to the Fellowship Hall of the First United Methodist Church in Georgetown, 410 E. University Ave. This is an easy place to locate (see map at end of letter) with plenty of parking spaces available (Note: the Handicap parking nearest the church is reserved for vehicles with handicap licenses or placards—police enforced.) Entrance on the East side is accessed by two sidewalks next to the children's playground. As you enter the double doors, turn left, then use the elevator or the short stairs to go to the ground floor; go down the hallway to the double doors to the large meeting room.

This venue provides a better seating arrangement for hearing programs, has a public address system, and a drop-down screen for viewing power point or other materials. The area is being provided as a courtesy by the Church and we shall be good tenants, leaving it in as clean and orderly condition as when we enter.

A very interesting commentary regarding the decline of honey bees and the threat to the planet that it poses was in a recent Austin American-Statesman. Written by Reese Halter, a conservation biologist at California Lutheran University, he is also founder of the international conservation institute Global Forest Science and has written "The Incomparable Honeybee and the Economics of Pollination". He states, "The humble honey bee has been inextricably linked to humankind since prehistoric times" but over the past 3 years, "more than 50 billion honey bees have died.....we need everyone to lend a helping hand."

Honey bees contribute "at least \$44 billion a year to the U.S. economy, pollinating most food crops and alfalfa and clover for beef and dairy industries; cotton for our clothes, and producing honey, candles and medicines." Reese also says, "Bees have a memory; they vote; are being trained to count; and are helping people as an early detector of disease by sniffing skin and lung cancers, diabetes and tuberculosis." Also, "Researchers are using bees to find TNT residue—the primary ingredients in land mines" which have killed or maimed tens of thousands of children and adults in 70 countries.

Reese points to a combination of factors that contribute to the rapid decline in honey bee populations worldwide. "In 2008, researchers from Penn State found 43 pesticides in a Pennsylvania apple orchard. Many farmers combine or stack their chemicals to reduce application costs" and this is "known to increase toxicity levels in some cases by 1,000 fold".

"Bees evolved to feed on a wide assortment of pollens," says Reese, "but today we use them in monoculture fields. Pollens provide their only source of protein. Proteins grow eggs, larvae, brains and autoimmune systems....In 2007, almond, plum, kiwi and cherry pollens that were tested exhibited little, if any protein content. Infertile soils lacking essential nutrients, bacteria, fungi, protozoa along with climate change (intense heat) were implicated." Beekeepers around the globe are now feeding their hives a form of protein supplement made with eggs, brewers yeast, pollen and honey as well as other special ingredients.

Reese closes by saying, "Do not use herbicides, pesticides or miticides in your yard. Plant a wide variety of native yellow and blue flowers.....Without bees, we cannot survive."

The January 31st Parade section of the Austin American Statesman had the following recipe.

Adobo-Seasoned Baked Chicken Wings

½ cup mango nectar	¼ cup Honey	1 to 2 Tbsp red hot sauce
Salt and freshly ground black pepper	2 tsp granulated garlic powder	2 tsp granulated onion powder
2 tsp ground turmeric	40 chicken wings, rinsed well & patted dry	2 Tbsp canola oil
2 Tbsp finely chopped fresh oregano (or 2 tsp good dried oregano)		

Preheat oven to 425 degrees F. Stir together the mango nectar, honey, and hot sauce in a bowl; season with salt and pepper. Set aside. Mix garlic powder, onion powder, and turmeric in a small bowl for adobo seasoning. Add 1 Tbsp of salt and 1 tsp of black pepper. Toss with wings in a bowl with the oil. Transfer wings to a large baking sheet (or 2 small ones) in a single layer. Bake for 20 minutes. Turn wings over; continue baking for 20 minutes. Remove wings from the oven, generously brush with the glaze, then continue baking 10 minutes more until cooked through. Remove to a platter and sprinkle with the oregano.

Since arrangements have not been finalized on Queens, please indicate number desired to help WCABA to project Club order size and final needs. You will be notified of source and pricing on available Queens and approx delivery date. JO

W.C.A.B.A Club Package & Queen Order Form - 2010

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ ST _____

Phone _____ e-mail: _____

please print

I want to order:

No. _____ **3 # Package** w/hygienic queen at \$90.00/ Package (April 17th)
(clipped wings add \$2.00)

No. _____ **Honey Bee Queen** for requeening or divisions (marked)
Source and Pricing to be Determined, Deliverly Approx. date as above

Mail remittance to: **WCABA, 4335 C. R. 110, Georgetown, TX 78626**

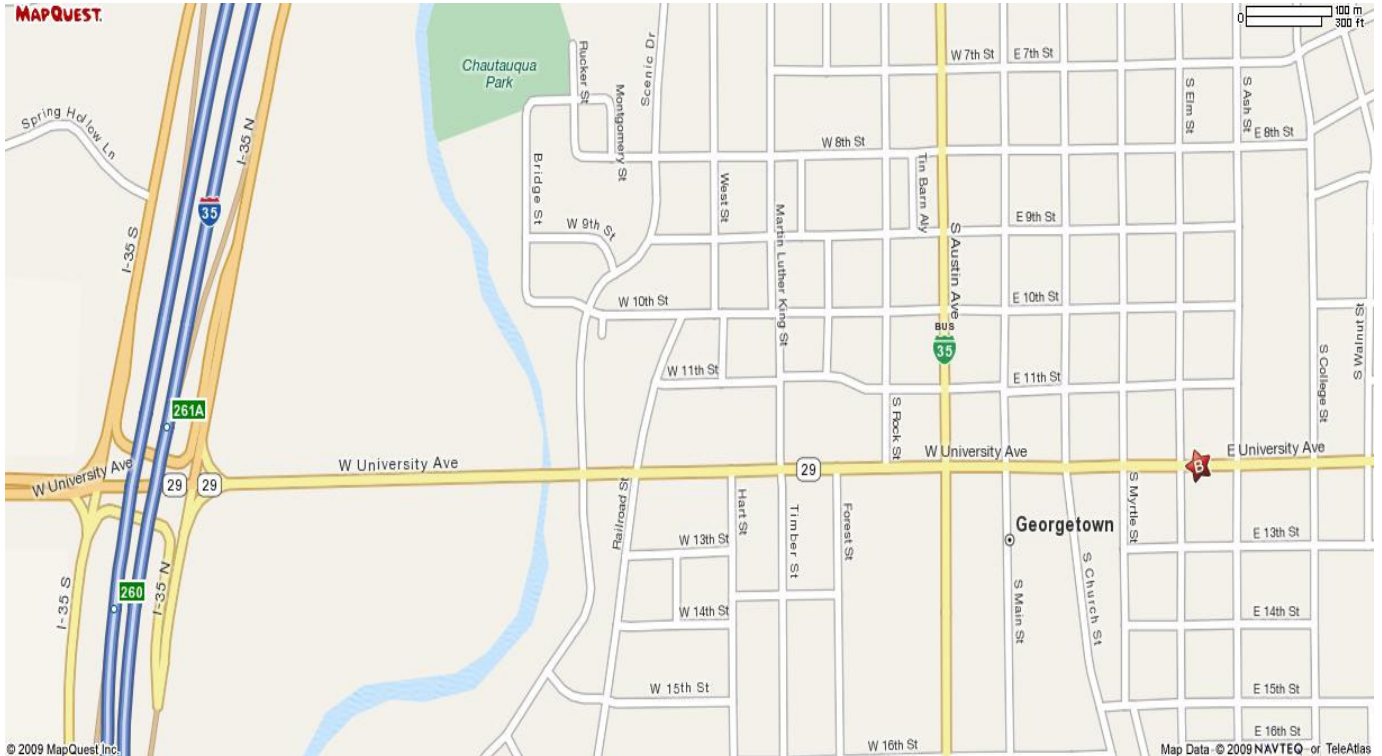
How will you pay? CASH or Check # _____
Check Preferred

**TOTAL AMT
OF ORDER**

--

Special Instructions:

Directions to: First United Methodist Church, 410 E University Ave, Georgetown, TX 78626

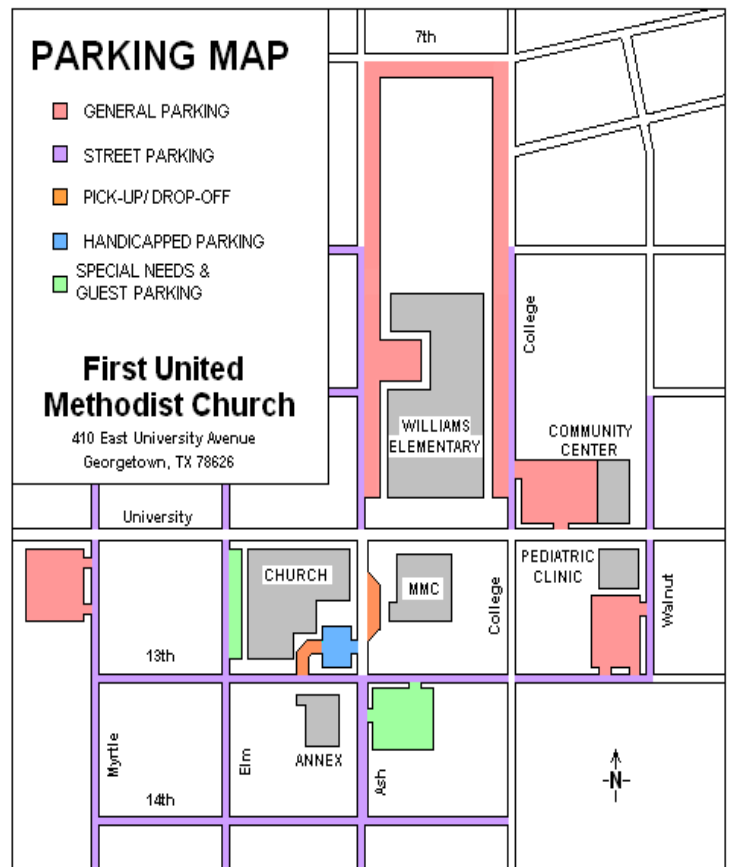


The Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association is now meeting at the First United Methodist Church in Georgetown, Texas, located between S. Elm and S. Ash Streets on East University Ave.

Using State Hwy 29 and I.H.-35 as a reference point (see map above) for those traveling in from north, south or west, go east on University Ave (US Hwy 29), cross Bus. 35 (S Austin Ave) and on to the Church house located on the south side of University Ave. Turn south on Ash St. and proceed one block to the Guest parking (green lot) at Ash & 13th Street (see parking map insert). Those traveling from the east (Elgin, Taylor), Hwy 95 north to Hwy 29 and go west may be utilized. Toll Road 130 north (Exit Hwy 29) is also an option.

Meeting is in the Fellowship Hall in the basement. Enter the Church house through the double doors on the south east side next to the playground area. Turn left and then right to the elevator or down the wide stairs to the basement meeting room.

Good advice is to start early and allow time to find the meeting place for the first time. Jimmie Oakley's cell number is 512/507-3009 for explanation of the map.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Dues \$10.00 per year – single member or family



New Member / Renewing Member

(circle one)

Date: _____

Name: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Cash/Check # _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: () _____ E-mail: _____

(please print)

To save postage cost may we send your Newsletter via e-mail? Yes [] No []

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