

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA AUGUST, 2010 NEWSLETTER

WWW.WCABA.ORG

(for meeting directions, see website)

DATE: Tuesday, August 24, 2010
TIME: 7:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.
PLACE: First United Methodist Church Georgetown (basement)
PROGRAM: Ice Cream Social, Video: Honey Bees and Beekeeping - Keith Delaplane
HOSTS: Dave & Reagan Rozales, Hem Ramachandran, Kurt & Lisa Schroder

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Besides getting to enjoy a great summertime treat—ice cream and cookies—the Ice Cream Social this month gives us an opportunity to meet people we haven't had time/opportunity to get acquainted with previously, plus letting "newbie" beekeepers ask "oldtimers" questions and gives those with a wealth of bee stories time to share them. Whether you signed up to bring goodies or not, we hope you'll come and enjoy this social get together.



Just a Suggestion

Those members who signed up to bring ice cream were Mary Bost, Gary Bible, Michele Chambers, Eacrett Family, Elizabeth Exley, Wayne Zieschang, Anthony Mouse, Sara Reeves, Vanessa Red, Randy Oakley, Ralph Gruner, Youngblood Family, and Stephen Gardipee. Michele Chambers and Janet Stuart offered to bring toppings. Our hosts will furnish the cookies. If you didn't sign up but would like to bring ice cream or your favorite topping, they would be welcome. But you don't have to bring something; you are welcome to come anyway.

The club extracting equipment has been kept very busy this month, sometimes going directly from one user to the next person waiting to use it. Remember—if you want to use the club equipment, contact Mary Bost to set a date. And don't forget to set aside a small jar of your honey for the **Honey Tasting** contest plus a 2-pound jar for **Honey Judging** next month to go to the Texas State Fair. Also, 1-pound jars may be entered in the Honey, Wax, & Photo contest at the Texas Beekeepers Convention in Kerrville in November 11-13; we've had some blue-ribbon winners in that judging.

Honey Tasting Sept.'09 >>>



We welcome four new members to WCABA: George and Pat Deeter, Georgetown; Erwin and Gitta Kuhlmann, Lampasas; Vickie Pack, Granger, and Byron and Jocelyn Whisnant, Georgetown. We trust these new members will find our programs interesting and helpful and our members friendly and willing to share their expertise.

Our thanks go to Kristin Youngblood, Dean Hamilton, and Kay Oakley for donating the door prizes last meeting. The lucky winners were Jim Reeves, John Ridout, Vickie Pack, and Randy Oakley.

An article in the July *Bee Culture* magazine and another one from a non-bee related magazine, the *World Ark*, caught my attention and really makes good sense to me. Both articles were pointing out that much of agriculture nowadays has become “monoculture”—one crop with one type of flowering plants, such as almond orchards or cranberry bogs.

In his article, “Plant Diversity Necessary”, Yoel Grauer states, “Many honey bee colonies suffer from malnutrition, which could be caused by immunodeficiency due to their diet. Many cities contain wider plant diversity in urban parks and gardens than rural areas, many of which contain large swaths of monoculture crops as the result of habitat destruction and the loss of biodiversity.”

Sarah Schmidt, in her article, “Beauty and the Bees”, points to the Omeg family’s cherry orchard where they have planted a 10 foot perimeter of goldenrod, catmint and blanket flowers surrounding their 350 acres of trees. The flowers also run between the rows of trees “and in one section of the orchard, four 30-foot diameter circular patches sport a host of native prairie grasses that produce flowers of their own.”

“The dramatic drop in the world bee population isn’t just about honey. In fact, about one-third of all food crops worldwide depend on insect pollination.,” states Schmidt. “ Everything from almonds to apples to cucumbers to soybeans--\$15 billion worth in the United States alone, according to the latest Department of agriculture estimates—are at risk.” Marla Spivak, entomologist and professor of apiculture at the University of Minnesota, says, “We have just enough bees right now, but we’re near the tipping point....We rely on pollination for so many crops—the impact could be severe.”

James Tew, a professor/beekeeper who writes beekeeping articles for *Bee Culture* has a very informative article, “What Should I Plant for Me and My Bees” in the July issue. He points out that even though he plants flowers that entice bees, he doesn’t have enough space to take care of his bees’ needs, so he recognizes the need to encourage his friends and neighbors to plant more flowers that bloom at varying times. Here in Texas, former First Lady, Ladybird Johnson, promoted the planting of wildflowers along the shoulders of highways, and for some years, bluebonnets especially, proliferated. Now we seem more interested in making the highways look like mowed lawns and this source of wildflowers, further deterred by adverse weather conditions, have lost much of their beautiful landscape of flowers.

“Wildflower seeds are readily available via the web,” states Tew. “Seed varieties for every region of the U.S. are posted and in some circles, wildflowers are all the rage. On my University (Ohio State) campus, patches of grass are being killed and replaced with wildflower plantings. I have working plans to put out Midwest wildflower see varieties in swaths in my main beeyard. My premise is that, (1) I will not have to mow as much, (2) my yard will be beautified, (3) my bees will be (somewhat) assisted, (4) I will advance

my identification abilities of Midwest native wildflowers.” He further admonishes, “If you want to go the wildflower route, log onto the web and search for wildflower seed producers in your area.”

There’s nothing quite as good as homemade ice cream, so in keeping with the “theme” of this month’s meeting, here’s a recipe taken from Joe Parkhill’s cookbook, “Here’s to you, HONEY, A Sugarless Cookbook.”

Honey Ice Cream

2 ¼ C. honey	1 qt. milk (or enough to fill freezer)	Dash of salt
3 eggs, separated	1 T. vanilla extract	

Separate eggs; beat egg whites until stiff but not dry. Beat egg yolks until thick. Add cream, egg yolks and honey to egg whites. Stir in milk, salt and vanilla. Put into freezer and freeze until stiff.

September...NATIONAL HONEY MONTH...Celebrate !!!



Next month, **September**, is “**National Honey Month**”, so why don’t you bring a 2 lb jar of you newly extracted honey to be judged and then sent to be displayed at the Texas State Fair in Dallas, September 24th to October 17th. For a free 2lb honey jar ask Jimmie Oakley at the August meeting. Also, don’t forget the sample jar of your honey for the Tasters Choice contest at the September meeting. There will be first, second, and third place ribbons awarded. Come, participate, and enter the contest; have fun!

For Sale: 4 Frame Nucs with Fall Queens - \$95.00 each – available September, 2010.
Contact: Randy Oakley (512) 981-9215 -or- Beekeepers@LiveHoneyBeeRemoval.com

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: \$ _____

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