

# WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

## WCABA JANUARY, 2011 NEWSLETTER

[www.wcaba.org](http://www.wcaba.org)

(for meeting directions, see website)

DATE: Tuesday, January 25, 2011  
TIME: Exec: 6:30PM; 7:00 PM-Beekeeping 101; 8:00PM-Program  
PLACE: First United Methodist Church Georgetown (basement)  
PROGRAM: Minnesota Hygienic Queens  
HOSTS: Elizabeth Exley, Hem Ramachandran

### PRESIDENT

Gary Bible  
512/548-6194  
[glbible@austin.rr.com](mailto:glbible@austin.rr.com)

1st. V.P.

### MEMBERSHIP

Sherry Youngblood  
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### PROGRAM

Jimmie Oakley  
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With having a little break over the holidays, then getting two good rains and some cold weather, I hope you are looking forward to getting started with your Spring bee activities. Have you checked your hives to see if they are sufficiently strong, or do you need to make some replacements? Do your active colonies have sufficient honey storage, or do you need to be feeding them 1:1 sugar water? Do you plan to start some new bee hives? Do you need to order some new equipment? Check the possibilities below.

Clint Walker, who has been our source for getting packages of bees or nucs for the past several years, has decided to concentrate on building up his own apiaries this year. We appreciate his courtesy in working with us in the past. Our WCABA executive board has decided to go with a company in Louisiana—Avoyelles—from whom some of our members have bought bees previously and were well pleased with their livability as well as their productivity (see details below). You will find an order form in this newsletter to use in placing your bee order. Please hand it and your check to Mary Bost at the January or February meeting or mail it to her .

The following paragraphs are Gary Bible's commentary regarding bee orders as well as information about ordering equipment through WCABA. Notice: you must be a current (2011) member of WCABA to take advantage of these money -saving opportunities.

3rd. V.P.

### NEWSLETTER

Mary Bost  
512/863-3656  
[bostbees@gmail.com](mailto:bostbees@gmail.com)

*"WCABA members: Welcome to the 2011 WCABA bee season! It is upon us. I'd like to give you a heads up on what will be happening within our club the next few months.*

### SECRETARY

Sara Reeves  
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### TREASURER

Kenneth Miller  
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***Bee packages:*** *The Walker Honey Company will not be supplying bees to our club this year so we have secured an agreement with Avoyelles Honey Company for purchase of 3-lb. packages w/queens for \$55! The bees are Minnesota Hygienic Italian. The queens will be marked. Club delivery date (Bost Farm) will be April 16<sup>th</sup>. Avoyelles Honey Company is in Louisiana so we will have our gracious volunteers drive to Louisiana, pick them up and deliver them. The price is great. The order form is in this month's newsletter. The bee package order deadline is February 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will accept last-minute orders at the February 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.*

### HISTORIAN

Elizabeth Exley  
512/863-6798  
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**Queen orders:** For our members needing additional queens to re-queen or make splits, Avoyelles Honey Company will also provide Minnesota Hygienic Italian queens at \$16.00 plus \$1.50 marked. The queen order section is on the package order form. The queen order deadline is February 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will accept last-minute orders at the February 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

**WCABA Group Equipment Order:** Starting with the newsletter delivery, we will start a group order for equipment supplied by Dadant in Paris, Texas. We are doing a group equipment order to save you shipping charges. Instructions on how to order are within this newsletter. The group order deadline is February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Ordered equipment will be delivered the night of March 22<sup>nd</sup> at the club meeting. If you order equipment you will definitely need to attend that night to pick up your equipment. This will also be the night that the Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost scholarship recipients will receive their equipment. (See group order instructions in separate paragraph later in the newsletter. Editor)

**Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost Memorial Scholarships:** The deadline for submitting applications for scholarships is February 10, 2011. (Application forms may be found by going to the WCABA web site and clicking Scholarships. Editor)

Lastly, I am awed and blessed to serve with such a great group of WCABA leaders. Events like the above don't just happen. There is an incredible amount of behind-the-scene planning, coordinating, cooperating and lots of elbow grease that makes this club operate at this proficient level.. So. . .the next time you see the WCABA leaders, thank 'em for pitching in. See you at the January meeting. Gary Bible

**Group Equipment Order Instructions:** Remember, only members who have paid their January – December 2011 dues are entitled to use the group order (if you paid dues March to late summer in 2010, you must renew your membership for 2011). If you are a new beekeeper and have questions about what minimally to order, we will provide a list of equipment and a *FREE* Dadant catalog at the January meeting.

1) Decide what equipment you will order using the Dadant Catalog or the web site for Dadant and Sons Beekeeping Supplies and Candles. 2) Call Dadant at 1-877-632-3268 and talk with Margaret or Terry. Do not order online; you will not be able to tell personnel to place your order in our group order. 3) Tell Margaret or Terry to place your order (under your last name) into the WCABA group order. 4) Pay your bill using check or credit card. 5) Call Gary Bible at 512-548-6194 (leave a message) or send him an email at [glbible@austin.rr.com](mailto:glbible@austin.rr.com) to let him know that you have equipment in the group order.

One of our long-time members, Beth Walker, was honored by TBA by presenting her with the President's Beekeeper of the Year award. Dr. John Thomas, also a WCABA member, made the presentation at the Galveston North American Beekeeping Conference meeting as Beth had been unable to be at the TBA Convention. Beth and her late husband, G.C. Walker, had been members of TBA most of their adult lives, and Beth was always by G. C.'s side, contributing in her own quiet, effective way. **Congratulations Beth!**



Welcome to our newest WCABA members: **Mark Ney**, Georgetown; **Keith Brainard**, Georgetown; **Eric and Stephanie Kennedy**, Thrall, and Marion "Rocky" Richards of Spicewoods. We are pleased to announce that 56 new members joined WCABA in 2010, making a total membership of 177 families. We are a growing, vibrant organization and are pleased that more and more people are becoming interested in befriending this beneficial insect by establishing thriving beehives for them to populate. We trust WCABA will have programs and mentors to assist these new beekeepers in their endeavors.

Fifteen members paid their renewal dues at the November meeting and seven have mailed their dues since then. They are Mary Bost, Dean Hamilton, Wally Red, and David Weinthal from Georgetown; Fred and Myrna Herber and Martin and Inez Herber, Leander; Frank and Barbara Hunt, Hem Ramachandran, Lance and Laura Wilson, Austin; Paul and Cindy Jones and Family, Spicewood; Jimmie and Kay Oakley, Round Rock; Curtis Payne, Moody; Jim and Sara Reeves, Buchanan Dam; Dave and Reagan Rosales and Geizel Wright, Taylor; Kurt and Lisa Schroder, Coupland; Dr. John G. Thomas, Bryan; Richard and Diana Bost, Catoosa, Ok.; Roger and Babs Cheatham, Hutto; Robert and Judith Dickhout, Florence; Rory and Tasha Heisch & Family, Belton; Travis and Maureen Lane, San Angelo; and Brian and Dolores Schaefer, Cisco.

To our members who plan to pay dues in 2011: we trust you will plan to pay your \$10.00 renewal dues ASAP. Not only will that allow you to save money by ordering bees or equipment through the group orders but membership has other benefits, as well. It entitles you to use the club extracting equipment, to receive the club's monthly newsletter, and to save about 25% when you order one of the beekeeping magazines (see membership table for form). To those members who joined later in the year: our memberships are from January through November. If you paid dues in May or June, or if you paid only \$5.00 in the fall, you still need to start the new year by paying the membership dues in January or February.

*Bee Culture* magazine always has many good down-to-earth articles that make enjoyable and enlightening reading for a beekeeper. One that has some good explanations regarding the various stages of growth and work of the honey bee is "Workers: Life in the Hive" by Larry Connor in the January 2011 issue. I'll try to whet your desire to read it (in case you haven't done so) by highlighting a few comments.

The "metamorphic honey bee worker development [is] three days as an egg, six days as a larva and 12 days in the sealed cell. Remember 3+6+12 equals 21 days".

**The egg**--The queen deposits a worker egg in the cell after first inserting her head into that cell. The egg stage functions as the time period for the union of the sperm and egg with the resulting embryo feeding on the yolk in the egg.

**The larva**—This is the period of continuous feeding and growth of the bee. Nurse bees feed the larva many times per hour and provide a surplus of royal jelly at the bottom of the cell for the first 48-50 hours. This is the same food that is fed to a queen bee throughout her lifetime but after the initial feeding, the larva's diet changes to a more complex diet that inhibits the formation of queen characteristics.

**The pupa**—The larva now develops the characteristics of the form of a bee without the wings, then the two compound eyes, and then the formation of adult bee organs essential to the adult bee's many roles in the hive.

**The nurse bee**—These young bees quickly assume their duties: cell cleansing, brood feeding, royal jelly production, brood regulators, and queen attendants (feeding and care of the queen).

**House bees** (in the hive but outside the brood area)—As bees mature, they move away from the brood area, including areas where pollen and nectar are being processed. As forager bees enter the comb area and deposit their pollen or nectar in cells, the house bees add additional stomach contents and push the pollen into cells using their heads, thereby increasing the efficiency of storage by two and a half times. The house bees also take the nectar, convert it into honey, and when the flow is heavy, many bees are required to ripen the nectar into honey. House bees also secrete the wax from the eight wax glands on the underside of their abdomens and then manipulate the wax scales into wax comb. Another duty is guard duty, monitoring the hive for invaders such as wax moths, mites and beetles. They also do general house cleaning, queen and drone cell construction, "undertaking" duties, and much more.

The next step in the bee hierarchy is the forager bees, guard duty bees to repel robber bees or other potential predators, and scout bees when swarming becomes necessary. The author does not deal with this phase of the beekeeping life, however, although this is a very important stage in the bee's life as far as the beekeeper is concerned.

### **P-Nutty Warm-up**

This issue of Bee Culture (January 2011) has two pages of recipes you might like to check out.

½ cup honey                      1/3 cup smooth peanut butter                      4 cups milk                      nutmeg

In a saucepan, combine honey and peanut butter. Gradually stir in milk. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until mixture is hot. Pour into mugs and sprinkle with nutmeg, if desired.                      Makes five cups.

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