

# WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

## WCABA March, 2011 NEWSLETTER

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

(for meeting directions, see website)

DATE: Tuesday, March 22, 2011  
TIME: 7:00 PM-Beekeeping 101; 7:45PM-Program  
PLACE: First United Methodist Church Georgetown (basement)  
PROGRAM: Present Scholarship Awards, Introduce 2011 Scholarship Winners  
HOSTS: Chris Smith and Daniel Simon

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### NEWSLETTER

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What a meeting we had last month! We had a full house with many members needing to stand, much activity with new members joining and others renewing their membership, a very attentive audience as they listened to Chris Doggett's

power point presentation of basic beekeeping tenets, and an understanding and very cooperative group as they listened to Gary Bible and Jimmie Oakley explain the problems of overbooking on package bee orders. Although we were disappointed that all our orders could not be filled, everyone graciously accepted the necessary reduction in multiple orders of packages that had been placed with WCABA. Thank you for understanding.

***Kenneth Miller, treasurer, will be prepared to issue refund checks at the meeting Tuesday evening for the amounts paid for packages of bees you will not be receiving.***

There will be much activity at the meeting this Tuesday evening,. Gary Bible will be prepared to deliver any equipment ordered through the club order that was not picked up at the Bost farm on Saturday, March 19. As per the email announcement on March 7, the equipment may be picked up at the Bost farm 1:00-6:00 on Saturday or you can pick it up at the church parking lot prior to the meeting (6:00-7:00) Tuesday evening...come early!



Beekeeping 101 this month will cover construction of the hive and frames, installation of a bee package into the hive, how and when to visit the hive and what to look for during the inspection, time permitting.

The highlight of our meeting this time will be the awarding of Certificates of Achievement and Ownership to our **2010** scholarship youths. Texas Honey Queen **Kaylynn Mansker** will be on hand for the award presentations. Certificates will go to: **Angela Cox** of Round Rock, **Solomon Schroder** from Coupland, **Bailey Franklin** of Georgetown, **Josiah Youngblood** from Liberty Hill, and (Honey Queen) **Rebekah Jones** from Spicewood, Texas. Our congratulations to these fine young beekeepers! Then we will get to meet our **2011** Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost Memorial Scholarship winners: **Laura Lee Blackburn** of Lakeway, **Natalie Eve Cruz** of Austin, **Lesli Tucker** from Belton, **Isaiah Perusek** of Coppessa Cove, **Joseph Nemac** of Taylor, and **Abishai Mark Gundy** from Manor. They will be presented with their woodware and equipment at the meeting. We trust that some of our experienced beekeepers as well as the mentors and “newbee” members will want to assist these young people in assembling their hives. **BYOH**: please bring your own hammer (This will be a good time get the refund checks from Kenneth Miller.)



Josiah Youngblood gets help from Benjamin & Daniel Oakley

As the time approaches to pick up your queens and package bees at the Bost Farm on April 16<sup>th</sup>, please remember to bring your “Pickup Voucher” with you to claim your order and to assure you get the exact number you are entitled to. Help us avoid mistakes and confusion on that very busy day.

WCABA has received a large number of new members this year. Besides the 3 who joined at the end of 2010, twenty-one joined in January and at the last meeting, eleven new members joined us plus two have paid their memberships since the meeting. Our new members are Zane Baird, Chris and Jamie Griffin, Wayne Grimes, Abishai Mark Gundy, Vickie Honeycutt and Family, Cameron Larson, Serhiy Makhivshchuk, Don Mariarty, David Nguyen, Margi and Don Tenney, Belinda Willis, David Harel and Kris Hostikka, and Jim Colbert. Welcome to all these new beekeepers. We trust you will find us friendly, helpful, and our programs of much benefit as you join in our activities. We are here to assist and teach as you become involved in this fascinating world of bees and beekeeping.

Are you interested in retrieving swarms to start a new hive? If so, we will pass around a pad for you to sign your name, phone number(s), and the area you will serve. If you’ve never done this before, perhaps you’d like to team up with someone near you who would “show you the ropes” your first time. When someone calls me about a swarm, I usually give the caller 2 or 3 names/numbers so he or she can give you information about where the bees are located and other relevant information.

Our members seem to enjoy getting a snack between the two sessions and our refreshment coordinators, John and Susan Philpott, would like for our members to finish signing the Host List for the rest of this year. Talk with one of them if you don’t know what is involved. And all of us need to remember to drop some money in the “Kitty” to pay for coffee and juice as well as necessary paper goods.

Things we should be doing this month:

- 1. Assemble and paint any new equipment. Repair and paint any old hives as needed. Prepare a catch box if you want to take swarms.
- 2. Feed established hives to stimulate brood rearing with 1:1 sugar water. This ratio resembles nectar. Also, feed pollen supplement as needed.
- 3. Check to see where the queen is located; if she has moved up out of the bottom box, move her box down next to the screened bottom board. Place a queen excluder above her brood box.
- 4. Choose the location for your hives. Mow or cut down weeds/grass that might block bee flight.
- 5. Have a heavy rock or brick handy to put atop your hive; winds sometimes get strong in Spring.
- 6. Have supers ready to add to your hive as soon as needed to prevent crowding and swarming.
- 7. When choosing the location for your hive(s) there are several things you need to consider: do you have neighbors nearby who may be overly concerned about stinging insects? If so, can your hives be located near a wood panel fence or dense, tall hedge that will cause bees to fly up over it? Is it away from a possible flooding source, such as a nearby creek? Is there a nearby water source (other than a neighbor's swimming pool) where your bees can drink water as needed? Is the hive opening facing an east or southeast direction? Location, location, location. It's important.

### **Coffee Honey Cookies** (“The Honey Cookbook” by Juliette Elkton)

½ C butter	¼ C sugar	¾ C honey	1 egg beaten with ¼ tsp. salt
2 C cake flour	1 ½ tsp. baking powder	¼ tsp. baking soda	¾ tsp. instant coffee
grated rind of 1 orange	1 tsp. vanilla	1 C broken nutmeats	

Cream butter and sugar. Add honey and mix. Add egg and salt. Sift together flour, baking powder, baking soda, and instant coffee. Add to first mixture, blending quickly but thoroughly. Fold in grated rind of orange., vanilla, and nuts. Bake at 350 degrees for 12 to 15 minutes until edges are light golden brown. Cool on cake racks before storing. Yield: about 3 dozen.



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**Randy Oakley  
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