

# WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

## WCABA APRIL, 2011 NEWSLETTER

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

(for meeting directions, see website)

**Remember to bring back your empty package bee cage to the meeting to be recycled; GO GREEN!**

### **PRESIDENT**

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### **NEWSLETTER**

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### **HISTORIAN**

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DATE: Tuesday, April 26, 2011  
TIME: 7:00 PM-Beekeeping 101; 8:00PM-Program  
PLACE: First United Methodist Church Georgetown (basement)  
PROGRAM: What Went Right? What Went Wrong? Audience Q&A  
HOSTS: Paul & Cindy Jones, Jim & Sara Reeves, Joseph Nemec

How blessed we were to have such a beautiful day with moderate temperatures and gentle breezes for our bee distribution and orientation session last Saturday, with people coming throughout the day, allowing for visitation and questions as needed. And it was great seeing how well all the scholarship recipients with their parents or mentors responded to Jimmie Oakley's instructions. We trust the orientation session was helpful to all the many new beekeepers who observed the procedure as well.



There were many visitors present to watch the orientation at the Bost Farm

We need to thank a number of individuals who made all this happen, beginning with Gary Bible, Raul Vergara, and Chris Doggett going with two trailers to Paris, TX in March to pick up equipment ordered through WCABA, saving us a bundle on shipping, then Gary and Raul being willing to drive to Louisiana to bring back the packages of bees and queen bees last Friday. After that 16½ hour trip, arriving at the Bost Farm in the wee hours of the morning, they were grateful to Chris Doggett for meeting them and helping unload all those bees. We also appreciate the other members who helped with the distribution of the packages: Shirley Doggett, Caleb Oakley, Kenneth Miller, Sherry Youngblood and Josiah & Jenni . It's dedicated people like this that makes a club strong.



Gary and Raul were all smiles at the start of their trip

We think we have a very enthusiastic group of scholarship recipients this year: three girls and three boys. They are Isaiah Perusek, Copperas Cove; Joseph Nemec, Taylor;

Lesli Tucker, Belton; Natalie Cruz, Creedmore; Abishai Mark Gundy, Manor; and Laura Lee Blackburn, Lakeway (Lilly Blackburn pictured here). We were sorry to learn that Laura Lee was in the hospital but her sisters, Lilly and Lindsey, and Dad Mark stood in for her, taking notes and pictures so she will know what to do. Get well and strong soon, Laura Lee, so you can take care of your “girls”.



With so many of our members involved with installing packages lately (a 110 packages to be precise) there is a lot of question and concern about what we did right and what we did wrong. Therefore there will be considerable time following the business meeting for the “oldtimers” and the “newbees” to share what they know (answers) and what they don’t know (questions). There was a suggestion that since we didn’t get marked queens in the packages as was requested, maybe there should be a mini clinic on marking honey bee queens. If you have an area of concern that needs to be addressed why not contact Jimmie Oakley, WCABA Program Chair, @ 512/507-3009 to see if he can make it part of the evening’s discussion. Since Chris Doggett will be covering the basis again in Beekeeping 101, you don’t want to be late for that seven o’clock session either.

We are pleased that we continue getting new members in WCABA. At our March meeting the following members joined: David and Laurie Ann Abraham, Austin; Jim Archuleta, Elgin; Natalie Cruz and Family, Austin; Pamela Murray, Pflugerville; Lesli Tucker and Family; and Gary Wende and Ethan Bracamonte, Kyle. Angela Lee of Austin sent in her membership by mail recently. Welcome to all our new members. We trust you will find our programs interesting and informative and our members friendly and helpful.

A reminder: if you would like to be called if there is a swarm reported in your area and would be willing to remove it, please sign my swarm list at the meeting. I’ll need your phone number and areas you will serve.

If you want to use the club’s extracting equipment that is stored at the Bost farm, please contact Mary at 512.863.3656 or see her at the meeting. Have an alternate date in mind in case it’s already spoken for. You’ll have 3 days to use the extractor and return it to the Bost Farm in clean condition for others to use.

Let’s complete the 2011 Host sheet. Please see John or Susan Philpott, our refreshment coordinator team, and choose the date you can bring a plate of snacks. And everyone should remember to drop a quarter or two in the “Kitty” to fund the beverages and paper wear they make available at each meeting.

With over 75 members ordering packages of bees, whether you ordered one or more, the first step was to assemble the hive body with the necessary parts. Next, you picked up the bees you had ordered and took them to be hived in their new home. Where are you going to set the hive(s)? Is it in a location where the bees can access natural water sources, or will you need to provide water for them? Is the location away from a low wet spot that might let water drain into the hive? Is there a hedge or wood fence that will cause them to fly up and away from your neighbor’s yard? Is it out of a flood plain, away from flooding in case of heavy downpours of rain as we had last September? Is it in a sunny area that will help in controlling varroa mites and small hive beetles? Does a nearby neighbor have a swimming pool which might lead to a

contentious relationship? Can it be fenced off from roaming livestock? Luckily, we don't have bears in this area to be concerned about but cows sometimes rub up against the hive, knocking it askew.

In his book, *First Lessons in Beekeeping*, Keith Delaplane says, "There are endless advantages to an apiary site easily accessible by truck. Weed problems can be preempted if you place your hives on a gravel surface, concrete, or a large square of carpet. Some beekeepers make permanent all-weather stands of concrete blocks and rails in order to raise hives to a comfortable height and reduce back-bending".

One caution from a long-time beekeeper: if at first you have a problem, don't be discouraged. Robert and I started our first hive without any instructions or anyone to talk with us about beekeeping. We lost our first hive. But we persevered and eventually built up to 150 hives (after we retired from our salaried jobs). Beekeeping is fascinating, challenging, worthwhile, and its reward is wonderful-tasting honey. It's not for the faint-hearted or a quitter; it's for someone who loves a challenge, wants to do his/her part in making this a better world in which to live, and is willing to learn all he/she can about this fascinating, hard-working little insect, the honey bee.

The following recipe is taken from the honey cookbook published by WCABA in 1993. It was the Texas Honey Queen Commemorative Edition and was dedicated to the 1993 Texas Honey Queen, Christy Michelle Oakley (Chartier).

### HONEY MUSTARD COLESLAW

Mix together:      ¾ cup mayonnaise                              1 Tbsp. honey                              2 tsp. Dijon mustard

Stir in:      5 cups shredded cabbage                              1 cup shredded carrots

Chill and serve.      Yield: 6 servings                              (Faye Sansom)

## WCABA Scholarship Recipient Orientation 2011



The Smoker

The Shake

The Hive

## WCABA Bees & Queen Distribution 2011



Chris Doggett cutting packages apart



Caleb Oakley tracking deliveries



Packages from Avoyelles in Louisiana

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*Bee Trees*  
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**Randy Oakley**  
**Caleb Oakley**

**"Beekeepers Caring for Bees"**

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