

# WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

## WCABA MAY, 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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DATE: Tuesday, May 24, 2011  
TIME: 7:00 PM-Beekeeping 101; 7:45PM-Program  
PLACE: First United Methodist Church Georgetown (basement)  
PROGRAM: WCABA Honey Queen presentations & activities (powerpoint)  
HOSTS: Gary & Linda Bible, Todd Holland, Fred & Myrna Herber

**Remember: WCABA meets on 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday—May has 5 Tuesdays.**

Many new bee colonies were started a month ago. How are yours doing by this time? We hope all the new hives are prospering and will soon need a super in order to move into a larger space and allow the queen to have more space in the brood chamber to store more brood. Of course, new foundation will require continued feeding in order for the bees to form the cells, so keep a close watch on their progress and feed regularly.

Jimmie Oakley has moved the three new “orientation demonstration” hives to the Georgetown Heritage Community Garden (where Christophe Vain had previously had his hives). He has added a super to each hive and continues to feed them sugar syrup and pollen supplement. He says they are doing well. With this continued drought, it is good having additional nectar/pollen sources. I hope planting flowers and vegetables for your bees is part of your beekeeping program. Also, it won't hurt to encourage your neighbors to do the same.

Rebekah Jones, WCABA Honey Queen, has had such a busy winter and spring talking about bees she has asked to have some time to share with the club a chronicle of her activities(PowerPoint), and give us some insight into why her massage has been so well received, and what she does in her presentation that proves so successful. Any one of us may be called on at sometime by friends or relatives to give a presentation on our strange and fascinating hobby. Does your passion for what you do show through when you talk about your little honey making winged friends?

With Rebekah, it does...come and see.



Rebekah Jones, WCABA Honey Queen

Chris Doggett's Beekeeping 101 presentation Tuesday night will cover (1) what to expect from your package of bees six weeks after installation, (2) summer management, and (3) questions and answers.

Do your bees have a good source of water? There's not much natural water from dew or rain during this drought, so bees will seek out hummingbird feeders, swimming pools, or fountains (I just received a call from a lady who said bees were all over her water fountain). I keep out a pan of water with rocks in it (to keep them from drowning). Ed Wolfe had let an outdoor faucet drip on a square of shag rug to water his bees. Use your ingenuity but be sure to keep fresh water available for your bees.

Three new members joined WCABA at our last meeting. Please welcome Elizabeth Joe, Round Rock; Eric and Jenee Lamberton, Leander; and George and Cassandra Scott, Temple. We trust they will find our programs informative and our members friendly and helpful.

Our current membership roster lists 156 current members of WCABA. In our organization, a member is a single person, a couple or a family. There are also 46 members who paid their membership dues in 2010 but have not renewed membership in 2011, only one of whom notified me that they were moving out of the country and would not be renewing. If you were one of the 46, please notify me at [bostbees@gmail.com](mailto:bostbees@gmail.com) or Sherry Youngblood at [jacksherry@inhishands.com](mailto:jacksherry@inhishands.com), explaining why you no longer wish to belong to WCABA or, better yet, send in or bring your dues to the next meeting.

Door prizes at the last meeting were donated by Reagan Rozales, Jenni Youngblood, Chris Doggett, Jennifer Martin, Dean Hamilton, and Sara Reeves. Lucky winners were Wade Roquemore, Sherry Youngblood, Cindy Jones, McCartney Taylor, Harold Kind, Jennifer Martin, Nancy Thomas, Pietro Caporusso, Eric Lamberton, Donna Strebe, and Cassie Stewart.

Due to an unavoidable conflict, our president, Gary Bible, was unable to be at our last meeting, but Josiah Youngblood (2010 EW-RB scholarship recipient) did a masterful job of conducting the business meeting. Thank you, Josiah.

Thank you to all who have signed up to be a host for the snack time refreshments. We still need an additional host for September and two more hosts for October and November. Please consider helping; talk with John or Susan Philpott, our refreshment coordinators, if you would like to know more about this and are willing to be a host for one of these months.

Have you purchased your super(s) for your new hive? As your bees fill most of the frames with brood, pollen and some honey, they will need a place to start storing nectar for ripening into honey. That means having a super for them to build out the cells with wax to get ready to receive the nectar. In case of a very good honey flow, have another super ready when/if needed.

In *First Lessons in Beekeeping* [page 73], author Keith Delaplane says, "There are two principles that govern . . . the addition of supers for a honey crop: (1) the odor of empty comb stimulates honey foraging and (2) decreasing hive density diminishes hoarding efficiency". In other words, he's saying the beekeeper should be liberal with supers early in the season in order to get a good honey crop as well as to prevent swarming and be frugal with supers late in the season so the bees will be forced to fill in the frames with honey.

With the current drought in this part of Texas, hives started this Spring probably won't need more than one super. If you see that your bees are doing a bang-up good job of bringing in nectar and you have only one super, you may want to try to borrow the club extracting equipment, spin out the frames that are fully capped, and return the super for the bees to continue working on. Then next year plan to have additional supers and hope for a wet spring with a good honey flow.

One of my honey customers, Judy Bowe, uses honey instead of sugar in her granddaughter's food due to Macy's having Kron's disease and doctors told her to never use sugar in her diet. I asked her to share some of her recipes with me, and since green beans are now coming into Farmers Markets, here is a delicious sounding recipe.

### **Honey Mustard Green Bean Bundles**

2 cans (14 ½ oz. each) whole green beans, drained or use fresh green beans, cooked and drained

6 slices bacon, cut in half    ¼ cup honey    2 Tbsp. melted butter    1 Tbsp. prepared mustard

Separate the green beans into 12 bundles. Wrap each bundle with a half slice of bacon and secure with a toothpick. Place green bean bundles in a 13x9x2 baking dish. Mix the honey, butter and mustard together and spoon 1 teaspoon over each bundle. Bake for about 25-30 minutes at 350 degrees. Remove toothpicks and serve hot.

### Are We Having Fun Yet ?



Inspecting a hive with a new scholarship recipient (Laura Lee Blackman) has its happy moments, JO

Another Scholarship Recipient Success Story



Lisli Tucker's second hive inspection captured in pictures by her mom, Jan Tucker. Great job!

*Visit Our New Website!*

# Oakley Family Apiaries

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

*"Beekeepers Caring for Bees"*

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