

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA OCTOBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

www.wcaba.org

(for meeting directions, see website)

DATE: Tuesday, October 25, 2011
TIME: 7:00 PM-Beekeeping 101; 8:00 PM-Program
PLACE: First United Methodist Church Georgetown (basement)
PROGRAM: Beginner: Top Bar Hive Beekeeping; Pgm: WesleyFest-Who & How
HOSTS: Reagan & Dave Rozales, Mary Bost, and George Scott

PRESIDENT

Gary Bible
512/548-6194
glbible@austin.rr.com

1st. V.P.

MEMBERSHIP

Sherry Youngblood
512/963-3954
jacksherry@inhishands.com

2nd. V.P.

PROGRAM

Jimmie Oakley
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3rd. V.P.

NEWSLETTER

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SECRETARY

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TREASURER

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HISTORIAN

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Just in case you missed the Bee Order Info notice sent out last week, it is repeated below.

****ATTENTION****

WCABA has ordered 200 3-pound packages of bees, the maximum they will accept this year, from Avoyelles Honey Company in Moreauville, Louisiana. All packages will arrive with a marked queen. The cost of each package is \$64.00 which includes a small surcharge to offset gas expenses to pick up the packages in Louisiana. (Any excess in gas surcharge will be donated to the club).

A down payment of 25% (\$16.00 per pkg.) is required when you order; the remainder is due by our February meeting.

Orders will be accepted starting October 15 until November 22nd (November club meeting night). Send your order form with check made payable to WCABA to:
Mary Bost 4355 CR 110 Georgetown, TX 78626

Note: **To be eligible to order bees through our club, you must be a 2012 member of WCABA. Please enclose with your order a separate check for \$10.00 to pay your dues. This check may be postdated to March 1, 2012 if you prefer. New members joining in October or November will be considered 2012 members.**

Queen ordering will also begin and end within the same period. Order either marked or unmarked queens. The queen prices this year are \$15.00 for an unmarked queen and \$16.50 for a marked queen. Full payment for queens is required at time of order. Mail checks to Mary Bost, made payable to WCABA, to the address above.

A form for ordering both package bees and queens is attached as well as a membership application form.



Package Bees from Avoyelles Honey Co in Louisiana

Gary Bible says, "A thing to consider in ordering packages: the long-range weather forecast for Texas indicates 9 of the next 12 months will be below normal in precipitation. This means, be prepared to feed your bees and be prepared for little honey production. Of course, all predictions may be wrong or partially correct."

With having a limit on how many packages of bees WCABA will be allowed to order, it may be necessary to limit the number any one beekeeper may order. We want to ensure that all members who desire to order may do so. If more orders than expected are made, it will be necessary to allocate a limited number for any one person; however, if there are still packages unspoken for by the end of the November meeting, we will try to make those available to anyone wanting them. If however, John Doe orders 5 packages but it's necessary to reduce the maximum number to no more than 3 packages per person, the extra \$32.00 down payment would then be applied to the remaining amount due. Yes, this is earlier than we have ever ordered before but we needed to be sure we could make this club order. The bees may be picked up at the Bost Farm on Saturday, April 14, 2012.

Chris Doggett, the Beekeeping 101 guru for WCABA, has arranged for Taylor McCartney to present a program next Tuesday on "Top Bar Hive Beekeeping," the how and why of simple beekeeping. He says he will put in "lots of pictures, embedded video and some shots of Africa". Sounds interesting.

With WesleyFest (in Georgetown) coming up the first weekend in November, and the Texas Beekeepers State Convention the same weekend (in Corpus Christi), our resources as a club will be divided. To insure that things go well on the home front, Jimmie Oakley will cover the needs and requirements of the annual scholarship fundraiser staged at the WesleyFest, the who and the how of getting it done, receive donations of honey and money, and take volunteers for the signup sheet to work the event. Donate if you can, work if you can, support our scholarship program to insure it will be funded for 2012. It's up to you!

At the last meeting we all enjoyed our annual National Honey Month honey judging and honey tasting; what fun! Thanks to you all for making the Honey Judging event at the September meeting a success.

First, thanks to our judges, Jan Tucker of Belton, Dr. Mike Slaughter of Round Rock & Kay Oakley of Round Rock for giving of their time (and talent) to judge the honey this year. And next to the beekeepers who submitted entries, Mary Bost of Georgetown, Chris Doggett of Thrall, Jimmie Oakley of Round Rock, Karen Eacrett of Copperas Cove, and John Duke of Liberty Hill. All of the honeys were declared to be Blue Ribbon Quality when judged against the numeric standard.

Thank you to all who entered the Tasters Choice contest.

There were many more entries than expected even with the dry year, and the variety was great: 3 light, 4 light amber, 4 amber, 1 dark amber, & 1 dark sample.

The taste was all over the map from sweet, to mild, to strong, to "what was that?"

The top three vote getters got almost half of all the votes, so it was a pretty clear choice for the "tasters". Thanks again to the 12 individuals that submitted the sample and to all the tasters who made the choice. Another great event.

And now the bragging rights in WCABA for 2011 go to:

1st **John (& Susan) Philpott** of Georgetown

2nd **Dr. Mike Slaughter** of Round Rock

3rd **Tommy Rutherford** (and family) of Marble Falls

CONGRATULATIONS !!!



Blue Ribbon Winners: John Duke (rec.Rebekah Jones), Karen Eacrett, Jimmie Oakley, Chris Doggett, and Mary Bost.



Taster's Choice Winners
Susan & John Philpott, Mike Slaughter and Rebekah Jones
for the Rutherford family.

Chris Doggett has offered the following names of members who have agreed to fulfill the respective offices or responsibilities for WCABA this coming year. Nominations may also be made from the floor (if permission from the nominee has been obtained). Gary Bible will present them to the club at the October meeting and they will be voted on in November.

President	Stephen Gardipee
1 st VP (Membership)	Sherry Youngblood
2 nd VP (Programs)	Jimmie Oakley
3 rd VP (Newsletter)	Mary Bost
Secretary	Reagan Rozales
Treasurer	Kenneth Miller
Historian	Shirley Doggett

Others who play a vital role in making the club better are appointed, not elected. They are:

Librarian	Susan Philpott
Webmaster	Hem Ramachandran
Beekeeping 101	Chris Doggett
Refreshments	(see paragraph below)**

If you feel inclined to be more active in WCABA, are willing to be present at all (or nearly all) meetings, and would like to be responsible for the duties of any of the above offices/responsibilities, please contact Chris Doggett ASAP at 512.898.5500 or ckdoggett@mindspring.com.

***We are asking that our membership step up and help with the snacks we all enjoy during the break between Beekeeping 101 and the Program. Susan and John Philpott fulfilled the coordinator spot this past year but asked to be relieved as they were missing all the programs. We would like to ask that one (or two) members be responsible on a rotating cycle to pick up the plastic tub of supplies at one meeting, bring it to the next meeting and be responsible for making the coffee and cold drink and also set out the snacks the other 2 hosts bring, then pass the supplies on to the next month's #1 host. If you are willing to help our club this way, please talk with Susan and John so they can outline what you will be expected to do. They will have sheets to pass around at the next 2 meetings so you can sign up for the month(s) you can help. We also suggest that the other 2 hosts who sign up for a specific month step in and help serve during the snack time.*

Welcome to our new members who joined WCABA at our last meeting. They are Tracy and Parker Shaw of Georgetown, and Rich and Maureen Basinger, of Leander. We trust they will find our programs informative and helpful and our members friendly.

Shirley Doggett reports that door prizes were donated last meeting by Chris Doggett, Gary Wende, Cindy Jones, and Zane Baird. Lucky winners were Cindy Jones, Karen Eacrett, Geoffrey Scott, and Zach Zezulka. Shirley also reports that 68 people signed the registration sheet last month but she was sure there were more people attending than that. Please, Folks, sign your name as you come in. We need to know who is there and who isn't.

We are sorry to report that Jeff Callin will not be able to attend our meetings for the next year: he is being deployed to Afghanistan. He says his daughters will be tending to his bees while he is gone. Perhaps some of you in the Killeen area will contact them and offer your help if needed. I shall continue sending the newsletter to Jeff as he requested. Please remember Jeff and his family in your prayers.

There is a very timely article in the October 2011 *American Bee Journal* entitled "Drought Relief: Helping your Bees Survive." It is written by T'Lee Sollenger, a beekeeper who lives in North Central Texas. Here are a few highlights but if you get a chance, it would be helpful to read the entire article.

“No rain, no pollen,” says Ms. Sollenger. If the natural fall pollen plants fail to produce their abundant nectar and pollen needed for early brood rearing, the colony’s ability to build up properly for the surplus honey flow in the spring is uncertain. Without supplementation, the bees will be unable to endure the harshness of winter.

How to survive a drought? The author suggests’

- 1.) Offer sugar syrup.
- 2.) Offer pollen substitute (she recommends the dry powder as Small Hive Beetles like the pollen patties.)
- 3.) Ventilation. Screened bottom boards work well here and even in winter they assist with condensation removal.
- 4.) Robbing. Remember that ALL insects and animals have been adversely affected by the drought so add an entrance reducer firmly attached to the bottom board.
- 5.) Schedule. This separates the beekeeper from the bee haver: watch your bees, feed as needed; don’t overwhelm but don’t let your bees starve. Establish a regular time to check on your bees to ascertain what they need.

As the weather begins to cool (Thank goodness!) , some tempting homemade bread sounds enticing. Here is a recipe from the 1993 WCABA Texas Honey Queen Commemorative Edition. Christy Oakley was the 1993 Texas Honey Queen and this is her recipe.

CINNAMON APPLE BREAD

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| ½ C shortening | 2 C sifted flour |
| 1 C honey | 2 tsp. baking powder |
| 2 eggs | 1 tsp. cinnamon |
| 1 C grated apple | ¼ tsp. nutmeg |
| 2 Tbsp. lemon juice | ¼ tsp. soda |
| | 1 tsp. salt |

Cream shortening and honey. Add eggs, one at a time, beating until smooth. Add grated apple and lemon juice. Sift dry ingredients together and add to batter, stirring only until flour is well moistened. Pour into well-greased and floured bread pan. Let stand 20 minutes. Bake at 350 degrees F for 50 to 60 minutes. Cool thoroughly before slicing. Yield: 1 loaf.

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: \$ _____

Cash/Check# _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: () _____ E-mail: _____

(please print)

To save postage cost may we send your Newsletter via e-mail? Yes [] No []

WCABA MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: Tuesday, September 27, 2011

Honey Tasting - Honey Judging/National Honey Month

1) Beekeeping 101 Class - Chris Doggett

"Fall Management"

Showed a movie on "The Year of the Life of Honeybees - Learning How To Prepare Hives for Winter".

Question and Answer session.

2) Business Meeting - Gary Bible and Jimmie Oakley

A: Treasurer's Report - \$2919.07 for balance

B: Meeting Attendance - 70

C: Introduce Guests - 3

D: Equipment Need/Sales -

- Used equipment sale - no report
- New equipment for sale - see Liz Exley

E: Date for Next Meeting - Tuesday, October 25, 2011

F: Door Prizes - 4 door prizes awarded to attendees.

G: Other Business -

- At this time of year new club members can join WCABA for \$5.00 and ALL members renew their membership in January for the original price of \$10.00.
- Wesley Fest is on November 5th and 6th of 2011, please donate honey.
- Send Liz Exley or Gary Bible an email to become members of WCABA Yahoo Group.
- WCABA will be group-ordering packages of honeybees for 2012 no sooner or later than November 2011 because of the drought. We will also take the payment at that time.
- By the month of November 2011 ALL WCABA members need to decide if they are ordering honeybees and how many packages they want.
- Packages will cost \$64.00(including surcharge) this year; going up in price from \$52.00 last year.
- WCABA can order up to 200 packages of bees this year for 2012. Last year we ordered 104 packages.
- We will receive the delivery of packages by the latest of April 14, 2012.

H: Miscellaneous -

- Please make a donation for snacks; \$130.00 has been donated already.
- Pollen supplement is available for sale.
- Thanks to Chris Doggett we have a very firm 2012 slate of officers for WCABA. They might be posted in the newsletter or available at the next meeting. You will have 1 month to think about it and then they will be voted on at the November meeting.
- Jimmie Oakley has registration forms available for the Texas Beekeepers Convention, which will tell you how much it will cost. The rooms are \$89.00.

3) WCABA Honey Queen Announcement - Rebekah Jones

- Talked about Honey Tasting and her recent events.
- Announces she will be competing for the Texas Honey Queen at the Texas Beekeeping Convention.
- Rebekah encourages all beekeepers to attend the convention to learn more about honeybees and meet other beekeepers.
- Good luck to our Honey Queen in the Texas Honey Queen competition!

4) Honey Judging/Honey Tasting - Mary Bost and Jimmie Oakley

- WCABA is donating \$100.00 to the honey booth at the Texas State Fair.
- Honey Judges - Mike Slaughter, Jan Tucker, and Kay Oakley. Thanks to our judges!
- All entries were Blur Ribbon winners - Mary Bost score of 97; Jimmie Oakley score of 96; Chris Doggett score of 95; Karen Eacrett score of 93; and John Duke score of 92. Congratulations!
- This year we had 13 samples for our Honey Tasting Contest; last year we had 23.
- Top 3 winners of Honey Tasting Contest - 1st place John & Susan Philpott; 2nd place Mike Slaughter; 3rd place Tommy Rutherford. Congratulations!

5) Meeting Adjourned:

Gary Bible - President, Reagan Rozales - Secretary

W.C.A.B.A Club Package & Queen Order Form - 2012

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ ST _____

Phone _____ e-mail: _____

please print

I want to order:

No. _____ **3 # Package** w/ marked MN. Hygienic Italian queen at \$64.00/ Package.
25% down books package order, balance before February 28, 2012

No. _____ **Honey Bee Queen** at \$15.00 for MN. Hygienic Italians
\$1.50 additional for marking, advisable to do so.
Full payment due for queens when placing order.

How will you pay? CASH or Check # _____
Check Preferred

TOTAL \$ AMT
OF ORDER

Mail remittance to: **WCABA Order, 4355 C. R. 110, Georgetown, TX 78626**

*Package & Queen order **deadline** is the November 22nd WCABA meeting.*

Special Instructions:



Visit Our New Website!

Oakley Family Apiaries

Live
Honeybee Removal & Relocation

www.LiveHoneyBeeRemoval.com
- Call for Answers and Estimates -
(512) 981-9216

Swarms
Bees in Structures
Beekeepers@LiveHoneyBeeRemoval.com

Bee Trees
Pure Raw Honey

Randy Oakley
Caleb Oakley

"Beekeepers Caring for Bees"

Williamson Co. Area
Beekeepers Association
4355 County Road 110
Georgetown, Texas 78626