

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA DECEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

www.wcaba.org

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR Y'ALL

PRESIDENT

Stephen Gardipee
254/939-7085

sgardipee@hotmail.com

1st. V.P.

MEMBERSHIP

Sherry Youngblood
512/963-3954

jacksherry@inhishands.com

2nd. V.P.

PROGRAM

Jimmie Oakley
512/388-3630

jimmie.oakley@att.net

3rd. V.P.

NEWSLETTER

Mary Bost
512/863-3656

bostbees@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Reagan Rozales
512/269-5945

reaganrozales@hotmail.com

TREASURER

Kenneth Miller
512/856-0167

millerkd11@gmail.com

HISTORIAN

Shirley Doggett
512/898-5500

ckdoggett@mindspring.com

As we celebrate this joyous season, each in our own way, may we reflect on our 2011 season of beekeeping and look forward to working with our fascinating little insects, *apis mellifera*, and hope for a productive 2012.

Looking back over our membership reports we find that 100 new members have joined WCABA this year. This indicates that a number of people have recognized the value of the honey bee to our gardens, trees, and landscape in general. We recognize that it is incumbent upon our experienced beekeepers to help these novices by sharing our experiences and expertise as much as possible. That is the purpose of WCABA.

We have not filled our quota of bee package orders; therefore, we are suggesting that if you had hoped to order more than the 5 package limit, we would be glad to accept your "wish list" order for additional packages and in so far as possible, to include it until we reach the maximum number our club will be allowed. We would still like to honor any orders made by new members; we just hope to be fair to all those wanting to get bees this year. Use the order blank in this newsletter; be sure to indicate additional packages if this is an add-on order.

Be reminded that WCABA 2012 members can order equipment from Dadant that Gary Bible and cohorts will be picking up in Paris, Texas on March 23 (deadline to be included in this club pickup is March 19, 2012) and will be available for you to retrieve at the Bost farm on Saturday, March 24, 9:00 to noon. If you can't make that date, your equipment order will be available at the WCABA meeting the following Tuesday. The big advantage of ordering through WCABA is your saving on high shipping costs.

Do you know a school-age boy or girl who would really like to learn to be a beekeeper? Scholarship applications are available on our web site or can be obtained by contacting Jimmie Oakley, our Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost Memorial Scholarship chairman. The hand written essay by the applicant is extremely important. Also, a parent needs to express his/her assurance that the applicant is truly interested in learning to be a beekeeper and will accept its responsibilities. Deadline for accepting applications is mid-February.

Another opportunity for our youth is the 4-H essay contest with various aspects of beekeeping being the topic for the essays each year. There are monetary rewards for the top three winners with the first place essay being entered in the national competition. To learn more about this opportunity, consult with your 4-H leader. Three of our youths have won prizes in previous years. WCABA supports this competition with a monetary donation each year.

Welcome to our newest new members: Justin Belt, Milano; Barbara Coleman, Kempner; Rick Cuzzort, Taylor; Josh Melle, Round Rock; Jesse Phillips, Elgin; Dwain Scheihing, Leander; Don Schwertner, Jarrell; Jeff Thompson, Killeen; and Randy Wieland, Georgetown. This brings our current memberships for 2012 to 102; however, there are many 2011 members who have not renewed their membership. We trust they plan to continue their membership and we look forward to greeting them at our January meeting.

Wintertime is a good time to consider what beekeeping activities you need to do to improve your program. Have you placed a solid board or cardboard under your screened bottom board to help your bees withstand the winter cold snaps? Have you checked to be sure your bees have enough stores to keep from starving until Spring arrives? How about pollen supplement? If one of your hives seems weak (perhaps is queenless) have you considered combining it with a stronger colony so you can perhaps split it off with a new queen next Spring? Is the front of the hive tipped down slightly to prevent water from collecting on the bottom board? What about a stone or brick to keep the top cover from blowing off when a stiff Texas Norther blows through?

Wintertime is a good time to check for any repairs that need to be made on your hives or your bee equipment. Perhaps you need to order some new equipment or repaint some hives. How about checking out a book or DVD on beekeeping? And don't forget to subscribe to a bee magazine or two to keep you up to date on the latest developments in beekeeping. For your convenience, subscription blanks are included in this newsletter. As a member of WCABA, you are entitled to a nice discount when you subscribe to either Bee Culture or American Bee Journal. And have you considered helping your State by joining TBA?

Our retiring WCABA president, Gary Bible, suggested that our incoming president, Stephen Gardipee, give us a "thumbnail" bio so you can know the man behind the gavel. So, here it is:

Stephen Gardipee, wife Sherril (a retired teacher)

1. Born in Brownsville TX, grew up in Miami FL, has lived in Argentina, Kazakhstan, Dominican Republic, now lives in Killeen.
2. Son, Lt. Stephen Earl, USN, & wife Amy, stationed in Sicily; Daughter, Dorrine, husband Joe & two granddaughters, Jayden and Madelyn in Gowrie, Iowa.
3. Started keeping bees as a teenager but gave them up when he joined the military; now has 5 hives, 2 more on order.
4. Flew helicopters in Vietnam, was wounded and received the Purple Heart, Silver Star, three Distinguished Flying Crosses, Bronze Star for Service, two Air Medals with "V" Device for valor, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Bronze Star and one with Palm, as well as several "mission" air medals and service ribbons.
5. Also is a member of The Bell County Master Gardener Association.



A friend sent me an interesting article with a honey recipe that I thought might be timely if you are wondering what you might give someone who “has everything”. It’s a spiced honey recipe.

Cinnamon Spiced Honey

- 2 cups honey,
- 6 large cinnamon sticks,
- 1 tsp. whole allspice,
- 1 tsp. whole cloves

Place spices in a saucepan and pour in the honey. Using a low setting, heat the honey until warm; do not boil the honey as boiling reduces the nutritive value of honey.

Pour the warm honey and spices into a large sterile jar. Cover tightly and store at room temperature for at least a week to fully season the honey. Then re-warm the honey, strain out the spices, and pour clear honey into gift jars. Use with hot tea or on biscuits.

Caution: Don’t try to make this in the microwave. Honey can become “volcanic” when heated in a microwave for any length of time. (This recipe was published by Ann McCormick, the Herb ‘n’ Cowgirl)

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

Name _____
Address _____ City _____ ST _____
Phone () _____ e-mail _____
(please print clearly)

I want to order:

No. _____ **3# Package** w/marked MN. Hygienic Italian queen at \$64/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, how many marked? No. _____
Full payment for queens when placing order.

How will you pay? **CASH** or Check # _____ **TOTAL \$ AMT.**
Please make checks payable to WCABA - Checks Preferred **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:

American Bee Journal

Association Member (25%discount) Subscription

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Subscriber's Name _____
Address _____
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Secretary's Name Sherry Youngblood
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(Prices Good Through Dec.31,2011)

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Please Use Only This Form.

Toll free:1-800-289-7668 ext.3220

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The TBA Journal

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Commerical Sideline Small Scale Century Club Individual Associate(non-beekeeper)
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Please mail to: TBA / Jimmie L. Oakley, 1799 Goodson Court, Round Rock, TX 78664-3706

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 []



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Randy Oakley
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Williamson Co. Area
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4335 County Road 110
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