

# WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

## WCABA FEBRUARY 2012 NEWSLETTER

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

DATE: Tuesday, February 28, 2012  
TIME: 7:00 PM- Beekeeping 101 8:00 PM-Program  
PLACE: First United Methodist Church Georgetown (basement)  
PROGRAM: The World of the Beekeeper; Honey Queen Coronation  
HOSTS: Elita Perusek, Martha Lawson, Laura Lee Blackburn

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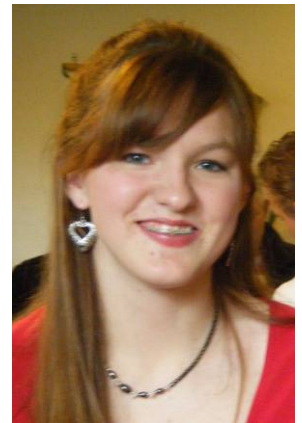
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Although it's still February, there have been enough rain showers and mild temperatures to cause burr clover and henbit to bloom and give our bees some pollen and a little nectar. Let's hope we don't get a surprising freeze to set them back. Are you getting Spring Fever yet—you're itching to get started working your bees? I am.

Chris Doggett, our Beekeeping 101 guru, will present "The World of the Beekeeper", covering equipment, hive inspection, check lists, objectives and swarming. Questions and comments are always welcome and beneficial.

Our program, which starts after a short snack break and the business meeting, will be to introduce our new WCABA Honey Queen, Lesli Tucker. Jimmie Oakley, former TBA Honey Queen Chair, will assist with the Coronation as will the TBA Honey Princess, our own Rebekah Jones. This is not only an honor for Lesli but also a huge responsibility as the honey queens and princesses promote the bee industry by informing school youngsters as well as the public about the importance of the honey bee to our ecology.

Many times we as beekeepers are asked to give presentations and Jimmie (& Kay) Oakley and I recently did so at the



Monument Café Farmers Market on Austin Ave. in Georgetown where my honey is for sale. The organizers anticipated 8-10 gardeners to show up and when the day turned out to be unusually cold even less were expected. Fortunately the presentation area was inside warmed by sunlight and 28 showed up. Jimmie talked for about an hour covering bees as pollinators, attracting bees to your garden (with flowers) and getting bees for your garden by establishing a bee hive. The group showed great interest and gladly accepted information handed out about beekeeping & WCABA.

We are also pleased to announce that Paul Exley, 2009 Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost Memorial scholarship winner, has won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the 2012 Texas 4-H Beekeeping Essay Contest, awarding him the \$200 check. Also, on Saturday, February 11, Paul won his preliminary and semi-final competitions, then placed 10<sup>th</sup> (out of 103 contestants) in the finals at the San Antonio Rodeo Public Speaking Contest. His topic was "Bee Concerns". This contest awards \$10,000 scholarships to the top three winners, so Paul vows to try again next year. Congratulations, Paul! We are proud of you!!!

The final amount due on bee orders needs to be paid by Tuesday night. Thirty three members owe the remainder of their order. We will have a spread sheet available to check the amount due if needed. Ken Miller and Mary Bost will accept your check or cash. Also, Jimmie Oakley has sent cards (Pickup Voucher) to all those who ordered bees. Please hold on to your card and bring it with you when you come to pick up your bees.

The Texas Beekeepers Association Winter's Delegate meeting took place in Salado, Texas on Saturday, February 18th to decide, among other things, the site for the TBA Summer Clinic. It was held two years in a row at Dr. Albert Molnar's place in Webberville, east of Austin. WCABA was the host club for those events and they were very successful. We have yet another opportunity to do it again. It was decided it will take place at the home of Jan and David (and Lesli) Tucker (6200 Toll Bridge Rd) in Belton, Texas on Saturday June 9th. Mark our calendar to attend and learn more about bees and beekeeping.

Welcome to our new members who joined WCABA at the January meeting or have paid their membership dues since then. They are **Nicholas and Danielle Barr**, Georgetown; **Jeff Buttke** and **Luisa Duarte**, Copperas Cove; **Ben** and **Dana Cockerham**, Holland; **Angelo Feller**, Austin; **Michael** and **Linda Franke**, Cedar Park; **Glen Graham**, Thorndale; **Lisa Gustavson**, Georgetown; **Holly Hand-Medina**, Pflugerville; **Ricky Heine**, Thorndale; **Glenn** and **Marilyn Jaeger**, Florence; **Harold** and **Joycelyn Miller**, Salado; **Lana Shields**, Temple; **Susan Traynor**, Austin; **David Voelter**, Georgetown; and **Rob** and **Jennifer Zurovec**, Liberty Hill. New members by mail: **Eric Paulus** of Austin, **Scott Wills** of Rogers, and **Heike Laudien** from Liberty Hill.

Seventeen WCABA members have also renewed their membership this month. We trust all our experienced members will help the "newbee" members feel welcome as they

exchange stories and information about beekeeping. We hope the 2011 members who have not yet renewed their membership will come prepared to pay their \$10.00 dues Tuesday night. Did you realize you get a real bargain as members of WCABA? Other bee clubs pay higher dues, charging as much as \$25.00 per year. Besides helping our members get bees at a discount (no delivery charge) and equipment (no shipping charges), we also have extracting equipment available for our members to use at no cost when the time comes.

**Notice:** Buddy Beauchamp emailed us that he and his friend “ have a small hobby farm near Lampasas and will soon have a BOATLOAD of flowers and fruit trees blooming on it.” He would like to have someone place a hive of bees on it. This may be an opportunity for someone living in that area. His phone number is 512.800.9827.

Elita Perusek, “Ms. Martha” Lawson, and Laura Lee Blackburn have volunteered to bring the snacks for this meeting. We need to have three hosts for each meeting so you are encouraged to check with Kay Oakley or one of the hosts to choose a month when you can help by bringing a snack—cookies, relish dish, etc. The cold drink, coffee and paper goods are provided by the change you drop in the Kitty each meeting.

Door prizes at the January WCABA meeting were donated by Chris Doggett, Elizabeth Exley, Barbara Hunt, and Dean Hamilton. The lucky winners were Mary Bost, Laura Lee Blackburn, Mark Blackburn, Karen Eacrett, Vickie Honeycutt, Cindy Jones, and Katherine Olszewski.

Sometimes it’s difficult to choose an article that will be helpful and informational, but this month I read Judith Adamson’s story, “Perfumer & Beekeeper” in the December 2011 issue of *Bee Culture* and thought it had so much interesting information, especially for our “backyard beekeepers” that I’m going to use some of it verbatim.

“When people think of beekeepers, they think of commercial operations, not what we’re doing here in our back yards. We’re definitely not doing it for the money! It would be great if more people kept bees on a backyard scale because it would help the bees, flowers, fruits, herbs, and vegetables so much. It’s hard work, but I find it satisfying in so many ways—communication with a wild, magical creature, the wonderful honey and the tremendous help it gives to the environment. It’s endlessly interesting; you never stop learning. The more I learn, the more I realize there is to learn! Bees are still completely wild; we think we manage them, but there’s still such a wildness in them that I respect and love that about them. I would like people to appreciate and respect bees more and fear them less. They...really just want to go about their business of pollinating and making honey to feed their young.

“It’s amazing—it rains into the ground, the plant draws in the moisture, the moisture comes up through the flower filled with minerals, vitamins and essential oils, and it

becomes this beautiful nectar. The bees sip it, bring it back to the hive and make it into honey by drawing the moisture out of it. The plants need to attract the bees in order to survive, and the bees need the nectar and pollen to survive. In turn, we need bees to survive. We're all so interdependent and interconnected."

If you don't subscribe to Bee Culture but would like to read Adamson's entire article, you can click on [www.BackyardBeekeepersBayArea.com](http://www.BackyardBeekeepersBayArea.com).

*For your convenience WCABA Member Discount subscription forms located on page 5*

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Here is a recipe I found in the 1993 WCABA book of recipes, Liquid Gold. MB

#### MAPLE HONEY

1 cup TEXAS honey	1/4 cup butter
1/4 cup maple syrup	1 teaspoon vanilla

Warm all ingredients together gently before serving over pancakes, waffles or French toast.

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#### WCABA MEETING MINUTES – January 23, 2012

- 1) **Beekeeping 101 – Chris Doggett** – “The World of the Bee”
- 2) **Business Meeting – Stephen Gardipee and Jimmie Oakley**
  - A: Treasurer’s Report** - \$8,600 balance
  - B: Meeting Attendance** – 90 people in attendance
  - C: Door Prizes** – 7 door prizes awarded
  - D: Date for Next Meeting** – Tuesday, February 28, 2012
  - E: Other Business** –
    - Dates for Group Equipment Pick Up are March 25<sup>th</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup>.
    - Our honeybees and queens arrive at Bost Farm on April 14<sup>th</sup>.
    - Motion to approve November Minutes was made, seconded and approved
    - Any applications for the Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost Memorial Scholarship should be mailed to the Bost Farm before February 10<sup>th</sup>. Applicants who are accepted for scholarship will be notified by February 28.
    - Spring Clinic will be in May to learn about honeybees.
  - F: Miscellaneous-**
    - Please renew your WCABA membership for \$10.00 per family.
    - Please sign up for refreshments, 3 people needed per month.
    - Join Texas Beekeeping Association (TBA) for \$20.00 per year.
- 3) **Special Guest Speaker – Ms. Carolyn Todd**  
“Encaustic Painting” - Visit her website at [BlueStemArts.org](http://BlueStemArts.org).
- 4) **Meeting Adjourned**  
Stephen Gardipee, President      Reagan Rozales, Secretary

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