

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA APRIL 2012 NEWSLETTER

www.wcaba.org

DATE: Tuesday, April 24, 2012
TIME: 7:00 PM- Beekeeping 101 8:00 PM-Program
PLACE: First United Methodist Church Georgetown (basement)
PROGRAM: Beekeeping 101: 1st Year in Beekeeping, Business 8 PM
HOSTS: Zane Baird, Ana & Chat Lerma, Mary Bost

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Rescheduled Bee & Queen Pickup Date: Sunday, April 22nd, 1-7 PM

“The best laid plans of mice and men oft gang awry”—and for beekeepers, too. We were sorry to have to notify our WCABA members and scholarship recipients that the bee delivery would be delayed a week or possibly two. We do have word now that the “bee fetchers”, Gary Bible’s term, will go to Louisiana to pick up the bees this Saturday and the bees will be ready for our members to pick up on Sunday 22nd (1-7 PM), with an alternate pickup date of Monday 23rd (all day).

Last month’s WCABA meeting was as exciting as expected. Nearly all of the 100 chairs were filled and over 20 people stood around the perimeter of the room. **(Please be considerate: don’t leave empty seats in the middle of the row. Sit near your neighbor so others can occupy unused chairs.)** The Texas Honey Queen, Kaylynn Mansker, and the Texas Honey Princess, Rebekah Jones assisted the WCABA scholarship chairperson, Jimmie Oakley, in awarding Certificates of Achievement to the 2011 Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost Memorial Scholarship youths, Laura Lee Blackburn, Abishai Mark Gundy, Joseph Nemecek, and Lesli Tucker in recognition of completing their first year of beekeeping (Isaiah Perusek was not present).

Our WCABA Honey Queen, Lesli Tucker, then joined Queen Kaylynn and Princess Rebekah in assisting Jimmie Oakley in presenting the 2012 class of scholarship winners their bee equipment as they were being introduced. The 2012 Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost Memorial Scholarship winners are **Payton Bauer** of Hutto; **Callie Herring**, Briggs; **Will Hilscher**, Round Rock; and **Jennifer Youngblood**, Liberty Hill. After welcoming these new winners, their mentors and other adults helped them assemble their new hive components. *(see pictures next page)*

We welcome nine new members to WCABA, They are Jeff and Melanie Coop of Georgetown; Lee Falkenhagen,, Briggs; John Hansel, Burnet; Jay and Joy Hilscher, Round Rock; Alto and Rosemary Nauert, Manor; Mike Payne, Liberty Hill; Tom Rowell, Georgetown; Terrill Tomecek, Thorndale; and Robert and Pamela White, Holland. We hope you'll find our programs both interesting and helpful and that you will enjoy opportunities of visiting with others who are interested in beekeeping.



Door prizes at the March meeting were donated by Kay Oakley, Chris Doggett, Barbara Hunt, Youngblood Family, and Wende Family. The lucky winners were Nancy Thomas, Ms. Martha, Sabrina Lawson, George Scott, Phoebe Schroder, Harold Miller, Terrill Tomecek, David Babyak, Reagan Rozales, and Wayne Grimes.

Queen Lesli Tucker has been busy since she became our WCABA Queen in February. She writes, "My life has been a whirlwind of fun opportunities and new experiences since my coronation. I got to attend the Brenham Beekeeper's School March 24th with Caroline Adams and Rebekah Jones, the Texas Honey Queen and Princess, and Chris and Shirley Doggett. It was quite the initiation when, without warning, they asked me to speak in front of around 400 people.

March 27th, I was honored to help award the scholarships to the 2012 recipients at the WCABA meeting. Following the meeting, my family hosted past Texas Honey Queen, Kaylynn Mansker and her mom, Wanda, for the night. They were down from Nevada, Texas, to attend the annual KLAB hosted by our club at the Georgetown First Methodist Church the following day. I helped lead 40-50 people through the six educational stations at our KLAB.

April 4th, Gary Bible and I taught two Ag. Classes at Liberty Hill Middle School about the importance of the honey bee, proper care, beekeeping equipment, our WCABA scholarship program and 4-H opportunities with beekeeping.

April 5th, I attended the grand opening of the Georgetown Farmers Market where our club had a booths set up with beekeeping equipment and educational materials along side of Mrs. Bost where she was selling her delicious honey.

Future events on the calendar are: helping teach proper installation of the new packages; speaking at the Earth Day in Salado, April 24; also at the Williamson County Museum May 3rd & 4th; I and the Texas Honey Queen and Princess get to be recognized at the baseball game at the Dell Diamond on July 20th where we will get to throw out the first pitch and also be interviewed live over the radio. My life as Honey Queen has certainly kept me busy as a bee!"

It is so reassuring to know that our club members are stepping forward to offer their assistance with WCABA activities! Now Jimmie Oakley needs your help as our club is to be the **hosts for the 2012 Texas Beekeepers Association Summer Clinic on June 9th**. It is to be held at the home of David and Jan Tucker in Belton from 10:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. There will be a BBQ meal (\$12 for adults and \$8 for children). Those of you who can assist need to contact Jimmie at the meeting, by phone (512.507.3008) or by email: jimmie.oakley@att.net. More information will be

available as the time nears. Please put the date on your calendar and plan to attend even if you can't help with the hosting. These clinics are always good beekeeping learning experiences.

The following statements are excerpts from a Press Release on April 5, 2012 entitled "Use of Common Pesticide Linked to Bee Colony Collapse".

There has been much speculation regarding the cause of CCD (Colony Collapse Disorder) and most often pesticides are at the top of the list. A recent press release points to a new study from Harvard School of Public Health that is authored by Chensheng (Alex) Lu, associate professor of environmental exposure biology.

"Lu and his co-authors hypothesized that the uptick in CCD resulted from the presence of imidacloprid, a neonicotinoid introduced in the early 1990s. Bees can be exposed in two ways: through nectar from plants or through high-fructose corn syrup beekeepers use to feed their bees. (Since most U.S.-grown corn has been treated with imidacloprid since 2005, it's also found in corn syrup.)" states the article.

In the summer of 2010, the researchers "aimed at replicating how imidacloprid may have caused the CCD outbreak. Over a 23-week period, they monitored bees in four different bee yards; each yard had four hives treated with different levels of imidacloprid and one control hive. After 12 weeks of imidacloprid dosing, all the bees were alive. But after 23 weeks, 15 out of 16 of the imidacloprid-treated hives—94%--had died. Those exposed to the highest levels of the pesticide died first.

"The characteristics of the dead hives were consistent with CCD, said Lu; the hives were empty except for food stores, some pollen, and young bees, with few dead bees nearby. When other conditions cause hive collapse—such as disease or pests—many dead bees are typically found inside and outside the affected hives.

"Strikingly, said Lu, it took only low levels of imidacloprid to cause hive collapse—less than what is typically used in crops or in areas where bees forage."

WCABA MEETING MINUTES – March 27, 2012

1)Beekeeping 101 – Chris Doggett – "Instillation, First Month"

2)Business Meeting –Jimmie Oakley standing in for Stephen Gardipee

A: Treasurer's Report - \$10,498.00 for balance

B: Meeting Attendance – 120

C: Door Prizes – 10 awarded to **attendants**

D: Date for Next Meeting – Tuesday, April 24, 2012

E: Other Business –

- Motion to approve February Minutes was made, seconded and approved.
- Pick-up for 3lb bee packages and queen orders will be on Saturday, April 14, at Bost Farm. Look at www.WCABA.org for directions to farm. Jimmie Oakley will be giving an orientation on installing bee packages on this day starting at 1pm. Pick-up for packages is any time between 9am-4pm.
- Please contact Mary Bost and add your name to the swarm list when a swarm in your area is reported.
- Benefit for Round Rock Express Baseball – cheap tickets
- June 9th is TBA Summer Clinic in Belton, Tx. Contact Chris Doggett for information.

3) 2011 Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost Memorial Scholarship Achievement Certificates to:

- Laura Lee Blackburn, Abishai Mark Gundy, Joseph Nemec, Isaiah Perusek, and Leslie Tucker

4) The 2012 Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost Scholarship Winners Are:

- Payton Bauer – Hutto, Tx; Callie Herring – Briggs, Tx; Will Hilscher – Round Rock, Tx; and Jennifer Youngblood – Liberty Hill, Tx. Congratulations to our new recipients!
- Once the new recipients were introduced and photos were taken, they spent the rest of the evening putting together their new hives for their honeybees.

5) Meeting Adjourned

Jimmie Oakley – President Pro-tem Reagan Rozales - Secretary

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"Beekeepers Caring for Bees"

Randy Oakley
Caleb Oakley

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