

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA AUGUST 2012 NEWSLETTER

www.wcaba.org

DATE: Tuesday, August 28, 2012
TIME: 7:00 Ice Cream Social; 7:45-9:00, Bkg.101, Program
PLACE: First United Methodist Church Georgetown (basement)
PROGRAM: Rodney Holloway: TBA and the TBA Convention
HOSTS: Joseph Nemec, Jennifer Whitmore, & Elizabeth Exley

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Ice cream eaten on a hot, summer evening is always a treat, so we're hoping you are looking forward to coming to our August meeting. Several people signed up to bring ice cream or toppings but that doesn't mean you can't bring your favorite flavor, maybe even a freezer of homemade ice cream. Our hosts will provide the usual cookies or relish plates to accompany the ice cream.



Just a Suggestion

We plan to begin serving ice cream by 7:00 (so it doesn't melt before it's served), then you can watch the DVD or visit with friends while you enjoy your refreshments. After we have eaten, Chris Doggett will have a brief Beekeeping 101 presentation followed by our business meeting before Jimmie Oakley introduces our guest speaker, Rodney Holloway, Area 5 TBA director, and his wife Becky.

Dr. Holloway will be telling us about the purposes and benefits of the Texas Beekeeping Association as well as information regarding the TBA Convention in Killeen in November. WCABA will be the hosts for this meeting, so this information should be very timely. Our members stepped up and helped host the Summer Clinic in June so we feel sure you will be ready to assist our leaders in hosting the TBA Convention. Jimmie Oakley is treasurer of TBA and he will be happy to help you with your application for membership if you have not already joined this beekeepers organization.

Several members indicated their desire to donate money to the Swaziland Bee Project following Clint Walker's recent presentation to our club. In unofficial contacts, a majority of the Executive Board expressed their desire for WCABA to make a donation so Stephen Gardipee will present this motion for your vote during the short business meeting Tuesday night.

Swaziland 
 **Beekeeping Project 2012**

Remember: September is National Honey Month and at our September meeting we will be conducting our annual Honey Judging of 2# jars to be sent to the State Fair in

Dallas. Also, the club's extracting equipment has been in almost constant use this year so there should be plenty of samples to submit to the Taster's Choice Contest. For the honey tasting, members who have extracted honey this year are asked to bring a sample of their honey in a small jar (such as a baby food or pimento jar) without any identification on it. The person receiving the samples will give each jar a number that will correspond with your name on the official list. Each one attending the meeting will be invited to taste (using a toothpick dipped in the honey) and then vote as directed on the 3 honeys you like best. It's always a lot of fun! The 3 jars of honey receiving the most votes win a ribbon. The two-pound jar of honey to be judged should have your label on it and will be judged against a set criterion. Next month's newsletter will have more about this.

Chris Doggett will have queenline glass jars and plastic bears at the meeting Tuesday night. If you would like to purchase any of these for bottling your honey, his prices are: 12 oz. bears, 85 cents each; 1 lb. jars, \$1.10 each; and 2 lb. jars, \$1.65 each. He says that's the catalog price plus prorated shipping costs.

The club extracting equipment is still in almost constant use. If you need to reserve a time to use it to extract your honey, call Mary Bost or email her (see phone # and email listed on the first page).

Welcome to our new members who joined WCABA at our July meeting. They are Vedia and Terry Sherman, Buda; Zach Shoher, Austin; and Randy and Gena Traylor, Georgetown. We trust they will find our meeting programs helpful and interesting and our members friendly and ready to exchange experiences.

Last month's door prizes were donated by Stephen Gardipee, Wayne Baker, Linda Franke, Wayne Grimes, Robert Horton, Mike Payne, and Elizabeth Exley. The lucky winners were Ms. Martha Lawson, Hannah Chambers, Stephen Gardipee, Trisha Kick, Mike Payne, Kelly Garratt, Chat Lerma, Dean Hamilton, Jeremy Scott, David Voelter, and Vedia Sherman.

As you were working with your bee frames, did you have your attention diverted from that beautiful wax-covered honey by a sticky substance on the frame? That's another substance the bees "have a propensity to heavily coat the interiors of their hives with, propolis—a natural glue derived from tree resins," according to Keith S. Delaplane in his book, *First Lessons in Beekeeping*. "There is evidence to suggest that Propolis possesses anti-microbial properties and aids bees in defense against nest invaders, traits increasingly important in this age of exotic pests and chemical based pest control."

"Long valued almost everywhere except North America, propolis has a reputation as a bacteriostatic wound dressing and active ingredient for cold remedies." Jimmie and Kay Oakley are strong proponents for the use of Tincture of Propolis. Jimmie carries a small vial of it with him when he is working with bees and if he gets a little cut or scrape, he will apply some of the tincture to prevent infection. Kay gave a workshop on working with Propolis at the recent Summer Clinic. Here is a copy of the information she passed around at that time:

"If your bees are producing a lot of Propolis, collect the excess or purchase a propolis trap and consider making some propolis tincture. Try to collect a clean product—no paint chips or bee parts. Collect the clean propolis in a mason jar. Cover approximately 2 inches above the propolis with Everclear, a pure 100 proof grain alcohol. Allow to sit for a week to start, tightly capped of course. Shake the jar every few days. Notice that the solution will separate. Add a little more alcohol as needed. This will make tincture. Do not add too much or the saturation point will be absorbed and you will need more Propolis. What I usually end up with is approximately 4" of deep brown tincture setting on top of about 2" of a milky substance. Use a very small siphon tube to draw off the pure tincture (the top layer). Store tightly closed until you collect enough to bottle. Add more alcohol to the milky substance and the process starts again."

Besides honey and propolis, honey bees produce beeswax that can be used in making candles, soaps, cosmetics, ornaments, and furniture polish, besides being recycled and converted into beeswax foundation. Also, bee pollen is in demand in health food stores as a food supplement, as is royal jelly, the glandular product bees use to feed female larvae that they want to convert into queens. All this “pales in comparison to the pervasive benefit of honey bee pollination—the transfer of pollen from the male parts of a flower to the female parts of the same or different flower. Bees do this automatically as they fly from flower to flower collecting pollen and nectar for their food,” states Delaplane.

WCABA Meeting Minutes – July 24, 2012

1) Beekeeping 101 Class – Chris Doggett – “Extracting Honey Equipment”

- Chris also had a question and answer session in the adjoining Parlor room for those who have extracted honey before.

2) Business Meeting – Stephen Gardipee & Jimmie Oakley

A: Treasurer’s Report – \$5035.00 balance

B: Meeting Attendance – 74 people in attendance

C: Introduce Guests – No Report

D: Door Prizes – 13 door prizes were awarded

E: Equipment Needs/Sales –

- New Equipment - Josiah Youngblood has new hive boxes (deeps and supers) available for sale (all boxes are painted and assembled) and also has assembled frames. Contact him at BetterBeeEquipment@gmail.com
- New Equipment - Frank Hunt also has hive equipment for sale.

F: Date for Next Meeting – Tuesday, August 28, 2012

G: Other Business –

- Motion to approve June Minutes was made, seconded, and approved.
- A sign-up sheet was passed around to indicate who will bring ice cream /toppings, 8/28.

3) Demonstration on Extracting Honey – Jimmie Oakley

- Jimmie Oakley and other experienced beekeepers helped our scholarship students and other new beekeepers learn to extract honey using the club equipment.
- 24 honey bears were bottled and given to the church staff and custodians in thanks for letting us use the church facilities.

4) Meeting Adjourned

Stephen Gardipee – President Reagan Rozales - Secretary

We all are looking for ways to cool off during the hot summer months. Recently I saw the following recipe in Laurie Locke’s column, Cooks Corner, in the Williamson County Sun and thought you might find it appetizing. She states that you can be creative in which fruit you use.

Banana Strawberry Smoothie

1 cup whole milk 1 cup plain yogurt ½ cup freshly squeezed orange juice
2 bananas, peeled and cut into 2-inch pieces 1 pint fresh strawberries, stemmed
½ teaspoon vanilla extracts ¼ cup **honey** 1 to 2 cups crushed ice

In large blender, combine all ingredients and puree until smooth. (Puree in batches if you need to.)
Serve in chilled tall glasses. Makes 6 servings.

* * * * Classified Advertisements * * * * *

For Sale: Dadant 2-frame stainless steel hand extractor, one year old. \$150.00
Ralph Gruner Round Rock, TX 512/830-8327
(Note corrected phone number)

Hive Bodies and Supers for Sale

All Boxes Available with
Assembled Frames



9 5/8 Deep

Available Assembled
& Painted

6 5/8 Medium

New and Improved Joint Design



512-963-3954
BetterBeeEquipment@gmail.com
Josiah Youngblood

- ✓ Deeps as low as \$13
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Order in Advance for Delivery at Bee Meeting!!



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Bees in Structures

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Beekeepers@LiveHoneyBeeRemoval.com

"Beekeepers Caring for Bees"

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