

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA OCTOBER 2012 NEWSLETTER

www.wcaba.org

DATE: Tuesday, October 23, 2012
TIME: 7:00-9:00, Bkg.101, Program
PLACE: First United Methodist Church Georgetown (basement)
PROGRAM: Gordon Sorrel - Texas Insurance & Financial Services
HOSTS: Barbara Hunt, Robin Morin, Joanne Covey

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We had a good turn-out for our September WCABA meeting, with over 100 people signing the registration sheet, 28 members bringing samples of honey for the Tasters Choice contest, and 11 members bringing a total of 13 two-pound jars of honey to be judged. Our thanks go to Cindy Jones, Rebekah Jones, and Wayne Zieschang for judging the jars of honey according to the 10 criteria specified. With the optimum score being 100, all the jars were judged as having scores from 98 points to 93 points and all were awarded blue ribbons.



Judges for State Fair Honey

Those members who contributed the jars of honey were the Jones Family, Mary Bost, the Youngblood Family, Ana Lerma, Raul Vergara (3 jars), Jimmie Oakley, Ann Bierschenk, Chris Doggett, Laura Lee Blackburn, Martha Lawson, and Payton Bauer. We are pleased that 5 of these contributors were either present or past Wolfe-Bost scholarship winners.



Blue Ribbon Honey Going to the State Fair

All the blue ribbon jars of honey were taken to the State Fair in Dallas. After the Fair closes on October 21, all the honey on display will be given to the Children's Home in Granbury, Texas. Additional donations of honey to the fair were made by Raul Vergara (1 case), Mary Bost and Jimmie Oakley (1 case), and Clint Walker (2 cases).

The Tasters Choice competition was going on at the same time and was enjoyed by all who participated. The three top winners in the Tasters Choice contest received their ribbons at the meeting Tuesday evening. The winners were: Blue Ribbon - Bill Heisler with wildflower honey; Red Ribbon - Jay Bob Smith, bee brush/wildflower; and White Ribbon - Martha Lawson, garden flowers. Others who contributed honey samples were Raul Vergara, Rebekah Jones, Laura Lee Blackburn, Rick Roszel, Jimmie Oakley, Payton Bauer, Josiah Youngblood, Gary Wande, Ginny Stubblefield, Mary Bost, Abishai Mark Gundy, Gayle Shaw, Susan Philpot, Mark Ney, Steve Ge'le, Ana Lerma, Chris Doggett, Wayne Grimes Stan Chambers, Allen Copper, Wayne Zieschang, Ann Bierschenk. Congratulations to all the contributing contestants.



Some may remember that Texas Insurance & Financial Services was one of the sponsors at the TBA Summer Clinic held in Belton in June. TIFS is a pioneer nationwide in providing appropriate coverage to the special niche market of beekeeping. Gordon Sorrel, president, has been addressing the needs of us beekeepers at the annual TBA Convention, but he will attend our meeting to bring his expertise to our area since a local field office has been recently opened in Georgetown.

The Beekeeping 101 program will be in two parts this month. Zane Baird will do “Winter Preparation” and Chris Doggett will talk about “Dealing with Angry Bees.”

Don't forget: Wesley Fest will be held on November 3rd and 4th on the grounds of Estrella Assisted Living on Williams Drive west of Georgetown. This is our annual fund-raiser to benefit the WCABA Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost Memorial Scholarships. We need your help in manning the booth as well as your donations of honey to sell. Our bees have been quite generous this year so we hope you will donate some of their “golden elixir” to benefit this program. Jimmie Oakley will be happy to take your honey bear donations Tuesday night as well as have a schedule for you to choose the hours and day when you can help in the booth. Scholarship winners are encouraged to assist in this endeavor.

Another exciting and beneficial opportunity will be the TBA Convention being held conveniently near in Killeen on November 8-11. WCABA is the host bee club. There will be many opportunities to learn more about beekeeping as well as making friends and exchanging information with other beekeepers from around Texas. Please check the handouts on the registration table for more information. Jimmie Oakley will be happy to take your registration fees as well as your TBA membership (he's the TBA treasurer).

Are you subscribed to the American Bee Journal magazine? If so, I'm sure you were pleased to see the cover picture of one of our WCABA families, Clint and Janice Walker, and inside is an article about their beekeeping operation, “Creation of Dancing Bee Winery,” written by T'Lee Sollengerger. If you don't have access to this magazine, I'll have my copy at the meeting for you to peruse.

Have you responded to the Bee Order Survey that was emailed earlier this month? (The survey will appear in the mail-out newsletters.) There was a good response the first two days and others have trickled in since then, a total of 65 responses. But we have 270 members. We would appreciate hearing from all our members, even if it's a response of “no packages, no queens,” “we lost our bees”, etc. We are making an effort to get as many packages of bees as our members want. Also, Gary Bible is doing some inquiring regarding sources from whom we can get better service.

November is the month when the suggested slate of officers for the next year is presented, opportunity for nominations from the floor is given, and the vote is taken to elect the 2013 officers. If you are interested in vying for an office or would like to serve in one of the appointed positions (librarian, refreshment coordinator), please speak to Susan Philpott, who has been our refreshment coordinator this past year, to get your name on the list.

Welcome to our new WCABA members: Dan and Denae Blevins, Georgetown; Ray and Pamela Diaz, Georgetown; Mike and Lori Guidry, Austin; Tom Olsen, Temple; Clay Rayborn, Austin; and Don and Lindy Upton. Also renewing their membership for 2013 are David Babyak, Chris and Shirley Doggett, Ralph Gruner, George Mailloux, and Chris and Donna Toth. Our membership chairperson, Sherry Youngblood, will be happy to accept your dues for 2013 either this month or in November; that way, you won't have to stand in line waiting your turn to pay your dues next January.

Door prizes last month were donated by Ginnie Stubblefield, Chris Doggett, Robert Horton, Wende Family, Kay Oakley, and Gayle Shaw. Lucky winners were Jennie Youngblood, Sally Horton, Rachel Jones, Bob Bradley, John Bauer, Madeline Baird, Jon Clark, Mark Blackburn, Lily Blackburn, and Don Upton.

WCABA Meeting Minutes – September 25, 2012

1) **Beekeeping 101 Class** – Chris Doggett and Chris Smith

- Chris Doggett: “Fall Management of Bee Hives”
- Chris Smith: “Information for Making and Using A Beetle Trap with Screened Bottom Boards”

2) **Business Meeting** – Stephen Gardipee

A: Treasurer's Report - \$5,325.00 for balance

B: Meeting Attendance – 107 in attendance

C: Introduce Guests – 7 guests introduced

D: Door Prizes – 10 door prizes awarded

E: Equipment Needs/Sales –

- New Equipment: Josiah Youngblood has medium and deep supers with frames (painted) and ready for delivery, for sale. Contact him via email at BetterBeeEquipment@gmail.com /or phone (512)963-3954.
- Used Equipment: Frank Hunt has hives and a lot of other equipment for sale. Contact him via email at huuntt@aol.com / or phone (512)478-8905.

F: Date for Next Meeting – Tuesday, October 23, 2012

G: Other Business –

- WCABA will be this year's host for the TBA Convention in Killeen in November. Please contact Jimmie Oakley to become a TBA Member, and also to volunteer for the convention. (Convention is November 8-11th.)
- Motion to approve August Minutes was made by Stephen Gardipee, 2nd by McCartney Taylor, and vote was in favor.

3) **Honey Judging/Taste Testers Choice** – Jimmie Oakley

- Honey Judges – Rebekah Jones, Cindy Jones, and Wayne Zieschang. Thanks to our judges! There were 28 entries in Taster's Choice Contest. Winners: 1st Bill Heisler, 2nd Jay Bob Smith, 3rd Martha Lawson.

4) **Meeting Adjourned**

Stephen Gardipee – President

Reagan Rozales – Secretary

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Randy Oakley
Caleb Oakley

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