

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA NOVEMBER 2012 NEWSLETTER

www.wcaba.org

DATE: Tuesday, November 27, 2012
TIME: 7:00-9:00, Bkg.101 & Program
PLACE: First United Methodist Church Georgetown (basement)
PROGRAM: "My Year Keeping Bees," by Scholarship Recipients
HOSTS: George Scott, Heike Laudier, Linda Franke

Look for us on Facebook @ <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Williamson-County-Area-Beekeepers-Association/167001426778381>

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The agenda for our November meeting is filled with information you will want to know about, so after you've given thanks for a better than usual honey-gathering year and filled your tummy with turkey and the trimmings, we hope you'll make every effort to be at the WCABA meeting on the 27th.

One of the requirements for our Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost Memorial Scholarships is that the recipient must give a report on his/her year of beekeeping. We shall be looking forward to hearing from **Payton Bauer, Callie Herring, Will Hilscher, and Jennifer Youngblood**. Although each one should have a written report to hand to Jimmie Oakley, they may use any type of oral report they choose: a skit, a poster display of pictures, a power point presentation or whatever creative imagination appeals to them.

Our youth scholarship program has been a very successful endeavor ever since it was established in 1986. Over 100 youths—boys and girls ages 10 to 16—have benefitted from receiving the start of bees plus the hive and other equipment needed to establish and maintain a hive of bees. The fund raiser for this program has for the most part been the WCABA booth at WesleyFest in Georgetown each November. Generous donations of honey to sell were made this year by Mary Bost, Randy Oakley, Jimmie Oakley, Chris Doggett, the Youngblood's, Payton Bauer, Tommy Rutherford, and Ann Bierschenk. Those graciously serving in the booth during the weekend were Jenni, Josiah & Sherry Youngblood, Will, Grace & Joy Hilscher, Rebekah & Rachael Jones, Lesli, Jan & David Tucker, Payton, Dorothy & John Bauer, Lorraine Brady, Callie & Mary Alice Herring, and Jimmie Oakley. Even though the



WesleyFest is over, it is not too late to show your support by making a donation of money to this cause. Jimmie Oakley or Mary Bost will be happy to accept your donation by either check or cash.

We were pleased to hear that two of our former Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost Scholarship recipients have made some outstanding achievements. Paul Exley, '09, won a \$5,000.00 scholarship for being grand champion in public speaking at the Texas State Fair in October, won \$1,000 for being Grand Champion at Houston this year, and also won at the 4-H State Roundup. We'll be rooting for him to win again when he goes to San Antonio next. Not to be outdone, Nathan Exley, '06, has been chosen to be on the THSC spring legislative team and will be working directly with state senators and representatives and their staffs. Now attending TAMU, he is founder and CEO of Tria Chordae Ministries as well as founder and coach of the Brazos Valley Rhetoric Club. Way to go, Paul and Nathan!

Beekeeping 101 this month will be in two parts: Zane Baird will cover beekeeping during winter and Chris Doggett will discuss buying bees (nucs vs. packages) and basic equipment needs.

Ginny Stubblefield and Shirley Doggett did a masterful job of designing and procuring T-shirts, polo shirts, and caps for the members of WCABA. They will have these items at the meeting Tuesday for you to see and purchase. They are very attractive and different from our previous tee-shirts, so we are confident you will want to buy at least one of them. The shirts are ultramarine blue, the cap is black. T-shirts are \$10 each, polo shirts are \$20 and caps are \$12. Ginny says they will take cash, checks, or credit cards. (I hope the members who have already purchased theirs will "model" theirs at the meeting.)

Gary Bible has been hard at work checking on the best source and price for our purchasing bees next Spring. We were disappointed that some of our packages of bees and too many of the queens did not survive the first few days last year. He has been checking on sources for nucs instead of packages as a nuc has a queen that has already been accepted and has been busy laying eggs as evidenced by the 4 or 5 frames of brood. Also, the report from last year's supplier indicates they would not have packages of bees available until sometime in May, a date that is too late for bees to be able to find adequate floral sources to forage.

Gary also contacted Kasey Cole, the new Dadant dealer from Paris, Texas at the TBA Convention and he and Jimmie are confident we will have better service than we experienced last year. I shall send out his Group Order Instructions with the Basic Beekeeping Equipment List in a separate mailing soon: if not before the meeting, ASAP afterwards.

NOTE: You must be a 2013 member of WCABA to get either the bees or the equipment at the club discount and the convenient pickup center without shipping charges. A number of new and renewing members have already paid their 2013 dues, and Sherry Youngblood will be prepared to accept dues at the meeting Tuesday evening.

Another item on the agenda is the election of officers for the coming year. Thanks to Susan Philpott for compiling the nominations; however, remember that nominations may be made from the floor as long as the nominee has given permission. The committee nominates

President: Stephen Gardipee
1st Vice President: Membership – Shirley Doggett
2nd Vice President: Program – Jimmie Oakley
3rd Vice President: Newsletter – Mary Bost
Secretary – Reagan Rozales
Treasurer – Kenneth Miller
Historian – Susan Philpott

Welcome to our new members: Susan Cowan, Burnet; Jed Dunning, Lampasas; Derek and Lisa Foight and family, Round Rock; and Michael and Mary Layden, Bertram. Also nine members renewed their membership: Gary Bible, Mary Bost, Eacrett Family, Elmer and Edith Goertz, Wayne Hayes, David Kohn and family, Jack Matzen, Jr., Terry, JoAnne and Josh Melle, and David and Reagan Rozales.

Door prizes last month were donated by Texas Insurance and Financial Services (the people responsible for the program), Clyde Anderson, Rebekah Jones, Harold Kind, and Chris Doggett. The winners were Phoebe Schroder, David Babyak, Ty Holbrook, Will Hilscher, Van Tucker, Linda Franke, and David Kohn.

Do you have a hive of bees that appears to be weak, may not survive the winter? If you have another hive that is strong, you may want to consider combining the two hives until next Spring when you could split them and put a new queen in one (or both) hives. If you have only one hive, you should find a dealer who sells Fall queens and buy one to replace the weak queen.

Keith Delaplane's book, *First Lessons in Beekeeping*, has an excellent discussion on replacing queens (pp. 74-48). First, find the old queen and dispose of her (otherwise the bees won't accept the new queen). Next, remove the attendant bees that came with the queen. Do this by removing the cork from the non-candy end of the cage, cover the hole with your thumb in order to control which bees (the attendants) you let out, blow on the bees to make them move around so you can let them out one by one, then reseal the cage with the cork when only the queen is left in the cage. Insert the caged queen between two combs in the center of the brood nest, and close up the colony.

Return after 48 hours and examine the behavior of the hive bees on the outside of the queen cage. There should be only a moderate amount of "balling" on the outside of the queen cage; excessive balling indicates the bees are not yet ready to accept the new queen; close up the hive and leave them for another day or two. Also, check for any natural queen cells, an instinctive reaction of bees when they realize their old queen is missing. Cut out any supersedure cells as they would decrease the chance of the new queen being accepted.

After 3 or 4 days, the balling response will have dwindled to nothing and the new queen is ready to be released. Remove her cage, close up the colony and remove the cork from the non-candy end, while keeping your finger over the hole to prevent the queen's flying out. Release the queen by sliding the open end of the queen cage into the hive entrance, thereby ensuring the queen goes *into* the hive. Return after a few minutes to remove the empty cage. After 48 hours check to be sure the queen is laying eggs.

Editor Note: Because of limited space Secretary Minutes will be presented at the meeting for approval.

HONEY-PUMPKIN PIE

1 16 oz. can pumpkin ¾ C honey ½ tsp. salt 1 tsp. ground ginger
1 tsp. ground cinnamon ¼ tsp nutmeg ¼ tsp. cloves 3 eggs
1 (5 1/3 oz.) can evaporated milk (2/3 cup) ½ C milk

In large bowl, stir together pumpkin, honey, salt, cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg and cloves. Add eggs. Beat eggs into pumpkin mixture with fork. Stir in the evaporated milk and the milk; mix well. Prepare pastry; fit it into a 9-inch pie plate; flute edges, forming a high rim to hold the filling. Do not prick the shell. Place pie shell on oven rack. Pour in filling. Bake in 375 degree oven for 55-60 minutes or until the pie is set. Cool before serving.

Cheryl Hodgin in 1987 *Liquid Gold* WCABA recipe book



More Pictures from WesleyFest...
The Happy Worker Bees.

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