

# WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

## WCABA FEBRUARY 2013 NEWSLETTER

On the web at [www.wcaba.org](http://www.wcaba.org)

*[Look for us on Facebook](#)*

DATE: Tuesday, February 26, 2013  
TIME: 7:00-9:00, Bkg.101, Program  
PLACE: First United Methodist Church Georgetown (basement)  
PROGRAM: Honey Bees for Ag Exemption, where we stand.  
HOSTS: Ms. Martha, Terry & Vedia Sherman, Skinner Holbrook

### **PRESIDENT**

Stephen Gardipee

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1st. V.P.

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2nd. V.P.

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3rd. V.P.

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The deadline for accepting scholarship applications has passed but we received some very interesting essays regarding our applicants' interest in beekeeping. We shall look forward to introducing these young "newbies" to you in March; we shall also award Certificates of Completion to our 2012 scholarship recipients at the March meeting.

The club is in the process of placing a large group order for honey bee nucs for our membership this spring and the subject of the ag exemption for honey bees has come up again. What is your understanding, what is the latest? Our program will focus on that subject to help us understand where we stand.

We look forward each month to Chris Doggett's Beekeeping 101 presentations; they are both interesting and informative. His topic this month will be "The World of the Beekeeper."

Our club secretary, Reagan Rozales, has requested a leave from secretarial duties for awhile as her doctor has recommended that she be treated during the rest of her pregnancy by a specialist in Houston for a problem that has been identified. We wish her and the baby the best of outcomes. We also appreciate Ginny Stubblefield for stepping forward to take on the secretarial responsibility.

Reagan (& Baby>>>>>



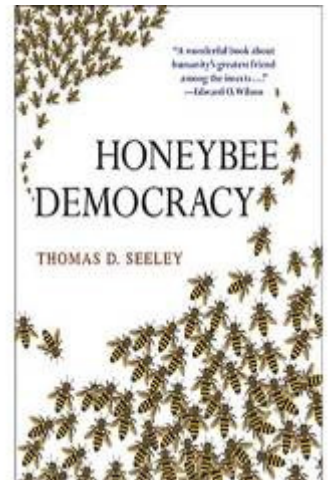
Welcome to our 19 new members who joined since our last newsletter was published. They are Sue Anderson, Jonestown; Susan Batsche, Dripping Springs; Stephen Bell, Austin; T.C.Coody, McDade; Brad Felder, Round Rock; Glen Gardner, Rosanky; Dan Gonzales, Dripping Springs; Robyn Guerra, Austin; Lisa Havins, Georgetown; Brenda Kearns, Round Rock; Jaela Keuneke, Pflugerville; Lynn King, Georgetown; Ryan Murray, Austin; Bill Palmer, Austin; T. Renee Rainey, Driftwood; Allie Sebesta, Austin; Tom Shaffer, Round Rock; Paula Walls-Whitley, Pflugerville; and Norman Ward, Leander. We are happy to note that 45 of our former members renewed their membership for 2013. We hope the few of you who haven't paid your 2013 dues will do so Tuesday evening.

Door prizes for our January meeting were donated by Ms. Martha Lawson, Robert Horton, Linda Franke, Elizabeth Exley, and Shirley Doggett. The lucky winners were Reagan Rozales, Dorothy Bauer, Jennifer Youngblood, Katie Eacrett, Norman Ward, and Ann Beirschenk.

The group order for honey bee nucs and beekeeping equipment is proceeding "slowly". So far there has been 84 nucs ordered from Blake Shook of Desert Creek Honey in McKinney, and 26 queens from Gardner Bees in Georgia, but only 6 member orders of beekeeping supplies from Dadant & Sons in Paris, TX. We hope there will be more activity at the next meeting. This will be the last meeting before the supply order closes(March 4th). If you need help in placing your order please ask for assistance when we meet again.

### **Bees' Book Nook** – by Ginny Stubblefield

*Honeybee Democracy* by Thomas Seeley, professor of biology at Cornell University is an excellent book for both new-bees and experienced beekeepers. Professor Seeley's research shows a remarkable and richly illustrated account of scientific discovery. The text is often illustrated with figures that are simplified for the non-scientific reader. He discusses, in detail, the democratic debate that goes on among the honey bees. He explains the concept of swarming and the dynamics involved in the process. Seeley reveals parallels between the way swarms make decisions and how the human brain sorts through conflicting neuron signals to reach decisions. He even provides a few pointers on how rules of honey bee democracy may be applied to decision-making in human groups. That says a lot for our beloved honey bees.



There were several WCABA members attending the Texas Beekeepers Winter Delegates Meeting in Salado on Saturday, February 16th to discuss current and upcoming events statewide and in our area. Chris Doggett (TBA Publications Director) and his wife Shirley, Jimmie Oakley (TBA Treasurer) and his wife Kay, WCABA Honey Queen, Lesli Tucker and her mother Jan, WCABA H.Q. Chair, Rebekah Jones, and WCABA Liberian, Ginny Stubblefield. Planning for the TBA Summer Clinic at the Walker Honey Farm in Rogers, Texas was discussed. WCABA will be the local host association this year. WCABA:Chris&Shirley Doggett, Rebekah Jones, Leslie& Jan Tucker, Ginny Stubblefield



Since many of our members are setting up new hives and some are increasing their hive numbers, the suggestions about choosing and maintaining apiary sites in the article “**Apiary Sites**” by Ross Conrad that appeared in the February '13 issue of *Bee Culture* is quite timely.

Conrad states, “A good beeyard location can make all the difference between hives that are vibrant and flourishing and those that constantly struggle.” He lists eight factors to be considered when choosing your site, whether it's your first hive or you need a new location.

Good Forage Access for the Bees: Try to choose a site that will provide nectar and pollen bearing plants throughout the season as long as possible. Also, bees require a good steady water source.

Convenient Access for the Beekeeper: The site should assure adequate room around the sides and back of the hives in order for the beekeeper to have adequate room to work.

Good Drainage: The site should be in a fairly dry area and a sufficient distance from lakes, rivers or streams that might flood the site when heavy rainfall occurs.

Sun Exposure: Increased sun exposure has been found to help colonies deal with disease and pest issues; however, in our area partial shade is desirable, especially during the heat of summer. Also, hive entrances should face east or southeast to encourage the bees to start foraging early in the day.

Windbreak: A hedgerow, a fence, or a building can provide a windbreak to help colonies maintain heat during cold weather or severe wind events.

Vandalism & Theft: Positioning your hive(s) within sight of a house rather than in an isolated area can discourage criminal or mischievous behavior. Also, branding or otherwise marking your hive bodies, super and frames can aid in proving ownership if needed.

Legal Restrictions: Be sure you meet any municipal regulations, such as distance of hives from property lines, etc.

Toxic Chemical Exposure: We know much is being said about problems caused by pesticides and other chemical exposures used in conventional farming but other areas such as industrial sites, landfills, and golf courses may also cause chemical exposure. Talk to farmers near your apiary to be sure they know that bees are nearby and ask for their consideration when spraying crops, such as applying chemicals during times when crops are not in bloom, when temperatures are cool so bees stay in hive, or during the evenings.

Besides these eight factors for choosing your hive location, keep in mind that, once established, the site must be well-maintained: cut and trim any brush or trees that may encroach, keep grass and other vegetation from growing up and blocking hive entrances by mowing or placing old carpeting or plywood in front of the hive, and discourage ant mounds nearby with organic methods (such as cornmeal near the ant hill).

Also, if the apiary location is not on your own property, be a good neighbor; use consideration in crossing their property, keeping your hive area neat and uncluttered, and share some of your honey with them.

In recognition of George Washington's Birthday, the recipe this month is

### MARTHA WASHINGTON'S HONEY OF ROSES

1 pint honey

1 pint red rose petals

4 drops rose geranium oil

Bring honey to a boil and remove any scum. Add rose petals. Set the pan in another pan of hot water and boil for half an hour. More rose petals may be added after 15 minutes, if available. Add rose geranium oil as a flavor fixative. Let stand for 10 minutes. Strain, while hot, into sterilized jars. Place 1 red rose petal in each jar for decoration.

*Note:* Arab physicians in the 15<sup>th</sup> century considered this confection a valuable cure for tuberculosis. Dried rose petals were used. *The Honey Cookbook* by Juliette Elkton--1955.

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Dues \$10.00 per year – single member or family



New Member / Renewing Member

(circle one)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cash/Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

(please print)

To save postage cost may we send your Newsletter via e-mail? Yes [  ] No [  ]

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## W.C.A.B.A Club Nucleus & Queen Order Form - 2013

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

please print

### I want to order:

No. \_\_\_\_\_ **5 frame Nucleus** (4 frames brood & laying queen) **\$110.00/ Nuc.**

*Based on group order of 200 nucs, full payment appreciated when placing order.*

No. \_\_\_\_\_ **Honey Bee Queen** (marked Italians w/shipping) **\$23.00/ Queen**

*Based on group order of 100 Q's, full payment appreciated when placing order.*

How will you pay? CASH or Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Check Preferred

**TOTAL \$ AMT**  
**OF ORDER**

--

Mail remittance to: **WCABA, c/o 1799 Goodson Court, Round Rock TX 78664**

>>> Nucleus & Queen order **deadline** is the March 26, 2013 WCABA meeting.

>> No resale or ownership transfer permitted on nucs or queens once ordered.

All secondary transactions must come through the club for tracking & delivery.

Special Instructions:

## WCABA Group Order Instructions

### **WCABA Members:**

The Group Equipment Order process is for 2013 WCABA members. On the other side is a list of minimum equipment needed to keep bees. This equipment can be used by first-year beekeepers and is also the equipment used by our club scholarship recipients. We encourage you to use it as a guideline in ordering equipment. If you have been beekeeping for a while and/or desire to order other/extra equipment from Dadant, feel free to do so. By ordering through our group order, you will save a substantial shipping charge. The deadline for ordering is Monday, March 4th, 2013. If you decide to order additional equipment (after your first order), Dadant will handle it as a new order. If you place an additional order(s), ensure you inform Dadant personnel that your extra order is a part of the WCABA group order. Any equipment ordered after March 4th may not be placed into our collective order shipment and you may end up paying shipping fees. You may place your order anytime after receiving this notification. WCABA volunteers will pick-up our equipment at Dadant on Thursday, March 14th.

After our volunteers pick up our equipment in Paris, Texas, your beekeeping equipment will be available for pick up at the Bost Farm on Saturday, March 16th from 9 am to 12 noon.

**Notice: Any equipment not picked up at the Bost Farm on March 16th will be donated to the club. If you cannot pick up on that day, ensure you send someone to pick up your equipment.**

### Group Order Instructions

1. Determine what equipment you will order using the Dadant Catalog, the WCABA Basic Equipment List, or on the web at Dadant & Sons Beekeeping Supplies and Candles.
2. Call Dadant at 1-877-632-3268 and place your order. **Tell the Dadant employee your order is to be placed with the WCABA group order (with your name on your equipment). Do not order online as you will not be able to tell personnel to place your equipment order with our group order.**
3. Pay your bill using check or credit card.
4. Call Gary Bible at 512-548-6194 and leave a message that you have placed and order, or email him at [glbible@austin.rr.com](mailto:glbible@austin.rr.com) to let him know you have equipment in the group order.

If you have any questions, call or email me.

**Gary Bible**

**WCABA Group Order Coordinator**

**WCABA Basic Beekeeping Equipment List**

**The Equipment Below is the Minimum Needed to Keep Bees**

<u>Qty</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Item Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>2013 Price</u>	<u>Total Price</u>
1	1	B51101	9 5/8" Deep Hive Body w/10 Frames	\$28.75	\$28.75
10	1	F37000	8 3/8 x 16 3/4 Plasticell Beeswax Coated Sheet	\$1.15	\$11.50
1	1	B92901	Varroa Screened Bottom Board (assembled)	\$16.95	\$16.95
1	1	B14201	Flat Wood Cover	\$10.25	\$10.25
1	1	M00826	Boardman Entrance Feeder	\$3.50	\$3.50
1	1	V01093	Dadant Folding Veil	\$14.65	\$14.65
1	1	M01049	Dadant Plastic Sun Helmet	\$9.50	\$9.50
1	1	M011381	*Leather Ventilated Gloves ( <b>Medium</b> )	\$10.45	\$10.45
1	1	M007571	Economy Hive Tool	\$3.95	\$3.95
1	1	M00001	First Lessons in Beekeeping	\$8.95	\$8.95
1	1	M00751	Bee Brush	\$4.15	\$4.15
1	1	M00927	4x7 Stainless Steel Smoker w/Shield	\$37.85	\$37.85
-----					\$160.45
Taxes 8.25% on \$160.45 = \$13.24					\$ 13.24
					-----
Total =					\$173.69

Note: If beekeeper is an adult, order Large gloves

Note: If you desire to collect and extract honey, a Medium Super, Medium Frames and Medium Foundation will be needed for each hive.



## Completely Assembled Hive Kit

*This Kit includes:*  
1 Assembled Hive Body  
10 Assembled Frames with  
Waxed Coated Plastic Foundation  
1 Assembled Hive Cover  
1 Assembled Bottom Board

### *Screened Bottom Board*

1-4 = \$67

5+ = \$61

### *Wooden Bottom Board*

1-4 = \$65

5+ = \$59

## Unassembled Boxes

### *9 5/8 Deep*

1-4 = \$16

5-12 = \$14

13+ = \$13

### *6 5/8 Medium*

1-4 = \$13

5-12 = \$11

13+ = \$10



### *9 1/8 Deep (Case of 10)*

1-4 = \$25

5-12 = \$23

13+ = \$22

## Assembled Frames



### *6 1/8 Medium (Case of 10)*

1-4 = \$24

5-12 = \$22

13+ = \$21

## Assembled Bottom Boards & Hive Covers

### *Wooden Bottom Boards*

1-4 = \$13

5+ = \$12

### *Hive Covers*

1-4 = \$9

5+ = \$8

### *Screened Bottom Boards*

1-4 = \$15

5+ = \$14

**BetterBeeEquipment@gmail.com**

*Josiah Youngblood*

**512-963-3954**

# 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

New Joint

Old Joint

Industry Standard

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

- ✓ Deeps as low as \$13
- ✓ Supers as low as \$10

Order in Advance for Delivery at Bee Meeting!!

Visit Our New  
Website!

## Oakley Family Apiaries

Live

Honeybee Removal & Relocation

[www.LiveHoneyBeeRemoval.com](http://www.LiveHoneyBeeRemoval.com)

- Call for Answers and Estimates -

(512) 981-9216

*Swarms*

*Bees in Structures*

[Beekeepers@LiveHoneyBeeRemoval.com](mailto:Beekeepers@LiveHoneyBeeRemoval.com)

*Bee Trees*

*Pure Raw Honey*

"Beekeepers Caring for Bees"

Randy Oakley  
Caleb Oakley

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