

# WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

## WCABA MARCH 2013 NEWSLETTER

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

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

DATE: Tuesday, March 26, 2013  
TIME: 7:00-9:00: Bkg.101, Program  
PLACE: First United Methodist Church Georgetown (basement)  
PROGRAM: Scholarship Awards (2012) & Introduction of 2013 Recipients  
HOSTS: George & Cassie Scott, Ruth Matzen, Cindy Jones

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1st. V.P.

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March is always an exciting month :winter is nearly over and we look forward to seeing beautiful wildflowers, planting our gardens, watching our bees come out of their winter cluster. . . and welcoming new members to WCABA as well as awarding Certificates of Completion to our outgoing scholarship winners and introducing the new class of scholarship recipients.

The achievement award is more than a framed piece of paper to hang on the wall; it means that the recipient has worked diligently all year with his/her mentor to be a good beekeeper and is now the proud owner of a hive of bees. The 2012 young beekeepers who will be honored Tuesday

evening are **Callie Herring-Briggs**, **Will Hilscher-Round Rock**, **Payton Bauer-Hutto**, and **Jennifer Youngblood-Liberty Hill** (pictured above).



Jimmie Oakley, Scholarship Chair, will introduce the 2013 Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost Memorial Scholarship recipients and present them with the woodware and equipment needed to get ready to receive their nuc of bees in April. We know our former recipients as well as interested adults will help these young people assemble their hives. New members may also be interested in observing and helping with this process for the experience.

The Beekeeping program this month should be of particular interest to our new members who are contemplating starting a hive for the first time. Chris Doggett says it will be “Installing Bees in a New Hive” plus “First Month -- Getting Your Bees Off to a Good Healthy Start”.

March 26—the date of our meeting—is the deadline for ordering nucs or queens. A definite date has not yet been set for the bee delivery. If you ordered bees through WCABA, you will be notified as soon as our supplier, Blake Shook of McKinney, Texas, lets us know when they are ready for us to pick them up. The nucs will be transported to the Bost Farm for distribution to the membership on a Saturday.

The membership in WCABA has increased greatly—we had 30 new members apply for membership this month—so, although the Fellowship Hall has been a very convenient place to meet, the Executive Board is working with the church leadership to secure a larger venue, one that can accommodate our ever-increasing attendance. Not only the place but also the day will need to be changed. We expect to have a definite recommendation to present to our members at the meeting Tuesday evening.

Speaking of new members, we welcome the following “newbees” who have joined since the January meeting: from Austin—Angela Alwin, Stephen Bell, Randall Darnell, Marianna Felsman, Francesca Hernandez, Chuck & Jasa King, Lynn Lytton, Chuck & Tanya Phillips, Fiona Robinson, and Kevin Sousa; Cedar Park—Larry & Leslie Sparks; Copperas Cove—Rusty & SuAnn Brockett; Dripping Springs—Daniel Gonzales; Florence—Diane Rendon & Richard Goeke; Georgetown—Davin Hoyt, Vince Swiatele, and Steve Turpin.

Also, Hutto—J.R. Moody; Killeen—Michael & Christina Zanbrana; Leander—Jared & Kristen Smith; Marble Falls—Rebecca & Stuart Nunnally; Pflugerville—Jaele Keuneke; Round Rock—Ricardo & Laurel Casas, Brad Felder, James & Elizabeth Givens, Amy Hendrick, Terry & Sue Spencer; Spicewood—Jennifer Gray, and Roberto & Melodee Saenz.

We appreciate Raul Vergara and Mark Bradley suggesting to the group of new beekeepers they have been teaching about bees and beekeeping that they join WCABA to continue their learning experiences. Nine of our new members are from that group.

Jan Tucker reports that door prize donations last month were made by T. C. Coody, the Duke Family, Ginny Stubblefield, Wayne Baker, Dean Hamilton, and Lisa Schroder. The lucky winners were Aaron Brockett, SuAnn Brockett, Wayne Freschacy, David Kohn, Jeremy Scott, Noah Latham, Nikko Matthew, John Philpot, Sam Latham, Taylor Foight, Mike Guidry, Katie Eacrett, and Michael Craig.

Do you enjoy the snacks when we take a break between programs? If so, would you be willing to sign the host sheet to bring some snacks? Three members have signed up for April and June but we need hosts for the rest of the months: one more for May and September, two more for July, August, and October and three for November. Also, if you'll drop some change in the “kitty” jar, it will help pay for the beverages and paperware.

Would you like to get some free bees? One year Robert and I captured 26 swarms. If you would like to be called when there is a swarm of bees in your area, see Mary Bost about adding your name, phone number, and the area (towns) you would be willing to serve for her swarm list.

As winter's chill abates, the weather warms up and flowers begin beautifying the area, honey bees begin their Spring build-up with increased brood and young bees filling the nest area. As the hive becomes crowded, unless the beekeeper intervenes, the mother queen will leave with thousands of the worker bees, usually one-half to two-thirds of the work force. What is the dynamic involved in casting off a swarm?

In his book, **Honey Bee Democracy**, Thomas D. Seeley gives a very interesting description of the procedure that takes place prior to the hive casting off a swarm. The first step is the raising of 10 or more young queens, all daughters of the old queen. First, the bees construct peanut-shaped cells, usually along the bottom edges of the combs in the brood nest, then the queen deposits an egg in each queen cell cup and the workers feed the young larvae the royal jelly that ensures their development into queens 16 days later.

In the meantime, the queen is "fed less and less by the workers. Her egg production declines, and her abdomen, no longer swollen with fully formed eggs, shrinks dramatically. Furthermore, the workers begin to show mild hostility toward their mother, shaking, pushing, and lightly biting her. Each time a worker shakes the queen, she grasps the queen with her forelegs and shakes her own body for a second or so, delivering 10 to 20 vigorous shakings of the queen." These almost continuous activities cause the queen to keep walking, and with the reduced feeding, she soon has a 25% reduction in body weight, enabling the mother queen who would ordinarily be too heavy to fly, to now be in flying trim.

While the mother queen is reducing in weight, the thousands of bees that will swarm off with her, do just the opposite; they stuff themselves with honey, causing their abdomens to swell and increase their body weights by about 50%, thereby carrying a food reserve when they leave the hive. Their "wax glands, located on the ventral plates of four of the abdominal segments of each worker bee, become hypertrophied in preparation for the intense wax secretion needed for comb building at the new nest site."

In the next issue of the WCABA newsletter, we shall delve into the instincts and dynamics the bees apply to looking for another nest site; also, we shall discuss what a beekeeper may do to prevent the bees from swarming and taking off with such a large population of the work force that should be involved in making surplus honey for the original hive instead of building up a new home.

In the Parade insert of the March 10 Austin American-Statesman, a couple of dips with honey as an ingredient, were suggested as dips for baked chicken nuggets.

#### **Honey Mustard Dip**

In a small bowl, combine 3 Tbsp. **honey**, 3 Tbsp. Dijon mustard, and 2 Tbsp. light mayonnaise. Whisk well. If you like a thinner dip, whisk in 1 Tbsp. water.

#### **Tangy BBQ**

In a saucepan, stir together 1/3 cup low-sodium barbecue sauce, 1 Tbsp. cider vinegar, 2 Tbsp. **honey**, and 1 tsp. grated orange rind. Bring to a boil, reduce heat to low, and simmer for about 4 minutes. Serve warm.

# 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 [  ]

## 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**

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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:

**Need to Sale: Set yourself up in bee keeping at less than half price.**

3 Hives each in 3 medium supers w/screened bottom board & telescoping covers. \$140.ea;  
Beekeeping equipment including a bee suit (large), frame grip, smoker, bee brush: all \$35;  
14 empty medium supers painted. \$7 ea; 4 telescoping covers w/inner covers.\$10 ea;  
5-6<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> supers new frames and plastic foundation. \$12ea; 3 screened bottoms. \$10 ea;  
50 -6 1/4 frames new, still in box. \$44; 50 -5 1/2 Plasticell foundation, still in box. \$41.  
Bees located near Round Rock, equipment in Round Rock. **Harold Kind: 512-246-8455**

**Hive Bodies and Supers for Sale**

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