

# WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

## WCABA APRIL 2013 NEWSLETTER

[www.wcaba.org](http://www.wcaba.org)

Look for us on Facebook

DATE: **Thursday**, April 25, 2013  
TIME: 7:00-9:00: Bkg.101, Program  
PLACE: First United Methodist Church Georgetown (MMC bldg.)  
PROGRAM: Successful Requeening-Protecting Your Investment  
HOSTS: Barbara Hunt, Zane Baird, Gary Bible

**PLEASE NOTICE: change of meeting place and change of date!!!**

What an exciting month! Our new nucleus of bees will arrive Saturday, April, 20th and will be located in their new homes; we will move our club meetings across the street from our former meeting area to the McKinney Ministry Center where there will be plenty of chairs for everyone to sit down; and we've had several beneficial rains to encourage the flowers to bloom!



Texas Bluebonnet



Indian Paintbrush



Indian Blanket

Chris Doggett will lead a question/answer session following his presentation regarding "Introduction of New Queens" and "Swarming". If you have a question regarding your experience with hiving your nuc or a new queen, please be ready to state it clearly so all may hear the question as well as the answer.

Because the club queen order has not come in yet and there is still time, it seems prudent to look in depth at the real value of the queen bee and some of the best practices of successful requeening of existing hives or when making splits. Randy Oakley, a second generation beekeeper, will tie in with the Beekeeping 101 session as he covers his outline "Successful Requeening-Protecting Your Investment" with practical examples of what works and why, and report on his requeening efforts thus far this year.

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At last month's meeting the outgoing Scholarship recipients for 2012 were awarded Certificates of Achievement and the new recipients for 2013 were announced. The Scholarship winners were: 14 year old Taylor Foight and his 11 year old sister Jordan Elizabeth of Manor, 13 year old Grace Hilscher of Round Rock, 13 year old Aaron Brockett of Copperas Cove, and 12 year old Sam Latham of Thrall, Texas. The Texas Honey Queen, Shelby Kilpatrick, was present and was assisted by WCABA Honey Queen, Lesli Tucker in presenting the certificates. The new recipients then commence to assemble their beekeeping equipment in preparation to receive their nucleus of bees later in the month. WCABA also conducted its 3rd. annual Kids-LAB the next day which was a great success with over 185 youngsters participating.



2012 Scholarship Recipients



2013 Scholarship Award Winners

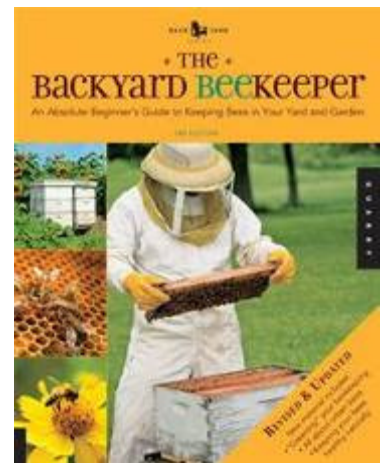
Have you wanted to find the Yahoo Forum group for WCABA but couldn't find it listed under "bees"? Elizabeth Exley, who manages this group, says "it appears Beekeepers and Bees are categorized under 'pets'", so if you want to join, click on <http://pets.yahoo.com/group/wcaba/> and request membership.

Have you checked out a book or CD from the WCABA Library? If so, please be a responsible member user and return the item at the following meeting so all our members can take advantage of this opportunity. Ginny Stubblefield, WCABA Librarian, gives a brief review of an available book each month in the newsletter. We hope you'll look for it.

### Book Nook

*The Backyard Beekeeper* by Kim Flottum. This is a nice book to read after you've read a few other beginners beekeeping books. This book appeals to the backyard beekeeper. There is a lot of information in this book that you won't find in many of the basic beekeeping books. There are many relevant photos that help explain what Mr. Flottum is explaining, which increases our understanding of what he is teaching us. He discusses the best organic and nontoxic ways to care for your bees, such as where to place your hives, how to properly provide water, the importance of protection from heavy winds or rain and other knowledge for us to keep happy, healthy bees. He even includes recipes using honey and explains how to use honey and beeswax to make candles and beauty treatments. The author obviously loves beekeeping and enjoys sharing his enthusiasm with his readers. He is a co-author of *Beekeeping for Dummies* and has written several other books which are in our library.

– Ginny Stubblefield



Welcome to our new members. They are William Colwell - Spicewood, Wayne Dolezal - Bee Cave, Rick Gommert - Rogers, Lynn King - Georgetown, Luther Lucko - Leander, Louis and Katie Natale - Cedar Park, A. B. Walters - Georgetown, and the David Forfia family - Georgetown. Two of these new members aren't new to WCABA, having been members several years ago, but with the interruption in membership, we want to welcome them back.

Swarm season is beginning and I have received several swarm calls the past few days. If you would like to be on the Swarm Call List, please see me at the meeting or send me an email, bostbees@gmail.com, and specify your name, phone numbers, and areas (towns) you would like to serve.

Due to the pressure of time to help our scholarship youths construct their hives at the last meeting, awarding door prizes was omitted. We plan to get back on schedule this time.

The March 2013 *American Bee Journal* has a concise set of tips for the beginning beekeeper in an article, "Smart Short Course" by Kirsten and Michael Traynor. Here are their "tips and tricks to simplify those first hive inspections."

\*Never inspect a hive when you are short on time; move slowly and deliberately.

\*Have a marked queen, so she is easy to spot on the frame and you know the bees have not replaced the original queen.

\*Find the queen first, before doing anything else in the hive.

\*Have a nuc box with a lid and screened off entrance so that when you find the queen, you can set that whole frame inside and close the lid.

\*The queen will be safe inside the nuc box and you are now free to explore the rest of the hive without fear of crushing the queen.

\*Slowly inspect the whole hive; grow familiar with what a healthy hive looks like.

\*Practice finding eggs; on those occasions when you can't find the queen, you'll know she is still there and laying eggs within the last three days.

\*If possible, keep at least 3 hives. This way you can compare and be aware when one isn't doing as well as it should. If you have only one hive, you'll have trouble telling if it's succumbing to disease or thriving.

Editor's note: I would add one more suggestion: Leave a new hive alone for at least three days, preferably closer to a week. Robert and I caused our first hive to abscond as we were so anxious to see how it was thriving that we looked into it nearly every day that first week, and the bees didn't appreciate the disturbance. You should check them after a week, however.

Our recipe this month comes from the book, Kim Flottum's *The Backyard Beekeeper*.

### **Honey Dill Dressing over Red-Skinned Potatoes**

1-1/2 lbs. small new red potatoes

4 strips bacon

1 med. Red onion, diced

6 Tbsp. HONEY

6 Tbsp. apple cider vinegar

1/2 tsp. cornstarch

1/2 tsp. water

2 Tbsp. chopped fresh dill

1 bunch watercress, chopped

In large pot, boil the potatoes whole with skins on in salted water until tender but firm. Drain and cool. While potatoes cool, sauté bacon until crisp, then set aside. Add onion to pan with bacon drippings and cook until soft. Add honey and vinegar to the pan, stir and bring to a boil. Blend cornstarch with water and stir into the honey mixture. Cook until mixture thickens, then remove from heat. Next, crumble the bacon and stir it and the dill into dressing. Cut now-cooled potatoes in half or quarters. Put the potatoes and watercress in a large bowl, pour dressing over, and toss gently.



# Scholarship Kids Assemble Boxes & Frames at Meeting



^ Sam Latham & family (Thrall) with H.Q. Leslie Tucker.  
Jordan & Taylor Foight (Manor) with Jenni Youngblood and  
Texas Honey Queen, Shelby Kilpatrick >



^ Aaron Brockett & family (Copperas Cove) with mentor Ed Eacrett.

Grace Hilscher (Round Rock) with brother Wil & mom Joy >





# WCABA Holds 3rd Annual Kids-LAB in Georgetown







## Hive Bodies and Supers for Sale

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