

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA JUNE 2013 NEWSLETTER

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DATE: Thursday, June 27, 2013
TIME: 7:00-9:00: Bkg.101, Program
PLACE: First United Methodist Church Georgetown (MMC bldg.)
PROGRAM: Williamson County Extension Agent - Fred Hall
HOSTS: David Babyak, Chat & Ana Lerma, Todd Holland

PRESIDENT

Stephen Gardipee
254/939-7085
sgardipee@hotmail.com

1st. V.P.

MEMBERSHIP

Shirley Doggett
512/898-5500
ckdoggett@mindspring.com

2nd. V.P.

PROGRAM

Jimmie Oakley
512/388-3630
jimmie.oakley@att.net

3rd. V.P.

NEWSLETTER

Mary Bost
512/863-3656
bostbees@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Reagan Rozales
512/269-5945
reaganrozales@hotmail.com

TREASURER

Kenneth Miller
512/517-8838
millerkd11@gmail.com

HISTORIAN

Susan Philpott
512/818-2327
sphilpott@jsmr.com

It is exciting to learn that the new Williamson County AgriLife Extension agent, Mr. Fred Hall, has a beekeeping background. His bio says he and his family “are active Milking Shorthorn breeders and are second and third generation beekeepers.” A graduate of Iowa State University, Hall has been involved in a variety of activities including serving as Chickasaw County Extension Director for Iowa State University, was co-chair of the Live Healthy Iowa program in Chickasaw County, and owned and operated Hall-Marc Livestock Photography and Fitting Service, specializing in quality dairy, beef, swine and sheep portraits for marketing purebred livestock breeders in 12 Midwestern states, to name a few of his activities. He states that for the program on the 27th, he will focus on “the bee community at Extension”. Welcome, Fred Hall.



Chris Doggett’s topic for the Beekeeping 101 session will be “Pests and Diseases of the Honey Bee”; a very timely subject and one all beekeepers should be interested in recognizing and controlling.

If you missed the Summer Clinic at the Walker Honey Farm and Dancing Bee Winery on June 1, then you missed a very interesting and enlightening experience. However, 60 of our WCABA members did attend and I feel certain they felt that they got



their money’s worth, including a delicious catered meal. We—WCABA—were the host club with several of our members assisting with registration, set-up, and other activities that make a gathering like this one run smoothly.

Groups of about 20 attendees were guided through the retail store, honey and wine tasting; other groups saw demonstrations of packing and product manufacturing; steps in the art of wine or mead making, aging and bottling; the Walker's process of extracting, clarifying and storing honey; as well as how they protect their bees while working them, moving hives to capture the various flows that occur, plus the natural, chemical free treatment for bee diseases and pathogens as well as proper nutrition.



While about half the attendees were making the tour, the rest were listening to presentations about Integrated Pest Management by WCABA member Lance Wilson; a demonstration of construction and management of Top Bar Hives by Dean Cook of Houston; or a slide presentation by Dr. Juliana Rangel (who spoke to WCABA at our May meeting) on her research at Texas A&M into honey queen production and mating.



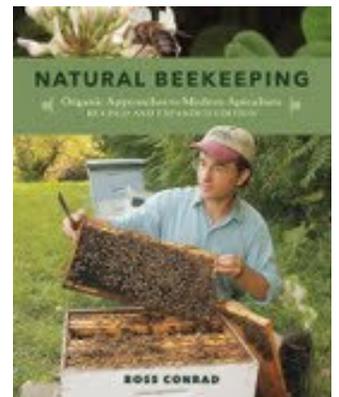
Welcome to our new and renewing members who have joined WCABA at or since our last meeting in May. They are Pamela Yeamans, Austin; John & Taysha Howe, Decatur; Karl, Elma & Eli Simmons, Burnet; Mark Hedley, Rochelle; Michael McPherren, Kempner; David and Diane Forfia, Georgetown; Armando & Marie Zamarripa, Austin; Bart Jennings, Austin; Roberto Becker, Rogers; Joshua Maceloi, Taylor; Bonnie Johnston, Kempner; and Lance Wilson, Austin.

Do you have books or other materials checked out of the WCABA library? If so, please remember to return them at the meeting Thursday evening so others may enjoy using them. While you are registering your attendance, take a moment to look at the shirts and caps with the WCABA logo on them. Ginny Stubblefield will be happy to help you with either library materials or the shirts and caps. She wears many hats; she is also the acting secretary in Reagan's maternity absence.

A gremlin must have sneaked in and swiped the names of the April meeting door prize donors and delayed the reporting of the winners who were Sam Latham, Mark Schroder, David Voelter, Stephen Gardipee, Mary Bost, Frank Morgan, Mike Payne, Solomon Schroder, Raina Whitmore and Oliver Whitmore. Donors at the May meeting were Ginny Stubblefield, Chris Doggett, Leroy Hampleman, and Eacrett Family. Lucky winners were Camille Kimber, Louisa Whitmore, Stand Chambers, and Don Torrey.

Bee's Book Nook by Ginny Stubblefield

Natural Beekeeping by Ross Conrad. In my opinion, this book may have been just a little too advanced for me if I had not started beekeeping before my first reading. Still, it's very informative for a newbie and even better as a reference book as I learn more about beekeeping each day. The author explains hive management in a very clear manner for the reader. He includes illustrations and photos that clearly show the reader what he is explaining. The photos in the chapter about honey harvesting make you almost taste the honey. Mr. Conrad begins the book with basics regarding hives and hive management. He spends an entire chapter on parasitic mites and the many natural ways to locate the mites and how to control them. He also does this with insect pests and hive diseases. I feel much better prepared as a new beekeeper after reading this book. It will always be a favorite reference book for me. You can find many discussions of beekeeping with Ross Conrad on www.youtube.com.



Our swarm list members have been kept busy with swarm calls this month. When someone contacts me about a swarm, I ask for their location (city) and then give the caller three or four names and phone numbers he or she can call. That way, the caller can describe the swarm size, description, location, etc. and give directions to the person's home or other designated meeting place. If you would like to be on the call list, contact Mary Bost.

Beth Walker & Mary Bost @ TBA Summer Clinic >>>



Do you know why bees swarm? What procedure do they use when casting off a swarm? How do they locate a new nesting place? After the bees have a reduced number of bees in the winter—too many bees would utilize too much of their stored honey as well as being difficult to keep warm in a tight cluster—the natural impetus as warm weather brings renewed life to plants and trees, giving the bees pollen and nectar that they can then use to increase their numbers and thereby have a greater field force to make honey. Unless the beekeeper keeps adding adequate “growing space”, the hive soon becomes crowded and the colony needs the more mature bees—about half the work force plus the mother queen—to leave and find a new nesting place.

In Thomas Seeley's book, *Honeybee Democracy*, he says that as the old queen loses some of her potency, her queen pheromone decreases, her attendants notice this and begin developing 10 to 12 queen cells—peanut-shaped elongated cells hanging from the sides of an interior frame into which the bees have fed royal jelly, enough for 16 days, to the selected larva. Meanwhile, the mother queen will be fed less, her egg production declines and her abdomen shrinks dramatically. Worker bees will show hostility by shaking and pushing her, biting her and forcing her to keep walking; exercising and less feeding result in a 25% less body weight so she can now fly/ At the same time, about half the work force will engorge on honey so they will have enough food to sustain them for about three days. Suddenly, the mother queen and about 3,000 of the worker bees will fly out of the hive, land on a nearby tree limb or other landing site while the scout bees fly off to locate a suitable nesting place: a hollow tree, an open shed, a hole in the side of a house, or other aperture. Then, whichever site is chosen, all the bees will follow the chosen scout to their new home.

BAKED SQUASH AND SAUSAGES

2 medium-size acorn squash

8 sausage links

4 Tbsp. honey

Wash squash and cut in half lengthwise. Remove seeds. To each half add 1 tablespoon of honey and 2 pork sausage links. Bake at 400 degrees F. until squash is tender and sausages are brown. Serves 4

All Day Clinic and Dinner on the Grounds



Rebekah , Cindy , and Rachel Jones, and Chet and Ana Lerma enjoy delicious roasted chicken dinner.

W.C.A.B.A. MEETING MINUTES – May 23, 2013

1. **Beekeeping 101 Class** – “Inspection of Your Hive” by Chris Doggett
2. **Business Meeting** – Stephen Gardipee, President, opened the meeting
 - A. **Introduction of Guests** – led by the President
 - B. **Secretary Read the Minutes** – There was a motion and a second to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.
 - C. **Treasurer’s Report** – Kenneth Miller, Treasurer, reported the current balance is \$4,011.07. There was a motion and a second to approve the Treasurer’s Report. The report was approved.
 - D. **Meeting Attendance** – 121 attendees
 - E. **Date for Next Meeting** – June 27, 2013
 - F. **Other Business** –
 - a. Jimmie Oakley asked members for feedback regarding the nucs they received through the club.
 - b. Jimmie Oakley explained there is a march against Monsanto which will be held in downtown Austin on Saturday, May 25. Marchers will need to meet at Brush Square Park, 409 E. 5th Street @ Neches, at 9:30 a.m.
 - c. Jimmie Oakley told members about the 2013 Honey Queen Raffle to win a Dadant expanded apiary kit worth over \$300. The tickets are \$5 each.
3. **Special Guest Speaker** – Juliana Rangel explained there is a very active Honey Bee Lab at Texas A&M University. Dr. Rangel said there is now a current list, by county, on the A&M website showing who has received a bee removal permit with the Texas Apiary Inspection Service to remove swarms. Dr. Rangel spoke to the members about the reproductive biology of honey bee queens and drones.
4. **Adjournment of the Meeting** – The President adjourned the meeting.

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