

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA JULY 2013 NEWSLETTER

www.wcaba.org

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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

DATE: Thursday, July 25, 2013
TIME: 7:00-9:00: Bkg.101, Program
PLACE: First United Methodist Church Georgetown (MMC bldg.)
PROGRAM: Honey Extracting using Langstroth and Top Bar Hive.
HOSTS: Ginny Stubblefield, Rebecca Nunnally, Diane Rendon

During Beekeeping 101 this month Chris Doggett will discuss extracting honey and loss of hives before calling for questions and discussion. It would be very helpful if those raising their hands to ask questions would allow time for a microphone to be brought to them so all the audience could hear the question as well as the response.

The main program will undertake to demonstrate the process of extracting honey using the WCABA Club extracting equipment setup and also a top bar hive. With many of the members already taking advantage of the free use of the setup it is important to make sure all members are properly instructed in its use. There will be honey to extract and all those (newbees) who have never engaged in this activity are encouraged to be involved. The honey extracted during the evening will be bottled and given to staff at the Church in appreciation for taking care of during the year.



Thanks to Shirley Doggett, who figured out a way to contact Reagan Rozales in Houston, we now have news to share with you about their new baby. Reagan and Dave Rozales are the proud parents of a baby boy, Jasper, who was born May 16, weighing in at 5 pounds, 13 ounces. Due to the heart problem that was detected as a fetus, Jasper has had heart surgery and has had to spend time in ICU; however, the proud parents are hoping for continued good progress. Born a month early, Jasper now weighs 7 pounds, 8 ounces. Congratulations, Reagan and Dave. Our prayers and best wishes are with the three of you.

Another beekeeper family with a new baby is Serhiy and Bethany Makhivshchuk. Their baby, Zoryana Natalie, was born June 10. When they came to pick up the extracting equipment, they reported being “very short on sleep”. Hopefully, the new baby syndrome will soon abate.

And we also note that the Hilsher family greeted a new one, Gage True, was born to Joy & Jay Hilscher on April 1st (12 days late). He was 9 lbs. 6 oz - a Texas size boy. He has already made his first appearance at the WCABA meeting .

While we welcome new life, we also want to honor members who have died recently. Long-time beekeeper and WCABA member, Doug Branch of Austin, passed away recently. Also, Diana Bost, who with her husband, Rick Bost, kept bees and have been long-distance WCABA members (living near Tulsa, OK), lost her battle with cancer in June. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to both families.

Welcome to our new members, Trisha and Ben Campbell, Round Rock; Mitch Gatlin, Bertram; Bruce Jefferson, Horseshoe Bay; Pamela and David McCallum, Round Rock; and Fred Hall, Georgetown. Also, renewing his membership is Serhiy Makhivshchuk, Austin (who was proudly speaking of their new baby).

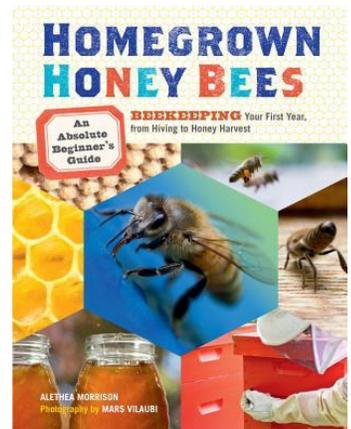
Door prizes at our last meeting were donated by Nik Savo, Better Bee Equipment (Josiah Youngblood), and Ginny Stubblefield, plus the donations that had not been awarded the previous month due to shortage of time. Lucky winners were Derek Foight, Susan Cowan, Wayne Baker, Samuel Baird, Aaron Brockett, and Elma Simmons.

The club extractor and equipment has been having a busy time recently. For our newest members—this equipment (all you will need to extract your crop of honey)—is available without charge to current members. It is stored at the Bost farm, 4355 CR 110, Georgetown and can be reserved for your use for 3 days by emailing or phoning Mary Bost. After it’s used, clean it thoroughly and return it to the farm to be checked in on the reservation form.

It’s always enjoyable to take a brief snack break between Beekeeping 101 and the Program. Three members sign up for the month of their choice to bring the goodies while member donation of spare change helps provide the coffee and juice plus the necessary paper plates, etc. We still need one more host in September as well as two more hosts for November. Ginny Stubblefield will have the Host Sheet at the library-tee shirt table; if you can help either of these two months, please see her to put your name on the month you choose.

Bees Book Nook – Ginny Stubblefield

Homegrown Honey Bees: An Absolute Beginner’s Guide by Althea Morrison is a great book for our new-bees in the W.C.A.B.A. This book is a family effort. The writer’s husband provided exquisite close-up photography to show us examples of what was being discussed. Their son even breathes life back into a bee he rescued from freezing. This book will help you survive your first year as a beekeeper. There are step-by-step instructions of things that need to be done during your first year of beekeeping. The photos add amazing visual examples of bee life. There is a bee diary in which the author shares her family’s discoveries and



anecdotes. Ms. Morrison’s interviews with backyard beekeepers show quite a variety of beekeeping practices. This is a book the entire family will enjoy. The sections and chapters are well organized, so the book flows nicely. The book is definitely how the author describes it – for the beginner, but well worth your time.

A vendor friend handed me an article she had removed from a publication recently that had some interesting comments about bees. Entitled “Productive Pollinators, and written by Linda Roundtree Grove, who is a hobby beekeeper in Missouri, it lists five reasons to keep bees.

1. Beekeeping is not labor intensive. Unlike livestock or chickens, they don’t need daily attention.
2. Bees are not picky about where they live. They can be kept in the country or city.
3. Honey and beeswax are useful and profitable. (More about this in another paragraph.)
4. Beekeeping puts you in touch with nature and yourself. It enhances enjoyment of the outdoor; gives a heightened awareness of plants in bloom as well as insight into seasonal changes in weather; alleviates stress—causes one to be calm, slow down; can be a meditative, relaxing experience.
5. Beekeeping supports the bees’ community as well as our own. Mentoring and educational opportunities about at local school, community centers, 4-H clubs.

The comment that was very interesting stated that “honey has multiple uses; a hive will produce an average of 60 pounds of surplus honey a year. Honey has long been used to treat sore throats and some allergy sufferers swear by raw local honey’s ability to alleviate allergy symptoms. Due to honey’s antimicrobial properties, it can be used to treat minor cuts and scrapes. It creates deliciously moist baked goods. Beeswax makes sweet smelling, slow-burning, nearly smokeless candles. Honey and wax can be used in making homemade bath and body products such as soaps, hand creams, and lip balms. Honey makes a great gift and both honey and beeswax can be sold for extra income.”

Ask Jimmie or Kay Oakley about tincture of Propolis; they use it for scrapes, cuts, etc. A friend whose old Siamese cat was losing her hair and scratching her skin put honey on the cat’s food; she stopped scratching, the hair grew back and the cat loved the honey. Several of us use bee stings to alleviate the pain of arthritis.

An article in the Albuquerque Journal and forwarded by Larry and Pat Bost tells of a person who was treated with bee stings to alleviate the tremors of Parkinson’s disease. The Michael J. Fox Foundation “funded a study of bee-venom therapy in a mouse model of Parkinson’s. The results were positive.” It has also been used to alleviate symptoms of Multiple Sclerosis.

My fig tree is loaded with figs for the first time in years. I’ve been looking for a good fig preserve recipe, so will try this one from *Putting It Up With Honey* by Susan Geiskopf.

Honey-Fig Jam

8 cups figs

4 cups honey

1 lemon

Peel figs, mash, them, and cook slowly. (Figs need not be peeled though peeling them will give a nicer quality). When they reach a slow boil, add honey and finely sliced and chopped lemon, including rind. Cook, stirring constantly, until thick. Spoon into hot sterilized jars to within ¼ -inch from top. Seal. Process in a boiling-water bath for 10 minutes.

Yield: 7 half-pints. Jam has a unique, delicious flavor. Also, it’s a good filling for fig bars.

W.C.A.B.A. MEETING MINUTES – June 27, 2013

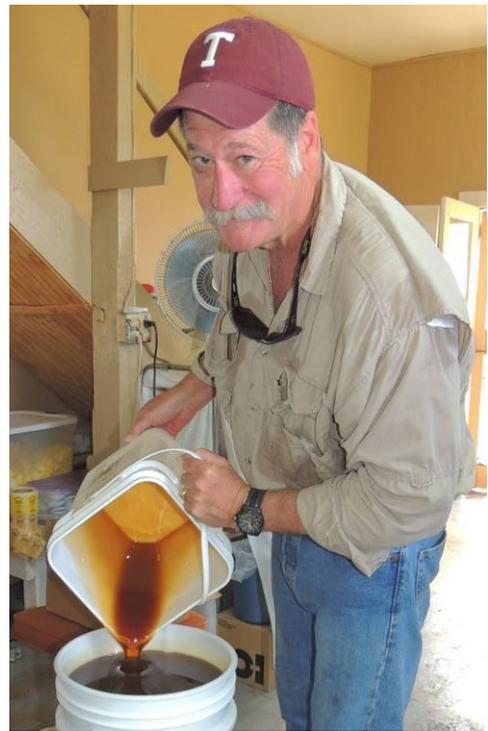
1. **Beekeeping 101 Class** – “Honey Bee Diseases and Parasites”
2. **Business Meeting** – Stephen Gardipee, President, opened the meeting
 - A. **Secretary Read the Minutes** – There was a motion and a second to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.
 - B. **Treasurer’s Report** – Kenneth Miller, Treasurer, reported the current balance is \$4,598.17.
 - C. **Meeting Attendance** – 99 attendees
 - D. **Introduction of Guests** – led by the President
 - E. **Door Prizes** – Chris Doggett – awarded door prizes
 - F. **Date for the Next Meeting** – August 22, 2013
 - G. **Other Business** –
 - (1.) Jimmie Oakley announced that a donation of \$250 was made to the Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost Memorial Scholarship Fund by Patricia and Larry Bost in memory of Dr. Diana Bost, wife of W.C.A.B.A. member Dr. Rick Bost and daughter-in-law of member Mary Bost.
 - (2.) Stephen Gardipee announced that a donation of \$75 was made to the W.C.A.B.A. by Melissa Fiero of Liberty Hill as a thank you for bee removal done by members Wayne Magee and Gary Bible.
3. **Special Guest Speaker** – Fred M. Hall, the County Extension Agent for the Texas A & M AgriLife Extension Service located in Georgetown. Mr. Hall discussed his job responsibilities to the Williamson County community. He also discussed bee health and the importance of bees in our agriculture.
4. **Adjournment of the Meeting** – The President adjourned the meeting.

MORE EXTRACTING PICS



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Dr. Neel Ware >>>





The Rutherford Family

Callie Hearing >>>



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Randy Oakley

Caleb Oakley