

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA SEPTEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER

www.wcaba.org

Look for us on Facebook

DATE: Thursday, September 26, 2013
TIME: 7:00-9:00: Bkg.101, Program
PLACE: First United Methodist Church Georgetown (MMC bldg.)
PROGRAM: Honey Tasting Contest, Honey Judging
HOSTS: Shirley Doggett, Jennifer Whitmore, Mary Bost

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The honey extracting equipment has been busy this month. There should be quite a few members bring in a sample of their current crop of honey in a small jar (such as a baby food or pimienta jar) without a label for the Taster's Choice Contest. For our new members' information: each person gets to dip a clean toothpick in each jar to taste the honey and then each person gets to vote 3 times for the honeys he/she likes best. The winners get a blue ribbon for the most votes, a red ribbon for the second most, and a white ribbon for third and bragging rights for the rest of the year. It's great fun.



While we are enjoying the tasting, a selected group of members will be judging the 1- pound jars of honey that our members have brought. These honeys will be judged according to a set of criteria regarding taste, appearance, etc. All the jars judged to be 90% or better will be awarded blue ribbons, and the honey will then be taken to the State Fair in Dallas where it will be displayed during the Fair, after which it will be given to the Happy Hill Children's Home in Granbury. The second one-pound jar will be taken to the TBA Convention in November where it will be judged against all other Texas honey in the state honey contest. A \$3 entry fee will be required for the state competition.

Color:	Entry #
Container Appearance	5
Level of Fill	5
Density	10
Free of Crystals	10
Free of Bubbles and Foam	10
Free of Wax	10
Free of Lint	10
Free of Other Foreign Material	10
Flavor	15
Brightness	15
Total Points	100

Chris Doggett will have a presentation on **Fall Management** of our bees. As we go into the fall and winter months, we need to know what preparations are necessary to help our bees withstand cold weather as well as the scarcity of plants to forage.

Are you planning to attend the State Fair of Texas? It will be in Dallas from September 27 to October 20 this year. Several of our WCABA members in the past have gotten a free pass simply by volunteering to be one of the four volunteers for a half day who talk to visitors to the Food Fair about bees and honey. If you're interested, talk to Jimmie Oakley at the meeting on Thursday evening or email John Talbert, State Fair Booth Coordinator, at john@sabinecreekhoney.com



Have you considered attending the Texas Beekeepers Association Annual Convention in Plano November 7-10th? This event is always educational, interesting, fun, and inspirational. The TBA Journal for July/August (edited by our own Chris Doggett, incidentally) has an excellent overview of what one could expect if he/she attended. Plus you would get to hear some knowledgeable speakers, meet some interesting acquaintances, maybe even make some good beekeeping friends, and hear a lot of beekeeping stories and experiences. (Ask to see my TBA Journal if you'd like to have more pertinent information, or go to the website: texasbeekeepers.org and click the events tab, then Annual Convention, and finally Details. MB)

We welcome new members April May and Jason Walston of Florence who joined WCABA this month. Also, Buddy and Cherie Miller, Marble Falls; and Randy and Gena Traylor, Georgetown, renewed their memberships this month.

Shirley Doggett tells us that Reagan and Dave Rozales have now moved into a house in Texas City (near Houston) and are preparing a nursery for little Jasper as soon as he is released from the hospital. We wish God's blessing and protection for this little family. Chris Doggett and Jimmie Oakley helped move the Rozales bees to new homes recently, relieving them of one more responsibility.

Door prizes at our August meeting were donated by Linda Franke, Shirley Doggett, Ginny Stubblefield, Sally Horton, Tanya Phillips, Mike Payne, and Linda Hoskins. The lucky winners were Linda Franke, Ed Eacrett, Michael Henderson, Olivia Landry, Davin Hoyt, Bob Bradley, Mike Guidry, Genevieve Hill, Mathew Garrett and Kay Oakley.

Bees Book Nook – Ginny Stubblefield: If you enjoy beekeeping but would like to possibly expand into becoming a commercial beekeeper selling honey, [Better Beekeeping](#) is a good book for you to read. There are many basics in the book but the author, Kim Flottum, emphasizes how a beekeeper moves into selling honey for profit. The book is full of tips and tricks on how to make your operation run smoothly, efficiently and get the most from your bees. Mr. Flottum discusses topics such as buying equipment, honey houses, leasing land, plants for honey bees, getting the best queens, production goals, prevention of swarming, and many helpful topics to help you decide if you wish to move into honey production for selling. He also includes excellent photographs to enhance his discussions. This is not a book for the novice beginner but is best for beekeepers who have one or two years of experience.



If you are a member of TBA, you are already receiving the TBA Journal, either online or the printed version. I'm still old-fashioned enough that I prefer to read it in print, eventhough Jimmie Oakley points out that it costs the TBA to pay the postage. I was looking through the July/August issue and found Becky Bender's informative article. "The Buds and the Bees" but what really caught my attention was the question

from a reader:”Do you buy your herbs from seed or plant? And do you have a list of herbs per season that attract pollinators?”

Bender responded, “I usually purchase my herbs as plants. But here are some options.

“Herbs that can be easily started from seed are: basil, dill, cilantro, borage, fennel and chives. These are all attractive to bees if you let them ’go to seed’ or ’flower out’. Buzzworthy herbs that are fussy about growing from seed and best purchased as plants are: rosemary, lavender, bee balm and tarragon. If you already have healthy plants, try starting new ones with cuttings.

“‘Shrubby-type’ herbs like rosemary, thyme, lavender, sage, oregano and mint are most easily started from cuttings.

“Here is your seasonal list of "buzzworthy" herbs to attract pollinators:

Spring: chives, catnip, thyme, lavender, yarrow, rosemary

Summer: mint, bee balm, thyme, borage, germander, lavender, fennel, dill, cilantro and parsley, catnip, basil, rue, borage, oregano, hyssop

Fall: mint marigold (Texas tarragon), bee balm, basil, rosemary

Winter: rosemary”

I hope this makes you eager to start planting some of these herbs for your bees and for your own kitchen.

Who doesn’t like a tasty, cold dessert on a hot summer day? I haven’t tried this recipe but it sounds delicious—and it would be cold! It appears in Juliette Elkton’s *The Honey Cookbook*, printed in 1972.

HONEY PEPPERMINT SHERBET

1 ½ Teaspoons gelatin
2 tablespoons water
½ cup milk

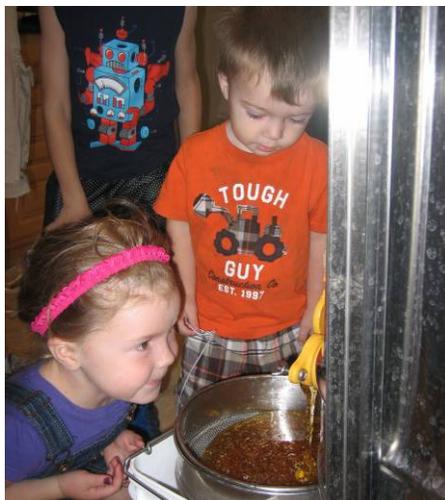
1/3 cup honey
¾ cup crushed peppermint stick candy
2 ½ cups cream

Soak gelatin in cold water. Heat milk and cream and add honey; mix well. Add gelatin slowly, stirring constantly to prevent lumping. (Thoroughly chill if you wish to shorten freezing time.) Pour in freezing trays with crushed candy and freeze until mushy. Stir. Repeat twice. If bits of candy are desired in the sherbet, add it after the mix has become semi-solid. Unsweetened chocolate (1 square), cut into small pieces, may be added. Serves 4

HOW DO YOU MAKE NEW BEEKEEPERS? Grandma Ann Bierschenk's example is to:



1) Start 'em out young



2) Keep it interesting



3) Make sure they are up to the task at hand.

W.C.A.B.A. MEETING MINUTES – August 22, 2013

1. **Beekeeping 101 Class** – “Tales from the Hive” was screened for the group while everyone participated in the “Ice Cream Social”. Several tables with various topics regarding beekeeping were set up for the group to visit during the meeting.
2. **Business Meeting** – Stephen Gardipee, President, opened the meeting
 - A. **Treasurer’s Report** – Kenneth Miller, Treasurer, reported the current balance is \$4,483.92
 - B. **Meeting Attendance** – 73 attendees
 - C. **Introduction of Guests** – led by the President
 - D. **Door Prizes** – Chris Doggett awarded door prizes
 - E. **Date for Next Meeting** – September 26, 2013
 - F. **Announcements** –

The Texas Beekeepers Association Convention is November 7th – 10th at the Southfork Hotel in Plano, Texas. For more information, go to texasbeekeepers.org or contact Jimmie Oakley or Chris Doggett.

Texas Beekeepers Association has a booth at the Texas State Fair, Sept. 27 – Oct. 20. Please visit or help with the booth or donate honey.

The WCABA September meeting is honey tasting and honey judging. Bring a small sample of your honey in a small jar for the tasting. For the honey judging, bring two one-pound jars, labeled, and they will be judged against state standards. The jars will go to the Texas State Fair and the TBA State Convention.

Gary Bible asked for honey donations, money donations, and booth support for the Wolfe-Bost Scholarship Program fund raiser on November 2, 2013 at the Liberty Hill United Methodist Church. The time for the booth will be from 10:00 until 3:00. The address is 101 Church Street (1820 @ Myrtle).



Last Year's Honey Judging



Last Year's Honey Tasting



Honey Judged and going to the State Fair



2012 Taster's Choice Winners

Hive Bodies and Supers for Sale

All Boxes Available with Assembled Frames

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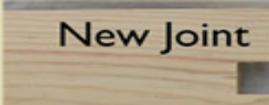
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