

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA NOVEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER

www.wcaba.org

Look for us on Facebook

DATE: Thursday, October 21, 2013
TIME: 7:00-9:00: Bkg.101, Program
PLACE: First United Methodist Church Georgetown (MMC bldg.)
PROGRAM: Scholarship Recipient Reports
HOSTS: Sue Batsche, Rennie Palmer, George Scott

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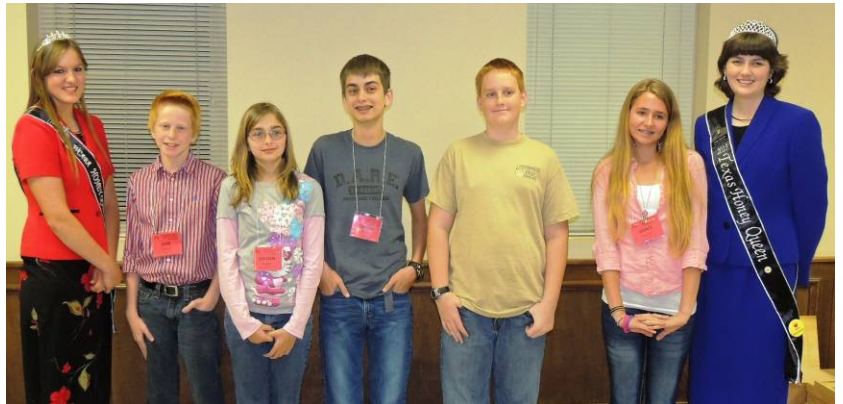
Remember: Come to WCABA on 3rd Thurs.: eat turkey on 4th Thurs.

Last March we were privileged to introduce our 2013 winners of the Ed Wolfe-Robert

Bost Memorial Scholarships: **Sam Latham, Jordan and Taylor Foight, Aaron Brockett and Grace Hilscher.** In

November they will give their reports on their experiences as they've been learning about bees

and the joys and perils of beekeeping. In the past we've been privileged to watch a variety of unique presentations and I'm sure our young people will have some interesting experiences to relate at next Thursday's meeting.



Zane Baird and Chris Doggett will have "How We Buy Bees" as their topic for Beekeeping 101. Something many of us will be considering in the next few weeks.

November is the month when officers for the ensuing year are elected. Although the following list of officers will be presented for your consideration, nominations may also be made from the floor.

President:

1st VP- Membership

2nd VP- Program

3rd VP – Newsletter

Secretary

Treasurer

Historian

Chris Doggett

Shirley Doggett

Jimmie Oakley

Mary Bost

Ginny Stubblefield

Kenneth Miller

Susan Philpott

Besides the elected officers, other members have given of their time and talents to make the operations and benefits of WCABA work more smoothly. Agreeing to take other responsibilities are the following:

Gary Bible – Refreshments	Chris Doggett & Zane Baird - Beekeeping 101
Holly Medina – Librarian	Lisa Foight/Joy Hilscher – Facebook Page
Lisa Hoekstra – Door Prizes	Zane Baird - Bee/Queen Procurement
John Philpott - Website	Phil Ainslie -- Equipment Procurement
Elizabeth Exley – Yahoo	Tanya Phillips – Spring/Fall Clinics

Do you know a school-age boy or girl who would like to learn about the fascinating world of the honey bee? Not just anybody has what it takes to be a good beekeeper; he or she needs to have an interest in learning about bees, needs to be strong and old enough to do the work required, and must be willing to be stung occasionally. If you know someone, preferably between the ages of 12 to 16, who you think would be a good candidate to earn a scholarship, tell them about our Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost Memorial Scholarship that awards the choosen recipients the equipment and bees to start a hive of bees. For an application and further information, go to www.wcaba.org and click on scholarships.

Our scholarships have been funded by donations of money as well as donated honey that was sold at Wesley Fest in Georgetown. That venue is not available this year, but Gary Bible invited WCABA to participate in the Liberty Hill UMC Fall Fest and reported that \$222.00 was raised from the sale of donated honey. Quite a lot of honey was left over, however. For a \$6 “donation” you could get a honey bear or for \$8.00, a one-pound bottle of honey to help out the scholarship program. It will be available at the meeting.

There is a proposal to be voted on that would raise WCABA membership dues next year from \$10.00 to \$15.00. Consider paying your dues now. 45 members have renewed and 14 new members also joined.

At the recently concluded Texas Beekeepers Convention held in Plano, Texas, WCABA had a noticeable presence, twenty-one of our members were in attendance in the biggest ever convention. The Oakley's, Jimmie, Kay & Samuel worked registration. Chris & Shirley Doggett and Cindy & Rachel Jones organized the Auctions. And Lesli Tucker, WCABA Honey Queen, and Rebekah Jones, WCABA Queen Chair, both represented us in their capacity. All who attended felt it was a great meeting.



Rachel & Rebekah Jones @ Auction

Welcome to the following new members: Daniel and Sandy McLaughlin, Cedar Park; Natalie Flowers, Leonard DSouza, and Brook and Mary Alice Peterson, Marion Meneles, and Tom and Darlene Symons, all from Austin; Michael Hendrickson, Thorndale; Joe Bader, Boerne; Dewey and Lolita Heimcamp, Round Rock; Eve Beach, also William and Maurine Janke, Georgetown; Travis Fagala, Leander; and Rebecca Trey, also Eldon Stamford, Hutto.

Members who have renewed their membership are Phil Ainslee, Mary Bost, Richard Bost, Christi Bader, Susye Bowles, Mark Bradley, Trisha Campbell, Paul Clutts, Susan Cowan, Chris & Shirley Doggett, John & Meredith Duke, Ed & Karen Eacrett, Elizabeth Exley, Angelo Feller, Karen Flanagan, Stephan Gardipee, Elmer Goertz, Dean Hamilton, Wayne Hayes, Fred & Myrna Herber, Lisa & Dirk Hoekstra, Steve Hoskins, and Davin Hoyt.

Also renewing are Cindy Jones, Breck & Ann Landry, Hal Mettes, Kenneth Miller, J.R. Moody, Jimmie and Kay Oakley, Randy Oakley Family, Bill & Rennie Palmer, Charles & Loren Powell, Nicolas Savo,

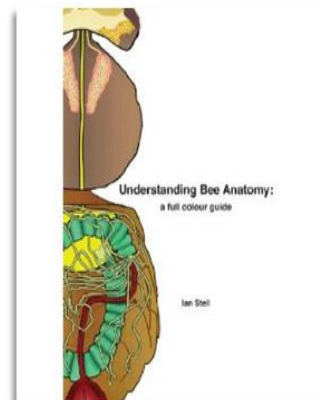
Wayne Sanders, Charles & Irene Scheuer, George & Cassandra Scott, Jared & Karen Smith, Ginny Stubblefield, Deann Tidwell, Raul Vergara, Ray & Karen Walker, Don Williamson, and Joe Zern.

Instead of drawing names from the sign-in list, you will be offered a numbered ticket when you register your attendance. If that number is drawn at the break for snacks, you may choose one of the door prizes. Door prizes last month were donated by Ginny Stubblefield and Lisa Hoekstra. The prize winners were Sandy Kennedy, Holly Medina, and Cindy Higginbotham.

Bees Book Nook

Ginny Stubblefield

The author, Dr. Ian Stell, is an emergency room doctor in London who is also a Master Beekeeper. He saw many disease challenges to bees that he also saw in humans. He has applied his knowledge of the human body in describing the honeybee, system by system. The first chapter shows the developmental stages, revealing every change that takes place from the egg to the larva, then the pupa. Additional chapters cover all body parts, wings and flight structures, the circulatory, respiratory and digestive systems. He follows with chapters about the queen and drones. There are excellent color diagrams and illustrations, as well as quite a few photographs to show you what Dr. Stell is discussing. If you wish to increase your knowledge of the honeybee, this book is an excellent choice.



Are you a good beekeeper neighbor? There are several conditions a beekeeper needs to consider when establishing his bee yard: Is it near a source for water, or where livestock might cause a problem? Is it visible from a road where vandals might cause destruction? Could flooding destroy the hives and bees? Is there some shade nearby? But most important, are they situated where they may cause trouble by stinging your neighbor's family or pets? Other's safety is paramount in being a good beekeeper neighbor.

There are several ways you can set up situations to keep your honey bees from being a neighborhood nuisance. Bees must have water; set up a water source near your hives. One man put a shag carpet square under a dripping faucet; his bees loved getting their water without drowning. If your bees have already found a neighbor's swimming pool or bird bath, encourage them to stay at home by drizzling a little honey around an easily accessed container in your yard. They will prefer the sweetened liquid to plain water.

Place your hive(s) near something dense or solid several feet taller than the hive so the bees will have to fly up and away from the neighbor's yard. One man put his hives near his privacy fence; his neighbors didn't even know he had bees. A tall hedge would serve the same purpose.

If all else fails, locate a place far enough removed from people's living quarters that your bees won't be a nuisance and you can maintain good relationships with your neighbor.

W.C.A.B.A. MEETING MINUTES – October 25, 2013

1. **Beekeeping 101 Class** – “The Beekeeping Year Starts in the Fall” – Zane Baird
2. **Meeting** – Chris Doggett opened the meeting
 - A. **Treasurer's Report** – Kenneth Miller, Treasurer, reported the current balance is \$1,412.65, after paying bills and making a deposit on 2014 bees.
 - B. **Meeting Attendance** – 125 attendees
 - C. **Introduction of Guests** – Chris Doggett
 - D. **Door Prizes** – Chris Doggett and Lisa Hilscher awarded door prizes
 - E. **Date for Next Meeting** – November 21, 2013 – the THIRD Thursday of the month

F. **Special Guest Speaker** – **Bill Baxter, Interim Chief Apiary Inspector**, Dept. of Entomology, Texas A&M University. Mr. Baxter discussed various aspects of beekeeping, such as controlling varroa mites, small hive beetles, diseases, etc.

3. **Announcements** –

Gary Bible – W.C.A.B.A. members will be working the Harvest Festival at Liberty Hill United Methodist Church from 10:00 till 4:00 on November 2, selling honey and taking donations for the Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost Memorial Scholarship Fund for future youth beekeepers. There will be an observation hive in the booth. The Hilschers donated 10 honey bears for the sale. Donations of honey and money will be appreciated. All volunteers to work the booth will be welcome.

Jimmie Oakley announced there is a proposal that membership fees be increasing to \$15 for a family annual membership, effective the January meeting. If members pay to renew their membership before the January meeting, the fee will still be \$10.

Randy Oakley explained that he now works for ABC Pest Control. The company has decided to no longer exterminate bees. Randy was asking if any club members would be interested in working for the company to rescue bees.

Chris Doggett reminded the members that our next meeting will be on the third Thursday of November, the 21st, because of Thanksgiving. Chris also reminded the membership that the Texas Beekeepers Association annual meeting will be in Plano from Nov. 7–10, 2013.

Zane Baird discussed the package/queen orders that will be available to members.

Ginny Stubblefield - Acting Secretary

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**Randy Oakley
Caleb Oakley**

"Beekeepers Caring for Bees"