

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA April 2014 NEWSLETTER

www.wcaba.org

Look for us on Facebook

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DATE: Thursday, April 24, 2014
TIME: 7:00-9:00: Beekeeping101, Program
PLACE: First United Methodist Church Georgetown (MMC bldg.)
PROGRAM: Lance Wilson: Spring Management of the Bee Hive
HOSTS: Cindy Jones, Paula Walls, and Tobey Latham

Are you ready for your honey bees? One hundred packages of bees will be at the Bost farm on **Saturday, April 26**, waiting for the first group of WCABA members to come get them while the other 100 packages will be delivered there two weeks later, **May 10th**. Those of you who are wanting to requeen your established hive(s) will need to come on Saturday, **May 3** to get your queen. **BE SURE TO BRING YOUR PICK-UP VOUCHER WITH DATE, NUMBER OF PACKAGES, QUEENS, & AMOUNT DUE.**

At 1:00 on the 26th, Jimmie Oakley will be showing the scholarship winners how to introduce a package of bees to their new home. Any of our new members and guests interested in learning more about bees and beekeeping will be welcome to attend this orientation session. Jimmie will also offer a similar orientation on May 10. Onlookers are encouraged to wear a cap or hat to cover their hair. Ladies, bees are attracted to sweet odors, so no perfume, please.

Our six scholarship winners and their helpers got right to work assembling their hive bodies and frames after they were introduced at the last meeting.

They are

(r to l) **Michael Campbell** of Round Rock; **Elise Gardner**, Austin; **Quentin Irely**, Hutto; **Christian Rogers**, Temple; **Emma Wall**, Leander, and **Cora Schell**, Round Rock.



Hayden Wolf, Texas Honey Queen, presented the 2013 Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost scholarship recipient Certificate of Achievement. Those present to receive recognition were **Aaron Brockett, and Jordan Elizabeth Foight.**

Last month Becky Bender, Texas Master Naturalist and Collin County Beekeeper, presented a well-received program on “Beescapes”: plants that are especially attractive to honey bees, with ideas for grouping, etc. in the landscape. Some of us were unable to pick up one of her print-outs after last month’s meeting, so look for a copy at the end of this newsletter...[HONEY BEE PLANTS](#)

This month’s Beekeeping 101 presentation will be “Seven Mistakes a Beekeeper Makes”, by Chris Doggett. After a short break for snacks and a brief business session, Lance Wilson will lead the program on “Spring Management.”



Welcome to our new members who joined WCABA at the March meeting. They are Shawn and Holly Anchors of Georgetown; Gus and Virginia Pietsch, Houston; Barbie, Jonathan and Benjamin Gorgan, Leander; and Rick Mitchell, Georgetown.

Members who renewed their membership are Albert Morgan, David and Annette Voelter, Renee and Don Rainey, and Leslie Sparks. We encourage those who have not renewed their WCABA membership to do so at the earliest opportunity to avoid being dropped from the newsletter/membership roll.

Swarming season is fast approaching. Mary Bost would like to update her list of beekeepers who have indicated that they would like to capture swarms. Please contact her at the meeting or email her at bostbees@gmail.com if you are interested in capturing swarms.

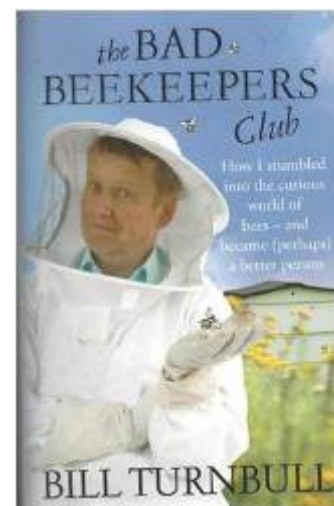
The yahoo group has been a popular contact place for WCABA members to ask questions or make other comments regarding beekeeping. If you would like to be part of this internet group, contact Elizabeth Exley at lizexley@msn.com.

Door prizes last month were donated by Rob Zurovec, Lisa Hoekstra, and Becky Bender. Lucky winners were Heather Rogers, Christian Rogers, Daniel Eacrett, Bart Jennings, John Philpott, Karen Eacrett, and Mary Marcotte.

BEES BOOK NOOK

Holly Medina

This book is different from the typical technical first time beekeeping books. It’s written with a light hearted humor that will appeal to the new beekeeper and the experienced beekeeper alike. Bill Turnbull starts off the book about his first lesson in beekeeping and how it taught him something about himself and the world around him. In the following chapters he chronicles his mishaps and brief moments of triumph with humor in a way that educates the reader. The Bad Beekeepers Club is an interestingly easy read.



HONEY BEE PLANTS

of Central and North Texas



SPRING

Flowers: Dandelion (I & A), Indian Blanket (N), Horsemint and Beebalm (N), Pincushion/Scabiosa (I), Verbena (N), Datura (N), Cosmos, (A), Mexican Heather (A), Borage (A), Clovers (A & I), Vetches (A & I)

Shrubs, Herbs, Vines: Rose of Sharon (A), Hollies (N&A), Indian Hawthorne (A), Sumacs (N), Catmint -variety Walker's Low (A), Abelia (A), Ligustrum/Privet (I), Rattan Vine (N), Carolina Buckthorn (N), Agarita (N), Lavender (A), Elbowbush (N), Prickly Pear Cactus (N)

Trees: Eastern/Texas Redbud (N), Blackhaw Viburnum (N), Rough-leaf Dogwood (N), Mesquite (N), Mimosa (I), Desert Willow (N), Black Willows (N), Prickly Ash (N), Texas/Common Persimmon (N), Mexican Plum/native plum thickets (N), Chinaberry (I)

SUMMER

Flowers: Indian Blanket (N), Coneflowers (N), African Blue Sage (A), Horsemints and Beebalm (N), Maypop/Passionflower (N), Purple Prairie Clover (N), Milkweeds

Shrubs, Herbs, Vines: Flame Acanthus (N), Catmint (A), Buttonbush (wetlands) (N), Onion and garlic chives (A), Rosemary (A), Lavender, Mints, Privet/Ligustrum (I), Kidneywood (N), Paloverde/Parkinsonia (N), Beebrush (N), Huisache/Acacias (N), Clematis (N), Rose of Sharon/ Hibiscus (A), Texas Sage/Cenizo (N), Abelia (A), Dewberry groundcover (N)

Trees: Desert Willow (N), Crepe Myrtle (A), Golden Rain Tree (I), Magnolia (N), Basswood (N), Vitex/ Lilac Chaste (I), Prickly Ash (N), Soapberry (N)

FALL—WINTER

Flowers: Blue Fall Asters (N), White Mist Flower (N), Goldenrod (N), Mexican Mint Merigold, (A), Sunflowers (N), Frostweed (N), Broomweed (N), Snow-on-the-Prairie (N), Mexican Heather (A)

Shrubs, Herbs, Vines: Almond Verbena (A), Texas Sage/Cenizo (N), Mexican Bush Sage (N), Winter Honeysuckle—avoid invasive varieties (A), Elaeagnus or Silverberry (I), Flowering Quince (A), Rosemary, (A) Basil (A) Flame Acanthus (N), Turk's Cap (N), Datura (N)

Trees: Cedar Elms (pollen) (N), Loquat (A), Desert Willow (N)

KEY: N = Native to Texas; A = Adapted to Texas
I = Invasive in Texas - not recommended

TIPS ON PLANTING FOR HONEY BEES

1. Before clearing “brush” from property, identify valuable bee habitat and conserve it.
2. Plant in mass—at least 3 square feet of each type of flower.
3. Plant a variety of bee plants. Diverse pollens nourish bees.
4. Plant native and adapted plants; they produce more nectar and have fewer pests.
5. Control invasive plants—they spread quickly, causing a loss of plant diversity.
6. Plant for blooms in all seasons to provide nectar and pollen year-round.
7. Avoid toxic pesticides and herbicides.
8. Establish a “no-mow” or “wildscaped” section of land for wildflowers and “good weeds”. Easy locations are fence lines, edge of a crop field or back of a yard.
9. If you have a pond, stream or wetland, provide bee habitat here too.
10. Planting a few new bee plants every year will add up and benefit your bees.

PLANT AND SEED SOURCES

Shades of Green Nursery in Frisco, TX
Rhode's Nursery in Garland, TX
Wichita Valley Nursery and Landscape in Wichita Falls, TX

Womack Nursery in De Leon, TX :
Good source for mail order fruit trees; native wild plum thickets.

Wildseed Farm and Nursery in Fredericksburg, TX :
Good source for wildflower seeds.

Native American Seed in Junction, TX:
Mostly mail order. The catalog is worth ordering just to learn about native Texas plants and land restoration. Good variety of wildflower seeds, pollinator seed mixes and native grasses - all targeted to different eco-regions of Texas.

Becky Bender
DrBWildflowerHoney@gmail.com
www.BudsandtheBees.com

W.C.A.B.A. MEETING MINUTES – March 27, 2014

1. **Beekeeping 101 Class** – “Installing a Package” taught by Zane Baird.
2. **Business Meeting** – Chris Doggett, President, opened the meeting
3. **Announcements:**
 - a. Jimmie Oakley introduced the 2014 recipients of the Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost Scholarships – Michael Campbell, Elise Gardner, Christian Rogers, Quentin Irej, Cora Schell, and Emma Wall.
 - b. Hayden Wolf, Texas Honey Queen, talked about honey bees at the Houston Livestock Show and various schools.
 - c. Hayden Wolf introduced the 2013 recipients of the Ed Wolfe- Robert Bost Scholarship that were present and gave them an Achievement Award for successfully completing the program.
 - d. Chris Doggett reminded everyone of the following:
 - i. Texas Beekeepers Association Summer Clinic which will be held on Saturday, June 7, at the Janice and John B. Thomas Bee Facility at Texas A&M University, 3100 Hwy. 47, Bryan, TX 77807. Cost, \$25.
 - ii. Central Texas Beekeepers 2014 Beekeeping School, Saturday, March 29, at the Washington County Fairgrounds, 1305 E. Blue Bell Road, Brenham.
 - iii. New members are eligible for one year’s free membership to the Texas Beekeepers Association.
 - iv. Chris Doggett and Phil Ainslee drove to Paris, Texas to pick up members’ equipment orders.
 - e. Zane Baird told everyone that he had posted a chart at the back of the room for members to check to see when they are supposed to pick up the packages or queens ordered.
3. **Treasurer’s Report** – Kenneth Miller, Treasurer, reported the current balance is \$17,280.92, which includes funds received for bee packages and queen orders.
4. **Meeting Attendance** – 117 attendees
5. **Introduction of Guests** – led by President Chris Doggett.
6. **Door Prizes** – Chris Doggett, with the help of Maddie Baird, read the winning door prize tickets.
7. **Date for Next Meeting** – April 24, 2014
8. **Special Guest Speaker** – Becky Bender spoke about “Honey Bee Plants of Central and North Texas”. A copy of her handout will be added to the April newsletter for those members who missed the opportunity to hear Becky’s very good information regarding the best plants for all four seasons that attract and help feed our bees.

Ginny Stubblefield
Secretary, W.C.A.B.A.

Scholarship recipient build bee boxes...



Samuel Oakley, Quentin Irey & Daniel Morris



Elise, Mary Catherine & Scott Gardner



Djuliana Ewing and Cora Schell



Honey Queen Hayden Wolf, Michael, Carson & Victoria Campbell

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Randy Oakley

Caleb Oakley

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