

# WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

## WCABA MAY 2014 NEWSLETTER

[www.wcaba.org](http://www.wcaba.org)

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### **PRESIDENT**

Chris Doggett  
512/914-2794  
[ckdoggett@gmail.com](mailto:ckdoggett@gmail.com)

1st. V.P.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Shirley Doggett  
512/924-5051  
[shirley.doggett@gmail.com](mailto:shirley.doggett@gmail.com)

2nd. V.P.

### **PROGRAM**

Jimmie Oakley  
512/507-3009  
[jimmie.oakley@gmail.com](mailto:jimmie.oakley@gmail.com)

3rd. V.P.

### **NEWSLETTER**

Mary Bost  
512/863-3656  
[bostbees@gmail.com](mailto:bostbees@gmail.com)

### **SECRETARY**

Ginny Stubblefield  
512/252-9954  
[ginny@options2sell.com](mailto:ginny@options2sell.com)

### **TREASURER**

Kenneth Miller  
512/517-8838  
[millerkd11@gmail.com](mailto:millerkd11@gmail.com)

### **HISTORIAN**

Susan Philpott  
512/818-2327  
[sphilpott@jsmr.com](mailto:sphilpott@jsmr.com)

**DATE:** Thursday, May 22, 2014  
**TIME:** 7:00-9:00: Bkg.101, Program  
**PLACE:** First United Methodist Church Georgetown (MMC bldg.)  
**PROGRAM:** Mark Hedley: "Building an Apiary Business"  
**HOSTS:** Susan Philpott, Bennie & Kay Guy, and Bradley Ware

"Building an Apiary Business" will be the topic of Mark Hedley's presentation at our meeting this month. He is the TBA Director for Area 3, that includes the Concho Valley, Dino-Bee, Heart of Texas, and Williamson County Area Beekeepers Associations. Mark owns the Spiral Horn Apiary at Rochelle (near San Angelo), and joined WCABA at the Summer Clinic last June. Travis and Maureen Lane, long-time members of WCABA, also are dual members of Concho Valley and WCABA. We look forward to hearing Mark's presentation on May 22<sup>n</sup>

Mark Headley & Boom Lift >>>



To say that the Bost Farm has been a "bee hive of activity" for the past three weekends is a pretty good description. On April 26, there were 101 packages of bees dispensed to WCABA members with the other 101 packages being delivered two weeks later. On May 3, 25 members picked up the queens they had ordered for requeening or making splits. On both April 26 and May 10, Jimmie Oakley gave a demonstration on preparing to hive a package of bees and then supervised as the scholarship winners each followed his directions and introduced a package of bees to their new home. There were a number of family members and other interested WCABA members who also attended and observed.



Beekeeping 101 will present "After Installing the Package", and according to Chris Doggett, "will allow plenty of time for Q & A", so come with your questions and hopefully you will receive the answers that you will find helpful.

In regard to bees and queens received, if you have not already done so, we want your feedback as soon as possible on how your bees are doing and if you are running into any issues with your hived bees. We would like to compile a list of any issues so that we can try to address them. Hopefully most issues can be solved through some mentoring by a more experienced beekeeper. If that is the case, during our May club meeting we would like to help you connect with someone in your area that could help you. Please let us know if you have experienced more serious issues such as a dead queen or absconding of the hive. Send comments to Zane Baird: [wcaba.bee.order@gmail.com](mailto:wcaba.bee.order@gmail.com) We are compiling the list of issues and we are addressing them with the executive board, Walker Honey Farm and our queen supplier. We will be working with our bee and queen suppliers to see if we can get replacements where appropriate. We want you to be satisfied and have a good experience.

Since the last meeting the scholarship recipients have all assembled their equipment, received their bees, gone through orientation, and installed their package into their hives. We regret that one of the scholarship winners, Michael Campbell, found that he is allergic to bee venom and returned his equipment to Jimmie Oakley. We are pleased, however, to announce that the runner-up on the scholarship applicant list, Daniel Morris of Leander, was able to come to the May 10 demonstration and received his bees and equipment. Cora Schell's bees absconded, but a make-up package we provided by Mr. Walker and she was able to reinstall after the June 10th pickup.

Scholarship Recipients @ Orientation Bost Farm >>>



Don't miss the opportunity to attend the **Texas Beekeepers Summer Clinic** to be held at the Texas A&M Honey Bee Lab on the Riverside Campus in Bryan, Texas on Saturday June 7th from 10AM to 4PM.

There will be presentations by the Lab Research Scientist, the TAIS Chief Apiary Inspector and other experienced beekeepers on topics of interest and value to all beekeepers. There will be a catered meal served at noon for all attending and registered. Registration is only \$25 for adults and \$10 for youths under 18 years of age. There will be a tour of the Honey Bee Lab and the research apiary (protective gear required). You are asked to bring your favorite lawn chair and bottled water for your own comfort. Come and enjoy the day with other beekeepers from around the state.

Daniel Morris - Leander >>>



Reminders: (1) If you haven't offered to bring refreshments this year, check with Gary Bible, our host coordinators, to see which months still need a host.

(2) If you've checked out Library materials, be sure to bring it back this month.

(3) Elizabeth Exley ([lizexley@msn.com](mailto:lizexley@msn.com).) is the manager for our yahoo group. If you would like to join and receive the various bee questions and comments from member of our beekeepers club, contact her and be sure to confirm that you are a member of WCABA.

(4) Contact Mary Bost (at the meeting or at [bostbees@gmail.com](mailto:bostbees@gmail.com).) if you would like to be available to take bee swarms in your area. Tell me which town or areas you will take calls for and if you do bee removal too. It's that time of year and calls are already coming in. I need to know

Welcome to our new WCABA members. They are Lee & Gay Gaddis, Richard and Sharon Hastings, Russell Bauer, all from Austin; John Bean, Belton; Mark and Jo Ann Gerules, Cedar Park; Michael and Michelle McAlister, Georgetown; and Edward R. Meier, Copperas Cove.

Members who have recently renewed their membership are Bill Holmes, Butch Hill, Paula Nemec, Richard Partney, Tanya Phillips, David Rebeck, Britton Schlinke, Andrea Sheinbein, and Dave Shriner. If you haven't paid your 2014 membership dues—and there are quite a few of our members in this category—please check with our membership chair, Shirley Doggett ASAP.

Door prizes in April were donated by Lisa Hoekstra, Ginny Stubblefield, Tanya Phillips, and Shirley Doggett. Lucky winners were Julie Fagala, Benny Guy, Abby Latham, and Jerry Richie.

Recently, my son Rick sent me a very interesting blog from *Peak Prosperity* entitled “11 Reasons You should Consider Beekeeping”; I shall summarize some of the author's comments but quote all of #5. The author, a two-year beekeeper, doesn't give her real name, just refers to herself as “Parsimonious Princess”.

1. **HONEY!** One of the best reasons to keep bees is for the honey. You know the difference between a store-bought tomato vs. a homegrown one? Same goes for honey.
2. **Having beehives helps your garden grow...**and your neighbor's garden, too.
3. **Beekeeping is a great way to be self-sufficient.** Honey is a great replacement for processed sugar. Also, you can't beat the shelf life of honey, because it lasts forever. Archaeologists have found honey from the ancient Egyptians that is still good.
4. **It takes very little effort and time to keep bees.** Taking care of a pet takes more time than tending a couple beehives.
5. **Honey is good for your health.** Honey has been used for centuries for health and medicinal uses. Honey contains flavonoids that have been shown to reduce the risk of some cancers and heart disease. Honey is anti-bacterial and anti-fungal because the bees add an enzyme that makes hydrogen peroxide in the honey. For this reason, honey is actually a great treatment for wounds. I love adding honey to hot water and lemon when I have a cold, cough, or sore throat. Honey is actually as effective, studies have shown, as cough syrup. Another health benefit of honey is with allergy symptoms. Although there are no conclusive studies, many scientists believe as you ingest the pollen spores in honey in small amounts at a time, your body gets used to them and your allergic response to them diminishes. (One other medical sidenote: Did you know that scientists have found that bee venom can kill HIV? How crazy/cool is that? One caveat: to get many of the health and medicinal benefits, you need to use raw, unprocessed (and local, particularly in terms of helping with allergies) honey. Most of the honey at the grocery store won't cut it. That's where beekeeping comes in: you can't get honey more local and raw than honey from your own backyard.
6. **Educational opportunities abound!** Bees are fascinating with so many interesting aspects to bees and honey, for children as well as adults.
7. **Keeping bees gives you more control over your food and what is in it.** Most honey in stores is “ultra-filtered”—pollen is completely removed. Without the pollen, its source can't be traced and often foreign honey (particularly that from China) not only has traces of illegal antibiotics in it, but also are diluted with high fructose corn syrup and/or other illegal sweeteners.
8. **The Bees need our help!** And it can be done one hive at a time.
9. **We need the bees!** Have you heard the quote: “If the bee disappears from the surface of the earth, man would have no more than four years to live”? Bees pollinate 90% of apples, cherries, and oranges and 100% of almonds. Other crops are also pollinated by bees—alfalfa, clover, cotton, strawberries, peaches, melons, beans, etc.
10. **The world needs more responsible beekeepers.**
11. **Beekeeping is fun!** And fascinating.



## W.C.A.B.A. MEETING MINUTES – April 24, 2014

1. **Beekeeping 101 Class** – “Seven Beginner Mistakes” and “Package Installation” taught by Chris Doggett.
2. **Announcements:**
  - a. There are two pickup dates for bee packages and one pickup day for queens:
  - b. April 26 and May 10 – pick up bee packages at Bost Farm
  - c. May 3 – pick up queens at Bost Farm
  - 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. First-year beekeepers who are members of the W.C.A.B.A. are eligible for a free 2014 membership to the Texas Beekeepers Association.
    - iii. Zane Baird – if members who purchased bees don’t have an e-mail voucher, go to Zane’s table and get one
    - iv. Bost Farm times for getting bees – begins at 9:00 a.m.. There will be a demonstration of installing bees by Jimmie Oakley at 1:00 p.m. on both Saturday pickup dates
3. **Presentation of Achievement Award for 2013 Scholarship Recipient** – The award is for the successful completion of a year as a Scholarship Recipient. The recipients have worked all year with a mentor to become an exemplary beekeeper. Sam Latham was present at the meeting to receive the reward.
4. **Treasurer’s Report** – Kenneth Miller, Treasurer, reported the current balance is \$14,935.51, which includes funds received for bee packages and queen orders.
5. **Meeting Attendance** – 113 attendees
6. **Introduction of Guests** – led by President Chris Doggett.
7. **Door Prizes** – Chris Doggett, with the help of Maddie Baird, read the winning door prize tickets
8. **Special Guest Speaker:** Lance Wilson spoke on “Spring Management of Hives”
9. **Date for Next Meeting** – May 22, 2014

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



WCABA members waiting pick up of the bees at the Bost Farm



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Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association    4355 County Road 110    Georgetown, Texas 78626