

# WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

## WCABA JUNE 2014 NEWSLETTER

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

Look for us on Facebook

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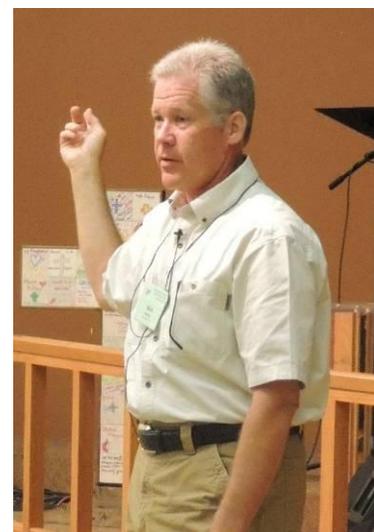
**DATE:** Thursday, June 26, 2014  
**TIME:** 7:00-9:00: Bkg.101, Program  
**PLACE:** First United Methodist Church Georgetown (MMC bldg.)  
**PROGRAM:** Mark Dykes: Integrated Pest Management  
**HOSTS:** Linda Franke, Tom & Darlene Symons, David Babyak

The Beekeeping 101 program, led by Chris Doggett, will be about pests and diseases of bees. This will be a good background for our guest speaker, Mark Dykes, whose talk will be about IPM (Integrated Pest Management). He is the Chief of Apiary Inspection for Texas and had worked with bee-related programs in Florida, including conducting and assisting Dr. Jamie Ellis in research on honey bee health, pesticide interaction and foraging habitat. We need to be aware of problems that may occur in our bee hives and steps we should take to minimize their effects. Mark Dykes - TAIS >>



Our members were very attentive to the excellent presentation made at the last meeting by Mark Hedley regarding his approach to setting up his start in beekeeping and establishing his business, the Spiral Horn Apiary. Although there are many different ways of increasing one's hives and setting up a business, he had some very practical ideas that may benefit some of our members who are planning to increase their apiaries. Mark Hedley >>>

Mark Hedley also donated the door prizes, from lip balm, soap and hand cream to honey, candles and tea, that were won by the following: Kristen Smith, Justin Medina, Terry Spencer, David Schell, Bob Bradley, Liberty Nevett, Madeline Baird, Wayne Zieschang, Edward Meyer, and Tim Frankenstein.



We welcome six new members to WCABA. They are Clarence and Arlene David of Taylor; Denton and Kathryn Brunken, Liberty Hill; Melissa Birdwell, Copperas Cove; Liberty Nevett, Georgetown; John and Karen Morgan, Burnet; Susan and Heath Culp, Georgetown, and Patricia and Matt Anderson of Bastrop.

Members who have renewed their membership this month are Tim and Lisa Roberts, Wayne Zieschang, Leroy Hampelman, Tom Olsen, and David Rebecsek. There is still a large number of members who need to renew their membership by paying their \$15.00 dues for 2014.

Jimmie Oakley reports that about 30 WCABA members attended the TBA Summer Clinic held on June 7th at the Janice & John G. Thomas Honey Bee Facility on the Texas A&M Riverside Campus in Bryan / College Station. The event, organized by our club President, Chris Doggett (aka TBA Publication Director), was a huge success. With a little over 300 attending the Saturday event WCABA members did their part in making the field day run smoothly. Jimmie and Kay Oakley were in charge of registration with Susan and John Philpott volunteering to help. Ginny Stubblefield was a great help to Shirley Doggett who sold TBA shirts and caps as a fund raiser for the State Association. Chris Doggett supervised the setup of the event on Friday, having ordered the necessary tables and chairs, and took care of all the last minute details (...problems) that popped up.



It was a hot day with temps reaching the 90's, but everyone was instructed to bring their own lawn chairs and water bottles, and the large shade trees soon filled up with attendees spread out in breezy comfort, beating the heat.

Group tours of the Facility were offered by the Lab Assistants to all who registered before the noon meal was served under a big tent, and everyone ate B-B-Q and drank ice tea in the shade (typical Texas).



After the morning tours, Dr. Vaughan Bryant from the Department of Anthropology gave the plenary presentation titled "Pollen in Honey" and spoke on his research to the crowd.

After lunch, there were several different activities that attendees could choose from during the afternoon, including updates from Rangel from the Honey Bee Lab and Mark Dykes spoke about the Texas Apiary Inspection Service and what it can do for the beekeeping industry. In addition, several of the lab members and other researchers spoke on topics such as pheromones, the effects of brood pheromones on foraging and drone reproductive health.

Other activities included presentation on how to plant the right plants to attract bees by Becky Bender and Michael Parkey, the do's and don'ts of marketing honey by John Hicks, Top Bar Hives by Dean Cook, and Integrated Pest Management by Lance Wilson (WCABA).



A very informative article in the June 2014 **Bee Culture** magazine states that "Many acknowledge herbs as bearing medicinal value to people and bees." Written by Michael Magnini, his article, "Of *Herbs and Honey Bees* also states that "the bees' vigor is improved when given a wide spectrum of nourishment...

It should be evident that the nectar and pollen of certain herbaceous plants would provide enhanced elements of nutrition and provide anabolic or optimized metabolism.”

The author describes 17 herbaceous species, listing whether they are annuals, biennials, or perennials, as well as describing their leaves, flowers, best way of planting them, and how the bees access and use their pollen and/or nectar. Below is a listing of the herbaceous plants he describes. If you do not have access to a personal copy of this article, ask the librarian to let you look at my copy of **Bee Culture** that I will leave with her during our meeting Thursday evening.

APPLE MINT, a hardy herbaceous perennial plant.

BASIL, a common annual garden herb (I have 3 plants in a flower bed).

BERGAMOT, also known as Bee Balm, a large, vigorous perennial plant.

BORAGE, an annual plant.

CHILI PEPPER, not a typical culinary herb but an interesting addition to the herb garden.

CHIVES, a common perennial herb related to the onion.

GARDEN POPPY, an annual flowering herb that produce large quantities of pollen.

HYSSOP, a shrub-like herb with antiseptic and nerve stimulating properties.

LAVENDER, also shrub-like whose nectar yields a prized and premium honey.

LEMON BALM, a perennial herb with antioxidant properties and a lemon taste and aroma.

MARJORAM, a perennial with small aromatic flowers that are attractive to bees.

OREGANO, a hardy perennial that supports robust and vigorous bee colonies.

PEPPERMINT, a hardy perennial, is very attractive to honey bees.

ROSEMARY, a perennial, very attractive to bees, considered an aid to memory.

SAGE, a perennial, is a source of essential oils.

THYME, a perennial, produces an aromatic oil rich in many antibiotics and delicious honey

WINTER SAVORY, a perennial, tolerates drought well, has antiseptic properties.

## W.C.A.B.A. MEETING MINUTES – May 22, 2014

1. **Beekeeping 101 Class** – “Installed – Now What?” – given by Chris Doggett  
After the class, there were many questions and discussions from members, adding even more information for all attending.
2. **Announcements:**
  - a. 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 complimentary 2014 membership to the Texas Beekeepers Association. Shirley Doggett has the forms they need to fill out for the membership.
3. **Treasurer’s Report** – Kenneth Miller, Treasurer, reported the current balance is \$4,622.88.
4. **Meeting Attendance** – 85 attendees
5. **Introduction of Guests** – led by President Chris Doggett.
6. **Door Prizes** – Chris Doggett, with the help of Elise Gardner, read the winning door prize tickets. Ten prizes were donated for the evening by Mark Hedley, our guest speaker.
7. **Special Guest Speaker:** Mark Hedley, owner of the Spiral Horn Apiary gave a very informative overview of his apiary – it is a family-owned business on a ranch near San Saba, Texas started by Mark, his wife Michelle, and their two daughters. The apiary has become a business that not only sells honey, bees, beeswax candles, natural soaps and lotions, but also conducts beekeeping classes, tours, and teaches others many of the ideas that Mark has developed for his apiary.
8. **Date for Next Meeting** – June 26, 2014

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

With hot weather arriving early and threatening to remain for the next three or more months, this recipe that appeared in the June 4<sup>th</sup> issue of The Austin American- Statesman sounds like a winner.

### PEACH - HONEY ICEBOX PIE

¼ cup butter                      2 ½ cups chopped fresh or frozen peaches, thawed  
¼ cup plus 3 Tbsp. good local honey, divided                      1 Tbsp. fresh lemon juice  
2 cups vanilla ice cream, softened                      1 (9inch) ready-made graham cracker pie crust  
1 cup whipping cream                      Garnish: fresh mint sprigs, chopped fresh peaches

Melt butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Add peaches and ¼ cup honey; cook, stirring often, 6 minutes or until peaches have softened and liquid has thickened to a syrup that coats the peaches. Spoon peach mixture into a medium bowl, place over a bowl of ice, and stir occasionally until cool (about one hour). Stir in lemon juice.

Add vanilla ice cream to peach mixture; mix well. Spoon ice cream mixture into crust, spreading evenly. Cover and freeze 6 hours or until firm.

Let pie stand at room temperature 15 minutes before serving. Meanwhile, beat whipping cream at high speed with an electric mixer until stiff peaks form. Spoon whipped cream over pie, and drizzle with remaining 3 Tbsp. honey. Garnish with mint and chopped peaches. Serves 8

## More Pictures from the Summer Clinic

Registration was brisk at first...



Beekeepers waiting for the Group Tour of the Lab



Bill Baxter checking hives in the Bee yard



Chris Moore demonstration of splitting hives



Chris Doggett & Mark Dykes inspect new Hive Tool Sterilization Unit (ha,ha)

All over, All done...till next year!!

# Beekeeping Equipment

Serving the Williamson County Area

Available Assembled  
and Painted

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512-963-3954



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