

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA MARCH 2015 NEWSLETTER

www.wcaba.org

Look for us on Facebook

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DATE: Thursday, March 26, 2015
TIME: 7:00-9:00: Bkg.101, Program
PLACE: First United Methodist Church Georgetown (MMC bldg.)
PROGRAM: Scholarship Recognition & Clint Weaver, R Weaver Apiaries
HOSTS: Stephanie Morris, Karen Eacrett, Lisa Hoekstra

BE A GOOD BEEKEEPER & RESPONSIBLE BEEKEEPER

Spring has sprung in Central Texas! Moderate temperatures following some good showers of rain, trees are budding or blooming, wildflowers are getting ready to bloom with sweet nectar for our bees! Are you as excited as I am about checking out your over-wintered hives or getting ready for new ones?

On Saturday, March 14, a number of WCABA members came to the Bost Farm to pick up their orders from Busy Bee Supplies; others will be getting their supplies at the meeting on March 26 from Better Bee Equipment. Our 2015 scholarship kiddoes will be receiving their equipment and assembling their hives at the meeting, getting ready for the Orientation on Saturday, April 18 when the first 100 packages of bees will be dispensed at the Bost Farm. The second 100 packages will be available the following Saturday, the 25th.

Beekeeping 101 – Zane Baird will be discussing and showing how to install a package of bees in the Beekeeping 101 Session. What are the different ways, and what is the best way to accomplish it? Come see.

R Weaver Apiaries of Navasota, Texas is supplying packagers and queens to WCABA this year, and Clint Weaver has promised to be with us at our next meeting to tell how their operation goes about producing the hundreds of packages and queens that they sell every year. In addition Jimmie Oakley will introduce scholarship kids for this year and recognize the recipients who have completed the program from last year with certificates. The Texas Honey Queen, Tabitha Mansker, will be in attendance and make the presentations, assisted by the WCABA Honey Queen, Emma Wall, and the Honey Princess, Elise Gardner.



Clint Weaver

We have been reluctant to remove names from the newsletter distribution list of those who have not renewed their membership; however, the mailing list has become quite long so after this meeting, if a former member has not paid their 2015 dues, his/her name will be removed from the current mailing list. Also, if you have paid your dues and don't receive

the newsletter, please contact the editor at bostbees@gmail.com. Sometimes we receive a “failure to deliver” notice because of a mailbox being too full or due to misinterpretation of an email address.

Would you like to increase your number of hives by capturing swarms? One year (years ago) Robert and I increased our apiary by retrieving 26 swarms of bees. If you are interested in doing this service to your community, please sign the Swarm List that will be passed around again at the meeting. Be sure to indicate the communities you would be willing to take calls from, and if you can do cut-outs, place an asterisk before your name. Mary Bost gets calls from the Williamson County AgriLife office and swarm season has already begun.

Shirley Doggett has indicated twelve new members have joined WCABA this month and 28 members renewed their membership. We welcome the following new members: Stephen and Shanna Mcgee, Liberty Hill; Chris and Sarah Jenkins, Georgetown; Jonathan and Amanda Andes, Florence; Melanie and John Truesdell, Georgetown; J.E. Daniels, Jarrell; Julie Whitlock and Greg Janke, Georgetown; Eric and Cherie Ochotnicki, Cedar Park; Laura and Hial Colburn, Florence; Tracy and Doug Bess, Georgetown; Susan Pick, Taylor; Randy Benner, Bartlett; and Jim and Sara Rodeghero, Liberty Hill.

It was good to welcome Dr. Jeff Callin and his wife back to WCABA following his years of service overseas. He has now retired from the Army but is working at the Base hospital. Others who renewed this month are Clyde Anderson, David Babyak, Barbi Benjamin, Gill Bledsoe, Lorraine Brady, Jim Colbert, David Crawford, Clarence David, Karen Flanagan, Jacob Gotta, Amy Hendrick, Jim Huffman, and Sharon Hulings.

Also, Kelley Jones, Kirby Kendall, Luther Lucko, Edward R. Meier, Kenneth Miller, Albert Morgan, Steve Mullins, Paula Nemeč, Rebecca Nunnally, Mike Paine, Tanya Phillips, Carl Seagren, Tom Wittkower, and Vaughn Hamilton. We hope to add others at the March meeting.

Door prize donors last meeting were Barbara Hunt - bee magnets won by William Janke; bee spreader – Lisa Hoekstra; Ginny Stubblefield – lemon candle, chatter bee, bee garden décor, & bee pot holder – won by Nancy Young, Charles Goetz, Ann Witcher, and Karen Eacrett; Manuka honey soap – Shirley Doggett, Gill Bledsoe, winner; and Chris Moore – honey, Diana Rendon, Jerry Richie, and Jeff Callin, winners.

Why buy locally produced honey?

Beekeepers naturally prefer honey from their own bees but did you know there's a good reason that you, your friends and your neighbors should eat local honey? A very interesting internet article is found on <http://organichealth.com/studies-show-fake-honey-is-everywhere> points out important facts for beekeepers.

A searing investigation of the honey market by Food Safety News “has found that 76% of honey sold at grocery stores were treated with a “process called “ultra filtration,” which removes not only impurities like wax but also all traces of pollen.” Many believe that pollen, wax, and other so-called “impurities” are beneficial to human health, making local honey a better choice than other sweeteners like sugar without there being any benefit to the expensive process.

The biggest reason to avoid ultra-filtered honey is that “pollen is the only sure-fire way to trace the source of honey to a geographic location”, according to FSN. The ultra-filtration of honey is often used to mask the shady origins of honey, especially Chinese honey, which is subject to heavy import tariffs due to its frequent contamination by heavy metals and illegal antibiotics. The Chinese honey producers try to sneak their product onto American grocery shelves by shipping it to other “acceptable” countries in order to avoid the high tariffs but Food Safety News sent samples of honey to Texas A & M University professor, Vaughn Bryant.

Prof. Bryant found that roughly three-fourths of the honey contained no pollen, making it unidentifiable and unsafe. Of that average,” he found that:

100% of Winnie the Pooh sold in Walmart stores had all pollen removed.
100% of individual packets from KFC and McDonald’s had all pollen removed.

77% of honey from big box stores like Costco, Sam’s Club, and Target had no pollen.

100% of honey from drugstores like Walgreen’s & CVS had all the pollen filtered out.

He did find out, however, that **honey purchased from co-ops, farmers markets and stores like Trader Joes contained the full amount of original pollen.”**



Vaughn Bryant

Although there have been many calls for the FDA to do more to prevent adulterated and smuggled honey from landing on grocery shelves, the group has not acted. Meanwhile, The European Union just changed labeling regulations to require that all honey containers list “pollen” as an ingredient when it is one.

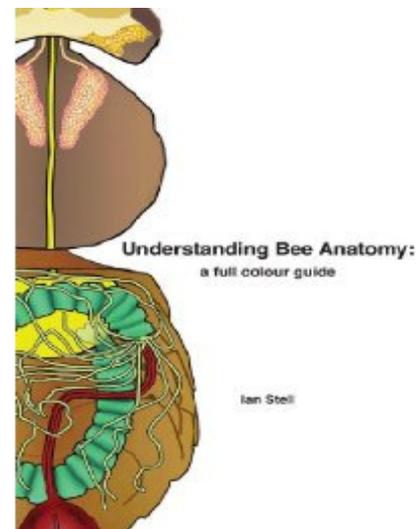
One ounce of raw honey contains “approximately 20 vitamins, 18 amino acids, 16 minerals, and a ton of antioxidants and phytonutrients. Raw honey is an antibacterial, antiviral, and antifungal substance. It is highly nutritious: it contains significant amounts of B2, B3, B5, B6, C, magnesium, potassium, calcium, sodium chloride, sulphur, and phosphate.”

A good option for buying honey is from farmers’ markets and natural food stores, as the FSN investigation found that few, if any, of the honeys sold there had been subject to ultra-filtration.

Book Nook

Holly Medina

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.



Pear-Pecan Salad with Honey

by Allison Adams, 2010 Texas Honey Queen

1 to 2 tbsp. butter
2 tbsp plain yogurt
1 Anjou or Bartlett pear, cored & thinly sliced
3 tbsp. pecans, coarsely chopped
3 tbsp. Asiago, feta or goat cheese, crumbled or cut into small chunk

1 tbsp. honey
2 tbsp mayonnaise
1 additional tbsp honey
4 cups mixed salad greens

In medium-sized pan, melt butter over medium heat. Arrange pear slices in the pan in a single layer. Cook for 3 minutes, then gently turn over the slices. Add pecans to the pan and cook for another 3 minutes. Remove pan from heat. Drizzle 1 tbsp. honey over pears and pecans, mix lightly and set aside. Combine yogurt, mayonnaise and the other tbsp, of honey in a small bowl. Arrange salad greens on two plates. Top with warm pears, pecans and cheese. Drizzle dressing over salads and serve. Recipe serves 2.

W.C.A.B.A. MEETING MINUTES – February 26, 2014

1. **Opening the Meeting:** President Chris Doggett opened the meeting.
2. **Beekeeping 101** – “Beekeeping Equipment” taught by Zane Baird.
3. **Announcements:**
Zane Baird and Phil Ainslee reminded members they will receive a 10% discount on equipment from Busy Bee Beekeeping Supplies, www.busybeesupplies.com. Members should use “WCABA10” for the coupon code to receive the discount. Equipment will be delivered to Bost Farm on Friday, March 13.

Jim Colbert, Vice President, discussed the mentorship program. He suggested two types of coaches:

- Ongoing 1 – a mentor would be paired with a first-year beekeeper.
- Coach 2 – Mentors can help with specific issues facing a more-experienced beekeeper.

Jim asked for input from both mentors and those requesting help. He also asked for beekeepers to sign up that have a particular talent or strength they wish to share with other beekeepers.

The Central Texas Beekeepers in Brenham will be having their 2015 Summer Clinic on Saturday, March 28. You may select from classes that begin at 8:30. The Clinic will be at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Brenham, Texas. The cost for the class is \$50 for the first adult in a household and \$40 for any other adult over 18. A barbecue lunch is included with the fee.

Paul Jackson, former Chief Apiary Inspector for the Texas Apiary Inspection Service has passed away.

Chris Doggett reminded everyone that we need people to sign up to provide refreshments for our meetings. Please sign up with Barbi Benjamin, our Refreshments Chairperson.

On June 6, the Texas Beekeepers Association will hold a Summer Clinic in Conroe. The fee for the Clinic is \$40 and includes lunch. The Clinic will be held at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds.

The Texas Beekeepers Association will be held October 30-31 in New Braunfels.

President Chris Doggett closed the meeting.

4. **Treasurer’s Report** – Phil Ainslee, Treasurer, reported there is \$14,000 plus in our account at the present time. This amount includes money collected for bees and queens.
5. **Meeting Attendance** – 105 attendees
6. **Door Prizes** – Chris Doggett announced winners of door prizes.
7. **Guest Speaker:** Derek Foight, Program Director, introduced the evening’s speaker, Chris Moore. Chris is the Vice President of the Texas Beekeepers Association and a professional beekeeper. Chris spoke on “Splitting, Divides, and Starting New Hives”.
8. **Date for Next Meeting** – Our next meeting will be on March 26, 2015.

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

It is with deepest sympathy that we announce the passing of Abigail Joy Oakley the daughter of Randy & Amy Oakley of Robinson, Texas on Sunday, March 15, 2015 of a sudden illness. She was 14 years old.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



Dues **\$15.00** per year - individual or family membership
New Member / Renewing Member
(circle one)

Date: _____

Name: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: () _____ e-mail: _____

(please print)

To save postage cost may we send your Newsletter via e-mail? Yes[] No[]

Instructions: print , fill out, and bring to club meeting , or mail with check to:
Mrs. Shirley Doggett - Membership - 400 C. R. 440 - Thrall, TX 76578

NOTE: Zane Baird says there are still 50 packages available for sale at next meeting!

W.C.A.B.A Club Package & Queen Order Form - 2015

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ ST _____

Phone _____ e-mail: _____

please print

I want to order:

No. _____ **3 # Package: R Weaver Bees with Italian queen \$125.00/ Pkage.**

Packages with marked & clipped queens available for pickup Bost Farm April 18th & 25th.

No. _____ **Honey Bee Queen** (Based on group order of 100 Q's) **\$20.00/ Queen**

Italian queen, marked and clipped same as packages.

How will you pay? CASH or Check # _____

TOTAL \$ AMT

Mail remittance to: _____ Check Preferred

OF ORDER

WCABA Order/ Zane Baird - 8418 Springfield Gorge,-Round Rock, TX 78681

>>> Package & Queen order **deadline** is the March 26, 2015 WCABA meeting.

>> No resale or ownership transfer permitted on pkage or queens once ordered.

>All secondary transactions must come through the club for tracking & delivery.

Special Instructions:

Most wood ware and some miscellaneous bee supplies are also available from the **Better Bee Equipment**. Better Bee Equipment supplies are available for viewing at the monthly meeting, see Josiah Youngblood.

Beekeeping Equipment

Serving the Williamson County Area

Available Assembled
and Painted

BetterBeeEquipment.com
BetterBeeEquipment@gmail.com
512-963-3954



Williamson County Beekeepers Club Only Special: available until 3-31.

Assembled Expanded hive kit:

- 1 Assembled deep box with frames
- 1 Assembled medium box with frames
- 1 Screened Bottom Board
- 1 Hive cover

Regularly price is \$115 WCABA member price is **\$109**

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