

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA APRIL 2015 NEWSLETTER

www.wcaba.org

Look for us on Facebook

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DATE: Thursday, April 23, 2015
TIME: 7:00-9:00: Bkg.101, Program
PLACE: First United Methodist Church Georgetown (MMC bldg.)
PROGRAM: Beekeeping 101, Program: Lance Wilson - Bee Nutrition Management
HOSTS: Ginny Stubblefield, Ireya Family, Mary Bost

REMEMBER TO BRING BACK YOUR LIBRARY BOOKS

If you are a first-time beekeeper or a scholarship youth, I'm sure you're looking forward with much anticipation to getting your package of bees Saturday to put in the new hive you have assembled and painted. Even long-time beekeepers like yours truly get a thrill when anticipating receiving new starts of bees, whether it's packages or queens for splitting existing hives. Zane Baird has sent out vouchers listing the number of packages or queens you ordered plus the date—Saturday, April 18th or 25th—when you are to pick up your bees at the Bost Farm, 4355 CR 110, Georgetown.

If you haven't received your voucher, call Zane at 512/255.8242; if you can't reach him (he's a busy man), call Jimmie Oakley at 512/507.3009. He has a copy of the master matrix and perhaps he can answer your question. If you have a conflict with the Saturday date, contact Jimmie to see if an alternate time can be arranged.

2014 Scholarship Recipients >>>

Our March meeting was an exciting time for our school-age beekeepers: the 2014 scholarship recipients received their Certificate of Achievement and granting ownership of their hives from the Texas Honey Queen, Tabitha Mansker, and the 2015 Ed Wolfe/Robert Bost Memorial Scholarship winners, Annalisa "Lissy" Martinez from Georgetown, Jeffery Whitworth from Bastrop, and Claire Birdwell from Copperas Cove were introduced to WCABA members. They then retired to an adjoining room with Honey Queen Tabitha, and Jimmie Oakley, scholarship chairman, to construct their new hives (See pictures on last page). Clint Weaver presented an interesting and enthusiastic program on the R Weaver Bee operation. Clint Weaver & H.Q. Tabitha Mansker>>>



The scholarship youths and anyone else--especially new WCABA members--who would like to attend and observe Jimmie Oakley as he leads the orientation session on using the new equipment and installing a package of bees in their new home (hive) will meet at the Bost Farm before 1:00 on April 18. Instruction begins promptly at one o'clock so he recommends that you arrive by 12:00 noon.

Speaking of new members, we welcome the following members who have joined WCABA since the previous month: Josh Embry, Cedar Park; Mario Martinez, Georgetown; Jessica Smith, Georgetown; Jai Patel, Round Rock; and Karin Cantlon (former member), Marble Falls.

Also, members who renewed their membership last month are Dean Hamilton, John Latham, Bonnie Johnston, David Neighbor, and Jim Houstoun.

Jim Colbert, WCABA vice president, is developing a mentoring program. This is a very worthwhile activity. My husband and I made many mistakes when we started trying to keep bees because we didn't know anyone to talk with or to ask questions until we finally met Mr. G.C. Walker of Rogers, Texas. He was very knowledgeable and generous with his time and advice. If you are willing to be a mentor or if you would appreciate having a mentor who would work with you, please contact Jim and sign up for this mentorship program at the meeting Thursday night. Or contact Jim at colbertj@hotmail.com.

Our Librarian, Holly Medina, has asked that our members who have checked out materials from our club library be reminded to bring it back to the meeting Thursday night. These materials are for all our members and we need to be considerate of others who would like to use them. The book she reviews this month (below) sounds very interesting and helpful to all beekeepers.

April Management Calendar

Make nucs and splits
Swarm control

Blooming Plants

Milkweed, clover, *Indian blanket*, locust,
honey mesquite, *blue bonnet*, *Indian paintbrush*

Swarm control is one of a beekeeper's primary concerns after the first year of nursing a new hive through the winter months. The prudent beekeeper has left enough honey above the brood nest to carry the bees through the winter or else has fed the bees sufficient sugar water to carry them through this time of no natural food sources. As the winter temperatures moderate, and the earliest nectar sources become available, colony growth leaps forward rapidly: a growing number of newly-emerged workers are able to incubate an increasingly larger brood area, says Keith S. Delaplane in First Lessons in Beekeeping.

This fast growth continues for several weeks until the hive becomes crowded with many new bees. It also involves the production of queens and once the bees have several queen cells with young queens ready to emerge, groups of workers begin a frenzied wave of running action around the interior of the nest. Then, "about half the colony's population, along with the queen mother, takes wing and pours out of the colony's entrance, forming a cloud of bees. . . .The queen alights on some object, usually a tree branch, and her pheromones orient the cloud or *swarm* into tighter radius" where the bees cluster around her while the scout bees go out looking for a new nesting site.

Alert beekeepers can capture this swarm and give it a new home in one of his prepared hive boxes. Instead of buying a new nuc or package of bees, he/she can have a free hive of bees, with perhaps buying a new queen to replace the old mother queen being the only expense. One year my husband and I captured 26 swarms, thereby increasing our hive numbers considerably.

If you are interested in being called when I receive a phone call from someone in your area, please see me at the meeting and give me your phone number and the area (towns near you) you will serve. Or email me at bostbees@gmail.com with your information.

Here's a No-Name Recipe that was given me recently by a honey customer who said his wife's doctor had recommended it to help lower cholesterol. Notice it doesn't specify amounts; use your own taste and good judgment.

8 oz Greek yogurt Honey (1 tbsp or more?) chopped walnuts dried apricots, chopped
blueberries, red raspberries, strawberries, bananas or other fruits as desired.

W.C.A.B.A. MEETING MINUTES – March 26, 2015

1. **Opening the Meeting:** President Chris Doggett opened the meeting.
2. **Beekeeping 101** – “How to Install a Package of Honey Bees” taught by Zane Baird.
3. **Announcements:**
 - Chris Doggett introduced the 2015 Texas Honey Queen, Tabitha Mansker. Tabitha talked about her duties as the Honey Queen, such as talking to garden clubs, schools, 4-H groups, etc.
 - Tabitha introduced last year's Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost Memorial Scholarship recipients. Her sister, Hannah Mansker, assisted in presenting certificates to each recipient for successfully completing the past year as a scholarship beekeeper. Those receiving a certificate were Daniel Morris, Christian Rogers, Cora Schell, Elise Gardner and Emma Wall. Not present was Quentin Irely.
 - Jimmie Oakley introduced this year's Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost Memorial Scholarship winners – Annelisa Martinez, Jeffrey Whitworth and Claire Birdwell.
 - Chris Doggett told the group that Kay and Jimmie Oakley lost their 14 year old granddaughter, Abigail, this month from an illness. This was very sad news for everyone present.
 - After the break, Chris Doggett called out numbers for door prize winners.
 - The Texas Beekeepers Association's Summer Clinic will be held this year on June 6th at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds in Conroe. There are many beekeeping classes offered for further education on beekeeping.
 - The Texas Beekeeper's Convention will be held October 30–31, 2015.
 - There is a swarm sign-up list being kept by Mary Bost. Let her know if you are interested in being on the list.
 - Members were given a reminder to please return books to the W.C.A.B.A. library so the books will be available to others.
4. **Meeting Attendance** – 107 attendees
5. **Guest Speaker:** Derek Foight, Program Director, introduced the evening's speaker, Clint Weaver from the R. Weaver Apiaries. Clint demonstrated the process of capturing bees to create the bee packages his apiary sells.
6. **Date for Next Meeting** – Our next meeting will be on April 23, 2015.

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

2015 Scholarship Recipients & Box Building



Jeffery Whitworth, Lissy Martinez & Claire Birdwell



"Thumbs Up" to all the Great Help building boxes



H.P. Elise Gardner helps Lissy & Keely Martinez



Jeffrey & Gene Whitworth are assisted by H.Q.'s Tabitha & Emma



Dodie Stillman & H.P. Hanna Mansker show Claire Birdwell how to assemble her bee box



H. Q. Tabitha Mansker looks satisfied with a job well done

WCABA HONEY QUEEN REPORT

Williamson County Area Honey Queen, Emma Wall, has been busy lately with school presentations and festival events. The WCABA Honey Queen and Princess received training and coaching from Texas Honey Queen, Tabitha Mansker before the last regular club meeting, which paid off in the following days as both Emma and Princess, Elise Gardner, traveled to Brenham to help with presentations at the Central Texas Bee School.



The following week Emma took advantage of an opportunity to give a bee presentation at Camp Timber Wolf in Cedar Park.

At Old Town Elementary School in Round Rock the second graders were studying the disappearing of honey bees and Emma gave a presentation on Wednesday afternoon the 8th to them. Later that day she presented again to pre-schooler's at Lana's Daycare in Round Rock.

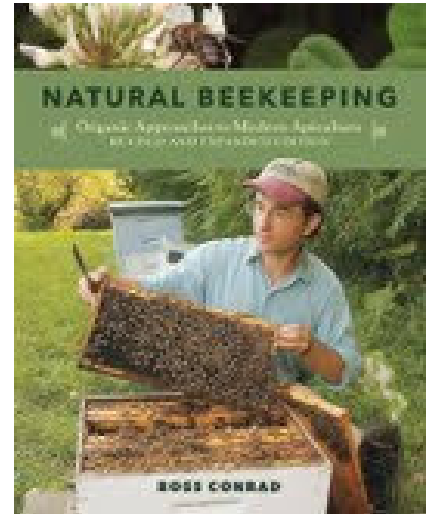


Finally the Wall's spent Saturday afternoon of April the 11th at the Heritage Festival in Cedar Park talking about bees, beekeeping, and selling honey. A good time was had by all.



Book Nook by Holly Medina

Natural Beekeeping by Ross Conrad. This book is very informative for a newbie and even better as a reference book as I learn more about beekeeping each day. The author explains hive management in a very clear manner for the reader. He includes illustrations and photos that clearly show the reader what he is explaining. The photos in the chapter about honey harvesting make you almost taste the honey. Mr. Conrad begins the book with basics regarding hives and hive management. He spends an entire chapter on parasitic mites and the many natural ways to locate the mites and how to control them. He also does this with insect pests and hive diseases. You can find many discussions of beekeeping with Ross Conrad on www.youtube.com.



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