

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA MAY 2015 NEWSLETTER

www.wcaba.org

Look for us on Facebook

PRESIDENT

Chris Doggett
512/914-2794
ckdoggett@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Jim Colbert
512/863-7183
colbertj@hotmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

Shirley Doggett
512/924-5051
shirley.doggett@gmail.com

PROGRAM

Derek Foight
512/786-4827
foight@gmail.com

EDITORIAL

Mary Bost
512/863-3656
bostbees@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Ginny Stubblefield
512/252-9954
ginny@options2sell.com

TREASURER

Phil Ainslie
254/9396420
phil.ainslie@gmail.com

HISTORIAN

Holly Medina
512/921-1521
hahmedina@gmail.com

DATE: Thursday, May 28, 2015
TIME: 7:00-9:00 PM: Beekeeping 101, Program
PLACE: First United Methodist Church Georgetown (MMC bldg.)
PROGRAM: Frame Reading: Lily Rosenman
HOSTS: Karen Walker, Dan McLaughlin

REMEMBER TO BRING BACK YOUR LIBRARY BOOKS

Two hundred packages of honey bees were distributed to our WCABA members last month as well as 130 queens to be used as replacements in established hives or in splits of strong hives. And Jimmie Oakley reports that our 2015 scholarship youths are well on their way to becoming beekeepers.



And what a wonderful array of spring flowers that are available for our bees to forage as well as we humans to enjoy! My yard is overflowing with Indian Blankets and Coreopsis and the bees are busily foraging on them.

Beekeeping 101 this month will deal with Spring Maintenance

Our speaker this month, Lily Rosenman, was so well-received at the Master Beekeepers program in Austin last month that Lance Wilson recommended her to be our WCABA speaker for our May meeting and she agreed. Her topic will be "frame reading".

The WCABA Executive Board will meet at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, May 21, in room 307 (note location change) of the main building of First UMC of Georgetown. This is a time for officers and committee chairs to discuss club business in order to take less time for business discussion in our monthly meetings, any WCABA member is welcome to attend. This group meets bi-monthly, one week prior to the club meeting.

Don't forget the SUMMER CLINIC 2015! It will be held Saturday, June 6 at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds in Conroe. See the flyer later in this newsletter, or go to www.texasbeekeepers.org. Many informative beekeeping classes are being offered.

Welcome to our newest WCABA members, Dennis and Brenda Schey of Round Rock and Jill Douglass of Austin. Also renewing their membership at the last meeting were Mike and Melody Slaughter, Larry and Leslie Sparks, and Jerry and Sandy Richie, according to Membership Director, Shirley Doggett. This brings our current membership list to 188 beekeeping families.

Door prizes last month were donated by Lorraine Brady, R. Weaver, Moore Honey, Ginny Stubblefield and Holly Medina. Lucky winners were skep pin-Karen Walker; farm book-Guy May; hive cover-Mary Gardner; jar of honey-Larry Sparks; bee toy-Tracy Bahm; flag-Toby Latham; charm-Sharon Latham; hair bow-Joanna McDawds.

Donors in March were Lisa Hoekstra, Ginny Stubblefield, Lorraine Brady, and Linda Franke. Lucky winners were Kay Karkoska, Tim Cox, Karmari Morris, Laura Colburn, William Janke and two unidentified people.

In the May Management Calendar provided by Derek Foight, it is suggested that we should add supers as necessary as well as monitor varroa populations.

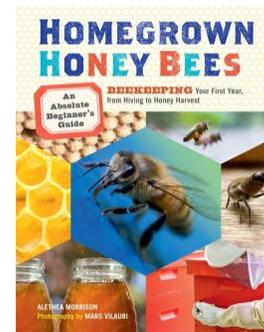
Blooming plants listed are milkweed, clover, dalea, horsemint, honey mesquite, locust, and willow. (Editor's note): In Central Texas, wildflowers that have or are blooming are bluebonnets, Indian paintbrush, coreopsis, and (my favorite) Indian Blanket or gaillardia.

Also Derek Foight sent the following information from Kelley Bees: When in the brood chamber we should determine if the colony is queenright, if the brood is healthy, and assess if the colony is expanding (spring), stabilized (summer), or contracting (later fall/winter) in brood/adult populations, as appropriate. A practiced reading means determining what the bees are communicating to us.

We seek to determine if our colony is 'QUEENRIGHT'. Looking at capped brood, we should evaluate the extent of the pattern, the completeness, and if the capped cells look normal. Looking at larvae we can diagnose the early symptoms of colony decline. Spotty brood patterns are often the first clue and then on closer examination we can see unhealthy larvae.

Book Nook by: Holly Medina

Homegrown Honey Bees, Beekeeping Your First Year from Hiving to Honey Harvest is a very practical but humorous beginner's guide to beekeeping that clearly explains everything the first year beekeeper needs to know about getting bees all the way to harvesting their first crop. It also has great photography that helps the reader understand the text. I especially found the section about how to light a smoker very helpful since keeping my smoker smoking is a challenge! I would recommend this book to all new beekeepers.



A personal note: Since your newsletter editor spent four days last week—a critical time for writing the newsletter—in going to Oklahoma to attend my son Richard's wedding to Karel Mendenhall (Rick is a member of WCABA)—I'm especially appreciative to our members who have sent appropriate and timely information that I could use in this newsletter. Thanks to Ann Bierschenk, one of our members from Georgetown, for the following interesting article.

Honey Bees: The Latest Weapon in the Cancer War

Bees have always played an important part in the healing arts around the world. Honey has been valued since ancient times for its sweetness and prized at the same time for its amazing medicinal properties. As far back as the times of the ancient Greeks and Egyptians, there is evidence to show that honey was used for its antimicrobial properties and even today, it is making a strong comeback in the area of wound

healing, where it seems to be able to treat even some of the most difficult wounds, such as diabetic foot ulcers.

And honey is not the only bee product that modern science is discovering uses for. One such product is propolis, whose compounds seem to be able to help fight the never-ending war being waged on cancer. Read on to find out more.

What is Propolis?

Honey, of course, is made from the ~~pollen~~ (*nectar*) of flowering plants and used by bees as a source of nutrition. Propolis, on the other hand, is more of a tool. It is a thick, *sticky* substance which bees *collect from plants* to help them repair holes in their hives. These hives are intricate systems of living quarters, food storage quarters and nurseries for young larvae and thus need constant *repair and* maintenance.

And bees are not the only ones which have found propolis to be so useful. Like honey, it has been used since ancient times for its array of beneficial properties since it has been proven to be an: Antioxidant, Anti-inflammatory, Anti-microbial Disinfectant.

And now, it seems, its anti-carcinogenic properties can be added to the list.

Propolis and Cancer

Interest in propolis in the area of oncology has been piqued by a study which has come out from the University of Chicago Medical School. In this study, researchers isolated a particular compound from propolis called caffeic acid phenethyl ester (or CAPE). They then took this bioactive compound and used it to treat prostate cancer cells. This was an *in vivo* study, meaning that it took place in a laboratory with cancer cells raised in a test tube.

In the presence of CAPE, it was found that the cancer cells rate of growth was slowed by a whopping 50%. When scientists looked closer at this phenomenon, they found that propolis worked by, not killing the cancer cells directly, but by interfering with signals which control the rate at which these cells are reproduced.

In other studies, though, it has been found that CAPE does have cytotoxic properties, meaning that it can, in fact, kill off cancer cells directly. These studies include ones done on prostate cancer cells and colon cancer cells, among others.

Due to these studies, it is likely that more research will be forthcoming on propolis and how its active components seem to have such a strong impact on cancer cells. And hopefully this research will eventually lead to the development of natural therapies for cancer which effectively kill off cancer cells without the awful side effects of modern medical treatments.

If you would like to try some propolis yourself, consider this recipe for a tincture from Jimmie Oakley.



If your bees are producing a lot of propolis, collect the excess or purchase a propolis trap and consider making some **propolis tincture**. Try to collect a clean product - no paint chips or bee parts. Collect the clean propolis in a pint size mason jar. Cover approximately 2 inches above the propolis with **Everclear**, a pure 100 proof grain alcohol. Allow to set for a week to start, tightly capped of course. Shake the jar every few days. Notice that the solution will separate. Add a little more



alcohol as needed. This will make tincture. Do not add too much or the saturation point will be absorbed and you will need more propolis. After 2-3 weeks I usually end up with approximately 2" of dark brown tincture setting on top of about 1½" of a milky substance. Use a very small siphon tube (or eye dropper) to draw off the pure tincture (the top layer). Store tightly in dark bottles to preserve the tincture's strength. Be careful, it stains yellow. Add more alcohol to the milky substance and the process starts again. Use on cuts, scrapes, insect bites, ulcers, fever blisters, for sore throats, etc.



W.C.A.B.A. MEETING MINUTES – April 23, 2015

1. **Opening the Meeting:** President Chris Doggett opened the meeting.
 2. **Beekeeping 101** – “After Installing Your Package” taught by Zane Baird.
 3. **Announcements:**

Jimmie Oakley explained the club spent \$27,000 for bees. Jimmie showed slides of the R. Weaver Apiary in Navasota, Texas. There were photos of 100 packages and 80 queens being loaded onto Jimmie’s truck for delivery to Bost Farm. Members pick up the bees at Bost Farm.

Chris Doggett reminded everyone of the Texas Beekeepers Association Summer Clinic being held on June 6th at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds. To see the agenda for the Clinic, go to <http://texasbeekeepers.org/events>.

The Texas Beekeepers Association will have the Annual Convention on October 30 and 31. The Convention will be in Belton. More details will be discussed in future meetings.

New beekeepers this year are eligible for a free one-year membership to the Texas Beekeepers Association. Shirley Doggett keeps applications at her table for sign-up.

Jim Colbert, Vice President, discussed the mentoring program. He is looking for mentors and mentees to sign up with him so he will know the needs of members.
 4. **Treasurer’s Report** – No treasurer report this meeting.
 5. **Meeting Attendance** – 75 attendees
 6. **Door Prizes** – Chris Doggett announced winners of door prizes.
 7. **Guest Speaker:** Derek Foight, Program Director, introduced the evening’s speaker, Lance Wilson who spoke on Bee Nutrition.
 8. **Date for Next Meeting** – Our next meeting will be on May 28, 2015.
- Ginny Stubblefield* - Secretary, W.C.A.B.A.

Beekeeping Equipment

Serving the Williamson County Area

Available Assembled
and Painted

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





**TEXAS
BEEKEEPERS
ASSOCIATION**

Summer Clinic 2015

Saturday June 6th, 10am - 4pm

**Join us as we explore all aspects of Beekeeping
from Observer to Producer!**

Membership in Texas Beekeepers Association is not required

Door
Prizes

Montgomery County Fairgrounds

9201 Airport Road, Conroe, TX 77308

www.mcfa.org

Hosted by Montgomery County Beekeepers Association

On-site
Vendors



Classes for ALL ages Featuring "The Bee-zeebo!"



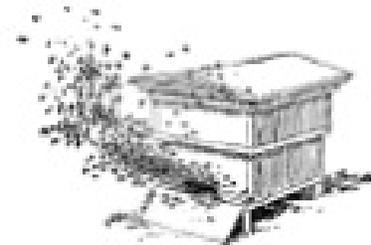
One of Texas' largest outdoor observation hives with LIVE BEES!

*****Live Hive Inspection and Honey Extraction Classes*****

TOPICS

(Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced Classes)

- Bee Biology and Behavior*
- Getting started with Beekeeping*
- Pest Management (Varroa)*
- Maximizing Honey Production*
- Capturing Swarms*
- Top Bar Hives*
- How to turn your Hobby into a Bee-ness!*
- Raising Queens*
- Queen Breeding and Sperm Viability*
- Drones*
- Marketing your Honey*
- And more...*



Kids Teaching Kids

Texas Honey Queens and Princesses teaching classes to school aged children about Honey Bees and Beekeeping!

**\$40/Person, \$70/Couple & \$15 Children 16 and under
(Includes Catered lunch)**

For registration and a complete list of classes and speakers

Go to www.texasbeekeepers.org

Free to the Public from 2pm - 4pm

No pre-registration required - does not give access to classes

**School age children accompanied by their parents learn the benefits of the Honey Bee
and Fun Facts you never knew**