

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA JUNE 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, June 25, 2015
TIME: 7:00-9:00: Bkg.101, Program
PLACE: First United Methodist Church Georgetown (MMC bldg.)
PROGRAM: Bkg. 101, "Pests & Diseases": 8:00 Fred Hall, speaker.
HOSTS: Linda Franke, Jill Douglass, Sharon Stephenson

REMEMBER TO BRING BACK YOUR LIBRARY BOOKS

What beautiful wildflowers we've had this Spring! So why aren't our bee hives full of honey? Let's stop and consider: how many days in May were YOU able to get out to work in the yard due to rainy weather? Consider that a drop of rain on a bee is like a five-pound sack of sugar hitting you on the back; would you want to leave your nest to go look for nectar? Even if you did go out, the heavier rains tend to wash out the nectar, leaving the flowers lacking that resource. Let's hope the warm sunshine we've had lately will encourage the wildflowers to keep blooming longer than normal and the bees can busily forage and fill their supers with delicious nectar.

When you do have honey to extract, WCABA has two extractors with equipment available for our members to check out by calling Mary Bost at 512.863.3656 to arrange checkout dates. Usually, our members have donated jars of honey to raise money for the scholarship program but last year, only two members donated honey. Consequently, the Executive Board has decided to ask that any member using the extracting equipment donate either the equivalent of at least a quart of honey or a money donation of at least \$15.00 when they use the extracting equipment.

Our speaker this month will be Fred Hall, Texas A&M Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent of Williamson County. Besides working in several different responsible extension programs in Iowa after graduating from Iowa State University in 1981, he was also involved in working with several publishing companies as well as owning and operating a livestock photography company before moving to Georgetown in 2013. Mr. Hall's topic will be "Starting Your Own Business".

Zane Baird indicates that Beekeeping 101 will be a program on **pests and diseases**. It is important to keep informed on what to do to keep your bees healthy and pest and disease free to insure their survival.

About this time of year Jimmie Oakley would conduct a program on using the club extracting equipment for scholarship recipients and newbees who have not extracted before, but this year he is suggesting having a Saturday workshop at the Bost Farm to accomplish that instructional program. He will be announcing Saturday July 11th as the

date for the "hands on" extracting session for all those interested in attending. Come see how it's done and how to use the equipment to do it using real frames of honey. Bottling of honey will be demonstrated also.

June Management Calendar

Monitor varroa populations and treat if necessary

Blooming Plants

Milkweed, clover, horsemint, honey mesquite, goldenrod, locust, gaillardia, sunflowers, lantana.

Welcome to our new members who joined WCABA last month. They are Bruce Miller, Richard and Jeannette Nemeč, Jane Wallace/Bruco, and Randy Russell, all of Georgetown; John Tarver, Temple; David Walther, Dallas; and Chris and Stephen Windsor, Liberty Hill. Also, Brian Threadgill renewed his membership.

Door prizes were contributed last month by Lisa Hoekstra, Linda Franke, and Ginny Stubblefield. Lucky winners were Julie Fagala, Wally Tutor, Mary Marcotte, Geoff Stewart. Victoria Meckerson, Jill Douglass, and Patricia Bruno.

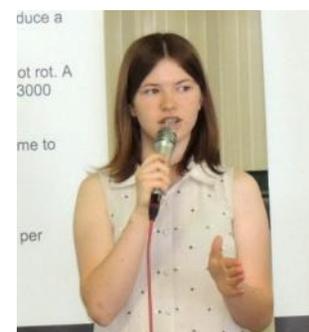
Chris Doggett reports a very successful TBA Summer Clinic that was held Saturday, June 6th in Conroe with about 500 people in attendance, not including the general public who had been invited to attend. With 40 possible one-hour sessions, designed to appeal to beginners in one "track", to more experienced beekeepers in others, there were extensive learning experiences offered. Juliana Rangel's graduate research staff, Mark Dykes and the TAIS staff, TBA Directors and other well-known beekeepers were among those presenting.

In addition, a new segment – kids teaching kids (KTK) – was introduced and scholarship recipients from WCABA, CCHBA and Central Texas Beekeepers gave talks to the 20 or so children who were present. WCABA Honey Princess, Elise Gardner, and Scholarship recipient, Callie Herring, gave presentations to be proud of, according to Chris Doggett. Honey Queens and Princesses from all clubs were there, including WCABA Honey Queen Emma Wall, helping with fund raising sales and talking bees with the general public that afternoon.

WCABA members who attended the Summer Clinic were Stephanie and Daniel Morris, Carl Seagren, Lisa Hoekstra, Dodie Stillman, Kenneth Miller, Mary Catherine and Elise Gardner, Emma and Irma Wall, Callie and Mary Alice Herring, Diane Rendon, Richard Goeke, Holly Medina, Sharon Stephenson, Jimmie and Kay Oakley and Chris and Shirley Doggett.

Book Nook by Holly Medina

The DVD, "Tales From The Hive", is a beautiful summary of the life of our honeybees. It shows amazing close-ups of bees working flowers, sucking nectar and gathering pollen on their body hairs. The photography of bee larval development and the stages of metamorphosis is an excellent example of this process. We also get to see the queen recruiting her workers to leave the hive to swarm to a tree – a beekeeper's nightmare. The viewer gets to see many of the enemies of the honeybee, such as birds who feast on bees, mice, moths, heavy rains, bears – and shows us, in spite of all of the natural enemies, honeybees are amazing survivors. This DVD is a lovely overview of the life of the honeybee. The video closes with a quote from Winnie the Pooh describing the best part of honey.



With so much discouraging news regarding the huge losses of bees and other pollinators, it's good news to hear that the Obama administration has announced "the first National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators, a bureaucratic title for a plan to save the bee, other small winged animals and their breeding grounds." This strategy will "seek to manage the way forests burned by wildfire are replanted, the way offices are landscaped and the way roadside habitats where bees feed are preserved," Juliet Epstein states.

Bees—along with birds, bats and butterflies—"play a key function by pollinating commercial fruit and vegetable crops; alfalfa and clover that provide feed for cattle; and the nuts, seeds and fruits that sustain massive grizzly bears and delicate songbirds. Some estimates put the economic value of their activities at roughly \$15 billion a year. " Although winter losses over the past 5 years had been averaging about 30%, last year " beekeepers lost 42.1% of their colonies between April 2014 and 2015, an 8 percent spike,...and the number of summer deaths exceeded winter deaths for the first time" since 2010, according to a consortium of universities and research laboratories.

Environmental groups "have been pressuring EPA to outlaw neonicotinoid pesticides, which are banned in Europe, on the grounds that they are toxic to bees. In March, the EPA issued a moratorium on approving any new use permits for these kinds of insecticides and will soon announce its review of their impact," said Epstein.

Mark Winston, Simon Fraser University biology professor, said however that the administration is "not pushing big agricultural producers hard enough to grow diverse crops and dramatically cut the amount of toxic pesticides they put on crops. If you don't change farming and you don't change pesticide use, you're not going to make substantial changes in the health of pollinators."

The above information is excerpts from an internet article written by Juliet Epstein, The Washington Post's White House bureau chief. She is also "the author of two books—one on sharks, and another on Congress, not to be confused with each other"—and has worked for the Post since 1998.

W.C.A.B.A. MEETING MINUTES – May 28, 2015

1. **Opening the Meeting:** President Chris Doggett opened the meeting.

2. **Beekeeping 101** – "Swarm Cells" taught by Zane Baird.

3. **Announcements:**

Fred Hall, Williamson County Extension Agent, asked members to let him know if they had hives that were damaged by the most recent flooding. His office is keeping records of the damaged hives.

Mary Bost reminded members the club's Swarm List needs more names of volunteers. She is receiving the usual Spring swarm calls and doesn't have enough volunteers to help.

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>.

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

Callahan's on Hwy. 183 is now stocking beekeeping supplies.

4. **Door Prizes** – Chris Doggett announced winners of door prizes.

5. **Guest Speaker:** Derek Foight, Program Director, introduced the evening's speaker, Lily Rosenman, whose presentation was entitled "Hive Management and Frame Reading".

6. **Meeting Adjourned**

7. **Date for Next Meeting** – Our next meeting will be on June 25, 2015.

Ginny Stubblefield

Secretary, W.C.A.B.A.

Since most of us are looking forward to celebrating July 4th in about two weeks, this barbecue sauce recipe might come in handy.

Texas – Style Honey Barbecue Sauce

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 onion, finely minced | 1 tsp. mustard | 4 tsp. blackstrap molasses |
| 1 tsp. minced garlic | 1 tsp. chili powder | 3 tbsp. lemon juice |
| 1/3 cup Texas Honey | 4 tbsp. butter | 1 tsp. hot pepper or chili sauce |
| 2 tbsp. apple cider vinegar | 1 cup tomato catsup | 1/2 tsp. pepper |

Saute onion in butter until soft; add garlic and saute a few moments more. Add remaining ingredients and simmer gently, stirring occasionally, until sauce is thick (about 30-40 min.). Enjoy on barbecued brisket, pork or chicken. Makes about 1 1/2 cups. (Allison Adams – 2010 Texas Honey Queen brochure)

TBA Summer Clinic Pictures...2015



Chris Doggett instructing a session...



Bill Baxter doing a live bee demo...



Elise Gardner and Callie Herring with youngsters at Kids Teachings Kids session...



Montgomery County Beekeepers feeding the 500 ...



Tanya Philips of Austin in her vendor booth...



Queens and Princesses in attendance at the TBA Summer Clinic.

Beekeeping Equipment
Serving the Williamson County Area

Available Assembled
and Painted

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

