

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA AUGUST 2015 NEWSLETTER

www.wcaba.org

Look for us on Facebook

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DATE: Thursday, August 27, 2015
TIME: 7:00-9:00: Ice Cream Social, Program
PLACE: First United Methodist Church Georgetown (MMC bldg.)
PROGRAM: Speaker: Mary Reed - Integrated Pest Management
HOSTS: Volunteers (see list below)

REMEMBER TO BRING BACK YOUR LIBRARY BOOKS

“Bees are the only insects that produce food which is eaten by humans”—Brainstormers, 8-1-15

After a month of hot, dry weather, our bees are as eager to have cooler, wetter weather as we humans are. I trust you have kept plenty of water available for your bees as well as adjusted your hives to give them a flow of air to keep your bees cooler. There are not many wildflowers for them to forage so we are keeping sugar water available for our bees.

What could be better than ice cream after a hot day? The following WCABA members have volunteered to bring ice cream or toppings to our ice cream social this month; however, others who didn't sign up are welcome to bring your favorite.

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Tim Falkenstein | Ann Witcher | Bruce Jefferies |
| Nancy Young | Jill Douglass | Karen Eacrett |
| Darwin & Kay Karkoska | Irma Wall | Madeline Baird |
| Chris & Shirley Doggett | Jane Wallace | Lori Esch |
| Sharon Stephenson | Dena Collar | Dodie Stillman |
| Mary Marcotte | Emma Wall | Barbi Benjamin |
| Ed Meier and Melissa Birdwell | | |

Mary Reed, the newest Texas Apiary Inspector, will be our speaker this month. She has a B.S. in Entomology and has spent 5 years researching plant diseases that impact agriculture. “She is excited to be here working with beekeepers of all levels and looks forward to hearing about your beekeeping experiences,” according to her bio information.

Mary is also very involved in the day to day administration of the Texas Master Beekeeping Program for the Texas Apiary Inspection Service.



Mary Reed and Jimmie Oakley

Both of the club extractors have been in almost constant use for the past six weeks. It is advisable to call ahead to reserve the date you would like to use this equipment; otherwise it may not be available and you will need to choose an alternate date. Call Mary Bost, 512/863-3656 or Jimmie Oakley, 512/507-3009.

We gratefully accept the generous donation to the Ed Wolfe/Robert Bost Memorial Scholarship Fund recently sent to WCABA from Richard Bost in honor of Jimmie Oakley for his “generous gifts of his time and energy devoted to mentoring beekeepers, especially among WCABA members. We specifically appreciate his looking after our hives until we returned from our honeymoon. Thank you, Jimmie”. Rick and Karel Bost, Catoosa, OK.

Welcome to our new members who joined WCABA at our last meeting, Peggie and Jon Klema of Leander and Llew McCrea from Belton. Also, welcome back to Jean Schmidt who was a long-time member/membership chair a few years ago.

Door prize donors at our July meeting were Barbara Hunt, Ginny Stubblefield, Lisa Hoekstra, and Chris Doggett. Lucky winners were Steve Gardipee, Lisa Hoekstra, Erik Kartzmark, and Shannon Tucker.

Management Calendar

Monitor varroa populations and treat if needed.
Monitor hive beetle populations.
Manage hive temperatures.
Process honey

Blooming Plants

Milkweed, buttonbush clover, dalea,
goldenrod, Joe-pye weed, broomweed

It is encouraging that so many folks are becoming more interested in bees and their welfare. Friends who are not beekeepers often clip articles that they've read and handed on to me. One such paper had an article entitled, “Helping pollinators, one pot at a time,” in which the author, Dean Fosdick, said “Even a little effort—a potted plant, say, on an apartment balcony—can mean a lot when trying to help restore declining pollinator populations like bees, bats, and butterflies.”

“Every contribution is worthwhile,” said Victoria Wojcik, research director for the Pollinator Partnership in Toronto, Ontario. “You’re making a better environment for pollinators, no matter how small.”

Pollinators don't need large areas for foraging; a planter on a balcony or a grow box on a porch or small yard, whether in the country, town, or a city high-rise balcony, will provide forage for bees and butterflies. Encourage your friends to look for plants that are “bee-friendly”. My daughter-in-law pointed out an apple-blossom salvia plant in a flower bed off their patio that was being visited by a number of honey bees recently. This plant dies down over the winter but leaves a number of seeds nearby that turn into thriving plants the next spring. I have planted several Hawthorns in two circular planters and plan to put salvia plants in the center of these planters next spring for my bees to forage on.

Some of the hotels are even putting hives of bees on their rooftops and are providing planters of flowers near them for the bees to forage. Why not utilize planters or flower pots on a porch or in multiple flower beds to increase the availability of flowers for our bees to forage on? We can enjoy their beauty while knowing we are aiding nature and our friends, the honey bees.

For those who are interested, a related event is occurring in our area you may want to pursue further.

Pollinator Advocates Will Gather in Kerrville Sept. 19-20, Schreiner University Event Center

Melissa Blair - USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

13434 Leopard St., Suite A-14 Corpus Christi, TX 78410 (361) 241-0609 ext. 115 or get more info at:

www.texaspollinatorpowwow.org

It's too hot to use the oven, so why not use your slow cooker (crockpot)? This recipe was a hit when I had company for dinner recently.

Honey-Garlic Slow Cooker Chicken

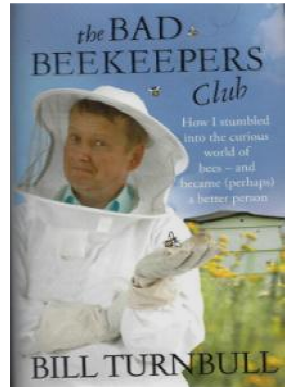
4 skinless chicken thighs ½ cup soy sauce *3 cloves garlic
1/3 cup honey ½ cup ketchup 1 tsp. dried basil

Lay chicken thighs into bottom of a 4 qt. slow cooker. Whisk honey, soy sauce, ketchup, garlic (* adjust garlic according to taste. I used 1 clove), and basil together in a bowl. Pour over chicken. Cook on low for 6 hours. Tip: Using aluminum foil keeps food moist, cook evenly, & makes clean-up easier.

BEES BOOK NOOK

Holly Medina

This book is different from the typical technical first time beekeeping books. It's written with a light hearted humor that will appeal to the new beekeeper and the experienced beekeeper alike. Bill Turnbull starts off the book about his first lesson in beekeeping and how it taught him something about himself and the world around him. In the following chapters he chronicles his mishaps and brief moments of triumph with humor in a way that educates the reader. The Bad Beekeepers Club is an interestingly easy read.



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

1. **Opening the Meeting:** President Chris Doggett opened the meeting.
2. **Beekeeping 101** – “Africanized Bees and Extracting Honey” taught by Chris Doggett. “Queen Supercedure” was taught by Zane Baird.
3. **Announcements:**
 - Mary Bost will be resigning as the publisher of the W.C.A.B.A. Newsletter, effective at the end of the year. For anyone interested in writing the newsletter, please contact Chris Doggett.
 - Chris Doggett asked if the members would like to have a Club Directory. He explained a member may choose to opt out if they choose. There were no objections.
 - The Texas Beekeepers Association Annual Convention will be held in Belton, Texas from Oct. 29 through Oct. 31. It is about a 45-minute drive to Belton so please join us at the Convention.
 - Honey Extractor – please contact Mary Bost at 512-863-3656 if you wish to borrow the Club’s extractor. We ask that you donate one jar of honey or donate \$15 when you return the extractor. The honey will be sold at the Sun City Fall Arts and Crafts Festival in November to benefit our Honey Queen program.
 - Reminder – the August W.C.A.B.A. Meeting is our traditional “Ice Cream Social”. We will also have a guest speaker.
 - The Texas 4H Club had its Beekeeping Essay Contest for 2015. The two categories for essays were “Planting from the Backyard and Up” and “Reducing the Useage of Bee-Killing Pesticides in My Community”.
 - The T.B.A. Texas State Fair booth in Dallas will be coming up in September. Volunteers are always welcome to work the booth.
4. **Treasurer’s Report:** The current balance is \$5,142.
5. **Meeting Attendance:** 72 present
6. **Door Prizes** – Chris Doggett announced winners of door prizes.
7. **Guest Speaker:** Derek Foight, Program Director, introduced the evening’s speaker, Mark Dykes, Chief Apiary Inspector with the Texas Apiary Inspection Service based at Texas A&M. Mark spoke about the changing bee laws and how they affect the average beekeeper. The T.B.A. is working with Mark and others to help update some of the current laws.
8. **Meeting Adjourned**
9. **Date for Next Meeting** – Our next meeting will be on August 27, 2015

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

Bee Awareness Day & Tour de Hives - Tanya Phillips

On August 6th Austin Mayor Steve Adler issued a proclamation naming August 15th “Honey Bee Awareness Day.” Recognizing the honey bees’ critical contribution to pollination and the existing threats they face. Tanya Phillips accepted the proclamation on behalf of the Travis County Beekeeper’s Association thanking members of the local beekeeping community many of who were in attendance including: WCABA Honey Bee Queen Emma Wall, Princess Elise Gardner, Mark Dykes and Mary Reed, Texas Apiary Inspectors, Jimmie Oakley, John Swan, Pamela Yeamans, Chuck Reburn, Gay Lavallee, Kathy Keller, Brandon Fehrenkamp and more.



Mayor Adler, Tanya Phillips, Emma Wall, Elise Gardner

On August 15th, the central Texas area celebrated National Honey Bee Day with the 3rd Annual “Tour de Hives”, a family friendly public event promoting Honey Bee Awareness hosted by the Travis County Beekeepers Association. Texas Governor Greg Abbott sent a greeting and commendation letter welcoming everyone to the Tour de Hives. The event included a driving tour of local apiaries, guest speakers from Barton Springs Nursery (Eva Van Duke), TAIS (Mark Dykes), Bee Friendly Austin (Tanya Phillips), A&M Bee Lab (Juliana Rangel), and Honey Queens (Tabitha Mansker and Emma Wall). The event was generously sponsored by: Bee Weaver Apiaries, Twisted X Brewing Company, Sonesta Bee Cave, Bee Friendly Austin, Barton Springs Nursery, Callahan’s General Store, Bee Sweet Lemonade, Meridian Hive Meadery, Red Poppy Coffee, Wicked Bee Removal, Apis Restaurant, Walker Honey Farm, Busy Bee Supplies and Bee Amour. A silent auction, raffle and T-shirt sales also helped to fund the event. The proclamation and the Governor’s letter can both be viewed at www.TravisCountyBeekeepers.org under the link TCBA Buzz.



Emma Wall & Tabitha Mansker at Tour Headquarters



Group at Austin City Council Chambers for Proclamation



**Texas Beekeepers Association
Annual Convention
29th - 31st October 2015**

**Bell County Expo Center
301 West Loop 121, Belton, TX 76513
www.bellcountyexpo.com**

The Annual Convention this year features:



*General Sessions Friday morning through Saturday afternoon
Texas Master Beekeeper Testing on Thursday
"Building a Sustainable Apiary" with Dr. Larry Connor on Thursday*

Speakers

James L. Frazier - Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Entomology, Penn. State University

**Dying Bees: Harbingers of the End of Times or Opportunity Buzzing
Managing Honey Bee Maladies by Letting Them Be**

Maryann Frazier - Senior Extension Associate, Penn. State University

**Toxic House: pesticide exposure and impacts on honey bee colonies used for
commercial pollination
So You Think You Can't Graft..... Try This!**

Phil Craft - former Kentucky State Apiarist, "Ask Phil" column in Bee Culture Magazine

Varroa Treatments - a Review of Effective Varroa Control Options

Clint Walker - Walker Honey Farm

From the Extractor to the Shelf - Processing Honey

Blake Shook - President, TBA - Desert Creek Honey

Creative Ways to Market Honey, and Fresh New Ideas

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and Painted

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