

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA SEPTEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

www.wcaba.org

Look for us on Facebook

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DATE: Thursday, September 24, 2015
TIME: 7:00-9:00: Honey Tasting & Judging; Program
PLACE: First United Methodist Church Georgetown (MMC bldg.)
PROGRAM: Speaker: Becky Bender - Author of The Buds & the Bees
HOSTS: Ginny Stubblefield, Shirley Doggett, Barbi Benjamin

REMEMBER TO BRING BACK YOUR LIBRARY BOOKS

Judging by how busy the honey extracting equipment has been for the past two months, many of us will have honey to bring for the honey tasting (a fun contest!) and for the honey judging. September is National Honey Month and to recognize it the club will have our annual honey tasting and judging at the meeting.

To enter the "Tasters Choice" honey tasting contest, bring your honey in a small jar (such as a baby food or small pimiento jar) without a label. It will be given a number and the person accepting it will coordinate the number with your name to identify winners after everyone has voted. When the tasting begins, each person will use a clean tooth pick to taste each sample of honey, then vote (make a mark on paper under sample) for the 3 entries he/she likes best. The samples with the most votes will be the winners. Blue, red, and white ribbons will be awarded.

The honey judging will be done by a selected group of our members who will be using certain criteria: appearance of the bottle, inside and out; no honey under the lid; uniform fill (up to fill line); free of foreign matter (granulated crystals, bubbles, foam, wax, lint, other debris); flavor; and brightness (clear, sparkling, transparent).

Honey for the judging contest needs to be in a two-pound queenline glass jar with a metal cap and must have your label on it. (Talk with Jimmie Oakley-512/507-3009-if you don't have a label.) If you need a glass jar, you can get one from Mary Bost at the Bost Farm, 4355 CR 110, Georgetown for 50 cents.



This honey will be sent to the Texas State Fair for display in the TBA Honey Booth, and will be donated to the Happy Hills Children's Home in Granbury following the State Fair.



The State Fair of Texas will be held at Fair Park in Dallas from Friday, September 25 to Sunday, October 18th and John Talbert is asking for volunteers to work in the honey booth, giving beekeepers an opportunity to help tell the story of bees and honey. If you're interested, call him at 214/532-9241 or email him at john@sabinecreekhoney.com.

WCABA is co-sponsoring the Texas Beekeepers Association annual convention that is to be held this year at the Bell County Expo Center, October 29th – 31st, in Belton. This is always a very informative as well as fun experience and with it being “right in our back door”, it would be a shame to miss this opportunity to learn more about beekeeping, especially from speakers who are so well-informed about bees and beekeeping. If you don't get the TBA Journal, ask Shirley or Chris Doggett (or me, Mary Bost) to let you look at a copy. You will find forms with registration information and a listing of speakers/topics as well as other special events at the end of this newsletter.



The Fall testing for the apprentice level for the Texas Master Beekeeping Program will be held in Thursday October 29, 2015, at the Bell County Exposition Center, 301 W Loop 121, in Belton, Texas the day before the start of the Texas Beekeepers Convention. On-line registration starts September 1st at the website: <http://masterbeekeep.tamu.edu/> Testing is limited to 75 people and there is a \$50 fee that needs to be sent to the Texas Apiary Inspection Service. For more details and registration forms go to the website.



The Hill Country Fair is also upcoming but it's a little later: November 7 & 8 at Sun City. This is our scholarship fund-raiser booth. Some of you have been contributing honey or money when you used the extracting equipment; this will help in collecting money to help pay for the scholarships we award next March. The newsletter will have more information regarding this next month.



It is good news to read that the **U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals** has overturned federal (EPA) approval of an insecticide used on a variety of crops, ruling that it could hasten an already “alarming” decline in bees.

“Bees are essential to pollinate important crops and in recent years have been dying at alarming rates,” Judge Mary M. Schroeder wrote for the three-judge panel. Beekeepers and beekeeping organizations had challenged the EPA's 2013 approval of sulfoxaflo, an insecticide made by Dow and designed for use on crops including citrus, cotton, canola, strawberries, soybeans and wheat.

Janette Brimmer, who represented the beekeepers for an environmental group in California, said the ruling affects the entire country and will force states to withdraw more local rules that have permitted the insecticide. “This was a pretty significant decision,” said Brimmer. “It revokes the registration (to use the insecticide) and it is a national registration.”

Sulfloxaflo is sold under the brand names Closer and Transform and is aimed at piercing and sucking insects such as aphids and lygus that attack a variety of crops, from cotton and citrus to tomatoes, peppers and strawberries.

“Given the precariousness of bee populations, leaving the EPA's registration of sulfoxaflo in place risks more potential environmental harm than vacating it,” the 9th Circuit judges concluded.

Thanks to Richard Bost and Gayle-Suzanne Barron for calling our attention to this *internet* information.

Welcome to our new members who joined last month: Amy and Chris Hughes from Killeen; Ronnie and Bonnie Russell, Georgetown; and Jim Wayland, also from Georgetown. Those who renewed their membership last meeting were Bradley Pierce and Rebecca Irey.

Door prize donors last month were Barbara Hunt and Lisa Hoekstra. Lucky winners were Shannon Rector, Amy Hughes, and Mary Catherine Gardner.

September Management Calendar

Monitor varroa populations.
Feed colonies if needed.
Monitor hive beetle populations.

Blooming Plants

Milkweed, buttonbush,
clover, Joe-pye weed
goldenrod

No-Bake Energy Bites

1 cup dry Oatmeal	*½ cup Flax Seed – ground
2/3 cup Coconut Flakes	½ cup Chocolate Chips
½ cup Peanut Butter	*1 Tbsp. Chia Seeds
1/3 cup Honey	1 tsp. Vanilla Extract

Combine all ingredients and refrigerate for ½ hour. Roll into small balls and store in refrigerator in airtight container. (Items marked with * may be substituted with any of the following: sunflower seeds, sesame seeds, poppy seeds, or pecans, according to taste.)

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

- 1. Opening the Meeting:** Vice President Jim Colbert opened the meeting.
- 2. Beekeeping 101** – Zane Baird reminded everyone it is our “Ice Cream Social” meeting. Ice cream was ready for everyone and tables were set up to encourage discussions among members.
- 3. Reminders:**
 - The T.B.A. Annual Convention will be held October 29 through October 31 at the Bell County Expo Center in Belton, TX. The La Quinta Inn and Suites in Belton will be the official hotel for attendees. The room rate will be \$99 per day. Make your reservations by Sept. 30.
 - September is National Honey Month. Our September meeting will be the Honey Tasting meeting. Please bring honey in small jars for members to taste.
- 4. Treasurer’s Report:** The current balance is \$5,232.
- 5. Meeting Attendance:** 83 present
- 6. Door Prizes** – Winners of door prizes were announced.
- 7. Guest Speaker:** Jim Colbert introduced Mary Reed, Apiary Inspector for the Texas Apiary Inspection Service. Mary spoke to the group on “Integrated Pest Management – The Varroa Mite”.
- 8. Meeting Adjourned**
- 9. Date for Next Meeting** – Our next meeting will be on September 24, 2015.

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

Editor Notice: A friend living near Walburg called recently to report that someone lost a bee hive on Highway 29 east of Georgetown. He picked it up (bees had absconded) and has it at his home. If you think it’s yours, call Bill at 512/863.2567 and describe your lost hive to him.



TEXAS
BEEKEEPERS
ASSOCIATION

Texas Beekeepers Association Annual Convention 2015

October 29th – 31st

Belton, Texas – Bell County Expo Center

www.bellcountyexpo.com

***Beekeeping Insight from a whole new
perspective!***

This years' Convention is offering a "Full Lineup" of in-depth, knowledge based information, techniques, science and perspectives!

Thursday October 29th

**Texas Master Beekeeper Testing
and
"Building a Sustainable Apiary" with Dr. Larry Connor**

Honey and
Photo Contest

Friday-Saturday October 30th & 31st

Live and Silent
Auction

Featured Speakers:

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

Maryann Frazier (Senior Extension Associate, Penn. State University)

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

Clint Walker (Walker Honey Farm)

Blake Shook (President, TBA – Desert Creek Honey)

Megan Mahoney (Midwest Tech-Transfer team and Queen Producer)

On-Site Vendors and Exhibitors



Registration Now Open

Go to:

www.texasbeekeepers.org



2015 Texas Beekeepers Association Convention Registration

Please register for the annual convention on-line at
www.texasbeekeepers.org/annual-convention-2015

Make Sure you are Logged in to get Membership Rates

Registration Form for Mail Registration
Please list attendees if you register for Family Membership

	Register by Oct. 22nd	Register at Convention	Number	Total
TBA Member - Full Conference Friday 30th and Saturday 31st October	\$60			
TBA Family Membership - Full Conference Friday 30th and Saturday 31st October	\$100			
TBA Member - Single Day (Friday or Saturday)	\$40			
TBA Non-member - Full Conference	\$80			
TBA Non-Member - Single Day (Friday or Saturday)	\$60			
Building a Sustainable Aptary Dr. Larry Connor - Thursday 29th October Individual - includes lunch and book credit	\$90			
Building a Sustainable Aptary Dr. Larry Connor - Thursday 29th Octobe Couple - includes lunch and book credit	\$150			
Queen's Luncheon Friday 30th October	\$19			
Annual Awards Banquet Saturday 31st October	\$38			
Total				

Name _____ Email _____

Spouse Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone: _____

**MAIL REGISTRATION FORM
AND CHECK PAYABLE TO
TEXAS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION to:**

**SHIRLEY DOGGETT
MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR
400 COUNTY ROAD 440
THRALL, TX 76578**

* Family Membership means members who have a family membership and up to 6 children living at the same address



Last year's Tasters Choice Winners
3rd-Liz Exley 1st-the Medina's 2nd-Jimmie Oakley



Honey Judged Entries bound for the State Fair

Beekeeping Equipment

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Available Assembled
and Painted

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512-963-3954



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