

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA OCTOBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

www.wcaba.org

Look for us on Facebook

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DATE: Thursday, October 22, 2015
TIME: 7:00-9:00: Beekeeping 101; Program
PLACE: First United Methodist Church Georgetown (MMC bldg.)
PROGRAM: Speaker: Becky Bender - The Buds and the Bees
HOSTS: Elsa Sorenson & Jennifer Baird

REMEMBER TO BRING BACK YOUR LIBRARY BOOKS

Becky Bender, who writes the column, "The Buds and the Bees" in the TBA Journal, will be our speaker this month. Becky Bender, a native Texan and Texas Master Naturalist, is an R.N. with a Masters degree in Science. She became especially interested in honey plants eight years ago when she and her husband began beekeeping. She manages her own land and yard for wildlife, honey bees and other pollinators. Both knowledgeable and inspirational, you will enjoy her informational presentation Thursday evening. I also plan to include a few tid-bits from her columns in this newsletter.



As the Texas State Fair winds down this weekend (Oct. 18), Texas beekeepers and especially WCABA members prepare for a busy season of convention activities. This event is always educational, interesting, fun, and inspirational. The TBA Journal for July/August has an overview of what one could expect if he/she attended. With the close proximity of the TBA Convention being held in **Belton October 29th – 31st**, we trust a large number of our members will take advantage of the varied instructional and motivational opportunities that are planned for beekeepers, whether beginners, hobbyists, or full-time operators. The TBA Journal for July/August has an overview of what one could expect if he/she attended, or check the informational sheets at the end of this newsletter for details, or go to the website: texasbeekeepers.org and click the blog & events tab, then Annual Convention, and follow the instructions.



On the next weekend WCABA will have a Honey Booth at the 19th Annual Hill Country Arts & Crafts Fair at Sun City in Georgetown on **Saturday 7th and Sunday the 8th of November**. Money contributions (and donations) comprise the funding that benefits the Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost Memorial Scholarship program for our young people. If you would like to donate honey, you could bring it to the meeting Thursday evening (give it to Jimmie Oakley) or bring it to the Bost farm by Nov. 6th. We would also accept cash donations in

lieu of honey if you don't have it. We need adult leadership to assist our 2015 scholarship recipients in manning the booth, discussing the observation hive and promoting good beekeeping, so there will be a sign up sheet so you can choose a convenient time for you or your family to volunteer and take part. We are also grateful to Ann Bierschenk for her recent generous donation to the Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost Memorial Scholarship fund "in thanksgiving for the mentoring I have received from Jimmie Oakley," Ann states.



Phil Ainslee, Nominations Committee Chair, has announced that it is time for annual nominations and election of officers. If you would like to nominate someone for any of the officer positions, please let him/her know you plan to submit his/her name. Officers that are elected each year are President, Vice-president, Membership Director, Program Director, Editorial Director, Secretary, Treasurer, and Historian. Mary Bost, who has been the WCABA newsletter editor for the past 30 years, has asked to retire, so a volunteer is being sought for that position.

In addition to officer elections in November, our scholarship youths, Annalisa Martinez, Jeffrey Whitworth, and Claire Birdwell will give their reports regarding their first year of beekeeping during the Beekeeping 101 session. Our speaker in November will be Clint Walker.

Welcome to new members, Dennis and Linda Rose of Marble Falls, who joined our club in September. Also, Wayne Sanders renewed his membership. Shirley Doggett reminds us that anyone renewing or joining in October or November will be counted as 2016 members, thus avoiding standing in a long line to renew next January. Remember, benefits of membership (besides learning and sharing knowledge and experiences of beekeeping) include use of the club extracting equipment, getting packages, nucs or queens at a reduced price as well as getting new equipment without paying shipping charges when bees or equipment are ordered through the club.

Book Nook – Holly Medina

There are many basics in the book but the author, Kim Flottum, emphasizes how a beekeeper moves into selling honey for profit. The book is full of tips and tricks on how to make your operation run smoothly, efficiently and get the most from your bees. Mr. Flottam discusses topics such as buying equipment, honey houses, leasing land, plants for honey bees, getting the best queens, production goals, prevention of swarming, and many helpful topics to help you decide if you wish to move into honey production for selling. He also includes excellent photographs to enhance his discussions. This is not a book for the novice beginner but is best for beekeepers who have one or two years of experience.



NOTICE: WCABA meetings in November will be one week earlier due to Thanksgiving holiday. The Executive Board will meet in Room 307 on Nov. 12 and our club meeting will be on Nov. 19.

W.C.A.B.A. MEETING MINUTES – Sept. 24, 2015

1. **Opening the Meeting:** President Chris Doggett opened the meeting.
2. **Beekeeping 101** – Zane Baird discussed important things that happen regarding bees as they pertain to each month of the year. He also shared interesting facts about honey. Zane gave members suggestions on keeping our equipment clean
3. **Announcements:**
 - *Elise Gardner spoke to the group about presentations she made at a 4-H Sponsored Event at the Travis County Exposition Center today. She spoke to multiple groups of elementary students for several hours about bees. Elise encouraged discussions with the children who were excited to learn more about honey bees.
 - *Ginny Stubblefield announced told about the Fall Harvest Festival which will be in Sun City on November 7 – 8. W.C.A.B.A. members will work this Fair as a fund raiser for the Honey Queen Program. Donations of honey will be appreciated.
 - *Jim Colbert asked for mentors. We can go to the web page for more information and sign up there.

4. **Door Prizes:** Door Prizes were announced.
5. **Honey Tasting:** Jimmie Oakley announced the beginning of the honey testing for everyone. Lines formed and it was ON! After the honey tasting, Jimmie Oakley introduced the Blue Ribbon winners of the 2-pound honey jars that go to the Texas State Fair. The winners were: Mary Bost, Lissy Martinez, Ann Biershenk, Jeffrey Whitworth, Emma Wall, Jimmie Oakley and Jim Colbert. The winners of the honey tasting contest were: First Place: Lissy Martinez, Second Place: Ginny Stubblefield, Third Place: Holly Medina.



Honey Princess Elise Gardner, Lissy Martinez, Ginny Stubblefield, Holly Median & Justin

6. **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.

7. **Meeting Attendance:** 87 present
8. **Meeting Adjourned:** President Chris Doggett adjourned the meeting
9. **Date for Next Meeting** – Our next meeting will be on October 22, 2015.

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



Honey Going to the Fair: Mary Bost, Jim Colbert, Lissy Martinez, Ann Bierschenk Jimmie Oakley Jeffrey Whitworth, and Princess Elisa Gardner

Becky Bender's article in the Sept.-Oct. TBA Journal has some very interesting information about flowers titled "The Royal Family of Bee Flowers: Asters". Many of these flowers bloom in the fall and most should be planted in the fall if you want to include them in your landscape plans.

However, Bender's article in the previous Journal pointed out some general information that explains why many of us harvested a smaller than usual crop of honey this year. "How and when weather patterns will affect honey production is as unpredictable as . . . well, as Texas weather," writes Becky. "Nectar secretion is sensitive to weather conditions including sunlight, temperature, rain and soil quality. . . . In addition, weather conditions affect different plant species in different ways."

"Temperature and soil moisture work together. Prolonged high temperatures without adequate soil moisture can stress plants, resulting in either a poorer quality of nectar or ceasing production all together. But when moisture is plentiful, persistent hot weather may accelerate flower development resulting in a shorter bloom period but more intense nectar flow," says Bender.

"Drought stresses most plants and limits the available moisture to dedicate to nectar production," states Bender. "Moisture is a major factor in good nectar production. Too much rain, however, can have the opposite effect", from delaying production of nectar to washing away the nectar that is produced or diluting the sugar content of the nectar to killing the plant due to lack of aeration of the plant roots. And of course, bees cannot fly when it's raining.

"Fall is the best time to plant perennials and to seed wildflowers; so look for these plants now at native nurseries," says Bender. Her personal favorite is Native American Seed (www.seedsources.com) "because they specialize in preserving the native genetics of plants that benefit Texas pollinators and wildlife." Their Bee Happy Seed Mix will be available at the TBA Annual Conference in Belton Oct. 30th & 31st.

Beekeeping Equipment

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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 October 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