

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA March 2003 NEWSLETTER

DATE: Tuesday, March 25, 2003
TIME: 7:00-Basic Beekeepers; 8:00-General Meeting/Program
PLACE: Community Center, 205 Main St., Round Rock
PROGRAM: Recognition of Ed Wolfe Memorial Scholarship Winners
HOSTS: **Karin Cantlon, Harold Kind**

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We were all disappointed last month that we didn't get to hear the program about queen bees that we were expecting to hear. Perhaps that program can be rescheduled later in the year. It also kept some of our members, even some prospective members from paying their dues and ordering bees. Although several people have sent dues and made their bee order by snail mail and/or e-mail, we are hoping the rest of you will be prepared to do so at the meeting Tuesday evening. We have previously stopped sending the newsletters to members who have not renewed by mid-March but decided to extend the deadline to accommodate those who didn't get to pay dues in February. Please don't procrastinate: we need you and you need WCABA. Renewals received since the last newsletter are from Thomas Payne, Austin; Bill and Julie Hein, Georgetown; Robert Yurk, Thorndale; G.C. and Beth Walker, Rogers; Herbert and Alma Konze, Taylor; and Orion Lewis, Wellsville, Kansas.

The program this month for Basic Beekeepers will concentrate on starting new hives of bees. The general program will be recognizing the 2002 Ed Wolfe Memorial scholarship winners by presenting them with Certificate of Completion awards in recognition of their achievement of a successful year of beekeeping. **Meghan Cantlon, Lydia Miller, and Blake Matheny** have been diligent in caring for their bees, have attended most of the WCABA meetings, and are young people of whom we are proud.

Four scholarships will be awarded to the 2003 winners at this meeting, and we will be assisting them in constructing their hive bodies and frames. We had an unusually large number of applicants this year—nine—and we wish we could have helped all of them get started in beekeeping. We trust that those youngsters who did not win this year will be interested enough that they will apply again next year and perhaps attend some of our beekeeping meetings.

For those of you who have ordered or plan to order queens and/or packages of bees, the club discount applies only to those ordered and paid for through WCABA, and that are picked up on Saturday, April 5 and brought to the Bost farm, with the exception of those of you who want to pick up your bees at Rogers between 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. If you plan to pick up your bees in Rogers, please specify your intentions before the pick-up date.

To recap pricing of the bees, all queens will be marked and will cost \$10.00 each (if you want a wing clipped, add \$1.00); all 3# packages of bees will cost \$48.00 and will include the queen. Make your check payable to WCABA, please.

Orientation and demonstration of introducing a package of bees to their hive will be given

to the new scholarship winners at 2:00 Sunday afternoon, April 6, at the Bost farm (directions to our farm will be available at the meeting). Any adult who would like to sit in on this demonstration will be welcome. Jimmie Oakley does a very good presentation. If adult members want to wait to receive their bees until Sunday so they can see this demonstration, please make a note of it when you make your order or tell me Tuesday night.

Julie and Bill Hein and Jeann Schmidt set up a very interesting and attractive display at the Georgetown Library for the month of February. Jimmie Oakley took some pictures: he will have them available for you to see Tuesday night.



A welcome note from Alma Konze says they hope to be able to get back to meetings, that Herbert is feeling stronger. They have been missed. Beth Walker is now out of her cast and getting around better. Orion Lewis (our Kansas member) had bone fragments and torn cartilage removed by orthoscopic surgery last week and he is looking forward to walking more comfortably soon. I had carpal tunnel surgery on my right wrist recently and am still typing with one finger on my right hand, so this newsletter will be shorter than usual. We hope the rest of our members are well and looking forward to a busy and very productive year with their bees.

Dr. Clint Walker, III, has been appointed Director-at-Large for Capitol Area, Heart of Texas, Tri-County, and Williamson County Area Beekeepers Associations. We are pleased to have him as our director as well as a member of WCABA. He is also the immediate past president of the American Beekeeping Federation. Clint is a knowledgeable, articulate beekeeper who is a wonderful asset to the bee industry.

Harold Kind has notified us that a lady, Lisa Crowe, has several parcels of land in Central Texas and would be glad to have honey bees on them. If you are looking for a place for your bee yard, call Lisa Crow at (512) 247-6694. She has land in Del Valle, Rockdale, Cedar Creek, and Elroy.

I checked out several beekeeping books from the library and ran across some interesting information in Roger A. Morse's book, Bees & Beekeeping. Since some of us will be installing packages of bees soon, here are some suggestions from Morse's chapter on "Packages Bees and Queens".

Package bees should be installed soon after they arrive, but if there is a delay, the bees should be stored in a cool, dry, dark place and fed generously with sugar syrup. He states that "a three-pound package may consume a pint or more of sugar syrup within the first five or six hours after arrival." After installation, a

new package of bees may “consume 25 or 30 pounds of sugar (as a syrup) within the first month”. He also recommends that package bees be installed in the evening when bees are not apt to fly or drift into nearby colonies. Even cool weather or a light rain may diminish the drifting problem.

Do not release the queen immediately upon installation of the package as the bees may not recognize her as their own and may kill her. Remove a small amount of the candy plugging the exit hole, leaving enough for the workers to consume in 12 – 18 hours, thus freeing the queen and allowing her to begin laying eggs. Two or three days later inspect the colony, examining the frame that seems to have the most activity, and if you find single eggs laid in the center of the cells, you can be sure the queen is free and laying. No further manipulations will then be needed for two or three weeks except for making sure the colony has ample feed.

Much emphasis is being put on being sure the queens you buy have the qualities most important to your bee program. Do you live in a densely populated area or near neighbors who may be allergic to bee stings? Then a docile bee is a top priority. Mites and bee diseases may be very costly to control, so you will be concerned about mite resistance and hygienic traits. The March 2003 Bee Culture as well as Kim Flottum’s editorial comments in the February ’03 issue of Bee Culture magazine has some thought-provoking comments about choosing the queen breeder whose bees best fit your needs. Luckily, Clint Walker, from whom we will be getting our bees, works closely with researchers and is involved in producing top quality bees. Let him know how your queens are performing for you.

I am always watching for recipes using honey. Recently I took the mail from our mailbox and a magazine, Farm Journal, flopped open and there was a honey recipe right before my eyes! On further inspection, it was part of an article about a Wisconsin beekeeper, Eugene Brueggeman, and his bee business. The recipe sounds delicious, although I haven’t tried it yet.

Honey Custard French Toast

½ c. honey	12 slices (1/4” thick) French bread
1 c. milk	butter
6 eggs	honey
1 ½ tsp. cinnamon	toasted pecan pieces (optional)
1/8 tsp. salt	

In a large bowl, beat together the first five ingredients. Dip bread slices in egg mixture, turning to coat. Brown the slices in butter over medium heat, turning once. Sprinkle with pecans

For Sale *Used deep & shallow supers. Frames available. Hive bottoms, inner lids, tops and other equipment available at reasonable cost. Call Mrs. Carson Smith at (512) 255-2600 for information.*

Bees

Queens

Honey

Walker Apiaries

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Clint Walker III, Ph.D.
(254) 983-BEES

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New 6 1/4 Boxes; New Western Cedar bottoms and tops.

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Used 8 and 10 frame bottoms and tops, \$1 each in lots of 100;

Used 5 3/8 Boxes w/frames, \$2 each; Used 5 3/8 Boxes w/fdn.

Nose Trucks and Barrel Trucks; Crimp Wired Foundation, 25# for \$95

Bee Suits w/zipper veil, Smokers, Helmets, Uncapping Knives, Bee Veils.

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