

# WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

## WCABA JULY 2003 NEWSLETTER

DATE: Tuesday, July 22, 2003  
TIME: 7:00 P.M., Basic Beekeepers; 8:00, General Meeting/Program  
PLACE: Community Center, 205 Main Street, Round Rock  
PROGRAM: Robert Bryce, author of "The Trouble with Bees"  
HOSTS: **Sheila Wray, Wanda Hein**

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Jimmie Oakley gave a very informative and interesting program to the Basic Beekeeping discussion group at the last meeting, and that included almost all the 50 people who had come to the meeting. Frank Hunt had brought the 2-frame plastic extractor that had been donated to our club. We now have a choice of using the 2-frame plastic or the heavier 4-frame stainless steel extractor. We are also grateful to Chris Hill of Georgetown for donating two different overhead projectors to the club for use in speaker presentations.

The program scheduled for last month with Robert Bryce as the featured speaker was postponed and we have rescheduled it for the July meeting. **Robert Bryce**, author of "The Trouble with Bees," in the March issue of *Texas Parks and Wildlife* magazine has been an apiarist for three years. When not tending his hives, he writes for publications such as the *New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *Austin Chronicle Salon* and *Texas Observer*. His new book, *Pipe Dreams: Greed, Ego, and the Death of Enron*, has received rave reviews and was recently named one of the best nonfiction books of 2002 by Publishers Weekly. He lives in Austin with his wife, three children, and a hyperactive dog named Biscuit. He will be sharing some of his experiences as a writer with us as well as talking about his article on bees. Come to the meeting and hear from a writer that is a beekeeper, or a beekeeper that is a writer. Whichever, it should be interesting either way.

Barbara Hunt has been doing double duty as secretary and librarian. She has called our attention to the fact that a number of people have checked out books and tapes and have not returned them at the next meeting; consequently, our library is very depleted at this time. Please, **if you have books or tapes you checked out from the WCABA library, return them NOW.**

We were pleased to have several guests and new members at our last meeting. New members were David Bounds, Rockdale; Ellen and Robert Piekarski, Killeen; and Nial and Darla Chase, Killeen. Also, Konrad and Elizabeth Bouffard of Round Rock have become members recently. Our guests were Jessie, Gary, and Michael Shofner, Round Rock, and Dorothy Steffek, Taylor. Members who renewed their membership last meeting were Earbie and Melanie Matheny, Jarrell, and Clint and Janice Walker, Rogers. Yesterday, Jacque Phillips McBride came to our home to return the club observation hive and renewed membership for herself and new hubby, Kim. She said she has surely missed attending WCABA meetings and is looking forward to greeting all her beekeeping friends as soon as possible. She also brought a number of bee items for us to use as door prizes. Thanks, Jacque.

There were a number of very nice door prizes donated at the last meeting. Those making donations were Donnie Brinkmeyer, Jeann Schmidt, Deborah Jordan, Karin and Meghan Cantlon, Barbara Hunt, and Wanda and Adela Hein. Lucky winners were Nathanael Hein--book bag; Wanda Hein--bee journal; Ezra Hein--bee key chain; Evan Hein--book mark; Kurt Hein--bee lantern; Frank Fajkus--basket of tomatoes; Wilbur Brinkmeyer--book mark; Evan Thomas--book mark; John Sivells--bird feeder; James McCoy--bee decorated glasses; Jeann Schmidt--book mark; and Samuel Oakley--bee coasters.

Many of you will remember Colleen Henson who was the Texas Honey Queen for two years and was the American Honey Queen until January; she came and participated in a number of our meetings as well as promoted honey at several Wesley Fests. Her parents, Barry and Margaret Henson, are members of WCABA as well as being very active in their home association, Heart of Texas Beekeepers. Colleen married Mr. Dallas Parrin in Waco on June 6<sup>th</sup>. They have moved to Silverdale, Washington, where Dallas is in the Navy. Colleen will continue her college education while there. We wish them well, much happiness, and a speedy return to Texas.



Other news: Kay Oakley will leave this weekend to go to New Mexico to be with their daughter, Christy, to assist in the expected arrival of her baby (due on the 21<sup>st</sup>) We wish Christy and Kevin much joy with their first-born son. Robert and I also have baby news: our granddaughter, Laura, made us great grandparents on June 25. Solomon and Erin are three months premature so they are in ICU in the neonatal unit of a Raleigh, NC hospital. Believing that God hears our prayers, we as well as many others have been offering daily supplications. The latest news has been encouraging.

The club extracting equipment has been in use lately, and that's good. Be sure to contact Robert or me to schedule a date when you would like to use it. Our phone number and e-mail address are on the first page of this newsletter.

I found some items in the Northeast Kansas Beekeeper's newsletter, *The Bee Buzzer*, that are very interesting, so I am going to "borrow" from it for your information. In Mark Winston's book, *Biology of the Honey Bee*, he tells "How Bees Keep the Hive Cool". "The first outside task that many workers perform is ventilation: they stand at the nest opening, facing the entrance, with their abdomens pointed down, and fan. Although workers of any age may be found fanning, this activity peaks when the bee is about 18 days of age. Nest ventilation may be performed for a number of purposes, including cooling the colony, evaporating honey, and decreasing the humidity and carbon dioxide levels inside the colony. This activity is most noticeable on warm summer afternoons when large amounts of nectar have been collected. At that time hundreds of workers may be found fanning at the entrance, spaced just far enough apart so that their vigorously moving wings do not touch their neighbors', and creating an audible hum which delights beekeepers. When necessary workers also fan within the nest, particularly on combs while evaporating water from nectar."

Joli Winer, the newsletter editor, also listed some summer tips taken from Diana Sammataro's book, *The Beekeeper's Handbook*.

- \*Add honey supers as needed.
- \*Add frames of foundation only if the honey flow is on.
- \*Keep the burr comb and propolis scraped off the frames and hive walls.
- \*Bees are in a good temper during a honey flow and in a bad temper when the flow is not on.
- \*Keep supers on until the honey is capped as unripe honey will ferment.
- \*Never medicate hives with supers on them: it is illegal.
- \*Do not feed syrup during a honey flow as the bees will store the syrup in honey supers.
- \*Weed-eat or mow around your hives to make it easier for bees that are heavy with nectar loads to get to the hive with it.
- \*If bees are hanging outside the hive on hot, humid days, they are trying to relieve the congestion in the hive to cool it off.
- \*Keep up with record keeping in order to know which hives produced best for you.
- \*Plan your extracting strategy and get that area as clean as possible.

The following recipe by Becky Tipton was also in the *Bee Buzzer* and it sounds delicious.

### **Honey Ice Cream**

#### Vanilla

8 cups milk	3 cups warm honey	8 eggs—beaten
pinch of salt	8 cups heavy whipping cream	4 Tbs. vanilla

Heat milk in saucepan over medium heat (don't boil). Stir in honey and salt. Put a small amount of warm milk mixture into the beaten eggs and stir. Add eggs to the remaining milk mixture and return to the heat. Cook and stir over medium heat approx. 10 minutes (until mixture reaches 165 degrees). Cool thoroughly. When it reaches room temperature, add cream and vanilla. Refrigerate until cold. Pour into freezer can and freeze according to manufacturers directions. Yield: 6 quarts.

### **Fruit Flavors**

6-8 cups milk	6 cups cream	2 ¼ c. warm honey
pinch salt	3 Tbs. Vanilla	2 c. crushed fruit (strawberries, peaches, etc.)

1.3 oz. (about 1/3 cup) powdered fruit (mix with milk in blender before adding to above mixture) or 4 c crushed fruit.

Combine all in a mixing bowl. Pour into freezer can and add milk to the fill line and freeze according to manufacture's directions.

Bees

Queens

Honey

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Clint Walker III, Ph.D.  
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