

# WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

## WCABA MARCH 2004 NEWSLETTER

DATE: Tuesday, March 23, 2004  
TIME: 7:00 p.m.—Basic Beekeepers; 8:00 – Gen. Meeting, Program.  
PLACE: Round Rock Community Center, 205 Main Street  
PROGRAM: Ed Wolfe Scholarship Recognition and Awards  
HOSTS: **Gloria and Elizabeth Batista, Harold Kind**

### **PRESIDENT**

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Last month Jimmie Oakley imparted much good information as he talked about the importance of queen bees and the races of bees and their characteristics. This month he will be emphasizing in the Basic Beekeeping discussion the parts used to construct hive bodies and frames, how they fit together and what to do to ensure their stability. After the short business meeting, Certificates of Achievement will be awarded to our four recipients of the 2003 Ed Wolfe Memorial scholarships for completing their first year of beekeeping. We will be honored by having the TBA Honey Queen, Miss Sarah Kornfield, to assist in this presentation and give a short speech on her activities so far as Honey Queen. Following this, the new class of scholarship recipients will be introduced and presented their bee equipment. Members as well as parents and former scholarship recipients will be asked to assist these young people in assembling their hive bodies and frames. Our association is fortunate to have several novice adult beekeepers who also may be closely following this construction procedure.

Pat and Eugene McKee of Georgetown joined WCABA at our February meeting. Also Bob Ruckriegel mailed me his renewal dues as well as dues for his neighbor, Richard Berry of Round Rock. One of my honey customers, Shirley Kinningham of Hutto, expressed interest in learning about beekeeping and gave me her membership dues. We welcome all these new members and will do our best to help them get started with this fascinating hobby. We were pleased to have George Kirhchi, Jr. Austin; Alek Faber and Rhonda Thompson, Burnet; Bill Coffee, Cedar Park; and Santos and Melanie Medrano, Georgetown, as guests.

Renewing their membership in WCABA were Britton Schlinke, Chris and Sandra Hill, Kimberly Arnett, Joe and Karin Cantlon family, Pat, Deborah and Joel Jordan, Brian Rodgers, Jimmie and Kay Oakley, Randy Oakley and family, Elroy Lieberum and Dorothy

Steffek. Also renewing since the meeting (besides Bob Ruckriegel) are Alma Konze, Elmer Goertz, Jacque and Kim McBride, and Clint and Janice Walker. We regret that a few members will receive a reminder card instead of a newsletter this month; however, if they come to the meeting or mail in their dues, they will still get a newsletter.

Chris Hill has very generously donated two carousels slide projector as well as an overhead projector to WCABA. Thank you, Chris. This should benefit anyone wanting to give a program that would use these projectors. In fact, Randy Oakley used the overhead projector when he gave his program at the TBA Convention meeting in Waco last November.

We have had a very good response to the queens and bee packages the club orders: 31 people have ordered a total of 55 packages and 178 queens. They will be delivered to the Bost farm (see map/directions) about 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 3 and may be picked up after that time (unless you have indicated that you want to pick your bees up at Rogers between 8:00 and 10:00 that morning). The orientation class for the new scholarship recipients and any adults who want to attend will be given at 2:00 Saturday afternoon. The youngsters will be instructed to bring their completed, painted bee hive and equipment with them, and Jimmie Oakley will give them hands-on instruction on using the equipment and installing their package of bees.

NOTICE: If you have not made payment on your bee order, payment is due by our meeting Tuesday night, March 23. We ask that you make your check payable to **WCABA**, please.

Thanks to the following people who donated door prizes for the last meeting. They were Kay Oakley, large bear candle; Jimmie Oakley, TBA Honey Queen recipe book; Meghan and Karin Cantlon, candle holders with votive candles; Lance Powell and Vinton Stanfield, hive top feeder; Chris Hill, 2 dozen eggs; and Marcus and Jody Young, wildflower identification wheel. Lucky winners were Eugene McKee, Mary Bost, and Molly Young, votive candle in candle holder; Greg Pekar, hive top feeder; Daly Young and Frank Toussaint, dozen eggs; John Howe, wildflower chart; and Rhonda Martin, large bear candle.

The March issue of the American Bee Journal has a very interesting article, written by T'Lee Sollenberger, entitled "Bee Tree Philosophy: A Look at Walker Honey Company in Rodgers, Texas". While most of the interview was with Clint Walker, it has references to G.C. and a number of pictures of their operation. Our copy will be available for you to look at if you do not subscribe to ABJ. It also has a good article on landscaping with honey bees in mind.

Although Clint and Janice assumed control of the honey and bee operation in 1993, Clint was raised a beekeeper by his dad on the operation that had been in the Walker family since the 1800s, and G.C. still takes an active part catching queens, pulling cells, and candling queens as well as being a resource for much good advice. "Dad instilled in me two basic philosophies. First, don't get too far from the bee tree....when you try something new, try a little bit of it....See how the bees like it." And "second,

don't think you have ever arrived". Keep that sense of wonder and curiosity, don't think you have all the answers.

The Walkers manage about 1500 queen nucs from April until June. He uses a selection process for the drone mothers. He grades and marks them, then brings 40-45 of them in from the queen yard for drone mothers, plus Minnesota Hygienics and the SMRs (Suppression of Mite Reproduction). They bring in their queen mothers from outside stock—"the best stuff that's out there". They want a "good, yellow, gentle, Cordovan Italian; we want an aggressive brooder, but we want to improve it with these strains; that's why we're using the Hygienics, and the SMR on the drone side"

Walker's breeders are all tested by Paul Jackson, State Chief Apiary Inspector. "We are certified European, certified Africanized-free by the state," said Clint.

Clint likes to service the hobby beekeeper—people who have full time jobs but want to get out and connect with nature, such as gardening, hunting, fishing, etc. He likes to talk with people who call him and ask for basic advice, and he works with them until they are satisfied that they have received good information. That's the way Robert and I got started: we would go to Rogers for supplies and G.C., and later, Clint, would spend time with us helping us understand what we needed to know. A novice beekeeper needs a mentor to whom he/she can turn with questions.

\* \* \* \* \* Classified Ad \* \* \* \* \*

**For Sale:** Used hive boxes w/o frames, \$10.00. Used hives boxes with frames, \$15.00  
Used super boxes w/o frames, \$8.00. Used super boxes with frames, \$12.00. New super frames,  
\$1.00 per frame. Vinton L. Stanfield (512) 635-9901 email at: [vstanfield@austin.rr.com](mailto:vstanfield@austin.rr.com)

**Directions to Bost Farm – 4355 C.R. 110, Georgetown** From **Austin**, go north on I-35 to Round Rock, take Taylor exit, go approximately 5 miles east toward Taylor. After going through stoplight at C.R. 122, watch for C.R.110 sign, turn left (north) on 110, go about 10 miles. Landmarks: new road being constructed (left side), pass C.R.107, watch for small white house with white fence on left, you turn into our lane on right, come up lane about 100 yards to back of house (hopefully painted sand color by that time). From **north of Georgetown**, take Leander exit and cross over I-35; at the stoplight, continue east on 1460 until you come to caution light at Inner Loop; turn left on IL, go about 2 miles to C.R.110, turn right on 110 and go about 3 miles. Watch for a cemetery, then our mailbox (BOST), white house on right but you turn left into our lane. From **Hutto**, pass an industrial park and watch for C.R 110 sign; turn right and follow direction above.

### **Honey Yogurt Dressing**

3 cups plain or vanilla nonfat yogurt      1 cup honey      Ground nutmeg, cinnamon or favorite spice  
Combine all ingredients (spices to taste); mix well. Makes 3 cups dressing.

Bees

Queens

Honey

# **Walker Apiaries**

**WALKER HONEY COMPANY**  
**PO BOX 615 ROGERS, TEXAS 76569-0165**  
*"a texas family concern since 1928"*

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

Janice Glisson Walker  
Fax (254) 893-2337

## **FOR SALE NEW & USED BEE SUPPLIES**

**...If You Need It, We probably Have It ...**

New #1 deep frames, .70 cents each

New 6 ¼ Boxes; New Western Cedar bottoms and tops.

6 ¼ new frames, .65 cents each.

Used 8 & 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.

**G.C. WALKER, 8059 E. U.S. HWY 190, Rogers, TX 76569**

Phone: 254/983-2891 E-mail: [Walker2bee@aol.com](mailto:Walker2bee@aol.com)

**Williamson County Area  
Beekeepers Association  
4355 County Road 110  
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