

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA APRIL 2004 NEWSLETTER

DATE: Tuesday, April 27, 2004
TIME: 7:00 p.m.—Basic Beekeepers; 8:00 – Gen. Meeting, Program.
PLACE: Round Rock Community Center, 205 Main Street
PROGRAM: 4H Essay Contest Winners & Rodney L Holloway, TAMU
HOSTS: **Kim Arnett and Karin Cantlin**

PRESIDENT

Frank Hunt
512/478-8905
Huunt@aol.com

1 st. V.P.

MEMBERSHIP
Jeann Schmidt
512/869-4107
jfwschmidt@juno.com

2 nd. V.P.

PROGRAM
Jimmie Oakley
512/388-3630
jloakley@juno.com

3 rd. V.P.

NEWSLETTER
Mary Bost
512/863-3656
bostbees@juno.com

SECRETARY

Barbara Hunt
512/478-8905
Huunt@aol.com

TREASURER

Harold Kind
512/246-8455
haroldkind@cs.com

HISTORIAN

Julie Hein
512/746-5117
wahein50@aol.com

What an exciting evening we had at the last meeting: a record crowd (67 people present), recognition of our four 2003 scholarship winners and the introduction of four new recipients. The Texas Honey Queen, **Sarah Kornfield**, assisted in presenting **Joel Jorden, James McCoy, John Sivells, and Caleb Oakley** with their Certificates of Achievement for a successful year of beekeeping. The new Ed Wolfe Memorial Scholarship winners were then introduced: **Katelyn Heisch, Lance Powell, Lanie**



Robbins, and Daly Young. We are proud of these young people and look forward to their increasing their knowledge and fascination with this wonderful creature, the honey bee.



We appreciate the assistance our members gave these young people in assembling their hive bodies and frames. We know you will continue to assist and encourage them as they continue their new venture.

We also want to thank those of you who assisted in dispensing the 61 packages of bees and the 182 queens on April 3rd. In spite of a near-rain out on Friday, Clint Walker was able to put the bee order together Saturday morning and Jimmie Oakley met him near his bee yard in Cameron and was still able to get the bees back to our farm in time for members to pick up the bees they had ordered. We appreciate Jacque McBride's sending a plentiful amount of vegetable soup, crackers, and cookies that, with the fried chicken brought by Vinton Stanfield, made it possible for workers to have a quick lunch. Also, Joel Jorden and Lance Powell put worker bee attendants in the queen cages as several people indicated they would be unable to get their queens placed in hives immediately. Thanks, Guys.



The Williamson County Sun printed a full page story and pictures of the orientation session that Jimmie Oakley conducted with the 2004 scholarship winners. We will have a copy at the registration table so non-subscribers can enjoy seeing it.

We are fortunate to have Dr. Rodney Holloway, Associate Professor and Extension Specialist at Texas A&M University, present our program this month. He has also been involved for several years with judging the 4-H essay contest entries, sponsored by the American Beekeeping Federation. The state entry judged the best is then sent on to compete at the national level. We are very proud that the Texas winners were Meghan Cantlon, first place, and Joel Jorden, second place. Both are former scholarship winners. They will read their essays as part of our program. We hope this will be an incentive for our beekeeping youngsters to become members of their local 4-H Club and to try their skills at writing about bees.

The buildup of bees in the spring is critical to their being able to take advantage of the honey flow. Jimmie Oakley will discuss spring management of bees when Basic Beekeepers meet Tuesday evening. If you have questions, be ready to ask him during this discussion period.

We welcome several new members to WCABA. Donna McCoy, Liberty Hill, and Fritz Krugman, Round Rock, joined at the meeting. Also, Richard Bost (Robert's cousin) of Houston and Waller, gave us his dues when he visited recently. Visitors at the meeting were August and Julie Crocker of Austin; Jill Robbins, Belton; and Tasha Heisch, Belton. We're always glad to have visitors and hope they may decide to join our association.

Renewing their membership are Eldor and Elaine Schorn, Craig Mooney, James Qualls (we're so glad to hear he is doing well following serious surgery), Gary and Sarah Rowland, Darlene and Ray Hawkins, Emmett and Dorothy Glosson, Gary Bagley, Ron Imken family, Thomas Payne, and Clark Polson.

We were happy to receive word from Mike McPherran, former member of WCABA, that he is back from his duty as a contractor in Iraq and is looking forward to coming to some of our meetings. Welcome home, Mike.

We thank the following donors for their door prize donations: Vinton and Michele Stanfield, Barbara Hunt, Jacque and Kim McBride, Jeann Schmidt, Marcus and Jody Young, and Nial and Darla Chase. Lucky winners were Barbara Hunt, hand towels; Sarah Kornfield, Rachele Powell, and Randy Oakley, honey sticks; Shirley Kinningham, bird book; Michele Stanfield, bee soap; Dorothy Steffek, faith plaque; G.C. Walker, "Honey and Me" pillow; Nathanael Hein, bee lantern/candle; Michael Walker, bee candles; and Gayle Shaw, bee lantern/candle.

A heads-up notice: our May meeting will be the Field Day held on Saturday, May 22, at the home of Skip and Gayle Shaw in Weir. Your newsletter will come a few days earlier than usual and will have directions to the Shaw's home. We hope you will circle that date now and make plans to attend. These events are always good fun, good food, and there will be several interesting presentations.

Something in the March 2004 issue of Bee Culture really caught my eye: it was Kim Flottum's column, "Inner Cover", and since Robert and I had experienced this costly mistake several years ago, I wanted to pass it on to you. He writes, "Do you know what's the single most destructive force beekeepers have that causes the greatest loss to insurance companies?...Go ahead, take a guess."

"Careless use of smokers. Really."

“Smokers that beekeepers thought were out, and weren’t have burned down more houses, barns, trucks and cars than you’d ever imagine. Careless beekeepers bring a smoker they thought was out, inside, set it next to something that burns, and...when the smoker smolders long enough, it gets hot” and catches the burnable item on fire and that ignites other things—supers sitting nearby, wax in frames, or the structure housing your equipment.

“Next to structure fires,” writes Flottum, “careless beekeepers and hot smokers have burned up a lot of pastures, crops and woodlands.” If it’s dumped out, the apparently dead fire may be re-ignited by a breeze and a spark can ignite tinder, dry grass and burn a pasture or woodlot and you will no longer have a good yard for your bees. (A careful beekeeper will always carry a supply of water and if he/she dumps out the smoker, will then soak it, even stamp it to be sure there is no fire left. Editor’s note.)

Our sad smoker story? We were returning home from harvesting six or eight supers of beautiful honey. We had plugged our smoker and set it in a galvanized bucket in the back of the truck. When we turned onto the highway, some empty super boxes slid and knocked the smoker open and furnished ready fuel for a big fire. Shortly before arriving home, we realized the whole backend of the truck was on fire. We lost the honey, the extra supers, the aluminum ladder we carried, and yes, the truck was a total loss. After that experience, we used a large tin container with a tight lid to hold our smoker.

Our scholarship youngsters have been supplied with a smoker with a shield in order to prevent their receiving a painful burn from a hot smoker touching them. A smoker is a necessary item when working bees but it must be used with caution and care.

Some of you were given the two Queen brochures published by TBA and ABF. If you did not get them when you picked up your bees, look for them at the registration table Tuesday evening. Both have recipes and tips for using honey. One of Sarah Kornfield’s recipes is printed below.

Honey Shortbread

1 C butter	1/3 C Texas Honey	1 tsp. vanilla
2 1/2 C flour	3/4 C finely chopped pecans	

Preheat oven to 300 degrees F. Beat butter, honey and vanilla until light and fluffy. Add flour, one cup at a time, beating well. Add pecans. Put into a shortbread mold or an ungreased iron skillet. Prick surface of dough deeply with fork several times. Bake 35 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool on wire rack for 10 minutes. Cut into wedges while warm. Serve with tea or coffee.

Honey Peanut Butter Treats

From the ABF brochure, this recipe is by American Honey Queen Kristen Miller.

1 c. Honey	1/2 c. brown sugar	6 c. crispy rice cereal
	1 c. chunky peanut butter	

Use a large heavy saucepan. Stirring constantly, bring the honey and the brown sugar to a boil. Remove from heat and add cereal and peanut butter. Press into 13” x 9” x 2” pan, cool. Cut into 2” squares. Makes 32 squares.

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

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