

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA AUGUST 2004 NEWSLETTER

DATE: Tuesday, August 24, 2004
TIME: 7:00-Ice Cream Social; 8:00-General Meeting/Program
PLACE: 205 Main Street, Community Center in Round Rock
PROGRAM: "Upcoming Events", by Jimmie Oakley
HOSTS: **Julie Hein, Gayle & Skip Shaw**

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Randy Oakley, assisted by his sons, Joshua, Caleb & Samuel, gave a very interesting talk and demonstration of what is needed to get involved in the production of comb honey at our last meeting. He also had some handouts with information giving addresses for suppliers of products needed. If you missed getting one of these sheets and would like to have this information, contact Randy, Jimmie Oakley, or me.



August has been "ice cream social" month for several years, and our members seem to enjoy this very much. Several people signed up to bring either some homemade ice cream or a carton of their favorite ice cream, but if you didn't get to sign up and would like to bring some, please do. We can each enjoy tasting someone else's favorite flavor and sharing our own. The hosts will furnish cookies to add to our ice cream.

While everyone is enjoying their treats, Jimmie Oakley said he would do a program on "Upcoming Events—the Honey Tasting, Honey Judging, Honey for the State Fair, Working in the State Fair, the Wesley Fest, the TBA Convention, Scholarship Recipient Reports, and Election of Officers for 2005". This will give all of you time to think ahead to the events in which you would like to participate.

I will also contact Clint Walker to see if he will have strips available for controlling mites during the fall and winter months, and you can sign up for getting them through WCABA.

Two of our scholarship recipients, Katlyn Heisch and Lanie Robbins, brought their frames of honey to our farm recently when Jimmie Oakley was doing some extracting, and they were able to extract their honey with his supervision. The reporter from the Williamson County



Sun, who had written the article with pictures when the four recipients were learning the basics of introducing a package of bees into a hive, asked to do a follow-up story, so a photographer came out and took pictures of the girls as they worked. The story and pictures made the front page of the next issue of the Georgetown newspaper. We'll have a copy at the registration table for you to see at the meeting.

We were saddened to learn that one of our members, James Qualls, died recently. He had been very ill over a year ago but had recuperated sufficiently that he ordered a package of bees last April; however, he became very ill again and passed away. We offer our condolences to his family and friends.

Several of our members have had "dates with their doctors" recently. Harold Kind had hernia surgery after his trip to Europe. Taysha Howe had surgery the morning after our last meeting but is now back at work on a half-day basis. Robert Bost took a hard fall that required some stitches and is now in the Georgetown Hospital doing Rehab. We wish them all much better health.

How great it was to see Alma Konze at our last meeting. And she brought with her a new member, Rev. William A. Sterling of Taylor. Good for you, Alma! Also renewing his membership was Rick Schampers of Georgetown and he brought his lovely wife, Mary Ann. Other guests were Desei Nally, Round Rock; Barbara Coutant (address not given); Mark Jennings, friend of Randy Oakley; and Bridget Afzal, Elgin. We hope our guests will come back and if they have an interest in beekeeping, will take advantage of our Half Price Membership being offered to new members who join after July each year.

Door prizes at the last meeting were donated by Barbara Hunt, Robert and Mary Bost, Jeann Schmidt, Jimmie Oakley, Gayle Shaw, and Randy Oakley. Lucky winners were Charles Oliver, bee on a stick; Greg Pekar, bee on a stick; Joel Jordan, comb honey pack; Lanie Robbins, bee collector hanger; Alma Konze, bee wind chimes; Skip Shaw, comb honey pack; Samuel Oakley, wild grape jelly.

Barbara Hunt, our Librarian/Secretary, says "There are lots of library books and tapes out. Please return them at the next meeting. Also, someone took home the tape 'Swarm Boxes—A Revolutionary Management Tool' and a book, 'Beekeeping' by Meltzer but didn't sign the cards". **Please return all library materials ASAP.**

Robert and I have a collection of gardening magazines which we must now discard. I will bring them to the next meetings in hope that some of you will see articles of interest and will "adopt" as many as you like—no returns expected.

Frank Hunt e-mailed me this tidbit of information about honey which is interesting. "There are hundreds and hundreds of different flavors of honey. This is because the flavor of honey comes from the source of the nectar and not the bee. Some honeys, like clover and orange blossom, have a delicate mild flavor while others, like buckwheat and eucalyptus, can have a strong biting flavor. The color of honey is a good indicator of its flavor. Generally, the darker the honey the stronger the flavor. When measuring honey be sure to coat your measuring cup or spoon with non-stick cooking spray or oil. That way the honey will slide out lickety split! Also remember that honey should not be given to children under the age of one year."

In his article, "Choosing the Best Location" in the August 2004 issue of American Bee Journal, Howard Scott writes, "While it is true that hive placement involves several external considerations—people traffic, closeness to the house, neighbor concerns—it is critical that hives are placed in a spot that gives the colonies a fighting chance of survival." He suggests taking into consideration the following:

- Face the sun. Facing the sun without obstructions preventing the sun's rays from reaching the entrance to the hive early in the morning to encourage the bees to get out early and work late.
- Receive six or seven hours of sunshine but--
- Place the hives where they can get some shade in mid-afternoon.
- Avoid low-lying areas: bees do not thrive in a damp environment.
- The bottom board should be above ground level to lessen dampness and wood rot.
- Do not place hives on a windy promontory, or else build a wind barrier 5 feet in front and in back of the hives to reduce the impact of strong winds.
- Place water near the hives if a natural source is not nearby, but it should be at least 10 feet away from and in back of the hives.
- Be sure your bees have spring, summer and autumn nectar sources within one mile of your location.
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Want to include more foods containing antioxidants in your menus? This one has both berries and honey, good sources of antioxidants.

Fruit and Honey Spinach Salad

8 cups spinach leaves 2 cups cantaloupe balls 1 ½ cups halved strawberries
1 cup fresh blackberries or blueberries 1 cup seedless raspberry jam 2 Tbs. HONEY
¼ cup raspberry vinegar 2 tsp. olive oil ¼ cup macadamia nuts

Combine the spinach, cantaloupe, strawberries and blackberries (or blueberries) in a large bowl and toss gently. Combine the jam, vinegar, honey, and oil in a small bowl; stir well with a whisk. Drizzle the dressing over the spinach mixture and toss gently to coat. Sprinkle with the chopped macadamia nuts. Serves 6

Bees

Queens

Honey

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