

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA JANUARY 2005 NEWSLETTER

DATE: Tuesday, January 25, 2005
TIME: 7:00 – Basic Beekeepers; 8:00 – Gen. Meeting/Program
PLACE: 205 Main Street, Senior Community Center in Round Rock
PROGRAM: “The State of the State (& National) Beekeeping” by Clint Walker
HOSTS: **Jeann Schmidt, Barbara and Frank Hunt**

PRESIDENT

Frank Hunt
512/478-8905
[Huuntt@aol.com](mailto:Huntu@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
[Huuntt@aol.com](mailto:Huntu@aol.com)

TREASURER

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

HISTORIAN

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

The new year has begun and we hope you are planning to make attending WCABA meetings a priority. Why not copy these dates on your calendar now. There are several 5th Tuesdays this year so remember: we meet on **4th Tuesdays**.

January 25 February 22 March 22 April 26 May 25 June 28

July 26 August 23 September 27 October 25 November 22 (Not in Dec.)

Our Ed Wolfe scholarship winners gave very interesting reports at the November meeting on their year of beekeeping. Also, Jimmie Oakley reported on the TBA Convention; a report was made about the successful Wesley Fest fundraiser; and a Certificate of Appreciation was presented to a surprised Miss Amy Burroughs, *County Life* editor for the Williamson County Sun newspaper for the outstanding coverage she has given our WCABA youth program. Pictures of the scholarship winners appeared in the next issue of the Sun and a copy will be available at the registration table for you to see at the meeting Tuesday evening.



Our speaker at the meeting Tuesday night, Clint Walker, will have the inside scoop on things that are happening in the beekeeping world and he has the knowledge as well as the ability to make the difficult easier to understand due to his involvement in the American Beekeeping Federation, the Honey Board, and being a TBA director. He will have an update on the Small Hive Beetle and the latest information on Varroa mite control. Also, he can give us some idea of what to expect about queens and package bees and their price and availability. Since WCABA has made a quantity club order each spring, Walker Apiaries has always given us a nice discount for our orders of his high quality bees. I have already had one inquiry about

our club order; it's time to take an inventory of our bee hives and give serious consideration to making our orders at our February and March meetings or you can e-mail me with your order.

January is the official kickoff month for membership renewal in WCABA. For \$10.00, you will receive the monthly newsletter, will be entitled to use the club's extracting equipment, get to order queen bees and/or packages of bees at the club discount price, and get to increase your knowledge of beekeeping practices by attending meetings and visiting with fellow beekeepers. Membership is by the calendar year—January through November—and is for both husband and wife, so plan to renew your membership Tuesday night: Jeann Schmidt will be glad to take your dues when you register. And how about bringing a prospective member with you.

We received Royce Johnson's membership application in the mail recently. He lives at Granite Shoals, and we look forward to meeting him; we hope he finds WCABA to be helpful and friendly. We also received Travis and Maureen Lane's renewal dues. San Angelo is a long distance to get to come to many meetings, but we always enjoy seeing them when they come. Other renewals at the last meeting are Frank and Barbara Hunt, Jerry Powell, Kim and Bert Arnett, Skip and Gayle Shaw, Wilbur and Donnie Brinkmeyer, Robert and Mary Bost, Vinton Stanfield and Lance Powell, Harold Kind, and Jeann Schmidt.

January is also the month when we begin looking for youngsters interested in learning how to keep bees. Our Ed Wolfe Memorial scholarship applications (contact Jimmie Oakley) are available for you to pick up at the meeting or you can ask him to mail one to the interested boy or girl. Robert has already received an application from a boy living near Burnet. Deadline for mailing these applications is March 1 as the scholarships are awarded at the March meeting. The scholarships include the bees and woodware for the hives as well as basic equipment, a book about bees, and mentoring the young beekeeper throughout his/her first year.

Jimmie Oakley accompanied Colleen Henson Perrin, the TBA queen chairperson for 2005, to the ABF Convention in Reno, Nevada, January 13-16. He was taking a gorgeous quilt made by Kay Oakley that was raffled to raise funds for the queen program. Robert and I were fortunate to get to see the uniquely designed quilt: it's beautiful. We'll look forward to hearing how much money was raised by selling raffle tickets at the convention. (Reported to be \$5,000)

If you missed out on buying Apistan strips last fall but would like to put the strips in your hives this spring, see Mary Bost *before the program begins* Tuesday night. They should be left in the hive for six weeks and removed prior to the spring honey flow.



Door prizes were donated at the last meeting by Kim Arnett and Gayle Shaw. The winners were Kristen Heisch, cabbage; Kim Arnett, musical bee; Charles Oliver and Amy Burroughs, pumpkin bread.

If you, or anyone you know, want to get out of the bee business or want to get rid of any unused equipment, Doug Branch would be interested in buying them. His phone number is (512) 288-1123.

I received an e-mail letter from the Department of Entomology recently notifying me that the Texas Apiary Inspection Service will now be submitting a quarterly newsletter online regarding that office's latest happenings and upcoming events. The newsletter, complete with color photographs, can be viewed at http://honeybee.tamu.edu/regulatory/newsletter/pdf/bee_aware_1.pdf. In addition, you can visit their website's homepage at <http://honeybee.tamu.edu/> for information about "Africanized bees, beekeeping, bee regulations, application forms, bee safety, and bee identification. Paul W. Jackson is the Chief Apiary Inspector.

If you do not already subscribe to one or more bee magazines, now is a good time to start. As a member of WCABA you are entitled to a discount, about 25%. Use the forms included at the end of this newsletter to be eligible for the price listed on the subscription blank.

I received an e-mail from my new sister-in-law recently entitled "Helpful Hints". Two of the items included using honey, so I thought you would enjoy seeing them.

*Sore throat? Just mix ¼ cup of vinegar with ¼ cup of honey and take 1 tablespoon six times a day.

*Honey remedy for skin blemishes...Cover the blemish with a dab of honey and place a band-aid over it. Honey kills the bacteria, keeps the skin sterile, and speeds healing. Works overnight.

There has been some good news recently about a non-chemical method of attacking varroa mites and also fire ants. Since varroa mites have developed resistance to both chemicals used in Apistan and CheckMite, researchers at the USDA-ARS Weslaco Bee Lab have found a "strain of the fungus *Metarhizium anisopliae* that was highly pathogenic" to varroa mites, according to an article that appeared in the September '04 Speedy Bee. We'll be looking forward to Clint Walker's report on this research.

Another promising research, this one on breeding a tiny Brazilian fly that kills the ants one at a time, also frightens an entire mound of red imported fire ants into staying indoors instead of foraging. This work, nine years after he began his research, is being done by Larry Gilbert, a University of Texas professor of integrative biology, according to an article in a recent Austin American-Statesman article. "The female flies kill by hovering in front of worker ants, then diving down to inject their eggs between gaps in the ant's armor. The egg develops inside the ant, and the new fly kills by eating its way out of the ant's body, then flies off to lay some more eggs.

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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**