

# WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

## WCABA MARCH 2005 NEWSLETTER

DATE: Tuesday, March 22, 2005  
TIME: 7:00 p.m.—Basic Beekeepers; 8:00 – Gen. Meeting, Program.  
PLACE: Round Rock Community Center, 205 Main Street  
PROGRAM: Getting Ready for Your Bees  
HOSTS: **Jerry Powell, Suzan Gibson**

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It's always exciting to recognize our youth who have completed their year of beekeeping and to welcome a new group of youngsters enthusiastic about learning about bees and the art of beekeeping. Certificates of Achievement will be awarded to **Katelyn Heisch, Lance Powell, Lanie Robbins, and Daly Young** at the meeting Tuesday evening. Also, we will get to meet our 2005 Ed Wolfe scholarship winners, **Michael Castellanos, Haven Medrano, Ana Lerma and Aaron Lerma**. After not winning last year, Michael and Haven continued their interest in beekeeping by reading and studying about bees, and we applaud them for making application again this year.



The program for Basic Beekeeping will be about assembling the hive and its components, and following the business meeting, the new scholarship winners will be awarded their equipment and, assisted by our members, will construct the hive bodies and frames. Even if this is “old hat” to experienced beekeepers, your expertise and assistance will be appreciated by the novice beekeepers. The youngsters will take their completed hive bodies home, paint them, and have them ready to receive their package of bees on April 2.

Fifty-four packages of bees were ordered and will be delivered to the Bost Farm (see map/directions at end of newsletter) on Saturday, April 2. They usually arrive shortly before noon and will be available after that time. At 1:30 p.m., Jimmie Oakley will be instructing the new young beekeepers in the use of their equipment as well as the installation of the package of bees. Adult members who would like to sit in on this demonstration will be welcome.

Queen bee orders are still being taken, until April 1. Queens, marked and clipped, will be available through the club discount at \$12.00 each, and will be delivered to the Bost Farm the first week of May (exact date and time to be determined).

Welcome to new members David Rushton, Copperas Cove; Wystan Wheatley, Liberty Hill; Larry Rogers, Austin; and the Russell and Sally Tutor family,

Burnet. Members who renewed their membership at the last meeting were Jimmie and Kay Oakley, Lynne Thompson, Barry and Margaret Henson, Wanda Hein, and Pat, Deborah and Joel Jordan. Eldor and Elaine Schorn have mailed in their renewal. I regret that a few 2004 members will receive a post card instead of the newsletter this month; hopefully, they will come to the meeting, pay their dues, and get a newsletter.

We extend our condolences to Wilbur and Donnie Brinkmeyer on the death of his father, Theodore Brinkmeyer, on March 10. Mr. Theo Brinkmeyer, age 92 years, was buried in Taylor.

Door prizes for the last meeting were donated by Barry and Margaret Henson, Charles Oliver, and Jeann Schmidt. Lucky winners were Abigail Miller, Hannah Tutor, Hope Tutor, Grant Rushton, Amanda Gibson, and Frank Fajkus.

Thank you for almost completing the Host sign up sheet. We still need one more host for April and for October. If you can bring refreshments for either of those months, please sign the sheet Tuesday evening. Also, if you would like to be called to retrieve bee swarms this spring, please sign that sheet.

I thank Clyde Anderson for sending me a Honey Cookie recipe; due to the necessary brevity of this newsletter, recipes will be omitted but I hope to use it next time. Your honey recipes are welcome.

This is a critical time in the bee yard. The bees have gone through a warmer-than-usual winter so have not clustered as much as during very cold weather; hence, they eat more of their stored honey. Some floral sources are beginning to show but are not plentiful yet. We need to keep a sharp eye on the bees' honey stores to prevent starvation. Our bees have taken the honey/sugar syrup mixture we fed them quite readily. As the weather warms into springtime temperatures, feeding sugar syrup to your bees will stimulate the queen and cause her to lay more eggs: more eggs, more bees, more honey when the flowers bloom. As the floral sources become more plentiful, feeding should not be necessary (except for colonies just starting). Bees that are drawing out the honey cells need the extra feeding to be able to produce the wax for the cells. The packages of bees will each have a can of syrup on them, but you will need to continue providing sugar syrup until they have stored enough to carry them to flower bloom. Sugar syrup can be made using four pounds sugar to two quarts of hot water (for faster dissolving--allow to cool before feeding the bees).

If you want to medicate your hives against mites and foul brood, now is the time to do it so you can remove the chemicals from the hive by spring honey flow. Right now, the bees are putting any honey they make into the brood chamber, but you want the supers to be chemical-free. New packages of bees in new equipment should not need any medication at this time. If you are planning to use combs that have been stored using paradichlorobenzine, be sure to air them for two or three days before putting bees on them.

Good luck! We hope you have a great year of beekeeping.



Bees

Queens

Honey

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