

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA APRIL 2005 NEWSLETTER

DATE: Tuesday, April 26, 2005
TIME: 7:00 p.m.—Basic Beekeepers; 8:00 – Gen. Meeting, Program.
PLACE: Round Rock Community Center, 205 Main Street
PROGRAM: Central Texas Wildflowers, Charles Oliver's Video
HOSTS: **Gayle Shaw, Taysha Howe, Melanie Medrano**

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Our last WCABA meeting was quite exciting with all the preparations for our newest group of youngsters, Ana and Aaron Lerma, Mike Castellano, and Haven Medrano, receiving their scholarship equipment and assembling their hives and frames in preparation for receiving their bees. Also, Katelyn Heisch, Lanie Robbins, and Daly Young were

present to receive their Certificates of Achievement. Lance Powell was absent.



On Saturday, April 2, the four Ed Wolfe Memorial scholarship recipients came with their parents to the Bost farm with their assembled and painted hives, as well as another young beekeeper, Amanda Gibson, who did not apply for a scholarship but bought her own equipment and package of bees, and they received hands-on instruction from Jimmie Oakley on how to use their equipment and how to install their package of bees in the hive. Several adult members who are new to beekeeping also sat in on the orientation instruction.

I would like to express my personal thanks to each of you who helped in any way to make the April 2 event successful, from helping dispense the packages of bees to mowing grass in the meeting area. It's willing workers that make any endeavor successful.

Notice: If you still plan to buy queen bees through the club order, you must make your order and pay for your bees by the meeting on April 26. This is an extension of the date given previously. The pickup date will be announced at the meeting. Also, if you received one or more packages of bees on April 2, please bring the packaging box with the feeder can to the meeting Tuesday night. Clint Walker has offered to refund \$4.50 to the club

for every package with can that is returned in good condition. If all 54 packages are returned, that will be a good boost to our treasury.

Our program this month, a video presentation on Central Texas wildflowers, will be given by Charles Oliver, one of our newer members who moved to Round Rock to be near their daughter. Mr. Oliver had taught science for 26 years and became fascinated with bees when he got a hive to pollinate his garden. That start led to his having over 80 hives. He was also an active member of the Heart of Texas Beekeepers when he lived and taught in the Waco area.

Do you have questions about what to look for in your newly established hive? Can you tell if the queen “took”, and if she is laying eggs properly? How long should you continue feeding? When should a super be put on? What about using a queen excluder; why should one be used or why not? How do you go about replacing a queen? Come to Basic Beekeeping at 7:00 to ask questions like these and any others you may have, and let Jimmie or other experienced beekeepers answer them.

We welcome new members David Abeles and daughter, Shalui, from Austin; Santos and Melanie Medrano, Georgetown; and Lloyd Latham, Buda, to WCABA. Also renewing their memberships at the last meeting were John and Taysha Howe, Stephanie Leatherwood, and Clint Walker. Emmett Glosson, Elray Lieberum, Albert Morgan, and Kim and Jacque McBride have renewed their memberships by mail this month.

Door prize donations at the last meeting were given by Hannah Tutor, Frank and Barbara Hunt, Greg Pekar, Shirley Kinningham, Charles Oliver, Gayle Shaw, and Kay Oakley. Winners were Mary Bost, Hannah Tutor, Wilbur Brinkmeyer, Harold Kind, Haven Medrano, Kimberly Arnett, Mike Castellano, Ana Lerma, Alex Lerma, Lloyd Latham, Gayle Shaw, and Frank Hunt.



Bee swarming season is at hand. You may have already seen a swarm (hopefully, not out of your hives). Aaron and Ana Lerma have already added to their scholarship hive by retrieving a swarm that came out of a nearby building. They called Jimmie for assistance, and he got some good pictures. If you are interested in retrieving swarms and haven't added your name to the swarm list that we pass around at the meetings, please do so this month.



Of course, you prefer to catch a swarm that came from “somewhere else”, but you also want to prevent swarms leaving your hives. How do you do this? No method is completely foolproof, but some strategies that help are (1) provide adequate space for the hive to multiply and supers to fill with honey; (2) check for queen cells being built in the brood nest; if the queen is young and virile, you can scrape off any queen cells before they reach maturity; (3) requeening as necessary with young queens eliminates the need for the worker bees to replace her by supersedure.

If you would like to increase your number of hives by retrieving swarms, be sure to have the box and frames ready to use when you receive a call. We also liked to have a little honey to drizzle on the frames so the bees will think that's a good place to be. You may need to leave the hive in place until dark in order to get the field bees into the hive, so be prepared to staple the top and bottom to the hive body and have some screen wire to close the hive entrance until you get them placed in their stationary location.

Mentor's Note: All of the Scholarship Recipients have checked their hives for the first time and included are those all important first official "rookie beekeeper" pictures. I hope you enjoy. J.O./Ed Wolf Pgm.



Michael Castellano

Haven Medrano

Aaron Lerma

Ana Lerma

Amanda Gibson

The following recipe was sent me by Clyde Anderson. He had copied it from the Texas Co-op Power magazine. Thanks, Clyde.

Honey Cookies

2/3 cup butter

1/2 cup sugar

1 cup honey

2 eggs

1 tablespoon lemon juice

3 cups flour

3 teaspoons baking powder

Cream butter, add sugar and remaining ingredients in order. Mix well, drop by teaspoon on a well-greased cookie sheet. Bake at 300 degrees for 10 to 15 minutes. Makes about 36 cookies.

Bees

Queens

Honey

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