

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA July 2005 NEWSLETTER

DATE: Tuesday, July 26, 2005
TIME: 7:00 P.M.—Basic Beekeepers; 8:00—Gen. Mtg./Program
PLACE: 205 Main Street, Round Rock
PROGRAM: Plans for New Senior Center; Tanya Jackson
HOSTS: **Jody Young and Sharon Hulings**

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Our Field Day/Picnic this year was a big hit; largest group ever in attendance, the sun was shining but a gentle breeze was blowing, making the beautiful shade trees in Gayle and Skip Shaw's yard being a wonderful place to visit with friends and talk beekeeping, and the food was plentiful and delicious. Quoting Jimmie Oakley, "We were able to extract almost 5 gallons (about 55 pounds) of honey from the Shaw's hives. Beautiful golden Indian Blanket honey! Gayle was truly thrilled. The WCABA youth did an excellent job with presenting a brief skit about the components of a hive. Frank Hunt had his day in the sun retelling the story of the great beehive caper in Round Rock. Randy, my boy, did great as usual presenting his double queen hive honey production system. Mr. Walker was not able to be there, but two of his mating nucs came and everyone was impressed to see where the new queen really comes from. My wife, Kay, put on a great show when one of the new queens flew away while we were trying to cage her. Kay caught the queen after several tries and got the little lady tucked away in her new 'cage' home. I finished up the program by going into one of the Shaw's weaker hives to look at the brood and maybe find the queen. We were blessed with a good opening, no one got stung, and we did look at the brood, found the queen, and marked and clipped her."



In addition to the beekeeping program this year, Cherie Miller, with the help of her daughter, Lydia and friend, Hannah Tutor, had a number of activities for the younger set: crafts, games, and the sandbox and other grandchild toys provided by the Shaws, which kept the young folks busy and entertained. Our thanks to all those who contributed to making it a great Field Day!

Tanya Jackson, Senior Center Supervisor for the Round Rock Senior Activities Center, will speak to us Tuesday evening about the new Senior Citizen building on Bagdad Street in Round Rock that will soon become our new meeting



place. She will have the latest news about the construction as well as any other information we will need to know: the when, where, plans, etc. She also will have catalogs, calendars, and other information on the activities of the center for our mature (read “senior”) members that would be interested in participating.

For Basic Beekeeping, Jimmie will cover information on the Small Hive Beetle, the latest pest to threaten our bee hives. Are they in Texas yet? Some say “Yes”, and Jimmie will have some examples to show you what to look for. Also, he will discuss what beekeepers need to do to treat for the SHB.



Our WCABA web site, www.wcaba.org, has come to the attention of yet another person interested in beekeeping; John Paul Porter of Round Rock, mailed me his dues recently. We welcome Mr. Porter as well as Mr. Sternadel, who sent his dues last month, to our beekeeping association, plus a new member, Jeanne von Hollerich of Sun City Georgetown, who joined WCABA at our Field Day. She plans to use her bee hive to pollinate the Community Garden at Sun City. Also, we were happy to receive the membership renewal for Nial and Darla Chase who are stationed in Buenos Aires, Argentina. If you would like to contact them, I can give you their address (thanks to their daughter, Ellen Piekarski) for either snail mail or e-mail. We have also received word from Mike McPherran, a former member, that he is now in Afghanistan, helping with reconstruction in that country, so we have added his name to our complimentary e-mail recipients list. Our newsletter has now gone international!

We are sorry to lose Jerry Powell from our midst; he is moving to Missouri. Hopefully, he will soon renew his beekeeping hobby and continue the fascinating study of bees. Don Atkins has bought Jerry’s bee hives.

Several of our members have been in the hospital recently. Mr. G.C. Walker had a heart attack soon after arriving in Colorado and had to have two surgeries to implant stents in his arteries. He is now out of the hospital and at home in South Fork, CO until mid-August. We hear that Elroy Lieberum has had knee replacement surgery; Doug Branch has had cataract surgery; and Orion Lewis (my brother in Kansas) had procedures done to correct heart arrhythmia. We wish all these men a speedy recovery.

The club extracting equipment has been quite busy lately, and the reports of a good honey crop are encouraging. Jimmie Oakley reported that he had extracted 38 gallons from his hives and 60 gallons from Robert’s and my 10 hives. We’ll look forward to hearing how your hives have produced this year. If you still need to extract your honey and need to schedule use of the extracting equipment, be sure to contact me as soon as you have a date in mind: first come, first served, you know.



Extracting on the Deck

Door prize donations at the last meeting were contributed by Gayle Shaw and Jimmie and Kay Oakley. Winners were Hannah Tutor, pot holders; Powell Fowler, dish towel; Damaris Tutor, Wilbur Brinkmeyer, and Joshua Oakley, whirly gigs; and Rory Heisch, bee candle holder.

A new treatment for the control of Varroa mites, Sucroside, has been approved by EPA. The active ingredient in Sucroside is sucrose octanoate esters which is manufactured from food-grade sugar and fatty acids derived from tropical vegetable oils, according to an article in the July '05 American Bee Journal. EPA classifies it as a “bio-pesticide”, which means it is a naturally occurring substance and/or has a non-toxic mode of action toward the mites. “Its mode of action is physical; it either suffocates the target insect or de-waxes its protective cuticle, causing the insect to desiccate. Good coverage of the bees....is essential to achieving a high level of Varroa mite control”, say authors Anthony Barrington and Timothy Venis.



Brinkmeyer's Whirly Gig

Because any residues that end up in honey after application of Sucroside are considered harmless by EPA, this control may be applied during honey flow, unlike the use of fluvalinate or coumaphos. The only potential hazard is if the material is allowed to get in the eyes of the applicator, it will cause irritation. Sucroside is registered for Varroa mite control in all 50 states.

“The Sucroside label describes an application method that involves lifting out each frame of bees and spraying both sides,” says the authors “While this application method, which is known as ‘lift and spray’, is effective in achieving good coverage of the bees—and therefore good control of the mites—it is labor-intensive and not suitable for beekeepers with a large number of colonies to treat.” The article then continues with a description of a type of sprayer being used to deliver Sucroside to large apiaries. Since we are essentially a group of hobby beekeepers, I would suggest that anyone interested in knowing more about this method of application should read the article in its entirety.



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