

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA September 2005 NEWSLETTER

DATE: Tuesday, September 27, 2005
TIME: 7:00 P.M.—Basic Beekeepers; 8:00—Gen. Mtg./Program
PLACE: 205 Main Street, Round Rock
PROGRAM: Honey Tasting/Honey Judging
HOSTS: **Harold Kind. Sally Tutor**

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The ice cream social last month was a lot of fun and we got to welcome several new members and guests to our group. There was lots of informal bee talk as we visited and several members got to ask questions of Dr. John Thomas and G. C. Walker, among others. It's good to have a chance to relax and mingle with other beekeepers. Dr. Thomas commended WCABA on having so many young people in attendance; he said the hope of the bee industry lies in the effectiveness of our young people as they carry on and promote beekeeping. We are indeed fortunate to have such a large group of young adults and young families who are learning how to manage their bee colonies for productivity and for resistance to pests.

Our program this month will be centered around that product of the hive - **honey**. During Basic Beekeeping time, Jimmie Oakley will set up a long table and as you bring in your small jar(s) of honey without a label, he will indicate your name and number on his chart. After you have had a chance to taste the different samples of honey, you may vote 3 times for the honey you like best. Blue, red, and white ribbons will be awarded to the persons submitting the honey samples that received the highest number of votes. This is a fun activity, so enjoy!

For you folks who enjoy doing crafts, come by the front table after you have cast your vote for your favorite honey sample and look at the cards my step-niece has crafted. They are beautiful, unique, and have an unusual "bee" message.



Ice Cream for Everyone



Kids Love it Too!

Jimmie also will have a video, "Tales from the Hive", a NOVA special narrated by David Ogden Stiers. This is a very factual and well filmed documentary that comes highly recommended. It is a one hour presentation and will play as a beginning beekeeper feature.

We urge you to bring honey to be judged, as well. These two-pound honey jars should have your label on them with your name, address, and weight (32 ounces) on the label. We urge our scholarship winners as well as our adult WCABA members to submit a jar of your honey. Jimmie Oakley will have two-pound jars available for our youths; if adults need one of these jars, contact Jimmie to see if he has jars you may buy from him. This honey will be taken to the State Fair in Dallas to be on exhibit in the TBA honey booth; after the Fair is over, it will be given to the Happy Hills Children's Home in Granbury.

Each two-pound jar of extracted honey will be judged on the following points: container appearance (clean jar, wiped clean of finger prints, etc.), level of fill, density, free of crystals, free of air bubbles and foam, free of wax, free of lint, free of other foreign matter, flavor, and brightness. Ribbons will be awarded to all those entries meeting a certain percentage of the above criteria. Let's let visitors to the TBA booth know that we make excellent honey here in Central Texas! Plus, our scholarship youths are among the very best!!
Dr. Thomas Speaks @ WCABA



We are happy to welcome several new members to WCABA. They are Steve Monti and Susan Mynercik, Austin; Bobby and Shay Nicholson, Bartlett; and Juanita Dueldum, Salado. It was also good to welcome back Don and Gayle Atkins who have moved from the Coast to La Grange, as well as Dr. John Thomas. It was so good to see G. C. and Beth Walker and to know that G.C. is getting stronger each day since his heart surgery. If you have a friend who is interested in beekeeping, urge them to come join us; the cost of membership from now until the end of the year is only half price--\$5.00.

If you are planning to go to the State Fair in Dallas, any day from Friday, September 30 through Sunday, October 23, you might like to consider signing up to work in the TBA honey booth. Volunteers are needed to work either a morning shift (10:00 to 2:30) or afternoon shift (2:30 to 7:00). By being a volunteer, you get to enter the fairgrounds free of charge and have the other half of the day to see the fair. Plus you have the fun of talking about bees and beekeeping to the many interested visitors who stop by the booth. Those who have worked the booth previously say they had worlds of fun. If you are interested, talk with Jimmie Oakley about signing up or call John Talbert at (214) 532-9241 or email him at jjtalbert@worldnet.att.net.



Good Visitation and Ice Cream

October is almost here and our thoughts will turn to the Wesley Fest and the TBA Convention. The annual Wesley Fest, held in Georgetown each year, is our club's money raising opportunity to support our youth scholarship program. We urge all our members to consider donating honey to be sold at our booth and also to sign up to work a few hours in the booth. Robert and I chaired this activity for many years but will be unable to participate this year. We need some of our good members to step forward and help organize, set up the booth, and work in the booth on Saturday, November 5 or Sunday, November 6. We especially urge our scholarship winners to participate in this fund raiser. Talk with Jimmie Oakley if you can help.

The TBA Convention will be held the following weekend, November 10 through 13, in Corpus Christi at the Omni Hotel. Registration information has been published in the current TBA Journal and a copy will be available for you to see if you are not receiving the Journal. The programs are always interesting and varied, you get to meet a lot of interesting people, see the sights in Corpus, and enjoy some delicious food while there.

Door prize donations at the last meeting were contributed by Suzan Gibson, Wilbur Brinkmeyer, Gayle Atkins, Shay Nicholson, Tutor Family, Abigail Miller, Jeann Schmidt, and Jimmie Oakley. (Someone failed to enter his/her name by their donation; please always write your name and what you are donating so you can be recognized.) Lucky winners were Shay Nicholson, Bee Happy decoration; Sally Tutor, beeswax lip balm and goats milk soap; Michael Tutor, basket of eggs; Cherie Miller, magnetic ceramic vase/candy; Buddy Miller, cloth bee/honey soap. Steve Poldrack, dozen eggs; Jack Gilbert, mead; Gayle Shaw, door hanger/spiral book; Kay Oakley, ceramic vase; Charles Oliver, wine bottle cheese board.

If you subscribe to *Bee Culture* magazine, be sure to read "Reed Booth and His Killer Bee Honey"; it's an interesting story. One of his anecdotes is about an enormous hive of bees that had inhabited an old wall for "probably a hundred years.....Then some guy decided the bees were a nuisance and sprayed them with insecticide. Killer bees drink that stuff for breakfast, so all he did was enrage a whole world of bees." Booth then describes what happened after that but I won't give it away: you need to read it.

An article in the September '05 issue of *Bee Culture* which would be good for every beekeeper to read is "Varroa Fundamentals". It gives the reader a good background on what the Varroa mite is, its life cycle, how it affects the honey bee, why it is so hard to control, and why we are now seeing mites resistant to chemical treatments. The author concludes, "Using a treatment to knock out most of the mites, once or twice a year, is no longer an option. Varroa control has to be based on a thorough understanding of the biology of both our bees and the Varroa mites and of the interaction between them. Integrated pest management is the future."

Bees

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Honey

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