

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA JANUARY 2006 NEWSLETTER

DATE: Tuesday, January 24, 2006
TIME: 7:00 P.M.—Basic Beekeepers; 8:00—Gen. Mtg./Program
PLACE: 205 Main Street, Round Rock
PROGRAM: Jimmie Oakley: Current Information on Mites
HOSTS: **Deborah & Mike Castellano, Jeann Schmidt**

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The New Year 2006 has begun with hot, dry weather; the days are beautiful but we're hoping for a good slow rain to help the wildflowers and other plants grow. I hope you resolved to be regular in attending our WCABA meetings and will bring along a friend who may be interested in learning about the fascinating world of beekeeping.

WCABA dues for the calendar year are only \$10.00 (which includes your spouse), a very reasonable amount considering you will receive the monthly newsletter, may use the club extracting equipment, and can receive the club discount on your order of queens and/or packages of bees, not to mention the fellowship with other beekeepers and the excellent programs we get to enjoy. If you didn't renew your membership last month, come early to the meeting Tuesday evening so you can get enrolled for another year.

WCABA meetings are always on fourth Tuesday of the month (except the month when we have our annual Field Day). Dates for 2006 are January 24, February 28, March 28, April 25, May 23, June 27, July 25, August 22, September 26, October 24, and November 28. No meeting in December. There are 3 months with a fifth Tuesday: don't come on the fifth Tuesday in May, August, or October. Why not mark your calendar now so you won't miss a single meeting. The date for the Field Day has not been set; we'll give notice ahead of time for the month and date chosen for it.

Every year I am surprised and pleased at the innovative ways our scholarship youths present their end-of-the-year reports on their beekeeping experiences. From pictures to computerized images, we have been treated to some very interesting insights into these young people learning about bees and beekeeping. This year's Ed Wolfe scholarship winners—Haven Medrano, Ana and Aaron Lerma, and Michael Castellano—plus Amanda Gibson, who bought her own bees and equipment, gave exceptionally good reports.



School age youths interested in applying for the Ed Wolfe Memorial Scholarship for 2006 should contact Jimmie Oakley as soon as possible. The committee to select the winners meets in early March and the awards are made at the March meeting. If you know of someone who is interested in learning about bees and beekeeping, ask him/her to request an application form and get started writing the paragraph(s) telling why he or she would like to work with bees. That paragraph is very important in deciding who will receive a scholarship.

Suzan Gibson has agreed to be responsible for planning the Basic Beekeeping programs this year. If you have an idea or some questions about beekeeping you would like to have addressed, she will welcome your input. Thank you, Suzan, for stepping forward to help with this program; that's what makes an organization more effective.

Suzan writes, "Beekeeping 101: **We START PROMPTLY** at 7 pm and should finish about 7:45. This is the time for all those interested in bees to begin their adventure! This month we will demonstrate and discuss Basic Equipment Repairing or Replacing and Spring Medications. Hive pieces, frames, foundations, suits, veils, gloves, tools and types of medications, etc. will be on display"

Also, Suzan requests that members who have outdated beekeeping catalogs and magazines bring them for new beekeepers to explore, study, and learn from. I had planned to begin culling out my old magazines, so I shall be glad to bring some to each meeting this year.

For our program this month, Jimmie Oakley has promised to bring back the latest information regarding mites or other parasites that plague our bees when he returns from the American Beekeeping Federation Convention that met earlier this month in Louisville, Kentucky. He will probably have other interesting sidelights to report as well.

Welcome to our new members, James, Elizabeth, Nathan, and Paul Exley of Georgetown who joined WCABA at the November meeting. Other members who renewed their membership were Harold Kind, Clyde Anderson, Frank and Barbara Hunt, Skip and Gayle Shaw, Wilbur Brinkmeyer, Doug Branch, Wade and Katharine Wheatley, Kenneth Miller, Greg Pekar, Suzan Gibson, Robert and Mary Bost, Juanita Duel, and Russell and Sally Tutor. Since the meeting, membership dues have been mailed in by Lynne Thompson, Ron Imken, Travis and Maureen Lane, plus two former members, Mike McPherran, and Rayleen Reich. This is a good start; we hope all the rest of our members will renew this month.

Most of the 2005 WCABA officers agreed to serve in the same capacity this year: President, Frank Hunt; Membership vice-president, Jeann Schmidt; Program vice-president, Jimmie Oakley; Newsletter vice-president, Mary Bost; Secretary, Barbara Hunt; Treasurer, Harold Kind. Also, Gayle Shaw will continue as Librarian, Bill Hein is the Web-master, and Suzan Gibson volunteered to plan the Basic Beekeepers programs. Julie Hein asked to be relieved of the office of Historian. This would be a good opportunity for someone to step forward and volunteer to keep the scrapbook updated. Is that someone YOU? Don't be bashful—let Frank Hunt know you are willing.

Thank you, Kay and Jimmie Oakley for donating the door prizes last meeting. Suzan Gibson won the wildflower map, Luke Tutor and Harold Kind each won a hand towel; Jeann Schmidt won the bee pin; and Deborah Castellano won the set of earrings. Congratulations to the lucky winners.

WCABA received a generous donation to the Ed Wolfe scholarship fund from Mike McPherren, a former member (now a 2006 member) who is in Afghanistan. He hopes to be back in the States in late Spring, and we hope he will be able to attend our meetings. Several other members pledged money donations at the October meeting, and some have paid their pledge. If you pledged but have forgotten to send it in, please do so at our meeting Tuesday night.

Mrs. Marineile Wolfe, the 91 year old widow of Ed Wolfe, called me recently to tell me she and her son, Neile, want to send a contribution to the scholarship fund named in honor of her late husband. She now lives in Austin. She said she still has several WCABA newsletters and gets them out to read quite often. What a pleasure it was to hear from her! We wish her well and will try to do a better job of keeping in touch.

Kim Flottum's column, "Inner Cover" , in the December '05 Bee Culture magazine, has some interesting thoughts. He states that "Honey purity finally got due notice this year" as antibiotics and pesticides, whether used legally or otherwise, are being found in honey samples that are being checked. He claims that data is finding that old combs soaked with pesticides not only affects the honey stored in them but also affects the health and stress levels of the bees in the colony.

"Formic acid, legal formic acid...works, and it's relatively cheap, and it's pretty safe. And it doesn't have a residue problem." Beekeepers need to learn more about this method of varroa control.

This is a different type of recipe this month, and is taken from an e-mail I received from a cousin last year. The article states, "Scientists of today accept honey as a very effective medicine for all kinds of diseases. Honey can be used without any side effects for any kind of diseases. Even though honey is sweet, if taken in the right dosage as a medicine, it does not harm diabetic patients also."

Arthritis – Take one part honey to two parts lukewarm water, add a small teaspoon of cinnamon powder. Make a paste and massage it on the aching part of the body slowly. The pain will recede in a minute or two. Or arthritis patients may daily, morning and night, take one cup of hot water with two spoons of honey and one small teaspoon of cinnamon powder. If drunk regularly, even chronic arthritis can be cured. In a recent research done at the Copenhagen University, it was found that when the doctors treated their patients with a mixture of one tablespoon honey and a half teaspoon cinnamon powder before breakfast, they found that within a week, out of the 200 people so treated, 73 patients were totally relieved of pain and within a month, most all the patients who previously could not walk or move around because of arthritis started walking without pain.

* * * * * **Want to Buy:** If anyone has a few colonies of bees for sale, I'm interested. * * * * *
* * * * * Doug Branch (512) 288-1123 e-mail: jr.branch@sbcglobal.net * * * * *
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