

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA MARCH 2006 NEWSLETTER

DATE: Tuesday, March 28, 2006
TIME: 7:00 P.M.—Basic Beekeepers; 8:00—Gen. Mtg./Program
PLACE: 205 Main Street, Round Rock
PROGRAM: Achievement Awards, New Recipients, WCABA Queen Coronation
HOSTS: **Wheatley and Exley Families**

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NOTICE: We will still **meet in the SAME LOCATION** this month; also, please **return any WCABA library books/materials** you have checked out.

A good and very attentive crowd turned out last meeting to hear Dr. Clint Walker discuss the efforts being made and researched to develop bees resistant to the *Varroa destructor* mite. Until an approved control is developed, the beekeeper's best hope is to practice good hive management, including replacing old combs tainted with chemicals previously used with new foundation and keeping the hives strong by feeding them, perhaps adding pollen supplement patties, and requeening with young, vigorous, healthy queens each year. Using screened bottom boards instead of wooden bottom boards also helps get rid of the mites as the bees clean them off their bodies.

Our program this month will be featuring our youth. We will be presenting Michael Castellano, Haven Medrano, and Ana and Aaron Lerma, our 2005 Ed Wolfe Memorial scholarship winners, plus Amanda Gibson with their achievement awards. We will also introduce our Nathan Exley, Kacey Hordnes, and Caleb Nicholson, our 2006 scholarship winners, and assist them in constructing their hives. And we will welcome the TBA Honey Queen, Jessica Coker, who will crown our WCABA Honey Queen, Meghan Cantlon. Also, Robert Bost will be presented an award for his dedication and stewardship as chairman of the George E. "Ed" Wolfe Scholarship Program for the past 20 years. We hope many past recipients of this scholarship will be able to attend and be recognized at this meeting.

ago..."



"Just one year

Suzan Gibson plans to lead the Beekeeping 101 session in the timely discussion of constructing the hive bodies, the frames and foundation, the tops and bottoms and how they all fit together. Even if you're an "expert" at putting a hive together, you will enjoy sitting in on this discussion and perhaps adding a comment or two from your own experiences.

For those of you that have not met her yet, our WCABA Honey Queen candidate, Meghan Cantlon, is the 16 year-old daughter of Karin and Joe Cantlon of Marble Falls. She did an excellent job with her bees when she was one of the 2002 Ed Wolfe scholarship winners. She also was the *Texas First Place Winner* of the Texas A & M– sponsored *4-H Essay Writing Contest in 2004*. Meghan and her brother Tyler, have marketed their honey at the Marble Falls County Fair. She is an excellent student, has a pleasant personality, is a good speaker, and is an eager learner as well as being a lovely young lady. We shall be very proud to have her represent WCABA as our Honey Queen. She will be available to speak to youth groups and to attend Fairs and other special events as our representative and spokesperson.

WCABA has booked 36 packages and 54 queens with Walker Apiaries. They will be delivered to the Bost farm, 4355 County Road 110 southeast of Georgetown on Saturday, April 8. Jimmie Oakley will pick them up in Rogers and your bees will be available for you to pick up after 11:00 A.M. Jimmie will be giving the orientation session to the scholarship winners (and any adult beekeepers who wish to attend) at 1:30 that afternoon. We hope the weather will be nice so we can meet on the Bost's front porch and yard but in case of rain, we can meet in the honey house shop.

So far, we have received a good number of membership renewals for calendar year 2006; however, a few of our members are procrastinating. March is the cut-off date: if you haven't paid the \$10.00 dues by the time the newsletter is mailed (a week before the meeting), you will receive a post card notice instead of the newsletter. Please be sure you have paid: we don't want to lose any of our members.

We welcome James Lockhart of Thrall to WCABA. He visited in January and joined us last meeting. Other members who renewed at the last meeting or by mail were David and Shalvi Abeles, Ron Imken Family, Travis and Maureen Lane, Mike McPherrin, Rayleen and Richard Reich, Lynne Thompson, Don and Gayle Atkins, Meghan and Karin Cantlon & Family, John and Lucia Gilbert, Wanda Hein, Rory and Tasha Heisch, Pat and Deborah Jordan and Joel, Shirley and Russell Kinningham, Andreas Kotziapashis, Tom and Chat Lerma and Family, Steve Monti and Susan Mynarcik, Bobby and Stephanie Nicholson and Family, Randy Oakley and Family, Charles E. Oliver, Stephen Poldrack, Brian Rodgers, Larry Rogers, Brit Schlinke, Clint and Janice Walker, G.C. and Beth Walker, Sharon Hulings, Emmett Glosson, Royce Johnson, and Grant Rushton.

Door prizes were donated at the last meeting by Faith Miller, Frank and Barbara Hunt, G.C.Walker, Chat Lerma, Wanda Hein, Gayle Shaw, and Sally Tutor. Winners were James Lockhart, Elizabeth Kind, Caleb Nicholson, Brit Schlinke, Chat Lerma, Elizabeth Exley, and Joshua Oakley.

If you haven't ever installed a package of bees in their hive but plan to do so this spring, you should read the article "Gullette Package" by Steve Genta in the March '06 issue of *Bee Culture*. He makes several good points: (1) have your complete ten-frame hive ready as well as a mist bottle of 1:1 sugar syrup, an entrance feeder, a small nail and a large rubber band; (2) keep the package of bees in a darkened room until late afternoon, around dusk; (3) select a site for the hive with the entrance facing south or southeast, remove five of the frames and set them aside, place the filled entrance feeder on the hive, reduce the remaining opening down to about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch and stuff that with grass.

Retrieve the package of bees from their dark area and with your hive tool, gently pry the cover from the package, revealing the feeder can and the top of the queen cage. Spray the bees with sugar water, bounce the package on the ground to knock the workers to the bottom of the package and away from the

queen cage. Grasp the queen cage with one hand and as you remove it from the package, take the cover in your other hand and slide it over the hole from the queen cage to prevent any bees from escaping. Inspect the new queen to be sure she is alive and well.

Remove the cork (or the plastic cap) from the candy end of the queen cage and carefully push the small nail into the candy to help loosen it up a little, being careful not to push it too far in and impale your queen. Place the queen cage with the candy end up on the frame that has a rubber band around it. Place this frame in the center of the five frames in the hive.

With the cover still in place on the package, put the entire package into the hive in the empty space created by removing half of the frames. Place the hive inner cover over the five frames and the queen. Grasp the cover of the package and remove it as you slide the inner cover over the package. Place the hive cover over the inner cover. The next day, at dusk again, remove the top cover and gently slide the inner cover just enough to be able to remove the package. Set the package in front of the hive. Slide the five remaining frames in, one at a time, then slide the inner cover back and replace the top cover, being sure to put a brick or heavy rock on top of it to prevent it's being blown off. If there are some bees clinging to the package, put it down near the hive and they will return to the hive on their own.

Or better still, attend the orientation demonstration Jimmie Oakley does for the scholarship winners on April 8.

Choc "Oat" Late Honey "Smash" Snacks

2 ½ c thin pretzel sticks, broken into 1-inch pieces 2 ¼ c Quaker Oats (quick or old fashioned, uncooked) 1 c raisins 1 c dry roasted peanuts (optional) 1 pkg. (10 oz) peanut butter flavored chips 2 c semisweet chocolate chips ¾ c Honey (may sub. butterscotch chips for peanut butter chips)

In large bowl, combine pretzels, oats, raisins and, if desired, peanuts; mix well. In large saucepan, combine peanut butter (or butterscotch) chips, chocolate chips and honey; heat over low heat, stirring constantly until chips are melted.

Immediately pour over oat mixture, stirring until all dry ingredients are coated with chocolate mixture. Spread and "smash" mixture onto foil-lined cookie sheet, working the mixture to the edges of the sheet. Place in refrigerator until firm. Break into pieces. Store tightly covered at room temperature. About 4 dozen. (Copied from Colleen Henson's American Honey Queen brochure.)



Ana & Aaron Lerma

Michael Castellano

Haven Medrano

Amanda Gibson

Bees

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