

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA OCTOBER 2006 NEWSLETTER

DATE: Tuesday, October 24, 2006
TIME: 7:00 – 9:00 P.M.
PLACE: Allen Baca Senior Ctr, 301 W. Bagdad, Bldg. 2 Rm. 2 , Round Rock
PROGRAM: Method's of Winter Feeding, Legal Labeling of your Honey
HOSTS: **Suzan Gibson and Juanita Duel**

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This month's program will deal with some different methods of feeding bees during the winter, along with some examples and recipes, plus a discussion of proper (legal) labeling of your honey jars and containers. In addition we will decorate honey bears to be used in the Honey Booth at WesleyFest.

Speaking of WesleyFest, the club needs donations of honey and/or money to fill the honey bears, pints, and quarts to be sold in support of the Ed Wolfe – Robert Bost Beekeeping Scholarship. It has been a short year for most of us who keep bees, but all the more reason to dig a little deeper to see that this program goes on in this time of transition. The sign up sheet for volunteers at WesleyFest will be there also. People are still needed to fill slots for Saturday and Sunday. If you can't donate honey or money, donate your time.

The last meeting was well attended as many came to get a taste of this year's honey crop and have their say in which one was the best. There were 16 entries in the Taster's Choice honey contest. Caleb Nicholson won the blue ribbon, Nathan Exley won the red ribbon, and Juanita Duel won the white ribbon. Also, Kim Arnett had brought honey to taste from New Mexico, Arizona, and Fairbanks, Alaska. Others who brought samples were Susan Gibson, Wilbur Brinkmeyer, Caleb Oakley, Tyler Cantlon, Harold Kind, and Jimmie Oakley

While the honey tasting was going on, the judging of the 2lb jars took place. All the entries were judged blue ribbon quality, meeting the high percentage of the criteria for show honey. Those sending honey to the Fair were Nathan Exley, Arron and Ana Lerma, Caleb and Shay Nicholson, Wilbur Brinkmeyer, Robert & Mary Bost, Caleb Oakley, Meghan Cantlon, and Jimmie Oakley. Judges were Russell Tutor, Nial Chase, and Kenneth Miller. Thank you for serving in this capacity. Nial Chase gave an explanation of the scoring to all the contestants.





Finally the WCABA Honey Queen, Meghan Cantlon, did a cooking demonstration to gain experience for her appearance at the Texas State Fair in October. She chose her “Honey Chocolate-Peanut Butter Fudge” bars to show how she uses honey in preparing a delicious treat. Meghan, assisted by her mother Karin, mixed, melted, stirred, poured, cooled, cut, and finally distributed her honey sweets along with a recipe card to each attendee (reprinted at the end of the newsletter).

Make note that at the November meeting we normally elect new officers for the coming year from a slate of names put together by a nominations committee. The committee will be appointed at this meeting and voted on at the next meeting.. Please consider serving on the committee and also bring your list of candidates that you would like to submit to the committee chair. It’s your club, select your leaders, or become a leader.

A personal note: I want to express my gratitude to all of you who were so supportive of me and our family during Robert’s illness and death. Many of you sent cards, attended the visitation and services, and brought food to our house. Our special gratitude is extended to WCABA for sending the gift of \$100.00 to be sent to Heifer Project for bee hives in honor of Robert Bost. Also, donations have been given to the Ed Wolfe-



Robert Bost scholarship program in his memory by Harold Kind, Orion Lewis, Richard C. Bost, Fred Bost, Melba Lewis, and the Walker family, G.C, Beth, Janice and Clint. Each act of kindness and sympathy is very much appreciated. Thank you, thank you. Mary Bost and Family

Door prize donations last meeting were made by Sally Tutor Family, Ann Singleton, Suzan Gibson, Gayle Shaw, Kim Arnett, and Harold Kind. Lucky winners were Robert Singleton, Colter Chase, Elizabeth Exley, Nathan Exley, Meghan Cantlon, Caleb Nicholson, Gabor Nicholson, Jimmie Oakley, Anna Oakley, Samuel Oakley, and Greg Pekar.

A very interesting article in the October '06 issue of the American Bee Journal caught my eye; it has the potential for controlling Varroa mites and wax moth larvae biologically. Entitled "Pseudoscorpions to the Rescue?" this article, written by Dr. Barry Donovan and Dr. Flora Paul, states that these "eight-legged arthropods with a body up to about 8 mm long, but which have a pair of comparatively huge pincers projecting well in front" have been photographed attacking and killing varroa mites in as little as 4 seconds as well as feeding upon moth larvae until all that was left was the larval skin. Besides their small size, a major difference compared to real scorpions is the complete lack of a stinging tail.

About a dozen species of pseudoscorpions "have been reported living in beehives, often mingling with the bees, and some of them clinging on to bees swarming to new nest sites." The study further states that the pseudoscorpions "did not harm adult or larval bees" and "hives harboring the pseudoscorpion had minimal infestations of varroa, and no wax moth larvae at all."

What are the drawbacks? Beehives may need to be modified to provide refuges and breeding sites for these arthropods, similar to the nests housing the Eastern (India and European) bees as well as more research to determine which species would be most effective with the Western bees. But this biological control "holds out the hope of a cheap, non-chemical and self-replicating means of managing Western honey bees, and also without the possibility of any of the pests developing resistance."

Honey Chocolate-Peanut Butter Fudge

½ cup <u>Texas</u> Honey	3 cups semisweet chocolate chips
1 10-oz Package peanut butter chips	½ cup chopped nuts
1 14-oz Sweetened condensed milk	1 tsp. vanilla extract

Butter well a 9x9x2 inch baking dish. Melt chocolate chips, one cup peanut butter chips, milk and honey over medium heat, stirring constantly. Remove from stove and stir in vanilla, remaining peanut butter chips, and nuts. Pour into baking dish. When cool, cut into squares and store in a cool place.

Bees

Queens

Honey

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New Kelly 2-frame Reversible Stainless Steel Extractor, \$450

Nose Trucks and Barrel Trucks, Crimp Wired Foundation, 25# for \$120

Bee Suits w/zipper veil, Smokers, Helmets, Uncapping Knives, Bee Veils

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