

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA NOVEMBER 2006 NEWSLETTER

DATE: Tuesday, November 28, 2006
TIME: 7:00 – 9:00 P.M.
PLACE: Allen Baca Senior Ctr, 301 W. Bagdad, Bldg. 2 Rm. 2 , Round Rock
PROGRAM: Scholarship Winners' Reports, Officer Election
HOSTS: **Frank & Barbara Hunt, Faith Miller**

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Our three Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost Scholarship winners, **Caleb Nicholson, Nathan Exley,** and **Tracey Hordnes**, will give their reports on their first year experiences in learning to care for their bees. This is always a highlight as these young people devise creative ways of telling their stories. We will also hear reports on Wesley Fest, the TBA Convention, and have election of WCABA officers for 2007.

Suzan Gibson gave a very interesting talk and demonstration last meeting during Beekeeping 101 on making a hard candy for bees, also using Essential Oils in the sugar syrup that is fed to the bees. She and Juanita Duel (a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine) decided to use these ideas after suffering some bee loss in previous years, and since using these practices, have not lost any bees. The recipe for using the Essential Oils will be printed later in this issue. If you missed the last meeting and want directions for making the Hard Candy for Bees, ask Suzan if she still has some of the hand-outs from last meeting.

The Wesley Fest honey booth was successful in raising funds for our scholarship program again this year. We thank those people who donated honey or money: Harold Kind, Elizabeth Exley, Mary Bost, and Jimmie Oakley (honey) and new member, Ed Holzapfel gave a generous money gift. Equally important were the people who worked in the booth: Randy Oakley and his boys, The Tutor Family and the Hunts.

We were very pleased when Dr. John Thomas announced the winner of the 2007 John G. Thomas Meritorious Service Award at the TBA banquet in Kerrville; it was our own **Kay Oakley**, a very deserving person who has given unstintingly of her time and talents "behind-the-scenes" at the conventions in planning and registration, in table decorations, assisting with the queens, helping Jimmie get the 1099 tax return in each year and keeping him focused on what is important (Jimmie's description). It was a very well deserved award. Congratulations, Kay.



Members who sent entries to the Convention's Honey, Wax, Photo, and Gift Basket contests were Nathan Exley—water white honey; Mary Bost—extra light amber honey (blue ribbon winner); Caleb Oakley—extra light amber honey (red ribbon); Jimmie Oakley—light amber honey (red ribbon); Frank Hunt—amber honey (red ribbon). Frank Hunt also sent a pair of hand dipped wax candles to the contest. Jimmie Oakley sent two photos, “Veiled Beauty” of Meghan Cantlon, and “Froggy Bee on Lily Pad”, both received honorable mention. Sylvia Priest of the Alamo Area Beekeepers Association won first, second and third place prizes, a total of \$50.00, in the photo contest. Kay Oakley entered a theme basket that placed second in the gift basket contest. Congratulations to all the winners! All winning entries were sold at the Honey Queen's Auction to raise money for the queen program.

There was a new all time high dollar amount raised in this year's auction--\$6,000.00. Jimmie Oakley, TBA treasurer, said, “It must have had something to do with the highly energetic and entertaining charity auctioneer at this year's convention.” That handsome young auctioneer was Andrew Bost, who Mary Bost was proudly introducing as her grandson who now lives in Austin. When Mary found out that Andrew, who had been an art auctioneer on cruise ships for four years, wanted to do some auctioneering for charity events, she asked if he would do a *pro bono* auction for TBA, and she got to accompany him to the Saturday evening events.



Two outstanding auction items this year were (1) a set of “premium quality” 400-count fitted sheets with pillow cases that were trimmed in honey bee pattern material, and (2) a matching pillow and lap quilt with skep hives design, both made by Kay Oakley and quilted by granddaughter, Sarah Oakley. The sheet set, WCABA's contribution to the Queen auction, had cost \$50.00, the winning bid was \$400.00. The pillow-quilt duo brought a winning bid of \$300.00.

WCABA members who attended some or all of the Convention activities were Jimmie and Kay Oakley (guest-daughter Lorrie Anson), Juanita Duel, Mary Bost (guest-Andrew Bost), Clint Walker, G. C. and Beth Walker (guests- daughter Jan, 1979 TBA Queen, and husband Phillip Gunter), Dr. John and Janice Thomas, WCABA Honey Queen Meghan Cantlon and Karin Cantlon.

Our Honey Queen Meghan represented us very well at the TBA Convention. She worked with the other Honey Queens on Thursday morning with several hundred kids that turned out for “Kids Learning About Bees”, an event sponsored by TBA. She also set a wonderful table at the Thursday evening “Bee Buzz” where she presented her scrap book and had samples of her Honey Peanut Butter Fudge recipe. Meghan was introduced at the General Session on Friday morning and competed admirably in the Queen Quiz Bowl. She knew more bee facts that she thought she did. With her mother in attendance, she



honored WCABA by working the Queen Auction on Saturday evening in a lovely strapless formal gown, as she helped “sell” many items to the TBA members. Thank you, Meghan.

We were saddened to hear that our 2006 TBA Honey Queen, Jessica Coker, was unable to attend the Convention due to the death of her fiancé who lost his life in Iraq while in service to his country. We extend our sincere sympathy to Jessica in her loss.

Don't forget the American Beekeeping Federation will hold its annual meeting January 10-13 in Austin at the Hyatt Hotel. This is an unusually good opportunity for Texas beekeepers to attend without having to spend a lot of money on transportation, and for us who live near Austin, to avoid a hotel bill unless we want the convenience of being “on the scene”. If you would like more information, check with Jimmie.

‘Tis the time to begin thinking of paying our annual WCABA dues. Our calendar year is January through November; however, many of us like to pay in November in order to avoid waiting in line to sign up in January. Jeann Schmidt will be happy to take your \$10.00 dues. It's also time to sign up to be a host to bring a snack (cookies or other goodies) to one of the meetings. The “Kitty” – the money you drop in the can when you get a cup of coffee or punch—pays for the beverage makings and the paperware.

We welcome new members Edward Holzapfel, Killeen; Don Brown, Austin; and Stan Naylor, Cedar Park. And Richard Bost of Waller and Houston, has renewed his membership in WCABA. If you know someone who is interested in bees, invite them to come to our meetings; perhaps they will find us friendly and eager to exchange beekeeping ideas with them. Remind them that as a member of WCABA they are entitled to use the club extracting equipment, we also get a discount on bees when we send in our club order in March, and they will also receive the newsletter.

Heifer International sent me a lovely card acknowledging receipt of the money the club sent in honor of my husband, Robert Bost. Thank you, good friends. I know it would have pleased Robert.

Health Essential Oils for Bees (makes 1 pint)

1 ½ cups sugar syrup 10-20 drops Essential Oils of spearmint
1 tablespoon lithisin (liquid) 10-20 drops Essential Oils of lemongrass
Shake well. Add 1-2 teaspoons of this mixture to one quart of sugar syrup.

Note: Essential Oils can be ordered from the Lori Ann Oils catalog. If you didn't get a copy at the last meeting, ask Suzan Gibson or Juanita Duel about a copy, or I will have a copy in my box.





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