

# WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

## WCABA JANUARY 2007 NEWSLETTER

DATE: Tuesday, January 23, 2006  
TIME: 7:00 – 9:00 P.M.  
PLACE: Allen Baca Senior Ctr, 301 W. Bagdad, Bldg. 2 Rm. 2 , Round Rock  
PROGRAM: Dr. Rodney Holloway, Extension Apiculturist – SMarT Queens  
HOSTS: **Kacey Hordnes and Skylar Nicholson**

Let's start the New Year right by marking the following meeting dates on a calendar and planning to attend all of the WCABA meetings.

### **PRESIDENT**

Juanita Duel, DVM  
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|            |             |              |            |             |         |
|------------|-------------|--------------|------------|-------------|---------|
| January 23 | February 27 | March 27     | April 24   | May 22      | June 26 |
| July 24    | August 28   | September 25 | October 23 | November 27 |         |

1 st. V.P.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

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&

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2 nd. V.P.

### **PROGRAM**

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Please keep in mind that we meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month, and that the months of January, May, July and October have five Tuesdays this year (don't get mixed up). We don't meet in December. We often have a Saturday meeting, usually a picnic, in one of the summer months but you will be notified of the change ahead of time.

We thank those of you who signed the host list at the last meeting. Besides Kacey Hordnes and Skylar Nicholson who will be our hosts this month, Kim Arnett signed for February; Elizabeth Exley, March; Sally Tutor, April; Harold Kind, May; Kim Arnett, June; no one chose July or August; Karen Cantlon, September; the Hunts, October; and Gayle Shaw, November. We need 2 hosts for each meeting, so if you haven't chosen a month, please sign up for one next Tuesday evening.

3 rd. V.P.

### **NEWSLETTER**

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### **HISTORIAN**

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The program this month was inspired by the tour of the Clint Walker Honey House that was part of the ABF Convention activities on Saturday January the 13<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Rodney Holloway, former Extension Apiculturist at Texas A&M has been working with Clint Walker in an effort to breed better queens. Dr. Holloway has been invited to come and talk about his contribution to the Walker breeding program and his understanding of the SMarT line of queens.

A very interesting book, "*Robbing the Bees: A Biography of Honey, The Sweet Liquid that Seduced the World*" by Holley Bishop, was given to me at Christmas, and I have been reading it bit by bit since then. It is well-written, very interesting, and gives information about bees and beekeeping and their roles in religion, medicine, science, mythology, and the arts. The author is a hobbyist beekeeper in Connecticut who fell in love with her bees but wanted to include the knowledge she could gain by working with a commercial beekeeper, Donald Smiley of Wewahitchka, Florida. It is a remarkable book of nonfiction that reads like a novel. I recommend it to all our beekeeper members.

Another book I was given recently by the author, 16-year-old Elizabeth Batista, and titled “*Finding Conway, Unlock the Secret*”. is not about bees but is one I can recommend as a good read for all our teen-age youngsters. It is well written with lots of imagination and adventurous escapades involving the three teen-age main characters. Even though I am decades past my teens, I loved the story and had a hard time putting it down. Incidentally, Elizabeth and her parents have been WCABA members in the past and recently renewed their membership

Joshua Oakley, one of our former beekeeping scholarship recipients, has written a fine article on his experiences with Purple Martins and the house he built and now maintains for them in Mustang Ridge, Texas, where he lives with his parents and ten brothers and sisters. The article appears in the Year End Report of the American Bird Conservation Assn. magazine along with notes about the article by the editor.

A good number of our members renewed their membership at the November meeting. They were Jeann and Olaf Schmidt, Elizabeth and James Exley and sons, Russell and Sally Tutor and family, Kim and Bert Arnett, Karin, Joe, Meghan and Tyler Cantlon, Chat and Tom Lerma and family, Bobby and Stephanie Nicholson and family, Kenneth Miller, Terri and Tom Hordnes and family, and Mary Bost. Since the meeting, dues have been paid by Capt. Albert Morgan, Travis and Maureen Lane, and Elmer Goertz. We welcome back Gloria and Elizabeth Batista of Round Rock and new members, Rick and Diana Bost of Catoosa, Oklahoma. Also, Brian Johnson of Liberty Hill was a guest; we hope he’ll come back and join us.

We urge each of you to renew your membership as soon as possible. Although we continue sending newsletters through February, we don’t look forward to taking any names off the WCABA membership roll in March. Membership dues of \$10.00 is well spent: besides informative meetings, you get the monthly newsletter and have access to use the club extracting equipment, plus members can get a discount on queen bees and packages of bees when we make a club order in March.

Door prize donations at the November meeting were made by Jimmie and Kay Oakley, the Tutor family, Frank Hunt, and Suzan Gibson. Lucky winners were Andrew Exley, Elizabeth Exley, Harold Kind, Terri Hordnes, Barbara Hunt, Kim Arnett, Ana Lerma, Chat Lerma, and Amanda Gibson.

We are pleased to announce that Jimmie Oakley was honored at the recent national Convention of the American Beekeeping Federation held in Austin, Texas for his ten years of service as the treasurer of the ABF Honey Queen Program He was presented a mantel clock in appreciation of his meritorious dedication during the ABF banquet on Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup>.



Also of note is that the raffle quilt “Hill Country Bee Yard” made and donated by Kay Qakley as a fund raiser for the ABF Honey Queen Program was successful in selling all the designated tickets and reached the goal of raising over \$4500 in support of that important national program.

Meghan Cantlon, WCABA Honey Queen, was in attendance at the ABF Convention to represent the local host association and this is her report:

*Wow! What a wonderful experience! I just want to thank everyone at WCABA for the opportunity to serve you at the ABF convention in Austin this past January. There was so much going on, and being in the middle of it was very rewarding and educational.*

*I guess one of the highlights of my involvement was being able to serve TBA by helping out in their booth and selling tickets for the raffle they offered. I spent several hours there helping as well as chatting with the many convention members present. It was fun to converse with the many people from all over the country and learn about their beekeeping businesses. The next highlight was being part of the **Kids and Bees** presentation at the South Austin Recreation Center. I performed an experiment with the bees that allowed the children to see how bees can actually recognize shapes. It was great to see the enthusiasm on the faces of all the little kids. I think we met some future beekeepers! Touring the Walker's commercial beekeeping operation was quite impressive as well. My thanks go out to the Walker's for hosting such an informative tour and arranging a terrific Hoe Down.*



*To say the least, it was a busy workweek for all, yet it was fun for all who attended. In addition to the work and set-up involved, there was a Queen's Breakfast, a Banquet and Honey Show Auction, and the Capitol tour taken by the Honey Queens. I enjoyed serving our club and again thank you for the opportunity.*

*Meghan Cantlon, WCABA Honey Queen*

Other WCABA members seen at the ABF Convention were Jimmie & Kay Oakley, Mary and grandson Andrew Bost, Juanita Duel and Suzan Gibson, Frank & Barbara Hunt and their little grand daughter, Wilbur Brinkmeyer, Randy Oakley with sons Joshua, Caleb, Samuel, Daniel & Benjamin.

What do we do at this season of the year as a beekeeper? First off, we make sure that the bees have sufficient honey stores to carry them through until spring nectar flows begin or else we feed them. Besides that, in weather such as we have been experiencing lately, we spend time thinking of spring time, of gardening, and planning bee yard placement near floral sources, and we repair, paint, and construct hive woodware. Regarding floral sources, the *American Bee Journal* has an interesting article entitled "The Front Line...Add Clover for Bees" plus an article on milkweed as a good floral source for nectar. Not to be outdone, *Bee Culture* magazine has two articles that make good reading: "It's January—Do Something!" and "Cold Treating Bee Plant Seeds". If you don't subscribe to these two fine bee magazines, I'll have mine available for you to look at when you get to the meeting. Also, I'll have subscription blanks that you can use to get a discount as a WCABA member when you subscribe to them. Ask me about them.

Bees

Queens

Honey

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**G.C. Walker, 8059 E. U.S. Hwy 190, Rogers, TX 76569**

**Phone: (254) 983-2891 E-mial: Walker2bee@aol.com**

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**Beekeepers Association**  
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