

# WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

## WCABA JUNE, 2007 NEWSLETTER

*Visit us at: [www.wcaba.org](http://www.wcaba.org)*

### **PRESIDENT**

Juanita Duel, DVM  
254/947-9639  
[dueldvm@earthlink.net](mailto:dueldvm@earthlink.net)

**DATE:** Tuesday, June 26, 2007  
**TIME:** 7:00 P.M.-Beekeeping 101; 7:45-Break; 8:00-Gen. Mtg/Program  
**PLACE:** Allen Baca Senior Ctr, 301 W. Bagdad, Bldg. 2 Rm. 2 , Round Rock  
**PROGRAM:** Extracting Honey; Using the WCABA Equipment-Jimmie Oakley  
**HOSTS:** **Kim Arnett, Wilbur Brinkmeyer**

1 st. V.P.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Jeann Schmidt  
512/869-4107  
[jfwschmidt@msn.com](mailto:jfwschmidt@msn.com)

&

Sally Tutor  
512/756-0471  
[tutorfamily@phreego.com](mailto:tutorfamily@phreego.com)

With honey bees making the most of the abundant floral sources this Spring, most of us are looking forward eagerly to harvesting that golden elixir—honey. Experienced beekeepers have their tried and true methods for extracting honey but WCABA is blessed with a number of new beekeepers this year, so Jimmie Oakley will bring the club equipment to our meeting Tuesday evening and, with willing hands helping him, will demonstrate the finer points of reaping the rich rewards of our hard-working bees.

2 nd. V.P.

### **PROGRAM**

Jimmie Oakley  
512/388-3630  
[jloakley@juno.com](mailto:jloakley@juno.com)

The extractor is warehoused at the Bost honey house. Mary Bost will have a calendar handy for anyone who would like to sign up for a particular 3-day period of time to pick it up, use it, clean and return it. Or, you can phone her or e-mail her, stating your preference for dates. Be sure to have a second preference ready in case someone else has already chosen the date you want to use it.

3 rd. V.P.

### **NEWSLETTER**

Mary Bost  
512/863-3656  
[bostbees@juno.com](mailto:bostbees@juno.com)

We have a second opportunity to learn more about beekeeping this month: on Saturday, June 30, John Talbert will conduct a 4-hour beekeeping short course at the Bost farm. John is a knowledgeable beekeeper, an excellent speaker, and has conducted workshops in the Dallas-East Texas area for several years. We will meet at 10AM for 2 hours in the morning, break for a pot luck lunch, and conclude around 3PM with another 2 hour session that afternoon. (See addendum)

### **SECRETARY**

Elizabeth Exley  
512/863-6798  
[lizexley@msn.com](mailto:lizexley@msn.com)

I have been fielding a number of swarm calls lately. I appreciate having several names to give callers but could use more names and cover a wider area. If you are interested in retrieving swarms, please write your name, phone number(s), and areas you would serve on my swarm retrieval list.

### **TREASURER**

Kenneth Miller  
512/856-0167  
[millerkd@direcway.com](mailto:millerkd@direcway.com)

### **HISTORIAN**

Kim Arnett  
512/763-1197  
[quantaria@excite.com](mailto:quantaria@excite.com)

Clint Walker picked up the package bee cages today that you had returned. He paid our club \$1.00 for each reusable feeder can and a dollar for each of the 45 cages. If you haven't returned your cage yet, please remember to bring it to the meeting or to the short course; Clint will pick them up at a later date.



Congratulations to the Nicholson family on the birth of Eva Margaret “Maggie” Nicholson. Born on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, she weighed a hefty 10 pounds, 7 ounces and was 23 ¼ inches long. Our thanks to Maggie’s very proud sister, Shay, for sending us this announcement. She even sent a picture!

Welcome to our newest WCABA members, Conrad and Gail Huffstutler of Liberty Hill. Also renewing their membership are Robert and Pam Yurk, Thorndale; Lloyd Latham, Buda; and Clint and Janice Walker, Rogers. Guests were Dave Frederick and Jonathan Atkins.

Door Prize donations at the last meeting were made by Sally Tutor, Susan Gibson, Faith Miller, and Jim and Sara Reeves. Winners were Wilbur Brinkmeyer, Hope Tutor, Sara Reeves, and Jonathan Atkins.

I had another call recently from someone with a good spot for bees: Mr. Klingler has 3 acres of yellow clover that is blooming profusely. If interested, call him at 512/868-6800—a Georgetown number. And don't forget Vera Smith, 512/255-2600 near Round Rock, and Will Mason, 512/930-1902 near Jonah, have offered good places to put a few hives.

Most of us think first of the best-known product of the honey bee, honey. But Holley Bishop, in her book, *Robbing the Bees*, reminds us that “The antibacterial and moisturizing qualities that made honey invaluable in the kitchen also made it a staple of the doctor’s bag. Its hydrogen peroxide, which helped preserve meats and fruits, was also an effective cleansing treatment for wounds, aided by the osmotic thirst of honey’s sugars. When applied to an infection, the absorbent sugars in honey act as healing sponges, draining intruding organisms of their liquid essence and causing them to shrivel and die. At the same time, the sugars nourish healthy cells and encourage white blood cells in their healing battles. Antioxidants, amino acids, and vitamins in the natural ointment reduce inflammation and speed the growth of healthy tissue.”

Honey’s healing properties can be used on cuts and burns, as a throat gargle, to assuage a nagging cough, or open up clogged sinuses. Many people use it on a daily basis to relieve their allergies. “For as long as humans have been acquainted with bees, they have been getting medicine from them in the form of honey, propolis, pollen, and even venom,” states Bishop. Although honey and other folk remedies fell out of favor during the twentieth century as many chemical drugs were developed, lately there has been a “medical honey renaissance”. In 1998 a medical journal published a report comparing honey treatment on burn victims to the standard of silver sulfadiazine. “Of 52 patients doctored with the natural salve, 87 percent healed within 15 days, compared to 10 percent of those soothed with chemical. Honey recipients also experienced less pain, wound leakage and scarring,” Bishop says.

It was very interesting to me therefore, to read in the June '07 issue of the American Bee Journal the article, “The Healing Touch of Honey” by Kirsten Traynor, pointing out a study in Germany of using honey, named Medihoney, to attack infections in which other powerful antibiotics were unable to bring improvement due to resistance that has built up to these drugs. The common bacteria known as Staph, developed resistance to penicillin in 1947, then to methicillin in 1961, and now to the most potent antibiotic, Vancomycin, in 2004.

Prescribed antibiotics attack the bacteria’s cell-wall building mechanism to which resistance can develop, but honey is hygroscopic (draws moisture out of the environment) and thus dehydrates bacteria. Honey’s sugar content is also high enough to hinder the growth of microbes; in fact, honey’s natural antibacterial properties inhibit the growth of about 60 species of bacteria. The pictures in this article are very effective in showing the healing properties of Medihoney. If you don’t subscribe to ABJ but would like to see this article, ask to see my magazine or check out the current issue from the WCABA library.

Now is a good time to take advantage of all the fresh vegetables from your garden or the local Farmers Market. The following recipe from Colleen Henson's ABF Honey Queen brochure uses new potatoes and onions that have been in plentiful supply at our local Farmers Market.

### Red-Skin Potato Salad with Honey Dill Dressing

3 slices bacon, cut into ½ “ pieces	½ c. water
1 ½ lb. small red new potatoes	¼ c. cider vinegar
½ c. chopped onion	3 Tbsp. HONEY
1 Tbsp. reserved bacon drippings	2 Tbsp. chopped fresh dill or 2 tsp. dried dill
1 Tbsp. all-purpose flour	1 ½ tsp. salt
1 bunch watercress, washed and chopped	

In large skillet, cook bacon until crisp; drain on paper toweling. Set aside. Discard drippings, reserving 1 Tbsp. in skillet for dressing.

In large pot, cook potatoes in boiling water 15 to 20 minutes or until cooked through but still firm; drain and set aside. When cool enough to handle, cut unpeeled potatoes into quarters and place in bowl. Add bacon pieces and chopped onion.

Meanwhile, make dressing. Stir flour into reserved drippings in skillet; gradually add water, stirring until well blended. Stir in vinegar, HONEY, dill and salt. Bring mixture to a boil; reduce heat and cook, stirring constantly, 2 to 3 minutes or until mixture thickens. Pour sauce over warm potatoes in bowl; toss to coat. Add watercress; toss to coat. Serve warm or at room temperature.

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### BEEKEEPING SHORTCOURSE---JUNE 30, 2007

**John Talbert**, beekeeper, former president of TBA, and member of the Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Association, has taught a beekeeping course in his area for several years. The course has usually covered a span of several weekends, and is well-attended. He will come to our area—the Bost farm--on Saturday, June 30, and give a condensed version from **10:00AM Saturday** morning until 2 hours after lunch that afternoon. This is a rare opportunity to learn more about beekeeping; we hope you will plan to attend.

We will have a pot luck picnic lunch. Please bring a dish of food large enough for you/your family plus a few extra servings. Beverages will be furnished, also paper and plastic ware. Please bring a lawn or folding chair.

In order for us to have sufficient numbers of hand outs as well as being prepared for lunch, please indicate below if you plan to attend. Hand this sheet to Mary Bost, Juanita Duel, or Jimmie Oakley, indicating how many in your family will be attending (or e-mail to [bostbees@juno.com](mailto:bostbees@juno.com), or write Mary at 4355 C.R. 110, Georgetown, TX 78626).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_

Bees

Queens

Honey

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**Williamson County Area  
Beekeepers Association  
4335 County Road 110  
Georgetown, Texas 78626**