

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA NOVEMBER, 2007 NEWSLETTER WWW.WCABA.ORG

DATE: Tuesday, November 27, 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: Reports by Scholarship Winners, Officer Elections, other reports
HOSTS: **Gayle Shaw, Juanita Duel**

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It was good to be back to our regular schedule—Beekeeping 101, Business Meeting, Program—last month. This month's program will be centered around reports: the 2007 Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost scholarship winners reporting on their year of beekeeping, reports on Wesley Fest and the TBA Convention, plus election of officers for 2008. It's also time to start filling in the host sheet for our meetings next year. You did a good job of volunteering to bring refreshments for each meeting this year; I hope we will do equally well for 2008.

Looking ahead to next year, Jimmie has already lined up an excellent speaker for January. I hope you will take time before you get too busy in the rush of the holiday season to mark 4th Tuesdays on you 2008 calendar, and will resolve to attend as many of our informational programs as possible.

Our members did a good job of volunteering to help with the honey booth at Wesley Fest in Georgetown November 3rd and 4th. Elizabeth Exley and her four sons, Nathan, Paul, Luke, and Andrew assisted Mary Bost in bottling and labeling honey to be sold, then on Saturday morning Jimmie Oakley and Frank Hunt set up the booth and tables so Elizabeth and Paul Exley, Matt, Nic, and David Kohn, Sally and Michael Tutor, Michael and Richard Holman, Noah, Pat, and

Janice Hartley, and Randy Oakley and sons Joshua, Caleb, Samuel, Daniel, and Benjamin could take turns selling honey and showing visitors the bees in the observation hive. On Sunday morning Kim Arnett and Mary Bost opened the booth and Harold Kind, Evan and Emily Tuuk, and Jimmie Oakley continued selling honey until it was time to dismantle and store the booth. The weather was beautiful both days and we had good sales.

Honey to sell in the Wesley Fest booth was donated by Wilbur Brinkmeyer, Harold Kind, Jimmie Oakley, Randy Oakley, and Mary Bost. The Robert and Mary Bost Apiary sold additional containers of honey to the club at wholesale prices, allowing the club to make a profit from the retail sales. We look forward to hearing the report on this fund raising event.



Our WCABA honey queen, Meghan Cantlon, came to Wesley Fest and circulated among the crowd, giving them “I Love Honey” stickers and also making a short speech inviting people to come by the honey booth from the balcony overlooking the grounds.

We were sorry to learn that Frank Hunt’s mother had died on November 2. We extend our deepest sympathy to Frank and Barbara and their family.

Our membership chairpersons, Sally Tutor and Jeann Schmidt, will be happy to accept your membership dues for 2008 at the meeting, thus eliminating a long wait in line in January. Ed Holzapfel is at the head of the class: he renewed his membership at the last meeting. We also were happy to have a guest, Richard Red of Georgetown, and hope he will consider joining WCABA.



Denise Benson, corresponding secretary of the San Marcos Bee Wranglers, has contacted me to see if WCABA would be ordering queens and packages of bees from Walker Apiaries this spring. Clint Walker has assured me that he would be supplying bee orders for our members as he did last year and at about the same discounted price, so we hope you will be using the next couple of months to plan ahead and be ready to place your order beginning in February. Clint will not be taking individual orders; you need to order through WCABA if you want to get queens or packages from him. He is able to offer us this discount because we handle all the bookkeeping connected with the order, thereby saving him and Janice from that chore during their very busy season. Remember, you must be a member of WCABA to be eligible to benefit from this perk.

Door prizes last month were donated by Orion and Mary Lewis (Mary Bost’s brother and wife), Greg Pekar, the Exleys, and Kay Oakley. Nick Kohn won the bee soap dish; Suzan Gibson won the sunflower soap; Richard Red won the bee piggy bank; Wilbur Brinkmeyer, Chat Lerma and Sally Tutor each won one of the handmade door knob scarecrows; and Steve Poldrack won the bee motif hand towel.

Did you know your WCABA and/or TBA membership entitles you to a good discount when subscribing to *Bee Culture* or *American Bee Journal*? Ask Jimmie or Mary for one of the blanks. And Jimmie would be happy to accept your membership dues in TBA as well.

Son David saw an informational article on the Internet and printed it off for me. It verifies what I and many other beekeepers have been telling people regarding the benefits of bees and honey. It leaves unsaid the benefits to allergy sufferers, those plagued with dry, hacking coughs, laryngitis, etc. The article, which appeared on Medscape (<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/563656>) is titled:

Alternative Treatments for Wounds: Leeches, Maggots, and Bees” by Karen M. Dente, MA, MD.

“The recalcitrant nature and complexity of chronic wounds continue to challenge health practitioners in the field, with many of the standard treatment options often failing to provide good outcomes,” states Dr. Dente. “Chronic wounds are often infected with bacteria resistant to antibiotics, compounding the problem. Some alternative biologic forms of treatment have been used and are gaining recognition; they include apitherapy (application of honey), maggots, and leeches. In addition to other wound-promoting actions, they all seem to show efficacy against bacteria, such as methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA).”

“There are several mechanisms through which honey is thought to act on and heal wounds. When it is applied directly on a wound surface or via a dressing, it can act as a sealant, keeping the wound moist and free from contamination. In addition, honey is comprised of glucose (35%), fructose (40%), sucrose (5%) and water (20%). This high sugar content plus vitamins, minerals, and amino acids provides topical nutrition that is thought to

promote healing and tissue growth. Honey is also a hyperosmotic agent that draws fluid from the wound bed and underlying circulation, which kills bacteria that cannot thrive in such an environment. It is bactericidal in other ways as well. During the process of honey production, worker bees add the enzyme glucose oxidase to the nectar. When honey is applied to the wound this enzyme comes into contact with oxygen in the air, which leads to the production of the bactericide, hydrogen peroxide. Macroscopically, honey has also shown debriding action.”

Manuka (Medihoney) is derived from floral sources in Australia and New Zealand and has been cleared in 2007 by Health Canada and US Food and Drug Administration as the “first medicinal honey product for use in wounds and burns.” Shona Blair, a microbiologist in Sydney, Australia, has tested various strains of honeys against bacterial strains obtained from hospitals and found that even the strains most resistant to antibiotics failed to grow in the presence of honey.

Other promising studies indicate positive results in treating diabetic foot ulcers, in wounds of children with cancer following radiation and chemotherapy, in children with burns in war-torn countries, and in makeshift clinics where medications and equipment are not readily available such as war-torn or earthquake-stricken regions, and where emergency cooling with water can lead to infection.

The following recipe sounds delicious and I plan to use it with baked ham this weekend.

HONEY GLAZED SWEET POTATOES

1 ½ pounds sweet potatoes or yams, peeled and quartered 2/3 c. orange juice, divided
½ tsp. ginger ½ tsp. nutmeg 1 Tbs. Butter 1Tbs. Cornstarch 1/3 c. HONEY

Combine sweet potatoes and 1/3 c. orange juice in 2-quart microwave safe baking dish. Sprinkle with ginger and nutmeg. Dot with butter. Cover and microwave at high for 7-10 minutes or until sweet potatoes are tender, stirring halfway through cooking time. Combine cornstarch, remaining 1/3 cup orange juice and honey in medium microwave-safe bowl. Microwave at high for 2 minutes or until thickened, stirring every 30 seconds. Drain liquid from sweet potatoes, add to honey mixture. Microwave at high for 1 minute. Pour sauce over sweet potatoes and microwave at High 1 minute more or until sweet potatoes are thoroughly heated. (2004 Idaho Queen, Katie Miller)

Workers At WesleyFest



Joshua Oakley, H.Q. Meghan Cantlon, Noah Hartley, Caleb Oakley ----- Michael Holman, Meghan, & Michael Tutor

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Classified Ad

For Sale: Out of Business Sale

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7 sets of gloves: \$3.00 each; hive tools: \$3.00 each; 3 smokers: \$5.00 each.

2 string tie veils: \$3.00 each; brushes: \$3.00 each; hot wax knife: \$5.00

hive brooders: \$5.00 each; hive supers: \$5.00 each.

1 pollen trap: \$15.00; 2 sugar syrup feeders: \$3.00 each.

If interested please contact Julie: wahein50@aol.com, or 512/746-5117