

# WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

## WCABA JANUARY, 2008 NEWSLETTER

[WWW.WCABA.ORG](http://WWW.WCABA.ORG)

(for meeting directions see website)

DATE: Tuesday, January 22, 2007  
TIME: 7:00 P.M.-Beekeeping 101; 7:45-Break; 8:00-Gen. Mtg/Program  
PLACE: Allen Baca Senior Ctr, 301W. Bagdad, (Cafeteria Dining Room), Round Rock  
PROGRAM: Dr. Clint Walker; "Selecting Breeding Stock for Queens"  
HOSTS: **Michael Holman, Janice Hartley**

### **PRESIDENT**

Elizabeth Exley  
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1st. V.P.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

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### **PROGRAM**

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3rd. V.P.

### **NEWSLETTER**

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### **HISTORIAN**

Vacant

Best wishes for a good year in your bee yard in 2008! So far, we're off to a dry year but hopefully spring rains will bring on good nectar flows for our bees. And we're hoping you are planning to attend most if not all our WCABA meetings.

Please remember that our meetings are scheduled for **4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays**. January, April, July, and September have five Tuesdays, so why not take time now to mark the following fourth Tuesdays on your calendar: Jan. 22, Feb. 26, Mar. 25, Apr. 22, May 27, June 24, July 22, Aug. 26, Sept. 23, Oct. 28, Nov. 25. (No meeting in December.)

Clint Walker is a very knowledgeable, articulate beekeeper, and we are most fortunate to have him as our speaker this month. He works closely with the researchers who are using their skills to develop queens resistant to the parasites and viruses that have caused many problems in the beekeeping industry lately. He has just returned from the Nation Beekeeping Conference in Sacramento, CA and he will be sharing with us some of the valuable things he learned there in addition to telling us how he raises his queens and what to expect from the bees we will be buying for Walker Apiaries in the spring. We look forward to a very informative program at this meeting and urge our members to make every effort to attend.

WCABA is privileged to be able to order queens and packages of bees from the Walker Apiary at a reasonable price. Clint gives us a discount because we do the "bookkeeping" for him and the bees will all be picked up at the same time and delivered to the Bost farm. We will have forms available at the meeting for anyone ready to order bees at about the same price as last year: 3# packages with a marked queen--\$70.00; queens--\$16.00, if marked, add \$1.00 or clipped, add \$1.00. Mary Bost will be ready to take your order at the meeting or you can mail your order to her at 4355 C.R. 110, Georgetown 78626. Please pay by check. A deadline has not been set; however, it probably will be the end of March. Clint said the date for getting the bees will probably be April 12 or by April 19.

Officers for 2008 will be President, Elizabeth Exley; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President (membership), Sally Tutor; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President (programs), Jimmie Oakley; 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President (newsletter

editor), Mary Bost; Secretary, Cherie Miller; Treasurer, Kenneth Miller. Also, agreeing to serve in appointed positions were Harold Kind, Librarian; David Kohn, Beginning Beekeepers Instruction Coordinator; Jimmie Oakley, Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost Memorial Scholarship Committee chair; and Bill Hein, Web Master. We thank these people for agreeing to serve. We still need someone to step forward to be Historian. Please tell one of the officers if you enjoy scrapbooking and will archive interesting information about WCABA and its members.

Our members who sent honey or gift baskets to the TBA Convention in November won a number of ribbons for their efforts. Matthew Kohn, 2007 Wolfe-Bost scholarship winner, was awarded the blue ribbon and best of show ribbon for his extra white honey. Jimmie Oakley won first place, amber honey; also second place for light amber honey. Caleb Oakley, a former scholarship winner, won second place for extra light amber honey and Mary Bost won third place. In the gift basket category, Kay Oakley won first place and second place was awarded to Caleb, Joshua, and Samuel Oakley.



The bed linen set, made and donated by Kay Oakley, brought a winning bid of \$350.00 at the Queen's Auction, and the place mat table sets that Kay had made brought \$110.00. The first place gift basket brought \$300.00, the second place gift basket sold for \$85.00 and the honey skep tea set with cozy donated by WCABA sold for \$150.00. Matthew Kohn's 1<sup>st</sup> Place & Best of Show honey was auctioned for \$250.00 per jar. The \$7,700.00 raised at the auction will be used to fund expenses of the Texas Honey Queen as she represents the beekeeping industry.

We are happy to welcome six new members to WCABA: Bob and Denise Benson, San Marcos; James Massaro Family, Kyle; Richard Red, Georgetown; Sherry and Anthony Mouse, Austin; James W. Allen, Austin (a Christmas gift from his wife, Dawn); and Ron Giles and wife Lisa McCormack, Bastrop.

Members who renewed at the meeting were Buddy and Cherie Miller, Russell and Sally Tutor & Family, Suzan Gibson, Kohn Family, Wilbur Brinkmeyer, Gayle and Skip Shaw, Elizabeth Exley, Dr. Juanita Duel, Jimmie and Kay Oakley, Mary Bost, and Doug Branch. Alma Konze and Travis and Maureen Lane have sent their renewals by mail since the meeting. Remember—dues for the calendar year 2008 are only \$10.00; membership includes spouse and children. We urge you to renew your membership by March in order to continue receiving the newsletter, being eligible to order bees through the club, being able to use the club extracting equipment, as well as hearing some good programs and visiting with other beekeepers.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Karin Cantlon and her family in the death of her mother recently. A card was sent from WCABA but I'm sure you will want to express your condolences when you see Karin and our Honey Queen Meghan at our meetings.

Sally Tutor sent me a website about honey that has some very interesting information. I have enjoyed perusing it and will probably use some excerpts from it occasionally. The website is <http://www.benefits-of-honey.com>. For instance, "For people who tend to overeat or feel discomfort in the stomach after meals, honey can be taken for better digestion." Also, "The latest theory based on the *hibernation diet* also

builds a link between honey and weight loss.” Take a generous spoonful or two at night, either as a warm drink or straight from the jar; it will help you sleep better and lose weight at the same time by “ fueling the liver, speeding up fat-burning metabolism and easing stress hormones.”

Door prizes at the November meeting were given by Suzan Gibson, Mary Bost, Kay Oakley, Clyde Anderson, Gayle Shaw, and Sally Tutor. Winners were Ed Holzapfeld, candied pecans; Gary Bible, coffee mug; Matt Kohn, pancake mix; Paul Exley, pecans; James Massaro, bee pen; Damaris Tutor, pecans; Russell Tutor, bee design towel/hot pad.

Much has been said and written about the *Varroa destructor* mite but more and more we are reading and hearing tales of woe concerning the Small Hive Beetle (SHB). It was with much interest that I read Grant F.C. Gillard’s article (Part 1 of Two Parts), “Everything I Never Wanted to Know About the Small Hive Beetle (and was definitely afraid to ask!).” Then an easier to read, more hopeful article, “*AJs Beetle Eater*”, was written by Susan Cobey, a University of California, Davis, member of the Harry Laidlaw Honey Bee Research Facility. Both articles are in the January ‘08 issue of the **American Bee Journal** and I heartily recommend that you read both articles as only small excerpts can be given here. I plan to have my copy at the meeting. You’re welcome to read it if you don’t subscribe to ABJ.

Gillard confesses that when he first started hearing about SHB he was “like an ostrich with my head buried in the sand. I didn’t have to worry” about this new-found problem that was being called an “exotic pest”. After his rude awakening and much trial and error, he says his plan for next (this) year is to “1) move all hives into full sun, 2) to install a variety of traps and lures to reduce the population of adult beetles, to 3) keep stresses and changes to the hive at a minimum, including a tight control on varroa mites, 4) to continue to increase the hygienic qualities and behaviors of my bees, requeening if necessary, and 5) to maintain my hygienic conditions in my honey house.”

Cobey describes a beetle trap, devised by Australian Tony Kennedy, which attracts the beetles to a warm dark environment, protected from the bees. The beetles take refuge and drown in the oil. “The ‘Beetle Eater’ consists of two pieces of black plastic that snap together. The top part of the trap is a slotted, comb-like lid that allows beetles to hide and also serves as a frame rest. The bottom part is a small trough filled with 3 ml. mineral or vegetable oil in which the beetles crawl in and suffocate. The trap is placed on the top bars of a colony, hanging between two frames of comb. The overhang of the top section prevents the trap from falling through the hive, and the trough fits easily in the space between frames.”

### **Honey Roasted Carrots**

3-4 bunches carrots, peeled    2 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil    2 Tbsp. honey    salt & black pepper to taste

Preheat the oven to 450 degrees F. Cut the carrots into thirds, crosswise on a sharp diagonal. Bring salted water to a boil in a large pot with a steamer basket. Let carrots steam until just tender, about 5 minutes. Drain and place in a bowl. Toss with the oil, honey, salt and pepper. Place carrots on a baking sheet in a single layer and bake for 25 minutes. Loosen them with a spatula. Remove to a serving bowl.

Bees

Queens

Honey

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