

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA APRIL, 2008 NEWSLETTER

WWW.WCABA.ORG

(for meeting directions see website)

DATE: Tuesday, April 22, 2008
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: Managing for Spring Buildup with discussion of problems & concerns
HOSTS: Gary Bible, Faith and Abigail Miller

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It was indeed exciting to be able to recognize our 2007 scholarship beekeepers (*see p.2*) by presenting them with their Certificate of Achievement granting full ownership of their hive and equipment and then to introduce our WCABA Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost scholarship winners for 2008. These four young people are **Caleb Jones**, Austin; **Jessica**

and Juliette Martin, Andice; and **Joseph Clarkson**, Burnet. We were happy to welcome them and their parents and assist them in constructing their hives. They will return with their painted hives and equipment on Saturday, April 19, to receive their bees and attend the orientation session.



Elizabeth – Juliette – Jessica – Caleb – Joseph – Maghan

Mr. Zan Matthies, the Williamson County Extension Agent, was to be our speaker this month with the intention of learning what help we can expect through the Extension Service as well as helping him understand what we need as beekeepers. He regrets that he will not be able to be with us because of his schedule, but he promises to come in May and give us of his time. We will have an alternate program of relative importance instead and look forward to his visit next month.

There was a good response from club members ordering packages of bees as well as queens this year. There were 58 orders for a total of 64 packages and 141 queens. The bees will be delivered to the Bost Farm (see the map on website for directions) and will be available between 10:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. Saturday, April 19. At 1:00 P.M., Jimmie Oakley will show the scholarship recipients, their parents, and anyone else who wishes to attend this orientation session, how to properly use their veils and equipment as well as how to install their package of bees in the new hive. A number of our new adult beekeeper members have found this session helpful; all are welcome to attend.

We were saddened to hear that long-time member, Doug Branch, lost his wife,

Suzanne, on April 8. We extend our deepest sympathy to Doug and their family and pray that God's love will surround and comfort them in their grief.

I have just received word of the passing of another of our long-time members: G. C. Walker passed away Saturday, April 12. A lifelong beekeeper, G.C. had helped many people get started in beekeeping (including Robert and me) and was always ready to assist them in learning good management techniques. He furnished supplies for our scholarship youngsters as long as his health permitted; he was a life member and a past president of TBA, also ABF, as well as a member of WCABA. We extend our sympathy to Beth and their family and pray that they, too, will feel God's comforting presence.

We appreciate Wilbur Brinkmeyer notifying us that Jim Guy, Jr. had quadruple by-pass heart surgery recently. He is now recuperating at home, and will be having cardio rehab. We wish Jim a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him back at WCABA meetings soon.

On a more exciting note, Wanda Hein writes me that she and her family welcomed Jerrell Timothy Hein to their family on March 20. He arrived at a robust 8 pounds, 15 ounces, is 21 inches long, and "doing a fantastic job learning to eat and sleep and his 6 brothers and 2 sisters are crazy about him." Wanda will have lots of help introducing to their hives the 6 queen bees she ordered, won't she.

Joel Jordan writes to thank us for our prayers for his mother, Deborah Jordan, and says she is responding well to treatments. He has some items for sale; his neighbor, Vera Smith, will be taking your inquiries. See his ad at the end of this newsletter.

We welcome Kathy Henderson of Georgetown and Paul and Cindy Jones of Austin as new members of WCABA. Members who renewed since last month are Jim Guy, Robert and Kara Lee Ruckriegel, Kent Knight, Greg Pekar, Lloyd Latham, Robert Saxelby, Wanda Hein, Mike McPherran, Royce Johnson, Dennis and Sandra Thompson, and Aisha Kessler. Also attending as guests were Kurt and Solomon Schroder of Coupland. Solomon is a future young beekeeper.

I apologize for omitting several names to our list of renewing members last month. G.C. and Beth Walker, Clint and Janice Walker, and Cherrie Smith had renewed their membership in the previous month.

2007 Scholarship Recipients Recognized with Certificate

Door prizes last month were donated by Frank and Barbara Hunt and Jimmie and Kay Oakley. The list of prize winners may be incomplete (I didn't have the registration book with me as numbers were called). Winners were Anthony Mouse, Joseph Clarkson, Frank Hunt, and Damaris Tutor.



Swarm calls are coming in. We need people who are willing to retrieve swarms to sign the list, give phone numbers where they can be reached, and the area they will serve. Also, we need to

complete the Host List. Please consider whether you can bring refreshments in June, August, or November. Jimmie and Kay Oakley bring “makings” for coffee or juice; members give to the “kitty” when we get refreshments to pay for the beverages and paper ware so hosts bring only “goodies” to eat.

A book written by Keith Delaplane revises and adds some very good illustrations and additional information to the book, *First Lessons in Beekeeping****, that has been a stand-by source of information for beekeepers for many years. I found some information that I found very interesting and had not seen elsewhere. Did you know that honey bees are a species of insects called *Apis mellifera*? Did you know that this species is further subdivided into at least 20 other subspecies or races? The most common are as follows:

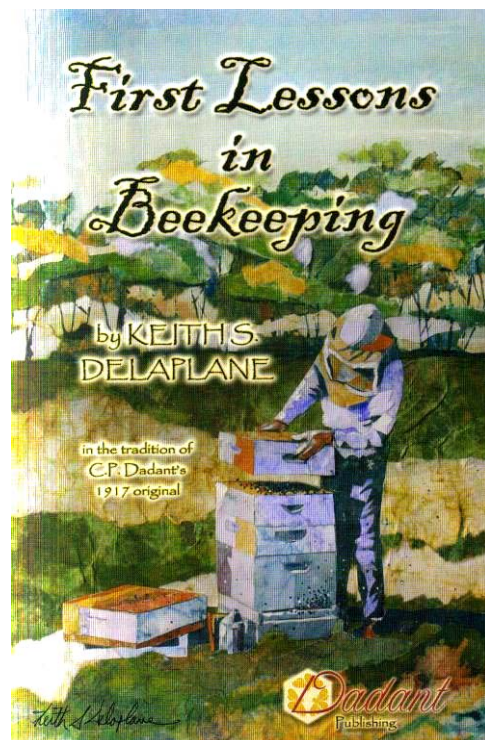
Apis mellifera mellifera—called the German black bee or north European bee, it is thought to be the first bee to come to North America where it was referred to by Native Americans as “the white man’s fly”. It flourished along the east coast and was the only honey bee in eastern North America until more rapid ship transit brought other bees. It tended to sting a lot and was prone to serious diseases like American foulbrood. By the late 20th century, this race of bees had almost vanished and when exotic parasites wiped out the remaining black bees, only a few remained in feral habitats.

Apis mellifera ligustica—referred to as Italian bees, this race is the most enduringly popular bee in America. It is relatively gentle and perhaps the most productive with colony populations and honey yields. Its color tends to lighter golds and browns. In late winter/early spring, the Italian bees tend to expand brood populations in excess of their food stores, and unless the beekeeper feeds them, the colony may die of starvation. Also, they seem to be more susceptible to pests and diseases.

Apis mellifera caucasica—native to the trans-Caucasus region between the Black and Caspian Seas, this subspecies was imported to North America beginning around 1882. It is grey/black and known as a gentle bee, but is not as productive as the Italians and tends to heavily coat the interior of the hives with propolis. Although this may cause some problems, it also can be of benefit: propolis possesses anti-microbial properties and also aids bees in defending against nest invaders such as exotic pests.

Apis mellifera carnica—native to east-central Europe, it is the darkest of the popular races, making it harder to find the queen while working a hive because she blends into the background of black bees working around her. They are thought to have some resistance to the parasitic varroa mite but they are also more conservative in using their food resources and expanding their brood nest in the Spring.

Russian bees—in a region of eastern Russia, honey bees and varroa mites had overlapped for a longer period of time, so USDA researchers reasoned that genetic resistance was most likely to be found where a natural resistance had occurred in surviving bees. These bees were predominately Carniolan. Introduced into the United States, they comprise a growing fraction of the commercial bee stocks where



they “display a measurable degree of varroa mite resistance while maintaining levels of productivity comparable to the Italians” while continuing with conservative spring buildup.

Apis mellifera scutellata—the so-called Africanized bee was introduced into tropical South America and migrated from Brazil northward until, in 1990, they reached the North American Southwest. Although they have spread from Texas westward and have now been found in Florida, they probably will remain in temperate latitudes. They are extremely defensive of their brood nests, stinging both humans and animals numerous times which makes them difficult to work.

Delaplane says, “Today, the western honey bee occurs on all continents except Antarctica. Its management is practiced by beekeepers at all levels, from garden hobbyists to commercial operators with tens of thousands of colonies. Honey retains its prestige as the most sublime of sweeteners....Beekeeping can be practiced anywhere gardening can be practiced, flowering plants occur, and a measure of isolation made possible from livestock, pets and human traffic.”

*****If there is enough interest in getting this new edition of 1st Lessons in Beekeeping the club will make up an order. The cost will only be \$10.00(includes shipping). Mrs.Bost will take you name and money.***

The recipe this month was featured in *Guideposts*, April '08 edition. It sounds easy and delicious and I plan to try it soon.

Oven-Baked Brisket

3 to 4 pound brisket	2 medium onions, sliced	1/3 cup honey	1/2 cup water
1/2 cup chili sauce	1/2 teaspoon garlic powder	pinch of salt and pepper	

Preheat oven to 325 degrees F. Place brisket in 3-quart roasting pan. Cover with sliced onions. Mix honey, water, chili sauce and garlic powder together. Pour mixture over meat. Cover roasting pan with its cover or with aluminum foil. Bake 3 to 3 1/2 hours until meat is easily pierced with fork. Strain sauce in a separate container and refrigerate both meat and sauce separately. The next day slice meat against the grain. Remove fat from top of sauce. Place sauce and meat back in roasting pan so meat will absorb flavors; heat thoroughly in oven. Makes 4 to 5 servings.

Classified advertisement:

For Sale: 1 extractor, \$50.00; 1 large & 1 small bee suit, \$50.00 each. If interested, call 512/244-2600
Mrs. Vera Smith for information Joel Jorden

For Sale: Beekeeper Tool Boxes like the one Frank Hunt won as a door prize, customized to your specifications. These boxes are 5-frame nuc boxes with screened entrance and specific places for tools. Also, I make beehives and observation boxes for sale.



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Beekeeper Tool Boxes

Bees

Queens

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Walker Apiaries

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