

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA JUNE, 2008 NEWSLETTER

WWW.WCABA.ORG

(for meeting directions see website)

DATE: Tuesday, June 24, 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: Beekeeping 101 @ 7PM: Integrated Pest Management - Suzan Gibson
Main Program: Extracting Honey w/ Club Equipment – Jimmie Oakley
HOSTS: **Wilbur Brinkman, Kathryn Clarkson**

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We were privileged to hear an excellent program last month presented by Zan Matthies, Williamson County's Texas AgriLife Extension Agent. He gave an overview of his office's work with not only farmers and ranchers but also others in the community who can use their expertise. Another important part of their educational outreach is the 4-H youth activities. Our sons were very involved in 4-H during their teen years; our eldest son, Robert and his partner were first place winners at State with their demonstration on spraying eggs for freshness; the next year Robert won first place with his public speaking speech, "The Time and a Half Farmer" for which he was awarded a wrist watch; then the following year sons Robert and Richard won first place at State with their demonstration on cutting up a turkey. Our youngest son, David, gave a demonstration on soil conservation. Needless to say, we felt they had received some very worthwhile learning experiences.



WCABA has been donating \$100.00 for several years to the 4-H essay contest regarding a specific phase of beekeeping. It has recently been announced that this year's national essay contest has been won by Jessica L. Tinker, a home schooled 11 year old from Houston, Texas. She competed against 18 other state winners. The topic was "The Importance of Honey Bee Pollination in My Community." Other Texans who had competed and placed 2nd and 3rd in the Texas contest were Nicole Pettibon, Collin County and Travis Cole, Bexar County. Besides recognition, winners receive a money prize. Jessica's essay will be printed in the next issue of the Texas Bee Journal.

We were very pleased when two of our scholarship recipients, Meghan Cantlon and Joel Jorden, won first and third prizes, respectively, with their essays several years ago.. If your child is interested in learning more about this activity, contact your county's

AgriLife Agent; the topic for this year's essay should be announced soon as the awards are announced in January. We have a number of youngsters in our organization who would be eligible to be in 4-H and we heartily recommend it as a worthwhile learning activity.

Our program this month will offer something for everyone. Beekeeping 101 at 7PM will be conducted by Suzan Gibson substituting for David Kohn and will cover natural beekeeping, using less chemicals; IPM. Following the business meeting Jimmie Oakley will bring a medium super of honey and with the help of the scholarship recipients demonstrate how to use our club's extracting equipment to bring in the crop. If you are new to our club this will be an important meeting, because you will learn what equipment we have, how to use it, and hopefully even get to try your hand at extracting a little.

The TBA Summer Clinic and Delegates Meeting announced at the last meeting took place in Paris, Texas and was attended by Jimmie and Kay Oakley of Round Rock. There was a tour of Dadant's Bee Supply warehouse, and a Bar-B-Q lunch, followed by a beekeepers clinic at Johnson's Honey that featured sessions on basic equipment, hive inspection, honey extraction, requeening, and a live bee demonstration on powdered sugar dusting for Varroa mite control. It was attended by well over a hundred beekeepers.



Powdered Sugar Dusting for Mites

With so much interest shown by members wanting to buy a copy of Keith Delaplane's book, *First Lessons in Beekeeping*, ten more copies have been ordered and will be available for purchase at the meeting Tuesday evening. Five people listed their names as wanting to buy the book and will be given first chance; the rest will be available as long as they last. The books are \$10.00 each; if you write a check, please make it payable to WCABA.

We welcome the new members who joined WCABA at the last meeting. They are Van Harrison, Austin; Brad and Georganne Schuch, Round Rock; Bryan and Cindy Pruett, Georgetown; Jean Ellis, Georgetown; and John O'Banion, Georgetown. Also renewing membership, David Abeles and his daughter, Shalui, Austin. We're always glad to have visitors, and hope they will consider becoming members. Visitors last meeting were Paula Nemecek and children, Anna, Joe, and Faith; also Michael and Marion Yantly. (I'm sorry, no addresses for guests were listed.)

With gas prices causing us to think twice about driving our cars, have you considered carpooling to our WCABA meetings? If you're not sure who lives near you but would like to share rides, I'll have the membership roster with me (as will Sally Tutor at the registration table) and you can check phone numbers and e-mail addresses to contact them. Or you can e-mail me (bostbees@juno.com) and I'll send you the information.

Don't forget to sign up to use the club extracting equipment. As soon as you know that your supers are ready to extract, call me or e-mail me with your preferred date and have a second choice ready just in case

someone else has already requested the date you want. You are asked to pick it up from the Bost honey house and return it, clean and all pieces accounted for, in 3 days. If there should be a problem and you need it longer, call to see if the extended time you need would interfere with someone else needing it.

Door prizes last month were donated by Christophe Vain, Frank and Barbara Hunt, Clyde Anderson, and Jimmie Oakley. Winners were Michael Tutor, CD holder; Sally Tutor, bee skep bird house; Samuel Oakley, beeswax lip balm; and Van Harrison, bee decal.

May and June are usually months when bees are most apt to swarm. If you are interested in retrieving swarms, you can register with your local AgriLife Extension Service, fire department or police department. I also keep a list of WCABA beekeepers who have signed up to retrieve swarms, and I usually ask the caller for his/her location as well as the location of the swarm, then I am able to give the caller the name(s) of someone in their area to call.

Keith Delaplane has a section on installing swarms in his book, *First Lessons in Beekeeping*, with some good suggestions. Before going to get a swarm, you should have ready the empty hive with frames (preferably drawn comb) and a full syrup feeder; protective clothing for yourself; a ladder, water spray bottle, bee brush, pruning shears, and “a plastic 5-gallon bucket with tight-fitting lid. (Editor’s note: we always took a cardboard box that could be tightly closed.)

“The simplest retrieval is to engulf a hanging swarm inside a plastic bucket, then give the branch a sharp, decisive shake to dislodge bees into the bucket. Cover the bucket with screen and you’re ready to go home,” writes Delaplane. If the swarm is not hanging in a convenient ball but is spread across some surface, he suggests misting the swarm with water and brushing the bees into the bucket. Sometimes, you can even take the empty hive to the swarm, position the hive entrance next to or even touching the swarm, and the bees likely will enter it on their own. If you have captured the bees in a bucket, he suggests pouring the bees onto the ground in front of the hive and the bees will enter it on their own. Robert and I usually poured the bees from the container onto the frames (which we had baited with streams of honey) and then put the almost empty container in front of the hive so the laggards would then join the rest of the swarm. One year we captured 26 swarms - a nice increase to our apiary.

A friend recently sent me a copy of an article in the June '08 issue of *National Geographic* magazine in which it stated, “As bacteria grow increasingly resistant to antibiotics, doctors around the world are discovering an old ally: honey...honey fights bacteria in wounds in several ways, including the steady production of hydrogen peroxide, an antiseptic. For several years hospitals in Asia and Europe have been using bandages infused with an unusually potent honey from the manuka trees of New Zealand, and now U.S. and Canadian institutions are following their lead.” We are hearing more and more about the health benefits of that “sweet medicine”, honey. It’s not just for allergies any more.

Do you know of anyone who would like to sell a working bee hive? One of our newer members would like to buy a hive. Please contact me and I’ll try to get you together.

Grilled Chicken – Christy Oakley, '93 Texas Honey Queen

1 cut up fryer ¼ c. honey ¼ c. soy sauce ¼ orange juice 2 T lemon juice ¼ tsp pepper

Wash and drain fryer pieces. Combine honey, soy sauce, orange juice, lemon juice, and pepper, mixing thoroughly. Pour over chicken and marinate 4 hours in the refrigerator, turning occasionally. Remove chicken from marinade and place on barbecue grill about 6 inches above glowing coals. Cook until tender, turning and basting occasionally. (Sounds like a good recipe for July 4th celebrations. Ed.)

Bees

Queens

Honey

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