

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA June, 2009 NEWSLETTER

WWW.WCABA.ORG

(for meeting directions see website)

DATE: Tuesday, June 23, 2009
TIME: 7:00 P.M.—Beekeeping 101; 8:00--Program
PLACE: Allen Baca Senior Ctr, 301W. Bagdad, (Cafeteria Dining Room), Round Rock
PROGRAM: Extracting Honey Using the Club's Equipment.
HOSTS: **Ana & Chat Lerma, Wilbur Brinkmeyer**

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NEWSLETTER

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Did you get your questions about beekeeping answered at the last meeting? Do you have more you'd like to ask? Coming to the WCABA meeting is the best way to get answers, if not from the programs then perhaps from one of the more experienced beekeepers. Another good opportunity to learn more and enjoy the \$12.00 (adults) BBQ lunch will be at the Summer Clinic on June 20 (*note that a change in the price structure has been made from previous years in that the cost of the meal (same meal as for adults) is reduced to only \$7.50 for all youngsters 18 and under to encourage families to come and bring the kids*). One of our new members has told me that she has already sent in their R.S.V.P. to edward_p@sbcglobal.net. If you failed to get the announcement and would like the information about the clinic's program and location, contact me ASAP and I'll mail or email you a copy. You need to let Edward Priest know by the 18th if you can attend.

The program we choose this month is always a crowd pleaser, because we will be reaping the fruits of the beekeepers labor by extracting honey. With so many new members in our club, it may be just the right time to cover this important subject. As always during the spring of the year we set aside a meeting where we devote our time to review the process of extracting (outline provided), get familiar with all of the equipment, and for a few lucky souls, we will spin out a frame or two of fresh honey. We especially want all of the scholarship recipients and the "newbees" to have a turn at the crack to get a feel of what it will be like. If you haven't done this before, it is a must see (and must do) meeting. And everyone gets a taste.



We are pleased to announce that our membership unanimously voted to designate a stipend of \$250.00 and our members generously donated \$190.25 more to Nathan Exley, a 2006 Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost scholarship recipient who promoted the cause of bees and beekeeping with his Expository Speech at the national convention in South Carolina this month. We look forward to hearing his speech at the meeting Tuesday evening.



We are delighted that each month new members have joined WCABA. We welcome Keith Wilhelm, Austin; Wally Red, Georgetown; David Weinthal, Georgetown; and Dr. Mike and Melody Slaughter, Round Rock. Also, Michael and Mary Jane McPherran, Lampasas, renewed for 2 years; and I apologize to Anthony Mouse, Austin, for not listing his renewal last month. Guests who attended last month were John and Susan Philpott, Brian and Jeannette Cox, and Tom Johnson. We hope they will come again and will join WCABA if they are interested in beekeeping.

Door prizes were donated last meeting by Elizabeth Exley, Chris Doggett, Wilbur Brinkmeyer, and Jimmie Oakley. The lucky winners were Rachel Clarkson, Luke Exley, Tyler Rutherford, Brian Cox, and Richard Red.

The Indian Blankets, the wildflowers that makes such excellent honey here in Central Texas, are beginning to go to seed. If you would like to snip off some seed heads to dry and have ready for planting in the Fall, now is a good time to do that. Remember, you can put them in paper sacks to dry but don't put them in plastic bags: they would mold.

"I remember when I brought home my first three nucs. I couldn't wait to get started keeping bees. At the same time I was a little hesitant to work the bees on my own for the first time." Sound familiar? Did you feel the same way? The quotation comes from the heading of the article, "Beekeeping for Beginners: Helpful Hints for Working Your Hive", written by Kirsten Traynor with excellent photographs by Michael Traynor. This article appears in the June '09 issue of American Bee Journal magazine. If you don't have access to this magazine, perhaps you'd like to look at mine Tuesday evening. I will excerpt some of the hints but can't cover all of it and the photographs further explain the text. Perhaps I can add more of her suggestions in the next newsletter.

"It helps to be well prepared," Traynor says. Otherwise you can open a hive, get the bees disturbed, and then realize you've forgotten something crucial. (This happened to Robert and me one time: we forgot the smoker, were at a bee yard 60 miles from home, and paid the consequences. We never forgot it after that. Editor's note.)

Before heading out to the hive, assemble all our needed gear. Traynor suggests having a tool box or a five gallon bee bucket with a cloth organizer that slips over the bucket that can be bought at a large hardware store. Its pockets will hold your hive tools, bee brush, lighter or matches, extra smoker fuel, duct tape, pencil, permanent marker, gloves, notebook for record keeping and rubbing alcohol for removing propolis from your hands, hive tool or plastic gloves.

Another word of warning: be sure the temperature is above 50 degrees in order to avoid chilling the brood, avoid working in windy weather if possible, and threatening thunderstorms also cause the bees to be irritated if their hive is opened. Be sure you wear protective clothing (long sleeves, long pants with ankle area duct taped) and that your veil, if it's a tie-on, is well secured. The author suggests viewing a brief video at http://www.expertvillage.com/video/328_bee-veil.htm.

“You will need smoker fuel to keep your smoker churning out a steady stream of cool, white smoke. You can stuff your smoker with a wide variety of fuels from twine to wood shavings. Dry pine needles are particularly aromatic and burn extremely well. Like a fire, it takes a little practice. My husband and I usually start by lighting a half sheet of crumpled newspaper on the bottom of the smoker”, says Traynor. “A few squeezes to the bellows cause the newspaper to jump into flame. We then add a small handful of pine needles or wood shavings (available as bedding for small animals from pet stores). Keep puffing the bellows until your preferred smoker fuel starts smoldering, releasing large puffs of white smoke. Once you have the fuel smoking well, add more in stages until the smoker is filled almost to the top. Close the lid and puff out some smoke. Flames should not come out the front. You want a cool, white smoke, which doesn't feel warm against your bare hand. If it feels hot to you, the bees won't like it either and they'll probably let you know by stinging.”

Summer vegetables are coming in now, fresh and delicious. If you don't have your own garden, try to go to a Farmers Market near you where you will find a wonderful assortment: beans, tomatoes, squash, sweet corn, beets, onions and much more. Here's a squash recipe I thought you might enjoy.

HONEY ORANGE SQUASH

| | | |
|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2 cups <u>cooked</u> squash (yellow or zucchini) | ½ tsp. sea salt | 2 Tbsp. honey |
| Tbsp. melted butter or margarine | 1/3 to ½ cup butter or margarine | ½ cup finely chopped pecans |

Mash cooked squash. Add salt, honey, butter, and orange juice. Add more orange juice if mixture is too dry. Spoon into a buttered 1-quart casserole dish and top with chopped pecans. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes. Yield: 4 servings. From HONEY! A Sugarless Cookbook by Joe M. Parkhill

National Honey Board Meets in Texas, Promotes Honey

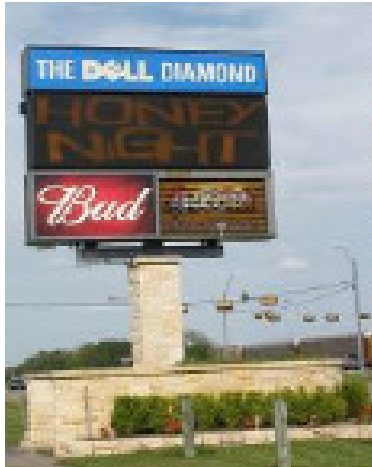
The National Honey Board (NHB) met in Austin, Texas, on April 23-24, 2009 at the Austin Courtyard Downtown Center for their Spring meeting. The meeting was open to the public.

As a side trip to the meeting in Austin, the Board enjoyed a night out as part of a national promotion, in support for Minor League Baseball, tying in the natural energy boost of honey with America's favorite summer pastime.

The ballpark of each of the five sponsored teams feature honey-related signage, honey and energy messaging on the electronic billboards, honey night activities, and between inning contests promoting the honey and energy message.

At every home game for each of the teams, they feature the National Honey Board's "Sweetest! Play of the Game," where announcers highlight an outstanding play made by one of the players.

On April 24th it was the Round Rock Express (north of Austin) that was the featured team. A fun time was had by all !!



The Dell Diamond



Outfield Signage Promotion



Stadium Promotion



CEO Bruce Boynton & Clint Walker



Clint Walker Gets the ball...



and throws out the First Pitch!

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