

# WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

## WCABA AUGUST, 2009 NEWSLETTER

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

(for meeting directions see website)

DATE: Tuesday, August 25, 2009  
TIME: 7:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.  
PLACE: Allen Baca Senior Ctr, 301W. Bagdad, (Cafeteria Dining Room), Round Rock  
PROGRAM: ICE CREAM SOCIAL – Extra: Bee Vacs & Silence of the Bees video.  
HOSTS: Laura and Lance Wilson, Jennifer Martin

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1st. V.P.

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### **NEWSLETTER**

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It was very reassuring to hear the two representatives of the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation, Michael Hester and Art Janke from Wharton, Texas, tell us that the program has met with much success and indications are

that the boll weevil should not be a factor in this area in the near future. It was also good to know that they want to cooperate with beekeepers that have bees in or near cotton fields by contacting them



prior to spraying pesticides. We appreciate the gentlemen coming so far to be on our program, and after the meeting acting President, Russell Tutor, presented each with some local area honey.

WCABA will hold our annual ice cream social this month—no formal program is planned; however, there's been quite a bit of cyber chatter about bee-vacs. This informal type meeting would be a great venue for our "vac-savvy" members to bring their bee vacs and discuss with interested members how they put them together and how they use the vacs.



**Examples of Bee Vacs: Randy Oakley of Manor TX & Cherie Miller of Marble Falls TX...bring yours to the meeting!!**

A good number of our members signed up last meeting to bring ice cream or toppings, so plan to come, eat a great treat, and enjoy talking bees, beekeeping, and extracting that delicious food given to us by one of God's smartest creatures, the honey bee. Our hosts will bring a dessert—cookies, etc.—to accompany the ice cream.

Please mark these upcoming events on your calendar: **Texas State Fair**--September 27-October 17; **Wesley Fest** in Georgetown—November 7-8 (scholarship fundraiser); **TBA Convention** in Tyler—November 12-15.

Looking ahead to our September meeting: this will be our Honey Tasting/Honey Judging time. The honey tasting contest is a fun event in which members are encouraged to bring a small jar (such as a baby food jar) of honey to be tasted. Each member is allowed to vote three times for the honey you like best. Blue, red, and white ribbons are awarded to the top vote-getters. In the honey judging, members are invited to bring a two-pound queenline jar of honey to be judged. The honey is then sent to the State Fair in Dallas to be displayed in the TBA honey booth. More details on these events will be given in next month's newsletter but since most of us are already extracting honey, you probably would like to be reserving honey to enter.

Clint Walker sent an e-mail from Ray B. Powers, Jr. saying he would love to have bees placed on his farm near Elgin. His 144 acre farm is on Upper Elgin River Road and Wilbarger Creek crosses the property. If you are interested, call Ray Powers at 512.78756.3922 or 512.632.2000 or e-mail him at raypowers@austin.rr.com.

We had several visitors at the July meeting and some of them added their addresses but not an email address. We like to send a newsletter whenever possible to our visitors encouraging them to join WCABA, so adding an address makes this possible.

Visitors at the last meeting were Larry Quisenberry, Florence; George Hegedus; Layne, Rachel, and Kyle Muilman, Georgetown; Torri Cravey; Ed and Karen Eacritt, Copperas Cove; and Christophe Vain's parents from France, Daniel and Jean Pierre Vain. We are sorry to learn that Christophe is being transferred back to France soon. He has been an active member of WCABA. We shall miss you, Christophe, but we wish you well.

Door prizes were donated at the last meeting by Jennifer Youngblood, Kristin Youngblood, Leah Morie/Youngblood, Ana Lerma, Damaris Tutor, and Gayle- Suzanne Barron. The lucky winners were Jennifer Youngblood, Kristin Youngblood, Blake Roberts, Gary Bible, Matthew Kohn, Shirley Doggett, Abigail Miller, and Vanessa Red.

Of special interest on my trip to Raleigh, North Carolina (besides getting to see my twin great-grandchildren) was a visit to the enormous Farmers Market and an interesting article in the Raleigh News & Observer regarding bees. The staff writer, Andrea Weigl, states, "Butterfly gardens are out. Pollinator gardens are in" and that honeybees are the most efficient pollinators. She quotes Debbie Roos, Chatham County extension agent, as saying, "All of us rely on pollinators. A third of our food relies on pollinators." Roos placed stickers on all the products that require pollination; not only food in the produce section but coffee and tea and even meat and dairy because animals have to graze, she said.

Roos has been encouraging the planting of pollinator gardens. The key to planting a pollinator garden is diversity; the greater diversity of plants, the more pollinators you will attract, she says. She includes herbs that pollinators love: oregano, thyme, bronze fennel, catmint. Flowers she mentioned were yellow coreopsis, gaillardia (Indian blanket), Joe Pye weed, anise hyssop, and rough-leaved goldenrod. For a more complete list (Note: some of these are more typical of the North Carolina area) go to Roos's web site. One site listed was [www.protectpollinators.org](http://www.protectpollinators.org).

Everyone has his/her own favorite ice cream recipe but I went to Joe M. Parkhill's honey cookbook that had several ice cream recipes. The one below sounded interesting to me.

## HONEY STRAWBERRY ICE CREAM

4 eggs	2 cups (13 oz.) undiluted evaporated milk
2 ¼ cups <b>honey</b>	1 tsp. salt (optional)
4 cups milk	1 Tbs. vanilla
2 cups heavy cream	2 cups crushed strawberries

Beat eggs slightly; gradually add honey and mix well. Add milk, cream, evaporated milk, salt, and vanilla. Put in freezer. After 15 minutes, add crushed strawberries. Continue freezing until it is hard to stir. Should be ready to eat in 2-3 hours. Ice cream sweetened with honey does not become as firm as regular ice cream but has a much more delicious flavor and color. Makes one gallon.

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Classified Ad: September Nucs - \$95.00

5 frames of bees and brood in nuc box with mite resistant queen.

To reserve call Randy Oakley - Manor, Texas - 512/981-9215

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**Williamson Co. Area  
Beekeepers Association  
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