

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA APRIL, 2010 NEWSLETTER

WWW.WCABA.ORG

(for meeting directions, see website)

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DATE: Tuesday, April 27, 2010
TIME: 7:00 P.M.—Beekeeping 101; 8:00—Program - Swarms
PLACE: First United Methodist Church Georgetown (basement)
PROGRAM: Swarms – McCartney Taylor
HOSTS: Shelley Franklin, Lynn and Michael Neu

What an aura of excitement hovered over the Bost Farm Saturday as beekeepers, both young and older, novice and experienced, came to collect their packages of bees! The orientation session had a large group of interested novice beekeepers as well as the scholarship youths watching closely as Jimmie Oakley demonstrated the best way to start and use a smoker, how to use the veil, gloves, hive tool and brush, and then how to install a 3-pound package of bees and their queen in their new hive. (Bailey Franklin shakes bees)

It is certainly that time of the year; the swarm calls have started coming in. Have you signed up on the swarm retrieval list? What do you do? McCartney Taylor has volunteered to answer some of those questions as he presents this month's program on swarms.

It was very gratifying at the March meeting to award Certificates of Completion to our 2009 scholarship recipients as well as exciting to introduce our **2010 Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost Memorial scholarship winners: Angela Cox, Solomon Schroder, Bailey**

Franklin, Josiah Youngblood, and Rebekah Jones. Their mentors will be Jimmie Oakley, Caleb Oakley, Elizabeth Exley, Gary Bible, and Cindy Jones.



We were honored to have the **Texas Honey Queen, Allison Adams**, visiting our group and assisting with the presentations. Allison and former Texas and American Honey Queen, Rachel Seida, former TBA Honey Queen, Christy Oakley Cartier, and the Honey Queen chairperson, Mrs. Shirley Acevedo, worked with our WCABA Honey Queen, Rebekah Jones, in a training session that day, also.



WCABA Honey Queen Training Session

Our meeting in March set a WCABA record for attendance--110 people! Our club has also welcomed 26 new members since the first of the year. It's great to see so much interest being shown in bees. As more individuals realize the benefit to each of us from this fantastic little insect, the better chance we'll have in spreading hives around where the bees can better pollinate fruit and vegetables, thus insuring good harvests of healthful food.

Be sure to welcome our new members; be ready to share your beekeeping experiences with them and listen to their questions and concerns. They are Stan and Michele Chambers, Georgetown; Earbie and Melanie Matheny, Jarrell (Blake and Josh were scholarship recipients several years ago); John Ed Neimann, and John K. and Charlene Neimann, Florence; Janet Stuart, Georgetown; Cindy Derrick, Austin; Dean Hamilton, Georgetown; Bill Heisler, Marble Falls; Dan Hillsman, Austin; Tina Perez, Jarrell; Evan Riffie, Austin; Kurt and Lisa Schroder and Family, Coupland; and Chris Smith, Round Rock.

Members who have renewed the past two months are Bobby Hepner, Captain Albert Morgan, John and Susan Philpott, Jeann Schmidt, Evan Tuuk and Tuuk Family, Wilbur Brinkmeyer, Kristin Cothorn, Stephen Gardipee, Randy and Amy Oakley and Family, Thomas and Amanda Rutherford, Mikale Slaughter, Melanie Medrano and Family, and Phil Auldridge.

We are sorry to report the recent death of Rev. Orion Lewis, our oldest (90 years) and most distant member in Lenexa, Kansas. His sister, Mary Bost, reports that Orion had gone out to check on his bee hives just a few days before his death on April 11.

Swarming season has begun! We are already getting calls every day, and have been giving the callers 3 or 4 names in their area to call. It's necessary that anyone going to retrieve a swarm has directions to the swarm location and an idea of what preparations need to be made in order to capture the swarm. If you would like your name to be on the swarm list, be sure to contact Mary Bost at the meeting so she will have your phone number(s) and areas you will work.

If you need to buy a queen (for splitting a hive or for requeening an established hive), please email Mary at bostbees@gmail.com ASAP. You can pay for the queen at the meeting Tuesday evening, but that is the deadline for ordering. We already have an order in for 40 queens and since then have received payment for 20 more. Gary Bible is arranging for Avoyelles queens from Louisiana, a source that was used by a group of our members last year. The first group will be shipped to Gary Bible on May 10; he will be in touch with you who ordered queens as soon as he receives them.

It is surprising how many people are using raw local honey to combat allergies. One lady said today that her allergies had almost cleared up after eating honey every day for the past two weeks. Another person said they put honey in their tea and on cereal to combat their allergies. And did you know that honey will help clear up allergies in pets? A friend has a 14-year old Persian cat that had allergies so bad it had scratched until it had bloody spots. Two days after she started putting honey on the cat's food, the cat stopped scratching and soon its hair became smooth and it no longer scratched itself. And it loved the honey.

Thank you for sending me articles about bees. I'll share them in the newsletter as often as I can. A retired chemistry professor recently handed me an article about colony collapse disorder that appeared in a recent publication, Science. This article pointed out that "extensive colony losses are not unusual and have occurred repeatedly over many centuries and locations; however, concern for honey bees in the U.S. has been magnified by the vital role of honey bees in agriculture. The almond industry alone, which is worth \$2 billion annually, relies on 2 million honey bee hives for cross pollination.

"CCD has stimulated a flurry of explanations, ranging from mobile phones and genetically modified crops, which have been dismissed by scientists, to pests and diseases, environmental and economic factors, and pesticides, which have received more serious consideration and stimulated much research," state authors Ratnieks and Carreck. They then point to other factors such as the *Varroa destructor* mite, the *Kashmir bee virus*, and the gut parasite *Nosema ceranae* as pathogens affecting honey bee health.

The U.S. Colony Collapse Disorder Steering Committee suggests that CCD may be caused by many agents in combination—the interaction between known pests and pathogens, poor weather conditions that diminish foraging, lack of forage, and management factors such as the use of pesticides and stress caused by long-distance transport of hives to nectar sources or pollination locations. The article concludes, "Given the importance of the honey bee to mankind, the progress made in understanding CCD and colony losses in general is encouraging. But further research on honey bee health and well-being is needed."

There has been some lush, green or red cabbages at the local Farmers Markets this month, so here is a delicious-sounding recipe to make good use of this fresh vegetable, taken from the Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Honey Queen and Honey Princess brochure:

HONEY COLE SLAW

½ tsp. salt	1 Tbs. Honey	1 tsp. vinegar	2 tsp. mustard	1 cup mayonnaise
4 Tbs. half and half	1 tsp. celery seed		4 cups grated cabbage or pkg. of prepared slaw	

Mix all of the dressing ingredients in small bowl. Pour over shredded cabbage and gently toss until well coated.

***** CLASSIFIED ADS*****

Want to Buy: Nuc or active hive. Also, used empty bee hives if in good repair. Call me
Robert Dickhout 254.793.9959 Florence, Texas

Honey Queen Report:

Dear Fellow Beekeepers and Friends, Spring has got to be the most beautiful time of year. All of the flowers are blooming and the bees are all very busy doing their jobs and enjoying the lovely weather. I recently had the opportunity to do a school presentation for the Dripping Springs Homeschool group and I'd like to tell you a bit about that experience. This being the first presentation I had ever done, you can imagine how nervous I was. What made it more difficult was the fact that I was going to be doing four presentations on my first day. I survived, thank goodness and feel all the more confident in being a honey queen. I talked to kids from kindergarten to eighth grade and had a marvelous time. Everything went very smooth and the kids were great! They had lots of questions and were very excited about bees and beekeeping. Thank you all for your support. I wouldn't be who I am without you.

Yours Truly,
Queen Rebekah



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