

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA JANUARY 2012 NEWSLETTER

www.wcaba.org

DATE: Tuesday, January 24, 2012
TIME: 7:00 PM- Beekeeping 101 8:00 PM-Program
PLACE: First United Methodist Church Georgetown (basement)
PROGRAM: Encaustic Painting: Carolyn Todd-Texas Wax, Austin Chapter
HOSTS: Karen Eacrett, Kay Oakley, Randy Oakley

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We hope you had a very enjoyable holiday season, have benefited from the showers of rain, and are looking forward eagerly to the Spring season and working toward having a successful year with your bees. For those who have ordered packages of bees/queen bees, or equipment, we trust you have two dates in mind: **March 25th** or **28th**, pick up any equipment you ordered, and **April 14th**, bees arrive at the Bost Farm. If you need further information regarding ordering bees or equipment, please refer to the archived November newsletter on our website.

Another date to remember is **February 10**. Applications to be considered for the Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost Memorial Scholarship should be mailed before that date to our WCABA address, 4355 CR 110, Georgetown, TX 78626. School-age boys or girls who are truly interested in learning about beekeeping and who are accepted for one of these scholarships will be notified before the **February 28th** meeting at which time they will be invited to attend the monthly meeting with a parent for interviews, and to the **March 27th** meeting to receive the necessary beekeeping equipment. Mentors will assist the awarded recipients in constructing their hives that evening. They will then take their hives home, paint them and have them ready to receive their bees on April 14. The parents and youths who are interested in applying should also attend all the meetings, beginning this month, to learn as much as possible before receiving their bees.

“The World of the Bee” is the topic for our Beekeeping 101 session at 7:00., according to Chris Doggett who will present, and it will be about the life and times of the honey bee, the way they behave, the structure of the colony, and the various functions of the worker bees. Our members are finding these sessions to be interesting and informative.

After a break for snacks and a brief business session, Carolyn Todd of Texas Wax, Austin Chapter, will give a PowerPoint presentation and a demonstration of the ancient art of encaustic painting. Encaustic painting dates way back to prehistoric cliff and wall paintings and it has been an exciting medium for contemporary painters including Jasper Johns and Diego Rivera. Ms. Todd would appreciate the opportunity to set up some kind of network for obtaining bees wax for their Chapter’s future use.

Since the allotment of 200 packages of honey bees was not filled by the deadline of our November meeting, we are still accepting orders for bees, including adding to the number already ordered. The total to date is 174, which doesn't leave much leeway for ordering. We encourage you to send in your order if you have not yet ordered, or to send in a request to add to the number of packages you have ordered if you need more; the requests will be considered as long as possible. We want to allow members joining WCABA this month or in February to have the opportunity to start a beehive, but we also hope to fill our allotment in order to maintain the ability to order that number or more next year. Don't delay: send your order today to WCABA at 4355 CR 110, Georgetown, TX 78626. (See attached order form p.4)

We note with sorrow the passing of Gary Bible's father Jack Bible at the end of December after an extended illness. Several WCABA members attended the family visitation at the funeral home and the attendance at the service the next day was over whelming with his past co-workers, church members, relatives, square dancers, beekeepers, friends from the Cedar Park, Leander and Liberty Hill communities. WCABA sent flowers and many members sent sympathy cards.

We continue receiving applications for membership in WCABA. We welcome these new members who have joined in the past two months: Justin Belt, Milano; Barbara Coleman, Kempner; Rick Cuzzort, Taylor; Jesse Phillips, Elgin; Dwain Scheihing, Leander; Don Schwertner, Jarrell; Jeff Thompson, Killeen; Randy Wieland, Georgetown; Josh Melle, Round Rock; Wayne Hayes, Austin; and Phil Ainslie, Belton.

Due to many of our members renewing their membership for 2012 when they ordered bees, we shouldn't have a long line waiting to renew next Tuesday; however, we urge those of you who haven't paid your \$10.00 dues for 2012 to do so ASAP. Remember, our dues are for the calendar year, January through November. (See attached membership form p.6)

Door prizes at the last meeting were donated by Chris Doggett, Mann Lake, Wende family, and Dean Hamilton. Lucky winners were Lesli Tucker, Ethan Brocamontez, Isaiah Perusek, Benny Paul Mark Gundy, Yochana Mark Gundy, John Neimann, and David Jones.

The Alamo Area Beekeepers Association's recent newsletter had an article that would be of interest to our youths who are Boy Scouts as well as adults who have an interest in Boy Scout activities. It states that "the Boy Scouts of America needs data about reinstating the beekeeping merit badge. They need volunteers to be beekeeping counselors, and for beekeepers to write in to their website." Anyone can send an email supporting reinstatement of the merit badge; address it to merit.badge@scouting.org and write "Honey Bees" in the subject line.

Also supporters can go to www.beesource.com where four different documents are offered for use in support of reinstatement: (1) A general resolution that beekeeping clubs are being urged to pass and forward to the BSA; (2) A general petition form that can be circulated for collection of signatures of people who support reinstatement; (3) A petition being circulated among Scouts and Scout troops; and (4) A document as a form letter for use by beekeepers offering to serve as mentors of Scouts who will be seeking the merit badge.

The AABA newsletter also had some up-to-date information regarding Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), the bee problem about which research scientists have been trying to identify and determine the cause for some months. Now, a team of scientists in California believe they've found the organism that's bringing the parasites into the hives: a species of parasitic fly, *Apocephalus borealis*.

Their research paper, "A New Threat to Honey Bees, the Parasitic Phorid Fly *Apocephalus borealis*", was published by the Public Library of Science's online journal PLoS One and can be accessed at www.plosone.org, according to the writer, Tom Bower.

WCABA Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Tuesday, November 22, 2011

1) Beekeeping 101 Class – Chris Doggett

- Shows a slide from the TBA Convention
- Tips for keeping bees during winter; basic beekeeping supply list.

2) Business Meeting – Gary Bible and Jimmie Oakley

A: Treasurer's Report - \$9,490.00 for balance

B. Attendance – 85; 2 new families introduced

C: Door Prizes – 7 awarded

D: Date for Next Meeting – Tuesday, January 24, 2012

E: Other Business –

- 150 orders have been taken for honeybee orders so far. WCABA is extending honeybee orders beyond tonight; you must be a 2012 WCABA member to order bees through club.
- WCABA November Newsletter has information on group equipment ordering. It will save shipping cost if you order with the club. Pick up your order at the Bost Farm on Saturday, March 24 or Tuesday, March 27 at the club meeting. Any equipment that is not picked up either day will be donated to the club.
- Pollen Supplement is for sale tonight for \$1.50 per pound.
- WCABA Executive Board has voted to give Texas Honey Princess Rebekah Jones, a \$200.00 donation for her expenses.

3) WCABA Hive Tool Award – Gary Bible awarded a hive tool to each of the officers and other members who accepted responsibilities in the club during his tenure as WCABA president. Also, to Stephen Gardipee, president-elect for 2012.

Mary Bost and Jimmie Oakley give **Appreciation Award to Gary Bible** for being **WCABA President 2010 & 2011** during time of record growth of club and for Group Order Equipment Fetcher and Coordinator

4) WCABA 2012 Slate of Officers – Gary Bible and Jimmie Oakley

- Stephen Gardipee – President 2012
- Sherry Youngblood – 1st V. President (Membership)
- Jimmie Oakley – 2nd V. President (Program Chair)
- Mary Bost – 3rd V. President (Newsletter Editor)
- Reagan Rozales – Secretary 2012
- Kenneth Miller – Treasurer
- Shirley Doggett – Historian 2012
- Susan Philpott – Librarian 2012
- Hem Ramachandran – Webmaster
- Chris Doggett – Beekeeping 101 Instructor

5) Announcement from Texas Honey Princess – Rebekah Jones

- Talks about recent events.
- Announces her crowning of Texas Honey Princess for 2012 at TBA Convention and thanks WCABA for their support.

6) Report on Wesley Fest – Jimmie Oakley

- Gross Receipts: \$854.00; Cost of Honey: \$400.00; Donations: \$25.00; Net Proceeds: \$479.00.
- Robert Bost's cousin made a donation to Mary Bost for WCABA scholarships in honor of her 90th birthday for \$900.00
- WCABA is the 3rd largest bee club in the state of Texas and we have no one serving as a state director. Jimmie encourages older, active club members to run for director as positions open up.
- Scholarship applications are being accepted for 2012. 11 applications were submitted in 2011, only 5 were chosen.

7) WCABA Scholarship Reports -- Jimmie Oakley

Abishai Mark Gundy – Manor, Texas

- Used to be scared of bees.
- Talks about how the hive is dependent on their queen.
- Used his powdered sugar to help with honeybee mites.
- Didn't get any honey this year, plans to get some next year.

- His mentor was Randy Oakley.

Joseph Nemecek – Taylor, Texas

- First time to see a beehive in person.
- Learned how to light smoker and wear his bee veil at Bost Farm.
- Had the most fun smoking his bees.
- His mentor was Wilbur Brinkmeyer.
- Didn't make any honey this year, plans to get some next year.

Isaiah Perusek – Copperas Cove, Texas

- His mentor was Ed & Karen Eacrett.
- He got to gather honey from his mother's hive with help from Mr. Eacrett.
- During the summer he had gotten wax moths and beetle larva.
- He plans to make honey again next year.

Leslie Tucker – Belton, Texas

- Mentor was Chris Doggett.
- Leslie and her mom like to name their honeybee queens.
- Had a good year for all the honeybee eggs and larva.
- Kept plenty of fresh water for her honeybees during the drought.
- Got to help Chris harvest some of his honey.
- Plans to make more honey next year.

Laura Lee Blackburn – Austin, Texas

- Her dad and sisters helped her learn the ropes of beekeeping because she had gotten sick during orientation.
- Had to keep fresh water by her hive because the lake was dried up.
- She learned how important bees are to the environment.
- Went to Wesley Fest to help sell honey for the scholarship fundraiser.

8) Meeting Adjourned – Stephen Gardipee, President; Reagan Rozales, Secretary

W.C.A.B.A. Club Package & Queen Order Form – 2012

Name _____

Address _____ **City** _____ **ST** _____

Phone () _____ **e-mail** _____

(please print clearly)

I want to order:

No. _____ **3# Package** w/marked MN. Hygienic Italian queen at \$64/Package
25% down books package order, balance before February 28, 2012.

No. _____ **Honey Bee Queen** at \$15.00 for MN. Hygienic Italians
\$1.50 additional for marking, advisable to do so, how many marked? No. _____
Full payment for queens when placing order.

How will you pay? **CASH** or Check # _____ **TOTAL \$ AMT.**

*Please make checks payable to **WCABA - Checks Preferred** **OF ORDER***

Mail remittance to: **WCABA Order, 4355 C.R. 110, Georgetown, TX 78626**

Package & Queen order deadline is the November 22nd WCABA meeting.

Special Instructions:

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Dues \$10.00 per year – single member or family



New Member / Renewing Member
(circle one)

Date: _____

Name: _____ Amount: \$ _____
Cash/Check # _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

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