

Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association

NEXT MEETING:
TUESDAY March 24th
7:00-9:00 Program
On-Line Meeting only

March 24th Meeting - On-Line only

2020 Club Officers:

PRESIDENT: Phil Ainslie
254-718-3255
beeuser46@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT:
Shannon Montez
shannon.montez@yahoo.com

MEMBERSHIP: Shirley Doggett
co chairs: Fred & Cecilia Richter
512-924-5051
sdoggett@mindspring.com

PROGRAM: Linda Russell
lrussell6083@yahoo.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:
Chris Doggett
512-914-2794
ckdoggett@gmail.com

SECRETARY: Gillian Mattinson
512-961-9955
gillmatties@gmail.com

TREASURER: Barbi Rose
512-799-0616
barbirose@yahoo.com

HISTORIAN: Matt Ludlum
601-454-9966
matt.ludlum@gmail.com

PAST PRESIDENT: Jim Colbert
512-863-7183
colbertj@hotmail.com

LIBRARIAN: Barbi Rose
512-799-0616
barbirose@yahoo.com

REFRESHMENTS:
Provided by Red Poppy Coffee
Lisa Hoekstra

SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR:
Jimmie Oakley
512-507-3009
jimmie.oakley@gmail.com

QUEEN CHAIR:
Ginny Stubblefield
512-636-6813
ginny@options2sell.com

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we are going to have our March member meeting virtually at 7 pm March 24 via "Zoom" meeting software.

This will allow up to 100 WCABA members to listen in and watch our Beekeeping 101 session as well as conducting a Q&A.

You do not need to sign up for an account to join the meeting - just a device and internet connection are required.

If you are you planning to join from an iPhone or iPad, be sure to download this application first: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/zoom-cloud-meetings/id546505307>

We look forward to seeing you Tuesday night @ 7PM!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/899500751>

Meeting ID: 899 500 751

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,899500751# US (Houston)

If you need to manually dial in,

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 899 500 751

Meetings in future months will be advised, as we ensure the health and safety of all our members

Research Pearls & Other Interesting Pearls

from Phil Ainslie, President

Pesticides impair baby bee brain development

Imperial College London researchers used micro-CT scanning technology to reveal how specific parts of bumblebee brains grew abnormally when exposed to pesticides during their larval phase. This study shows that baby bees can also feel the effects of the contaminated food brought back to the colony, making them poorer at performing tasks later in life.

“These findings reveal how colonies can be impacted by pesticides weeks after exposure, as their young grow into adults that may not be able to forage for food properly. Our work highlights the need for guidelines on pesticide usage to consider this route of exposure.”

Honeybee dance dialects

After more than 70 years, a great mystery of zoology has been solved: Honeybees actually use different dance dialects in their waggle dance. Which dialect has developed during evolution is related to the radius of action in which they collect food around the hive.

That honey bees might have dance dialects was first proposed in the 1940s by Nobel laureate Karl von Frisch and his student Martin Lindauer. Later experiments, however, raised doubts about the existence of the dialects. The new results now prove that Frisch and Lindauer were right. The two pioneers of behavioral research were also right with their explanation why the dance dialects exist at all.

Part of the dance is the so-called waggle run, in which the bees energetically shake their abdomen. The direction of the waggle run on the honeycomb communicates the direction of the destination in relation to the position of the sun while the duration of the wagging indicates the distance. “As the distance of the food source from the nest increases, the duration of the wagging increases in a linear fashion,” explains JMU PhD student Patrick Kohl, first author of the publication. However, this increase is different for different bee species.

The scientists’ conclusion: The dance dialects of the bees are an excellent example of how complex behaviors can be tuned as an evolutionary adaptation to the environment.

This was shown in experiments carried out by the research team in southern India. Research teams from the Biocenter of Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg (JMU) in Bavaria, Germany, and the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) in Bangalore, India, in the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society B.

Bee sting

A bee sting in the vernacular means a sting of a bee, wasp or hornet. Some people may even call the bite of a horsefly a bee sting. It is important to differentiate a bee sting from an insect bite. It is also important to recognize that the venom or toxin of stinging insects is quite different. Therefore, the body’s reaction to a bee sting may differ significantly from one species to another. The most aggressive stinging insects are wasps and hornets.

A honeybee that is away from the hive foraging for nectar or pollen will rarely sting, except when stepped on or roughly handled. Honeybees will actively seek out and sting when they perceive the hive to be threatened, often being alerted to this by the release of attack pheromones.

Although it is widely believed that a worker honeybee can sting only once, this is a misconception: although the stinger is in fact barbed so that it lodges in the victim’s skin, tearing loose from the bee’s abdomen and leading to its death in minutes, this only happens if the victim is a mammal (or bird). The bee’s stinger evolved originally for inter-bee combat between members of different hives, and the barbs evolved later as an anti-mammal defense: a barbed stinger can still penetrate the chitinous plates of another bee’s exoskeleton and retract safely. Honeybees are the only hymenoptera with a barbed stinger.

The stinger’s injection of apitoxin into the victim is accompanied by the release of alarm pheromones, a process which is accelerated if the bee is fatally injured. Release of alarm pheromones near a hive or swarm may attract other bees to the location, where they will likewise exhibit defensive behaviors until there is no longer a threat (typically because the victim has either fled or been killed). These pheromones do not dissipate nor wash off quickly, and if their target enters water, bees will resume their attack as soon as the target leaves.

Australian bee sting vaccine trial holds promise against allergic reactions

Most people have probably been stung by a bee and while it can be painful, it's especially dangerous for those at risk of suffering a life-threatening allergic reaction. Australian researchers have successfully completed a human trial on a vaccine designed to eliminate the risk of a severe allergic reaction to European honeybee stings.

Australian researchers have successfully completed a human trial on a vaccine designed to eliminate the risk of a severe allergic reaction to European honeybee stings.

Flinders University and the Royal Adelaide Hospital included 27 adults with a history of allergic reactions to bee stings.

Message received by Phil Ainslie

Name: em

Email: em@bees.photo

Subject: Bee of the Day - Every day a new photo

Message: Hi ,

Being bee people, I thought you might enjoy site: <https://bees.photo>.

Every day a different photo is published - honeybees and natives, sometimes an odd pollinator thrown in as a bonus. This site is lots of fun. Maybe like those "quote of the day" or "word of the day" offerings.

No obligation of any kind. I just thought you might find it interesting and fun. You're welcome to share the link with whomever you think might enjoy. I've been given permission from the owner.

If you'd like to contact Steve personally, he may be reached at thebeeguy@bees.photo.

Best regards,

em

Picking Up Nucs and Queens at the Bost Farm

To paraphrase Dickens, “These are the best of times, these are the worst of times... The winter has been mild, we have had sufficient rain so far, flowers are blooming, nucs and queens have been ordered, and yet the only thing certain is “uncertainty”.

In light of current conditions (virus outbreak), we have obtained tentative pickup dates for both nucs and queens from our bee and queen producers.

The nuc pickup date is going to be Saturday, April 18th (a week later than last year) at the Bost Farm SE of Georgetown from 8AM to 3PM, or so. The queens will arrive about week later on Friday the 24th of April in the afternoon with additional pickup time on Saturday morning the 25th.

The 5-frame nucs will be coming from the production yard of Merrimack Valley Apiaries in Jennings, Louisiana. This year the drive team is headed up by John Hibbard (his new truck and his trailer) and will be filled out by experienced WCABA member drivers Phil Ainslie, and Jim Ray.

The team will leave Georgetown on Friday noon to make the approximate 730-mile round trip to pick up your order and deliver it back to the **Bost Farm (4355 C.R. 110, Georgetown TX 78626)** on Saturday early AM.

There will be a team to receive the product and hopefully screen all the entrances so the nucs will be closed up when you arrive in the morning for your pickup. This will make for easier transport of the nucs for the members, but the nucs may need to be opened as the day progresses to allow the bees to fly. Again, members are encouraged to adjust their schedule to be ready to pick up their purchased bees or queens when they arrive and get them installed sooner than later.

The queens (marked & clipped in wooden cages) will be picked up at B Weavers in Navasota on Friday morning the 24th and will be available as soon as Jimmie Oakley returns to the Bost Farm in the afternoon for those wanting to get them early. This year’s color mark should be BLUE.

We did face challenges last year with wet conditions, late arrival of the team from Louisiana, and members having to stand around while the nucs were prepared for pickup.

This year we face a new set of challenges, avoidance of large crowds, attention to antiviral protocol, and social distancing. Be prepared to observe necessary precautions to ensure individual safety and respect others space. Bring protective gear, such as bee veil and bee gloves.

Please take into consideration the volunteer help that has worked so hard to pick up and deliver these bees back to the Georgetown area, and make every effort to schedule your pickup in a timely manner to lighten the burden on all those working at the Bost Farm and also to ease the effect (stress) on the bees. If you need or desire a special pickup time, please contact Jimmie Oakley.

Last, but not least, please remember to bring your "**PICKUP VOUCHER**" as proof of purchase and because it is so helpful in our inventory control and delivery process.

In the Pickup Voucher Letter that I will email to each of you, I will try better to explain the time and date that relates to your purchase, but as always, feel free to call or email me if your do not understand and we will try to talk it through.



5-Frame Nuc in Wooden Box w/ feed jar

Regards, Jimmie Oakley - Order Coordinator
cell: 512/507-3009 or jimmie.oakley@gmail.com

What Next? – Order Equipment!!

Now that you have ordered the bees and got a delivery date you may wonder, What Next? If you don't already have beekeeping equipment maybe I can make some suggestions.

Below is the list of wood ware, beekeeping equipment, and protective gear that we have ordered for the recipients in our scholarship program over the past years as a minimum required to start beekeeping with your first package or nuc of bees.

Since the local beekeeping supply outlet (Busy Bee) is no longer in business there are some alternatives, but they all require ordering on-line or by phone and awaiting shipment.

Mann Lake (www.mannlakeltd.com) is a major manufacture of beekeeping supplies and there are two outlets in our area that I am familiar with. Mann Lake Ltd at 1600 Commerce St. Marshall, TX 75672 Ph.844/433-6033. If you go to their website it takes you to main office in Hackensack, MN, and an on-line catalog. You can place orders there also.

Texas Bee Supply also carries a Mann Lake product line and they may have already contacted you as a result of your past history with Busy Bee Supplies on Florence, Texas. The address for Texas Bee Supply is 4665 County Road 633, Blue Ridge, TX 75424. Ph. 469/500-1473.

For more information go to their website: www.texasbeesupply.com.

Dadant & Sons, Inc. have a managed outlet in Paris, Texas, but we haven't visited there in a while. The store location is at 1169 Bonham St in Paris, TX 75460. Their toll-free number is 877/632-3268. The company website is www.dadant.com where you can access an on-lone catalog.

I hope this information is encouraging and helpful. Allow yourself enough lead time to get your equipment, get it painted, and get ready to receive your bees...order now!

Thanks, Jimmie Oakley – Bee Procurement Coordinator

WCABA Beekeeping Equipment Suggested Order- 2020					
Pricing: Mann Lake Ltd. - Marshall, TX					
Qty	Unit	Item Number	Description	Price	Total Price
1	1	KD800	9 5/8" Deep Hive Body Commercial Grade (unassembled)	16.95	16.95
1	1	KD801	9 1/8" Grooved TB & Grooved BB Frame (unassembled) (case of 10)	14.50	14.50
1	1	FN710	8 1/2 x 16 1/4 Rite-Cell beeswax coated sheet (blk, case of 10)	16.95	16.95
1	5	WW365	Flat Wood Migratory Cover (assembled)	13.95	13.95
1	1	WW314	10 Frame Solid Bottom Board w/reducer (assembled)	18.95	18.95
1	1	FD100-WD	Boardman Entrence Feeder	4.20	4.20
1	1	HD120	10 Frame Metal Bound Queen Excluder	6.50	6.50
1	1	HD556	4"x7" Stainless Steel Smoker w/Guard & Wood Bellow	39.95	39.95
1	1	CL130	Plastic Helmet	10.95	10.95
1	1	CL100	Square Folding Veil w/elastic bottom	15.95	15.95
1	1	CL165	Cowhide Leather Gloves Economy - small or medium	19.95	19.95
1	1	HD660	Bee Brush	6.25	6.25
1	1	HD584	9" Standard Hive Tool	5.25	5.25
				Total Equip	190.30
1	1		5-Frame Nuc Bees W/ Queen		150.00
				Total w/ Bees	<u>\$340.30</u>

Wolf – Bost Scholarship Selections Made for 2020

The Ed Wolf – Robert Bost Memorial Scholarship Committee met on Tuesday March 10th at the Georgetown Library to evaluate the applications received from the candidates for the current year scholarships.

Seven committee members were present for deliberations with three submitting evaluations electronically to add scores for the matrix as we worked to achieve a conscience in the judging. Three new candidates applied for this year, and there was one candidate applying for a second time for acceptance. After evaluation, all four candidates were deemed acceptable and resources allowed all four to be granted a scholarship.

We regret that we will not have a club meeting at the Library in March because of health concerns but we do want to introduce you to these hopeful new beekeepers.

Taken alphabetically they are:

Emily Griffis, 13 years old from Granger, Texas, has a great desire to learn much more about bees, beekeeping, and products of the hive. She is homeschooled, has very supportive parents, and four siblings that will be learning as a result of her involvement in the program.

Aydon Guevara from Cameron, Texas, is 16 years old and has brothers and sisters in his family. He wants to learn first-hand and feels “hands on” is the best way. His family plan a large garden that will benefit from having bees around. He hopes to start a bee business.

Sterling Kinghorn does not discourage easily as has applied for the scholarship a second time successfully. He is 12 years old and lives in Round Rock but is moving to Florence soon. He has already mastered many of the skills for beekeeping from monitoring the scholarship program this past year, but he wants to learn and do more.

Garrett Rogers is 13 years old and lives in Temple and is in the 7th grade in middle school. He has beekeeping roots because his older brother was a scholarship recipient and his grandfather is a beekeeper too. He is ready to get started and has much support from his family.

We plan to meet at the Bost Farm at the appointed time in March in a small group and take care of distribution and assembly of beekeeping equipment in preparation to receive the bees for their hive in April. They will be keeping their hive and receiving instruction at the Heritage Garden in Georgetown.

Encourage these youngsters when you do get a chance to meet them.

Thanks, Jimmie Oakley – Scholarship Committee Chair



Emily Griffis



Aydon Guevara



Sterling Kinghorn



Garrett Rogers

Williamson County Area Beekeeping Association Meeting Summary - February 25th, 2020 meeting.

The meeting was opened by Phil Ainslie, President.

President's Announcements

Bee orders will take place in the room behind the partition.

Scholarship applications are in the room over the hallway. The successful applicants will be named at the next monthly meeting.

Volunteers are needed to assist with the unloading of the nucs, when they arrive. Anyone wishing to assist can provide their name to a board member or place your name on a sign up sheet which will also be available at the March meeting. It is wise to have a full suit and boots at your disposal, as the bees have known to be a little testy after their long journey !

Shout out for mentors....we are in desperate need !! However, we do have a monthly Bee Buzz....

For new members, and long time members, the Bee Buzz will be at Rudy's on IH35, the Sunday following the monthly meeting, from 2pm to 4 pm. A great chance for members to get together, chat about bees, get questions answered, share information or just listen. Very informal and on a "come and go" basis.

The monthly meetings are every 4th Tuesday of the month, with the exception of June. The June meeting will be on Thursday 25th. This is due to room availability.

Please check the WCABA website if you need to find a home for your bees. We have numerous requests from individuals to encourage beekeepers to use their land. Look under "Marketplace" for more details.

The website is also home to our library. This is a great resource you can use. The sign up instructions are on the website or you can ask our new librarian Chris Huck for assistance/books.

Central Texas Beekeeping School is on March 21st at Washington County Fair Ground - Brenham. The cost is \$65 for the first adult in the party, \$60 each for further adults, \$25 for students, and \$10 for children under 12 year old who attend workshops with an adult.

Texas Beekeepers Association has it's Summer Clinic on June 20th in Denton and the annual convention will be in November.

Please provide Shirley Doggett with your email address or update if you wish to receive the newsletter via email.

A quick and useful "show and tell" was provided by the President on how to make a pollen feeder.

Presentation - Beekeeping 101 - Presented by Jim Colbert -A lively presentation covering the basic knowledge of bees, which was enhanced by visuals once the gremlins were removed from the technology.

Beekeeping 102- Spring splits: How, Why, When ! presented by Johnnie Walker from Walker Honey, located in Rodgers, Texas. Johnnie Walker was featured in episode 1 of "Rotten"

Members Present:- 86

Door Prizes. - There were a total of 9 lucky door prize winners !

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday March 25th at the Georgetown Library.

UPDATED INFORMATION:- The Central Texas Beekeeping School has been cancelled, as has our March meeting.

See Front Page for details of March on-line meeting!

March Newsletter

from S S Brantley, Life Member Texas Beekeepers Association

April is the month when nectar is becoming readily available for bees to collect. Check the top bars of your hive to see if white wax is showing. Add at least one super to any hive with considerable white wax buildup on the top bars. If you do not have any drawn comb for your honey supers, you can get the bees to begin building wax on the plastic foundation faster by not installing a queen excluder right away. After the bees begin to draw the foundation, check carefully to locate the queen before installing the excluder. You do not want to trap her above the excluder. Check the super about five days later for the presence of eggs and larvae. If you find evidence that the queen is "upstairs" in the super, remove the excluder and smoke her back into the brood boxes. Pull off the excluder and set the super back on the hive. Smoke the super for one or two minutes and then wait another couple minutes for the smoke to move the queen down into the brood box. Reinstall the excluder and the super. Any eggs or brood in the super will hatch and the bees will use those cells to store honey.

April will also see an increase in swarms. Make a practice to look around your apiary upon arrival for swarms, high, low and even on the ground.

If you have ordered packages and have no experience installing them, I suggest that you check out some of the methods of installing packages before yours arrives. There are numerous tutorials and videos on the Internet covering the various techniques used to hive a new package.

Before your package arrives, select your hive location, prepare your hive to receive bees, and have liquid feed ready for use. When the package arrives, have a spray bottle ready to spray a light sugar/water solution on the bees. Place the package in a cool, dark place until later in the day. Installations in the evening (but before dark) tend to have less drifting of bees than those done in the middle of the day.

Make room for you to work in the brood box by removing five of the frames and laying them beside the hive body. Remove the queen cage from the shipping container (cover the hole to keep the bees confined) and suspend the queen cage from the top of a frame. Shake a double handful of bees on the area over the queen cage. Shake the rest of the bees into the area of hive where you removed the five frames. Get as many bees as possible out of the container before you place it on the ground at the hive entrance.

Replace the five removed frames. Because of the queen cage, you may not have room to get them all in place. You can add the last one after the queen cage is removed. Place the frames gently in the hive on top of the pile of bees on the bottom board. As the bees move out from under the frame, it will slowly settle in place on the frame rests. After all of the frames are settled, add the top cover and liquid feed in a Boardman feeder. Finally, install an entrance reducer. The entrance should be reduced to about a half inch to help protect the new colony.

In five days, check to see that the queen has been released from her cage. If so, remove the queen cage and add the tenth frame if you could not get it in before. Use the minimum amount smoke while doing this. Check the hive again in ten days to make sure the colony is settled and happy. Feed 2-to-1 sugar syrup until the bees have drawn at least eight frames of wax.

If you plan to make the hive a double brood, you can now add the second brood box. Continue to feed until the bees have drawn at least eight frames in the second box.

If the honey flow is still on, you could add a super and queen excluder. Do not continue to feed sugar syrup if you have supers on the hive because the bees will probably store it and you will end up with "sugar-water honey".

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



Dues: **\$20.00** per year - individual or **\$25.00** - family membership

New Member / Renewing Member

(circle one)

Date: _____

Name: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Cash or Check # _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: () _____ e-mail: _____

(please print)

To save postage cost may we send your Newsletter via e-mail? Yes[] No[]

Instructions: print , fill out, and bring to club meeting , or mail with check to Membership
Mrs. Shirley Doggett - 400 C. R. 440 - Thrall, TX 76578 - Ph.512/924-5051

Renewal of WCABA Memberships

**Shirley Doggett will be taking renewal of memberships for 2020
by email at sdoggett@mindspring.com**

\$20 for individual membership, \$25 for family membership

Use form above to save time

Visit our Website at:

www.wcaba.org

or email to:

info@wcaba.org

Texas Beekeepers Association

**Summer Clinic
6/20/20 in Denton**

**Annual Convention
5th - 7th November in Allen**

Two Articles on Beeswax

from Barbi Rose (WCABA Treasurer)

Beeswax!

Let's brighten up the COVID-19 quarantine downtime by doing some beeswax DIYs and refreshers.

The best place to start is with some beeswax facts.

- Beeswax is produced by worker bees
- It comes from glands in their abdomen
- The glands develop and are productive when the bees are 12 to 20 days old and atrophy as the bees age



These are two of my favorite pictures of emerging beeswax.



The scales are delicate, yet very strong.

- Beeswax is the structure and support for brood, pollen, and honey in the hive.
- A healthy bee can produce about 8 scales of wax in a 12-hour period
- It takes about 1,000 scales to make one gram of beeswax, which is less than a teaspoon in volume.
- A deep has about 1/3 pound of beeswax
- Bees need to consume at least 2 to 3 pounds of honey to make enough for that one deep

It takes a lot of resources and energy to produce beeswax!

Let's make something!

Lip Balm

It seems like everyone starts with a lip balm recipe. There is good reason for that. It can be made with two basic ingredients, it's a good way to become familiar with handling beeswax and combining with other ingredients, plus the result is practical and useful. This is my favorite basic recipe:



While the lip balm is cooling and hardening, here are some reasons why we want to use beeswax in our lip balm and the upcoming hand cream and VapoRub recipes.

- Beeswax creates a barrier that helps seal moisture into your skin
- It offers anti-inflammatory, antibacterial, and antiviral benefits
- It provides a protection against environmental irritants
- Beeswax has vitamin A, which helps improve hydration to the skin and promotes cell regeneration
- Beeswax allows your skin to breathe!

Beeswax is a very beneficial thickener for liquid oils.

Hand cream

This recipe starts with beeswax and includes aloe vera in addition to hand soothing oils.

* With all the hand washing and sanitizing, a good hand cream will keep your skin soft and able to heal from harsh chemicals *



Safety Tip!

Never melt beeswax directly on the stovetop. Always use a double-boiler (or bain-marie type setup) to melt beeswax on the stove. This can be an actual double-boiler of two stacking pans, or an improvised hot water bath using a bowl set on a trivet inside a pan of water heated on the stove.

Why is the double-boiler type setup so important?

- Beeswax melts evenly. Beeswax melted directly on the stovetop will likely have hot spots even if using a thick heat-distributing pan. (More later on hot spots.)
- Beeswax melts slowly. This will help prevent overheating (which causes beeswax to discolor) and bubbling.
- Beeswax remains below its flashpoint. Beeswax catches fire at 400 degrees Fahrenheit. Water boils at 212 degrees Fahrenheit, so it's difficult for the beeswax to exceed this temperature, and even more difficult for it to reach 400 degrees.
- Beeswax less likely to splash into flames. When using the hot water bath method, slightly splashed beeswax will end up in the water instead of the flames or heating element of the stove.

See the article [A Beeswax Clean-up Adventure](#).


~ Barbi Rose

A Beeswax Clean-up Adventure

I tell people to use a double-boiler type setup when melting beeswax on the stove. But, what if you want to melt just a small amount of beeswax. Is it really worth all the trouble? I decided to do a series of experiments to see what would happen when melting beeswax directly on the stove.

I used a sauce pan, several small chunks of beeswax left over from other projects (all together a little more than the size of a half stick of butter), and a low flame. It took a while for the pan to become hot, but once it did, the beeswax started melting quicker than expected. Once the edges become melty I moved the beeswax around and turned the pieces over in an attempt to melt it evenly. It became bubbly on the edges while there were still hard chunks in the mix. (This was startling because beeswax in a double-boiler doesn't bubble!) The beeswax started popping, so I reached to turn off the flame and "kaboom" the beeswax exploded. Fortunately, I was wearing heavy duty gloves and a long-sleeved shirt because I ended up with hot beeswax bits and splashes all over. It blew up onto the ceiling and most surfaces down to (and all over) the stove, plus there were splashes down the front of the stove and on the floor on both sides of me. There was very little left in the pan. What a mess! Seriously, do not ever do this.

The Clean-up

There is ceramic tile on the floor. After the beeswax splashes cooled and hardened it was easy to pull up from the tiles. I scraped them off with a retractable single-edge razor blade scraper, like this.  The volume of beeswax made it a tiring task. After cleaning with some hot soapy water, the tiles looked great. The grout was a different story. I ended up cleaning with hot water and stiff brush, but had to repeat several times.

The counters cleaned up similar to the tile. So far, so good.

The stove wasn't too hard to clean, either. I turned on the oven to make the stove warm (and soften the wax), heated water in the microwave, added several old homemade hand soap bars, and went to work wiping and rinsing.

With the horizontal surfaces finished, it was time to start on the cabinets, microwave, walls, and ceiling. Here are a few pictures that I thought to take.



I tried scraping like on the floor and tried wiping with hot soapy water, but neither was the answer. Thanks to several internet articles, I decided to try the hair dryer method.

Starting with the cabinets. I turned the hair dryer on hot and held it about 2 inches away from the beeswax. After about 15 seconds the beeswax became shiny, then after a few more seconds it became translucent.



A few swipes with a paper towel cleaned it right off! I could see a little left-over residue, so I zapped it with the hair dryer again and wiped it with a fresh paper towel. It's hard to see in these pictures because of the hair dryer shadow, but there is not a bit of beeswax left on that area of the cabinet.



From then on, I continued with the method of hair dryer heat and wiping the bulk with a used paper towel, then heating again and wiping with a different area of the above fresh paper towel. Within a few minutes, the first cabinet door and surrounding area was done. I was and am so excited about this method! Tip: Wear kitchen gloves to protect your hands from the heat and you can get a lot done in a short amount of time and discomfort.



The microwave took longer because of the nooks and crannies. I took the grill off to clean it over the sink. Ultimately, it cleaned up nicely, also. The smooth surfaces were a breeze. Next are the textured surfaces.



The wall is textured so it didn't clean as well as the others. It also didn't conduct the heat as well as the cabinets and microwave, so it took longer to melt the beeswax, plus required continuous heat while wiping. Afterward I cleaned it with soapy water because it didn't look completely clean. It's now clean, but it looks like the beeswax left a stain that I can't get off.



I have cottage cheese (popcorn?) ceilings in the kitchen. I knew the ceiling was going to be tricky, but what I didn't know was that the ceiling wasn't actually sealed. It was unbelievably porous. It had even less conduction than the wall. After several minutes the globs of beeswax melted and dripped down. I dabbed with a fresh paper towel, but it was still very stained. I gently wiped with hot soapy water, but the balls popped off and left dark spots. This is a picture after the area was heated and dabbed. The circled areas received several rounds of heat and wipe, plus some slight scrubbing with a soapy brush, and even a round of bleach water. It's decidedly lighter in those two areas, but I worked on it for longer than I'll admit and it still looks bad. It's time to replace the popcorn with regular wall texture, anyway. And paint!



Lesson learned! Never melt beeswax directly on the stovetop.

~ Barbi Rose

New Members

John and Rachel Perkins	Taylor.
Blair Family.	Georgetown.
Jeremy DeSpain.	Georgetown.
Benjamin Blackman.	Pflugerville.
Russ Burleson.	Cedar Park.
Manny Castro.	Round Rock.
Kristen Dalley	Dale.
John Frey.	Marble Falls.
Zachary Lyon and family.	Georgetown.
Gerald Ortiz.	Burnet.

Renewing Members

Daniel Simon.	Liberty Hill
Alice Shultz.	Georgetown
Trey Terrebonne.	Pflugerville
Mary Alice Herring.	Briggs
Wayne Baker.	Temple
Tom Cloninger.	Austin
Stephen Gardipee.	Belton
Lynn Gibson.	Burnet
Richard Hinds.	Austin
Larry Marshall.	Burnet
Randy Oakley and family.	Elm Mott
Courtney Ahranhotz.	Leander