

Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association

NEXT MEETING:
TUESDAY January 28th
7:00-9:00 Program
Georgetown Public Library

2019 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

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PAST PRESIDENT: Jim Colbert
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REFRESHMENTS:
Provided by Red Poppy Coffee
Lisa Hoekstra

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



Bost Farm - 2011... It Could Happen

Meeting Dates:

Tuesday January 28th
Tuesday February 25th
Tuesday March 24th

Meetings are held on the 4th
Tuesday of each month in the
Georgetown Public Library
408 W 8th Street,
Georgetown TX 78626
from 7pm to 9pm.

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

W.C.A.B.A. Club 5-Frame Nuc & Queen Order Form - 2020

Name _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ e-mail: _____

I want to order: ***Are you a current member? [] Yes!*** please print

No. _____ **5 Frame Nuc** (Based on group order of 100 nucs) **\$150.00/ Nuc.**
Nuc with three frames brood, mated queen, "NOT" marked or clipped.

No. _____ **Honey Bee Queen** (Based on group order of 100) **\$35.00/ Queen**
BeeWeaver marked & clipped Queen from mite tolerant and virus resistant stock.

How will you pay? CASH or Check # _____

TOTAL \$ AMT

Mail remittance to: _____ Check Preferred

OF ORDER

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WCABA Order/ Jimmie Oakley - 425 Sapphire Lane, Jarrell, TX 76537

Nuc order deadline: Must be postmarked by February 28, 2018, or while supplies last.

Limit 10 nucs per family. No individual resale or ownership transfer permitted on nucs once ordered.

All secondary transactions and scheduling must come through the club for tracking & delivery.

Special Instructions:

W.C.A.B.A. Offers Bees and Queens to Members in 2020

The Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association will be offering bees and queens to club members through our Bee Procurement Program again in 2020. The Executive Board voted to provide 5- frame nucs at the same prices as last year, and queen bees (marked and clipped) at a slight price increase.

The 5-frame nucs will come from Merrimack Valley Apiary's winter location on Louisiana and are advertised to consist of a "laying" queen that has already been accepted by the hive, 3 inner frames containing brood in all stages, 2 outer frames containing honey, pollen and adhering bees, delivered in a sturdy wooden nuc box with full entrance and a top feeding port. The queen will be an Italian/Carniola Mixed Hybrid (Aurea- Karnica) that should provide a hardy, productive colony that winters well.



5-Frame Nucs from Merrimack Valley Apiaries in Louisiana

The queen bees will come for B Weaver Apiaries in Navasota, Texas and are advertised as bred from a hybrid of bees chosen for their mite resistance, high honey production, and healthy population. These queens will be marked (green) and clipped for ease of finding and help in swarm control.

The Bee Procurement Program has been a benefit provided to the membership for at least 20+ years and has become a hallmark of service of our club. The program has drawn many new members to our ranks because of the attractive pricing and the assurance of obtaining bees in an ever tightening and competitive market. For this reason, the club has increased the limitation on orders to 10 nucs total per family, and a limit of 4 nucs total for new members to the club.



Marked & Clipped Queens for Requeening

Orders will be accepted from current members at the club meetings and by mail through the end of February, or as long as supplies last. Each order must be on the official order form, be filled out completely, and be accompanied by the appropriate remittance to be accepted. All orders will be acknowledged by a confirmation e-mail and added to the Order Matrix by the Program Coordinator. Because of the need to track



Taking B&Q Orders at the Beekeeper's Meeting

and match all orders with remittance and delivery of product, there will be no individual transfer of ownership of the nucs or queens. Cancelled orders will be handled by the coordinator with refunds and resale of the product to members on the wait list.

Thx. Jimmie Oakley – Bee Procurement Coordinator

Beekeepers Get the BiG Picture

by Linda Russell – WCABA Pgm Chair



On Saturday morning December 14th a group of interested beekeepers (**BiG Beeks*) met for a tour and brunch at the Café at Brookwood in Georgetown (BiG) at the invitation of Erin Kiltz, founder and executive director of the eight-year-old organization. It was an acknowledgment of the important work that some of our WCABA members have been performing in cooperation with BiG and its Citizens.

For the past two years Linda Russell, the new WCABA Program Director, has fostered and shepherded the fledgling BiG Honey Company. With the support of Brookwood in Georgetown and of several WCABA members, and the labor of the Big Citizens; bee boxes were turned to beehives, and beehives into sources of honey that was extracted, bottled, and sold in the BiG Gift Shop.

Brookwood in Georgetown (BiG) is changing the way the world sees people with special needs. BiG is an innovative vocational community where people with special needs, known as Citizens, are artisans, bakers, gardeners, card makers, jewelry makers and more.

More about honey bees and BiG will follow after sharing BiG's history.

Gracie, the daughter of John and Erin Kiltz was born with Down Syndrome. At two years of age she developed an aggressive form of leukemia and suffered a severe brain injury during treatment leaving her completely dependent. After Gracie finished high school, her parents searched for what was next and found that there nothing for her. Erin visited The Brookwood Community in Brookshire, Texas and caught the vision. She then partnered with Georgetown ISD to pilot 'Light Texas' which was a program where people with special needs made and sold pottery. The pilot was a success. The next program was called 'Summer Fun' which comprised eight people who participated in pottery, horticulture and culinary enterprises. Word spread and more families wanted their special needs adults to be included. The Brookwood Community in Brookshire absorbed Light Texas and Brookwood in Georgetown was born. With the increase in Citizens came a need for more room. The Church of Christ on University Boulevard graciously offered space and provided encouragement, never complaining about the messy clay residue from pottery making. BiG opened



a gift shop on Austin Ave for the first few years. Then BiG purchased and refurbished a building at 905 North Church Street (just off Austin Ave) which continues to serve as the main campus. At this location there is a gift shop with one-of-a-kind items, a café with excellent reviews and a greenhouse. The main campus is at maximum capacity with 50 Citizens. The Citizens continue to make beautiful pottery, and also craft cards, jewelry, do laser engraving. Some of the Citizens work in the Café and greenhouse. As BiG has outgrown the space, there is currently a multipurpose building under construction now behind the greenhouse. Also, BiG is piloting residential services by renting two homes (one for men and another for women). BiG will be building their own homes at the central location.



Since there is such a need, about a year ago, BiG answered the call to accommodate more people with special needs and opened two satellite locations, BiG Light and Bee Cave. BiG Light is housed at the Church of Christ where it all started and has 20 Citizens who make cookies, granola, fudge and do word working. Bee Cave is in Austin and has 7 Citizens who make soap and dog treats. Some readers may be wondering how all of this gets funded as it is costly to run this quality program. BiG's funding comes from product sales, donations, grants and Citizen tuition. Each Citizen earns a paycheck which serves as a great source of pride in their hard work.



Jenny paints the bee boxes

Now back to BiG and honey bees. The BiG Honey Company was launched because Erin loved the idea of BiG keeping bees and selling honey in the shop. With some grant money, five hives and colonies were purchased. Volunteers engraved the hive facings, then assembled the hive bodies and frames. The Citizens helped paint the hives. Several members of WCABA volunteer as BiG Beekeepers and care for the bees at their individual apiaries. The Citizens then harvest and bottle the honey which they



Extracting the honey frames



Connor and Jennie are ready to work the bees

absolutely love to do. An additional source of honey is from beekeepers who donate a super of honey for the Citizens to extract. These are called 'Honey Friends'. The BiG Honey Company has received great support and generous donations for purchase of equipment and bees. The Rotary Club of Georgetown provided a grant for a large radial extractor this year. The BiG Honey Company looks forward to growing into that extractor. BiG appreciates everyone who has been a part.



BiG Honey on the Gift Shop shelf

In the words of Gillian Mattinson on why she became a BiG Beekeeper, “The minute it was announced at the WCABA meeting that BiG was looking for volunteers to host a hive, I was in ! It seemed like the natural thing to do. Several high school graduates that I know are now part of the BiG community, and it has been a life changing experience for them and their families. To be able to contribute, in some small way, to this wonderful community is an honor. To combine it with taking care of a BiG hive is a pleasure.”

And from Honey Friend, Kathy Fulton, “Beekeeping is a passion, but BiG is a mission. Being able to support their great work within our community has been a blessing.”

Sadly, Gracie Kiltz, passed away unexpectedly September 8, 2018. Her beautiful smile and spirit brightened all who were around her. She is greatly missed and leaves a legacy that is immeasurable. The BiG story continues. Come by and visit BiG @ 905 North Church Street. Shop, sip a latte, have lunch. It’s a happy and happening place. Sign up for a tour @ brookwoodingeorgetown.org see the Citizens as they work. They’ll be glad you came.

Linda Russell somehow finds time for her bees here is Georgetown, Texas.



Gillian & Dean picking up bees for the hive



More Pictures from the BiG Tour



Erin Kiltz gives of the history, vision, and mission of BiG



Erin points out the Chill Room for when it just gets to be too much!



Apron Alley, where EVERYONE has their own personalized apron



...and Finally Brunch, Oh, Yum!



Donna Hoskins, Kay Oakley, Ron Russell, Carolyn Barnes*, Steve Hoskins*, ERIN KILTZ, Jim Colbert*, Kathy Fulton, Jim Fulton Linda Russell*, Jimmie Oakley (*for BiG Beeks)*

Scholarship Recipients Give Interim Report

Normally at the November WCABA club meeting the current year Scholarship Recipients give their end of (the beekeeping) year report to the appreciative membership as we hear of their success and sometime failure in their beekeeping endeavor. With the expansion of the Scholarship Program to include beekeeping activity extending over into the next year we received an “interim” report on their activities at this point in time, and more to come next year. The four recipients for 2019, Quinn Bramwell, Bailey Brett, Reece Brett, and Eli Crozier gave a group



Eli Crozier build the nuc into a 2-3 story hive in six weeks.

Next, Reese Brett took us through the steps necessary to get honey out of the combs and bottled into the containers at the Bost Farm Honey House. Then he presented the activity that took place at the Hill Country Fair in Sun City where they sold the honey in support of the scholarship program and what they learned.



Quinn Bramwell

Quinn Bramwell laid out the necessary steps involved in Sampling for Varroa Mites and Treating, which is so vital to the health and well-being of the bees, and so important to the sustainability of the hive. He indicated the necessity of multiple sampling of the bees with an alcohol wash and the use of different treatment products depending on the season and the temperature to avoid mite resistance.

Finally, Baily Brett took on the intricate process of Creating Fall Increase by Making a Hive Split. She covered the selection of the resources that constitute a good nucleus and how to make the split without necessarily finding the queen. She went through the vertical split and steps necessary to establish the “piggyback” nuc that will winter over on top of the parent hive. She touched on the necessity of checking on the hive and feeding if it is necessary.



Randy Oakley took the balance of the remaining time to reiterate what will/should happen over winter, the spring buildup, and the expected summer honey flow.

There will be another opportunity for these recipients to give a concluding report in July of 2020, until them...

Jimmie Oakley – Scholarship Chair



Pres. Phil Ainslie introduces the program



Reece Brett

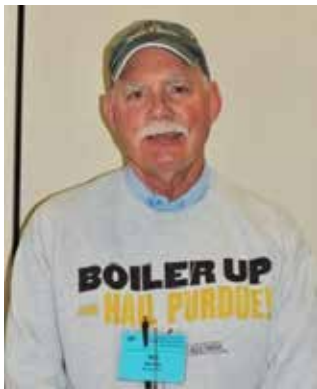


Bailey Brett

W.C.A.B.A. ELECTS SLATE OF OFFICERS

At the November meeting of the Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association a Slate of Officers was presented to the membership for approval for the coming year. Most officers stood for reelection, the only exception being in Program Chair where Jennifer Shear declined to run again, and she was replaced by Linda Russell. The slate was passed without opposition. Congratulation to all those elected to serve the club in 2020.

2020 Officers & Committees



President - Phil Ainslie



V.P. Shannon Montez



Membership - Shirley Doggett



Membership - Cecilia Richter



Program - Linda Russell



Newsletter - Chris Doggett



Secretary - Gillian Mattinson



Treasurer - Barbie Rose



Historian - Matt Ludlum



Librarian - Chris Huck



Scholarship - Jimmie Oakley



Queen Chair - Ginny Stubblefield



Austin 9th Annual Beekeeping Seminar

Register at: <https://aabaseminar2020.eventbrite.com>

When: January 4th, 2020
Who: Austin Area Beekeepers Association
Where: The Marriott, La Frontera, 2600 La Frontera Blvd, Round Rock, TX 78681
Cost: \$75
Questions: Lance Wilson lance@beekeepinghelp.com

Why:

The mission of this daylong seminar is to educate people of all experience levels in sustainable science-based bee husbandry and to provide support to worthy bee charities. Most of the proceeds are donated to the Texas A&M Honey Bee Lab, the Texas Beekeepers Association Queen's Program, the Texas Master Beekeeping Program and other bee health causes.

Description:

This is a daylong seminar offering seven different educational presentations running concurrently every hour throughout the day. This will provide many beginning and advanced subjects to choose from. A **separate beginner track** has been formatted covering a variety of startup topics for soon-to-be or very-new beekeepers. A beginner beekeeper will learn the fundamentals of honey bee biology and behavior, how to select the equipment you will need, where to buy bees, how to set up your apiary, how to light a smoker, feeding, the fundamentals of honey extraction, queen finding, requeening and annual management.

Other Sessions will include:

- Honey Bee Management Advanced
- Nutrition Management
- Honey Bee Biology and Behavior
- Top Bar Management 1 and 2
- Effective Varroa Management for Robust Populations
- Brood Disease and Pest Control
- Swarm Capture Techniques
- Raising Queens
- How to Grow Your Apiary Business
- Successful Sales and Marketing
- Bees as an Ag. Exemption
- Honey Bee Reproductive Biology
- Making Splits
- Cut-Outs
- Smoker Lighting Demo
- Varroa Monitoring Workshop
- Queen Management
- Reproductive Biology
- Africanized Bees
- Honey Bee Pheromones
- Harvest Economics
- Wax Working Workshop
- Annual Management

Presenters:

- Professor Juliana Rangel – Entomology at Texas A&M
- Blake Shook- President of the Texas Beekeepers Association
- Mary Reed - Texas Apiary Inspector
- Mark Hedley - Owner of Spiral Horn Apiary
- Pierre Lau- Ph.D. Student of Entomology Texas A&M
- Robin Sliva- Hill County Beekeepers Association President
- Ryan Giesecke - Trinity Valley Beekeepers President
- James & Chari Elam - Owners of Bluebonnet Beekeeping
- Dodie Stillman - Certified Texas Master Beekeeper
- Terry Spencer- Vice President of the Austin Beekeepers Assoc.
- Karl Acuri - Austin Area Beekeepers Assoc. (Co-Organizer)
- Brandon Fehrenkamp - Owner of Austin Bees
- Pamela Yeamans – Certified Master Beekeeper (TMBP)
- Ashley Ralph – Vice President of the Texas Beekeepers Assoc.
- John Swan - Owner of Wicked Bee Apiary
- Dennis Herbert - Past Pres. of the Bell-Coryell Beekeeping Assoc.
- Tara Chapman- Owner of Two Hives Honey
- Lance Wilson - Certified Master Craftsman Beekeeper (GMBP)

New Members

John & Vicki Griffin	Georgetown
James Denton	Georgetown
George Hurd	Georgetown

Renewing Members

Don Parsons.	Georgetown
Art Thomas	Rockdale
Dodie Stillman	Round Rock
John and Helen Hubbard.	Liberty Hill
Linda and Ron Russell.	Georgetown
Gary Carlisle.	Liberty Hill
Alan DeKay.	Georgetown
Bill and Debbie Soja.	Liberty Hill
Baron Hulings.	Coupland
Sandie Richie.	Georgetown
Dekota Wampler.	Hutto
Jimmie and Kay Oakley.	Jarrell
Phil Ainslie.	Belton

Visit our Website at:

www.wcaba.org

or email to:

info@wcaba.org

Renewal of WCABA Memberships

Shirley Doggett will be taking renewal of memberships for 2020

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

Use Form on previous page to save time

Texas Beekeepers Association

**Summer Clinic
6/13/20 in Denton**

**Annual Convention
12th - 14th November in Allen**