

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA FEBRUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER

www.wcaba.org

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president@wcaba.org

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vicepresident@wcaba.org

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membership@wcaba.org

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program@wcaba.org

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newsletter@wcaba.org

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secretary@wcaba.org

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treasurer@wcaba.org

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historian@wcaba.org

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scholarship@wcaba.org

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webmaster@wcaba.org

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DIRECTOR AT LARGE:

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MEETING IN PERSON

During the COVID-19 outbreak, we were unable to meet at the Georgetown Public Library because of the precautions taken by the City of Georgetown to stem the spread of the virus. Since the Library has changed their meeting policy the club is allowed to meet in person again. Therefore, we have scheduled a meeting on February 22nd (fourth Tuesday) in addition to broadcasting virtually via "Zoom" software. ***Click Zoom meeting link below.***

If you are 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 there Tuesday night @ 7PM!
GT Library - Hewlett Rm- 402 W 8th Street Georgetown 78626

Topic: WCABA Member Meeting

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82475068933?pwd=aHRiRjc3bS9kYXlJGS2g5THVpOEEx2UT09>

Meeting ID: 824 7506 8933

Passcode: 909659

PROGRAM:

Beekeeping 101 Speaker: Phil Ainslie

Beekeeping Equipment

Phil will cover the basics on beekeeping equipment and the uses for our new members and visitors.

Beekeeping 201 Speaker: Randy Oakley

How's & Why's of Making Vertical Splits

Randy will be back to explain the basic concept of a spring beehive split a.k.a. an "artificial swarm", and the mechanics and advantages of utilizing a vertical beehive split in the spring to control swarming, to increase the number of hives in an apiary, to successfully requeen and/or raise queen, and to maximize forager population for spring honey flow. He will offer suggestions and prompt the discussion on how to fit these techniques together to formulate your spring management plan.



Phil Ainslie - Beekeeping 101



Randy Oakley - 201

A Simplified Beehive Design

Submitted by Randy Oakley

Beekeeping is not as easy as it used to be. As I was growing up during the 70's and 80's in a beekeeping family business, the main problem we had to worry about was the low price of wholesale honey. That all changed in the late 80's with the arrival of the parasitic bee mite, Varroa Destructor. Since that time, we have lost more beehives than you can shake a stick at. It seems like for every one beehive that prospered, two died...not a sustainable trend.

About twenty years ago, I began receiving calls to remove misplaced beehives from houses. I often noticed that these wild, unmanaged bee colonies often looked much healthier than my managed beehives. Thus began my journey to become a more intentional beekeeper. Our beekeeping times demanded it.

Over the next year, I hope to write a series of articles detailing the seasonal beekeeping protocol we have developed to keep our beehives alive and to be profitable as beekeepers. By no means have we arrived at all the answers, but over the past five years we have been encouraged by the beekeeping success we have experienced in our apiaries and with other beekeepers we have tried to mentor.

Next month I will begin to address the protocol we use in establishing a nucleus beehive and building it into a mature hive by the end of spring. But first, let's talk about the components that make up our standardized hive setup.

In an effort to simplify our beekeeping protocol so that we can concentrate on keeping the bees alive and healthy, we examined each piece of equipment in our beehive setup and asked, "is it essential". In order to address that question and "keep it simple", we decided to only use one size box - an eight-frame deep box with deep frames. Every beehive needs a lid and a bottom board, so we designed a reversible bottom/top that serves a dual function and eliminates an extra piece of equipment. Beehives need to be fed sugar syrup on occasion, so we utilize an internal frame feeder which continually resides as a part of the hive. This adds up to four unique pieces of equipment, in various quantities, that make up each hive.

In teaching beginning beekeepers, it has been my experience that a simplified beehive setup with fewer parts translates into a clearer understanding of essential beekeeping management practices. As we progress through the beekeeping season, we will examine the use of this simplified beehive design in our Management Protocol.



Beeswax

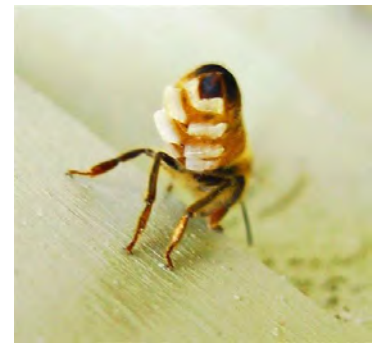
It's More than Just a Place for Bees to Store their Honey

Although you may have ventured into beekeeping because of the wonderful taste of honey, or the desire to help with nature, you may not be aware of all the wonderful things that come out of the hive besides honey. Bees are amazing and produce a variety of natural products that man has been using for centuries. Many of us are accustomed to seeing beeswax candles sold with the honey at a local farmers market, but there are a multitude of uses for beeswax. Items such as beeswax lip balm, and beeswax hand cream are some of the few products that have recently gained popularity. I do have to say that my beeswax lip balm is a hit with my family and friends, however there are a multitude of uses for beeswax.



Beeswax is a natural Fire Starter. If you have old comb, it can be used to keep your smoker going. After several years of beekeeping, I have plenty of old wax. The old comb can also be used as a starter for camp fires. For those of you that make your own jams and jellies, beeswax has been used for hundreds of years to preserve food. Pioneers used beeswax to prevent jams or jelly from spoiling. After the jam has set, a thicker coat of beeswax was poured on the top of the jam as a seal.

Each item that comes from the hive takes a lot of work from each bee. Similar to honey, each bee works work hard to produce wax. A bee consumes between seven to nine pounds of honey to produce one pound of beeswax. Bees have special glands on their abdomen that secrete wax and each bee has four pairs of glands that secretes wax. The glands are located between the abdominal segments. When the bee secretes the wax flakes, it has a clear appearance. The bees use their legs and mouth parts (mandibles), to shape the soft wax flakes into the honeycomb.



A bee secreting wax from her abdomen

If you need to do some repairs on your hives or are putting the frames together, it's helpful to rub the tip of the nail on the wax. This helps the nail go smoothly into the frame and prevents the wood from splitting. Carpenters will often use beeswax on their nails and screws. While there are many other uses for wax, these are just a few of the things that you can use the wax from your hives.

When inspecting my hives, I will clean up the tops of the frames and use these bits of wax. These can later be melted or used for my smoker. Regardless of the use for the wax, I always remember how hard the bees have worked to produce each item in the hive and work hard to find ways to use what I take from the hive.

Shannon

<https://carolinahoneybees.com/uses-for-beeswax/>

Bee Research Pearls

Compiled by Phil Ainslie



Phil Ainslie - WCABA Secretary

Bees and butterflies have trouble smelling flowers in polluted air.

Air pollutants make it harder for butterflies and other pollinators to find flowers, which affects food stocks for people. Along with other researchers at the University of Reading, the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, and the University of Birmingham, Robbie Girling has found air pollutants might throw pollinators off the scent. A [study they published in *Environmental Pollution*](#) today indicates that ozone and diesel exhaust significantly reduce the pollinators' presence, the number of times pollinators visit plants, and how many seeds the plants produce.

After feeding, Girling says insects such as honeybees learn which compounds lead to the tastiest flowers and return to them like Pavlov's dog. But ozone, a byproduct of factory and vehicle emissions, and diesel exhaust can muddy those perfumes.

The researchers laid out about 26-foot octagonal rings at the University of Reading farm. In each of the rings, they pumped in either ozone, diesel exhaust, a combination of both, or, nothing at all. The rings also contained black mustard plants had shown that pollutants degrade the species' floral odor.

The rings were open to the ambient air to allow local insects access to them. Then the team observed how often pollinators like bees, flies, butterflies, and moths entered the rings and visited one of the mustard plant flowers. The results were stark. In the rings with a combination of ozone and diesel exhaust, the pollinators' presence was down 70 percent compared to the rings with no pollutants; the number of times they visited the flowers was also down 90 percent.

The researchers also found a 31 percent reduction in pollination rate by measuring the number of seeds in the pods the plants produced. However, they also noted that the air pollutants had little to no direct impact on the plants themselves.

While Girling and Ryalls say that air pollution won't kill all insects or signal the end times, they emphasize that it's one of the many stressors pollinators face.

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/air-pollution-makes-it-harder-for-insect-pollinators-to-find-flowers-180979465/>

Study Shows that It May Take a Few Generations Before Bees Recover from a Single Exposure to Insecticide.

This new study reveals that even a single insecticide exposure in a bee's first year of life influences progeny production. Because the pesticide effects are cumulative, this culminates in a drop in the bee population overall.

The scientists conducted a two-year field experiment to demonstrate the extent to which pesticide environmental harm crosses generations, popularly known as "the carryover effect." They examined how pesticides affected blue orchard bees; a solitary, wild pollinator colored blue rather than black and yellow like honeybees.

It's a systemic poison that's present in all plant tissues and affects the neurological system of bees," Stuligross explained. So, as a result, it can have a wide range of impacts on bee behavior and physiology."

When bees were exposed to imidacloprid as larvae, and then never again, they had 20% fewer progeny than bees that had never been near the toxin. Those treated once during their adult year had 30% fewer children than their unexposed peers, while those exposed to both years had a 44 percent reduction in offspring. According to Stuligross, the need to reduce pesticide exposure as much as feasible and incorporate these carryover effects into studies and including pollinator risks into pest control techniques in the future is critical.

<https://www.natureworldnews.com/articles/48323/20211123/study-shows-that-it-may-take-a-few-generations-before-bees-recover-from-a-single-exposure-to-insecticide.htm>

Staying Alive

Getting your Bees through the Winter

Submitted by Linda Russell

Honey stores may be depleting rapidly this times of the year which place the honey bees at risk of starving to death. With cold nights still, putting syrup in the hive can increase moisture and the condensation can drip back down on the cluster causing it to chill. Additionally, until temperatures are consistently much warmer, the bees have difficulty evaporating syrup for storage.

Supplemental feeding can keep the bees alive until nectar sources are available. Pouring dry granulated (white) sugar on top of cardboard and placing it directly on top of the bars can provide necessary energy to the bees.

Another option for supplemental feedings is to make sugar bricks and place on the hive (see Stan Gore's recipe below).

Stan's Soft Sugar Brick™ Recipe

10 lbs. sugar

1 ¾ cups of HOT water

1 Tablespoon of Pro Health or Honey B Healthy

¼ cup of apple cider vinegar (with the "Mother")

1 Tablespoon dry chamomile Flowers (Sunbest Organic from Amazon)

2 cups of Ultra-Bee pollen sub

1 tablespoon of sea salt

Directions:

Pour sugar into a 5-gallon bucket then add the rest of the ingredients. You MUST mix thoroughly. I use a mortar mixer for 2 minutes. Put parchment paper into 8 x 8 inch Teflon pans and put mixture in the pan. Roll out smooth with a small pizza roller (rolling pin). Place pans in the oven and cook at 215F for 1:15 minutes. Turn the oven off and leave in for at least 3 hours with the door shut. Then take pans out of the oven and let cool. They will firm up and in about 6 hours ready to use. If you have followed these exact directions, they will turn out perfect. If you do not, they will be too runny or too dry. Follow directions to a T!



Dry Sugar Cap - Supplemental Feed



Soft Sugar Brick - Supplemental Feed

Bee & Queen Order Status

WCABA Beekeepers:

Nuc and Queen ordering is going great this year. As of today, I have received orders for 197 nucs and 47 queens.

I've decided to drop our DATE DEADLINE because your orders are easy to record and process. The ONLY DEADLINE you may up against will be the **Nucs Total Deadline of 300 Nucs**.

Said another way, I will take nuc orders until the club trailer pulls out from the Bost Farm. But I'm sure we will reach the 300 maximum before this happens.

So, if you decide you want more nucs, please proceed. If you order after the 300 deadline, you will be placed on the waiting list. If you are placed on the waiting list, your chances significantly decrease in receiving your (last-requested) nuc order.

I have one suggestion to new beekeepers: **IF YOU CAN AFFORD IT, START WITH 2 NUCS**. Two nucs are only slightly more (work) than with one hive. The added nuc will give you more "new-beekeeper perspective". Every hive has a different "personality" and "presentation", so you will notice differences in each hive. They really are different.

Hey, I'm enjoying taking your Nuc and Queen orders, so keep 'em coming!

Gary Bible

WCABA Nuc and Queen Procurement Coordinator



Gary Bible - Order Procurement

W.C.A.B.A. Club 5-Frame Nuc & Queen Order Form - 2022

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) **\$160.00/ Nuc.**

Nuc with three frames brood, mated queen, "NOT" marked or clipped.

No. _____ **Honey Bee Queen** (Based on group order of 100) **\$40.00/ 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

--

WCABA Order/ Gary Bible - 150 Sundance Trail, Liberty Hill, TX 76642

Nuc order deadline: Must be postmarked by February 28th 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:

Practical Experiences in the Bee Yard

We will have to wait and see if the December weather pattern repeats in January or not. If January has as many up and down temperatures as December, it should certainly be taken advantage of by the beekeeper because the honey bee has definitely made the most of the situation. (Editor's note: Because of some family travel activities in mid-January, Mr. Brantley wrote this article on January 9. As his article is being prepared for publishing in the latter part of the month, we are heading into our longest and coldest period of this winter to date.)



*Stanford Brantley**

During the December holiday season, here in my Ark La Tex area, I was able to spend part of each day before Christmas in our local club apiary. That was really a joy but also an eye-opener. I spent part of that time trying to save a high-dollar queen purchased in August. She was in a hive consisting of eight frames of mostly open pollen and two frames of brood. Using a Snelgrove board, I placed this brood chamber on top of a strong hive. I opened one of the Snelgrove board's door just enough to provide space for one or two bees to enter at a time. The next morning, I checked to see how things were going. As you might expect, there were robber bees removing the stored honey. I immediately closed the door to stop the robbing activity. The following day, I moved that brood box with its queen and about two frames of bees and placed it on top of a different hive in the apiary. This time, I used a Queen Excluder between the hives rather than the Snelgrove board to separate the two hives. When I checked on the day following, the queen seemed to be doing well and was joined by many bees from the bottom hive.

The hive under the Snelgrove board appeared to be in the process of being robbed out also even though the entrance had earlier been reduced to about two inches. The hive next door, about twenty inches away, appeared as if was included in the robbing activity even though its entrance was also only two inches wide. Using steel wool, I further restricted the entrance of both hives to make the bees have to work to get into the entrance. There was no fighting between bees but they were beginning to stack up on the steel wool and the face of the hive. I was still unsure of the situation as the amount of bees continued to increase. These two hives were sitting on two eight-foot sections of utility poles. As the number of bees continued to grow at each hive, a column of bees about six abreast, being unable to enter the western hive, began crawling along the utility poles to the eastern hive. Upon arrival, they mingled with east hive bees without fighting. I finally concluded all these bees were foragers and possibly some orienting bees or others taking cleansing flights in the eighty degree weather and did in fact belong in these hives. So, I removed some of the steel wool from the entrances and all soon grew much quieter at the doors.

During all of this activity, an adult hive beetle flew in and landed on the front corner of the east hive. I reached over and smashed it and it stuck to the hive. Earlier, I noticed a Grand-daddy Long Legs crawling on the side of the hive near the back. I became interested in the bee activity and was surprised to look up and see the spider had removed the smashed hive beetle from the hive, had it in her mouth, and was headed to the back of the hive. I guess the moral of the story is: Smash a hive beetle and feed a spider!

With the wild swings in temperatures, we need to be aware that queens will begin to lay more eggs during the warm days. This brood will need to be fed and stores of pollen, bee bread and nectar will soon be gone. Supplies of food in the hive must be maintained to prevent the bees from starving during the next cold spell. If the weather permits, open the hive and inspect for food stores. If needed, consider feeding 2-to-1 sugar syrup. If the hive appears to be low on stored pollen, you can feed a small amount of a pollen pattie or dry protein supplement. The supplemental food needs to be readily accessible to the cluster. When frames of brood are present and there is a cold snap, the bees will attempt to keep the brood warm and may starve or freeze in the cluster if food is not readily available.

* Stanford Brantley lives in Jefferson Texas and is a member of WCABA

In Memorial

Emmott Solon Glosson, age 96, passed away for this world on December 26, 2021, to his heavenly home to be with Jesus and his wife, Dorothy Glosson.

Emmett was born on June 21, 1925, on Walnut Creek off Rutherford Dr. in Austin. Although his family had a house, he was born in a tent because it was cooler.

Emmett and Dorothy married June 20, 1943, the day before he turned 18 and the month before she turned 18. They were married seventy years at the time Dorothy passed away in 2013. As a bonus, his son, Joe, was born on Emmett's birthday and his daughter, Sandra was born on Dorothy's birthday. When asked how that happened, he would say, "You just have to know what you're doing".

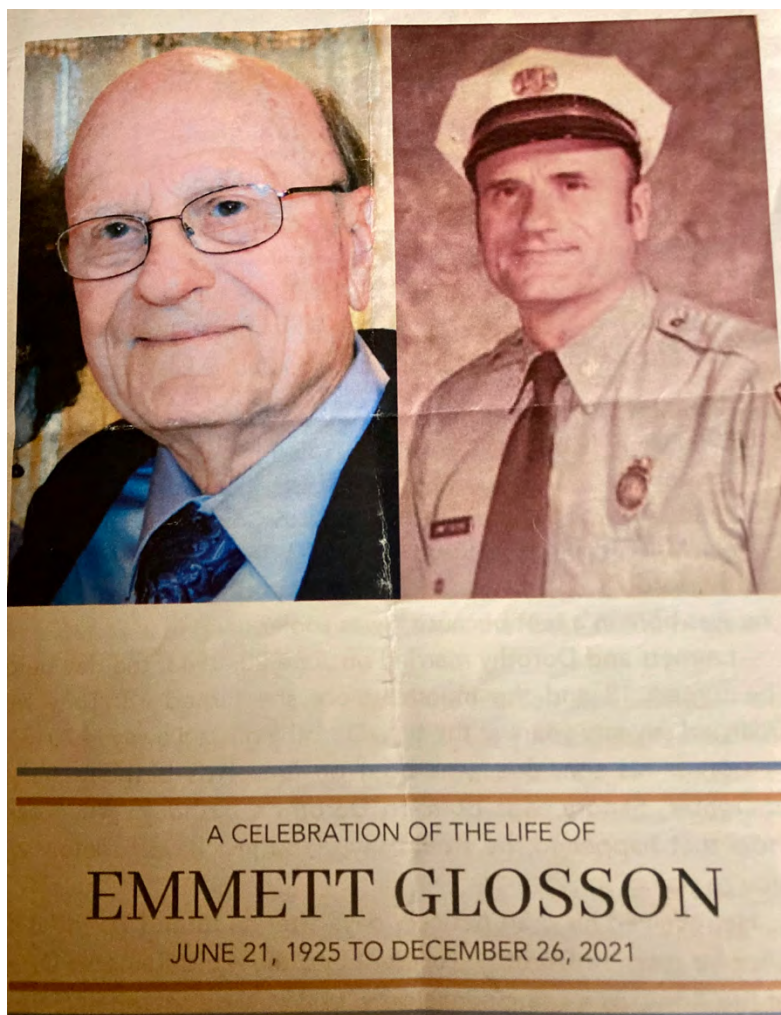
He received his draft notice 9 days after he turned 18 and 8 days after he married Dorothy. He went into the 42nd Rainbow Division of the Army, as a coincidence on 9/11/1943. He served in Germany following Patton and was a machined gunner, burglar, and driver for officers. He was always called on to drive for the officers or do important task and asked his Sergeant Rentschler why they always called on him. The Sergeant told him it was because he always came back to the unit and because he had a praying wife and praying mother at home.

At age 34 Emmett joined the City of Austin Fire Department. He was honored by receiving the Fireman of the Year Award and was one of the first group of eight to be EMT certified in the State of Texas for the Austin Fire department. He is the 1st of three generations of City of Austin Firefighters.

Emmett was a beekeeper, catching his first swarm across the street from the Central Fire Station on 5th Street in Austin. He was known as "My Honey Man". He received 1st place for The Best Tasting Honey in Texas, three years in row from the Texas Beekeepers Association. He was instrumental in teaching several fireman the art of beekeeping. He was for many years a member of the Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association.

I met Emmett when the club was meeting in the old Farmers Bank Building on Main Street in Round Rock. I know he kept his bees on top of his garage at home, and he told me "You can never go wrong by feeding your bees, they will always pay you back with honey."

Emmett Glosson was a good man, a good beekeeper. Jimmie Oakley - Editor

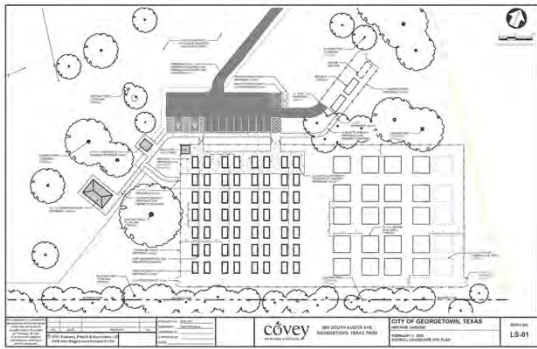


In Memorial: June 21, 1925 – December 26, 2021

Wolfe-Bost Scholarship Program Reboots

The Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost Memorial Scholarship Program will attempt to reboot this year after taking a year off because of the Corona Virus pandemic in 2020-21. For the first time in the 35-year history of the program the WCABA did not field a group of youngsters to learn about bees and beekeeping. In addition, the Georgetown Parks and Recreation Department took over the responsibilities for the Heritage Community Garden in SE Georgetown where our program maintained the scholarship teaching beeyard. The Parks Department undertook a needed upgrade and remodel of the garden which closed down our activities. What hives that were there were moved to the Bost Farm (you saw the reports).

With the new year the upgrades to the garden are being completed, and request for applications for the Scholarship Program for the current year have been made. Randy Oakley has agreed to mentor the recipients again this year and we look forward to getting started. Look for updates and reports of our activities in the newsletter.
 Jimmie Oakley – Scholarship Program Chair.



Site Map - Heritage Community Gardens location upgrade



WCABA Scholarship Beeyard Designated Area (fenced and gated)

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

Membership Report: Shirley Doggett

February 2022

New Members:

David Boty	Lampasas
Mike & Lorie Cardoza.	Georgetown
Scott Carpenter	Georgetown
Danelle Collins	Georgetown
Stephanie Dest	Georgetown
Stephen Guerra	Cedar Park
Nan Helmke	Belton
The Hudson Family	Austin
Shawn & Andrea Jagodzinski.	Liberty Hill
Charles Lucey.	Killeen
Len & Cindy Masengale	Burnet
The Pierce Family	Burnet
Ernie & Carla Schreiber	Lake Jackson
Greg & Michelle Terra	Jarrell



Shirley Doggett - Membership Coordinator

Renewing Members

Nicole Al-Rashid.	Spicewood.	Shawn Anchors.	Georgetown
Wilber Brinkmeyer	Taylor.	Cherie Coughenour	Round Rock
Pam Crider	Georgetown	Lori Esch	Georgetown
Jean Flahive	Georgetown	IV & Kim Glosson	Liberty Hill
Brian Gray	Taylor	Sarah Graham	Elgin
Wayne Hayes	Austin	Melissa & David Henry	Georgetown
John and Helen Hibbard	Liberty Hill	Richard & Amelia Hinds	Florence
Steve Hoskins	Belton	Chris Huck	Georgetown
Raymond Levins	Georgetown	Mary Lippa	Austin
Matthew Ludlum	Austin	Dusam Maletic	Bartlett
Karen Mirquardt	Round Rock	Gillian Mattinson	Georgetown
Eric McDonald	Georgetown	Stephanie Morris	Leander
David Motl	Lampasas	Tom Nuckels	Liberty Hill
Randy Oakley	Elm Mott	Chris & Melissa. O'Dell	Round Rock
Jim & Sara Rodeghero	Liberty Hill	Tim Slattery	Liberty Hill
Lee Stiles	Killeen	Willy & Brenda Sikkema	Salado
Alice Stultz	Georgetown	Don Tenney	Austin
Art Thomas	Rockdale	Kevin Ueckert	Georgetown
Darla & Jack Ward	Georgetown	Jack & Shirley Ward	Austin
Bill & Sally Williams	Thorndale	Ralph & Susan Poyo	Austin

Thank you for your Subscription or Membership Renewal SD