

# WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER

[www.wcaba.org](http://www.wcaba.org)

## 2024 Club Officers:

**PRESIDENT:** Shannon Montez  
[president@wcaba.org](mailto:president@wcaba.org)

**VICE PRESIDENT:**  
Nancy Kunschik  
[vicepresident@wcaba.org](mailto:vicepresident@wcaba.org)

**MEMBERSHIP:** Shirley Doggett  
[membership@wcaba.org](mailto:membership@wcaba.org)

**PROGRAM:** Linda Russell  
[program@wcaba.org](mailto:program@wcaba.org)

**NEWSLETTER:** Jimmie Oakley  
[newsletter@wcaba.org](mailto:newsletter@wcaba.org)

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[secretary@wcaba.org](mailto:secretary@wcaba.org)

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**PAST PRESIDENT:** Phil Ainslie  
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**LIBRARIAN:** Chris Huck  
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**SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR:**  
Jimmie Oakley  
[scholarship@wcaba.org](mailto:scholarship@wcaba.org)

**QUEEN CHAIR:**  
(vacant)

**WEB ADMINISTRATOR:**  
Rachel Glass  
[webmaster@wcaba.org](mailto:webmaster@wcaba.org)

**DIRECTOR AT LARGE:**  
Ken Browning

**DIRECTOR AT LARGE:**  
Ann Bierschenk

**Meeting: 4th TUESDAY, March 26, 2024 @ 7PM**  
**Georgetown Library Hewlett Room (2nd floor)**

## PROGRAM:

Beekeeping 101

Speaker: **Phil Ainslie**

### Installation of 5-Frame Nucs

With the arrival of the 5-frame nucs from Louisiana in about three weeks it is important to present a successful way to install your bees into your equipment. Question and answer session to follow.

Beekeeping 201

Speaker: **Randy Oakley**

### Successful Spring Splits -What to Do!

With so many of the questions at last month's Q&A on splitting, it was decided to devote an entire session to the subject. Randy will be present the 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 – WCABA Secretary



Randy - Oakley Family Apiaries

## ZOOM Notes:

We would certainly enjoy your presence at the next meeting on Mar. 26th (**fourth** Tuesday), but if you can't, then tune in to broadcast virtually via "Zoom".

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 (and Beekeeping 101)**

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82475068933?pwd=aHRiRjc3bS9kYXJGS2g5THVpOEEx2UT09>

Meeting ID: 824 7506 8933. Passcode: 909659

Topic: **Beekeeping 201 Meeting** (concurrently)

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83978758570?pwd=aElyMzBvODBMZjhJakcrTHFZcXFwQT09>

Meeting ID: 839 7875 8570. Passcode: 344046

# Spring Has Sprung

...a note from your President

This is a very exciting time of year. As I step outside, I see many of my plants starting to bloom, trees sprouting new leaves, and a flurry of activity for the bees. The temperature is perfect. Not too hot/not too cold, just warm enough to start work outside. As many of you prepare your yards for the summer months and prepare your hives for the months to come, our board has been busy preparing for the year to come. For those of you beginning beekeeping, hopefully you've ordered your Nucs. If you bought just one Nuc, you may want to consider a second Nuc. This gives you a great comparison. Should one hive putter along, you'll be able to compare that hive and make necessary changes before it's too late. Nature has a way of tricking us into believing that everything is great until it's not. With bees, if you're a new beekeeper, the same can be said. If you're uncertain about what to look for, the second hive will help with any issues that might arise such as a weak hive, queen needing to be replaced, etc.



*Shannon Montez - President*

This year with Nucs was unique for us. This year, we are dealing with having a surplus of Nucs that can still be sold. In the past, we've struggled with not having enough Nucs to provide our members but this year, we've had several conversations about how to proceed since we still have Nucs to sell. We're still trying to figure out why we're in this quandary but is a problem that will probably resolve itself soon.

If you are a new beekeeper and have questions, please don't be bashful at the meetings. We have many experienced beekeepers who are able to provide guidance. Even better if you bring pictures to share. We have several mentors who have graciously volunteered their time and wisdom, but we often struggle to provide enough support for those who need a little bit of guidance/assurance. We've been blessed to have a few new members volunteer to be mentors. Even if you only have a short time in beekeeping, your wisdom can be helpful for someone new to beekeeping. Please consider volunteering as a mentor, and thank you to those who have volunteered to provide mentorship!

Hopefully you've prepared for picking up your Nucs. Preparing for pickup is just as important as preparing your hives for the Nuc. We've learned a few things through the years about the day of delivery. The sooner you pick up your Nuc and get it to its permanent home the better. If you plan to run errands after you pick up your Nuc, please reconsider. The day of pick up, we're hoping you'll come early enough and go home. We're not being rude, we just want you to be successful with your bees. The Nuc will have had a long drive from Louisiana to Texas and they're going to be a little cranky. Remember to come prepared for pick up. If you're putting the Nuc in your car, please consider wearing protective clothing. There's nothing like driving home with a car full of bees. It's an accident waiting to happen\*.

*Shannon*

*\*(How encouraging, but how true. - the Editor)*

# Research Pearls

Compiled by Phil Ainslie

## The Life of a Honeybee Has Been Cut in Half in Just 50 Years

50 years of data

The authors, Anthony Nearman and Dennis van Engelsdorp from the University of Maryland used mathematical models to show that lower bee life expectancy could lead to mass colony death.

According to their study, the median life span of honeybees in the US has dropped from 34 days to 18 days since 1969.

The authors studied worker bees removed from hives and kept in cages, not wild bees, which may have affected their results. But if not, something worrying is going on.

The authors believe modern honeybees may be suffering from a higher prevalence of diseases such as the **deformed wing virus**, which has become more common since its discovery 40 years ago due to the global spread of its vector, the **varroa mite**.



Phil Ainslie - Secretary

Modern bees may be weakened by **new generations of pesticides** that did not exist 50 years ago.

Often, the pollen that bees feed to their larvae is contaminated with pesticides. This could make matters worse because bees exposed to low doses of a highly toxic group of pesticides called neonicotinoids **have reduced resistance to disease**.

Another explanation the authors offer is that bee genes may have changed. Honeybees' lifespans are **linked to their genes**. Artificial (by beekeepers) or natural selection may favor bees with shorter lifespans.

Perhaps stressors in the modern world, such as pesticides and disease, mean honeybees rarely survive for a long time. So, their evolution might favor a **live-fast-die-young** lifestyle.

The researchers' next step is to compare trends in honeybee lifespans across the U.S. and other countries. If they find differences in longevity, they can isolate and compare potential contributing factors such as genetics, pesticide use, and the presence of viruses in the local bee stocks.

David Glulson, Professor of Biology (Evolution, Behavior and Environment), University of Sussex

## Sweet Victory: Sensor detects adulteration in honey

Scientists developed a microwave microstrip line planar resonator sensor tool to detect water adulteration in honey. The tool is compact, cost-effective, and easily fabricated. The microstrip line resonator sensor is fabricated on a dielectric substrate, an insulator that efficiently supports electrostatic fields, such as ceramic or glass. The team tested honey samples with varying water content and found that the sensor's resonance frequency consistently decreased with increased added water content.

Adulteration is a bitter truth in the sweet world of honey. As consumers seek nature's nectar for its purity and health benefits, a shadowy industry taints this golden elixir with hidden additives, most commonly water.

Standard detection methods of honey adulteration are expensive and either have complicated operation methods or low detection accuracy.

In *Review of Scientific Instruments*, from AIP Publishing, a team of scientists from the Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics and the Hebei University of Technology developed a microwave microstrip line planar resonator sensor tool to detect water adulteration in honey. The tool is compact, cost-effective, and easily fabricated.

"When we add water to honey, it changes how the electromagnetic field behaves around it," said author Zhen Li. "When placed in the sensor, adulterated honey shifts the sensor's resonance frequency. By measuring this shift, we can detect water adulteration in honey."

The team tested honey samples with varying water content. They found that the sensor's resonance frequency consistently decreases with increased added water content.

American Institute of Physics, October 2023

Phil

# Practical Experiences in the Bee Yard

**SPRING 2024** is here no matter what the date on the calendar indicates. Swarms are issuing forth and waiting for you to take them home to your apiary. You should begin to see white wax on the edges of the top bar in your hives. This is being produced by young bees because the red clover, vetch, hedges, wildflowers and blooming trees are providing nectar and pollen beyond what is needed to feed the young larvae.



*Stanford Brantley*

When you see the white wax, it is time to add a queen excluder and at least one super. Ideally, that super would have drawn out comb ready for the bees to use.

If you start with new foundation in the super, do not add the queen excluder until the bees are beginning to draw the new foundation. When you are ready to add the queen excluder, open the hive and vigorously smoke the super. This will drive the queen back down into the brood box if she has already moved up into the super. Now install the queen excluder. Check the super in another three or four days to make sure that the queen did not stay and start laying.

When all is well and the queen is where you want her to be, you should see worker bees drawing comb in the super and filling the cells with nectar. It is time to add another super when the bees have drawn six to eight frames. The bees tend to draw the inner frames first, often leaving the outside frames undrawn. Before you add another super, move the outside frames into the center of the box to encourage the bees to finish drawing them. When it is time to extract, you should have all of the frames in that super full of honey.

Beekeepers starting packages this season must feed the new hives to have any chance of producing honey this first year. Feed a 2:1 sugar water mixture. Stop feeding when the package bees have drawn out eight of the ten frames.

Nucs should also be fed unless there is a strong nectar flow in progress when you get the nuc. Feed 2:1 sugar water until the bees draw out three of the five frames of foundation you added to the hive.

If you have a strong hive that you want to divide, pull two frames of brood, a frame of honey and a frame of pollen. Make sure the queen is not on any of the frames you pulled. Place these frames in a nuc box and add two frames of drawn comb, if available or two frames of foundation if you have no drawn comb. If you have a queen, add her to the nuc box by using a queen cage. You can do the same if you have queen cells almost ready to emerge. Close the entrance for a 24-hour period. After 24 hours, open the entrance just enough so one or two bees at a time can exit. As the capped brood hatches and begins to exit the hive, they will orient to the location of the split rather than to their original hive.

If you did not have a queen or queen cell and are letting the nuc create their own queen, do not look into the split for 21 days. Then you hope to find a young queen laying a good brood patterns. You cannot rush this new queen process and must allow time for nature to work.

For beekeepers new to the Ark-La-Tex area, our nectar flow normally begins when the Wild Plum trees bloom and is usually finished by the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Honey production is heaviest during the early part of the season, tapering to finish as we get into the hotter weather of June. Keep brood space available for the queen to discourage swarming and keep super space available for the workers to store nectar. If you are a new beekeeper with limited equipment, extract supers as soon as they are full and then return them to the hive to be refilled while the flow is heavy.

I have said this before but -- Don't count your honey until it is in the jar! However, you can make an estimate of how much honey to expect, assuming you have a good forage season. A medium depth frame, nicely drawn out and fully capped, will usually yield three pounds of honey when extracted. This rule of thumb will give you a good estimate of how much honey you will have in your honey harvest.

*Stanford*



## Our “A-Team” is Our “Bee-Team”!

Brace yourself! You are about to see our club professionals in action.  
Queen and nuc pick up is 30 days away.

Below is what you need to know for Nuc and Queen pick up at Bost Farm.

1. **Nuc and queen pickup will be Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at the Bost Farm from 7 am to 3 pm. Address is 4335 CR 110, Georgetown, TX 78626.**
2. You have been emailed your Pickup Voucher. Check your email, print, and bring your voucher to receive your queens and/or nuc(s). No voucher...no pickup.
3. A limited number of nucs and queens are still available. Contact me at [glbible@austin.rr.com](mailto:glbible@austin.rr.com) or call me at 512-923-0410 if you want to increase your order.
4. There may be nucs available at the Bost Farm to order “on-site”; but do not count on this.
5. Our club’s “Bee-Team”, a group of approximately 15 beekeepers will assist you that morning. Four of the team will not be there as they will have made an overnight trip to Jennings, LA, picked up three hundred nucs, returned to the Bost Farm, unloaded these nucs and returned home to get some much-needed sleep before they work their bees later.
6. Our on-site team will be operating a McDonalds’ style “drive-thru” dispensing queens and nucs.
7. There will be signs in the Bost Farmyard to direct you which way to go.
8. Your first stop will be to check in at the “Q&N room”. We will collect and verify your Pickup Voucher. You will then drive into the “Nuc Yard”. Our team will load your nuc(s) onto your truck. You will then drive a short distance to secure your nucs for travel (hopefully directly to your bee yard). Bring your bee suit. When you secure your nuc(s), you may need it.
9. The best method of nuc pick up is with a pickup truck. If you do not have a truck, try to borrow one. (Your nucs will have a screened entrance for convenience of transport.)
10. Try to arrive early and take your nuc(s) directly to your bee yard for installation.
11. Report queenless or “problem” nucs to me via text – 512-923-0410. It may take me a day or so to respond as I will be “kinda busy”!
12. Thank and appreciate our Bee-Team members. Events like this do not “just happen”. There have been thousands of hours (well maybe 100’s) of planning and coordination to achieve this “operation”.
13. Happy bee keeping 2024!
14. Questions? Holler. I am at 512-923-0410...text or call.



Gary Bible - Procurement Coordinator



FOLLOW SIGNS TO PICKUP

Gary Bible - WCABA Bee Procurement Coordinator

# 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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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:

Mrs. Shirley Doggett - Membership - 400 C. R. 440 - Thrall, TX 76578

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### W.C.A.B.A. Club 5-Frame Nuc & Queen Order Form - 2024

Name \_\_\_\_\_ | ORDER # \_\_\_\_\_

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) **\$175.00/ 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 78642**

Must be Current Member - Nuc order **deadline:** Must be postmarked by February 28th or while supplies last

Limit 6 nucs per family, 4 nucs for new members. No individual resale or ownership transfer on nucs once order

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

Special Instructions:



Happy March - As we know, Central Texas Beekeepers certainly don't mind the rainy days we've had as of late. Each day I go for a walk, I give a nod to the *Gaillardia pulchella*(Firewheel) that is quickly growing(pictured left). I suspect I'll see the first blooms start to appear in a few weeks.

So far, the past two months have seen good rainfall. We saw 6" in January, a good increase over the average of 2.47". February was slightly drier with 1" vs. the 1.5". March so far is on track to be slightly below average with 1" observed but an average of 1.8".

Temperature wise, we're still seeing slightly higher or lower than normal temperatures but nothing extreme other than a 91F day earlier this month. The bees should more or less be in full brood production so be sure to check they have enough honey reserves to support their growth.

All in all, this is pointing to a productive Spring.

Month	2024 Rain Totals	
	Observed (In.)	Average(In.)
Jan	6.07	2.47
Feb	0.99	1.5
March	1.15(MTD)	1.81

Note: Observed totals for Austin/Round Rock Area. Actual precipitation may be higher/lower for local climates.

SOURCE:

<https://www.weather.gov/wrh/climate?wfo=ewx>



# Scholarship Recipients Report to Membership at Meeting

by Jimmie Oakley – Scholarship Chair

At the last membership meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup>, WCABA members were treated to a report of beekeeping activities the past year from the recipients of the Wolfe – Bost Beekeeping Scholarship program.

Each of the young ladies in the program had put together a short slide program which they narrated to the delight of those gathered.



*Gigi Muniu speaks of the first gathering at the Heritage Garden*



*Caiya Ward narrates her pictures of selling honey at the Hill County Fair*



*Proud Parent - James Meniu, Gigi's Dad*

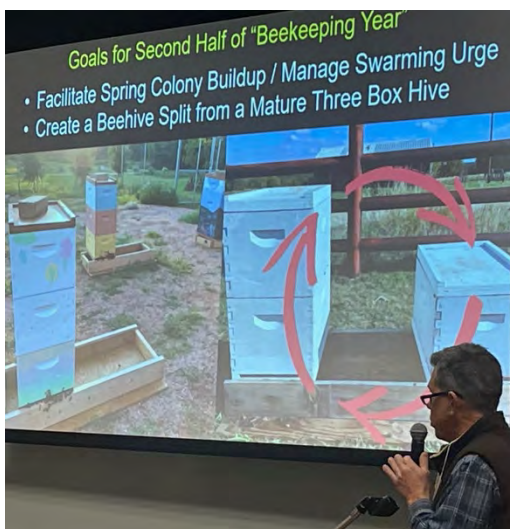
The recipients report covered the transfer of the bees from the five frame nuc into the 8-frame hive at the Georgetown Heritage Garden, and the checking and feeding necessary to build the nuc into a 2-3 story colony.

They showed the steps necessary to get honey out of the combs and bottled into the containers at the Bost Farm Honey House. All of their families were involved in the extracting that started with pizza.

To maintain healthy hives, they spoke of the process involved in sampling for Varroa mites and treating with ApiGuard in July. This is so vital to the health and wellbeing of the bees, and it is so important to the sustainability of the hive.

Finally, the presentation covered the activity that took place at the Hill Country Fair in Sun City in November where they sold the honey in support of the scholarship program and what they learned from the experience.

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



*Randy wraps up with what has been accomplished and what to expect*



*Annabella Su tells of the excitement of extracting honey for the first time*



*Justine Peterson presents a montage of activates, start to finish, of what she learned*



*Scott & Julia Peterson, Justine's parents*



# Scholarship Recipients Treat Hives and Prepare for Spring Splits

by Jimmie Oakley – Scholarship Chair

With the passing of February into March and no real severe weather except one stretch (several days) of freezing temperatures, the bees (and beekeepers) have enjoyed a mild season here in our area. The bees have responded to the nice weather and mild temps with a surprising build up in brood and activity.

Spring activities in the Scholarship beeyard is in full swing with feeding, treating, and making preparation for the spring split. It is gratifying to see such nice hives so early, but that means swarm season is that much closer, ugh!

With a full (top to bottom) check of the hives by the recipients in late February, and a mite count that was from 3 to 23 per hundred, it was imperative that a spring mite treatment be applied, this time with formic acid (FormicPro). In consideration of hive strength, the treatment was spread over 20 days (one pad at 10-day intervals instead of two pads for 14 days) to accomplish the necessary treatment. That treatment is ongoing as I write.

It is also necessary to assure the bees have enough resources to meet the needs of the expanding brood nest and increasing bee population, so feeding is also in order. This is achieved by feeding dry granular sugar above the brood nest placed on a cardboard sheet. This provides a slow supply of carbohydrate that can be “worked up” by the house bees without over stimulating the queen and egg laying. It also provides absorption of excess moisture in the hive. It appears to be succeeding perfectly.



*opening hive with sugar cap in place*

queens are there (eyes on her).

Queens have been included in the club bee order to supply the necessary new monarch for the split to be made up in the weeks to come.

It appears everything is on tract to perform and accomplish a division of the scholarship hives via a vertical split that will result in a nuc for each of the girls in the program in addition to the mature (parent) hive.



*Justine, Annabella, and Caiya perform a complete top to bottom check and inventory of their hives*

Finally, the ladies (scholarship recipients) have performed additional hive checks to assure that brood is there, eggs are there, and in several cases the

Stay tuned for results... Jimmie Oakley – Scholarship Committee Chair



*FormicPro in place, sugar cap on top*



*Caiya has a beautiful frame of brood...*



*...and she found the Queen too (red dot)*



# Five Items for Club Raffle

\$100.00 Value (new)



These five items were donated to WCABA: and it was decided that since the value was over \$100 it might be fun to have a Raffle of the items to be donated to the scholarship or refreshment fund.

## WHAT DO YOU SAY?

Bring your \$5 bill or a \$20 for a chance win all the items. All you need is some bees. (you can get those too).

Item Value: Bee Brush=\$8.95. Bee Gloves=\$24.95. Bee Helmet \$12.95 & Veil \$19.95. Smoker=\$32.95

All items claimed separately, except hat and veil. Must have at least 2 tickets to claim the set.

Drawing at the end of regular meeting. See **Nancy Kunschik** – Vice President for ticket purchase.

Remember, it's all for a good cause.

**ONLY \$5 per Ticket!**

# Membership Report: Shirley Doggett

March 2024

## New Members: \*

Doug Baron.  
Konrad Bouffard.  
J.B Carpenter.  
David Gold11.  
David Gold Sr.  
Dallas Ham.  
Philip Hamilton.  
Jill Haury.  
Rayford Harmon.  
Mike Heath.  
Dean Hewitt.  
Christie Parker-Wheeler.  
David Rembert.  
Harris Roberts.  
Wayne Solum.

Hutto  
Round Rock  
Jonestown  
Midlothian  
Buda  
Taylor  
Leander  
Salado  
Belton  
Georgetown  
Hutto  
Georgetown  
Belton  
Salado  
Round Rock



*Shirley Doggett - Membership*

## Renewing:

Rick Anderson.  
Ren Berra  
German Chaverria.  
Alicia M. Froelich.  
Bill Gregory.  
Colette Grier.  
Edward J. Gomez.  
Karen Marquandt.  
Gillian Mattinson.  
Kenneth Miller.  
Nicole Al Rashid.  
Warren Saunders  
Lisa Schroeder.  
Dodie Stillman.  
Renee Tice.  
Greg Wagner.

Georgetown  
Round Rock  
Manor  
Liberty Hill  
Georgetown  
Cedar Park  
Killeen  
Round Rock  
Georgetown  
Elgin  
Spicewood  
Round Rock  
Coupland  
Round Rock  
Leander  
Rockdale

\*New members- please remember that Texas Beekeepers Association still gives one-year free membership to those people that are new to beekeeping. Let me know if you are interested.

*Shirley*



**Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association**  
**Treasurer's Report - As of March 21, 2024**

**Profit and Loss**

<b>ACCOUNTS</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Program Income - Bee Procurement (2024)	\$47,655.00
Program Income - Membership Dues	\$2,845.00
Program Income - Scholarship Program	\$24.00
Total Income	\$50,524.00
<b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>	
Total Cost of Goods Sold	\$0.00
<b>Gross Profit</b>	\$50,524.00
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	
Dues	\$50.00
Insurance	\$1,688.00
Library Resources	\$111.77
Meeting Supplies and Refreshments	\$61.62
Speaker Fees	\$175.00
Total Operating Expenses	\$2,086.39
<b>Net Profit</b>	\$48,437.61

**Balance Sheet**

<b>ACCOUNTS</b>	<b>As of March 21, 2024</b>
<b>Assets</b>	
Total Cash and Bank	\$48,097.33
Bee Procurement Downpayment	\$48,013.20
Undeposited Funds	\$0.00
Total Assets	\$96,110.53
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Total Liabilities	\$0.00
<b>Assets &amp; Liabilities</b>	\$96,110.53
<b>Equity</b>	
Retained Earnings - Prior Years	\$47,672.92
Retained Earnings - Current Year	\$48,437.61
Total Equity	\$96,110.53

**Bee Procurement Program - 2024 (in process)**

<b>Income</b>	
Program Income - Bee Procurement	\$47,655.00
<b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>	
Bees	\$0.00
<b>Gross Profit</b>	\$47,655.00
<b>Expenses</b>	
Insurance	\$0.00
Permit	\$0.00
Travel Expenses	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$0.00
<b>Net Profit</b>	\$47,655.00

**Notes (as of March 21, 2024):**

BeeWeaver Commitment 125 Queens	\$4,513.20
BeeWeaver Downpayment - complete	\$4,513.20
Merrimack Commitment 300 Nucs	\$52,500.00
Merrimack Downpayments - complete	\$43,500.00
In-person pick-up discount	(9,000.00)

# WCABA Minutes, January 18, 2024

Phil Ainslie - Secretary

The meeting began at 7:30 with the following attendees: Shannon Montez, Phil Ainslie, Jimmie Oakley, Shirley Doggett, Ken Browning, Linda Russell, Matt Ludlum, Ann Bierschenk, Randy Oakley, and Gary Bible.

- Scholarship report by Randy Oakley and Jimmie Oakley
  - Randy suggested extending the application program to March to allow more time for applicants and more time for the thorough review.
  - Discussion of WCABA scholarship promotions: This included flyers to school agriculture programs, Four-H, County Agriculture Departments, and Home School Co-ops. Consider the online distribution of the program. Linda, Shannon, and other board members in the local school areas may assist with the distribution of information.
  - Video proposal: Starting this year, Randy agreed to begin a video compilation of the program throughout the year. Phil Ainslie agreed to assist with editing the videos to condense them into a workable production for our website.
  - Long-term goal: good teaching, good mentoring, knowledge retention, and continued beekeeping after the scholarship term has ended.
  - Randy mentioned that he is developing more written material for a program in the Elm Mott area. In addition, he is considering a once-a-month group meeting with two-week assignments so they will do more on their own.
  - WCABA recipient program will be two or three youths.
  - A decision on whether the program will be at Heritage Gardens or elsewhere has yet to be decided.
  - A payback/rewards program was discussed, but no decision was made. Further discussion was proposed.
- Bee procurement: Gary Bible and Jimmie Oakley
  - Gary reported that we had collected about \$5000, which included Nuc and Queens. The member price is \$175 per Nuc and \$40 per queen.
  - The tentative pick-up date will be April 13<sup>th</sup> unless Wes tells us otherwise.
  - Gary will prepare all the ordering forms and materials for the meeting on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Board members will deal with member orders at the January meeting.
  - Jimmie stated that WCABA is on the list for 100 queens from B Weaver.
- Web page: Jimmie Oakley will send the scholarship application to Phil Ainslie to load onto the web page.
- Membership: Shirley Doggett reported receiving about 75 paid memberships for 2024.
  - Shirley agreed to send updated membership lists to Gary Bible and Jimmie Oakley.
- The treasurer's report was tabled until the next meeting.
- Program report by Linda Russell:
  - January 23<sup>rd</sup> program: Phil Ainslie will present beekeeping 101, and Shannon LeGray will do a presentation deep dive into bee anatomy.
  - February 27 program: Phil Ainslie 101, scholarship recipient presentations with Randy Oakley doing a scholarship program summation. A Q & A program is being considered for the remaining time.
- Donations: The board agreed to address donations after the bee procurement to determine the impact on the club account due to increased costs.
- Lines at the door for signing in and filling out forms: The board will have members assisting with forms and patrolling the line for people needing help with registration or bee procurement.
- Zoom: Zoom participants are about 15 per meeting. The board agreed to continue Zoom for the time being.
- Honey harvest survey reported by Matt Ludlum: The harvest will be posted along with the WCABA suggestion survey. Matt mentioned that requests for workshops were something we should consider.