WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATI0N

WCABA AUGUST 2022 NEWSLETTER

www.wcaba.org

2022 Club Officers:

PRESIDENT: Shannon Montez
president@wcaba.org

VICE PRESIDENT: Gillian Mattinson
vicepresident@wcaba.org

MEMBERSHIP: Shirley Doggett
membership@wcaba.org

PROGRAM: Linda Russell
program@wcaba.org

NEWSLETTER: Jimmie Oakley
newsletter@wcaba.org

SECRETARY: Phil Ainslie
secretary@wcaba.org

TREASURER: Barbi Rose
treasurer@wcaba.org

HISTORIAN: Matt Ludlum
historian@wcaba.org

PAST PRESIDENT: Phil Ainslie
pastpresident@wcaba.org

LIBRARIAN: Chris Huck
librarian@wcaba.org

SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR: Jimmie Oakley
scholarship@wcaba.org

QUEEN CHAIR:
(vacent)

WEB ADMINISTRATOR: Rachel Glass
webmaster@wcaba.org

DIRECTOR AT LARGE: Melissa Henry

DIRECTOR AT LARGE: Gary Bible

AUGUST REGULAR MEETING Tuesday, August 23, 2022 - 7PM
Georgetown Public Library - Hewlett Room - 2nd Floor

PROGRAM:

Ice Cream Social

August is always hot, and this year is no different. Is it Global Warming, or is it just TEXAS? As it has been our tradition during the Dog Days of Summer to forgo heavy, weighty subjects in favor of the sweet light Summer treat of ICE CREAM. We plan to do so again this year. The August meeting will be centered around the enjoyment of your favorite flavor with a choice of topping and congenial conversation about our favorite subject. . . **BEES**. To keep our program educational, we will have a panel discussion and Q&A with WCABA Club Officers: Shannon Montez, Phil Ainslie and Chris Huck. The panel will take questions from those in the Zoom audience also. So, tune in.

We would certainly enjoy your presence at the next meeting on August 23 (***forth*** Tuesday), but if you can't, then tune in to broadcast virtually via "Zoom" software. 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=aHRiRjc3bS9kYXJGS2g5THVpOEx2UT09
Meeting ID: 824 7506 8933. Passcode: 909659

Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kgiQC6z7D

PLEASE NOTE: SEPTEMBER MEETING WILL BE ON 3RD TUESDAY, SEPT. 20, 2022

It Only Takes is a Spark

by Linda Russell

With the ongoing drought, beekeepers can take measures to keep smokers from starting grass fires. I know two beekeepers who caused sizeable grass fires.

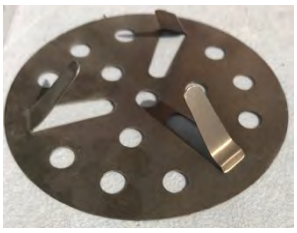
Some WCABA members provided pics and information on how they keep their smokers safe.

Rachel Glass' Smoker Bucket

Rachel Glass and **Gillian Mattinson** use steel buckets to hold lit smokers, fuel, and tools. Gillian places the smoker on top of the next hive or on a cinder block to keep it off the ground.

I recommend making sure the bottom piece that goes in the bottom of the smoker has the prongs facing down before adding fuel. If the prongs are up, fire can shoot out the air intake. There's a reason I know this to be true.

Correct position for bottom insert to assure air goes under smoker fuel



Incorrect, air directly on fuel

Melissa Henry takes a fire extinguisher with her out to the hives because she doesn't want to be 'that person'. There is also aerosol can sized fire extinguishers.

Jimmie Oakley lights his smoker on the truck tailgate (see details below). When he is done with it, he places his hot smoker in an empty Christmas popcorn can with kitty litter on the bottom of the can.

Jimmie described lighting the smoker to get the fire under the fuel, which keeps unnecessary sparks from emitting from the blow hole. He removes some charred wood (leftover from the previous use) from the smoker so he can get the lighter down in the fire chamber. Then he lights the smoker and once the fire gets going, puts some charred wood back in the smoker, and continues to puff the bellow. Next, he adds fresh chips on top. He notes that hard woods such as oak and ash burn longer while pine lights and burns fast.

All the ingredients for starting and stopping a smoker (fire)

To snuff out the fire when finished with the smoker, Jimmie puts a cork in the top blow hole and paper in the bottom bellow hole to cut off all air. The smoker is then kept in the popcorn tin w/kitty litter in the bottom to absorb heat from the hot smoker chamber. *Linda*

Water demand in bee colonies.*

…submitted by Phil Ainslie

Phil Ainslie - Secretary

The actual amount of water used by individuals or by an entire colony is difficult to calculate because of all the variables. For example, nectar is a primary source of water, but the amount of water varies with the source. Nectars with high sugar content provide less water than low-sugar nectars, but low-sugar nectars are collected less frequently.

Honey bees can absorb some water from nectar while they carry and process it, but how much is difficult to say. Because it is so onerous to measure, water from nectar is generally not calculated into usage estimates.

Another confusing aspect is water usage in overwintering colonies. Honey bees often recycle water by consuming condensate within the hive. Part of this accumulation may come from outside air, part is from honey bee respiration, and part may be from liquid feed or honey. Even rain and snow, leaking through cracks and openings, can add to the supply.

Despite the difficulties, some researchers have calculated estimates of usage. One popular paper estimates a normal colony will need about 44 pounds per year — about 5.3 gallons — added to whatever the bees extract from nectar.

How honey bees use water

An individual insect doesn't need much water, but a colony of six-leggers requires a substantial amount. And when that colony uses water for purposes other than direct consumption, the volume can be mindboggling. A fully functioning honey bee colony has an extraordinary water demand that varies with seasonal activities, population levels, air temperature, and humidity.

A continuous supply is needed for basic life functions such as digestion, circulation, distribution of nutrients, waste removal, thermoregulation, and internal homeostasis. In addition, a colony uses water for raising its young and maintaining a livable space. For example, bees use water to dilute honey or sugar so it can be easily consumed by larval bees. Nurse bees that are actively producing royal jelly need water to keep their glandular secretions flowing. Water also keeps the brood nest humid enough to prevent larval desiccation and cool enough to prevent bee death and comb slumping.

When enough is enough

House bees regulate how much water foragers bring in. If a house bee refuses to unload a water carrier — or does it too slowly — the water carrier will cease collecting. On the other hand, if the water is offloaded quickly, the forager will fetch another load. It's a simple matter of supply and demand: Lots of supply means little demand and vice versa.

The water carriers usually disperse their payload to many house bees. Part of the water may be absorbed by thirsty workers or shared as necessary. If the hive interior is hot, water will be spread on capped cells or on the edges of open cells where it can be used to cool the hive.

Evaporative cooling

The amount of cooling needed inside a hive will vary drastically with the climate, the size of the colony, and the amount of sun exposure. However, experiments have shown that honey bees are magicians at maintaining proper hive temperatures as long as they have a steady source of water for evaporative cooling.

Swamp coolers and air conditioners use the principle of evaporative cooling, but honey bees had it nailed long before the idea ever crossed a human mind. For a quick refresher on what evaporative cooling is, just imagine yourself stepping out of a warm shower into a cold room. Brrr! Even if the bathroom is warm according to the thermometer, you can feel your teeth chattering in a matter of seconds

Cooling in the hive

To cool the hive interior, the bees spread water on the combs or attach droplets of water to the frames. Then they fan. The fanning speeds evaporation, and since evaporation carries away the hottest molecules first, the entire hive gets cooler. The fanning also increases the humidity, necessary to keep the larvae hydrated. When the water is gone, the bees add more and continue the process.

In "emergency" conditions, when high temperatures threatened to melt the combs or kill the brood, worker bees will unload water carriers before nectar or pollen carriers. Honey bees are skilled at cooling, so colonies placed in super-heated environments can reliably keep their hives cool as long as they have a constant supply of water.

However, trouble can occur when bees run short. Truckloads of bees exposed to drying highway air or queens enclosed in shipping cages can easily run dry. Whenever you transport bees, providing water is job one.

How do honey bees find water?

Although honey bee eyesight is extraordinary for finding flowers, navigating long distances, and evading predators, it is less effective for finding water. Recent research shows that foraging honey bees respond more to the contrast between colors rather than the colors themselves. According to Adrian Horridge, a specialist in insect vision, "Bees locate and measure amounts of blue in areas and, separately, quantities of green contrast at edges, and the angle between them."

Since water sources can be any color based on what's beneath them, and because they often lack contrasting edges, visually searching for water is likely not effective for bees. Instead, they use their sense of smell. Odor receptors, especially those in the feet and antennae, sample the environment for something to drink.

Often, a bee's choice of water is unappealing to us. The rim of a wet flower pot, a spongy area in the lawn, a drip irrigation emitter, or a splatter of dog pee work just fine. A bee's affinity for water with "stuff" in it is likely because of the scent of the stuff. The odoriferous infusion is what the bees detect and what attracts them to the source.

As the natural world would have it, the soup the bees select often contains minerals they need in their diets, such as phosphorous, potassium, and salt. These and other micronutrients may be lacking from the various pollen and nectar sources they are using. In a way, a slurp of dirty water is like chasing a vitamin pill with a sip of tea: All your missing nutrients slide down the hatch without swallowing a single Brussels sprout.

Sipping algae through a straw

Nothing, it seems, attracts honey bees like the aroma of algae. Although algae-laden water isn't something humans prefer, when you examine the places bees like to slurp, you can usually find algae in the mix.

Around my home, bees like the seepage that leaks out of forest slopes. The water gathers in rivulets that draw lazy zigzags across the logging roads, wetting the dust. Where it intersects with sunshine, small tendrils of green slime wave in the meandering water or grow in mossy layers on the semi-submerged stones. This warm chartreuse beverage is the honey bees' cocktail of choice. They simply insert their own built-in straw.

Slimy layers thrive on the aforementioned hose bibbs, birdbaths, and flower pots. They also show up in koi ponds, pet dishes, water troughs, rain gutters, splash blocks, and compost piles. The water in these attractive beverage bars might be impossible for a fast-flying bee to see, but their keen sense of smell makes up for any deficit of vision.

Scent as a signal

Researchers have found that honey bees in desert areas often mark their watering holes with Nasonov pheromone, a tool that is not normally used for flagging caches of pollen, nectar, or resin. Since desert environments don't support many algae, honey bees may use the Nasonov pheromone to help their sister bees find a rewarding water source.

Other scents that seem to attract honey bees to water include chlorine and salt. Both chlorinated and salted pool water are great honey bee attractants, preferences that are probably learned by association. Once a bee finds a swimming pool, she can recruit other water foragers to the source by sharing a scented sample. Many beekeepers report that once honey bees become attuned to the odor of chlorine, they will even sip from bleached laundry hanging on a clothesline.

Saltwater pools are especially attractive. Although we like to pretend that salt is the enemy, all animals need salt to survive. Don't be afraid to add a pinch of salt to your water source, especially if salt is not abundant in your landscape. Some beekeepers like to use mineral salts that are sold in the pet store as "bunny wheels." You can crush them with a hammer and add a bit to your water source. Just a tad can add a variety of minerals to a bee's diet.

First the water, then the bees

For beekeepers living in an urban or suburban environment, providing a water supply for bees should be a priority. Ideally, a system should be in place before your first bees arrive. The reason is simple: Your neighborhood is likely filled with various wet, slimy things, and at least one owner of a pool, dog dish, or flower pot won't want to share it with bees.

Unfortunately, the time gap between establishing a hive and the first neighbor complaint can be costly. Why? Because once honey bees have selected a convenient watering hole, changing their minds can be tricky — or downright impossible. Reasoning with even one honey bee can frustrate the best of us, let alone a whole colony. It is much easier to provide water right from the git-go than to attempt wholesale retraining.

** Credits: This article first appeared in American Bee Journal, Volume 162 No. 3, February 2022, pp. 281-285.*

Reflections from a 2nd year beekeeper… Susan Kruger

I started beekeeping with my first nucs in the spring of 2021. After following Jimmie Oakley around the Bost Farm for a few months, I decided to give it a try with my own bees. I understood that the bee population was decreasing and as a farmer's wife I knew how important it was to maintain a bee presence in our fields of grain and cotton.

Workshop held at the Bost Farm - March 2021…
(that's me in Covid mask circled in red)

My FIRST YEAR started out with Randy Oakley's **First Year Beekeeping Management Workshop**. Randy taught us so much about the honeybee including drones, workers, and of course the Queen. There was in-depth discussion about the metamorphosis of the honeybee. He led us through all of the steps necessary to have a successful year. I felt a little like I did after I graduated with a degree in education and was about to start teaching my own class… I was prepared, but I had no idea what I was getting myself into!

YEAR TWO was completely different, but also the same in a lot of ways. I was happy to have Randy's first year notebook and all my notes to fall back on as a reference. My mentor, Jimmie Oakley came through in a clutch at all the right times. He gave me direction, but I was also able to rely on my experience, training, and lots of luck to have another successful year.

The grand finale this year, of course, was the honey extraction. Jimmie joined Tim and me at our farm to pull the frames of honey from the boxes on Friday morning July 22. We combed through all of the bees' hard work to find the perfect frames while leaving some for them.

Tim and Susan pull frames of honey from their bee yard south of Ganger Lake.

Hives worked, honey pulled, and loaded up to go to the Bost Farm honey house.

By the end of our search, we had pulled 44 frames of mostly capped honey. Thankfully Jimmie suggested we spread the work out over 2 days, so we waited till Saturday to extract. I had forgotten from the first year just how long it takes to extract the honey.

Saturday morning, we were joined by our daughter, Abby, and my brother Mark. The uncapping revealed the beauty of thousands of bees' hard work. As the golden honey flowed from the frames and filled the room with the magnificent aroma of delicious honey, I knew our year had been a success! After 5 hours of cutting cappings, loading and unloading frames in the extractor, straining, and straining again, filling bottles and bears, and finally 5-gallon buckets of honey, all we had to do was clean up and celebrate.

Our first year we were able to extract 70 lbs from 4 hives. This year we increased the harvest to 215 lbs from eight hives!!! What a great season it has been. This 2nd year beekeeper is ready for the challenge of finishing out year two. I am excited to see what year 3 will bring. I know that everything will be different again, but with the knowledge that I have acquired over the first two years, I know I can help the bee population grow and fill my buckets with more beautiful honey!

Susan

Susan with daughter Abby and husband Tim make up the extracting team.

Abby slices capping from frame as Susan watches.

Extracting done, Abby, Susan, Mark & Tim are proud of their efforts.

Making more honey means more honey to bottle, & bottle & bottle...sweet problem to have.

Honey Tasting and Judging in September ???

After a two-year hiatus in the Honey Judging and Tasters Choice Contest because of Covid-19 related issues the club plans to resurrect this popular tradition at our (third Tuesday) September meeting.

It's not too early to be thinking about the Honey Judging and Tasters Choice Contest that is always held at the WCABA regular meeting in September when we celebrate National Honey Month.

In regard to that I would like to cover for our new members and remind our veterans of what we do and why and maybe offer some tips as you prepare for the September event.

As far back as I have been a member of WCABA we have had a "honey tasting" as a fun thing to do as the summer harvest season drew to a close. I retired from commercial beekeeping after 10 years in North Dakota and experienced my first tasting while a new member of WCABA myself. Believe me, it was an eyeopener. Having produced and sold semi loads of northern honey to packers in the Twin Cities, it never really occurred to me just how different honey can taste.

Texas is blessed with some really fine flavored honey and many of them come from our area, so bring your baby food size jar of your honey to be placed with all the others as we once again do the "TASTING", just for the fun of it. There will be a first (blue), second (red) and third place(white) ribbon presented and the bragging rights for the next year that go with it if you are a winner.

Tallying up votes in Tasters Choice Conrest

TASTER'S CHOIC

SUBMIT

TASTE

VOTE

The judging is all subjective based on the individual palate because everybody tastes, and everybody judges. As all of the small samples of honey are lined up on the table, all who participate in the tasting get three votes to mark by the ones they think deserve their vote, and the one getting the most marks are declared the "Tasters Choice" for 2022. That's easy enough, right? The hard part is that you only get three votes.

Winners of Tasters Choice Contest receive 1st, 2nd, 3rd place ribbons

On the Honey Judging side, there are actually judges (3) that are tasked to judge the honey going to the State Fair of Texas held in Dallas in October. Any club member can submit a *2lb. glass queenline jar of their honey to be judged against the standard and then to be donated and sent to the Fair where it will be on display in the Texas Beekeepers Association Honey Booth while the Fair is in progress. The honey will then be donated to the Happy Hills Farm in Granbury, Texas in support of their work with children.

Chris Doggett, Jennifer Shear, Glenn Patterson have served as judges in the WCABA Honey Judging

Williamson Co. Area Beekeepers Assn.

Judging Form

HONEY - Extracted

Color:	Entry #	
Container Appearance	5	
Level of Fill	5	
Density	10	
Free of Crystals	10	
Free of Air Bubbles and Foam	10	
Free of Wax	10	
Free of Lint	10	
Free of Other Foreign Matter	10	
Flavor	15	
Brightness	15	
Total Points	100	

WCABA Judging Form

The judging is based on a 100-point system where credit is given for container appearance and fill level, the freedom for foreign material, and the flavor and brightness of the honey. Each entry will be presented with a ribbon based on how the honey stacks up again the standard.

I have provided some addition tips on preparation of your honey in hopes that you'll have an enjoyable experience and learn something about the presentation of your honey.

I hope this may become one of your favorite parts of the beekeeping year. Jimmie Oakley - Editor

** If you need a 2lb. glass jar for your entry or a baby food jar for your sample, contact Jimmie Oakley at the Bost Farm [512-507-3009]*

A large group of WCABA members entered the honey judging in this record year of submission; all going to the State Fair of Texas.

Preparing "Polished" Honey for Show… submitted by Jimmie Oakley

*Note: These rules relate to "polished" honey judged on appearance. Honey judged on taste only is known as "black jar" honey. Bees make the honey and you are not winning on the honey, but your presentation of the honey. Judges look at how you present the honey and taste is a secondary factor.

- Make sure you present your honey in the container called for by the contest.

Use the right container: Queenline Jar – 1#, 2# - and good lid!!

Cleanliness is next to…

- Make sure your containers are clean. Wash in dishwasher by themselves.

Never touch the jar with your hands after that; use lint free cloth (flower sack towels) or photo gloves.

- Pick the Jar Well (blemish free). Look carefully for bubbles or flaws in the glass, even the bottom.
- Put Good Honey in your Jars. Honey Quality Check - Choose only fully capped frames (not high moisture) and taste it for flavor (no bitter weed, leafy spurge, goldenrod).

Filling your Jars:

- Fill slowly, holding with a towel, tipped at an angle to prevent bubbles.

Fill Level of Jar: Up to the top screw thread (the first time). Reduce lever before entering into the contest. This allows for removing bubbles and/or debris later.

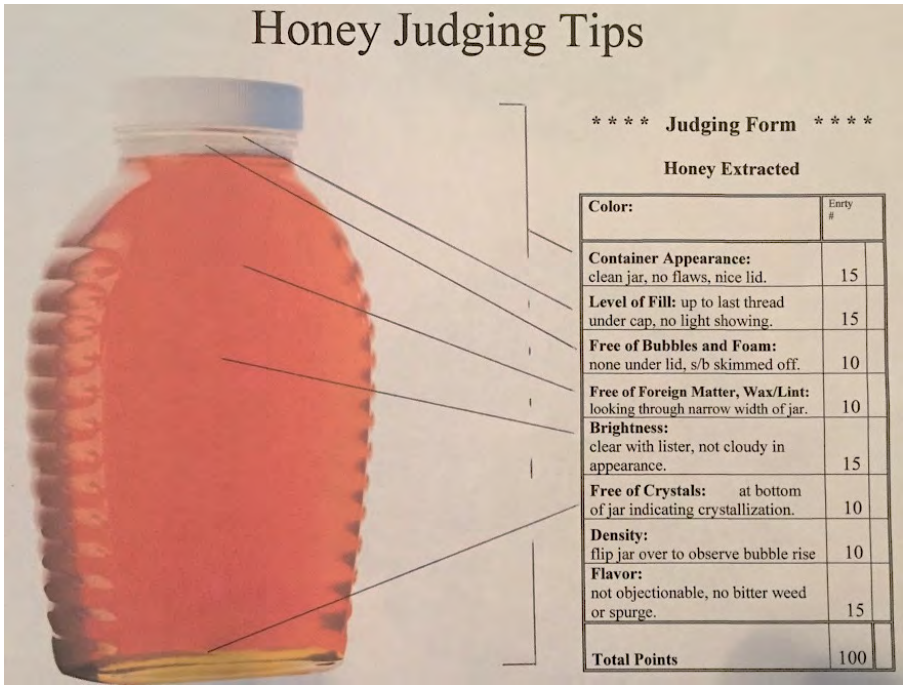
Cover Jar with Plastic Wrap:

- Judges look under the lid and no honey should be there, remove the plastic wrap before judging.
- Bottle Honey Early as Opposed to Late: Give your honey time to settle up and provide opportunity to skim or remove bubbles and/or debris. Remove top layer with a silver spoon to above the inside fill line. You should not see empty space below the lid.

*Honey is judged on three categories, Light, Amber, & Dark, the Appearance of the Bottle (cleanliness of the bottle inside and out, no honey under the lid), the Uniform Fill (up to fill line), Free of Foreign Matter (granulated crystals, bubbles, foam, wax, lint), Flavor, and Brightness (clear, sparking, transparent).

Hints: You can heat honey slowly and allow bubbles to rise by leaving the jar in a closed, parked car all day (in Texas = 100+ degrees).

- To remove specks, wax, or lint try long wooden squares to move the foreign matter to the top and dip off with silver spoon.
- Polish jars with silk cloth.
- Store honey in room temperature above 57 degrees to avoid granulation.



I realize this might be overkill for most honey presentations, but good rules to remember, nevertheless. JO

Practical Experiences in the Bee Yard

Stanford Brantley

AUGUST is the month that is hard on bees as well as their keepers. There is little forage for the bees to attempt to collect. Crepe Myrtle trees are continuing to bloom and provide a small source of nectar and pollen. According to Pierre Lau, a PHD graduate of the Texas A&M Bee Lab system, the white blooming Crepe Myrtle trees provide the best bee forage. However, if you only have purple or red blooming trees, by all means don't cut them down!

If you live in the city, window box flowers can provide a source of food for the bees.

Hives located in the river bottoms may have an unseen food source growing in the cooler areas of tree cover. Rattan Vine, Poison Ivy and Oak, and large patches of English Ivy could provide a good foraging area. Be aware of large areas of bitter weeds blooming as this can give the honey an undesirable taste or smell.

Be aware with little or no food to collect, the bees may be cranky and may be prone to sting without you doing anything other than entering the beeyard.

All of the surplus honey the bees have produced should be extracted by now. Do a periodic check of your hives to determine if there is nectar stored in the brood chambers. If there is no nectar available, the queen has no reason to lay eggs. She knows there is no food to feed any newly hatched larvae. If no food is available, feed with sugar syrup as needed. I suggest using 2-to-1 syrup mixture as the bees do not have to work as hard to evaporate and store the heavier mixture.

If you need to feed pollen patties, suspend a small piece of patty on a one-half inch mesh hardware cloth. Cut a six- or seven-inch square of the hardware cloth, snip the corners and fold it to make an upside down wire basket. Lay the piece of patty on the raised part of the wire so bees have access to the underside and can keep the hive beetles from depositing their eggs under the patty.

Do a mite check as mite populations are high at this time of the year. In a 300 bee mite check, there should be no more than nine mites. More mites found in the sample means a treatment needs to be done. Consider your area's high temperature when deciding on the treatment you want to apply. Some cannot be applied during the hottest part of summer. Read the directions on the package and apply it properly.

If you have extracted your supers and do not intend to store them on the hive all winter you have two storage choices to keep the wax moth from destroying the drawn comb. One method is to stack the supers and add 1/4 cup of paramoth crystals to the stack. Place an 8x8 inch piece of paper or a paper plate at the top of the stack, put the paramoth crystals on it, and set an outer cover over it.

A second method is to use the new Certan B402 to spray the extracted frames for wax moth control. Here is a link giving information about Certan and how to use it: https://www.vita-europe.com/beehealth/products/b401_b402/.

If you opt to use paramoth crystal, you would need to let the supers air out next year before placing them on the hive. With Certan, there is no need to air out the supers prior to placing them back on the hive. Certan is available from most bee supply companies.

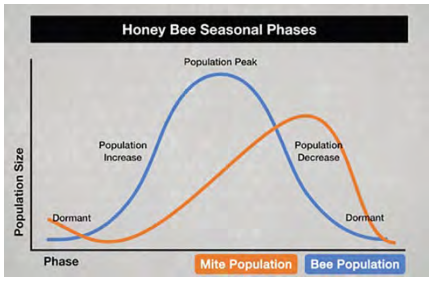
At this time, there is not much hope for a Goldenrod flow unless we get considerable moisture in September or October. With no fall flow for winter nectar storage, it may be necessary to feed 2-to-1 sugar syrup so the bees can store supplies for winter. Keep in mind that supplemental feeding has the potential to induce robbing. Reduce openings to about three inches on all hives being fed. If the colony is weak, reduce the entrance to the smallest entrance possible.

Stanford

Scholarship Recipients Treat for Varroa Mites

by Jimmie Oakley – Scholarship Chair

Yes, it is that time of the year in the scholarship bee yard. The dry season has started early and as nectar sources dried up the response of the beehive is to feed the queen less and as a result she is laying less, and hive population is on the decrease. This means the varroa mite population is concentrated in a smaller bee population causing even more damage to the bees. The solution (see June 2022 Newsletter *) *is to reduce the mite population either by a brood break or the application of a chemical control with an EPA registered miticide. For many years we have used Apiguard as our summer mite treatment of choice because it can be used during the heat of summer. It is considered an "organic" treatment because thymol, the active ingredient, is derived from the culinary herb – thyme.*



(*Summer Varroa Mite / Virus Management, A Critical Key to Sustainable Beekeeping - Randy Oakley)

Max and Naaman performed the "alcohol wash" to determine their mite count and both had more than the three mites per sampling which prescribes action was needed. With the assist of dad's Christopher and Scott respectively, the month-long treatment regimen was started, along with supplemental feeding to help offset the effects of the drought and continue some brood rearing.

Naaman shakes bees for sampling

From sample tub 300 bees will be scooped

Max swirls sample bees in alcohol to dislodge mites

Chris & Max watches as Randy separates sample bees from alcohol for mite counting

Chris McDonald counts mites while Max waits

…one week later.

Max opening up his hive for treatment

Feeding the hive before treatment. Note syringe of ApiGuard on top.

Max applies 25mg of ApiGuard to a card on the top bars

Randy positions treatment card in place as Naaman squirts ApiGuard gel onto the treatment card. Scott watches in background.

With spacer rim in place, Max closes up the hive till next week's treatment.

Note: ApiGuard treatment is applied to each hive at 25gm per week for four weeks instead of 50mg every two weeks because of area wide high temperatures and the effect on the bees. JO

Extracting Honey at the Gunter Household is a Family Affair

The Gunter family all suited up to pull honey

Everyone gets to uncap frames...

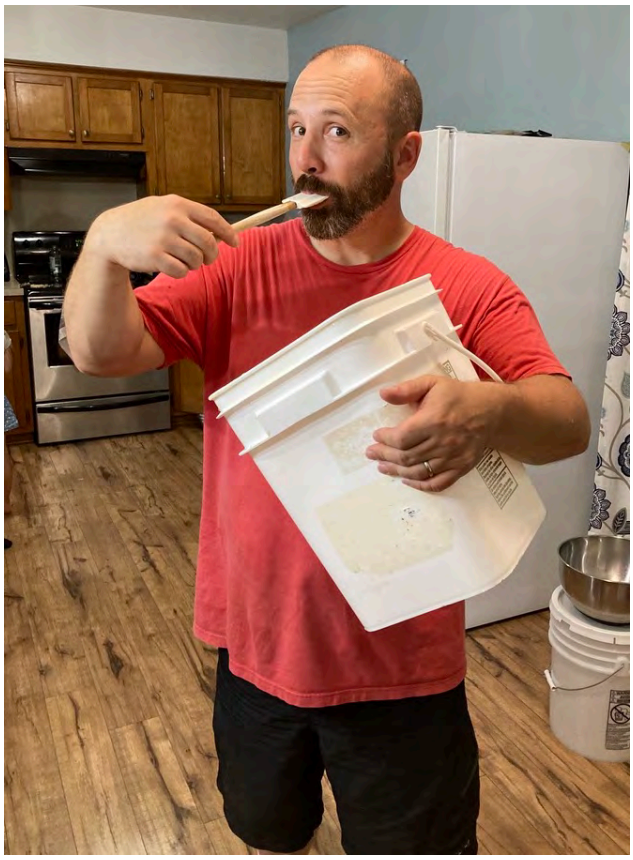
Lydia and then Naaman, assisted by Scott...

...and finally Hadassah tries her hand... from the Least to the Greatest.

Now it has to be extracted ,and Lydia and Elisha are up to the task.

More Extrtacting Pictures…

The result of all the effort is beautiful HONEY!



Finally, Scott says it's time to clean up … YUM!

Kathleen Nielson of Pflugerville…

Kathleen is excited about getting all that honey...

...and that her friend Katie Webber was willing to help.

Membership Report: Shirley Doggett

August 2022

If you change your address, phone number, or email, please email me with the change.

Shirley Doggett

New Members:

Kirk Kurtin	Georgetown
John ad Tobey Latham	Thrall

Renewing Members

Antonio Canas.	Georgetown
Mary Cameron.	Leander

Thank you for your Subscription or Membership Renewal ~ *Shirley*

CLASSIFIEDS

Bee Salty, a local beekeeping company, is seeking a beekeeper to help with our apiaries.

Job requirements:

- 1 +year of keeping bees (willing to train the right candidate)
- Truck
- Flexible schedule (very part time availability that varies depending on weather)
- Able to lift over 60lbs
- Ability to follow instructions and communicate well
- Willing to work in heat, to end your day dirty, stinky, and sticky but happy
- Willingness and understanding of natural beekeeping methods

For more info and to apply, send us an email at: beekeeper@bee-salty.com

Please include your name, area of town you live in, brief description of your bee keeping experience and tell us how you'd like to grow in that, plus include any questions you have for us!

James and Sarah Denman - (737) 444-3376
Bee-salty.com
#lifeisbetterwithbeesyall
Instagram: beesaltyco
Beekeeper@bee-salty.com
Bee-salty.com

FOR SALE 60+ HIVES in Rockdale, TX
I am **Johnny Morton** of Rockdale and I have 80 hives plus 5-6 nucs for sale.
Because of age and mobility, I can't take care of that many, therefore I am selling.
10 frame deep single story for $400 and $500 for two story. All bees are gentle with new queens.
Hives are good for Ag Exemption. If you have any questions, please call: Johnny Morton at 979/220-6920
I would live to keep about 20 hives. JM

People's Choice Beekeeping Books

According to www.bestreviews.guide (a reviews compilation website) these ten beekeeping books received the BEST approval ratings. All are in the WCABA library and are available for check out.

1. Beekeeping for Dummies by Howland Blackiston

Beekeeping for Dummies is also the number one requested book the WCABA members. This hands-on guide provides all the tools, tips, tricks, and techniques needed to become a real backyard beekeeper. Like other "Dummies" books, it is easy to read and full of essential details.

2. The Beekeeper's Handbook by Diana Sammataro and Alphonse Avitabile

Featuring clear descriptions and authoritative content, this handbook provides step-by-step directions accompanied by more than 100 illustrations for setting up an apiary, handling bees, and working throughout the season to maintain healthy bees and a generous supply of honey.

3. Beekeeping: Everything You Need to Know to Start your First Beehive by Joachim Petterson

Beekeeping might seem exotic or old-fashioned, but around the world it is becoming increasingly more common to find a hive or two in urban spaces and suburban backyards. Some modern beekeepers are inspired by the desire to help the honey bee community, others simply enjoy fresh honey from the most local of sources.

4. Top-Bar Beekeeping: Organic Practices for Honeybee Health by Les Crowder and Heather Harrell

More and more organically minded beekeepers are using top-bar hives, in which the shape of the interior resembles a hollow log. Long lasting and completely biodegradable, a top-bar hive made of untreated wood allows bees to build comb naturally. This book provides complete information on hive management and other aspects of using these innovative hives.

5. Beginning Beekeeping: Everything You Need to Make Your Hive Thrive! by Tanya Phillips

A simple, straightforward approach that gives you
the basics to get started with beekeeping, while following a balanced, objective approach that weighs the pros and cons of conventional and organic methodologies.

6. Natural Beekeeping: Organic Approaches to Modern Apiculture by Ross Conrad

Ross Conrad brings together the best "do no harm" strategies for keeping honeybees healthy and productive with nontoxic methods of controlling mites; eliminating American foulbrood disease without the use of antibiotics; selective breeding for naturally resistant bees; and many other detailed management techniques, which are covered in a thoughtful, matter-of-fact way.

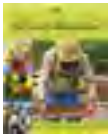
7. The Complete Guide to Beekeeping for Fun & Profit: Everything You Need to Know Explained Simply by Cindy Belknap

You will learn everything you need to effectively start beekeeping for profit and fun, including what materials you need, what kinds of bees are best for honey or wax production. This book walks all motivated potential beekeepers through the process of building and operating their beekeeping business from the ground up, ensuring it is both a fun hobby and a great way to make a little extra money on the side.

8. The Practical Book of Beekeeping: A Complete How-To Manual on the Satisfying Art of Keeping Bees and Their Day to Day Care by David Cramp

The structure and hierarchy of a beehive and the behavior of bees is fascinating, and the end product, honey, is a fitting reward for a beekeeper's care. This is a how-to manual from handling bees, to the best garden plants, and to the harvesting honey.

9. The Backyard Beekeeper: An Absolute Beginner's Guide to Keeping Bees in Your Yard and Garden by Kim Flottum



The Backyard Beekeeper makes the time honored and complex tradition of beekeeping
an enjoyable and accessible backyard pastime that will appeal to urban and rural beekeepers of all skill levels. With this complete resource and the expert advice of Bee Culture editor Kim Flottum, your bees will be healthy, happy, and more productive.

10. The Practical Beekeeper Volume I Beginning Beekeeping Naturally by Michael Bush

This book is about how to keep bees in a natural and practical system where they do not require treatments for pests and diseases and only minimal interventions. It is not a mainstream beekeeping book. Many of the concepts are contrary to "conventional"beekeeping.

WCABA Library Resources:

The WCABA has an extensive library of books and DVDs on a wide variety of topics, ranging from basic to advanced, related to bees and beekeeping available to club members. Members can view the library catalog and reserve items by following the instructions at www.wcaba.org/book-library and registering with Librarika. Items can be picked up from and returned to the club Librarian at the monthly meetings.
Chris Huck ~ librarian@wcaba.org ~ 832-904-7283