

# Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association

**NEXT MEETING:**  
TUESDAY, February 26th  
7:00-9:00 Program  
Georgetown Public Library

## **2019 Club Officers:**

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

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

**MEMBERSHIP: Shirley Doggett**  
**co chairs: Fred & Cecilia Richter**  
512-924-5051  
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**SECRETARY: Gillian Mattinson**  
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**TREASURER: Barbi Rose**  
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barbirose@yahoo.com

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

**PAST PRESIDENT: Jim Colbert**  
512-863-7183  
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**LIBRARIAN: Barbi Rose**  
512-799-0616  
barbirose@yahoo.com

**REFRESHMENTS:**  
Sherry Smith, Jill Douglas,  
Matt Ludlum, Leigh Ann Brunson,  
Janine Hall

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

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

## Meeting Night Changes

Tuesday February 26th  
Tuesday March 26th  
Tuesday April 23rd  
**Thursday May 30th**  
Tuesday June 25th  
Tuesday July 23rd  
**Tuesday August 20th**

Meetings are the 4th  
Tuesday of each month  
except May and August  
when room availability  
caused a change.

## February Program

**7:00 pm Michael Wheeler “Foundation or No Foundation”**

**8:00 pm Brandon Fehrenkamp “Catching Swarms”**



*Shirley Doggett and Sebastian Urban at the Austin Bee School*



## Interesting 2018 Research Pearls

*from our President, Phil Ainslie*

### **Common Weed Killer (Roundup) 2018 University of Texas at Austin**

Summary:

Honey bees exposed to glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup, lose some of the beneficial bacteria in their guts and are more susceptible to infection and death from harmful bacteria. Scientists believe this is evidence that glyphosate might be contributing to the decline of honey bees and native bees around the world.

### **Mycelium Extract Reduces Viruses in Honey Bees 2018 Washington State University**

Summary:

A mushroom extract fed to honey bees greatly reduces virus levels, according to a new paper. In field trials, colonies fed mycelium extract showed a 79-fold reduction in deformed wing virus and a 45,000-fold reduction in Lake Sinai virus compared to control colonies. The hope is that the results of this research will help dwindling honey bee colonies fight viruses that are known to play a role in colony collapse disorder.

### **Bees Understand the Concept of Zero June 7, 2018 RMIT University**

Summary:

Scientists have discovered honeybees can understand the concept of zero, putting them in an elite club of clever animals that can grasp the abstract mathematical notion of nothing.

### **Agricultural Fungicide Attracts Honey Bees January 8, 2018 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

Summary:

When given the choice, honey bee foragers prefer to collect sugar syrup laced with the fungicide chlorothalonil (Bravo, Echo, Daconil) over sugar syrup alone, researchers report. Fungicides are among the top contaminants of honey bee hives and can interfere with the bee's ability to metabolize other pesticides.

### **Honey May Reduce Injury in Children Who Have Swallowed Button Batteries June 11, 2018 Study done at Children's Hospital in Columbus, Oh.**

Summary:

In experiments conducted on cadavers and live animals, both honey and the drug Carafate provided a physical barrier and neutralized the tissue pH increase associated with battery ingestion; they both reduced injury severity compared with other common household liquids, including apple juice, orange juice, sodas, sports drinks and maple syrup.



**Williamson County Area Beekeeping Association**  
**Meeting Summary - January 22nd, meeting.**

The meeting was opened by Phil Ainslie, President

**President's Announcements**

- The last day to order Nucs and Queens will be February 28th. Jimmie Oakley was available to take orders at the meeting. Order forms can be mailed to Jimmie.
- The Texas Beekeepers Association, via Chris Doggett, has provided a four fold pamphlet. The pamphlets are designed with new beekeepers in mind. They are a good reference guide, and provide a checklist for each season.
- Donations for door prizes are welcome and encouraged.
- Member wishing to help with refreshments can contact a board member for information.
- The Board is look for 2 at-large members to join the Board and participate in the bi monthly meetings. The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday March 15th from 7pm - 8.30pm. It is held in room 307 of the Methodist Church building on University. Please contact the President, or a board member, for more information and/or to put your name forward.
- The W.C.A.B.A. has been contacted by a gentleman who is looking for beekeepers to assist him in getting agricultural exemption. . He has 11 acres available behind the vineyard in Florence, and is seeking beekeepers whom are interested in placing hives on his property. If interested, please contact a Board member.

**Beekeeping 101** - The World of Bees. Presented by Chris Doggett.

A lively presentation covering the basic knowledge of bees and the structure of the hive.

**Beekeeping 102** - Honey Bee Nutrition and Feeding. Presented by Chris Doggett.

Another great and lively presentation covering the basic nutritional needs of the bees.

**Members Present**:- 104

**Door Prizes**. - There was a total of 11 door prize winners !!

**Presentations and Acknowledgements**

President , Phil Ainslie presented Jim Colburn, the past president, with a piece of bee related art work.

Chris Doggett recognized, and thanked Laura Colburn for all her hard work and support of the W.C.A.B.A. Laura is a past board member who is moving out of state.

**Housekeeping**: Jim Colbert proposed a change to Article VI - Constitutional Changes, and Section IV - By-law, allowing the board to meet in the month of November instead of October. The membership approved the change by an unanimous vote.

The meeting was closed by Phil Ainslie, President. " Bee Good"

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday February 26th at the Georgetown Library.

Gillian Mattinson  
Secretary, WCABA

# Slow but Steady Bee and Queen Sales

The pace of bee and queen sales in the WCABA Bee Procurement Program is slow but steady as we approach the deadline for ordering through the club's annual program.

As of this time last year the membership has placed 101 orders that amounted to a requested 218 five-frame nucs and 73 marked and clipped queens. This year as of the same time there were only 78 orders for 182 nucs and 68 queens.

There is still time to place an order before the February 28<sup>th</sup> deadline through the club if you are a current member. There are more than 60 nucs and 20 queens available at a very attractive price for those wanting to get started in beekeeping, replaces winter losses, or increase the number of hives under your management; so don't delay. The official order form is in the newsletter for your convenience with a nuc price of \$150 each and the M&C queens are going for \$32 each.

Deliver dates for the nucs or queens with pick up at the Bost Farm is yet to be determined, but it usually falls in mid-April. Each order is confirmed by e-mail and each order will receive a "Pickup Voucher" with a specific date and number the member is entitled to claim.

As always, your patience is appreciated while the final details of the club's bulk order for nucs and queens is worked out.

Bring your order form and your money to the next meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> to get on the list.



Jimmie Oakley – Order Coordinator.

B&Q Order Table at WCABA Meeting

**Do You Purchase From Amazon.com?  
Go to Smile.Amazon.com  
Same products and same prices  
Choose THBEA (Texas Honey Bee Education Association)  
Amazon will donate a percentage of your purchase to us  
This supports the Texas Honey Queen program  
and many other Educational Activities**

# W.C.A.B.A 5-Frame Nuc & Queen Order Form - 2019

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I want to order: Were you a member last year? / Yes / No please print email

No. \_\_\_\_\_ **5 Frame Nuc** (w/Italian-Carniolan Hybrid Queen) **\$150.00/ Nuc**

*Nuc has three frames brood, w/ mated queen, "NOT" marked or clipped.*

No. \_\_\_\_\_ **Honey Bee Queen** (Based on group order of 100) **\$32.00/Queen**

*BeeWeaver marked & clipped Queen, mite tolerant and virus resistant stock.*

How will you pay? CASH or Check # \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL \$ AMT**

Mail remittance to:

Check Preferred

**OF ORDER**

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

*Nuc order deadline: Must be postmarked by February 28, 2019, or while supplies last.*

*Limit 10 nucs per family. 4 nucs new members. No resale or owner transfer permitted on nucs once ordered.*

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

Special Instructions:

## Membership Application

Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association

Dues \$20.00 per year - Individual

\$25.00 per year - Family Membership

New Member / Renewing Member (circle one)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please print, fill out, and bring to club meeting or mail with check to:

Membership

Shirley Doggett, 400 County Road 440, Thrall, TX 76578

## Scholarship Recipient Training Session at the Bost Farm

As Winter refuses to let go its hold on Central Texas, the WCABA Scholarship Program took advantage of the beekeeping down time to eat a little pizza and review a presentation by Randy Oakley at a training session at the Bost Farm Honey House.

Thursday the 7<sup>th</sup> was a cold windy day to start with and it didn't get much better as temperatures fell into the lower 40's as the recipients gathered. There were seven youngsters in attendance, plus several accompanying parents and some additional siblings. All in all, it was a packed room but even the better for the combined heat.

The year-long program was presented in Randy's PowerPoint presentation titled "A Sustainable Apiary for Central Texas", and each scholarship recipient received a binder notebook to assist and reinforce the foundation principles and the important details to be remembered.

Two and a half hours is a long time to hold the attendee's attention, so several breaks were taken for bathroom and to stock up on more pizza. Randy talked fast and the guys listened even faster, and the material was covered in record time, and there was even opportunity for questions at the close of the session.

As the program material evolves and expands the recipients are in for at least 62 weeks of mentoring to get them to the point where they take possession of both hives that are produced as a result of the program.

We are still excited by the potential of this concept to create and expand the initial nuc provided into a real apiary for each participant, and how well the youngsters have embraced the principles and regiment requires to accomplish the end result.

The next big milestone is to get the winter mite treatment done to assure the bees are clean going into the spring buildup.

We are thankful that WCABA is supportive of the program and is allowing it time to reach fruition.

Jimmie Oakley – Scholarship Chair



Pizza for All...



Randy Oakley Demonstrating Hive Increase

## Club Extraction Equipment

Are you looking forward to a bountiful crop of wildflowers this Spring? With so many Fall rains (and the promise of more this Spring), our bees should be “as busy as bees” bringing in all that pollen and nectar to their hives. And our WCABA members can look forward to extracting a good amount of delicious honey.

Do you need a honey extractor? WCABA has two sets of extracting equipment that our members can check out. Each set includes the extractor, sieves, and buckets that can be checked out for 3 days before you clean and return them to the Bost Farm at 4355 County Road 110, Georgetown. If you have used the extracting equipment previously, simply call Mary Bost (512/863-3656) . If you need instruction on using it, you'll need to check with Jimmie Oakley (512/507-3009) to arrange a date and time when he can meet you at the Farm and help you know what to do. There is no charge for using this equipment; however, a donation of a jar of honey to our scholarship program would be appreciated.

Mary Bost - (512/863-3656) -- bostbees@gmail.com

Welcome to Texas Bee Supply!

We'd like to welcome all Busy Bee customers to Texas Bee Supply. We're so happy you're here! Texas Bee Supply exists to help new, intermediate, and advanced beekeepers succeed in their efforts to raise bees and produce honey. Whether you have 1 or 1000 hives, we offer the products you want and need to help your bees thrive.

We sell bees and queens, a full line of beekeeping equipment, offer a wide variety of beekeeping classes, and are the only distributor in the world of the Super Suit. We also answer thousands of questions a year for our customers.

For all of our new Busy Bee customers we would like to offer the best shipping deal in the industry. Simply type busybee as a discount code when checking out and you will receive free shipping on most\* orders of \$50 or more! We hope that you will visit our website or our Blue Ridge store for all your beekeeping needs! We look forward to serving you!

Visit our Website: [www.texasbeesupply.com](http://www.texasbeesupply.com)

## February Column from S.S. Brantley Marshall Beekeepers Association

I sometimes receive interesting bee calls during the early months of the year after the winter winds have blown all of the leaves off the deciduous trees. The excitement comes from a frantic homeowner who can now see a wild bee hive hanging underneath a limb on the leafless tree. They are sure the wild African Bees are going to attack the grandchildren as soon the house door is opened. The call usually goes something like this: "I have a wild beehive twenty feet up in a tree in my front yard. I am highly allergic to bee stings and my grandchildren can't play in the yard." I try to calm them and reassure them I will come over and remove the bees. When I arrive and knock, the homeowner cracks the door a few inches and points out the tree with the "killer bees" and slams it shut again. I check out the the limbs about 20 feet high and find nothing. Using binoculars, I check the upper limbs and sure enough, about forty feet high are five dinner plate sized pieces of comb hanging underneath a big limb. But all I see between the combs is blue sky. There are no bees at all. This open colony did not survive the cold and winds we have already had this winter. I assure the homeowner that all is well and promise to come back in April and set up swarm traps on the property -- but not in the front yard. And not forty feet high!

February typically is a few cold days intermixed with some much warmer days. Today is 69 degrees but tomorrow will have 25 mph winds and near freezing temperatures. Take advantage of the warmer days to do a quick inspection of your hives. Make sure the hive still has stored honey that can see the bees through several more weeks of cold weather. If honey stores are limited, feed with a 2:1 sugar syrup mix. In cold weather, the sugar syrup container should be placed inside the hive and over the bee escape hole in the inner cover or over the top bars. This allows the bees to reach the syrup without breaking cluster. Bees can starve during cold weather if the syrup is too far from the cluster. You may need to add an empty super or a feeding super to allow the syrup container to set under the Inner Cover. A feeding super is just a 2 ½

to 3 inch deep box placed between the Inner Cover and Outer cover, creating enough room to feed with a plastic baggie. They can be purchased from most bee suppliers or quickly assembled from some 1x3 or 1x4 boards.

Sometimes I am asked about feeding with old honey. Old honey is not recommended for feeding unless you know its source and you know that it is disease free. It is less risky to feed with sugar syrup or corn syrup.

Some of the bee journal authors are writing about bees found dead in hives with adequate honey stores but little to no pollen. In our part of Texas, bees are shifting into expansion mode by late January and consuming more pollen. On warmer days, they can forage for pollen from the blooming Elm trees but will be consuming stored pollen when it is too cold to forage. It is possible for the bees to exhaust the stored pollen. Some beekeepers feed a pollen substitute, either a commercially available powder or a patty. The pollen powders or patties can be placed inside the hive on top of the inner cover or top bars. You can also consider open feeding of pollen supplements by constructing an open feeding station and let the bees forage on warmer days. If you are not familiar with open feeding stations, Google "bee pollen open feeding stations" and you will find a wide variety of options.

By mid-to-late February, we should see Wild Pear blooming throughout East Texas. Other nectar bearing plants will begin to bloom soon after. Our bees will be foraging strongly on warmer days. You should see increasing activity at the landing board, with bees coming in bearing loads of pollen. Spend some time observing and you will note a variety of different colored pollen on the pollen pouches of the returning foragers. It will be a good time to start a calendar or notebook noting what kinds of trees and flower are being worked and what the bees are bringing into the hive. Blooms do not produce nectar all day long so you need to check at different times of the day.



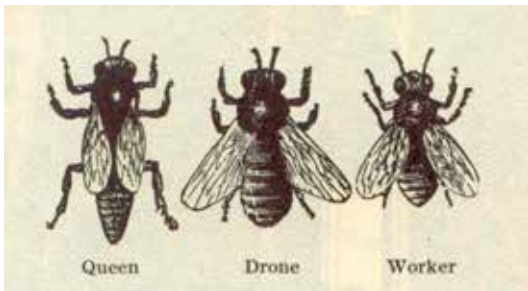


Central Texas  
Beekeepers Association

# 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Beekeeping School

Saturday, March 23, 2019  
Brenham High School  
525 A. H. Ehrig Drive, Brenham, Texas

**\*\*\*New Location\*\*\***



Whether you are a complete beginner or an experienced beekeeper, there will be something of interest to you!

A preliminary course schedule is given on the back of this flyer.

**Cost, including Lunch and Snacks:**

Individual	\$65
Additional Adult	\$60
Student (Including College)	\$25
Children Under 12	\$10

Register at: [www.tinyurl.com/2019BeeSchool](http://www.tinyurl.com/2019BeeSchool)

Please visit us at [www.centraltexasbeekeepers.org](http://www.centraltexasbeekeepers.org)  
email [centraltexasbeekeepers@gmail.com](mailto:centraltexasbeekeepers@gmail.com) or call 979-277-0411  
for more information or to be added to our mailing list.

Visit us on Facebook at CentralTexasBeekeepersAssociationandFriends

### New Members:

Jason Rask.	Georgetown.
Karen Mirquardt.	Round Rock.
Kurtin Family.	Georgetown
Tommy Parker.	Leander.
Bill Dyess.	Georgetown.
Irene Jones.	Granger.
Zach Hancock.	San Marcos.
Jeff Keys.	Taylor.
Rachel Glass.	Ding Dong.
Sarah Graham.	Elgin.
Maggie Georg.	Thrall.
Karl Johnson.	Leander
Brian Nickels.	Liberty Hill.
Brett Family.	Georgetown.
Paul Davis.	Georgetown.

### Renewing Members

Robyn Guerrero.	Austin
Denny Schey.	Round Rock
Ed Mora.	Round Rock
Brenda Castillo	Georgetown
Rick Lilleberg.	Georgetown
John Pate.	Georgetown
Robert Roseberry.	Hutto
Steve Hoskins.	Belton
Terry Wyatt.	Pflugerville.
Glenn Patterson.	Georgetown
Holly Medina.	Pflugerville
Traci Cox.	Georgetown
Don Schwertner.	Jarrell
Sharon Stephenson	Hutto
David Schell.	Round Rock
Mark Becker.	Marble Falls
Grace Bryce.	Georgetown
Jim Rodeghero.	Liberty Hill
William Janke.	Georgetown
Jake French.	Georgetown
George Richards.	Georgetown
Tina Lim.	Austin
Gary Morris	Round Rock
David Brunson.	Austin
Debra Gaston.	Elgin
Jim Esch.	Georgetown
David Tatum	Liberty Hill
Fred Anders.	Round Rock
Brett Betts	Georgetown
Bill Williams.	Thorndale
Michael Anders.	Georgetown
Jennifer Gray.	Spicewood
Shannon Rector.	Leander
Brandon Deaver.	Round Rock
Betsy Denny.	Round Rock

### Door Prizes

#### Prizes Donated by:

Shirley Doggett, Jake French, Laura Colburn, Phil Ainslie, Lester and Lisa.

#### Prizes Won by:

Stephanie Siggs, Brian Nickels, Kevin Ueckert, John Hibbard, Warren Sanders, Robert Roseberry, Dianne Hale, Eric Hale, Sebastian Urban

#### Visit Our Website:

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

#### Email Us At:

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

#### Write to:

**4355 County Road 110,  
Georgetown TX 78626**

“The only time I ever believed that I knew all there was to know about beekeeping was the first year I was keeping them. Every year since I’ve known less and less and have accepted the humbling truth that bees know more about making honey than I do.”

Sue Hubbell,  
A Book of Bees: And How to Keep Them