WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATI0N

WCABA DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

www.wcaba.org

2025 Club Officers:

PRESIDENT: Shannon Montez
president@wcaba.org

VICE PRESIDENT: Sean O'Neil
vicepresident@wcaba.org

MEMBERSHIP: Judee Brinley
membership@wcaba.org

PROGRAM: Nan Helmke
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: Sean O'Neil
webmaster@wcaba.org

DIRECTOR AT LARGE: Ken Browning

DIRECTOR AT LARGE: Ann Bierschenk

NO CLUB MEETING IN DECEMBER !!!

2025 Picture of the Year!

Since there is no scheduled meeting in December, as Editor I have started a tradition of using the open cover page in the WCABA Newsletter to feature my picture(s) of the year.

This year I have chosen to select two pictures that speak to me of the joy and excitement you can find in beekeeping.

My first pic is of Judee Brinley, our "rookie" Membership Director, extracting at the Bost Honey House. At the sight of the golden sweet honey pouring out of the extractor for the first time, she was wide eyed, with gaping mouth, and maybe even squalling a little in sheer delight.



Judee Brinley extracting at the Bost Honey House

Next picture is of Greg, a young Citizen of the BiG community, that was selected to represent his organization and receive a donation from the Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association in support of the outstanding work BiG does in Georgetown with special needs adults and youngsters. Their work is truly amazing, but the reaction to his special role was true excitement that can't be described but can surely be seen.



BiG Citizen Greg with WCABA Pres. Shannon Montez

These are the intangibles that make beekeeping a unique field of agriculture to work in, and the people you get to work with are an added bonus that make the stings worthwhile. Welcome to the Wonderful World of Beekeeping.

Jimmie- Editor

Practical Experiences in the Bee Yard


Stanford Brantley

DECEMBER has finally arrived, and our bees are safely tucked in for the winter months. In our area of the Ark-La-Tex, it is not necessary to wrap hives because temperatures do not remain freezing for days on end. Wrapping is an option if you are concerned about your hive's survival risk. A look into major publications and supplier catalogs can show you what is available to wrap hives. I have occasionally thought about putting a black garbage bag over the hive to improve its heat gathering capability but have never acted on that thought.

As cooler weather approaches, your entrance reducer helps the colony maintain a warmer cluster by limiting the amount of wind blowing in through the front entrance. Bees in cluster can generate a lot of heat. As the heat rises through the hive, the moisture it carries can condense on the underside of the Inner Cover or on the hive's lid. The condensation can drip down on the cluster. If the cluster becomes wet, it is subject to becoming chilled and possibly die. The condensation can also cause mold and mildew to grow inside the hive.

Condensation inside the hive can be controlled by providing ventilation at the top of the hive so the heat and condensation can escape. Slightly raising the front edge of the Outer Cover allows enough ventilation to prevent damage. I use small pieces of a wooden yardstick available from the hardware store. Cut the yardstick into pieces two inches long. Place one piece at each corner of the front edge of the Inner Cover before installing the Outer Cover. The yardstick pieces are flat and long enough to usually remain in place when the Outer Cover is installed. If you are worried they might fall off into the hive, use a dab of propolis to stick them to the Inner Cover's edge. The yardstick piece is thin enough to prevent robbing bees from gaining entrance but lifts the top enough to let heat from the cluster escape. Your hive should be mold and mildew free when you inspect it next spring.

December is a great time to do cleaning and maintenance on your wooden ware. We normally think of this as working on empty boxes and frames inside the garage or shop. I know some beekeepers who use a cold day to freshen up the exterior paint on the hives outside in their apiary. They dress warmly, grab a paint can and brush, and give their hives a new coat of paint while cold weather has the bees dormant and clustered.

December is also the time to finalize your list of equipment needed for the coming season and get your orders into the bee equipment suppliers. Don't wait until January or February to place your orders and risk delays in shipping. I have also found that any price increases for the new year get implemented in January. So be proactive and get you orders made as early as possible. Some bee clubs encourage members to consolidate orders and take advantage of reduced prices on bulk orders.

It is also time to make decisions about purchases of queens and bees for the coming season. We don't hear as much about "Save the Bees" from the general public or news media these days but the market for queens, Nucs, packages and full-sized hives remains strong. With the high rate of winter losses, demand by established beekeepers for replacement bees will keep the market strong and may exceed availability in some areas. Decide on the bee supplier from whom you want to order. If you are not familiar with the different bee breeders, your bee club or experienced beekeepers in your area can share with you their experiences with the various sources. Most suppliers will show on their website when they will begin taking orders for the new season. Determine your needs and be ready to place your order as soon as the supplier will accept it.

New beekeepers should talk to established beekeepers for advice about what type of bees are of proven quality in their area. The Italian bee is generally considered to be well adapted to our area. It has good VHS qualities, is usually gentle, and is quick to build up early in the new season. Other types of bees may not build up as quickly and are unable to take advantage of the first nectar available in the spring. Your choice of bee variety may effect which bee supplier from which you order.

Stanford

🐝 WCABA MEMBERS — IT'S TIME TO ORDER!

2026 SPRING NUCS & QUEENS

WCABA is excited to offer bees and queens for **Spring 2026** through our **Bee Procurement Program**, exclusively for current members

🌼 5-Frame Nucs: $180 per nuc

Supplier: Evergreen Honey Company, Jennings, LA | **Managed by:** Wes Card
Queens are **VSH (Varroa Sensitive Hygiene)**, hardy, productive, and excellent overwinters.
Includes:

- A laying queen (not marked/clipped)
- 3 inner frames with brood in all stages
- 2 outer frames with honey, pollen & adhering bees
- Delivered in a sturdy wooden nuc box

👑 Queen Bees: $40 per queen

Supplier: Bee Weaver Apiaries, Navasota, TX
Marked **WHITE** for easy identification and swarm management.
Bred for:

- Mite resistance
- High honey production
- Strong, healthy colonies

📝 How to Order & Payment

- Order forms: in the **December Newsletter, page 04**
- Submit orders **by mail or at monthly WCABA meetings**
- **Deadline:** February 28th

Payment Options:

- Pay **in person** at WCABA meeting
- **Mail** payment to the address on the order form: *50100 Flintrock Dr. - Georgetown, TX 78626*

Important:

- Use official WCABA Order Form; fully complete each order
- Make checks payable to **"WCABA"** (❌ Not to Dusty Brinley)
- Confirmation emails sent by the Bee & Queen Procurement Coordinator

📦 Pickup & Policies

- Pickup information: **Location and date will be emailed when finalized** (est. mid-April)
- **No transfers** of nucs/queens between members
- Cancelled orders refunded and resold **only** to Wait List members

📞 Questions?

Dusty Brinley
WCABA Bee Procurement Coordinator
50100 Flintrock Dr. - Georgetown, TX 78626
📱 512-966-8436 | 📧 brinleyd25@gmail.com

W.C.A.B.A. Club 5-Frame Nuc & Queen Order Form - 2026

Name_____ ORDER # _____

Address _____ **City/State/Zip**_____

Phone_____ e-mail:_____

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

No._____ **5 Frame Nuc** (Based on group order of 100 nucs) **$180.00/ 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/ Dusty Brinley – 50100 Flintrock Dr. Georgetown, TX 78626

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

2026 WCABA Officers

Slate of Officers elected to serve WCABA for 2026

Election was held at the rescheduled club meeting on December 2, 2025

*President – Sean O'Neil
*Vice President – Dusty Brinley
*Membership Director – Judee Brinley
*Program Director – Dodie Stillman
Editorial Director – Jimmie Oakley
Secretary – Phil Ainslie
Treasurer – Barbi Rose
Historian – Matt Ludlum
*Past President – Shannon Montez
Director at Large – Ann Bierschenk
Director at Large – Ken Browning
**New candidates* *in office*



Meet Our New Officers

complied by Jimmie Oakley - Editor

In January of 2026 the Officers you elected at the November meeting will assume their duties to guide the club through what we all hope to be another good year.
A brief bio and picture have been provided to help you get to know them better and recognize them at the monthly meetings.

(new) Sean O'Neil - President



I love bees. I enjoy watching them, learning from them, and talking about them, probably more than most people need to hear. My wife was one of those people, and she suggested I find a better outlet for that excess enthusiasm. So here we are.
The doctors say it's not **ADHD**, it's **ABHB**: *Attention: Bees! Hey, (more) bees!* I try to channel that extra energy into productive pursuits. I operate a managed bee lease business in the Leander area and have built a beekeeping software platform (apisvox.com) focused on hive records, inspections, and practical, data-driven decision making.
I'm currently at the Advanced level in the Texas Master Beekeeper Program and stay actively involved in continuing education through clubs, conferences, and library speaking gigs. I especially enjoy teaching and mentoring, and I'm always happy to talk shop with anyone, from brand-new keepers to those with decades of experience. Bee-talk is like honey to my ears.

(new) Dusty Brinley - Vice President



I was born and raised in California, where I met and married my high school sweetheart. We started our family there before eventually moving to Texas, where we raised our three sons. I somehow found myself on a pretty crazy adventure with the Membership Director (my wife), learning to keep bees. Beekeeping has been challenging at times, a lot of fun, frustrating, and everything in between. I'm happily along for the ride and am even working toward my Master Beekeeper certification. I'm great at lifting heavy objects, but I wouldn't claim to be the person to ask all your beekeeping questions I'm always willing to help where I can and learn alongside others.
I'm looking forward to assuming the role of Vice President and figured that since I was here early and putting in the hours, I might as well make myself available. I would love the opportunity to get to know you more. See you at the next meeting!
I'll also be heading up the club's nuc and queen bee operations this spring as the **Procurement Specialist**. This will be my first year in this important role, and I'm grateful for the great hand-off from Gary Bible and for the many members who have already offered to help. With such a strong team and so much support, I'm confident we'll have a tremendously successful bee operation this year. I'm looking forward to working alongside many of you and watching the excitement of our club's first year beekeepers get started.



(new) Judee Brinley – Membership Director

I'm new to beekeeping as of February 2024, joining the club before I even had bees of my own. My husband and I got started with beekeeping to continue the agricultural exemption on our 10 acres in north Georgetown—but what really drew me in was discovering how intoxicating, fun, challenging, and humbling beekeeping can be.
A little more about me: I'm a registered nurse, born and raised in California and moved to Texas with my family in 2006, where my husband and I raised our three boys, now grown and ages 25, 29, and 32 (still waiting on grandchildren!). I am currently in my third year of beekeeping We started with nine hives (all still alive—an accomplishment I'm very proud of!). Outside of bees, I love meeting new people, and this role is a perfect way to do just that—welcoming new members and guests to the club. I'm passionate about helping new beekeepers learn and get excited about this incredible craft, just as I've been inspired by WCABA's monthly meetings and newsletter. I am excited to serve on the WCABA board as Membership Director, which has been a wonderful way to get to know our members. My goal is to be an approachable resource and to support new members and beekeepers as they navigate this challenging and rewarding hobby. It's great to meet you!



(new) Dodie Stillman - Program Chair

Dodie Stillman is a member of the Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association (WCABA), Past President of the Texas Beekeepers Association (TBA). She is a Master Craftsman Beekeeper in the Texas Master Beekeepers Program.
In 2017, she served as the TBA Honey Show Secretary, a show that saw a dramatic increase in Honey Show events and exhibitors. With over 10 years of teaching and presenting experience gained through working her way through the Texas Master Beekeeper Program, she is happy to return to her home club and lend a helping hand wherever its needed.



*Jimmie Oakley - Publication Director (Editor)

Born in Oklahoma City, grew up in Dallas, started beekeeping in 1975. Worked for commercial migratory operation in North Dakota '76–'86. In addition, we operated a family business rearing Starline Queens. Married to Kay Carr in 1964, three children (all grown now), retired from Xerox Corporation; wife from IRS. TBA Treasurer 1996-2014. Produce honey under the label: Annie's Pure Honey. Past president of WCABA, Program Chair, and WCABA Editor since 2020. Observed my 80th Birthday in 2025 and marked 50 years in Beekeeping. Still actively keeping bees and always looking forward to a "good year".



*Phil Ainslie - Secretary

Born in Indiana, I graduated from Purdue University School of Pharmacy. Practiced as a Clinical Pharmacist with a specialty in diabetes and diabetic Complications Management. I became interested in beekeeping in college while taking an entomology class. I actually started beekeeping as a retirement hobby before moving out to our ranch when I received a complete hive from a neighbor. I am now into my 14th year of beekeeping. I have been a mentor, treasurer, president, and secretary in WCABA. In addition, I have taught Beekeeping 101, and serve as our webmaster (still learning). Still beekeeping and still learning.



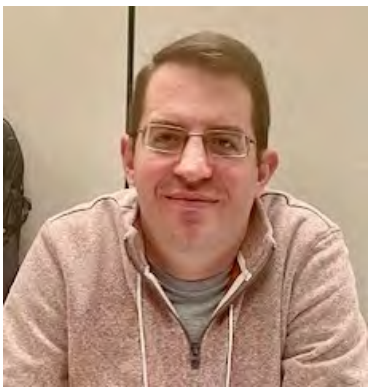
*Barbi Rose - Treasurer

Barbi Rose is an IT Analyst for a Government Contractor, specializing in data research, process automation, and ERP system support. In addition to her professional career, Barbi is deeply involved in the beekeeping community. She currently serves as a Director for the Texas Beekeepers Association, contributing to strategic planning and special projects. As the ongoing Treasurer for the Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association, Barbi manages finances and reports on the organization's financial health. An avid beekeeper, Barbi maintains two thriving hives in Corinth, contributing to local pollination efforts and fostering environmental sustainability.



*Matt Ludlum - Historian

Annual Survey and Zoom/Meeting Facilitator.
I have been a beekeeper for 9 years. I know enough to tell you that the pointy end of the bee hurts and that the bee who hijacked a ride on your suit will find you in the car before you find her.
I have a lovely wife and two children, one of whom is slowly putting me into insolvency via his hunger for honey yogurt.



*Chris Huck – Librarian

Chris Huck is the WCABA Librarian and has managed to keep books available to members at the meeting since mid 2020 and serves on the Exec. Board. Actively keeping bees and making honey.



*Ann Bierschenk – Director at Large

I was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas. Attended the University of Texas at Austin and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Home Economics. Married Tom Bierschenk in August 1979. Raised 5 children who are all grown and married. Presently have 12 grandchildren. Was a stay-at-home mom and church volunteer. Took up beekeeping as a hobby. Joined WCABA about 12 years ago to learn more about bees and beekeeping.



* Ken Browning- Dir. at Large

I live in Liberty Hill with my wife Carolyn. We have two sons and 2 grandkids. I have always been fascinated with honeybees, so once I was fully retired, I started beekeeping in 2022.

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2026 WCABA Elected Officers



2026 WCABA Officers*(l to r): Jimmie Oakley-Editor, Ann Biershchenk-At Large, Judee Brinley-Membership, Sean O'Neil – President, Barbi Rose-Treasurer, Dodie Stillman-Programs, Matt Ludlum-Historian, Shannon Montez-Past President (not pictures) Dusty Brinley-Vice President, Phil Ainslie-Secretary, Ken Browinig-At Large*
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Scholarship Recipients Give Reports to Membership

by Jimmie Oakley – Scholarship Chair

The 2025-26 Scholarship Recipients, Liam Bierschenk and Anna French, gave their end of year reports to the WCABA membership at the November club meeting that was rescheduled on December 2, 2025.

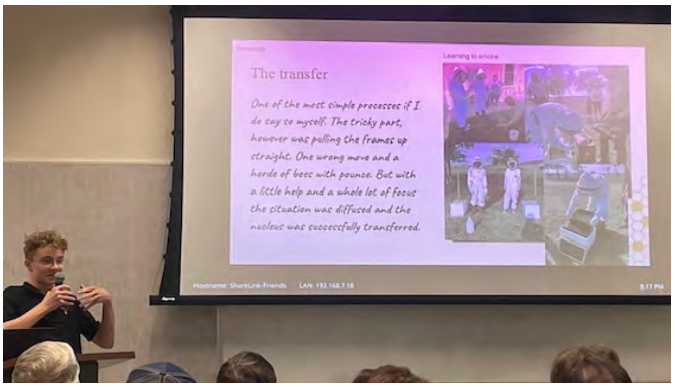
The youngsters that received their equipment and bees back in April have worked these past months to build from a 5-frame nuc to a full three-story hive that produced a modest honey crop and is now ready to winterize for the coming year.



They decided to each take a part of the year to report on. Liam went first and showed slides depicting their activities in assembling their beekeeping equipment, painting, and installing their nuc into their hive. Leaning how to work and inspect their hives and to read the frames in order to inventory brood and resources took a major part of their time in the bee yard. This was necessary to track the growth and development to the colony and to be able to map that growth in a computer program graph.



Anna French showed the beekeeping year from extracting through completion of the active part of the bee season. A complete hive inspection was performed on a regular basis to assure the hive was healthy and had adequate stores. The inspections were not lengthy but needed to be performed at regular intervals to get a picture of what was going on inside the hive. Both presentations were well presented and well received. JO



Liam expounds on the steps necessary to transfer a nuc to the hive



Anna shows the steps to pull, uncap, extract and strain the honey



Liam & Randy inspecting frame at transfer



Anna pulls excellent frame of honey



Anna and Liam with parent (and Honey) after extracting

Scholarship Recipients Winterize Hives

Jimmie Oakley – Scholarship Chair

The last major hive activity of the beekeeping season is to winterize the colony to assure it can survive overwinter and into the next spring. Randy Oakley, program mentor, presented that topic to the club at the November club meeting. It was great preparation for the activity the scholarship recipients would need to perform when they met to work their hives for the last time this year, they would winterize their hives.

The recipients have checked their hives each time to map the resources and assure the necessary stores of honey and pollen and the brood nest were in the proper configuration for the winter. It is also necessary to control the varroa mite and the associated virus, and because colonies are near broodless this time of the year an oxalic acid dribble is used to treat the bees. In addition, the hive body is insulated by using a ½" foam board on top of the cover to prevent winter condensation inside the hive. Finally, to assure the bees have sufficient feed a dry sugar reserve is provided either in a frame feeder or sugar cap on top of cardboard placed on the top bars. These steps should go a long way to ensure that your bees winters over well.



Configure



Treat - Oxalic Acid



1/2" Insulation



Dry Sugar Cap

The Four Steps to Winterizing the Hive



Applying Oxalic Acis dribble to the bees



Adding dry sugar to frame feeder



Placing insulation atop the cover



All four steps taken, Liam Bierschenk and Anna French look satisfied as they wrap up the season

Texas to Alabama

a moving tale…

by Riley Casey – 2024 Scholarship Recipient

Every Thanksgiving is memorable with family, feasting and fun, but this year we had even more to be grateful for as we prepared my hive to move from Texas to Alabama. Mr. Oakley generously met with us Tuesday before Thanksgiving for a fall harvest in preparation for moving our bees. After processing five frames of honey, about 24 pounds, we had the hive down to two boxes and a plan to load the girls onto my dad's truck the following Sunday.






Riley uncapping, straining, and bottling honey at the Bost Farm Honey House before the move

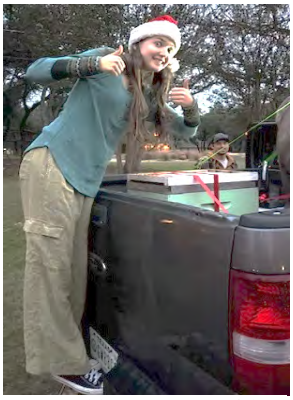
That Sunday evening, we closed the entrance, nailed on a screened top and lid for ventilation, and strapped the hive together to load and secure it in the truck. The following morning around 6 am Dad, my brother Noah, and myself started the twelve-hour drive to our land in northern Alabama.







Riley screens entrance, and with screen nailed to top, hive secured with strap it is loaded on truck for the move



Hive and bees arrive safely!

The weather was cool and rainy nearly the entire time, but we made it safely, after dark, to our land and unloaded the hive in it's new location. Apart from removing the entrance we did nothing else at that time. Two days later my mother and I went back to check on them. It was in the thirties so we didn't open the hive, but could hear the hum of an active and buzzing hive; a good sign!

After another four days it was warmer, in the high sixties, so I took the opportunity to remove the top screen and prepare a sugar cap for the winter to come. I also placed three Varroxsan strips in the hive for mite control and finished winterizing by reducing the entrance. The bees were alive and buzzing!

The following week temps dropped down into the teens for a few nights and have since come up and down so I'm glad to have gotten the hive all settled before the winter weather! I'm hopeful for a healthy hive come spring and am so grateful for all I've learned and continue to learn on this journey of beekeeping! Thank you and Merry Christmas!!

Riley

Fare Thee Well Bost Farm Honey House

Ann Bierschenk – Director at Large

Upon arriving at the Bost Farm, I am always greeted by at least one honey bee that lands on my wind shield and peers through the glass to look at me, but today, my last visit, one landed on my driver's side window and stuck to it as if it were a magnet on a refrigerator. Bees buzz around the screen doors as I enter, and a few manage to fly in as I struggle to open the old door which always likes to play tug of war with me. Things are a little disorganized inside as Jimmie Oakley and his son, Randy, prepare to move most of the bee equipment to another location. In case you did not get the memo, the Bost Farm was sold to developers and honey bottling operations there will cease.



Jimmie and Randy load boxes and extracting equipment to be moved

A flood of memories run through my head; cars and trucks in line to pick up nucs at sunrise, stopping by to borrow extracting equipment, a sea of colorful gaillardia dancing in the breeze, a little orange cat peeking through the attic trusses, the loud motor of the large extractor running for a large honey harvest, and cleaning drips of honey off the concrete floor caused by sticky little fingers sneaking tastes of honey. Out the large window over the sink is a view of the colorful hives cared for by scholarship teen 'wanna-bee' beekeepers. There are banners and posters around the room along with a faded newspaper photo and article stuck to an old wooden cabinet featuring Mary and Robert Bost smiling. The caption reads "Hobby sweetens couple's lives." On the countertop is another framed news article entitled "Meet me at the Farmer's Market" featuring photos of Mary Bost in the honey house and Jimmie Oakley waving to all with a large display of honey jars for sale. Bost Farm Honey has been a Georgetown staple for almost 50 years, calming coughs, sweetening tea and coffee, and helping to keep people well during the cold winter months. Occasionally the Williamson County Sun would even print an article about honey bees highlighting Mary Bost and Bost Farm Honey. What a privilege it has been to be learn and glean knowledge from the beekeeping 'giants' of our club.



Hobby sweetens couple's lives

It all started decades ago with a love for honey, which Robert and Mary Bost used to buy by the gallon to put on bread, cereal, biscuits and anything else that needed a little sweetening. Today the Georgetown couple have 300 hives each with about 70,000 bees. Each hive produces about 50 lbs. of honey each summer. For the past 20 years, the bees have produced enough honey to sell in local grocery and convenience stores.

Robert and Mary retired from the Leander ISD in 1980. Mary served as an elementary teacher there and Robert as a principal for 37 years. Both Robert and Mary are active members of the Williamson County Retired Teachers Association. They say that working together as educators and as beekeepers has been the glue that has cemented their marriage. "We are best friends," Robert Bost says.

Robert and Mary Bost say that working together almost all their lives has strengthened their marriage.

Article in Williamson Co. Sun



MEET ME AT THE FARMERS MARKET

Your body needs food. The local farmers who grow your food need you. If this sounds like the start of a beautiful friendship, then you'll want to learn more about the Sun City Farmers Market.

PAGE 38

REVENGE OF MARTINI ALLEY

Nothing good has ever come from bringing something back from the dead.

PAGE 76

Ad in Sun City "Sunray"

Before leaving I took a few photos to remember the old honey colored building that has served all of us so well. The Bost's were most generous in both life and death to open their farm and honey house to the members of the Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association.

There was much work yet to be done for the move, so I did not want to hang around to long unless I be recruited. So, I decided to take my photos and say my goodbyes as the sun was slowly setting.

Driving away, I noticed that the little honey bee that was on my car window was still there looking in at me. I felt sad that the Honey House that brought so much sweetness and happiness into the world would soon be bulldozed and I was certain that many others shared in my sadness. As I took one last look in my review mirror, on the car radio I heard the soloist sing "Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end."

Ann

WCABA Makes Library Donation Again This Year

The Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association continues to foster the great working relationship we have had with the Georgetown Public Library over the past several years as we use the large meeting rooms as space is available. We have received preferred treatment, and the library staff is super helpful in seeing to our needs on every occasion. We have been able to utilize The Little Lemon Café for meeting refreshments and are satisfied with that arrangement. It is a privilege to be able to meet in an award winning national recognized facility, and it is appreciated by our members, guest and speakers. We look forward to a great 2026 at the Georgetown Public Library. WCABA – The Editor



Margaret Lange, Georgetown Public Library Teen Services Librarian accepts a donation from Shannon Montez, WCABA President



Georgetown Public Library staff gather to say 'Thank You' for the WCABA seasonal appreciation gift of honey

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DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED?

Ed Wolfe – Robert Bost Beekeeping Scholarship

The Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association has a youth program honoring two long-time beekeepers and WCABA members, Ed Wolfe and Robert Bost, who both actively promoted learning about bees and beekeeping in Williamson County.
A scholarship is given annually to furthering the apiculture sciences with emphasis on sustainable beekeeping. This award is presented to school age students (12-18yrs) living in the area served by WCABA. The award consists of a beehive with bees and equipment necessary to complete the year-long plus project. A mentor will be made available to instruct and assist the recipient in sustainable beekeeping techniques and good beekeeping practices.

Applications can be obtained on-line at: **wcaba.org**. (click)Youth Education, (click)Scholarship Application (4-pages). Application must be **mailed** to the Awards Committee, by **March 15th** for consideration. Questions or additional information please contact:

Jimmie Oakley, Scholarship Pgm. Chair – 512/507-3009 (talk or text)
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Membership Report: Judee Brinley

December 2025



New Members

Lori French	Georgetown
Jennifer Sharp	Hutto

Renewing Members

Rodney Brown	Georgetown
Gary Carlile	Liberty Hill
George Creel	Georgetown
Vicky Kennedy	Burnet
James Parsons	Austin
Susan Robison	Belton
Tim Slattery	Round Rock
Leona Stidham	Georgetown
Dodie Stillman	Round Rock
DonnaWatermiller	Georgetown
Martin Warnasch	Georgetown

***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 in this.

Judee

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:

Judee Brinley - Membership - 50100 Flintrock Drive Georgetown. TX 78626

Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association
Treasurer's Report - As of December 20, 2025

Profit and Loss

ACCOUNTS	Year to Date 2025	Year to Date 2024
Income		
Program Income - Bee Procurement	$58,620.00	$56,830.00
Program Income - Membership Dues	$3,405.00	$4,165.00
Program Income - Scholarship Program	$210.00	$24.00
Total Income	$62,235.00	$61,019.00
Cost of Goods Sold		
Bee Procurement Program Nucs	$48,900.00	$48,013.20
Total Cost of Goods Sold	$48,900.00	$48,013.20
Gross Profit	$13,335.00	$13,005.80
Operating Expenses		
Bank Charges	$50.00	$0.00
Donations and Gifts	$4,100.00	$3,412.79
Dues	$50.00	$50.00
Insurance	$1,873.00	$1,688.00
Library Resources	$0.00	$111.77
Meeting Supplies and Refreshments	$842.22	$487.40
Permits	$206.26	$257.76
Scholarship Program Expenses	$0.00	$1,454.91
Speaker Fees	$300.00	$825.00
Travel Expenses	$954.94	$735.00
Website and Zoom	$528.89	$620.19
Total Operating Expenses	$8,905.31	$9,642.82
Net Profit	$4,429.69	$3,362.98

Balance Sheet

ACCOUNTS	As of December 20, 2025	As of December 31, 2024
Assets		
Total Cash and Bank	$45,465.59	$46,685.90
Bee Procurement Downpayment	$10,000.00	$4,350.00
Total Assets	$55,465.59	$51,035.90
Liabilities		
Total Liabilities	$0.00	$0.00
Assets & Liabilities	$55,465.59	$51,035.90
Equity		
Retained Earnings - Prior Years	$51,035.90	$47,672.92
Retained Earnings - Current Year	$4,429.69	$3,362.98
Total Equity	$55,465.59	$51,035.90

Bee Procurement Program	2025	2024
Income		
Program Income - Bee Procurement	$60,062.41	$56,830.00
Cost of Goods Sold		
Bees	$48,900.00	$48,013.20
Gross Profit	$11,162.41	$8,816.80
Expenses		
Permit	$206.26	$257.76
Travel Expenses	$954.94	$735.00
Total Expenses	$1,161.20	$992.76
Net Profit	$10,001.21	$7,824.04

Best Holiday Wishes and Happy New Year from WCABA

Wintering

You may think yourself lazy, or flawed. Yet your body is made of almost exactly the same elements as the stars. Your bone composition matches the coral in the seas and you, my friend, are ruled by the moon and the sun. Whether you like it or not. So no, you are not lazy, Nature is simply pulling you to slow, like the life, floral and fauna around you. It is not your moment to rise. It is winter, you are **wintering**. And you are right on time.



Donna Ashworth

I include this greeting again this year, because it reminds me that it's okay for us beekeepers to slow down this time of the year, were wintering. *The Editor*