

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA DECEMBER, 2020 NEWSLETTER

www.wcaba.org

2020 Picture of the Year!

2020 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

sdoggett@mindspring.com

PROGRAM: Linda Russell

lrussell6083@yahoo.com

NEWSLETTER: Jimmie Oakley

512-507-3009

jimmie.oakley@gmail.com

SECRETARY: Gillian Mattinson

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gillmatties@gmail.com

TREASURER: Barbi Rose

512-799-0616

barbirose@yahoo.com

HISTORIAN: Matt Ludlum

601-454-9966

matt.ludlum@gmail.com

PAST PRESIDENT: Jim Colbert

512-863-7183

colbertj@hotmail.com

LIBRARIAN: Chris Huck

832-904-7283

drcjh@yahoo.com

REFRESHMENTS:

Provided by Red Poppy Coffee

Lisa Hoekstra

SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR:

Jimmie Oakley

512-507-3009

jimmie.oakley@gmail.com

QUEEN CHAIR:

Ginny Stubblefield

512-636-6813

ginny@options2sell.com



Linda Russell, Gillian Mattinson, Barbi Rose, Shannon Montez (Masked Banditos?)

Since there is no scheduled meeting in December (and no need for a Zoom Meeting announcement) I find I have an open cover page to the WCABA Newsletter.

As Editor I have chosen to select two pictures that I feel best typify the year we all have experienced. My pick is of four ladies (beekeepers) that show their dedication and determination to get the job done. They are Our Front-Line workers.

The runner-up is one of the hopes and optimism shown by the youngsters in our scholarship program.



Emily Griffis (all smiles) shows off her Queen

The Pros and Cons of Being a WCABA President

by Phil Ainslie - President

Fellow members of WCABA. It has been my pleasure to serve as your president for the past two years. The WCABA Board of Directors and member volunteers have frequently stepped forward to make my job much easier. I sincerely thank all of you that helped me over the past two years. We have gone through more difficult times than I could have imagined. Who would ever have thought that a pandemic would occur. It impacted WCABA in a host of ways. For example, our bee procurement involves a trip to Louisiana which is a 14 hour round trip. On the up side, the bees were not grumpy this year. Plus, the bees were in their hives early due to cloud cover and they were to be ready and loaded shortly after sunset. Then began the drive home. When we reached the Texas border, we were not sure what would happen with the Texas Rangers stopping traffic from Louisiana due to the pandemic. We were supposed to pull off at the first rest stop and go through some sort of state inspection, interrogation, and strip searched (ok, that part is a bit of an exaggeration). We noticed that the truckers were driving on past the turn off, so we did as well. Happily, no flashing lights in the rearview mirror. Next issue was the distribution of the Nucs. That involved setting up a drive through type distribution with masks and all. Totally different than in the past.



John Hibbard, Steve Hoskins and Phil Ainslie picking up nucs in Jennings, Louisiana

The Covid 19 has impacted our meetings, our bee procurement, our Honey Queen and Honey Ambassador program, our board meetings, scholarship programs, member meetings and more. We have had to be innovative and patient to deal with all the bumps in the road.

It is now time to pass the gavel to our new president. Shannon Montez served as our vice-president and will now be your President. I will continue to serve the club as the WCABA secretary. I ask that each of you help as needed. A little help goes a long way. If we have many members offering a little help we will have big results. You may be asking yourself, how can I help? We will need help with the nuc orders: both the distribution of the nucs and unloading the nucs. Just a few hours of work on a Saturday with other friendly members of our club. Really folks, we have a good time. In addition, we are always in need of mentors. This is an easy job. All you do is share your knowledge and a little of your time helping new beekeepers. Admitting you don't know when a mentee asks you something that you are unfamiliar with is not a problem at all. Just admit you don't know. Say, "I don't know, but I will check with one of our long time beekeepers and get back to you". After all, we all don't know a lot of things. Long time beekeepers know that we learn continually. There are yet many unknowns about bees. That is why I

provide the newsletter with “Research Pearls”. Some of the pearls are helpful and others are just interesting.

Any member can contribute to the newsletter. Jimmie is always looking for information to be posted in the newsletter. Perhaps you have had an experience with your bees that you found difficult to deal with and you would like to share that experience with the other members. Send your write up to Jimmie. We can learn from your mistake and or success. Alas, all of us have also experienced laughable beekeeping experiences. Let us laugh with you. In my case it would be laughing at me for picking up bee boxes that fell over and in my hast to restack them, I did not zip up my veil. I quickly knew something was not right when the bees were flying around on the inside of my veil.

Perhaps you enjoy building things and you found a better way to make or assemble boxes, stands, capture boxes, etc. Share-um with Jimmie. Again, little things make a bigger job easier to deal with. Have you used bees wax for crafting? Send us pictures of your wax crafts. Honey recipes anybody? I love to give my wife new recipes. Not sure about how she feels about that though – I’m smiling. Did you see a you-tube that was especially good? Share the link and your description of the you-tube you viewed.

Contribute by attending our (vertical) board meetings. Any member may come to our board meetings. Your opinion is valued. That is how I started. I just attended the board meetings. I didn’t always have something to offer due to lack of beekeeping experience. But I found out that I didn’t have to be an experienced beekeeper to help out.

If you are willing to help in some way, just go to “contact us” on our web site wcaba.org or e-mail one of the board members.

Now the CONS of being your president. I cannot think of a single one.

Thanks, WCABA members. Again, it has been my pleasure.

Your soon to be past WCABA President,
Phil Ainslie

More End of Season Tips from Phil...your Smoker



Fire it Up...using propane touch to burn out gunk



Clean it Up...using wire brush



Put it Up...in you Bucket Boss

2021 Nucs & Queens Procurement Announced

The Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association will again offer bees and queens to club members in 2021 through our Bee Procurement Program. The Executive Board voted to provide 5-frame nucs with queen (not marked), and an additional order of queen bees (marked and clipped) for purchase by current club members.

The 5-frame nucs will come from Merrimack Valley Apiary's winter location in Louisiana and are advertised to consist of a "laying" queen that has already been accepted by the hive, 3 inner frames containing brood in all stages, 2 outer frames containing honey, pollen and adhering bees, delivered in a sturdy wooden nuc box with full entrance and a top feeding port. The queen in the nucs will be an Italian/Carniola Mixed Hybrid (Aurea- Karnica) that should provide a hardy, productive colony that winters well.

The queen bees for individual purchase will come from B Weaver Apiaries in Navasota, Texas and are advertised as bred from a hybrid of bees chosen for their mite resistance, high honey production, and healthy population. These queens will be marked (white) and clipped for ease of finding and help in swarm control.

Order forms with current pricing appear in this issue for the Newsletter and orders will be accepted immediately for the 2021 season.

The Bee Procurement Program has been a benefit provided to the membership for over 20 years and has become a hallmark of service of our club. The program has drawn many new members to our ranks because of the attractive pricing and the assurance of obtaining bees in an ever tightening and competitive market. For this reason, the club has increased the limitation on orders to 10 nucs total per family, and a limit of 4 nucs total for new members to the club.

Orders will be taken by mail, and at the club meetings (when they resume) through the end of February for as long as supplies last. Each order must be on the official order form (see page 10), be filled out completely, and be accompanied by the appropriate remittance (by check or money order) to be accepted. All orders will be acknowledged by a confirmation e-mail and added to the Order Matrix by the Program Coordinator.

Because of the need to track and match all orders with remittance and delivery of product, there will be no individual transfer of ownership of the nucs or queens. Cancelled orders will be handled by the coordinator with refunds and resale of the product to members on the wait list.

Most likely the pickup / delivery process for nucs and queens in the spring will mirror what took place at the Bost Farm in April, 2020 with drive-through pickup still a possibility. Time will tell, so be flexible in your expectations and schedule as that time approaches.



5-frame nuc in wooden box



Queen Bee w/workers in wooden cage



Nuc Pickup 2020

Direct inquiries to:

Gary Bible – Bee Procurement Coordinator **512/923-0410** or glbible@austin.rr.com

The Leaning Tower of Bees'a

by Ann Bierschenk

If you are the type of person who is bothered by pictures that hang lopsided on the wall, then you would probably be annoyed by a bee hive that leans. Well, I am that type of person and I ended up with one of those kind of bee hives.

I think God was trying to teach me a lesson when he blessed me with the Leaning Tower of Bees'a. As far back as I can remember it did not start out leaning. It seemed to me I leveled the ground before I laid down the concrete blocks before putting down the hive stand. But, it wasn't long and with each addition super, I began to notice it leaning more and more. When I would pass by my bee yard, my eye was always caught by it being out of kilter with the other hives. The nonconformist hive just got worse with time and did not appeal to my idea of a 'cute' bee yard. I mentioned it to Jimmie when he came out to help me with my hives one hot afternoon. In his wisdom he said, "if it's not bothering anything, then just leave it alone." My inner level still yearned to fix it.

As the honey flow season continued, I noticed that the leaning tower had a huge population of bees that were extra busy. It seemed like I was always adding a super to that hive and it was not an easy task. Not only would the previous super be heavier than I could lift as it would be entirely full of honey and completely glued down with wax (propolis) to the super below, but opening the hive produced thousands of sassy bees. Before long the hive had noticeably become a leaning tower of bees that I always left to the very end to work on.

Multiple bees of the leaning tower were always flying around the hive and would race to greet me when I came within a few feet of their domicile. My observations made me wonder if all the other bees in my bee yard were frequent visitors to the leaning tower hive. There were so many bees to contend with I did not look forward to opening it up for a peek. When it came time to harvest, the amount of full supers that came from the leaning tower hive were equal to the amount of full supers from all the other hives put together.

Lots of scientific discoveries are made by accident. Could the hive tilt have something to do with the extraordinary amount of honey it produced and the large number of bees it contained? Perhaps I could replicate the angle of the lean with another hive next season as an experiment.

Then again, I am thankful to God for a healthy hive and a good honey season, even if the leaning hive was an eyesore and the bees weren't exactly friendly.

AB



Meet Our New Officers

In January of 2021 the Officers you elected at the November virtual meeting will assume their duties to guide the club through what we all hope to be a better year. A brief bio and picture have been provided to help you get to know them better and recognize them when we can meet again. Looking forward to **2021**.



Shannon Montez - President

I grew up in northern Ohio in a small town. I moved to Texas years ago and settled in Leander with my husband Joe, and my 4 children. At this time, I have 8 hives. I became involved with WCABA several years ago and have enjoyed meeting the variety of people who continue to show an eagerness to learn and share information about being a successful beekeeper. any day dealing with a hot hive is often easier than dealing with some of the issues I encounter at my job. Although I have been a beekeeper for several years, I still learn something new from each speaker and from many of the members.



Gillian Mattinson - Vice President

Originated from Prudhoe, England and transplanted to the U.S.A. in 1996. I have lived in Georgetown since 2008 with my husband John, also from England, and my two teenage boys, George and James. We have 4 dogs, 12 chickens (# varies), and 6 bee hives. One hive belongs to BiG and one is a top bar hive. By profession, I am an occupational therapist, by choice I am a novice beekeeper. My youngest son and I work the hives together. I was first introduced to beekeeping by Jim Colbert around 2016 and I was hooked! WCABA secretary from 2018 - 2020.



Shirley Doggett – Membership Director

Born in Northampton, England and came to the US in 1985. She graduated from Dominican College, NY with a degree in Special Education. She moved to Texas in 1992. She managed a home for multi handicapped children in Austin before teaching special education for the Round Rock ISD. She lives on 10 acres in Thrall TX. Shirley is Membership Director for the Texas Beekeepers Association as well as for WCABA. Hobbies include reading and knitting.



Linda Russell - Program Chair

My husband and I became beekeepers 4 years ago. We were interested in honey as an enterprise for BiG (Brookwood in Georgetown) - a vocational community for adults with disabilities. Along the way, we've discovered that the bees and BiG Citizens have a lot to teach us!



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, 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, and former TBA Honey Queen Chair. 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. I am now into my 9th year of beekeeping. I have been WCABA treasurer, president, and now secretary. Still beekeeping and still learning.



Barbi Rose - Treasurer

Backyard Beekeeper since 2014, Master Beekeeper
Program Apprentice, 2015
Kids are grown non-beekeepers
Day job is IT Business Systems Analyst
Hobbies: Making soap, potions, and lotions, beeswax
products, stained glass, sewing face masks, board games
and escape rooms with friends and family
Born and blossomed in Southern IL, spent a few years in
Southern CA, and made it to TX in 1999
Current Treasurer for TBA, THBEA, and WCABA, also
Refreshments Coordinator 2016 & Librarian 2017-2019



Matt Ludlum - Historian

WCABA Historian, 2019-2021
Post to WCABA Facebook Page &
setup and manages of Zoom meetings.
(our Technical Guru)
"Matthew Ludlum has been a beekeeper for 5 years
now and knows enough to tell you that the pointy end
of the bee hurts. He has a lovely wife and two small
children, one of whom gazes into bottles of honey
while saying 'hoooneeeeeey'."



Melissa Henry – Director at Large

Born and raised in Big Spring, TX. Graduated from
Angelo State Univ 1984. Went to work for Exxon in
Midland, TX where I met my husband, David. We
transferred to Houston and settled in Conroe where
we lived for 27 years. Raised two wonderful kids and
retired to 13 acres outside of Georgetown. My dad
raised bees when I was young, and I always thought I
would too. Needing ag exemption on our new
property gave me the boost to get started in April
2019. I now have 6 hives and I learn something new
every day!

Membership Report: Shirley Doggett

Membership Report December 2020

New members (for 2021)

Carol Holden	Austin
Mary Lippa	Austin
Jeff Terrell	Georgetown
Jim Morris	Leander
Michael Walker	Liberty Hill
Keith Harpole	Hutto

Renewing members (for 2021)

Jerry and Harriet Mikus	Pflugerville
David and Susan Bawcom	Austin
Gary and Linda Bible	Liberty Hill
Deborah and William Soja	Liberty Hill
Tina Lim and Geoff Stewart	Austin
Kenneth and Phyllis Barnes	Georgetown
Eric and Mary McDaniel	Georgetown
Sarah Graham	Elgin
Greg and Chin Willy	Georgetown
Steve and Rachel Gavenda	Austin



Shirley Doggett - Membership Director

Membership RENEWALS being accepted NOW!

Want to beat the New Year rush in renewing your membership in WCABA?

All membership application for new and renewing members submitted after October 1st will be applied to the next calendar year. Use Member form and help Shirley out by sending in your renewal early.

You will see from the above list that some of you are renewing your 2021 dues. (some of you had already done this before) Thank you for that. I am seeing a few of you that are buying memberships or renewals as Christmas presents, what a good idea.

Two **Life Memberships** were awarded at the last Executive Board meeting. They were to: **Phil and Dee Ainslie and Travis and Maureen Lane. CONGRATULATIONS** to these two couples.

Texas Beekeepers Association is still offering one-year complimentary memberships for new beekeepers. If you think you should have had one and it has not been offered to you, please talk to me.

Happy Holidays
Shirley

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



Dues: **\$20.00** per year - individual or **\$25.00** - family membership

New Member / Renewing Member

(circle one)

Date: _____

Name: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Cash or Check # _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: () _____ e-mail: _____

(please print)

To save postage cost may we send your Newsletter via e-mail? Yes[] No[]

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

Mrs. Shirley Doggett - 400 C. R. 440 - Thrall, TX 76578 - Ph.512/924-5051

W.C.A.B.A. Club 5-Frame Nuc & Queen Order Form - 2021

Name _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ e-mail: _____

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

No. _____ **5 Frame Nuc** (Based on group order of 100 nucs) **\$150.00/ Nuc.**

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

No. _____ **Honey Bee Queen** (Based on group order of 100) **\$35.00/ Queen**

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

How will you pay? CASH or Check # _____

TOTAL \$ AMT

Mail remittance to:

Check Preferred

OF ORDER

WCABA Order / GARY BIBLE - 150 Sundance Trail, Liberty Hill, TX 78642

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

Limit 10 nucs per family, or 4 if Newbie. No individual resale or ownership transfer permitted on nucs ordered.

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

Special Instructions:

Williamson County Area Beekeeping Association

Virtual Board meeting November 19th , 2020

Members Present:

Phil Ainslee, Linda Russell, Jimmie Oakley, Gillian Mattinson, Shannon Montez, Barbi Rose, Matt Ludlum, Shirley Dogget, Ginny Stubblefield, Chris Huck, Melissa Henry

Member Absent:- Rachel Glass

The meeting opened at 7 pm.

Gillian: - Minutes from the September 17th meeting were accepted and seconded.

Linda provided a program report:

- January meeting: Discussion ensued regarding 101 and 201 speakers. It was proposed 101 be taught by Dodie Stillman and the presenter for 201 was not determined. Discussion and interest was raised about having a presentation on the topic of making mead.
- The committee discussed recording the meetings for our web site. An authorization will be needed by the speaker. Matt said he would make up a form and Linda will verify if the speakers are in agreement with the presentation being recorded.

Shirley provided a Membership report:

- The combination of covid, and no face to face meetings, has slowed membership enrollment for 2021.
- Discussion took place regarding providing the membership alternative methods to renew their membership. Possibility of payment via the website, through a system like Paypal, as the possibility of returning to face to face meetings is not likely in the near future. Further exploration of alternative payment methods will be explored in the future.
- The application for membership will be posted in the upcoming newsletters.
- Shirley proposed lifetime memberships for Phil Ainslie, Travis and Maureen Lane. The Lanes have been paying members for many years. The proposal was approved and seconded by the committee.

Barbi provided the treasurer's report:

- The report that Barbi provided prior to the meeting was reviewed and the current balance is \$26,131.84

Ginny provided the Queen and Ambassador report.

- Currently there are no engagements for the Queen due to the current covid climate.
- The Collins County Hobby Beekeeper Association, who are one of the biggest Queen program supporters, are not moving forward with the Queen program. Also, TBA has their Queen program on hold.

- A motion was proposed to hold the WCABA Queen program. It was seconded by Shirley Dogget.

Jimmie provided the Newsletter & scholarship report

- The newsletter to be sent out this weekend. The scholarship report will be included in the newsletter.
- Jimmie requested the board members to provide an updated photo (mug shot) for a future newsletter.

Election of officers:

- Shannon Montez- President, Gillian Mattison- Vice-President, Phil Ainslie- Secretary. The committee will table the second Member at Large position until the next board meeting.
- Below is Jimmie's proposal for the election which was approved by the committee:
 - A parliamentary suggestion would be to present the slate again in the newsletter with option of calling for additional nominations (3 times) at the start of the Zoom meeting, and if no additional nominations are received by the end of the meeting a motion could be entertained to elect the slate by acclamation and on a second it could be passed without opposition.

Bee Procurement: Update provided by Jimmie.

- The committee set a purchase limit of 4 nucs for new members and 10 nucs for all others.
- Posting of the purchase order will be in the Dec., Jan, Feb. newsletters. The cut off for ordering will be the end of February.
- Updates of pick up will be provided in the March and April newsletter.
- Payment for the purchase of nucs can be mailed to Barbi, and she will keep Jimmie informed so that he can keep the spread sheet up to date.
- Price: This year's price for nuc will be the same as last years, \$150 per nuc.
- Pickup will be mid-April to mid-May depending on the weather and availability.
- Phil Ainslie will check on the queen pricing from Merrimack.
- A reminder that to purchase nucs, the member must be in good standing and membership paid for the 2020-2021 year.
- Aluminum screen material is needed. Phil Ainslie said that he found a source for the heavier screening that Jimmie requested.

Chris provided a librarian report.

- There are some overdue books, which is not surprising due to the current situation.
- Pick up service can be arranged, if needed.

The meeting was closed and the next meeting will be at 7 pm, on Thursday January 21st 2021