

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

www.wcaba.org

2021 Club Officers:

PRESIDENT: Shannon Montez

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VICE PRESIDENT:
Gillian Mattinson

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PROGRAM: Linda Russell

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NEWSLETTER: Jimmie Oakley

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SECRETARY: Phil Ainslie

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TREASURER: Barbi Rose

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PAST PRESIDENT: Phil Ainslie

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LIBRARIAN: Chris Huck

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REFRESHMENTS:
Lisa Hoekstra

SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR:
Jimmie Oakley

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QUEEN CHAIR:
Ginny Stubblefield

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Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we are still having our member meeting in February virtually at 7 pm, February 23rd (fourth Tuesday) via “Zoom” software. **Click** *Zoom meeting link below.*

This will allow up to 100 WCABA members to listen in and watch our Beekeeping 101 session as well as conducting a Q&A.

You do not need to sign up for an account to join the meeting just a device and internet connection are required. 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 Tuesday night @ 7PM!

Topic: WCABA Member Meeting

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82475068933?pwd=aHRiRjc3bS9kYXlGS2g5THVpOEEx2UT09>

Meeting ID: 824 7506 8933

Passcode: 909659

PROGRAM

Introduction: Phil Ainslie

“Feeding After the Freeze”

Speaker: Dodie Stillman

“Getting Started in Beekeeping “

After finding out that both her grandfather’s kept honey bees, she knew it would be in her future. In 2011 Dodie started attending the Austin Area Beekeepers Meet-ups and the Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association meetings. After spending a year attending classes and learning about bees, she was able to purchase her first 2 hives. Still searching for more information, she jumped into the inaugural class of the Texas Master Beekeepers Program and became one of the first official Master Beekeepers in the state of Texas. After keeping her Langstroth hives up and running productively for 5 year, she started her first Top Bar hive. She has spent the last two years as the President of the Austin Area Beekeepers Association (AABA) and can be found most weekends teaching a beginner or intermediate level beekeeping class.



What do Bees do when it gets Cold!

As we sit bundled in our homes weathering the power outages and icy roads, we start to worry that our bees may not survive the one or two days of winter in Texas. But this winter has been a lot different than what we've had in the past. With the temperature dipping down to 10, many are wondering if their hives have survived the blustery weather. If you prepared for the winter months left enough honey in the hive for the bees and fed raw sugar as a supplement, your hives should survive the few bitter cold days.

Bees have survived for centuries without our intervention. Bees regulate hive temperature using bee muscle activity and clustering to heat the hive. Cooling is accomplished with wing flapping and water mist evaporation. Bees control the hive temperature in order to keep developing larvae and pupae warm and alive and keep the Queen bee warm enough to survive the cold of winter. The bees keep the internal temperature of the hive at a constant temperature between 90 to 95 degrees 365 days a year.



*What do Beekeepers do when it gets Cold?
Shannon Montez - President*

Honey bees, unlike humans, think of seasons by the amount of daylight hours. They start to ramp up activity when the days get longer and start to shut down for that long winter's nap as the days get shorter and pollen is in short supply to collect. When the winter solstice is past, the bees begin to concentrate on warming the newly developing bee larvae instead of concentration on keeping the Queen alive exclusively.

An adult honey bee keeps their body temperature at 95 degrees. When the outside air drops to 50 degrees or lower the honeybee can no longer maintain a 95 degree body temperature which is why they usually do not fly if the temperature is below 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Bees will fly in temperatures below 50 degrees Fahrenheit to do "cleansing runs". Bees are cold blooded and must stay warm to be able to move. They keep their body temperature up through muscular activity. If their body temperature drops too low they are essentially paralyzed and cannot generate heat with muscle activity.

The Queen bee must be kept at between 80 degrees and 95 degrees Fahrenheit all winter long, day and night, or she will die and come spring all the bees in the hive will be dead, frozen to death. In periods of cold, the bee cluster will allow the center of the cluster, where the queen is, to drop to about 81 degrees to conserve energy. The outside of the bee cluster can have temperatures drop to as low as 48 degrees. The outer bees in the cluster migrate into and out of the center of the cluster to maintain their own body temperature. When a beekeeper opens the hive in January and all the bees are dead, it is usually because the bees did not have enough honey store reserves to make it through the winter. Bees do not really ever freeze to death, they starve to death and then become frozen. Beehives require between 40 and 75 pounds of stored honey to successfully overwinter.
<https://beekeepingcoach.com/honeybee-hive-climate-control-temperature-humidity-and-more/>

Cool Bee Facts:

1. A single bee will produce only about 1/12 of a teaspoon of honey in its lifetime.
2. Bees are attracted by caffeine.
3. The perfect hexagons that form honeycomb hold the most amount of honey with the smallest amount of material (wax).
4. Honey bees are the only insect that produces food consumed by humans.
5. During a single collection trip, a honey bee will visit anywhere from 50 to 100 flowers.

<https://www.beepods.com/101-fun-bee-facts-about-bees-and-beekeeping/>

What? ... Winter Again?!

I wrote a little tongue-in-cheek article last month with my observations on Winter in Texas. In it I mentioned ice storms in February. Did I bring all this on, or did Nature have this planned already? The explanation is that the northern polar region is heating up (global warming?) and the Polar Vortex is being displaced and shifting temporarily over the Northern Hemisphere. That's the *Why*, but as for the resulting *What*, only the pictures can tell.

A week ago (for me) we had a fairly good Farmers Market at Sun City on Tuesday, February 9, but by Thursday, February 11, the weather had deteriorated enough that we called off the market at the Georgetown Library. It went downhill from there. Ice, ice, *more ice*, and snow for a second time this year. What's going on?

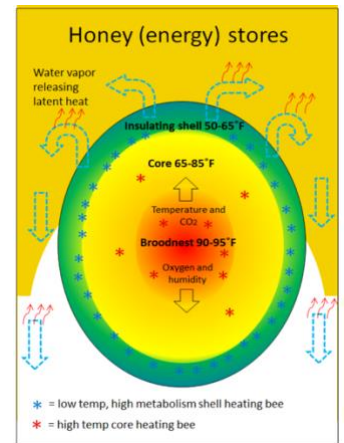
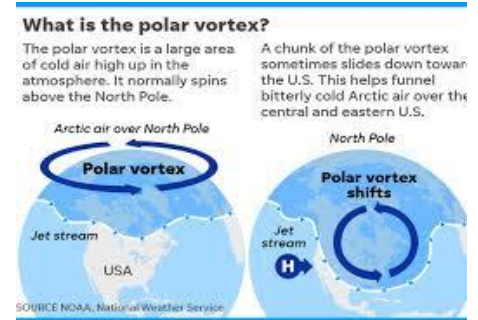
The ice and snow are bad, but what is so unexpected to me is the long, continuous days of sub-freezing temperatures. This is really hard on the bees inside the hive because of the immobility of the bees in such cold weather. *They keep their body temperature up through muscular activity.* * They can continue to generate heat by eating into the stores above if the cluster of bees is directly below the stores of honey. If the stores happen to be to the side, they may not be able to reach it.

Our dilemma, what do we do next? If we have prepared our bees (hive) properly for winter (this time for more than two days), they may survive this extended cold snap fairly well. If not, we are in *rescue mode* or *replacement mode*.

Rescue mode may involve combining a cluster of bees too small to survive further on their own with another colony using the "newspaper method." After checking and making that decision (once it gets warmer), I don't feel it necessary to hunt for the queen in the smaller cluster; just put it on top of stronger colony with newspaper between and let nature take its course.

Replacement mode means something more dire has happened: none or almost no bees are left and the ones you do see are faced headfirst into a cell, which indicates starvation. Ugh, sorry!

It's not too late to order a nuc of bees through the club by getting in touch with Gary Bible, Bee Coordinator. The deadline for requests is Sunday, February 28. Persevere! - Jimmie Oakley, Editor



It started with ICE on Thursday...



...and then SNOW (overnight) on Sunday...



...then MORE ICE on Wednesday, Ugh!

*from Shannon Montez, "What do Bees do when it gets Cold!"

Real Winter in the Scholarship Beeyard

by Jimmie Oakley – Scholarship Chair

The last report you received on the scholarship beehives was in November and related their efforts to winterize their hives, and boy, am I grateful they did, because we have since really experienced Winter!

About 2+ months later on the 30th of January the youngsters (and parents) visited Heritage Garden for the first time in the new year to see how the bees were fairing and what the stores looked like. The weather conditions permitted a fairly in-depth check of the bees, brood, honey reserves, and supplemental dry feed. To our surprise, much of the dry sugar was gone and the sugar was replenished before closing then back up.



Dry sugar cap (supplemental feed) provided on Nov.19th



Sterling's dry sugar almost gone Jan.30th



Garrett's hive completely consumed by Jan.30th



Emily's piggyback all gone too by Jan.30th



Christian & Garrett Rogers secure hive to be moved

Shortly thereafter, Randy & I moved the four scholarship hives from the Georgetown Heritage Garden to the Bost Farm. The City of Georgetown Parks Department had launched their new master plan to revamp the entire garden with less emphasis on community gardening and more on recreational use. As a result, we needed to relocate the hives during construction. The farm was the obvious choice of sites.

The new location was situated on the farmstead NE of the farmhouse in the area of the cactus garden. It was very picturesque, facing east, but somewhat exposed to the elements from the north and west.

When the forecast of inclement weather was given, I felt confident the hives were in good shape to winter the elements from the previous preparation. But I suspected that the bees were using up their sugar stores by the increased activity at the local water source from the water bucket near the back steps of the Bost farmhouse, so I did go back and check the hive weight (using the hive lift method by the bottom box handle) and added more sugar to the two hives with piggyback nucs.



New location of Scholarship bee yard @ Bost Farm



Scholarship beehives with icy trees overhead

Then it happened! Subfreezing temperature and ice on February 11, then more ice; four-six inches of snow (even more in drifts) on February 14; more ice on top of the snow on February 17 ... Real Winter!

It was past time to rethink my confidence from November and even the additional provisions in January, and to provide serious protection to the exposed hives setting out in the open.

I harken back to my North Dakota days for answers, where all the hives left out to winter-over had to be wrapped for the inevitable brutal weather up there. Without a north and west windbreak to help shield the hives from the elements, some kind of wrap is effective, thus the “tar-paper wrap.” I did not add the additional benefit of fiberglass insulation from the N.D. plan but because of the shortness of

the exposure but went with 30 lb. black roofing felt and tied it off with heavy binder twine to hold in place. Nothing too sophisticated but sufficient to the situation at hand. It had an immediate effect in that the bees felt confident enough to fly out in pursuit of the “beekeeper.” Sad to say, in the 19-degree temperature they did not pursue too long or too far.

The black felt paper will be very absorbent of the sun’s rays (when they reappear), and in the meantime, it will offer a windbreak to the north/west exposure. Hopefully, the effort is not too little or too late.

When temperatures moderate, the black paper will have to come off ... till next time?

BEFORE



Scholarship beehives in a cold, snowy beeyard.
Sterling Kinghorn – Garrett Rogers – Aydon Guevara – Emily Griffis

AFTER



Scholarship beehives wrapped with 30 lb. black roofing felt.
Notice the small cutout for piggyback nucs top entrance

Yes, sorry, those are dead bees on the snow in picture foreground. J.O.

Hey y'all, I am yucking it up today. Newsletter Editor Jimmie Oakley suggests we submit a picture of our “wintered-over” hives. I told my wife, Linda, “I’m gonna go out back and take a picture of the empty space for my 2021 hives.

It’ll be a picture of 4 cinder blocks!” As a newly “re-started” beek; I ain’t got no bees Jimmie! A beek’s worst nightmare! Anyway... today, I saw Jimmie’s pictures of the Scholarship Hives he recently wrapped and it motivated me to do some rapping myself. I hope you enjoy this. G.B.



Two of Jimmie's Russian beehives at the Bost Farm, wrapped in cardboard with piggyback nucs bring wintering on the top.

The Bee Wrap Rap

Listen up, all you “keeping” dudes
Winter’s given Oakley a bee-attitude
He’s worried ‘bout all the Scholarship Hives
And with his wrapping, he’s saved bees’ lives
He’s got some pics, I’m sure you’ll view
Tarpaper and cardboard to name a few
Thank you, Jimmie for doin’ this deed
Especially this year, it’s become a NEED
You’ve got a new name J. Oak-a-ley
Now you’re called...”*The Wrapper Of Bees*”!

Gary Bible
Bee Procurement Coordinator

Snowy Beeyard Pictures



Nuc wintering yard at Oakley Family Apiaries – Elm Mott



Rachel Glass wrapped all her beehives before the storm – Ding Dong



BiG Hive in Gillian's Beeyard - Georgetown



Snow piled high on Gillian's 3-story hive



Gillian's well sheltered hives will winter well



Bost Farm hive after the First Snow

Wet Capping's vs Dry Capping's

submitted by Phil Ainslie*

The thin layer of new wax that bees build over the top of cured (or dried) honey is called capping wax. Although bees cap brood cells one at a time, they cap honey cells in groups. Once an area of comb is ready to cap, the bees may cover many square inches at once. This different way of capping partially accounts for the flatter surface of honeycomb as compared to brood comb.

Depending on their genetics, bees either place the capping wax directly on the surface of the honey, or they may leave a little air pocket between the surface of the honey and the wax. These two methods make no difference in the flavor, color, or quality of the honey, but they make the finished combs look dramatically different.

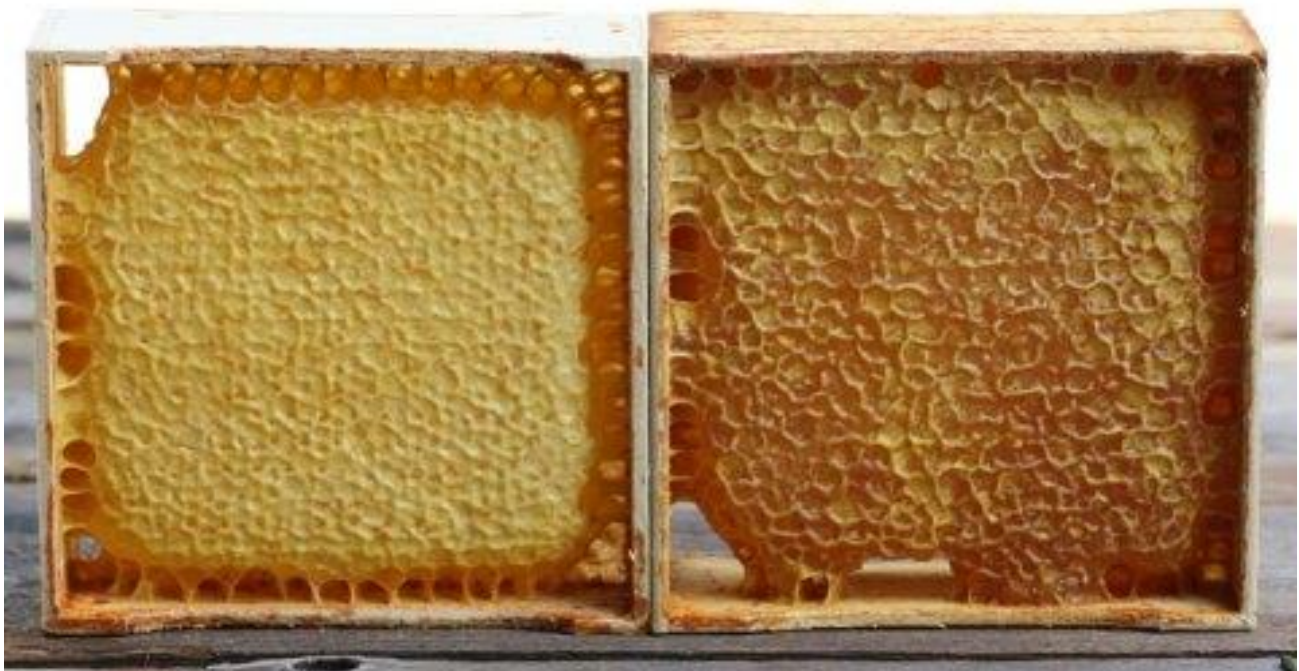
The honeycomb with the air pockets is said to have dry capping's. The comb appears white or very light tan. Honeycomb with wet capping's is not actually wet, but it looks like it might be. The appearance is darker and may have a variegated pattern due to scattered mini air pockets, which have a lighter color.

While some honey bees produce both types of capping, some consistently build one kind or the other. Italian honey bees (*Apis mellifera ligustica*) are known for producing white, dry caps. At the other end of the spectrum, Caucasian bees (*Apis caucasica*) produced wet caps almost exclusively.

Producers of comb honey have found that consumers prefer dry capping's. Especially back in the heyday of comb honey production, beekeepers found they could get better prices for light-colored, clean looking combs. The desire for white combs is one of the reasons that Italian bees became so popular in the United States.

The practice of producing chunk honey, which is just a piece of honeycomb submerged in extracted honey, was one way in which beekeepers could sell their wet-capped honey.

From: Honey Bee Sweet Blog



These comb sections came from the same super, one has dry cupplings, and one has wet.

**An observation caused the research on the subject and the resulting article...Phil, always seeking! JO-Editor*

It's Not too Late ! ~ RESPOND IMMEDIATELY!

TEXAS HONEY BEE NEED YOUR HELP !!!

WCABA Member,

In case you haven't heard APHIS plans to eradicate the Tallow trees from Texas.

Did you know you can help express your concerns about this, and maybe **put a stop to this action?**

Please review the documents and comment on this **before February 22, 2021.**

What's Happening: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) plans to **release 2 non-native pests** (a moth and a beetle from China) to eventually eradicate the Tallow tree from Texas, and all the USA. Tallow has been in the USA since the 1700s and is an important source of nectar and pollen for up to a million beehives. This will negatively impact all scales of beekeepers state, and nationwide.

Why it Matters: Releasing a beetle from China & a moth (with the potential to jump hosts) to control the most bee friendly tree in the USA is the last thing our honeybees need right now. Tallow provides irreplaceable forage for spring build up in Texas, and 90+% of the honey produced in Texas. The loss of tallow would move Texas from one of the top honey production states to one of the worst. The loss of the tallow crop could permanently impact all scales of beekeepers in Texas and nationwide as queen, nuc and package producers suffer the loss of critical forage. Operations will go out of business, and nationwide supply will be disrupted. The scale and threat of this impact cannot be overstated.

What You Can Do: This is the last chance we have to stand up against this reckless attempt. Join with thousands of fellow beekeepers, almost every southern State Beekeeping Association, the Texas Beekeepers Association and both major National Beekeepers Associations to comment against the loss of one of the most critical sources of clean forage for bees. Comment as a concerned beekeeper, business owner, beekeeping club, or someone who opposes the intentional release of more insect pests from China.

Click Here to Comment: <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=APHIS-2020-0035-0001>



Comment Suggestions:

- Include how this will have a negative financial impact on you and your businesses or hobby
- Include that the current APHIS assessment does not properly take into account the severe damage to bees and beekeeping & how critical tallow is to that
- Include any concerns you have around releasing a non-native pest
- Include where you are from, and how this will dramatically change beekeeping, bee and queen supply, and honey production
- Include how this will take Texas from one of the top honey producing states, to one of the worst

Thanks you for your help!

WCABA

WCABA Bee and Queen Order Deadline Approaches

With about a week left in the ordering window for bees and queens in the WCABA Bee Procurement Program, the request for 5-Frame nucs is running a little ahead of last year with 176 nucs requested, but only 66 queens. That's pretty amazing since the club has not had any physical meetings and all this activity has been conducted by mail. Last year (2020) at our February meeting 55 additional nucs were ordered in person. All this to say, that there may be more orders in the pipeline.

Gary Bible, Bee Procurement Coordinator, admitted "it has been 3 days since I've received mail (this winter storm thing)," but he is staying in contact with Merrimack Valley Apiaries to update them on our numbers and increase our request as needed.

There is still time to place an order before the February 28th deadline* through the club if you are a current member (membership form to pay your dues can be found inside this newsletter).

There are more than 70 nucs and 30 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 Bee & Queen order form is in the newsletter for your convenience with a nuc price of \$150 each and the M&C queens going for \$35 each.

Delivery 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.

The actual delivery date will depend on how the season goes for the bee and queen producers, depending on weather, rain/snow, growth of colonies supplying the bee stock, and the mating of the virgin queens in the field. These factors all play into the making of nucs and shaking of bees that result in the product that comes to you. We will keep you apprised of the actual delivery dates as they are firmed up.

Each member ordering will receive a "Pick-up Voucher" that has a pickup date and quantity that the individual is entitled to pick up on the designated date.

I will emphasize now, and at each opportunity, that you must bring your pickup voucher as proof of purchase to assure we have an accurate accounting of the products purchased and delivered.

Of course, there is a strong possibility that the club may stage another drive through pickup like last year to assure the safety of both our frontline workers and our members receiving bees.

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



Gary Bible - Coordinator



Load of 5-frame nucs arrive from Merrimack Apiaries



Jim Ray deliveries nuc to Ann Bierschenk's truck

*(*ordering deadline may be extended if supplies last)*

Web Master Report: I Need Your Help!

While we are all waiting for the thaw and waiting to get outside, I have been reorganizing the website. I need some help to make the website work better for our club and for YOU!

The purpose of the WCABA Website, just like the Newsletter and Facebook page is to promote bees, beekeeping and help the public learn more. Help our members get the information they need to more effectively manage their hives.

The website speaks to three types of visitors, those wanting to try beekeeping, those new to beekeeping and those who are more experienced beekeepers. I have been adding, rearranging and removing pages to try to make the website more useful, more "user-friendly" and more effective for all three.

I need your help in reviewing the site. Here's how...go to the WCABA website:

<https://www.wcaba.org/>

1. Begin with the homepage... is it informative? top to bottom each column...make some notes, next, scan each tab, above in the main menu. Select each tab and take a look at each page in the dropdown menu. **WHAT WE DO**, ANNOUNCEMENTS..., next tab, **BEEKEEPING**, NEW TO BEEKEEPING... and so forth.
2. Do the tab and dropdown labels help you understand how the website is organized? more notes please!
3. When you glance through the tabs and pages can you tell which website visitor each page or page section is talking to? yes or no...
4. Which pages interest you the most and why. Rank them #1, #2, #3 that's all. (I will tally them up, if enough bee folks respond.)
5. Confusing tab or page? Let me know which and why you think they are confusing.

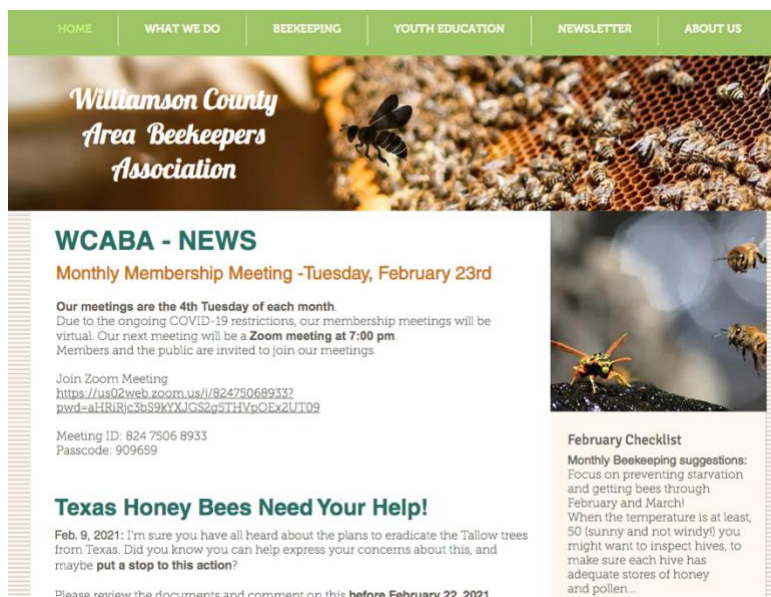
Please send me an email with a note or two about 1-5.

It is a big Ask of you, but I will really appreciate any help you have time to give!

Best regards,
Rachel Glass



Rachel Glass - Webmaster



Membership Report: Shirley Doggett

Membership Report February 2021

New members: (2021)

Pay & Jen Illingworth.	Georgetown
Nicole Narlo.	Georgetown
Jeff Smith.	Sandia
David Motl.	Lampasas.
Tom Randolph.	Georgetown.
Sherry Morley & Pat Painter	Burnet.
Steven Kilpatrick.	Georgetown.
Scott McKane.	Hutto.



Shirley Doggett - Membership

Renewing members: (2021)

Elmer Goertz.	Pflugerville	Jim Houstoun.	Austin
Rachel Glass.	Killeen	Shawn Anchors.	Georgetown
Benny Cox.	Dale	Michael Shepherd.	Leander
Ernie & Carla Schreiber.	Lake Jackson	Kevin Ueckert.	Georgetown
Linda Russell	Georgetown	Reese Klein	Burnet
Melissa and Kaitlin McAllister.	Burnet	Andrea Liles.	Round Rock
David and Andrea Ayers.	Liberty Hill	Dewey Helmcamp.	Round Rock
Buddy and Cherie Miller.	Marble Falls	Caroline Scott.	Liberty Hill
Vaughn Hamilton.	Marble Falls	Tom Wrinkle.	Austin
Pamela Crider.	Georgetown	Greg Gersib.	Taylor
Kenneth Miller.	Elgin	Dean Hamilton.	Georgetown
Jim and Sara Rodeghero.	Liberty Hill	Trisha Collier	Georgetown
Traci Cox	Georgetown	Donnie Williams.	Salado
Kenneth Dennis.	Coupland	Gary Carlile.	Liberty Hill
Lori Rasberry.	Thorndale	Cean Embrey.	Florence

Members (old and new) are WELCOME to pay their dues through their financial institution's Bill Pay feature, but you NEED to notify Membership Director, Shirley Doggett, of your action (by email or phone) so I can process your membership application appropriately and you get the proper credit.

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

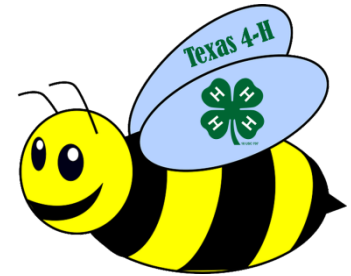
All secondary transactions and scheduling must come through the club for tracking & delivery purposes.

Special Instructions:

**2021
TEXAS 4-H BEEKEEPING ESSAY CONTEST
RULES AND GUIDELINES**

Deadline Monday, March 15, 2021

Submit Electronically via Texas 4HOnline:
Event : State – 2021 Beekeeping Essay Contest



Winners will be announced the week of April 5, 2021

The 2021 Essay Topic has been announced by The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc.

2021 Essay Topic: Immunity: Threats to Bee Colonies and Methods to Defend Against the Threats

Honey bee colonies have developed many ways to stay healthy. Their immune responses range from behaviors such as grooming to using materials such as propolis, a plant-derived substance bees coat on the interior of a hive for antimicrobial purposes. Even the gut of the honey bee contains beneficial bacteria to help the bee stay healthy!

In your essay, name at least two threats (a parasite such as Varroa, a pathogen such as a virus, a predator such as a bear, etc.) to honey bee colonies and then discuss the methods colonies use to defend against the threats. If possible, include at least one picture you have taken from Feb. 2020-Feb. 2021 that illustrates how colonies manage to stay healthy against a variety of threats.

Put on Your Thinking Cap!

An essential judging criterion is the scope of research you put forth in developing the ideas behind your essay—accounting for 40% of your score. The number of sources consulted, the authority of the sources and the variety of the sources are all evaluated. Personal interviews with beekeepers and others familiar with the subject are valued sources of information and should be documented.

Note that “honey bee” is properly spelled as two words, even though many otherwise authoritative references spell it as one word.

AWARDS:

Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three winners from Texas 4-H:

- 1st Place: \$100.00
- 2nd Place: \$75.00
- 3rd Place: \$50.00

Texas 4-H Contest Sponsors : A complete list of sponsors will be sent to participants for thank you purposes the week of April 5th.

Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three winners for National:

- 1st Place: \$750.00
- 2nd Place: \$500.00
- 3rd Place: \$250.00

National Contest Sponsored by: The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc.

TEXAS CONTEST RULES:

This contest is open to active 4-H Club members only. Previous Texas winners are eligible to enter the 2021 contest, if they have not placed first, second, or third at the national level in the past.

Essay requirements for national judging: (failure to meet any one requirement disqualifies the essay)

- Essay must be typewritten or computer-generated on single-sided pages and formatted following standard manuscript format using double-spaced type and 12pt font in legible font face.
- Essay must encompass the designated topic in 750 to 1,000 words. Word count does not include sources, works cited or the writer's biographical statement.
- All factual statements and interview references must be cited in a "sources" or "bibliography" list.
- Essays will be judged on (a) scope of research, 40%; (b) accuracy, 30%; (c) creativity, 10%; (d) conciseness, 10%; and (e) logical development of the topic, 10%.
- On a separate page, please include a brief biographical statement of the writer including mailing address, email address and phone number.
- Essay must be submitted online via Texas 4-H Connect by midnight **Monday, March 15, 2021**

NATIONAL CONTEST INFORMATION: <https://preservationofhoneybees.org/essays/2021-essays>

Final judging and selection of the National Winner will be made by the Foundation's Essay Committee, whose decision is final.

- Deadline by states for National Submission is **April 15, 2021**.
- National Winners will be announced by the **week of June 15, 2021**.
- All National entries become the property of the Foundation and may be published or used as it sees fit. No essays will be returned.
- The National winners' essays will appear in an issue of the American Beekeeping Federation's Newsletter.
- Each State Winner, including the National winners, receives an appropriate book about honey bees, beekeeping, or honey.

Williamson County Area Beekeeping Association
Virtual Board meeting November 19th, 2020

Members Present:

Phil Ainslie, Linda Russell, Jimmie Oakley, Gillian Mattinson, Shannon Montez, Barbi Rose, Matt Ludlum, Shirley Doggett, 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 Doggett.

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

Minutes accepted 01/21/2021

Beekeeping Management Class

\$130.00

Learn how to become a successful beekeeper in this one-day beekeeping workshop. Beekeeping has a number of challenges. In this course, we will present a [proven model and approach](#) for keeping bees in Texas. You'll learn how to build and maintain a productive apiary, how to produce backup bee colonies, how to manage diseases and parasites in your apiary and more.

Beekeeping class are taught at our apiary in Elm Mott, Texas.

We will also have a [class near Georgetown, Texas on March 20, 2021](#).

Visit our website for more Information and to Register.



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BEEYARD EXPERIENCE



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