

Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association

July 2018

It's Extraction Time!!

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, July 26, 2018
7:00-8:30: Beekeeping 101/201
First United Methodist Church
Georgetown (MMC bldg.)

2018 Club Officers:

PRESIDENT: Jim Colbert
512-863-7183
colbertj@hotmail.com

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

MEMBERSHIP: Shirley Doggett
co chairs: Fred & Cecilia Richter
512-924-5051
sdoggett@mindspring.com

PROGRAM: Laura Colburn
512-751-6347
lcolburn0617@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:
Maryalice Herring
254-317-4247
maryaliceherring@aol.com

SECRETARY: Ginny Stubblefield
512-636-6813
ginny@options2sell.com

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

HISTORIAN: Jennifer Shear
512-507-7746
jennifer.shear@dell.com

LIBRARIAN: Barbi Rose
512-799-0616
barbirose@yahoo.com

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

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

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

*Enjoy this month's newsletter with lots of pictures and stories of the WCABA membership receiving the payoff for a good year of beekeeping.

*Also - **don't forget** - we have a meeting location change! More information and directions are included in the newsletter.

3 Hives, 4 Days!!

Written and submitted by the Talentino Family,
WCABA Scholarship Participants



Day 1 – Monday evening

Mr. Oakley arrived with the extracting equipment and we set to work on robbing the hives.

After getting suited up and lighting the smoker, we headed over to the bee yard, our fenced off orchard. We used Mr. Oakley's trusted smoker along with Alessandro's and opened up the first hive - Alessandro's hive – which consisted of a brood box and two supers. We pulled both supers. That was 20 frames of mostly capped honey. We took out each frame, shook it and then brushed the rest of the bees off before laying the frames down about ten feet away. Once all the frames were cleared of bees, we shook the remaining bees from the super and loaded it back up with the frames. They were so heavy that Mr. Oakley had to load them in the back of his truck.

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A Message From Our President

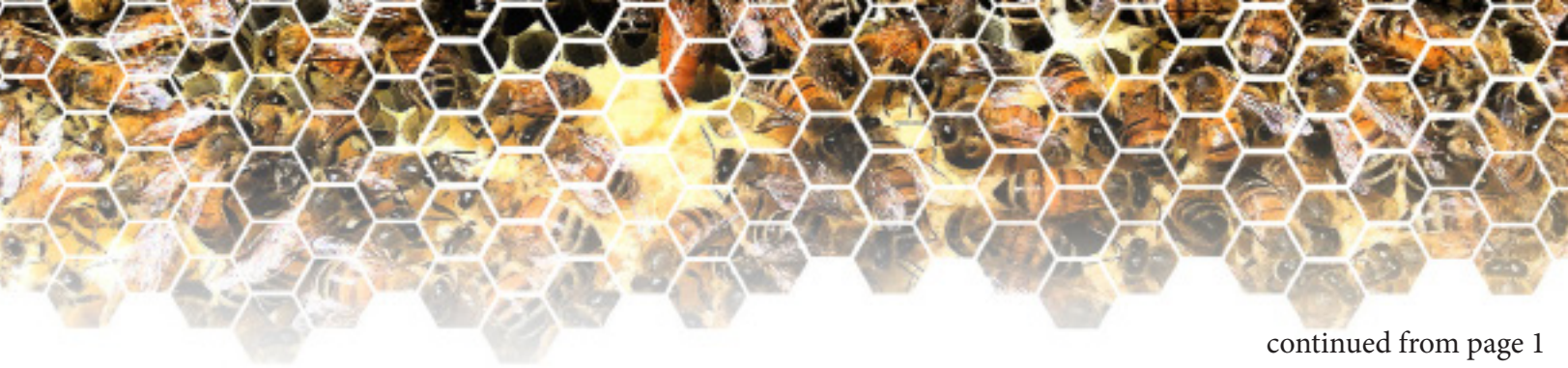
I hope everyone has settled into the summer and you are finding a way to deal with the heat wave we are experiencing. This is just a miserable time of year in central Texas, but since there is nothing we can do about it, we are going to take the opportunity to find some ways to stay cool. One way is to eat ice cream. In our August meeting we are having our annual ice cream social. This one of our most popular meetings and you won't want to miss it. We will be announcing it in our July meeting, so be sure to show up for the details.



Speaking of our July meeting, be sure to note the new location. It is still at the First United Methodist Church, but we will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall. If you look across the street from the MMC (our old meeting location), you will see an entrance to the main building between the playscape and the sanctuary. Go in that entrance, turn left and go down the stairs next to the elevator. It is a short hallway and the Fellowship Hall is the second room on the left. Hope to see you there. Until then, stay cool and talk good care of your bees.

COMING SOON...

WATCH FOR OUR NEW, UPDATED, AND IMPROVED
WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS
ASSOCIATION WEBSITE!!



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Next, we started on Marius's two hives, from which we harvested 3 supers plus three additional frames – a total of 33 frames from his hives. Mr. Oakley got a work out that day, loading all the supers on to the back of his truck. Since we had taken so many supers, there was no longer enough room in the hives, and so the bees bearded on the sides of the hives. If you haven't seen it before, it is a pretty cool sight. Basically, a curtain of bees covering the hive.

Day 2 – Tuesday afternoon and evening

The next day, after purchasing two 5-gallon buckets, some more friends came over (city folk coming out for a field trip) and they helped us extract the honey. We set up the extractor and the uncapping tub in the middle of the kitchen. Marius, the veteran extractor, showed Alessandro and their friend, Adam, how to properly uncup the honey. Then all five of the older boys took turns spinning the extractor. We followed Mr. Oakley's method: first, carefully scratch off the cappings, then put three frames in the extractor and turn it 30 times; then turn them around and turn it 60 more times; then switch them around again and turn it 30 more times. It was satisfying and exciting to see all that golden honey drip down the side of the extractor. Once we had enough honey in the extractor, we opened up the spigot and filtered it through the first two mesh strainers. When that bucket was full, we dumped it into a larger 5-gallon bucket with a fine nylon screen to filter out any other small particles and wax.



We did this off and on for the next 6 hours - 53 frames, is a lot of work. It was a slow process. It took much longer than when we pulled honey from Marius' hive the year before. It was also a lot messier. Last year, we didn't put anything down on the floor and we barely had to clean anything up. It was a mistake not to take precautions this year. The 2 -year old and the 4 -year old kept trying to steal honey for themselves and creating a mess. At one point we even overflowed a bucket but we managed to save the spilt honey for ourselves. It was already 10 pm when we finished extracting. So, we put the equipment on the back porch and mopped up the sticky mess in the kitchen. And then we mopped again.



Day 3 – Wednesday morning

When we went outside in the morning, we discovered bees buzzing everywhere. If you ask Marius, it was really only a handful of bees. Regardless, Alessandro and Gianpaolo were afraid of moving the equipment to the bee yard. Running late for swim lessons, Marius stayed

behind to move everything by himself.

A quick aside – Marius now has no problem going to the bee yard in his black shorts and dark shirt. After a year of being stung by bees almost every time he went out there, bees have now discovered fresh prey – Alessandro - and they no longer bother Marius. Alessandro gets suited up fully every time he goes to the bee yard. He went out once with only one portion of his arm left bare and was stung. He does admit that they are getting friendlier (and perhaps he is getting braver). Gianpaolo, the next brother, is simply a magnet for bees, wasps and hornets. He is content to let his older brothers be the beekeepers of the family.

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We left the equipment in the bee yard all that day so that the bees could do most of the cleaning for us. We also set out trays of cappings for the bees to clean as well.



Next, we started bottling. This was a slow process because we still had to filter more honey through the nylon mesh screen. We weren't able to finish bottling that day but we had a lot of practice of learning when to shut off the spigot and not lose so much honey to spills.



Day 4 – Thursday morning

We finally finished bottling the honey! Alessandro bottled fourteen 12-oz. honey bears, 1 pint, 12 quarts, and 1 half gallon, for a total of 5 gallons of honey! Marius bottled 7 pints, 23 quarts, and 1 half gallon for a total of 7 gallons, 16 oz. We were surprised at how much honey we extracted. It just might be enough to feed our family until the next time we rob the hive.

We cleaned all the extracting equipment and returned it to the WCABA that evening at the monthly meeting.

We would like to thank everyone who made it possible for us to have this great experience and opportunity, particularly our mentor, Mr. Oakley.

**all photos submitted by Talentino family*

Queen Jordan Heivilin's report -

On the 30th of June I traveled to Conroe to attend the TBA Summer clinic. I enjoyed a day filled with attending educational classes in the morning, supporting the TBA by lending a hand in selling t-shirts during the afternoon. I had fun talking with people who shared my passion about beekeeping and also enjoyed sharing my knowledge about bees with new beekeepers who attended the seminar with me. I enjoyed reconnecting with my fellow queens and princesses, as well as friends I have made over the course of the year. Overall it was a very eventful seminar; I added to my knowledge of bees and beekeeping, as well as making new friends throughout the day.

Scholarship Recipients Extract Honey

WCABA Advanced Scholarship Program participants extracted honey at the Bost Farm Honey House on Thursday evening July 12th. The three young men that took part was Levi Hoskins (15), Ryan Doleva (15), and Sebastian Urban (15). Michael Wheeler (14) was not able to be there. Sebastian and Michael are both Honey Ambassadors for WCABA.

The Recipients are meeting every other Thursday of the month at the Heritage Community Garden in Georgetown to perform a hive check and do any routing maintenance to the hive. All of the hives in this program are kept in one location this year to allow for group instruction and better comparison of hive progress.

At the 5:30 gathering the plan was to check the hives, record the brood and resources and pull 2-4 deep frames of honey to extract as a benefit of keeping the hives thus far. There was an added chore of requeening one of the hives because a "drone layer" was discovered in Levi's hive at last check.



Levi Hoskins scratches frames as Ryan unloads the extractor.

With everyone getting down to business the hive check was done, selected frames of honey were pulled by brushing off the bees, and the requeening procedure was performed by placing the new caged queen above a double screened divider board on top of the existing hive (check back in two weeks).

The party reconvened at the Bost Farm, the extracting equipment was set up (using 4-frame tangential), and everyone got the opportunity to uncapping their frames using both the hot knife and the frame scratchers. Everything was not as easy as it looked and there was a learning curve, but everyone caught on pretty quick and soon the liquid gold was soon flowing out of the extractor. With just the basic staining necessary to clean up the raw product it was soon in the bottling bucket ready to put in containers.

Everyone was smiling when the evening activities was complete as each young man got to take home almost twenty pounds of fresh honey to use and give away. This was not by far all the honey that was on the hive, just what was allotted to the recipients in the first building year of the program. Recipients (and parents) are learning a lot.



Randy Oakley demonstrates uncapping with the hot knife.



Jessica Doleva tries her hand at uncapping while Cindy Hoskins awaits her turn. The boys drain the tank.



Sebastian bottles honey to complete the process as Jessica Doleva looks on.

**photos submitted by Jimmie Oakley*

More Extracting Action



Levi Hoskins and Ryan Doleva check hives and pulling honey at the Garden with Mentor, Randy Oakley



Talentino boys and Mr. Oakley gather frames

A note from Mrs. Bost concerning the extracting equipment:

This is the busy time for beekeepers who have honey to be extracted.

If you plan to use one of the two extractors available to club members, call or email Mary Bost (512/863-3656 or bostbees@gmail.com) to set a date to use it for up to 3 days. If you are a new member who has not used the extracting equipment previously, you will also need to call Jimmie Oakley (512/507-3009) to be sure he can meet you at the farm to go through the checkout procedure with you.

When returning the equipment, please let Mary know: knock on her back door; call her phone number (leave a message if she's not home; or stick a note in her back door, PLEASE.) That will enable her to know if the equipment is available the next time a member calls for it.

Program Notes:

The summer meetings have a little different format with no Beekeeping 101/201. Instead we have the opportunity to hear from our Queen and the Ambassadors in July, visit with other members and enjoy the ice cream social in August, and everyone's favorite - the honey tasting and judging in September! Join us as we beat the heat in the summer!

WCABA EXTRACTING EQUIPMENT (Check List)

OUT / IN	Item
[] []	Three (3) Frame Mann Lake Extractor w/clear plastic lids, honey gate and attached stand.
[] []	Two Part Mann Lake Plastic Uncapping Tub w/wax excluder, frame rest, honey gate .
[] []	(1) Three Gallon Square honey container w/stainless steel double sieve baskets.
[] []	(1) Five Gallon Pail Honey Bucket Bottling Tank w/lid & honey gate for straining & bottling.
[] []	(2) Micron Honey straining baskets for use with bottling tank.
[] []	(2) honey capping scratcher.
[] []	(1) electric uncapping knife.
[] []	(1) spatula.
[] []	(1) One Gallon hand washing bucket.
[] []	(1) Small Crescent wrench, use on extractor.



Be courteous and assure all the equipment has been cleaned thoroughly before returning!

Will you consider donating a portion of the honey you extract to the scholarship program? Yes or No

MUST FILL OUT BEFORE PICK UP!

Check Out Date: _____ & Time _____
 Checked Out by: _____
 Phone # _____ e-mail: _____
 Scheduled Returned Date & Time
 (3 Days maximum): _____

-----Keep this portion -----

RETURN REMINDER

Scheduled Returned Date & Time
 (3 Days maximum): _____
 Be courteous and assure all the equipment has been cleaned thoroughly before returning!
 Check to assure all items are accounted for and returned.
 Thank you, WCABA 512/863-3656



W.C.A.B.A. MEETING MINUTES – June 28, 2018

Opening the Meeting: Jim Colbert, President

*Announcements:

Saturday, June 30 – the Texas Beekeepers Association hold its Summer Clinic. It will be held from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the Lone Star Convention Center in Conroe, Texas. The key speaker will be Dr. Jamie Ellis, Professor of Entomology at the University of Florida. The cost is \$60 for a single ticket, \$50 for TBA members, or \$100 for 2, \$90 for TBA members. Ticket prices will be \$75 each at the door.

*Members Present: 69

*Beekeeping 101 – Laura Colburn discussed “What’s in the Comb”.

*Beekeeping 201 – Art Thomas led a discussion on “Queen Rearing”.

Question and Answer Session: Everyone was encouraged to ask questions regarding the programs they attended earlier in the evening. Phil Ainslee and Art Thomas led the session.

Closing the Meeting: The meeting was closed by Jim Colbert.

Reminder: Our next meeting will be on Thursday, July 26, 2018.

Ginny Stubblefield, Secretary, WCABA

Welcome New Members:

Shannon Strank - Granger
The Kitchener Family - Thrall

Renewing Members:

Karen Duncan - Elgin Chris Huck - Katy Terry Spencer - Round Rock

Door Prizes:

Have you ever thought about the door prizes that are given each month?? They all come from the generous donations of WCABA members like you! Have a beekeeping item in good shape you don't need? Something from your garden? Extra plants?? Bring a donation and help keep our door prize tradition and fun continuing.



Membership Application

Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association
Dues \$15.00 per year - Individual or Family Membership

New Member / Renewing Member (circle one)

Date: _____

Name: _____

Amount: _____

Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Email: _____

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

Membership

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

Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association * 4355 County Road 110, Georgetown, Texas 78626*<http://www.wcaba.org>/*email: info@wcaba.org

WCABA
4355 County Road 110
Georgetown, Tx 78626