

# Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association

September 2018

## NEXT MEETING:

**TUESDAY, Sept. 25**  
**7:00-8:30: Honey Tasting**  
**and Judging!!**  
**Georgetown Public Library**

### 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

## Same Time BUT New Day - New Location

Remember, WCABA is now meeting on the fourth TUESDAY of the month beginning with the September 25 meeting. We are also changing locations. Join us in the Hewlett room which is upstairs in the Georgetown Public Library - 402 W 8th St. Parking is available by both entrances to the library. Voting by the membership on this change will take place at this meeting.

Please read the proposed change below:

Currently:

### Article V Meetings

The Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association shall meet on the fourth Thursday of each month, except November, and December at a place and time to be designated by the majority vote of members present. The November meeting will be the third Thursday, so as to not conflict with the observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. There shall be no scheduled meeting in December due to the holiday season. A quorum shall consist of fifteen members present.

Proposed Change:

### Article V Meetings

The Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association shall meet at a place and time to be designated by the majority vote of the Executive Board. There shall be no scheduled meeting in December due to the holiday season. A quorum at a meeting of the Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association shall consist of fifteen members present.



## A Message From Our President



It looks like the summer dearth has broken and we are entering into the fall. Next week is officially fall and the weather seems to agree. We've had some rain and with any luck, the 100-degree days are over for another year. I saw last night on the weather that fall Elm pollen is showing up and I noticed my bees are bringing in pollen. So, what does that mean for beekeepers? The fall honey flow is about to start! It's time to keep a close watch on the needs of your bees. Things can move quickly once they get started. If you haven't done a mite check, by all means do it now. Be sure there is a good nectar and pollen intake before you stop feeding. Watch for queen cells. Check the brood pattern as a sign of the queen's viability. In short, it's time to be sure you're a beekeeper, and not just someone who has some bee hives.

On another note, please remember we have changed our meeting date and location to the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7 PM and we are now meeting in the Hewlett Room of the Georgetown Public Library. The Hewlett Room is on the second floor and is accessible by both stairs and elevator. You can enter the Library from either 8th or 9th Street, although there is more parking on the 8th street side. At our meeting on Tuesday, September 25, 2018, we will make the change official by voting to change our constitution.

Hope to see you there.

Jim





## WCABA Honey Tasting & Judging

Everyone is **welcome** to join in the festivities to celebrate National Honey Month at our September meeting. We will have a big honey tasting and also honey judging for honey going to the State Fair in Dallas.

If you have extracted honey this year you are encouraged to bring a baby food size container of your best to see how it stacks up against the other club members participating in the "Tasters Choice" competition. It's all for fun and you might be a winner.

Honey going to the State Fair for display in the Texas Beekeepers Association Honey Booth needs to be in a 2-pound glass jar with a metal cap and can contain your label already affixed.

I am concerned that submissions may be down because there was no meeting in August, so I encourage you to bring your honey and help make this a fun and memorable event. Thx. Jimmie Oakley - Coordinator

### LINE UP GOING TO THE STATE FAIR LAST YEAR



### TASTER'S CHOICE



**Submit**



**Taste**



**Vote**

Submitted by Jimmie Oakley, WCABA Scholarship Chair



## Fall Requeening for Scholarship Hives

The WCABA Scholarship Advanced Program recipients have reached another milestone in the steps laid out to be accomplished this year. With the completion of the summer mite treatment with Apiguard, the hives were ready to receive a new queen, but a two step process calls for the creation of a "piggyback" nuc to winter over on top of the original queenright hive in place.

The last week of August the youngsters pulled frames of brood, pollen, and honey from the hive's brood chamber and put together a nucleus hive; shaking off all the adhering bees into the bottom box to assure the queen stays with the original hive. The nuc box is then placed back on the hive above a queen excluder to allow the nurse bees to come up and cover the brood frames again. Pollen supplement and 1x1 sugar syrup was supplied if needed and the bees were left till the next week so they could tend the brood and settle down from the disturbance of the brood nest.

The first week of September the recipients were back to finish the process and install the queen. The top box, with the brood now covered with bees, was set aside and the queen excluder removed and replaced with a "double screened" bottom board that divides the bees in the nuc from those in the original hive. The nuc box is set on top of the double screen which

allows the heat from the bottom box to be shared with the nuc. The double screen bottom is attached to the nuc box with hive staples and the rear entrance is opened to allow access opposite from the forward facing entrance of the bottom box. In theory, any old field force bees will fly out the back entrance the next day and return to the hive below. This should leave only nurse bees and house bees which are much more accepting of a new queen.

The scholarship beekeepers returned in two weeks to check the acceptance of the new queen (maybe even see her), access the brood pattern of the new queen, and check on stores in the nuc.

It will be just routine maintenance now till later in the fall when a mite check will be taken to determine if another treatment, this time with formic acid (Formic Pro) to get the bees thorough the winter months. Of course attention will be paid to the necessity of adding weight to the hive for winter and increasing pollen stores.



**Making up the Nuc**



**Making the "Piggy Back" Split**





## Scholarship Activities - September



**A little Syrup...**



**A little Pollen...**



**A little Queen...**



**... and a Great Team = Successful Splitting & Requeening for Advanced Scholarship Program**

Submitted by Jimmie Oakley, WCABA Scholarship Chair





## Pests to Look Out For This Fall

By Laura Colburn, WCABA Program Chair

The worst of summer is finally over and fall is fast approaching. As that happens, the population in your hives is decreasing. However, the pests that invade our hives are often increasing during this time.

### Small Hive Beetles:

Somewhat inhibited during the hot dry summer months this year, with the heavy rains we received in September, the soil is perfect for the larva to pupate. Small hive beetles can fly up to three miles to find a hive and are attracted by the smell of honey and pollen. Females lay eggs in cracks and crevices as well as in the honey and pollen cells. When the eggs hatch, the larvae feed on anything they can find, including bee larva and pupa. The SHB larva defecate in the cells as they grow, causing fermentation. The larva can cause significant damage, even the loss of a hive. Then they fall to the bottom of the hive, crawl out the entrance to the ground to burrow into soil to pupate. The larvae have been observed to crawl long distances to find soil suitable for pupation.



*from afuturewithbees.com*

### Prevention:

1. Don't leave more space than the hive population can defend.
2. Use beetle traps such as oil traps or microfiber sheets
3. Choose a hive location with sun most of the day and dry packed ground below. Keep the grass cut short around the hive to promote dry soil. Spread DE on the ground under and around the hive.

### Wax Moths:

As honey bee populations decrease, they stop using the older comb in the hive. Wax moths feed on old comb. In a feral hive, there's somewhat of a symbiotic relationship because the moths eat and remove the old comb as the bees build comb in new parts of the hive cavity. In a managed hive however, they have limited space to use and the moth larva may move into areas of good comb, causing the loss of a hive.

A strong hive can defend itself, but a weak hive can quickly be overrun as the larva destroy both comb and brood. A female moth can lay over 300 eggs, which hatch about 5 days later. The larva burrow into and consume comb and wood until ready to spin cocoons for pupation.

\*continued on page 7



*\*Pests continued from page 6*

#### Prevention:

1. Promote strong hives through nutrition and good hive management.
2. Practice hive hygiene by culling old comb, which is the wax moth larva's favorite food. When the wax is black, it's full of dirt, pupal poo, and bee pupa cocoons.
3. Any frame pulled for harvesting should be frozen for 48 hours before storing or returning to the hive to kill wax moth eggs. Proper storage is essential though. Frames can be stored in the freezer, in air tight tubs, or even in hive boxes exposed to light and air (such as a covered lean-to). A chemical approach is to stack boxes of frames, layering newspaper sprinkled with para-dichlorobenzene (NOT moth balls) between the boxes.

#### Varroa Mites

These mites are vectors of disease, and I've written several newsletter articles on management. Fall is the time when honey bee populations are especially susceptible because the queen is slowing her production, but mite populations continue to grow, changing the ratio of mites to bee at an exponential rate. It's essential to know your mite numbers before winter because the bees going into winter must live all winter, much longer than summer bees. However adult mites feed on the fat body of adult bees, reducing their longevity, which weakens the hive, even to the point of hive loss. Reproducing mites and their pupating offspring feed on the honey bee larva and pupa. Both emerging and adult honey bees are impaired or killed.



*Varroa Mites - Bee Culture magazine*

#### Prevention:

1. Take mite samples throughout the spring, summer, and fall months to ensure mite populations are not raging out of control
2. Choose an appropriate treatment for your hive management practices. You can download a Varroa Management pamphlet from [honeybeehealthcoalition.org](http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org) for the various treatments available.
3. Treat all hives with Oxalic Acid in late December or early January while little brood is available for mites to reproduce. A treatment at this time will kill the majority (up to 95%) of adult mites so the hives will have a stronger start in spring.





## **Welcome New Members:**

### **New Members:**

**Jeff and Coral Swindall - Bertram**

### **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.**

---

There are no minutes to report as we did not meet in the month of August.

submitted by Ginny Stubblefield, WCABA Secretary

---

NOW is the time to consider the role you play in the Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association.

Ready to give something back to the club that gives so much to you??

Elections take place before the new year so the new officers can assume their positions in January.

Consider stepping up and taking on the challenge of leadership in a growing and busy beekeeping association. Talk to President Jim Colbert or one of the other officers if you would like more information. From organizing refreshments to editing the newsletter to assisting with scholarships, the club royalty, library books, or secretarial responsibilities.

There is a leadership role for all who are interested and willing.

Think about it.

Its time to step up!





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

WCABA  
4355 County Road 110  
Georgetown, Tx 78626