

Next Meeting:
Thursday, January 28, 2016

7:00-9:00: Beekeeping 101; Program

First United Methodist Church
Georgetown (MMC bldg.)

Beekeeping 101: Laura Colburn
"Bee Biology" and
"Oxalic Acid Treatment for Varroa"

Program Speaker: Lance Wilson
"Nutrition Management for
Robust Populations"

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THE Buzzword

January 2016 Newsletter

What's Killing Our Bees?

by Mary Catherine Gardner

That is the question! ... and there is no simple answer. We do know that losses of managed honey bee colonies are still on the rise, with annual losses for April 2014 through April 2015 at 42.1

percent (an increase from 34.2 percent for the previous year), according to the preliminary results of the annual survey conducted by the Bee Informed Partnership, the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, and the Apiary Inspectors of America.

Pesticides are a huge threat to our honey bee populations, with the category of Insecticides known as Neonicotinoids being especially concerning. (For more detailed info on neonicotinoids, read Honey Princess, Elise Gardner's research article in this newsletter). Environmentalists have long suspected these types of insecticides are linked to the rapidly declining bee populations, a phenomenon known as Colony Collapse Disorder. Activists have been working hard to try to get these chemicals banned in the United States, as they have been in Europe since 2013. Great strides were made in the right direction when, on January 6, 2016, the Environmental Protection Agency announced the results of the first of four preliminary pollinator risk assessments for neonicotinoid pesticides.

The EPA stated that Imidacloprid "potentially poses risk to hives when the pesticide comes in contact with certain crops that attract pollinators."

The assistant administrator of the EPA's Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, Jim Jones, stated, "Delivering on the President's National Pollinator Strategy means EPA is committed not only to protecting bees and reversing bee loss, but for the first time, assessing the health of the colony for the neonicotinoid pesticides."

Another threat to our pollinators is herbicides. Herbicides are used to kill undesirable plants, or "weeds". Farmers often spray herbicides as part of their crop management, but in doing so, they are destroying bee food sources. Some would argue this is an even bigger threat to our bees than pesticides. Changes need to occur, not only in

farmland management, and the way people manage their yards, roadsides, golf courses, power company right-of-ways, etc., but also in our attitude toward welcoming weeds into our environment.

As if they didn't have it rough enough with all these chemicals, bees also face challenges from many different diseases and pests. Viruses (like Sacbrood Virus and Deformed Wing Virus), Fungal Diseases (like

Chalkbrood and Nosema), Bacterial Diseases (such as European and American Foulbrood), Mites (like Varroa Mite and Tracheal Mite) and Pests (Bee Louse, Wax Moths, and Hive Beetle) are just some of them. I believe the best way to handle these problems is through Integrated Pest Management (IPM). This method involves regularly monitoring your bees, properly identifying problems, considering their severity, evaluating your options for treatment; and then, selecting the least-toxic solutions to implement. In addition to managing your hives with IPM, you can manage your home landscape in the same manner. Don't kill every bug you see in your garden - 95% of them are not pests and can be very beneficial! Plant native plants. If you must use a pesticide, use the least toxic product first and try all-natural, organic solutions for treating problems.

No one solution will solve the problem of bees dying, because it is a combination of all these things that is contributing to their decline. We need to do all we can to take a multifaceted approach to bee conservation.

New Members and Membership Renewals

Welcome to our new members:

Philip Newman and
Robin Morin, Georgetown;
Kathleen Thompson, Pflugerville.

Renewing members are:

David Babyak, Austin;
Gayle-Suzanne Barren, Round Rock;
Ray Bizzell, Bertram;
Randy and Debbie Blazek, Austin;
Donna and Tim Cox, Liberty Hill;
Benjy and Lisa Cox, Dale;
Susan Culp, Georgetown;
Wayne Hayes, Austin;
Sharon Hulings, Coupland;
Judith and Larry Jez, Temple;
Travis and Maureen Lane, San Angelo;
Patrick and Anita Lyons, Muldoon;
Bruce Miller, Georgetown;
Don and Margaret Tenney, Austin;
Jack and Shirley Ward, Austin.



"Thank You!" to our Refreshment Hosts:

Steve Hoskins, Linda Russell, and Barbi Benjamin

If you would be willing to supply refreshments for one of our meetings this year, please make sure to sign up or contact Barbi Benjamin: barbirose@yahoo.com



President's Message

Yesterday was a warm day and today it's cold again. The bees have been out flying around and now they are back in a cluster. By the weekend they will be out and about. What should we be doing?

Hopefully you have protected them somewhat from North winds and made sure there's a weight on top of the top cover so that it will not blow off. You can check the hives if the temperature gets to 60 degrees and it's a sunny day. Look for food supplies and add pollen patties if necessary. You still need to be feeding 2-1 sugar syrup if there's little honey in the hive.

Order the Queens and packages you need in April. You can do this through our Association by using the order form in the newsletter. Suppliers in recent years have sold out very quickly so act soon if you need to.

This is also the time to repair or order inventory of woodenware or supplies. Clean old frames and boxes you need in the spring. Look at stored supers and check for wax moth or mouse damage – add more paradichlorobenzene crystals if necessary. Clean and repair bee clothing and use the cold days to read some more books on this great activity.

My friend in East Texas says that January 10th marks the beginning of pollen from hardwood trees so it's fun to watch the bees and see if there is pollen being brought to the hive. Remember that a 2 mile radius is over 8,000 acres, so you may never find the source of the pollen. Bees are amazing.

We begin the new year with Laura Colburn taking over Beekeeping 101 teaching at our meetings. Thanks to Zane Baird for all his work in the past year and to Laura for taking on the task. January, February and March is where new beekeepers can learn the biology of the honey bee, the requirements of a beekeeper and then how to install a package of bees.

Please see Shirley when you come to the January meeting and renew your membership for 2016 if you have not already done so. We use the small annual fee to support the Queen program and the Scholarship program. The deadline for entries to the Scholarship Program is February 10th so look on the website for details, or talk with Jimmie Oakley if you have a young person who is interested.

Happy New Year to all of you and I look forward to seeing you at our January meeting.

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2015 WCABA Club Membership Roster

Make sure to check your email for the 2015 WCABA Club Membership Roster. It was voted several months back in the meeting to make this document available to the membership as a reference document.

This may help you find other beekeepers close to you to ask questions and share experiences with or maybe to carpool to the meeting.

Please check the information listed for you and your family to assure correctness, and if you discover an error contact: Shirley Doggett – Membership at sdoggett@mindspring.com

Also, PLEASE use this only as intended, as a reference to find your fellow beekeepers, and DON'T allow its distribution for marketing purposes.

I hope this proves a useful tool to keep in touch with each other and help make you a better beekeeper.



Chris Doggett, WCABA President

Neonicotinoid Research Summary

by Elise Gardner (WCABA Honey Princess & Apprentice Master Beekeeper)

What exactly are neonicotinoids? Merriam-Webster defines neonicotinoids as "any of a class of broad-spectrum insecticides having a chemical structure similar to that of nicotine and acting on the central nervous system of insects by selectively binding to nicotinic acetylcholine receptors." Essentially neonicotinoids are their own class of insecticides. They are chemically related to nicotine; the name literally means "new nicotine-like insecticides." Very much like nicotine, neonicotinoids act on certain types of receptors in the nerve synapse, or connectors. They not only attack the individual bee from the inside out, by targeting their nervous systems, but also the colony as a whole from the inside out.

Queen's Buzzword:

• Neonicotinoid •

A class of neuro-active insecticides whose use was linked in a range of studies to adverse ecological effects, including honey bee colony collapse disorder (CCD).

Neonicotinoids are kind of "the beginning of the end," so to speak. They are an initial weakening factor, causing the hive to be more susceptible to disease, parasites and other pests that, all together, can cause the downfall of the hive.



This affects bees in a negative way and on a very large scale. When a bee goes to a nectar source that has had a neonicotinoid used on it, it can wind up collecting that neonicotinoid along with the nectar and pollen and taking it back to the hive.

When this happens, that contaminated nectar or pollen begins being passed around from bee to bee to get to where it needs to go, slowly affecting hundreds or thousands of bees depending on the amount of the insecticide collected. While low to moderate exposure to neonicotinoids causes nervous stimulation, high levels overstimulate and block the bees' acetylcholine receptors, causing paralysis and death. Now, this process certainly can kill an entire hive of bees by itself if it is conducted to a large enough magnitude, but usually it isn't the end-all factor in killing off colonies. Typically, these neonicotinoids are kind of "the beginning of the end," so to speak. They are an initial weakening factor, causing the hive to be more susceptible to disease, parasites and other pests that all together can cause the downfall of the hive. Neonicotinoids are a lot more toxic to invertebrates, such as insects, than they are to mammals, birds and other "higher organisms." One way or another, though, without these neonicotinoids, bees would not be dying off in such high numbers.

Neonicotinoids are different from other pesticides and insecticides in a very large way; they are actually incorporated into the plant itself. They are absorbed through the roots, along with the water, and start making

their way through the plant's systems and functions, thus allowing those neonicotinoids to be incorporated into the seeds, nectar and pollen when they are produced. This allows for neonicotinoids to spread much farther and easier than other insecticides/pesticides. Where most pesticides and insecticides are more of a topical treatment that are typically applied by spraying them onto the outside of the plant, neonicotinoids are applied in a different way and, therefore, have a very different effect. Neonicotinoids are applied through water and irrigation, and this water solubility is one of the things that has made them more popular as a form of pest control. Water application does have some benefits - one being that soil insecticide application reduces the risk of insecticide drift from the targeted site.

There are multiple different types of neonicotinoids. The first one to be put out on the market was Imidacloprid. It can be sprayed on the plants, as well as applied to the soil. This particular neonicotinoid is most often more effective when applied to the soil. Dinotefuran, also known as "Safari," is another type. This is also a highly water soluble neonicotinoid and is most effective on sap-feeding insects.

So, now for the most important part: **how to avoid buying neonicotinoid pesticides!** While the use of ANY pesticides can be very harmful to good insects such as bees, neonicotinoids are worse than regular pesticides. When you go to the hardware store to buy plants or pesticides for your garden, you need to be especially careful to avoid buying neonicotinoids. Ask questions, and choose a garden center that supplies neonicotinoid free plants. To avoid buying neonicotinoids, look for natural alternatives to pesticides (you can even make your own at home), and if you must buy one, look at the list of active ingredients. If you see one of the following names listed on the insecticide you're buying, it is a neonicotinoid product: Acetamiprid, Clothianidin, Dinotefuran, Imidacloprid, Nitenpyram, Thiocloprid, Thiamethoxam.

In conclusion, neonicotinoids are a very dangerous pesticide/insecticide and, in my opinion, should be outlawed or, at the very least, laws should be put in place entailing certain regulations and requirements for them, in order to help protect the bees. Bees are very important to our environment and to us as humans and should be protected at any cost!

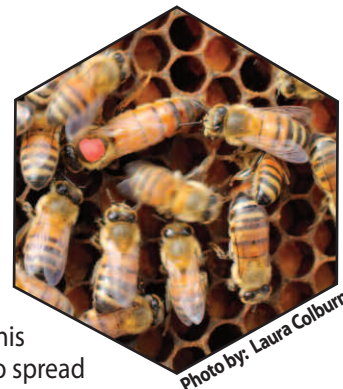
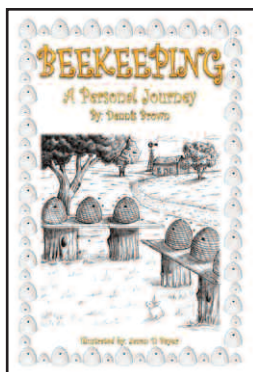


Photo by: Laura Colburn



BOOK NOOK by Holly Medina

The book, **Beekeeping, A Personal Journey**, by Dennis Brown, is a great blend of the mechanical parts of beekeeping and the passion we beekeepers feel when we work with our hives. It's geared toward the hobby beekeeper as well as the commercial beekeeper. The author shares his own philosophy about raising strong, healthy bees without using chemicals or pesticides. You just have to check the book out to enjoy the great information that Dennis Brown has to share!

WCABA Library Resources

Sharing knowledge and information is one of the benefits of being a club member. Our librarian maintains a wide variety of materials that can be checked out by members.

Please browse through our list of materials online at: <http://wcaba.org/library.html>

There is a large selection of books for beginner to advanced and even children's books and DVDs. Members may reserve resources by contacting the WCABA Librarian, Holly Medina at hahmedina@gmail.com.

Don't forget to return your books at the next meeting!



Austin 5th Annual Beekeeping Seminar

The Austin Area Beekeepers Association held their 5th annual beekeeping seminar on Saturday, January 16th. The mission of this daylong seminar was to educate people of all experience levels in sustainable bee husbandry and to provide funding for the Texas A&M Honey Bee Lab.



The daylong seminar offered 4 different educational presentations running concurrently in each time slot throughout the day with topics suited for everyone from beginners to advanced beekeepers.



Presenters: Mark Dykes - Chief Texas Apiary Inspector (left); Mark Hedley - Commercial beekeeper and owner of Spiral Horn Apiary (center); Lance Wilson - Certified Master Beekeeper GMBP (right).



Shirley Doggett at the TBA booth.

Willow Lanchester, Hope Pettibon, and Elise Gardner helped out. AABA plans to donate \$500 from seminar proceeds to the TX Queen Fund.

Interested in Learning About Bees and Beekeeping?

Apply for the Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost Memorial Scholarship by February 10, 2016

The deadline is fast approaching, so if you know of a school age boy or girl who is interested in learning about bees and beekeeping, please encourage him/her to apply for **The Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost Memorial Scholarship**. This is an essay contest administered by the Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association (WCABA). Scholarships are presented annually to contest winners and are intended to promote and encourage area youth to become knowledgeable and interested in honey bees and honey production.

For additional information and a scholarship application, or if you are interested in mentoring a scholarship kid, please contact Jimmie Oakley, Scholarship Chairman at: jimmie.oakley@gmail.com

If you did not get to contribute to the scholarship program by donating honey for the Hill Country Fair last November, perhaps you would like to make a donation of cash or a check. Shirley Doggett or one of the other ladies at the registration counter would be glad to assist you with this.

The Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost Memorial Scholarship application form is available online at wcaba.org (Under Opportunities – Scholarship)

Scholarship submissions must be filed by February 10th, 2016, and will be awarded at the March 24th WCABA meeting.

Scholarship Kids

Just ask any Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost Memorial Scholarship recipient about their experience, and you will get an ear full of stories about how wonderful and life changing this was for them. Each story is unique and as different from the next as you can imagine. Everything from huge honey yields, to absconding bees, to bee wars, to bee rustlers has been reported on by our scholarship kids. Beekeeping is definitely an adventure worth embarking upon!

My Scholarship Experience

My name is Elise Gardner, and when I was in 7th grade, I did an independent study research project on colony collapse disorder and the problems it is causing the bees, as well as the problems it could potentially cause humans. I read, in many places, that it was the individual beekeepers, or the hobby beekeepers, that were keeping the bee populations alive. This is when I was inspired to embark on what I thought at the time was a "crazy adventure that would help save the world!"



Well, I got one part of that right. I was, in a sense, helping to save the world by helping to keep the bee populations alive, but it really wasn't as crazy as I thought it would be!

You're probably wondering what exactly I'm talking about right now! I'm talking about The Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost Memorial Scholarship. I applied for the scholarship in 2013, as my product for my independent study, and when I received word that I was to be awarded this scholarship, I was excited, but I never imagined it would change my life in such a huge way.

I knew that becoming a beekeeper would impact my everyday life in little ways, such as having to add some extra chores into my schedule, occasionally going out to open the hive, etc., but I really never would have thought it could send my life in a completely new direction. If it weren't for me receiving this scholarship, I never would have found my love for bees, I never would have become Honey Princess, I wouldn't have become an Apprentice Master Beekeeper, I wouldn't be graduating high school early in order to run for Texas Honey Queen and, hopefully, American Honey Queen after that, and I wouldn't be considering a career path in apiary sciences. To say the least, I am a completely different person today because of my beekeeping scholarship! I wouldn't be half the person I am today, and I wouldn't have many of the skills I now possess, if it weren't for my scholarship. This scholarship changed my life in a humongous way that will continue to impact me for the rest of my life, and for that, I am eternally grateful!



Claire Birdwell: 2015 Scholarship recipient



Jeffery Whitworth: 2015 Scholarship recipient



Annalisa "Lissy" Martinez: 2015 Scholarship recipient

Try our Honey Recipes!

Christmas Kale Salad with Honey Ginger Vinaigrette

Ingredients:

- 1 large bunch kale
(chiffonade or thinly sliced)
- 1 granny smith apple
(thinly sliced)
- 1/4 c. pomegranate seeds
- 1/4 c. Vinaigrette
(see recipe below)
- pine nuts (toasted)

Honey Ginger Vinaigrette:

- 2 Tbsp. fresh ginger juice
- 2 Tbsp. apple cider vinegar
- 1 tsp. dijon mustard
- 4 Tbsp. honey (or more to taste)
- 1/4 c. olive oil (plus 1 Tbsp.)
- kosher salt
- freshly ground black pepper

Directions:

1. To a large mixing bowl, add the kale and season with salt, pepper and a Tbsp. of olive oil.

Tip: Massage the kale with your hands making sure to coat it with oil (this begins to break down the cell structure, softening the tough, bitter leaf and making it sweeter).

2. Add in the apple, pomegranate seeds, and pine nuts.
3. For the Vinaigrette: Crush raw ginger in a garlic press and squeeze to juice.
4. In a small mixing bowl, whisk together freshly squeezed ginger juice, apple cider vinegar, dijon mustard and honey.
5. Season with salt and pepper.
6. Whisk in olive oil until fully emulsified.
7. Drizzle in the vinaigrette and toss to coat. You can dress the salad up to one hour ahead.



2015 Texas Honey Queen, Tabitha Mansker, Crowned 2016 American Honey Princess

On January 9th, at The American Beekeeping Federation Convention in Ponte Vedra Beach (Jacksonville) Florida, 2015 Texas Honey Queen, Tabitha Mansker, was crowned the 2016 American Honey Princess.

Tabitha, 19, is the daughter of Gary and Wanda Mansker of Nevada, Texas. She lives on a small farm with her family, where they raise honey bees, goats, pigs, donkeys, alpacas, and other various farm animals. Tabitha was actively involved in 4-H for eight years and enjoyed competing in many different stock shows and events. She has been involved in beekeeping since she was 14 (helping work the 16 hives on the family farm), and with commercial beekeepers for the past five years (extracting honey in the spring and summer). Her future goals consist of pursuing a job somewhere in the medical field and possibly becoming a teacher. She is working on her basics through online studies. Besides bees, Tabitha enjoys photography, playing piano, singing, working on the farm, and serving in her local church and community.

Congratulations Tabitha! We are very proud of you!

Beekeeping Equipment

Serving the Williamson County Area

Available Assembled
and Painted

BetterBeeEquipment.com
BetterBeeEquipment@gmail.com
512-963-3954



WCABA Club Equipment Order Process

This year we have made arrangements with Busy Bee Supplies for our spring order. Visit www.busybeesupplies.com to access the order process window. In the past we would drive over 3 hours to Dadant to save shipping fees for the spring order. In addition we have never received a discount through Dadant. Busy Bee Supplies has graciously agreed to have the entire spring order sent to the Bost Farm.

The advantages are as follows:

- (1) No shipping on any size order when using the coupon code WCABA10
- (2) Club members receives a 10% discount by using the WCABA10 coupon code.

Members must place their order by **Feb. 29th** to take advantage of the free shipping and 10% discount for this offer. Orders going through the Mann Lake site will not get the extra 10% discount. Any item carried in the Mann Lake catalogue can be ordered through Busy Bee Supplies.

The pick up date is Saturday March 19th.

Members that don't take advantage of the club spring order can still get free shipping on orders over \$50.00 from [busybeesupplies.com](http://www.busybeesupplies.com)

Most woodware and some miscellaneous bee supplies are also available from **Better Bee Equipment**. **Better Bee Equipment** supplies are available for viewing at the monthly meeting (see Josiah Youngblood).

Step 1
Enter Coupon Code
Insert WCABA10
For spring order discount of 10%

proceed to checkout:
Click Proceed to Checkout to complete your order now.

On the next page you'll be able to create a personal account or checkout anonymously.

returning customers
Sign In for Faster Checkout

Email Address
admin@busybeesupplies.com
Password

Forgot your password?

Proceed to Checkout **Login & Checkout**

Step 2 Shipping Rates

Select **WCABA Club Order – Bost Farm Free Delivery**

For anyone wanting there items earlier can also select **In-Store Pickup**. Anyone who chooses this option will be contacted once their order is ready for pickup. Our pick-up location is in Florence, TX (between Georgetown, TX and Killeen, TX)

Step 3 Login and Checkout

Select to either **Proceed to Checkout** or **Login & Checkout**



Step 4
Enter in your billing and shipping information

Step 5
Shipping Method
Select **WCABA Club Order – Bost Farm Delivery** or **Pick-Up in Person**

Step 6
Additional Items
Enter any Mann Lake products that we don't carry on our website in the Order Comments box.

Include:
ML Item # - Quantity - Price

Step 7
Paying For Additional Items
If you order any products that are not on our website, select **Pay Over The Phone**. We will call you to confirm your order and take your credit card payment over the phone.



Photo by: Laura Colburn.
New Beekeeping 101 presentation photos have been added from Laura's hives.

Beekeeping 101

Beginning January 2016, Laura Colburn will present Beekeeping 101 at the WCABA monthly meetings. You don't want to miss it!

This month will cover bee biology, discussing the physical characteristics of bees, the role of each caste in the hive (queen, worker, and drone), and the metamorphic phases of bees from egg to hatching.

Laura will also present methods for using oxalic acid to treat varroa mites in the hive. She will discuss how to determine your mite count using a sugar roll. Then she will introduce the materials necessary, sources for materials, and the methods for using oxalic acid as both a vapor and liquid dribble.

Wintertime Checklist

January and February are great times to make preparations for Spring, when the action really heats up in the beeyard.

In the Beeyard:

- ☐ Hive inspection: Make sure it is at least 60° if opening your hive
- ☐ Look for disease, evidence of health of queen, honey stores
- ☐ If you are feeding your bees, keep feeders full of 2:1 syrup
- ☐ Equipment maintenance: build, repair, clean, and sterilize
- ☐ Order supplies, including medication, if needed, and pollen substitute, to ready the hive for brood rearing
- ☐ Place your order for packaged bees and/or queens

In the Garden:

- ☐ Order seeds and start them indoors
- ☐ Plant bareroot shrubs, roses, and fruit such as: apples, peaches, pecans, pears, pomegranates, persimmons, figs, almonds, grapes, strawberries, raspberries, blackberries
- ☐ Prune and/or divide perennials, roses, shrubs, and trees
- ☐ Clean up beds to prepare for spring planting and add compost
- ☐ Consider installing drip irrigation for water conservation
- ☐ Plant winter vegetables such as: artichoke, asparagus, beets, bok choy, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, kale, kohlrabi, leeks, lettuce, onions, radish, spinach, and turnips
- ☐ Plant transplants of cool season flowers such as: allysum, bluebonnet, larkspur, pansies, poppies, and snapdragons
- ☐ Sow wildflower seeds

WCABA (Basic) Beekeeping Equipment List

The Equipment Listed Below is the suggested Minimum Needed to Start Beekeeping

Mann Lake Supply 2016

Qty	Unit	Item Number	Description	Price	Total Price
1	1	KD800	9 5/8" Deep Hive Body Commercial Grade	\$16.50	\$16.50
1	1	FR801	9 1/8" Grooved Top Bar & Grooved Bottom Bar Frames (case of 10)	\$12.00	\$12.00
1	1	FN710	8 1/2 x 16 1/4 Rite-Cell beeswax coated sheet (black, case of 10)	\$14.00	\$14.00
1	1	WW690	Varroa Screened Bottom Board (assembled)	\$28.95	\$28.95
1	1	WW365	Flat Wood (Migratory) Cover	\$11.95	\$11.95
1	1	FD-100	Plastic Boardman Entrance Feeder	\$3.65	\$3.65
1	1	CL100	Square Folding Veil w/Elastic	\$15.50	\$15.50
1	1	CL130	Plastic Sun Helmet	\$9.50	\$9.50
1	1	CL605	Economy Leather Gloves (Medium)	\$12.95	\$12.95
1	1	HD584	9" Hive Tool	\$4.50	\$4.50
1	1	BM847	First Lessons in Beekeeping	\$15.95	\$15.95
1	1	HD660	Bee Brush	\$4.95	\$4.95
1	1	HD556	4x7 Stainless Steel Smoker w/Shield	\$38.95	\$38.95

Subtotal: \$189.35

Taxes (8.25%): \$ 15.62

Total: **\$204.97**



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: () _____ 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

WCABA Club Package & Queen Order Form 2016

Name: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone: () _____ e-mail: _____

(please print)

I want to order:

No. _____ 3 # Package: R Weaver Bees with Italian queen **\$150.00/package**
Packages with marked & clipped queens available for pickup Bost Farm on dellivery day.

No. _____ Honey Bee Queen - Italian queen, marked & clipped same as packages **\$32.00/Queen**

How will you pay? [] Cash or [] Check # _____
Check Preferred

**Total \$ Amt
of Order**

--

Mail remittance to:

WCABA Order / Jimmie Oakley - 425 Sapphire Lane, Jarrell, TX 76537

*Package & Queen order Deadline must be postmarked by **February 29, 2016**
No resale or ownership transfer permitted on package or queens once ordered.
All secondary transactions must come through the club for tracking & delivery.*

Special Instructions:



Ordering Bees

Do you plan to order bees this year? One must be a current 2016 member to qualify to order bees and/or queens. A membership form, to pay your 2016 dues, and a bee order blank can be found inside this newsletter.

The club has made arrangements for our WCABA members to get the 3-pound package of bees with a marked and clipped wing queen from the **R-Weaver Apiaries** in Navasota again this year. The package, with queen, will cost \$150.00 (up from last year). If a queen is needed for replacing an old queen or for splitting a hive, her price will be \$32.00, marked and clipped.

The pick up date for the group equipment order from Busy Bee is March 19th, and the tentative pick up dates for packages of bees and queens from R-Weaver are set for each of the last 3 weeks of April. Packages will likely be scheduled for pick up at the Bost Farm near Georgetown all day Friday and concluding on Saturday of those last 3 weekends. Email confirmations will be sent, along with a Pick Up Voucher, to each member placing an order for bees or queens. We appreciate your patience while all the details are being worked out, and we will keep you updated as dates become finalized.

The deadline for ordering packages of bees is February 29th (yes, leap year). Jimmie Oakley will be the Bee/Queen order facilitator. Contact him at: jimmie.oakley@gmail.com

Remember that you can order bee boxes, frames, top and bottoms from **Better Bee Equipment** in Liberty Hill. (see ad in newsletter)

Texas Master Beekeeper 2016 Spring Exam

Consider signing up to take the 2016 Texas Master Beekeeper spring exam (which is only offered twice a year), on **April 15, 2016**. Registration begins February 8, 2106.

The Texas Master Beekeeper Program (TMBP) is an educational program designed to increase the knowledge and skill level of participating beekeepers. The program is a five-year (minimum) beekeeper training and certification program provided by the Texas Apiary Inspection Service in association with the Texas Beekeepers Association, Texas A&M Honey Bee Lab and AgriLife Extension.

If you have questions about the program, visit <http://masterbeekeeper.tamu.edu/> or contact the Texas Apiary Inspection Service by emailing: tais@tamu.edu



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

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