

**Next Meeting:**  
**Thursday, February 25, 2016**

7:00-8:00: Beekeeping 101 / 201  
8:00-9:00: Program

First United Methodist Church  
Georgetown (MMC bldg.)

Beekeeping 101: Laura Colburn  
"Beekeeping Equipment"

Beekeeping 201: Chris Doggett  
and Chris Moore  
"Checkerboarding and  
Swarm Prevention"

Program Speaker: Chris Moore  
"Making Splits"

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## A Natural Approach to Treating for Varroa Destructor

by Laura Colburn



A new method for treating Varroa mites has recently been approved by the EPA and the Texas EPA: Oxalic Acid. Before I go into the methods of using Oxalic Acid, I'll address assessing your mite counts using a powdered sugar shake and knowing when to treat your hives. Lance Wilson suggests assessing your mite count four times each year. This information can be found on the Honey Bee Health Coalition website at: <http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroa/>

**A powdered sugar shake** uses ½ cup of bees, approximately 300 bees, and powdered sugar to dislodge the mites for counting. You will need: a plastic tub with lid, a quart-sized, large-mouth Mason jar with #8 screen in the cap, half-cup measuring cup, powdered sugar, paper plate, and spray bottle of water.

**Collect a sample of bees:** Select a brood frame with plenty of bees. If the queen is on the frame, either select another frame or carefully move her to another frame. With a sharp rap, knock the bees into the plastic tub and put the lid on. Put the frame back in the hive and move the tub of bees to your work area.

### Roll with sugar:

Open the tub of bees, scoop one-half cup, and pour them into the Mason jar. Screw on the screened lid. You may set the tub of remaining bees near the hive. Put 2 tablespoons powdered sugar through the screened lid of the jar. Vigorously shake the bees for 1 minute, then set down the jar for 3 minutes. After shaking and waiting, invert the jar over the paper plate and shake like a salt shaker until no mites are falling out. Add another tablespoon of sugar to the jar, shake for 30 seconds and let the jar sit for 2-3 minutes. Shake out mites over the plate until no further mites fall out.

**Count mites and assess percentage:** Spray the paper plate with water to make the mites more visible. To calculate the mites per 100 bees, divide the number of mites you count by 300 (ex: 12 mites / 300 = .04) then multiply by 100 (0.04 x 100 = 4). If you counted 12 mites, your mite percentage for that hive is 4%. If you have a mite count of 2% or greater, you need to treat.

Figure 2: Treatment Thresholds by Phase;(%=Number of mites/100 adult bees)

Colony Phase	Acceptable Further control not needed	Caution Control may be warranted	Danger Control promptly
Dormant with brood	<1%	1-2%	>2%
Dormant without brood	<1%	<2-3%	>3%
Population Increase	<1%	<2-3%	>3%
Peak Population	<2%	<3-5%	>5%
Population Decrease	<2%	<2-3%	>3%

**Acceptable:** Current mite populations are not an immediate threat.

**Caution:** Mite population is reaching levels that may soon cause damage; non-chemical control might be employed while chemical control may be needed within a month; continue to sample and be prepared to intervene.

**Danger:** Colony loss is likely unless the beekeeper controls Varroa immediately.

Image source: Honey Bee Health Coalition



# Using Oxalic Acid to Destroy the Destructor

Oxalic Acid is a naturally occurring acid found in many plants, including the nectar bees collect. This means they have a tolerance for it because it's in their daily diet. The Varroa mite is very sensitive and the acid penetrates the pads of their feet, killing them in their phoretic stage, when the mites are on adult bees. This is important to note because oxalic acid will not kill Varroa hiding in the brood cells. If brood is present at time of treatment, multiple treatments will be necessary to kill the Varroa with emerging bees.

Two methods of oxalic acid application can be used: liquid and vapor. The best time to treat is when the hive is broodless in winter or when hiving a new package or swarm. However, if mite levels are above 2%, don't wait to treat. Materials for both methods can be found online at Brushy Mountain Bee Farm and Oxavap.com.

## Using the Vapor Method

### Gather Materials

- Oxalic Acid crystals (The only official source is Brushy Mountain Bee Farm)
- 12V motorcycle battery
- Vaporizing wand
- Goggles and respirator
- Spray bottle of water
- Towel
- Safety goggles and respirator suited for acid and gas



Place 1 gram of oxalic acid crystals per brood box in tray and level with the back of your hive tool.



### Applying the Vapor

Carefully insert the tray into the entrance and center below the hive. Some vaporizers come with an attachment which will serve to seal the hive, but if yours doesn't have one, seal the hive with a towel.

Connect the vaporizer to the battery and set your timer for 2 1/2 minutes. Disconnect the battery and set timer for an additional 2 minutes. Seal the entrance with a towel and set timer for 10 minutes. The EPA requirements state honey supers can be replaced 15 minutes after the vaporizer has been removed.



Spray the hot tray with water and clean with a towel after each use. Be cautious with the hot vaporizer and be sure not to let it touch you or anything that may melt or burn. Also, wear goggles and a respirator rated for gas and acid to protect your eyes and lungs from the vapors.

## Using the Dribble Method

The dribble method is less expensive than vapor and requires fewer materials, but does require opening the hive to apply.

### Materials

- Oxalic Acid
- Luer slip syringe (can be found at farm supply stores)
- Sugar
- Water
- Gloves



To prepare the solution, use a ratio of 5 grams OA: 50 grams sugar: 50 ml water per hive. Use 3.75 grams to the same amount of water for a medium count, and 3 grams for a light count. See Randy Oliver's website for adjusting your ratio for lighter mite counts. Bring water to 150 degrees, mix in the OA, then add sugar. Allow to cool and store in a glass container.



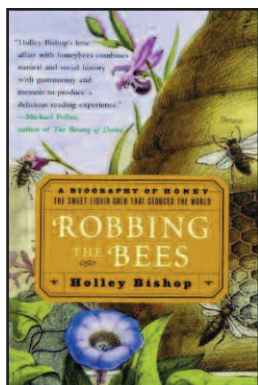
Photo from Scientific Beekeeping

### Applying the Dribble

- Open hive to expose brood box
- Draw 50 ml solution into syringe (or do each seam individually, drawing only 5 ml at a time)
- Slowly dribble 5 ml solution along each seam of bees
- Do not apply more than 50 ml per hive

Remember, this is an acid solution, so do not get it in your eyes or on your skin. Wash your hands well after application.





## BOOK NOOK by Holly Medina

**Robbing the Bees**, by Holley Bishop, is full of interesting facts that teaches as well as entertains. Holley is a hobbyist beekeeper who explores the wonder of bees during her journey of learning from an experienced commercial beekeeper who shares his entertaining anecdotes. My favorite chapter is titled "Arrogance" which made me laugh at the comical and painful lessons all new beekeepers learn.



Door prize items in January were donated by: Frank & Lu Morgan, Elizabeth Exley, Dirk Hoekstra, The Oerman Family, and Raul Vergara of Austin Honey Company.

Winners were: Isaac Oakley, Tracy Tucker, Tim Falkenstein, Travis Fagala, Neil Newman, and William Janke.



## President's Message

A warm February and very little rain. I hope we don't have all our rain at the beginning of the honey flow, as we did last year. It washed a lot of the nectar from the flowers and some of us managed to get very little honey.

Speaking of the honey flow, we need to be feeding our bees 1-1 sugar syrup so that we stimulate the bee's wax glands and have them building or repairing comb. My hives were getting through a quart in a day this last week. Pollen should be seen at this time from the flowers on the hardwood trees among other sources.



Chris Doggett, WCABA President

So, as we get into March, here are some tips from the Collin County Hobby Beekeepers.

On a calm and mild day (55 F or above), thoroughly inspect and clean your hives:

- Check food stores.
- Look for brood and a good brood pattern, which indicates the presence of and the quality of the queen.
- Look for disease and parasites
- If needed, scrape and clean the bottom board
- Remove burr comb and excess propolis on frames and boxes
- Add new frames to replace old or damaged ones.
- Clean up any dead colonies.
- If you have two deep brood boxes and the queen is in the top box, reverse the boxes.
- Remove swarm cells.
- If the brood nest is congested, prevent swarming by providing plenty of room. Add a super, but be sure to remove medication before doing so.

Once we have queens, we can start on making splits – TBA President Chris Moore will be telling us how to do this at our February meeting. Remove entrance reducers during March, especially if you start to see congestion at the hive entrances. And don't be surprised if we have one more cold spell before this strange winter is over.

If you plan on ordering bees through the club, don't forget the end February deadline.

Look forward to seeing you on the 25th when we have another very full program.

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## The Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost Memorial Scholarship

Mary Bost has received EIGHT applications for the **Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost Memorial Scholarship**. Yes, the committee will have a difficult job deciding winners! Scholarships will be awarded at the March 24th WCABA meeting.

If you are interested in mentoring a scholarship kid, please contact Jimmie Oakley, Scholarship Chairman at: [jimmie.oakley@gmail.com](mailto: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. This program is crucial in our efforts to get more young people interested in and involved with beekeeping, and the more money we raise, the more scholarships we can award. See Shirley Doggett or one of the other ladies at the registration counter to donate.

## EPA Seeking Public Comments on Neonicotinoid Risks

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

"Extinct" means gone. **Gone FOREVER.** In the last twenty or so years, bees have been pushed closer and closer to extinction. The bee populations are declining at such an alarming rate that the EPA has FINALLY decided to do something about it. They are reviewing the pesticide registration for Imidacloprid, to make sure that it meets the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) standard of registration, in that it does not harm humans or the environment (AKA the bees). Neonicotinoids are a relatively new class of pesticides that we believe have been killing our bees; in fact we don't just believe it, we have some pretty strong evidence that they are. I feel that this EPA study is a good step in the right direction toward protecting bees as well as other pollinators.

### Buzzword:

#### • FIFRA •

Pesticide regulation law that emphasizes preservation of human health and protection of the environment by strengthening the registration process by shifting the burden of proof to the chemical manufacturer.

However, I strongly believe that this motion should have been made long ago when we first started seeing drastic bee population decline and finding evidence of Neonicotinoids causing this. It is also my view that regulations need to be expanded to include GMO seeds treated with neonics, not just pesticide sprays.

A lawsuit filed in January 2016, by a coalition of beekeepers, farmers, and environmental and wildlife conservation groups, is hoping to close the loophole in EPA regulations that does not count seeds treated with neonics as being treated with pesticides. Currently the number of affected crops (and thus bees) cannot be counted accurately if seeds are not included in the estimates.

For the whole planet's sake, I hope my fears are unfounded, but I worry that, with the large numbers of bees that we have already lost, combined with regulators turning a blind eye on GMOs, and the amount of time it can take to conduct a research study such as this one, this risk assessment may be "too little too late" to save the bees. Passing strict regulations, or outright banning these pesticides, as quickly as possible is the best way to prolong the life of the bees, prevent these important creatures from going extinct, and hopefully begin to reverse the damage done.

I encourage you all to read the EPA's research findings, in their **Pollinator Ecological Risk Assessments: Imidacloprid Registration Review**, write a comment with your opinions, and submit it to the EPA public survey located in the link below. I believe that it is through each individual person getting involved and voicing their opinions that we can make a big difference in the issue of bee populations declining.

After the 60-day open public comment period ends, the EPA may revise the pollinator assessment based on comments received and, if necessary, take action to reduce risks from the insecticide. Comments must be received on or before **March 15, 2016**.

<http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=EPA-HQ-OPP-2008-0844-0142>



"A single seed coated with a neonicotinoid insecticide is enough to kill a songbird," Cynthia Palmer, director of pesticides science and regulation at the American Bird Conservancy, said in a press release. "There is no justification for EPA to exempt these pesticide delivery devices from regulation."

## Support TBAs "Real Texas Honey" Program

It has become increasingly important for us to support our local honey producers due to the growing problems consumers face of not knowing what they are getting when they grab a bottle of honey off the grocery store shelf. Honey imported from China is contaminated with heavy metals and antibiotics; "ultra-purified" honey has all its beneficial ingredients filtered out, including pollen (which is the only absolute way to identify where the honey comes from); and you will even come across fake honey, a blend of honey and other sweeteners like cheap corn syrup and artificial sweeteners. It truly is a case of "you get what you pay for" with honey, so go ahead and spring for the artisanal brand, or better yet, find a local beekeeper to support!

TBA has launched a "Real Texas Honey" program with the goal of connecting consumers with real local beekeepers. They are currently trying to get Texas beekeepers to sign up, so if you sell honey, make sure to visit the website and register, and if you want to take advantage of the health benefits of buying local honey, log on to find a beekeeper near you. The more participants the better the program will work! Visit [RealTexasHoney.com](http://RealTexasHoney.com) for more information.



We are selling t-shirts at our WCABA meetings to help support the "Real Texas Honey" Program.







## Bee My Honey Valentine Cake

### Ingredients:

1 c. Granulated sugar  
 1/2 c. Shortening  
 1/4 c. Honey  
 2 Large Eggs  
 1 tsp. Vanilla extract  
 1 tsp. Almond extract  
 2 Tbsp. Red food coloring  
 2 1/2 c. Pioneer Original or Buttermilk Biscuit Baking Mix  
 2 Tbsp. Unsweet cocoa powder  
 1 c. Buttermilk  
 1/4 c. Wt. chocolate baking chips  
 1 tsp. Shortening

### Directions:

1. Line a 13-inch heart-shaped pan with waxed paper cut to fit; coat with nonstick cooking spray and set aside.
2. In mixer bowl, beat sugar and 1/2 cup shortening until light and fluffy. Add honey, eggs, vanilla and almond extract; beat until light and fluffy. Slowly beat in red food coloring.
3. Stir together Pioneer Biscuit & Baking Mix and cocoa; add alternately with buttermilk to red mixture. Pour into baking pan.
4. Bake at 350°F for 23 to 27 minutes.
5. Cool in pan for 10 minutes. Remove from pan onto wire rack to cool completely. Remove waxed paper. Place cake top side up on serving platter.
6. Place white chocolate chips and 1 tsp. shortening in heavy-duty resealable plastic bag. Microwave on High for 1 to 2 minutes or until chips are melted. Cut off tip of one corner of bag; decoratively pipe or drizzle white chocolate over top of cake.

Recipe courtesy of  
 Pioneer Brand,  
 C.H. Guenther &  
 Son, Inc. and can  
 be found on  
 foodchannel.com



## WCABA MEETING MINUTES

January 29, 2016

1. Opening the Meeting: President Chris Doggett opened the meeting.
  2. Beekeeping 101 – Laura Colburn discussed Bee Biology and Oxalic Acid Treatment for Varroa.
  3. Door Prizes: Door Prizes were announced.
  4. Announcements:
    - Jim Colbert discussed the Mentoring Program and asked for volunteers to sign up on a list being passed around the meeting.
    - Phil Ainslee, Treasurer, gave our current account amount as \$11,600. This includes deposits for bee package and queen orders.
    - RealTexasHoney.com is a good website which provides a service for both consumers and beekeepers. Beekeepers sign up on the website to sell local honey and consumers go to the site to find beekeepers in their area.
    - The Austin Area Beekeepers Association had a very successful beekeeping seminar with 450 attendees on January 16.
    - Texas Beekeepers Association will have a Summer Clinic on Saturday, June 18, at the Lone Star Convention & Expo Center, 9055 Airport Road, Conroe, TX 77303. Classes will be available for all levels of beekeeping. Register at [texasbeekeepers.org](http://texasbeekeepers.org). The fee is \$50 per person, \$90 per couple, \$25 for age 15 and under. The fee includes lunch.
    - Jimmie Oakley is taking orders for bee packages and queens until February 29. Jimmie's email is [jimmie.oakley@gmail.com](mailto:jimmie.oakley@gmail.com). There will be an order form in our newsletter. Three-pound packages are \$150 each, queens are \$32 each.
- Beekeeping equipment is being sold to members by Better Bee Equipment, [www.betterbeeequipment.com](http://www.betterbeeequipment.com), and Busy Bee Beekeeping Supplies [www.busybeesupplies.com](http://www.busybeesupplies.com). Busy Bee is giving a 10% discount on orders received by Feb. 29. The supplies will be delivered to the Bost Farm on Saturday, March 19. Use the coupon code WCABA10 when ordering to receive the 10% discount.
5. Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost Memorial Scholarship – applications must be in by February 10, 2016. If you have any questions, contact Jimmie Oakley at [jimmie.oakley@gmail.com](mailto:jimmie.oakley@gmail.com).
  6. Guest Speaker: Lance Wilson spoke to the group about "Nutrition Management for Robust Populations."
  7. Meeting Attendance: 135 present
  8. Meeting Adjourned: President Chris Doggett adjourned the meeting
  9. Date for Next Meeting – Our next meeting will be on February 25, 2016.

- Ginny Stubblefield, Secretary, WCABA



### "Thank You!" to our Refreshment Hosts:

Mary Helmcamp, Karen Eacrett, Diana Rendon

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](mailto:barbirose@yahoo.com)



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

## Beekeeping 101: Beekeeping Equipment

Beginning January 2016, Laura Colburn will present Beekeeping 101 and/or 201 at the WCABA monthly meetings. Don't miss it!

In beekeeping 101 for February, Laura will cover beekeeping equipment. We'll explore basic hive hardware and components, tools, protective clothing, and record keeping.

Laura will also introduce a few unusual but helpful tools and how to really get the smoker burning without shooting flames out of the spout, and selecting a good place to set up a hive.

## Late Winter - Early Spring Checklist

February and March 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 (hives should have at least 1 or 2 frames of honey)
- ☐ If you are feeding your bees, keep feeders full of 2:1 syrup
- ☐ Treat for varroa mites if necessary and/or medicate hives
- ☐ Equipment maintenance: build, repair, clean, and sterilize
- ☐ Add frames of foundation
- ☐ Consider combining weak colonies with strong colonies
- ☐ 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:

- ☐ Plant bareroot shrubs, roses, and fruit such as: apples, peaches, pecans, pomegranates, strawberries, raspberries, blackberries
- ☐ Prune, divide, and move perennials, roses, shrubs, and trees
- ☐ Clean up beds and add compost and fertilizer
- ☐ Consider installing drip irrigation for water conservation
- ☐ Plant winter vegetables and herbs: artichoke, asparagus, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cilantro, chives, dill, kale, leeks, onions, oregano, parsley, potatoes, radish, spinach, and turnips
- ☐ Plant transplants of cool season flowers such as: allysum, bluebonnet, larkspur, pansies, poppies, and snapdragons

## 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**



## New Members and Membership Renewals

### Welcome to our new members:

Nicole Santos, Round Rock; Rosemary (Neely) Hazelwood-Ashmun, Austin; Jeff & Melanie Coop, Florence; Glenn & Marilyn Jaeger, Florence; Lester Wetherell, Austin; Debbie & Clay Gaston, Elgin; Nial Armstrong, Austin; Brad Berglund, Kemper; David & Leigh Ann Brunson, Austin; Les & Erron Neil Crowder, Austin; Elizabeth & Khal Elabed, Cedar Park; Patrick & Marnie Finan, Florence; Lylly Fisher, Austin; Louie Graham, Dripping Springs; Kim Lehman, Austin; Robert Light, Pflugerville; Cyndy Mathew, Leander; Guy May, Lampasas; Clark & Glenda McDaniel, Moody; Jason & Valerie Millegan, Georgetown; Gary Reilly, Georgetown; Richard Ribb, Austin; George Richards, Georgetown; Kaylene Rudd, Georgetown; Ted & Jennifer Shear, Georgetown; Mark & Jill Spilotro, Georgetown; Diane & Marvin Stromberg, Taylor; Irma Wall, Leander; April May & Jason Walston, Florence; Cla & John Weishaar, Bertram; Ty Wheeler, Pflugerville.

### Renewing members are:

Jim Huffman, Austin; Jimmy Shields, Georgetown; George & Cassandra Scott, Temple; Christophe Vain, Georgetown; Pat & Joe Mock, Georgetown; Tracy Bahm, Austin; Wayne Baker, Temple; Gary & Linda Bible, Liberty Hill; Gill L. Bledsoe, Lampasas; Bob & Judy Bradley, Georgetown; Patricia & Benjamin Bruno, Pflugerville; Stan & Michele Chambers, Georgetown; Roger & Babs Cheatham, Hutto; Paul Clutts, Pflugerville; Kevin & Pati Currie, Leander; Josh Embry, Cedar Park; Elizabeth & James Exley, Georgetown; Travis C. Fagala, Leander; Chris & Carmen Gagne, Leander; Bob & Janine Hall, Georgetown; Judith Haller, Austin; Carol & Doug Hearn, Round Rock; Robert & Sally Horton, Bastrop; Steve Hoskins, Belton; Amy Hughes, Killeen; Bert Hunter, Belton; Darwin & Kay Karkoska, Granger; Tina Lim & Geoff Stewart, Austin; Holly & Ralph Medina, Pflugerville; Harold & Joycelyn Miller, Salado; Kenneth Miller, Elgin; J.R. Moody, Hutto; Tanya Phillips & Chuck Reburn, Austin; Shannon Rector, Leander; Diane Rendon & Richard Goeke, Florence; Fred & Cecelia Richter, Thrall; James & Sara Rodeghero, Liberty Hill; Ronnie & Bonnie Russell, Georgetown; Levi & Stacie Sawyer, Hutto; David & Margaret Schell Dr., Round Rock; Jeann Schmidt, Georgetown; Andrea Sheinbein, Walburg; Terry & Sueann Spencer, Round Rock; Dodie Stillman, Round Rock; Shannon Tucker, Taylor; Bradley Ware, Killeen; Don & Shelley Williamson, Georgetown; Emma Wall, Leander; Chris & Stephen Windsor, Liberty Hill; Jack & Sherry Youngblood, Liberty Hill.



## Buzzworthy Announcements

A big  
Thank You!  
to long-time members,  
Frank and Lu Morgan  
of Copperas Cove,  
who gave a generous  
donation for the Ed  
Wolfe-Robert Bost  
Memorial Scholarship  
Fund.

Matt Brown  
of Walburg is offering  
the use of his land, fee free,  
for a beekeeper who can set up  
6-7 hives this year for his  
AG exemption.  
If you need space to expand  
or want more information,  
you can contact Matt by email at:  
[austinareainc@hotmail.com](mailto:austinareainc@hotmail.com)  
or by phone at:  
512-762-8506.

Williamson  
County  
Area  
Beekeepers  
Association

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*Busy Bee Chic*

WCABA Honey Princess,  
Elise Gardner,  
has started a bee blog.  
Check it out at:  
[www.BusyBeeChic.com](http://www.BusyBeeChic.com)

If you have a  
bee-related  
announcement you  
would like to appear in  
the Buzzword newsletter,  
please contact  
Mary Catherine Gardner:  
[marycgcgardner@austin.rr.com](mailto:marycgcgardner@austin.rr.com)

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## Beekeeping Equipment

Serving the Williamson County Area

Available Assembled  
and Painted

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[BetterBeeEquipment@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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:

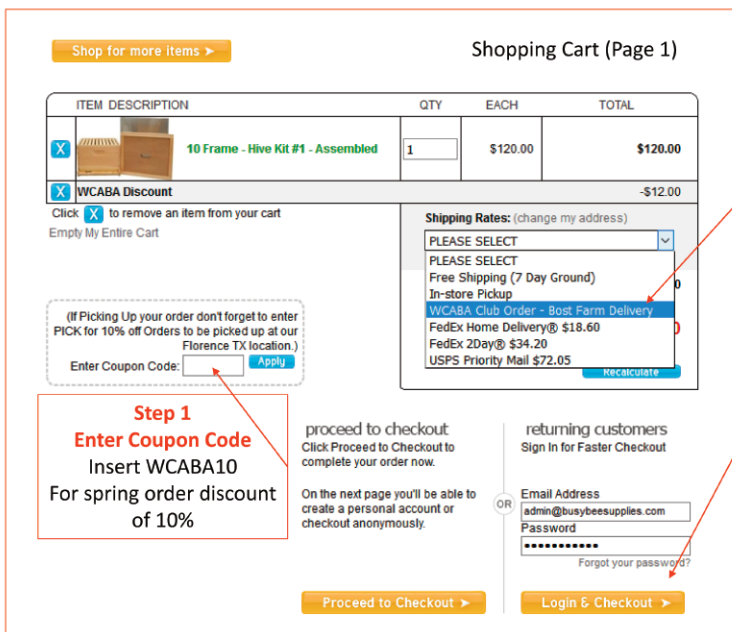
- (1) No shipping on any size order when using the coupon code WCABA10
- (2) Club members receive a 10% discount by using the WCABA10 coupon code.

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).




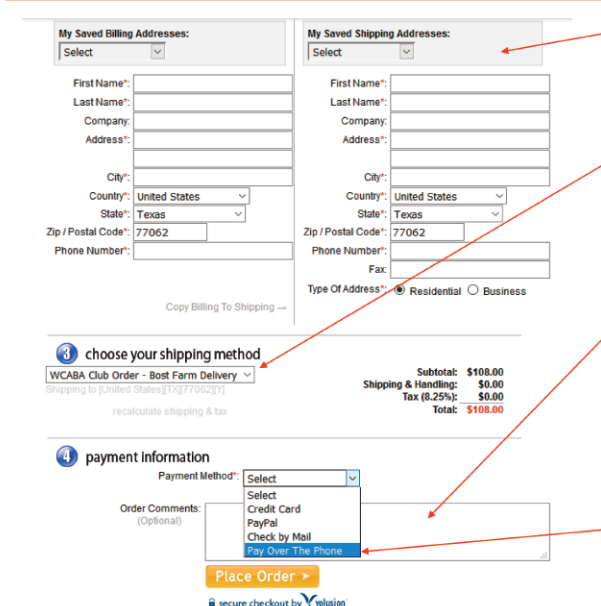
**Step 1**  
**Enter Coupon Code**  
Insert WCABA10  
For spring order discount of 10%

**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*

  
**Busy Bee**  
 Busy Bee Beekeeping Supplies  
[www.BusyBeeSupplies.com](http://www.BusyBeeSupplies.com)  
 (254) 793-9459



**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.

**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*

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## 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:



## Order Bees by February 29th!

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 that includes your assigned date, 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](mailto: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 is now open and is limited to 45 people for the Apprentice level exam, so register soon to secure your spot.

Once you submit your information you will need to mail a check or money order of **\$50.00** to: Texas Apiary Inspection Service, 2475 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-2475. Make checks payable to AgriLife Research Department of Entomology. Once they receive your payment they will send you a confirmation e-mail containing important exam day information.

**Payments must be postmarked by April 8th.**

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



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

**Williamson County Area  
Beekeepers Association**  
4355 County Road 110  
Georgetown, Texas 78626