

Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association

December 2017

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, January 25, 2018
7:00-8:30: Beekeeping 101 / 201

First United Methodist Church
Georgetown (MMC bldg.)

Beekeeping 101: Laura Colburn
Beekeeping 201: Chris Doggett

2017 Club Officers:

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lcolburn0617@gmail.com

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Janine Hall

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That's a Wrap – 2017!!!

by Jennifer Shear, WCABA Historian

It was a great year to be part of Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association. We appreciate all of our members and support from everyone who helped this year from doing concessions, speaking at the monthly meetings, to attending all of the great seminars that were put on in 2017.

We did a lot of great things this year. Laura Colburn continued as the speaker for Beekeeping 101 to help all of us new beekeepers get started, Chris Doggett lead discussions in Beekeeping 201 for our beekeepers wanting to take a deeper diver into the world of beekeeping, and John Hibbard was able to get a lot of great speakers to come to the 2nd hour of our meetings to



WCABA Ambassador Michael Wheeler

provide valuable information to our members. We also crowned our new Honey Queen, Jordan Heivilin as well as started a new Ambassador Program and elected Michael Wheeler as our first Ambassador.

WCABA offers a scholarship program to our young beekeepers and in March scholarships were awarded to Sam Bingham, Dylan Roberts, Carter Selvera, Jerald Swain, and Marius Talentino. In April Jimmie Oakley had them out to

Bost Farms to pick up their very first package of bees and demonstrated how to install their hive. He spent the year visiting them and guiding them thru the beekeeping process and the year ended with all of the recipients giving wonderful presentations to our members. It's not easy to get up in front of a lot of people and the boys all did an awesome job.

Probably one of the biggest and most important jobs we do as a club every year is work on Bee Procurement. It takes a lot of collaboration with our board and the beekeepers we procure the bees from and in 2017 we purchased and sold 75 packages, 110 queens, and 215 nucs! A big thanks to everyone who helped make this happen.



WCABA Queen Jordan Heivilin



Scholarship Recipient Sam Bingham

*photos courtesy of Laura Colburn, Callie Herring, Jimmie Oakley

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A Message From Our President

There is a lot going on in the Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association. At our last meeting we elected our new officers for 2018, and there were some changes. Laura Colburn, who has served as our Vice-President has taken over as Program Director and John Hibbard has stepped down from that position. Shannon Montez was elected as our new Vice-President.



We are also in the midst of gathering the orders for 5-frame NUCs and queens for delivery sometime in April; the date will depend on the suppliers. If you are interested, I would suggest that you get your orders in this month. We have an allotment of 225 NUCs and 100 queens. While we may be able to increase that number, there is no guarantee.

While you are writing checks, you might as well renew your membership to WCABA. It's only \$15 and it is a steal for what you get. And don't forget, you must be a member to order NUCs and queens.

Don't forget that we don't meet in December, so our next meeting will be January 25, 2018. Laura is already working on a great program for that meeting and it will be a good time to kick off the new year. Hope to see you then. In the meantime, stay warm, prepare for spring and enjoy the season.

2018 Executive Board Elections:

The following members have been elected for the 2018 Executive Board.

President: Jim Colbert
Vice President: Shannon Montez
Secretary: Ginny Stubblefield
Treasurer: Phil Ainsley
Program Director: Laura Colburn
Membership Director: Shirley Doggett
Editorial Director: Maryalice Herring
Historian: Jennifer Shear



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There were multiple bee schools this year and hopefully you participated in one or more of them. It is important to stay educated and these schools provide valuable information to help us all become better beekeepers. Be on the lookout for these schools in 2018 and try to attend.

1. Austin Area Beekeeping Seminar
2. Brazos Valley Bee School
3. Texas Beekeepers Assoc Summer Clinic
4. Central Texas Bee School
5. Texas Beekeepers Assoc Annual Convention

Also in 2017 we reignited our Workshop Program. Here are some of the workshops we had this year:

Honey Extraction – Jimmie Oakley held a hands-on demo at Bost Farm to show everyone how to extract honey from their hives.

Oxalic Acid Vapor – Laura Colburn demonstrated how to check for varroa mites to help keep your hive healthy.

Treating for Varroa – After the Oxalic Acid Vapor workshop where Laura found 2 hives with a high mite count, she held a workshop to show how to treat for varroa.

Bump up your Beeswax – This was a fun workshop that Barbi Rose held to show all the cool things you can make using your beeswax.



Barbi Rose creating products with beeswax



Bumping up your Beeswax workshop participants



Making food wraps from beeswax

We will continue to do workshops in 2018 and if there are any ideas on workshops you would like to see just let us know!

2017 was a great year and I look forward to a great 2018!!!

Thanks!
Jennifer
Historian

**photos by Jennifer Shear and Callie Herring*



Scholarship Report Time

by Jimmie Oakley WCABA Scholarship Chairman

November is the designated time for the Scholarship Recipients to give their reports on their activities with the bee hives they received in the spring. The 2017 Recipients, Sam Bingham from Round Rock, Dylan Roberts from Georgetown, Carter Selvera from Bertram, Jerald Swain from Lampasas, and Marius Talentino from Dale presented their PowerPoint programs to the membership at Thursday night meeting.



Dylan Roberts

Sam Bingham presentation, "Sam's Backyard Farms", carried us through his first year in beekeeping in chronological order from receiving his bees at the Bost Farm to selling honey at the Hill Country Fair.

Carter Selvera and Dylan Roberts, "cousins", took turns presenting the Tale of Two Hives since their bees were located at the Selvera place in rural Bertram. There was an advantage in that they could visually compare the strength and progress of their hives side by side. They extracted honey at the same time (a family affair), and sent some to the State Fair.

Marius Talentino reported on his struggles at Falcon Farms Apiary, from a queen that wouldn't stay in the box, to supersedure cells, to disturbing mite counts. His hive is still strong and he extracted twice this year.



Jerald Swain

Jerald Swain applied for the scholarship on recommendation of his friend, Honey Queen Jordan Heivilin, even though he had a fear of getting stung. Working with the bees this year, he has come to really like the buzzy insects and will continue, even though he still might get stung. It was a learning experience.

All of the youngster's hives are going into winter in pretty good shape and we'll wait till spring to see what happens next.



Carter Selvera

**all photos by Jimmie Oakley*



New Program Director: New Program for 2018

By Laura Colburn WCABA 2017 Vice President

The WCABA Executive Board is always seeking ways to help you improve your beekeeping experience. If you look around the meeting hall, you may have noticed the membership demographics have changed a little. We have more families and more children and we want to continue growing younger beekeepers throughout our area. However, with a Thursday night meeting, these young families, who either are able to bring children with them or have them waiting at home, our current line-up means a very late school and/or work night. After some observations and feedback, as your new Program Director, I'm updating the monthly program and format in an effort to make the information you get each month relevant and targeted to your experience level, all in a timely manner.

Instead of a dual program each month, with 30-45 minutes of Beekeeping 101 followed by a special speaker, the new line-up will be a guest speaker once or twice a quarter to speak on topics targeted to bring you quality information and Beekeeping 101 the other months. This will allow guest speakers more time, Beekeeping 101 to be more robust, and most importantly, allows for a flexible question and answer period following the presentation. Additionally, Beekeeping 201 will be held concurrently with Beekeeping 101 and we will be asking our experienced members to share their knowledge on various topics during the months we don't have a guest speaker.

We will still begin at 7PM on the fourth Thursday of January through October and the third Thursday of November. The presentation will be about an hour. After a break for announcements, prize drawings, and refreshments, those who choose to stay will gather either with a panel of experienced beekeepers or in smaller groups around the meeting hall to answer questions.

Much consideration and discussion went into this change and we hope all our members find it beneficial. We will evaluate it's success after six months and determine how to proceed. Our first guest speaker will be in February: Lance Wilson will speak on Spring Management. Lance is a Master Beekeeper with many years of experience. Be sure to come learn how to get your hives off to their strongest start.

You can also help shape the direction of Beekeeping 101 with your feedback. Please email me with issues have you encountered in your bee yard that weren't addressed in the series; questions do you still have; and info you'd like to see added. lcolburn0617@gmail.com



Have you renewed your membership for 2018??

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From our November meeting -

Welcome to these new members -

Janice Colley - Leander.
Sonja family
Michael Mendez - Austin
Linda Hunter - Belton

Shannon Strank - Granger
John Williams -Taylor
Richard Lillebery - Georgetown

Thank you to these renewing members -

Ronald Woelfel - Lexington.
Terry Wyatt - Florence
Ann Bierschenk - Georgetown
Mary Bost - Georgetown
Lorraine Christian -Georgetown
Chris Doggett - Thrall
Kay Freund - Georgetown
Wayne Hayes - Austin
Phil Hopkins - Florence
William Janke - Georgetown
Don Levins - Georgetown
Tina Lim - Austin
Barbara Lusinger - Austin
Jerry Mikus- Pflugerville
Frank Morgan - Copperas Cove
Don Parsons - Georgetown
Ron Russell - Georgetown
Sherry Smith - Georgetown
Ginny Stubblefield- Round Rock
Troy Terrbonne - Pflugerville
Bill Williams - Thornedale

Wheeler Family - Pflugerville
Brent Betts - Georgetown
Bingham Family - Round Rock
Barry Bowden. - Florence
Laura Colburn - Florence
Karen Eacrett - Copperas Cove
Judith Haller - Austin
Alaine Heivilin - Lampasas
Steve Hoskins - Belton
Vicky Kennedy - Burnet.
Rebecca Levins - Georgetown
Paul Lippa - Round Rock
Gillian Mathewson - Georgetown
Shannnon Montez - Leander
Gary Morris - Round Rock
Fred Richter - Thrall
Jennifer Shear - Georgetown
Diane Stromberg -Taylor
Don Tenney - Austin
Lester Wetherall - Austin



Do you plan to order bees this year? You will find a membership form in this newsletter in case you need to pay your 2018 dues plus a bee order blank below. One must be a current 2018 member to qualify to order bees and/or queens.

The club has made arrangements for our WCABA members to get the 5 frame nucs of bees with laying queen (Queen NOT marked or clipped) from Merrimack Valley Apiaries again this year. The nuc will cost \$150.00 to be paid at the time you place your order. Also, if a queen is needed for replacing an old queen or for splitting a hive, her price will be \$32.00, marked and clipped from Bee Weaver Apiaries. Tentatively, the nucs and queens will be scheduled for pick up at the Bost Farm near Georgetown the middle to latter part of April. The firm dates will be published when they are communicated. The deadline for ordering packages of bees is February 28th .

Jimmie Oakley is the Bee/Queen order facilitator: jimmie.oakley@gmail.com

W.C.A.B.A. Club 5-Frame Nuc & Queen Order Form - 2018

Name _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ e-mail: _____

I want to order: ***Are you a current member? [] Yes!*** please print

No. _____ **5 Frame Nuc** (Based on group order of 100 nucs) **\$150.00/ Nuc.**

Nuc with three frames brood, mated queen, "NOT" marked or clipped.

No. _____ **Honey Bee Queen** (Based on group order of 100) **\$32.00/ Queen**

BeeWeaver marked & clipped Queen from mite tolerant and virus resistant stock.

How will you pay? CASH or Check # _____

TOTAL \$ AMT

Mail remittance to:

Check Preferred

OF ORDER

--

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

Nuc order **deadline:** Must be postmarked by February 28, 2018, or while supplies last..

Limit 10 nucs per family. No individual resale or ownership transfer permitted on nucs once ordered.

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

Special Instructions:



Apply for the Ed Wolfe-Robert Bost Memorial Scholarship

Deadline: February 10, 2018

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. Scholarship submissions must be postmarked by February 10th, 2018, and will be awarded at the March 22nd WCABA meeting. 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. Beekeeping is definitely an adventure worth embarking upon!

We hope there will be another good group receiving scholarships next March.

Interested parties should contact Jimmie Oakley, Scholarship Chairman at: jimmie.oakley@gmail.com to get an application, or go online at wcaba.org and check out Opportunities – Scholarship.



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 monetary donation. Shirley Doggett or one of the other people at the registration counter would be glad to assist you with this.

Don't miss out on these upcoming events...

- * NO MEETING - DECEMBER**
- * WCABA meeting - January 25**
- * Order your bees!! November 1 - February 22 (or until cap is met)**

Refer to the order form in THIS newsletter



WCABA MEETING MINUTES – November 30, 2017

- 1. Opening the Meeting: Jim Colbert, President, opened the meeting.**
- 2. Announcements:**
 - **Jim Colbert read the nominees for positions with the WCABA. The following officers were elected by the membership:**

President – Jim Colbert	Vice President – Shannon Montez
Secretary – Ginny Stubblefield	Treasurer – Phil Ainslee
Program Director – Laura Coleman	Membership Director– Shirley Doggett
Editorial Director – Maryalice Herring	Historian – Jennifer Shear
 - **Pizza will be provided for all during the refreshment period.**
 - **The Austin Area Beekeepers will hold their annual beekeeping school on Saturday January 27 at the Northcross Conference Center at 2727 Anderson Lane, Austin. The cost is \$60 per person.**
 - **Orders for bee nucs and queens will be taken at the meeting. Only current members can order bees. There is a limit of 10 nucs per family. The price per 5-frame nuc is \$150. Orders must be in by Feb. 28. Members may order at the November meeting or the January meeting, as well as online through www.wcaba.org,**
- 3. Beekeeping 101 – “Wintering Your Hive” was taught by Laura Colburn.**
- 4. Members Present: 74**
- 5. Program: The 2017 winners of the Wolfe-Bost Scholarships gave presentations on the past year regarding their experiences as new beekeepers. Their discussions of their learning processes over the year were explained and even humorous at times. The Scholarship winners talking to the group tonight were Carter Selvera and Dylan Roberts (cousins sharing their experiences), Jerald Swain, Marius Talentino and Sam Bingham.**
- 6. Closing the Meeting: The meeting was closed by Laura Colburn.**

Reminder: Our next meeting will be on Thursday, January 25, 2018.

**Ginny Stubblefield
Secretary, W.C.A.B.A.**



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

Have you ordered your bees???
Order form is on page 7!

****Remember, you must be a current member of WCABA to order with the club****



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Time to treat for varroa / See us at the meeting for
Varroa Mite Monitoring & Treatment Solutions

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

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