

Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association

October 2017

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, October 26, 2017
7:00-8:00: Beekeeping 101 / 201
8:00-9:00: Program

First United Methodist Church
Georgetown (MMC bldg.)

Beekeeping 101: Laura Colburn
Beekeeping 201: Chris Doggett

Program Speaker:

Howard Smallowitz

"Ten Stupid Things You Can Do With Your
Bees: Confessions of a First Year Bee Haver"

Club Officers:

PRESIDENT: Jim Colbert

512-863-7183
colbertj@hotmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT:

Laura Colburn
512-751-6347

lcolburn0617@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP: Shirley Doggett

co chairs: Fred & Cecilia Richter

512-924-5051

sdoggett@mindspring.com

PROGRAM: John Hibbard

512-341-3675

jhibbard55@att.net

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

Marylalice Herring

254-317-4247

maryaliceherring@aol.com

SECRETARY: Ginny Stubblefield

512-252-9954

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 & QUEEN CHAIR:

Jimmie Oakley

512-507-3009

jimmie.oakley@gmail.com

WCABA Newly Crowned Honey Queen Appears at State Fair

submitted by Jimmie Oakley WCABA Scholarship Chair



Megan Pettibon crowns Jordan
Heivilin WCABA Honey Queen.

The Williamson County Area Beekeepers crowned Jordan Heivilin WCABA Honey Queen in a ceremony at the club's September meeting. Officiating in the Coronation was 2017 Texas Honey Queen, Megan Pettibon from McKinney, Texas.

Jordan's first official appearance on behalf of the club was at the Texas State Fair in Dallas on October 14th & 15th in the Department of Agriculture Food and Fiber Building on the State Fairgrounds.

Accompanied by her mother Alaine and sisters, Sara and Jill, she spent two days at the Fair doing cooking demonstrations using honey and serving samples of the recipe she had selected.



All the queens with Big Tex at the
State Fair in Dallas.



Jordan Heivilin demonstrates cooking with Honey
at the Fair.

In addition to the cooking demonstrations Jordan appeared several other places at the Fair in promoting honey including pictures with Big Tex and riding in the Starlight Parade.



Jordan Heivilin passes out samples of her recipe
at the Fair.

All photos courtesy of Jimmie Oakley



A Message From Our President

Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid... No wait, somebody has already said that. Oh well, the sentiment is the same. This is the time of year when we elect our executive board for next year and we are looking for members who would like to serve as board members. We have a nominations committee that will be presenting a list of nominated officers and I will also be asking for nominations from the membership that night. This is not a time to be bashful or modest. If you would like to serve on the board or if you know someone who would be willing to serve, step up and offer your time and service.



WCABA President Jim Colbert

In addition to serving as a board member there are many other ways to serve our association – as a mentor, leading a hands-on workshop, providing refreshments or door prizes, and working on special projects such as bee procurement just to name a few. So, if you would like to come to the aid of the Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association, now is the time to step forward.

After we take nominations in October, we will vote at our regular meeting in November and the officers will start in January. The board meets every other month on the third Thursday starting in January.

PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR REGULAR MEETING IN NOVEMBER IS ON NOVEMBER 30, since November 23 falls on Thanksgiving Day. I hope everyone can make that meeting because it is not only our last meeting of the year, but we elect our executive board to lead us through the coming year.



BEES, BEES, BEES!!!

It is time to start planning your bee purchase for next spring. As a member of the Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association, you are eligible to purchase NUCs with unmarked queens through our bee procurement program. Once again, this year we will be offering NUCs for \$150 each. There is a limit of 10 NUCs per family and payment is due with the order. We will be picking them up in Louisiana and bringing them to Georgetown in late April. The exact date will depend on the supplier. We had good reports on these NUCs last year and are happy that the supplier has agreed not to raise the price.

There are a couple of changes in the procurement program this year. Since the price on packages from R. Weaver had gone up to \$175 each, we don't have any plans right now to offer packages through our program. We will also need to limit the overall number of NUCs we offer to 225 since that is the most we can carry with the equipment we have. Hopefully that will be enough to satisfy the needs of our members, but once that number is reached, we will stop taking orders. We will start taking orders in November, probably at our regular meeting and will stop taking orders in late February. Since we will take orders on a first come, first served basis, we will stop taking orders when the 225 NUC limit is reached, even if it is earlier than February.



**photo courtesy of Callie Herring*

Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks.

From the September meeting -

THANK YOU to our Door Prize Donors:

- Lisa Hoekstra
- Ginny Stubblefield
- Lorraine Christensen

Congrats to our Door Prize Winners:

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Bill Williams | Sam Bingham |
| Brenda Castillo | Leah Collins |
| Barry Bowden | |
| Allison French | |

We welcome our newest members:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| George and Jodi Lee | Courtney Ahrenholtz |
| Stacy McLaughlin | Joseph Narlo |
| Barry and Peggy Bowden | Jim Rays |
| Bill and Sally Williams | Gary Carlisle |

We also welcome our latest renewals:

- Art Thomas
- Larry and Leslie Sparks



Scholarship Recipients to Sell Honey in Support of Youth Program

by Jimmie Oakley WCABA Scholarship Chair

As a final activity of the Wolf-Bost Memorial Scholarship Program the 2017 Recipients will sell donated honey at the Hill Country Arts & Craft Fair at Sun City on Saturday and Sunday, November 4 & 5th of this year. The proceeds of this sale will go toward granting future scholarships in the program. Parents and youngsters alike will man the booth during the two day run of the Fair. In addition to selling honey the youngsters will be able to talk about bees, beekeeping, and the value and benefits of honey with booth visitors. There will be an observation hive with live bees to enhance the conversation with the general public. The booth will be located at site #818 in the Memorial Garden Area at the Fair.

The marketing of the scholarship honey in this way will complete the cycle the kids are learning about in production, processing, packaging and selling of the fruits of their labor. Additional help will be required to cover the time the booth will be open and a volunteer signup sheet will be available for those wishing to help out. Also donations of honey and money will be accepted at the meeting. Show our scholarship youngsters your support by being a part of this worthwhile activity.



Former WCABA Honey Queen, Elise Gardner, shares her knowledge with fairgoers.



WCABA Club members Tim and Jo Falkenstein and daughter, Nancy Young.

See Jimmie Oakley, Scholarship Committee Chair, for more details or to sign up.

**all photos courtesy of Jimmie Oakley*



Pollen: More Than Pretty Protein

By Laura Colburn WCABA Vice President

As I read the latest Bee Culture Magazine, I came across an article about pollen research and the effects of dwindling wildflowers and variety in foraging areas. It turns out that not only do bees need pollen to feed the queen and larva, they also need a variety of pollen. Just like in humans, too much of just one food isn't good for them because the amount of omega-6 and omega-3 amino acids vary from plant to plant.

The article is about research done by Prof. Sharoni Shafir at Benjamin Triwaks Bee Research Center at Hebrew University's Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture, located in Rehovot, Israel. His research showed bees will purposefully choose a variety of pollens when able, and that too much omega-6 pollen led to cognitive delays in bees. These nutrient-deficient bees were less able to recognize and remember sources of salt and sugar than bees who had a balance of omegas.

People often ask me what is causing the decline of bees, looking for a single source. Dr. Shafir's response sums it up perfectly: "We believe there are multiple causes and they all synergize. The three most important factors are the use of pesticides and poisons in the environment; the Varroa mite and the viruses it transmits; and the lack of proper nutrition or malnutrition" caused by shrinking amount and variety of wildflowers. Nutrition is the basis of everything, because malnourishment leads to a weaker immune system that cannot fight the effects of pesticides and viruses."

What does this mean for you? When setting up new hives, determine if your area is going to provide the nutrition your bees will need to not only survive, but thrive. The typical requirement for bees as an agricultural exemption is around 10 hives. That requires a lot of pollen and a wide variety of plants to produce it. If you don't see that within a 3 mile radius of your apiary, what is your plan to provide for them? They need so much more than a feeder full of sugar syrup.

Read more about this study at Bee Culture Magazine: <http://www.bee-culture.com/catch-buzz-fewer-wildflower-choices-thwart-bees-natural-inclination-choose-balanced-diet-suffer-cognitively-lack-omega-3-acids/>





Results of the Honey Judging and Honey Tasting Contest

by Jimmie Oakley - WCABA Scholarship Chair

WCABA held the annual Honey Judging and Taster's Choice Contest at our September meeting and although the number of entries was down from previous years the enthusiasm was as great as ever. In the Honey Judging for honey going to the State Fair of Texas there were ten entries submitted. Six were judged to be Blue Ribbon quality and four came in as Red Ribbon honey. The Blue Ribbon winners were, Marius Talentino (93.6), William Janke (93), and Carter Selvera, Jimmie Oakley, Mary Bost, Ann Bierschenk (89.6). The Red Ribbons winners were Dylan Roberts (88.3), Michael Wheeler (85), and Chris Doggett and Sam Bingham (83).



There were more entries (samples) in the Taster's Choice Contest with ribbons given for the top three vote getters and the rest honorable mention.

Charles Goertz received the most votes (26) for his entry #11 and received the coveted Blue Ribbon and bragging rights for the coming year. Valerie and Melissa Milligan submitted the second place entry (#20) and received twenty five votes to claim the Red Ribbon. Chris Doggett took the White Ribbon for third place getting 19 votes for entry #9 on the table.



The other contestants in the Taster's Choice Contest in order of descending votes were Barbi Rose (18), Dylan Roberts (16), Shannon Montez (14), Carter Selvera and Fred Richter (12), Marius Talentino and Lisa Hoekstra (11), Annelisa Martinez and David & Leigh Ann Brunson (10), Jimmie Oakley (9), Mary Bost, William Janke, Michael Wheeler, Sam Bingham, and Maryalice Herring (7), Jake & Allison French (5), Jerald Swain (4) and Ann Bierschenk with 3 votes.

Thanks to all for participating and making it a fun event. Just wait till next year!

**photos courtesy of Jimmie Oakley*



More Honey Tasting and Judging FUN!!



WCABA Club members of all ages enjoyed tasting the various entries.



Honey Judges David Brunson, Texas Honey Queen Megan Pettibon, and Dodie Stillman hard at work determining the best of the best.



**all photos courtesy of Callie Herring*



From our September meeting and program -



WCABA Member Barbi Rose demonstrates how to make beeswax food wrap



WCABA Ambassador Michael Wheeler explains how honey is made



Guest speaker Brandon Fehrenkamp shares information about capturing swarms

**all photos courtesy of Callie Herring*

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

- * Scholarship Honey Sales - November 4 - 5
- * Texas Beekeepers Association Convention - November 10-11
- * WCABA meeting - November 30
- * Order your bees!! November 1 - February 22 (or until cap is met)

Watch your email for more announcements!



Preparing Your Hives for Fall and Winter

By Laura Colburn WCABA Vice President

As the temperatures finally begin to dip, there are a few tasks you should do for your hives to make sure they're prepared for overwintering: check for mites and treat if necessary; ensure hives are queenright; remove queen excluders and reduce entrances; make sure hives have enough food.

It's crucial to send your hives into winter with very low mite counts. On the next sunny day, take the time to do a sugar roll or other sampling method. If the results show mites greater than 2%, treat as soon as possible. While you're checking your hives for mites, confirm all your hives are queenright. You don't necessarily need to see the queen, but you do need to see evidence she is still present and laying: eggs and very young larva.

As winter progresses, the cluster will slowly move up. If you forgot to remove the queen excluder, your queen will be left down in the cold. Be sure to remove queen excluders before the cold weather arrives. Speaking of colder weather, the bees are buzzing to keep the cluster warm. As the warm air escapes and rises, it collects on the inner cover, which can then lead to cold condensation dripping back down, chilling and even killing bees. You can provide upper ventilation by simply placing a popsicle stick under the inner cover. There are other methods, such as upper entrances or protected holes drilled into the top box. All are effective at providing much-needed ventilation.

Outside the hive, reduce the entrance to its smallest opening to prevent cold winter winds from whipping in the entrance. You may also need a mouse guard. This is an addition to the entrance that allows bees to come and go when the weather permits, but prevents mice from squeezing in and making a mess of your combs.

Above all else, you need to ensure your bees have enough to eat for the winter. They need at least one medium full of honey and two or three frames of pollen. These resources are not always on a single frame, so take note of what's on the frames of brood. Often there will be a ring of pollen around the brood cells, surrounded by a ring of honey. The frames with brood should be centered in the brood box with a couple of frames of honey to either side. The majority of the honey needs to be above the brood. The hive usually takes care of this arrangement.

If your hive doesn't have those resources, you'll need to plan on feeding all winter. Feed a liquid 2:1 syrup when the temps are above freezing and a solid fondant patty if temps fall below freezing for more than a few hours. A pollen patty may be necessary, but not until closer to the end of winter.

It's also not too late to plant perennials for your bees. Trees, shrubs, and even some herbs will do well over winter and establish strong roots to survive the harsh summer heat and drought.



WCABA Ambassador Report -

submitted by Ginny Stubblefield, WCABA Secretary

Michael Wheeler , W.C.A.B.A. Ambassador, represented the Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association on October 12 at the 4-H Science of Agriculture event. The event was held at the Travis County Exposition Center. Second and third graders were brought in by the bus load to visit the Expo Center from 10:00 until 2:00. The children visited stations by groups to learn about farm animals, bees, dairy, corn, cotton nutrition, and horticulture. Michael was an excellent leader of the groups when they came to learn about bees. Many of the teachers were excited to see a young person teaching the children about bees. The teachers will be looking for Michael next year!



Michael demonstrates beekeeping equipment.



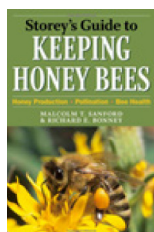
Classes of students learn all about bees and beekeeping.

**photos courtesy of Ginny Stubblefield*



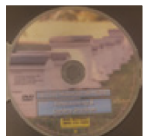
Book Nook - by Barbi Rose (WCABA librarian)

We have added new reference materials to the library. Thank you, Michael Weaver, for your requests and continual interest.



Storey's Guide to Keeping Honey Bees by Malcolm T. Sanford and Richard E. Bonney

With this book as their guide, beekeepers will understand how to plan a hive, acquire bees, install a colony, keep bees healthy, maintain a healthy hive, understand and prevent new diseases, and harvest honey crops. The book also provides an overview of the honey bee hive and colony life, insights into honey bee anatomy and behavior, an exploration of apiary equipment and tools, season-by-season beekeeper responsibilities, instructions for harvesting honey, and detailed, up-to-date information about diseases and other potential risks to bees. This comprehensive reference will appeal to both the experienced beekeeper who seeks help with specific issues and the novice eager to get started.



Requeening & Colony Division made easy (CD) by Brushy Mountain Bee Farm

Five commercial beekeepers are visited to learn their methods and tricks for requeening and making splits. This DVD is filled with practical colony management conversations and visuals while in the field at the various apiaries. They made requeening look truly easy. Seriously, I now have the confidence to requeen a hive.

(Wear protective clothing, especially if wearing shorts and are sorting through bee covered frames.)

More Than Honey Documentary (DVD) directed by Marcus Imhoof



This film takes us to Switzerland, Germany, Austria, China, and throughout the US and depicts beekeeping and pollination challenges and opportunities. They discuss colony collapse disorder as well as other fascinating topics.

There are several things that make the film a must-see.

- The honey bee photography is absolutely outstanding!
- The annual transportation of bees to central California in order to pollinate the almond orchards is an interesting and controversial topic.
- The disturbing scenes of people on ladders in the apple orchards of China, using paintbrushes to pollinate the flowering trees.
- The beautiful Swiss landscapes and bee nourishing environment. (The beekeeper is quite a character, too!)
- The scientific info is kept to a minimum, making the film interesting for beekeepers and non-beekeepers alike

WCABA Library Resources

Sharing knowledge is one of the benefits of being a club member. Our library contains a wide variety of materials for beginner to advanced beekeepers that can be checked out by members.

Please browse through the list of materials online at: <https://wcaba.librarika.com>

See something you'd like to reserve? The WCABA librarian can provide a login so you can reserve online, then pickup at the next meeting.

Please be sure to return your books at the next meeting! Someone may have the items reserved for the following month, if you cannot return your items at the beginning of the next meeting, please contact the librarian, Barbi Rose at librarian@wcaba.org, to extend your check-out.

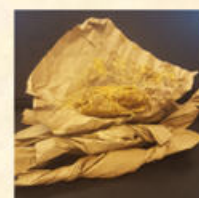


Another great idea for getting more from our hives shared by our WCABA Librarian, Barbi Rose

There's More Than Honey In Your Hive! – Beeswax

Sawdust & Beeswax Firestarters/Briquettes

Old beeswax + sawdust sweepings + used paper bags = Sawdust Firestarters! They burn hot and can be used in your fireplace, chiminea, firepit, and many other places. Try using wax that has not been rendered, filtered, or cleaned, and still contains honey remnants. It is all flammable. It just has to be dry.



Ingredients:

1/2 cup Beeswax
1 cup dry Sawdust

Equipment:

Old pan to melt beeswax
Paper grocery bags (or similar) cut or tear into approx. 6" squares

Instructions:

- Melt the beeswax in an old pan or large metal container.
- Pour the dry sawdust into the beeswax and stir until completely moistened.
- Keep the heat on and the mixture warm so it doesn't harden in the pan.
- The mixture should slightly hold a shape. Add more beeswax, if too dry. If you want a very hard briquette, the mixture should be fairly moist, but not drip when squeezed.
- Spoon 2 to 3 tablespoons of the warm mixture into the center of a paper square.
- Roll the square tightly and twist the ends while squeezing and shaping the Firestarter.
- Allow to cool and harden for a few hours. To use, light the package.

Experiment with quantities, materials, and sizes to create the devises that meet your needs

More September Meeting Fun....



A big crowd waited patiently to taste the honey entries



Barbi had a large number of members and visitors wanting to learn how to make beeswax food wraps

**all photos courtesy of Callie Herring*



W.C.A.B.A. MEETING MINUTES – Sept. 28, 2017

1. Opening the Meeting: Laura Colburn, Vice President, opened the meeting.
2. Announcements:
 - This meeting will be our Honey Tasting meeting. Members have brought samples of their honey for the group to taste and everyone has 3 votes for their favorites.
 - Barbie Rose will be demonstrating how to make reusable food wraps using bees wax.
 - The bee procurement group needs people with organizational skills to assist in ordering and dispensing honey bees to our members.
 - The Texas Beekeepers Convention takes place between November 9th through November 11th. It will be held at the Frank Mayborn Event and Convention Center in Temple, Texas, 9:00 – 5:00.
 - On October 21, there will be a workshop titled, “Bump Up Your Wax” given by Barbi Rose. She will demonstrate how to safely melt wax, the temperatures to use and how to add other ingredients to create lip balms, deodorants and scrubs. Members only. The cost is \$25. Contact Laura Colburn at lcolburn0617@gmail.com to reserve your spot and get the location information.
3. Crowning of the W.C.A.B.A. Queen. The Texas Honey Queen, Megan Pettibon, crowned Jordan Heilivin as our Honey Queen. Jordan received her Honey Queen sash and a crown. Jordan gave a brief speech. She was given a bouquet of pink roses. Welcome as our Honey Queen, Jordan.
4. The winners of the WCABA Honey Tasting contest were:
 - 1st Place – Charles Goertz
 - 2nd Place - Valerie and Melissa Milligan
 - 3rd Place – Chris Doggett

Winners of the Honey Judging for the State Fair were:

 - Blue Ribbon quality – Marius Talentino, William Janke, Carter Selvera, Jimmie Oakley, Mary Bost and Ann Bierschenk.
 - Red Ribbon Quality – Dylan Roberts, Michael Wheeler, Chris Doggett and Sam Bingham.
5. Beekeeping 101 – was taught by Michael Wheeler.
6. Members Present: 90
7. Program: Our guest speaker was Brandon Fehrenkamp. He discussed “Swarm Trapping”. Brandon’s contact information is: austinbeekeeper@gmail.com, 512-569-6270.

Our next meeting will be on October 26, 2017.

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

Enjoy what you read about?

Have ideas for workshops or activities?

Want to learn more about a particular topic in beekeeping?

Want to contribute to your club - give something back?

Willing to serve as a mentor?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions,

**consider running for an office in the Williamson County
Area Beekeepers Association!**

Read the President's Message to find out more.



Oakley

Honey Bee Removal

Austin: (512)981-9216

Waco/Temple: (254) 340-4415

beekeepers@livehoneybeeremoval.com

www.LiveHoneyBeeRemoval.com

Randy Oakley

Live Honey Bee Removal
& Relocation Specialists
with 35 years of
Beekeeping Experience

Live Honey Bee:

- Removal
- Relocation
- Repair



Oakley
Family Apiaries



- Local Honey Bees
- Beekeeping Advice
- Beekeeping Supplies

Randy & Amy Oakley

(254) 307-2337

OakleyBees@gmail.com

OakleyFamilyApiaries.com



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

WCABA
4355 County Road 110
Georgetown, Tx 78626