

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA SEPTEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

www.wcaba.org

WHAT CONSTITUTES A GOOD BEEKEEPING NEIGHBOR?

DATE: Thursday, September 25, 2014
 TIME: 7:00-9:00: Bkg.101, Program
 PLACE: First United Methodist Church Georgetown (MMC bldg.)
 PROGRAM: Honey Tasting Contest, Honey Judging
 HOSTS: Joycelyn Miller, Ann Bierschenk, Diana Rendon

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Important Item of Business: the Club will vote to approve revised Constitution & By-Laws at this meeting; see August newsletter for text.

The honey extracting equipment has been busy the past several months, so much so that the club has purchased a second extracting setup for the members use*. There should be quite a few members bringing in a sample of their current crop of honey in a small jar (such as a baby food or pimiento jar) without a label for the Taster's Choice Contest. For our new members' information: each person gets to dip a clean toothpick in each jar to taste the honey and then each person gets to vote 3 times for the honeys he/she likes best. The winners get a blue ribbon for the most votes, a red ribbon for the second most, and a white ribbon for third and bragging rights for the rest of the year. Join in the Fun! (*new extracting setup)



While we are enjoying the tasting, a selected group of members will be judging the 1- pound jars of honey that our members have brought. These honeys will be judged according to a set of criteria regarding taste, appearance, etc. All the jars judged to be 90% or better will be awarded blue ribbons, and the honey will then be taken to the State Fair in Dallas where it will be displayed during the Fair, after which it will be given to the Happy Hill Children's Home in Granbury. The second one-pound jar can be sent to the TBA Convention in November where it will be judged against all other Texas honey in the state honey contest. A \$5 entry fee will be required for the state competition.

(call Jimmie Oakley if you need to purchase 1# jars from the Bost Farm: 512/507-3009)

Color:	Entry #
Container Appearance	5
Level of Fill	5
Density	10
Free of Crystals	10
Free of Bubbles and Foam	10
Free of Wax	10
Free of Lint	10
Free of Other Foreign Material	10
Flavor	15
Brightness	15
Total Points	100

2013 WCABA Honey Judging Entries



Honey Going to the Fair. Are you planning to attend the State Fair of Texas? It will be in Dallas from **September 26 to October 19** this year. John Talbert, State Fair Booth Coordinator, said your help is needed to provide the honey and funding for the booth. We need more honey than ever and we need your financial support to be able to tell the story. We are asking commercial beekeepers to lead the way with \$200 donations and the hobbyists \$25 or more if possible. The TBA Booth at the State Fair of Texas provides the best opportunity to get our story out to the public. Over 1 million consumers of the 3 million that attend the Fair pass by the booth each year according to the numbers furnished by the Texas Department of Agriculture. Exposure to each consumer cost less than 4 tenths of a cent. This has increased the demand for honey. Help us make the Texas consumer realize that they need to purchase TEXAS HONEY. Several of our WCABA members in the past have gotten a free pass simply by volunteering to be one of the four volunteers for a half day who talk to visitors in the Food & Fiber Building at the Fair about bees and honey. If you're interested, talk to Jimmie Oakley at the meeting on Thursday evening or email John Talbert - Coordinator, at john@sabinecreekhoney.com

Remember the Tour de Hive in Central Texas on **Saturday September 20, 2014.** The Bost Honey House on C. R. 110 and the bee hives at the Heritage Community Garden in Mickler Park in SE Georgetown on Hutto Rd. and an observation hive on the patio in front of the café at the Georgetown Library will all be on the tour. Come see. For more info go to www.tourdehives.org.



Next month WCABA will participate in the 2014 Agriculture Awareness Day on **Tuesday, October 21** at the Taylor Arena. We would love for members to participate in the booth and demonstration on beekeeping. The time frame for the event will be from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Volunteers for this event are needed. Please contact Jimmie Oakley to volunteer if interested.

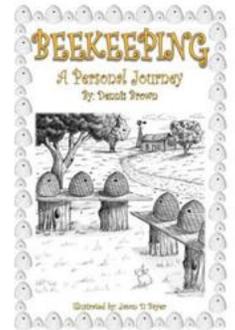
Have you considered attending the Texas Beekeepers Association Annual Convention in Houston **November 6-9th**? This event is always educational, interesting, fun, and inspirational. The TBA Journal for July/August has an overview of what one could expect if he/she attended. Plus you would get to hear some knowledgeable speakers, meet some interesting acquaintances, maybe even make some good beekeeping friends, and hear a lot of beekeeping stories and experiences. Registration this year is on-line. Go to the website: texasbeekeepers.org and click the blog & events tab, then Annual Convention, and follow the instructions.

On the same weekend WCABA will have a Honey Booth at the 18th Annual Hill Country Arts & Crafts Fair at Sun City in Georgetown on **Saturday 8th and Sunday the 9th of November**. Our appreciation goes to Ginny Stubblefield for arranging with the Sun City Craft Show for WCABA to participate by donating the \$50 entry fee. We also want to thank Mary Bost and Rick Bost for their donation in memory of Robert H. Bost to the Wolf/Bost Memorial Scholarship Fund. Money contributions (and donations) to the Fund comprise the funding for our scholarships. Please consider donating some of this year's honey to be sold at the craft show. Also, since the Doggett's, the Oakley's and Ginny Stubblefield will be at the TBA Convention the same weekend as the Craft Fair, we need adult leadership to work with 2014 scholarship youths in manning the booth, discussing the observation hive and promoting good beekeeping

Door prizes at our August meeting were donated by Ginny Stubblefield, Lisa Hoekstra, Holly Medina, Mary Bost, Robert Horton, Linda Franks and Lorraine Brady. Winners were Frank Morgan, Steve Trubertisky, Denise Wilkinson, Emma Wall, Tina Lim, Holly Medina, Mary Bost, Madeline Baird, and Dee Ainslie

Book Nook, by Holly Medina

BEEKEEPING, A Personal Journal, 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!



Your editor apologizes for the lateness of this newsletter. It's difficult to write when you're in the hospital. Hoping to be out soon. One of the benefits of my six-day "visit" to ICU, my son, Rick, used his downtime to search the Internet and found this very informative article. I hope you enjoy it. M.B.-Editor

SCIENCE ALERT: Scientists have shown that a unique group of bacteria found in the stomach of bees can fight antibiotic-resistant superbugs in the lab.

Antibiotic resistance is an increasingly serious problem in the western world, and in April this year, the World Health Organization declared it a major threat to public health. **For centuries, people have used raw honey to help fight infections, but scientists have struggled to figure out what gives it its antimicrobial properties.**

Now a team of researchers from Lund University in Sweden has identified a unique group of 13 lactic acid bacteria (LAB) that come from the honey stomach of bees, and are found in fresh honey, that have an impressive ability to fight pathogens. The honey stomach is one of two stomachs found in bees, and it stores nectar, which worker bees later suck out and store in the hive.



Together, these live bacteria produce a number of active microbial compounds, such as hydrogen peroxide, fatty acids and anaesthetics, that can kill other harmful bacteria - it's believed that this is the formula that protects the bee colony against collapse. Unfortunately, these LAB are processed out of the honey we buy in shops, but the researchers now believe they could be used to help treat antibiotics resistance.

The team tested the bee bacteria in the lab against pathogen strains that cause serious infections in humans which can lead to fatal staph infections. The LAB was added to these superbugs and, impressively, it counteracted all of them. The results are published in the *International Wound Journal*.

The scientists also mixed the LAB with honey and applied it directly to horses that had wounds that wouldn't heal and had been resistant to other treatments. After using the honey/bee bacteria substance, all of the wounds healed.

So far, the bee bacteria has only been tested against human pathogens in the lab, so we don't know that they'll be as effective on human wounds, but these results are extremely promising.

The team explained in a press release that they believe the LAB are so powerful because they produce a broad range of substances, which change in response to the pathogen they're up against.

"Antibiotics are mostly one active substance, effective against only a narrow spectrum of bacteria," said Tobias Olofsson, the lead author of the study, in a press release.

"When used alive, these 13 lactic acid bacteria produce the right kind of antimicrobial compounds as needed, depending on the threat. It seems to have worked well for millions of years of protecting bees' health and honey against other harmful microorganisms. However, since store-bought honey doesn't contain the living lactic acid bacteria, many of its unique properties have been lost in recent times," he added.

The researchers will now move onto clinical trials in humans to see whether the LAB can help treat antibiotic-resistant infections. In the meantime, we might start stockpiling fresh, unprocessed honey. Source: Lund Univ.

W.C.A.B.A. MEETING MINUTES – August 27, 2014

1. The meeting began with the Ice Cream Social – ice cream and cookies were overflowing on the refreshment table. Gary Bible, Refreshment Chairman, said we had over 20 ½-gallon containers donated for the event. The room had conversation areas for members to visit and discuss beekeeping equipment, plants that attract bees, books available from the W.C.A.B.A. and things to do with bees wax.
2. Opening of the Meeting:
 - a. President Chris Doggett opened the meeting.
 - b. Tanya Phillips announced the Second Annual “Le Tour de Hives” will be on September 20. The tour will be held at various apiaries. Refer to the website for times and locations to view apiaries. <http://austintourdehives.weebly.com/>
3. **Announcements:**
 - a. Chris Doggett reminded everyone that our next meeting will include a honey tasting contest of honey provided by W.C.A.B.A. members. Bring your honey in a small container, such as a baby food jar, and enter your honey into the contest. Members vote on the winners.
 - b. Chris Doggett reminded everyone of the Texas Beekeepers Convention which will take place from November 7 through November 9 in Houston, located at the Crown Plaza Reliant Hotel 8686 Kirby Drive.
Some of the speakers at the Convention will be Jeff Pettis - bee researcher, Dr. Larry Connor – teacher and author, Lance Wilson – Certified Master Beekeeper, Dr. Julianna Rangel – Assistant Professor of Apiculture TX A&M, Mark Dykes – A&M Dept. of Entomology, Chief Apiary Inspector.
There will be some general sessions and 12 breakout sessions on different subjects.
The Convention begins on Friday afternoon, November 7, and lasts through noon on Sunday, November 9.
4. **Treasurer’s Report** – Kenneth Miller, Treasurer, reported the current balance is \$4,435.00.
5. **Meeting Attendance** – 83 attendees
6. **Door Prizes** – Chris Doggett drew tickets for door prizes.
7. **Special Guest Speaker:** Clint Walker of the Walker Honey Farm and Dancing Bee Winery. Mr. Walker donated many of his products for door prizes at the meeting.
8. **Date for Next Meeting** – September 25, 2014.

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

Pictures from the Ice Cream Social *(Thanks Ginny S.)*



Beeswax Products - Georgetown



Busy Bee Supplies - Florence



Better Bee Equipment - Cedar Park



Bee Plants - Round Rock



Clint Walker - Speaker - Rogers



WCABA Resource Library

Beekeeping Equipment

Serving the Williamson County Area

Available Assembled
and Painted

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



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