

Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association

February 2018

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, February 22, 2018
7:00-8:30: Beekeeping 101/201
Speaker: Lance Wilson -
"Spring Management"
First United Methodist Church
Georgetown (MMC bldg.)

2018 Club Officers:

PRESIDENT: Jim Colbert
512-863-7183
colbertj@hotmail.com

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shannon.montez@yahoo.com

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Matt Ludlum, Leigh Ann Brunson,
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jimmie.oakley@gmail.com

**QUEEN CHAIR:
Ginny Stubblefield**
512-636-6813
ginny@options2sell.com

WCABA Queen and Ambassadors Are Active in the Community

Jordan Heivilin WCABA Queen reports:

On Saturday the 27th of January, I had the pleasure of going to the Austin Area Beekeepers Seminar and representing our club. I was tasked with introducing speakers in my assigned room. Each speaker talked about different topics such as Honey Bee Behavior and Biology by Ryan Giesecke and another amazing presentation about Managing Varroa Mites in a hive by Lance Wilson. After the classes I helped out with the raffle by showing off what would be raffled and take the raffle item to the winner. All in all, I had a great time learning new things from the classes, talking to other beekeepers and having fun.



Sebastian Urban, WCABA Ambassador reports on his activities:

I can't believe that a year and a half ago, I was a thirteen year-old that hesitantly stood up on the stage in front of a kind, yet intimidating audience at one of our monthly meetings to give a PowerPoint about my beekeeping experience as a scholarship recipient. Fast forward to the present and WCABA is now entrusting me with speaking to people of all ages outside of the "bee world". I'm honored and grateful to be one of the ambassadors for the Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association. I'm honing my speaking skills by educating the public, especially youth, about bees. The good thing is that I'm motivated to learn a whole lot more when I realize how little I know..



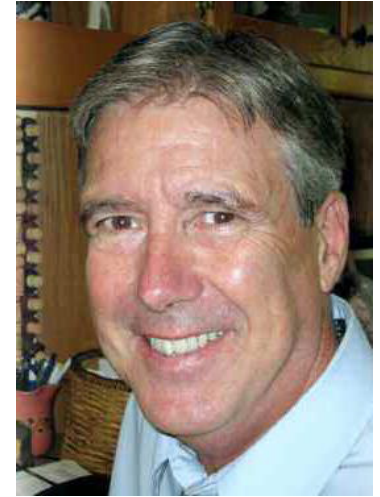
So far, my ambassadorship has led me to Round Rock ISD and their STEM nights. I dove in head first armed with educational posters, a bee puppet and giant silk flower, my bee suit, hive tools and an observation hive. My first experience as an ambassador was at Live Oak Elementary School. The halls were overflowing with students and their families (in the triple digits) and there was a long line of people that came specifically to learn about bees. Many kids and their parents asked me what the biggest challenge is

**photos Ginny Stubblefield*

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A Message From Our President

The weather has been colder this year than it has in recent years, but it looks like we may have a warm spell coming up. This can be a critical time for your bees as they will be out moving around and yet there is very little if any nectar to provide the energy they need. The result is that they can starve without additional feeding if they did not have adequate honey stored from last fall. When the weather is nice, (I like a day with temps at least in the mid to upper 60's, preferably in the 70's) check your hives. This is not a full-blown inspection, just a quick peek to make sure everything is OK. If you have any doubts, start feeding a 1:1 sugar syrup. If the weather stays warm, it is time to start feeding anyway to be ready for the early honey flow. There may already be plants blooming by the time you read this if the warm spell continues. Either way, don't get behind the curve on feeding. It is better, in my opinion, to feed too much than too little. You may also need to provide a pollen source. I have seen pollen coming in, but as the hive gears up for the honey flow, pollen or pollen substitute is critical.



This is also the time to be getting your equipment in shape and ordering needed supplies. Supers, frames, foundation, feeders, and many other items will be needed soon. Now is the time to be buying and building the things you will need in a couple of months. If you are just getting started, it can be intimidating to figure out what you need. We have some ideas on our website and talking to bee keepers at our meeting is an invaluable source of information. Trying to figure out where to order can also be confusing. If you are just getting started, you may be comforted to know that every beekeeper will tell you stories of mistakes they have made, and you are now in the process of developing yours! Another thing that may be comforting is to realize that if you talk to 10 beekeepers, you will likely get 10 different opinions on how or why to do something as well as the best equipment to use. You will develop your own style and ways of doing things. That is what makes this such a wonderful endeavor.

Well, I have rambled on for long enough so I will quit for now. See you on the 22nd.

Jim

Speaking of equipment -

Jennifer Gray shares "My husband's mistake could be your gain!! We ordered an extra honey extractor by mistake - It is a Honey Keeper Pro 2 frame stainless steel extractor ---

BRAND NEW, STILL IN BOX!! We are willing to sell for \$125 (10% discount) and meet halfway for delivery."

If anyone is interested, please contact Jennifer Gray, 512-587-9664.



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for honey bees these days and if the bees are “coming back from the brink”. My most recent gig was at Old Town Elementary. There were fewer people there but the questions that came up were no less interesting. I was asked about everything from botulism to pollination.

What I’ve noticed so far is that people are genuinely interested in honey bees. My goal is to encourage young people to protect bees by thinking about how directly bees impact our world and how we directly impact theirs.

For more information about the Queen and/or Ambassador programs, contact Ginny Stubblefield, WCABA Queen Chair at ginny@options2sell.com



Sebastian demonstrating bee suit

**photo Ginny Stubblefield*

Scholarship Committee Receives Applications

After a slow start to the application process, the Ed Wolf - Robert Bost Memorial Scholarship Program picked up steam and received a total of eight applications from hopeful youngsters all seeking an opportunity to receive a hive of bees and the equipment offered to the winners.

The applicants range in age from 9 years to 16 years and are all boys, except for one young lady from Leander.

All of the applicants have been invited to the club meeting in February for a “meet and greet” with members of the Scholarship Committee where they will learn more about the program and get acquainted with each other.

The selection process will continue further when the full committee will meet at the Bost Farm later to evaluate each application and tackle the hard decision of how many scholarships and to whom they will be awarded.



**photo - Jimmie Oakley*

Good luck to all the applicants.
Jimmie Oakley - Committee Chair



Show Your BiG Beekeeping Heart

By Laura Colburn, WCABA Program Director

Everyone probably knows how much bees give to the world. Now you can give a little of yourself too. Brookwood in Georgetown, known affectionately as BiG, is a non-profit vocational community giving purpose and a sense of belonging to adults with disabilities. The adults, known as Citizens, participate in this day program in several enterprises including pottery, cards, cookies, fudge, soap-making and laser printing. Many of the BiG Citizens work in the Café, BiG Shop and greenhouse. BiG is funded completely by grants, tuition, donations and sales of goods.

A WCABA member with close connections to BiG, Linda Russell, has suggested a big-hearted collaborative effort between WCABA and BiG with the launch of a member-hosted apiary to produce and sell honey at the BiG Shop.

Here's how it works:

BiG will purchase the bees and all equipment necessary. Each new hive will be “hosted” by experienced beekeepers who will keep and work the hives on their own property and in their own management style. BiG will provide all the hardware, supplemental feed, and materials for pest management as needed.

Host beekeepers need to have at least two years of experience as a beekeeper and must be willing to commit to hosting for two years.

Frames of honey ready to be harvested from the BiG hive will go to the BiG commercial kitchen to be extracted and sold by Citizens in the Shop, giving them an exciting opportunity to be part of the beekeeping experience (but without the stinging). Host beekeepers will have an option to receive a portion of the collective honey harvest, as a thank you for participating.

The hives will be owned by BiG, so at the end of the commitment, if either BiG or the host beekeeper decides to move on, the hives will be moved by BiG to another location.

This pilot program will begin with five hives. If you have questions or would like to volunteer to host a hive in your bee yard, contact Linda Russell for more details at lRussell6083@yahoo.com or by phone 512-618-0348 (evenings/weekends).

To learn more about BiG, check it out at brookwoodingeorgetown.org or visit them at 905 N. Church Street in Georgetown.



WCABA Bee & Queen Procurement Program Report

There are less than two weeks left before the order deadline for the 5-frame nucs from Merrimack Valley Apiaries in Louisiana and the queens (M&C) from Bee Weaver Apiaries in Navasota is reached, so all members wishing to order are encouraged to get your order in before the last day of the month.

The order price for the 5-frame nucs is \$150 each, and the queens are \$32 each. The queens from B Weaver are marked and clipped, but the queens in the nucs are not.

To date, almost 200 of the 250 allotted nucs have been spoken for and 62 of the hundred queens have been reserved.

Both sources for ordering nucs and queens will remain open until the February 28th deadline or as long as supplies last. Orders will be accepted at the February club meeting, but remember you must be current on your 2018 membership to be eligible to participate in the program.

The membership form, to pay your dues, and the bee order form can be found inside this newsletter. **Make payments to WCABA.**

The delivery of the nucs and queens are still tentatively scheduled for the middle to latter part of April. The actual delivery date will depend on how the season goes for the bee and queen producers (depending on weather, growth of the colonies, and the mating of the virgin queens in the field). These factors all play into the making of nucs and caging of queens that result in the product that comes to you. We will keep you apprised of the actual delivery dates as they are firmed up.

Each member ordering will receive a "Pick-up Voucher" that has a pickup date and quantity that the individual is entitled to pick up on the designated date. Pickup location will be: the **Bost Farm, 4355 C. R. 110, Georgetown, TX 78626.**

I emphasize that you must bring your pickup voucher as proof of purchase to assure we have an accurate accounting of the products purchased and delivered.

Thank you,
Jimmie Oakley - Order Coordinator
jimmie.oakley@gmail.com



*WCABA members Callie and Maryalice Herring picking out nucs with assistance from Benjamin Oakley *photo Jimmie Oakley*



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

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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:



Busy Bee Beekeeping Supplies
www.busybeesupplies.com
 254-793-9459

We carry all your beekeeping needs, from beekeeping books to honey extracting and everything in between.



Helping beekeeper's raise happy, healthy, busy, bees.

www.busybeesupplies.com

(254) 793-9459

admin@busybeesupplies.com

Located in Florence, TX

(Between Georgetown, TX and Killeen, TX on HWY


Store Hours
 Mon: 9am—4pm
 Tue: 9am—4pm
 Wed: CLOSED
 Thurs.: 9am—4pm
 Fri: 9am—4pm
 Sat: 9am—12pm
 Sun: CLOSED

Spring Order Instructions

[Shop For More Items](#)

Coupon Code
WCABA2018

Your Cart

ITEM DESCRIPTION	EACH	QTY	TOTAL
 10 Frame - Hive Kit #1 - Assembled	\$107.95	1	\$107.95

Click  to remove an item from your cart [Empty My Entire Cart](#)

Enter Coupon Code:

CALCULATE SHIPPING (optional)

Shipping Rates:
 (change my address)

- PLEASE SELECT (If your shipping seems high, please call us after you place your order)
- PLEASE SELECT (If your shipping seems high, please call us after you place your order)
- In-store Pickup
- WCABA Club Order - Best Farm Delivery
- FedEx Home Delivery® \$31.47
- FedEx 2Day® \$73.02
- USPS Priority Mail \$36.50

Step 1
 Enter Coupon Code
 Insert: **WCABA2018** for the spring order discount of 10%.

Step 2
 Select Shipping Option
 You can either have your order shipped to you or you can pick your order up from our Florence location. *If you choose to pick your order up, we will call you when it is ready.

Step 3
 Checkout
 Press Proceed To Checkout where you will you will complete the order process.



If you have any issues or question with the ordering process, please do not hesitate to call us. Please note: We get a large number of calls during bee season and our phone lines may be busy, so please leave a message and we will call you back as soon as possible. (254) 793-9459



From our January Meeting -

Door prizes:

Donors

Ginny Stubblefield
Lisa. Hoekstra
Cecelia Richter
Barbara Hunt
Randy Oakley
Phil Ainsley
Lester Whether

Winners

Sally Horton
Lori Rasberry
Eric Hale
Harold Miller
Gary Carlile
Marius Talentina
Charles Goertz
Bill Barton

New Members:

Mark Becker and Tracey Justin. - Marble Falls
Parker Fisher. - Georgetown
Tom and Terri Isaacs. - Georgetown
Reese Klein. - Burnet
Puska Family. - Florence
Curtis Shoemaker. - Round Rock
Warren Vanney and Elizabeth Lawson. - Bartlett

Wes Brown. - Burnet
Cindy Hoskins. - Jonestown
Kristofer Kasper. - Weir
Jim McKenzie. - Georgetown
Jim Ray. - Georgetown
Joe and Laura Swann. - Liberty Hill
Tomand Angela Wrinkle. - Austin

Renewing Members:

Phil Ainsley - Belton
Courtney Ahnenholz. - Leander
Bill and Brandy Barton. - Leander
Wilbur Brinkmeyer. - Taylor
Matt and Mariann Brown. - Georgetown
Jim Colbert. - Georgetown
Joe and Sarah Dorn. - Belton
Mickey and Melinda Foster. - Coupland
Tim and Amanda. - Elgin
Elmer Goertz. - Pflugerville
Judith Haller. - Austin
Diane and Eric Hale. - Florence
MaryAlice and Callie Herring. - Briggs
Todd Holland. - Marble Falls
Jim Houston. - Austin
Frank and Barbara Hunt. - Austin
Nathan Jones. - Dripping Springs
Matt Ludlum. - Austin
Melissa Millegan - Georgetown
Harold and Joyejyn Miller. - Salado
Jim Ray. - Georgetown
George and Bonnie Richards. - Georgetown
Larry and Leslie Sparks. - Cedar Park
David Tatum. - Liberty Hill

Shawn Anchors. - Georgetown
Marc and Meta Bonasso. - Florence
Wayne Baker. - Temple
Grace and Doug Bryce. - Georgetown
David and Leigh Ann Brunson. - Austin
Brandon and Kristy Deaver. - Round Rock
Jill Douglass. - Austin
Jake and Allison. - Georgetown
Charles Goertz. - Round Rock
Brian Gray. - Taylor
Jeremiah Harlow. - Liberty Hill
Dean Hamilton. - Georgetown
Lisa and Dirk Hoekstra. - Georgetown
Robert and Sally Horton. - Bastrop
Susan Humiston. - Salado
Jim Huffman. - Austin
Bridget and Darryl Lee - Liberty Hill
Glenn Patterson. - Georgetown
Valerie and Jason Milligan - Georgetown
Lori Rasberry - Thorndale
Shannon Rector. - Leander
Denny Schey. - Round Rock
Justin Talentina. - Dale
Kathleen Thompson. - Pflugerville



W.C.A.B.A. MEETING MINUTES – January 25, 2018

1. Opening the Meeting: Jim Colbert, President, opened the meeting.
2. Announcements:
 - We will change our monthly format at meetings. The Executive Board plans to make our meetings more family-friendly and will change our meetings to one-and-one-half hours.
 - Question and answer periods will follow after a member or guest speaker talks with the group.
 - Our speaker in February will be Lance Wilson who will talk about what needs to be done regarding members' hives in early Spring.
 - Beekeeping 101 and 201 will be geared toward the beekeeper's responsibilities based on the season.
 - Laura Colburn, Program Director, explained she will discuss in advance with a guest speaker what she wishes the speaker to talk about with our group.
 - * The club is still taking orders for 5-frame nucs at \$150 each and queens from B. Weaver for \$32. Order and pay in advance.
 - It's that time of the year to renew WCABA membership now for individual or family groups at \$15 per year.
 - A clipboard will be passed around so members can sign up to bring refreshments for specific meetings.
 - Our Board Members were introduced individually and spoke briefly about themselves so everyone could get to know them better.
3. Honey Queen and Ambassador Program: Jim Colbert introduced our Honey Queen, Jordan Heivilin, and one of our Ambassadors, Michael Wheeler. Our other Ambassador, Sebastian Urban, was unable to attend the general meeting because he was representing WCABA by talking with students at an elementary school during their Annual Science Fair. Jordan and Michael gave a brief overview of some of the events they have participated in during the past year.
4. Beekeeping 101 – “Bee Biology” was taught by Sam Bingham.
5. Members Present: 108
6. Program: One of our members, Frank Hunt, led a question and answer session with the group after refreshments.
7. Closing the Meeting: The meeting was closed by Jim Colbert.

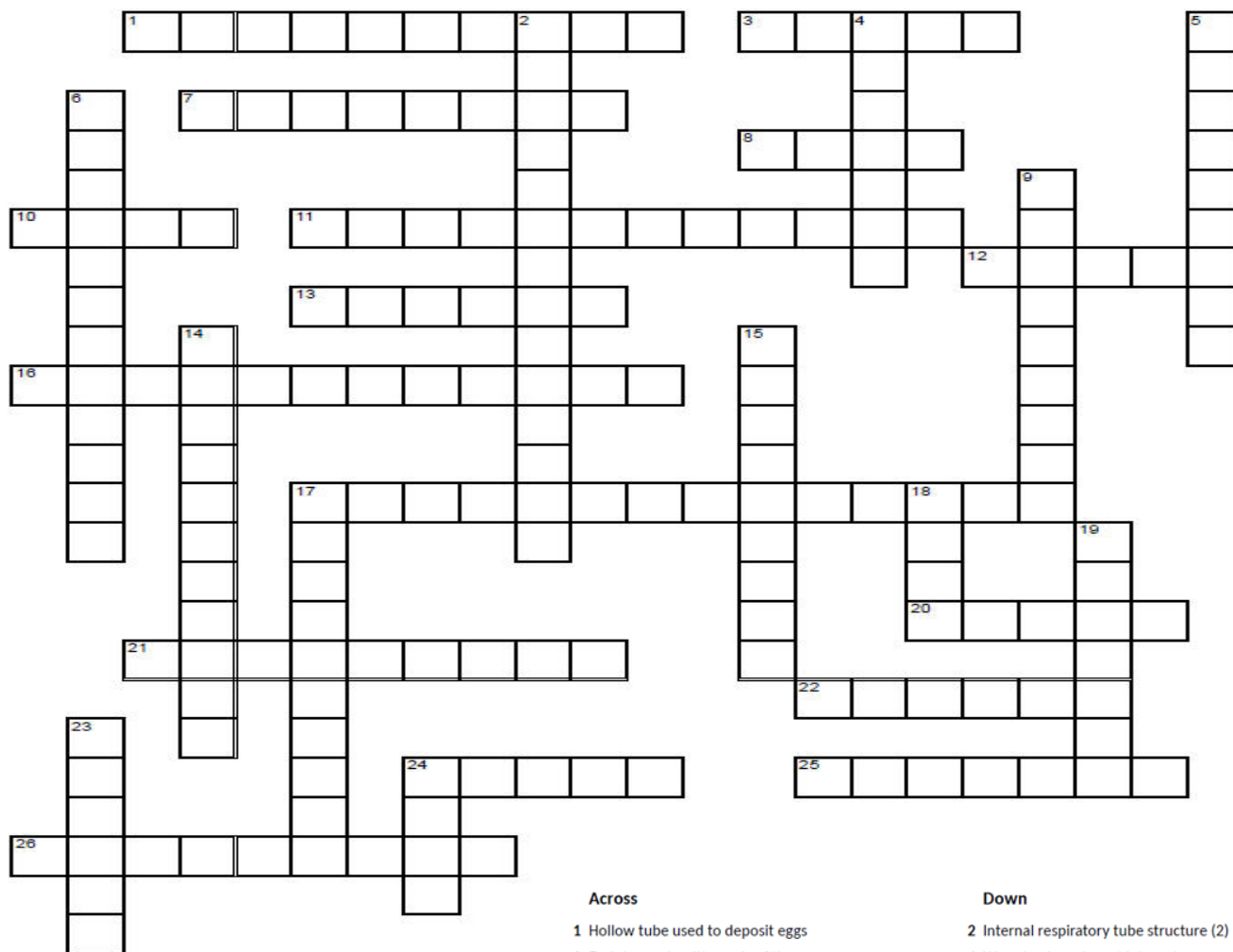
Reminder: Our next meeting will be on Thursday, February 22, 2018.

Ginny Stubblefield, Secretary, WCABA



Just For Fun From Barbi Rose Your WCABA Librarian

Bee Biology



Across

- 1 Hollow tube used to deposit eggs
- 3 Each leg ends with a pair of these
- 7 Two multi-segmented organs on the head of the bee
- 8 Another name for the honey stomach
- 10 The front region of the bee
- 11 Used to carry harvested proteins to the hive (2)
- 12 Bees have two pairs of these
- 13 Another name for simple eyes
- 16 They allow bees to see in multiple directions at once (2)
- 17 The gland between the honey stomach and the digestive stomach
- 20 A defense mechanism used by bees
- 21 The proper name for bee blood
- 22 The top side of a bee
- 24 Circulatory tube with muscles in the abdomen
- 25 The under side of a bee
- 26 The tongue

Down

- 2 Internal respiratory tube structure (2)
- 4 Wax glands and most internal organs are in this region
- 5 Venom is stored here (2)
- 6 Holds freshly collected nectar or water (2)
- 9 External respiratory openings
- 14 The gland used to store semen for fertilizing eggs
- 15 Mouth parts used for grooming, working propolis, moving wax, and more
- 17 Chemical substance bees release for communication
- 18 They have five joints
- 19 They are part of the nervous system
- 23 The wings and legs are attached here
- 24 It is branched to trap pollen

Check your answers at the library table at the meeting on Thursday!



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

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

** WCABA meeting - February 22*

** Order your bees!!*

November 1 - February 28 (or until cap is met)

Refer to the order form in THIS newsletter

** Central Texas Beekeeping School, Brenham - March 17*



Oakley

Honey Bee Removal

Austin: (512)981-9216

Waco/Temple: (254) 340-4415

beekeepers@livehoneybeeremoval.com

www.LiveHoneyBeeRemoval.com

Randy Oakley

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- . Relocation
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- Beekeeping Supplies

Randy & Amy Oakley

(254) 307-2337

OakleyBees@gmail.com

OakleyFamilyApiaries.com



February Beekeeping Activity

Simulative Feeding & Order New Equipment

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