

# WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WCABA DECEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

[www.wcaba.org](http://www.wcaba.org)

## 2024 Club Officers:

**PRESIDENT:** Shannon Montez  
[president@wcaba.org](mailto:president@wcaba.org)

**VICE PRESIDENT:**  
Nancy Kunschik  
[vicepresident@wcaba.org](mailto:vicepresident@wcaba.org)

**MEMBERSHIP:** Shirley Doggett  
[membership@wcaba.org](mailto:membership@wcaba.org)

**PROGRAM:** Linda Russell  
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**NEWSLETTER:** Jimmie Oakley  
[newsletter@wcaba.org](mailto:newsletter@wcaba.org)

**SECRETARY:** Phil Ainslie  
[secretary@wcaba.org](mailto:secretary@wcaba.org)

**TREASURER:** Barbi Rose  
[treasurer@wcaba.org](mailto:treasurer@wcaba.org)

**HISTORIAN:** Matt Ludlum  
[historian@wcaba.org](mailto:historian@wcaba.org)

**PAST PRESIDENT:** Phil Ainslie  
[pastpresident@wcaba.org](mailto:pastpresident@wcaba.org)

**LIBRARIAN:** Chris Huck  
[librarian@wcaba.org](mailto:librarian@wcaba.org)

**SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR:**  
Jimmie Oakley  
[scholarship@wcaba.org](mailto:scholarship@wcaba.org)

**QUEEN CHAIR:**  
(vacant)

**WEB ADMINISTRATOR:**  
Rachel Glass  
[webmaster@wcaba.org](mailto:webmaster@wcaba.org)

**DIRECTOR AT LARGE:**  
Ken Browning

**DIRECTOR AT LARGE:**  
Ann Bierschenk

**NO CLUB MEETING IN DECEMBER !!!**

## 2024 Picture of the Year!

Since there is no scheduled meeting in December, as Editor I have started a tradition of using the open cover page in the WCABA Newsletter to feature my picture of the year.

I didn't have anything in my picture Gallery that stood out to me, but when I received **this pic from** our new Vice President, **Sean O'Neil**, I said why not? All year long she has given everything to serve her hive and benefit us and all mankind.

## *BEE* - T I M E M A G A Z I N E



## *Wo-Man of the Year*

I trust you will agree and help me salute our little Angles of Agriculture.

*Jimmie*

# Smoking Your Bees

Submitted by Phil Anslie

## What does a smoker do?

A smoker is a delivery tool. It is a simple device that burns fuel, makes smoke, and lets you put the smoke where you want it.

The modern smoker has remained unchanged since its invention in 1873. It has three main parts: a fire chamber (where the fire is built), bellows (which pump oxygen into the fire), and a nozzle (which directs the smoke).

## Will smoking harm my bees?

It depends. Smoking should be done judiciously, using smoke from a smoldering fire with no open flames. The smoke must not be too hot, or it will burn the bees, especially their delicate wings. To protect your bees, you should use only cool smoke.

Cool smoke? I thought the smoke was hot.

Cool smoke, sometimes called quality smoke, is smoke from a smoldering fire. It is usually white or light gray and thick. The best smoke for bees should be cool enough that you can direct it onto your bare wrist without discomfort. It will feel warm but not burning hot.

## How does smoke calm my bees?

Smoke masks pheromones (odors) secreted by bees. For example, if a guard bee detects an intruder, she may emit alarm [pheromones that send a danger signal to the other bees](#), making them defensive. The smoke may effectively block the scent, keeping all the bees calm and easy to handle.

Another theory is that the smell of smoke simulates a fire. The bees fear fire, so they eat large amounts of honey in case they need to flee the hive and build a new home elsewhere. When bees are very full of honey and preparing to leave home, they are less likely to sting.

## Can I use too much smoke?

Yes, colonies that are smoked too much may be driven right out of the hive. Also, after a certain period, bees may overcome their fear and become agitated.

You should take your well-lit smoker, lift the hive cover, and puff a few times before lowering the cover back into place. Then wait. You need to give the bees time to react, communicate with one another, and eat some honey. It doesn't happen instantly, so there's no benefit in rushing.

## What fuels can I use in my smoker?

Your smoker can safely use an endless array of materials. Non-treated burlap or baling twine, cotton fibers, wood pellets, dry twigs, wood chips, punky wood, peat moss, dry leaves, and pine needles will work, but [some are better](#).

Other smoldering materials include pine cones, wine corks (not plastic), chopsticks, popsicle sticks, peat pots, corn cobs, peanut shells, dried pony poop, and dry puffball mushrooms. Just be wary of anything that may contain hidden chemicals.

Cotton is one of the best products if you find it unbleached and undyed. Dry leaves work well, but they burn fast and disappear quickly. They can also cause sparks.

Pine needles are readily available and burn well, but they contain resins. Resins tend to burn hot and leave residues in your smoker. These can build up over time and impede the airflow, so the residue must occasionally be removed from inside the smoker.

If resin buildup is a problem, you can sometimes light it with a propane torch and let it burn away.



*Phil Anslie - Secretary*

## What fuels should I avoid?

Remember that you and your bees will breathe whatever you're burning in there. Avoid fuels containing bleach, dyes, glues (including plywood, chipboard, and corrugated cardboard), pesticides, plastic, and dryer lint.

Although burlap and baling twine have been popular with beekeepers for decades, modern versions are often treated with fungicides. Twine treated with fungicide is usually dyed green, but sometimes it is not, so be cautious.

Dryer lint is usually loaded with plastics from polyester clothing, nylon, and rayon. Rayon is made from cellulose, but it's processed with various chemicals.

## How can I light my smoker and keep it lit?

Lighting your smoker correctly is vital to [keeping it lit](#). Basically, you want to build a hot, fast fire and then smother it with slower-burning materials. By reducing the oxygen, you make the smoke cool enough for bees.

Below are five key steps to building a good fire in your smoker:

1. Begin by putting some quick-burning fuel like crumpled newspaper or pine needles in the bottom of your smoker. The pile should be light and fluffy, with air between the pieces.
2. Ignite the fuel with a match or torch. Once it starts to burn, compact it with your hive tool and add more quick-burning materials on top. Repeatedly squeeze the bellows to force more air through the pile.
3. After it burns down, add more quick-burning fuel and more oxygen. Repeat this procedure several times, always waiting for the fresh fuel to begin burning before you push it down with the hive tool.
4. Once the fire is burning well and flames are licking the inside of the fire chamber, you can add your desired cool-burning fuel and some more oxygen.
5. Once the cool-burning fuel starts to smolder, you can close the lid. Always check the fuel supply periodically and add a few puffs of air along with the fresh fuel.

People who need help keeping their smokers lit often skip the first steps. The initial fire is everything. If you fill your smoker to capacity and light the top, it will go out quickly.

## How can I extinguish my smoker?

To extinguish your smoker, keep additional air from going in. Many beekeepers stuff the spout with a cork. Do not put a still-burning smoker in your vehicle.

If you dump the smoldering embers, bury them, or put them where they will not start a more significant fire.

## Are there times I shouldn't smoke bees?

People specializing in [comb honey](#) often do not use smoke in their hives when honey supers are in place. That's because the customer eats the comb and the honey, and heavily smoked combs often retain an annoying smoky flavor. Also, since bees usually rip open capped cells when they are smoked, the appearance of comb honey can be severely degraded.

Other times to avoid using smoke include severe droughts when brush and forest fires are commonplace. It is too easy to accidentally ignite grass or other dry materials under or near the hives.

In addition, some people are allergic to smoke. Beekeepers with a smoke allergy can use a light sugar water spray on their bees instead of smoke. It may not work quite well, but it's better than nothing.

## So, what do you smoke?

Winter is a good time to fill a bucket with things that make a nice cool smoke for your bees. Toss in things that seem appropriate as you find them. Then, come spring, they should be nice and dry and ready to use.

Every time I write about smokers and fuel, someone surprises me with a new technique or a different kind of fuel. So, what do you smoke? Let us know.

Rusty

[Honey Bee Suite](#)

# Practical Experiences in the Bee Yard

**DECEMBER** is the time of reflection, gnashing of teeth, and beating our heads against the deadout hives now consolidated in our shop, garage or work area. Don't look at your neighbor beekeeper, just look in the mirror because you are the only one responsible. What you really need to do is look at all the notes of hive visits you created during the past year. Reviewing your notes will help you see where things started to go wrong. Oh Me! You don't have any notes to review? Shame on you unless you have a better memory than most. In case you have not figured it out, no two hives will grow, swarm, requeen or produce the same amount of honey. Each hive is unique and must be carefully monitored to achieve the best results.



*Stanford Brantley*

As we move into the colder months of December and January, monitor your hive's stores of food. If you have hives with low stores, feed 2:1 sugar syrup. New beekeepers often ask about how to mix the proper 1:1 or 2:1 mixtures. Here is a helpful table:

**By weight:** 1:1 1 gallon hot water, 8 pounds of sugar  
2:1 1 gallon hot water, 16 pounds of sugar

**By Volume** 1:1 1 gallon hot water, 1 gallon sugar  
2:1 1/2 gallon hot water, 1 gallon sugar

**5 Gallons at a Time:** In a 5 gallon bucket, place 24 pounds of sugar and SLOWLY add 3 gallons of hot water, stirring the mixture as you add the water. The hotter the water, the easier the sugar dissolves.

1:1 mixtures usually dissolve easily. The thicker 2:1 mixture can be more difficult to get all of the sugar in solution. In real life applications in the apiary, these mixtures do not have to be precise. As one of my commercial beekeeping friends used to say about 2:1 mixtures, just get as much sugar dissolved as you can. The bees will take it from there.

Sometimes during inspections, you find bare spots on plastic foundation where the bees refused to draw comb. Try brushing melted wax over the bare spots and see if the bees will begin to draw the comb. If the spots are left bare, the bees will not anchor cells to the bare plastic. They may find a place on any drawn comb above the bare spot and make comb that does not touch the bare plastic. This is referred to as a "pancake". The bees will draw the midrib of the comb down away from the plastic and usually wind up drawing shorter length cells on each side of this pancake. When I find this type of cell building on a frame, if it is not full of capped brood, I use my hive tool to crush the wax down against the plastic foundation. This often entices the bees to start drawing comb on the previously bare spot. I have found this often works well for small areas. Large bare areas may require replacing the foundation.

Reversing brood boxes in the early spring on double brood hives is one of those beekeeping practices that generate a lot of dialog. The theory is that the bees and queen will be in the top brood box of a double brood hive by spring. In fact, this is usually but not always the case. Reversing the order of the boxes gives the queen an essentially empty brood box above her for spring expansion. Not all beekeepers chose to reverse the boxes. If you decide it is a good practice for you, check the boxes and make sure your queen is really in the top box before you reverse them.

Beekeepers are really a strange lot as we love to attend club meetings, workshops, and conventions where we can listen to many different ideas, practices and shortcuts (most approved, some not approved that could get our honey in trouble). And then, guess what we tend to do! We tend to think we know more than the other person and decide we will just keep on doing it our way. We also often not only want to do "our thing" but want to recruit other beekeepers to think like us. Let me encourage you to be open to new ideas and techniques. Be willing to look for better practices in your apiary. *Stanford*

# **WCABA MEMBERS ... LET'S GO ... IT'S TIME TO ORDER**

## **2025 SPRING NUCS AND QUEENS!**

The WCABA will again offer bees and queens to club members in 2025 through our Bee Procurement Program. Our Executive Board voted to provide 5-frame nucs with a queen (not marked or clipped), and additional order of queen bees (marked and clipped) for purchase by current club members.

The **5-frame nucs** originate from Evergreen Honey Company in Jennings, Louisiana, managed by Wes Card. The nucs will consist of a “laying” queen that has been accepted by the hive, three inner frames containing brood in all stages, two outer frames containing honey, pollen, and adhering bees, delivered in a sturdy wooden box with full entrance. The queens from Evergreen are VSH (Varroa resistant) produced in their company program and will provide a hardy, productive colony that overwinters well.

**The cost to club members is \$175 per individual nuc.**

The queen bees for individual purchase originates from Bee Weaver Apiaries in Navasota, Texas. They are advertised as bred from a hybrid of bees chosen from their mite resistance traits, high honey production, and healthy populations. These queens will be marked **BLUE** for ease of locating and help in swarm control.

**The cost for club members is \$40 per queen.**

**Order Forms are in this (December) Newsletter issue, see page 06. You can start ordering today.**

**Please make your check(s) payable to “WCABA”, NOT to Gary Bible.**

Orders will be taken by mail **and/or** at club meetings through February 28<sup>th</sup>. Each order must be on our club Order Form, be completely filled out, and be accompanied by the appropriate remittance (check or money order). All orders will receive a confirmation email from the Bee and Queen Procurement Coordinator and recorded on the Queen & Nuc Order Matrix.

Because of the need to track and match all orders with remittance and delivery of product, there will be no individual transfer of ownership of nucs and/or queens. Cancelled orders will be refunded and resold to members only on the Nuc/Queen Wait List.

The pickup/delivery for nucs and queens will mirror past pickups procedures, and the pickup date will be posted (via email) as soon as possible to club members. We think our pickup date will be mid-April. Be flexible in your expectations and schedule as this time approaches.

Direct questions/concerns to Gary Bible (Bee Procurement Coordinator) at cell: 512-923-0410 or email: [glbible@austin.rr.com](mailto:glbible@austin.rr.com)

Speaking for all in the Executive Board, we are anticipating another year of fun beekeeping!

**Gary Bible**

WCABA Bee Procurement Coordinator



## W.C.A.B.A. Club 5-Frame Nuc & Queen Order Form - 2025

Name \_\_\_\_\_ | ORDER # \_\_\_\_\_

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) **\$175.00/ Nuc.**

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

No. \_\_\_\_\_ **Honey Bee Queen** (Based on group order of 100) **\$40.00/ 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/ Gary Bible** - 150 Sundance Trail, Liberty Hill, TX 78642

Must be Current Member - Nuc order **deadline:** Must be postmarked by February 28th or while supplies last.

**Limit 6 nucs per family, 4 nucs for new members**. No individual resale or ownership transfer on nucs once order

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

Special Instructions:

### 2025 WCABA Officers

Slate of Officers elected to serve WCABA for 2025

Election held at the regular club meeting on November 19, 2024

President – Shannon Montez  
Vice President – Sean O’Neil  
Membership Director – Shirley Doggett  
Program Director – Nan Helmke  
Editorial Director – Jimmie Oakley  
Secretary – Phil Ainslie  
Treasurer – Barbi Rose  
Historian – Matt Ludlum  
Past President – Phil Ainslie  
Director at Large – appointed  
Director at Large – appointed



# Meet Our New Officers

In January of 2025 the Officers you elected at the November meeting will assume their duties to guide the club through what we all hope to be a good year.

A brief bio and picture have been provided (or updated from archive\*) to help you get to know them better and recognize them at the monthly meetings.

Looking forward to **2025**.

## **\*Shannon Montez - President**



I grew up in northern Ohio on a small farm. We had what seemed a two-acre garden and my parents would harvest much of the food we grew and store in our basement throughout the winter. In my teen years, I worked at a country market where the owners specialized in apple butter. I have fond memories of our crew cooking the apples in a copper pot and when done, savoring the warm apple butter on a fresh Ritz cracker with a fresh slice of cheese. My last year of college, I moved to Houston and finally settled in Leander with my husband Joe, and my 4 children. At this time, I have 5 hives. I became president of WCABA in 2021 after serving as VP for two years. At the time I became involved with our board, I had only been a member for about 9 months and

had no idea what I was doing with my hives. The year I became a board member was the same year I bought my first two hives. I had no clue what I was getting into and I'll have to say that my knowledge of beekeeping has greatly expanded.

I have enjoyed working with our members of WCABA and meeting the different speakers who all bring a wealth of knowledge to our program. My full-time job is a little stressful and I've decided that dealing with a hot hive is often easier than dealing with some of the issues I encounter at my job. I enjoy the quiet of the hive and have found it's a good escape from reality. The hive is ever changing and requires my constant focus when inspecting. Although I have been a beekeeper for several years, I still learn something new from each speaker and from members, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve as your president and hope that we continue to offer opportunities for you to learn and meet other beekeepers.

## **(new) Sean O'Neil - Vice President**



I am based in Leander, Texas, where I manages five hives and am steadily working toward my Texas Master Beekeeper certification. I'm drawn to the challenges and rewards of beekeeping, relishing the ongoing learning and problem-solving involved in keeping hives healthy and productive. I'm an advocate for sharing knowledge, and I presented "Intro to Beekeeping" talks at the Salado Library and enjoy connecting with fellow enthusiasts to exchange ideas and tips. A technologist by profession and a DIY enthusiast in my spare time, I combine creativity with hands-on ingenuity, often designing or modifying my own beekeeping equipment. When I'm not tending to my bees, I balance a career at my esports startup with family life, spending time with my wife, two sons, three chickens, three cats,

and a dog—all while staying engaged with the beekeeping community.



**\*Shirley Doggett – Membership Director**

Born in Northampton, England and came to the US in 1985. I graduated from Dominican College, NY with a degree in Special Education. We moved to Texas in 1992. I managed a home for multi handicapped children in Austin before teaching special education for the Round Rock ISD. We live on 10 acres in Thrall TX. I am the Membership Director for the Texas Beekeepers Association (2014) as well as for WCABA (2013). Hobbies include reading and knitting.



**(new) Nan Helmke - Program Chair**

I started helping my grandfather with bees in the 1960's. Currently I'm keeping bees (for last 8 years) in top bar hives, long Langstroth hives, Apimaye insulated hives, and traditional Langstroth hives. I keep busy working full time, doing forced absconds (removal), hive cutouts, swarm removals, mentoring new beekeepers, supporting local clubs and as a Director with TBA.



**\*Jimmie Oakley - Publication Director (Editor)**

Born in Oklahoma City, grew up in Dallas, started beekeeping in 1975. Worked for commercial migratory operation in North Dakota '76 – '86. In addition, we operated a family business rearing Starline Queens. Married to Kay Carr in 1964, three children (all grown now), retired from Xerox Corporation; wife from IRS. TBA Treasurer 1996-2014. Produce honey under the label: Annie's Pure Honey. Past president of WCABA, Program Chair, and WCABA Editor since 2020. Still actively keeping bees and always looking forward to a "good year".



**\*Phil Ainslie - Secretary**

Born in Indiana, I graduated from Purdue University School of Pharmacy. Practiced as a Clinical Pharmacist with a specialty in diabetes and diabetic Complications Management. I became interested in beekeeping in college while taking an entomology class. I actually started beekeeping as a retirement hobby before moving out to our ranch when I received a complete hive from a neighbor. I am now into my 13th year of beekeeping. I have been a mentor, treasurer, president, and secretary in WCABA. In addition, I teach Beekeeping 101, and serve as our webmaster (still learning). Still beekeeping and still learning.





### **\*Barbi Rose - Treasurer**

Barbi Rose is an IT Analyst for a Government Contractor, specializing in data research, process automation, and ERP system support. In addition to her professional career, Barbi is deeply involved in the beekeeping community. She currently serves as a Director for the Texas Beekeepers Association, contributing to strategic planning and special projects. As the ongoing Treasurer for the Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association, Barbi manages finances and reports on the organization's financial health.

An avid beekeeper, Barbi maintains two thriving hives in Corinth, contributing to local pollination efforts and fostering environmental sustainability.



### **\*Matt Ludlum - Historian**

Annual Survey and Zoom/Meeting Facilitator.

I have been a beekeeper for 9 years. I know enough to tell you that the pointy end of the bee hurts and that the bee who hijacked a ride on your suit will find you in the car before you find her. I have a lovely wife and two children, one of whom is slowly putting me into insolvency via his hunger for honey yogurt.



### **\*Chris Huck – Librarian**

Chris Huck is the WCABA Librarian and has managed to keep books available to members at the meeting since mid 2020 and serves on the Exec. Board. Actively keeping bees and making honey.



### **\*Ann Bierschenk – Director at Large**

I was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas. Attended the University of Texas at Austin and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Home Economics. Married Tom Bierschenk in August 1979. Raised 5 children who are all grown and married. Presently have 12 grandchildren. Was a stay-at-home mom and church volunteer. Took up beekeeping as a hobby. Joined WCABA about 11 years ago to learn more about bees and beekeeping.



**\* Ken Browning- Dir. at Large**

I live in Liberty Hill with my wife Carolyn. We have two sons and 2 grandkids. I have always been fascinated with honeybees, so once I was fully retired, I started beekeeping in 2022.



**Gary Bible – Procurement Specialists**

I was born in Austin a long time ago. Fled Austin traffic and now living in Liberty Hill. Started beekeeping in 2006. WCABA Club President for 2 years. Retired from Texas Dept of Transportation since 2001. Married to Linda for 56 years! Have a son (Scott) and daughter (Leslie), 5 granddaughters (drama) and 1 great grandson (more drama). Son Scott actually helped me spin honey this year!? Looking forward to starting Bee and Queen Procurement for the club for year number 5. I can talk bees 24/7, except when I'm sleeping (then I'm dreaming bees).

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**DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED?**

**Ed Wolfe – Robert Bost Beekeeping Scholarship**

The Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association has a youth program honoring two long-time beekeepers and WCABA members, Ed Wolfe and Robert Bost, who both actively promoted learning about bees and beekeeping in Williamson County.

A scholarship is given annually to furthering the apiculture sciences with emphasis on sustainable beekeeping. This award is presented to school age students (12-18yrs) living in the area served by WCABA. The award consists of a beehive with bees and equipment necessary to complete the year-long plus project. A mentor will be made available to instruct and assist the recipient in sustainable beekeeping techniques and good beekeeping practices.

**Applications** can be obtained on-line at: **wcaba.org**. (click)Youth Education, (click)Scholarship Application (4-pages). Application must be **mailed** to the Awards Committee, by **February 15<sup>th</sup>** for consideration. Jimmie Oakley Scholarship Pgm. Chair

# Dodie Stillman Honey Caramel Recipe

I love my Aunt Nell. She is 92 years old and just told me that my tennis shoes were “about ugly!” Yes, she speaks her mind!

And I can't give her **honey**, no! She doesn't like it, and she will show you the stink face to prove it!! I had been giving her a jar every year for **Christmas**, until last year. I was helping clean her house and found 8 bottles of my honey stuffed in the back of a cabinet! So, I took it all home with me and stopped giving her **honey**. She likes other things, so I still strive to gift her with things she actually likes.



She loves candy and has had a candy dish filled with candy for as long as I can remember. Her favorite candy is a **Werther's Original** caramel. This year, I decided to try to make her some caramels and sneak in some honey.

It worked!! She loved them!!

I made half with pecans, and half topped with salt crystals. They are both good, but I love pecans, so the nut side wins for both me and Aunt Nell!

## HONEY CARAMELS.

- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 ½ cups **honey**
- 2 cups heavy cream
- 1 cup butter
- vanilla extract, measured with your heart!



*Optional toppings: salt crystals, pecans, other nuts, chocolate chips, crushed pretzels.*

*Butter a 9x13 inch dish.*

*In a large heavy saucepan, combine sugar, honey, 1 cup cream and butter. Bring to a boil, stirring often, then stir in remaining 1 cup cream. Heat, without stirring, to 250 degrees F, or until a small amount of syrup dropped into cold water forms a firm but pliable ball. Remove from heat, stir in vanilla, and pour into prepared dish. Let the caramel cool a bit then add any optional toppings.*

*Refrigerate.*

*Dodie*

# Membership Report: Shirley Doggett

December 2024

## Renewing Members

Tina Lim and Geoffrey Stewart  
Ken Dennis and Linda Becker  
Helen Dorrance and Scott Bowman  
Karen Marquardt  
Renate Sims  
Jim and Lorna Smith  
Chris Lamb  
Don Parsons  
Matthew Ludlum  
Tim and Susan Kruger  
Roger Marcum  
Judith Haller  
Leona Stidham  
George Creel  
Linda and Ron Russell  
Judee and Dusty Brinley  
Gary Carlile  
John and Karrin Pate

Austin TX  
Coupland TX  
Leander TX  
Round Rock TX  
Round Rock TX  
Georgetown TX  
Hutto TX  
Georgetown TX  
Austin TX  
Hutto TX  
Leander TX  
Austin TX  
Georgetown TX  
Georgetown TX  
Georgetown TX  
Georgetown TX  
Liberty Hill TX  
Georgetown TX



Shirley Doggett - Membership

**\*New members**- please remember that Texas Beekeepers Association still gives one-year free membership to those people that are new to beekeeping. Let me know if you are interested in this.

Best Wishes for the holidays and New Year

*Shirley*

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Dues \$20.00 per year - individual or \$25.00 - 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:

Mrs. Shirley Doggett - Membership - 400 C. R. 440 - Thrall, TX 76578



## Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association

### Treasurer's Report - As of December 21, 2024

#### Profit and Loss

ACCOUNTS	Year to Date
<b>Income</b>	
Program Income - Bee Procurement (2024)	\$56,830.00
Program Income - Membership Dues	\$4,070.00
Program Income - Scholarship Program	\$24.00
Total Income	<u>\$60,924.00</u>
<b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>	
Total Cost of Goods Sold	<u>\$48,013.20</u>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<u>\$12,910.80</u>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	
Donations and Gifts	\$3,412.79
Dues	\$50.00
Insurance	\$1,688.00
Library Resources	\$111.77
Meeting Supplies and Refreshments	\$487.40
Permits	\$257.76
Scholarship Program Expenses	\$1,454.91
Speaker Fees	\$825.00
Travel Expenses	\$735.00
Website and Zoom	\$620.19
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$9,642.82</u>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<u><u>\$3,267.98</u></u>

#### Balance Sheet

ACCOUNTS	As of December 21, 2024
<b>Assets</b>	
Total Cash and Bank	\$46,590.90
Bee Procurement Downpayment (2025)	\$4,350.00
Total Assets	<u>\$50,940.90</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Total Liabilities	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>Assets &amp; Liabilities</b>	<u><u>\$50,940.90</u></u>
<b>Equity</b>	
Retained Earnings - Prior Years	\$47,672.92
Retained Earnings - Current Year	\$3,267.98
Total Equity	<u><u>\$50,940.90</u></u>

#### Bee Procurement Program - 2024

<b>Income</b>	
Program Income - Bee Procurement	\$56,830.00
<b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>	
Bees	<u>\$48,013.20</u>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<u><u>\$8,816.80</u></u>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Permit	\$257.76
Travel Expenses	\$735.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$992.76</u>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<u><u>\$7,824.04</u></u>

#### **Notes (as of March 21, 2024):**

BeeWeaver Purchase 125 Queens - Complete	\$4,513.20
Merrimack Purchase 300 Nucs - Complete	\$43,500.00
• Merrimack Commitment = \$52,500	
• Less In-person pick-up discount = \$9,000	
• Net Merrimack Amount = \$43,500	

# Best *Holiday Wishes* and *Happy New Year* from WCABA

## Wintering

You may think yourself lazy, or flawed. Yet your body is made of almost exactly the same elements as the stars. Your bone composition matches the coral in the seas and you, my friend, are ruled by the moon and the sun. Whether you like it or not. So no, you are not lazy, Nature is simply pulling you to slow, like the life, floral and fauna around you. It is not your moment to rise. It is winter, you are **wintering**. And you are right on time.

Donna Ashworth



*I include this greeting again from last year, because it reminds me that it's okay for us beekeepers slow down this time of the year, were wintering.*

*The Editor*