

Fort Bend Beekeepers

NOVEMBER 2010



Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 9, 2010
Location/Time: 7:00 p.m. **Bud O' Shieles Community Center**
Refreshments: M. Booth

MEETING SITE CHANGE!!

**Note that the Fort Bend Beekeepers now meet in the
Bud O' Shieles Community Center**

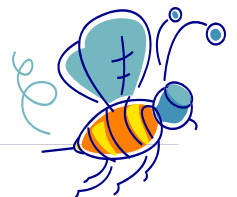
NOTES FROM THE OCTOBER MEETING

Seventeen members and guests attended the October 12 meeting of the Fort Bend Beekeepers Association at the Bud O'Shieles Community Center in Rosenberg.

Albert Smaistrila reported that the Beekeeper Booth at the Fort Bend County Fair was another success. Members talked to visitors about honey bees and beekeeping and sold their fresh local honey during the Fair's September 24 through October 2 run. In addition, a beekeeping exhibit was included in the Ag'Tivity Barn for visiting school kids. Elton Reynolds, Herman Hoot and Carol Gubbels were recognized for getting the booths set up then taken down and stored away for next year.

Jeff McMullan reported on a successful requeening of a problem hive (a deep and three supers). It had been very aggressive for months and their bad behavior presented a real challenge. Jeff encountered really bad stinging bees on his first attempt to remove the old queen and was forced to retreat. A few days later he enlisted Jack Richardson's help, but they too were repelled by the angry bees. Next, Bill McCauley offered to help on the following Saturday. With determination and two belching smokers, they began the frame by frame search amid clouds of smoke and angry bees. Fortunately Bill and Jeff quickly spotted and removed the old queen. On Monday (two days later) Jeff introduced the new queen. When he went back on Wednesday to check on her, she had been released and the bees were docile and quiet. Later in the week, Jack Richardson insisted on seeing for himself and was surprised when few bees even took flight as he and Jeff went through the hive. It was a truly amazing change of behavior.

Jeff also reported on two large late season swarms that he had hived. One had settled "in a tree" behind Faith United Methodist Church in Richmond. The "tree" was five feet tall, so it was an easy catch (the church school donated \$50 to the Fort Bend Beekeepers in appreciation for Jeff's work). The second was an easy catch too since the swarm had fallen to the ground. They marched right in to a nuc that Jeff and Jack Richardson sat down near the pile of bees.





MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership in the Fort Bend Beekeepers Association is open to all, especially those that are interested in becoming a new beekeeper. Our membership stands at 47 current and future beekeepers; dues are \$5.00 for the calendar year. The Association does not meet in December, so the upcoming meeting is the final one for 2010. At our January meeting we will collect dues for 2011. Year-end may also be a good time to double check your subscriptions to the American Bee Journal and/or Bee Culture magazines (the expiration date is above your name and address). Discounted subscriptions are available through our group as an association member of the Texas Beekeepers Association.

Jack also reported on a colony removal that was living inside an old sailboat. He ended up taking the whole thing home. Jack was also staying busy with lots of bee colonies in a Rosenberg wrecking yard. Wrecked cars offer lots of places for bees to live!

The 14th annual Field Day at the USDA Honey Bee Breeding Laboratory in Baton Rouge, LA. was held on October 23. The program included activities for beginner beekeepers as well as a queen rearing workshop and other interactive demonstrations. The annual program is a special opportunity to meet and learn from top honey bee scientists. Bill Busch, Jack Richardson and Borbala Bohus planned to attend. We should get a full report at our November meeting.

The October meeting also included a Food Network video program on bees, beekeeping and cooking with honey. For refreshments Jeff McMullan brought honey mustard (and chicken nuggets to dip in it) and cake, both prepared according to the recipes on the program.

We had two door prizes for our October meeting: Boyd Dawson won a Houston Bee Supply ball cap donated by Bill Busch and Ron Adams won a blown glass queen catcher. The queen catcher is very fragile and Ron won one of Jeff McMullan's "spares". It makes catching queens and installing them in queen cages very easy and virtually eliminates the possibility of injury.

Members were reminded that the Fort Bend Beekeepers don't meet in December, so the November meeting is the last one for 2010.

HONEY SAMPLE BASKET FOR ARC AUCTION

The November meeting is our members' last chance to have their honey included in the "Fort Bend Beekeepers" gift basket for the upcoming The Arc of Fort Bend silent auction. Beekeeper Bill McCauley is very active in this organization that is devoted to maximizing the quality of life of people with intellectual and related developmental disabilities within our community. Bring your donated sample to the meeting to be included in the basket. Don't miss out on the opportunity to have your prized local honey help support The Arc of Fort Bend.



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"Educational programs conducted by Texas AgriLife Extension Service serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin."

"Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aids or services are required to contact Texas AgriLife Extension Service at 281.342.3034 five working days prior to the meeting so appropriate arrangements can be made."

The Texas A&M University System, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the County Commissioners' Court of Texas cooperating."