

I. Walter McLendon called meeting to order at 6:39 PM. Pledge of Allegiance. 35 signed the register. New guests included Danny Mott, Dale and Rebecca Staggemeier.

II. Treasurer Report: Walter McLendon, Treasurer, reported balance of \$9085.01.

III. Apiary Report. Doyle Bruce, Apiary Manager: Presently 6 hives, 2 honey supers each on 4 hives. Honey harvest to be scheduled soon, possibly 3rd or 4th week in July. Help is requested. Will be done at Doyle's home.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. SFA Win Day Hive Update: No new updates.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. PBA Purchase of Honey Extractor: Much discussion on this topic for ideas, opinions. Most thought a small 2-4 frame motorized extractor would be sufficient, easy to transport and store. PBA will be pricing extractors and checking on various brands. Roger Gauthier stated he has a large extractor that can be used for PBA honey when harvested.

B. Program Updates: Edward Doucet related good tips on surviving the relentless summer heat. Stay hydrated, use electrolytes. Rest often.

Planned programs: 8/8/24: Planning for Dearth – Group/Roundtable discussion; 9/12/24: Winter Hive Preparation – Group/Panel Discussion; 10/10/24: Pollinator Plants – Joanie Kochanek

PROGRAM: Rachel Payne – Honey Extraction “Liquid Gold Rush”

Rachel gave an informative program on honey extraction that included using simple “on hand” items, rather than having to purchase expensive equipment. Equipment needed: bee escape board or fume board, bee brush, totes for carrying honey frames, strainers and buckets, tote or wax removal box (tote), bread knife. Cleanliness is important in extracting honey. Rachel extracts hers in her house, and briefly demonstrated a step-by-step procedure. Do not try to extract in an open building where bees can enter! Refractometers are a device to check moisture level in honey and are available on Amazon.com or other sites. A good acquisition, especially if you intend to sell. Reminded all to always freeze honey comb and wax cappings for later use to remove beetle and moth eggs.

Rachel also touched on sale of honey and suggested sellers read up on the laws and general rules. Labelling must include name, address, weight in ounces and grams, the word “Honey” and must list any other ingredients (such as flavored honey). Labels can be purchased from most beekeeping equipment companies and can be personalized however you want, or you can print your own. Advisable to have labels stating “Do not feed honey to infants under 1 year of age.”

There were only 3 entries for the honey contest due to short notice, as many had not yet extracted. We will have another contest later.

DOOR PRIZES/ADJOURNMENT. Meeting concluded about 8:45 PM.

Joanie Kochanek, PBA Secretary