

I. PBA President Walter McLendon called meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Pledge of Allegiance. Welcomed new members and guests: Angela Turner, Robert Ferrell. 41 signed the register.

II. Treasurer Report: Walter McLendon, Treasurer, reported balance of \$7466.03. No outstanding bills.

III. Apiary Report. Doyle Bruce, Apiary Manager gave report. Honey was extracted, yielding about 5.5 gallons. One single hive was combined. Several hives were lost and one tipped over in storm was also lost. There are presently three active double hives with supers on them. Doyle stated that he could use some help in checking and/or feeding hives.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

a. Meeting Location: The Fuller Springs Volunteer Fire Dept. Building is still being completed and not yet available. The Texas A&M AgriLife Office is an option, but is available only on Wednesdays or Fridays.

b. Dues. Walter has updated membership list, dropping those who have not paid dues or attended in the last year. Members and guests informed that dues are \$15/year; \$20 if Beeline is mailed. Dues can be paid at any meeting to Walter McLendon.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

A. Name Tags: Email was sent out to all to vote on name tag ideas submitted. Only 9 votes were cast. #2 tag was chosen as winner. Mike Hartman offered to assist with printing names. It was suggested that we offer magnetic tag holders as well as lanyards.

B. Snacks for October: Snacks: Mitzi Higginbotham, Bob Love. Drinks: Richard Peters: tea; Mike Hartman: water.

C. October Program: "Why Beekeepers Quit"

Doyle Bruce offered a prayer, and snacks were enjoyed during break and visitation time.

PROGRAM: Power point prepared by Edward Doucet; presented by Doyle Bruce on Pests and Pest Management.

Varroa mites were the main focus as they not only weaken the bees, but carry many viruses that are transmitted to the bees and larvae. Various treatment options were discussed, including use of essential oils. Thyme is used to make the medication thymol that is used in the hives. Oxalic acid treatment is the most popular treatment at this time. Vaporizer treatment recommended once weekly for 3 weeks to catch the whole life cycle. Be safe using oxalic acid; do not breathe fumes. Wear protective gear.

Development of varroa resistant strains of bees was covered. Russian strains are more varroa resistant. Bees using varroa resistant hygiene extract and dispose of pupae having mites. Several bee farms in Texas and Louisiana are breeding for resistant strains.

Varroa and small hive beetles peak in the heat of the summer, so beekeepers should be vigilant in treating and monitoring their hives. Keep your hive strong. May well need to feed in this dearth.

Ants can occasionally become a problem. Natural suggestion was use of chickens in the bee yard to keep bugs at bay. Can use a mixture of orthene and corn meal to sprinkle on ant mounds.

DOOR PRIZES/ADJOURNMENT. Meeting concluded about 8:15 PM

Joanie Kochanek, PBA Secretary