

I. PBA President Walter McLendon called meeting to order at 6:35 PM. Pledge of Allegiance. Welcomed new members and guests, including Joseph and Kala Meyer, Maycee Challis, Clark Ogletree, Alan and Mitzie Higginbotham, Pam Brown. Pledge of Allegiance. 42 signed the register.

II. Treasurer Report: Walter McLendon, Treasurer, reported balance of \$7568.08. Outstanding bills for bee school and apiary expenses.

III. Apiary Report. Doyle Bruce updated club on apiary. There are now 11 hives, after making splits. Some equipment was purchased, supers and queen excluders, as well as more brood boxes. Expect to harvest honey from some hives this year. Nearly 150 queen cells were grafted; many survived. The PBA honey harvested from last year was bottled and all has been sold.

OLD BUSINESS: None discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The program calendar, to date:

April: Hive splits/checkerboarding – Bob Love, Robert Jones

May: Honey Extraction – Richard Davis

June: Club Picnic

July: How to Survive Summer Dearth – Susan Precup

2. Snacks for May Meeting: Ed & Wendy Doucet, Don Lymbery, Joanie Kochanek (drinks).

BREAK: Prayer was offered and snacks enjoyed.

PROGRAM: We viewed videos on splits and placing queen cells in hives, and on checkerboarding.

Bob Love and Robert Jones discussed Spring hive health, splitting, and checkerboarding frames within hives to give more space. Some of the main points:

- Observe your hives. Check brood pattern, number of frames with brood, how crowded the hive is getting.
- Choices: Split if necessary or add a honey super.
- When you have 2 boxes with brood in both boxes, you can just split the hive like it is. The hive without a queen will make a new queen. (Walkaway split) With a new queen, it will take at least 2 weeks before she will return to hive and begin laying eggs.
- Checkerboarding adds more space and promotes wax building, hopefully preventing swarming.
- Important to stay ahead of bees. Add boxes and supers so they have sufficient space and something to do.

There was good discussion and Q&A session following program.

DOOR PRIZES/ADJOURNMENT. Meeting concluded about 8:35 PM

Joanie Kochanek, PBA Secretary