

I. PBA President Karen Mitchell called meeting to order 6:35 PM. Pledge of Allegiance to U.S. and Texas. Welcomed members and guests. 37 signed the register.

II. Treasurer Report: Communication lost on zoom with Treasurer. Balance in March was \$8734.59.

OLD BUSINESS:

a. Nomination Committee: Asked for volunteers for Nomination Committee and/or nominees for offices. Mike & Joanie Kochanek and Mary Steely offered to form committee to obtain nominations. Offices of PBA: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Program Manager, Apiary Manager and SFA Liaison. Elections are held in November. Hospitality Chairman is also needed now.

b. PBA Programs: Currently there is no Program Chairman. It was again suggested that members volunteer to present a short program or find a speaker for a meeting. If everyone assists, it will relieve the burden of this task on one person.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. PBA Bee School is scheduled for 4/17, 4/24, and 5/1 (bee yard). To date, 14 have signed up for school, as well as two for Youth Program. Texas Bee Supply in Blue Ridge, TX has very generously offered to donate all needed equipment for the youth program. Deadline for signing up is this weekend, and members were encouraged to invite interested people.

2. Karen Mitchell mentioned the survey being conducted about tallow trees through the Texas Beekeepers Association website, and encouraged members to send in comments.

PROGRAM:

Rachel Payne gave a great program on swarms and bait hives. Some highlights:

- Bee swarms are a natural part of the lives of bees. Colony size, reduction in transmission of queen pheromones, crowding, worker age distribution, and queen health are all possible reasons. When the hive swarms, 30-75% of population leaves with the old queen, leaving queen cells to take her place.
- Safety should come first when attempting to catch a swarm.
- Some tools needed for swarm collection: saw, smoker, scoop, nuc box, white sheet, Bee Quick, queen clip, lemongrass oil.
- If you catch the queen and she is in the box, the rest will follow.
- Several sites on internet that show building plans for trap boxes, such as beesource.com
- Use an 8-frame box for bait hive, not a nuc (5 frame) box, which could attract Africanized bees. (Resource for building boxes: beesource.com)
- Lemongrass oil or Swarm lure should be minimally wiped in hive to attract bees.
- Question and answer session following Program. Door prizes awarded at end of meeting.

All business being concluded, meeting adjourned about 7:45PM.

Joanie Kochanek, PBA Secretary