

West Plains Beekeepers Meeting Minutes
Aug 3, 2012 6:30-8pm at the Pizza Factory, Medical Lake, WA

Attendees: Rob Henry, Micki Sebold, Sherry Hession, David Sheppard, Joe and Marilyn Geiger, Marcia and Martin Davis, Ellen and Jack Miller, Jim Miller, Kevin Oldenburg, Margo Buckles, Priscilla Vaagen, Don and Kathy Richter

Educational Presentation: Watched “Nicotine Bees” movie. It’s a good documentary about the honey bee, the hive and how it works, and Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). Nicotinyl pesticides, containing clothianidin, thiametoxam and imidacloprid, used to coat plant seeds, are released as a permanent insecticide inside the plant. Disoriented bees can't find their way back to the apiary after sucking dew from corn leaves that absorbed neonicotinoids. Massive numbers of bees get lost and die. David Hackenberg explains CCD which started about 2006 when American farmers started using neonicotinoids to coat their seeds for corn and other crops. What can we do about it? Call the EPA and Congress to tell them to ban them. Leave some area wild when planning your yard. Buy organic. Use less pesticide.

I New Business

- Apprenticeship books. Motion made for Jim Miller to order books when he needs them to teach classes. He will call Marilyn to send the check for the books. M/S/C (Currently \$10 per book)
- Article in American Business Journal July 2012 on Miller’s Homestead
- Next year Jim Miller will limit honey extraction to members of West Plains Beekeepers
- Webpage – Need button to subscribe/unsubscribe. Also need to update our Google mail.
- Jim Miller said there is a concern that there are only 7 master beekeepers in the state. Jim is the youngest. He encourages people to sign up to become an apprentice, journeyman and master beekeeper now. We should put on the website what the requirements are for each.
- A suggestion was made to have booklet made with pictures of flowers and what time of the year they bloom so we can know when we need to feed our bees. Jim Miller is doing research on flowers. Marty and Marilyn will give him pictures to use. Jack Miller has a weather station and pictures of bees on flowers with a timestamp. He will give those to Jim also.

II Committee Reports

Education

- The educational topics for each meeting will be posted on the website.
- Recommendation that we show bee movies at the colleges to educate the public. We’ve done Queen of the Sun and Vanishing of the bees. We need to show Nicotine Bees. Don Richter will advertise it. We should do this when school is in session (Sept 26-Dec 7). Don will get dates. Ellen will check on what needs to be done to show it to the public.

III Treasurer’s Report

- \$1,100 balance. STCU charges a fee, so we won’t change banks. Rob and Marilyn will change add their signatures to the account as the new officers.

IV Recognized Jack Miller’s work as past president. Thank you Jack for all your time and hard work. Thank you also to all the past officers.

8:15 pm Meeting adjourned.