

**West Plains Beekeepers Association Meeting
December 6, 2013**

6:00 pm education section- Jim Miller conducts a presentation and discussion on honey judging.

Honey is judged on presentation, flavor, color and clarity. Moisture content is measured with a refractometer and the H₂O content cannot exceed 18.6%. Containers must be uniform (usually 3 containers are required) cut comb honey is in a class of its own and wax is also judged. The lighter the wax, the higher the quality.

West Plains Beekeepers Association has been asked by Medical Lake High School to conduct the Beginners Beekeeping Course to the horticultural students. There will be a need for volunteer instructors this spring 2014. Margo Buckles and Kevin Oldenburg will be coordinating the course.

6:30 pm business meeting – President Pollard asked for a motion on the meeting minutes of the November meeting, it was m/s/c to approve.

President Gail Pollard opens the meeting and calls for introductions to all attendees.

There was a discussion on winter moisture control of bee hives.

Old business – membership dues, President Pollard suggests that some of the officers prefer dues paid for a calendar year while others seem to prefer dues on a 12 month basis i.e. if a person becomes a member during the month of April their dues would be paid through the following March 31st.

Jim Miller makes a motion “if a person completes the beginner’s beekeeping class during the first half of the year their West Plains membership is good through that year and if a person completes the class the last half of the year their membership to West Plains Beekeepers Association is good through the following year”. There was much discussion.

Membership benefits:

1. Millers Homestead provides members of the association with a 5% discount at the store.
2. Classes (i.e. the top bar hive class that Jack and Ellen Miller hosted at their home) free to members only.

A vote was taken by roll call -- 7 yes, 6 no. The motion carried.

Swarm Catchers list – there was a brief discussion about who would be on the West Plains Beekeepers Association “swarm catchers list.” It was m/s/c to allow only members on the list.

President Pollard asked for an update on a recent radio interview with Jim Miller on 104.1 FM. The interview will be aired for the next 6 months (there was no schedule available).

WPBA attended the Chamber of Commerce “cash mob” at the Orlison Brewing Company last month. We had about 15 members attend. Fred Pollard reports that the Chamber requested that WPBA host an event as well.

Fred and Gail Pollard attended a Chamber of Commerce lunch and raised \$30.00 for WPBA.

Jim Miller will conduct a class “The honeybee and their garden” at Sun People the last two weeks in January 2014. The class will relate to honey bees foraging and gardens.

Packaged bees will be coming again this spring and orders can be made in January and continue through March.

Journeyman class – does WPBA sponsor another class in 2014? We will discuss at future meetings.

Events – Jim Miller suggests we have a honey judging for an event at Founders Day and members could showcase their bee products.

Vice President Margo Buckles suggests that the Association develop a membership card. She and Membership Chair Marilyn Geiger will work on that project and report at a future meeting.

Research Committee – Kevin Oldenburg reports on the grants he wrote and submitted: ABF has acknowledged that they have received our grant proposal.

Education Committee – VP Margo Buckles comments that we have covered the events and courses during this meeting. She has nothing further to report.

Honey Judging WPBA:

There were 5 samples of honey submitted for judging this evening Glenn, Elizabeth and Maria were the official judges and the places are #5 1st place, #4 2nd place, #2 3rd place, #1 4th place and #3 is 5th place. Thanks to all for entering their honey.

Treasurer – Joe Geiger reports that there is \$2,111.14 in the total assets.

Media Chair – Fred Pollard discusses a cash mob with the Chamber of Commerce and suggests the possibility of coordinating with Turnbull Wildlife Refuge and Ice Age Floods? He estimated that 30 to 100 folks could attend. Jim Miller interjects that we could share space at the Cheney Jubilee with those groups, but it would be great to have the cash mob here at the Pizza Factory. There is much discussion; members could sell honey and other bee products here at an event with the Chamber. All agree that we will have an event at our regularly scheduled meeting in March 2014 with the Chamber of Commerce. Fred Pollard will coordinate the event with the Pizza Factory and the Chamber.

Membership Chair – Marilyn Geiger reports that she is working to develop a finalized membership list and will work with Margo on the membership cards.

Good and Welfare – Mike Lavoie talks about a class he taught at a home school with his son Jean Paul.

Jim Miller says that WPBA started in 2009 and he sincerely thanks all of the members for being proactive and progressive and teaching honey beekeeping to people.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.