

West Plains Beekeepers Meeting Minutes
March 1, 2013 6:30-8pm at Pizza Factory, Medical Lake, WA

6pm-6:30 Pizza dinner

6:30pm Educational Presentation Rob Henry opened the meeting did a presentation on “**Spring Management of hives**”

When should you check out the hive? At 50 degrees you should look at it. At 60 degrees pull the frames for a look.

Clean the hive entrance out of dead bees. Did your hives survive the winter? Supplement feeding if necessary.

Prepare your equipment for new packaged bees. For new hives, record your apiary with a journal.

Should you re-queen or not? Some beekeepers recommend requeening every 2 years. Observe hive strength.

Feeding – Frame feeder, boardman, patties, candy board/sugar board, reserve honey.

Rob mentioned the toxicity of plastic and does not appreciate plastic feeders.

Start feeding when the bees start flying and continue until nectar flows.

Packaged bees: feed until comb is drawn out or until the bees stop feeding. Caution: bees will “plug out” the comb – fill comb with sugar syrup if you are over feeding and the queen will run out of comb to lay eggs.

Ensure good ventilation. Keep a spare hive body on hand for swarms or splitting hives.

Nucs vs. bag of bees? Consider disease when purchasing nucs from anyone.

Packaged bees are preferred. Feeding is a must with a new hive.

--0-4 weeks, new bees should be established in one hive body

--4-8 weeks, consider 2nd hive body

--8 weeks, should be adding honey suppers

Swarm precaution—good ventilation. Need more space for egg laying? Add more frames if necessary. Water source a must. Look for swarm cells. Remove them if you don't want them to swarm.

Be aware of changing out 20% of your wooden ware each year.

After winter—Reverse the hive on existing hives—top hive body goes to the bottom and bottom hive body goes to the top. The queen goes up as she lays eggs, so she will be at the top at the beginning of spring. Replace old frames.

Cleanout the bottom board. Clean up any stray comb.

Observe your bee's behavior and plan any treatment that may be necessary.

A “hyperbaric chamber” will kill American foulbrood.

Rob covered some available treatments for honeybee diseases.

The Wax moth only eats used comb, not new comb. They are actually eating the cocoon in the used comb.

Chalk brood disappears when moisture is gone.

Old Business

- **Meeting minutes** for Feb are approved.
- **Jim Miller's book** *The Handbook for the Bee Loving Beekeeper* is available for sale for \$19 on Jim's website millershomestead.com.
- **Dues** for the year are due. \$20 per family. You can pay Marilyn at the meeting, or send a check to WPBA, PO Box 134, Medical Lake WA 99022.
- You can still order packaged bees at Millershomestead.com
- We'll have a table at Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge Open House in Cheney on May 18. 8am-3pm.
- Library tour in March.
- Jeremy Street brought up Northwest Profiles on television to bring awareness to WPBA.

New Business

- Rob said a member suggests WPBA purchase some standard equipment for events- props, beekeeping equipment, signage, etc. Jack and Ellen Miller offered to store the goods. The library tour will bring \$375 to WPBA. Jim Miller suggested to “label” all equipment we purchase. Motion/s/c approved to allocate \$375 for the equipment.
- Pacific Northwest Treatment Free Conference notice was sent to all members.
- Moisture in the hive? Joe Geiger read about sawdust between the inner cover and the telescoping lid and the sawdust absorbs all of the hive moisture.
- Ventilation- Jim Miller – burlap in the top of the hive. Straw in the top of the hive. Lots of discussion.
- Journeyman class? Maybe this year after honey extraction. The journeyman class is very arduous. Some complain the course is too complicated. Seems to be some interest.
- Jim Miller needs 2 people to test to retain his CNF certificate in late April.

Education Committee

- **Beekeeping classes at Sun People Dry Goods** in March on Friday nights from 6-9pm starting on the 2nd Friday in March. For more information, email Jim at jim@millershomestead.com.
- **Library tour.** Post notices for our events. Airway Heights Day Care Center on March 8, 10am for kids between 2-11yrs old. March is "bee month". Jack, Ellen, Marilyn Geiger and Gail Pollard will conduct the intro.
- **Rob Henry** will present "swarming class" in May

Research Committee – The grant for the Synthetic Feeding Experiment – we will re-submit in August for September review by ABF committee. Kevin will investigate other grant possibilities. Jim Miller suggests we are the WPBA. Individuals represent the WPBA. Don Richter suggests a letter of support for future projects from our state representatives. Fred claims he can get 2 state senators and 2 reps to provide us letters from Olympia.

Treasurer's Report

Paid all bills and bought books. \$673.26 total balance. 39 folks registered for class. Net 21

Social Media Committee

Fred focusing on Facebook . Petition KSW to continue pitching for WPBA.

Don Penning reports that last year his apples were affected by Fire blight and Tetracycline was a CNF acceptable treatment. He was concerned that Fire blight is spread by pollinators and he doesn't want to use Tetracycline if it will have a negative impact on honeybees. Cutting out infected wood and burning and bleaching cut areas is an effective treatment.

Motion/s/c to adjourn at 8:15pm.

The next meeting will be April 5th at 6:30pm.