

## West Plains Beekeepers Meeting Minutes February 7, 2014 Pizza Factory, Medical Lake, WA

Attendees: Ellen Miller, Fred Pollard, Gail Pollard, Don Richter, Cathy Richter, Joe and Marilyn Geiger, Peggy Clemons, Glenn and Gina Zimmerman, Ari Alvarez, Maria Alvarez, Ari Alvarez Jr., Ana Alvarez, Margo Buckles, Kevin Oldenburg, Mark Claussen, Marty Red, Sherry Hession, David Sheppard, Cara Hagar, Lori Cochran, Brent Callendar, Michael Lavoie, Russell and Lisa Branham, Marie and David Ellis, Russ and Jo Ekstrom, Jennifer Lawrence, Jared Jones, Sean O'Quinn, Angel Michel, Jim and Jenine Miller

6:30pm Ari Alvarez gave a presentation on the North American Beekeeping Conference and Tradeshow he attended in Baton Rouge, LA. You can go online and see more for yourself at

[www.nabeekeepingconference.com/](http://www.nabeekeepingconference.com/)

Here are some of the highlights

- Hives Tracks.com were you can go and keep bee notes. We can have a page for our club when Hive Tracks Pro comes out later.
- BeelInformed.org They collect data to see how the bees are doing. <http://beeinformed.org/>

7pm President Gail Pollard started the official meeting There were a lot of new faces so everyone introduced themselves.

- Minutes for January were approved. M/S/C
- Many people paid family membership dues for the year to Joe Geiger.
  - o **The benefits of membership include:**
    - 5% off all products purchased at Miller's Homestead
    - Special classes offered for free by the WPBA
    - West Plains Chamber of Commerce activities offered to members of organizations that are members of the Chamber
    - Listing on the WPBA Swarm Catchers list (if wish to be listed). Submit your name to our Secretary, Sherry Hession, if you want to be on the **Swarm Catcher's list** for 2014.
      - o You have to be a paid member to be on the swarm catcher's list.

If you would like to order packaged bees from Jim Miller, go to [Millershomesteads.com](http://Millershomesteads.com) and pay by pay pal. Bees will come April 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **New Business**

There is a local magazine called *Bountiful Life* that has articles on local farm and gardening. Jim Miller put an ad in the magazine for our beekeeping classes. It was M/S/C to reimburse Jim \$75 for the ad. Jim suggested we put the ad in this magazine regularly to advertise our bee classes. This suggestion was tabled until we have a chance to look at the magazine.

Turnbull Event- Floods, Flowers and Feathers Saturday, May 31 8am-3pm at Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge in Cheney WA. Are we interested? M/S/C that we will participate. We'll get volunteers later.

[http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Turnbull/visit/visitor\\_activities/Floods Flowers and Feathers Festival.html](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Turnbull/visit/visitor_activities/Floods_Flowers_and_Feathers_Festival.html)

### **Committee Reports:**

**Education Committee** Margo Buckles reported that there were two opportunities for volunteers to assist with community programs: teaching a series of classes at the Medical Lake High School, and teaching a class at a local home school. Please let Margo know if you are interested in any of these events.

The **Spring Beginning Beekeeping classes** March 8, 15, and 22. People who are interested in teaching those classes contact Margo.

Additional activities that are coming this Spring include April 12 - Hands On experience for people who attended the Fall 2013 and Spring 2014 beekeeping classes to work with Kevin Oldenburg directly with bee hives. Details about time and location will be announced. There will be a May hive and garden tour the weekend before Memorial Day. And on June 21 at Medical Lake Founders Day, Jim Miller will judge a honey tasting event as part of the WPBA booth.

Presentations for Spring April – Spring Management; May-Swarms; April-Earth day downtown; May – Hive tours at club members houses; 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in May –tour to nursery for drought tolerant plants.

**Kevin Oldenburg, Research Committee.** Margo and Kevin are donating 20 hives for the club to do the Research experiment to see if we can come up with a better feed for the bees than honey water. We need more members to take care of the hives. We need volunteers to be committed or the experiment will be ruined. The meeting for volunteers is Feb 28<sup>th</sup>. We'll build the hives Saturday March 8<sup>th</sup>. Does the club want to do this? M/S/C approved to do it. We'll have the 20 hives in two places and will install the bees on April 12<sup>th</sup>. We'll have to follow the protocol strictly and the honey will go to the club.

**Joe Geiger, Treasurer,** balance of \$2,178.91 + \$200 collected for dues today.

**Fred Pollard, Media Committee,** talked about plans for the Cash Mob event at our March meeting and is working with the West Plains Chamber of Commerce on this activity. Members can bring honey and other bee products to sell.

The airport has 7000 acres and want to make it a bee friendly landscape. Jim Miller, Jack Miller, Kevin Oldenburg and Gail Pollard will help with suggesting what to plant there.

Marilyn Geiger, Chair of the **Membership Committee,** reported new membership cards are available for 2014 members and reviewed the benefits of membership. If you have paid your membership and don't have a card, see Marilyn.

#### Extra Info

It's expected that we'll have a drought this year. Be prepared to feed your bees until needed.

Jim Miller had a handout called *Neonicotinoid Insecticides: Are Your Nursery Plants Being Treated With Bee-Killing Chemicals?* by Cheryl Long. Unless you're buying certified organic transplants this spring, you may be introducing persistent neonicotinoid insecticides into your garden — and thus into your food. As MOTHER EARTH NEWS has reported, neonics are potent systemic pesticides that spread through plants and contaminate pollen and nectar. You can read the article at <http://www.motherearthnews.com/organic-gardening/neonicotinoid-insecticides-zmgz14fmzsto.aspx>

Another article is *How to make a Cheap, Organic Herbicide for less than \$2* using vinegar and salt. <http://voices.yahoo.com/how-cheap-organic-herbicide-less-than-4287237.html>

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05. The next meeting is Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. Same time and place.