

West Plains Beekeepers Association Meeting January 3, 2014

Educational program-- was presented by Diane Stutzman from Desert Jewels Nursery and was about native plants and honey bees. She had a great deal of information and was gracious enough to allow us to post her presentation on our website so it would be available. Because of some technical issues and the interest in the program, the meeting started at 7:30 instead of 7.

The meeting was called to order by President Gail Pollard. There were 24 people in attendance and Gail asked everyone to introduce themselves. In the absence of the secretary, Gail asked Ellen Miller if she would take the minutes.

There was a **discussion about membership** and the fact that dues are due at the first of the year, except for those who attended the November Beginning Beekeeping classes. Their dues run through the end of 2014. Dues are \$20 per family and can be paid in person at the meetings, mailed to our Treasurer, Joe Geiger at the address for the WPBA on our website, or by paying through PayPal on the website. With a paid membership a membership card will be given - one to a family. Sign the names of the individuals in the family covered by the membership on the back of the card. 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)

Reminders were given to email Jim Miller at Miller's Homestead if you wish to **order package bees** this year. Submit your name to our Secretary, Sherry Hession, if you are wanting to be on the **Swarm Catcher's list** for 2014.

Margo Buckles, Chair of the Education Committee 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.

Margo also announced the **Spring Beginning Beekeeping classes** March 8, 15, and 22. She requested people who are interested in teaching those classes (besides the same people who usually teach) to contact her. **M/S/C** to approve up to \$60.00 for the printing of posters to advertise the Beginning Beekeeping classes.

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.

Committee Reports:

The next **two educational programs** will be: February 7th - Ari Alvarez will talk about his experiences at the American Beekeeping Federation; March 7th - Fred Pollard is coordinating a Cash Mob event at our meeting providing an opportunity for anyone interested in selling their bee related products to participate.

Kevin Oldenburg, Chair of the **Research Committee**, announced that we have heard nothing back from the two grant proposals that we submitted. He will be looking into having the WPBA do the test on the feeding bees sucrose on our own and will be looking for a site for the hives. More information will follow.

Joe Geiger, **Treasurer**, reported that there was a balance of \$1,867.58.

Fred Pollard, Chair of the **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. He asked about including another non-profit the Ice Age Flood Association in this activity. **M/S/C** to work with the Ice Age Flood Association on this event.

Fred also will be looking into Event Brite as a venue to post at no charge events of non-profit organizations.

Marilyn Geiger, Chair of the **Membership Committee**, reported on the new membership cards that are available for 2014 members and reviewed the benefits of membership. It was suggested that membership benefits should be included on the website so people would know.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Miller, Temporary Secretary