

West Plains Beekeepers Meeting Minutes June 6, 2014 Pizza Factory, Medical Lake, WA

Attendees: Fred and Gail Pollard, Margo Buckles, Kevin Oldenburg, David Sheppard, Joe and Marilyn Geiger, Ellen and Jack Miller, David and Marie Ellis, Ari Alvarez, Ana Lusi de Alvarez, Maria Alvarez, Ari Alvarez Jr., Michael Lavoie, Jeff and Jan Lawrence, Brianna Lawrence, Peggy Clemons, Luis Matos, Russ and Jo Ekstrom, Jerel and Donna DiModika, Lanette Virgin, James Dilgard

6:30pm The educational program was called *Old World Honey Bee Population – A Genetic Resource for U.S. Honey Bee Breeding* by Megan Taylor from the Department of Entomology at the Washington State University. Megan described that there are 28 subspecies of *Apis mellifera* (honey bee) worldwide, but only 3 subspecies are in the U.S. Higher genetic diversity equals healthier bees, but in 1922, the U.S. Honeybee Act stopped importation of honeybees, so there are no new genetics coming in to mix with the ones in the U.S. Megan's presentation will be posted on the web in the near future.

7pm Gail Pollard opened the official meeting. May minutes were approved. M/S/C
Gail noticed there was only one person at the meeting that wasn't a member – Luis Matos. Luis teaches genetics at Eastern WA University and agreed to do a presentation later on genetics.

Old Business –

- Last month's trip to Desert Jewels nursery was good. About 15 people went.
- The hive tour on May 17th had a pretty good turnout. Next time we should just make it 3 apiaries to visit, because not many people went to each apiary.
- Floods, Flowers, and Feathers at Turnbull event was a success. We should do it again next year.
- Marilyn and Joe Geiger were called by Avida, a company that has bees wax in their cosmetics and have fundraisers to raise money to fight Colony Collapse Disorder. Marilyn and Joe had a booth at the fundraiser and educated people on bees and sold honey. Avida wants to have the fundraiser quarterly. They offer 20% off to club members to facials and massages.

New Business – Ari Alvarez said some bee clubs are losing their tax exempt status if they don't file the proper forms with the IRS on time. Margo and Ari will make sure we have filed our forms properly.

Committee Reports - Education Committee – Margo Buckles

- The July meeting will be July 11th (the second Friday) instead of July 4th
- Founders Day in Medical Lake is June 21 from 9am-3pm. If you'd like to volunteer to help with a booth, email Margo at Westplainsbeekeepers.org
- Last month we talked about a screen for presentations. We'll talk about it again in July.
- August 3, 1pm – 3pm Annual summer picnic gathering for the West Plains Beekeepers. Location TBD
- The next Beginner Beekeeping classes will be Nov 1, 8, 15 and the apprentice test will be Nov 22.
- Joan Dawley from Reardon sent an email asking how to start a new bee Association of Reardon highschool students. Margo has been communicating with Joan.

Research Committee. Kevin Oldenburg reported only 1 hive of the 12 in the experiment has died. All hives have the 2nd hive body on. In August, he will send bees to WASU for study. On May 31st, feeding of the hives was stopped.

Joe Geiger, Treasurer \$3,479.70 total assets.

Membership – Marilyn Geiger – 48 family memberships, which equals about 100 members.

Media – Fred Pollard. Fred is open to ideas regarding media and marketing.

Nomination of Officers. Nomination Chair Fred Pollard read nominations.

President – Kevin Oldenburg

Treasurer – Joe Geiger and Glenn Zimmerman were nominated. A vote was taken and Glenn won.

Secretary – Sherry Hession and Maria Alvarez were nominated. Sherry withdrew her name, so Maria won.

Vice President – No nominations. Margo Buckles agreed to continue to be VP until someone else volunteers for the job

These meeting minutes were approved, so the new officers can make changes at the bank. M/S/C

Reminder The July meeting will be July 11th (the second Friday) instead of July 4th

8pm M/S/C to adjourn the meeting.