

**West Plains Beekeepers Meeting Minutes**  
**Sept 7, 2012 6:30-8pm at the Pizza Factory, Medical Lake, WA**

**Attendees:** Jack and Ellen Miller, Joe and Marilyn Geiger, Martin and Marci Davis, Fred and Gail Pollard, Sherry Hession, Tom Wilkinson, Lyn Russell, Jim and Jenine Miller, Don Penning, Susan Beeman, Kathy Miller, Priscilla Vaagen

**Ellen Miller** opened the meeting at 6:30.

**Educational Presentation:** Marty Davis educated us on the "Taxonomy of the honey bee". Marty is a biology student who is researching the honey bee (*Apis Millifera*). His presentation included the anatomy of the honey bee including pictures he took of honey bees under a microscope, so you can see everything up close. This presentation and others will soon be available on our website.

### **Business**

- Minutes approved for Aug 3, 2012
- Treasurer's Report--\$1,109.98.
- Status of the potential Fall program at EWU and the showing of Nicotine Bees. No new info. Don Richter will get potential dates. Ellen checked and we can show the movie. We will put a link on our website.
- Members want to keep the mentor page on the web site. If you are interesting in being a mentor, email Ellen and let her know how you would like to be contacted. We'd like to offer support to new beekeepers.
- Members were asked to look at our West Plains Beekeepers website and provide suggestions/comments. Ellen is maintaining the website and added a calendar so meetings will be posted as well as activities. She will also update the mentor page and is working on the links to other resources. We want more pictures on the website, but need to make them smaller, so they won't take so long to download for viewing.
- Feedback on the picnic – it was slightly attended but a good idea and we want to do one next year with more advance promotion. Recommendation that we have it on a Sunday next year so more people like Jim and Jenine can attend.

### **Education Committee**

- Motion approved to print brochures and business cards for activities Jim Miller will be involved in this month - one in Yakima (judging honey) and a small farms conference which will include beekeeping called Inland NW Small Farmers Conference Sept 28 - 29, Fri- Sat Spokane Fairgrounds More info is at <http://spokane-county.wsu.edu/Rural%20Living/> in case you want to attend. Marilyn is making two slight text changes to the brochure and will get the proof to Jack shortly so that we can get them printed and to Jim prior to his programs.
- Jim asked when we should have the next Basic Bee class? Decided to have it 2 Saturdays in March, from 10am through lunch. Needs helpers.
- Question—How do we get the public more involved? Recommended we have a Membership Chairman.
- Question—Can we use the hive registration system to see what other beekeepers are in our area? Ellen will look into it.
- Question—How many bee packages come in to our area each spring? Jim Miller said about 2,000, not counting nukes.
- Jim will do a talk on feeding for the winter.

### **Events**

- Oct 4-6, 2012--Joint Conf of the Western Apicultural Society and the Washington State Beekeepers Association at Embassy Suites Hotel in Tukwila, just East of the Sea-Tac Airport. Themes include Sustainable beekeeping, Basics for new beekeepers, Urban Beekeeping.

Our next meeting on Oct 5<sup>th</sup>, we will have a honey tasting. So bring your honey.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.