

## **West Plains Beekeepers Association**

### **April 5, 2013 Meeting Minutes**

Jack Miller gave a presentation on Bee Communication - The Dance. He explained the different kinds of dances that honey bees perform to communicate the distance and location of food and water supplies as well as how they determine the best location for a new home. It was interesting to note that different breeds of honey bees (Italians etc.) have slightly different meanings to the same communication dance affecting the ability to translate distance and location clearly to each other. How they select the best new site for a hive is an example of democracy in action with a bit of head-butting thrown in for good measure to ensure a quorum. The presentation will be on the WPBA website for people to access.

Rob Henry opened the official meeting. The minutes were approved as printed.

Rob reminded everyone that dues are due for the year. Dues are \$20.00 per family.

There are no upcoming classes scheduled however the Association is participating in the annual event at Turnbull on May 18th from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. We will have a display and encourage members to attend.

The Washington State Beekeepers Convention will be held in Federal Way on October 3-6 and interested persons are encouraged to attend. Detailed information can be obtained from the Washington State Beekeepers website.

Jim Miller reported that he had been contacted by the American Beekeepers Federation requesting donations to assist in honey bee research, lab funding, honey market, and pesticide issues. After some discussion about the role of the WPBA a motion was made, seconded, and carried to donate \$100.00 to the Federation from the West Plains Beekeepers Association.

Marilyn Geiger reported that there was \$1,413.48 in the treasury. She also read a thank you card from the daycare center that had heard about the programs that the WPBA were doing at the libraries and asked if we could do one for them. This is the first program that has been offered that was focusing on young children and it seemed to be successful based on the reaction of the group during the presentation as well as the comments in the thank you. They really appreciated Gail Pollards corn bread muffins with honey!

Jack and Ellen Miller brought the display items that were used at the five library programs and which had been approved for purchase at the March meeting. There is an inventory list of all the items and WPBA members who wish to use the items for programs on honey bees and beekeeping can check out any/ materials. Besides the items that were purchased Jim Miller and Jack Miller donated other items to round out the package. The items will be stored at Jack and Ellen Miller's house. Please contact them to make arrangements for use of the items or if you have questions about any of the items which range from display boards, charts, teaching hive, gloves, hive tool, brochures and honey straws.

There was a discussion about teaching beginning beekeeping classes in the Fall with instructors from the Association who have been assisting Jim Miller with the beginning classes already. A motion was made, seconded and carried to have Marilyn Geiger and Kevin Oldenburg lead a group to plan for the implementation of this approach to teaching the beginning beekeeping classes. This would allow Jim Miller, the current beginning beekeeper instructor, to focus on the journeyman classes.

There was a lengthy discussion concerning how to publicize WPBA events, especially classes. The suggestions ranged from options within social media such as Facebook and blogs to traditional print media. One idea was to contact the Cheney Parks and Recreation for inclusion in their booklets. Fred and Gail Pollard said that they would begin working on a blog using Word Press which is available on our administrative account on the web site.

A question was asked about how to reduce the concern that neighbors have with keeping bees. Many people had suggestions most of which involved educating the habits of honey bees and the difference between the behavior of honey bees and other stinging insects such as hornets and wasps. Various members also suggested that the WPBA is a resource for people with those concerns and to have people with concerns contact us.

Upcoming educational programs at our monthly meetings: May - Rob Henry on Swarms; June - Gina Jackson on Flowers; July - Fred Pollard on How Honey Bees are Attracted to Flowers

There was interest expressed in having a hive tour again this summer. This will be a topic for our May meeting.

Jeremy Street offered to provide a copy of the radio interview that he did with Rob Henry so that we can put that on our web site.

Jim Miller said that he is planning on offering the Journeyman Class the 2nd and 3rd Saturdays in October. Location and times will be forthcoming. Jack Miller also said that a class on Top Bar Hives would be offered this Fall. A date will be set and people will be informed.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Miller, acting secretary