

Brazos Valley Beekeepers Association

Meeting Minutes

Date: Sept 13, 2014

Location: 5105 Wallis Rd, Bryan, TX

Attendees: Members: Chris & Dalene Barnes, Chuck Durham, Garland Martine, Steve Payne, Kory Gill, Jim Anding, Sandra & Stacy Smith.

Guests: John Paarlberg, James Titus

Order of Business:

- (1) President Chris Barnes called the meeting to order at 12:15 suggested that strict adherence to order of business per the ByLaws be waived. The suggestion was met with unanimous consensus, so we took a break to eat lunch.
- (2) The meeting was moved outside where Vice-President Chuck Durham lead a hands-on demonstration of how to check a hive for varroa mites.
- (3) The meeting resumed at approximately 1:30pm. The 2 guests were introduced and both submitted applications for membership to the club.
- (4) President Chris Barnes talked about the recent news reports of mosquitoes testing positive for West Nile Virus in Brazos County, as well as the spraying that took place in College Station. The County Health Inspector will now contact the president of BVBeeks so that the club can remain informed about any future positive West Nile test results, as well as the planned response from the cities and county officials.
- (5) Jim Anding announced that he has collected seeds from the Vitex bushes and is making them available to club members, at no charge. Some discussion on the benefits of this plant to bees followed.
- (6) President Chris Barnes then asked for a discussion on brain-storming ideas that the club can use to generate funds, apart from relying on membership dues. Several good suggestions were presented including:
 - a. Hosting a beekeeping school, similar to the one hosted by the Central Texas Beekeeping School. Much discussion ensued regarding this including proposing that if we were to host this, the best time of year (probably the fall), a location (the Honey Bee Lab at the Riverside Campus), etc. Chuck & Chris were directed to meet and discuss this with Micheal Kelling of the CenTex Beeks group.
 - b. Hosting a series of beginning beekeeping classes. After considerable discussion, we decided to investigate the possibility of
 - i. The classes being held on 4 consecutive Saturdays in January
 - ii. The classes held at Producers Cooperative in Bryan (in the afternoon so we did not conflict with their other classes)

- iii. Not charging for the classes, but instead making a 'donations box' available
- c. We would solicit further ideas and suggestions on the club Facebook page and email list.

(7) Vice-President Chuck Durham asked about the policy of using the club Facebook page and email list to mention 'items for sale'. It was generally agreed that this would be acceptable on the conditions that

- a. The items be bee related
- b. Non-commercial in nature (eg. if someone has extra hive bodies, it would be acceptable to list them for sale).
- c. If the volume of legitimate for-sale items became overwhelming, we could investigate creating a separate "for sale" facebook page, similar to what the CenTex club has done.

(8) President Chris Barnes asked that we discuss plans for the December club meeting – specifically that the meeting format be a "club Christmas party". The idea was met very favorably and quickly became a discussion on scheduling and format. It was decided:

- a. The 2014 meeting/party be held on Saturday, December 6, beginning at 6:00pm. Location will be Chris & Dalene's home
- b. The club would pay for a ham or turkey as the main dish, allowing everyone else to bring side dishes or desserts. Dalene will coordinate things so we don't end up with all apple pies.
- c. Following dinner, we would participate in a small gift-exchange – the price of the item to be limited to no more than \$15. The exchange would take place in the form of the "stealing game" (details to be explained at the party).

(9) Vice-President Chuck Durham announced that the speaker at our next regular club meeting would be the new Chief Apairy Inspector Mark Dykes. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 21 to be held at Chuck Durham's home. As is our custom, those who want to come at 6:00 and share in a pot-luck dinner are welcome; the regular meeting will begin at 7:00.

(10) The meeting was adjourned around 3:00pm