



# Brazos Valley Beekeepers Association Meeting Minutes

Date: January 19, 2016

Location: First Christian Church, 900 South Ennis Street, Bryan, TX 77801

## Board Meeting:

Attendance: Alvin Dean, Chuck Durham, Carrie Foltermann, Chris Barnes, Garland Martine

President Alvin Dean called the meeting to order at 6:38pm

- President Dean asked for ideas on a “new beginner’s class”. Some of the ideas mentioned were
  - a. Hold a new beeks class on a Saturday, once per quarter
  - b. Include newbies on Saturdays with our “regular tasks”
  - c. Using ~10-15 minutes of meeting time for a short/quick “newbies class” on a very specific topic

Of these suggestions, it was generally agreed that doing both “B” and “C” were the easier things to accomplish – and that we could start with the regular meeting tonight.

- President Dean brought up the old business of the outstanding bill from Bryan ISD for our fall bee school – namely that he has had no contact with the school since the last meeting. It was agreed that we would “let it go” unless the school brought the matter back to us.
- Chris Barnes spoke about the new club website – specifically regarding the “Members Only” section and having the membership directory available online in this section. We agreed that members should have the ability to “opt out” of having their information listed. The membership application will be updated to include this option.
- Treasurer Carrie Foltermann reminded everyone that membership dues for 2016 are now due. She gave an abbreviated treasurer’s report, stating that the club had \$4721.92 in the bank (an increase of ~\$125 from the previous month).

## **Regular Meeting:**

Attendance: 45 (34 members, 11 guests)

President Alvin Dean called the meeting to order shortly after 7:00pm and gave a quick introduction of the new Board of Directors.

### Program 1:

DJ Kohlhust was introduced and gave a brief talk on the Brazos Beautiful organization. She handed out pamphlets and pointed folks at the website <http://keepbrazosbeautiful.org/>.

### Program 2:

Jonathan Walker of Walker Honey Farm (<http://www.walkerhoneyfarm.com/>), located in Rogers, TX was introduced. He spoke briefly about the services Walker Honey Farm offers as well as their family history. He then gave a presentation on the how/why/when/where of their practice of moving hives around their area to “chase the nectar flow”. Of special interest was a listing of the plants they seek out, including a schedule of when these plants produce pollen & nectar.

### Old Business:

- President Dean asked Chris Barnes to give a brief description of the new club website, focusing on the “Members Only” area. It was pointed out that this area would have the club’s membership list available online, but only to club members. Barnes asked if there were any objections to this – no objections were voiced.

### New Business:

- President Dean announced the “new beekeepers classes”, which would begin tonight. While there were no motions made, the reception of the program was quite enthusiastic and warmly received. President Dean did ask for the more experienced club members to announce their immediate plans for work on their own hives, in case newbees wanted to join them. Chris Barnes, Chuck Durham, & Kirby Foltermann all give upcoming dates, inviting new folks to come out.
  - Chris Barnes reminded everyone that the Brenham Beekeeping school was scheduled for Saturday, April 16.
  - Also, there is a short (1 hour) introductory beekeeping class scheduled for Saturday, March 5 at 11:00am at Producers Cooperative, in Bryan, TX
- President Dean reminded everyone that 2016 membership dues needed to be paid to the new club Treasurer, Carrie Foltermann

Club-provided “newbee class”:

President Dean asked Chris Barnes to give the first “newbee class”. Chris chose to speak on the subject of how to pick the first set of equipment and the choices that have to be made. He then gave HIS recommendations on what a newbee should buy when first getting started.

There being no further business, the door prizes were awarded and the meeting was adjourned. .

Submitted: Chris Barnes