

# *Grant County Beekeepers*

## **Meeting Notes**

### **11 September 2019**

**In attendance:** 13 beekeepers and "friends of bees."

**Meeting start time:** 6:00 P.M.

#### **General discussion and announcements:**

- Susan opened the meeting, and introduced David Martin, a new member of Grant County Beekeepers (GCB). He brought a "swarm trap," to show, similar to a Nucleus hive box, but with three inches of additional space in the bottom. The additional space is to let "scout" bees know that there is enough room in the box to accommodate the colony. It has room for five frames, and his has a mixture of frames with foundation, and frames without foundation.

Mr. Martin says he keeps these all around Grant County, some as far as fifty miles away. He checks on the nearest ones about once a week, and the ones farther away once every two weeks. He places a feed sack between the top cover, and the frames to keep the bees from gluing the top cover, and frames together with propolis. He uses frames with older comb, which the bees like, and uses swarm lures such as Swarm Commander, and lemongrass oil. His swarm traps can be mounted on a tree using a ratchet strap, or can sit on a barrel or other object to keep it off of the ground. The months of April, May, and June are the best swarm capturing months, but he keeps his out through the fall.

- Susan briefly discussed the September 9th Town Council Meeting. There was a vote on the beekeeping NOI, and it was passed with Mayor Ladner casting the tie breaking vote.
- Susan brought several "People and Bees" signs that were commissioned and paid for by Jeanie Miller. A few were passed out to members who could display them either at their homes or places of business. We voted to spend \$50.00 from our petty cash fund to have ten additional signs printed by J & J Signs. Karen will ask Rocky of Morningstar if he would be willing to display one in his window, and Ken will check with Tractor Supply to see if they will display a sign.
- Susan announced that Grant County Beekeepers will have a table at the Gila River Festival. It will be held at Gough Park on Saturday September 21st from 4:00-7:00 PM. GCB will raffle jars of honey, so we will be considered a fundraising organization. Because of this, we will pay a slightly higher fee to have our table. Karen will contact Danye Wrealis to make our payment.
- The hat was passed to collect donations for our petty cash fund. Karen gave our fund balance, and to date, we've collected \$283.00. Payment for the People & Bees signs, and for the Gila River Festival table charge will come from these funds.

# *Grant County Beekeepers*

## **Meeting Notes**

**11 September 2019**

- The book, and movie entitled *The Secret Life of Bees* was recommended by Susan.
- The floor was opened for comments. Some members commented on the dearth that we seem to be experiencing, and many stated that they have been feeding their bees all summer. Susan said that she had put out sugar syrup for her bees, but they had consumed little of it, probably because of the abundance of bee friendly plants in her yard. Others reported that their feeders were empty within hours of putting them out. Susan recommended to all that they plant as many bee friendly plants as they could. Also noted; there are only two beekeepers in our group, Susan and Rowena, who are affected by the new bee ordinance. No one was aware of anyone else in the town limits who were keeping bees. It appears that this year long ordeal to create, and pass the bee ordinance was for two or three in town beekeepers What a waste!
- Three videos were presented at the meeting;
  - Our first video of the evening was entitled *Swarm Intelligence*. It was narrated by Thomas Seeley, and dealt with the issue of swarming. It explained how the scout bees would come back to the swarm, and signal where a potential new hive location was by performing the “waggle” dance. The direction of the site, and it’s distance were communicated through this dance. The longer the scout performed the dance, the better she thought the site to be. Many scouts were sent out to find potential hive sites, and the best was selected using a democratic process much like our election process, only the scout bees are totally honest.
  - The second video was short, but very interesting film called *Honeybee Mating Behavior*. It captured the maiden flight of a queen bee, and her drone partner. The mating process was described, and documented with amazing photography!
  - The third video was a “Ted Talks” called *The First 21 Days of Life*. It showed bee development from egg to adult bee via time-lapse photography. This fascinating film showed us in detail things we usually can’t see; day-to-day growth of the egg, to larva, and pupa states, finally emerging as a fully developed adult bee. Even seen in the video was a Varroa Destructor mite living and feeding on a developing larva/pupa. This detail is normally hidden from us as it occurs in the dark inner space of the brood box.
- We discussed how many more meetings we would hold before taking our winter break. It was agreed that we would have a regular meeting in October, and that for the November 13th meeting, we will have a potluck dinner. We will shut down for December, January, and February with regular meeting resuming in March of 2020

# *Grant County Beekeepers*

## **Meeting Notes 11 September 2019**

- Earlier in the evening, raffle tickets were passed out to all those in attendance. Ken Sexton brought several beekeeping related prizes such as butane lighters, fireplace matches, and a variety of bee friendly flower seeds. Tickets were drawn, and prizes were awarded. Many thanks to Ken for providing the prizes and raffle!
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

### **Next meeting- October 9th, at 6:00 PM**

GCB Meeting Location: Silver City Annex Building  
Administrative Offices  
1203 N. Hudson

(Please note, the building entrance is actually on 12<sup>th</sup> St.)

The agenda for this meeting will be emailed when available.

We invite everyone to visit our website. Become a member - it's free!

[www.grantcountynmbeekeepers.org](http://www.grantcountynmbeekeepers.org)

Respectively submitted,

*Barbara*

Barbara Maxfeldt

[bdmaxfeldt@gmail.com](mailto:bmaxfeldt@gmail.com)