

# Grant County Beekeepers

## Meeting Notes

13 June 2018



**In attendance:** 15 beekeepers and “friends of bees.”

**Meeting start time:** 6:05 P.M.

### Guest speakers:

#### Rowena Cardoza, beekeeper:

- Rowena showed a 10-minute video of her process in splitting her Langstroth hive.
- She described pertinent aspects including queen cups and queen cells.

#### France Higgins, beekeeper:

- Frances gave a demo of her Flow® hive (as seen in photo at right).
- She disassembled the hive to demonstrate the parts and functions.
- The Flow hive was designed to harvest honey without the need to access the inside of the hive. For more information, visit the Flow hive website:  
<https://www.honeyflow.com/>



#### Ken Sexton, beekeeper:

- Ken gave a presentation and demo on easily building a native bee house or “bee hotel” using basic tools: saw and drill.
- He brought two wooden crates, bought locally (as in photo at right), small blocks of wood, tree and yucca branches, and stalks of a plant that resembles bamboo, all cut to varying lengths to place in the crate. By drilling holes of varying diameters in the blocks and branches, different varieties of native bees would be attracted to the holes for laying eggs.
- Ken brought handouts for attendees to take (also available online):
  - “Nests for Native Bees”  
[http://xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/10/nests\\_for\\_native\\_bees1.pdf](http://xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/10/nests_for_native_bees1.pdf)
  - “How to Make and Manage a Bee Hotel: Instructions that Really Work”  
<http://www.foxleas.com/make-a-bee-hotel.asp>
- For more information and building instructions, visit this *National Geographic* website:  
<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/media/build-your-own-bee-hotel/>



### General discussion and announcements:

- Because the agenda was so full for this meeting, no time was spent in general discussion.
- Next beekeeping-mentoring session: Sunday, July 15, at 10:30 A.M.  
Tom and Barbara Maxfeldt will host this session at their home and hives in the Arenas Valley. Please contact Susan Clair, if you’re interested in attending.

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- The fundraising hat was passed around, to collect money for our use of the facility. Because our group is relatively new, we had been excused from paying the fee from August through February. Since March and from now on, we need to cover the costs of using the facility. *Thanks, everyone!*

\$23.00 left over from the hat collection at our May meeting  
+ \$17.50 collected at this May meeting  
\$43.50 total  
- \$40.00 deposited into The Commons donation box, in a marked envelop from our group  
**\$3.50 remaining**, to be applied toward next month's facility-use fee.



### Next meeting, July 11 – presentations:

- WNMU Grounds Director Kristi Dunn, who presented at our January meeting, will provide an overview of how she is making the WNMU campus more pollinator friendly—in alignment with the *Bee Campus USA* resolution—by reducing the use of chemicals, increasing pollinator-friendly plants and trees, and more.
- Because several people have expressed interest in becoming beekeepers and are new to our meetings and mentoring sessions, we'll have demos of Langstroth and top-bar hives, explaining the advantages and possible disadvantages of both kinds of hives.

Location: The Commons (Volunteer Center) - 501 E. 13<sup>th</sup> St. (at Corbin).

Note: Because we're in "honeybee season," our meetings will have a substantial portion of time devoted to hive health, working the hive, beekeepers' experiences and observations at their hives, best practices of beekeeping, and Q&A from attendees. We'll love to hear from you, to make these information-sharing sessions interesting, useful, and lively. Come join us!

### Deferred action items:

- Contact David Esperanza at Esperanza Winery, in Mimbres; he likes to work with small groups and might have suggestions for collaborations.
- Check Grant County Fair website (<https://www.grantcountyfairnm.com/>) or contact Sue Richins, Secretary, for Grant County Fair (575.574.2005), to get booth information for 2018.

In closing, we invite everyone to visit our website, to join in with conversations and find educational resources, honeybee rescuers, great photos, and lots more. Become a member—it's free!

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

**Meeting adjourned:** 7:30 P.M.

Respectively submitted,

*Susan*

Susan Clair

505.321.8649

[clair@nmia.com](mailto:clair@nmia.com)