

Grant County Beekeepers

Meeting Notes

10 April 2019

In attendance: 19 beekeepers and "friends of bees."

Meeting start time: 6:02 P.M.

General discussion and announcements:

The following is a synopsis of the discussions held at our April 2019 meeting. Items won't necessarily be in the order that they were discussed, but are presented in a manner to improve readability.

- Susan Clair announced that it has been decided to go back to a non-hierarchical structure for Grant County Beekeepers (GCB). The original reason for naming club officers was to comply with requirements established by the New Mexico Beekeepers Association (NMBKA) to become a sub-group of their organization. For the time being, this has been put on hold until the NMBKA has had more time to fully establish their requirements. There are currently three potential sub-groups, and all have been supplying feedback to the NMBKA.
 - Susan will facilitate our club meetings, and will send out monthly emails containing interesting bee/pollinator information.
 - Ken will present topics/videos of interest to beekeepers.
 - Tom Maxfeldt will maintain the website, and will send out monthly meeting minutes.
 - Barbara Maxfeldt will take meeting notes.
 - Jerry Medina & Karen Prevost will maintain our petty cash.
 - Others will be called upon to volunteer for special assignments throughout the year.
- Susan asked the beekeepers in the group how many had lost honey bee colonies over the winter. Eight beekeepers said that they had lost at least one colony. It seems that most had lost their bees recently. A theory was presented by Susan saying that a late freeze had occurred, and that the bees may have left their protective cluster, and had frozen. If brood had already been started, the bees may have been trying to keep it warm instead.
- GCB will have a table at the Silver City Earth Day celebration. It will be held on Saturday April 20th from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. at Gough Park. Club representatives are needed at the event, so it was requested that those who would like to volunteer to contact Susan. She will establish a schedule for those participating. The table will have a top bar hive and a Langstroth hive on display. There will also be honey tasting, a donation jar, and there will be a raffle for jars of local honey, and two bee goblets donated by Susan Clair. There will also be an electronic picture viewer showing bee related, and club related photographs. GCB member Glenn Ouzts Will be making a presentation on the global insect decline at 12:30 in the park.

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- The ***Plants and Pollinators Youth Mural*** was briefly discussed. Members were asked to make a donation to the Southwest New Mexico Audubon Society to help cover the cost of the mural. *Checks should be made out to them, and sent to;

Southwest New Mexico Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1473
Silver City, NM 88062

*Please note on the check that it is for the Plants and Pollinators Youth Mural

- The basic components of both top bar, and Langstroth hives were presented. Ken showed a breakdown of the Langstroth hive including the bottom board, deep supers (brood box), honey super (medium & shallow), frames w/foundation, inner top cover, and top cover. Susan gave a description of a top bar hive which include the enclosure, bars, and top cover.
- Ken presented two videos narrated by Jim Tew of the Ohio State Beekeepers Association. The first showed the proper assembly methods for a supper. The methods are the same regardless of size, and showed how to glue and nail the four sides of the box together while being sure to have the hand holds oriented properly (facing out & high on the panel). The second video showed the proper assembly methods for frames, which also included gluing and nailing. The method for installing foundation into a completed frame was also demonstrated.
- Ken also described methods of extracting honey from Langstroth hives. The first is the "drip" method which after you uncap the honey is to just let it drip into a container via gravity. This method is okay if you only have one or two hives. The second method is to use a centrifugal extractor. We have a club unit which is hand cranked, and will hold up to three frames. This method is much faster, and is recommended if you have more than a couple of hives or want to get your frames back in the hive quickly.
- Susan discussed ideas for raising money for GCB to pay for ongoing expenses, and for supporting projects like the Plants and Pollinators Youth Mural, and for having brochures printed, etc. Applying for grants, creating a Go Fund Me page, Crowdfunding, and applying for the Amazon Smile program were some of the ideas presented. For Amazon Smile, which would provide charitable donations for Amazon purchases to GCB, we may be able to be sponsored by The Commons, and use their 501(C)(3) non-profit status.
- The "hat" was passed to collect donations to pay for The Commons' meeting space. Any leftover money goes into petty cash for future expenses.
- With ten minutes remaining of the meeting, the floor was opened for questions and answers.

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Next meeting- May 8th, at 6:00 P.M.

Beekeeper Meeting Location: The Commons (was The Volunteer Center)- 501 E. 13th 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

Meeting adjourned: 7:30 P.M.

Respectively submitted,

Tom & Barbara

Tom & Barbara Maxfeldt

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