

Grant County Beekeepers

Meeting Notes

8 May 2019

In attendance: 14 beekeepers and "friends of bees."

Meeting start time: 6:00 P.M.

General discussion and announcements:

- Susan opened the meeting with introductions since we had a few new faces this month.
- Susan discussed a book entitled *The Classroom* by Jerry Hayes. It is sold through Dadant & Sons, and deals with bee related topics, including management, biology, diseases, etc. Susan "auctioned" a copy off for \$8.00 to a member of the group. The proceeds will go into the Grant County Beekeepers (GCB) petty cash fund.
- Mentoring sessions were discussed, and it was decided to hold the next one at Karen's & Jerry's on Sunday, June 2nd at 11:30 A.M. Everyone who plans on attending was encouraged to bring a bee suit, or at a minimum, a veil.
- Ken Sexton showed his first video of the evening from a continuing series produced by the Ohio State Beekeepers Association, "The Basic Hive, and Its Parts," presented by John Grafton. It specifically detailed a Langstroth hive, comprised of the following parts:
 - Bottom board (both plain & screened were shown).
 - Deep hive body - 9" depth used as a brood chamber for;
 - Honey storage
 - Bees & Brood
 - Queen
 - Pollen storage
 - Entrance reducer (for winter & to keep mice, and other pests out)
 - Second deep hive body (added as colony grows)
 - Queen excluder
 - Honey super (6 5/8" deep box used for storage of honey placed on top of deep brood bodies).
 - Inner top cover
 - Outer top cover (normally clad in metal to prevent weather damage).
- Our guest speaker for the evening was Lone Mountain Nursery owner, Trish Hurley. She specializes in habitats, and the use of native plants. She stressed the importance of pollinators, and stated that native plants provide much better nutrition for them than ornamental plants do. The importance of using organic soil was also stressed. Trish said that gardens for pollinators should be planned so that there are always plants blooming through the spring and summer months. Some early flowering plants mentioned were:
 - California Poppies (currently blooming)
 - Apache Plume

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Meeting Notes

8 May 2019

- Chocolate Flower Plant (smells like chocolate with yellow daisy like flowers, and is also currently blooming).
- Canyon Penstemon
- Garden Sage (deer "resistant" due to the smell)

- Structural Habitat (shrubs)
 - False Indigo (a nitrogen fixer with purple flowers)
 - Desert Hackberry (edible berry)
 - Yarrow (a living mulch that attracts ladybugs, and grows as a ground cover. It grows by rizomes and spreads and is hardy enough to walk on).

Trish stated that native bees need dirt, so landscape cloth should not be used in your garden. Cardboard is a good substitute as it works as a mulch, and naturally decomposes.

Trish brought native plants for sale, and stayed to participate in the seed/seedling exchange. She said that they participate in the Silver City Farmer's Market, and the farmer's market held in the Ace Hardware parking lot on Wednesdays. The Lone Mountain Natives website is; <http://www.lonemountainnatives.com/>

- At this point in the meeting, a break was taken so that members could look at the plants that Trish brought, and to participate in the seed/seedling exchange.

- The meeting resumed with Ken presenting his second video of the evening. It also discussed Langstroth hive bodies, but went into more detail about the different sizes of supers available. They range from medium supers to shallow, and super shallow supers. The main advantage to using supers is to make handling easier due to lower weights when full than with the deep hive bodies. The super shallow supper is normally used for making comb sections for those who want to harvest comb honey. Another topic was the different types of foundation available, from plastic to natural beeswax, and the wiring of the foundation if centrifugal honey extractors will be used. Colors for deeps and supers were covered, with whites and pastels the preferred. Dark colors get too hot in the summer. Some people color code their hive bodies according to size. It was stressed that hive bodies do not need to be white as we have commonly seen.

- Susan announced that Frances Higgins will now be sending out our monthly meeting reminders, and other announcements.

- Donations were collected to pay for the Commons meeting room.

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

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Meeting Notes

8 May 2019

Next meeting- June 12th, 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

Respectively submitted,

Barbara

Barbara Maxfeldt

bdmaxfeldt@gmail.com