

Grant County Beekeepers

Meeting Notes

9 May 2018



In attendance: 17 beekeepers and “friends of bees.”

Meeting start time: 6:10 P.M., a little late owing to A/V projection difficulties. Many thanks to Kristin Lundgren, staff at The Commons, for coming in on an “emergency call” to fix the problem.

Guest speakers:

Kendra Milligan, Neighborhood Orchard Project:

- Kendra gave an informative talk and slide show describing the origins and benefits of neighborhood orchards and gardens in Silver City’s Penney Park, the previously vacant lot at Pope and 12th Streets, and 6th St. Elementary School; Santa Clara Central Park; Hurley Elementary School; and San Lorenzo.
- She emphasized the benefits of planting native plants whenever possible and striving for pollinator-friendly gardens and orchards—not simply manicured parks; they serve difference purposes.
- Kendra recommended the book *The Sea of Grass*, by author Conrad Richter.



A few of Kendra’s slides showed curb cuts, which are made in existing curbs to facilitate improved drainage (see photo). She mentioned Van Clothier’s company, Stream Dynamics, which has made curb cuts in many locations in Silver City. (Stream Dynamics website: <http://streamdynamics.us/blog-entry/water-harvesting-curb-cut-construction>)

Janna Mintz, Bee-Friendly Plants to Easily Grow in a Home Garden:

- Janna gave a descriptive slide presentation, identifying many honeybee-friendly plants—native and nonnative—including edibles. Here are some plants she mentioned:

Manzanita – native, early bloomer
NM Locust – native
3-Leaf Sumac – native, early bloomer
with edible berries
Aster family: zinnia, cosmos, and
native thistles
Clover: yellow & white
Licorice hyssop

Globe mallow – native
Cat mint, lavender
Russian sage, hollyhocks
Meadow sage, potentilla
Morning glory, goldenrod
Caryopteris (a.k.a. bluebeard,
blue spirea, and blue mist)

Mediterranean plants:
Rosemary, thyme, oregano
Chives: onion & garlic
Fruit trees
Arugula, radishes
Most vegetable plants (Note:
honeybees do not pollinate
tomatoes; bumble bees do.)

- Janna also distributed a list of “Plants for Bees,” compiled by the NM Beekeepers Association.

General discussion:

- Seed & seedling swap: several attendees brought in bee-friendly seeds and seedlings to share: Rosemary, chives, hollyhocks, parsley, mint, California poppies, and more.
- Karen Prevost described the May 8th honeybee rescue by Karen, her husband Jerry Medina, and Susan Clair, after Susan received a call from local arborist Cheyenne Thomas, describing an infestation of honeybees at the residence of one of his neighbors. The rescue was unusual because most of the bees had vacated their hive in the dead tree on the property, after the property owner applied Pyrethrin, a potent insecticide derived from Chrysanthemums, into the tree cavity. Despite the bees being spread out on rock slabs on the ground, they seemed OK, and the rescue was successful, with the queen safely placed in a queen clip for the hive transfer. Karen and Jerry kept the colony (photos by observer Jennifer Lamborn will be posted soon to our website: www.grantcountynmbeekeepers.org).

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- Susan Clair gave a brief update on the efforts toward achieving *Bee City USA* designation. She referred to the April 11th post on our website's Forum page, in which District 2 Town Councilor Lynda Aiman-Smith wrote that she is working with the Assistant Town Manager and Town Parks Director to assess the plantings in town parks, to replace nonnative plants with native plants. She also confirmed that the Town is not using neonicotinoid pesticides. To read the entire posting, go to the Forum page of our website: www.grantcountynmbeekeepers.org.
- Susan mentioned that she was pleased to see flowering dandelions on the grounds in front of several WNMU buildings. She said she planned to send a "thank you" note to Grounds Director Kristi Dunn for allowing the dandelions to bloom and not get mowed down as soon as they sprouted. One person in the meeting said, "Send the note for all of us!" and others agreed. (Note: Susan sent the note to Kristi the next day, and Kristi quickly responded, stating that she hopes to attend another bee meeting again and that, following the May 12th commencement at WNMU, she plans to start working more toward "our Bee Campus project.")
- The second beekeeping mentoring session of 2018 was held on April 29, at the home of Jerry Medina and Karen Prevost. The next mentoring session will be held on Saturday, May 19, at 10:30 A.M., at the home of Langstroth beekeeper Dana Bates. The guest mentor will be Craig Noorlander, current president of the NM Beekeepers Association. If you're interested in attending, please contact Susan Clair to sign up and get directions: clair@nmia.com.
- 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!*

\$28 left over from the hat collection at our April meeting
+ \$35 collected at this May meeting
\$63 total
- \$40 deposited into The Commons donation box, in a marked envelop from our group
\$23 remaining, to be applied toward next month's facility-use fee.



Next meeting, June 13 – presentations from 3 of our group members:

- Ken Sexton will give a hands-on demo, showing us how to build an *easy* bee house for native and solitary bees (photo at right shows two examples of native bee houses).
- Rowena Cardoza will show a short video of her experience in splitting the colony in her Langstroth hive.
- Frances Higgins will demonstrate functions and features of the "Flow" honey bee hive, allowing honey harvesting without entering the hive (photo at right).



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

Note: Because we're in "honeybee season," all 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!

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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

Meeting adjourned: 7:35 P.M.

Respectively submitted,

Susan

Susan Clair

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