

Grant County Beekeepers

Meeting Notes

12 June 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 a discussion about capturing a swarm of bees in her neighbor's butterfly bush. Her neighbor suggested a book titled *Buzz*, and she recommended it.
- Susan discussed the upcoming town council meeting scheduled for June 25th. The "bee" NOI will be on the docket. **(Note: Since our meeting, the vote on the beekeeping NOI has been postponed until the July 23rd town council meeting).** She said that she met with mayor Ken Ladner, and he said there will be a bee ordinance. We will have to work with Lynda Aiman-Smith to work out the details of the final version of the ordinance. Ken Sexton says that he is afraid that having the ordinance in effect might create a "false sense of security." The council meeting will begin at 6:00 P.M., June 25th at the Grant County Administration Center, 1400 HWY. 180E., Silver City, NM. All beekeepers, and friends of bees are urged to attend. Please be there by 5:40 P.M. Ken will speak, and all others who wish to comment are encouraged to do so. If you email town council members, please remember to copy Mayor Ladner. His email address is kenladner@hotmail.com.
- Ken discussed ways our group might make extra money for our treasury. He talked about a group of artists on Bullard Street who send their artwork for printing, to a place called "Collage." They will print most anything. The bigger the order, the larger the price break will be. He suggested that we submit photos or artwork to be placed on shopping bags, coffee mugs, calendars, etc. As an example, we might pay \$6.00 for an item, and then mark it up to sell for \$12.00. These items could be sold at any number of community events.
- Susan discussed the pollinator mural. She said that the Southwest Chapter of the Audubon Society has a 501(C)(3) non-profit designation, and donations to them will be tax deductible. If you make a donation for the mural, make your check out to them, and designate it for the mural project.
- Our scheduled speaker for the meeting canceled earlier in the day. She was going to speak about the dangers of the herbicide, "Roundup." It is dangerous to humans, pets, wildlife, etc., and you can go online to read more about its harmful effects. Bayer and Monsanto (and others), are responsible for manufacturing some of the most dangerous herbicides. Roundup was originally produced by Monsanto, which Bayer acquired in 2018.
- Ken requested a volunteer to help him do an inventory of all the donated beekeeping equipment that has been put into storage at the Commons. Jerry Medina volunteered to help.

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- Tom gave an update on the “tennis court” swarm. Originally, this swarm was going to be donated to the Commons, but is too “hot” to put in a public area. Lynn of Redrock
Honey will donate a NUC hive if we will supply the queen. Tom and Barbara will obtain a queen, and provide it to Lynn for the Commons’ NUC.
- Ken showed his first video of the evening from the continuing series produced by The Ohio State Beekeepers Association. The video, *Evaluating a Queen’s Performance Part 1, (Determining the need for a new queen)* was presented by John Grafton.
- The second video, *Evaluating a Queen’s Performance Part 2 (Stabilizing the weakened colony until a queen can be purchased)*, was shown. These videos can be viewed online at; https://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/beekeeping_class/
- Travis Kirkland discussed his upcoming summer WILL class titled, *Beekeeping in Southwest New Mexico*. The first of four classes will be held on July 11th. Those wishing to attend need to become WILL members. Travis’ class will cover keeping bees in Langstroth hives with an emphasis on the unique challenges facing beekeepers in this part of the state/country.
- Susan discussed her upcoming summer WILL class titled, *Honeybees in Your Garden, in Managed Hives, and Around the World*. Her first of four classes will be held on July 15th. It will not be a technical beekeeping class like Travis’, but will be more tailored towards educating the public about this history of beekeeping around the world, and the current plight of the honeybee, and other pollinators.
- Susan opened the floor for general discussion;
 - Tom discussed finding two queens in a hive which goes against what most of us have learned. Normally, only a single queen will be accepted in a colony, but there are exceptions to this. Sometimes, more than one queen will work in a hive for weeks, or even months.
 - Jerry and Karen updated the group on the status of their rescue hive. They had removed it from a water meter box, and moved it to a top bar hive. Some of the brood turned black, and the fear was that it was European foulbrood, but the consensus was that the bars with brood were placed in the hive too far back to be cared for by the nurse bees.
 - Travis talked about the challenges involved with dealing with Africanized bees.
 - Karen spoke of their problem with a red ant infestation. Several suggestions were presented on how to cope with ants.
 - Susan offered a hive tool for sale with proceeds to go to our petty cash fund. A member purchased the tool.
 - Susan announced that a mentoring session would be held at her house on Saturday, June 15th at 1130 A.M. Everyone who attends must bring a beekeeper’s veil at minimum.
 - Ken suggested inviting the town animal control officer to our mentoring session to get her more familiar with handling honeybees.

- Susan asked that as people come across interesting articles on bees, to send them to her for inclusion into her monthly interesting bee story emails.

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- Donations were collected to pay for the Commons meeting room.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:30.

Next meeting- July 10th, 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

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