

I. PBA President Walter McLendon called meeting to order at 6:35 PM. Pledge of Allegiance. Welcomed new guests, including: Terri and Chris Kutra, Jacob Bailey, Tina Morris, Scott Martin. 33 signed the register.

II. Treasurer Report: Mike Hartman reported balance of \$11089.34.

III. Apiary Report. Ricky Davis reported six hives doing well. Ready to extract, planning for Tuesday, July 15th for extraction. If anyone would like to assist, please see Ricky. Ricky reported that he has been in contact with Dr. Creech at SFA regarding apiary planning. One hive will go to their apiary. SFA will have a crew to assist with apiary, but they do need PBA volunteers on this project. Please see Ricky Davis to assist. Bob Love offered to assist with the apiary.

OLD BUSINESS: Walter stated there is still quite a bit of bee equipment available, suits, hats, gloves, etc. at a very reasonable cost. He has another order pending with more varied items.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Jesus Vasquez announced that he has some nucs for sale

B. Edward Doucet announced some of the upcoming programs, and asked for ideas for programs. Edward and Wendy will be absent in August, as they are taking a trip to Greece.

Preparing for Winter will be in October with a roundtable discussion.

PROGRAM . Dr. Garrett Slater, Honeybee Extension Specialist from TX A&M Extension Beekeeping Laboratory in Overton, TX Email: Garrett.slater@ag-tamu.edu

His program focused on breeding better stronger bees. Stated that there has been more loss in the last two years than ever in beekeeping history. He discussed various breeds of bees from different countries, their traits and characteristics. Some of the highlights:

- Commercial beekeepers reported a 65% loss, mainly due to varroa infestation
- Importance of breeding for certain traits – virus prevention, varroa resistance. Breeding goals: honey production and varroa resistance
- Varroa resistance traits: grooming, removal of mites and infected larva, more resilience to disease.
- TX A&M has collected queens from all parts of the U.S. to start breeding program for desired traits.
- Genetic testing is being done for certain markers for favorable traits and varroa resistance.

Dr. Slater invited members to contact him with questions, and that members were welcome to visit the Overton Bee Laboratory with an appointment.

DOOR PRIZES/ADJOURNMENT. Meeting concluded about 8:15 PM

Joanie Kochanek, PBA Secretary