

PBA MEETING : March 12, 2026

VFW HALL, LUFKIN, TX

I. PBA President Ricky Davis called meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Prayer was said for meal. Pledge of Allegiance. Welcomed new guests Mickey Brunelli, Stacy Wade. 36 signed the register. Ricky reiterated that our club mission is to help new beekeepers, share knowledge, educate, and discuss successes and failures.

II. Treasurer Report: Mike Hartman reported PBA Club account balance \$11057.84. Reminder that club dues are now due for 2026: \$15/year for email newsletter; \$20/year for mailed newsletter.

III. Apiary Report: Ricky Davis and Roger Gauthier reported club presently has three active boxes. Hoping to split and get number up to nine. Trap hives are being put out.

OLD BUSINESS: Walter stated there is still some bee equipment available, suits, hats, gloves, etc. at a very reasonable cost. The remaining items are in his truck for those interested. Current order is on hold as country is at war. No timeframe for shipment.

NEW BUSINESS: Hive inspection and Queen rearing class will be held 3/14/26 at Roger Gauthier's bee yard in Lufkin. Information has been sent out by Rachel.

PROGRAM: Susan Precup gave presentation on Wildfires and Concern for Bees. Stated our area is presently in a drought with high fire danger. Also, the US Forest Service has been completing some prescribed burns in the Angelina Forest which may impact some members who live in the area. Prescribed burns are advisable to lower wildfire risk, stimulate new growth, increase forest diversity. Smoke can cause bees to abscond. If hives are located near a fire, try to move them upwind. Have a dirt barrier around hives and reduce any dry vegetation. Bob Love has experienced nearby fires. After a fire, check hives for queen, brood and food stores. Feed surviving hives as food sources are greatly diminished. Fire stress can cause a spike in beetles, varroa and generally weaken the hives.

The second half of program covered forage plants in East Texas. We are lucky here to have something blooming nearly all year. Many trees, shrubs, wildflowers, herbs and garden plants provide nectar and/or pollen to bees, both wild bees and our honeybees. Presently, oak, tulip trees, redbud are blooming. Shrubs such as beauty berry, wax myrtle, spicebush are good food sources. We have a multitude of wildflowers in our area, such as lantana, coneflowers, bee balm, that are excellent bee plants. Some vegetables and herbs also feed our bees. There is a lot of good information on plants on the internet. Susan encouraged all to grow a diverse garden and suggested we share our plants at future bee meetings.

DOOR PRIZES & ADJOURNMENT: Door prizes given out. Meeting adjourned about 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Joanie Kochanek, Secretary