

Montgomery County Beekeepers Association
Minutes for April Meeting
April 17, 2023

Apprentice Beekeeper Meeting – began at 6:24 pm

Led by Ed Erwin with 25 in attendance (note: new youth members had initiation meeting at same time with youth program director Nanette Davis in main hall)

Presentation Topic – Ed Erwin of BeeHarmony.org on Bee Biology

- **Honey Bee Anatomy**
 - Honey bee body
 - Antennae
 - Eyes
 - Mandible
 - Proboscis
 - Respiration Air Flow
 - Legs
 - Pollen basket
 - Stinger
- **Wax**
- **Pheromones**

Apprentice Meeting adjourned at 6:54 pm

Monthly Meeting – began at 7:10 pm

Led by President Matt Thomas

- Pledge of Allegiance – Dan Brouse
- In attendance were 86 members and guests
- Officer's Report
 - Youth members are getting their bees this weekend
 - Youth member making sales of jewelry during meeting to fund needed bee supplies
 - Announcement of new master beekeeper qualification members
 - Reminder for members to pay dues in person with Treasurer Nadia Clark or online through our website moco-bees.com.

Announcements –

- TBA Summer Clinic is June 17, and registration information can be found on their website texasbeekeepers.org.
- Book "First Lessons in Beekeeping" is available for \$10.00.

Club needs –

- Presenters & topics for future meetings

Vendor Announcements –

- None made at this meeting

Youth Program Update –

- Youth presentations: Carter and Walker Brightman provided summary of their progress

Meeting Speaker – Ed Erwin of BeeHarmony.org on Swarms & Splits

- A Split is a Swarm
- Why Do Bees Swarm?
- Preventing Swarms
- How Bees Prepare to Swarm
- What Happens in a Swarm
- Are Swarms Dangerous?
- Why Make a Split?
- Types of Splits
- Spring is Best Time to Split Hives
- What You Need to Split a Colony
- What You Need to Split a Colony With a Queen
- Swarm Cell vs. Supersedure Cell
- Guideline - if you expect success
- How to Make a Walk Away Split with One Brood Box
- Doolittle Method of Splitting Hives
- When Splitting a Hive - Remember...
- Questions & Answers

Doug's Tips –

- Bungee cord is great for a quick repair to broken elastic on jackets
- You might be a beekeeper if...
- Use heat blower to melt/clean wax from metal queen excluders
- Recommend ice vests (Amazon) to wear under bee suits during hot weather
- Put a frame of larvae and capped brood in a box, along with a frame of food, to attract swarm to stay in new box

Announcements –

- Renew membership and earn a name badge
- Volunteers are needed to bring snacks for future meetings

Door prizes – VP Ronnie Whitman

- Honey, cat toys, and Winding Creek Apiary gift cards

Small Group Breakout –

- Swarms
- Splits

Monthly Meeting adjourned at 9:01 pm
(Submitted by Keri Warren)