

Montgomery County Beekeepers Association
Minutes for March Meeting
March 20, 2023

Mentee meeting – began at 6:15 pm

Led by Ed Erwin with 33 in attendance

Presentation Topic – Youth program member Ally Clark on Hive Inspections

- **Why do an inspection?**
- **When to and NOT do an inspection**
- **Bee suit/jacket, hood/veil, & gloves**
- **Hive inspection tools**
- **Plan your inspection**
- **Inspections**
 - New Hives from Package
 - New Hives from Nuc
 - Existing Hives
- **Approaching Hives**
- **Smoking the Hive**
- **Opening the Hive**
- **When Working the Hive**
- **Inspection Process**
- **Record Keeping**

Question & answer period followed

Mentee Meeting adjourned 7:01 pm

Monthly meeting – began at 7:14 pm

Led by President Matt Thomas

- Pledge of Allegiance – Bryce Maddux
- In attendance were 46 members.
- Officer's Report
 - Reminder for members to pay dues
 - Mann Lake isn't maintaining its same youth sponsorship level, so MoCo Bees is in need of new sponsors to fund the youth program.
 - Youth program meeting Saturday 10:00-4:00 for frame building at Winding Creek Apiary, so need volunteers to help. Nanette will lead the event.
 - VP Ronnie Whitman announced the club is reinstating availability of name tags for all members to wear during monthly meetings.

Announcements –

- Volunteers are needed for the TBA conference
- Book "First Lessons in Beekeeping" is available for \$10.00.

Club needs –

- Presenters & topics for meetings

Vendor Announcements –

- Andy Knight of Magnolia Bee & Supply discussed new beekeeper legislation under consideration in Austin. See TBA website for specifics.
- Spit & Whittle is back, 8:00 a.m. on Saturday mornings, and Julie announced she also had Italian queens for sale.

MoCo Youth Update –

- Youth presentations: Francisco Trujillo - My Bee Journey So Far
- Summary of youth program - participating youths provide their time, bee suit, and gloves, while the club provides everything else.

Meeting Speaker – Dr. Bob Rogers on Fat Bees, Skinny Bees

- Worker bees are born hungry
- References
- Why do we need to feed bees?
- Goals
- Signs of starvation
- Bees can starve any time of year
- Fat bees benefits
- Why feed in early spring?
- Why feed in summer and fall?
- Why feed in late fall?
- What molecule?
- Vitellogenin in the fat bodies
- Varroa mites feed on vitellogenin
- When to feed?
- Summary, when to start feeding
- How much to feed?
- When to stop feeding syrup?
- When to stop feeding pollen patties?
- Signs of a honey bound/nectar bound hive
- How much honey should we leave?
- How to feed honeybees?
- What to feed bees
 - Pollen patties, pollen substitute
 - Feeding syrup
 - Essential oils
 - Vitamins
 - Minerals
 - Probiotics

Door prizes – VP Ronnie Whitman

Doug Tips –

- Always clean equipment each year before use
- Always clean any borrowed equipment
- Recommended Star San as a cleaner
- If using top feeders, be careful when cleaning in using sharp objects, and use silicone to seal screens on feeders

Youth Program Update - Nanette Davis

- Local donations from Magnolia Bee & Supply, Winding Creek Apiary, and member donations have met the needs of the youth program to fund 10 young beekeepers.

Small Group Breakout – Question & Answer from Dr. Bob's presentation

Monthly Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm

(Submitted by Keri Warren)