

Montgomery County Beekeepers Association

Minutes for August Meeting

August 21, 2023

Apprentice Beekeeper Meeting – began at 6:18 pm

Led by President Matt Thomas (Apprentice Beekeeper Director Ed Erwin was away) with 19 in attendance.

Presentation Topic by Matt Thomas of Montgomery County Beekeepers Association – Question & Answer period for newer beekeepers

- Sugar water feeding recommendations during spring, dearth, and winter
- Use of resources - watering bees and water features
- Queen behavior and requeening
- Observing laying behavior
- Winter bees vs. summer bees
- Varroa mites and treatment - recommended reference is honeybeehealthcoalition.org
- Pollen substitute feeding options

Apprentice meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm

Monthly meeting – began at 7:03 pm

Led by President Matt Thomas

- In attendance were 45 members and 16 guests
- Pledge of Allegiance led by Matt Thomas
- Officer's Report
 - Email distribution list was updated. Please provide your name and email address to Secretary Keri Warren if you are still not receiving association emails.
 - Membership payments can be made by PayPal on the association website at any time or to Treasurer Nadia Clark during monthly meetings.

Youth Program Presentations

- Isaiah Cheng-Guajardo
- Tyler Thomas
- Soleil and Madrid Andress

Meeting Speaker – VP Brad Womack on Horizontal and Natural Beekeeping

- **Integrated Pest Management**
 - Be proactive with preventative measures to keep treatment as a last resort
 - Varroa Considerations
 - VSH bees are recommended
 - Discourages chemical treatment, as results in weaker bee genetics and stronger mites
- **Make use of beekeeping books as reference**

- **Natural Wax for Honey Bee Health**
- **Hints for good beekeeping**
 - Start with good bees
 - Respect colony's lifecycle
 - Allow brood breaks
 - Be able to identify a healthy colony at each season
 - Keep stressors to a minimum
 - Use good equipment
 - Regularly monitor the hives
 - Find and use good mentors
- **Hive types**
 - Layans
 - Langstroth
 - Top-bar
 - Much less expensive and easier to manage during inspections
 - Easy to make
 - Note that the standard for bars is transitioning from ¾" wide bars to 1½" bars.
- **Cycling out frames**
 - Shift newer waxed frames to front

Doug's Tips –

- Wax moths - usually beetles are seen before wax moths, but high temperatures can change practices. Observe your hives for "normal" activity, and be especially observant during weather extremes.

Door prizes – Matt Thomas

- PRIZE - hive beetle entrance excluder provided by Magnolia Bee Supply

Small Group Breakout Sessions –

- Feeding bees
- New Beekeeping
- General questions
- Top-bar hives

Monthly meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm

(Submitted by Keri Warren)