

# Tri-County Beekeepers Association

Meeting Minutes  
27 February 2018



## **Opening**

The regular meeting of the Tri-County Beekeepers Association was called to order at 6:50 pm on 27 February 2018 at the Crestview Extension Office by President, Bill Hagan.

## **Officers Present**

Other officers present were Vice-President Mike Garrett, Treasurer Ed Crosby and Secretary Margaret Stewart

## **Attendance**

38 members and prospective members were present

## **Treasurer's report**

Balance is \$3334.36. Hard copy entered into the record.

## **Item #1 Pot Luck**

Members brought in various meal items and we all enjoyed a pot-luck pre-meeting fellowship.

## **Item #2 Volunteers needed**

We will be at Eden Gardens on March 10th and 11th. Volunteers are needed to cover the time between 9am and 5pm on the 10th and 10am to 3pm on the 11th. Interested persons should contact Bill.

## **Item #3 Registration of hives**

Andrew Finch, State Bee Inspector spoke on keeping bees on private property. Unless the HOA specifically prohibits the practice--bees are permitted. All hives must be registered and you need to follow best management practices. Problems usually arise from it being a neighbor issue and goes back to things other than the bees. You can locate the regulations at [freshfromflorida.com](http://freshfromflorida.com). Do this before you call him. He also recommends that a new beekeeper start with 3 hives.

## **Item #4 DIY Queen Incubator**

Greg Liljestrom brought in a DIY queen incubator with information. If you are interested, contact Greg directly.

**Education - Mike Garrett presented on swarms and Steve Baldock presented on his method of catching swarms**

- You can't tell an Africanized bee just by looking at it.
- Swarms are reproductive, congestive or absconding. Reproductive is the normal swarm for the bees to increase populations. Congestive swarms is when the queen has no place to lay. Absconding swarms are due to disease etc. in the hive.
- Swarms may be caused by
  - Dilution of pheromone levels
  - Lack of space for the queen to lay
  - Over-crowding
  - Abundance of resources
  - Genetic tendency
- You can try to prevent swarms
  - Reversing hive bodies
  - Using young queens
  - Making splits
  - Adding supers with drawn out comb
  - Checker boarding frames
  - Equalizing
  - Using a queen excluder
- If you are interested in trying out Steve's method for swarm capture, contact Steve for details on the process.

**Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned by President, Bill Hagan at 8:10pm. The next general meeting will be at 6:00 pm on April 24, 2018, in Crestview Extension auditorium.

Minutes submitted by: Margaret Stewart, Secretary

# Tri-County Beekeepers Association

Meeting Minutes

27 March 2018



There are no minutes for the month of March due to Open Hive day being held in lieu of regular meeting.

Open Hive demonstration was well attended although there were fewer attendees than last year. This could have been due to a lot of other activities going on in the county.

Minutes submitted by: Margaret Stewart, Secretary

# Tri-County Beekeepers Association

Meeting Minutes

24 April 2018



## Opening

The regular meeting of the Tri-County Beekeepers Association was called to order at 6:35 pm on 24 April 2018 at the Crestview Extension Office by President, Bill Hagan.

## Attendance

Officers present were President Bill Hagan, Vice-president Mike Garrett, Treasurer Ed Crosby and Secretary Margaret Stewart. 30 members, prospective members and guests also attended.

## Approval of Minutes

There were no additions nor corrections to the previous minutes. Minutes are entered into the record as written pending any corrections received.

## Treasurer's report

Bank balance is \$2961.09. A hard copy of the bank statement summary is entered into the record.

## Item #1 General Information

- Honey flow has started. You should have had your supers on already. If you don't have pulled out comb, wait until 4 frames are filled before adding more. Best to put the supers on slowly.
- The main thing is to build up bees then your supers.
- Question presented: "Is there a way to treat for mites during flow?" Response is to use formic acid if you're leaving the supers on OR remove the supers and treat with other approved methods.
- Hive beetle traps can be put on at any time.
- Question presented: "Should you treat new bees?" Response is that new bees are treated before you get them. Treat for mites after honey is slung (August).
- Future meetings will include a 15 minute (or so) presentation on season appropriate information geared more towards new beekeepers.
- Question presented on how to handle a captured swarm that had to remain in the capture 'hive' longer than anticipated. Response was that the comb may be cut off and then placed into empty frames utilizing rubber bands to hold it in place. Avoid comb with honey as it will be messy. Also, could attach a pipe to the holding hive and attach the other end to a brood box. This will force the bees to go into the brood box and they will move themselves over.

## **Item #2 Presentation on Ventilation by Greg Liljestrom**

- When it comes to ventilation of hives there are lots of opinions.
- In Crestview May through September is the hot period and humidity levels are high.
- Reason to ventilate
  - Provides the best living conditions
  - Reduces interior temperatures
  - Reduces humidity
  - Reduces pests and diseases
- Remember that ventilation is an active management practice.
- If bees are 'bearding' on the front of the hive, it means they are hot.
- Ways to ventilate
  - Screened bottom boards
    - Can be opened and closed depending on outside temperatures
    - Can be used to assist in mite counts
    - Require less entrance space at the front of the hive, especially when using feeders
  - Screened inner cover
  - Shimming the cover or between boxes
  - Open entrance all the way
    - Harder to defend a large entrance
  - Mechanized ventilation using a power ventilator
    - Greg has a DIY parts list, contact him directly for more information
    - May also be purchased on-line
  - Ventilation can potentially increase production
  - You can ventilate too much! The bees will let you know.
  - One of the biggest problems is condensation, especially in winter. You want to avoid high humidity levels inside the hive that will lead to excessive condensation.

## **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:46pm.

## **Upcoming:**

May 29, 2018: General Membership meeting 6:30pm @ Crestview Extension Office, 3098 Airport Road, Crestview.

Minutes submitted by: Margaret Stewart, Secretary