

January 7th, 2010 Minutes of the ETBA meeting

President Andrew Bellefeuille called the meeting to order and lead the Pledge and gave the invocation. Visitors were introduced. 1 swarm call was reported. Approximately 57 persons were attending, a great turn-out since the outside temperature was in the teens.

Vi Bourns, honey queen chairperson reported that honey queen Kellie Lenamond was out due to being snowed in in Kentucky. She sent an e-mail which Kellie's mother, Tammy read for us. She reported that Kellie made 18 appearances in 2009 and will continue in 2010. Kellie was the runner-up for Texas Honey queen.

Vi announced the new 2010 Honey Princess, Merry Margaret; she is 14 years old and has one beehive. She introduced herself and gave us a quick report on her bees.

Cookbooks are available, all proceeds benefiting the queen program, cost is \$13.00.

Andrew and Dick Counts reported how well the Kids Learning about Bees day at the TBA convention has generated much interest in the student scholarship program. As of now there are 13 potential students who submitted applications for the scholarship program. Sponsors are needed to fund the extra students. The cost is approximately \$400 per student. Contact Dick Counts if you can help.

There was a discussion about feeding bees with many members giving their input as to how they go about this. Some use in-hive feeders, or top feeders and some use community feeders. It was mentioned that the outside temperature must be over 50 degrees for the bees to break cluster and feed. It is important to check the weight of hives and feed if necessary. Many beehives starve in the dead of winter before the spring nectar and pollen plants start to produce.

High Fructose Corn Syrup was discussed and how there are harmful chemicals found in it that may be detrimental to bees. Possibly GMO corn may be to blame or other sources. Beekeepers should check your sources for HFCS.

A picture presentation was given from the TBA convention. Kids Learning about Bees was a huge success with over 400 kids coming thru the exhibits which included activities of candle making and many other learning activities. Many of the TBA members and their children gave the presentations. Pictures were taken by Taylor Wolf, daughter of Gus Wolf.

Treasurer Don Johnson has converted the Video library to DVD. Members can check 2 DVD's; these will be checked out in a mail back envelope for those who cannot return the DVD by the next meeting. See Don to check out DVD's which include much information and a full series on beekeeping.

Yearly membership dues are now due. Membership is \$7.50 per year.

The meeting was adjourned. Next meeting is February 4th, 2010