

October 1, 2009 Minutes of the ETBA

President Andrew Bellefeuille opened meeting with the pledge to the flag and the invocation. Visitors were introduced. Approximately 4 swarm calls were reported.

With heavy heart we acknowledge the passing of Mr. Ralph Johnson, father of Don Johnson. He was a longtime beekeeper and friend of the ETBA. Ralph was always ready to lend a hand to help whenever needed.

Thanks went out to member John Barnett for providing wireless microphones for the meetings.

Randy Bobo was interviewed by Bob Hallmark on KLTV news, a story about bees to be published and on the internet.

Dick Counts discussed feeding bee's 2 to 1 sugar syrup to light hives this time of year and to finish powder sugar treatments for varroa mites by spreading 2-3 handfuls on each hive.

Dick Counts gave an East Texas Fair Report and said that about 2000 kids visited the new and improved display booth and observation hive. The new display built by Jerry Lopez looks great, many thanks to him and thanks to all the volunteers at the fair.

Kellie Lenamond is cooking at the State Fair of Texas giving a cooking demonstration; she will give us a report next month.

The upcoming TBA convention and details of the events was discussed. Details are still being determined. There will be a Bee Buzz social gathering Thursday night. Kids Learning about bees Thursday during the day. Friday will be various programs and speakers. Gloria Harmon and volunteers are finishing the table decorations for the Queens luncheon Friday. Ms. Brantley and volunteers are getting the table arrangements ready for the Saturday night banquet.

Eddie Collins discussed an article from the American Bee Journal about the small hive beetle. It seems the beetles can be clustered and kept in control by the bees. When the beekeeper opens the hive this may disrupt the bees and allow the beetles to have a chance to lay eggs in the hive.

The Honey cookbooks should be available at the next meeting.

Dick Counts brought up apiary and honey house inspections. We need to educate ourselves in proper extraction and honey house rules. There will be a presentation on this subject at the State Convention.

The meeting was adjourned; the next meeting will be November 5, 2009.