

September 3, 2009 ETBA meeting minutes

President Andrew Bellefeuille opened meeting with the pledge to the flag and the invocation. Visitors were introduced. Approximately 5 swarm calls were reported. 81 persons were in attendance at the meeting.

Dick Counts passed around a schedule for the East Texas State Fair booth. Volunteers are needed to work the booth throughout the fair.

Guest speaker Dana Nance from Bruce Miller Nursery gave a detailed presentation on bee plants and the growing importance of bees to pollinate ornamental plant crops. There are not enough wild bees to pollinate nursery crops. Some plants such as the holly bush must be cross pollinated. Ms. Nance talked about many groups of plants that bees work and pollinate, she will be e-mailing a detailed list which will be posted on the web site.

Andrew Bellefeuille presented an article that studied pesticide residue in beehives. Some had over 50 compounds present. Later he told us about a new pest that can affect bees. The raspberry crazy ant is becoming invasive. They can get in your hives and attack the brood.

Vi Bourns gave us an update on the recipe book for the Honey Queen Program. The book has been completed and sent to press. Committee members Theresa Scardina, Barbara Baker, Gayle Mekalip, Staci Smith and Pat S. were acknowledged and thanked for their hard work getting this project to completion. Members are reminded to pay for cook books at the meeting.

Vi also discussed ideas for kids day at the TBA convention. Ideas need to be finalized to get advertising in the TBA journal and to local organizations who would be interested in bringing kids to learn about bees and promoting the event.

Kellie Lenemond gave us the Honey Queen Report. She has been busy taking college classes but still finds time to make a lovely quilt for the TBA convention that will be auctioned off. Kellie gave a presentation at the Alpine Church of Christ where she talked with senior citizens about beekeeping.

Kellie will be working the booth at both the East Texas State Fair and State Fair this year. She will also be at the TBA convention representing the ETBA. She joins other honey queens from across the state in various activities at the convention.

Kellie told us about her experience as 2009 Honey Queen for ETBA. She first met and admired other honey queens from Collin County Beekeepers and learned about the honey queen program. Her experiences taught her more about public speaking and she has great memories about the people she has met during her travels. She would recommend the honey queen program to young women who would like to be involved and that the experience has been great.

Dick Hummer from Shreveport, Louisiana will be the speaker at next month's meeting. He is a beekeeper who also sells equipment.

Dick Counts asked the club if we would like to invite a speaker who would present the rules and regulations for bottling and selling honey in Texas. This started a lively discussion with mixed views on the subject.