

Minutes of the ETBA 7-1-10

President Andrew Bellefeuille called the meeting to order and lead the Pledge and gave the invocation. Visitors were introduced. 22 swarm calls were reported, this is down from last year.

The honey crop is good with light thin sweet honey being brought in. When asked if members are starting to treat for mites the overall answer was not yet.

Vi Bourns announced that 2010 Honey Queen Kelly Lenemond is out on vacation. She introduced Shirley Acevedo, Texas Honey Queen Chairperson. Shirley gave us a little bit about her background and work with the honey queen program.

2010 Texas Honey Queen Allison Adams from Parker, Texas was introduced. Allison gave a wonderful report of her experiences as Honey Queen. She told us of her duties and travels at schools, county fairs, churches and other gatherings where she shares her knowledge of the honey bee and gives cooking demonstrations and interviews for the media. She also shared how she got into beekeeping thru the Colin County Beekeepers scholarship program.

After the break, a discussion ensued about the small hive beetle and how they are affecting us this year. Some members have noticed smaller numbers as of yet, but some think the numbers will increase as the heat continues and bee populations shrink in late summer. The Dr. Hood Beetle trap was discussed. One member uses cider vinegar bought from a health food store (it is stronger and fruitier smelling) in his traps with good success.

Dick Counts will be extracting at his home on July 10th. If you are interested, please call 903-566-6789 for directions and instructions.

When to put supers on hives was discussed. Early April is a good time. Dick thinks it is a good practice to extract some honey early and place wet supers back on to stimulate honey foraging. Then extract a second crop later.

The East Texas State Fair in Tyler, Texas begins September 23rd. The ETBA booth will be open Sept 28,29,30 and October 1st. Volunteers are needed to man the booth these days.

The ETBA cookbooks have sold well. We are down to less than 100, so we need to decide soon if we want to order more.

Randy Bobo showed us his new frame design for when he get small comb from water meters or houses. It speeds up the process when he is on a job and holds the wax in better until the bees fill it in.

The meeting was adjourned. Next meeting is 8-5-10, with auction and raffle being held.

