

MINUTES OF BROWARD BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING

7/12/2015

Recorded by Secretary, Dara Kustler

Opening with pledge of allegiance.

(Secretary did a head count of 53 individuals present, three additional persons arrived subsequently.)

Introduction of all members and their description of number of hives they have.

Elections to take place today during this meeting.

Steve Weinberg, our pro bono & ad hoc attorney will handle election procedures in compliance with our new By-Laws.

Current Treasurer/member, Dan Novak, is now a published writer on the subject of Beekeeping – Coconut Creek Life has published his first of 3 articles on “Why keep bees?”

Acting President of the BBA, Harry P., has been taking calls for the BBA this past month, again. The statistics are: 65 calls from June 15 to July 11, 2015. It appears that 60-75 % of the calls to the BBA line are for help with removing bees from their homes.

To be a rescuer you have to be a BBA member in good standing and then fill out a form and describe your experience and your ability/tools level you can handle. Return it to the Communication Secy for approval and listing.

Our obligation as a club and the caller is to receive the call and transfer it to a BBA rescuer for handling it or turning it back to Harry or to another BBA rescuer. Any arrangements for the rescue are then between the rescuer and the caller. Members who rescue often do ask for a fee for their costs, or, ask for donations; Harry P. suggests that if someone is doing bee removal as a business then you should have a license. The club is not liable for the arrangements between the caller and the rescuer. The BBA is only a referral service for residents and others who contact us.

You have to be registered beekeeper in Florida to remove or rescue bees, or carry a valid and active PCO license.

Dr. Leo Gosser’s class was the next item discussed – Dr. Gosser has put together a syllabus for a bee removal class. The cost will be \$150 for the class.

Attorney Steve Weinberg spoke next:

History of the BBA is that in 2006-07 Leo Gosser formed BBA.

Due to liability exposure to himself personally we have now filed for incorporation of the BBA as its own independent, non-profit, corporation.

Formal election of new officers will take place today. 30% of membership must be in attendance or quorum by proxy. Those 5 nominees with the most votes will be the

new board today. The board will then assign itself to the offices of P, VP, Tr, Secy, Comm Secy and one unassigned board member. P and VP and TR must be members of the board. The positions of Secy and Comm Secy do not necessarily have to be taken up by the other 2 members and can be, in the alternative, assigned to members of the BBA.

We have 5 nominees. Each nominee will speak about themselves for 1-3 minutes. No questions and answers.

We have 37 members in attendance.

27 are required to achieve quorum, and so we do have a quorum.

Motion to close nominations was made. Member Julie Krantz seconded it.

Attorney Weinberg announced that the BBA now has it's new board of directors.

Each will speak now:

Leo Gosser:

I am the co- founder of BBA and am currently serving as the rep for farm bureau on apiculture. Thirty-four case³ of American foul brood at 10 different apiary sites hives were found this year in Broward. The hives must be burned as it is the most dreaded of bee diseases.

FL state beekeepers have 6 districts – the BBA is in the SE and Leo said he is the rep for BBA in our district. There are 3 local associations in this district and he is rep for these three as the state rep for SE district.

Dan Novak:

5 years ago I started beekeeping as a lark. I have been BBA Treasurer for past 2 years. I keep 5 hives at home. I am enrolled in the Master Beekeeper program at advanced level.

Ivan Baratz:

I am a veterinarian by profession. I always wanted a beehive and when I saw one on my property I called Leo Gosser and he established this hive at my home house.

I lost 2 hives in December and have started all over. This is my 4th year in the BBA.

I serve as the Advisory Chair for extension services, IFAs and Parks and Recreation, in Broward County. I care about the BBA, and I have ideas for the club. We have come a long way. So many members here today make me so touched to see everyone .Beekeeping is addicting in a positive way. I mentor and love being a part of the organization.

Harry Pellish:

My wife got me into bees and about 6-7 years ago she told me that we should become beekeepers. We have been members of this BBA club for about 5-6 years and every day I learn something new. I figured that bees have been doing what they do for thousands of years, so we can't improve on it, so we need to just let them be.

Dara Kustler:

I have been a bee keeper for the past year and always wanted to learn about bees but lived in a city in an apartment all my life. I have a degree from Harvard in education and love to teach kids about bees and nature. I have some ideas for the BBA and hope this club will grow.

Harry P: replied: This topic will be discussed at new board's first meeting right after this general club meeting and of course everyone is invited to attend and have input. Our BBA club goals are mentoring, rescue, community outreach, schools, and temples especially at holidays. Much of Broward is going "green" so beekeepers are politically correct now.

Julie K: Libraries will have us give talks if we need more events to speak publicly.

BBA Member, and Univ of Miami professor, Gary Hitchcock spoke about the survey of Jacob B. at UM in environmental and political science. His grandfather is a beekeeper in Orlando. Dr. James Ellis of the Univ. of FL informed us that he and Jacob got 660 responses in 6 weeks out of 2400 requests. These results will soon be discussed at the first bee research symposium in Gainesville; the bee research center in Gainesville is called "The Forest. " The responses from hobbyist, 25% response and is 2x the national average for response rate.

A new member would like to get cedar hives and also is interested in bumblebees. This member found rose treatment at garden center and read that it kills pollinators. She sprayed liquid fungicide and wants to know how long it will residually last because she wants to acquire bees. Member, Angel said 30 days. What is the best bee-safe thing she can put on the lawn? For dogs not to get fleas? Put it on the dog, not on the lawn, other members suggested.

MEMBER STORY TIME:

Carol N. and John R. picked up a 60-70 pound hive comprised of over 20 combs by the time she got to her home out west she had 30 lbs. of bees clung to the net that she used at to move the box, dragging it down into the box. It was quite a feat for her to manage the huge hive.

Vladimir has good news: Hi first honey, and his first child were born, both in the same month.

Harry P. told the story about the gentleman who called Dara to ask her if anyone lost the bucket of bees that he had run over and dragged under his car several blocks in Lauderdale by the Sea on Commercial Blvd. Harry went to retrieve it from this caller. Bees were getting out of the container hole. Harry got a plastic bag and he started putting the bees into the bag. Harry called member, Christy, and brought to her several thousand bees in rescue.

A member asked whether each member has liability coverage through BBA?

Harry P. said we have releases.

Dara described how much of the public does find the BBA via the internet website according to what those who contact her do say.

John Rochester described how his truck was thought to be "smoking" when he went inside a store, and that someone called the fire dept. and when John returned to his

truck he saw the fire dept and had to show him it was just a bee smoker he had going in the flat bed.

Susan had called Harry and came to the meeting for the first time because she had bees in her Comcast box and her friend had taken the bees out and put them in a hive in her yard. She is a new beekeeper and was interested in bees and stumbled upon the BBA. She came to this group.

Chloe is a new beekeeper since May 30th. On her balcony she has bees. She has horse and grandchildren and she read about NYC rooftop bees.

Dan has a BBA owned honey extractor. It costs \$10 for rental for the week and reminds us that it must be returned clean.

Member Julie Krantz – said bee college is going to be Aug 14 and 15 in Davie. Participants can earn some credits. She is going. John Rochester has gone for past 2 years and highly recommends it for anyone.

A new member, Rich Herman, introduced himself and discussed that he has had a great deal of experience with bees for many years., and at one time he managed 2500 hives. One of the board members asked if he would do some lectures for us as a group. He has done apitherapy, and said he could talk on that subject, yes. This gentleman described that bee toxin is actually a foreign protein the body can use. This gentleman helped Susan and her husband collect the bees from her Comcast box.

He asked what is the procedure now for contaminated bee boxes from American foul brood, and said that it used to be a can of cyanide. He didn't use that but he burned it on the inside. Herman says that it isn't necessary to do that if you burn the inside of the boxes. Irradiation is going to kill us as well as the bees. He has seen colony numbers of about 30,000 bees in a hive and goes up to 50, 000 at flow time down here. When he had bees his hives, they would produce upwards of 70 lbs of honey a year..

Dr. Kruglyakov, Certified honey judge spoke but was difficult to hear his comments.

Harry P. is merging his hives. The newspaper trick - it does work. Brood box. Merge. Double the population. You will end up with one queen but double the bees.

John Hartzell, the videographer for Coconut Creek was unable to attend the last rescue we did but, was present at a rescue from Mr. Timms' bees.

Meeting adjourned.