

TVBC 2024-06 Member's Meeting

About 75 members in attendance. All officers present. 8 kids in Jr. Bee Club. ~5 new members. 4 on Zoom.

Announcements, briefer this time to keep meeting in time. Plug for the Raffle. See website and newsletters.

Mike Morrison. Annual trip to Purdue. Indiana Queen Breeders, artificial insemination. Many queens, die after insemination, so they are trying some tricks to decrease mortality. It's a very educational experience and quite a treat to have someone from our club participating in that program. 4,400 mile round trip. Purdue queens are more winter hardy and are 'clean' bees, which will bite mites they see on other bees, so they breed more mite-resistant bees. Mike had heard about the Purdue program and was interested and started asking questions. They ultimately invited him to come participate. Mike's gotten involved by helping setup and clean-up and just last year was first allowed to answer questions (because they knew he'd give the right answers). Interestingly during the meeting, they got a swarm call at a bank in Lafayette. Mike was the only one with equipment to get the swarm and got on it. Queens start laying 3 days after mating. Mike saw that the queen was laying when he got back to Boise so knew the queen was mated in Indiana.

Fair updates. Garrett for Just Bill. **August 16-25.** We staff 37 booth shifts and is a great opportunity to interact with and educate the community about what we do. So much fun. Includes a FREE TICKET to the fair!!!

Foothills Learning Center (FLC) update. Ben, Shanna, Garret. Foothills Learning Center. We educate kids and other members of the community on beekeeping (like not spraying when the bees are out). We have been using the FLC hives to populate some observation hives that really help folks see how bees live and work. We are starting a monthly newsletter keeping club members abreast of FLC goings on. **July 13 10-noon will be a hive inspection.**

Mite Busters. Marc. A reporting tool – report your mite counts for three months and turn in your result and you will get a free shirt of the color of the current queen marking (green this year). THEN, there is a drawing with BIGGER prizes.

1. Subscription to a bee journal - Vic Otto!
2. \$50 gift certificate to Mike Morrison - Hopman family.
3. \$100 gift cert for Brick 29 in - Berta

Yay mite busters!!! Get a form from our website. Report mite counts from three months. Submit your form.

Measuring honey moisture content with a refractometer. Must have a HONEY refractometer (not a wine or alcohol). We want to measure water content. Ideal is < 18% (must be less than 18% to be considered 'ribbon worthy' at the Idaho State Fair. It is CRITICAL to calibrate your refractometer. Use the calibration fluid provided with the refractometer. OR, use Extra Virgin Olive Oil with a Brix of 71.5% or 26.75% water.

<break> Hands-on Refractometer use.

Newbee Corner. Kathryn Montgomery. Likes the social aspects of the club and really found the hands-on workshops and the OSU program to be key to her confidence as a new beekeeper. Advice to newbees is to get the most out of your club – it has so much to offer.

Ringleaders. Plan meetings, key volunteers for community outreach. Next meeting is July 16 6pm. Louis and Anita Gonzalez.

Break-outs by experience (new bees, more experienced folks). (Brooklin editorial -> I thought this worked well, as people of the same experience level have common things to discuss. However, the groups should be staffed/actively managed by Ringleaders. I approached a group of newbees sitting around and they asked "what are we supposed to be doing?". I helped get the conversation started and it really took off then)

<raffle>

We ended on time.