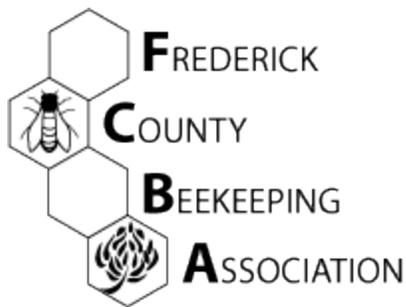


Educate and  
Advocate for  
Responsible  
Beekeeping



# Meeting Minutes

May 7th, 2014

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The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Glen Mayers, President.

New members/guests were welcomed and introduced. We welcomed Mr. Bob Helmuth from Walkersville.

## **Regular Club Meeting**

### **Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from the April meeting were unanimously approved.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The account balance as of May 7<sup>th</sup> is \$4,907.47. The report was unanimously approved.

**Observation Hive Status:** Dave installed the package a week ago. So far it is doing well. Kids were able to ID the queen this week. Thanks Dave for your hard work getting the hive back up and running.

**Volunteer Opportunities:** These opportunities arise from time to time...please consider volunteering to attend and represent beekeepers! Dave represented our club well at the Catoctin Creek Center over the weekend and shared there was a strong interest from kids about honeybees. Mike Turell also attended and shared the importance of advocacy. This is after all our motto!

**Field Day Refelctions:** It was a great event. Allen had a swarm waiting for the hands-on experience. Attendees noted the small group size of 5 per veteran was beneficial for learning. Glen noted that Long Lane Honey Bee Farms has coursework available online for refreshers free of charge. Website: [www.honeybeesonline.com](http://www.honeybeesonline.com)

**New Meeting Place:** With 37 people in attendance at this meeting, Holly Hills had ample space and parking. Next month, we will be testing the All Saints Episcopal Church. Map and directions will be forthcoming. You can park in the Church Street Parking Deck \$2 or in the commercial parking deck. The Delaplaine Visual Arts Center is not available to non-arts groups.

**Club Dues:** Just a reminder that club dues (\$10) are due by January 1<sup>st</sup>. The club begins requesting dues in Nov/Dec. The club year runs from January until December 31<sup>st</sup>. Dues should be submitted to the club Treasurer Seth Wilson. In September/October new members dues will

apply also to the following year. Dues give members access to rent club owned equipment, be part of the members email group and access to club only online resources.

**Club Communication: Facebook versus Email:** There was a lengthy discussion on club communication. The quantity of emails has become overwhelming for some. Members shared the positives of the current email situation: assistance and advice is welcome, reading conversations enlightens all, updates on current research and news; negative: sometimes the reply to all is just confirmation. Club members were polled and not all members belong to Facebook, about 13-15 members are currently on Facebook. The FCBA Facebook page is public. Any members interested in starting Facebook, see Rose, Angie or Glen for assistance. Members noted that Facebook is a great resource for beekeeping (i.e. Brushy Mountain's page, Beekeeping Questions page).

The overwhelming consensus from the discussion was....

**Keep emailing questions and reply to all only valuable responses and contributions to the group, otherwise answer individuals with reply only.**

### **Bee Discussion: All About Swarming (signs, catching, stopping, etc.)**

Award for most swarms goes to... Allen! Rose reminded folks that Allen's bees wintered over in South Carolina, so they are a bit ahead!

Swarming is typical in May/June as the bees become crowded and seek more room and storage for nectar and pollen. If the bee colony swarms in July, they will not have enough time to build up...Mike Turell shared, "Bees that swarm in July are dead, it is like suicide."

Why do they swarm?

- #1 Reason: Not enough space for brood
- #2 Reason: Not enough space for nectar/honey
- They will die otherwise.
- Think of the hive/colony as an organism...the queen is the brain and reproduction system. A swarm is likened to cell division.

What to do to prevent swarming?

- Once the swarm cell is formed...they WILL swarm! Bees have a swarm instinct!
- Mike T.: reverses boxes to give space or give an empty space
- John K.: puts a queen excluder between bottom boxes

After you catch a swarm, where do you put it?

- ANYWHERE YOU WANT
- They are programmed to swarm, so they will be re-orienting themselves to a new home.

The meeting ended with MANY door prizes (thanks everyone!) and was officially adjourned at 8:55 PM.

The next meeting will be June 4th, 2014, at 7:30 pm at the All Saints Episcopal Church in Frederick. Keep an eye on email/website for updates and directions.