

TVBC 2025-02 Member Meeting

Meridian Senior Center

Attendance

- 71 members attended.
- 1 person raised his hand indicating that he was new to TVBC.
- 4 people joined us on Zoom.

Agenda

6:43 pm Meeting called to order

- Vice President Richard Sperry called the meeting to order at 6:43 pm and greeted everyone and asked members to introduce themselves to the others around them.
- Shanna Burbank and Garrett Hanna announced the upcoming TVBC events
- Marc VonHuene shared about the Joinit! Program for membership dues.
- Shanna announced that Mike Morrison is selling packages and that members can see Brenda for a sign up sheet to order bee packages.
- Richard told the membership that in order to take part in the 2025 swarm capture program one must be a fully paid member in current status.

- **Dave Ragsdale** spoke about bee colony loss across our nation. Dave presented data from APIS M and informed us that Idaho is not represented. APIS M has a page on FACEBOOK and members can follow APIS M on that platform to learn what to do at this time with your bees. Some of the reasons there has been large colony losses have mainly been in the commercial beekeeper sector. There have been various stresses on the bees such as the Florida hurricanes wiping out fall forage, mosquito spraying overload, and beekeepers not normally in the habit of feeding bees in areas affected by the hurricane. Dave mentioned that Marla Spivak noticed that the unusually warm weather this year stimulated brood being reared in December which brings Varroa mite levels up. She also said that Amitraz resistance is on the rise and that there is a new virus added to the 20-30 viruses that bees are already battling. Dave stated that there is always more than one reason for CCD. As Idahoan Beekeepers, Dave encouraged us to fill out the APIS M form on our hobbyist beekeeper losses for 2024. It is a very simple form and we need to get Idaho on the map since we have no representation for colony loss on the APIS M radar. Steve brought it the to

club's attention that we are very lucky to have Dave Ragsdale back in Idaho after his time at Texas A&M. Dave put together the search team that found Marla Spivak. He knows bees. Dave ended his presentation with some good advice to register our hives so that we can get notified when spraying for mosquitoes will happen in our area. When we know that mosquito spraying is happening in our area...Dave said to keep the bees in the hive until about noon that day to let the spray work through its 15 minutes half lives and thus be less harmful to the bees.

- Jim McMahon presented on the need for EpiPens in our apiaries. Emily Squyer Emergency Room M.D. joined in on the EpiPen presentation and provided prescriptions to those desiring to have an EpiPen in their apiaries.
 - **Important points of this presentation were the following:**
 - Medicare will pay or help pay for the cost of an EpiPen. Just tell your doctor that you are a beekeeper.
 - The EpiPen can go through clothes. Jim used a member to demonstrate how to properly use an EpiPen. Make sure you hear the "click" when you use the EpiPen on yourself or another person.
 - When using an EpiPen on a person, you should ask for permission to use it on the person but Idaho does have a Good Samaritan Law and if someone in your apiary is have a severe reaction, it is reasonable to act on their behalf rather than ask for their permission. Jim's training will suffice to cover you under the Good Samaritan Law if your EpiPen administration to someone having a reaction to a bee sting comes into question.
 - Store the EpiPen at room temperature....not in the freezer and not in a very hot place, like your car glove compartment.
 - Check the expiration date. The pens have a shelf life of 17 months on average. BUT.....an out of date EpiPen is better than no EpiPen in our apiary.
 - It is important to have two EpiPens rather than one on hand in case a person is having a massive reaction to a bee sting. The first dose will last about 30 minutes but if that wears off and the person is still having a massive reaction the second dose can buy that person time to get to the ER. Give the medical staff the pen you used on yourself or another person having a bee sting reaction.
 - Children can use the adult dosage if they are over 55lbs in weight. Children under 55lbs in weight must use the EpiPen Jr.

Breakouts began at 7:26pm and ended at 7:51pm

Richard wrapped up the meeting with an announcement about getting ready for the coming spring....He thanked everyone for coming.

Raffle began at 7:52pm.