



Membership Meeting Notes  
March 19, 2024 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm  
San Antonio Botanical Garden  
Discovery Classroom B  
555 Funston Place  
San Antonio, TX 78209-0569

6:00 PM – Meeting sign-in, Light Bites compliments of the The RK Group and Swap Meet.

6:35 PM - Welcome, Introductions and News (Rob Holliday - President)

- Thank yous extended to The RK Group for the Light Bites provided for the meeting.
- Welcomes were extended to people we met at the 2024 Rodeo, new 2024 members and two dolphin trainers from SeaWorld's Conservation Program.
- Executive Committee Members were introduced.
- We are now a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization!

6:42 PM – Meeting Minutes (Disa Campbell - Recording Secretary)

- Minutes are posted on our website. Emails with upcoming meeting agenda will have the previous membership meeting minutes attached.
- No one had any corrections or additions to January 25, 2024 minutes.
- Doreen Moore made a motion to approve minutes from January 25, 2024 which was seconded by Cecile Parrish. Minutes approved.

6:45 PM – Membership Report (Mike Barlow - Membership Secretary)

- Reminded everyone to renew their membership or join via the AABA Website.
- Please remember to sign-in at the meetings.
- We currently have 180 active members.
- Members who have not renewed their memberships for 2024 will be dropped 3/31/24.
- Three membership levels: Family, Individual and Student.
- Name tags are available for \$12; there is a sheet at the membership desk to complete if you want to order one.

6:48 PM – Upcoming Events (James Cobarruvias - Vice-President)

- Field Day on April 27, 2024. We need volunteers to help with speakers, lunch, tickets, etc. An email will be sent to members soon with more information. This year it will be held at the Lakehills Community Center at Medina Lake (off Park Road 37).
  - Pollinator Palooza at SABOT on June 17-21, 8:30am-12:00pm. We need volunteers to present a :30 minute segment about bees to children. The club will provide the needed materials. This is a great way for those pursuing certification from the Texas Masters Beekeeper Program to get public service hours.
  - Honey Extraction Event at SABOT in the fall.
  - Botanical at SABOT in October.
- The Celebrate Spring! event at SABOT was on March 9th. Thank you Margi, Mike, Mike, Marie, James, Disa and Jim for helping out. Lots of folks stopped by for some queen spotting and to buy honey.

-Bee Report:

North/Canyon Lake: Bluebonnets and Texas Permissions are blooming. Hives have lots of brood and queens are doing good. Frames have some capped honey, nectar and there is pollen coming in.

West: Same, and splits are happening now.

Inner City: There was a notable nectar flow but now a dearth. Texas mt laurel and redbud were blooming. Lots of pollen which is now slowing down. At the beginning of March there was some honey being capped. Swarm cells in 10 hives and have made lots of splits.

East: Bluebonnets, dandelions blooming; pollen coming in but no nectar yet.

Boerne: A little nectar, lots of pollen but Bam - has stopped. Now in a dearth. Hives are brooded up and hungry so bees are not in very good moods. Giving splashes of syrup and making sure the queen has room to lay. Highly encourages folks to wax their frames.

6:53 PM – Committee updates (Heather Wilk - Committee Chairperson for below committees)

- Teaching Apiary: We have a potential site and Rob Holliday is working to finalize the contract. It is near RAFB with lots of room and forage. Keep an eye out for emails with sign-ups for beginner workshops.
- Mentoring Program: Ten members completed the form to serve as mentors. A form for mentees to complete will be sent out soon via email.
- Youth Scholarship: Information on this will be provided at the next meeting. The age requirement is 11 - 17 years due to the amount of responsibility and needed engagement.

6:56 PM - Treasure Report (Tamara Carroll - Treasurer)

- A pre-recorded report was shown as Tamara could not attend. Active members can request a copy of the report by emailing [treasurer@alamobees.org](mailto:treasurer@alamobees.org).

7:00 PM - 2024 Rodeo Committee Report (Tamara Carroll - Committee Chairperson)

- A pre-recorded 2024 Rodeo Report was shown as Tamara could not attend. Active members can request a copy of the report by emailing [treasurer@alamobees.org](mailto:treasurer@alamobees.org).
- A survey was sent to everyone who worked the rodeo booth. If you have not completed it yet there is still time to do so. Your input is greatly appreciated.
- Signup for the 2025 Rodeo will be in January.

7:00 PM – Ethan West, Guest Speaker. Owner/Operator of Howdy Honey. Ethan has been beekeeping for 18 years, professionally for the past 6 years. He started with performing removals during the COVID period and acquired 20 colonies. Instead of selling them he has grown his numbers through splits to 130 colonies. He is from Mason, TX and is a member of Blanco and Kerrville Beekeeping Associations. Ethan discussed best practices, tips and tricks for successful splits.

8:00 PM - Q & A with Ethan West. He also shared five pieces of advice for new beekeepers:

- 1) Doesn't come easy but worth it;
- 2) Every accomplished beekeeper has a style - find and work your own style;
- 3) Find a teacher;
- 4) Have a desire to learn; and
- 5) Be willing to fail.

8:20 PM – Other Business (Rob Holliday - President)

- Thanks to Dave Tuttle for managing the Swap Meet Table
- Raffle held (prizes: Bee Towel, Bee Brush, Hive Tool and Pollen Patties)

8:25 PM – Adjourn and Cleanup

8:30 PM - Lights out

Next Meeting May 21, 2024  
6:00 pm - 8:30 pm  
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