

YCBA February General Meeting Minutes
February 28, 2023
7:00pm Aldersgate Church
95 people attended



CURIOUS ABOUT BEEKEEPING?

Things to Consider Before Becoming a Beekeeper

- I. Welcome! - Chris Smith, YCBA President
- II. Meet the Bees and an introduction to the life of a hive – David Papke, Master Beekeeper
 - The yearly cycle in the hive is directly related to climate and available plant resources
 - Flowering plants evolved to entice insects for pollination as those insects moved from one flower to another, picking up then releasing pollen as they go.
 - Colonial insects are social by nature – bees, wasps, ants.
 - 3 casts of honeybees in the hive – queen, workers, drones – and Dave continued to discuss physical features and roles of each
 - Swarming occurs once the hive has decided to divide itself
 - Wax production
 - Bee space and its importance
 - Propolis sources and uses within the hive
- III. Equipment – Tiffany Ayres, Master Beekeeper, SayBees Apiary
 - Types of hive bodies, from skeps to our current Langstroth, Warre and Top Bar models
 - Discussed pros and cons of each with practical examples
 - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – recommending full coverage for the keeper until familiar with the nuances of the hives during inspection
 - Foundation choices, uses and preferences
- IV. How to obtain bees – Anastasia Denoncourt, Craftsman Beekeeper, Cherry Lane Farms
 - For purchase – packages or nucleus (nuc) colonies – pros and cons of each
 - Being prepared with equipment to support your choices and management
 - Estimated start up costs
- V. Questions to consider before you jump into beekeeping – Nathan Pears, Journeyman Beekeeper
 - What is your why? (Sinek) – Be sure to understand you WHY so it can lead your decisions for HOW and WHAT
 - Considerations – permitted on your property? Family supportive? Neighbors supportive? Allergies? Ready for start up costs? Have enough time? Generally calm demeanor? Can you lift up to 50 pounds?
- VI. Resources and next steps – Joyce Wilder, Club Librarian and Beekeeper, Wilder Honey
 - Club library lending books
 - PSBA website
 - Bee Culture and American Bee Journal – periodicals
 - Online resources – www.abfnet.org , www.pastatebeekeepers.org , www.honeybeehealthcoalition.org , www.perfectbee.com
 - Informational resources – YCBA Beekeeping 101, Penn State Extension, Neighboring Bee Clubs (Lancaster and CABA)
 - YCBA provides many resources for beekeepers, both new and seasoned.
 - 200+ membership
 - Monthly meetings with local and national speakers
 - Social events

- Beekeeping 101 course
 - Workshops throughout the year to further knowledge and skills
 - Mentoring program
 - Club apiary
 - Club honey extractor and related equipment
 - Robust lending library
 - Community outreach
 - www.ycbk.org
- VII. How can you help if beekeeping isn't right for you? – Kay McAdams, Club Volunteer Coordinator and Beekeeper
- Learn about bees and other pollinators
 - Skip spraying landscapes
 - Plant for pollinators
 - Buy local – honey, bees, equipment
- VIII. Panel Q & A – moderated by Cecelia Berkstresser, YCBA Vice President, Journeyman Beekeeper
- Featuring newer beekeepers, Jane Girton, Kathy Firestone, Alex Ribblett, Mike Kelly, Michele Yeagy
 - Panel answered questions related to why they entered beekeeping, what they wish they knew sooner and what keeps them going despite setbacks
- IX. Visit informational tables and sample honey