

Friends of Potato Creek State Park Meeting Minutes
5/15/07 Location: PCSP Nature Center 7:00 PM

Attendees:

Gary and Mary Hacker
Brian and Anna Krueger and Family
Gene and Linda Matzat
Kathy Serrat
Ralph and Cheryl Campion
Daniel McConnell
Chrissy Borkowski
Brian Miller
David Hawn
Corey and Brook Rieman
Tim Cordell
Mark Daily

Brian called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Brian welcomed everyone and introduced Linda.

Linda introduced Dave and Kay Laney from Laney Honey.

Here are some highlights of the presentation:

- The honey in our area is very unique.
- Bee hives are started when you can buy a hive or a nuc. A nuc is the nucleus of the hive.
- The bees are fed sugar syrup when flowers are not available to feed them.
- In the hive, there is the queen and different forms of bees.
- If there are many nuc boxes, they are color coded so the bees can find the right ones to return to.
- Early season honeys are milder, later season honeys are darker and stronger.
- Different flowers produce different kinds of honey; the honey common in this area produced by Laney is called Wildflower honey.
- Laney separates the honey types so there are choices in the market.
- 300.00 will get you started if you want to be a beekeeper.
- Certain times of the year are bad to work the bees, this is typically in August. A sunny day when there are lots of blooms is a good time to work the bees, they are less aggressive.
- Laney produces about 65 pounds of honey per hive. They produced about 364,000 pounds of honey last year.
- A typical hive is about 75,000 bees.
- Laney's are unsure why the bee population is declining.
- The bee populations are somewhat limited in Indiana because of the current land allocation. Bees need flowers and so much land is dedicated to corn, soybean and wheat production, it inhibits our ability to produce more honey.
- To extract the honey, the inner board is removed, an electric knife is used to cut off the beeswax and it is spun to be removed.
- Laney buys a lot of honey from other bee keepers.

End Presentation

Indiana Geocashers presented Tim a check for 300.00 for the Friends Group from their proceeds of a 50/50 raffle held this weekend. The Geocashers were here at PC doing an event for the weekend. The Friend's Group very much appreciates their donation.

Business Meeting:

The meeting minutes were read and there was one correction/addition. It should have been noted that the Kruegers donated the banner for the Friends Group.

Welcome Back Weekend:

- For the campground clean up day, there were 55 bags of trash collected, 31 volunteers worked for a total of 162 hours of volunteer effort.
- For the bike rodeo/safety event, there were 19 kids that participated. We received 115.00 for this event.

Newsletter-Mark is working on the newsletter and should be completed by the end of this month.

NIPSCO grant-FOPC has been awarded the 5,000.00 grant. We received a check for 75% of the grant total. Tim and John will work on obtaining the proper permits; this will be a project for next year.

Treasurer's report:

Expenses:

0

Deposits:

4000.00

5499.37 is new balance

501c3 will be submitted to another attorney for review, we are not getting any response from the current attorney.

Ralph donated 50.00 for the Bike safety officer.

Ralph was concerned about participation at events. He suggested that we do something fun along with the 7/21 sign painting party. He suggested we have a cookout. That might bring a bigger turnout.

Special events:

Anna is working on a schedule, she is asking for ideas, especially for the Halloween weekend activity.

Next month's speaker (6/19) will be Phil Sutton, St. Joe County master gardener. Linda has some Cana bulbs to give away, please pick up after meeting.

For the Chicken Fundraiser on 6/30, tickets are available.

The annual Potato Creek festival is 6/15 and 6/16. On 6/15 (Friday), the festival is from noon to 10. Then Saturday, the hours are 9-9. We will have a booth at the festival; we need volunteers to man it. Please see or call Anna if you are interested.

Brian had registered our group for the National Public Lands Day is September 29th. Brian will pass on more information as he receives it.

Please check out our website at www.friendsofpotatocreek.org