

Five Rivers Bee Club  
Beginning Beekeeper Class on April 23rd  
Monthly Meeting Minutes For May 03, 2022

President - [Lonnie Perry](#) (870) 895-2771  
Vice-President - [Andy Birdsell](#) (870) 751-7165  
Secretary / Treasurer - [Jacque English](#) (870) 856-4987  
Member-at-Large - [William Kaelber](#) (870) 751-1176  
Master-at-Arms -- [William Kaelber](#) (870) 751-1176  
Master-at-Arms - [Arrie Goodwin](#) (870) 966-3666

[www.5rbc.net](http://www.5rbc.net)

[Facebook](#)

[Video of Meeting](#)

[Event Calendar](#)

[Bee Calendar from UAEX](#)

Mission Statement 'The mission of Five Rivers Bee Club (FRBC) is to provide our membership and local community with a forum for sharing knowledge (through presentations and/or articles in print) of mutual interests in beekeeping, honey production and marketing of honey and related products. To educate and promote the benefits of beekeeping to the public'

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm. by Lonnie Perry, President

Opening prayer was given by Arrie Goodwin

Minutes of April 19, 2022 were approved as read / posted. (William Kaelber motioned and Carmen Inman 2<sup>nd</sup>)

Treasurer Report. \$1100.98 (All books are open to the members)

In Attendance: 39 total (29 paid members, 3 adult guests, 7 young people)

Lonnie Perry thanked everyone that attended the Beginning Bee Class held Saturday April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Birdsell Farms. We had 38 folks attend and it was a great class. Everyone seemed to have a good time, had their questions answered and their bellies filled. Here is the link of the videos. <http://5rbc.net/Media/Movies/2022.html> and pictures.

Jacque said if you have anything you wish to sell, to bring in and put on our sale table. The 'Free to Take' table has magazines, handouts from previous meetings.

Guest Speaker: Bronna Birdsell – on Pollinations.

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- Sharp County Farm Agency Extension Office has a wonderful 152-page book on Pollinators. Too big to print out. But if you wish to read it, send Bronna an email at [bronna.birdsell@gmail.com](mailto:bronna.birdsell@gmail.com) and she will forward the link for you to read. It has a lot of technical stuff that was interesting.

- She learned that there are between 400 – 450 different species of honeybees in Arkansas alone.
- Bees are not native to this continent, it was in the 1600s that they were introduced to these lands from Asia.
- Majority of bees now live in hives instead of being feral in the wilds. Why is it important for us humans to help them stay strong.
- She is amazed what great architects' bees are. They are very efficient in building and maintaining their hives.
- Domestic bees are essential for 1/3 of all food
- 208 million hives globally



#### Are honey bees native to North America?

Honey bees are not native to North America. They were originally imported from Europe in the 17th century. Honey bees now help pollinate many U.S. crops like fruits and nuts. In a single year, one honey bee colony can gather about 40 pounds of pollen and 265 pounds of nectar. Honey bees increase our nation's crop values each year by more than 15 billion dollars. Critical honey bee populations in...

- Power of the Pollinators – starts on page 6  
<https://www.arfb.com/news/2022/apr/22/arkansas-agriculture-q1-2022/>
- A friend in Texas, their granddaughter made a book marker for the library. Bee You. I will get it to Jacque to see if she can make some up.
- [Arkansas Native Plant List for Supporting Monarchs and Pollinators](#) (9 pages)
- [Organic Gardening By Tina Marie Wilcox](#) (12 pages)
- [The Importance of Pollinators By UofA Cooperative Extension Service](#)
- Beekeeping in Arkansas Everything you need to know -  
<https://www.uaex.uada.edu/farm-ranch/special-programs/beekeeping/>

Arkansas Apiary Laws Register with State – Jacque has the forms.

In Arkansas, laws regarding the sale, transport and keeping of honey bee are regulated by the [Arkansas Department of Agriculture, Apiary Section](#).

#### Registration

State law requires that the location of all apiaries (bee yards) be registered with the Arkansas Department of Agriculture, and that all honey bees that are transported through or within the state have a valid certificate of health to ensure that diseases and hive pests are not accidentally introduced or spread. Arkansas beekeepers are asked to complete the registration process 20 days prior to setting up a new apiary site. Hives should be registered within 10 days of ownership or possession, or before moving hives from out of state. [Instructions and application for Bee Yard Registration](#) can be found online.

Lonnie spoke on why it is needed to register.

State Inspectors will assist but overworked 5-month backlog

Holly bush is a sturdy flowering plant that self-pollinates and the bees love it.

Soybean and Cotton Self Pollenate but better with bees

Wildflower packets expensive but out there.

Overlapping seasons to cover spring thru fall

Sunflower seeds are good for that.

Possible plant sharing management Day. Have folks bring in plants to share with each other,

‘Borage’ Plant aka Starflower - Bees Love

Vitec Trees – Pollenates in July Group Plants until it frosts. Bees love these Elms, Willow Trees – these have good pollen.

Folks shared what plants they like – so many.

Plant Snap APP / <https://www.plantsnap.com/> Identify plants, flowers, cacti, succulents and mushrooms in seconds with the click of a button on your mobile device.

Christine Cook may be next month Guest Speaker for June. Not confirmed.

Home Visit are normally the Saturday following our monthly meeting. Jacque will have the form at the June’s meeting to sign up if you wish for us to come and look over your setup and offer advice.

Hazel Whited is running for State Representative. More importantly, she and Bill Kaelber were talking about a bill for bees. Andy Birdsell spoke with her last year and got the ball rolling. She is in Leadership Arkansas Class 19. and is working on a Mock Bill and a Mock Legislation to learn how to write and present Bills to the Legislation should she win this year.

“An Act to Promote Small Bee Farmers and to Improve Small Agro Business for Pollination and other Purposes” Action Tax credit for beekeepers.

She got a lot of good direction on what we, as beekeepers, would like to see in this Mock Bill.

Seeking folks to go out and catch swarms. The Extension Office needs names of folks to contact that is willing to travel and catch swarms. They get calls for individuals and from businesses that seek this trade skill. Arrie was always the person to go and get swarms but with his health, he is having to step down from being on the call list. Jacque will have a sign in sheet she will pass around at our next meeting if you wish to be added to the Swarm Team.

Jake caught his first swarm and he said he felt good to do so.  
He also made Observation Hives for sale \$75.00.

Meeting adjourned 7:35pm

Next month, our meeting will be held on the June14, 2022

Location 301 Main Street - Hardy AR 72542 (Hardy Civic Center)

Minutes submitted by Jacque English

**REACH ~ TEACH ~ KEEP**