

Pacific Lions Club

Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament

First Place Guarantee \$800

Buy-In \$40 per player

\$35 buy-in with donation of a pair of eyeglasses.

Saturday, March 19 at Pacific Lions Club

**319 W. Meramec, Pacific MO
Doors Open 6pm Tournament starts at 7pm**

Food & Refreshments will be available

For additional info please
Call 314.401.9190

“Finish the Race with Crosspoint”

Crosspoint Christian School's 12th Annual Dinner Auction

Whether participating in a marathon; triathlon; tour de France; motocross; NASCAR; or just running the race of life **PLAN NOW TO Finish the Race with Crosspoint** at their 12th Annual Dinner Auction, Saturday, April 9.

This spectacular event will be held at the Lighthouse Ministry Center in Villa Ridge (corner of Hwy. AT and Hwy. M). Doors open at 4:30 p.m. when you can cross the starting line to begin bidding on silent auction items. As always, we have some fantastic merchandise, collectibles, and services on the silent auction tables. Appetizers will be served.

The main event dinner featuring Hawaiian Chicken, Smoked Pork Tenderloin, Rice Pilaf, Green Beans, Sweet Corn, Salad, Rolls, and Delectable Cheesecake is served at 6:00 p.m. Oral Auction starts promptly at 7:00 p.m.

Independent, Inter-denominational Crosspoint Christian School offers a quality Pre-Kindergarten through 12th Grade education. Founded in 1990 Crosspoint's mission is to develop biblically focused, thoroughly equipped Christians for service and leadership through a Christ-centered education.

The annual Dinner Auction is Crosspoint's largest fundraiser of the year and helps keep tuition affordable.

You can help put Crosspoint Christian School in the winner's circle by expressing your generosity through purchasing a ticket, donating an auction item or service, placing a business or personal ad in the auction catalog, and/or becoming an underwriter. Your monetary gift is always welcome and appreciated. Monetary gifts can be made online at <http://crosspointchristianschool.org> click on 2011 Dinner Auction at the top of the page and you will be directed to a secure "DONATE" page. Most major credit cards accepted. Donating an item? We will be happy to pick up your donation, call 636-742-5380.

Get ahead of the pack and race on over to the school office at 51 Hwy. M, Villa Ridge to purchase your tickets. Tickets purchased before March 25 are \$25 per person after March 25 tickets will be \$30.

For more information about Crosspoint Christian School, to donate an item, or purchase tickets people may call the school office at 636-742-5380.

The Buzz on Beekeeping

By Laura Faust

In February, when the temperatures climb to 50 degrees the honey bees are flying. Because about 20% of bee colonies die during the winter months, seeing the bees in flight causes great excitement for a beekeeper because it means their hives have made it through. This also means that spring is on its way and beekeepers can resume working their bees in hopes of a good honey harvest. Due to changes in the weather, each year is different. This year, the bees have already collecting pollen and bringing it to the hive. This signals the queen to start laying eggs again to rebuild the colony after the natural decline in population over the winter months.

To gear up for spring, every February the Eastern Missouri Beekeepers Association (EMBA) hosts a beekeeping workshop at Maritz in Fenton lead by experts in the field of beekeeping. At this year's seminar, about 250 people learned more about honey bees and beekeeping. For beginner beekeepers, topics covered were equipment needs and hive location, bee behavior, how to get started and what to expect the first year with their hive in addition to learning about honey bee diseases and pests. Vendors were available during breaks to answer questions and take orders for equipment. After the seminar, club sponsors held follow-up meetings for beginners to help with hive assembly and bee procurement as well as field workshops that went over hive inspections and honey harvesting.

At the spring EMBA workshop there are also sessions for the practicing beekeeper. This year the advanced sessions focused on bee biology which gave the experienced beekeeper an insight as to why bees do what they do. They talked about winter survival of hives, encouraging early spring colony build up, swarm control and colony communications, and honey bee pheromones during which the participants actually got to smell the scents that the bees emit.

My husband, Dave Faust and I, started beekeeping in the spring of 2010 with one hive after attending the new beekeeper workshop offered by EMBA. Quickly realizing how much there was to learn, we attended every meeting the club held. We attended the hive assembly workshop and the workshop on how to install the bees into the hive when the bees arrived. We learned hints like spraying the bees with sugar water to calm them before putting them into the hive as well as how to use a smoker to calm the bees during hive inspections. After helping an experienced member remove a hive from a building scheduled to be torn down, our apiary expanded to two hives. Both hives made it through the winter and the queens have started laying eggs. We are looking forward to our first honey harvest in May if the weather cooperates. Anyone interested in becoming a beekeeper in encouraged to attend classes and to read, read, read! There is a lot to learn in the world of beekeeping. One of the great things about joining EMBA is the years of experience the members offer to help solve problems and answer questions. Those starting a hive this year and those who will not be ready to start beekeeping until 2012 can join the club at www.easternmobeeking.com and attend the monthly meetings that are held at Powder Valley

Conservation Area (please check the website for meeting dates). These meetings focus on what is going on in beekeeping each month; this information is invaluable to the new beekeeper. The population of honey bees has been declining for many reasons. Organizations like EMBA are helping to increase the population of one of our most important pollinators. Members of EMBA also will collect swarms of honey bees and remove hives from places where they are causing a problem [contact us through the website]. Beekeeping can range from a hobby to a small business; it is fascinating, relaxing and intriguing. Honey can be used instead of sugar in most recipes and the bees wax is used in many things like candles and lip balm. Some beekeepers even collect and sell pollen. Bees are amazing!



Photos by Michael Godfrey