

Sheboygan County Beekeepers Association

April 11, 2017

Secretary's Report - Minutes on website -

Treasurer's Report - Total in Savings and Checking - \$1,991.26 (checking and savings total)

Attendance - 55

Next Meeting - May 9th at 6:30 PM at Christopher Farms and Gardens

Old Business -

- Amanda S. discussed the program in February for new beekeepers. She received a lot of positive comments on the program, and some suggestions for the future. She feels it will be a good program to run again next February.

Purchases - Ken ordered *Beekeeping Principles*, the book that Kurt did a book report on at the meeting. It will be added to our library.

Committees -

- Maywood and Discovery Museum are both waiting for bees.

Old Business -

- Please send photos, etc. to Debbie S. for the scrapbook (programs, etc.) Also for the website.
- Garry O. will be giving a Honey Land Farm tour for the September meeting. We are checking on specifics.
- Sue B. - has called Solu Winery a number of times regarding an August tour, but the Winery hasn't returned her call. We need to verify the trip, and Sheila's parents will contact them.
- Dan P. - Bookworm Gardens will once again be sponsoring a pollinator theme. Last year, they made Mason bee houses; this year they will have clay saucers with stones to make water stations. Dan P. will go; anyone else interested, contact Dan P.

New Business -

- Rev. Weiland has the May meeting program We are invited on May 9th to Christopher Farm and Gardens. A beekeeper on Washington Island will be doing the program. PBS did a special on Russian bees. There will be a 45-50 minute program, with Q & A after. There will be a video to watch before we come on Russian bees. More information on this will be upcoming, and posted on our website - www.sheboyganbees.org

- There was discussion about including our membership information on a "Members Only" tab on our website. Ken M. made a motion to put the guide on web as a private file, with hard copies available Club members will then be given a password to access this tab. Dan P. seconded. Motion passed. I will be in contact with Shaun B. to see how to set this up.
- Wisconsin Honey Producers also have a display at the Wisconsin State Fair. Do we want to sponsor the SCBA working a day at the Fair? Kurt P. will get information.
- Dan P. will look at the possibilities of printing shirts/caps with our logo. This would be nice when doing presentations, working at the Fair, etc.
- Kurt P. is getting information about a possible display at the Sheboygan County Fair. There is a group putting a display together of natural products in the Wisconsin, and we were asked if the SCBA would like to do something there with honey. More information to follow.

Correspondence -

- A national survey concerning winter hive loss has been added to our website.

Q & A Discussion

- What to do this month? Clean out dead hives, check your hives, make sure that the queen is laying, check the honey stores, be sure to feed them if stores are low. Take frames from hives that have honey/no bees, and move to a hive that is still alive.
- Mold in a hive, with loads of capped honey. What to do with the honey. New package of bees will clean that out. Scrape mold off the hives, burn or torch the walls. Freeze the equipment to kill any spores. You need proper ventilation in the fall to avoid mold.
- What is a better technique for installing a package of bees, dumping them in or letting them crawl out? If cold, put the cage in and let them leave, as long as the queen is in her cage and put in the hive. Extra box on top.
- Robber bees..... Block it off at night to get rid of the bees. Then install new bees.
- How to prevent swarming..... give them plenty of room and add a box, have a plan to split. Pay attention to the hive. Start feeding now. Watch for queen cells, then split the hive. Leave eggs in there in case the queen is failing. Lots of watching.
- When to split a strong hive that wintered over - look for drone brood, order a new queen, and put her with half the hive. Make sure that there are drone cells so they can mate with the queen. Now until the middle of May, if you still want a honey crop.
- Hive has a virgin queen. Watch to see if you get new eggs.

Hive report - quite a bit of die-off

Program - Dan P. and Ralph W. - AZ Hives - Dan and Ralph have been working on building an AZ hive that corresponds to hives sizes, etc., in the United States. They had a hive from Slovenia, and one that they made with revamped sizes to be usable with US extractors. Pictures will be posted on our website, <http://sheboyganbees.org/scba/news/> in the next few days. They also discussed Drebbieville AZ Hives, info is available at <http://www.drebbievillehives.com/>

Book Report - Kurt P. - *Beekeeping Principles* - from Kelly Beekeeping - an informative book, Ken M. purchased a copy for the SCBA library. Kurt also found a training program on line, while researching the author, James E. Tew. It has a number of informational videos that members will find helpful. http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/beekeeping_class/. There is also a Little Giant book on beekeeping that is available free from Fleet Farm, by their honey supplies. The Plymouth Fleet Farm is selling bees this year, you can check with them to see if you can still order them.

Refreshments were provided by Dan P. and Ralph W. - Thanks!

Motion to adjourn by Kurt P.
Seconded by Amanda S.

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Respectfully submitted by Kathy Petersen.