

Sheboygan County Beekeepers Association

July 11, 2017

Secretary's Report - Minutes on website - No Minutes for June - picnic

Treasurer's Report - Total in Savings and Checking - \$1842.65

Attendance - 40

Old Business -

- Discover Children's Museum has burr comb.
- Maywood hive is doing well, a split was done.
- May meeting at Christopher Farms and Gardens was very interesting.
- Wisconsin State Fair is looking for help at the Wisconsin Honey Producers booth for Fair week, Kurt will send out an email for anyone interested. This is something that we might want to do as a club for next year's Fair.
- Sheboygan County Fair - Ag Tent - would like any contribution we could make to their tent... at this point it was decided it's a little late to get that organized, the club will keep it in mind for next year.
- Dan P. - is looking into printing t-shirts and hats with a club logo. We will be sending out some examples for the membership to look over and discuss in the future.
- Bookworm Gardens - Dan P. helped with their Pollinator Picnic, children made watering stations for bees. It was a success!
- Remember that the SCBA has an extractor that is available to club members. Contact Ralph Worm, there is a \$10 fee.

Purchases - Ken M. purchased the book, *Beekeeping Principles*, for the club library.

Committees - none

New Business -

- If anyone is interested in entering honey for the Sheboygan County Fair, the deadline is soon - they require glass containers and the requirements are online.
<http://www.shebcofair.com/exhibitors.html>
- There was a discussion about meeting the needs of new beekeepers. This has been an unusual year with field trips on meeting days, so there have been few programs and opportunities to learn beekeeping practices. The club decided that any "field trips" in future years will be scheduled on a day other than a regular meeting day. This way, we can continue providing information to beekeepers during our meetings.
- It was suggested having 10 or 15 minutes for just new beekeeper info - it was recommended that people read the American Bee Journal.

- Another periodical was recommend by Garry O. - *Bee Culture*, <http://www.beeculture.com/>
- September 12th meeting will be a regular meeting at the ADRC building; Amanda S. will be doing a program on winterizing bees.
- Honey Land Farms - Garry O. has invited the club to come to Honey Land Farms on Saturday, September 16th at 1:00 PM. This will be a unique opportunity to observe queen rearing techniques. Garry suggests bringing a veil, suit etc. for protection -
- Garry S., Garry O., Kurt and Kathy P., Mary G., and Wayne G. attended the Wisconsin Honey Producers meeting in Redgranite. Melanie Kirby, owner of Zia Queenbee Co. of northern New Mexico was the guest speaker, and discussed her Queen rearing. Melanie started her bee career working at Honey Land Farms with Garry O.! Also attending was former Sheboygan County Honey Queen, Jennifer Gross, in her new role as Wisconsin Honey Queen.
- Next meeting will be August 8th at the Solu Winery at 6:30 PM. <http://www.soluestate.com/>
- There were also 2 documentaries recommended on Netflix - *Hive Alive; and Vanishing of the Bees*

Correspondence - none

Q & A Discussion -

- What should we be doing this month? Be sure to get supers on. If supers are on, check them. If bees don't have room in the hives, they will swarm.
- Best approach to getting rid of mites. (Garry's program addressed this.)
- What time of year should a bee keeper give pollen patties? Early spring when there is a little bit of warm weather.
- Do re-hived hives sometimes kill their queen? Usually they will replace the queen. The old queen goes with the swarm. A September swarm is too late in the season for the hive's success.

Hive report - generally reports were positive

Program Garry Sydow - Mites - Garry showed several methods. Powdered sugar dusting. The **American Bee Journal** July issue had an article. Formic acid - Mite Away can be hard on queens. Apivar strips work pretty well. Don't use the same treatment over and over, the mites become resistant.

The state will send someone out to do a hive inspection, and he/she will give ideas for dosage. Liz Meils is the Wisconsin chief apiary inspector for the state of Wisconsin. Randy Oliver in

the *American Bee Journal* has great articles. Oxalic acid and glycerin (May issue has the recipe), works well early in spring. Amanda read that rhubarb leaves in the hive may work for hives.

Kurt P. said that at the Wisconsin Honey Producers meeting in Redgranite it was mentioned that the State of Wisconsin is working on putting together a program that would address the mite issue specifically for Wisconsin, with recommended treatments. This is in the works right now.

Book Report - Garry Sydow - *A Book of Bees* - by S. Hubbell - This book is in the club library.

Refreshments were provided by Anne S - Thanks!

Motion to adjourn by Dan Pitsch.

Seconded by Kevin Krueger.

Next Meeting - August 8th at 6:30 PM at Solu

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Petersen.