

Minutes to the September 12, 2017 SCBA Meeting

- **The president** opened the meeting at 6:30 PM and reported that Gene Wilke provided refreshments. There was not any book report for this meeting. The treasurer reported that there was \$807.48 in the checking account and \$950.81 in the savings account. The president stated that the secretary had posted the minutes to the last meeting online. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to accept the minutes as published. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to accept the treasurer report.

- Old Business.

- Dan P. and Mark B. received awards for their honey submissions to the Sheboygan County Fair. It was noted that The Fair would like to see more honey entries next year.

- The President reported that in the future all field trips will occur on non-meeting days.

- The Honey Land Farm tour will not occur this month. Gary O. will work to reschedule the tour in 2018, with May 19 as a tentative date.

- Committee Update.

- The historian is looking for any pictures or newsworthy items.

- It was reported that the Maywood hive has swarmed.

- An incident occurred at the Above and Beyond Children's Museum during the honey harvest. It was reported that the hive might need food to survive the winter.

- New Business.

- No new correspondence.

- Gary and his wife worked at the Wisconsin State Fair. Gary reported that honey was sold at \$10 per pound.

- John L. reported that he set-up and worked a bee booth in the Ag-Venture at the Sheboygan County Fair on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. The booth was well received with over 400 people stopping by to talk. The Chairperson for the Ag-Venture tent will be the same for next year and would like to have the bee booth manned again. It was agreed upon to vote on manning the booth during the first meeting next year. John L. also mentioned that there is a possibility that the SCBA could take a greater role in manning the Ag-Venture tent and possibly receive some reimbursement. The President asked that John L. give her phone number to the Chairperson for the Ag-Venture tent.

Program.

- Amada provided the program for this month titled Winterizing your Beehive. Amanda gave a verbal report but stated she would provide a copy of the slides to the Club. Key points:

- You can start the hive winterizing process now.

- Each brood box should have 60-90 pounds of honey for the bees to consume during the winter.

- If the brood boxes are short on honey you can leave a honey super on the hive.

- You can start feeding your bees sugar water. In the Fall it is recommended you use a 2 parts sugar to 1 part water. You can flavor the sugar water with lemon grass essential oil to entice the bees.
- Do not feed the bees sugar water when there are honey supers on the hive.
- Another option to feed the bees is place some newspaper on top of the top brood box and pour crystal sugar on top of the newspaper.
- Mite control is important during the fall. It was noted that we had a class on mite control previously.
- Condensation is a big killer of bees. You can place shavings (not sawdust) in a honey super to absorb moisture. It was reported that cedar chips work well.
- Make sure the hive is level or better yet, tilted slightly forward so that moisture does not run into the hive.
- Use an entrance reducer to prevent rodents from getting inside the hive but allow for ventilation. It is also important to not block the top opening.
- Provide for a windbreak. One option is to use a wrap but make sure the wrap does not block the bottom or top ventilation hole.

Questions.

- What happens to the extra queen when combining hives? The bees will take care of it.
- What should we be doing to our hives this month? See Amanda's program. Remove the honey supers. Feed back to the bees any uncapped honey.
- How do you stop sugar water from crystallizing? Reduce the sugar content.
- What essential oils can you use to encourage the bees to take the sugar water? Lemon Grass works well. You can also use Honey Bee Healthy or boil some flowers in the water before adding sugar.
- How do you clean and prepare honey supers if a queen has laid eggs in the honey super? Let the eggs hatch that she laid in the honey super. The queen should go back to the brood boxes as she normally does not go into honey supers. Consider placing a full honey super immediately above the brood boxes to encourage her to stay in the brood boxes.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 10th at 6:30 at the ADRC. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting.