

Sheboygan County Beekeepers Association
July 13, 2021

Dan - Call meeting to order
Attendance: 21

Minutes - June Minutes are posted on the website
Treasurer's Report - Ken reported:

Checking account balance - \$1174.97
Savings account balance - \$948.87

He further stated that he has a deposit to make from membership dues.

Motion to Accept: Ralph W
Second: Dan H

Old Business -

- **Above and Beyond Children's Museum:**
Ken received a split from Peter D; the club purchased a queen from Honeyland Farm. He initially thought the queen had died, but checked the hive a week later to find larvae and capped brood. So it is going well. Dan asked if the hive is being treated; it is not. Ken has drilled holes in the side to add a feeder.
- **Members interested in volunteering at the Wisconsin Honey Producers Booth at the Wisconsin State Fair should contact Tracy Malter at tmalterer@hotmail.com**
While we didn't sign up as a group, members are encouraged to sign up as individuals. Dan noted how enjoyable the process is and also pointed out that Fair entrance and parking are free to volunteers.
- **Maywood hive update:**
Sam L relayed a story: She and Peter and Elizabeth D installed the new observation hive on a Saturday. The following Monday, she hosted Maywood's first bee hive education group. The visit was a great success! Queen Beatrice made an appearance and the attendees were delighted. Sam also reports that the hive is kept covered with a custom insulated cover made by a volunteer and is uncovered only during education classes.

There was some discussion concerning removal of comb from observation hives. Peter D. reports that isopropyl alcohol worked very well for the Maywood hive, which is glass-paned.

- **Update on a Friend of Sheboygan County Beekeepers entity:**
Dan P discussed creation of a standardized letter for recipients. Elizabeth D. is working on developing substantive requirements to qualify recipients. She is reviewing publications from the National Wildlife Federation and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), which includes the Wisconsin Pollinator

Protection Plan. Hopefully, we will be able to develop a simple, single page description that is acceptable to the Association. Dan P encouraged interested members to offer input. It's a start.

- **Club shirts -**

Dan P had a polo shirt printed with the SCBA logo on the upper left, which he wore. It looked great! For anyone interested, we would like to place an order as a group, so please come to the next meeting knowing what you want to have printed. There are T-shirts with a large logo, tote bags, and polo shirts available,

- **Snack and Program Signup-**

Sign-up sheet went around. Sam L signed up for both (!) for the August meeting.

On this topic, Nourish has offered to sell us compostable plates, cups, and utensils. Dan P. said we will use what we already have, taking our garbage with us. When we need additional material, buying from Nourish seems supportive and appropriate.

- **Continuing Zoom meeting-**

Undecided. Many of the regular attendees were not present, so we will have to discuss again.

- **Do we need to contact the ARDC that we are not going to have meetings there in the future?-**

There was general discussion, including questions as to whether or not the barn is heated during winter months (it is). Even though no AC is provided, general consensus is that Nourish is a good fit for us and a relationship we are sure to grow.

Dan P will contact the ADRC and let them know that we will no longer be meeting there.

Correspondence -

- **Several contacts from people wanting assistance with Bumble Bees.**

We have no one willing to try to move Bumble Bees. The feeling is that, while docile, they are nearly impossible to move. We can think about a potential hive setup for BBs.

- **Two contacts from the website of people interested in Beekeeping.**

They attended! Hopefully, we will have two new members!

New Business -

- **Discuss response to calls for assistance for "other" than honeybees.**

Ken said he doesn't mind looking in order to identify. Dan P actually relocated a bald face hornet nest at night using a black plastic bag. General feeling is that we shouldn't be asked to remove vespids from unwanted locations.

- **Kathy sent out subscription forms with membership discounts for the American Bee Journal to the membership via email.**

Thanks, Kathy. Dan H. said that he subscribes to the journal and donates them to the association library, so they are available to all members.

Questions sent from membership - none submitted

Hive reports-

Many of our hives got off to a slow start this season, although honey is now being stored. A few beekeepers have added multiple supers (Ralph W went from 1 to 4 on 7 hives!) and some members reported either losing or catching swarms. Brent and Sheila V. will have a split available next week if anyone is interested. Peter D harvests at the beginning of season instead of the end and just processed 30-35 quarts of honey. Dan H discussed his issues with Sassafras Honey Bees and said he has been more successful with his Russian hybrids.

Once again, Dan P recommends that new beekeepers not worry so much about the bee diseases they will read about. Focus on treatment for varroa mites.

Also, Ken M recommends that anyone looking to order packages or nukes (SP?) for next year should place their order soon. Some providers can't fill orders after October. Dan H pointed out that prices increase as it gets later in the season.

Program -

Dan P and Ken M both demonstrated their bee vacuums. Interesting and informative and ingenious!

They cautioned that when vacuuming bees to go as slowly as possible - just enough that the bees can't escape the vacuum and no more. They also stated that over-heating is a real problem with vacuums so be careful.

Topics for the Month -

Thanks to the Kuplics for tonight's refreshments!

Motion to adjourn By Dan H , seconded by Terry

Raffle - We had a very successful raffle - a full table and lots of happy winners!

Next meeting is Tuesday, August 10th - 6:30 pm at NOURISH - program by Sam Lamers will be on the Maywood Environmental Center observation hive.

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth D.