

Sheboygan County Beekeepers Association

November 9, 2021

Agenda

Dan P called the meeting to order.

Attendance: 21

New members: Chris & Nancy Schaeffer

Minutes - October Minutes are posted on the website

Treasurer's Report -

Checking account balance - \$ 1174.97

Savings account balance - \$ 948.99

The raffle money will be deposited followed today's meeting.

Motion to Accept: Ray

Second: Dan H

Old Business -

- Club shirts - The club shirts are in; several members picked theirs up from Dan P, who said that additional shirts can be ordered at any time from Callahan's in Sheboygan.
- Update on a Friend of Sheboygan County Beekeepers: We are looking to include a logo as a letterhead for the friend acknowledgement. Dan P. will check with Callahan's as to whether or not the T-shirt logo is available. If it is not, we will use our earlier image displaying the honey-combed state of Wisconsin. Elizabeth will be providing Kathy with the award guidelines so they might be posted on the website. She will also provide the letter templates when the logo issue is decided.
- Dan P. reminded the group that February is our annual introduction/educational meeting. He asked for a volunteer to give the educational program, as Amanda is apparently unavailable. Peter D. agreed to do the presentation, Dan P. also encouraged all members to attend in order to be introduced and to be available for questions/encouragement for newcomers. Our first regular meeting of 2022 will be held in March.
- Requesting a member to be the Administrator for the Facebook Blog. Please contact Dan or Kathy if you are available.

Correspondence -

- No new correspondence.

New Business -

- Following a lively discussion concerning how we encourage people to attend our February introductory meeting, it was decided that we should appropriate funds to cover advertising costs for that meeting. Julie moved that we provide funds in an amount not to exceed \$350.00 for this purpose. Dan H. seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.
- Dan P. announced that we need to be mindful of our meeting time at Nourish. The premises must be vacated by 8:30 pm.
- It was mentioned that Bill from Sunset Apiary (Millhome area, having about 300 hives) will not have packages available until March. He also produces queens. 5 frame nukes were \$145 to \$150 each last season. The bees overwinter here.

Questions sent from membership - none

Hive reports -

- Terry - 4 hives, 3 are strong.
- Ray - 1- hive; will wait until after deer hunting season to transfer to root cellar. He will treat for mites in December and mentioned that commercial beekeepers often palletize their hives in warehouses with red lights.
- Julie - combined 2 hives into 1 and wrapped it using moisture/foam board and tar paper, allowing for ventilation.
- Mark - 25 to 30 hives, several absconded last month. He will move his hives indoors to a dark well house that stays above freezing through winter. He adds blocks of sugar when consistently in 20s. He moves them out in March.
- Peter - in hives today, added blue towels torn in thin strips to not block access. He uses polystyrene to wrap, with an opening at the top and a completely open bottom, as his hives are 5 deep. He doesn't take honey until spring.
- Jessica - 1 hive died or absconded; she is working on a winterizing plan.
- Jason has 5 hives, just lost 1, which had not been eating. He has had lots of mites and brood with deformed wings. He has been experimenting with different treatments. He wraps using 1 ½" foam board, leaving one side completely open and overlapping corners. He places a shelf in front of the entrance, so snow doesn't get in, but watches it, as last year the entrance froze. He has a telescoping cover for air flow.
- Dan H - 6 hives. He has 1 ½" insulation between telescoping cover and top cover and will wrap his hives after Thanksgiving. He uses a top entrance. He continues to treat for mites with the blue towel method and records mite counts daily. He is counting 60 to 80 per hive when brood is hatching (which is less than 1%).
- Al- 5 hives, bubble wrap insulation. He puts all of his hives together, leaving 2" space in between. Sugar board on top, with an opening. Topped overall with a quilt box. He also uses wind blocks which are 4x4 pieces of plywood.
- Keith - 3 hives, cautiously optimistic. He doesn't feed or treat to build health naturally but leaves plenty of honey. He uses cozies, which are not yet on, and blocks the lower entrance to keep out mice.

- Carla - 4 hives, all active, 3 will be wrapped all around. All have plenty of food left on.
- Ralph - Had 7, now has 6. He uses all solid bottom boards. He will be checking his bees tomorrow and remove Apaguard.
- Ken - 4 hives all okay.
- Dan P. - 7 hives, very heavy. He fed with 2-1 sugar water; his hives took more than they ever have before, but he found a lot of wasps feeding. Bees were protecting the inner cover. He removed the feeders and the bees are fine. He wraps with $\frac{1}{2}$ " foil covered with foam, all in flat black. One hive was loaded with hive beetles, which can open capped honey and cause it to ferment. He said they breed in the ground surrounding the hive, so that is the area he will treat.
- Peter suggested nematodes (micro-bacteria) could be sprinkled around the hives. Other members: one doesn't wrap, as hives are in protected area, another uses double screen board and then double stack.

Program - Discussion on combining hives. One suggestion: use newspaper between the stacked hives, cut with slits to allow pheromones to filter through. Dan P. demonstrated an ingenious double-screen board with eight entrances that he built. Each entrance can be toggled open or closed. He can use this device for combining hives, over-wintering 2 hives (strong hive on the bottom, weak hive on top). He also uses it for splits: he splits the eggs and uses opposite entrances (the hives will re-queen themselves). Another option is to put the older bees on the bottom and new brood on top, making it easier to add a queen. Thanks, Dan! Very interesting and informative!

Topics for the Month - There was a general discussion following the presentation. Mark noted that "if a bee comes loaded with goodies, she won't be turned away," One member asked if it is safe to add blue towels at this time. Peter responded, describing the strips he just applied and noted it will be his final treatment before spring. On checking hives in spring, most beekeepers wait until the temperature is consistently 60 degrees. Ken said if you want to check your hives before that, use a stethoscope.

Motion to adjourn: Ray

Second: Peter

Raffle -

Next meeting is Tuesday, March 8th - 6:30 pm at NOURISH

Refreshments at the November meeting were Dan P. and Jessica J. What a treat! We even had cupcakes decorated with bees!

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth D for Kathy P.