

Sheboygan County Beekeepers Association

May 10, 2022

Agenda

Dan P called the meeting to order.

Attendance: 32

New members: Not sure

Minutes - April minutes are posted on the website

Treasurer's Report -

Checking account balance - \$ 1,000.00

Savings account balance - \$ 1,890.74

Ken moved some monies from Checking to Savings to make numbers easier to work with.

Motion to Accept: Garry S.

Second: Kevin K.

Old Business -

- Dan P circulated a sign-up sheet for presentations. **Anyone with an appropriate topic is encouraged to volunteer and share their knowledge.**
- Someone wrote "Top Bar Hives" on the Program Sign-up sheet at the April meeting. Dan isn't sure if someone wants to do a program on Top Bar Hives or would like information on them. **(Garry S. brought a Top Bar Hive and gave a great presentation.)**
- June picnic - sign up sheet for attending so that Dan knows how much meat to order. **If you were not at the meeting, please email Dan so that he has a head count. Any COVID protocols for the picnic? We are going ahead with the picnic. Please bring a dish to pass. The club will provide meat, paper products. Beverages are BYO. Please let Dan P know if you would like to come and were not at the meeting to sign up. Let him know your name and how many will be coming. It is a Family Picnic, and children are happily invited.**
- No Mow May - Some members were going to contact the professor in Appleton to get info to see if we could get this going in Sheboygan County next year. Kathy did post on the Website and Facebook page for this year. **(We will be addressing this at one of the early meetings next year, and see if Sheboygan and surrounding areas would like to participate.)**
- American Bee Journal subscription forms

Correspondence -

- Kathy sent out forms for American Bee Journal.
- Dan P sent a thank you to Let It Bee for their program in April.

New Business -

- Possible programs - July - Garry O from HONEY Land Farms presentation about his beekeeping trip to Slovenia. Tim Wilbanks from Heritage Honeybee presentation on beekeeping - sometime between August and October. **Anyone else that would like to do a program for the club is more than welcome. Contact Dan P.**
- Jo F has a request for volunteers to help with the Historical Museum and Mead Library. What they need is people who know about native wildflowers. Garden clubs or other locals who might have extra plants that they need to thin or seeds. They want to put native wildflowers to feed the pollinators, but they aren't experienced and are looking for help. I have one local friend who will donate some plants and give advice. I was asking the club if they knew anyone in Sheboygan who might also be able to help. If these ideas get put in, after the lawns are overseeded with clover and the native wildflower gardens are in, the club could send them one of the letters of gratitude that was put together by Elizabeth Dietz. **Contact JO for info.**

Questions sent from membership - none

Hive reports - Most members are feeding. There was some issue with the cold weather that we had when bees were arriving, but most we happy to see their bees more active in the warmer weather.

These are results for the Hive reports. I had a little trouble keeping up, so this is the best that I can do. It's kind of difficult with not knowing everyone by name and number flying around. I apologize if I missed anyone. The first number is hives over winter; the second number is hives added.

Jason - 5 hives adding 2 - look good; Dan H. - 6-1; Al S. - 1; Andrew 2 packages; Julie C. 2 nucs doing well; Judy R. - 2 nucs - doing well, added 2 supers; the Drewrys - 4 - added 1, then it snowed, doing well; Matt?? - hives active; Derek - picking up bees on Saturday; Katie - 1 and added 1; Kevin 20 - missing some queens; Brian and Denise - 1 hive; Carl and Lois I didn't get; Garry S 6 - going to split, getting queens, 7 packages - doing well; Rebich - 7 - doing fine; Matt - 2 hives pkg and nuke seem fine; Paul & Courtney - 1 hive when it was really cold, doing well today; Travis & Crystal - 3 nukes before a storm, Let It Bee delivered more bees to there.; Ken B - 1 - added 1 package; Lydia - 2 nucs - look good

Program - Garry S demonstrated his Top Bar Hive.

Discussion -

- ❖ Discussion on bees "bearding". Someone mentioned misting the bees, they will think it's raining and head back in. It was also mentioned that banging with pots and pans makes them think it's thunder and they will head back in.
- ❖ Queen excluder discussion. Some use and some don't. But then you will have brood likely in your honey stores.
- ❖ Discussion on feeders. Some use high top feeders (sometimes bees don't eat it all), some entrance feeders (some entrance feeders encourage wasps in the fall. Also use of a Ziplock bag lying flat on the top, making several slits in the bag. Bees feed on that. Some use feeder pails
- ❖ Bees will stop eating at feeders when there is enough nectar available. They know that's the best stuff! Some add Honey Bee Healthy to their feeders.
- ❖ In the spring, feed 1-1 sugar and water. In the fall feed 2-1 sugar and water.
- ❖ What is a clipped queen? Wings are clipped so the queen won't fly away. Crawls back into hive from the ground. Keeps them from leaving from swarming.
- ❖ Bright white comb - bees will reclaim.
- ❖ Dead bees in top feeder - not uncommon - make sure that screen is tight.

Motion to adjourn: Katie

Second: Kevin

Raffle - Bring BINGO gifts for the picnic.

Next meeting is Tuesday, June 14th - 6:30 pm at NOURISH - PICNIC

Refreshments at the May meeting were provided by Ken Benversie, Sandy Jacobson, and Courtney Gottsacker. Thanks for the yummy treats!!

Respectfully submitted by Kathy P