

Sheboygan County Beekeepers Association

August 9, 2022

Agenda

Dan H called the meeting to order.

Attendance: 19

New members: 2

Minutes - July minutes were sent out and are posted on the website.

Treasurer's Report -

Checking account balance - \$ 846.04

Savings account balance - \$1890.97

Motion to Accept: Matt

Second: Peter

Old Business -

- Kathy had contact with Tim Wilbanks from Heritage Honey. He has us on his calendar for the program for our September meeting.
- Peter D asked about the talk by Gary O concerning Slovenian hives. Gary O had to cancel. Perhaps we can re-schedule for a future date?

Correspondence -

- Kathy has had a number of requests for queens, swarms, etc., which I have passed on to the membership. **Hansen Honey Farm in Rhinelander, WI apparently has queens available now. They ship overnight.**

New Business -

- New officers - a discussion of who will run for offices will be held at the September meeting, followed by a vote during the October meeting.

Please consider running for office and/or think about who you would like to see in our association leadership. **Note:** Ken has volunteered to remain as treasurer of the club if the membership would like for him to stay.

Questions sent from membership (some of our best discussions come from these questions!)

1. **How does one reserve the group extractor?** The group extractor can be reserved by contacting Ralph W. at 458-6556. If you cannot reach him, contact Ken.
2. **Is it too late to treat for mites?** It is never too late to treat for mites. It is important to treat now, as the bees being born now may be part of your winter population. Note:

this question generated another discussion about the "blue towel" method. Peter will provide instructions for making the blue towels to anyone who provides him with an email address. Jason brought sample blue towels to the meeting; they were soaked in glycerin and oxalic acid. Several members have been treating their hives successfully using this treatment for varroa mites.

3. **Can you take a frame of capped honey from a brood box? Or is this required for winter feeding?** Leave the capped honey in the brood box. Generally, never remove food from a brood box.
4. **If you have a brood box that is 80% - 90% full, should you add another?** Yes. If you have available frames that are already drawn, that's very helpful. If you add an empty box, drawn or not, it is important to start feeding your bees right away so they have the energy to do the work. Common practice is to leave brood on the bottom. If your bees create additional brood frames and your lower brood box has empty frames, switch the new brood to the lower box. Ideally, the brood box will have brood frames in the center and food frames along the outer sides, with surplus honey supers above. This is where the bees will feed in winter. Some members reconfigure their hives on a regular basis.

Hive reports:

Jason: 5 hives, 2 nukes, all doing very well. He has processed 180 pounds of honey (39 quarts, 29 pints). He always reserves some for spring feeding. He is treating his hives for mites using the blue towel method and is also vaporizing every 7 days for weeks.

Jessica: All hives doing really well; 1 is a new hive, so she moved a frame of eggs into it from another hive.

Keith: 3 hives, untouched for weeks, all looking really good.

Chris & Nancy: 2 hives, lost one queen. May be looking to re-queen.

Greg: 5 hives, 4 of which over-wintered.

Matt: 2 new hives, 1 looking good. Added honey supers mid-July; boxes are quite heavy. So far, so good.

Kathryn & Hal: 7 hives, all of which over-wintered. Following splits, now have 11 hives. They are using a queen castle, placed on top of the highest super, to make their own queens. They have not had to purchase bees at all this year.

Peter: 3 hives, all are 5 deep and very active. Will process honey on the next cool day.

Travis & Crystal: 3 hives; 1 awesome, 1 struggling but okay, the 3rd was re-queened.

Ken: 8 hives, including the Children's Museum. Will be treating this weekend.

Dan H: 7 hives, split 1 so now has 8. 2 have swarmed, 1 is fairly weak and is getting robbed. Some member suggestions to prevent robbing: cover opening with a wet towel, use a robber screen, or smear Vicks Vaporub across the opening to mask the scent of the honey.

Program - No program today, but Dan H brought a baggie containing a swifter sheet and many hive beetles, which Dan P apparently trapped in one of his hives. Also, Jason brought a baggie containing prepared blue towels, which the membership also found interesting.

Motion to Adjourn: Peter

Second: Jason

Raffle -

Thank you to the Drewry and Hocevar families for refreshments tonight.

Next meeting is Tuesday, September 13th - 6:30 pm at the Miley Barn. Tim Wilbanks from Heritage Honey will be presenting a program.

Refreshments for the September meeting will be provided by the Willmas family

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth D for Kathy P.