

Sheboygan County Beekeepers Association

July 11, 2023

Minutes

Dan H called the meeting to order.

Attendance: 20

New members: 3

Welcome to Andrea and Luke K, who joined us in June. They supplied some of the brats for the picnic, which were made from their pasture-raised pigs.

Welcome to Robyn J from Christopher Farm and Gardens

Minutes - Minutes for May were sent to the membership and posted on the SCBA Website. No corrections were reported. No Minutes for June Picnic.

Treasurer's Report

Checking account balance - \$ 456.04

Savings account balance - \$ 2212.12

Motion to Accept: Dan P

Second: Peter

Old Business -

- Pass around sign-up sheet for programs and refreshments. The refreshments sheet is full, but we have slots available for programs, if anyone is interested.
- Sign up to volunteer to help at Nourish?? If you would like to volunteer and haven't yet signed up, please contact Kathy or Dan H. to be included on the list.
- June picnic -no comments were offered
- American Foul Brood update: Dan H. reports on the situation that AFB affected one of his hives. He dug a hole and burned his brood boxes, scorched all of his other boxes and now disinfects his tools with grain alcohol before each use. Dan introduced Jamie Van Dyke, the local veterinarian who assisted him by providing an inspection and VFD (Veterinarian Fee Directive) which is required to procure

the antibiotics needed to treat Hives for AFB. (See more on this topic under Program Notes)

Correspondence

- There have been numerous requests for help with swarms and bee removal. Dan discussed with someone Bumble Bee removal from a hot tub. The owner of that tub apparently ended up removing the bees himself. The bees were moved to a box, kept overnight and transferred to another area to acclimate.
- Kurt received a phone call from a member of a Dodge County Beekeeping Club. He is calling around to get information from other clubs. He wanted to know if our club has insurance, and also are we a non-profit. **Kathy, are we incorporated as a 501c3 (no-for-profit) corporation? Nobody knows. We don't think we have (or need) insurance. Thoughts?**
I think we (Ken) could check that with our bank. I always believed that we were non-profit, and I think that form would have to be with our banking institution?? Ken??
Kathy

New Business -

- Our club has been contacted by the Wisconsin Honey Producers asking whether we would like to volunteer at State Fair this year, which runs from August 3rd -13th. They display an observation hive and answer questions from fairgoers. Dan H. suggested that we find a date when we can volunteer together as an organization. He said it is fun and volunteers receive a free ticket to the fair. There are two shifts: the early shift is from 10am to 5pm, the later shift is from 5pm to 10pm. Is anyone interested? What dates might be workable?
- Dan P. shared an issue. He has 4 hives at Fresh Meals on Wheels (FMoW) in Sheboygan. FMoW is a neighbor to the Willow Creek Preserve (WCP), which is owned by the Great Lakes Conservancy (GLC), a well-known not-for-profit organization. WCP/GLC has expressed concern to FMoW that the honeybee hives are displacing the native bee population of WCP by reducing the available food supplies for other pollinators. Dan P. did some research, with the following inconclusive results. About 50% of the studies have determined that the honeybee population does interfere

with those of native bees. 30% of the studies determined that it does not. The remaining 20% of the studies have concluded that the presence of honeybees improves the environment, which benefits all. Dan P. asks whether anyone else has encountered this issue. He thinks that, in the interest of being a Good Neighbor, he will be moving his hives. One unfortunate aspect of this situation is that FMoW is very proud of the fact that they have bee hives on their property and have garnered some recognition from their broader organization because of it. JoAnn F. asserted that we should be planting enough native plants to feed all of the remaining pollinator populations.

- A related topic was mentioned. Apparently, there are laws being enacted to prevent trucks hauling bees commercially from parking on Federal land, for presumably the same reason.
- Dan P. announced that the honey extractor owned by the club is available for rent for \$10/day. It is a 3-frame hand-extractor; please contact Dan H. if you would like to rent it.

Questions sent from membership -

- Q: I extracted honey. Do I need to label it in order to sell it and, if so, what does the label need to say? A: Go to the website of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection; it will tell you all you need to know. Here is the link:
https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/FSHoney.aspx
- Q: Is it possible to find a mated queen now? A: Might be very difficult to find. One member said Gary O (Honeyland Farms) does not have any queens right now. Another member recently purchased a queen from Let It Bee (\$47). An aside: the queen has produced such gentle brood, that he almost doesn't need to suit up. Another aside: Sunset Apiary has said that the nastiest bees are the best propagators and the best honey producers. Editor's Note: at least here are 3 places you can call. Good Luck.

Hive Reports - No hive reports were given today.

Program - The program consisted of a session with veterinarian Jamie Van Dyke regarding American Foul Brood (AFB).

Q: Have you seen foul brood other than that in Dan H's hive?

A: I am not the person to answer that question {the state should have those records}. AFB cannot be treated; our goal is to prevent it from occurring.

AFB has 2 phases: the dormant, vegetative state where it lingers in the environment. Honeybees get it in their gut and consequently feed it to the brood, where it reaches its second, active phase, and kills the brood.

These are the things we can do to prevent AFB.

1. Get a hygienic queen. A hygienic queen will recognize AFB and throw the brood out.
2. Change out 1/3 of your brood comb each year to get rid of spores. The frames should be burned.
3. Scorch your box interiors with a blow torch.
4. Disinfect tools and gloves between hives.

Preventative treatment includes applying an antibiotic in Spring and in Fall. This does nothing to affect the spores but does kill any active foul brood bacteria. Hives cannot be treated with an antibiotic during honey flow. The law requires a Veterinary Fee Directive (VFD) in order to purchase the antibiotic, so there must be a vet/client relationship. Usually a yearly visit is sufficient to establish relationship. Copies of the VFD are kept on file for 2 years.

Jamie prescribes Terra-Pro, a medicated feed mix which contains the antibiotic Terramycin, Bee-Pro, sucrose and other vitamins and minerals (description courtesy of Mann Lake website, which offers the product). This is applied to each colony in Spring and in Fall. The product is sprinkled on top of the hive near the edges. The bees will consume it and any infection in their gut will be killed. An application consists of 3 treatments about 5 days apart and must be applied 6 weeks before honey flow. (Perhaps around the

first week of April??) The second application occurs after the honey supers come off in Autumn.

The product is sold in 1 lb. packages and in 10 lb. packages. 1 lb. is 24 treatments and will treat 8 hives for one application (e.g. Spring).

Terra-pro also comes in patty form, which she does not recommend, as they are not as readily consumed as the feed.

Jamie emphasized the use of CAUTION when purchasing Terra-Pro. The product expires, so be certain to ask for the expiration date on the package when purchasing. This may also discourage the practice of buying more than you need. Also, sellers must keep records of such purchases; the FDA will request copies of the VFD if orders appear to be unusually large.

Dan H. purchased the product from Mann Lake for \$17.95/lb. (he commented that the shipping was more than the product). Delivery was very quick; he was able to treat in early May.

Jamie also cautioned against applying the product to open brood, as it will kill the brood. Apply to the edges, as earlier stated,

Q: Do you recommend always treating for AFB?

A: This is not for me to answer. I do recommend that you educate yourself to recognize AFB.

Q: Is AFB tracked in anyway?

[Editor's answer: The Annual Report of The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) includes percentages of occurrences of AFB, Varroa mites, and other diseases, based on their hive inspection reports. Here is a link to the 2022 report, see section 6.]

<https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents2/2022AnnualReportPIB.pdf>

Raffle - Thanks to all those who donated raffle items!

Motion to adjourn: Peter

Second: Gary

Next meeting is the August 8th - 6:30 PM at Nourish

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Dietz for Kathy Petersen

ⁱ Hygienic behavior of honey bees is a genetic trait. This is an excerpt from “The Hygiene Queen”, an article written by [Marla Spivak](#) [assoc. professor at University of Minnesota] & Gary Reuter and was published in [Bee Culture](#) on 1st May 1998.

The Hygienic Queen... is the primary natural defense against American foulbrood ... and chalk brood. Hygienic bees detect, uncap, and remove diseased brood from the combs before the disease becomes infectious.

Hygienic behavior also is one defense against Varroa mites ... and although it is not the main mechanism of resistance to the mites ... it appears to limit their reproduction and population growth to some degree. Our studies have shown that it is possible to select for hygienic behavior without compromising honey production or gentleness ... The trait can be found in approximately 10 percent of the managed colonies found in the United States, in any race or stock of bees. We feel it would benefit the beekeeping industry to have hygienic lines of bees commercially available.

The University of Minnesota has a lot to say on this subject. It is all available on-line.