

Sheboygan County Beekeepers Association
September 12, 2023
Minutes

Called Meeting to order 7 PM
Attendance: 34
New Members: none

Minutes: Were sent out and posted on website. No contacts about revising minutes from August.

Treasurer's Report :

Savings Account Balance: \$1962.83
Checking Account Balance: \$452.37

Motion to Accept: Ray
Second: Gary

Old Business:

--pass around sign-up sheet for programs and refreshments. The refreshment sheet is full, but we have slots available for programs if anyone is interested.

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 owned by the club; please contact Dan H. if you would like to rent it.

Jamie Van Dyke added an additional caution- do not feed honey to your hives if you do not know its source - SFB spores can be present in honey.

Correspondence:

Kathy called Kohler Credit Union and we are not considered a nonprofit. Do not need to worry because of the size of our account.

New business:

Pat has a Layens hive honey extractor if anyone needs to use it.

Questions from the membership:

Does anyone buy/sell honey wholesale?

Kurt Petersen sells honey. He may be able to answer some questions.

Honey being sold must be tested. Here is a link that we have posted on the SCBA website about State guidelines. Please check this out for any questions on selling honey.

https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/FSHoney.aspx

Can I leave the queen excluder on after honey harvest?

Dan H. takes them off. If you harvest the honey you do not need an excluder. If you leave the honey take the excluder out so bees can get to honey for the winter.

Has anyone used an app for scanning for brood?

It takes 4 pictures of frame on one side 4 on other side to get mite count.
Pat compared alcohol wash and app and count were similar.
Scans for brood diseases as well.

Joanne reported Mead Library clover planting was successful. She met with Charlie Koehen and a cemetery in Milwaukee is considering planting clover.

Antique honey extractors were picked up by Ray and Dan.

Motion to adjourn: Gary

Second: Kevin

Program: by Jason on over wintering hives.

Each year reports of hives lost over winter are happening.
Jason has a method for wintering and only lost one hive last year. He demonstrated how he winterized his hives.

(Sustainable Wisconsin Bee Keeping – Tom; a good resource for information)

What kills bees: moisture in a cold cluster?

Air flow cools the hive and bees must work harder to keep warm. Jason eliminated the top vent and has a solid not screened bottom board. His one hive with a screen bottom did not make it through the winter. He feels the draft from bottom entrance to top vent may be causing a colder hive in which bees have to work harder to keep warm.

Demonstration

Begin by buying 4-foot rolls of REFLEX X at Menards or Home Depot

For winter take cover off or use it for fall feeding by putting it upside down

Use a 2" extension (candy boards) lined with brown paper for food, sugar bricks or sugar
Duct tape extension board and hive together to seal the joining seam.
Bottom entrance 3" – 4" no upper entrance

Wrap hive in REFLECT X at the end of October and leave it there.

Line extender with brown paper and fill it with dry sugar after Thanksgiving. The brown paper in extender also helps absorb moisture.

Cut a piece of REFLECT X to fit the top of your hive and use duct tape on one side to create a hinge.

Using the 4 'length cut to 80" REFLECT X to wrap around the hive starting and ending in the back in which the back will have 2 layers and the other 3 sides 1 layer of REFLECT X
Secure well with duct tape.

Find the corner of the hive where candy box is and follow the line all the way to the top to keep it straight and cut with a scissors. This will give you flaps to fold over the hive in all 4 directions.

Fold EAST over the top and trim
Fold WEST over the top and trim
Fold SOUTH over the top and trim
Fold NORTH over the top and trim

Put on cover or top of hive that now has 5 layers of Reflect X
Reflect X can be reused over the following year.

Cut an opening at the bottom entrance.

You end up with 5 layers on top no upper entrance.

Don't worry about moisture, bees use moisture. Hives keep warm and bees don't have to work as hard.

Discussion after demonstration among members.

Raffle

Thank you to Jim and Betty for the refreshments.

Next meeting is October 10, 2023, at Nourish – 6:30 PM

Thanks to Kathy H for the great minutes!!