

Sheboygan County Beekeepers Association

Minutes

April 9, 2024

Called Meeting to order by Dan H

**Minutes:** March Minutes were sent out and posted on the website. No contacts about revising those minutes.

**Treasurer's Report:** We are having an issue with access to the SCBA account, Kathy has an appointment for April 12<sup>th</sup> to straighten it out. Figures below are from prior meeting.

Savings Account Balance: \$1,962.83

Checking Account Balance: \$452.37

Attendance: 35

**Old Business:**

- Jo mentioned the Wintergreen Festival that was held at Mead Library on March 16<sup>th</sup>.
- American Bee Journal forms for anyone interested. Club members get a discount.

**Correspondence:**

- Hi!  
Can you send this out to your beekeepers?  
Thanks,  
Yvonne from Fox Valley Beekeepers.

Hello fellow beekeepers!

Are you interested in an equipment swap meet? Do you have equipment that you no longer need?

Fox Valley Beekeepers Club is CONSIDERING hosting a swap meet in May. We are seeking input from YOU to see if this is something you would be interested in, either as a buyer or seller.

Please let us know your interest by emailing  
foxvalleybeeclubwi@gmail.com

Location, Greenville, WI (north. Of Oshkosh). Anyone interested can contact them at the above email address.

- Emma at Above and Beyond Children's Museum asked for assistance with the hive there. Dan H has been in touch, and Emma was at our meeting.
- Contact from Shelley Petersen regarding donation of a quilt.
- Jenny sent an email requesting someone let her and her son observe beekeeping. Matt has responded and they have a date set up.

#### **New business:**

- Hours for the future SCBA meetings at Nourish. Time we need to be OUT of the building. We really did not address this.
- Donated quilt by Shelley Petersen - what to do with it.  
Raffle, Nourish to hang the quilt, Nourish would be happy to take the quilt as a donation and use it for their silent auction for their Local Food Fair market or for their annual Good Food Party fundraiser. Motion by Greg. to donate the quilt to Nourish for their Auction. Seconded by Dan P. Motion carried, and the quilt has been presented to Nourish for their auction.
- Dan H. is going to monitor a hive at the Children's Above and Beyond Museum, he needs to purchase a nuke.
- Name tags - we will use them at meetings in the future.
- Ada orchard would like bees on the orchard. Anyone interested, contact them.

**Program:** Pat Murack - Mites - Pat uses information from Dr. Zach Lamas ( I apologize, information was really flying around. I did my best.....questions check with Pat.

- From eastern honey bees, only in drones

- Feast on blood of honey bees. Spreads viruses in bees as they feed each other
- We have a plague-like situation.
- Alcohol washes to know what mite count is in the hive.
  - Find the queen - wash the nurse bees. Shake the frame get all the workers to fly away. You want nurse bees in the box.  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup nurse bees, canning funnel is helpful - 91% alcohol . Or Dawn ultra dishwashing - 1 tblsp in a jar coats their bodies swirl around shack to dislodge the mites.
  - Hardware cloth on top of another jar with a coffee filter, dump alcohol into new jar - filters for kidney stones works great = amazon.
  - Dump back into alcohol and shake and get more mites.
  - 300 bees =  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup 3 mites. Penn State has a good site. He treats once a month.
  - Test with formic pro about a week later to see how it is.
- Pat only likes to treat if they have some mites.
- Peter - treats regularly to keep the mites down, rather than have them go up and try to knock them down again.
- Youngest bees are the ones that have the mites.
- Do drones. Pick up 40 drones - wear **nylon** gloves. **Nylon** gloves - nitrile - 2 mites are too much.
- Check brood when comb breaks - you will see mites.
- ***The Cavity Compromise by Adrian Quiney*** - Pat recommends this book. Drone cells are larger - make a green comb.
- Mites eat fat on the bees.
- Can cause Deformed wing virus
- K wing sign of issues
- Pyrex dish - water oxalic acid - do not boil hot water stir, add glycerin, Scott blue towels, cut in 1/2 1 towel in each box as long as wet it's active.
- Some people vaporize

Pat recommends these sites.

- <https://sbgmi.org/> - **Sustainable Beekeepers Guild of Michigan**
- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/180528633644518/> (Sustainable Wisconsin Beekeeping)
- <https://www.lloydstbees.com/>

Questions from the membership:

Refreshments: Thanks to the The Jacobsons for refreshments.

**Motion to adjourn:**

Raffle - We did not have the raffle tickets, as Ken had to work out of town. So, Kathy took the raffle items home and will bring them back next month. I did give the cute "Easter Bunny" sign to Dan H for his grandkids, since we won't be meeting until after Easter. Thanks to whoever brought that in. Remember Raffle items for the next meeting.

Next meeting is May 14th at Nourish - 6:30 PM Mark Breunig will be doing a program on SWARMS.

Carl and Lois Demmin has refreshments.

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Petersen