

Sheboygan County Beekeepers Association

May 14, 2024

Meeting called to order by Dan H

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

Treasurer's Report:

Savings Account Balance: 1,964.15

Checking Account Balance: \$ 287.37

Treasurer's report- Motion to accept by Jason, seconded by Andy - carried.

Attendance: 26

Old Business:

- Donated quilt by Shelley Peterson - what to do with it - it has been donated to Nourish for their Fund Raiser.
- Dan H. is going to monitor a hive at the Children's Above and Beyond Museum.
- Name tags - I'll have them on a table with markers. Please take one when you come to a meeting. It will help us all get to know each other.

Correspondence:

- A few contacts about hives, Dan H. took care of them.
- Lady on Hwy C west of Falls has bees in a shed.

New business:

- June picnic - 6 PM - Sign up. This is a picnic for the whole family. Please respond to Kathy if you are coming so the "committee" can order meet. Bring a dish to pass, something to drink, and BINGO prizes. You don't have to play, but YOU WILL WANT TO!!
- June 7th 2 PM - 5 PM - share fun facts with kids At the Children's Museum - John Lucynski has offered but would be appreciative of someone else doing it. Please let us know if you can help them out.

Questions from the membership:

- Recipe on the internet for mite treatment - is for 1 roll. Put in a zip lock with the liquid. 1 per each 10-frame box oxalic acid. If a 336 g ixcekuc acut 1 1.2 cyo gktnerine
- Crystals in honey. Water content, cooler area, depends upon the source for the bees. Recommended not to warm above 105 degrees or it will effect the antioxidants.
- Nucs -maybe split the hive - It was recommended to move a frame of brood from a good hive instead of splitting
- How long to feed. Until they quit taking it.
- Put new super on when $\frac{3}{4}$ full.
- Excluder, some use some don't. Plastic ones are square, wire are round - don't damage wings. Metal ones will rust from oxalic acid.
- Ants in hive - sdiatenacious earth (if someone can help me with what this was, I had my hands on the wrong keys).
- Smoker fuel - pine needles pack loosely burns longer.
- Sun - facing south entrance -

Program: Mark Breunig - program on SWARMS - Thank you Mark, I found it most interesting!!

Mark gets about 25 swarms per year. He puts his swarm traps out and lets the swarms come to him. He looks for line fences, the path of least resistance. Along the river, a road between 2 parcels of woods. Around his hives. Fruit trees, wild cherry trees, apple trees.

He puts his Swarm traps out when trees start to bloom. The Swarm traps should be about 40 liters, bees measure them, and like the space. Mark puts them up so he can reach them, he doesn't like them higher and then have to carry them down. The traps are 2 frames deep. Frame in the top, bottom is open. Mark checks them every week. Goes at night. Take a swarm trap home, and leave an empty one. Bees smell and come back to where bees had been. Uses swarm commander. Also puts a pellet in there - swarm lure has a scent, puts one inside. If you use too much you deter the bees from coming inside.

Primary swarms come out with the old queen, they are bigger. Secondary bee takes another $\frac{1}{2}$ of the hive, another hive swarms and few bees are left, from multiple queens.

He uses old frames (with old foundation on them) bees like the lived in feeling. He uses black foundation for them to make comb. If you see pollen coming in they are doing well. If hives are small in the fall, he combines. Had 32 frames going into the winter. Mark lets the hive take care of multiple queens.

Combining, do not combine 2 failing hives, it will fail. He uses some foundationless frames. Be sure to make sure traps are hanging tight and straight. He screws the tops on. Double bubble insulation for inner covers. Bees do better without entrances on the top.

2 little holes towards the bottom seem to do better. They like it dark like the inside of a hollow tree.

Tom Seeley has book on swarms that Mark likes. Here is a link to info on Tom Seeley.

https://www.google.com/search?q=tom+seeley+bees+swarms&oq=tom+s&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUqCAgAEEUYJxg7MggIABBFGCcYOzINCAEQLhiDARixAxiABDIKCAIQLhixAxiABDIGCAMQRRg8MgYIBBBFGDwyBggFEEUYPDIGCAYQRRhBMgYIBxBFGEHSAQgyMjE1ajBqN6gCCLACAQ&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8

Traps facing South or west seem to work well. Bees generally swarm from 10 AM - 2 PM.

He has 1 swarm so far this year. Bees come with everything they need, they come with honey. Funky comb is good,
He uses 5 frames across the top, with different types of frames. Use brood comb.

Honeybee healthy will deter fermentation of sugar water.

Refreshments: Carl and Lois Demmin (Thank you)

Motion to adjourn: by Dan P, seconded by Jason A

Next meeting - Picnic at Nourish - June 11 - 6:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Petersen