

Sheboygan County Beekeepers Association
3/12/14

46 attendees

Tammy introduced the group and officers.

Treasurer's Report \$570.36 checking, \$826.29 savings

Secretary's Report 28 attendees at November holiday party. Gifts for custodian and ADRC office staff purchased. Long-time member Ray Schumann died, a card was sent to the family.

Kurt Vollmer taught a beekeeping class over the winter. Many students are interested in a hands-on course.

Holiday party attendance is declining, why? Brief discussion, no conclusions reached. Might just be timing and a busy time of year.

John Holzwart - Maywood would like an observation hive. John will form a group to take this on and report back.

Steve Hiebing has built observation hives before.

Motion made to investigate creating and supporting an observation hive at Maywood. 1st - Shaun, 2nd - Mr Wettstein

Motion passed.

Eugene - Sheboygan Press article regarding USDA feeding bees aka "honeybee initiative". WI Lifescience magazine "Saving Pollinators" article.

Kathy - "The Beeman" book of the year by Laurie Krebs. "Hooray for Beekeeping" is another good title for children.

Motion made to buy several copies of "The Beeman" book for our library. Motion passed. Several members would like copies also, extra copies will be ordered.

Kurt P - Showed the club materials available: demonstration hive, child's bee suit, posters.

Eugene - the club has a large wooden sign available for display at functions.

Kurt Vollmer - WI State Fair has a separate category for Honey Competition this year.

Tammy - costs of printing membership booklet are considerable. Shaun will speak to Boneck printing for estimate.

Hive Report - Mostly bad. Only about 25% of hives made it through the winter.

Bee prices are up - Gary O., Carl Wesley, and Wayne Gerdts all have bees available but you should order SOON.

Tammy - Don't sell your honey too cheap. Good honey is worth good money!

Questions -

1. Why would bees swarm late in the year? Not swarming, absconding. Kurt P. suggests that some gene drift from Africanized bees may be responsible.
2. Mice invaded hives. Can you use the honey? Feed it to your bees is the consensus.
3. Beekeeper vs Honey Producer? What is the distinction? Consensus that large volume honey production designates a producer. Smaller numbers of hives designates a beekeeper.
4. Overwintering tips? Insulation, ventilation, ample food, and a windbreak.

Motion to adjourn- 1st Sheila, 2nd Kevin. Motion passed.

Presentation - Garry Sydow, Bee Association meeting. Kurt P. contributed information regarding WI Honey Producers Association meeting.

Dave Hackenberg (long-time honey producer, famous for raising awareness of CCD) was the guest speaker. He removes pollen gathered by the bees and feeds them 40lbs of pollen untainted by pesticides. Also feeds a mix of dried eggs and yeast.

Lawrence Connor also spoke. Honeybeespeak.com has articles on him.

Kurt P. discussed the effects of pesticides and how they are reducing bee longevity, harming their immune system, and making them susceptible to other diseases.

