

Sheboygan County Beekeepers Association

October 13, 2015

Secretary's Report - read and accepted

Treasurer's Report - Total in Savings and Checking - \$2,826.87

Attendance - 56

Old Business -

- None

Purchases - none

New Business -

- Refreshments. Beginning in 2016, we will have some new parameters for those of you that are gracious enough to volunteer to bring refreshments. Please bring whatever you need that night. That includes beverages, and paper products (napkins, cups, plates, etc.) You may then submit receipts for the beverages and paper products, and Garry will reimburse you. A big thanks to those of you that have been volunteering to do this, it seems like the membership enjoys the fellowship after the meeting and program.
- Membership booklets have been updated this past year. As a matter of fact, Jamie has taken care of 22 updates (information changes, new members). There are several new members not in book yet.

We printed 56 booklets this year. Cost for new booklet for next year is about \$50. Members have expressed a desire not to have this information on our website.

A motion was passed to print 65 new Membership booklets for next year. New booklets will be available at the meeting in March, 2016.

- At our first 2016 meeting on March 8th, we will have a guest speaker (thanks to Keith Weiland) doing a program on cooking and canning with honey.
- Since we are having a program at the first 2016 meeting, we will be doing membership and dues differently, in a timelier manner. Please bring a check for \$10, or cash, for membership. There will be a card for you to fill out with membership information and an envelope to put it in with your \$10 membership fee. More information on this will be included in your reminder for the March meeting.
- The sign-up sheet for programs and refreshments will be passed around at the March meeting.
- Debbie Spangler donated 2 bees to be included with our educational materials. These may be used for displays or programs. (See picture on the NEWS tab on our website, www.sheboyganbees.org)

- Dr. James Kuplic shared information on a site called Wihive.buzz -a hive monitoring device. It can be installed in a beehive to monitor temperature, humidity in and out, and audio. It incorporates a solar device so you can observe your hive at home. It was developed by a beekeeper. It is in its beginning stages and not available commercially as of yet, but would be interesting to observe on the site.
- Terry Zerger has been gracious enough to send the directions for her "winterizing hives" box. I am including it with the October minutes (I'm sending minutes out early, since we have no business meeting in November, and also posting the directions on the website under a new tab, WINTERIZING HIVES.)
- We had guests from the *Sheboygan Press*, Brian and Lisa Bernier, and also a photographer. There should be an article in the Press on Thursday, November 22nd. Check it out!

Correspondence -

- Kurt continues to forward Emails to the membership. The UW-Sheboygan Garden club would like to visit an apiary, and connect with us.
- Nancy K., County Historical Society, would like honey to sell at the Historical Society. If interested, Kurt forwarded her email.
- Beth L. at Greenbush, town hall issue. Addressed by Jamie.
- Debbie B. from Pigeon River School saw our display at the Sheboygan County Fair, (her granddaughter was included in a picture with our Honey Queen). She would like a program at Pigeon River School.

Q & A Discussion

- What should be done this month? Wasp control, entrance reducers, check for mites, make sure that hives have enough syrup.
- Latest word on flow hive - coming in December, some people critical of flow hives. Go to their website (<http://www.honeyflow.com>), they are posting videos and tutorials. They have researched for 10 years, and have had beekeepers around the world testing them out. Less stress on the bees, don't have to produce as much wax; don't have to smoke bees out. These hives have viewing windows..... plastic and preformed.
- Someone wanted opinion on Top bar hives. Some facts shared.....not really meant for this climate, African design, bees here naturally want to move up. Can't build up on those hives. They are fun, but overrated. Bee pods built by a cabinet company, beautiful piece of woodworking. Very expensive. Good for educational purposes.
- What cause bees to abscond. African bees do. African DNA might be in our bees and that might cause them to abscond. Some bees might abscond in new package if they don't like their location.
- Should we be treating for nosema. Yes, give fumagillin in their sugar water.

- Someone was interested in getting local purchase of bees for bee venom therapy. (Little John will discuss with her)
- When should I order bees? Now you get 2015 prices from Wayne. \$100 to \$140 range, depending upon size.
- Drones gathering at dog's watering dish. Going on for 2 weeks. Drones are being kicked out, desperate.
- Decoy nests for yellow jackets..... they are looking for sweet stuff. They don't seem to be interested in other things when honey is around.

Hive report - Watch for wasps/hornets trying to steal honey. Various results.

Book Report - Jean Wilke - *How to Keep Bees and Sell Honey* by Walter T. Kelley- lot of information (print is small). Moisture problems are discussed, capped honey is normally alright. Suggested putting a light bulb in a super with supers criss-crossed. Preparing bees for winter - one suggestion is to spend the winter in Florida.

Program - Kurt Petersen - Honey Tasting! We had many different honeys, from many different locations (states and countries). It was a very interesting evening, with many different tastes and colors!

Refreshments - Ralph Christianson, Sue Birkholz (Thanks!)

Motion to adjourn - First - Ray N.
Second - Kevin K.

Our last meeting of 2015 will be Tuesday, November 10th. A Potluck will begin at 6:30 pm with BINGO to follow. Please bring a \$5.00 gift for BINGO.

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Petersen