

Sheboygan County Beekeepers Association

March 8, 2016

Secretary's Report - no minutes

Treasurer's Report - Total in Savings and Checking - \$2045.96

Attendance - 60+

Old Business -

- Maywood bees are dead, Above and Beyond Children's Museum also, and Manitowoc bees also.

Committee Reports - NA

Purchases - Membership booklets and refreshment supplies

New Business -

- See correspondence below
- USDA National Agricultural Statistics - questionnaire on bees, when lost, how lost, etc. Publish results in Honey Bee colonies report. (Sue)
- Debbie Spangler is making a Scrapbook for the traveling library. It will have information about the club.
- It was suggested (60+ people at our meeting!!!!) that we look for another larger venue for next year (UW, maybe the airport)

Correspondence -

- Dr. Kuplic's info on an article by the USDA Forest Service. You can download for free a booklet on pollinators. He just wanted to share, he is not taking orders. Kurt sent that information out.
- Plymouth Garden club wants a bee presentation in fall, Kurt has info. Mary Gross needs a date and she will do it.
- Bookworm Gardens - would like a program on June 18th, Keith Weiland is the contact.
- Madison All-Star 4H group wants a presentation this spring, please. Kurt has info that he will email to Sheila Wettstein.
- East Wind Garden group - Mary Gross is working with this group.
- Press kit from Keltronics, video outside of hive for monitoring hive temp, etc. Kurt will order a free press kit for review.
- Info for label resources, www.foodpackaginglabels.net in Canada, we will include on website.
- Bee prices have been emailed from Wayne Gerdts, Honey Land Farms and Wesley Farms.

- Added a tab for info on honey bee types and added the website from the State of WI that deals with selling honey.

Q & A Discussion

- What should I be doing with my hives this month? - remove insulation
- Feed sugar water now? - sure
- Move bees outside that were wintered inside - put on south side of building - now
- Getting first bees in April, tips..... If no comb, buy a nuc. If you have comb from previous year, a package might work. Bees need to be building out comb. Feed pollen patties. Read Beekeeping for Dummies..... ask questions from beekeepers that you pick up your bees from.....check youtube videos (fat bee man)
- Any news on bee die off..... might be Africanized bees
- Medicating in the spring.....if an established hive, now is a good time to treat. Do not treat new packages. Feed fumagillin to prevent nosema.
- Are Warre hives practical for Wisconsin? Check with Little John's webpage. (Fun but not as productive) Smaller, good for fresh wax, not so much for good honey production.
- Any leads on beekeeping classes. Mosquito Hill in New LondonWayne Gerdt's does them.....UW Fond du Lac, Little John at Maywood, Green Bay Nature center John Holzworth.....Woodland Dunes.....Garry Sydow
- How to clean used hives and frames..... throw away frames so as not to have any disease. Scorch the boxes to take care of foul brood. Bottom and top of boxes.

Hive report -

- Mixed

Book Report - Mary Gross - Attracting Native Pollinators (Xerces Society) - Heidel family farm planted a prairie in Sheboygan County. Pollinators are in trouble. Disrupting the food chain, create a diversity of bloom, protect nest and egg laying space, be careful with pesticides, spread the word.

Program - Keith Weiland - *Cooking and Canning with Honey* - George Quiriconi, Christopher Farms and Meals on wheels, shared his experiences with canning and honey.

There are 3 hives at farm in garden area and 1 observation hive. Last year they produced 24 gallons of honey.

Hints for cooking and canning with honey:

- Honey cinnamon applesauce - 5 to 10 % honey - use sugar recommended and add honey for flavor.
- pickyourown.org - check for recipes
- When baking bread - use a lower temp and longer time.

Refreshments - Jacky Drewry and Jamie Van Dyke
Motion to adjourn - First - Keith Weiland
Second - Kevin Krueger

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Petersen