

Sheboygan County Beekeepers Association

August 11, 2015

Secretary's Report - read and accepted

Treasurer's Report - Total in Savings and Checking - \$1671.63

Attendance - 42

Old Business -

- The Sheboygan County Honey Queen has made several presentations in the past month. She has been to Maywood, Camp Y-Koda, Camp Evelyn with the Girl Scouts, and doing cooking demonstrations and an appearance at the WI State Fair cooking demonstration.
- Ag Venture tent coming up at the Sheboygan County Fair on September 5th, from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM -south of horse barn and north of coliseum - Check map - by green tent. We'll find out which entrance to go into and that information will be sent to those members helping out that day, via email.

Committee Reports -

- See above for the group helping at the Ag Venture Tent at the Sheboygan County Fair.

Purchases - none

New Business -

- Jamie appreciates input from everyone. In the future, if you have new business for the next meeting, please email Jamie so that she can have you on the agenda.
- Kurt and Kathy Petersen volunteered at the Wisconsin State Fair in the Wisconsin Honey Producers Association honey booth.
- There was a nice article in the Sheboygan Press featuring Garry Oreskovic and Kurt Petersen, about a number of things effecting honey bees and beekeepers.

Correspondence -

Q & A Discussion

- What should I be doing this month? Check to see if there is enough honey for the bees next year. Possibly combine hives.
- Does anyone have experience with shots? De-sensitizing. Someone had a reaction to the shots.

- How do you get bees to cap honey faster? When they think it's ready they will cap it. A dehumidifier?
- Does anyone have a Ross round super for sale? Wayne has them at the store.
- How do you price honey? Check prices at farmer's market. Don't underprice your honey. You have a lot invested.
- How do you grade honey by color. There is a chart. Kurt P. will bring to next meeting.
- Hive beetles - observation hives have some beetles. The concern is with the constant temperature, the beetles won't die in the hive. Check on hive beetle traps - google it!

Hive report -

- Mostly positive

Book Report - Annette Selk - *The Adventure of Mai the Bee* - Whimsical, not an educational bee book. A good read aloud to children.

Program - Emily Dolfin - Mite Control - discussed mites

Wayne Gertz - presented a packet of information on mites and what to do if you have them. Don't use aspartain.

- Use Apiguard in the fall, not when it's the honey flow. It's from a natural plant, not harmful to bees. Use $\frac{1}{2}$ inch spacer guard with Apiguard. 50 - 80 degrees will give optimum treatment. Two weeks later check mites, you might have to treat again.
- HopGuard II - comes as a syrup. Use on 1 strip per 5 frames. Put syrup on a cardboard strip. Can use during honey flow, but not in honey supers. May be used in spring. If you put it in the fall, you can leave the strips in there until the spring. Natural product made from beer hops.
- Mite Away Quick strips - temperature can drive bees out of the hives. Put on 2 pads at a time. Had an adverse effect on queens. They have a knock down method that uses 1 pad now. Fumes can be strong.
- Oxalic acid - bees don't like it. Oxalic acid that is sold at Menard's etc. is too strong. Drench method, mix it with sugar water and drizzle it within frames. Best used in a broodless state, before queen starts laying eggs. Or vaporizer..... Is caustic to our lungs, should use hazment equipment. It takes about 2 minutes to vaporize. Doesn't harm the bees. Brushy Mountain is authorized to sell it for now. Oxalic acid is not yet ok to use in Wisconsin.

Refreshments - Therese Wade and Dan Pitsch

Motion to adjourn - First - Dr. Kuplic

Second - Dan Pitsch

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Petersen