

Dunn County Beekeepers Association

Menomonie Alliance Church Room 116
502 21st St. N., Menomonie, WI 54751

Minutes January 21, 2019

Postponed from January 14 due to Icy Roads

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll call – 28 attendees; Guests - 1

Secretary Report – Willie M. reviewed the November minutes. Approved unanimously.

Treasurer Report – Mary B. presented report; ordered checks; bought roll of stamps before price jumps; motion by Dave W., second by Dave P. to accept; passed unanimously.

Old Business

- 1. Christmas Party:** Stout Ale House – about 30 attendees. Generally a good time.
- 2. Budget Concerns:** – the 2018 budget showed a loss for the year mainly due to three items: purchase of projector; purchase of a few extra club T-shirts and lower than normal workshop income. Workshop income has been lower in recent years due to fewer participants. Lots of discussion about other workshops in the area, including a spring semester course at CVTC, and the reduced number of people at the Farm and Fleet Q&A sessions. Maybe the club should look at an ‘advanced’ workshop on raising queens and working to improve local stock.

New Business

1. Finalizing Workshop – club members are welcome to come for the day and visit with the participants and help out with meal serving and clean up, etc.

A. Advertising – Jenny G. reported that many web sites and Facebook pages were updated. Jenny G. did a community education program at the Durand High School January 10th for 5 potential participants. Jenny G. asked that everyone help publicize to friends and relatives.

B. Presentation Materials—Tom P., Dave W., Gary L., Jim C.

The following items will be brought for the workshop

Full hive – Dave W.

Extractor – Dave P.

Full suit with brim hat – Jenny G.

Kid’s suit – Veronica K.

Frames w/wo wax foundation – Jenny G.

Double screen sieve – Jenny G.

Oxalic acid fogger – Dave W.

Oxalic acid vaporizer – Jenny G.

Syrup Feeder – Jenny G.

If you have a beekeeping item to share, please mark it with your name and bring to the workshop. Jenny G. has hive tools and books for participants.

C. Lunch/break - Kathy W. needs to order meat about 3 weeks ahead. Jenny G. offered backup meat source if needed. Ice cream will be served as dessert for lunch rather than in a break out session. Dave W. will bring two honey bears.

D. Catalogs - Veronica K. has vendor catalogs (in bags) with the same page dog-eared for complete hive. Break out session leader for ordering equipment can reference the catalog. Extras catalogs and Bee Culture magazines were available at the meeting for attendees.

DOOR PRIZES: Veronica K. also collected a number of door prizes and suggested the door prizes be given out at the February or March meeting to club members who help at the workshop as a token of appreciation for their help. Mann Lake provided an in-hive gallon feeder, smoker, hats (2), bee brush, and blue hive tool (3). Dadant provided a one year subscription to "American Bee Journal" and a red 'J hook frame lifter and scraper' hive tool. Kelley Beekeeping provided a red hive tool. Dadant also provided two books – '*Mites of the Honey Bee*' and '*The Hive and the Honey Bee*' which could be part of a club library, if we had a library.

E. Breakout session topic and presenter

Ordering equipment – Randy R.

Questions and lots of Answers – Matt B. **Another volunteer Please**

Products of the Hive – Veronica K.

Non-Traditional beekeeping – Jerry Z. and Dan S.

Beginning Beekeeping – Vern M. and Angie M.

Pollination planting – Jenny G.

F. Coffee - Willie M. has coffee, tea, hot chocolate, sugar and creamer covered along with cups.

G. Set up - **Friday evening setup is at 7 p.m.** The gym is being used until 7 p.m. by another group. This year the room will be set up with projector facing East, towards the stage. Jen B. has the projector. Willie W. will check on keys and projector screen.

2. Honey Bee Ordering

Jenny G. compiled a list of honeybee suppliers in the area. There was considerable discussion on whether to order bees as a club and from whom to order. Impact on the club is finding a person or two, who can get the bees; tracking the orders/payments; finding a site for distribution and then the actual distribution. It was recognized that ordering as a club provides a huge benefit to new members who are not as familiar with sources, kinds, and logistics of getting bees. It was suggested that people who do not pick up their bees by a specified time forfeit their bees. The price charged for a package ordered through the club is to include costs for mileage (pickup / delivery) to get the bees; a pollen patty (a must for package bees in spring) and taxes.

There was also discussion on the 'quality' of the queens and how the environment/weather impacts the hive. There is a queen quality testing service which has shown queens are good but the shipping process and local environment affect the productivity of the queen/hive making it very difficult to predict success of a package. Last spring many packages were installed during or shortly after the blizzard (April 14 /15). Rain was very spotty, and frequent, with little rain in late summer, thus affecting forage. Each year is a challenge.

A quick count of packages that would be ordered by the members in the room was approximately 25 -30. Conclusion: Jenny G. will contact three suppliers – Nature's Nectar, Hansen Honey Farm, and Wolf Honey Farm and get details of delivery date; package price for a club order; additional state sales taxes or not, and potential drop off location. This information will be provided by Friday, January 25 to club members via the email list. **Club members are to provide Willie M. with their preference of who to order with and how many packages by Friday, February 1st.** A decision, on which supplier is needed **prior** to the workshop so we can offer to newbies the service of ordering package bees with the details of price, etc. A final package count (with payment) will be gathered at the Feb 11th club meeting.

Dave W. reminded people to do a mite check on package bees as soon as possible after hiving the package. He had mites in packages numerous times.

3. Hive Reports: Some people have a lost a couple hives; most are ok. Candy boards are being consumed, replenished, and consumed again and it is just mid January.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Upcoming Events:

February 8, 2019 – **7 p.m. – workshop set up at MAC**

February 9, 2019. Saturday – Workshop

February 11, 2019 – next meeting

Please send requested agenda topics to Willie M. at 20galdnr@gmail.com