

Dunn County Beekeepers Association

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

Minutes February 11, 2019

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

Roll call – 33 attendees; Guest – Joyce Wolf from Wolf Honey Farm

Secretary Report – The January minutes will be reviewed at the March meeting.

Treasurer Report – Mary B. presented report; motion by Steve S., second by David W. to accept; passed unanimously.

Old Business

1. **Memorial** The Minnesota State Bee Lab sent a thank you for the donation made by the club in memory of club members who passed during 2018.

New Business

1. HONEY BEE SUPPLIERS

Joyce Wolf from **Wolf Honey Farm** in Baldwin provided information about the 3 pound package bees they sell. Mike Gardner keeps 35,000 hives in Georgia year round. Mike works closely with Penn State to keep his bees healthy. Bees are an Italian crossed with Buckfast. Dale W. makes two trips of 700 packages. Check his web site for dates and prices – Wolf Honey Farm – and order form. Dale W. would prefer to drop all orders at one site in/near Menomonie and have someone from the club handle distribution. Dale overwinters about 300 hives in/near Baldwin with typical losses each year. Joyce W. was available to take orders at the meeting. If the club orders 100 packages, we get one free.

Willie M. provided information about the **Hanson Honey Farm** in Rhinelander. Chris Hanson sells 3 pound packages of Italian and Carniolan with choice of queen on a first come first serve basis at drop site. This year the site will be the WWIB/WOGO TV/Radio station in Lake Hallie across Hwy 53 from Farm and Fleet. Hanson uses a coupon system where the club will be given a code to use when ordering so that all club orders are bundled for efficient dropping in Hallie. Orders can be taken up to April 1 and changes are possible up to two weeks before delivery which is the end of April. Willie M. will provide a code to club members via email so make sure you pay your dues and have a current working email address. Mary B. made a tentative list of who would order from Hanson.

Tom Prescott, and crew, will once again coordinate orders of **NUCs from an Amish** supplier in Black River Falls. Last year the club got 59 NUCs and Tom P. thinks 55 did really good. All new equipment is made by the Amish. Delivery expected between May 10 and 14th. Queens are from California and are marked. Please call Tom P. immediately if you want to get a NUC as Tom has to collect dollars and SEND ONE CHECK VIA SNAIL MAIL with the order. Five frame NUC is \$125 for the club members. Tom P.'s number is 715-505-0771.

There was a short discussion of advantages/disadvantages of a NUC vs a package. Both are fine. The NUCs usually arrive mid to end of May while packages arrive mid April. A NUC is a mini hive so you know you have a laying queen with full complement of workers. A package has to be fed as there is little forage in April. Both need to be monitored for mites. While many thought packages would be mite free, it is not so. In the long run, both end up at about the same size come June.

When deciding what equipment to buy, consider 8 frame vs 10 frame as the boxes will be lighter and thus easier to lift when full. Can even go to using mediums for brood boxes rather than deeps. If looking at 'old' equipment, know the source, and take steps to insure any spores from American Foul Brood are destroyed.

I (Jenny G.) found this article regarding American Foul Brood. Please take time to read it. There are great pictures, descriptions, guidance, and more. There is so much detail in this article I cannot summarize it. Please read.

<https://pollinators.msu.edu/resources/beekeepers/diagnosing-and-treating-american-foulbrood-in-honey-bee-colonies/>

WORKSHOP REVIEW – there were 20 registrants with 8 additional family members for total of 28 attendees. There were 24 club members and helpers. One attendee commented that the workshop was totally different then the MN Bee Lab class they had attended. The two complimented each other with the workshop being more of the hands on and what to expect while the MN Bee Lab class spent time on biology and kinds of bees. Both classes were appreciated. Favorable comments were made by many. Food was great. There is usually a questionnaire for the attendees to fill out rating various aspects of the workshop. Effort will be made to include it next year. Dan S. offered to do a segment in the workshop on the 'Top Bar / Warre' hive as there were many questions about it and the 15 minutes for the round robins did not provide enough time. Dan S. offered to serve as a mentor if anyone is interested in using the top bar hive.

MENTORS – There is a list of people who are willing to serve as a mentor on the club web site. If you want to serve as a mentor, contact Mary P., club web master, to have your contact information added.

CLUB ROSTER / EMAIL LIST – next month a sign up sheet will be circulated for people who want to be added to the 'printed' roster of club members. The printed roster will be available at the April meeting. Contact Mary B., (Treasurer) with contact information if you will not be at the meeting and want your name on the printed list.

DOOR PRIZES Names of club members who volunteered at the workshop were put in a hat for the drawing of many door prizes. Thanks to Veronica K. for collecting all the door prizes. Almost all the volunteers got a prize.

HIVE REPORTS Some people have a lost a couple hives; many are ok. Candy boards have been consumed and were replenished. Snow should be removed from the entrance so air is not blocked and bees can haul out dead bees on warm days.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Upcoming Events – next club meeting will be March 11, 2019

March 16 – NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT Beekeepers meeting

10am at Knapp Community Center, Knapp, WI Doors open 9:15 a.m.

Guest Speakers- Matt Schultz — commercial beekeeper, Reedsburg, WI and Kent Pegorsch, President WHPA. Q & A panel discussion. Hive tool collection. Pot luck lunch. Business meeting after lunch. Please bring items for Queen auction. Contact John Spate for more information. Ph 715-874-6454

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