

Dunn County Beekeepers Association

Menomonie Alliance Church room 116

502 21st St. N., Menomonie, WI 54751

Minutes April 8, 2019

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

Roll Call: 33 attendees

Secretary's Report: Willie M. reviewed the February minutes. Motion by Steve S. second by Wayne B. to accept.

Treasurer Report: Mary B. presented her report. Motion to accept report by Steve S., second by Dave W.

Old Business:

Northwest District Beekeepers:

Matt Schultz- guest speaker- commercial beekeeper, Reedsburg, WI, has 8 employees and 8000 colonies. He has about 2,000 colonies for honey production and the rest for making splits and nucs. He moves his hives around a lot for pollinating.

He showed how he shakes out bees from multiple hives into a tote and makes small nucs from it with honey, pollen, and bees. He has about 60 queens / week on hand during the spring.

This year he is trying a DFM probiotic to see if it will help bee health.

The auction went very well. They are looking for a new, bigger, location to hold the annual meeting in the future.

New Business:

Hive Reports: Not everyone reported about their hives at the meeting. Some apiaries did very well, and others lost a high percent. The common causes of dead outs seems to be suffocation and starvation.

Dave W. did mite checks on his new packages that came in. One mite in one package out of 8. The rest were clean. Bees look to be doing very well. No one else reported on new packages.

Jenny G. reported that her hives are doing pretty well except one hive has an older queen and the brood looks pretty spotty. Looking to re-queen that hive this year. She removed the winter wrap on two, but left the one with the sugar board on for now. The weather hasn't stabilized and is calling for more snow and cold. Bees are bringing in green pollen from the pussy willows. Update on her tile trowel for cleaning out the metal queen excluders. Worked great!

Jenny mentioned her hornet/wasp trap recipe is on our website. Please check it out for the recipe to catch the queens in early spring and prevent nests this summer. It is on our website. dunncountybeekeepers.org

Jenny handed out baggies of high pollen sunflower seeds and wildflower seeds again this year. Thanks Jenny!

It sounds like most of the hives are still wrapped and beekeepers are just peeking into the hive to check they are alive and have enough food but leaving the hives intact for now.

Willie M. reported that he has 7 of his 12 hives are alive and well, and one of them is the club hive! He had to put on candy boards in February and that helped pull them through. He thinks three of the ones he lost just ran out of food with the extreme cold weather this winter. Others are saying the same things as well as suffocation with high snow levels.

Guest Speaker: Randy Rykal - Beekeeping without Borders-Nicaragua

Randy spoke on his experiences during his trip to Nicaragua January 21-February 4, 2017, working with current and new beekeepers in the area. He explained their struggles with purchasing and maintaining equipment as well as managing their apiaries. Very simple living and everything is done by hand. Beekeepers from several states went down to train, mentor, and help beekeepers there with new ideas and tips from the states.

Beekeeping there is chemical free and the climate is warm year around so they don't have to worry about winter killing bees. Many beekeepers don't understand that the bees need to keep a stock of honey in the hives to get them through the wet season though.

Bees are more aggressive there, mostly Africanized bees. They do a lot of heavy smoking, and wear full suits and heavy gloves. Randy tried to use sugar water and that was only successful some of the time. Some of the hives were so aggressive, only smoke worked.

Beautiful scenery and an enjoyable look into another country's culture and beekeeping. Thanks Randy!

Eau Claire/Chippewa looking at the possibility of doing a joint venture. Looking at possibly planting a pollinator habitat in the triangle of 32 acres off Hwy 53 near Chippewa falls parkway.

Upcoming Events:

Advanced Beekeeping Field Day: Dale Wolf and Gordon Woller (past state inspector)

Location: White Pine Berry Farm: 1482 Oak Drive, River Falls, WI 54022

Saturday May 18, 2019; 3-5 p.m. \$60.00 fee

Managing Colonies for Honey Production and Winter Survival

How to divide a wintered colony; several ways to make small divides; planning ahead in June for upcoming winter; increasing honey production; bee habitat and mite sampling.

Call ahead to preregister: Dale or Joyce Wolf 715-684-2095

Future Events:

Dunn County Fair-last weekend in July

Willie M. has invited our WI Honey Queen to be at our Booth.

Night in June at the Menomonie Community Garden- Regional Bee inspector there?

Volunteers/Suggestions for Meeting presentations/speakers- please send to:

Willie M. at 20galdnr@gmail.com

Next Meeting: May 13, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m. by Tom P., second by Randy R.