

Dunn County Beekeepers Association

Menomonie Alliance Church Room 116

502 21st St N, Menomonie, WI 54751

Minutes September 10, 2018

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

Roll call – 27 attendees

Secretary Report – motion by Jim B. and 2nd by Dave P. to approve. Passed unanimously.

Treasurer Report – motion by Dave P. and 2nd by Jim B. to approve. Passed unanimously.

Old Business

1. Nominating committee report – Mary L. and Dave W. – There are nominees for Treasure (Mary B.), Secretary (Angie M.), and President (Willie M.). If Willie M. becomes President, there will also be an opening for Vice President. If you are interested in completing Willie's term, please contact Mary L. or Dave W.
2. Mite-A-Thon is Sept 8th -15th - Jenny G. – Test mites this week. Report your findings at www.mitecheck.com. If you are not testing, you potentially have a hive that creates a Varroa bomb and affects all the neighboring hives. Be a good neighbor and check for mites and treat if needed.
3. Pheasants Forever 'Leave No Child Indoors' – Mary B. and Margaret L. attended for the club. The event is every year on the last Saturday in August. Mary B. and Margaret L. were impressed with the activities for the kids and encouraged people to take their kids/grandkids next year. Activities included muzzle loader shooting, free lunch, bouncy house, fishing, hay rides, BB gun shooting, and petting zoo. There were no bugs! Thanks to Mary B. and Margaret L. for attending and for Justin K. for delivering the observation hive that Dave W. put together once again! Thanks Dave W.
4. Christmas Party – Willie M. – Reservations have been made for our regular December club meeting night at the Stout Ale House. We are looking for a committee to coordinate the event. Gary L. suggested "The Pioneer" vs Stout Ale House. This item will be on October agenda – consider volunteering to coordinate this event.

New Business

1. 2019 Workshop – The date is February 9, 2019 at MAC. Friday, February 8th at 7p.m. is set up time. If you are willing to coordinate some aspect of the workshop please let Jenny G. know so planning may begin.
2. October meeting – Guest speaker Mitchell Wayne – Sustainable Beekeeping. Wayne will speak on raising queens and making NUCS.
3. Pollen harvesting in Downsville. – Jenny G. described the set up of the apiary and the invited anyone to join her to collect pollen near Downsville. The pollen is from high oil content, organic, hybrid, sunflowers in which the oil is used to make cosmetics. The pollen is sent to North Carolina State University where they are researching the positive affects of this pollen on the gut issues of the honey bee. This is the third summer of collecting pollen. Gordon W. coordinates getting the hives, pallets, etc. Each year has been an experience unto its own. Jenny G. has gotten sunflower seeds from Matt M. each year and distributed to club members to plant near their bees.
4. Fall harvest reports – Very few beekeepers have harvested as yet. Many interesting stories of hive production through the summer. A few hives are very aggressive while others are calm.
5. Winterizing discussion - Jenny G. brought an empty 'soft candy' board and a hard candy board and described how she uses these along with tar paper to winterize her hives. The candy boards act as moisture boards. The screened bottom boards are left open and the hives are elevated on concrete blocks. The holes in the blocks are blocked with boards/straw so wind cannot draw though, but there is

still air flow up and out through the upper entrance. An upper entrance is cut in the tar paper on the back side matching the notch in the candy boards. The front entrance is reduced to the small notch. A two inch piece of Styrofoam board is cut larger than the outer cover and placed on the cover. It acts as a barrier from the sun to prevent heating up the outer cover. Snow piles on the pink board creating more insulation on the top of the hive. Three of four hives overwintered last year with this process. The fourth died as it was not treated with OA (the others were) in November before wrapping.

6. NUC boxes – Thanks for the returns of NUC boxes to John S.
7. Jim B. from UW-Stout explained a new investigation planned for the upcoming winter. His students are looking for dead bees found around the hive lying in the snow/on the ground. They are looking for evidence of infection in the bees that may have caused them to die. We generally think the bees are taking cleansing flights and once outside the hive and they get chilled and then they can't get back to the hive. His students are investigating the possibility they are leaving the hive because they are sick. If you find bees this winter, collect in plastic bag and freeze and let Jim B. know (please email at burrittj@uwstout.edu). Samples may then be brought to the club meetings on prearranged dates for collection.
8. UW Stout's new bacterium research on mites continues. They have received samples of mites from 24 of 50 states and continue to get more samples. If you have mites to submit contact Shianne S. at stacys5929@myuwstout.edu .
9. How do you kill a hive that is in decline at this time of year? There was considerable discussion on how to kill a hive. Be sure there are no mites or the bees leaving the hive will carry mites to neighboring hives. Options to kill the hive include adding the bees to another hive, shaking bees out on the ground, spraying bees with water, or collecting the bees with a vacuum (be sure bees can't exist). Spraying with insecticide would contaminate the combs/honey/pollen that remain.
10. The Wisconsin Honey Producers Association has their convention in Wisconsin Rapids on November 1-3, 2018. Visit www.wihoney.org for registration forms and more. Guest speakers include Ian Stepler from Miami, Manitoba Canada; Rebecca Masterman, University of MN Bee Lab; and Jim Belli, Belli Farms Illinois. Nominations for 'Beekeeper of the Year' and other awards are requested by October 1st. Send info to Tim Fulton, 3308 4th Street, Kenosha, WI 53144.
11. Solar fencer repairs – John S. provided contact info for a repairing solar electric fencers – "M & B electric fencer repair", 7783 143rd St, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729; Mike (C) 715-944-9515; Brian (C) 715-944-7775. Mbfencer@aol.com.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Open discussion - Hive updates from group

Upcoming events:

October 8, next meeting – election of new officers

December 10th – Christmas party

February 9, 2019 – Workshop; set up 7 pm Feb 8th.

Please send requested agenda topics to Jenny at jmgwis@wwt.net.