

Dunn County Beekeepers Association

Menomonie Alliance Church Room 116

502 21st St. N, Menomonie, WI 54751

Minutes October 8, 2018

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

Roll call – 26 attendees; Guests - 1

Secretary Report – with correction of meeting date from September 9 to September 10, a motion was made by Kathy W. and 2nd by Tom P. to accept. Passed unanimously.

Treasurer Report – motion by Dave P., 2nd by Jim B. to accept. Passed unanimously.

Old Business

1. Christmas Party – need organizer(s) – Mary L. and Jenny G. had supper at The Pioneer near Tainter Lake. It is a hamburger/pizza pub/bar. There is a large room to accommodate the group. It is open on Monday night. No one offered to coordinate the party. Will discuss once more at November meeting.

New Business

1. The Wisconsin Honey Producers Association (WHPA) – Jenny G. was nominated by Jim B. to be a delegate from club at the WHPA annual convention in Wisconsin Rapids in November. Membership supported nomination. The WHPA has extended the deadline for nominations for 'Beekeeper of the Year' until October 12. If anyone would like to submit a write-up for a nominee, you have until October 12.
2. Election of officers – Officers to start terms on January 1, 2019 are:
 - a. President – Willie M.; two year term ending on December 31, 2020
 - b. Vice President – Randy R. (completes Willie's VP term which ends Dec 31, 2019).
 - c. Secretary – Angie M.; completes Pat W.'s term which ends Dec 31, 2019.
 - d. Treasurer – Mary B.; two-year term ending on December 31, 2020.
3. Harold Jensen, one of the founders of the DCBA, passed on Saturday. A sympathy card was circulated for members to sign. A memorial will be sent to the Minnesota University Bee Lab in Harold's honor at the end of the year.

Guest speaker Mitchel Wayne – Sustainable Beekeeping. Mitch took our workshop in 2010. Mitch grew his apiary from 3 to 8 to 12 hives for a few years. He currently has 30 production hives and about 110 NUCs which he is expecting to take 80/90 NUCs into winter. Of 16 NUCs he overwintered his first year, 14 came through. Winter loss is between 10-30%.

Mitch also raises queens to further the expansion of his operation. The NUCs are started near the end of June or early July depending on weather and early buildup of bees. He uses 4 frame NUC boxes and sets two on a ten-frame box, which has a divider. The NUC has two frames of brood, one of nectar, and one open frame. In June he uses queen cells from the operation, while in July he provides a queen. He monitors the NUCs close to prevent swarming.

Mitch treats for mites three times a year and monitors to insure treatments work. He feeds his bees in the late summer/early fall – feeds lots and fast so bees store plenty in the hive and thus no need to feed in spring. Candy boards are another item that needs to be stored when not in use.

For wintering Mitch has used the bee cozies but finds them hard to store. The insulation can get wet if any hole is made in the plastic wrap and mice really love the cozies. Mitch prefers a wrap of tarpaper that he staples on insuring there is an upper entrance (notch in inner cover) when snow blocks the lower entrance. A mouse guard of quarter inch wire mesh blocks the entrance. A two-inch sheet of Styrofoam is put on top of the inner cover to help regulate the heating/cooling of the hive. The outer cover is put on top of the Styrofoam and then a heavy weight so cover/foam doesn't blow off.

Mitch is interested in a project of building NUC boxes and supplying a queen to beekeepers who would be interested in making splits (late June/early July) to expand their operation or to have ready to replace hives the following year when some don't overwinter. Raising NUCs is a cheaper way to provide bees than buying packages for dead outs.

Mitch recommending reading/viewing work/videos by Mike Palmer, a nationally known beekeeper living in Vermont thus has similar weather to our Wisconsin weather.

There was lots of discussion and questions/answers. Thanks to Mitch for his presentation. If you find you want a NUC or queen next year, contact Jenny G. to get his phone number. Mitch is also a regular poster to the DCBA and Chippewa/Eau Claire beekeepers club Facebook pages.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Upcoming events:

November 1-2-3, 2018 WHPA convention in WI Rapids, Mead Hotel

November 12, next meeting date

December 10th – Christmas party

January 14, 2019 – monthly meeting

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

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