

Dunn County Beekeepers Association

Menomonie Alliance Church Room 116

502 21st St. N, Menomonie, WI 54751

Minutes November 12, 2018

Meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Roll call – 27 attendees; Guests – 2

Secretary Report – Motion by Dave W. and 2nd by Tom P. to approve passed unanimously.

Treasurer Report – Motion by Tom P. and 2nd by Jim C. to approve passed unanimously.

Old Business

1. Christmas Party – the party will be at the Stout Ale House at 6:30 p.m. Menu will be similar to last year. Club will purchase a couple appetizers selected by the club President.

2. Wisconsin Honey Producers Association (WHPA) – Jenny G. and other attendees spoke to the information provided by the speakers. It is a great opportunity to meet big time beekeepers and others who are hobbyists.

Ian Stepler was the key note speaker. I encourage you to visit his website www.stepplerfarms.com/StepplerHoney.html There are many videos. Ian does no pollination service. He is in the business to make honey and makes a lot of it – 300 to 350 drums. Brothers raise Charolais cattle and farm over 200 square miles of farmland. Canola is a huge crop. Ian winters his hives in single stories in a shed that is 'in the dark' for six months. 'Red' light is used to clean up dead bees. Visit the web site and learn more.

New Business

1. Budget for 2019 - there were a few changes to the assumptions which alter the budget for 2019. The workshop fee went to \$50 and meal price to \$10. 4-H, Scouts and similar youth group participants have a fee of half price, \$25 for workshop and the meal is still \$10. Under 'Internal Education' the 'Cost/Speaker' was raise to \$50 from \$20 which matches the cost this year. The motion to accept the budget, with changes, made by Tom P. and 2nd by Dave W. was passed unanimously.

2. Workshop leads / co-chairs

a. Advertising – Jenny G. will take care of this item

b. Presentation materials – Tom P., Dave W., Gary L., Jim C. – Tom P. went over the outline and shared the new approach to keep sessions short and quick with more time for questions.

i. Tom P. would like people to send pictures of their hives, bees, etc. so he has them to show during registration time and later.

ii. Tom P. wants people to submit to him '*I didn't know that*' ideas for use in the class. For example, 'I didn't know you shouldn't eat bananas when visiting your bees,' or 'I didn't know the honeycomb was six sided.'

c. Lunch /break – Kathy W. – if someone would like to be co-chair, please let Jenny G. or Kathy W. know. It is good to have a back-up person. A count of people is needed two weeks prior to workshop date. Ann T. will help serve this year.

d. Catalogs – Veronica K. already has the catalogs and bags to put them in.

e. Break out sessions are changing slightly.

Ice cream will be served with lunch for dessert.

Planting for pollinators – Jenny G.

Hive components and tools of the trade – what is needed to start beekeeping – Steve and Nan Sutterland.

Products of the hive – honey, propolis, wax, royal jelly, pollen - (need presenter)

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

First year – beginning experience – Angie M. and Vern M.

General Q & A - need presenter to answer general questions

f. Honey Bee ordering – Tom P. will collect orders again this year for NUCs and packages from Black River Falls. Jenny will update the 'supplier' list we had last year and get it on the web site. Dale Wolf was present and said his web site will be updated with 2019 prices. He will deliver 3 pound packages the first Friday of April, which is April 5, 2019. Bees are from Georgia.

g. Door prizes will be given away at the February club meeting which is the Monday following the workshop. Veronica K. got a few from vendors. Tom P., Gary L., Dave W. and Jim C. will provide a NUC or package to a 4-H, Scouts, or similar youth who want to take up beekeeping. They will also provide mentoring, depending on the location. Dale W. also offered a 3 lb. package to a person at the Feb meeting. Thanks to these guys for the bee door prizes. Any club member, including new workshop attendees (they get first year free) present at the February meeting is eligible for the door prizes. NOTE: - Membership dues of \$5 are payable in January.

3. Cards were circulated for three people. Shannon E. lost her father, Joe T. had back surgery and is in intensive rehab to regain the use of his legs. Pat W. fell on the ice.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

4. Panel discussion – Veronica K., Dave W., and Willie M. served on a panel to answer questions from those present. Interesting discussion. A selection of seeds was given to each of them for serving on the first panel.

Upcoming events

December 10th – Christmas party

January 14, 2019 – monthly meeting

February 9, 2019, Saturday – Workshop; set up 7 p.m. Friday Feb 8th.

February 11, 2019 – next meeting date

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