

Dunn County Beekeepers May 9, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Prepared by Jenny Gruber

Doug Jensen, President, called meeting to order at 7:10 pm. Doug read the minutes and gave the treasure's report. Motion was made and second to accept.

Discussed results of finding people interested in becoming beekeepers.

- Ag teacher in Clear Lake was contacted, no response as yet.
- Girl Scout leader will bring up at their next meeting.
- Two neighbors would like hive on their property for pollination, but don't want to take care of the bees.
- Possibility is to introduce beekeeping to freshmen class in the fall in their science class.
- We also need to support the new beekeepers in this room; help each other.

How do you make a split?

Two methods were described.

Doug Jensen method.

1. Set up a new brood box.
2. Take 3 frames of brood AND bees, one frame of honey, and one frame of pollen and put them in the new brood box.
3. Put new frames in the original brood box.
4. Leave the new box queenless for 3 – 4 days blocking the entrance so the bees cannot leave the hive.
5. On the 3 or 4 day put in a new queen which you have to have on hand.
6. This method requires coordinating getting the queen when you want to do the split.

Jim Christison method.

1. Take 3 or 4 frames of brood/eggs and 1 or 2 frames of pollen/honey from the hive to be split (parent) and clean the bees off the frames into the parent hive. This can be done with a brush or by a gentle shake of the frame, to insure the queen is left in the original hive. Fill in with 4 or 5 new frames to complete the box.
2. Place the 'bee free' frames in a new deep with 4 or 5 new frames.
3. Place a queen excluder on top of the parent brood box, which is really crowded with bees.
4. Set the new brood box with the frames of brood/eggs/pollen/honey on top of the queen excluder.
5. Put on inner cover and outer cover.
6. After 1 to 3 hours the nurse bees needed to care for the brood in the new box will move up from the parent box thru the queen excluder to the new box. The queen, drones, and excess worker bees are left in the parent box beneath the queen excluder. The worker bees naturally 'split' to nurse the brood in the frames now split between two boxes.
7. Keep the 'new' hive on top of the parent hive over night to conserve warmth since heat rises.

8. Remove new hive and place in new location, or move 5 frames into nuc box, or move hive with old queen and place new split in the location of the old hive. By putting the new hive in the old hive location, some of the forager bees will enter the new hive. New hive location doesn't have to be move 2 miles away (grin)
9. The new hive will raise their own queen, or, you can add a queen.
10. THIS IS IMPORTANT: If adding a new queen it is best to have the hive off the parent hive for 24 hrs before adding queen. The bees will kill the new queen if she is placed in the hive too soon.
11. Since there is a high probability of fewer forager bees in the new hive, putting some pollen and honey in the new hive will help them adjust.

To kill off a queen. The queen is hard to find so use smoke to move bees to a new box.

1. Set up a new brood box.
2. Set a queen excluder on the new box.
3. Place the hive box with the queen to be killed on top of the queen excluder. Smoke the hive which will cause the worker bees (small enough to move through the excluder) to move to the empty box. The drones and queen will be left in the original box.
4. Locate the queen and remove her.
5. Remove original box from hive, pull excluder and box with bees.
6. Put original hive box back on stand.
7. Put box with bees on the original box and let bees move back into their home. (Smoke if necessary to move bees to original box.)
8. Put on inner cover and outer cover.
9. Add new queen in 24 hours.

NOTE: For splitting or removing a queen, insure the temperatures are warm. The night temps are key – above freezing for sure. Sunny days are great.

Feeding

Everyone is currently feeding their hives. If honey stores are available from dead outs less syrup is being used.

Screened Bottom Boards

You should keep bottom board in to help keep hive warm while there are still cold nights.

Packages from Mann Lake

Each package was shipped with a pollen patty. Bees are eating these faster without any pollen stores from dead outs. The bee boxes and queen cages are to be returned to the club at the monthly meeting to receive a return of the deposit for the boxes.

NW District Honey Queen

Sara Rushfeldt was crowned the NW District Honey Producers Queen at their last meeting. It was logical since every club in the district donated funds to support her beekeeping education efforts throughout the area. She will represent the NW District at the state fair.

Country Rubes' Combo Bottom Boards

A flier from Country Rubes was given to each attendee. The flier describes the design of the Combo Board and how to use it to detect mites. The powdered sugar method for detecting mites is provided in the flier. The owner of the company will be at our June meeting and have Combo Boards available for sale at \$30 each. This cost is less than the \$52 in catalogs due to being 'seconds' or 'blims.' Entrance reducers for \$2 and robbing screens for \$15 will also be available. There was a Combo Bottom Board at the meeting to touch and see.

Nucs from Richard Hall

Richard had to find a new truck driver so the deliver of the nucs is now targeted for May 19, 20, 21, or 22. Bob Irwin will contact those who ordered nucs as to the exact date and time. The place is the DAV – Disabled American Veteran's – hall just north of Menomonie on Hwy 25 at the intersection of County Rd BB.

Community Gardens of Menomonie interested in supporting beehive at gardens

1. Katy Sternwise, extension agent, sent an email to Doug stating the city council would have to approve keeping bees on city property. Requirements are many including liability insurance.
2. Trevor Petersen, Stout student intern thru AmeriCorp VISTA, was present along with Jesse, the community garden contact. Jesse said there is insurance coverage now and would check further on whether "bee stings" are covered. They would support a partnership between the Dunn County Bee Keepers and the Community Garden group. Trevor showed an aerial picture of the garden on the big screen in the room. The garden is located off Country Rd Y at Meadow Lane and 9th St. There is a service road from 9th street (parking lot area too) on the west side going around the gardens to the east side where there is a location that could work for a hive. There is a creek running north – south on the east side of the garden area and the area is covered with small bushes/brush. The garden will be fenced in with snow fence and chicken wire as part of their budget this year. They may be able to get fence for the hive too. The garden area is plotted into 20' by 25' plots with about half of the 70 plots currently rented. The only people expected in the gardens would be those people having plots. The community garden staff would like to include educational components so having a hive/workshop to introduce bees to the gardeners would be a forum they would support. The Community Gardens staff, with help from the beekeepers, would approach the city council for support of the hive placement on the city property. A proposal could be written this summer with implementation next year. The use of the land for garden plots is approved through 2012 with the intention of asking for a 5-year extension. About two-thirds of the 2 acres of land is used for gardens with the rest in wetlands or to be planted with a cover crop. Dave Wolske offered to provide a hive and keep care of it but would not provide insurance. Jesse will check to see if ownership of the bees/hive would make a difference in the liability coverage. The Community Gardens may want to purchase the hive/bees or lease them. The distribution of honey was not covered at this time. A motion was made and second to write a proposal. Trevor Peterson provided his contact information: petersontr@uwstout.edu; 715-232-1328. He will work with us. Jenny Gruber volunteered to help draft the proposal. She gave her contact info to Trevor.

ACTION item: Identify another beekeeper (or 2) to work with Trevor, Jesse, and Jenny.

Dunn County Beekeepers Web Site

George Adams gave a presentation on the website he created with Google Docs. He walked the group through the 'menu' and pointed out where additional information could be included. He got some of the ideas for the site from the Dane County beekeepers web site. He is looking for content providers. Information/forums that could be included/enhanced/added include:

1. Logo
2. Mission statement
3. Swarm removal services - catchers in the area
4. Discussion group
5. Links to other sites – looking for suggested sites, suppliers, researchers, etc
6. Pictures of our hives/bees
7. 'About Us' needs a description of our group and maybe a picture or two
8. Announcements – could generate emails too
9. Map – indicate members location and contact info if you want, and services offered (honey for sale; supplies for sale; mentor)
10. Calendar of events/meetings
11. **Directory** – could tie to 'map' – will be added only if you request to be on the list. Send George an email at: george@dunncountybeekeepers.org with the information you want him to include
12. 50 email addresses can be created before we have to pay for an email address.
13. Videos – can provide our own or link to YouTube.
14. Recipes
15. A 'Contact' who will receive questions posed by visitors to the site and answers the question (or pass it to one of the members to answer). A form would be created to pose the question and provide contact info.
16. Workshop information – post flier when available, put on calendar, pay fees on line, etc.
17. Equipment rental, for sale, etc – schedule use of same
18. Bylaws
19. Library page of items to loan out – videos, books, equipment
20. Brochure/poster/business cards to advertise the group
21. Honey Queen information page

George had a number of topics for the group to discuss and thus make the site of greater value to us and to visitors. **More time is needed to address the topics.** Great job George.

ACTION item: Go over list and discuss what to add, etc.

Birthday Cake

Jenny Elliott brought a birthday cake for Jenny Gruber. Jenny thank to everyone for the birthday wishes.

Eau Claire Area Master Gardeners Spring Conference

Jenny Gruber briefed the group on the February 4th, 2012 conference being planned by the Eau Claire Area Master Gardeners. Dr. Marla Spivak from the University of Minnesota Entomology Department will be the opening presenter at 9 am for all attendees. Marla will also have a second presentation following a short break after the first session. The topic of the first session

will be 'honey bee health and what you can do to help.' The conference has been \$30 for continental breakfast, snacks/beverage at am and pm breaks, lunch, and four speakers. The cost may go to \$35 depending on new food service provider prices. Our group is asked to suggest a few topics for the second session that would be of interest to beekeepers. The topics suggested were:

- Pesticides – usages, kinds, good/bad to use
- Genetically altered plants – what are they, how do they affect pollinators?
- CCD – Colony Collapse Disorder – what is it and latest information?
- How do we educate community on affect of pesticides on bees / us?

Question: Could the intro to beekeeping workshop be moved to another date this year, which would allow some of our membership to attend the gardening conference? Tom Prescott is committed to a mandatory EMT training session in Madison on Jan 28 and 29, 2012. Feb 11, 2011 is valentine weekend. Doug will call Denise at the DAV to see which dates are possible for the workshop in 2012.

ACTION item - ask for addition ideas at June meeting.

ACTION item – determine date for 2012 workshop at June meeting

Extractor availability

Mary Lotten asked that the group discuss at our next meeting how to provide extracting services for the 'newbies' in the club. Ideas presented were:

- Club buy an extractor, which is available for club members to use; possible fee.
- Subset of membership purchases an extractor and share usage. As group membership changes, group or another person can buy out share.

ACTION item: Put this topic on next months agenda

Lapps Beekeeping Auction – June 25th in Reeseville

The second annual WHPA used equipment auction will be held on Saturday June 25 in Reeseville from 10:30 to noon and then again from 1:00 to end of sale at the Lapp's Bee Supply Center located at 500 South Main Street, Reeseville, Wisconsin.

If you have auction items contact Dean Lapp (920-927-3848) or Tim Fulton (262-553-5510) to get them on the auction bill. 25% of proceeds go to the WHPA. See Lapps website for latest information -- <http://lappsbeesupplycenter.com/index.htm>

Quilt raffle to support NW District Honey Queen

Jenny Elliott offered to make a quilt that can be raffled off with proceeds to go to support the NW District Honey Queen. Teddy (last name?) is researching raffle permit and how many tickets to print. Raffle permits are \$25. Printing costs vary. We only have a couple of month before the fair at which time a winner would be selected.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm