

Dunn County Beekeepers Association

Menomonie Alliance church Room 116

502 21st St. N, Menomonie, WI 54751

November 11, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Attendance – 17 members; one guest Dale W.

Secretary's report was reviewed with a motion to approve by Dave W. and seconded by Dennis M. Passed unanimously.

Updates provided:

Christmas party

Will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Attendees purchase their own beverages

Club will pay for pizza buffet and determine attendee share of total.

Bring cash to reimburse club for buffet

Workshop is Saturday Feb 8, 2020

Set-up may start Friday night at 6 p.m.

Veronica K. has totes, pens, catalogs, magazines and a few door prizes.

Willie M. will hand off the B&B Honey Farm catalogs to put in totes.

Jenny G. will coordinate advertising efforts. Price is to remain the same - \$50 for workshop and \$10 for lunch so total of \$60. 4-H and other youth groups pay \$35.

Discussed number of attendees and hope for larger turnout. With the number of other classes in the area, the number may have settled at 25 or so.

Kathy W. is not able to coordinate the lunch this year.

Willie M. has 30 hives tools on hand.

Mary P. will update the flyer with new date.

Jenny G. will confirm with Tom P. regarding the outline and 'round robin sessions' in the flyer to use in advertising.

Veronica K. will explain the 'products of the hive' round robin session at the workshop and do a demonstration on making various products at a future club meeting.

County Fair honey sticks – Veronica K. reported that the cost to make honey sticks by her neighbor would not be cheaper than the 6 cents we pay now and there would not be a cellophane wrapper which is a necessity for insuring sanitary handling. We will continue to purchase honey sticks for the fair.

Education/speakers for future meetings

Greg M. will contact Jodi Lepsch (CVTC beekeeping instructor) to see if she can present information on queen rearing and grafting at the January meeting.

Dale W. will present in March two topics – 'what to do and not do' and 'marketing ideas/tips'

Treasurer report was presented and motion to approve by Veronica K. and seconded by Jim C. Passed unanimously.

Budget for 2020 and Workshop Budget

Mary B. presented the actual expenditures for the 2019 Budget to date, budget proposal for 2020, and a budget for the 2020 workshop. The number of workshop attendees was adjusted to reflect last couple year's actual attendance. Motion by Veronica K. and seconded by Jim C. to accept the budget for 2020 and 2020 workshop passed unanimously.

WHPA convention in Fond du Lac

There were a number of attendees from the club at the convention. Key points of interest were:

- "If you are not monitoring and treating for mites, your hive will DIE" was stated many times by the presenters.
- BIP – Bee Informed Partnership provides technical support through a team of technicians who visit large apiaries and perform inspection of hives. There is a fee but the beekeepers that used the service believe it was well worth the cost. Bees are gathered and sent to the University of Maryland Bee Lab for analysis. Hygienic testing is performed using liquid nitrogen. See 'BeeInformed.org' for more information.
- BIP has the Sentinel Program (beeinformed.org/programs/sentinel) for small-scale beekeepers. A monthly inspection by the beekeeper is done and a sample of bees are collected and sent to the University of Maryland for analysis. Alcohol wash is 95% effective in finding mites while sugar rolls are only 60% effective.
- Data collected by the BIP/Sentinel efforts include queen status, brood pattern, eggs?, brood?, frames of bees, and more. Reports for each visit/inspection are sent to the beekeeper so he/she can make appropriate management decision. All data is collected at 'bip2.beeinformed .org' website for anyone to view.
- NOTE: when collecting a sample of bees for an alcohol wash, after shaking bees into a tub, let the foragers fly away before taking half-cup sample. This way you get the worker bees who are more likely, than the foragers, to carry mites.

Jamie Ellis from University of Florida was key presenter. All his talks are available at the University of Florida – see below. Veronica K. sent a follow-up email to the beekeepers with this information:

Dr. Jamie Ellis: Gahan Endowed Professor, Honey Bee Husbandry, Ecology, and Conservation; Integrated Crop Pollination
Honey Bee Research and Extension Lab - University of Florida
<https://entnemdept.ifas.ufl.edu/honey-bee/>
Beekeeper resources section

(Note from Jenny G. - as the University of Florida updates web site addresses/hierarchy, the address that will never change and always get you to Dr. Ellis' work is UFHoneybee.com.)

Anne Marie Fauvel - Tech Team Coordinator - Bee Informed Partnership (BIP) bip2.beeinformed.org/. Check out the information they have collected from apiaries across the country.

Check out their sentinel apiary program to see if this is something you would be interested in: beeinformed.org/programs/sentinel

From Jamie Ellis

- A mite on a bee compares to a softball/volleyball on a human body.
- The exposure to pesticides is not as big a problem as thought, but when toxicity is multiplied by a number of exposures the RISK to bees grows.
Toxicity x Exposure = RISK.

From John Miller

- Decide what you won't do! (make candles, lip balm, raise queens, etc.).
- Have a plan – plan for what you should do and do it.
- Prevention is easier than correction (hive is dead if you don't manage varroa).

American Beekeeping Federation

Convention is in Schaumburg, IL from Wednesday January 8th through Saturday January 11, 2020. The convention has never been this close to Wisconsin. Great event. See 'www.abfconference.com' for more details.

Samuel Ramsey is first speaker on Wednesday. He discovered that the mites feed on the bee fat bodies rather than blood.

Presentations:

Hive reports - Willie had a bear visit an apiary and topple one hive on October 30th. On October 31st the bear returned and destroyed two hives eating all the larvae and smashing boxes. **Keep you electric fences up for a while longer.**

Honey House -- Dave and Mary P. gave a slide show featuring their new honey house that actually houses the beehives in the winter. The structure is about 12' X 16'. The hives are 'inside' the house in the winter and then pushed outside for the summer. Each hive has an 'exit' to the outside for cleansing flights. Temperature is monitored and a heat lamp used to warm to 35 degrees as necessary.

Hive box -- Veronica K. gave a slide show on the hive 'box' she and her husband made. The hives are pushed together and then covered with a 'box' and 'cover' made from 2 inch pink insulation board that was painted dark brown on the outside. The 'box' surrounds the hives with a gap of about 4 inches all the way around for air to circulate. Vents are provided for the bees to exit. Additional vents are covered with wire fencing to keep mice out and allow for more ventilation as needed. Temperatures are monitored for both low and high with goal of keeping temp about 35 degrees. The very cold temps this week have been totally offset with the box. Sugar is sprinkled on paper set on top of the frames for emergency feed.

Veronica K. also showed the extraction of honey from her flow hive. Very simple.

Veronica K. has the adjustable metal mouse guards for sale for \$2.75. Contact her if you are interested in buy one.

Jenny G. handed out poppy and coriander seeds to those present. Coriander is the 'cilantro' herb used in many salsas.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Dave W. and second by Jenny G. passed unanimously at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jenny Gruber