

January Meeting of the Dunn County Beekeepers - 2016

1/11/2016

Secretary's Report - given, motion made and accepted

Treasurer's Report - given for December and for the full year of 2015, motion made and accepted

AGENDA

- Roll call -- Beekeepers sign in
- Secretary/Treasurer's Report
- Old Business
- New Business
 - Preparations for our beginner's beekeeping class

Old Business

Beekeeping workshop

- Mary B. reported that we have 8 families registered with 5 extra attendees (for a total of 13). Members were asked to keep publicizing the event.
- Members suggested that we put announcements in local papers and at local businesses. Klaus noted that we have an ad in Country Today. Jen B. will create and distribute flyers this week to local businesses.
- Members also suggested that we ask local radio and TV stations to include notices in their public service announcements.
- The food committee (6 members) met before the meeting and finalized the menu for the workshop. We decided to plan for 120 people total (80-85 workshop participants and 30-35 club members). Jen B. will inventory our kitchen supplies and let Mary L. know what we have in stock. We estimated a food budget of \$800 - we spent about \$500 for the 2015 workshop food.
- We will set up as much as possible at the church on Friday, February 5 - volunteers are needed to help. Scott W. will pick up a key from our contact at the church.
- We have copies of Bee Culture magazines to give to attendees.
- Klaus reported that the new T-shirts have been ordered.
- Randy R. presented an overview of the outline for the workshop (Tom P. is in Arizona this week):

- Klaus mentioned that we plan to have a mini round robin session late in the morning to show participants the parts of a hive. Members were asked to bring hive components so we can have 5 or 6 stations for viewing. We also need a volunteer for each station.
- Rather than taking questions during each presentation, we will ask attendees to submit questions on index cards and then have a formal Q & A session.
- Charlie W. will present the session about the first year of beekeeping (and the related calendar). He will prepare his own slides and videos - Jen B. will send him a copy of the current version of the workbook so he can integrate that information into his presentation.
- Jen B. will present the session about bee biology.
- Charlie A. will host the round robin about hive components. Klaus will check with him to see if Charlie was able to get some vendor catalogs.
- Other suggestions that we discussed:
 - Have someone put together the beginner kits throughout the day. Perhaps Duane can do this during his round robin sessions. At the end of the day, we will have a raffle to give one kit away to an attendee. We will keep the other kit to use at the Dunn County Fair.
 - Dedicate a session or round robin to discussing common mistakes that new beekeepers make and how to prepare for your first month of beekeeping.
 - Describe exactly how to feed a colony in the spring and why it is important to do so. Show the various types of feeders.
 - Discuss swarming - we decided that this should just be covered briefly during the workshop. We should dedicate the April meeting to a more in-depth discussion about how to recognize signs of swarming, how to prevent swarming, and how to capture and keep a swarm.
 - For a few meetings after the workshop, have new members and a few experienced members meet at 6:30 for a question & answer session.
- Other topics related to the workshop:
 - Joe Z. asked for a volunteer to present the round robin that covers honey extraction and by-products of beekeeping. Steve S. offered to do that and met with Joe to discuss details.
 - Members were asked to bring a small jar of honey to the workshop for attendees to taste.
 - Gary L. has to work on Feb. 5 & 6, but he will be able to do the presentation about parts of a hive. His sons will do the round robin about beekeeper clothing.
 - George A. will host the round robin about non-Langstroth hives.
 - Klaus clarified that members of 4H, FFA, and Scout troops are all eligible for the discounted rate of \$25 for the workshop.
 - January 23 is the target date to get the workshop outline and session details to Catie C. She has arranged for getting the workbooks printed and bound.

New Business

Dues - members were asked to submit dues (\$5 per year) either at this meeting or at the workshop. 19 members paid at this meeting.

Mentoring - we had a lively discussion about the need for mentors. Key points that were made:

- It is important to establish a good relationship with your mentor and to be respectful of the mentor's time.
- Having a mentor inspect your hives will make it easier for the mentor to guide you and answer questions.
- **Mentoring in action:** Mary D. reported how grateful she is that a co-worker offered to visit their hives and answer questions for them. Bob C. announced that he acquired hives and colonies sooner than he expected and asked for help - Michael K. offered to visit the hives and offer suggestions.

Bee package ordering - all orders (with payment) must be submitted on or before Monday, February 15. Order forms will be available at the workshop. We will use the same vendor (The Honey Kohns) as we did in 2015, but the price is not yet set. It will likely be about \$120 for a three-pound package (with a pollen patty).

Bee package installation - as he did in 2015, Willy will demonstrate how to install a package on the day that members pick up their packages.

Number of attendees: Approximately 30 (Klaus has the list)