

September Meeting of the Dunn County Beekeepers ~ 2016

9/12/2016

Secretary's Report-given motion made and accepted

Treasurer Report-given motion made and accepted

AGENDA

- Roll call -- Beekeepers sign in
- Secretary/Treasurer's Report
- Old Business
- New Business
- Meeting Adjourned

Old Business

Ringneck Rally

- Duane gave us a recap on the activities the kids get to do.
- Great outdoor experience for the family and kids.

2017 Workshop

- Klaus recapped the workshop
- Scott will pick up the key for the building on Feb 3rd.
- Noonish people can start to bring materials in.
- 4:00ish members who can help set up, please come
- registration costs: \$48 with \$8 for additional.
- Scott suggested \$50 and \$10 for additional
- **MOTION: To keep the pricing the same-PASSED with one opposition.**
- 4-H/FFA is a flat rate of \$25 with \$8 for additional
- Keep registration capped at 50.
- We will need a food committee-will ask for volunteer members at a later meeting.
 - question: any costs go up? somewhat?

Christmas Party

- There was discussion on having the party after the workshop.

- MOTION-All in favor of holding a Christmas party after the workshop. Some opposition: tally taken: results: 19 Yes/ 13 Neighs/ 6 Abstain. Motion PASSED.

New Business

Member Honey Harvest Stories

- one member had a reaction after a sting in the neck.
- one member, says the hives on basswood didn't produce like he thought.
- several stories of ample honey harvests

Emily Gawronski-Information on Beekeeping WANTED!

- Industrial design student at UW-Stout. For my senior thesis project I am studying honeybees and bee farming to try and find areas that could be improved with better design. I would love attend any meetings that you guys coming up in the next few weeks, or any volunteers that I could do some observational research and/or interviews with! Thanks so much guys.
- she can be contacted via the Dunn County Beekeepers facebook page

Jenny Grubber

- shared findings on the pollen collection she helped with at Matt Messa's farm.
- *see follow-up report at the end of this document.*
- had milkweed pods for sharing and you to plant for your bees!

Jim Burritt

- has a paper in revision that includes data from many people in our club.
- It is being reviewed and adjusted as necessary and allowed.
- They have cultivated a new bacterium from sick bees last December and sick drones from this summer.
- Bacterium was found in 24 of 33 winter kill hives.
- would it be important to know where the bees and packages are from? Really important.

Mentorship

- Klaus was pondering this dilemma and recommends these sources for getting good information:
 - Bee Culture
 - American Bee Journal
 - Look for resources online...someone was saying there are some good lecture series online.

Attendance: 34

Pollen Project Follow-up:

SUNFLOWER POLLEN COLLECTION

This work was done for Jonathan Giacomini, a graduate student at North Carolina State University. Because he has a particular interest in honey bee response to sunflower pollen in his nutrition research, he has chosen the organic farm of Matt Messa in Dunn County, Wisconsin, as a source of pollen for his research. Mr. Messa has been raising sunflowers organically for five years and this year had 85 acres of this crop on his 470 acre organic farm.

We engaged the services of a commercial beekeeper, Shannon Leer, who lives in Trempealeau County and keeps honey bee colonies in several counties in this area. On August 19th we placed forty of Mr. Leer's bee colonies between two sunflower fields in full bloom on Mr. Messa's farm. Each colony then had a pollen trap installed that replaced the bottom board and had a drawer to catch incoming pollen that was stripped from the legs of returning foragers as they entered the hive through a hardware cloth barrier. These pollen drawers were emptied as follows and the freshly collected pollen weighed and put into a freezer.

<u>Date of Collection</u>	<u>Amount Collected</u>
August 22	0.5 Kg (1 lb.)
August 24	2.5 Kg (5 lbs. 8 Oz.)
August 26	2.95 Kg (6 lbs. 8 oz.)
August 31	3.75 Kg (8 lbs. 6 Oz.)
September 2	3.15 Kg (6lbs. 14 oz.)
September 5	3.2 Kg (7 lbs.)
Approximate Total	16 Kg (35 lbs.)

At the time of our first pollen collection, the foraging bees had easy access to two nearby sunflower fields in peak bloom and there appeared to be a high percentage of what we presumed to be sunflower pollen. However, there was some variability between the different colonies in the percentage of different plants that they had visited. On August 31, there were two colonies that were so

different in this respect that we bagged each separately and marked them as “much yellow” and “brown and orange.” On this date we stopped by another sunflower field on this farm that was now in full bloom but was about a mile away from our bee colonies. As I approached the edge of this field, I saw six heads of sunflower that each had a honey bee foraging. Our final pollen collection on September 5th resulted in the most diverse mixture of pollen from various plant species that I can recall ever seeing, and the sunflowers were mostly past bloom.

It is our understanding that this effort to collect pollen of sunflower for bee nutrition studies at NCSU will be continued in 2017. As of the present time, all parties involved with this project this year seem to be anxious to participate again next year.

(Note – sent by Gordon Waller to Jonathan Giacomini September 7, 2016)