

Tri-County Beekeepers Meeting Tuesday, January 3, 2017

Officers Jason Nyholm, Mitch Theis, Juliet Brambrink were present. Member attendance was approximately 50.

Jason called the meeting to order at 7:04. 5 new members were present.

Cigar box was passed. Total prize was \$8.

New business:

- Jim brought buckwheat honey to share. He also has tarpaper available to share if anyone needs to wrap a hive.
- Gary Reuter from the U of M will be at next month's meeting. He will discuss diseases and pests and share about the new bee lab at the St. Paul campus.
- TCB will present a community ed class on intro to beekeeping in Melrose and Sauk Rapids. Registration is available on community ed website. Both youth scholarship winners and a guest will be able to attend at the club's cost.
- Mentor applications are needed for youth. Dahlen lives between Cold Spring and St. Joe. Chloe lives outside of Holdingford. A background check will be required. Applications are available. Kevin is available to share more about mentoring.
- Guest from Chile: Entomologist looking to make contact with Marla at the U. He works for the government with small and medium beekeepers. His goal is to learn about what we do with bees in the winter, as Chile has a temperate climate, and winter management is different. He has 18 years experience working with bees.

Package Bee Orders

- Natures Nectar: if we get 100+ orders as anticipated, \$115 for 2 lb, \$130 for 3 lb, plus \$2 delivery fee. Drop-off location TBD. Will take orders until March 15 or so.
- Wayne and Cindy Rausch raising nucs. Anticipate delivery in early May. 4-frame nucs with laying queen \$150.
 - If Wayne runs out there is another source for nucs available. His information will be released if needed.
- Beekeeper in Lake Lillian going out of business has extracting line and Mann Lake 30-gallon bottling tank and other equipment for sale. Wayne and Cindy have a flyer with his number. Unsold items will be available at an auction.
- Glen Kooiman and his dad have been in the bee business since the 1970s. Based in Milaca. \$93 for 2 lb, \$109 for 3 lb. If order is large enough will deliver. Call him at 612-685-1121. Will take orders until April 1.

Equipment Needs for Spring

- Many members planning to expand or purchase more bees.
- Most run 10-frame Langstroth hives.

- Needed to get started: bottom board, at least 2 boxes and deeps with frames, inner cover, outer cover, entrance reducer. Bottom board needs to be off the ground to prevent rotting and ants – cement blocks or 2x4s work well. Also veil, smoker and hive tool. Some type of glove is a good idea.
- Starter hive kits are a good idea for newbies.
- Mann Lake and Nature’s Nectar in Stillwater are good sources. Numerous other sources are available too. Mills Fleet Farm, Runnings, Clear Lake Elevator are local sources.
- Wayne and Cindy also have Mann Lake equipment for sale.
- Some make their own equipment.
- 90 pounds of honey to overwinter is a good rule of thumb.
- Jason will demonstrate equipment at the March meeting.
- We will post a list on the website.
- Location: windbreak on north and west (artificial is OK, or a treeline or building). Afternoon shade and morning sun is best. Water within a half mile (they will drink from an animal’s dish if necessary).
 - Cayenne pepper around the bottom will keep mice out.

Treasurer

\$7477.33 end of year

\$6.50 from cigar box

\$7483.83 new total

\$767.15 for youth

Treasurers report approved

2017 budget approval

Members had time to review the budget during a break. No changes were made from last month. Budget was passed by vote.

Open Discussion

- If hive does not overwinter, shake out whatever bees you can and new bees will clean the hives. Scrape the bottom board, brush out between hives. Do as early as possible to prevent mold. Introduce a new package or nuc as usual. If there is drawn comb, use one or two deeps depending on how cold it is.
- Check hives in February when it is above freezing and no wind or precipitation. Don’t move frames – just open the cover or pound the frame and see if they buzz. Bees should be in the top hive in February.
- Don’t leave dead bees in your bee yard. Burn them or dispose of them to prevent contamination.
- Emergency feeding: fondant, candy board or winter patty. Candy board recipes are available online, other options are available from a bee supplier.
- Splits: Strong hives that make it through winter can be split. 4 frames in mid-February will likely be enough for a split.

- Some beekeepers do a reversal at the end of March so bees are in the top. The important thing is to keep the brood together.

Gary Reuter will be presenting at the March meeting. Come prepared with questions.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30.