

Tri-County Beekeepers Meeting Tuesday, March 7, 2017

Officers Jason Nyholm, Mitch Theis, Juliet Brambrink were present. Member attendance was approximately 100.

Jason called the meeting to order at 7:00. 16 new members were present.

Treasurers's report

\$7778.12 starting balance

+\$14.60 fundraiser

+\$400 membership fees

-\$16.89 Gary Reuter meal reimbursement

-\$57.78 mileage for beekeeping class

-\$562.99 scholarship hive materials

-\$77.04 Gary Reuter mileage

-\$150 bee lab donation

-\$90 PO box fee

-\$105.07 sales tax for 2016

New balance: \$7,132.95

New business

- New meeting location. Whitney Senior Center cut us a deal for this meeting. This is probably the last meeting here as the room rental will now be prohibitively expensive. Options include:
 - Holy Cross Lutheran Church on Clearwater Road: Free, current meeting time is available unless there is a funeral. In case of funeral we would have three days' notice to reschedule or relocate.
 - Sauk Rapids Government Center on Summit and Second: \$75 per meeting, plus \$150 one-time deposit.
 - Bethlehem Lutheran Church: \$100-125 depending on room, green team may sponsor. This is an option for the future.
 - Saint Cloud Technical College: \$100/hour + \$2/head.
 - SCSU: Various rooms available \$21-25/hour, parking is an issue.
 - Members voted to allow the executive committee to decide on a location. All members will receive an email with the new location.
- Non-profit status location: still pending, executive committee met to submit additional information.
- Membership renewals and package bee orders were taken during the meeting. Bees ordered from Kooiman through the club will come mid-April. Orders must be paid by Saturday. After the deadline, order from Kooiman or Nature's Nectar on your own. Pick up bees will be at a member's house near St. Cloud. Watch email for pick-up time and location.

- Status of bees: Members discussed the status of their hives. Ranges from 0-100% survival.
- Wayne and Cindy Rusch have nucs available - \$150 for four frames. Nucs are available end of April or beginning of May. And one used vaporizer for \$100. They will have queens available later this spring.
- Mentoring program will be replaced with demonstration yard. Stay tuned for updates.
- Wayne and Cindy Rusch will do demonstrations at their yard in Hutchinson. Contact them at 320-583-0041 to schedule a time to come to the bee yard for demonstration.
- Overwintered hives: put on pollen patties, try to hold off on feeding to avoid stimulating the queen.
- Paul Theis and Wayne Rusch demonstrated hiving packages and nucs.
 - Keep bees out of the wind after picking up.
 - Set up hive first: bottom board, reducer in, plug the hole with grass or duct tape.
 - Remove several frames.
 - Some spray with sugar water before opening package.
 - Remove queen cage. Put queen in your pocket to keep her warm. Remove the cork from her cage and put a mini marshmallow in the hole. The bees will eat through the marshmallow and let the queen out.
 - Or direct release the queen.
 - Shake bees to the bottom of the box.
 - Pour bees into hive where frames are removed. Use hive tool to spread bees around before inserting frames.
 - Insert queen cage into hive with screen not squished between frames. Near the middle of the hive but not the exact center.
 - Put a pollen patty (a half is fine) on the top. Do not remove the paper from the pollen patty.
 - Place inner cover on top, put feeder pail on the lid (upside-down).
 - Put an empty deep to protect the feed pail, then put on the lid. Open the hole immediately or the next morning.

ALTERNATE METHOD

- Remove queen cage and feed can. Place the open package at an angle inside an empty deep.
- Remove cork from queen cage. Plug with your finger while putting the queen cage in the hive. Hang the queen cage in the hive under the package. Bees will move from package to hive.
- Place inner cover and feed pail on top in an empty deep.
- Top with lid.

HIVING A NUC

- Bees are happy in the nuc, leave them there until good weather.
- Remove frames from hive.
- Separate frames in nuc.
- Lift frames straight up from nuc and place in hive. Leave frames in the same order. Dump loose bees in hive.

- Add pollen patty, inner cover, feed pail and lid.
- Check in 7 days for eggs.

OTHER TIPS DISCUSSED

- If you have honey on frames already, put those frames on the outside of the box.
 - The colony will clean out any dead bees, mold or other crud in the foundation. The bees will clean it out better than you will.
 - If queen escapes: She might come back. But you might need a new queen.
 - If using a new queen: new cage will come with fondant. Hang the frame in the hive or squish it into the wax.
 - If using a screened bottom board, make sure the sticky board is in until it gets warm all day and night.
 - Keep bees in the hive the first days, it will take a long time for the new bees to hatch and replace dying bees.
 - Ventilation is important to prevent too much humidity in the hive.
 - After hiving package: come pack in 2-3 days to make sure queen is outside of her cage, remove the cage. In 7-10 days check for eggs. Check feed bucket every few days.
 - Overwintering: wrap can come off mid-April, or whenever it starts to rain. Mouse guard can stay on.
 - Pollen patties can go on now. Crack the top when it's mild and not windy, keep it open a minimal amount of time.
 - Splits: Wait until there is a nectar flow. May 10-20 is a good timeframe. There are several methods to do splits.
- Next meeting location will be announced via email and website.
 - Meeting adjourned at 8:35.