

ECWBA Meeting Minutes

Oct 21, 2017

Location: Ripon Public Library, Silver Creek Room

Meeting called to order by Gerard Schubert at 9:30

Attendance: 15

Visiting Citizen: Adeline from Winneconne, concerned about bees and the environment

Old Business

- Ripon library is not able to accommodate the 3rd Sat in Nov so our next meeting will be in Green Lake at Caestecker Library. Linda DeNell has offered to give us the 3rd Sat of every month in 2018. We will discuss changing sites at the Nov meeting.
- Bee Presentation for Quilting Bee at the Pilgrim Center - none of the ladies were beekeepers but seemed genuinely concerned about the welfare of bees and honey. They really enjoyed the presentation and asked lots of questions. They even had a bee dress up contest.
- Markesan Library Presentation is Feb. 19th at 6pm - Paul, Laurie & Mike, Gerard, Patti & Mark
- Damon Reabe Presentation - not scheduled yet
- Apparel - there is a catalog where members can choose other items than sweatshirts, caps, and T-shirts. Laurie will wait to place an order after members request items.
- Extractor needs to be mounted to plastic pallet, then it can be installed at the meadery.

New Business

- Leanne presented pros and cons of being a 501c3 club.

What is a 501c3?

- Charitable, educational, religious organization established to accomplish 1 or more specific purposes that benefit the public, community, or segment of particular membership (***we are educational***)
- Must be organized as a corporation, trust, or unincorporated association (***this will need to be done***)
- No lobbying or getting involved with political campaigns as a club (that is a 501c4)

Advantages

- State and Federal exemptions from corporate income taxes and sales taxes
- Access to grant funds and donations (***can ask for funds from foundations***)
- Protection from personal liability (***currently members are personally liable***)
- Separate and perpetual legal existence (***vs the people who work for it***)
- Formal documents provide structure

Disadvantages

- Tax and reporting returns (***more paperwork***)
- Balancing of books and bank accounts (***should have a ledger***)
- Board of Directors and regular meetings (***we have this***)
- Some restrictions
- State Attorney General

Other Alternatives

- Associate with a school or university
- Be under a parent club or organization

-Patti made a motion and Laurie seconded it to go ahead with becoming a 501c3 and create a committee. Passed with 14 yes and 1 abstain.

Committee: Leanne-chair, Doreen, Patti & Mark, and Laurie.

-Treasurer is to be notified of possible extra paperwork with being a 501c3

-Fred donated \$23 from the sale of his honey at the Quilting Bee Presentation

- Gerard will report on the WI Honey Producers Convention
- December 1st 2017 all beekeepers (no matter the number of hives) will be tax exempt in WI
- Social Media, Patti has set up a Facebook page and is asking if others would like to be editors. There is a Link on the blog under website links but it is only viewable in desktop mode right now. Search for and follow: East Central WI Beekeepers Association or click on this link <https://www.facebook.com/ecwbeekeepers/>
- Liz Walsh, past student member now living in Texas, has notified us that there is a Go Fund Me account for beekeepers affected by Hurricane Harvey. You can personally donate at <https://www.gofundme.com/helping-beekeepers-recover>
- Apparel, it was suggested that we have bee and club items to sell at functions and presentations
- Suggestion was made to seek advertisers to put on sales merchandise to cut costs.
- Club needs to decide, before January vote, if board positions will be changed to 4yr terms and if secretary and treasurer position should be combined

Demonstration

Jeff Keller showed us a bee vacuum that he created and explained how it worked. His first model was a bucket with a cage in it that he found was too small. This model is an improvement where the vacuum actually attaches to a hive super. The vacuum is inserted into the hole on the top where there is also a sliding cover to adjust flow strength. There is a screen board under the cover for viewing without letting bees escape. On the bottom, a cover flips up where a vacuum tube is inserted to suck the bees inside.



Discussion

- Larry brought in live hive beetles that he found in his hive.
 - Fred brought a homemade liquid feeder made from a paint can.
- Recycle materials for bee use

- 2 liter soda bottles for liquid feeders
- Deli buckets for liquid feeders or honey storage
- 5 gallon pails for liquid feeders or honey storage

Bee Health

With the nice weather it is a good idea to treat again for mites in early Nov.
Now is the time to make sugar boards.

Next Meeting - November 18th, Green Lake Caestecker Library at 9:30

Meeting Adjourned 11:27

Honey Tasting of member's honey. Thank you Gerard for bringing animal crackers and Patti for bringing warm, homemade bread. There were many different flavors. One was even minty and one was fermented, reminding us to extract 75% capped honey and check for moisture content below 20%.