

## ECWBA Meeting Minutes

Apr 21, 2018

*Location:* Green Lake Caestecker Library, downstairs

Meeting called to order by Gerard Schubert at 9:28

Attendance: 36

Visiting: Rhiannan Diederichs from FDL, Steve Gibson from Montello, Michelle Cast from Waupun, and Tim Sheema from Fairwater

### Old Business

- Club Hives
  - Installed one donated package and one purchased - \$122
  - Pam and Gerard repainted and cleaned the boxes from the college
  - Merl made a motion and 2nd by Fred to purchase two screened bottom boards \$74.55
  - Mite treatment and costs will be discussed at a future meeting
- Backdrop
  - Paul gave options of a lightweight trifold tabletop or floor backdrop
  - Floor model would be bulkier and take up more room for storage
  - Tabletop may not have enough space for all the posters but lighter weight and smaller
  - Club decided on one 8 foot tabletop trifold display for now, can make another if needed
- Walleye Weekend June 8-11
  - Sign up sheet for volunteering was made available
- Showed the club the Liability Sign that was purchased for the hives at the meadery

### Gerard showed beekeeping tools

- Hive tool
- Bee brush
- Frame lifter
- French cheese slicer for separating supers that are stuck together with comb
- Queen cage for marking queens (give 5 min to dry so other bees don't rub it off)



### Fred talked about varroa mite treatment

- 7 of 10 viruses have been identified in WI
  - Bees can co-exist with the viruses but occasionally viruses will kill the hive
- Mites suck the fat bodies out of the bees and tend to be on the bottom of the bee
- Sick bees will leave the hive
- Mites go from bee to bee and cause cross-infection and rapid spreading
- Screened bottom boards help reduce mites by about 20% - they can't jump back on the bees
  - Screen spacing to be tight enough for only mites to fall through - #8 hardware cloth
  - <https://honeybeesuite.com/what-size-hardware-cloth-is-best-for-beehives/>
- Re-check mite levels after treating to prevent build up
- There is always a risk of killing the queen with formic or oxalic acid 3-5% of the time
- A sticky board on the bottom board can be used to check for a natural drop of mites, treat if there are 10 or more mites
- Powdered sugar roll to check for mites

- ½ cup of bees (300 bees)
- 2 Tablespoons of sugar
- Roll it around to make bees clean themselves
- Count mites - treat if 9 mites or more (3 per 100)
- Treat 3 times a year when brood is down is a good rule of thumb
  - Formic Acid must be above 50 degrees
  - Oxalic Acid can be as low as 30 degrees
- Mite resistant queens help
- Cage queen in hive for 28 days to stop egg production in fall - mites can't survive without brood
- Drone comb method - remove and kill drone brood, mites prefer the larger comb
- Split the hive - breaks up mites and takes them longer to build up
- Chemical treatment
  - Natural
    - Formic Acid - use respirator
      - One per super
      - Burns legs off mites so they can't hold on
    - Oxalic Acid
      - ¼ tsp wood bleach per super in vaporizer per hive, seal openings, burn for 3 min, remove vaporizer but keep sealed for 7 more min (10 min treatment)
      - Drip method across frame gaps (need warm weather)
      - Spray with oxalic acid in sugar water syrup (ex: new package)
        - 16 grams (about 1 ½ Tablespoons) to a pint of syrup
    - Thymal
      - Honey will taste bitter (Cucumber also makes bitter honey)
  - Unnatural - mites build a resistance
    - Apastan
    - Apavar
    - Apguard
    - Most stay in hive for 42 days
    - Apply after honey crop

#### Jack talked about swarm catching

- FREE BEES
- Dr. Tom Seeley - Honeybee Democracy and Swarm Intelligence
  - Came up with ideal size and entrance for a swarm catcher
- 5 frame nuc body above and medium nuc body below made into a box
- 1 ¼ inch entrance at bottom on end
- Vent holes on opposite end
- One frame of old brood comb and 4 other frames (no honey - it will encourage robbing)
- Lure
  - Queen pheromone on bottom - old queen cage from new package
  - Swarm lure hung on inside bottom corner
  - Swarm commander (lemongrass oil) - very small amount or will detract
- Locate swarm box ideally 15 feet in the air but 6-9 feet will work
- Let the swarm settle a few days then close the entrance at night and move them to your apiary
  - Use closable entrance disc or staple a piece of screen on

Best way to clean up a hive

- Tap frames to have dead bees fall out
- Brush dead bees off frames
- Bees will clean up old frames - dead bees, mold, and all
- Can rinse or scorch the wood supers but not necessary

#### Feeding for new packages

- One pound of sugar to one quart of water for one to one sugar syrup until they stop taking it
- Can put sugar syrup in a top feeder, frame feeder, or jar feeder
- Give dry sugar or sugar candy if its cold and liquid syrup will freeze
- Pollen patty when there's no blossoms
- A couple frames of honey (caps scratched), if you have it

#### Calming methods for installing new packages

- Don't really need to calm them, because they are getting used to their queen and new home
- Spray bees with sugar syrup
- Spray bees with Honey Bee Healthy in sugar syrup

#### Spacing of hives in your apiary

- 15 or more feet apart to avoid drifting

#### Installing Nucs

- Put nuc frames in center of hive super
- Put drawn comb, honey frames, and empty frames on sides
- Entrance reducer on the smallest setting to help bees protect the hive

#### Treasurer Report

Checking	625.71
Savings	<u>1732.05</u>
Account Balance	2357.76

#### \$10 Membership Dues

- Mailed to Patti Ingram, 724 Congress St., Ripon, WI 54971
- PayPal to Patti Ingram, 920-229-8959, include name and email in Note section

Next Meeting May 19th, Green Lake Caestecker Library 9:30am

Meeting Adjourned 11:56