

ECWBA Meeting Minutes

Sept 15, 2018

(Patti absent, minutes taken by Laurie Koeck)

Location: Green Lake Caestecker Library, downstairs

Meeting called to order by Gerard Schubert at 9:30

Attendance: 23 New Members: 0

Visiting: Guest of Jeff Champeau

New Business

- Sunday September 16th was set up as the Club extraction day at the Meadery. If not able to make the 9/16th extraction day, Club members were reminded that the extractor is available anytime, by appointment. Contact Pam Keller. ecwba3@gmail.com
- Gerard was contacted by Dee at Dee's Bees indicating that she was no longer going to be conducting the UW bee course that she had been offering over the past several years. She asked if the Club would be interested in taking over the class.
 - Rich and Buzz may be willing to offer their services as instructors.
 - Member Jeff Champeau will contact the City of Fond du Lac, to see if the Club would be able to take over Dee's certification as an approved beekeeping class.
 - May need to set up a Bee Class committee to outline a program and research our certification options.
 - Member Tom Wagner suggested we contact Moraine Park to see if we might be able to set up a class through the Tech College.

PRESENTATION

Member Rich Schneider Capital Bee Supply in Columbus provided a "Preparing your Bees for Winter" presentation.

Capital Bee Supply has a new store in Columbus providing a wide range of Honey Bee and Native Bee Supplies. His wife, Stacy is just finishing up her Master Beekeeper certification and they offer a 24-hour 4 part beginning beekeeping class as well as an advanced beekeeping course.

The Winterizing your Bees powerpoint presentation was also offered by Rich on his website at CapitalBeeSupply.com.

Highlights and Key Points from his presentation are outlined here. For more details and specifics, contact Rich

What's Happening Now:

- Reduction in Brood
- Winter storage preparation: Stores of Nectar, pollen, and honey
- Varroa Mite wars continue
- Consider reducing hive size to 3 medium 10-frame supers or 2 deep 10-frame supers

QUESTION: Does goldenrod pollen in the fall help our bees?

It might contain too much "ash" (indigestible components) which may perhaps cause or contribute to winter dysentery. Suggest using "spring honey" for winter feeding.

KEY Points:

- Honey supers that you are going to harvest, should be harvested. Movement of Supers within the next few weeks as we wind into the winter season may disrupt the sealing (propolizing) of the

hives. It's okay while we are still having these super warm days but more critical as the temperatures begin to decline.

- Be sure that there is room in the hive for clustering which is needed to keep the hive warm throughout the winter months. Clustering is also important to warm the honey food stores into useful food supplies.
- Watch for a population crash due to mites in late fall/early winter (Oct/Nov/Dec) See Beekeepers calendar on website.

Some Late Season Management Tasks:

- Consider merging weak hives. Although the window of opportunity may have already passed.
- Start feeding as necessary, if not already started.
- Check/manage mite load.
- Check for other disease levels, nosema, tracheal mites.

What is needed for a successful overwinter hive?

- A young productive queen.
- Adequate and useable food reserves (70-100# of honey).
- Healthy bees.
- Proper hive ventilation.
- Ideally the hive should have between 6-8 full seams of bees in the super.

KEY Points:

- Bees start clustering when the temperatures start averaging 57 degrees. Bees use winter stores most efficiently at 45 degrees. The lowest temperature that a hive can survive is dependent upon the number of bees, how much useable food, and the duration of the cold spell.
- The outside shell, or 1"-3" of bees are packed pretty tightly, and act as the insulators and will rotate into the cluster every 8 days to feed. They rotate into the center to refuel where it is less tightly clustered around the queen, and is where it is most heated and the honey resources can be used.
- Movement up and down throughout the (2-3) supers is relatively easy for the bees because their movement is not impeded by the frames, and they don't have to break cluster to move. Sideways movement is more difficult because they have to break cluster to move, and crawl over the frames. However on warmer days, they will move toward the side of the hive that the sun is warming, on warmer winter days.

Feeding

- Feed now, heavy syrup 2:1
- Emergency feed, sugar cakes, candy boards, mound camp
- Best feed – honey
- If bees are high in the hive during the winter months, you might suspect low winter food reserves.

Disease Control:

- Nosema spores within the hive result in malnourished bees due to dysentery.
- Nosema spores within the feed will be transmitted to the queen, and cause sickness or death,
- Stacy at Capital Bee can test your bees for Nosema. Contact the store. 608-444-1493

Hive Ventilation:

- 10# of honey consumption will result in 1# of water aspired.
- Wet bees = dead bees although some moisture/humidity in the hive is needed.
- Keep the upper entrances open, either with a hole in the hive box or a notched upper cover.
 - This provides ventilation and an entrance/exit on warmer winter days for movement.

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

- Need sunshine
- Need wind protection
- Need protection from predators and nuisance animals
 - install mouse guards and consider inverting the lower entrances.

Further discussion on to WRAP or NOT to WRAP your hives.

Close up screened bottoms.

Further discussion and questions continued past 11:15AM.

Several members brought honey for sampling. A variety of colors and even some comb honey was provided. Thanks Jack for the tasting spoons.

Extracting Sign Up

ecwba3@gmail.com

Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/ecwbeekeepers

@ecwbeekeepers

Club Website

ecwba.weebly.com

Club Blog

<http://ourbeeblog.blogspot.com/>

\$10 Membership Dues

- Mail 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 Oct 20th, Green Lake Caestecker Library 9:30am