

Racine/Kenosha Beekeepers' Association

May 2, 2012 Meeting Minutes



Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Scott Drabicki at 7:05pm. He welcomed new members and asked if any of the new members needed a mentor.

Announcements

- Lee Heine is retiring from Dadant in Watertown, WI. Please feel free to sign his retirement card as we wish him well.
- Lindsey Drought offered to draw a club t-shirt design. They would cost \$12-15 per shirt.
- Please update your membership by submitting \$5/year dues.
- Hive covers available which contain woodchips to minimize moisture.

Executive Report

Scott Drabicki had a booth for Earth Day event at Gateway in Racine; Tim Fulton had a booth in Kenosha and made the channel 12 news (used the brushy mt observation unit)

Requests for others programs to be presented at monthly meetings

June is a bee yard visit

Check out our RK beekeepers newly updated web page and facebook page

The April 2012 minutes were read and approved by Tim Fulton. They will be stored on the website for reference.

Treasurers reported \$1178.00 in our account

Old Business

- Pete Poli has 1 extractor available for club use from Butch; Gary Buckels may have the 2nd club one; Tim F. to follow up
- Annual Picnic is August 1 and the WI Honey queen will be attending

New Business

- Discuss current bee status; remove entrance reducer and mouse guards; add more supers once the lower box has at least 7 frames filled

- Randy Chase talked about splits and recommended using 4-5 frames for a nuc colony; put a queen in with hard candy stopper or prompt bees to make a new queen; close up for 24 hrs, if they don't accept the queen, they may kill her; ensure queens are from a reputable company with decent weather for breeding

Seasonal Bee Reminders:

- Now is the time to re-queen if needed
- Swarm Prevention; 1 call last week in Racine/Kenosha area; 2 in Lake County; phone numbers are posted for contacts to collect swarms
- Now is the time to monitor and treat for varroa mites
- Hive beetles can be treated with nemotodes

NOTE: Imidacloprid is a pesticide in corn that may be showing up in corn syrup

Presentation

Tim Fulton presented on how to collect a swarm and what tools are recommended (brush, gloves, bucket, tree trimmer/sm pruner, syrup bottle with sugar syrup/essential oil, hive box, cover, screen, 3 frames of drawn comb, bed sheet); recommended to collect by 11am and address as quickly as possible

Recommended Book about swarms – Honeybee Democracy

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm. Members were encouraged to discuss swarm experiences and share videos.

Submitted by: Gail Seefeldt