

## Racine/Kenosha Beekeepers' Association

### September 4, 2013 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.
- 50 Attendees with 4 new members

#### Announcements

- WHPA Fall Convention, Oct 31 - Nov 3 at the Racine Marriot; sign up and schedule online at <http://www.wihoney.org>; looking for volunteers

#### Executive Report

- Racine Club Magazine has been completed; Thank You to Sara Lancaster!
- Scott attended a queen rearing class at the University of Minnesota
  - Major takeaways: release queens manually after 3 days; important to apply nosema treatment correctly otherwise it is not effective; replace old comb every 5 years
- Reminder- Club is selling book "First Lessons in Beekeeping" from Dadant to the club for \$5 and the club would subsidize \$0.97 per book
- Successful July Picnic with the Lake County Beekeepers Association
- The August minutes were reviewed and approved. Thanks to Peter Staniec for taking the minutes! They will be stored on the website for reference and the google groups page for review.
- The treasurer report is \$1404.00 (paid out \$58.50 to Scott Drabicki for reimbursement of the Beginner Beekeeping books)

#### Old Business

- Club extractor- Gail Seefeldt
- Google Group site is active; please sign up

#### New Business

- December Dinner location; club would like to schedule it at the Birchwood Grill again
- Discussion on tips, tricks and sanitation for final extraction of the season; Scott to publish article on website; recommendation from one member to use extracting knife from Kelly's
- Brad Gertz, Eagle Scout Troop #51, asked for support from the club to be reimburse for 3 hives built at the Hawthorne Hollow Nature Preserve in Kenosha

- His request has been approved by the club for \$300; \$150 paid now and \$150 paid in April 2014
- Brad will work with TJ Leveque and Lori Artiomow (educators at Hawthorne Hollow) to maintain hive and set-up educational program for the public utilizing the hives
- In return of our support, also feature RKBeekeepers association in their newsletter as a sponsor and acknowledge the club on a sign by the hives
- Jeff Knuth also offered to donate a top bar hive to the nature center if they would incorporate this into their programs also
- Tim Fulton has given the nature center start up hives this year and has been mentoring them; nature center has been supporting the comeback of the endangered Rusty Spot Bumblebee
- This month in Beekeeping
  - Preparation for hive for winter
    - Test for Varroa mites, treat for SHB if needed
    - Organize your boxes
    - Ensure your queen is strong enough to survive the winter
    - Ensure capped honey is centralized in box for accessibility of overwintering bees
    - Ensure there are no gaps in the frames; leave bridge comb intact
    - Feed 2:1 sugar mixture through October 1
    - Attach mouse guards as it gets colder to fend off honey robbing
  - Preparation a nuc for winter
    - Karl spoke on this topic and had an article published in past WI Beekeepers newsletter
- Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Submitted by: Gail Seefeldt