



# Door County Beekeepers Club

Door County Club Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, June 24, 2021  
Location: Crossroads

*To promote the study, science, and craft of beekeeping through education, encouragement, and community for all Door County beekeepers, and raise awareness to the benefits of bees.*

**Co-Pres:** Max Martin / Mark Lentz, **VP:** Paul Kenyon, **Treasurer/Membership:** Susie Kurtz, **Secretary:** Barb Meyer/Doug Otopalik, **Media/IT:** David Eash, **Hospitality:** Cindy Easley, **Planning:** Dennis & Lynn Marquardt, Debby Ulrich, Bill Meyer, Gretchen Schmelzer

**Present:** Jim Batar, Dennis Marquardt, Lynn Marquardt, Gretchen Schmelzer, Mark Lentz, Jon Hemb, Sue Doebler, George Pavlovics, Mary Loper, Ross Schmelzer, Joan Theys, Debbie Ulrich, Lisa O'Dell, Patrick Sizemore, Tom Max Hollingshead, Krista Moyer, Eva Ochek

- 1. Hive Dive 5:30 pm:** Hive Dive conducted by Max Martin and Mark Lentz on the Flowhive at Crossroads. It is reported that the hive is thriving.
- 2. Call to order 6:30 pm:** Max Martin
- 3. Welcome visitors/Introductions:** Max reports that basswood trees in bloom and a nectar flow in the county will occur within the week.
- 4. Membership report and dues update:** Mark reports that a push email will occur 1 day prior to all meetings as a reminder to increase attendance. Attached to the email will be a membership form. Attenders are encouraged to complete membership form and pay annual dues.
- 5. 2021 Meeting programs:(Mark reports)**
  - July 27<sup>th</sup>: **Honey Harvesting** (Mark Lentz & Dennis Marquardt) Hive Dive at 5:30 pm Crossroads; Meeting 6:30 Crossroads.
  - August 21<sup>st</sup>: **Pollenpalooza** (with Crossroads)
  - August 24<sup>th</sup>: **Prepping for Winter** (Max Martin) Hive Dive 5:30 pm Crossroads; Meeting 6:30 pm Crossroads.
  - September 28<sup>th</sup>: **Hives Types** (Jeff Bradley) Meeting 6:30pm Crossroads.
  - October 26<sup>th</sup>: **Cleaning & Using Wax** (Debbie Ulrich/Dee Martin) Meeting 6:30 Crossroads.
  - November 30<sup>th</sup>: **Making Mead with the Marquardt's:** Meeting 6:30 pm Crossroads.
  - December 14<sup>th</sup>: **Holiday Social** (Gretchen Schmelzer & Lynn Marquardt) 6:30 pm Crossroads.
- 6. Club Events:** Gretchen reports on the **Sweet Mountain Farm Trip** for 7-18 and 7-20. A sign-up sheet is passed around. (See attached information below for details)
- 7. Guest Speakers (Apiary Inspectors):** Donna Stine (Eastern Wisconsin Bee Inspector), Sara LaValley, Patrick Sizemore. **Topic: "Varroa Mite Treatments" Presented by Sara LaValley.**
- 8. Hive Inspections:** Inspections postponed due to rain. Rescheduled for June 28, 29, and 30. Call Donna Stine for an appointment at 608-354-3689.
- 9. Question & Answers: (Apiary Inspectors):** Donna Stine (Eastern Wisconsin Bee Inspector), Sara LaValley, Patrick Sizemore.

- 10.Next Meeting: July 27<sup>th</sup>: Honey Harvesting** (Mark Lentz & Dennis Marquardt) Hive  
Dive at 5:30 pm Crossroads; Meeting 6:30 Crossroads.
- 11.Adjourn:** 8:30 pm

**Sweet Mountain Farm 6th Annual Field Day's: Sunday, July 18th and Tuesday, July 20th**

**Please review the entire schedule before signing up. This year, with two days and a smaller class size, we will have more time to get to know one another, make connections, and share experiences. Please sign up in pairs. Your club secretary will forward the list to me. I will need first name, last name, years experience beekeeping, reason for attending class, email address.**

**FERRY**

View the Washington Island Ferry boat schedule [here](#). Plan to arrive at least 60 minutes prior to departure and be prepared to purchase round trip ferry tickets. There have been very long lines so my recommendation is to get in line early and be on the first boat.

**ISLAND TRANSPORTATION**

Decide on transportation. Transportation options include bringing your own vehicle or carpool with other participants.

**RETURN TRIP**

Plan your return trip. Arrive at Detroit Harbor at least 60 minutes early if you are driving your auto and plan to get your auto on board for the ferry trip back to the mainland. If you plan to board the last boat of the day this is important.

**EQUIPMENT**

Bring your own gear. You will not be allowed in the bee yard without protective equipment. Remember your bee suit, veil, gloves and hive tool or anything else that you want to use in the bee yard. Hiking boots are preferred. Sweet Mountain Farm does not supply equipment.

**LIABILITY**

Sign a liability waiver. It is necessary before entering the bee yard. Waivers will be distributed in your welcome packet but I suggest filling out a waiver and bringing it with you.

**ATTRACTIONS**

Check out the Washington Island Chamber of Commerce website [here](#) for information. There are many interesting places to visit on the Island. Don't miss the Stavkirke located on Town Line Road. The craftsmanship is astounding. It is one of my favorites.

**ITINERARY**

**Breakfast 9:00-10:00 a.m.**

Complementary breakfast sponsored by Sweet Mountain Farm.

**Presentation**

Welcome, announcements, brief meeting, handouts

- 45 minute media presentation

- history of Russian honeybees
- how Russian honeybees are different than other honeybees
- what are the pros and cons for raising Russian honeybees
- seasonal life of an apiary

This multi-media introduction will prepare you for what you will observe in the bee yard.

### **In the Bee Yard**

**11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

The day is planned for your enrichment and enjoyment in a relaxed environment. I will demonstrate then you can practice. Come and go as you please. Bring your own bag lunch or snacks.

You can practice what you learn in the classroom with hands-on in the field;

- Work in pairs to inspect a colony...find out what you should be looking for...it's more than looking for the queen.
- Multiple methods for chemical free integrated pest management
- Perform a mite count
- Understand splits and successful overwintering

### **Inside the Honey House:**

Ice cold water is provided.

### **Round Table**

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

At the end of this amazing day we will sit around the fire pit and talk about our experience and observations today. We can all benefit from each others experiences and questions.

The groups will work in pairs. If there are more than 8 people I'd like to split it into two groups, if possible, one on Sunday and the other on Wednesday. This way, I will have more one-on-one time with each person.

I hope this schedule works for DCBC. I'm so excited to have your group visit my apiary and have this opportunity to work with members of your club. Be prepared for a fantastic day!

Sue

