



Door County Beekeepers' Club- Meeting January 28, 2020 at The Crossroads in Sturgeon Bay, WI.

Twenty-six people attended the meeting including: Mark Lentz, Max and Dee Martin, Mike Witt, Gretchen Schmelzer, Bill and Barb Meyer, Cynthia Easley, Tim Idling, Brett Hanson, Cynthia Easley, Rob and Cathy Edmundson, Debbie Ulrich, Doug Otopalik, Kevin O'Donell, Susie Kurtz, Susan Leeder, Jenni O'Handley, Liam O'Handley, Paul Kenyon, Jave Hughes, Tim Willbanks, James Cocholan, Chuck and Laurie Balm, and Coggin Herringa.

The meeting was called to order by Max Martin at 6:36 pm. Max reminded all beekeepers to clean out the bottom of their hives to allow air circulation and cleansing flights. Members and guests were welcomed. An abbreviated treasurer's report was given; there is about \$1200 in the account. Membership forms for the coming year are available and all were encouraged to join.

The Brown County Beekeepers invited our club to attend their next meeting at the Green Bay Botanical Gardens on March 18 at 6:30 pm. The guest speaker is a member of the U of MN Bee Squad.

Tim Wilbanks, our guest speaker, was introduced by Max Martin. Tim is the owner of Heritage Honey Bees in Sullivan, WI. He grew up in a beekeeping family in Georgia and has worked with bees his entire life, raising bees and queens, selling equipment, honey production, pollination, and most everything involving honeybees.

The following are topics covered by Tim during this lecture:

- Healthy honeybees require a good environment, nutrition, disease control, a variety of genetics, good weather, and low stress.
- Georgia and California are the only 2 places in the US that are able to keep bees year around. They produce most of the packages, nucs, and queens. Texas also has some year around beekeeping.
- Requirements to produce a package of honeybees-
 - From October to December, the bees need feeding and treating. The hives need cleaning and repairs. New boxes need to be made for shipping bees, because almost no one re-uses cages. Cans of syrup need to be made.
 - In January the bees are building up their colonies.
 - In February once drones are available, grafting of queen cells begins. 12-20 drones are needed for each queen. Plastic cells are now used to raise queens.
 - January-April the bees need lots of feeding until the natural nectar is available. Bees are fed 2:1 syrup in cooler weather and less dense syrup in warmer weather. The syrup is water