



## DCBC Club Meeting Minutes from February 25<sup>th</sup> 2020

*Members Present: Mark DeMeus, Paul Kenyon, Mark Lentz, Max Martin, Gretchen Schmelzer, Susie Kurtz, Kevin O'Donnell, Brenda Wolfe, Cynthia Easley, Missy Witt, Brett Hanson, Randy Mannzer, Kathi Kazenske, Susan Hoover, Michael and Morgan Wright, Karla Green, Dan Christl, Terry Vogel, Keith Lemburg, Cheryl and Scot Wedergust, Tim Iding, Ross Schmelzer*

Location: Crossroads at Big Creek

Meeting called to Order by presenter/ President Max Martin at 6:35

Visitors were welcomed and Introductions made. Attendees shared the status of their hives, Treasurer's Report: \$1,379.87 We have 26 paid memberships with a distribution list of 127 and 293 followers on Facebook.

### **Other Business:**

1. Brenda Wolfe will utilize your empty bee cages for a library project she does with children to raise monarch butterflies. Bring your extra cages to the next DCBC meeting or contact Brenda to drop them off,
2. Kevin O'Donnell reminded everyone that March and April is a critical time for bees. Make sure you keep on hard candy. Add pollen patties since the queen may be laying mid March, If you use pillowcases with cedar shavings, exchange them out to keep the hive dry.
3. Max gave a Learning IN Retirement presentation and met a man from Tornado Tavern who is interested in Mead production. If you would like to be part of it, contact Max.
4. There is a garden in Egg Harbor who put out a request for honeybee hives, contact Max if interested.
5. Gretchen put out a request for honey donations for the second place award for the Crossroads Trail Run which benefits Crossroads general fund. If you'd like to donate a jar or 2, bring them to Crossroads or contact Gretchen
6. On March 18<sup>th</sup>, the Dutchess County Bee Club is hosting a speaker from the Minnesota Bee Lab at the Green Bay Botanical Gardens. All are welcome to attend.

### **Max presented the below information**

Prepping for Spring Beekeeping.

Bottom board, solid 1/8 screened bottom (cover when installing new packages)

10 frame, 8 frame, 2 deeps or 3 medium boxes.

Hive location, dry, accessible, sunshine, winter protection from the north, north west. **Face hive entrance away from any walkways**

Hive stand, skunk protection, ease for lifting, and double wide! **14" off the ground is recommended**

Mite check the new packages? (no place for mites to hide)

Lite syrup, sugar feeders (boardman, frame feeder, top feeder)

Front entrance reducer, heat protection, robbing protection.

### **Additional Information**

- In your hive, you will have 3 deep boxes for brood or 3 medium boxes for brood
- If you move your hives from a winter location to spring, a good time is mid April to Mid May

- Mite check your new packages after the queen has been accepted, a few days after installing. Do a sugar roll and if you have mites, treat (formic acid pro is a choice)
- Start light syrup probably in Mid April when it is consistently in the 50's
- Put a pollen patty between the boxes or on top of screen bottom board
- If you need to replace your queen, it is wise to buy a mated queen to quicken the laying activity. Queens are only viable for 10 days and there may not be enough drones available to mate in early spring.

**What to do with overwintered hives?** Between April 15 and May1, take apart your overwintered hive. Move the top brood box with the cluster and place it on the screened bottom board and put the top on it. Next, clean out the bottom brood box, scrap out any propolis, replace any worn out frames, then put it back together, keeping the cluster brood box on the bottom. Add in your pollen patty between the boxes.

Open Discussion was had.

Adjournment 8:10

Next Meeting: March 24<sup>th</sup> is at Hatch Distillery. He will be sharing all the mistakes he made and what he learned in his commercial operation of 50-100 hives.

Regular memberships are accepted year around. Please visit the club website: <http://doorcountybeekeepersclub.org> to download an application.