



## Door County Beekeepers Club Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 23, 2020

**6:30 PM Meeting**

Crossroads at Big Creek

**Outdoors** – garden area

In Attendance: Jake VandenPlas, Max Martin, Mark Lentz, Gorg Pavovics, Gretchen Schmelzer, Debby Ulrich, Mary Loper, Janice Thomas, Zolf Beseeds, Paul Kenyon, Michael Smith, April Kustorm Jave, Lynn and Dennis Marquardt, Randall Manges, Alan J. August, Lisa O'Deal, Mike and Christy Witt

Call Meeting to Order at 6:35

Visitors and Introductions were made

Treasurer's Report: Not Announced

### **Other Business:**

1. Community Honey Harvest for Saturday, August 22 was discussed. We will wait to see what the board of directors and the Covid situation dictates regarding the execution of this community event. September may be an alternative date.
2. Our July meeting will be the same setup – Outdoors with masks

**Open Discussion** with April Kustorm, Wisconsin Bee Inspector and Fellow Beekeepers  
Listed below is information shared with the group.

### MITES

- Mite counts are important. If you wait to see the mites visually, the colony may already be collapsing. When you take a mite count, you have information to let you know if your treatment is effective.
- Scratch open the drone cells to look for mites on the white larvae as another way to check for mite levels
- Mite resistant bees are more hygienic, however they still need to be treated and monitored
- Avoid doing a sugar roll when its humid because the powder sugar will get clumpy, ending up with an inaccurate count
- There has been more swarming this year due to so much blooming at the same time and this will naturally decrease the varroa mites.
- Always follow the dosage on the label of treatments.
- Mite Information Cards are available free from the Honeybee Health Coalition. Also when you go to the website there is a list of legal treatments that are safe at different times of the year.

### VARIETY OF TOPICS

- Ants: If cinnamon around the hive box is not working, try putting each leg of the stand in a bucket of water
- If you have frames that the bees refuse to use, brush on a coat of wax to attract them to it.

- Black foundation allows you to see the eggs a bit easier
- Pure Wax Foundation may warp out when it gets to warm.
- Wax Moths: At the end of the year use Paramoth. Also keep equipment in the sun as long as possible
- Make sure they are really dry before storage, nothing with nectar or honey in it. Some people store their frames in a rubbermaid container.
- Honey Bound: If the second brood box is all honey, move the middle frames out, add fresh frames, to give the queen more space for brood
- When Basswood blooms, put an extra super on because the honey flow is on.
- Lay Worker: If you have a worker bee laying, shake out the hive and have the bees crawl back in. The lay-worker will be too heavy to crawl back in. Once you have done this, you may introduce a new queen.
- Queen: When adding your queen, make sure they can breathe, and put candy hole down, screen to the open so she can be fed. Before you let her go , try sweeping the bees off the box. If they cling on and try to sting the queen, wait before releasing.

Adjournment at 7:40

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 21, 6:30

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