

Door County Beekeepers Club Meeting

MINUTES

Tuesday; July 21, 2020

6:00 PM Hive Dive

Dennis Marquardt and Mark Lentz opened the hives in Crossroads apiary, smoke free. Frames were full of honey. Brood, eggs, and larvae were seen. The colonies were heavily populated. Approximately 12 people were in attendance for this hive dive.

Call Meeting to Order: 6:38

Attendance: Sue Doebler, Max Martin, Jeff Bradley, Paul Kenyon, Mark Lentz, Nancy Bohman, William Bradley, Mikayla Kifer, Lisa O'Dell, Alan J. August, Jodi Hendricksen, Scot and Cheryl Wederquist, George Pavlovics. Cynthia Easley, Joe, Liam and Jenni O'Handley, Gretchen Schmelzer

Visitors were welcomed and participants introduced themselves

Treasurer's Report: Unavailable

Old Business:

1. A discussion about the Community Honey Harvest scheduled for Saturday, August 22 took place around the difficulties of adhering to the Covid-19 best practices. The unanimous vote among the present membership was to postpone till next year.

The August 18th regular meeting will be a presentation on honey harvesting. Watch your inbox for more information.

Speaker: Jeff Bradley shared with present members what he has learned through his 40 year journey in keeping bees. Jeff discussed what he has found to be best practices for beekeeping in our local environment. He also shared his opinion about strengthening the local bee colonies, genetics, and his experimentation with different hive configurations. Bulleted below are some informational points gathered from open presentation.

- Jeff presently lives on a Valmy farm and has about 15 hives. He originally majored in agriculture in New Jersey, purchased a New York farm upon

graduation and became a beekeeper. Honeybees were his first purchase.

- He is passionate about not treating bees and allowing bees to develop their own genetic strains to combat diseases.
- Over his 40 years of beekeeping there have been many changes. For example in 1980 trachea mites were a huge threat. If your hive had them, your hive would have been torched. Now trachea mites are only a minimum threat.
- Jeff seeks to understand the best way bees are managed for our local environment: weather, the humidity, wintering conditions etc.
- Jeff compares different hive configurations within his apiary; Langstroth, Warre, Top Bar and the Long Side horizontal frames
- The TopBar was developed for Kenya as an inexpensive option. To date, TopBar hive bees have not overwintered in Valmy.
- Although he keeps several honeybee varieties, Jeff's preferred bee is the Carniolans. Door County's season is so short and carnis build up quick, and shut down quick (stop laying) so appear a better fit for our local weather.
- SWARM PROJECT
- Jeff has 12 (?) 1-15 gallon nuke boxes, each with an added pheromone lemon grass oil bait, distributed around the county to attract overwintering swarms
- His purpose of the swarm project is to build healthier local populations of honeybees, strengthening the local genetic strains
- Jeff welcomes all to come and see his farm and explore his apiary projects.
- Thank you, Jeff!

Open Discussion

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 18 (scheduled for Crossroads)