

Door County Beekeepers Club Meeting
Tuesday, July, 27, 2021, 6:30p.m.
Collins Learning Center at Crossroads

Call to Order by Co-chairs Max Martin and Mark Lentz

Attendance: Max, Mark, Doug, Gretchen, Nick, Julie, John and Eva, Jave, Cidy, Jim, Marie, Sandy, Bree, Lynn, Dennis, Megan, Georg

Treasurer's Report: no report, a reminder to pay membership dues

New Business:

Hive Dive hosted by Gretchen Schmelzer at her beautiful home and gardens. Thank you. Observations and discussion included varroa mite indicators like K-Wing and mites on drone cell larvae. Also observed egg laying patterns for workers, drones, and queen cells.

Harvesting techniques presented by Mark Lentz and Dennis Marquardt.

1. Timing of Harvest. Lot's of rain and pollen this year. Bees are producing early and heavy. Don't wait too long to harvest as bees will start eating their own honey. Decide how much you want to harvest before adding lots of super boxes. It is suggested to harvest when you are ready. You can store frames until ready but must be in airtight sealed containers. You can also freeze frames. Frames should be 80-90% capped comb. If uncapped you need to determine water content of honey. Needs to be 15-18% water otherwise too much water can ferment. Use refractometers or "shake test" You can also dry frames over a dehumidifier.
2. Getting started. Remove bees from frame with brush or leaf blower. Decap comb of wax. Hot knife, drone comb, bread knife techniques demonstrated.
3. Centrifuge extractor demonstrated. Also can use Flow Hive which are easy, but costly. When using centrifuge, you get more honey when frames are warmed to 90 degrees.
4. Filtering honey using filter pans and/or cheese cloth. A reminder to get honey bottles early.
5. Clean up of equipment is done with hot water, say in a shower or at car wash, but NO soap.
6. Club equipment includes extractors, buckets, strainers. Contact Gretchen Schmelzer at 920-493-0090 to reserve a date.

Old Business:

1. 2021 Program schedule
 - August 24 Max Martin talks "Prepping your bees and hives for winter".
 - September Jeff Bradly is speaker
 - October Deb Ulrick presents "Wax".
2. Pollenpalooza at Crossroads August 21. Club will be present to show bees and harvest a hive. Other events are planned by Crossroads.
3. The WI Ag Center will be hosting a workshop details unknown.

Adjourned meeting at 7:50p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Doug Otopalik, secretary