



DCBC MINUTES  
Tuesday, August 18, 2020  
6:00 PM Meeting  
Crossroads at Big Creek – Outdoor Lawn Area

**In Attendance:** Lisa O'Dell, Michael Morgan, Reagan Wright, Jave Hughes, Mike Witt, Sue Doebler, Georg Pavlovics, Hans Dramm, Alan J. August, Mary Loper, Debby Ulrich, Dennis Marquardt, Lynn Marquardt, Paul Kenyon, Mark Lentz, Gretchen Schmelzer

**Meeting was called to Order at 6:09**

Visitors were welcomed/ Introductions

Treasurer's Report: The club balance is \$1715.58. The only expenditures was \$311.09 for to host our website

**Old Business:**

1. Community Honey Harvest has been canceled for 2020, however there are opportunities to do parts of the harvest through recorded or live stream to share with the community. Mikayla Kifer offered her assistance in possibly putting parts of our honey harvest activities on line. Janice Thomas and Mary Roper will be willing to have their extraction filmed for online sharing.
2. Fall Programs – we continue to reevaluate our scheduled programs through 2020 and meeting locations. Changes and adjustments will be sent out in email notifications and posted on our website and Facebook page. If you have any ideas for a safe healthy way of hosting minutes, please reach out to Mark Lentz at 920-948-0090

**New Business:**

- POLLENPOOOZA will take place Saturday, August 29, 1:00-3:00 PM at Crossroads. The DCBC will be a part of this day. Participants will be able to view the flow hive extraction, get nose to nose with the observation hive and learn about the amazing life of bees through our educational table. Keep your eyes out for an E-mail from Gretchen, if you'd like to volunteer.
- Waseda Farms is looking for honey to sale. If interested call Sayard Greeve, at Waseda
- Brenda Wolfe, are you still collecting bee boxes for monarch caterpillars?

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**Program: Honey Harvesting** – Mark Lentz discussed fall honey harvesting including which frames you can harvest, various techniques, and equipment to insure a successful harvest. Equipment demonstrations were given to extract, filter, and bottle your product. Below are some points from Mark

- The time to harvest your honey depends upon three things. 1.the nectar flow  
2. the weather 3. the strength of your hive
- In July-August, look at frames and only pull the ones that have honey in every comb and are totally capped with a wax covering
- Do not pull frames with open cells because the honey is not completely cured. The water content will be too high and may possibly ferment
- a Refractometer is a tool to measure the water content and needs to be below 18%
- There are several ways to harvest your honey. This is the process Mark uses:
  1. Mark prepares his work site by placing a plastic tote, large enough to hold a box of frames, several feet away from his hives.
  2. He suits up and has a lit smoker and bee brush ready
  3. Mark pries up the frame, checks for full capping on both sides, brushes the bees off and transfers the frame to his tote, covering it up
  4. If it is not fully capped, he leaves the frame in the box for the bees to finish capping.
  5. Mark continues until all frames have been checked and the ones fully capped removed.
  6. Mark condenses the unfinished frames and removes the empty honey supers

#### Extracting

1. Mark prepares by setting up table, covered with plastic, pail of water, extractor, drone comb scrapper, 5 gallon honey bucket with spout, (2-3)filters, bottles
2. From his tote filled with frames, he takes each frame and places it in a pan on end and scrapes the capped wax with his comb, on each side of the frame
3. Once the wax cap is broken, he puts it in his hand turning extractor, turning it until all honey is release, flipping it over to extract the other sides.
4. When the extracted honey reaches the bottom of the frames, Mark sets up filters on top of honey bucket and opens up valve on the extractor to flow out into the filters and into the honey bucket.
5. The honey spout gets opened and the jars filled.

#### After the Harvest –

1. Spent frames are placed outside near the hives for the bees to clean up before storing the frames for the winter.
2. Check hives for mites, treat as needed, increase pollen levels, feed heavy syrup 2 to 1.

### **Adjournment**

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 22 (scheduled for Crossroads) –  
“Prepping your Honeybee colony and hive for Fall/Winter” – Paul Kenyon**

Regular memberships are accepted year around. Please visit the club website:  
[HTTP://doorcountybeekeepersclub.org](http://doorcountybeekeepersclub.org) to download an application.