



North Central Beekeepers Assoc., Inc. • P.O. Box 294 Brainerd, MN 56401

A Non-Profit Educational Organization For Beekeepers.

Next **North Central Beekeepers** meeting is 6:00pm. At the McKay demonstration yard
7:00pm. POTLUCK PICNIC

Northland Arboretum -- Brainerd, Minnesota 56401

All members and friends welcome !!

Editor: Burton B. Scripture 218-352-9202 burtsbees@brainerd.net

North Central beekeepers website: webmaster@northcentralbeekeepers.com



Start the evening at the demo yard. John Mckay's 13320 Two Mile Rd. don't forget your veil!! 6:00 pm.

Report on the May demo yard visit from Don Jackson.

Prior to our May 21st. meeting we gathered at the demo yard and examined each of the 8 colonies. Of the three types of foundation , all appear to be getting drawn out well, with the Duragilt perhaps a bit slower, but also okay. These good results should not be expected if you are mixing plastic foundation and drawn comb, or leaving the bees without syrup or fresh nectar for a period.

On the other hand, one of the control hives with drawn comb and plenty of food already in storage was nearly twice as large as the best with foundation. To get foundation drawn, THE BEES MUST HAVE CONTINUOUS FEEDING. Bees drawing comb will be slower than those with already drawn comb.

Evening-up. This is good beekeeping , by strengthening the weaker hives was also shown.

Hive # 8 (control) This hive was established on drawn comb from the Baxter yard. It lost its queen early, so was requeened. It still doesn't look good so a frame of brood from #7 was added. On May 26th. It was again examined and still not doing well. The conclusion is that the old frames are too contaminated with chemicals to be used. All those old combs were removed including the replacement frame in #7. These contaminated combs need to be burnt along with all the old frames from Baxter.

We will continue to monitor #8 and see if this solves the problem. The lesson learned is if you have old contaminated comb replace it if you intend to keep bees.

Tradition: Even if you have been doing it that same way for years doesn't mean that it isn't incredibly STUPID !!

Those of you who have contact in the area of Western Pennsylvania have no doubt heard that they are again having luck raising and wintering productive honeybees. They are also again chasing a huge amount of swarms that work when they are again hived.

I have a friend who made 53 splits last summer who now has 52 doubles making large honey crops . He averaged over 100# from just the locust flow. That is like old times. Here is some of the reasoning on these changes.

During the last decade corn farming has been suppressed due to the high cost of fuel and fertilizer. These farmers have been signing up with Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited and other conservation groups that pay more than they could make with corn.

Several years ago, The Marcellus shale natural gas boom has changed many of the wiser farmers into millionaires. Many of these farmers financially stable, have given up on corn planting, and are leaving fields go unplanted. The landscape now resembles prime bee habitat.

These changes have greatly reduced the amount of Round Up and other chemical use. A bad side effect is the reduction of dandelion bloom that is being choked out by other foliage, and was previously abundant in cropped fields.

The successful beekeeper is certainly one who spends a significant amount of time propagating hives;

How to make the overnight split:

Prepare a new box with 2 frames of honey and pollen and fill with drawn comb, 2 empty on outside then the feed . Place on base next to the hive to be split. Remove 2 or 3 frames out of middle. Select frames from the strong hive that contain eggs, larvae and sealed brood.

SHAKE all the bees back into the strong colony. Place into the new brood box. Push the frames together in the strong hive and fill the space with the empty frames from the new box. Put on a queen excluder and set the new box on top, put on the cover and leave.

During the night the nurse bees and some of the foragers will move up and cover the brood in the new box. Place a bottom board where you want the new hive. Move the new hive there place on the covers. The foragers will return to the old hive but the nurse bees will stay with the brood. Reduce the entrance to prevent robbing etc.. Remove the excluder from the original and replace the cover.

You now have the original colony with the original queen and a queenless split. You can now introduce a caged queen to the split or, if there are eggs in the split you can let the bees raise their own queen. Either way keep a close eye out until the new queen is laying.

Have you checked your bees for mites? Do this before you put on the honey supers. Bees that are fighting a heavy mite load don't make much honey. The honey flow will be here before you know it!

This meeting is the Annual Potluck Picnic. If you don't have any idea what to make get ahold of Rose Zak and get a Northcentral Beekeepers Honey Cookbook. They are still only \$10.00. All the recipes are proven because they are from our members.

Whip up something and join the rest of the members in a night of good food and fellowship. Possibly even a little bee talk.

For Sale;

Queens and Nucs from local production:

Lewis Struthers, Parkers Prairie

lewisstruthers@gmail.com