



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

WORK DAY – Fair booth, Crow Wing Co. fairgrounds

1:00 pm. Saturday July 14, 2012

Meeting – Fairgrounds

7:00 pm. Mon. July 16, 2012

-- Brainerd, Minnesota 56401

All members and friends welcome !!

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N.C.b.A. Demo Yard Report;

Next bee yard demonstration; 6:00pm. July16, 2012 before the meeting.

We met at the demonstration yard at 6:00pm. On June18. Each hive was carefully checked, with the following results noted.

- 1. All three forms of foundation were drawn out well by all colonies, with many excellent frames of brood.**
- 2. Surplus honey and pollen were also being stored” How to check for a honey flow” was demonstrated (shake-out).**
- 3. Hive #8 (N.W. corner)that had its contaminated frames removed and burnt, now had perfect frames of brood. It was strengthened with brood from stronger hives(called equalizing, “which is good beekeeping).**
- 4. Honey supers(with drawn comb) were added above Queen excluders where appropriate. Feeder pails were empty and removed. No more feed is necessary as we don’t want syrup to end up in the honey crop.**
- 5. The bear fence was checked – voltage was low 2,000 volts. Grass needs to be cut under the wires to increase voltage. Terry P. and Don S. have done a good job of caring for and feeding. All of the above served as good training for our members on how to take care of their own colonies. Terry will continue to monitor and super as needed until our next meeting. 6:00 pm.**

July 16, 2012- Bring your veils

Don Jackson:

Bear fence;

Are your bear fences up, tight and weed free. No matter how good a fence charger you have it will not keep bears out if it is still in the box or worse yet shorted out with weeds. Bear reports

have been frequent in the whole area. Remember if a bear gets started in your bee yard it will have to be destroyed to end the problem. Once a bear gets thru a fence and gets a belly full of brood no fence will keep them out.

The Minnesota honey flow is in full swing. Are your supers on the hives or in the shed? If you don't stay ahead putting on supers the bees may quit hauling in honey and be real slow starting up again after supers are again added. With decent pasture bees can and will fill one and be into the second medium super each week. The bees also need room to move and process the honey they are bringing in. Put that extra super on and see if it doesn't pay dividends.

How much ventilation are you giving your bees? With the honey flow coming in, the hives setting in direct sun, hives full of bees a tremendous amount of heat and water vapor must be removed or the whole system will simply cook. Screen bottom boards, something that Root promoted back about 1900 are again popular, This time to help control varoa. I doubt the varoa control but they sure help get air thru the hive. The U. of Minnesota recommends drilling 1" holes in the front of the boxes. Instead of drilling holes in perfectly good equipment why not use an Imree shim or just plain old sticks between supers. The Imree shim is a $\frac{3}{4}$ " frame with a cut out placed between the boxes. You all know what a stick is so I'll not explain that. Honey supers can be slid forward or back or even turn a super a half turn but help the bees get rid of some heat. I had three swarms this week just because they were too hot. They simply come out of the hive and fly to the pine trees less than 50' and hang there in a ball. Two of the three were so close to the ground that all I had to do was place a bottom and two boxes under them, give the branch a good shake and put the top on the hive. I waited about an hour or so and wheeled them back into the yard. The other swarm was a little

different. It was about 20' up in the pine and in several clumps. I called Harry Meyer to come and help me, you know misery loves company. I pruned the tree and got a hive set up under the main group. Harry said do you have a 2 gallon sprayer?" Ya, I've got one" "go get it and fill with cold water, we'll just blast them out of the tree, wet bees can't fly". I didn't have enough pressure to knock them down and the next thing I see is Harry up in the tree shaking the branches and down came the wet bees right on top of the hive. We watched as the bees that had missed the box either walked into the hive or took wing. We put the cover on and Harry said "there sure aren't many bees in here, well lets go, come back in a couple hours and move them into the yard". When I came back there was not a bee in the hive and they had just gone back to their home hive inside the yard. That colony has not shown signs of swarming again. By swarming now during the honey flow not all is lost.

One of the controls for varoa is to break the brood cycle so that the varoa female doesn't have a place to lay in brood that is going to be sealed up. When the flow is over make some splits to winter over for next years strong young colonies. By splitting in August you will have a new queen and all new bees going into winter. Over winter on top of one of your old hives with just a piece of plywood or Masonite between them. Be sure to have a separate entrance for the nuc on top. Try to face the nuc entrance in a different direction than the old hive to slow drifting. Treat everything before winter with the varoa control of your choice. Don't use the same one as last time if at all possible.
Burt: