



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

*A Non-Profit Educational Organization For Beekeepers.*

**October Meeting**

**October 15, 2012**

Annual Elections

**Meeting at Brainerd Arboretum**

**7:00 pm free lunch will be served**

**Burton B. Scripture 218-352-9202**

**[burtsbees@brainerd.net](mailto:burtsbees@brainerd.net)**

## **Northcentral Beekeepers Newsletter October, 2012**

**Greetings beekeepers;**

**Lunch committee;**

**Dan Onofrey and Gene Wethern**

**Officers and board members; Please be at the meeting at least 1/2 hour early to audit the books and review the bylaws!**

**This meeting is our annual elections and many of the current list of officers have indicated that they DO NOT seek reelection. Please attend and either accept an office or nominate a willing person to be an officer. The following are the current officers.**

**President: Dan Onofrey**

**V. President: Scott Lucas**

**Secretary: Amy Kowalzek**

**Treasurer: Shawn Strong**

**There is also a board that I do not know. Larry Chismar was elected last year to what I believe is a multiple year position? One or more will need to be elected this year to replace the retiring member and keep the board at full strength.**

**Do you have your honey off and extracted? It is getting to be late in the year and even later. If and what fall medication or treatments that you apply need to be on the bees while the weather is warm enough that the chemicals work or the bees take them into their body's. Once the bees cluster in the center of the hive in a tight ball they stop taking any supplemental feed or other inputs. This clustering takes place at about 40 degrees f. if the weather warms up the bees may again break the cluster and accept syrup. You all know what our**

**weather can be so if you haven't got it done, do it now! Those of you who use mite treatments that are in a strip form that hang between the frames. Be very sure that you don't place the strips in the middle of the box this can and will disrupt the cluster and may be a reason the colony dies during the winter. When using Fumagilin B read and understand the instructions. Fumagilin degrades with light and water exposure. Most feed inside the hive so it is dark but it is mixed in syrup that contains moisture. Leave it on inside the hive in a frame feeder or a top feeder but not in a bucket feeder. The bees can and will often clean it up during the winter. The reason not to leave a bucket feeder on during winter or even real cold weather is – bucket feeders depend on vacuum to keep the liquid in with temperature changes the pressure inside the bucket will vary and push the liquid out. Wet bees are dead bees!**

**Winterizing the beeyard will be the next project that needs to be accomplished at the proper time. Bees will fly out and void themselves until the weather becomes very cold any stays that way. Don't wrap them up until it stays cold for a while. When wrapping be sure to allow the same size opening at the top and bottom. These opening should be about 1 1/2 to 2 inches give or take with draft protection flaps to prevent direct drafts or plugging of the openings. The openings should face South or East to gather sun and avoid winter winds when possible. Insulate the top to prevent condensation that will melt and drip on the bees. WET BEES ARE DEAD BEES! There are as many ways to insulate hive tops as there are beekeepers. From straw or hay to special exotic expensive covers, buffalo board, fiberglass insulation and any and all the polyfoam boards. One that works well is taken from the French Warre hive quilt. Any size super, cover the bottom with fabric(burlap etc.) fill with DRY sawdust and place on the top. This will absorb moisture as well as insulate and prevent condensation as well as breathing fresh air.**

Don Jackson's report from the beeyard on actions taken 9/21/12

A group of our members showed up to see how we prepare the bees for the winter. Terry Patrick had two gallons per colony of sugar syrup prepared for feeding and medicating.

WHAT WE DID. First, We checked the varroa population. Two "ether roll" tests showed an infestation of about 13 % on the live bees which had to have come in the packages last spring. Each of the seven living colonies was then given a pair of fresh HOPGARD strips, With the second and third treatments to come in 7 to 14 days( to kill the mites which are living in the unhatched brood).

Secondly, Don Jackson demonstrated how to measure and mix FUMAGILIN B in the syrup for each hive. He also showed how to apply a "drench method" using thin syrup, FUMAGILIN and NOSEVIT with a paint or bee brush, all to show how to control nosema ceranae.

Thirdly, each colony was fitted with a two gallon pail of the medicated syrup, with an empty box under each cover to keep it warm for the bees.

WHAT WE FOUND. First, all 7 top supers (deeps) are plugged out with fall honey, and all three kinds of foundation were very nicely drawn out. These are good omans for the upcoming winter.

There is a bad omen, however: varroa. 13% is a very serious infection, and several times that could be living and reproducing in the remaining brood. 13% of 50,000 bees is at least 6,500 varroa mites per colony. 70 or 80% of varroa may be in the unhatched brood at one time. With three young ones apiece. We need to expect all 7 colonies to collapse from varroa-vectored viruses this winter if we do not use controls.

What you need to Know. All those of you who purchased packages this spring from NCBA now know what you must do if you expect to be in business in 2013. We assume that those of you who did not come to this meeting already know what varroa look like, how to check for mites, where to place the HOPGARD (and why we chose that miticide), and how to control nosema ceranae. Our thanks to all those who showed up to help: it was a great learning experience

**Home Made Bee Equipment – "repair old equipment"**

**Gilbert Frank**

**320-241-0549 or 320-292-2452**