



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

*A Non-Profit Educational Organization For Beekeepers.*

## **North Central Beekeepers Association**

**Meeting April 15, 2013 – 4:00pm. At the bee yard  
Presentations by University of Minnesota staff  
Spring splits and setting up for Summer  
7:00pm. Regular meeting at the Arboretum**

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**NCBA April,2013 newsletter;**

**Meeting At the Demonstration yard 13320 Two Mile Rd. 4:00pm**

**Directions; East on hwy. 210 (Jefferson St.), to Hwy.18E and 25S (across from East Brainerd Mall) follow 18/25 South to Stop light,3/4 mi.. Left onto Hwy.18E to first Right (gravel) second driveway on Left (1/4mi. ). East, back in field.**

**Back to Arboretum; Return as you came to Hwy. 210 go West, cross Mississippi River bridge to Stoplight, Right turn down hill to second Left, up hill around behind Brainerd West Mall to Arboretum on right side (big brown sign).**

**Serving Committee;**

**Harry Meyer and Peter Lodermeier**

**Thank you,**

**If the weather is not suitable on the 15<sup>th</sup>. We will work the bees on Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup>. , 1:00pm.**

**Needed is a volunteer to take the splits home and Feed them for about two weeks, see Don Jackson!!**

**Next Month;**

**Demo on solar wax melters and the uses of queen excluders.**

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**Many of us will be receiving package bees before the meeting. The shipper will call Bill when the bees leave California. Bill will call all the people getting bees and tell them when. Please check your answering machines and messaging. You are not the only one getting bees so Bill may not have time to call multiple times. CHECK YOUR SYSTEMS!!**

**When you get your bees try to get them installed into your equipment as soon as possible. If you must wait for a day or two, keep your bees cool, not cold and as dark as possible. Give them a little water with a spray bottle don't use a brush as you may cut off their tongues and toes as they protrude thru the screen. If you must hold them overnight and the syrup can shipped with them is empty. You can spray a small amount of 1:1 syrup DO NOT WET THEM DOWN !! Get them into their home as soon as possible unless it is a real storm.**

**To place the bees into their box, Remove the covers and 4 or 5 frames in the middle. Remove the cover of the package pull out the syrup can and the queen cage, Quickly recover. Pour the bees into the gap between frames, replace the frames . Do not push the frames in to place as you will crush many bees. Place the Queen cage between two frames near the center, screen side up. Replace the covers and prop the shipping box near the entrance so the bees that didn't pour can walk into the hive. Make certain that there is feed and leave absolutely alone for three days. Check and release the queen after three days . FEED, FEED, FEED check in ten days to be sure the queen is laying.**

**This was super simplified but and will work, ask around.**

**Don Has some New World Carniolin Queens \$20.00; Call him 218-568-8469**

**Gilbert Frank ; builds and repairs bee equipment; Call 320-241-0549 or 320-292-2452**

NCBA DEMO YARD 2013  
by Don Jackson

Friday, March 29

Terry Patrick and I met at the yard. The temperature reached 47 F. There was much deep snow to trudge through, exhausting both of us.

CONDITION OF THE BEES:

- Hive #1. Weak and on East edge, queen not yet laying (typical Carniolan!) We moved the cluster to the middle, and put honey in the middle as well as on each side.
- #2. Colony good, with adequate brood. We moved the honey around. If the colony progresses well, it might provide a split.
- #3. Hive died last summer when it lost its queen and got robbed out... it starved.
- #4. The hive died, the only one with old combs from the Northland Arboretum.
- #5. Colony is okay. We moved the feed to within reach of the cluster. Brood is good. Also did a "sugar shake" - found no varroa.
- #6. Colony disappeared (our only three-story hive). The bees obviously went into the hive next door on a warm winter day, which they will do if they are queenless.
- #7. Gigantic hive, with two boxes full of bees, and plenty of brood. We gave box of honey from #6 to it. Three or four splits possible. Obviously, half the bees are from #6. Certifoam used for insulation on top - the only one not chewed up by mice.
- #8. Hive headed up with NWC Kona queen - brood is good. We almost lost this hive last summer as it was the second one with old combs contaminated at the Arboretum. In June the old combs were pulled out and burned, and replaced with fresh foundation and two frames of good brood. The hive did not make a surplus of honey in 2012, but this year will now make at least one or two splits.

PROJECTED PLAN

1. April 15th meeting: at 4:00 P.M. we will work the yard, unless the weather is bad, when we'll move it up to Saturday, April 20th, at 1:00 P.M.
2. We'll unwrap the hives.
3. Split the strong hives, strengthen #1 if it is still weak, and use the deadouts for the new splits.
4. Remove and burn the rest of old combs from #4 but keep the new combs.
5. Even up the food, use Hopguard, and sugar shake for mite detection.
6. Clean out the mouse nests and dead bees.
7. Find one NCBA member who is willing to place the splits on another location for two or three weeks.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

1. Hopguard has worked well, and so has avoiding all other miticides.
2. #6 must have been queenless and most of the bees flew out and into #7 on a warm day as #7 is abnormally huge. I have watched this happen in my own bees and it only takes an hour or two for a hive to completely empty out.
3. There is no sign of illness from pesticides on drawn foundation.
4. "Sugar shake" saves the bees, and for now the Hopguard is working well.

FINALLY: The NCBA yard has plenty of bees to replace the losses (even a surplus), but we need a good turnout to get the work done. Do show up for "hands on" experience, and learn how to make up splits.