



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 7:00 pm May 20, 2013

Northland Arboretum -- Brainerd, Minnesota 56401

Bee yard before the meeting 6:00 pm. Check splits and apply HopGard

Meeting highlights; Wax melters and Queen excluders

All members and friends welcome !!

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North Central Beekeepers Newsletter May, 2013

Greetings Beekeepers;

Serving committee; Don Swanson and Roger Christensen

Next month is the annual potluck so be thinking of what exquisite honey recipe you can prepare to share with the rest of us!

Bee Yard Report;

A group met at the demonstration yard on Saturday, the 27th. Of April. The surviving hives were checked for food, brood, queens and size. The previous 6 weeks of winter has taken its toll, and we were able to only make 2 splits, bringing the total to 7(if they all make it). Plenty of fresh pollen was coming into the hives, so we are hopeful that there might be some spring time weather ahead.

Prior to our next meeting on the 20th. Of may we will again meet at the demo yard at 6:00 pm. We will make sure all queens are laying, and do a sugar shake to check for varroa. Terry Patrick will bring the miticide (HopGard) and we will treat the bees as needed, as well as anything else that needs to be done (including treatment for nosema disease).

Don Jackson:

Those of us who received 2# packages of bees on Wednesday April 17 were presented with a challenge in bee keeping. The weather was quite unlike what we have had in previous years. This year it was very cold , windy and supplemented with snow. What did you do with your bees and did it work?

I took mine home and went under the eave(leanto) on the north side of my steel shed. There I put down bottom boards to get my 5 frame nuc boxes out of the snow and mud. I placed 1 drawn frame, 1 frame of honey and 3 frames of foundation in each. On top I placed another

empty nuc box with neither top or bottom. Then I placed ½ pollen patty directly on the frames near the front. 1 quart of warm (100 degrees) 1:1 syrup to the far rear. I then shook the bees down pulled out the syrup can and the queen cage, placed the queen in my pocket and placed the whole shipping cage in the upper nuc box. The shipping cage was upside down on top of the pollen patty on the frames. On top I placed a polly feed sack inner cover and the hive cover. When everything was solid and secure I then pulled the cork from the queen cage and held her in with my finger as I pulled the plug from the nuc entrance with my other hand. I held the open end of the queen cage to the nuc entrance placed my finger over the screen and the queens ran into the nucs. The last thing then was to place the entrance plug back into the nuc and go to the house.

Three days later in the afternoon, 40 degrees I removed the top and poly inner picked up the shipping box and syrup jar. Sat them aside , removed the empty nuc, placed the poly inner cover on the top of the full nuc. On top of the poly inner cover I placed the empty nuc box and a fresh warm quart of syrup thru a small hole in the inner cover. On top of both boxes goes the regular cover.

Three days later still cold and snowing, another quart of warm syrup pulled the entrance plug and placed dry pollen replacer under the leanto with the nucs.

On the 29th. Of April I can finally get out to my bee yard without getting stuck and can actually see the hive stands. So it was time to move the nucs out to the yard from the leanto. I had put in the plugs on the evening of the 28th. When moving the nucs one was roaring not just humming so I opened it up and there was no eggs, larvae, sealed brood or queen. Started making the calls to find a replacement queen and found one to put in the next day. When I placed the new queen into her nuc I placed her in her cage screen side down between two frames and three days later the candy had been removed and the queen

released. All the other nucs had sealed brood on at least 2 and most 3 frames when I removed the queen cage.

Now it is FEED, FEED and FEED some more. Today they were bringing in pollen from at least 3 different plant sources. They no longer even look at the artificial stuff I provide. They are also not taking very much 1:1 syrup much preferring the honey left over from last year.

Have you checked to see what kind of a mite load your bees are carrying? This may be a very good time to use a miticide if needed . The colonies have a minimum of brood so the mites will be out where the treatment can get at them. A sugar roll will not kill bees or look into old brood cells to see if there are mite feces present (white specks in the bottom of cells). The treatment will be finished before time to place the honey supers on.

The next challenge to the bee keeping world will be swarming season are you ready? I usually have a 10 frame deep with a screen bottom fastened on and 8 old frames in it with a telescoping cover some place handy where I can find it. Last year I had 3 hives swarm from packages(packages don't swarm) ya right.

Just read on the internet about a Taranov split this is used if you find a hive that is going to swarm right now. This is another gift from the Russians besides swarmy bees and maybe because of swarmy bees. I am running out of room here to explain but will bring a print out to the meeting if you are interested.

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Handmade Bee Equipment

Repair old equipment