

## **Meeting; 2:00 pm. Saturday July 20,2013**

**Bee Booth; Crow Wing Co. Fair Grounds, Brainerd**

**Bee there or bee square many hands make for light work!**

**No lunch**

**Bill Krieger has the sign up sheet for working during the fair. Sign up now and avoid the rush, get the shift you want not what is left!!**

**Hope to see all of you at Walker and Hackensack for the Minnesota Honey Producers Convention. Randy Oliver from California and a regular columnist in The American Bee Journal is speaking both Friday and Saturday with many other speakers Starting on Thursday. See you there!!**

**I have asked every newsletter what do you want to learn about beekeeping? I finally got an email with a question. Reversing –What and Why; I had myself never reversed brood boxes until this year. My hives had expanded well and then had just stopped and were setting still filling the brood boxes. Everything else was different this Spring why shouldn't the hives stall out as well?**

**At the last meeting Don had made sure the clubs hives were reversed, no question reverse them! When I got home and thinking about that I decided to give reversing a try nothing to loose. I went to the yard and removed the covers, sat the top box off to the side after making sure a**

**queen was present in the hive by the presence of eggs or open brood . I then sat the empty bottom box aside and reassembled the hive with the top box on the bottom board and the bottom super on top. I had not reversed before thinking this would just stir up the bees and not be of benefit. I was very wrong in this instance . When I opened my hives two weeks later the queen had layed the top box almost full and the bottom frames were hatching out so the population had really boomed. Both boxes are now full and I have a very large population gathering pollen and nectar.**

**This was done with package bees from this spring. Package bees with young queens are not suppose to swarm but mine last year had swarmed. Had I reversed the boxes they may not have swarmed as the reversing gives the queen a whole lot of frames to lay in and reduced the congestion. In some conditions a queen may not cross a complete honey dome only 1 inch thick. By reversing that honey dome would be removed and expand the brood nest to reduce swarming.**

**After the honey flow reversing the brood boxes and placing a queen excluder on top of the bottom box after shaking all the bees down will help the bees fill the top box with winters food supply. At the same time the queen will have a lot of room to lay eggs to become young strong bees to overwinter as the winter cluster. Great care must be taken to remove the excluder before winterizing the colony. If the queen is left below the excluder the cluster will move away from her while eating and she will die leaving the hive queenless and they will also perish before spring.**

**The reason this usually works is that bees don't usually expand downward. Bees in the wild and your bees may act differently but USUALLY the move upward only. You have the option to reverse the brood chamber at any time during the active brood rearing season. When ever you notice significantly more crowded conditions in the upper box compared to the bottom brood chamber. The tendency to**

**expand brood rearing upward often leads to under utilized, some times almost abandoned lower super. By reversing the bees utilize both chambers more fully.**

**Reversing is not the complete answer only a very usable tool that will often work. Remember lifting boxes is heavy work. Some hives will resent the disturbance. Even under good conditions it will take two weeks for the bees to get their house back in order the way they want it. If frame feeders or other appliances are in place it may be more work than the advantage achieved by reversing. Any time major changes are made there is a chance to roll or pinch the queen and some bees are always injured. Don't do major manipulations just to be doing something, always have a good purpose!**

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

*A Non-Profit Educational Organization For Beekeepers.*

## **Northcentral Beekeepers Meeting**

**2:00 pm. July 20, 2013 Bee Booth**

**Crow Wing County Fair Grounds, Brainerd, Mn. 56401**

**Northcentral Beekeepers**

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