

N.C.B.A. newsletter October, 2013

Greetings Beekeepers;

Lunch serving committee; Bill Mass and Larry Chismar

The clubs donation to the Jack Berry benefit generated \$170.00 to help with the medical bills. Thank You,

This meeting is elections; Current officers are:

President; Terry Patrick

V. President; Don Jackson

Secretary; Amy kowalzik / Russ Neterval

Treasurer; Larry Chismar

Board members, Bill Kriger has 1 year to go and Phil Hansen has 2 .

If you or any member that you know would like an office, or would even accept an office please let the current officers know.

The membership year ends on December 31, 2013 There is no meeting in December so please pay your dues \$10.00 / family at the meeting or send to North Central Beekeepers Association P.O. Box 294 Brainerd, Mn. 56401

Christmas gift ; Honey cook books are still available from President Terry Patrick. There are not many left so if you are going to need one or more don't wait, you may miss out !

Getting your Hives ready for Winter;

Clear back in August or early September you treated for varroa mites with any one of the approved products on the market. Have you checked to see how efficient it was? Do another roll to know what the mite load is. If you have very many mites, now is the time to treat with a different approved product. Remember to read the label and apply

properly. A little is good a lot is better may just kill your bees or create super varroa.

How much honey do your bees have stored? Bees wintered outside need the top deep box full of honey . If you took all the honey the bees need to fill that box with 2:1 sugar syrup that you provide. Bees can not take syrup if it is below 50 degrees . Mix 2 parts sugar with 1 part hot water and mix well wait until the syrup is below 100 degrees mix again and then feed to the bees. 2:1 syrup is 11.8 #/ gallon and nearly a saturated solution so a lot of stirring is needed to get it all in solution.

Syrup can be fed in many ways, all work and all have problems. Outside barrel feeding will really kill a lot of bees by drowning and often causes robbing. Bucket feeders don't have enough feeding space for the bees to take the syrup quickly and when they cool overnight and expand the next day with the sun, often drip on the cluster. Box feeders on top of the frames work well though they do drown some bees. Some box feeders have floats and others ladders both drown some bees. There are frame feeders that replace either 1 or 2 frames. These now come with covers and ladders down into the syrup to reduce drowning. All ways work just do they work for you? You need a bare minimum of 60 to 70 # of feed stored in the hive.

You now have a productive queen, controlled mite population and adequate stores. We are close but not yet ready for freeze up. The hives need some stores of pollen. Place either pollen or a pollen substitute on the top of the frames either $\frac{1}{2}$ between the boxes or all on top. Pollen substitute is not as good as natural pollen but beats nothing. The colony will need pollen when brood rearing starts in the spring before any bloom.

The hive is now just about ready to be wrapped for the winter. Don't kill them with kindness!! The hive needs to breath so it must have vents both in the bottom and near the top. As the bees eat the honey/syrup that they have stored they give off heat and water vapor.

The heat keeps the cluster working and the water vapor must be vented outside. If the water isn't vented it will freeze on the top and rain down the next time the sun shines wetting the bees. Wet bees are dead bees ! The venting should be nearly the same size top and bottom. Insulate the top with almost any good insulation from buffalo board to sawdust and foam. Don't use bead board the bees will destroy it before spring. Wrap the entire hive with roofing felt (tar paper). Don't use plastic bags the black ones contain a insecticide and don't breath. Tyvec building wrap is another no no, it doesn't breath. Put the top over the whole thing with a weight on top and hope for a early spring. None of this will do any good if your hives are out in the northwest wind or setting in the lowest spot in the area where the cold settles.

There will be discussion on wintering at the meeting.

Don wants to winterize the clubs hives on the 26th. Time etc. at the meeting.

For Sale/ Wanted;

4- 45# pails of 2013 honey

See Larry Chismar, 218-545-2306:

Build new – Fix old- custom equipment

Gilbert Frank ; 320=241-0549 or 320-292-2452:

Bee Tales;

Marla Spivak, E Talk:<http://www.ted.com/talks/marla>

Don Jackson, Lakeland Currents, 7:00 pm. 10/24/2013



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

A Non-Profit Educational Organization For Beekeepers.

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Meeting; October 21, 7:00 pm.

Northland Arboretum

Brainerd, Mn. 56401