

Greetings Beekeepers;

Lunch committee ;

Carla Scripture and Dawn Ykema.

There are still blank areas in the serving calendar. Usually have two people each month, pick a stranger and get to know them working together on the lunch. I will have the calendar at the meeting. The club has the coffee.

With the passing of President Terry Patrick the club sent a plant to the family. The following thank you was received. (“North Central Beekeepers, thank you for the lovely plant and card. Terry did enjoy his bees. Thank you for taking care of his bees – Jane”) At Terrys passing V.Pres. Don asked Bill Mass to check the bees. Bill wrapped them for winter. Thank you, Bill.

The mentoring portion of this meeting will be on assembly, maintenance and repair of bee equipment. If you have equipment that needs to be worked on bring it along and we will help. Many hands make light work. If you have specialty bee equipment bring it along to show and tell others what it is and how to work with it. Inbedders, wiring frames, short cuts and alternative methods all need to be shared with others. Bring it along; Please.

Brrrrrrrrrrrr! Its cold!!

One of our less seasoned members emailed me and asked please explain what this winter is doing to our bees and what to do as a result. This is what is needed so that we can try to help you in your future beekeeping. Let us know, the only wasteful or less intelegent question is the one you didn't **ASK.**

The answer to this question started last July or August. The old queen needed to be either replaced or fed heavily so that she could lay the eggs for the long lived winter bees that hatch out in October. Summer bees live about 17 days winter bees live until Spring when a new round of bees hatch and food is again coming into the hive not consumed from stores in the hive. At that time your mite loads also needed to be at a very low level so that the winter bees did not carry a high virus or nosema load into winter. What was your mite load, do you know?

In October how much feed was in the hive? A two deep box hive should have the top box full of feed all except 1, 1 1/2 frames and some frames full in the bottom box. These food frames must also have pollen stored in the corners for brood feed when the queen starts laying next spring. Did you add a pollen patty? To add liquid feed in the fall an inside the hive feeder should be used. This in the hive feeder helps prevent robbing by other stronger hives or the neighbors hives. The inside feeder also helps keep the 2:1 syrup warmer longer, bees will not, can not and do not take liquid feed below 50 degrees. How much feed did your bees have?

When the weather got cool and stayed that way did you insulate and wrap the hive. To insulate the heaviest r value material you have or can afford should be used. Do not use white bead board, the bees will destroy it before winter even sets in. Almost any other from buffalo board to shallow boxes filled with shavings will work. The entire hive is then wrapped with a BLACK nonporous sheet of strong tear resistant material attached in a way that keeps it there until you take it off. Black is used because it heats up in the sun if and when we have any. The wrap needs to be tight but also must be ventilated to remove moisture from inside the hive. Vents need to be about the same size both on top and at the bottom but protected from direct drafts.

You have done all the above and hopefully the snow has drifted over the top to further insulate. Leave it there snow is porous the bees can breath.

You have done everything you can to help your bees over winter! With this miserable winter no matter what losses will be higher than expected. The temptation is there to go check them DON'T you may disturb the cluster and strand bees away from feed where they will die and the cluster may die. Wait until the weather is at least 40 degrees then just tap the hive the bees will answer you if they are still alive. Don't open them up until the weather is settled in warm, 60 degrees. Make plans to replace more bees than you would in a normal year, what ever that is.

ADS;

Custom Made or repair of bee equipment

Gilbert Frank 320-241-0549 or 320-292-2452

31979 – 456th. Ave.

Aitkin, Mn. 56431

Bees;

Bill Krieger 320-277-3510

2# boxes with either an Italian or Carniolin open mated Queen

Orders must be in before first of February



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

A Non-Profit Educational Organization For Beekeepers.

**North Central Beekeepers Association
January Meeting
1/20/2014 7:00 pm. Northland Arboretium
Brainerd, Minn. 56401
Equipment assembly ,maintenance and repair
Contact;
Burton B. Scripture
218-352-9202
burtsbees@brainerd.net**