

North Central Bee Keepers Association March 2014

Greetings Bee Keepers;

If you have not paid your 2014 dues of \$10.00 to Larry Chismar or sent them to p.o. Box 294 Brainerd, Mn 56401 we will truly miss you.

March serving committee; Roger Christensen and Don Swanson :

The educational presentation at this meeting will feature Blane White Minnesota Department of Agriculture. Blane was the Minnesota State bee inspector until that office was eliminated. He is currently an entomologist at the Department. The last year Blane traveled Minnesota sampling honey bees for disease, parasites and other problems. At this meeting Blane will give us insite on what was found.

How are your bees doing? Leave them alone it is far too cold and miserable to open up the hives and find out. If you absolutely cannot wait get a stethoscope and listen without opening the hive if they are humming they are OK. If no sound is detected more than likely they are gone but not for sure. As soon as this weather breaks and it will! Be ready to feed both 1:1 syrup and pollen. With this extended, cold winter it is very possible that they will come out short on supplies. They need the syrup for energy and the pollen for protein. Without both they cannot raise brood and now is when they need to be raising brood or they may not recover all summer and not produce a decent honey crop. The more bees the more Honey!! To feed pollen you can take a frame from the edge that is empty lay it down and pour the pollen on top then rub in. you can actually do a fairly good job of this easily to prevent the pollen just falling off on to the bottom board where the bees will ignore it. If you don't have pollen you will need to use pollen

substitute. Pollen substitute makes weaker and shorter lived bees but is much better than no bees. All the suppliers offer various subs.

In the middle of April the package bees will be here to help replace the dead outs and for expansion. Bill will call and I will email as soon as the delivery date is official. As many of you remember last year the bees came in a snow storm, what to do? The boxes can be taken into the house and wait a couple days before installing. If you take them into the house or other building be very careful not to kill them with kindness. Bees must be kept cool 55 to 65 degrees and dark. The syrup can will more than likely be empty or very nearly so. You will need to feed them at least twice per day with 1:1 syrup and a little plain water is also good. The syrup and water will need to be misted over the bees carefully, don't soak them. Get them outside and installed in their box as soon as possible. I prefer to put them into a 5 frame nuc for a start then after they fill the nuc into 10 frame equipment. You can go direct to 10 frame equipment, it will work, I have done it. The reason I use the nuc, there is less area to keep warm. Last year I pulled 3 frames out of the nuc, pulled the syrup can out and just lay the whole package on its side in the nuc after I had placed the queen cage in my shirt pocket. Put the feed sack inner cover on top with the feeder tube thru it. I then placed a bottomless nuc over the sack and feeder the telescoping cover on top. I pulled the vented plug from the front opened the queen cage and let her run in the front door. After the queen ran in I replaced the vented plug in the front entrance and went to the next nuc to repeat the process. The only problem I had was I didn't get one queen cage close enough to the entrance before I removed my finger and got to watch that queen fly off into the falling snow never to be seen again. The syrup must be warm bees cannot and will not consume syrup below 50 degrees. The next day after it had warmed some I replaced the syrup and pulled the front plug. Three days later the weather had mellowed some and I opened up the nucs and pulled out the shipping cage. If the weather is

warmer spray down the bees tap the box down and then remove the syrup can and queen cage. Place the queen in your pocket, spray the bees again with syrup and pour them into the top of the hive. You may also place the whole shipping cage into the hive and remove later. I have had good luck direct releasing the queens but others prefer to wedge the queen cage between two frames, screen down, remove the cork covering the candy and let the colony eat the queen candy to release her. This will take about 3 days or so. Leave the hive alone for about a week to give the colony time to settle and the queen start laying. Be sure to keep the syrup full and warm. I also place at least ½ pollen patty directly on the frame bars. Pollen would be better but when that is all there is a substitute will get you by.

ADS;

Gilbert Frank

Handmade Bee Equipment

31979 456th. Ave.

Aitkin, Mn. 56431

320-241-0549 or 320-292-2452

(Note phone #s I had them wrong last month)



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

A Non-Profit Educational Organization For Beekeepers.

**North Central Bee Keepers Association
Regular Meeting; Monday March 17,2014
7:00 pm. North Land Arboretium
Guest Speaker; Blane White, Mn. Dept. Agric.**

**Contact; Burton Scripture, Motley, Mn. 56466
218-352-9202, burtsbees@brainerd.net
Public welcome !**