

**North Central Beekeepers Assn. April, 2014 newsletter**

**The April meeting will be at the Northland Arboretum 7:00 pm. Lunch will be served by the Lyle Fleisher and Bill Mass families.**

### **Package bee update;**

**Bill Krieger called with information concerning the bee packages. The bees will be available at the arboretum on April 24, 2014. Bill Krieger will call each of you who have ordered packages from him, two (2) days before the arrival of the packages. If you have need for more answers contact Bill at 320-277-3510 or [billybobk@brainerd.net](mailto:billybobk@brainerd.net). Bill says that he doesn't check his email often so phone in the evening may be better and better yet just get your equipment ready and wait for Bill's call.**

### **Scholarship committee;**

**The committee has reviewed the 11 applications for bees and equipment for youth members. 5 of the applicants will receive a package and equipment. The equipment has been ordered from Gilbert Frank. The bees will be from the eight packages the club ordered for the demonstration yard. Recipients are asked to pick up their bees and equipment at the arboretum when the packages arrive. That will be on April 24 unless there are changes.**

### **Demonstration Yard report:**

**On March 29 Don Jackson and two others met at the McKay demonstration yard to evaluate the yard.**

**This location is very open and the cold winds of this bitterly frigid winter forced the bees to go through their food without a critically needed cleansing flight, resulting in a buildup of fecal material in the hive.**

**As of this date only one sick colony of the seven is left alive frankly, the location is a poor one for wintering bees, especially lacking any kind of windbreak.**

**They then went over and inspected the four colonies at Terry Patrick's'. Of the four one has survived and is super strong. The others succumbed to cold starvation and obviously did not have enough honey for wintering. The Patrick location is much better protected from the prevailing winds.**

**The one survivor will make splits that can then be moved to the demo yard. This will provide hands on experience and honey production for the fair. In late April or early May this hands on experience will be provided for those who are interested.**

**These turn of events will influence the clubs activities for the year ahead. Discussion on how to proceed will have to take place at this meeting.**

**Dysentery; I know of several causes of this in bees. The presence of tracheal mites and nosema spores (especially the new one called nosema ceranae), contaminated food supplies by impurities and also by pesticides, an abundant crop of honey dew (as in late summer 2014), and the lack of an opportunity for a good cleansing flight during long periods of confinement. This last winter certainly short changed the bees on flying weather, and it really shows inside the hives with the frames covered with fecal material. There is one tip for beekeepers with this problem. If nosema ceranae is the problem (you need to test for this), setting the infected equipment out in direct sun light should kill the spores.**

**Submitted by Don Jackson (edited)**

**What are you going to do with your package bees? Bees have very simple basic needs, a warm and dry home, protein, carbohydrate and a place to raise their brood. Provide either a 5 frame nuc box with all 5**

**frames in it or a 8 or10 frame brood box on a solid bottom. The box needs to be full of frames with either foundation or drawn comb. The reason to put in all the frames is to cut down drafts and allow the bees to cluster around their brood to keep it warm. Remember brood needs to be between 91 and 93 degrees to progress properly.**

**Protein is pollen or at worst pollen substitute. Nothing and I mean NOTHING replaces pollen. Pollen substitute produces weak, short lived bees but no protein produces no bees so a sub is better than nothing.**

**Carbohydrate ideally is honey and lacking honey, sugar syrup will work. There is also hi fructose corn syrup and blends of all the above. Honey is the best!**

**A place to raise their brood. If at all possible at least one drawn frame so that the queen can start laying as soon as she settles in. If you put in a frame of honey the queen will lay in it as the bees eat it out. Then to the foundation as they draw it out.**

**No matter what FEED,FEED and FEED.**

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