

North Central Beekeepers Association May 2014 newsletter.

I used to eat a lot of natural foods until I realized most people die of natural causes!

As most know; most likely the package bees will be here on the 14th. of May. Bill will call each of you with day, time and place.

Serving committee for May, 2014; Amy Kowalzik and Harry Meyer.

We still need one more for each October and November. Work with someone and you can pick their mind as you prepare, it's only a snack and a drink.

The program this month is a presentation from the USDA forestry section on bee pasture and the programs currently available. Some programs offer cash and other aids to establishing permanent bee pasture.

Following the USDA we will present the first section of the video presented on public television last winter from a beekeeper in Michigan. There are many hints and tips for smaller beekeeping operations, not all ideas presented will fit in this area but most will.

On April 26th. Don Jackson and several members who were interested in learning how to split colonies in the spring moved the hives and equipment from Terry Patricks' to storage at McKays and then placed the one surviving hive into the demonstration yard. The survivor was then split making three total colonies in the yard. These splits were requeened with carniolin queens that Don gets from Hawaii.

There are 3 packages coming from Bills order and I believe 2 splits from Richard Zak. That will bring our yard up to the 8 colonies we have been trying to maintain. With the diverse sources and types of colonies in the yard we will be able to see the difference in management and

production first hand. Of course you will only be able to do that if you attend. If you have questions, don't understand etc. please ask there are others with the same question. The North Central Beekeepers has a lot of gifted beekeepers who will answer but you have to ask them.

The snow is gone(I think)and the weather starting to warm. What have you done with your bees. Do you have any left? Are your hives plum full and threatening to go to the trees? Are you getting new packages?

For those either luck or skillful people who have bees left in their hives after this very trying winter, what have you done with them? Have you removed the wrap from around the hive and taken care of it and the insulation from on top, remember you will need it next fall. Do your bees have honey and pollen left in the hive or did they consume all of it? Did you provide 1:1 syrup and a pollen substitute? By now it is likely too late, there is a bunch of feed out there now. On Wednesday of last week I had three dandelions blooming on the path back to my bees. So it is time to be thinking about the honey flow. Dandelion isn't a very good honey but the bees will grow a lot of brood with it preparing for the good stuff. Did you reverse your colonies or leave them alone to not split the brood nest? Have you done anything to equalize them out by moving frames of brood about? Have you moved your hives to out yards so they can make brood and expand to make a lot of honey? A lot of questions to be answered and duties to be cared for as a beekeeper, to be successful.

Are you buying packages or nucs? Many of the above questions apply but there are even more. What are you putting your purchased bees into ,five frame, eight frame , ten frame, medium or deep equipment? Do you have the equipment? What about feed and feeders? What are you going to feed, sugar, high fructose corn syrup or a blend? With purchased bees you will need to feed. Some hives will need to be fed all summer but most will need at least until they are well established and producing a lot of brood and there is a natural flow of nectar. Not

only do your bees need nectar but they need a pollen source. Likely a pollen patty to start and now natural pollen. The nectar is the carbohydrate and the pollen is the protein that bees need. Bees can not make little bees without a balance of both. A lot of points to think about but they all need to be covered to be successful with bees. And when all the above have been taken care of we go to the next season and it's separate unique challenges. That is what makes beekeeping fun and keeps our minds working. Don't forget the peace and solitude you get while out with your bees.

Member free ads;

Bee fence, 16 x 16 plus extra wire on the roll, steel posts, 3' wooden gate, lengths of 4x4 to put hives on, concrete blocks and fresh 2013 carpet to place it all on. \$100.00 for all.

MUST BE REMOVED DURING JUNE. Can't be taken until JUNE

Myron C. Lindahl

10950 W. Union Hills Dr. space 1360

Sun City, Arizona 85373

June 1, 2013

218-729-7225

Vaux Creek Apiary

4698 Vaux Rd. Hermantown, Mn. 55811

BEE EQUIPMENT; BUILT OR REPAIRED

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

31979 – 456th. Ave. Aitkin, Mn. 56431

