

North Central Beekeepers June, 2014

Greetings Beekeepers;

Serving committee;

Everybody!! Annual potluck;

Please bring a prepared dish to share with everybody. If you don't have any idea what to make the Beekeepers Honey Cookbook is still available from Treasurer Larry Chismar for the minimal price of \$10.00.

You will also need a plate and eating utensils, club has cups and coffee, soft drinks etc. are on your own.

Pastor Steve Jones has given the club 4 new deep boxes and unassembled frames. This was coordinated thru Jack Berry and Bill Krieger and is to be used in our youth program. The members will have to decide in what manor and when. I would suggest they be used next spring for the mentor program much as this year, one less item to purchase.

The next big event in the club year is the annual Crow Wing Co. fair booth. Bill Krieger is bringing the signup sheet for working at the fair. There are three four shifts per day and we need 4 people each shift. Find another couple or friend to work with, and even better sign up with someone you don't really know and create a friendship by working together for 4 hours at the fair. The fair booth is the only reason that our treasury looks like it does because the fair booth is our only real fund raiser we have. While working at the fair you will get to talk and think bees for the entire 4 hours. Not only will you be able to talk with other beekeepers but the public will ask a great many questions all that are very important to them. While helping the public understand honeybees you will also be selling your and others honey. The club receives 10% of the proceeds for the treasury. Extract some

of your honey before the fair and sell on a very hot market. Most years we very nearly sell out so we do need your honey.

What and how are your bees doing? With the very late receipt of the package bees this year are your bees struggling or have they caught up. I checked my package bees last week and they had 4 full frames drawn and full of either brood or food. There was a lot of pollen stored to feed the new brood. When you get packages of bees they are primed and ready to draw lots of new comb as long as they believe there is a flow on. This flow can be either actual or stimulated. To stimulate a flow put 1:1 syrup on in a readily accessible feeder and keep it full at least until the dandelion flow comes on. Last week when I checked my packages the dandelion flow was about done here. The dandelion seed was really blowing. At this time you need to evaluate your bees to decide if they are real strong or not really taking off. I was in good shape as all 5 packages and the 8 over wintered colonies were in quite full boxes of brood and stores. The packages I placed 5 more frames of drawn comb in another bottomless nuc box and put it on top of the first one. The overwintered colonies were in about the same shape, full of bees, brood and feed so those I put 3 medium honey supers on each. I did not put any feed on them because they all had plenty of feed some may have had too much stored. If they are completely full the queen may stop laying and the colonies will start getting ready to swarm. They have to have room to raise brood and store food or they will go to the trees. A swarm in June is worth a load of hay. A swarm in July is worth a silver spoon and a swarm in August is no worth a fig. Any swarm is not worth anything if you don't catch it. Keep them with room to expand or they will be gone. Some packages will need to be fed all summer depending on health and bee pasture. Some will swarm no matter what and yes packages will swarm. A package is not as likely to swarm as old colonies but they will. Two years ago I had 4 of 6 swarm, managed to catch 3 but still lost one. A package that swarms hardly make enough honey to feed itself say nothing for you.

When I put supers on I also add an upper entrance. I use a 3/4 inch spacer with a 3/8 x3 opening in it between the first and second super. You do not need a spacer you can just put a couple small sticks between them to create an opening. No you do not have to drill holes in your beautiful new wooden boxes.

KEEP AN EYE ON THEM, KEEP ROOM and KEEP THEM OUT OF THE TREES.

What is your mite load, have you checked? Now is the time to start. If your mite load is high please remove the honey supers before any treatment even the organic acids. Your children or grandchildren may be the ones eating that honey.

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ADS;

New and Repair of bee equipment

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Wants, needs or question let me know

BBS.