

NCBC April 2015

Greetings;

IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR 2015 DUES THIS WILL BE THE LAST NEWSLETTER YOU RECEIVE. Those who have paid THANK YOU !!

Serving committee;

Ron and Sue Storbacken

Dennis and Adee Griffith

Demonstration Yard;

“Saturday April 11, 2015 10:00 am. The NCBC demonstration yard East of Brainerd will be unwrapped to determine causes of deadouts, to fix the” hot fence”, to split the strong hive, and to prepare three hives for the packages which will arrive shortly. If you want to know how to split colonies in the spring, this is the meeting to attend. Plenty of hands will be needed for the work, but the unwrapping WILL NOT occur BEFORE 10:00am. So those wanting to learn the ” whys and hows” will be able to see what to do in their own apiaries. This is a legally – called NCBA meeting at the demo yard.” Pres. Don.

Packages;

At this time the 2# packages of bees from California will be here on Wednesday April 15, 2015. Distribution will be at the Arboretum. Bill will call each of you with exact date and time. I will also email all on the list as soon as details are known.

Installing packages;

Like most things in bee keeping there are many different ways to install a package of bees into your equipment, nearly all will work for

someone. I will mention some general systems that will work if you let them.

Equipment choice is up to the individual and what you have available. I prefer a 5 frame deep nuc. A 5 frame as there is not so much area to thermo regulate, guard and prepare for the bees. I use deep frame equipment because that is what I have in my operation. In another world I would likely use medium depth and possibly 8 frames per box.

The entrance to the box needs to be reduced. This reduces robbing by stronger hives. My nucs have only a 1" auger hole. Duct tape works.

The frames in the box should all be drawn out. Don't worry many bees have been started on foundation or even frames with starter strips or bare frames. Bees are very hardy and will thrive when given a chance. The less filled the frames are the longer and harder the bees will need to work to get started. Packages are usually in a condition and set to build lots of wax. The new healthy queens will lay in cells that are not complete yet. Drawn frames are a premium but don't use real old dark frames or frames from unknown or diseased hives. Ideal frames will be 1 frame of honey, 1 frame of pollen, 2 drawn frames and 1 of foundation. The foundation, because new bees need to make wax.

Place the box where you want it, off the ground, sun, level and out of the wind. Off the ground to help prevent equipment rot and cold settles. Place your boxes in a sunny place bees need to maintain the hive above 90 degrees so that the brood will hatch and not die. Level the hive East and West, North and South to help have nice straight comb. Bees do not like to fly in very much wind and wind also cools the hive. Wind above 10mph. will slow bee flights and reduce foraging.

Now for the fun part, installing the bees. Mix up a spray bottle of 1:1 syrup, warm not hot or cold. Spray down the bees with the syrup. Don't soak them just enough so they don't fly much. Thump the box on the ground hard enough to put all the bees on the bottom. Remove the

feeder can and the queen cage and recover the hole in the box. Place the queen cage into your shirt pocket. Remove three frames in the middle of the box. Spray down the bees again, DO NOT SOAK! Now pour the bees into the hive. They will pour right in except for a few bump the box and pour them in. Lay the box on it's side by the entrance. Set the frames into the box, do not push them down let them settle as the bees move away. When the frames are in place place the queen cage between with the screen down. Place the queen cage so that the bees can eat the candy away to free the queen. Place a pollen patty on top of the frames. Place your 1:1 syrup feeder and close up the hive. Leave alone for three days then remove queen cage and close back up. Stay out for at least 10 days 2weeks is better. If the queen has not been released release her at this 3 day inspection. Keep the syrup feeder full at least until the first brood hatches or the bees quit taking the syrup. GOOD LUCK!!

Meet our new Mentors and the recipients of our mentor program at the meeting on April 20

We are now on Facebook, www.facebook.com/northcentralbeekeepers

Pinterest, <http://www.pinterest.com/northcentralmnb/>

And our completely remodeled, new and modern website,

www.northcentralbeekeepers.org

ADS;

Nearly new equipment, several colonies worth –Kim or Ted Ebnit 218-568-4613

Used equipment- Roman Schlonka 320-632-6825

Gilbert Frank, bee equipment build new, fix used 320-241-0549, 320-292-2452

