May 2015 newsletter

Greetings;

Serving committee:

Amy Kowalzek,

Lyle Fleisher

At 6:00pm. President Don Jackson will be at the demonstration yard to demonstrate how to do an ether roll to determine varoa mite levels in the hives of the yard. After determining mite levels, Don will treat the hives as determined by the test. Other adjustments will be made according to the needs determined at that time. The demonstration yard is located at 13320 Two Mile Rd. on the South East side of Brainerd.

Vice President Aprile has set up a panel of knowledgeable beekeepers to answer your beekeeping questions. As we all know ask 3 beekeepers a question and they will give 4 answers that all may work in a given situation. This panel will give you and me a hand at making the right call in our individual situation. If you think of a question as you work along stop and write it down so that you do not forget it and never get the answer. The only dumb questions are the ones not asked. Bring a big list with you.

The following is an answer I hope none of you ever need but here it is.

Pollinator News   May 1, 2015

How to Report a Bee Kill

> **The Pollinator Stewardship Council is a member of the Honey Bee Health Coalition. As a member of two of the four workgroups, we collaborated with members and defined the process of reporting a bee kill. The article was published in**

the May 2015 issue of *Bee Culture* magazine. Additionally, the Coalition created a Guide to Reporting a Pesticide-related Bee Kill, also available in the May issue of *Bee Culture* magazine.

Bee Culture graciously created 1000 laminated copies of the Guide, which are available from the
Pollinator Stewardship
Council. Order your [Guide to
Reporting a Pesticide-related Bee Kill by requesting a copy here.](#) One
Guide per person, per address. Copies are limited!

The following is a list of Minnesota honey bee sources that I know about . More than likely there are others, Send them to me, please

Minn. Queen/package suppliers;

Andy Kooiman, Onamia 320=532-9043

Cyrle Bentchson, Brook Park 320-679-3180

Jim Kloek, Stillwater 651-439-8793

B and B Houston [507-896-3955—bbhoneyfarms@acegroup.com](mailto:bbhoneyfarms@acegroup.com)

Mark Sundberg 218-731-5942   mdsund2000@yahoo.com

Dan Whitney, Ottertail 701-388-1177

By now you have had this years package bees for about 1 month. What have you done with and to them and how have they reacted? You placed them into a deep hive box with 10 drawn frames. OK you had to place them into a deep box with 10 frames of foundation. Maybe you didn't even have foundation. Your bees will still be able to thrive if you do the right things. You must furnish with more feed and pollen, the less wax and the more room they have the more feed they need. Until there is brood hatching the population of the colony will slowly decline. To help in this you need to supply 1:1 syrup and a pollen source so that the residents do not have to work so hard to feed the

colony. Pollen substitute produces shorter lived bees than real pollen but a lot better than no bees. The same goes for syrup instead of honey. Honey is always better but where did the honey come from? Is the honey infected with American foulbrood? Syrup works and works well and is far safer than strange honey. You can use high fructose corn syrup or blends of corn syrup and sugar, All will work. The secret is just like all livestock, feed, feed and feed. Bees in time will be able to go out and graze on their own to produce a honey crop. Look and learn when they have reached that point. The bees will tell you if you look and listen. Bees much prefer nectar and natural pollen to whatever you give them.

Be sure the hive has enough room to expand the brood nest and store the honey crop. New queens of the current year are not as poised to swarm as old queens but if they get too tight they will go to the trees. Swarmed bees don't produce much honey and are harder to over winter.

Handmade bee equipment for sale

320-241-0549 or 320-292-2452

Gilbert Frank

31979 – 456th. Ave.

Aitkin, Mn. 56431

Repair older equipment also