

North Central Bee Keepers January, 2016

Greetings Bee Keepers;

Lunch Committee:

Dawn Ykema, Carla Scripture and Tiffanie Knapp

Guest Speaker;

Crystal Boyd Mn. D.N.R.

Presidents ruminations;

(NCBA Monthly Meeting Location:

Due to the HIGH COST of meeting at the NORTHLAND ARBORETUM, NCBA is looking at other locations. Please look over the following list before the January 18th. Meeting so we can decide where to go:

1. Brainerd Public Library.

Advantages: is a public place.

Disadvantages: is too small for well attended NCBA meetings.

2. Central Lakes College.

Advantages: Audio-Visual equipment might be available. Price is \$50.00 per afternoon.

Disadvantages: park ... and walk as the college is a big place to find the proper room, needs to be set up ahead of time for audio- visual, demo yard is not nearby, no picnic location for our June meeting.

3. Legion.

Advantages: plenty of parking, easy to find, plenty of room, cheap (NCBA only has to make an annual donation).

Disadvantages: no audio-visual equipment, no demo yard nearby.

4. Northland Arboretum.

Advantages: plenty of room downstairs, audio-visual equipment available upstairs, parking ok, well lighted, easy to find.

Disadvantages: crowded upstairs with tables in the way, audio-visual not available downstairs, costly (\$100.00 to 4125.00 per meeting), touchy on clean up, demo yard not nearby.

5. Paul Bunyon Nature Learning Center.

Advantages: can seat up to 90 people and park 60 cars, audio-visual available, low price NCBA can make a donation which needs to cover the electric bill for the evening, demo yard can again be located near by, is easy to find (2 1/2 miles North of junction of 371/210, then less than 1/2 mile East on #49), picnic location, member managed*Peter Lodermeier).

Disadvantages: plenty of ticks near demo yard location, everything must be carried in and out of demo yard (usually not a problem as there are lots of hands available nearby at meetings), #49 is heavily traveled.

As members of NCBA you may have additional points to make about the above locations. Please voice them at the January 18 meeting. We might also consider trying more than one location. Also worth thinking about is our annual BEEKEEPING SHORTCOURSE as that could be located at two of the above locations, with the revenue generated going towards funds for start-up beekeepers rather than the meeting location.

SUMMARY OF NOVEMBER MEETING;

This is a new section for the B Stinger Newsletter. The program included a discussion of Hopgard, an unacceptable miticide. It yields an inadequate control of varroa, is expensive, and is not recommended by the U of Minnesota. The U of Minn. Has other suggestions- will attend our March meeting with the information.

Reports from start-up beekeepers at the November meeting demonstrated great success of this aspect of NCBA. There will be additional new beekeepers in 2016).

TEN BEEKEEPING CRIMES YOU SHOULD NOT COMMIT;

- 1.** Skipping the basics; learn how they work, what they do, how they do it and how they are built. Learn basic bee biology (read).
- 2.** Not feeding soon enough or long enough. New hives have no stores, raising brood requires huge amounts of resources. New hives have minimal foragers.
- 3.** Ignoring Varroa Mites; Treatment free = dead bees!! If you want to be treatment free keep bees successfully FOR AN EXTENDED TIME then regress. Treatment free means you are creating a varroa bomb for your friends and neighbors

- 4.** OPENING THE HIVE WITHOUT A PLAN; If you don't need to be in there stay out. The bees have worked long and hard to get things the way they need them. No matter how careful you move stuff.
- 5.** Assume where the queen will or will not be: MURPHY'S LAW governs this.
- 6.** Following advise that comes without a reason; if there is not a reason DON'T DO IT!!
- 7.** Cutting all queen cells: Often end up with no queen. The bees are making queen cells for a reason.
- 8.** Fail to recognize a nectar dearth: Leads to robbing, wasp invasions and absconding hives.
- 9.** Harvesting honey too soon: Remember raising brood requires huge amounts of feed. small foraging numbers.
- 10.** Attempting too much too soon: get good at raising bees before you try to expand what you do with your bees. Walk before you try running.

Member ADS;
Fix or build new bee equipment
Gilbert Frank 31979 456th. Ave.
Aitkin, Mn. 56431
320-241-0549 320-292-2452

Package Bees
Bill Krieger and Larry Chismar will again have 2# packages available.
Contact Larry @ 218-545-2306 or at the January meeting the 18th.

5 Frame Nucs
5frames, laying new queen, No box or frame return
\$150.00
Burt Scripture
218-352-9202 burtsbees@brainerd.net

NCBA MONTHLY MEETING LOCATION:

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