

North Central Bee Keepers February, 2016

**Greetings Bee Keepers;**

**Lunch committee;**

**Jo and Dave Lange**

**Speakers;**

**Lewis Struthers : Parkers Prairie, Mn. Lewis caught 16 swarms last summer . He will explain how he uses swarm traps or bait hives. We all need FREE bees!**

**Duane Williams: Pequot Lakes, Mn. Duane will share his experiences with his TOP BAR HIVE last year. If you are thinking top bar you need to hear Duane's report.**

**New meeting location !!!**

**First Lutheran Church, koinonia Room**

**424 S. 8<sup>th</sup>. St. Brainerd Mn. 56401**

**Recap of January Meeting;**

**Entomologist Crystal Boyd from the DNR gave an excellent talk, along with pictures of many species of wild bees in Minnesota and the Dakotas, and their role in pollinating prairie flowers. She also discussed some of the difficulties caused by loss of prairie habitat, disappearance of wild flowers and the killing of wild pollinators with chemicals used by modern agriculture. It was all informative and sobering. Minnesota has a seed selector on line to help choose the right seeds to use along roadways.**

## **Have you formed your Bee plan for 2016 ??**

**1; Do you have LIVE BEES in your hives? Your live bees will need feed to produce any brood as soon as the spring warms up. They will need both pollen (protein) and syrup or even better honey (carbohydrate). Bees can not produce and raise brood without protein. With inadequate protein bees will eat the brood to maintain their lives if the queen even lays. On the first warm day(40 degrees and little wind) find if you have any live bees and get them fed. Have pollen patties and solid sugar on hand. Bees will not use liquid feed at temps below 50 so you probably need fondant or sugar bricks. You can make your own sugar bricks but be very sure you cook them long enough and hot enough so that they set up solid. Are you going to split your live bees in the spring? If you are splitting you will need new mated queens or at least queen cells to put into your splits. Have you researched who's queens you want. Now is the time to order queens for spring and may even be getting a little late. In your research I hope you have found a backup queen supplier just in case your first choice is sold out. What and where are you going to do with your new shipped in queens? You must be prepared to either hold or immediately place the queens into your splits. If you are holding them place into a cool NOT COLD darker area with no drafts but fresh air. Place some preferably honey on the screen for the workers to get to the queen. Syrup will work but clean disease free honey is better. Don't forget they will need a little water each day while they are being held. Have you got the boxes and frames to put the split into. If you only have empty frames versus capped frames of honey there is a difference in procedures to be successful. Empty frames require much more feed and more often. Don't place all full sealed frames into your split the new queen needs a place to lay. The preference would be for one drawn empty frame and one frame of foundation for the workers to draw out. They will soon be both full of eggs and brood while the workers move and clean other**

**frames to prepare for further expansion. There are a lot of other points to cover but this is a good start.**

**2. Your bees are all gone or dead? First off why did they die or leave? Check for foulbrood, smell and look for scale in cells. If you have suspicions but have never seen foulbrood find someone who knows! There is no cure for American Foulbrood!! People will tell you that Tylosin and other antibiotics cure foulbrood. They do not!! Drugs hold foulbrood until it breaks out again . Don't curl up in a ball and suck your thumb. The only cure is to build a fire and burn the whole colony, frames, boxes, cover and bottom board. Cover the ashes with soil when you are done. Get it done while the snow is on the ground and bees are not flying . Did your bees die from the effects of varroa mites. The timing of treatment is as important as the chemical you use to treat. A treatment needs to be made in the late summer, as soon as the honey is pulled. Mite loads need to be monitored later thru the fall until temperatures stay below 40 degrees or less. They may need to be treated again. What are you using to kill varroa? There are several types and some no longer work in some areas. When you are treatment free you are abusing your bees. You are also a detriment to your beekeeping friends and neighbors. By not treating your bees for mites you are fostering a superior mite that will travel and infect any honey bees in the area. Both formic acid and oxalic acid are registered and legal for use in honeybees. Both are effective and safe when properly applied according to directions. Formic acid and oxalic acid are both contained in honey and may even applied while the honey supers are still on, when properly applied. These are still chemicals and must be used properly to avoid dangerous conditions.**

**3. Are you planning to succeed or not planning to fail !!** research and plan now while there is still time ??

# **Member Ads;**

**Package bees;**

**2 or 3 # packages**

**Contact either Larry Chismar or Bill Krieger 218-545-2306**

**Bee equipment;**

**Fix old / build new**

**Gilbert Frank 320-241-0540 , 320-292-2452**

**5 frame nucs;**

**5 frames, new laying queen no exchange of equipment \$150.00**

**Burt Scripture 218-352-9202**

**Candles;**

**100% beeswax many sizes and shapes**

**Paul Hardenberg 320-279-0864**