

Douglas County Bees
Monthly General Meeting
June 2, 2021

The meeting last night had 24 people in attendance at Stewart Park in the pavillion. We gained 3 new members! Our membership is up to 49 now.

Robert Baune – Opened the meeting at 7pm and gave us a cut-out report. We have completed 19, there are 7 pending, 2 have been scheduled and 5 are still awaiting technical issues to be resolved before we can book the date to do the cut-out. Robert offered his theory of why there are so many swarm alerts this year. –February’s warm spell triggered the queens to get busy with laying eggs.

A suggestion that the Cut-outs being scheduled for 2021 will end when dearth begins. This translates to; after the blackberries have bloomed, the cut-outs will stop. This is so that we are not assisting ppl to kill colonies. Our records from last year indicated that ALL cut-outs performed after dearth began did not survive through the winter. There simply was not enough time for the bees to recover from the trauma of being moved. The club members agreed to this.

At the end of the “bee season” a picnic style (cook out) will be organized as a thank you to all the members that helped with the club this year. Stay tuned.... TBA.

Phil Moulton turned in 51, yes....FIFTY ONE, swarm alert reports!

Beau Miakinkoff, read the proposed changes to the DCB Constitution and By-Laws to accommodate the mileage reimbursement going to perform cut-out assessments and delivering bees after the cut-outs for the cut-out coordinator. And the official making of the chair person for Swarm Alert management. A vote was taken. 11 – 0 in favor of accepting these changes. You can go to the DCB website to read/download all these details and changes for your own records if desired.

Beau asked for thoughts/opinions on changing the DCB Facebook PAGE to a GROUP. It was accepted to go ahead and do this. The FB limitations for pages is “cramping” DCB’s ability to engage the public and causing the admins of the page some frustrations. These changes will be done gradually, it is going to take some time. The page can not just be ‘switched” over to a group status. The group site will have to be constructed and then the page members invited over to the group, then the page deleted. It will be a work in progress! So members, please be patient. You will be happy about how much more easy the “group” site will be to use.

DCB is still needing an EVENT CHAIR PERSON. Beau has organized the Blooms and Butterfly event in Elkton for this month. The Douglas County Fair is coming up in August and Beau is NOT

going to do that. Beau has quite enough to do already. Leah Fulk has stepped forward to organize the Fair for this year.

At the end of the “bee season”, Beau and Robert will make a Douglas County Bees map of all the swarms and cut-outs completed for 2021. It is going to be nice to see the “pin points” of the pattern it creates. And.... a really cool visual aid and educational tool.

The Treasurer report was given: \$3,100.31 in checking with the breakdown of income and expenses. \$2,802.05 in the savings account with the breakdown of donations received and designated/non-designated funds.

At the bottom of our cut-out records, we have been trying to record how many frames of brood, how many frames of honey, and an estimate of how many bees were recovered. We want to purchase one of those hanging scales so that we can get a more uniform way of “measuring” how many bees we collect on these rescues. Sometimes “eyeballing” and making ‘guestimates” is not really consistent. (4 thousand bees together = 1 pound) so if we can weigh them, we can do the math and get a better calculation of how many bees we gathered.

The “Round Robin” sharing bee stories and asking questions was next. With 24 ppl...it was really fun to hear from everyone.

See you all next month!