

Douglas County Bees

August 5, 2020

Informal meeting

9 members attending

No treasury report

Show and tell

Phil had jars of honey from uncapped comb from cutouts that were kept cool in a fruit cellar but have been fermenting due to the high moisture content. The bees do not like but the yellow jackets apparently love it. With uncapped honey it is better to leave out for your bees to salvage or leave the frames covered and allow the moisture to evaporate out and then extract. A recommendation was if the frame is less than 75% capped do not extract until the frame is fully capped.

David showed his \$45 Varroa mite test kit he purchased on amazon. The Kit comes with powdered sugar, measuring cup, tray, water container and screened lidded jar. Measure bees into the jar with the sugar and roll for about a minute coating the bees and shaking off the mites. Pour sugar on to the tray, spay with water to dissolve the sugar and count the mites. The bees can then be reintroduced back into the hive. As a precaution, remember not to treat new hive for mites the first year, wait until the next spring.

Discussion Items

Beau reported that Yellow jackets cleaned out a new hive in just a couple of days. The hive was an observation hive and the battle was visible. The Yellow Jackets were biting off bees heads and pulling larvae out of the cell. The bees didn't have a chance. An example of homemade wasp traps on the web page and on our Facebook page.

Robert had small cement trowels that he had sharpened the edges for use on cutouts. He had lanyards attached to handle so the trowel will hang on your wrist when not being used. A lecture on line recommends replacing the comb in your hives every 5 years to remove impurities that build up in the wax.

Beau suggested the swarm list be organized so members can tell who is in line to get a swarm; the list would be organized on a first come first served basis. If the member first on the list is unavailable or can't go get the swarm then the next member would be called or emailed. Members receiving a swarm or not responding to the notification would fall to the bottom of the list.

A second list was proposed for cutouts. the list would contain where, when, who got the bees and who helped. Phil is keeping a list of some of these items.

Beau also suggested virtual meetings when the weather turns colder. This idea was received with mixed feelings. The details of conducting such a meeting would have to be researched and presented to the membership for discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13

8/18/20 Beau sent in corrections to these minutes:

I have a correction to the minutes of the August meeting regarding the swarm lists. The two lists concern the cut-out portion of the "rehoming" portion of this service that the club provides for free to the public. And was recommended in an effort to clear up any miscommunications of which member is getting the bees that are to be rehomed. One list is for who is next in line to receive the bees. The other list is to make is public to all members of where the cutOut took place, who worked the event, and who got the bees. The SWARM collection is up for any member to claim and go fetch them on their own.

There were 3 out of the 4 board members present at this meeting and this suggestion was not unapproved. Phil authorized the changes to the Constitution and By-laws of the club and to the Swarm/Cut-out/Extraction guidelines.