

Minutes for Beekeepers Guild Meeting: November 4, 2014

John Chubb opened the November meeting with a hearty greeting for all and a Thank You for coming out. He welcomed new members and future beekeepers who attended.

Old Business:

Treasurer's report: Chris Merritt reported that the balance in our account is \$647.76 and our membership total is 41 members.

There will be no meeting in December and Mary Walker moved that we change the date of the January meeting from the 3rd to the 10th. The meeting will be at the Chamber of Commerce in Melfa at 10 AM.

Our new Beekeepers class will be on the weekends of February 7 and 14 at the probable location of the Chamber of Commerce in Melfa. Russell Vreeland suggested the board consider having 3 weekends, as there is so much material to digest in only 2 mornings. The BOD will consider this in its planning.

Our past president, Paul Kist gave a short eulogy for Skip Rawls who passed away recently and told how his son is carrying on the beekeeping as a legacy to his Father.

John Chubb asked to be informed if anyone knows about sessions or workshops that might be appropriate for us to attend and speak of Beekeeping. John thanked Mary Walker, Ann Snyder and Donna Farber for being so faithful and attending multiple venues where beekeeping was presented.

Russell Vreeland spoke about losing some of his hives and wants to advise the members if anything like this happened to them, he would like to collect data. He has sent some specimens to Beltsville. This is Russell's e-mail: rsvreeland@gmail.com If anyone has lost hives and does not know the reason please contact him. You can give him a few details as the age of the hive, under what conditions did the bees leave, your last inspection when they were present and well, and how long afterward did they disappear, etc, etc. Let's begin to document.

Russell also reminded us if anyone is thinking of ordering package bees to do so before long. The bee merchants are taking orders for spring 2015 now.

Mark Cline wanted to thank all the people who so generously give mentoring advice and help. He personally received assistance from Donna Farber.

First Guest Speaker: Matt Cormons

Matt Cormons presented clear and simple ways to prepare our hives for the cold. He basically told us he is an old fashioned beekeeper. He watches his bees. He lifts the hive to assess if it is heavy and full of stores. When the hive is light, he feeds, feeds, feeds. The most important thing is that the bees have enough to nourish them through the winter. If the bees are well fed, the queen is more likely to begin laying eggs early in the spring. Some keepers insulate hives, but Matt suggests using duct tape if necessary to keep the cold from going thru old cracks in the hives. Be sure the hive has enough ventilation and do not expose the bees (or open it) to cold temperatures. Use a bottom board.

Matt gave a web site (www.myspringsage.com) where one can purchase tartaric acid that is used to keep the sugar from crystallizing when making the candy. Matt told us the term used when the bees disappear without a trace is "abscond".

Second Guest Speaker: WT Wilkins

WT came well prepared showing a candy board/box he made for winter feeding. It was approx. 2 /12 inch deep with a ½ inch screen. He reported that beekeepers in the North who have very cold winters use sometimes 20 lbs. of sugar, mixing it with water. WT showed us two types of sugar candy one mixed only with water and the other with a recipe that is attached to this e-mail.

WT's measurement was 1 ½ ounce of water to 1 pound of sugar. Let it harden and place it on the frames. The bees will take care of the rest!

The Penn State book [Beekeeping Basics](#) has another recipe on page 36.

There were queries about obtaining a BGES logo shirt. Donna Fauber advises: Shirts can be ordered directly from MARKER 29 in Onancock. There's a shop there

across from the Charlotte Hotel. The number is 787-1000, ask for Kim or Jenny. Shirts come in ladies and men's sizes and they are \$35.00. They have the shirts on hand. They ordered a bunch to have there. The club doesn't make a profit, we did pay for the design set-up.