

Minutes BGES November 1, 2016 BIC - Machipongo

Ann Snyder welcomed the assembly and called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm with 21 people attending this Fall session of the ESVA Bee Guild. We were happy to see the young Bauer boys, Seth and Bennett who are visiting for the first time and have had bees since May under the mentoring of Donna Fauber.

Carol Zuccarino gave a brief summary of the minutes for October 1 with Jane Lassiter speaking of planting for pollinators at the Agricultural Station in Painter.

Phil Harris stated that the total in our treasury is \$ 1,407 with 58 paid members.

Ann Snyder read a thank you letter from the CBES in gratitude for the honey gift that several members made to their Auction last month. Ann also reminded us of the State Bee keeper meeting this Saturday in Weyers Cave, VA and that we had decided that we would offer \$ 200 helping to defray the costs of travel. So far, no one has confirmed wanting to attend.

Outreach this month was the participation of several members in the Ducks Unlimited event in Brownsville Preserve on Sunday, October 27. David Boyd related how he Janice Wingfield, Estelle Spachmann , Ann Snyder, Carol Zuccarino joined with Tara Southard to talk about Beekeeping, show the observation hive, sell honey, offer pollinator seeds and just be present in general for questions about what we do. There were about 200 people attending.

Ann Snyder has committed to speak about Beekeeping at the Cape Charles Rotary Club at the end of this month. Both Melinda Blanchard and Johannes Cusimano offered to join her.

New Business:

We discussed the possibility of having a Beginner beekeeping Class this next year. Russel encouraged us to select a date ASAP to reserve space at the Ag Station. Leilani, Johannes and Melinda offered to help out with the planning. Ann will call a meeting about the course material.

Russel Vreeland offered at cost 2 pound honey jars for sale: \$12.15 a case. He told us of his experience looking for bees inside the walls of a local church. The insects were not “found” and he will return for further investigation.

The club business being finished, we turned to our Presenters for the evening program Preparing for Wintering our Bees.

Ann Snyder began by asking us to open the tops of our hives, remove the cover, either board or screen and have a look into the hive. Note what is going on. Look for worker bees at their honey making, etc. In a healthy hive there should be enough honey to make the hive heavy when lifting the boxes. Books will give you a pound figure, but the “lift test” is usually accurate. One may want to tilt the hive with a shim to let moisture drain, and remember to take out the queen excluder to allow bees to huddle. You can put on a mouse guard and an entrance reducer.

Donna Fauber and Angela Barnes presented the various ways to feel the bees during winter. Donna urged us to read over the Bee Keeping Basics we use for our beekeeping classes, noting the wealth of simple easy instructions.

The fall measurement for liquid feeding is 2 sugars to one water and do not boil the mixture as it may caramelize and this can harm the bees. Fall feeding is to increase stores. Winter feeding is to prevent starvation. Dry feeding is easy. Just put some newspaper (1/2 half sheet of wither 1 or 2 thicknesses and place the granulated sugar on it.

Angela suggested the web site: honeybeesuite.com

Angela mentioned adding some apple cider to the liquid feed to lower the ph. and reduce mold. She passed around various examples of winter food: of fondue purchased from Brushy Mountain, of some she made herself and then basic sugar and water with added vinegar. The women talked about feeding with pollen at the end of January and how they made their own pollen substitute with ingredients from Quail Cove.

RECIPES:

Pollen Substitute, ingredients found at Quail Cove in Machipongo.

3 parts soy flour
1 part brewer's yeast
1 part dry milk
1 teaspoon vitamin C for every 6 cups of mixture
Place on top bars or in a container for open feeding. Use this when you are ready for your queen to start laying eggs.

NO COOK: "Mountain Camp" feeding method is simply the method of feeding dry sugar poured right on to paper that lays on the top of the frame bars... or on the screen of your candy board rim. You can lay newspaper on the top frames of your hive and add a super... or you can use a candy board body. The newspaper keeps the sugar from falling through.

Sugar Brick

1/3 Cup Water
4 Pounds Cane Sugar
1 Teaspoon ACV (Apple Cider Vinegar)
Mix thoroughly and spread in a parchment lined pan.
Cook in Oven @ 170 with door cracked for 30 min.
Turn oven off and leave overnight. Ready for hives.

Russell Vreeland took the floor and spoke about wrapping or not the hive in winter. If one wraps the hive, the sun is also kept out. For heavy-duty cold snaps and strong winds, one can place insulation boards on two sides of the hive. Russell also mentioned placing a super with loosely fitted screen over the hive and add pine needles around a jar of syrup to both insulate and feed.

Bill Bannon brought an interesting predator for all to inspect, a wheel bug also known as the assassin bug.

The meeting closed at 8:20 with delicious refreshments provided by Lisa Laufer and Melinda Blanchard.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Zuccarino,
Secretary

