

# Montgomery County Beekeepers Association

## Minutes for June Meeting

### June 19, 2023

#### **Apprentice Beekeeper Meeting – began at 6:17 pm**

Led by Ed Erwin with 29 in attendance

#### **Question & Answer Period**

- Members shared experiences of suspecting loss of queen from the hive. Group discussion occurred in defining possibilities, determining swarm cells vs. supercedure cells, and what actions to take.
- Discussion was held on honey extraction tips.

#### **Presentation Open Discussion by Ed Erwin – Honey Extraction Tips**

- **Location of Extraction**
  - Closed area is essential, as interested bees will otherwise become a problem
- **Use of Fume Boards**
  - Makes pulling honey frames easier, as it helps keep bees away
- **Replacing super frames**
  - After taking full super frames, replace with clean frames
  - Replace with frames having comb if possible, otherwise use recently waxed frames

Question & answer period followed

#### **Apprentice Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm**

#### **Monthly meeting – began at 7:00 pm**

Led by Vice President Brad Womack, as President Matt Thomas was out of town

- In attendance were 53 members and 15 guests
- Pledge of Allegiance was led by Brad Womack
- Doug Stanley of Magnolia Honey Farms provided summary of TBA Summer Clinic
  - Keynote presentation by Youtube beekeeper Jeff “Mr. Ed” Horchoff
  - Clinic’s 40 different classes varied in topics such as Texas Bee Laws, Bee Forage Basics, Honey Bee Lineages, and Medicinal Use of Honey Bee Products to Mead Making, Success at the Farmers Market, and Products from the Hive.
  - Large vendor area included MannLake, Dadant, Magnolia Bee Supply, Bee Weaver, Winding Creek Apiary, The Bee Supply, among many others, and a variety of hive product, specialty products, and bee art displays
- Officer’s Report
  - TBA Presenter from University of Texas at San Antonio, microbiologist Dr. Ferhat Ozturk, requested 4 oz honey samples for testing of anti-microbial, anti-oxidant, pH, and other properties in local honey. VP Brad Womack will be taking samples to Dr. Ozturk.
  - Can apply for labels from Real Texas Honey for “Honey Made in Texas”

- Presenters & suggestions for presentation topics are needed for monthly meetings

### **Meeting Speaker – Youth member Ally Clark on Honey Harvesting**

- **Honey Extraction**
  - Harvest typically occurs in July, although sometimes spring and fall harvests are also done
  - Local honey flows are commonly fueled by Tallow and Yaupon
  - Recommend using 9 frames in a 10-frame box or 7 frames in an 8-frame box
- **Removing Honey Supers**
  - Bee brush method
  - Fume board
  - Leaf blower
  - Avoid using smoker when removing frames, due to tainting honey
- **Extraction Equipment**
  - MoCo Club has extraction equipment for use by members
  - Equipment kept at Winding Creek Apiary
  - The Bee Supply also has extraction equipment to rent
  - Refractor is essential tool for measuring moisture level of honey (15.4-18.5% ideal)
- **Honey Extraction Work Area**
  - Protect floor with plastic covering
  - Sealed room important to protect from bees
  - Have all supplies organized and ready
  - Work area was suggested
- **Honey Extractor**
  - Extracts honey through centrifugal force
  - Hand-crank or electrical extractors available
  - Honey released through honey gate
- **Honey Processing Without an Extractor**
  - Compression method
  - Problem is that comb must be crushed and drawn comb on foundations is destroyed
- **Honey Packaging**
  - Allow honey to sit before straining
  - Bottle honey
- **Options for selling Honey in Texas**
  - Small Honey Producer
    - Processing requirements
    - Allowable activities
    - Labeling Requirements
  - Beekeeper Honey Producer
  - Cottage Food Operator
  - Licensed Food Manufacturer

### **Doug's Tips – Honey Extraction**

- Also recommend using 7 honey frames in an 8-frame box or 9 in a 10-frame and equally spacing frames
- Cold rooms make extraction difficult. Increase temperature of room so honey is released more easily
- Bolt extractor to pallet to increase stability of extractor.
- Bees will clean the extractor extremely well if machine is left outside after use.
- Order bottling supplies early

### **Additional Announcements**

- Nanette Davis stated that \$50 deposit is required to use extraction equipment
  - Recommended glass for storing honey
  - Heating blanket can be used to decrystallize honey, as can a heating band
- Kaye Brouse suggested entering the TBA Honey Show
  - Set aside honey for a couple months to allow impurities to rise to top, and she recommended using cellophane to help remove those.
- Dan Brouse added that all should consider entering wax competition as well

### **Door prizes – VP Brad Womack**

- Gnome bee garden flag

### **Small Breakout Sessions**

- Instead of usual breakout sessions, general group question & answer period was held

### **Monthly Meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm**

(Submitted by Keri Warren)