

Montgomery County Beekeepers Association
Minutes for April Meeting
May 20, 2024

Apprentice Beekeeper Meeting – began at 6:15 pm

Led by Doug Stanley with 20 in attendance

Question & Answer Period for new beekeepers

- When to add new brood box
 - When 75-80% drawn out frames
 - Move brood frame from lower box to new upper box to draw bees up
- Local pollen sources for bees
 - Tallow trees
- Running hives with one brood box vs two brood boxes
- Food sources for bees
 - Royal jelly
 - Bee bread
 - Nectar
- Using queen excluder vs not using for honey supers
- Using sugar bricks to supplement bee foods
- Combatting nectar-bound hives
- Swarming
 - Removing frames that have queen cells
 - Add another box
 - Split hive
 - Removing some capped brood frames

Apprentice Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm

Monthly meeting – began at 7:03 pm

Led by Doug Stanley and Treasurer Nadia Clark

- Pledge led by Doug Stanley
- Recorded in attendance were 61 members and guests

Announcements

- No vendor announcements

Youth Program Update

- Meridith
- Francisco
- Gavin
- Lyla

Meeting Speaker - Dr. Bob Rogers: Common Diseases of Honey Bees

- Take-home messages for meeting attendees
 - Determine why bees died and seek reliable resources
 - Texas Apiary Inspector Service
 - Master Beekeeper
 - Veterinarian
- Observe basic signs
 - Use scientific method
 - Know what “normal” is
 - Swarming vs Bearding
 - Swarm cells vs supersedure cells
 - Consider the time of year
 - Spring - foul brood
 - Summer - pesticides
 - August - varroa mite load is highest
 - Fall - viruses
 - February-March: starvation
 - Understanding age developmental stages
- Make a Differential Diagnosis List
 - Trembling - pesticides, bee paralysis virus
 - Unable to fly - pesticides, tracheal mites
 - K wing
- Testing
 - Autopsy
 - AFB & EFB tests
 - Milk test
 - Rope test
- Using information, make a guess
- Most common causes of hive loss
 - Varroa mites
 - Starvation
 - pesticides
- Most common diseases
 - Varroa mites and viruses
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- Wax moths - not the cause
 - Controlling wax moths
 - Have strong hive
 - Wax moth trap - banana peel, 1/2 cup sugar, 1/2 cup apple cider vinegar, 1 cup water
 - Freeze frames before storage
 - Store drawn comb frames in dry, air-tight container
 - Chemical/biologic prevention - e.g. Paramoth or Certan B402
- Small Hive beetles

- Swiffer sheets, peppermint candies, beetle traps
- Colony Collapse Disorder
- American Foul Brood, although none identified in Texas in more than eight years
- European Foul Brood
 - Smells like pizza
 - Average 4 cases/month in Texas
 - Stress-related
 - Spread by drifting and robbing
 - Seen in early spring
 - Lack of protein
 - Yellow decaying larvae
 - Sunken cappings
 - Tracheal skeleton
- EFB Treatment - Oxytetracycline
 - Treat all hives
 - Comes as sugar powder
 - Liquid, or pollen patties
- Treat or not treat EFB?
 - Oxytetracycline is very difficult to get
 - Shock Swarm Method
 - Essential Oils - anecdotal evidence for canola, tea tree oil, eucalyptus oil, camphor mixture on shop towel
- Chalk Brood
 - Fungus and humidity
 - Prevent by improving ventilation
 - Ventilate top entrance
 - Screen bottoms
 - Brood transfer of hygienic bees
 - Re-queen VSH
- Bald Brood
 - Wax moths
 - Linear patterns
 - VS hygienic behavior
- Sac Brood
 - Virus that eats brood from inside-out

Small Group Discussion Topics

- New Beekeepers
- Honey bound frames
- What's next? - Progressing with nucs and building hives
- Open Q&A group

Monthly Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm

(Submitted by Keri Warren)