

February 23, 2012

I. Stephanie Urquhart made secretary of COBA by acclamation. Motion introduced by Rick Bales. No one else announced a candidacy or desire for that position, motion seconded and approved, no nays.

II. New President makes motion to move Dec 27 2012 COBA meeting to Dec 20 2012 . Motion seconded, ayes won the majority, 2 nays to this date change.

III. President announces yearly dues are due. 10\$ for a single membership, 15\$ for a family Membership. If last year a member paid the higher rate, that membership can be credited with a 5 dollar credit to the club to be put towards the 2012 renewal membership. Dues are to be paid to the Treasurer of the Club, Jay Silver.

IV. President announces that the club has placed the Honey Extractor with local Bee Keeper and Bee Business owner Tomy Thornton who runs Bee Keeper's Ect at 202 S. Bryant Place, OKC 73115. [405. 600. 7200]. Members can check the extractor out during working hours on normal business days that the business is open. The members must sign the extractor out, but can keep possession of it for a couple days. The extractor must be cleaned before it is to be returned. Mr Thornton is not going to clean the extractor after someone else checks it out.

V. President encourages members to think about and what topics they would like to see covered throughout the year. This is your association.

VI. President welcomes new members who complete beginning Bee Keeping Class. The President asked that older more experienced members, mentor new members as bee keepers. Contact information may be exchanged during the break.

VII. President announces that the COBA constitution and bylaws need an update. Tommy Thornton, Rick Bales, and Jay Silver have been appointed to a committee to review the club's constitution and bylaws. The deadline for this update is Mar 22 2012. Proposed changes will be posted online for review by the membership shortly after said deadline and a Vote by the membership on these changes will be held in April of 2012.

(special reminder 1.) this was not discussed in the business meeting: State Meeting on March 3rd 2012 in Ponca City Oklahoma --need exact location and times.

(special reminder 2.) NEW! 1/2 Day introduction to Bee Keeping Class. Cost of attendance 20\$. If a person taking this class decides to join COBA and take the regular Beginning Beek Class, that 20 dollars is put towards the tuition of the larger, longer more indepth beginner's class, if they attend beginner's class within 1 year of taking the 1/2 Day Intro. Date of Intro: March 24, 2012; 9 am to 12 pm at OSU extension [address?] Note to officers, make sure that number of students do not exceed the max number of people allowed in room as per Fire Code.

End of Business Meeting

I. Monthly Lecture: Preparing your hives for Nectar Flow--steps and advice for months of February and March [early spring season]

[Special note] members noted that currently bees in the area are carrying heavy pollen loads back to the hives. Members observed Maple, Elm, Cedar, Spring Beauties, daffodils, and violets in bloom this month].

II. February: Topics Covered: Different methods of Feeding your bees, disease prevention, detection and treatment.

A) Sugar Syrup 2:1 or granulated sugar acceptable. See Mountain Camp Method and Recipe. Power point recommends using Fumigillin B with last gallon of liquid feed. Some experienced Beeks in the club recommend using other products like Nosevit and Optimum B for antibiotic free treatments, and also expressed concern with antibiotic resistance of recent forms of Nosema. {Bee disease that the Fumigillan is for}.

1. Examples were shown on powerpoint of Baggie Feeders, Emery Shims, and Division Board Feeders.

2. Discussion about problems with bees drowning. Member Rick Shantz suggests using perlite in liquid feeders because it floats and the bees can stand on top of it when they feed and not drown. This can be purchased from plant nurseries--it is sold as an additive for soil-less mixes for seed starting and potted plants.

B) Pollen Patties: Important source of protein for bees before flowers bloom. Feb and March are two most important months for feeding pollen patties to help build up your colonies. Note: Be cautious with amount that is put in the box. Pollen patties are attractive to small hive beetles and can encourage their proliferation in your bee box.

1) several examples show pollen patties with sugar feed and grease patties. Grease patties are made of crisco, and sugar with mint oil for flavoring--these are used to treat for tracheal mites.

C) Colony/Box Inspections: do not perform them unless the temperature is 50 degrees or higher. Otherwise you will chill your bees and may contribute to their decline. And if you don't feel that there is a need to inspect a box right away, then wait. Full inspections disrupt the bees and their clustering during these cold months.

1. When you do inspect the bees these are the questions you want to answer: a) How large is the colony? b) Do they have adequate feed? c) Are there any signs of disease like nosema chill brood, or foul brood?

D) Foul Brood treatment: Terrmycin. Older members discussed treatment techniques. Some felt that blanket treatments of the yard were overtreatment and overly harsh on colonies that might not have this disease. Others felt that the Terrmycin didn't work and preferred another product: Tylan--which is more expensive 70\$ a bottle and does not come in small quantities for individual dosing.

II. March: Reversing Brood Boxes, and Preparing for Nectar Flow

A) Brood Reversal is one small step towards swarm prevention. It convinces the queen that she has plenty of room to lay eggs for the spring build up.

1. Never split your brood if they are in the middle of the box, the cluster will look like a big ball or circle in the center of the frames.

2. You are placing the full box on the top and placing the empty box [empty frames on the bottom.

3. Do not reverse if cluster is between 2 boxes.

4. After you reverse boxes, use queen excluder the top box.

B) Take note of the outside temperatures:

1. if it is 50 degrees or below--don't open the box for this procedure.

2. if it is 60 degrees or higher, you can do a complete inspection

3. If it is 70 degrees or higher--you can do what you want within reason.

C) After reversal, remove front reducers during nectar flow

D) Discussion: When to remove Mouseguards.

1. Some keep mouseguards on until nights are 50 degrees or higher

2. Some feel that a strong hive can keep the mice out, because there are enough bees to deter or kill the intruder.

E) March Sugar Syrup is 1:1 , and the bees will stop taking it when the nectar is flowing.

F) Brood Breaks: Some beeks use them disease control and to increase honey production.

1. Brood Breaks allow the queen to stop laying [she is kept in a queen cage] which frees up young nurse bees to become foragers. Jeff Hall reports 60lbs of honey per colony even in the dearth last year [2011].

2. This should be done early in the season, in order to not disrupt the brood production in the late summer and fall leading up to the hatching of the winter cluster of bees.

3. Jeff Hall recommends doing this 2 weeks before main nectar flow.

4. Projected bloom times for this area: March 30 Hairy Vetch; April 30 Alfalfa; April 30 Vitex; April 30 Black Locust.

5. Location is the 1st concern for honey production.

III. March 2012 Topic: Bee Vacuums. See articles about Bee Vacuums in Feb edition of Bee Culture.