

Tri-County Beekeepers Meeting Tuesday, May 2, 2017

Officers Vern Heise, Jason Nyholm, Mitch Theis, Juliet Brambrink were present. Member attendance was approximately 110.

Vern called the meeting to order at 7:00. About 10 new members were present.

Treasurers's report:

- Starting balance: \$7,132.95
- Dues: +\$430
- Donation: +\$14.75
- Scholarship Hive: -\$43.71
- Whitney Rental: -\$37.00
- Melrose beekeeping class: -\$90.00 for scholarship winner
- Melrose beekeeping class: +540.00
- Sauk Rapids class: Pending
- Deposit for bee order: +\$25,907
- Cashiers check for bee order: \$26,234 (some checks were pending, these have cleared now, accounting for the difference)
- Cashiers check fee: -\$5.00
- New total: \$7,614.99

New business:

- Dave has donated three small honey supers. One was donated to each scholarship winner, one was donated to the club.
- Thank you to Holy Cross Lutheran Church for providing a new meeting location. Please be respectful by leaving the room clean and pushing in chairs. Meetings will be held as usual the first Tuesday of each month, except the July meeting which will be held July 11 due to the holiday.
- If you aren't receiving emails, update your address with Mitch.
- Pollen patties and feed pails were available during the meeting.
- Jason has 40 medium honey supers with 9 frames of drawn comb available for \$20. Contact Jason for more information.
- A beekeeper is needed to sell honey at the co-op in St. Joe. They take about 600 pounds per year of bulk and bottled honey. The beekeeper must have a dispenser available for bulk sales. Contact Jason or Jim DiGiovanni for more information. Current bulk price is \$4.99/pound, you can bid on a price if you are interested.
- A card for Chester Baker, an original member with cancer, was passed.
- We lost non-profit status and reapplied. In order to regain the status, we must pass an amendment. The amendment was read and discussed. Voting will take place at the next meeting.

- We qualify as a 501(c)(3)! This means dues and donations are tax exempt.
- Some landowners have contacted the club asking for hives on their land. If you are interested in land for hives, contact Vern.
- April 30: Good Earth Food Coop is holding an event. They would like a speaker. If you are interested see Vern.
- Minnesota Honey Producers are seeking a Honey Queen candidate. Candidates must be 17-23, never married or pregnant. The Honey Queen will travel Minnesota talking about bees, and will compete for the American Honey Queen title. Application deadline is May 1.
- Vern led a hiving demonstration. Copies of the slides are available in the University of Minnesota manual and possibly on their website.

Discussion:

- Purchased queens this summer should be available from club members Paul Theis, Conrad, and Wayne and Cindy Rausch, as well as sources like Nature's Nectar.
- *OTS (On the Spot) Queen Rearing* by Mel Disselkoen was recommended as an educational book about keeping mites down without treatment.
- Package bee pick-up will be this Saturday, April 8 at 10:00 am. Both two and three pound packages will be picked up.
 - Pick-up will be at 3388 County Road 8 SE, St. Cloud (near St. Benedicts Nursing Home) starting at 10:00 am.
- Hiving demonstrations will also be Saturday. Times TBD. Veils are required for anyone attending a demo.
- Bees are happiest if you hive in the evening.
- **Cages from packages must be returned or we will be charged for them.**