

Mississippi Valley Beekeepers Association Meeting Minutes for August 29th, 2017

There were approximately 35 people in attendance at the Annual MVBA Family Picnic. Fried chicken, a variety of potato dishes, a rice & cheese dish, baked beans, green beans, several different salads and just plain deliciousness graced our tables! Desserts... heavenly, desserts! I have to mention Austin's Mile-High German Chocolate Cake! It was one of the best we've ever tasted and maybe someday he'll tell how he got it to stack so high! For those who were unable to attend; there were gasps when it was being sliced! And what better way to top it all off than with Honey Ice Cream that Bernie brought!

Jeff and Valerie Heberlein were new guest and are warmly welcomed.

Gerry M. gave us a great laugh when he told his story about he and Jerry B. capturing some bees from an area that had been roped off with police crime tape. Donned with their white suites, carrying a Jester's Nuc box, they apparantly got quite the attention. To passerbys, it was construed to a suspicious gathering of "evidence". Their presence caused quite a lot of hype and speculation on social media about peculiar men in Hazmat suits and dead bodies down by the river. Let Gerry tell you this hilarious story sometime!

Down to business...

Treasurer's Report given by Debi Love

July ending balance was \$1525.16

ISBA raffle refund \$465.00

Paid Dale Hill for picnic

Chicken \$80.98

Drink 5.38

August ending balance \$1903.80

Suzy made a motion to accept the Treasurer report. Guy second and the motion passed to accept as reported by Debi for the August business meeting.

Dale reminded everyone to check their hives for honey and pollen stores and to think about feeding if food stores are short.

The topic of how devastating hive beetles can become is on the fore-front of a lot of beekeepers minds this year. So many seem to have seen too many of these pests inside their hives. Dale said that it only take 2-3 weeks for them and/or wax moths to destroy a hive. Also that they will attack weak hives. Pointing out that it is not a matter of *if* you get them, but rather *when* you get them.

Questions about treatments for hive beetles. Some answers were: to use Swifter sheets (the HB get stuck and can't escape). Diamatacious Earth (cuts them). Using thick ground coverings like elevator belts underneath the hives (doesn't allow them to burrough in the ground to lay their eggs).

Bernie brought a hive lid with dead Hive Beetle larvae to show those who didn't know what they looked like. For a way to check for HB, he said that on a sunny day you can put a lid upside down near your hive and then set your deep on that lid off kilter or catywompus and the beetles will sometimes drop off into that lid. A lot of times you see them as soon as you open up a lid, but they are so quick to hide so this gives you another way to check.

Varroa mites; Bernie reminded the group that if you don't treat when you are aware you have a problem, then you can't complain if you lose them through the winter. Mite loads peak in August so if you treat in July before it's time to add supers you can knock down the mite population (never treat with supers on), and then as soon as you take the supers back off you can treat again. There are various products available for treatments, but do your research and ask others about the pros and cons of what's available.

Bernie spoke about what was problematic earlier when queens didn't seem to be laying may have been due to poor weather and foraging conditions.

Dale pointed out that when there isn't enough food, oftentimes the bees will cannibalize the larvae and eggs for the protein and that could also be why we were not seeing any new brood.

Stan mentioned that he has an abundance of horse weed right now and the bees seem to be bringing in a ton of yellow pollen from it.

Bernie said there was more golden rod now and that is the source of pollen that he is seeing.

Dr. Thomas Seeley will give a presentation at the Leucht Conference Center at McHenry County College. This is a free event. More information can be read at the following link.

<http://www.ilsba.com/summary-of-events.html>

Stan said that if you get a chance to go hear Dr. Thomas Seeley speak that it is well worth the trip.

The Fall Meeting will be in Springfield IL and is to be held November 11, 2017. The Speaker list & agenda on the ISBA website is tentative. But U.S. Veterans will eat for free.

Our MVBA New Beekeepers Class is also tentative.

Great Fellowship, Wonderful Weather & Absolutely Delicious Food made for a memorable MVBA Annual Family Picnic!

Pleased to submit,
MVBA Secretary, Tina McClelland