

MINUTES

Mississippi Valley Beekeepers Association

Date | time Tuesday, January 29, 2019 at 7:00 PM | *Meeting called to order by* President Dale Hill

In Attendance

We had 20 members and guests present

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the October 30, 2018 meeting were read by Secretary Stacy Nelson and approved.

Treasurer's Report

There were no new transactions to report by Treasurer Debi Love and in her absence Secretary Stacy Nelson updated the members that the balance was the same as before.

Inspector's Report

Bernie reported that there is now only 2 Apiary Inspectors in the state of Illinois. The rest of them have to reapply to get their jobs back. If you need to have your hive inspected, there is one inspector located near Cook County & the other is near the Indiana state line so it might take awhile before they get to you.

He attended a beginning beekeeper class in Springfield & he says that they do a good job of putting that class on...they've been doing it for several years.

Bernie told us some information on some new research that was just released which we all found interesting. It was always thought that the varroa mite was after the blood of the bee. That is no longer true. The varroa mite is after the fat bodies & are located more on the abdominal side of the bee where the fat bodies are instead of the back of the bee. Because of this new research, the powdered sugar roll may not be quite as effective as once thought. The powdered sugar gets to the mites that are on the honeybees back but not on the abdomen. Mites aren't the problem that the bees have. The problem is the beekeeper not taking care of their bees.

Old Business

Dale reported that he gave a presentation to a 4-H Club

Bruce reported that he had a presentation set up during the Eagle Days & had good interaction.

New Business

Mary Griffith wants to do an interview with Bernie & Dale. Hope it goes well.

Beginning Beekeepers Class was rescheduled to Saturday, February 16, 2019. This will allow us some extra time to get things ready.

Farm & Home Supply weekend is Saturday, February 23, 2019 from 9am-3pm

Dale mentioned that there are some smartphone apps that are available to download to your phone so that you can take infrared photos of your hives

Stacy lost the T-shirt list but has found it. I would like to get this sent in asap so if any changes need to be made to the order, add-ons, or delete items please let me know.

Education

Dale gave a presentation during the educational segment of the meeting. He talked about the different food sources available, the challenges we face as beekeepers during unfriendly weather along with concerns we'll be facing. With the winter we're having, we could experience freeze outs or even starve outs. During early winter feeding you want to feed 5% protein & 95% sucrose. The queen will start laying after the winter solstice and you may have new brood in your hives now meaning the internal hive temperature will kick up to around 95 degrees. As the supplemental sugar is consumed by the bees you may want to start changing over to a 35% protein & 65% sugar to encourage brood production. Liquid feeding is fine for active feeding. You can use an entrance feeder or one of the other options available. Do hive checks as soon as the temperature gets above 40 degrees but make them quick. Check food stores & add supplemental feed if necessary-Crabby patties work well for this (9 oz water to 5 lbs of sugar). Listen to your hives with a mechanics stethoscope so you can learn the sounds of the hive. If you hear no sounds coming from your hives then your bees are probably dead. High risk of freeze outs for any hives that are too weak to survive.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, February 26, 2019 at 7:00 PM will be our next meeting held at the Adams County Farm Bureau Building in Quincy. IL

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:45 PM and was passed unanimously