

Mississippi Valley Beekeepers Association

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 25, 2020

Opening

The regular meeting of the Mississippi Valley Beekeepers Association was called to order at 7:00PM on Tuesday, February 25, 2020 in the basement of the Adams County Farm Bureau Building in Quincy, IL by President Bruce Moechnig.

Present

Bruce Moechnig, Tom & Laurie Stark, Josh Inghram, Ray & Stacy Nelson, Susie Dunnaway, Austin Anderson, Gregg Rees, Steve Bush, Richard Lefringhouse, Tom Williamson, Chisom Darnell, Debi Love, Paul Woodworth, Bill Henehan, Gary Kaufman, Perry Williamson, Wayne Gottman, Andrew Perrine, Guy Spoonmore, Andy Bastert, Terry Reuschel, Brad Beckman, Cecil Dean, Gerald Miner, Jerry Brinkman, Stan Brinkman, Dale Hill for a total of 29 members & guests.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January meeting were unanimously approved as sent to members.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Josh Inghram gave the following treasurer's report. We had a beginning balance of \$2,040.93. We have a \$90 coffee fund that hasn't been used so adding that to our balance gives us an ending balance of \$2,130.93. The treasurer's report was approved as read.

Inspector's Report

Bernie will be reinstated as inspector on April 1st and will be in effect through October 1st

Bernie went to the inspector's meeting that was held in Chicago & says it was enjoyable. Bernie also stated that people that are registered on Driftwatch believe they are registered with the state. This is not the case. He has found people registered on Driftwatch not registered with the state. If you live in Illinois, you have to register your hives with the state.

Monthly Beekeeping Activities February/March

Check hives for food stores. Feed 1:1 sugar water & pollen substitute if needed.

Watch the maple trees

Starve outs happen in early to mid-April. Treat for mites.

Old Business

Bruce is still asking for suggestions and has boxes set up in the back during each meeting. If you have suggestions for topics, or for things you either like to start/stop/continue please make your suggestions during one of the meetings on the paper provided.

We will be ordering bee packages through the club. We have had a signup sheet during each of our beginning beekeeper classes along with having signup sheet during our meetings. Deadline to order bees is March 7th. Packages are \$133 and will arrive late March. Nucs are \$150 and will be available 1st or 2nd week of May. Price of the nucs will decrease if more than 10 are ordered to \$145 & if more than 50 nucs are ordered price will decrease to \$140 or 100 or more nucs price will decrease to \$135. Dale may also have 8 or 9 complete hives available since he will be moving & more information will become available at a later date.

We still have some tees & ballcaps for sale for any member interested in purchasing items.

New Business

Josh Inghram gave the members a recap of the showing of The Pollinator's which members and others that bought tickets were able to see at the AMC Theatre in Quincy on Wednesday, February 19, 2020. He felt it was neutral politically. A quote from the film that kind of resonated with him was "We know what we're doing wrong and we're still doing it." Josh says that beekeepers need to communicate with growers that are spraying soils and no till ground covers.

Bruce reached out to a 4-H director in Adams County and received some letters from actual 4-H members on why they would like to be selected to receive a sponsorship from our club. Bruce held a vote to see if members would be interested in sponsoring a youth from the area. Members voted to sponsor 2 youths. A motion was made to approve the sponsorship of 2 youths. Motion was then seconded & approved. Motion is carried to sponsor 2 youth. The officers selected the 2 youths from the letters that was received.

Old Time Days at Farm & Home was held February 22nd & 23rd 2020. Had lots of interests in what bees do. Flyers were handed out inviting those interested to attend our next bee class. Hopefully we generated a lot of interest in beekeeping.

There is a guy in Burton, just outside of Quincy, IL that wants to have a hive put on his property. He's a pumpkin grower and wants a hive to aid in pollination of his pumpkins. If anyone is interested, let us know.

Who has the club extractors and the observation hive? We need to keep better track of who has the club equipment so that we can readily contact the person that has it for the next member to use. As a club, the use of our equipment is free for any member to use but needs to be available for the next member needing to use it in a timely manner. As of this meeting, we know that Tom Williamson has one of the extractors but we still need to know who has the other extractor and the observation hive. Please let us know who has these items so we can keep better track of them. We would also like to have one member in charge of the club's equipment.

Stan has been in touch with the Missouri Wildflowers Nursery in Jefferson City, MO about catalogs which their new catalog isn't available yet and to see if someone would be available to come talk to the club. The person that does this stated that later in the year would be the time to come to give a presentation.

Upcoming Meetings & Activities

Missouri State Beekeepers Association Spring Meeting will be held at Metropolitan Community College ~Longview Campus, Education Building in Lees Summit, MO on March 13th & 14th. Some of the speakers include: Grant Gillard~ Seven Habits of Highly Successful Beekeepers & Taking Your Beekeeping to the Next Level, Tammy Horn Potter~ Launching the Kentucky Certified Honey Program, Best Management Practices for Hive Health, & Establishing Pollinator Habitat, Nathalie Steinhauer, Ph.D.~ Bee Informed Partnership: Who We Are & What We Do & Best Management Practices to Reduce Colony Loss, Jerry Brown~ Honey Issues in the USA

Illinois State Beekeepers Association Annual Summer Meeting will be held June 20, 2020 at the Laborer's International Union Hall- Local 703 in Urbana, IL. Speakers include Dr. Reed Johnson, Ohio State University; Dr. May Berenbaum, University of Illinois; & Dr. Adam Dolezal, University of Illinois. A bonus to meeting in Urbana will be the opportunity to visit the honey bee research laboratory to catch up on the newest information about bees and beekeeping at this renowned institution. Registration is \$25 for ISBA Members & \$35 for Non-Members. There will be a catered lunch for \$10 (lunch is free to ISBA members who are active Military or a Veteran)

Missouri State Beekeepers Association Fall Conference will be held in October 2020. More information to follow as it becomes available.

Illinois State Beekeepers Association Annual Fall Meeting will be held November 14, 2020 in Springfield, IL. Speakers include Samuel Ramsey, PhD, University of Maryland; Zac Lamas, PhD candidate, University of Maryland. These two engaging speakers will report on the highest level of cutting edge research on the **varroa destructor** mite and its impact on colony health as well as other topics of interest to beekeepers of all levels. More information to follow as it becomes available.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40PM by President Bruce Moechnig. The next general meeting will be at 7:00PM on Tuesday, March 31, 2020, in the basement of the Adams County Farm Bureau Building in Quincy, IL.

Minutes submitted by: Secretary

Stacy Nelson

Approved by: