

**St. Croix Valley Beekeepers Association general meeting minutes from the meeting at Peace Lutheran Church, Baldwin, Wi. on June 13<sup>th</sup> 2019.**

**Officers present:** Dave Lambert, Charlene Tuck, Charlotte Nicholes, Claude Bovi

**6:00 pm.** Mitch Wayne inspected the Church hives

**7:00 pm.** Dave opened the meeting by greeting and welcoming everyone to the meeting. He introduced the speakers, Bob Sitko and Joanne Sabin, whose topic for the evening is “treating hives and controlling unwanted pests.” Bob and Joanne spoke about a variety of pests and how to discourage them or trap them, including mice, skunks, opossum, raccoons, and bears. They continued on to speak about pests found inside the hives, such as wax moths, which like a warm dark environment. They suggested using moth flakes to help discourage wax moths, but not moth balls which contain naphtha. They spoke about the small hive beetle, which is good at hiding and might be recognized by slim fungus on the frames. There are traps available for small hive beetles. Joanne stated that tracheal mites are not a concern for the beekeeper. She spoke about varroa mites, how they develop in the cells of bee larvae. They help to allow about 20 different diseases to flourish, four of which can affect the bee colony. IPM, or integrated pest management: monitor for varroa mites and treat when over the threshold of 3%, check using the powdered sugar method, once a month. If you lose a queen and the hive creates a new one, supercedure, that causes a brood break, which breaks the varroa mite chain. The varroa mites requires brood to multiply. Joanne referred to Meghan Milbrath website, sandhillbees.com for further information. Joanne suggested removing drone brood, there are special green drone frames, which can then be removed, frozen, and returned to the hive.

**8:15** break for snacks **8:30** business meeting: Dave mentioned that Chris Libbey had brought Fair raffle tickets for sale, see Gladys Hanson. He referenced the Honey Bee Health Coalition and how to manage European foul brood, which is treatable and American foul brood, which is not. Dave reminded the club that we are no longer using the Yahoo io group site. That the club has a new website, stcroixbeekeepers.com and a new discussion group via Mighty networks at scvba.mn.co.

**Church hives:** Mitch said they was some chalk brood that thrives on cold rainy conditions, and that it should improve with warmer weather and improved ventilation. Mitch said two hives needed to be requeened due to a poor brood pattern, and one of the hives appeared to be superseding. He said he planned on making two Nucs for the club.

**Youth beekeeper:** Sarah Jammer said she is running three mediums in her hive, and her hive is doing well, she added a third super this past weekend.

**St Croix Cty Fair:** Dan Klasen and Claude Bovi reported they intended to do some floor repair at the Honey Hut next week and review any other issues they could see, such as chinking and screen repair. Charlene reminded the club that we are looking for volunteers and the Honey Hut cleaning day is Saturday July 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am.

Melanie reported that the fall picnic date had been changed to September 12<sup>th</sup> and would be held at Brad and Kim Mogen’s farm. Melanie said she would provide further information as the date approached. This was done to accommodate the webinar presentation by Meghan Milbrath at the August 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, which will be held in the Church’s sanctuary.

Brian Keller, club member and local veterinarian, is willing to set up hive visits to establish the relationship required. The proposed date is July 27<sup>th</sup>, members may call Melanie at 651-600-5678 for further information.

**Open questions:** several beekeeping questions were fielded.

**9:05** motion to adjourn by Ken Wooley, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ed Heit, motion approved, meeting adjourned.