



Membership Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2017

6:30 pm – Monmouth County Agriculture Building

6:30: Refreshments

7:30: Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence

Speaker:

- Tim Schuler – New Jersey Apiary Inspector

Tim reviewed results from the winter of 2016. Beekeepers lost 30-40% of hives if the varroa mites were not controlled. The spring of 2016 showed EFB and PEFB (persistent EFB) conditions which did not respond to medication. In order to medicate for EFB using Terramycin, a prescription from your veterinarian is required.

Tim stresses a monitoring/medicating program for varroa mites. The alcohol wash is the most reliable. Add 300 bees to ½ cup of alcohol, shake for 30 seconds. Count the number of mites and divide by 3. This equals the percentage of infestation. Apivar is the recommended medication but you should be testing for mites before and after to determine if the treatment is effective. Keep accurate records and rotate mite treatment (Apiguard, MAQS, Oxalic Acid). Treat when you get the opportunity (honey flow over, weather good) even if your levels are low. It is recommended that you treat for varroa mites three times/year.

Regulations: In July of 2015, three bills were signed which prohibit municipalities from banning beekeeping and made changes regarding the development of regulations to enforce the law. When given the opportunity (as on March 6th), we should submit our comments regarding new regulations.

Beekeepers can set positive examples by: providing water for their bees, staying behind property lines, maintaining a proper hive/property ratio, and controlling/managing swarms.

AFB and EFB: Last year 3 cases of AFB and 108 cases of EFB were found. The year before only 46 cases of EFB were reported. EFB has been on the rise for the last 4-5 years. AFB affects capped larvae and EFB affects open larvae. PEFB is watery and the cell is partially capped. PEFB does not seem to respond to Terramycin dust. Time and good food seems to clear it up. A prescription from a veterinarian is now required to obtain the medication for EFB. (See above)

Other Issues: Tim discourages the use of Queen Excluders.

Be sure to register your hives online at:

<http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/prog/beeinspection.html>

How-To:

- **Geff Vitale gave a presentation on “The condition of your hive NOW”**

Look for/test: Outside activity, Pollen on bees, Knock Test (hear bees?), Weight test

If the temperature is at least 50 degrees, you can open the hive (mid-morning to early afternoon) but do not pull frames.

What to do: If you have a dead hive, close it off so no robbing occurs. Try to find out why the hive died. (mites, starvation)

If the hive is light, you should feed. Give protein patties if there is no pollen or a 1:1 sugar solution inside the hive. Keep feeding until sufficient supplies of pollen/nectar are available.

Do not reverse your boxes unless the top box is full of bees.

- Geff invited the membership to present a 15 minute “How To” topic at the next meeting and asked for possible “How to” ideas.

Business Meeting:

- New Members introduced themselves and were asked to pick up their Welcome Kits at the end of the meeting from Nicole Wagenblast.
- Product Showcase: Several members brought in their “bee” products for exhibition.
- After displaying the minutes from the November 18, 2016 meeting, a motion was made by Nicole Wagenblast to accept and the motion was seconded by a member.

Reports:

- **President:** Geff informed us that we have 5 Broodminders. A member volunteered to manage these but was unable to do so. He asked for other volunteers. If you are interested, please contact Geff.
Newsletter: Contents for the newsletter will be due in late April. Members are encouraged to submit a short paragraph about their experience and/or beekeeping knowledge.
- **1st VP:** Nicole will be posting messages on Facebook. We currently have 232 members however not everyone is current with their dues. Please be sure to renew your membership.
- **2nd VP:** (vacant) The 2017 planned events are as follows:
Picnic – Sunday, May 21, at Oak Tree Lodge in Wall Township (There will be presentations, stations and hands on activities.)
Membership Meeting – June 23
Monmouth County Fair – Last week in July
Master Gardener’s “Bugs, Birds and Beyond” – Saturday, August 19
Membership Meeting – September 22
Thompson Park Day – Sunday, October 15
Membership Meeting – November 17
Hive 1 and 2 Workshop Dates will be sent out shortly.
- **3rd VP:** Ray Pogwist provided the refreshments
- **Treasurer:** Curtis Crowell reports that our balance is \$7,427.74.

New Business:

- Geff asked for suggestions for future speakers for our membership meetings. Contact Geff with your suggestions.
- Welcome Kits were distributed to new members.
- Purchasing Bee Package information (Products list) is now on the website.
- Questions? Swarm Commander was suggested to use for swarms. However, use caution to prevent a haven for wax moths. If you wish to make a swarmbox, it should be 1 cubic foot in dimension. When you register your hives online, you can add your name to the “Swarm Removal” list.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:45 P.M.

50/50 (\$60.00)

Door Prizes

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Juffey, CJBA Secretary