

New Jersey Beekeeping Association
State Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2008
Rutgers EcoComplex, Bordentown, NJ

Hosted by the Central Jersey Branch - CJBA

meeting called to order at about 9:30 by President Pete Leighton

Secretary: There was a motion to accept the previous minutes as published on the website, which passed.

Treasurer's Report: read and approved: Total Assets: \$21,182

Newsletter: Nothing to report. Bill Coniglio observed that the newsletter continues to get better and better.

State Bee Inspector's Report: Bob Hughes reported that the State Honey Show entries should be submitted to Executive Board members in the week before the February 6th State Board meeting. Bob also gave the State Inspector's report, saying that the season was clearly over, with many hives low on honey supplies for the winter. Bob recommends a 60 pound supply of honey for each hive, the equivalent of one deep super of honey. Bob said there was some aster remaining, but very little golden rod left. He strongly suggests checking all your hives and feeding those that are light. Robbing is also likely to increase as food supplies become scarce. Entrance reducers may help discourage robbing.

Fall feeding is generally done at the ratio of one volume of water to two volumes of sugar, thicker in the Fall than in the Spring.

Bob and Tim reported a surge in hive beetle populations, with some traps becoming available for beetles. In general a good strong colony should be able to withstand a beetle population.

As for American Foul Brood, going back over areas that had infections Bob seems to feel that most of them have been cleaned up. He's sure there may be a couple around still, but most have been cleaned up. Bob urged members wanting inspections to get their information quickly to Bob and Tim quickly.

Bill Coniglio reported that his hive stand scale colony reflects a drop in weight of 1/3 pound per day, representing the honey consumed daily by his colony.

609 292 5440 is the phone number for the bee inspector, if anyone wants to contact Tim or Bob for a hive inspection.

New Business – Bill Coniglio reported that the Executive Committee discussed the possibility of funding new projects in 2009, including acquiring hive scales for the generation of statistics that would reflect nectar flows on a timely basis, and providing a means of comparing one year over another.

Joe Lelinho reported that the Maarec website has information on a NASA-sponsored study involving the use of hive scales. Joe pointed out that the person working on this study works for NASA and he convinced NASA to help orchestrate the study.

Bill Coniglio reported on the use of hive scales to focus on the timing of bloom period as affected by climate or other environmental changes.

Pete Leighton urged members with ideas for projects to contact their branch officers. There are funds available in the NJBA to fund such projects.

Cynthia Werts said that the scales are easy to track down. Bill added that some coverage of the entire state would be most desirable. Len Klinker indicated that the logistics of collecting data might be hard to overcome.

Karoly Toth said that he used a hive scale in Europe regularly, from his earliest days as a beekeeper, and the information was invaluable in determining when to harvest honey.

Pete named a committee to include Bill Coniglio and Karoly Toth to look into this further.

Stan Wasitowski reported that we needed a formal letter to the honey board designating someone as New Jersey representative, and it was determined that Stan would be the New Jersey representative.

Nominations committee: Barry Clark, Kathleen Truax, and Ray Pesceovich agreed to be members of the nominating committee for the next State meeting.

By-Laws Change: Curtis brought up the executive board decision to recommend to the membership that dues be increased unilaterally to \$20 for all members, with details to be in the next newsletter. He also said that the attempt to collect dues on time at the end of the year will be under way with a special label on the last newsletter to be published this year.

Bill Coniglio indicated that a formal organization of the scholarship program was forthcoming from the executive board. He added that Janet was attempting to build a collection of images that would be on the website to help people distinguish bees from yellow jackets.

Ed Kosenski mentioned that Kirk Webster was coming down for our Winter meeting, to discuss his apiary operation in Vermont, including not using chemicals, wintering nucs, and so on.

Bill Coniglio asked Tim to comment on an urban beekeeping program in Chicago that may be considered for Newark in 2009.

Stan Wasitowski says the Northwest Beekeepers has the NJBA flag in their possession.

The meeting was adjourned at about 10:30