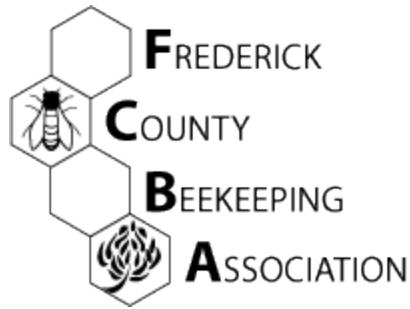


Educate and
Advocate for
Responsible
Beekeeping



Meeting Minutes

April 2, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:30PM by President, Glen Mayers.

New members were welcomed and introduced.

Moderated Topic Discussion: Making a Split facilitated by Rose and other veterans

This is the time of year for making a split!!!

Purpose of splitting a hive: if the bees are packed tight in the boxes, they are starting to think of basic needs...more room. Bees will start thinking about swarming. The key to a split is to prevent a swarm before it has started.

Rose's experience:

In a prior year with a mild winter and a warm March, Rose had 3 full boxes of bees and brood in a hive. With Bill's help she made two splits off of the hive.

1. She tried to locate the queen; couldn't find her.
2. She put a few frames of brood with nurse bees, some empty frames and some frames with honey and pollen in a 10 frame deep box with a feeder.
3. She relocated the split to her other farm a few miles away.

Her reflections: she hadn't made sure there were enough drones available to the queen that early in the season. Without adequate mating opportunities, the queen's eggs were limited and she stopped laying earlier than expected.

Other key ideas to think about from the experts:

Remember the purpose...you are trying to prevent a swarm, but you want to get the split going BEFORE the queen has committed to a swarm. Some try to use a queen excluder to locate the queen, however a queen committed to swarming will be thin to prepare to fly and can make it through. Be careful of destroying queen swarm cells as you are inspecting. These cells will be critical to use in the split.

How do you requeen?

1. Buy a queen.
2. Move a queen cell.
3. Let the hive requeen by giving them a frame with fresh laid eggs in the split.

Where do you put the split?

1. Can move the hive a few feet and put branches in front of the entrance, to force the bees to re-orient themselves (Mike T.)
2. Move them to another location a few miles away.
3. Rotate the hive so that the travel pattern is different. (Rose)

Can you produce honey off of a split or is it like a new hive?

It is dependent on a lot of things...nectar flow, strength of bees... let them build strength and pay attention to the signs that they are giving. You are better off to make the split, than to have a swarm and lose it all!

Kristien warned that you need to exaggerate the split rather than cheat it. You want to have a true 50/50 split to prevent robbing and to give them the best chance for survival.

Think about bait boxes to catch a swarm. Alice warned that if you build a box, it should be OLD wood not new. Others also shared that the bait should be old comb...they love the smell!

Regular Club Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Minutes were sent out after the last meeting through email and posted on the site. No corrections were made, so they were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report

There was a starting balance of \$5,399.94. \$110 was collected for dues, \$10 for an extractor rental and checks were written for \$253.24 for food for the short course. The end balance was 5,266.70. The report was unanimously approved. The budget was verbally discussed and the members were asked for any needed clarification, as the Board has already approved the 2014 budget. No amendments were requested, so the budget was unanimously approved.

Old Business

Fence Hive Status: Kristien shared that one hive has survived and is rather weak. 2 packages have been ordered, so there may be 2 or 3 hives total after installation. Rose noted that a former club member Laurie McCarty has donated all of her bee equipment to the club for various uses. Any woodenware needed for the fence hive can come from this generous donation. Many other items will be included in door prizes for the field day and meetings. She donated a heated decapping knife/plane as well, that will be added to the club's available resources with the extractor. The members suggested sending Laurie a gift card/certificate of appreciation.

Observation Hive Status: Dave has all the parts ready to go in his garage. A package was ordered from Krantz and will be reinstalled at Fountain Rock in the original place.

Short Course Field Day: SAVE THE DATE!!! This has been scheduled for April 26th at Allen Winpigler's out yard on Dean Fitzgerald's farm in Lewistown. There will be a potluck to start at around 11. The club will provide beverages, meat and paper goods. Look for an email to sign up for potluck dish. Allen will have several hives available to work in with an expert beekeeper. You will have a chance to practice lighting a smoker and working in the hive a bit. Please have a veil and gloves and long pants. NO perfume, shorts, leather, wool, dark clothing and especially NO BEAR SUITS!!!

Mentor Map: The map was sent around to be updated. It is located on the club members only portion of the website. The map highlights members who have agreed to mentor new keepers with a green mark and provides an email address for contact. The map highlights mentees in red.

MSBA Report/ Frederick Fair: Bill McGiffin shared his experience in Beltsville propagating 3 varieties of Black locust trees. Liz, her son, Bill, Ed and Harry participated in propagating the roots of the trees. They are currently in the greenhouse in Beltsville and will be brought home to plant sometime in June. The purpose of this project is to see which variety appeals to honeybees the most. Liz shared that the process was surprisingly easy and also shared that the native bee plant list sent out by email was invaluable. Members suggested linking this document to the website as a resource. David suggested Sara Tagrin as a wonderful resource for native bee plants as well. This could be a possible speaker in the future. The latest news on the fair is that the building that the bees are housed in will only be open until 8 PM this year!

Educational Requests: Glen shared that there are many requests coming in for speakers at local schools. The current state curriculum includes some objectives that are relevant to beekeeping. As the opportunities come in, they will be passed along to members to volunteer if they can.

Ag Expo Report: Laura Ritchie shared that the Ag Expo was an amazing event. She thanked Weston and Dave Maloney for also attending to support the student's learning. Kids participated in hands-on stations with the beekeeping equipment, products of the hive, jobs of the hive and anatomy of a honeybee. The coordinator of the event, Dawn Getzandanner would like to work with members of the FCBA in the summer for a kids camp on bees!

New Business

Wildflower Seeds: Bill sent an email regarding an east coast wildflower seed mix that was available. Nellie is interested in purchasing a large quantity, but would like to share out with others interested. Please email Nellie if interested... nellieskt@aol.com

Flying Dog Brewery: Joe O'Connell shared a new venture with Flying Dog Brewery. They are making a limited craft beer for Sept/Oct. They will use 150-200 lbs. of honey. They will tie FCBA into promotions somehow. \$2 from every pound of honey that Joe supplies for the beer will be kicked back to the club. Awesome!

The BIG BEE! Bill McGiffin suggested speaking with Ed Mordan about purchasing the big honey bee that is a staple for the bee booth at the fair. Bill agreed to talk to Ed about a price.

New Location: Lengthy discussion was had regarding a new meeting place. The members narrowed the possibilities down to several locations that can be "tested" in the next months. Holly Hills Country Club will be tested in May with, All Saints Episcopal Church as a possibility for the June meeting. Members are encouraged to explore other options.

The meeting ended with door prizes and was officially adjourned at 8:54 PM with snacks and drinks to follow.

The next meeting will be May 7th, 2014, at 7:30 pm at Holly Hills Country Club.
No snacks!

Directions to Holly Hills from their website:

FROM WASHINGTON D.C.: I-270 North to Route 80 East (Urbana interchange, exit 26). At the end of the exit ramp take a left at the stop light and proceed on Route 80 east. At red light which is Route 355, proceed straight on Route 80 East. Approximately 2 miles turn left onto Ijamsville Road (Hidden Entrance). Follow for approximately 1 mile. After you cross over a narrow bridge, bear to the right onto Mussetter Road, where you will cross over railroad tracks. Bear to the right cross immediately over the railroad tracks onto Mussetter Road. Holly Hills entrance is approximately 2 miles on the left. If you go over I-70, you have gone past the entrance.

FROM BALTIMORE: Route 70 West to Route 75 North (Hyattstown/Libertytown, Exit #62). At stop sign, bear right onto Route 75 North. At the next light, take a left onto Route #144 West (Old National Pike) into New Market. Go through New Market and approximately 3 miles. Look for Dynamic Automotive on the left, which is immediately before Mussetter Road. At the light, take a left onto Mussetter Road. Cross over I-70 and take a right into the Holly Hills entrance. Go straight down the driveway and around the curve to the clubhouse on the left.

FROM FREDERICK: 15 South to Route 70 East (towards Baltimore) to Route #144 (Patrick Street, Exit #56). Turn left at the light onto Route #144 East. Follow for about 3 miles and turn right onto Ijamsville Road (which is right before returning to I-70 East). Make the first left onto Ritchie Way and the next right onto Ritchie Drive. Follow this around to the Holly Hills clubhouse on the right.

FROM WINCHESTER/LEESBURG: 15 North/340 East to Route 70 (Baltimore) to Route 144 East (Patrick Street, Exit #56). Turn left at the light onto Route #144 East. Follow for about 3 miles and turn right onto Ijamsville Road. Make the first left onto Ritchie Way and the next right onto Ritchie Drive. Follow this around to the Holly Hills clubhouse on the right.