



Wannabee Hobby Beekeepers

www.wannabeeclub.org

Meeting Minutes – September 14, 2011

The regular meeting of the Wannabee Hobby Beekeepers was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on September 14, 2011 at the Canyon Lake Senior Center by Lee Alley.

The social time was between 5:30 and 6:00 - James Ann Barlean brought rich & delicious gluten free Honey Vanilla Cheese Cake baked by her mother at Cakes and More (a custom order bakery located at 2402 East St. Andrew – behind FedEx off St Patrick Street).

Although attendance was small for this meeting (about 20 people), the meeting was jam packed full of information. Please take the time to read through all of the meeting minutes below. I've included a table of contents to give you a quick view of all of the information contained herein. And this is just an overview of what is discussed in the meetings – there is so much information and discussion that cannot be captured in meeting minutes.

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Club Business

Treasurers Report: The club has \$892.00 with \$150.00 allocated to the \$5.00 membership refunds to members leaving \$742.00 on the books. Note that members have 90 days to claim their refund checks. If not claimed by the December meeting, the monies will remain in the club.

Old Business

Lee wants to purchase a map that can be used by members to show, with push pins, where their hives are located and include a picture of the beekeeper(s)/hive(s). Lee would like you to email him a picture of you with your bees.

Per a suggestion from one of our newer members, Lee will bring some name-tag tent cards to the next meeting. Everyone can write their name on these cards and place it in front of them so other members can get to know you by name.

Seminars and Education

October Meeting – Guest Speaker Robert Reiners

There wasn't a September 14th meeting seminar. The next meeting (**October 12th**) will feature Robert Reiners, South Dakota State Apiarist from Pierre. The club members came up with the following areas that we would like to see Robert address:

- The Colony Collapse Disorder study taking place in South Dakota
- Tips for disease/pest control
- Advise on using chemical treatments
- Does crop dusting harm bees
- Thoughts on the chemicals used to treat for the Pine Beetle infestations

At the July meeting, the club voted to purchase a set of 'Honey Bees and Beekeeping: A Year in the Life of an Apiary' DVDs that Lee felt could be used to do mini-seminars for the club. For the **November 9th** meeting, Lee will bring in the DVD's and we'll vote on which 30-minute DVD we'd like to watch at that meeting (such as Overwintering Hives). See next section.

Public Educational Seminar

Lee proposed that we host a 'School of Beekeeping' seminar open to the public with 2 separate – 4 hour sessions on January 21 and January 28, 2012. *Lee is asking for volunteers to join a committee to put together the details for this seminar. Tom Allen has already volunteered. If you would like to volunteer, contact Lee.*

The school of beekeeping course would utilize the DVD's the club ordered earlier this year and a potential course study is outlined below. This would be a great opportunity to garner public interest and grow our club membership. There was some discussion that the Public Library may be a good venue for this as well as the Senior Citizens Center.

Honey Bees and Beekeeping: A Year in the Life of an Apiary

Dr. Keith Delaplane

Assistant Professor of Entomology

University of Georgia

“A Year in the Life of an Apiary. Honey Bees & Beekeeping is an eight episode video series and companion book designed to teach novices the basics of beekeeping and to give more experienced beekeepers expanded knowledge. Eight 30-minute episodes on two VHS tapes trace the development of ten honey bee colonies from start-up through a complete year of management. Nationally known entomologist Keith S. Delaplane, Ph.D., is the author of the book and host of the series.” (Source)

1.1: A Year in the Life of an Apiary

1.2: A Year in the Life of an Apiary

1.3: A Year in the Life of an Apiary

2.1: Bee Biology and Equipment

2.2: Receiving and Installing Package **Bees**

2.3: Releasing Queens

2.4: Releasing queens and stings

3.1: Things are buzzin

3.2: The brood nest

3.3: Our growing hives

3.4: Migrating our hives

4.1: Requeening

4.2: Queen Rearing

4.3: Pkg production **beekeeping** associations

5.1: Diseases and pests

5.2: Chalkbrood, sacbrood, moths, tracheal mites

5.3: Varroa mites and queenlessness

6.1: Its Harvest Time

6.2: Extracting **honey**

6.3: Packaging and selling **honey**

6.4: Commercial **honey** processing

7.1: Overwintering hives

ILLUSTRATIVE SCHEDULE FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

Two consecutive Saturdays: January 21 & 28, 2012

8:30AM – 12:30PM

8:00-8:30	Sign in (Seating Limited: Must be pre-registered.)
8:30-8:45	Welcome and Introductions
8:45-9:15	Episode 1 (5)
9:15-9:30	Demonstration and Discussion
9:30-10:00	Episode 2 (6)
10:00-10:15	Demonstration and Discussion
10:15-10:45	Episode 3 (7)
10:45-11:00	Demonstration and Discussion
11:00-11:30	Episode 4 (8)
11:30-11:45	Demonstration and Discussion
11:45-12:00	Wrap Up, Club Signups , and Hand Out Certificates

Black Hills Honeybee Festival

Lee proposed the idea of having a Black Hills Honeybee Festival with craft booths, lectures, demonstrations, etc. See the attached [brochure](#). The proposed date was September 3 but after member discussion of not wanting it on Labor Day weekend, the proposed schedule date would be September 8th (Saturday after Labor Day). ***Lee is asking for volunteers to join a committee to put together the details for this festival. If you would like to volunteer, contact Lee.***

Youth Involvement

Lee and Jerry discussed the importance of getting more youth involved in beekeeping. A place to start is with the Boy Scouts (who used to receive a beekeeping merit badge but no longer do) and with local 4-H clubs. Joan Clements has a neighbor very involved in 4-H and she will talk to them to see if they would be interested in beekeeping for their 4-H club.

Other discussion was setting up a booth at the Central States Fair (where Jerry started a couple years ago) and getting honey, honey products, honey wine and wine making products, wax products, etc. entered into the fair competitions. It's very expensive to setup at the fair so the club may need to consider joining another group such as the Garden Club.

Other members suggested we look into the smaller county fairs like Custer County/Hermosa fair and other small-town fairs that may be less expensive and still give us good coverage.

Jerry goes to Washington DC

David Brave Heart invited Jerry to give a presentation in Washington DC in October. David was an early member of the club and had a hive in North Rapid. When he was transferred to Minnesota, he sold his hive to Nicole. David actively works in Native American affairs and David contacted Jerry a couple weeks ago and invited Jerry to present at this convention; representatives from all Reservations around the country will attend. Jerry said it will be setup like a job fair and he will also have a booth and promote our Wannabee Club. It's a great opportunity for him to share his knowledge and expertise on beekeeping and promote beekeeping on Reservations. Good luck, Jerry!

Media Coverage

Jerry indicated that the new media has been very receptive to bee stories. See the most recent RC Journal article interview with Tom Allen, Jerry Owens and Nicole Preble: http://rapidcityjournal.com/lifestyles/benefits-of-bees-keep-beekeepers-buzzing/article_a2207504-df25-11e0-93b8-001cc4c002e0.html

Bee Class

On September 26 from 6:00-8:00 pm, Jerry will be giving an '[Intro to Bees & Beekeeping](#)' class for the Community Education Center at General Beadle Elementary School in Rapid City.

Public Announcements

It was determined that the Club Secretary will add meeting announcements to the various sites such as www.blackhillshappenings.com

Note: If you know of places where I should add our announcements, please let me know.

Business Card Sample

In discussing how we can grow our membership, the topic of business cards came up once again. James Ann noted that www.vistaprint.com does nice but inexpensive cards. I used their site to design a possible business card that our club could use. This card design, for example, would cost \$19.00 for 1000 cards. These cards could be given to members to pass out to interested parties. And Jerry could pass them out at the educational seminars he gives so people will know how to contact our club. In the sample below, it's a very generic card that relies on the website for people to know who to contact and where we meet as both our officers and meeting place can change.

<Someone with much more artistic ability than I could design a nicer card>



Member Spotlight – Tom Allen

The spotlight was on Tom Allen. He grew up on a farm in west Illinois and was in the Air Force for 20 years. He was stationed at Ellsworth at one point and fell in love with the Black Hills. When he got out of the Air Force, he moved to this area and worked at Western Dakota Technical Institute. He retired in 2001 and joined the SD State Master Gardener Program where he learned that every plant he thought he should kill was actually good in corn crops and soy bean fields, etc. Tom is also a volunteer (and current President) of the Kiwanis club in Rapid City. He met Jerry a couple years ago and was interested in putting some bees in Mary Hall Park. Tom worked with the Parks Department and City Attorney to get permission and Jerry setup the bees in the spring of 2010.

Tom started his own colony this spring and quickly determined that beekeeping is a 'Scientific WAG' on what works and what does not work. His colony filled out 4 frames and stopped. Due to lack of brood and bees, the first of August he requeened and added 2 frames of brood/workers from his neighbors hive. The bees took off from that point – but they are still in one box.

He's been feeding 1:1 sugar water through August and switched to 2:1 sugar water last week – and has added pollen patties to his hive. The bees graze on the pollen patties and devour the sugar water but he's wondering if the young bees/brood end up consuming everything the foragers are bringing back. He noted that his neighbor is adding 2 or more pollen patties at a time and the bees are eating all of them.

Tom is hoping his bees make it through the winter and **he is interested in purchasing some frames full of capped honey so he can attempt to keep his bees alive. If you have some frames you'd like to sell, contact Tom.**

Bill & Joan Clements - Solar Wax Melter

Bill and Joan Clements brought in a solar wax melter they made using a cardboard printer box, a window, some insulation around the inside of the box – sprayed with black paint, and the handy-mans secret weapon, duct tape. Bill made 2 small wooden frames – over the lower frame he stapled fine screen mesh; over the upper frame is normal screen-door screen. Two sticks hold the frames up from the metal paint roller pan. Bill places the slum-gum/wax on the upper frame and closes the lid. As the box heats up, the wax drains through the top screen to the lower screen which further filters the sludge and clean wax drips into the paint roller pan.

Bill says it heats to 150 degrees within about 1-1/2 hours and that's enough to melt the wax. Be sure to use gloves to remove the hot paint roller pan and pour your freshly screened wax into another container for later use.

Thanks Bill & Joan for a fantastic and inexpensive idea !!!



General Discussion

The members discussed what is happening with their bees. As last time - some bees are doing great; others are not doing much at all. Several colonies swarmed, several colonies had to be requeened. Most members are leaving their honey for the bees to eat this winter. Many people have already been feeding their bees (2:1 sugar water this time of year). We've had a nice fall and Jerry said that there is still pollen and nectar available in most areas so you may not need to supplement your bees with feed right now. You just need to monitor your bees to ensure they are bringing home food.

ReQueening

Several members had questions on requeening. As Jerry stated, direct release of a new queen into a hive is a bad idea, even if the original queen is dead. The bees typically will not accept her and will kill her. By indirectly releasing the queen, the colony will get used to her pheromones and by the time she is free, they should accept her (as long as there is no other queen in the hive).

Lee had requeened and had pulled out part of the candy plug on the end. He then placed the queen cage in his hive and checked on it a couple weeks later – to find that his queen and attendants were dead. He confirmed that he had placed the candy plug UP (important to place it up so it's never blocked and the queen can crawl over her dead attendants to get out). It should only take a few days for the candy plug to be eaten through so when requeening, you may want to check within the first week to ensure your queen has been freed.

Florence suggested poking a toothpick through the plug to give the bees a start on eating through the plug.

Combining Hives

Jerry said that whenever you combine hives or otherwise move brood frames, always take the frames from the edge as if you take the frames from the middle and move to the edge, you breakup the brood pattern and will lose half (or more) of the brood.

Overwintering

Jerry suggested preparing your hives for winter in November. Several people plan to use hay/straw bales around their hives while others will use Styrofoam insulation and/or tarpaper or special blankets. As Jerry stated, the most important thing is that the hive has ventilation so condensation does not build up in the hive. Members were cautioned that using anything black around the hive may cause the hive to overheat on sunny winter days and the bees could break their cluster. Florence has a Warre Hive that comes with a moisture-absorbing quilt box; using burlap and dried leaves, she can insulate the top of her hive while preventing moisture buildup.

Membership Roster

Lee is in charge of the club membership roster. If you have changes that you want made to the roster or if you want your email address changed, added or removed, please send these requests to Lee.

New Members

We welcomed new members, Barbara Landers and from Belle Fourche – Bob and Linda Asheim

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Club Officer Contact Information

- President: Lee Alley (605)863-0806 lee@leealleyrealestate.com
- Vice President: Jay Erickson (605)484-7470 jerickson@rap.midco.net
- Treasurer: Nicole Preble (605)484-3669 bluenotes88@rap.midco.net
- Secretary: Linda Anderson (605)390-2141 landerson@rapidnet.com
- Web Site: www.wannabeeclub.org

Minutes submitted by: Linda Anderson

Disclaimer: If I have misquoted you, misnamed you, didn't quote you, didn't name you, or otherwise made mistakes in these meeting minutes, I apologize. Please feel free to send me the corrections and I will correct/publish them in the meeting minutes on the web site. Send to landerson@rapidnet.com

Festival Ideas

Black Hills Honeybee Festival



NOT YET FINAL
CHECK WEB SITE FOR OFFICIAL SCHEDULE
www.WannabeeClub.org

Sept 15, 2012



- **Bee-beard Demonstration**
- **Beginning Beekeepers Workshop**
- **Honey-harvesting Demonstrations**
- **Honey For Sale**
- **Comb-wax Candles, Balm For Sale**
- **Meade-making Lecture**
- **All-About-Bees Lecture**
- **What's Inside a Beehive Anyway?**



**Canyon Lake Center
2900 Canyon Lake Drive
Rapid City, SD**

- **Craft Booths**
- **Honeybee Products**
- **Lectures**
- **Demonstrations**
- **Kids' Games?**

To Sponsor, Display a Booth, or Participate
Go to Honeybee-Festival.org for More Information
Or eMail LeeAlley@WannabeeClub.org