

HEARTLAND BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION of SE KANSAS

GENERAL MEETING NOTES

MAY 3, 2018

Ron called meeting called to order at 6:30pm. Twenty-six in attendance. April meeting notes were read by Pat with motion to approve by Katie and seconded by John. Wayne gave treasurer's - \$2503.75 in checking. Motion to approve by Katie and seconded by Lyn.

New Business:

Ron told about Martha's split, then swarm and then another swarm and talked about the possibility of sometimes having more than one laying queen.

Ron had 37 queen cells in the works. One hatched early and killed all but one other. Has more going now.

He also has been mentoring a new group. They're in their second year and they had a swarm. Ron talked some about making a split before a swarm happens. Went over the signs that a swarm is coming.

Wayne told about a red bird in his yard. He's a birdwatcher and was watching this bird as it sat on his yard chair then take a short flight across yard toward his hives, then back again several times. It didn't take long to figure out that it was catching his bees!

Wood bees and wasps are plentiful this year. Seem to be everywhere.

Katie had a swarm move in to a deadout hive she had sitting on her porch til she had time to clean it out.

Ron followed a swarm one time for about a mile before losing them. The bees were circling the queen the whole time. He also had a swarm in his beeyard one time and caught the queen and hid it in his truck - thinking that the bees would go back into the hive. No, instead they caused a WW III in the bee yard.

Ron talked about moving hives. Best to do after sunset or very cloudy day. Don't close it up, but you can use screen. Put the hive in your truck and drive it 3 miles or more away. Best not to move them on a hot humid night.

Another excellent snack was provided by Lyn and Kelly. (Celery, radishes, carrots, crackers, salami, cheese, hummus, Haloes, tea, cocoa and Kit Kats. Wow.)

Linda talked about how many beekeepers become florists, gardeners, meteorologists, naturalists, etc. She reminded folks that we have Flora & Fauna info on our website with a list of plants that grow in our area that are best for bees. Bees see florescence on flowers that

are like landing strips taking them to the pollen. To attract bees it is best to plant in large clusters. White, red, yellow and blue are colors that attract bees. Flowers that can tolerate heat and drought are best in our area. The mono planting being done today is not so good for bees, but urban gardens are helping them.

Ron talked about adding honey supers to the hive. They should go on soon if you have a two-deep hive that is strong. If two-deep and mediocre may need to put brood from top to the bottom. The queen works up in the hive so if the bottom box has plenty of larvae and brood, she will most likely stay out of the super.

Ron also talked about cut comb honey. Many different processes out there. Ron brought in one of his honey supers with frames for us to see. Honey comb can be sold for more than plain honey, as long as you have a market for it.

Meeting adjourned at 9:01pm.