

## HEARTLAND BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION of SE KANSAS

### GENERAL MEETING NOTES

***FEBRUARY 1, 2018***

Ron called meeting called to order at 6:30pm. Twenty-five in attendance. Minutes of the January meeting were read by Pat and motioned to approve by Lyn and seconded by Linda. Wayne gave the Treasurers report: Balance \$ 2,392.22 in checking and \$402.74 in savings; call for motion to approve by Pat and seconded by Mike.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

*March 9 & 10* (Friday & Saturday): Kansas Honey Producers Spring 2018 Conference at the Ceders Conference Center, 1021 Cedars Drive, McPherson, KS. More info at [www.kansashoneyproducers.org](http://www.kansashoneyproducers.org).

*March 17* (Saturday): Michael Bush Beekeepers' Speaking Event at Pittsburg High School Auditorium, 1978 E. 4th Street (Hwy 126), Pittsburg, KS. More info at [www.hbasek.org](http://www.hbasek.org). We are hosting along with the Montgomery County Beekeepers Association and still need prizes for the drawings if you are so inclined to donate or can work with local businesses who might be want to donate.

*June 2* (Saturday): Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association Bee Funday at Douglas County Fairgrounds, 2110 Harper Street, Lawrence, KS. More info at [www.nekba.org](http://www.nekba.org).

#### **Old Business:**

Ron taught a (hands-on) class on building frames with wax foundation on Saturday January 27 in Gas, KS. It was attended by about 10 students and went very well.

#### **New Business:**

Ron is hoping to have more classes this year; next one in April or May. Possible subjects include Raising Queens, Splitting a Hive/Starting Nucs, Extracting.

Discussed feeding bees. Start sugar paddies for those hives in need. One-to-one sugar/water feeding can be started when weather warms up a bit more. Ron usually starts liquid feeding sometime between February 15 and end of month for those hives needing it. Another method of feeding is opening up a frame of capped honey in the middle of brood box. The bees will move this honey to outer frames opening up cells for brood.

Discussed differences in hive activity during this past month - one hive being more active than one next to it. Different kind of bees (Italian, Carniolan, etc.) don't all become active in the spring at the same time. There may be a problem with the less active hive, but you won't know for sure until weather is agreeable to opening the hive.

Discussed a past robbing problem and possible remedies. Bottom line - it's difficult to stop once started.

Watched a video - "Colony Inspection" with Paul Kelly.

Guest speaker, Andy Nowachek, of Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Association gave a very nice talk on bees. He spoke on several topics of spring hive maintenance including:

Keeping notes from year to year on your inspections and observations.

Getting ready - Pull your equipment out, get organized. Make sure tools are clean.

Planning ahead - What are your intentions? Want more hives? New queen ordered? Do you have all the equipment you will need for the season?

Spring inspections - Don't open hive on a warm day when cold weather is predicted in the next day or two. Look for honey, pollen, queen cells, disease, insects, aggression, number of bees. Hive still tipped a little forward for drainage?

Varroa check - Can use powdered sugar in jar with about 300 bees (2" in bottom of jar). Can open a few drone cells to look for varroa.

Small hive beetles - Look for SHBs. May want to consider moving hive to a sunnier location. Beetles like shade.

Evidence of critters trying to invade - Can use tack strip by entrance.

American Foul Brood - Burn frames.

Arranging frames - Move brood to the middle of bottom box with pollen and honey toward outside. Less filled out frames go in the top box.

Gangbuster hive? - Can add third brood box to facilitate a split when you get a new queen.

Meeting adjourned 8:50pm.