

HEARTLAND BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION of SE KANSAS

GENERAL MEETING NOTES

MARCH 1, 2018

Ron called meeting called to order at 6:30pm. Thirty-five in attendance including some new folks from Joplin, MO, Prairie Home, OK, and Pittsburg. Wayne gave the Treasurer's report: Balance \$ 2,807.22 in checking and \$402.74 in savings; call for motion to approve by Pat and seconded by Linda. Minutes of the February meeting were read by Pat and motioned to approve by Linda and seconded by Lyn.

New Business:

Ron opened a general discussion of beekeeping right now. As weather allows take a look at your hives if you have not already done so. How's your bee population looking in each hive? Do you see pollen coming in? How's their honey stores? Two frames of honey (both sides) can yield one gallon. Small Hive Beetles won't be laying until the temperature is above 65 degrees F. In Spring we want the brood nest open (room for the queen to lay); in the Fall the reverse is needed. What we are doing as beekeepers is manipulating to get the bees to produce more honey than they need - for us.

Next month we'll be discussing *Swarm Prevention*; tonight *Early Spring Management*.

Ron asked if anyone present was interested in a hands-on spring management class in his bee yards lasting approximately 4 hours on Saturday April 7. There was interest and he will be sending out more info later.

Had quick discussion on swarm management. If you are getting queen cells, one option would be to take 2 brood frames and the queen and put in a nuc box with some food stores. The old hive will raise a new queen. Linda suggested checking out "Anatomy of a Swarm" by Dr. Seeley. There's a link on our website.

Dan gave a presentation on "Buying Bees". He covered all the basics, defining terms such as package, nuc, cooperative. Also described how to get your new bees all set up in a hive box. Vendors and costs were discussed. It is best to get your bees locally if possible.

Ron gave a talk on Early Spring Management. Depending on weather early spring management normally starts mid-February to mid-March in our area. If you want to split your hive, you may want to feed your bees early as feeding will spur on the build up of brood. Feeding options were discussed. If you have a weak hive, you may want to consider adding brood from another hive.

Some things to look for during the first inspection of the year:

- Live or dead
- Queen
- Population
- Food Stores
- Equipment condition
- Amount of brood
- Wax condition

Had short discussion on moving hives. Can move hives short distances of about 3 feet at a time (with 3 days between moves), or move them 3 or more miles away. Hives can be moved during the winter.

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.

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. 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.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, April 5, 6:30pm at Yates Hall. A guest speaker has been scheduled - Josh Coltrain, Kansas State University Research and Extension. The topic will be *GMO's*.

Meeting adjourned 8:43pm.