

Minutes of the meeting of Oct 9 2014

The meeting started with a presentation by Adam Finkelstein, co-owner of Maryland-based [VP Queen Bees](#) who gave an interesting talk on VSH traits and their practical use.

Following the raffle Richard Reid led the discussion on what we need to be doing with the bees for winter. The question was asked, how important is it to use wind breaks? Mark Chorba reported that he does not use any even for ones out in a corn field. In most case trees give enough shelter.

Brood should be decreasing; we should begin feeding this month if not already doing so, using 2:1 sugar syrup. . As it gets colder it becomes harder for the bees to dry out the syrup into honey. It is possible to see humidity coming out of entrances. Pollen patties are not recommended in the fall, since they stimulate brood rearing. Other alternatives for feeding are candy boards, boiled sugar syrup, placed on top of frames., noting that burnt sugar is not healthy for bees

Hives need ventilation plus insulation.

Mountain cap method: dry sugar + little water, on top of newspaper on top of hive or on inner cover. Also may add honey to it.

Mouse guard – mice can get through ½” gap, so methods to keep them out include using a screw or nails in entrance reducer, or hardware cloth folded over lengthwise. Mike Palmer living in a rural area with hives near ground successfully keeps out mice using folded cloth. Debris will be present at the entrance if a mouse is present. People reported not closing up screened bottom boards without problems over winter.

The group considered the request to donate to Randy Oliver's site as an association, or to leave it to individuals. A motion was made for the donation, which Tonia Moxley seconded. The motion was not carried. Richard Reid recommended looking at the web site and donating individually

Next item on the agenda was whether the club should purchase Charlie Elgin's extractor. Charlie was a charter member of the NRBVA .Jack Price has all his equipment. It is a Maxant manual extractor, 9-frame radial and tangential medium or small supers. It is in good working order. It can be a lot of work to turn manually. Jerry Borger suggested it could be a raffle item. Fred Jones pointed out that new bee keepers have small amount to extract. Glenn Buss suggested the Association buy it now in order to give Charlie the money, and then we can see over the next year or so if anyone want to use it

A motion was made to buy the extractor, the motion was carried.

It was decided we should pay \$250 for it, but if someone wants it for more, they can do so.

Packages: Mark Chorba will organize. If he orders 175 now and need more, they will come in on later date. Motion carried to order the 175

Bug fest is on October 11th Mark asked for volunteers.

Richard Reid pointed out that nominations are needed for next year's officers. The NRVBA bylaws require three people to create a nominating committee. Mark Chorba, Karl Lefko and Tim Service volunteered for this.

Jerry Borger requested assistance for next year's library presentations and new member classes. He needs help with arranging for rooms, library etc. the Beginners class is the most important, with meals, pickup etc. arranging room, closing down. Needs someone to know what he has been doing in case he is not around. Jim Hill, Richard Reid volunteered,. Mark Chorba reported that both Subway and Jimmy Johns will deliver, and want our business. Mark will look into food, prices, delivery.

An Audit is needed since Jack Price will not be carrying on as Treasurer. Richard Reid, Mark Priest and Glenn Buss will be on it. They will get with Jack before end of year.

No December meeting. Need to reconfirm room for next year for whole of year.

Jerry Borger reported that Charlie Elgin also had other things which could be used for raffle items. It was also suggested that members bring honey samples to the next meeting since we only have two raffle items left.

Submitted by Sue Hossack