

Minutes of New River Valley Beekeepers' Association

March 10th 2016

32 members present.

Jim Hill opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

Minutes of February meeting were approved.

A question was asked about seeing larvae in the hive. Mark Chorba explained that larvae for small hive beetles is small, around ¼" while wax moth larvae are much bigger at around 1"

Mark Chorba reported that package bees are coming on April 24th, Packages will cost \$120 if purchased on the day. There are still packages available for purchase online at \$100 for members, \$110 for non-members.

Many people reported pollen and nectar coming in. Mark Chorba has seen wax moths are already trying to get in his hives.

Alex Hazzouri asked a question about having a strong hive and a weak hive. The weak hive has a small brood pattern. Jerry Borger suggested swapping the two hives so that forager bees from the strong hive will return to the weaker hive. He suggested doing this in the middle of the day when foragers are out.

Richard Reid has sent out a link to an article on the Bee Informed website which discusses ways of looking for varroa mites: <https://beeinformed.org/2016/03/08/why-did-my-honey-bees-die/>

There was a discussion about the possibility of ordering packages without queens, since the queens from Georgia don't seem to do well here, but a queenless package is only \$7 less. It is perhaps better to buy package, replace the queen, or add bees to a weak hive.

To store frames to prevent wax moths getting in, use moth crystals. Wax moths don't like sunlight so frames can be stored outside. Don't store them in black plastic bags in the basement, moths can still get in.

Insulation on hives can be removed now. To move hives a small distance, move them about a foot a day, or take them further away (>2 miles) for a few days, then return. The association has a hive carrier which can be checked out.

Pollen patties are critical at this time, but note that you may get SHB in patties.

Treasurers report:. Expenses for beeyard, class, money coming in for packages. Report was accepted by the meeting.

After the break and raffle, Jerry gave his talk on raising queens. The first "Queens for Pennies," was a step-by-step presentation reviewing equipment and procedures on how

to raise about 10 queens at a time for pennies apiece using a Randy Oliver method of grafting (not the commercial procedure) that can easily be practiced by almost anyone. No exceptional experience or skills needed.

He also presented "Hobbyist Queens Using a Doublescreen," which is a means of raising a handful of queens without grafting. Its threefold purpose is to minimize the swarming urge, maximize honey production, and to encourage the bees to produce large, well-fed queen cells to keep the line of a good queen going, all without taking a hive out of production. Again, no exceptional experience or skills needed.

Both presentations are on the NRVBA website: Queens for Pennies:
<https://nrvba.files.wordpress.com/2016/03/queensforpennies1.pdf> and

Hobbyist Queens using a Double Screen Board
<https://nrvba.files.wordpress.com/2016/03/doublescreendetailed.pdf>

Sue Hossack

NRVBA Secretary