

Douglas County Bees

**January 15th, 2020**

Type of Meeting: Monthly Meeting

Meeting called to order at 7:00 by Treasurer Dave Hubert

15 members and 2 guests were in attendance

Minutes from last meeting were approved without changes.

Treasurer's Report – \$3783.19 plus \$136 dollars in new dues.

New Business

Phil sent a report about the bees lost in Australia due to wildfires which will restrict the honey from Manuka bushes that is very desirable worldwide due to different anti-bacterial activity than regular honey. The shortage will affect the supply of this expensive honey for years to come.

33rd master gardeners show is May 2 at the fairgrounds. The subject will be brought up at the next meeting.

The Earth Day celebration at the Fairgrounds is April 11 2020.

SOBA bee class will be held at Ashland on April 18<sup>th</sup>, costs \$45. The class is pretty much a full day affair and could benefit beginners and seasoned bee keepers.

Old Business

There was a short discussion about ordering a pallet of that is Drivert Sugar. Vote was again tabled until next meeting due to the relative small numbers of attendees. Two members volunteered to go get the sugar if a pick-up was available. David volunteered his pickup but would need some help taking out the 5<sup>th</sup> wheel ball.

Pending a report from Jack, renting a club storage unit was tabled until next meeting  
There is still a need for an event organizer. No volunteers stepped forward to fill this very important position.

Roundtable discussion

David explained using candy canes for winter feeding, how many and were to put them.  
The early indication that this year's weather could be as crazy as last years is so bee survival could be an issue again this year.

Internet videos are a good source of information for beginners if you keep in mind that the methods could differ depending on the location and not all bee keepers send out quality information. Bee keeping for dummies was suggested to give beginners a start and an idea of what questions to ask.

Moisture control using square hive top feeders was brought up. The benefits are the hive moisture is held in the sugar which feeds and dries the hive at the same time.

Possoms and skunks will rob the hive so hive should be elevated about 18 inches.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM