



Audubon Beekeepers Association Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2018

I. Call to order, Welcome to New Members and Guests, and Prayer

Larry Stone called to order the regular meeting of the Audubon Beekeepers Association at 7:00 PM on September 10, 2018 at the Henderson County Co-op Extension Expo Center 3341 Zion Road in Henderson, KY 42420. Larry Stone led our prayer. Special welcome to guests: Mike and Myra Teal.

II. Approval of minutes from last meeting

The minutes from our last meeting were approved as submitted by email to the members.

III. Treasurer's Report

Beginning Treasury balance \$10,185.97 Ending Treasury balance: \$9535.97. Expenses: \$670.00 for Club shirts. Income: \$20.00 for 2018 dues.

IV. Old Business

- a) Check Queens and replace if necessary. With the recent rain, fall nectar flow has started. **Make sure hives have adequate ventilation.** Check your hive beetle devices and add mineral oil as needed. Members again report bumper crops of hive beetles this year. If you are using Swiffer sheets they work best if they are cut down and anchored on the edges of the hive to keep your bees from dragging them down into the frames.
- b) Judge the weight of honey reserves by lifting your hives. It will help you decide if and when to start feeding them.
- c) Bees are still swarming. You can combine swarms with existing hives and use the Queens as replacements for non-producing or lagging Queens. It's a little too late for most beekeepers in our area to get a swarm captured this late in the season to the point that they will survive the winter.
- d) Varroa mite treatments should be immediately implemented if they are not already completed. Treatment option sheet is on the website. Larry Stone contacted Tom at Nod Apiary in Ontario, Canada who is the manufacturer of Mite-A-Way Strips and the newer version called Formic Pro Strips. Shelf life of Formic Pro is

now extended and packaging changes will soon be implemented which will make them easier to unwrap/use. If you have aged Mite-A-Way strips that have brown liquid within the packs that has separated from the gel, you have pure Formic Acid which will not disperse/vaporize over a period of time-it will vaporize immediately on a hot day and may kill your Queen and a lot of her bees. Tom said that the temperatures on the first few days after the strips have been introduced into the hive are critical. Temps should be 84F or less for the first four days. After that time period higher temps should be all right. He recommended only 1 Mite-A-Way strip be used in weaker hives. He also mentioned that they should not be introduced into the hive during prolonged periods of rain. The bees need to be entering and exiting the hive to help ventilate and move the vapors.

- e) Beekeepers of Southwest Indiana will meet the third Thursday of each month (next meeting: September 20th). 6-8 PM Vincennes University Gibson Center 8100 US Hwy 41 North Fort Branch, IN https://www.facebook.com/pg/Beekeepers.of.SWIN/events/?ref=page_internal
- f) You can still order club shirts for \$5.00. Contact Rita Stone. Size: Large was out of stock. You can also pay \$6.00 and bring in your own shirt(s) and the lady will embroider them for you.
- g) Continue to feed new hives 1:1 sugar water. You should be stocking up on sugar when it goes on sale. You should discontinue adding Honey B Healthy as it can lead robber bees to your hives. Bees still have pollen available. Do not add pollen again until late February. Brief discussion about pollen substitutes ensued 😊 AP-23 and Mega Bee are 2 brands. They can be put out on trays but must be kept dry. Roy Lynch said his bees will choose the Mega Bee over the AP-23 if offered both. Curtis says your hives should be winter-ready by mid-October. When temps dip to under 50 consistently, discontinue 1:1 and switch to sugar patty. When to begin introducing sugar patty depends upon each hives food reserves. Better to feed them than lose a hive. Again, Curtis generally uses Christmas as his start time for feeding, but he mentioned that he keeps his hives on the lean side. 😊
- h) **Recipe for sugar patty: Sugar Patty recipe: 4 lb. sugar, 1 tsp. citric acid, 1 ½ tsp Honey Bee Healthy, ¾ C. Apple Cider Vinegar.** LV says you can put the patty on wax paper on the top frame and the bees will chew through the paper. Curtis says he uses White Vinegar. Don't make your mix too wet. Don't try to store it in the mixing container-it will harden and won't come out of the container. When you have it a consistency to stick together, you should wrap the patties in waxed paper or newspaper and set them aside to put in the hives on a decent day. Curtis just drops the patties on the frames over the cluster. Other members use 1" or 2" shims that allow you to rapidly remove the cover board, insert the wrapped patty over the cluster and close up the hive. Keep in mind, some beekeepers pour granulated sugar on newspaper in their hives. Under emergency circumstances, this is always an option and better than doing nothing.

V. New Business

- a) Larry has the club honey extractor up and running Call Larry for an extractor appointment 270-339-7245 He plans to extract until September 30th. Remember that Kentucky labels require the word HONEY, the weight in both ounces and grams and a phone number or email address.
- b) Thanks to everyone who worked the KSBA booth at the fair last month. They moved the booth this year as well as the 4-H location area. Sales were down and the kid-friendly candle-making station sales really dropped.

VI. Education

- a) Bee thinking about our Bee School (March 2, 2019). If you have ideas about a topic you would like to teach or have someone else teach, please contact Larry Stone. To date, we have lined up Kent Williams, John Benham and Shannon Trimboli as speakers/teachers. If you would like to suggest someone for Key Note Speaker please contact Larry.

VII. Save a date

- a) Curtis mentioned that the Tennessee State Beekeepers Conference is October 12 and 13th in Cookeville, TN. They always have Speakers who are in the forefront of the beekeeping industry and is worth the trip for those seeking serious knowledge. <http://www.tnbeekeepers.org/2018-tba-conference/>
- b) We have two members selling equipment and supplies so think about checking with them when you need beekeeping items. Curtis Simpson 270.313.2819 Earl Schnell 812.598.9162

VIII. Adjournment

Larry Stone adjourned the meeting after motion made and seconded.

Minutes submitted by: Diane Fisher

Thanks to The Duggers and Cathy Cure for the door prize which was won by Larry Wedding. Thanks to The Crooks and the Weddings for this evening's refreshments. A big thanks to all who help with refreshments and door prizes.

Next meeting: 10/08/18 **Refreshments:** The Fishers (812-598-3989) and the Geiss's (812-306-3849)

Like us on Facebook at Audubon Beekeepers Association and please check out our website at:

<http://www.audubonbeekeepersassociation.com> Email: audubonbeekeepersclub@gmail.com

Please feel free to Contact Larry Stone, President for club information 270-339-7245