

## **Prescott Bee Club – Meeting Minutes 10/21/2023**

The meeting was held at the home of Susie Robertson – 995 Sheepshead Crossing Road, Cornville, AZ 86325.

The Meeting was opened at 11:12 A.M.

Officers in attendance:       Braidy Boen, President  
  Barbara Peterson, Treasurer  
  Cindy Gates, Secretary  
  
  David Alfonzo, Mentor  
  Susie Robertson, Web Administrator

Member attendance:         26

### **Braidy discussed successful steps to preparing a hive for winter.**

- Insulate the hives. Have an air gap between the hive and the insulation.
- The queens are reducing the number of eggs she lays in order to reduce the population of bees.
- Must check for mites in the fall.
- Look for indications of Foul Brood. We typically only have American Foul brood in our area. It is a bacterium that can be transferred by bees robbing hives. It is common in our area and could result in having to burn hives, bees and all equipment in order to destroy the bacteria.
- Wax months normally migrate to weak and unprotected frames but will also migrate to an active hive with a reduced population. If you have moths, freeze the frames that you find them on. After freezing the frames, wrap them so that nothing can get into the frames.
- Watch for robbing of weaker hive colonies.
- Entrance reducers must be decreased to the smallest opening.

### **Dave Alfonse discussed mentoring updates/issues.**

- There has been an increased number of calls from the public regarding swarms.
- He has noticed new beekeepers dropping out of the club. Some of the reasons may be that they find beekeeping was not for them. Dave is encouraging new and old members to call him or John for assistance.
- Dave handed out business cards and encouraged members to contact him for advice and help.

- He advises members to check for queens in the fall as hives may need to be re-queened.
- Dave has invited Andrew Berkhardt to the Arizona Honeybee Festival so that we can meet and get to know him. Andrew sells the POL line of queen bees.
- Dave also discussed having the club get involved with Yavapai County Fair which would increase the representation for our club. There is also a honey competition at the Fair that all are encouraged to participate in.

### **Arizona Honeybee Festival**

The Arizona Honeybee Festival is being held at Paradise Valley College on November 11, 2023. Our duties will be to work at our Prescott Bee Club booth and act as a Sergeant at Arms in the classrooms when attending a seminar. Susie Robertson will be sending an email to all members with pertinent information for this event. Any questions can be directed to Susie.

### **Susie's Bee Buzz**

Each month Susie provides great tips and information to club members which are very useful in our beekeeping endeavors. Items discussed:

- If you have not treated for mites, she has Formic Pro treatment to give away.
- The bees love the pollen that she is selling this year and she has ideas for pollen feeders.
- She has flowers blooming now which is an indication of the unusual weather this year. It was also noted that bees are still bringing in pollen.

### **New Items / Q & A**

Barbara Peterson has taken over the position of the Prescott Bee Club Treasurer that was vacated by Michael Arnold in August 2023. Barbara, Braidy Boen and David Alfonse will meet with bank officials at Chase Bank on October 30, 2023 to sign appropriate paperwork and make the address change for correspondence.

The Arizona Honeybee Festival will be in lieu of our regular November meeting. An email will be sent out with information on the date and location for our December meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 P.M.

Minutes submitted by Cindy Gates, Secretary