

Prescott Bee Club – Meeting Minutes 9/15/2023

The meeting was held at the home of Beth Ellen Zang – 995 Sheepshead Crossing Road, Cornville, AZ 86325.

The Meeting was opened at 11:00 A.M.

Officers in attendance: Braidy Boen, President
 Mike Coon, Vice President
 Cindy Gates, Secretary

Member attendance: 16

Braidy discussed the following topics:

- Harvesting honey at this time of year. It is recommended that harvest should be done during warm weather or in a warm room. The consistency of the honey will be difficult to harvest when cold.
- The Club has extractors and harvesting equipment that can be used by members.
- Winterizing:
 - Leave 75 lbs. of honey on the hive to get the bees through the winter.
 - Feed if the honey is not enough.
 - Ventilate the hives.
 - Wick moisture out of the hives.
 - Insulate the hives.

Mike discussed testing for mites:

- If there are more than six mites then the hive should be treated.
- Methods of testing include:
 - o Alcohol wash. o Dawn dish soap and water wash.
 - o Powdered sugar. This method is an indicator of mites but not as accurate as alcohol and Dawn dish soap. Additionally, a few Master Beekeepers state that the bees end up dying from this treatment anyways.

Mike discussed treatments for mites:

- He demonstrated the Oxalic Acid Vaporization method.
- Also discussed was the Oxalic Acid shop towel method.
- Oxalic Acid can be obtained in the paint department of Home Depot and Lowes.
- Additionally, there are other treatments that can be purchased such as Apiguard, Apivar strips and Formic Pro.
- It is recommended that hives should be treated in September no matter what the mite count is and should be treated again one month later.

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. The sign-up sheets and additional information will be discussed at the October meeting.

Susie's Bee Buzz

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

New Items / Q & A

Next meeting will be held on Saturday, October 21, 2023 - time 11:00 am until 2:00 pm at the home of Dale and Susie Robertson, 2475 N. Koolridge Way, Chino Valley.

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

Minutes submitted by Cindy Gates, Secretary