

Tri County Beekeepers Meeting Minutes for 3/1/2022

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00
2. Amy Jonas read secretary's report from last meeting. It was approved.
3. Treasure report. Beginning balance was \$8106.98. Clay went through changes and ending balance was \$7452.98. Report was approved.
4. Scholarship report- Two winners are set up and ready to go. The club will be providing 2 packages of bees.
5. Darrin Reis and Glenn Kooiman were present and taking orders for package bees. Members need to order directly from suppliers and the club will arrange a pick-up time at 1 place. Darrin needs orders in by March 20, Glenn needs orders by March 10. Nucs can be ordered from Beau's Bee Yard, White Honey Tree Farm and Rusch Farms. Packages will arrive Easter weekend or the weekend after. Nucs will be available later in the season. Paul Theis and Wayne Rusch will have queens available in June. Glenn will have queens available in April when he brings the bee packages.
6. Beginning beekeeping class given on Zoom by Vern Heise will be available to members for \$20.00 and for non-members for \$30.00. Please sign up online. The money will go back into the scholarship fund. Scholarship winners will be able to take the course for free.
7. Cindy Rusch, Tri County Beekeeper member and lifelong beekeeper gave a presentation on making wax wraps. Wax wraps are a piece of cotton cloth impregnated with beeswax, pine resin and jojoba oil that is used to wrap and preserve food in lieu of plastic wrap. It is reusable, lasts 6-12 months and is eco-friendly:
 - a. Cut cotton fabric to desired size with a pinking shears.
 - b. Melt 100gm beeswax, 30gm pine resin and 1 tablespoon jojoba oil in a double boiler arrangement. This takes about 30-45 minutes. Stir constantly.
 - c. Once pine resin is dissolved paint mixture onto cotton cloth lying on parchment paper on cookie sheet. Place in 200 degree oven for 5-10 minutes or until wax is absorbed by cloth.
 - d. Drape over plastic bags to cool.
 - e. May be cleaned with a cloth after use but do not put in washing machine.Thank you Cindy!

8. What should we be doing now?

Wayne Rusch had some advice for us: When weather gets a little warmer check hives for live bees and feed with a candy board if needed. If bees are dead, empty out dead bees

and brush them off frames. Close all holes into hive to prevent mice from entering. Add a pollen patty at the end of this month to stimulate queen. Add honey to hive if desired but be sure to warm the frames (or the whole box) before adding.

Questions were asked and answered.

Glenn Kooiman volunteered to demonstrate hiving a package of bees in May.

9. Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Rusch