

North Okanagan Bee Keepers

April 16, 2018

Minutes

1. Welcome 7:03pm

Keith welcomed all to our meeting

-34 people were present with 2 being new

- reminder about 50/50 tickets

-Keith gave out a Welcome Letter to new attendees outlining a few things about our club

2. Special Guest: Deb McBride from ALERT (Animal Lifeline Emergency Response Team)

-Deb gave us an informative and detailed talk and presentation about planning for your hives in case of an emergency

-operating from 1994-present

-responds to fires, disasters, etc

-do you have an action plan for your bees?

-commercial operators: get your Premises Permit now, allows you access to your property/bees in case of restricted access to affected areas

-get it from Regional District, free but do it before something happens

-assess your situation: what is your risk assessment?

-consider: windstorms, flooding, hurricanes, wild fires, theft, pesticide use, etc

-thanks was giving to her for coming but had to rush off to emergency in Penticton

3. Discussion -contact bee pesticide applicators

-Keith will draft a letter, contact companies, info will be added to website

-if you want to be added to Swarm List in our website, contact James

4. Business:

a. Adopt Minutes – March 19, 2018 meeting, moved by Carol, and seconded by Kevin & carried

b. Membership Fees: BCHPA or \$20 to local club

-BCHPA will rebate our local club \$10 if you registered before Jan 31

-BCHPA also includes publication: Bee Scene

c. Medivet- company will be stopping all operations due to active ingredient no longer available or being produced

-all inventory will be sold off, get it while you can!

d. Regional Report: Rick Plantinga

-on going problems between beekeepers and blueberry producers

-bees are showing problems after being in blueberry pollination

-more research is necessary

-honey label update: Federal Gov't no longer targeting honey labelling,

exempting honey from being labeled as a 'bad' sugar product

- e. Web Page and Social Network – discussion of how club members can post pictures and discuss with each other's successes and questions
 - James will start a new Facebook page for Club members called North Okanagan Bee Keepers

- f. Spring Field Day – early May at Bill Ruzicka's place on Glenmore Road
 - Bill spoke briefly about keeping local population of Queens pure with his Bee Breeder Circle
 - go to www.mitebegone.com:
 - click 'literature', then find 'successful beekeeping'
 - many good articles
 - too cold to do now, will inform us when he's ready to have people help/learn from him with queen rearing/grafting, etc
 - send e-mail to him

- g. Kamloops Field Day – April 28
 - queens are available, car pool? Call first to request Queens, the queens are Kona queens. <https://www.kamloopsbeekeepers.com/club-calendar.html>
 - Kamloops club always puts on great sessions and is well attended https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100008055645546&hc_ref=ARTGAOWWsoLqNPWtWULI9fM3FQwM2vNGn liYuS-cHWwpBqj39g_LWufEQu-NKNBON0&fref=nf

- h. Day of the Honey Bee – May 29, will do it on Sat. May 26 at Farmer's Market
 - Carol is looking for a few more people to fill in -please talk to her
 - typically will have an observation hive and brochures
 - Farmer's Market will supply tent, table, and chairs
 - Bob Chisolm can supply a hive for us again?
 - members can sign up for a 2hr shift to answers people's questions

- i. John Gates podcast:
 - <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/pollinationpodcast/2018/03/12/john-gates/>
 - John Gates nuc podcast on BC Bees
 - about 1 hour long, well worth it!

- j. New Business:
 - computer: club needs a laptop to use for presentations, guests, etc
 - suggested to purchase one, James may look after this?
 - suggestions from members: laptop must be current and up to date
 - Carol moved, seconded by Kevin, carried by club

5. College Update:
 - still in contact with Okangan College
 - Culinary Department are thrilled in having us yet slow process with upper management in approving bees on property, etc

4. Guest Speaker: Kevin Hamilton, Swarm Collection and Swarm Control
 - Kevin shared with us a great and informative presentation on all aspects of swarms, collecting swarms and preventing or managing swarms along with personal experiences
 - swarms are a natural process, swarm season is about mid-April to mid-June
 - many reason why they may occur
 - discussed how to handle swarms
 - discussed differences between a regular swarm and a dry swarm
 - discussed duties of a beekeeper when collecting swarms and how to be professional with the public when working with a swarm
 - he discussed how to catch a swarm, having proper tools with you during this time
 - be ready to go quickly before they leave or someone else gets it!
 - be professional, be prepared, be courteous to land owner, etc
 - Kevin discussed how to prevent swarms and various procedures to follow

5. 50/50 draw – ticket #183 winner: Carol enjoyed \$51.00

6. Next Meeting: Monday, May 14 at KCS –
 - please note: regular 3rd Monday is on Victoria Day long weekend so meeting was moved to previous Monday, May 14 at 7pm

7. Adjourned 9:04pm