



**FOX VALLEY**  
**BEEKEEPERS**  
**ASSOCIATION**

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**DATE:** 4/24/23

**TIME:** 7:00

**LOCATION:** Bethany Lutheran Church, Batavia

**CALL TO ORDER:**

TIME: 7:05pm

BY WHOM: Sherri Benson

**I. REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**

Secretary

Minutes (128) from the General Meeting on 3/27/23 read and approved as written

Treasurer

Beginning balance 3/6/23: \$3,058.82

Balance as of 3/27/23: \$2,949.82

To be Deposited: \$1,215

VP

N/A

Membership

50 members and 1 guest present this evening

Mike - new member, first season beekeeping, Batavia

Dave - one hive for 8 days; Batavia

Nancy - 1 hive for 10 days

Our guest: here looking to be a member

We reached the second page of membership sign-in since pre-Covid!

**II. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Sherri commented on the success of the table at Geneva Park District for Earth Day; she raised \$250 and noted that there were several young people who expressed interest
- James Konrad - Citizen Science Project

- Raffles today:
  - Bee Nuc donated by Jim Blogh: John Mazur
  - Bee Nuc from Dave Meyer at Meyer Bees: Paul St. John
  - 50/50 raffle: 26 tickets sold at \$65 win Don Draper

### III. SPEAKERS

- Chris Saad: Spring! Swarms, Supering, and Splits
  - **Swarms**
  - Average first swarm is usually around Mother's Day (May 10th)
  - Hives prepare for swarms 5 weeks prior!
  - Setup:
    - Two deeps; bees are primarily in upper box
    - Do a rotation, but not if you are at risk of chilling the brood
      - This will buy you some time
      - There is also some efficiency in requeening a hive, but you can also elect to let them create their own queen
  - Having extra equipment to catch a swarm is helpful
    - 10 frame deep on a stand; 1 bait frame (no pollen or honey); 9 open frames
    - Custom box (size of 8 frame) 1x12 piece of  $\frac{3}{4}$  on the bottom; 1 bait frame (no pollen or honey); 7 open frames
    - Swarms are great wax builders!
    - Can add lemongrass oil on a paper towel in a baggie inside to attract bees. Add 1-2 drops each week
  - **Splits**
  - Star in a Nuc box: 3 brood frames minimum
  - honey frame/foundation
  - Feed syrup 1:1
  - Pollen patty substitute
  - Sunny day temps 60 F or above
  - Finding the queen; you can use the queen excluder to reduce your search time in half. Where you see eggs, she's in that box!
    - You want to rob 3-4 frames of open cell brood. Shake the bees off, and move into a new box. Replace frames in the robbed box.
    - Move the new box over and add a new queen
  - Queen castle
    - 3 equal chambers that holds 3 frames: 1 honey, 1 frame bees with queen cells, 1 frame with bees and/or drawn comb
    - Make sure there are separate entrances and that the bottom board is divided
    - Have three separate lids to check on them separately
    - When the queen emerges (clean uncapped cell); monitor about a week later to see if there are eggs. May be 3-5 days before nuptial flight(s). Usually in 65 F or higher. If multiple queens emerge, they will battle it out
  - **Supers**

- Biggest loss of honey crop is due to improper supering
- Hive prep needs to happen in advance so you are ready when they are
- When you pop open the lid and you see a lot of fresh, white comb, they are ready!
- Nectar flow
- Bottom supering
  - Bees will make more honey because they feel “empty”
  - Drawn comb, you can add multiple supers; with foundation, place one at a time to give them time to draw out
  - Once harvested once, you can go to 9 frames instead of 10
  - If you keep the honey supers on the hive, the bees will maintain them
  - You can start reducing them when you are ready to harvest
    - August is a dearth month; if you are reducing supers, leave at least two for the bees to use
- Queen excluder (“honey excluder” or “swarm inducer”)
  - Supers will stay pristine with no pollen and no brood in it
  - Often they may reduce the production of honey
  - May also reduce swarming
- If brood gets up high, move it down low. Queens will usually stay lower after the tops are full
- **Nectar Flow**
- Black locust typical start date is May 21st-May 25th ; lasts about a week
- Linden is about mid June to July 4th
- White Dutch clover, Sweet yellow clover is about mid June to mid July
- Sweet white clover is about mid July to early August
- Last flow of the season is Goldenrod; about September 1st to 25th
- **Prevention:**
- Reversal/rotation
- Equalizing/splits
- New queens
- **Storage**
- Can store wet frames with moth crystals (not moth balls!)
- Can stack 13-15 high, depending on size

#### IV. FUTURE BUSINESS

- Logo: are we open to updating our logo?
- Open House June 3rd through Hanover Park
- Will Bees - Will County Farm Bureau has invited us to attend their meetings
  - Typically the Wednesday prior to our meetings
- May: discussion on Epi pens (Sherri Benson) and allergies (Marisha)
- Club Picnic June 10th at Johnson’s Mound - need volunteers!
  - If you have anything we can raffle off, please let us know
- Every Saturday is Breakfast with the Bees with James Konrad

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39pm

Respectfully submitted from President's notes,  
Katie Hart, Secretary

***Mission Statement***

*The mission of the Fox Valley Beekeepers Association is to foster the success of area beekeepers.  
This will be accomplished by providing education, fellowship and support to its members.*