



July 29, 2023

Vol. 39, No.30

Diane Forristall, Honey Bees



Diane Forristall, Macedonia, stated her dad (a bee keeper) convinced her to start keeping bees in 2004 when he moved from the farm to town. It was a steep learning curve, and she found you must manage the mites.

Mentoring from Dennis and Tina Murdock in 2016 helped her and she bought a nucleus colony and a Russian colony and expanded. She hasn't bought since. Managing 4 colonies is her sweet spot.

Diane brought along the frames and "supers" for us to view. The frames and "supers" are a combination of wood and plastic where the honey is made. Yesterday she pulled 26 frames stating it will be her biggest honey crop ever. Her goal was 100 lbs., but this year there will be 250 lbs. She sells at Prairie Crossing Winery and from her house and gives to her family. A pound costs \$12.

It is harvest time. Taking the honey off the frames is a process of waiting till they are fully capped and sealed over with wax by the bees. She then uses heated knives to scrape it into a tub. An extractor uses centrifugal force to spin additional honey out of the frames. A hydrometer is used to measure the moisture. If it is too moist, a dehumidifier is used.

Diane dresses in either a bee suit or a shirt and veil when working with the bees. She likes to identify the queen bee by painting it. Sometimes she leaves two queens together to work it out between them. Bees gather the pollen in their back legs and back pockets. Once a month she studies each hive. She's been stung, but it doesn't affect her much. It was stated a honey bee can only sting once. A bumble bee can sting more often.

Honey bees are not native to the U.S. She said they fly anywhere up to three miles. Diane says she really doesn't see them. In their area, there are 14 acres of CRP pollinator seeding

mixture which is 80% flowers, 20% grass. A neighbor has sunflowers. She stated they could also be in the soybean fields. She said she hasn't lost bees due to spray. They have a vineyard with clover that they mow and spray. They use Sevin to control Japanese beetles. This year it's believed dragonflies are eating queen bees.

Testing for mites includes dusting 2T of powdered sugar on about 1/2 cup of worker bees. Flood them in water, and the mites will float off the bees. This number will show the extent of the mite problem.

Diane is married to Gary Forristall and is the mother of Hillary and Kevin. She also has grandchildren. She was the founding President of the Botna Valley Optimist Club. She has been a tax preparer for a number of years, but has retired from that except for a couple clients.

Next week's Speaker:

Travis Castle and Doug Wehring
Treynor Vision Update

Famous Quote

"Learn from everyone."

Ben Franklin

Meeting Minutes

Dale Willenborg, called the meeting to order. Seventeen members were present. Diane Forristall and CadenThomas were guests.

The group recited the pledge and Dee Guttau said the prayer.

Jokes: Keith Denton, Kevin Underwood, and Steve Chambers shared jokes

50/50: Gary Guttau won.

Attendance: Dennis White won, but was not present to claim.

Birthdays: Jim Clausen turned 80 on Thursday. Thanks, Jim, for treating us to breakfast pizza!

Anniversaries: None

Bragging Rights: (Dollars are contributed to benefit local youth programs.)

- Kevin Underwood contributed because he survived helping Bailey White move to Des Moines – numerous trips up three stories.
- Keith Denton stated his son was going to have to be at the Chicago airport this week for 24 hrs., but rented a car and drove home.
- Dick Fox announced he had almost 2 inches of rain (1.8”) this week. (We all think the neighbors are pouring water in his gauge! LOL)
- Dick Fox was pleased to announce they got their cabin in Minnesota sold and will close the middle of August.
- Gary Gutttau didn't brag but still paid to share about his run-away Cub Cadet going from the garden, over the dam and into the creek. The Fox boys helped to get it out and it started this morning!
- Chad Gutttau announced his cat had just one kitten two days ago.

Community:

- WestFair is 50 years old this year.

Business:



Caden Thomas received a \$500 scholarship from the Treynor Optimist Club. He plans to attend IWCC in business or finance and then transfer to a UNL or ISU. He says his plan is to live around here and he's sticking to it! He loves Treynor. His favorite thing in high school was going to all the games and

leading the student section. Caden is a grandson of Ron & Norma Thomas.

- Westfair gate watchers on Thursday were Ken Graham, Dale Willenborg, Gary & Dee Gutttau, and Bill Vorthmann. It was a hot day, but awnings were provided which helped greatly.

- Can Kennel sorting for the Optimists is Wed. at 6 PM. Community helpers would be appreciated.
- Members discussed at length about the concern of how to handle cans in the can kennel in the near future. It is expected that the Glenwood Redemption Center will close. Beginning this past week, a helper is no longer being sent with the driver; however, the cans will be picked up next week and no final date has been announced.

Various other recycling plants were discussed with John and Gary providing information – Atlantic, Shenandoah, Glenwood (temporarily). John Klein is doing more research about Family Fare. In the future the recyclables will need to be hauled to the recycling center. Some recycling centers require cans to be sorted by brand. It is the desire of the Optimist Club to try to continue having the can kennel, but handling will need to change in some way.

One option discussed would be that the Optimists could continue helping with the sorting as in the past and bagging, but then the youth organization receiving the proceeds would need to transport (and sort by brand if required). They may be able to do the transporting within their organization.

Another option would be to see if we can find someone to hire to do the hauling and their expense would then be deducted from the total given to the organization.

Eight cents/can/bottle is received with 5 cents going to the youth organization and 3 cents going to the redemption center.

A motion was made by Gary Gutttau, seconded by Chad Gutttau to get bids for hauling cans/bottles on a regular basis to a recycling center in Atlantic, Glenwood, Shenandoah, or Family Fare (if they approve) and putting it in the minutes for the purpose of getting more information so a future decision can be made as to what option will work best. The vote carried.

This editor is requesting that all readers share this request with their friends and family that the Optimists are looking for someone to haul approximately fifty 50 gal. bags of cans plus boxed glass in a vehicle such as a horse trailer or large truck, etc. on

a regular basis. For more information, contact Dale Willenborg, 402-651-1634 or dalewillenborg@gmail.com

Dale Willenborg stated he will send an email to the youth organizations involved with the can kennel to have a representative at the meeting this coming Saturday to discuss the issue further.

John Klein requested a list of options he put together and sent to the Board be sent to all members. (Members, see attachment.)

- Treasurer Gary Gutttau also reported that some scholarship checks and youth organization can kennel checks are not being picked up and/or cashed in a timely basis. It was suggested that if a check is not cashed within 60 days, it should be considered VOID. A motion was not made so will be considered further in the future.

Tomatoes and cucumbers were provided by Dick Fox and available for first come, first serve.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned with the saying of the Creed.

Calendar

Events

Aug 2 Can Kennel sorting for Optimists 6 PM
Aug 11-13 Iowa District Optimist Convention, Burlington.

Birthdays

Aug 11 Chad Gutttau
Aug 23 Judy Gutttau

Anniversaries

Aug 5 Josh & Shelly Gutttau
Aug 13 Jerry & Barb Hempel
Aug 25 Gary & Julia Funkhouser

Programs:

Aug Jim Clausen (first 2)
Bill Vorthmann (last 2)
Sept Glenrose Meier (first 2)
Judy Gutttau (3rd Sat.
Steve Chambers (last 2)
Oct Gary Gutttau

Speakers

Aug 5 Travis Castle, Doug Wehring-
Update on Vision Treynor
Aug 12 Kim Moore Peterson – her experience
running in the Boston Marathon when there
was a bombing.

HUMOR

There's a strange voice
in my head saying:
"Vacuum the floor,
clean the house!"

Luckily, my mom
always told me not to
listen to strangers...

Editor: Judy Gutttau, judy.gutttau@tsbg.com, 402-670-4330. Contributor: Dee Gutttau, John Klein
Dues/Donations/Flag Money: Mail to Optimist Club of Treynor, PO Box 354, Treynor, IA 51575