

COWICHAN BEEKEEPERS SOCIETY

January 20, 2021 ZOOM Meeting

Start time: 7pm

Twelve club members attended the meeting.

Introductions were made of all in attendance

Vice President Marie Cairns explained why we are creating a Budget for this year. In order to apply for grants each society must provide a budget and explanation for use of the funds.

President Ian Low gave us an update on the requested CVRD pamphlet and what it will encompass.

The attendants were broken up into the following groups:

Beginner: Our little break out session was with Wren Wilder who has been keeping bees for about a year and her main issue was treatment for mites and interest in forage. Also was Nathan and Bobbi who are setting up a farm and returning to beekeeping after a number of years being away. Nathan's questions were about where to get nucs, and what race of bees would be best. Also, in attendance was Masa and at times Nori. After some general discussions about each of their concerns I told them that I would email them the Welcome to Cowichan Beekeepers papers that were handed out last year.

Intermediate: Discussion around mite treatment - oxalic acid, apivar and formic.

Oxalic Acid - General thought is that it should be done before the end of January when there is the least amount of capped brood.

One beekeeper had very bad luck with oxalic acid, viruses, mites and he lost all of his hives.

Vapour is used more in this group than the oxalic drip.

USE A VENTILATOR Oxalic acid is toxic!!

Formic Strips – Most felt they had good luck with these strips and they were easy to use.

Jacques said that he uses them after the honey flow in May.

Apivar – the few that tried it were not impressed or they had varying results.

The return to the main room brought a discussion on types of forage. Buckwheat, phacelia, calendula, borage, clover, hairy vetch and black locust tree (invasive) .

It is legally required to register your hives and everyone is encouraged to update your registration of your bee hives. If you have a question or issues with hives you can contact the Bee Inspector at tara@thesaltyhive.com

Discussion on forage range and there is a feature on this on the BeePlus App that Curtis and Ian both use on their phone to visually see how far their bees fly and which properties fall within this forage range.

The following were links that came up during the meeting:

Langstroth Hives:

<https://horizontalhive.com/how-to-build/long-langstroth-plans.shtml>

Wintering Queens:

<https://bchoneyproducers.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Heather-Higo-Wintering-Queens.pdf>

Forage:

https://botanyphoto.botanicalgarden.ubc.ca/2011/03/echium_vulgare/?gclid=EAlaIqobChMkMn3yJGs7gIVQj2tBh0XcQUrEAAYASAAEgJWJfD_BwE