

A few words from our treasurer, Rose Aniol

The year 2020 was not a great year but everyone always reminds me that it could have been worse.

I started this year with only one hive post bear attack last year. I had been unable to locate any new nucs that late in the Spring/Summer.

This Spring, I purchased four new nucs. All but one new nuc replaced the marked queen for some reason. I had Marlowe come out to take a look and replace one queen and he found a virgin queen in one of the hives we were going to replace the queen in. It was an unsolved mystery. In the end, we had to combine two hives as it was late in the season and one of the five hives was unlikely to make it through the winter as their queen went missing again.

We had several four legged visitors to the bee yard this year. One big bear was able to enter the bee yard without disturbing the electric fence to alert us of its presence. We also had a mama bear and her cubs. See photos. The dates are incorrect as the trail camera resets the time and date for some annoying reason.

We were, however, surprised to see the moose. Who knew moose like honey?

Luckily we made some adjustments to the electric fence, laid down more chicken wire around the perimeter and used Marlowe's idea of putting peanut butter in cans attached to the fence. Previously we were using sardine cans but that didn't appear to be working.

I had a ton of honey but for some reason it all crystallized within three weeks of being put in jars. It almost has the consistency of creamed honey. I am not sure if the honey became creamed as I was spinning the honey out of the frames, or if the bees found some fruit trees. There are lots of raspberry bushes in the area.

My husband Mike was kind enough to put the bees to bed for the winter by himself this year thanks to my unfortunate accident. Next year my birthday is cancelled!!

