**Linda S. Gibson**

June 28, 2023

Fellow Bee Club Friends,

It’s with lots of sorrow and reservations that I send this letter to you.

Back in October, I had eye surgery to correct my peripheral vision.  The surgery went well but I wound up with a very severe case of “dry eye” in both eyes.   Now better than 8 months later, I’ve had to close my custom manufacturing business as even just being in the area without any cutting going on my eyes have an adverse reaction.  This was a difficult decision as I have been selling to retailers for over 42 years.   Just 2 months ago, I started selling my manufacturing equipment.   My vision problems still exist.

June 6th started as an ordinary day but mid-morning I received a call from my friend, Bill Maze (fellow beekeeper member) asking me “which arm is it you have pain in if it’s a heart attack”?  Sure enough it was his left arm so living only 5 minutes away I headed in his direction after telling him to call 911.

With many tests and a heart cath, Bill spent three days in the hospital.  For those of you that don’t know much about Bill……Up until a couple of years ago he was mowing over 30 yards per week and during the winter months he sold firewood.  The winter of 2021-2022 he sold 66 ricks…..so he’s no slacker!  Oh….by the way….he’s 89 years young!!!   We just went to his follow-up doctor appointment yesterday and he must remain on lifting restrictions.

We really enjoy beekeeping but with my eye issues I am no longer able to see the eggs or small “C” cells that we often use to get a queen-less hive to create a new queen.   Now with Bill not being able to help with heavy lifting it’s not physically possible for us to remain beekeepers.   We have not been able to be in the bees for the last few weeks.   Bryan Dougherty was in our bees a few days before Bill’s heart attack and said our hives were doing well.   All hives had queens except two that he thought had new virgin queens.  I talked to Bryan about selling 5 of our 10 hives because 10 hives was just too many hives for us to maintain.   Now that Bill has had his heart attack, our reality has changed our ability to be beekeepers.

We have one of our remaining original hives and will probably keep it just so we have some honey of our own.  But once we get through the week following the Fourth of July we will be looking to find beekeepers that want to expand.  We will be selling hives with:  screen bottom, 2 deeps, 2 supers, inner cover, lid.  Most all of our frames are black plastic for the deeps and yellow or white plastic for the supers.  There is some variation in the lids and maybe 1 or 2 of the screen bottoms.  Once we have sold our hives we will get our other beekeeping things together….have 1 smoker that is brand new never used that we just purchased this year as a back up…..and the one we are currently using was brand new this year.  We have winter wraps/snuggies, several frames that have been cleaned up but need new foundation.  We also have 3 wire racks of other beekeeping accessories etc.

If you are interested send me a text (317) 418-3031.  We are still adjusting to our recent decision.   We hope to remain active in the club with the one remaining hives we hope to keep.  Also I still have lots of FREE Cone flowers that need new homes.

Thanks,

Bill and Linda