Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association
April 4, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Scott Allison  
Keith Anderson  
Sonja Anderson  
Michele Bashaw  
Marge Bernard  
Tal Blankenship  
Linda Brock  
Bonnie Brown  
Gary Buckmaster  
Diane Chambers  
John Chambers  
Griff Colegrove  
Steve Crittendon  
Mary Crittendon  
Bob Davis-Guy  
De Davis-Guy  
Debbie DeRuyte  
Wayne DeRuyte  
Richard Dumanowski  
Linda Ellis  
Steven Ellis  
Darcy Englen  
Gary Feuerhelm  
Norm Foley  
Aaron Friesen  
Dave Garcia  
Debbie Gent  
Amy Godard  
Denise Goscuetu  
Mario Gonzalez  
John Guilbert  
Paul GyGax  
Risa Halpin  
Jennifer Harder  
Marianne Heater  
Kim Henriksson  
Tory Hill  
Rick Hilton OSU  
Carol Housden  
Bret Jensen  
Carol Jensen  
Pam Johnson  
Barbara Jones  
Chris Jones  
Ian Jones  
Joe Jordahl  
Bob King  
Kent Knock  
Kelly Leatherwood  
Leslie Lundgren  
Della Matson  
Julian Mastain  
Bill McEnany  
Cara McEnany  
Bret Moore  
Eric Navickas  
Ken Olnstead  
Nancy Olmstead  
Clint Orchuk  
Jell Palpant  
Jody Palzer  
William Pesterfield

Gary Peterson  
Judy Peterson  
Tom Richardson  
Amy Rudolph  
Sharon Schmidt  
Lewis Severson  
Shari Shattuck  
Kip Skelton  
Don Smith  
Lee Schnitzer  
Sonya Stanchfield  
Clement Stockard  
Jim Thompson  
Anthony Torresson  
Doug Walker  
Jolene Walker  
Cherri Walker  
Dolly Warden  
Pat Warren  
Carlanda Williamson  
Russ Williamon  
Ellen Wright  
Mary Ann Wright  
Wes Wright  
Daniel Yadon  
Carol Young  
Jim Young

Hive Demonstration (Splits) 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM
Call to Order at 7:45 PM

President John Jacob presided over the meeting

Treasurer's Report- Cheryl Housden

Spring Bee School was our biggest ever. We had 101 students: 95 paid and 6 OSU Master Beekeeper Apprentices. Revenue was $5222, expenses were $1589 leaving a balance of $3633. MANY MANY THANKS to the volunteers who made this possible, (most especially Cheryl Housden): Richard Dumanowski , Deb Gent, Risa Halpin, Marianne Heater, Kathryn Voorhies, Richard Hernandez, Rick Hilton, Shari Shattuck, Kip Skelton, Ellen Wright.
T-shirts are available for $10. *First Lessons in Beekeeping* is Available for $9.

**Oregon State Beekeepers Association Regional Representative’s Report – Sarah Red-Laird**

Sarah was unable to attend.

**Secretary's Report - Ellen Wright**

A MOTION to accept the minutes from March was PASSED by majority vote. The minutes are posted on the website under Resources->Club Resources->Club Documents.

**OSU Liaison's Report - Rick Hilton**

Dates for next year’s meetings and bee schools will be set soon.

**Announcements**

Dolly Warden encouraged everyone to check out the new Pollinator Garden in Talent. This garden was developed as part of the Bee City USA initiative that Dolly is spearheading in our valley.

There is a conference about Pesticides, Pollinators, People and the Planets on the SOU campus on April 16. You can find details on the website for Pollinator Project of Rogue Valley.

Since our July meeting falls on July 4th – it will be moved to the next week - July 11.

Fall Bee School is schedule for Saturday July 30th.

**Old Business**

There is still time to sign up to volunteer with school children at AG in the Schools – Thursday May 5, 11-2 and Friday May 6, 8-2. Contact Russ Williamson, or email sobeekeepers@gmail.com if you are interested.

**New Business**

**Let’s Talk Bees**

John did an extensive split demonstration in the club bee hives. The first one he opened was on the verge of swarming, with several swarm cells close to hatching.

With the above average precipitation and warm weather, we are seeing lots of swarms, many very large.

Splitting hives is one method of swarm management. The ideal split is before the colony begins raising queen cells, the population is big, and there are lots of eggs. You can tell if they are starting to do raise queens by looking for white wax flecks on the edges of any queen cups they have prepared previously.

Why is swarm management important?

- Swarms can terrify neighbors who may kill the bees. (This is especially important in urban areas where the bees may relocate in house walls and be exterminated).
- Economic loss – there can be as much as a 60% loss of the bee workforce left with virgin
queens. 25% of virgins never make it. (This means less honey since the population may not build back up in time to take advantage of our short nectar flow.)

- (According to Ramesh at last year’s conference, only 10-15% of swarms survive in the wild. That figure used to be closer to 35%, but has reduced by more than half in the last few decades).

**Swarm Control Split:** If you see swarm cells, find the queen and move her to a new box with a frame of capped brood, a frame of open brood, and at least 2 frames of resources. You are effectively satisfying the swarm instinct with the split. Leave the swarm cells in the old hive to hatch. You want your queens raised under conditions of abundance (in the mother hive); nurse bees, honey, pollen – the conditions in the hive should be really good for healthy queen rearing.

You can also use excess swarm cells to build other splits, but leave several cells in the hive to help ensure that a queen will be raised successfully.

(An interesting variation on the swarm control split is a Taranov Split [honeybeesuite.com/how-to-prevent-swarming-with-a-taranov-board/]

Other kinds of splits

**Flip-Flop:** If you have a hive with young larva, but no eggs, put the new split in the location of the old hive so that the foragers will return to the new split. This is a ‘Flip Flop’ split – you switch locations with the old hive and the new split. This technique can also be used to balance out and equalize a split.

**Pull Up Split:** Find 5 good frames (capped brood, open brood, resources) and shake the bees off of the frames into the brood nest. Put a queen excluder over the brood nest. Put the 5 frames into an empty box and place that box on top of the excluder. Wait and the nurse bees will cover the brood frames sufficiently. Then move the box off of the hive and to a location 2 miles or more away.

You can also make a split by moving a whole box with brood to a new location. This is not ideal. The queen may have already made swarm preparations and the remaining hive may still swarm.

The swarm instinct is tough to manage. It’s best to try to help the bees do what they want to do by dividing the hive in a safe manner mimicking a swarm as described. In our area, the swarm season is mostly over by late June, although there can be some swarms until fall.

A queenless split must be moved two miles or more away. If you add a queen to a split, it can stay in the same yard.

For an ‘in-yard’ split, you want nurse bees. They are not imprinted on the hive location. You can shake in extra nurse bees.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM