Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association  
August 1, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Attendance

John Jacob  
Risa Halpin  
Cheryl Housden  
Sarah Red-Laird  
Ellen Wright  
Rick Hilton  
Keith Anderson  
Sonja Anderson  
Richard Baize  
Cindy Baize  
Bailey  
Marge Bernard  
Linda Brock  
Bonnie Brown  
Chris Curtis  
De Davis Guy  
Robert Davis-Guy  
Richard Dumanowski  
Melissa Duval  
Larry Edwards  
Gary Feuerhelm  
Kim Feuerhelm  
Eric Fort  
Joanne Fort  
Ray Foster  
Debbie Gent  
Jennifer Harder  
Carol Jensen  
Chris Jones  
Ian Jones  
Bob King  
Gavin Kleimon  
Kent Knock  
Leslie Lundgren  
Noah Mannix  
Bill McEnany  
Cara McEnany  
Zachary McEnany  
Betsy Moore  
Ken Muhlstein  
Ken Olmstead  
Judy Peterson  
Stan Schlosser  
Sharon Schmidt  
Shari Shattuck  
Marci Schurman  
Kip Skelon  
Jennifer Spillett  
Clem Stockard  
Anthony Torreson  
Russ Williamson  
Don Yadon

Hive Demonstration 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM:

Call to Order at 7:35 PM

President John Jacob presided over the meeting

Treasurer's Report - Cheryl Housden

78 people attended the Fall Bee School; 10 volunteers, 65 paid attendees, and 3 children. We took in $2180 in tickets and $604 in merchandise; and our expenses were $942.

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

Nothing to report this month.

Secretary's Report- Wright

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

OSU Liaison Report – Rick Hilton

We have a new viticulturist at the extension center starting in September – Alexander Levin. A new plant pathologist will start in October.
Old Business
We have purchased a stand for the manual extractor in Grants Pass.

No nominations were received for our officer positions, so the existing officers will stand unopposed in September.

We received two grant applications last April. They are still under review by the Grant Committee. John thanked all of the volunteers who worked on the Fall Bee School – without their enthusiasm and creativity, the class would not be possible; Risa Halpin, Shari Shattuck, Richard Dumanowski, Rick Hernandez, Cheryl Housden, Kip Skelton, Kate Womack, Jody Palzer, Scott Allison, Ken Muhlstein, John Jacob and Ellen Wright.

New Business
It was suggested that the club do a bulk order for pollen patties and drvervat again this year. Ellen agreed to investigate. Average hives take 3-5 lbs (patties) of pollen substitute in the fall.

The Oregon Department if Justice contacted us and requested a few changes to the bylaws. Ellen agreed to contact them for clarification. (UPDATE: the language they wanted to see was in our Constitution; no changes were required.)

The Fry Family Farm is opening a food hub near the extension center and has been working with Sarah Red-Laird to create a space for processing honey. There would be room to store extractors and other equipment. At present, Fry Family is working with the Bee Girl organization to test out the idea. The hope is that we can set up a training program for SOBA members who can then use the facility. Sarah asked whether the club would be interested, and the response was enthusiastic. She will keep us updated on how we can partner with Fry Family.

Let’s Talk Bees
Your bees are about to raise the most important brood of the year – the bees that raise the winter bees. The bees need protein (pollen) now to raise fat bees, and we are in a forage dearth. Most people will need to feed pollen substitute (John uses Ultra Bee from Mann Lake). 3-7 days after a pollen patty is added, there is an uptick in the amount of brood. You want large, fat bees going into winter. The protein is necessary to produce vitellogenin – the compound necessary for bees to extend their lifespan and overwinter. (Great explanation here: http://scientificbeekeeping.com/fat-bees-part-1/)

John reduced his winter loss to 2.5% this year – he attributes the result to not waiting to sample for mites. John tests once a month and treats when the mites are over the economic threshold (6-9 bees per 300 or 2-3% in fall).

It is very important to rotate treatments, otherwise you will create mites that are resistant to the treatment. Do not treat prophylactically – know your mite count first. (Let’s say you do not count and assume you have a big infestation based on a sticky board 48 hour drop. Then you treat and do a sugar shake or alcohol wash to see how many are left and you get 13. You have no idea if the treatment worked because you did not do the wash before the treatment to get an accurate count, so you cannot make a good decision of further treatment.)

It is past time to know your mite counts and treat if necessary.
John talked about American Foulbrood signs (perforated caps on brood, scale in the cell, bad smell). Stress is a factor in AFB outbreaks and in all diseases of bees – stress can come from mites, lack of forage, weather. Pollen hoarding bees have been shown to live longer. Bees store dry pollen and eat pollen patty substitutes. Pollen patties go in between the brood boxes, If you put the patty above the honey, the bees won’t eat it – they want it next to the brood. Smoke to move the bees out of the way – smashed bees spread Nosema.

A hive will eat a pollen patty (1 LB) in 7 – 10 days – at most 14 days. If they do not, there is probably a queen issue.

At the fall class we did an experiment around mite counts. Both stations first used a sugar shake, counted the mites, then added alcohol and retested. One station had 1 mite with the sugar shake, but got an extra 4 after using the alcohol. The other station had 4 mites with sugar, and 10 with alcohol. Alcohol is much more accurate and can help make good decisions on treatment.

We had a question on burr comb. If there is space in the hive that is more than bee space, or less than bee space, the bees will it with comb. Cross comb connects between two frames. This can happen if the frames are not tight next to each other in an 8 frame box, or if the hive is not level. The bees do OK if the hive is not level front to back, but if the hive is not level side to side they will make wonky comb.

By now hives should be in the winter configuration – frames should be full and there should not be extra space. If you have boxes that are mostly empty – they should be removed. Consolidate. Leaving too much space in a hive is a common mistake. It causes stress since the bees have to police for was moths, protect from robbers, mice, beetles, and heat it.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28