Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association
July 11, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Risa Halpin          Gary Feuerhelm          Paul Moretti
Rick Hilton          Kim Feuerhelm          Clint Orchuk
Cheryl Housden       Eric Fort              Jeff Palpant
Ellen Wright         Joanne Fort            Jody Palzer
                     Anya Garone            William Pesterfield
Scott Allison        Jennifer Harder         James Phillippe
Keith Anderson       DW Jackson             Bonnie Rising
Sonja Anderson       Joe Jordahl            Stan Schlosser
Richard Baize        Kent Knock             Sharon Schmidt
Cindy Baize          Kelly Leatherwood       Taffy Shahbozian
Gaye Cavanah         Leslie Lundgren         Shari Shattuck
Jeri Cowger          Theresa Laveny          Kip Skelon
Steve Crittendon     Chris MacGregor         Don Smith
De Davis Guy         Bill McEnany            Robert Taylor
Robert Davis-Guy     Cara McEnany           Anthony Torreson
Richard Dumanowski  Dennis McCain           Joe Wismann
Larry Edwards        Gavin McCain            Kate Womack
Lynda Ellis          Betsy Moore             
Steven Ellis         Bret Moore              
Greg Fernandez       Chris Moretti           

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

Call to Order at 7:35 PM

Vice President Risa Halpin presided over the meeting

Treasurer's Report - Cheryl Housden
We've spent $500 on getting our first taxes as a 501(c)(3) done. Next year we can do that ourselves, the filing is pretty easy now that it is set up. We have enough in our budget to cover the cost. We are within budget in all other areas.

We have SOBA hats for sale for $18! Cheryl will have them at the Bee School on Saturday July 30 and at the August 1 meeting.

Oregon State Beekeepers Association Regional Representative's Report – Sarah Red-Laird
Sarah was out of town.

Secretary's Report - Wright
A MOTION to accept the minutes from June 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. It is a reflection of how important wine production
has become to our area.

**Announcements**

Sharon Schmidt – Oregon Honey Festival also features mead. Vendors can still apply. Volunteers are needed! The festival is on August 20 at the Historic Elks Lodge in Ashland.

BeeGirl is looking for volunteers for several events, admin work with her in the office, and apiary work. If you are interested, contact sarah@beegirl.org.

**Old Business**

No update on the base for the manual extractor in GP.

**New Business**

Club officers are elected at the September meeting each year. Nominations are due by the August 1 meeting so that they can be reviewed and published before September. The existing officers are willing to serve for another year; however, since Ellen will be unable to attend 2 or 3 meetings in the fall, she encourages nominations for secretary. It is perfectly acceptable to nominate yourself! Email nominations to sobeekeepers@gmail.com. It is perfectly acceptable to nominate yourself!

**Speaker – Travis Owen on Local Bee Forage Plants**

This month we had a speaker, Travis Owen, with a wonderful presentation on bee forage flowers and pictures of some of the 20,000 species of native bees in the USA. None of the native bees make honey – although bumble bees do collect nectar but don’t store it.

Travis divided the forage plants into three categories: invasive (blackberry, scotch broom, star thistle, etc), native (poison oak (!), manzanita, skunk weed, etc), and garden plants (crocus, grape hyacinth, linden tree, etc). The [Xerces Society](http://www.xerces.org) is a good resource for forage plants, and the [SOBA website](http://www.soba.org) has a plant list.

Travis writes a blog called [The Amateur Anthecologist](http://www.theamateuranthecologist.com) for more information.

**Let’s Talk Bees**

A member asked how to tell if her hive was being robbed. Sometimes orientation flights can be confused with robbing. Robbing is typically frantic and violent – you can see bees fighting. There are some YouTube videos that will give you a feel for the difference; for example: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=yniorHx8gCk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yniorHx8gCk)

To prevent robbing:
- Reduce your entrances to defensible space (1 bee width for weak hives, an inch or two otherwise)
- Do not use essential oils in spritz or syrup at this time of year – the scent attracts robbers.
- Open hives only if necessary and only very briefly. Avoid leaving honey or wax in the apiary.
- If robbing is occurring, throw a wet sheet over the hive to protect it until evening. Then add a robbing screen. The next morning the foragers will figure out how to get out and the robbers will not figure out how to get in.
Hives should be 60 to 80 lbs. for winter. The primary honey flows in our area are over, but some folks may have a local flow (star thistle).

It’s important at this time of year to test for mites and treat above 3%. A rule of thumb is to treat in spring if you have more than 10-12 mites per ½ cup bees tested; treat in late summer/fall if you have more than 6-9 bees per ½ cup tested.

Oxalic acid dribble can be a very effective treatment, but should be used only when there is no brood. Treat at the winter solstice (bees should be clustered), swarms before they lay, during a brood break. Using oxalic vapor was discussed, but it can be very dangerous for the beekeeper.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40