Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association
June 6, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Attendance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance Not Taken</th>
<th>Kip Skelton</th>
<th>Lloyd Kirk</th>
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<tr>
<td>John Jacob</td>
<td>Rick Hilton OSU</td>
<td>Russ Williamson</td>
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<td>Risa Halpin</td>
<td>Greg Fernandez</td>
<td>Joe Jordahl</td>
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<td>Cheryl Housden</td>
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Hive Demonstration 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM: Checking for eggs is the most important task. Checkerboard if you have empty frames on the outside of the brood nest and full in the middle so that the queen has space for laying eggs. Spritzing can be used instead of smoke. Use approximately 75% water / 25% sugar with some wintergreen, lemongrass and tea tree oil. (As robbing season approaches, be very careful not to spray outside the hive – and you might want to eliminate the essential oils.)

Call to Order at 7:35 PM

President John Jacob presided over the meeting

Treasurer's Report- Cheryl Housden
We are now officially a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, as of April 18th, 2016. The final costs involved totaled $710.00

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

Secretary's Report- Greg Fernandez filling in for Ellen Wright
A MOTION to accept the minutes from May was PASSED by majority vote. The minutes are posted on the website under Resources->Club Resources->Club Documents. Many thanks to Greg for handling the minutes this month!!

OSU Liaison Report – Rick Hilton
We have a new sound system (microphones) for use during the meetings.

Old Business
Russ says thanks for buying honey sticks for AG in the Schools day, over 700 kids attended.

New Business
It was suggested that we buy a base for the manual extractor kept in GP. Joe Jordahl offered to build one, but we’ll look into buying new as well.

Lloyd Kirk 541-479-6085 is retiring and has some equipment and bees for sale.

Hive Tracks was mentioned as a good system for logging information about hive inspections.

Apiary registration: There’s a new effort to get beekeepers who had 5 or more hives to register their colonies by June 1st. It's a law now. It costs $0.50 per hive plus $10 fee. The funds go to OSU for
pollinator research. Nuc’s do not count (but dinks would).

John suggests also looking into insurance to cover yourself in case someone has an allergic reaction to a bee sting from a colony that you own.

Fall Bee School is scheduled for July 30 at the OSU Extension on Hanley Rd. Fall bee management, increasing honey production, varroa mites, manipulation within the hive using half sheet foundation and other topics to be discussed. Limited to the first 100 people. People are already signing up.

**Let’s Talk Bees**

One member captured a small swarm and after a week there was no brood. By the second week there were eggs, but then after 3 weeks there were queens cells on the surface of the frame. Probably something happened to the queen and they are making a new one. Any fertilized egg can be turned into a queen. Swarms are typically made up of old queens. The queen in the swarm may have been an old queen and maybe they had to replace her. It takes 16 days from egg to hatching for a queen. (a rule of thumb is to allow 28 days for a queen to hatch, mate, and start laying eggs. Minimal disturbance is important during that time period).

Another person installed two 2 NUCs and within four days, one swarmed. The next week, another swarm occurred (from same colony swarmed – an “after-swarm”). If you get a large NUC, checkerboard an empty frame or two in, preferably with drawn wax, to allow the queen room to lay eggs.

If the hive is eggless, that doesn’t necessarily mean that it is queen-less, as there might be a virgin queen. TIP: If you put a frame with eggs into a hive you suspect is queen-less and come back in three days and see them building queen cells, then you can be assured that they will accept a new queen. If they do not make queen cells, then they probably have a virgin queen running around somewhere.

Should you feed a young NUC this time of year? Generally, yes, if it's a young colony so that they can build wax quickly. Feed until the first deep is 80-90% full. It takes 8 pounds of honey to make 1 pound of beeswax.

Feed 2 parts water to 1 part sugar this time of year, but feeding needs depend on the conditions. In the fall, change to a 1:1 mix. Your goal is to get two full boxes drawn and full with food so they survive the winter.

You can over feed where the bees will become “honey bound” (bees putting honey stores where you would expect to see brood) and the queen will run out of room to lay eggs and the queen will want to swarm, so monitor what’s happening within the hive.

If the hive becomes honey bound, add a super and pull a couple of frames out of the brood area and put in the super to encourage the bees to ove up. At the same time, take empty frames from the super and place into the brood area. If your frames are different sizes (brood and supers) then that will get a little tricky.

When should you add supers to a NUC? Add the next box when the first one is about 75%-80% full. There are a lot of variables here.
Bees can swarm anytime of the year. Sometimes they can leave if they are overrun with mites (“absconding swarm”).

August bees are the most important bees you will grow in the year. They raise the overwintering bees.

Ants can be abated by using an internal feeder rather than an external "boardman" feeder. Top feeders and frame feeders allow bees to feed on them throughout the night. Someone said they used cinnamon powder sprinkled around to get rid of ants.

The difference between a queen cup and a queen cell: If there's an egg, it's called a cell if there are no eggs, it's just a cup.

This time of year you can visit/inspect your colonies 10 minutes every 10 days. Sometimes overdoing it is a temptation.

Earwigs coming into the top feeder: They hide wherever they have refuge and bees cannot patrol. Little cups with vegetable oil and soy sauce will catch earwigs and drown them. Diatomaceous Earth works well on earwigs. There is a food grade Diatomaceous Earth. (Put a little in the corners of the inner cover – the bees don’t tend to go to the corners but the earwigs do. You can also put some on the rim of the upper box under the inner cover, and on the ground under the stand legs. Be careful, as DE is harmful to bees too.)

You can anchor a swarm to a box best by using a frame of open brood and prevent absconding. If you have a virgin queen, sometimes it’s difficult to get them to stay.

Roundup is applied to weeds and bees like weeds. This will affect the health of the bees. If you're spraying anything during bloom it will have the greatest negative affect on the bees. Also, be aware of overspray. Apply during the fall so herbicide is drawn into roots and bees are not flying and not actively working those blossoms.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40