Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association
March 7, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Jessica Aures  Jenny Harder  Mary Sale
Ree Auyres  Kim Henriksson  Mary Sale SR
Bonnie Brown  Patrik Henriksson  Marci Schurman
Gary Buckmaster  Tory Hill  Sharon Schmidt
Di Chambers  Rick Hilton OSU  Shari Shattuck
John Chambers  Cheryl Housden  Kip Skelton
Griff Colegrove  Barbara Jones  Stormy Speaker
Jeri Cowger  Chris Jones  Don Smith
Bob Davis-Guy  Ian Jones  Jennifer Spillett
De Davis-Guy  Joe Jordahl  Clem Stockard
Bob Denman  Gary Kliewer  Tony Torreson
Wayne DeRuyte  Kent Knock  Kathryn Voorhees
Richard Dumanowski  Kelly Leatherwood  Eric Wagner
Larry Edwards  Leslie Lundgren  Doug Walker
Kim Elmer  Della Matson  Jolene Walker
Darcy Englen  Juliann Mastain  Cherri Walker
Howell Estes  Bill McEnany  Dolly Warden
Greg Fernandez  Cara McEnany  Russ Williamson
Gary Feuerhelm  Judy Mizratti  Joe Wismann
Kim Feuerhelm  Bret Moore  Ellen Wright
Aaron Friesen  Ken Muhlestein  Mary Ann Wright
Dave Garcia  Clint Orchuk  Wes Wright
Debbie Gent  Jody Palzer  Daniel Yadon
Risa Halpin  Ron Padgett
Mike Hannan  Gary Peterson

Call to Order at 7:30 PM

Vice President Risa Halpin presided over the meeting. President John Jacob is in California stuck in mud up to the middle of his hubcaps.

Treasurer's Report- Cheryl Housden

Bee School is March 19th, from 9am to 4:30pm. The cost is $45. Our speakers are Morris Ostrofsky, Sarah Red-Laird, and Tom Chester. Information about our speakers can be found on the website.

We are working with an accountant to find out how to file with the IRS. After this year, the treasurer should be able to file without hiring an accountant.

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 February was PASSED by majority vote. The minutes are posted on the website under Resources->Club Resources->Club Documents.

OSU Liaison's Report- Rick Hilton
Dr. Rich Roseberg is the new Director for the Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center.

Old Business
Russ Williamson passed around a volunteer sign up sheet for the Beekeeping Table at the annual AG in the Schools Day on May 5 and 6. He needs volunteers for 2 hour shifts to show enthusiastic 4th graders all about bees. Please contact SOBA at sobeekeepers@gmail.com or Russ at sandruss3500@msn.com if you’d like to help. This is a great way for our Oregon Master Beekeeper Apprentices to get volunteer hours!

Sharon Schmidt invited vendors, volunteers, and exhibitors to contact her at oregonhoneyfestival@outlook.com to be part of the Oregon Honey Festival.

New Business
It was suggested that the meeting time be changed to 6:30 – 8:30 PM. In the summer, we will start at the hives at 6:30 and extend the meeting until 9:30. This should make it easier on those who drive long distances to attend. The suggestion was overwhelmingly supported. We will check to see if this would work for John before making the change.

Let’s Talk Bees
Ron Padgett gave a presentation on catching swarms.
To begin with, there are some questions you should ask of the person reporting the swarm:
- Get the correct address and phone number
- Size of the swarm – ask them to send a picture via email or text if possible
- Is it coming out of the ground (not honey bees!)
- How high is it? Get a picture with a ladder or a person in it for reference.
- How long has it been there? The bees get testier the longer they have been clustered in the swarm.

Call right before you leave to make sure the swarm is still there. They only stay in place a short time – from a few hours to a few days.

It’s a good idea to have your swarm catching supplies in your car all season
You can use a large cardboard box with a few windows cut into the box to hold the swarm temporarily. Use screen and duct tape to create the windows.

Carry lopers, pruners, and a small hand saw. Bees frequently cluster on a tree or bush branch. Be sure to get permission from the owner before you do any pruning!

Lightly spray the clustered swarm with a sugar water solution before moving it. This will help keep the bees from flying/scattering when moved.

If the swarm is high in a tree, you can use a 5 gallon bucket with an extension pole. Move the bucket
under the cluster and then give a good upward thrust to knock the bees into the bucket.

To get the bees into the hive box or temporary box, you can:

- Cut the branch and lay it into the box. Cover all but a top corner of the box with a cloth. If the queen is in the box, you will see bees fanning and spreading a pheromone from their nasanov gland to guide the rest of the swarm to the box.
- Shake the bees into the box.
- Shake the bees onto a light colored tarp or cloth spread in front of the box assuming there is an entrance close to the ground. The bees will move from the light cloth to the dark entrance – especially if it smells like a hive in the box. The white cloth makes it easier to see how many bees still have to move into the box.
- Thin spatulas or credit cards can be used to scrape bees off of a wall and into a holding box. Scrape from the top down.

It’s a good idea to put a frame of comb or honey into the box to attract the bees and make it more likely they will not fly away.

Leave the box at the sight until dark, or close to it, to make sure all the scouts have returned and are in the box.

Ron showed us a bee vacuum that could be used. The vacuum must be modified so that it will be gentle enough that the bees will not be injured.

You can also set up bait hives or hive traps to catch swarms. These should be placed about 100 yards from an apiary at about 10 -12 feet high. Put them in a tree or structure on the edge of a meadow or field if possible. Add a frame of old comb and/or a very small amount of lemon grass on a cotton ball in a Ziplock bag with a pin prick or two.

Only 12% or so of swarms survive, according to Ramesh at OSU, so it is a good thing to try to hive swarms and steward them to help them survive.

Bees in swarms are stuffed full of honey and ready to produce lots of comb. Hive them with empty frames to get a good set of drawn comb frames.

Before you move the swarm, take a minute to watch the surface of the cluster. You may get to see scouts doing their waggle dance as they describe any potential future home to the rest of the bees in the cluster.

Consider Checkerboarding to prevent swarming. Here are some links with information about that method:

http://www.knology.net/~k4vb/all%20walt%20articles.htm
http://www.bushfarms.com/beesexperiment.htm

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM