Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association
November 7, 2016 Meeting Minutes

**Attendance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scott Allison</th>
<th>Muriel Gerlach</th>
<th>Dale Puckett</th>
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<tr>
<td>Steve Crittenden</td>
<td>Mysti Jacob</td>
<td>Marci Schurman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard Dumanowski</td>
<td>Barbara Jones</td>
<td>Sharon Schmidt</td>
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<td>Howell Estes</td>
<td>Chris Jones</td>
<td>Shari Shattuck</td>
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<td>Gary Feuerhelm</td>
<td>Ian Jones</td>
<td>Kip Skelton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kim Feuerhelm</td>
<td>Kent Knock</td>
<td>Don Smith</td>
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<td>Debbie Gent</td>
<td>Leslie Lundgren</td>
<td>Anthony Torresan</td>
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<td>Risa Halpin</td>
<td>Joy McMurtney</td>
<td>Kathryn Voorhees</td>
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<td>Mike Hanson</td>
<td>Jerry Menuel</td>
<td>Joe Wismann</td>
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<td>Marianne Heater</td>
<td>Louise Nicholson</td>
<td>Ellen Wright</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rick Hilton OSU</td>
<td>Ken Olmstead</td>
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<td>Cheryl Housden</td>
<td>Nancy Olmstead</td>
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**Call to Order at 6:30 PM**

President John Jacob presided over the meeting.

**Treasurer's Report- Cheryl Housden**

We are within budget for the year.

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

Sarah was unable to attend.

**Secretary’s Report- Kate Womack**

Kate could not attend; Ellen Wright filled in. A MOTION was requested to amend the minutes from October to include approval for a fifth position on the Board; that of Public Outreach and Social Media. Ellen Wright was voted in to fill that position. This action was approved at the October meeting, but missed the minutes as published for approval. The motion PASSED. A MOTION to accept the minutes from October as amended to include a fifth position on the Board was PASSED by majority vote. The minutes are posted on the website under Resources->Club Resources->Club Documents. Ellen will modify the current By Laws to add the position and file with the State of Oregon.

**OSU Liaison’s Report- Rick Hilton**

All research position at the Jackson County Extension Center are now filled; however, the position of General AG Extension Agent is still open. OSU has money from the state to fund an extension pollinator specialist; and Andony Melathopoulos has been hired. Ramesh will focus on research, and Andony will focus on education and extension activities. [extension.oregonstate.edu/news/release/2016/09/canadian-bee-expert-joins-growing-osu-research-and-outreach-programs-pollinator-heal](extension.oregonstate.edu/news/release/2016/09/canadian-bee-expert-joins-growing-osu-research-and-outreach-programs-pollinator-heal)

**Old Business**
Thank you to all the club volunteers for making our Bee Schools such a success!! We were able to donate $3000 to the OSU Bee Labs at the Oregon State Beekeepers Conference this year to support their research on honey bees. The state organization will match the first $500, raising our amount to $3500. This is more than two times greater than any other regional donation. SOBA ROCKS!

A MOTION was requested to start charging a $50 deposit when an extractor is checked out. If the extractor is returned in good condition and clean, the deposit will be returned. Normal wear and tear on the extractors is expected and will not be charged to the deposit. Motion PASSED after discussion of the expectations.

**New Business**

John notified the group that small hive beetles have arrived in Oregon. Please notify SOBA and the OSU Bee Labs if you discover the beetles in your hives so that we can help OSU track the spread. The best defense against the beetles is to keep your hives big and strong. For more information on SHB: [catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9143/html](http://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9143/html).

The **December meeting** will be a year-end chance to socialize at The Urban Cork, 330 N Fir Street in Medford. Bring treats if you would like – perhaps made with honey. Wear an ugly sweater if you get inspired! Or a beautiful one 😊

A suggestion was made to schedule our March and October meetings at the Bear Hotel in Grants Pass since so many of our members live near Grants Pass. Marianne Heater will reserve the hotel for us.

Marianne Heater encouraged members to consider participating in the Apprentice program at the Oregon Master Beekeeping Program through OSU ([extension.oregonstate.edu/mb/](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mb/)) or to consider mentoring for the program.

Sharon Schmidt recommended the movie “Seed: The Untold Story: currently playing at the Varsity in Ashland.

Howell Estes told the club about a project he is starting as part of work he is doing with the Master Gardener program. He is designing a survey to see what plants the honey bees are using in this area in all seasons. He is interested in knowing what pollen is coming in by color and source (if you know) and what is blooming in your area. He is working on a class on how to do a native plant garden that is attractive to bees. He plans to ask the club membership to take the survey when it is complete.

If you have ideas about what you as a beekeeper would like to see in the survey – what data would you like to know - send an email to sobeekeepers@gmail.com and we will forward it to Howell.

**Bear Fences**

Scott Cambell from the Grange Co-op gave a presentation on bear fencing. There are between 16,000 and 22,000 black bears in the state of Oregon; 8-10 thousand of them are in southern Oregon. Scott reviewed the information on our website and recommended the article ([www.southernoregonbeekeepers.org/how-to/protect-your-bees-from-bears](http://www.southernoregonbeekeepers.org/how-to/protect-your-bees-from-bears)). He concentrated on discussing temporary fences – needed when you are moving bees to forage. However, his key point applies to both permanent and temporary bear fences: the fence will not be strong enough to hurt the bear and keep her out. You are installing the fence to train the bear to stay away from the bees. To do
that, you need to get the bear to lick the hot wires and get a good zap at the only place on the bear sensitive enough to matter. Putting bacon fat on the wire, or on a piece of aluminum foil or metal can hanging from the wire will do the trick. (Peanut butter, cat food, tuna fish etc. also work). You can also lay chicken wire in front of the fence to help ground the bear and ensure a good training shock.

Scott recommends 2 strands of 14-gauge electrified wire at 6, 15, and 28 inches from the ground. (Alternatively, run five wires, alternating hot and ground, 3 hot and 2 ground. The bear will ground on the wires when going for the bacon.) Grounding rods need to be pounded 8 feet into the ground so that they are always in contact with moisture. Solar chargers are expensive, but a good option when there is no power nearby. You only need ½ joule for power. Keep grass away from the bottom wire – it will diffuse the charge.

Hives need to be set at least 4 feet from the fence or the bears can reach the boxes. Put signs or flags on the fence as a warning. Check the fence at night – if there is a short you will see a blue flash. Check the fence with an inexpensive circuit checker and re-check frequently.

Put your bear fence up before your bees are attacked by a bear, or it will be harder to keep the bear out with the fence.

Let’s Talk Bees

It’s not cold that kills bees in our area, it’s mites and moisture. Consider the use of a quilt box or insulated cover combined with ventilation holes in the top component.

This long warm fall can lead to later brood rearing, which puts pressure on the winter stores. Look for a brood-less or nearly brood-less window coming up for an oxalic acid dribble treatment. Typically the bees have the least brood on the winter solstice. John recommends using the dribble over the vaporizer because the latter is too dangerous for the beekeeper.

Do not disturb the cluster, even on warm days. It is too late to break the propolis seals and inspect. If the hive is light weight, feed drivel or candy boards. It is important that there is honey or sugar above the cluster.

It’s time to order bees and build and repair equipment for next year. Read bee books (especially Tom Seeley’s books!!).

Consider subscribing to the American Bee Journal and Bee Culture.

Most importantly, don’t forget to snuggle with your Honey! 😊

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM