SOBA Meeting Minutes  
February 5, 2018

Attendees:
Doug Alexander  
Sonja Anderson  
Jane Atkins  
Richard & Cindy Baize  
Chris Beekman  
Linda Brock  
Ron Burrus  
Christine Chumbler  
Ben Collins  
David Cypher  
Bob Davis-Guy  
De Davis-Guy  
Robert Denman  
Richard Dumanowski  
Larry Edwards  
Kim Elmer  
Darci Englen  
Sue Evans  
Jim Ferguson  
Ray Foster  
Kim Feuerhelm  
Gary Feuerhelm  
Erik Fort  
Ray Foster  
Aaron Friesen  
Mike Gallup  
DeNise Garceau  
Debbie Gent  
Risa Halpin  
Marianne Heater  
Mike Hanson  
Rick Hilton  
Steven Hikade  
Cheryl Housden  
Mysti Jacob  
Chris Jones  
Ian Jones  
Kathy Kelly  
Gary Kliwer  
Kent Knock  
Theresa Lavery  
Kelly Leatherwood  
Leslie Lundgren  
Bill & Cara McEnany  
Dennis McKain  
Noah Mannix  
Jessica Mannix  
David Mercer  
Ken Muhlestein  
Ken Olmstead  
Jody Palzer  
Trevor & Tracy Perkins  
James Phillippe  
Dave Powell  
Dale Puckett  
Christine Roberts  
Shari Shattuck  
Kip Skelton  
Lani Soules  
Anthony Torreson  
Jill Townsley  
Carlanda Williamson  
Kate Womack  
Ellen Wright  
David Zemnick

January meeting minutes were accepted by motion (Kip Skelton), second (Kate Womack) and vote of members in attendance.

Secretary Report: Shari Shattuck – minutes accepted as sent. There is a library for checking out beekeeping books

Vice President Report: Our President, John Jacob, is currently in the almonds, so Risa is chair of this meeting.

Treasurer’s Report: Cheryl Housden reported that this year’s budget is in place and can be reviewed. Anyone who would like to see last year’s budget and expenditures can see Cheryl to review a copy.

This year’s spring Bee School will be Saturday April 7 from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm for $45. Confirmed instructors will be Morris Ostrofsky and Jim Smith. Jim is the agriculture commissioner for Siskiyou County CA. Old Sol Apiaries has donated a spring nuc that will be up for auction that day.

Regional Representative’s Report: Mysti Jacob reported that the next State Board meeting is February 24

OSU Liaison’s Report: Rick Hilton reported that he had attended a conference and one of the topics was “Insects being talked about”. The top three were: #3: Spotted Weaver Softworm; #2: Yellow Fever Mosquito; and, #1: the HONEY BEE!

Old Business

Dues are renewable every January, so if you haven’t renewed yet, now is the time. Only current members can be on the swarm call list.

New Business

Risa recommended the following resources for beekeepers who are looking for reliable information about beekeeping:

*The Backyard Beekeeper* by Kim Flottum (a book)

http://www.southernoregonbeekeepers.org/
An open and honest beekeeper friend

In other business, a SOBA member, Gary Kliewer, has a small organic farm in Talent. Long Shadow Fields will be growing seed crops this year, with a special focus on pollinator seed crops.

**Let’s Talk Bees**

Bees are currently bringing in pollen and some nectar. They are brooding up quite quickly, so it’s time to begin watching for signs of swarming. Some of the signs to look for are:

1. Swarm (queen) cells on the bottom of the frames
2. Lots of drones
3. Too many bees for the space available
4. Workers starting to secrete wax
5. Bees starting to backfill brood frames with nectar

To prevent swarming you can try some of the following suggestions. Add a box of drawn comb on top of the hive, but be cautious not to give them more room than they can keep warm. Add half-frame foundation on some frames to provide room for wax builders and drones. Make sure the brood nest is clear and open with enough room for the laying queen. Add a honey super, but be sure the brood nest is not capped with honey (honey-bound). Don’t switch the bottom boxes right now as it is still too cold.

You can also re-queen to prevent swarming as the older queens do tend to swarm then the colony tends to supercede. *Swarm Essentials* is a good book for further information.

This may be a very tricky bee spring this year. It may get cold and wet again and your bees can still starve if they don’t have enough resources. Keep feeding them, but NO wet syrup or pollen substitute. Feed them drivert or sugar bricks if they don’t have enough honey near the cluster.

How to so splits: The easiest way is to find a frame with open brood and eggs (or a queen cell). Put a queen excluder on the top of your hive with an empty box on top of that. Put the following frames in that box: 2 capped brood, 1 open brood, 1 honey, 1 pollen. The nurse bees will move up to take care of the brood. Then move that box 2 miles away so the foragers re-orient. Spring is a better time to do this than winter. Mating flights for queens can occur around the last week of April if the weather is around 69¬°70° F.

If you have moldy frames (with honey or other resources) from a die-out you can put them into another hive as long as you are sure the bees did not die of disease. Don’t add more than two moldy frames at a time to a strong hive.

Tonight was Ellen Wright’s last meeting. She is moving to Minneapolis MN. Some of the many contributions she has given to SOBA are: Developing and maintaining our website; Initiating and implementing our 501(c)-3 status; answering all the SOBA phone calls; replying to many e-mails; being an Oregon Master Beekeeper mentor; and helping develop the southern Oregon Master Beekeeper program. We are grateful and honored for all the time Ellen has contributed to SOBA. We will miss her greatly.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm**