## SOBA Meeting Minutes
### August 6, 2018

**Attendees:**
- Scott Allison
- Kayley Blood
- Hedley Bond
- Linda Bryan
- Luke Bryan
- Ron Burrus
- Noah Clipp
- Tom and Liza Crosse
- Robert Denman
- Richard Dumanowski
- Sue Evans
- Gary Feuerhelm
- Kim Feuerhelm
- Risa Halpin
- Paul Harris
- Marianne Heater
- Cheryl Housden
- John & Mysti Jacob
- Kathy Kelly
- Shawn Kerr
- Kent Knock
- Kelly Leatherwood
- Leslie Lundgren
- Philip Mattos
- Bill & Cara McEnany
- Dave Mercer
- Dave Powell
- Dale Puckett
- Jeffrey Rice
- Kelly Claire Riggle
- Sharon Schmidt
- Shari Shattuck
- Kip Skelton
- Don Smith
- Lani Soules
- Anthony Torreson
- Jill Townsley
- Dolly Warden
- Heather Wolf
- Tifini Wright
- Christina Tyson
- Valerie Chavez
- Kevin Anderson

July meeting minutes were accepted by motion and second and vote of members in attendance.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Cheryl Housden reported that we are in budget

**New Business:** Volunteers are always needed. Contact SOBAvolunteers@gmail.com Leslie Lundgren was specifically looking for volunteers for the Josephine County Fair. Marianne Heater was looking for honey entries for the Josephine County Fair. Sharon Schmidt was looking for honey entries for the Oregon Honey Festival.

Club Officer/Board Elections will be in September. Only paid members can vote. This year’s nominations to date are:

- President: Risa Halpin
- Vice-President: Noah Clipp
- Treasurer: Cheryl Housden
- Secretary: Travis Owen
- Regional Rep: Eric McEwen

All positions are available for other candidates if you know of any members interested in serving in any of these positions. Please send an email to sobeekeepers@gmail.com if you would like to nominate someone (you can nominate yourself)

At the September meeting we will also be giving away (to paid members ONLY) three tickets (to three different members) to the OSBA Fall Conference, to be held this year in Salem on October 26-28. We usually do this at the October meeting, but we wanted to give the winners time to plan and make hotel reservations.

**Let’s Talk Bees**

Jan Lohman gave a talk about *Why Bees Prepare for Winter in the Summer*. Her years of beekeeping experience have taught her that the best approach is proactive, not reactive beekeeping. For her, this means paying attention to what is going on in the hive. If your bees seem hungry, feed them. If the queen is showing signs of failure, replace her.

Honey bees are social insects. You need lots of bees to successfully overwinter a colony. If you catch a fall swarm, instead of re-queening, it could be a good idea to treat them with oxalic acid (while they are broodless) and combine them with a stronger hive.

Some of the things you should be doing in August to promote successful overwintering are:
1. Check for hive size and condition. If you have pierced brood caps or spotty brood it could be either PMS (Parasitic Mite Syndrome) or American Foul Brood. If AFB is confirmed, you will need to burn your hives. If PMS is present, your colony will not survive the winter.

2. Feed pollen patties and thicker sugar syrup beginning as soon as you have pulled the honey from colonies. If you put a good quality pollen patty in and the bees don’t eat it, there is probably a problem with the bees. One pound of pollen patties per colony per week is normal to develop young fat bees for overwintering. Starvation is the #2 killer of bee colonies, but is very avoidable.

In beekeeping it is important to use critical thinking skills. Preparing for winter usually begins in July. The most important keys to overwintering success are:

1. Keep your mite count low.
2. Feed as needed. Be sure your bees have adequate pollen and nectar available all the time. Sugar water should not be fed in the winter. Use honey or dry sugar (drivert is preferred) or sugar bricks instead.
3. A strong population of bees with a good healthy queen. Fat fall bees can live 5-6 months over the winter if they have adequate reserves in the hive and their bodies.

Record keeping is critical to your success, so you can determine what was done previously, if it worked or not, what things to change in the future. The critical factors to record are Date Worked; Temperature; Weather Conditions; Honey Flow? (Yes/No); Queen right? Eggs seen? Treatments Given; Mite Count

In late summer/pre-fall you should finish your honey harvest, complete re-queening activity, strengthen weak or failing colonies, monitor for varroa and treat if needed, and feed if needed. When checking for a good queen, look for the following. Is she laying a beautiful pattern and filling frames “wood-to wood”? Can you see eggs, larvae and capped brood? When you find the queen, is she intact with no missing body parts? Does the brood have a “popcorn” look? (Not good)

Why do colonies die? You need to know, so it’s important to do diagnostics on a colony that died. The most common reasons for colony death are:

1. Varroa infestation leading to viruses in the colony or weakening the colony allowing disease to have a serious impact.
2. Wet, long, cold winters leading to starvation or freezing. (Also “false Spring” that tricks the bees into early build-up followed by more wet and cold)
3. Queen issues
4. Weak Fall colony
5. Lack of ability to take cleansing flights and void wastes

Timing is the most important aspect of good management. Plan with a calendar. Sample for varroa regularly. This should be monthly March through October.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm