SOBA Meeting Minutes October, 2018

Attendees:
(Attendees sign-off sheet was not passed around)

September’s meeting minutes will be up for approval in the November meeting.

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

New Business: Risa and Ellen Wright are working on getting a new SOBA laptop and a mic for guest speakers. A beekeeper in Rogue River is donating some used bee equipment to the club.

OSBA 2018 Fall Conference:

Date/Time
Date(s) - Oct 26, 2018 - Oct 28, 2018
All Day

Location
Salem Convention Center
200 Commercial St SE
Salem, Oregon 97301


Let’s Talk Bees

Noah Clipp gave a talk about Overwintering Bees: Winterizing & Feeding. For those not familiar with Mr. Clipp, Noah is a local beekeeper, small business owner, queen breeder, and honey producer based in Grants Pass.

Noah covered all the important aspects of preparing hives for winter including monitoring for pests, feeding if necessary, and insulation. Some of the key points of his talk were as follows:

- Monitor for mites and treat how you see fit if they are above the 2-3% threshold in an alcohol wash. This should be done in late summer or early fall.
- Ensure there are at least 40-50lbs of honey stores. If not, feed with carbohydrates (use one of the various forms of sugar concoctions, i.e. 2:1 syrup or inverted sugar)
- Moisture in the hive is not good. Honey bees can withstand dry cold much better than wet cold. Tilt hives so rain does not collect on the bottom board through the entrance.
- Install entrance reducers [and mouse guards], and reduce to a single small entrance if necessary.
- Close screened bottom boards. Use the plastic board that came with the bottom if present, or use a piece of plywood.
• Use a quilt board, or install an empty super over the inner cover and fill with an insulating material such as wood shavings (animal bedding) or burlap.
• Upon the onset of freezing temperatures, cease feeding syrup. Instead, feed with inverted sugar (Drivert) or candy boards.
• Try not to break the propolis seal under the lid and inner cover, it will help keep water out and hole heat in. The bees will not be able to reseal the lid until spring.
• During winter, check that the hive is alive by gently tapping the box and listening for the buzz in response to your disturbance. [Tapping can also give a hint as to how full the colony is: a hollow sound suggests a smaller population while a solid dense sound suggests a full hive. This takes practice to discern the difference.]
• Winter is a great time to move hives within the apiary to a better configuration without disturbing their orientation. They will reorient after long periods of not being able to fly due to low temps or poor weather.
• Oxalic acid dribble or vapor varroa mite treatments are most efficacious in the dead of winter when there is the least amount of capped brood present. Don’t do it in the rain.
• Most importantly, most winter prep is done BEFORE WINTER. So, feed and treat (if necessary) in late summer and early fall for the best results.