

CENTRAL COAST BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

CCBA Monthly Meeting Notes

Date: Monday, May 15, 2017

Location: Cynthia LaPier's Apiary, Los Osos CA

Attendance: 25

Practicum: Hive Inspection by Summer VanBuerden

- Summer does not use excluders, instead she moved honey frames up to upper supers and also uses frames with a "honey rainbow" (line of honey along top and sides of frames). She will open up bottom supers to consistently keep moving blank frames into lower supers to ensure there is comb below so queen will stay in lower supers and then upper supers can be used for honey

OPENING THE HIVE

- Start by smoking hive entrance and under cover – then wait a moment. Bees will start to eat honey due to smoke (they will put it back after hive is closed up), smoke also calms them.
- Place lid upside down on ground then place supers on box so you don't have to place supers on ground



Summer preparing the smoker

FRAMES AND FOUNDATION

- In honey frames there is a choice to use 9 frames in a 10-frame super – this allows the bees to draw out the comb more and add more honey. There are 9-frame spacers that can be purchased. This is done in honey supers, not in brood supers
- It is possible to place frames without foundation into hives so bees can draw out their own wax foundation. If doing this in a langstroth hive, need to put foundationless frames between fully drawn frames so that they draw down the wax on the frame so that it will still fit with the hive.
- With foundationless frames, just be very careful how you hold them carefully as foundationless frames are very fragile



Opening Cynthia's hives

QUEENS

- Be careful handling frames with a queen cell – if you flip a frame with a queen cell upside down its possible to harm the forming queen larvae.
- How to tell if a hive is queen-right without finding the queen – look for eggs less than 3 days old. Fresh eggs will look like minute grains of rice.
- If you have a queenless hive with a laying worker, Summer says UC Davis recommends not trying to save it, it will take lots of resources from other hives and will likely not be successful. Better to allow that colony to fade and use other hive resources to start new hives



Examining brood

OTHER INFO

- For ants – summer uses diatomaceous earth on the ground (NOT ON HIVE) around the base of hive stand.
- Package bees – typically want to feed them with a feeder with sugar water until they get established – heavy syrup.
- Summer says that UC Davis says the “blonder” bees are typically calmer bees. Darker colored bees tend to be more feral in nature.
- Be aware of where bees are when putting hive back together so avoid squishing bees – when bees are harmed they give off alarm pheromone

CLUB BUSINESS

Leadership Team

Anna – President

Bruce – VP (not here tonight)

Meg Henry – Secretary, does meeting notes – they get posted to CCBA Facebook page

Cynthia – communications tech

Sarah – treasurer (not here tonight)

Financial Report

Club cash balance about \$600-700 (plus dues paid tonight, not yet counted)

- Anna has ordered a new projector for the club to use at public education presentations – it cost \$300
- Anna also recently purchased some materials for public education

Networking

Swarm List: - if you want a swarm connect with Mike for north county and Bruce for south county

We also need people who will do bee removals – does anyone want to do this? Note – when bees are in habitable space, technically you should have a pest control license so one way is to work with a pest control company and split fees.

Summer is also coordinating swarm list – if you don't want to be on the list any more, please let her know.

Summer is getting three cut out calls for every swarm call this year.

Communications Report (notes from March Mtg):

- Club tee shirts – Cynthia is working on graphics, but would like input
 - ◆ Do we want to print on front and back? How much do we want to them to cost
 - ◆ Tom will help Cynthia
- Club business cards – idea was to have business cards we can hand out when we are at events. Could do this through Vista Print for cheap.
- Name badges – anyone who has paid their dues gets a permanent badge

Education

Mentoring idea – will discuss more next time

Volunteers for apiary meetings in June and July

- Next meeting at Kathy Longacre on June 12 **(note will be the 2nd Monday)**
- July 17 meeting – apiary meeting at Sue Hulsmann's in Paso Robles

- NEW – **CLUB HIVE**: hive would own two hives, they would be hosted at Summer V.'s house – there would be regular visits to the hive on weekend so that club members could follow the activity in the hive around the year. Space is not very large so would probably have to limit to 10 persons for visit. There would be a fee involved and also a liability form to sign.

Public Awareness

COMPLETED EVENTS

List of events CCBA has decided to participate in for 2017:

- Conservation Celebration, Saturday April 8 - 10 am -2 pm
 - Successful turnout,
- Cambria Bee Faire, Sunday May 7 – 12-4 pm
 - Very nice event, not huge but consistent flow of visitors

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Avila Apple Festival – September 2017, exact date not yet set, but maybe Sept 23
- Golden Oak Honey Festival (Paso Robles), October – need team to plan and organize – need to get team started soon
 - Meg wants to organize raffle fundraiser – please contact her to help with getting donations with raffle items
 - Jodi suggested putting a donation out on the table at our booth

Classes for public: consider offering classes to public, maybe at farm supply – gardening for bees, intro to beekeeping, candle making class. ANY IDEAS? ANYONE WANT TO PROMOTE?

Change in city ordinance – Brian is leading effort and getting group together to address

Other items:

- Facebook communications – Cynthia will help with postings
- What to do about swarm response where someone else responds are another person has already started to respond

NEXT MEETING – Monday June 12, Kathy Longacre's house, off Price Canyon Road near Old Edna -

Adjourned: 8:05 pm