

CENTRAL COAST BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

CCBA Monthly Meeting Notes

Date: Monday, July 17, 2017

Location: West Ormonde Road Apiary, Price Canyon, CA

Attendance: +/-25

CLUB BUSINESS

Leadership Team

Anna – President

Bruce – VP

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

Cynthia – communications tech

Sarah – treasurer (not here tonight)

Public Awareness

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

JULY 22 – we will have booth at Lassens in SLO – these public outreach opportunities, support the changes CCBA would like to see in code/regulations across the county. The more public education we can do the better.

Education

- Club Hives –
 - July 29-30 Sat-Sun at 8 am Summer VanBuerden – will lead special practicum to go thru club hives each day. She will review and assess contents.
 - Will do this practicum at the club hive once per month
 - Limited to 10 people
 - Uneven area, so wear good shoes, dress appropriately
 - Contact summer with questions
- John H will teach two classes at Hancock Community Ed
 - Pests and Diseases Sept 9, 16, and 23 – 9am -12 noon
 - Honey Harvesting Sept 30 and Oct 7 and 14 – 9am -12 noon

Fundraising

John C. is donating hive for another raffle – limited to club member. John says if we sell 40 tickets he will donate two hives for the raffle

Practicum: Hive Inspection by John Hupp

Purpose of inspections is to GATHER INFORMATION

MOVING HIVES

- These hives are from Patty Smiths house – Any time you move a hive USE TWO STRAPS. And ONLY USE RATCHET STRAPS – not friction straps which can stretch and allow hive bodies to skew, letting bees out

BEFORE OPENING THE HIVE

- Pause with the hive and give good thoughts/vibes to the hive. This pause will make you more present with the inspection process which will help you to go slow and avoid killing bees
- Smoke only DISTRACTS bees - it does not calm them. Avoid over smoking

OPENING THE HIVE

- Check lid first to ensure queen is not on the lid – about 1% of time queen may be on lid. Even if there is a queen excluder, still a good idea to check for queen in case excluder is bent (plastic excluders tend to bend)
- Optimal set up is inner cover with telescoping outer cover – this creates bee space under the lid and also makes it easier to pry open
- With telescoping cover, must have inner cover or bees will stick cover down and it will be very difficult to pry up
- If its been a while since the hive has been opened there may be burr comb on lid – clean this off.
- Don't fling burr comb on the ground – be sanitary. Bees can end up on the ground if you drop comb on the ground and then you will step on them and they will send out the warning pheromone.
- Place lid upside down on ground then place supers on box so you don't have to place supers on ground
- When smoking – try not to use too much smoke or may add smoke flavor to honey, use sparingly in small puff

REMOVING FRAMES FROM SUPER

- Before taking out frames, number with grease pencil so you know what order/orientation to put them back in – this is important with foundationless frames since drawn comb may be irregular
- With foundationless frames use guide frames to ensure they draw straight OR check regularly to ensure they are not drawing cross comb – also comb may warp if hives are not level – make sure hives are level. Bee build plumb to gravity.
- Remove burr comb from top of frames, by wiggling the hive tool, which allows more control and avoids slipping with tool and killing bees
- When scraping burr comb, keep a container to collect and reuse for candles

- Lift frame out and tap bees off with tool - make sure house bees are shaken over hive so they don't fall on ground. House bees don't yet know they can fly
- Burr comb on bottom of frames is usually a "step ladder" for the bees, so you can leave a little, but not much to avoid crushing bees
- The more careful you are not to squish bees, less alarm pheromone will be released, less likely bees are to get aggressive and sting
- Keep a bucket to collect extra wax that you remove from hive – this can be used for candles or re-purposing back into hive for
- Hold frame vertical to ground so that nectar won't drip out – then turn like a book. This puts least stress on foundation and bees less likely to fall off, and also nectar.
- Holds frames using 3-point hitch for stability – use middle finger under end and pinch with thumb and pointer finger
- Parking a super – how to avoid crushing bees or hurting your back
 - Best to place down with edges off-set to minimize crushing of bees
 - Once way to place is on a plastic tub where there are only four points of contact with bottom of super and less risk to kill bees
- Moving supers – full supers can be heavy, so if necessary, move half of frames out to a holding place, then move super
- If propolis is scrapped off, put it back in the hive as bees will reuse it. If you scrape it off bees will put it right back with take energy so scrape off as little as possible – it's a lot of work for them to replace
- DO NOT drop scrapings on ground as can carry disease and invite pests

FRAMES AND FOUNDATION

- 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.
- Using a 9-frame spacer can be used in 10-frame hive in HONEY SUPERS, this makes the bees draw the foundation out deeper and makes it easier to cut with knife. DO NOT PLACE 9 FRAMES IN THE BROOD CHAMBER – ONLY IN HONEY SUPER
- Two different foundations – plasti-cell and wired wax. Wired wax is preferred by bees but

PROBLEM SUPERS

- Options to get frames out:
 - Use bee escape board below problem super to get bees out
 - OR take super off the set verticals (tipped so frames are vertical and wont slide)
 - OR set on rails on a tub upside down
 - Then can cut away from edges and slide all ten frames out as a unit
- May need to cut out foundation, separate, then rubber band back together

LESSONS LEARNED

- Unless you inspect regularly, better not to use foundationless frames
- Frame sizes differ between manufacturers, so better to use all same equipment from one source or may have spacing issues – for John Mann Lake frames and foundation are the most durable

NEXT MEETING – Monday August 21, SLO Guild, 2880 Broad St, San Luis Obispo, CA

Adjourned: 8:20 pm