

Central Coast Beekeepers' Alliance

MEETING MINUTES for Monthly Meeting – Monday July 18, 2016, 6:30 PM

LOCATION: Kathy Longacre, Price Canyon CA

ATTENDANCE TOTAL: 32

CCBA MISSION – to foster the health and well being of honeybees by supporting best beekeeping practices through networking, education, and raising public awareness.

PRACTICUM: HIVE INSPECTION

Presented by: John Chesnut

DISCUSSION REGARDING VARROA MITE MANAGEMENT

- Oxalic acid just received registration to use – registration does not have application with honey on hive. Need to spin honey off first.
- John C applies his oxalic acid with a glow plug – that vaporizes the acid and then it re-crystallizes and burns the pads off the feet of the mites, then they drop. It cannot penetrate the caps, so must re-treat three or four times about 5 days apart. If no cappings in the colony, good time to treat since will be able to kill phoretic mites (living outside the brood comb). John inserts at bottom board and closes off with towel.
- Oxalic acid is corrosive to human tissue so need to be careful, especially lungs wear protection
- Dosage is 1 gram for single brood (that is a wide safety margin), be careful, can kill by overdose.
- Looking for drone brood - Drone brood is domed like a 22 bullet, where worker be brood is flat across the top.
- Can you just pull out the drones and then won't need to treat for mites? Remove medium frames with drone brood when capped. Mites preferentially lay in drone brood (they are attracted to the drones esters). Drone brood cycle is 23 days so mites can lay more cycles of mites during that time.
- John treats when he sees evidence of mite build up. Uses the powdered sugar approach to assess mite population. To measure bees:
 - 1) look for queen and put her aside on a separate frame
 - 2) then take another frame and shake into a bucket
 - 3) scoop ¼ cup of bees from the bucket

HIVE Inspection comments:

- *Always smoke entrance and lid*
- *Look for the queen on the lid*
- *Hive is honey bound – checker board full frames in this super so they can backfill brood into the super and put the rest in a new super above*
- *Check for queen, but likely she will not be on a frame of capped honey, but down on brood frames.*
- *John collects in April, May, June, and July*

- Using an excluder for bees to move up thru the excluder into the an empty super above the excluder
- Drones are typically not laid in the center of the brood next, queen will usually lay off to the side for brood
- By August, Italian bees may be over bred and will then eat back the stored honey
- In LO in September Senecio and mock heather come on, so after taking honey in august and treating for mites, the hives will then starting putting this honey on again in September that can be used for winter. The September honey is a dark pitchy honey, but it will take the bees thru the winter.
- To see if bees are putting honey, look for shake. Take a frame turn sideways, shake, it nectar comes out, that is “shake” – this is a sign that they are taking on nectar faster than they can eat it back up again.
- Always glue frames in addition to stapling – this will make them stronger! Consider also a nail on the end bar for extra strength
- Pollen tends not to run out but if necessary to help with population increase, can feed pollen substitute. Feeding “sub” can draw ants, so better not to do unless absolutely necessary
- If swarming due to crowding, the old queen will leave when queen cell is capped. So new queen must emerge and mate, so there is risk of destroying the queen cell during inspection or damage or failure during the mating flight – there can be up to two weeks between old queen leaving and new queen starting to lay.

John H -

- Hold frames with “3-point” grip. Bend third finger below and thumb and pointer
- California medium frame – drawn frame below
- Chaining bees should be moved slowly so as not to pull legs off the bees as they cling to each other
- Always hold frames over hive as bees will fall off and queen (if she happens to be on the frame you are holding) could fall inadvertently
- Most cells in brood frame will hold brood of same age toward center as queen lays in a spiral, sometimes de-capped cells indicate there were some feeding cells, BUT it way also be because these are hygienic bees and they have decapped a cell to remove drone brood with mites
- Queen cups are to make a replacement queen when bees are ready to swarm. Sometimes bees will make cup but not use it right away – so this is a sign to add more space (new super or frames) for the bees to move into.
- Queen excluder should be placed so ensure bee space. Better not to use plastic excluders as they sag in the middle and can crush bees
- Inner cover allows for easier opening of the telescoping cover, bees will propolyze the cover so has to be pried up.
- Add notes on outside of the super to keep track of activities in the hive

CLUB BUSINESS

John C has done school presentations - he suggests that the club get poster boards for using in presentations.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

- Temporary Oak tree protection ordinance, need to gather more support for permanent ordinance

FINANCIAL REPORT

- Dale out this meeting – so no financial report
- New member fee is \$10 – CASH ONLY. Dues are due now, please give to Dale

SWARM LIST

- Still maintaining swarm list – add your name if you want to be called
- Bruce and Mike are contact for swarm list

OTHER ACCOUNCEMENTS

Club Goals are:

- 1. Networking – support each other in beekeeping***
- 2. Education***
- 3. Public Awareness***

How we are meeting goals:

NETWORKING

- Through club meetings

EDUCATION

- There is a Natural Beekeeping conference August 19-21 in Pasadena – www.honeylove.org
 - Michael Bush, Les Crower and others will be there
 - \$305 before July 17

PUBLIC AWARENESS

- Participation the recent events:
 - Earth Day April 2016 – in El Chorro Regional Park. Had a table, talked to lots of visitors, was productive but A LOT of work, need more people to help, otherwise it is too long of a day
 - Conservation Celebration at Atascadero Zoo in April 2016 – good attendance
 - Cambria Bee Faire May 2016 – decent attendance, fun group, Jon C. found out that Cambria High School would like to host bees, Anna would like to do this festival again – even more positive than Earth Day
 - Pollination Celebration at the grange – June 25
 - moderate attendance
 - Lavender Festival – Paso Robles, city park, very good attendance

- Upcoming Events:
 - Golden Oak Honey Festival – October 22, Jodi is coordinating, needs help

NEXT MEETING – August 15, 6:30-8:30 PM, SLO Grange, 2880 Broad St. SLO

OTHER

- Look into a honey selling co-operative – discuss at next meeting
- HONEY HARVEST: John C – will open his extractor if there are enough persons. Club has two frame extractor - \$25 for 2 weeks, contact Erin Holden.