

CCBA Monthly Meeting Notes

Date: Monday, October 17, 2016

Location: Meg Henry's house, Los Osos

Attendance: 13

Networking

Welcome, Introductions, and General Discussion about members' hives

- Threshold for mites is 9 per ½ cup of bees when doing sugar shake
- Hives can sometime migrate to the warm side of the hive (sunny side) in the winter
- Can bee hives be placed on platform to protect from bees? John C knows someone in Oregon who had hives on a 25 ft platform. Worked for a year then bears figured out how to get into it. Commercial beekeepers

Practicum: John Chesnut – What's going on this month

- This point in October is peak mortality period. If a hive makes it to thanksgiving, it will probably make it to spring, October and November are months with most risk for hive failure
- In South County – commercial hives are brought in this time of year (to get them out of the tule fog in the valley and get hives strong by Feb 1), these bees can do a lot of robbing of hobby hives
- We're just at the cusp of the start of winter bloom
- In Chorro Valley, German ivy is budded and should open soon with these rains. Blue gum
- From the next month (or until late November), can feed heavy sugar syrup – 2 parts sugar to 1 part water. To make fill with sugar, then fill with water until dissolves, then continue to fill back to original level of sugar.
- Sugar will mold less quickly if vitamin C (grind vitamin C pills, or get powdered citric acid used for canning) is added to the sugar syrup. Add 1 TSP to a gallon. This works as a catalyst to invert sugars. pH is lowered, so inverting prevents molding.
- Once temp drops to 40 degrees, bees will no longer take sugar effectively because it cools the hive too much. Feed they will take in winter is "sub" patties or fondant
- John C did his hive splits at the end of February last year and had a lot of queen mortality, so this year he will start splitting in mid-March

Financial Report

- Current balance is \$328.22
- Anna purchased tables and tablecloths – total cost to club was \$133.12
- We will do dues for 2017 in January. At that time consider making membership cards
- Tractor Supply in SLO says they will give our club members 10% discount on bee

equipment – general manager can order anything for us without shipping. Brand they are carrying is called “Harvest Lane Honey”

- “Cyber Monday” after Thanksgiving Dadant does a free shipping day.
- We could also do a co-op run to Dadant in January

Swarm List – Bruce and Mike maintaining list of names of folks interested in swarms

Networking

- Sign in/email list – sign up if you want emails
- Club meeting in Nov and Dec??
 - John C – during those months is when to buy supplies for coming year – John does bulk order, Dadant has black Monday sale right after thanksgiving when they don’t have delivery charges
 - Aim for co-op buy in January
- Potential topics for January’s meeting would be 1) equipment, 2) swarm prevention
- In January or February John C will hold a wired wax foundation workshop
- Elections in January: president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer

Education

- In Spring John H will teach beginning and intermediate bee keeping (these classes cost around \$70) and maybe honey harvesting
- Gordon Riddel teaches a class at CP, typically it is held spring quarter

Public Awareness

1) List of events CCBA has participated in:

- Conservation celebration, April
- Earth Day, April
- Cambria Bee Faire, May
- Pollination Celebration at SLO Grange, July

Golden Oak Honey Festival, Oct 22 - COORDINATION

- Jodi asks people to place fliers around their community
- Dale has tables etc and will bring to set up, fliers and other materials for table
- John is willing to donate a 1) starter hive (equipment only) and 2) nucleus colony (this drawing to raffle off) –
 - Include annual membership to club with prize
 - We’ll sell tickets for both at the Honey Festival but the drawings will be later
- Some of the festival Activities:
 - Kids table
 - Spelling bee
 - Quilting bee
 - Speakers – John C, Gordon, Sue
- Dale would like someone to fill the buckets with dirt and bring them. They can be filled with water at the festival. John recommends rolling ball

in peat moss to dry outside. Could use bentonite clay – can get at the hardware store

- OK to sell honey at CCBA booth – In general honey could be sold under a “cottage kitchen” permit (state law) for direct sales (signed form about facilities – about \$125) or for third party sales (requires health inspection about \$425), but for festival just planning to sell as individuals at club table

Action items:

- Consider design for CCBA membership cards to give out to members for 2017

Adjourned: 8:19 pm