



Minutes of the Los Angeles County Beekeepers Association

April 1, 2019 Volume XIX, Issue 4

General Meeting – 7pm

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church

3561 Foothill Boulevard

La Crescenta, CA 91214

losangelescountybeekeepers.com

Next Meeting: May 6, 2019

General Meeting – 7:00 pm

Jon Reese called the Meeting called to order at 7:09pm

1. Welcome (Jon Reese)

a. Flag Salute (Jon Reese)

b. Introduction of the Board (Jon Reese)

Jon Reese – President

Kevin Heydman – Vice President

Merrill Kruger – Secretary (not present)

Bill Rathfelder – Treasurer (passed away last week, March 26)

El Ray Enschede – Member at Large

2. Introduction of 9 new members/visitors

3. Designated ticket seller for auction

4. Thanks to Doug Noland for treats

5. Topic Speaker (Misty)

Misty shared her experiences with her first hive (wild swarm given to her and died the next day. Died probably from pesticides since proboscis was out). Second year hive from Ruth but the hive struggled with mites, wax moths, and low population. Third year, five hives and two survived. Learned so much in those first trials. Learned how difficult it can be. Optimistic this year.

Attended Beekeepers meeting in Missouri. Sessions included hive inspections, foulbrood procedures (neighborhoods involved); combining hives, treating wax moths, value of propolis, pollen issues, advice regarding temperature “averages.”

6. Main Topic: Package installation

Members shared their experiences with packages from last year.

(Several methods and several beekeepers talked about installing packages, care of them, feeding, mite treatment, queen cork removal, release of queen, how long to leave alone.)

Kevin Heydman demonstrated basic components of the package and oxalic acid treatment before installation (with queen removed!) Use Randy Oliver’s formula for mite control using

oxalic acid. Add drawn comb to assist hive. Keith reminded members that “ask 10 beekeepers a question, get 12 different answers.”

Keith Roberts (from The Valley Hive) demonstrated the “walkaway” method of inserting the package into the hive near sundown. Insert package box, take out the feeder, remove the queen, and insert her between frames. At same time next day, take queen cage, carefully remove cork and insert a marshmallow. Reinsert her between frames. Remove package box, shake stray bees in, insert more frames, and close it up. WAIT 10 days. Get smoker going, and do your first inspection. Working outside in, take out empty queen cage, inspect for larva, eggs, capped brood, and nectar. Fill feeder. Protect hives with grease.

Bill Lewis of (Bill’s Bees) recommended no treatment with oxalic acid at the package installation. He will deliver with plastic cages and recommends shaking them into the hive after removing a couple of frames. Queen’s attendants will be on queen cage so leave them if you can. HANG IT SO THE SCREEN IS EXPOSED! Leave cork in and leave it one day or two (at the end of the day.) Pull cork and put your finger over the hole immediately. Put a marshmallow in the hole to hold her in for a couple hours. For 10 days, leave them Be! First inspection to check queen is out. Get sun over your shoulder and look in the middle frame for larva in the royal jelly (which reflects the sunlight.) Close it up for a couple weeks. Keith feeds a gallon of 1:1 which is closer to nectar. Gives them the ability to build comb.

Jon Reese demonstrated laying the package on top of the frames in a shallow box. Taking queen out and laying her nearby. Walk away. Come back in a day and most of the bees will be in the box. Install queen. Remove shallow.

El Ray Ensich talked about historical installations as well as current preference. Very similar to Keith’s method.

7. Old Business

a. Minutes of Meetings (Mary Ann Laun)

Mary Ann will provide the secretary and webmaster a copy of the minutes. Members are encouraged to review the minutes before each meeting. Bring changes, additions to the meeting or email Mary Ann at maryannlaun@yahoo.com

b. Treasurer (Jon Reese)

The Club is looking for another treasurer to handle the financials of the Club. Please see Jon if interested.

c. Membership committee (Cheryl Thiele)

(The roster that is distributed for signing in has only those names that Cheryl has email addresses for. See Cheryl if your name is not on the list.) Membership is required for all Beekeeping 101 and Advanced Beekeeping classes. Please register online for the Club and classes.

d. Website (Eva)

Eva highlighted new news articles on the website.

e. Beekeeping 101 Keith Roberts updated members about the classes as well as funds for honeybee research. April 14 at 9 am is next meeting. Beesuits, gloves required. Agenda is on “how to do inspections.”

f. Education committee (Mary Landau)

Education committee needs volunteers to do presentations to classes and special groups. A signup sheet was passed around. Schools needing a beekeeper:

- A grade school near Venice and Santa Monica Blvds area.
- Sierra Madre School on Good Friday,
- Education Department at LA Arboretum would like some classes.
- UCLA also needs a presentation.

8. Events

- Spring Fling at the LA County Zoo. Jay Weiss, coordinating. Sampling 6 types of honey. Selling honey sticks and jars of honey. Dates: Every weekend now through the end of April. Signup on the email invitation sent to members.
- Honey Harvest Festival in Fillmore, June 22-23 (El Ray)
Fillmore location where a train takes visitors to the honey harvesting area where they can see the entire process from extraction through bottling.
- Eaton Canyon Nature Center (Jon Reese)
A one day event on June 2nd. Education event and selling honey and honey sticks.

9. Question cards.

Questions included:

- feral hives and marked queens being superseded. May have been the marker formula used.
- Unofficial queen recommendations were made Jackie Parks, Pendell, Shelby queens. Dave Williams advised that Africanized bees will send out assassin bees to take out marked queens.
- Supersedure cells can be in the middle; swarm cells in the bottom. Check for queen.
- Propolis removal from feeders? Oxiclean, Dawn, dishwasher top rack.
- Bees in walls and chimneys? Remove not repair. Chimney may be where mortar has failed.
- Abundance of drone cells? Cut them out to avoid swarming.
- Should feral colonies be fed? Fed and Requeened!
- Queen bee instrument insemination: Cal Poly will be doing it but needs a sufficient amount of drone semen. Working with UC Riverside as well.

10. Many members benefitted from the generous auction items.

[Submitted by Mary Ann Laun.]
