



## Minutes of the Los Angeles County Beekeepers Association

February 4, 2019 Volume XIX, Issue 2

### General Meeting – 7pm

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church

3561 Foothill Boulevard

La Crescenta, CA 91214

[losangelescountybeekeepers.com](http://losangelescountybeekeepers.com)

Next Meeting: March 4, 2019

### **General Meeting - 7pm**

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

#### 1. Welcome (Jon Reese)

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a. Flag Salute (Jon Reese)

b. Introduce the Board (Jon Reese)

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- Jon Reese – President
  - Kevin Heydman – Vice President (not present)
  - Merrill Kruger – Secretary
  - Bill Rathfelder – Treasurer (not present)
  - El Ray Enschede – Member at Large
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#### 2. Ticket seller – Missy

#### 3. Topic: Experienced Beekeeper talk about first two years of beekeeping: mistakes made, problems, trials & tribulations: Jay Weiss.

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- Learned from “the worst beekeeper ever”
  - Helped him for 8 years
  - Never treated
  - After first meeting, totally engaged and bought a jacket
  - Learned from his mistakes
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#### 4. Speaker: Wildflower Meadows/Murray Mosco

Their business is raising queens in Southern California. They do not treat. Discussed how he got involved in beekeeping, coming from a CPA background. David Winter took him as a visitor to the hive and offered him a job with Chaparral Honey. Worked 4 years. 10,000 hives. Decided to go out on his own and founded Wildflower Meadows. Spoke about how he developed his ideas about treatment free beekeeping

based on a presentation from Tom Glenn (Glenn Apiaries) in Fallbrook. Treating is a dead-end proposition. Selected this as his path.

How do hives become mite resistant? VSH: Varroa Sensitive Hygiene. How to get population down? Treat OR through VSH behavior. They sense that a varroa is inside the cell and then they adjust their behavior by doing nothing to seal cell or ripping it open to disrupt the process. Discussed Harhope and Harris and the importance of their research. Befriended Tom Glenn to explore developing queens with VSH. He bought out his apiaries and founded Wildflower Apiaries.

Addressed the issue of aggressive bees and the trend toward less defensive queens: 1) hybridization (Africanized bees are now hybridized with European traits; not a one-way street); trend is toward gentler feral bees; 2) feral bees face same problem as European bees 3) Scale issues – set up mating nucs with queen cells, virgin queens take to the sky to mate with drones. Drone population gets decimated because of the need for 15 drones per mating. They have to control the queens AS WELL AS the drone issues.

They use three areas (Bonsall and Fallbrook areas). VP Queen Bees another provider of VSH stock of breeder queens. Testing for VSH by taking mite infested brood and inserting in colonies and checking cell issues. Also use observational methods.

Questions about banking queens with adding brood and feeding. They can't get out. Can bank up to 100.

Their hive survival is in the 20-30 percent range.

It is thought that localized stock for queens generally does better.

Prefers to requeen every year to prevent swarming and more vigorous growth. (Personal view.)

Characteristics of VSH: will uncapped and pull mite out and then recap. Or just leave uncapped.

For more information including pricing, go to: [Wildflowermeadows.com](http://Wildflowermeadows.com)

## 5. Membership Report (Cheryl Thiele)

Online membership is working! As of today, 152 members (9 club, 45 voting, 98 non-voting)

Beekeeping 101 registration (65 people signed up and 33 people paid \$100 for the yearlong class) (Cheryl Thiele)

## 6. Website (Eva Andrews)

Eva called attention to a podcast "Honeybees in the Wild" as well as a couple of other articles.

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7. Beekeeping 101 update.

First class is an introduction (no fee) to introduce novices to equipment, bees, timeframes, including Time commitment, Equipment needed, Protective gear needed, Space requirements/hive placement, Los Angeles City Ordinance, Registering your hive with the county of Los Angeles, Life cycle of the colony and basic bee biology. Small group discussions. Expected people: 150

8. Upcoming events:

Spring fling at LA Zoo. 6 weekends late March to early May. Observation hive needed. Sell honey as well. Volunteers needed for 6 hour shifts (4 people a shift). Jay Weiss will coordinate the volunteers.

Cal Poly Pomona Beekeeping Workshop 101 March 30<sup>th</sup>. 9-4pm. Must register. Limited to 50 people.

Eaton Canyon Nature Center: Fair. BASC and LACBA will join together. June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Central Valley Beekeepers Symposium

Other private interests: Catherine Kaddis Homeschool Group in Monrovia. (Jeff and Mary Ann Laun will contact her)

Judith Selby at 605 and 210. Interested in a hive on her property. Holly Hawk will check with Dave Williams to see if he is interested.

9. What are you seeing in your hives?

Most people doing well with their packages with good winter survival; some exceptions. Many hives booming early. Weather impacting hives even this week with high and low temperatures. Rain and moisture issues as well.

10. Q and A: Several members shared their experiences with swarms and bait boxes.

Precautions for leftover equipment. Jon recommended freezing frames. Pollen will probably not be good, degrades over the year. No need to sterilize unless infected with foulbrood (burn it!)

Next meeting: Staff from Theodore Payne will be at our meeting to discuss native plants.

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