



Minutes of the Los Angeles County Beekeepers Association

May 6, 2019 Volume XIX, Issue 5

General Meeting – 7pm

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church

3561 Foothill Boulevard

La Crescenta, CA 91214

losangelescountybeekeepers.com

Next Meeting: June 3, 2019 General Meeting – 7:00pm Doors Open – 6:30pm

Jon Reese called the Meeting called to order at 7:02pm

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)
 - Treasurer (Vacant position)
 - El Rey Ensich – Member at Large

Note: Mary Ann Laun – Minute recorder

2. Introduction of visitors or first timers. 4 new visitors shared their locations and experiences.

3. No auction tonight – no tickets

4. Thanks to Doug Nolan for the treats tonight!!

5. Speaker: First and Second Year Narrative – Murray Sumner murray@ccmalibu.com

Murray gave us his “fireside chat” about his beginning experiences in beekeeping in 2008 when he bought a “property” in the Santa Monica mountains. When he moved in, he found bees living in the attic so he contacted someone to help him. He was a “novice who knew nothing about beekeeping.” This bee rescuer wanted Murray’s property to home wild bees. Before long, he met Vadim who agreed to mentor him. He quickly learned how to use the right equipment, practice solid beekeeping practices, and even so, found himself still with so much to learn about steady practices, mites, requeening issues, weather issues. From his challenges, he learned so much, especially with the consultations of his mentor. Unfortunately, the Malibu fires last year took all his hives.

6. Speaker: Rob Stone/Orange County Beekeeping Supply (with his partner Tom Skinner.)

Shared his experiences in Irvine and in the desert. Three major issues he wants to convey:

- 1) manage space
- 2) assist in their feeding of nectar/sugar syrup and
- 3) pollen

Spring issues:

- Inspections more frequent
 - Do you have sufficient bees, honey pollen?
 - Nutrition is critical
 - Equipment configured correctly? Open it up wide/no robbing in the spring. Add space as needed
 - Use 1/1 sugar water (never mix flavoring)
 - Mite counts regularly
 - Altruistic self sacrifice of bees who are sick
 - No perfect feeder
 - Showed slides and asked members to comment on various scenarios
 - Look for what bees are missing. Bees most likely to starve in the Spring.
 - Find a problem in the hive? React right away. Don't wait!
 - Need to have open frames of brood with room for larva
 - Insert empty comb! NOT foundation...
 - Queens love to lay in new comb and bees love to make honey in old comb
 - Bees like to swarm on a second year queen
 - Spotty brood laid with Worker brood is a good sign that queen should be replaced.
 - Laying worker situation should have open brood and larva for a couple weeks before requeening.
 - Important to place pollen patties RIGHT ABOVE the brood
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7. Secretary report: postponed.

8. Education: Mary Landau

Consideration of resources to add to 4 boxes of instructional materials. Please let Mary know of any presentations you make.

9. Website:

Eva asked for people still selling bees to send her a link. Provided an update of news articles added to the website.

10. Membership report:

Cheryl sent the reminder of the meeting with the link to the minutes.

11. Treasurer's report:

\$25,000 in the bank. Will have resources to support the Fair events and SDSU bee research projects.

12. Beekeeping 101:

May 12, 9:00am - 12:00pm Keith gave a brief status report. Volunteers to help the class should email Cheryl.

13. Upcoming events:

June 2nd -- Eaton Canyon. Jon needs help with the booth

June 22-23rd -- Honey Harvest Festival. Bennett's Honey Farm Event. El Rey introduced Al Fortune by telling the story of the rescue of the hives on the 2 freeway. The dozer operators and Fire Department saved those hives. Al Fortune was involved.

Al gave a brief history of the Honey Harvest Festival, its challenges and successes. After many years of successful events, and incurring exorbitant expenses, the festival was suspended. The City of Fillmore along with Rotary Club and the Western Railway have approached Bennett's Honey Farm to bring back the event. For more information, see Californiahoneyharvestfestival.com

August 30-Sept 22 Los Angeles County Fair. Cindy Caldera, Coordinator for the LA County Fair Bee Booth. Wed-Sundays. Volunteers needed. Free parking and entrance to the Fair. Watch for signups.

Jay Weiss gave a report on the club's activities with the weekends at the LA Zoo. Volunteers from the club worked four weeks at the Zoo providing information to people about bees and honey.

14. Next month:

June 3 Michele Colopy from the Pollinator Stewardship will speak to the Club.

15. Questions from the members:

Questions ranged from honey sampling, free bees; finding locations for beekeeping; best configurations; returning burr wax to hive (no); places to buy Italian bees (see vendor list).

Respectfully submitted: Mary Ann Laun
