



**Tucson & Southern
Arizona Beekeepers**

March Meeting

DATE: 3.8.2017

LOCATION: Eckstrom Library @ 22nd Street and Columbus

ATTENDEES: (30 people) Tim Allen, Patrick Stirling, Jason Wood, Jim Wood, Jaime de Zubeldia, Lucas Schvindt, Susan Evans, Nikola Vojvodic, Randy Wells, Greg Denker, William Fitz, Jed Martineau, Mark McCarty, Mitch Anderson, Emily Scobie, Pat Latas, Andy Peralta, Kevin Cavender, Kevin Coyle, David Owens, David Fales, Robert Dillon, Liza Smith Richard Clark, Hannah Clark, John Hasty, Randy Cade, Katherine Rogers, Alex Rogers, Kai Goodwillie

FACILITATOR: Will Fitz

Sign in and Mingle

Introductions

Discussion

- Benefits of Beekeeping Group
 - Contacts for swarm and hive removals
 - Locations for hives
 - Group discounts for gear purchase
 - Sharing of books, gear, extractors
- Formalize Beekeeping Group
 - Need volunteers to assist

Discussion:

- 1) Local Queens vs Queens purchased from non-Africanized areas
 - Mark and monitor Queens
- 2) Future Meetings – to be held monthly (note: next meeting date not set)
- 3) Future Meeting Topic Suggestions
 - Genetics
 - Queens
 - Nutrition
 - Nectar Flows, Bloom Times, Feeding
 - Types of Hives – pros and cons of each (Top Bar, Langstroth, FlowHive, etc)
 - Bee Types – Carnolian, Italian, Caucasian, etc
 - Queen Banks

Environment of Beekeeping – plants, location of hives

Honey

Crystalized Honey

Tasting

Formalization of Beekeeping Association

Mission Statement

Rules or Guidelines

Bylaws

Dues

Treatment vs Non-treatment for Mites

Notification of meetings, groups and sub groups through Facebook

“Tucson Beekeepers” and website “Southern Arizona Beekeepers”

4) Education

Swarm and Spring Buildup – led by Will Fitz

Swarms - Swarm capture should be done by experienced beekeepers.

Swarms can be caught and requeened with docile queens. Swarms can happen anytime though most common time is early spring through early summer. Lemongrass oil is an attractant – one drop in a nuc or hive body. Swarm traps – paper mache type was developed by Justin Schmidt here in Tucson area. Check hives frequently to monitor health, check for marked queen; if she is absent, may have swarmed or killed and replaced.

This was followed by a group discussion, several points were made

- Watch for cold snap, wait until warmer weather to add supers to prevent die off
- Add super when hive about 70-80% full (7-8 frames covered with bees out of 10 frame hives.
- Place paper towel between supers when adding supers, allow bees to chew through when ready to move up.
- Check hives every 7-10 days, look for signs of queen cells, strength of hive
- Learn life cycle of bees, know what queen cells look like – supersedure vs swarm cells
- Africanized (feral) bees much more likely to swarm, different strains of bees have different swarm properties.
- New USDA law in 2017: all antibiotic treatment of livestock must be done under supervision from veterinarian. i.e. tetracycline or other medications must be prescribed. This was written with cattle and other animals in mind, but bees fall under “livestock” definition. Federal, not state, law.
- Keeping 2 hives at a minimum helps with brood production, can move frames from weaker to stronger hives.
- Scout bees look for good location – 5 to 10 gallon cavity, 6'-10' feet above ground level, opening 1"-2". Scouts will check, then 2nd or

3rd group of scout bees will check before deciding where to settle.

5) Discussion of literature

Thomas Seeley – Honey Bee Democracy

D. Sammataro & A. Avitabile – The Beekeeper's Handbook

Michael Bush – Treatment Free Beekeeping; Practical Beekeeper

Randy Oliver – Scientificbeekeeping.com

McCartney Taylor – Swarm Traps and Bait Hives

Other periodicals – Bee Culture, American Bee Journal

6) Other discussion items

Suggestion was made to create a lending library of beekeeping literature

Suggestion to watch YOUTUBE videos of bees, beekeeping

Suggestion made to create sub-groups for discussion

Top Bar Hive

Hive Building

Swarm Capture

7) Bee Parks –

Greg Denker had petition to sign for Public Park Land in Pima County and Tucson be set aside for beekeeping purposes, to include placement of bee colonies that are being temporarily staged by one beekeeper for pickup by another. Beekeeping education would also be a preferred use of said park land.

Meeting ended at 7:45