

Southern Arizona Beekeepers Association Meeting

DATE: 8.09.17

LOCATION: Eckstrom Library @ 22nd Street and Columbus

ATTENDEES: (32 people)

FACILITATOR: Lucas Schvindt

NOTE: We could not meet in the larger meeting room as a collection of bees were in possession of it. Sign on the door "DO NOT ENTER – GRUMPY BEES" Area was cordoned off with yellow police tape and a police officer posted to prevent entry to area.

Sign in and Introductions –

Business – Discussion of and voting on Constitution and Bylaws for Southern Arizona Beekeepers Association (SAZBA) - Passed unanimously

<http://southernazbeekeepers.org/resources/constitution-and-by-laws/>

Discussion of and voting on officers for SAZBA – passed unanimously

- President – Will Fitz
- Vice President – Jaime de Zubeldia
- Secretary – Hannah Clark
- Treasurer – Chris Andreotta
- Sergeant at Arms – Lucas Schvindt
- Program Chairman – Monica King
- Webmaster – Lucas Schvindt
- Directors – Monica King, Jaime de Zulbedia, Noel Patterson

Web page: <http://southernazbeekeepers.org>

Password: b33k33p3r

Discussion Topic - Africanization of honey bees in Southern Arizona

Presenter - Jaime de Zulbedia of SunApiaries Power Point presentation

- 1) Increased heat and moisture has increased the bees.
- 2) Often this time of year there is "bad news", i.e. news reports of incidents of interactions with bees. Recently there have been news reports of three deaths related to bees. News media may give false information – "bees ambushed", "swarms of bees", etc. It is necessary to provide a source of correct information to counteract the false information promoted by media and other sources.
- 3) Communication among beekeepers – needed for documentation, for cooperation, for coordination. Eastern beekeepers seem to be more communal, Western beekeepers more individualized or solitary.
- 4) Attempting to study the Africanization of local bee population on a small scale or farm scale.
- 5) History of spread of Africanized bees from Brazil
- 6) USDA map of spread of Africanized bees, most recently update 2011
- 7) Habitat Suitability map
- 8) Challenges of beekeeping in areas of Africanized bee population

C:\Users\Hannah\Documents\Beekeeping\Meeting Notes 8.9.17.doc

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- i) Increased swarming rates
- ii) More brood
- iii) Drones arrive earlier and stay longer
- iv) Great foragers – better than European bees (?)
- v) More resistant or survive Varroa better
- vi) More agility – quicker, more direct flight patterns
- vii) Smaller than European bees – about 10%
- viii) Can usurp weaker or queenless colonies
- ix) Pupate and emerge faster – queens about 1 day earlier
- x) More active at guarding and patrolling colonies
- xi) Aggressiveness is unpredictable. Colony can be calm one day, next day very aggressive

Barriers to spread of Africanized Honey Bees (AHB)

- Average daily high temperatures lower than 55° for more than 3 months of year
- Average total rainfall of 55” spread evenly over the year.
- Flowerless region such as ocean or sand desert – range of individual honey bee is approximately 4-5 miles.

Needed –

1. Development of public statement - SAZBA to give news media correct information
2. Organized swarm trapping for study, strategic placement of traps
3. Law enforcement, local government, and public safety need correct information
4. SARE Project – Honey bee mating / artificial insemination Goal to improve local strains of bees – Gentle Africanized Honey Bees (GAHB)
5. Cooperation among beekeepers to help ameliorate the genetics
6. Media outreach and awareness –
7. Partner with low income and elderly groups
8. Drone colonies for breeding
9. Swarm trapping – organized and strategic placement of swarm traps\
10. Development of target areas for mitigation (?) yards
11. New beekeeper training and development
12. Jaime requested those present complete a survey for Regional Honey Bee Improvement. It is on the next page.
- 13.

Discussion:

Why not give up beekeeping? It is a lot of work, risk involved. However, pollination is the biggest need, more than the hive products of honey, beeswax, pollen or propolis.

Risk of dying from bee stings is low on per capita basis, lower than being struck by lightning.

How to requeen aggressive colonies – Split hives, kill all queen cells, go back 9 days later and kill all new queen cells. Leave queenless for 1-3 days, smash “old nasty queen” on new queen cage to spread her pheromones to help hive accept new queen.

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Next meeting – September 13, 6pm Eckstrom Library.

Guest Speaker John Slattery author of ***Southwest Foraging: 117 Wild and Flavorful Edibles from Barrel Cactus to Wild Oregano (Regional Foraging Series)***

Regional Honey Bee Improvement Survey

- 1) What strains of honey bee do you have experience in working?
- 2) What strains of honey bee do you prefer working with?
- 3) What strains of honey bee would you like to try working with?
- 4) Have you had any issue with diseases or mites in your colonies? Which?
(None/Moderate/Severe)
- 5) What do you consider your main challenge in keeping your hive(s) manageable/docile?
- 6) Do you produce your own queens or do you purchase queens from others?
- 7) If you purchase queens, what do you prefer? (Cells, virgins, mated) Why?
- 8) Do you have adequate space to open-mate your queens? (Yes/No/Not Sure)
- 9) Would you be willing to participate in testing of open-mated or instrumentally inseminated queens for various qualities? (Yes/No)
- 10) Would you be interested in allowing the harvest of drones from your colonies to collectively develop a stronger regional queen stock, regardless of strain? (Yes/No)
- 11) Do you feel that the wild Africanized colonies should be ignored? (Yes/No)

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12) Do you feel that Africanized colonies should be influenced or mitigated? (Yes/No)

13) Do you believe that something can be done to reduce aggressive behavior in wild and/or managed colonies at a regional level? (Yes/No) Opinions?

14) Contact info (optional):

(original 3/17/2017) Return to Jaime de Zulbedia at Jaime@sunapiaries.com