

Umpqua Valley Beekeepers Association
P.O. Box 924, Roseburg, OR 97470

March 1st, 2023, General Meeting Minutes

1. Adrian called the meeting to order at 6pm.
2. Welcomed all, and had an introduction of guests.
3. Vote to accept the February meeting minutes was taken and passed.
4. New Business/Announcements:
 - a. Our name was officially changed as of February 23rd, 2023 to Umpqua Valley Beekeepers Association.
 - b. Fliers were mailed and official notification made to protect the 501c(3) status.
 - c. Business cards are available, members were emailed a PDF of the new flyers/cards. They can be printed in black and white as well as color, and look great in both options.
 - d. Butterfly garden: bringing bees to parts. Possibly setting up swarm traps/towers or temporary hives in parks/gardens/trail heads, etc. Asking for a proposal to determine if it can be done and the city would know more about the logistics of the idea. Concerns; how to secure the hive/catcher, liability, cost of our equipment. Plan would be to rotate through interested members setting up catchers. Concept is still in development. They also wanted to know if club would be interested in adopting butterfly park in Stewart Parkway. Time to maintain minimal, picking up trash and weeding. Terra Firma used to do it but had difficulty finding people to do it. We confirmed, it is easy, light weeding. The club would get a plaque.
 - e. Spring into Gardening (Master Gardeners hosting): one day classes March 11th, 2023 fee is \$25 at the Phoenix School on Diamond Lake Blvd. Cynthia is teaching a class on bees.
5. Tonight's education: Swarms and what to do when you get one.
 - a. Ivory
 - i. Discussed swarm "lingo": a swarm is when the old queen and approximately half the colony leave the old hive as they have outgrown their space.
 - ii. The colony creates a new queen by feeding larvae a constant supply of royal jelly. They will start swarming behavior in scouting flights, filling up on honey, getting ready to leave.
 - iii. Discussed helpful equipment to have on hand.
 1. Hood and gloves are important if nothing else due to the fact they go for your eyes.
 - iv. Typically very lethargic as they are full of honey and don't have brood to protect.
 - v. Swarms vary greatly in size.
 - vi. Discussed developing a method of swarm notification.
 - vii. Please be polite and hospitable when gathering swarms. You may have an audience, property owners or bystanders. Often, they are very nervous and afraid of bees. Make sure you have property owners permission to be on the property that has the swarm on it.
 - viii. Get your gear together and ready at all times.
 - ix. Swarm on a branch:

1. A sheet on the ground underneath your box for them to land on. It helps them move into your box.
 2. Any box will work as long as it is breathable. Don't use a plastic bag they'll suffocate.
 3. Pruning shears/pole/bucket: Whack the branch or bush and the bees will fall off into it. Or cut/clip the branch and put it into the box.
 4. This may need to be repeated but they will march into the box and start fanning.
- x. Swarm in grass/t-posts:
1. A smoker is helpful to get them to move.
 2. A frame of something to use as a platform for them to move on over the grass.
 3. Smooth container: helpful to scoop up bees and their stingers won't get stuck.
 4. Bee brush: help move them along, brush them off things.
- xi. You'll know quickly if you have the queen. They will fly back or leave the box quickly if not.
- xii. Best to leave the box there until after dark as scout bees are out and that can be several hundred bees. Once the sun goes down, make sure all exits are sealed and move them to where you want them.
- xiii. Baiting a swarm catcher:
1. Don't have to have a frame but it can help. They will start building comb quickly.
 2. Slum gum: remains of old comb
 3. Lemongrass oil: just 1 drop (very concentrated) will mimic the queen pheromone.
- xiv. Handy things to have:
1. Spray bottle of sugar water. This will help them stay where they are, gives them something to eat, helps calm them if they are "hangry", and will help them stay in the box as they have something to eat.
 2. Painters tape: put sticky side together to sealing up exits to prevent bees from getting stuck on the tape.
 3. Don't use a flashlight as it will attract the bees. You can use a red light.
 4. Different types of entrance reducers make it easier to close them up.
 5. Torch to light smoker.
 6. Fire extinguisher.
 7. EPI Pen/Benadryl.
- xv. You can leave the box closed up overnight, but make sure you give them ventilation or install them in their permanent hive the next morning or they will overheat and suffocate.
6. Dinner Winner: Kim Kinney, drawn by Natasha
 7. Next Meeting: April 5th, 2023 @ 6pm @ Abby's
 8. Adjourned: 7:15pm