

Central Coast Beekeepers Association October Meeting

First and foremost I would like to thank Judi for graciously hosting our past few bee meetings at her and Peter's wonderful rural property in Seal Rock. Their generosity and delightfully huge "barn" has made "Covid Days" seem like normal times again in a safe and fun setting.

Like the last couple of meetings, we had great bee discussions during the October meeting. We heard about cutting edge bee research that was presented the previous week at the OSBA annual meeting. Rick, Becca and Max gave us a great summary. I learned that *Varroa* are even worse than I thought. They apparently have "snorkels" that allow them to "breathe" and survive while submerged in water **or alcohol** for up to 30 minutes. And, they are evolving to a smaller size, most likely in response to our treatments. Wow, even though I truly hate those evil parasites, I do respect their tenacity.

We also talked about preparing hives for winter. Moisture control, mouse guards, ample food storage and of course, Varroa were the main points of that discussion. In addition, we had a very successful "seed swap" with Steve, Becca, Judi and Britte bringing seeds for everyone to plant for their favorite pollinators.

After a summer of no rain we are suddenly getting dumped on with moisture here along the coast. According to NOAA, this year is transitioning to La Nina (80% chance) which typically means higher than normal rainfall for the Pacific Northwest region. Click on [NOAA](#) to get the full long-term weather report. Moisture, especially the mega moisture that we experience along the coast, can be extremely bad for bees. So, if you don't have a moisture control box for the top of your hive you might consider getting one or making one. Just remember to only open your hive(s) during warm days.

Our own honey bees are real opportunists and have managed to bring in pollen in between the rainy days of November. Gotta love those foragers!

The 2020-2021 Pacific Northwest Honey Bee survey is now published at <https://pnwhoneybeesurvey.com/2020-21-survey-reports/>. Overwintering hive losses in Oregon were at 35%, which is actually terrible, but better than the previous 2 winters (38% & 48%). It is worth your while to go to the website link and read the excellent report in full.

And finally, as mentioned above, elections for officers and board members for 2022 CCBA will take place at our November meeting. So, if you are willing to help either as an officer (eg President/Vice President) or a board member, please email your interest to the club's email address and we will be happy to answer any questions you might have concerning leadership roles.