

OCBA Up to the Minutes News

Volume 1, No. 1

January 2018

New Year, New Format

Welcome to OCBA's 2018 newsletter format. It is called *Up to the Minutes News* because the Executive Committee has chosen this format to disseminate both club news and to the minutes of the monthly membership meetings. We hope you enjoy it.

We also hope that many of you will volunteer your time and effort to submit stories and to help with other writing and formatting tasks. If you are interested, contact Cynthia Speed and she will put you in touch with the editing team.

The Weather was Cold, but OCBA Attendance was Hot

OCBA had a great start to the new year. Members and guests packed the room at the January meeting. Seventy-seven members and visitors came to hear our guest speaker, Nancy Ruppert, including some new folks who will be attending bee school this year.

New members should be aware that all OCBA members are invited to attend OCBA's pre-meeting dinner which is held in a private room at Radius Pizzeria. In January 12 members attended. This dinner offers members an opportunity to "talk bees" and to get to know each other in a casual, relaxed environment. Often our guest speakers will join the gathering and members get a chance to pick the brains of an expert. Members order and pay for their meals individually.

New Meeting Format, Too

At our January meeting President Mark Powers opened the meeting by letting everyone know that in 2018 we will begin our membership meetings with a brief social period from 7:00 to 7:15. Members will have the opportunity to enjoy refreshments and talk with each other about their bees. Refreshments will be available throughout the meeting.

OCBA Apprentice – Future Beekeepers of America

Sarah Stern, one of OCBA's 2017 apprentices presented a talk about her experience with her bees. She gave an excellent presentation that included pictures of her first year as a beekeeper. She told of her experience re-queening her hives when her "bees off'ed their queen." She set up alternative water sources for them to avert a crisis when they were discovered drinking from a neighborhood pool. She thanked her mentor, Jim Evans and said that she was honored to have an opportunity to help Jim harvest honey. She volunteered at the OCBA pollinator garden and the state fair booth. She acknowledged her thanks to OCBA for providing her the resources to become a beekeeper.

David Eckert, Director of Mentorship in 2017, presented Certificates of Completion to Sarah and to Ian Rasmussen. Ian was

mentored by Celeste Mayer and presented a wonderful talk at our November meeting. David then recognized Lisa Vogel as OCBA's new Director of Mentorship and the Apprentice Program. Lisa introduced OCBA's newest apprentices, Catherine Trusky and Megan Talikoff.

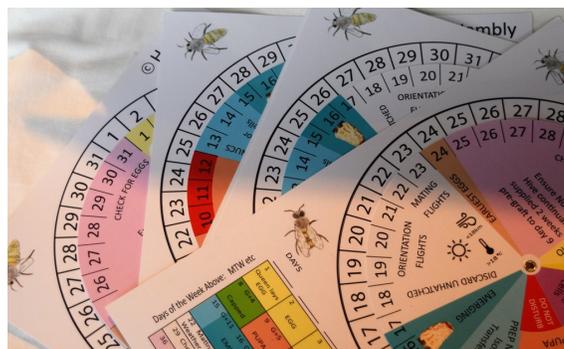
Mentors are needed for these young people. Please contact Lisa if you would like to provide this valuable service. Lisa's email is Lvhv2003@gmail.com. Please visit the Apprenticeship Program on the OCBA web site to see how OCBA promotes and supports beekeeping for young people through an application process and requirements.



Hygienic Queens Yield Stronger Colonies

Nancy Ruppert, State Apiary Inspector for the Sandhills Region of North Carolina, was our guest speaker. She talked about "The Value of Having/Raising Hygienic Queens in Your Apiary." She shared a resource list of related books/web sites on hygienic queens with our members. That list is provided below. The big take away was that hygienic queens are necessary for the future success in beekeeping.

Nancy's presentation included an excellent series of slides showing one type of hygienic behavior testing for the cleaning instinct of diseased comb/brood and the use of gold standard liquid nitrogen to test for hygienic traits. Nancy stressed that beekeepers must commit to working within the bee's reproductive time table to achieve hygienic breeding success. In addition, beekeepers cannot ignore the importance of mating hygienic queens with hygienic drones (i.e. drones of hygienic mothers).



For beekeepers considering rearing hygienic queens Nancy indicated that there were several tools available to help beekeepers calculate critical dates in the queen rearing cycle. One of these is the Queen Development Dial. It is a useful tool for hive management techniques in addition to queen rearing. One side has timeframe for queen rearing – graft day, prep cell cups, development schedule, etc. The other side has a reference guide for the development of the other castes of the hive.

OCBA's Newest Journeyman Beekeeper

Ryan Chamberlain, OCBA's 2018 Vice President, completed the NCSBA requirements for Journeyman Beekeeper in October. Randall Austin, OCBA's Master Beekeeper Coordinator, presented Ryan with his official Journeyman Certificate and offered his congratulations on this achievement. Ryan's name has been added to the "Who We Are" [list of Journeyman Beekeepers](#) on OCBA's website. Congratulations, Ryan!

All OCBA members are encouraged to further enhance and develop their beekeeping knowledge and expertise by attaining Certified, Journeyman, Master and, ultimately, Master Craftsman Beekeeper status.

Meeting Refreshments

Mark Powers thanked Mary Leonhardi and Lisa Vogel who provided refreshments for OCBA's Monthly Meeting. He also circulated a sign-up sheet for refreshment providers throughout 2018.

Bee School – Once Again Fully Enrolled



OCBA's 2018 Bee School started January 16th. Once again the class was fully enrolled with 75 new and prospective beekeepers, including OCBA's 2018 apprentices, Catherine Trusky and Megan Talikoff. Randall Austin, OCBA's Director of Education welcomed the new beekeepers and walked them through an overview of beekeeping as he introduced them to the syllabus for the 10 week session. This year's class boasts a number of friends/family members of existing OCBA beekeepers, as well as a higher than usual number of students who are taking the class with a family member or bee buddy.



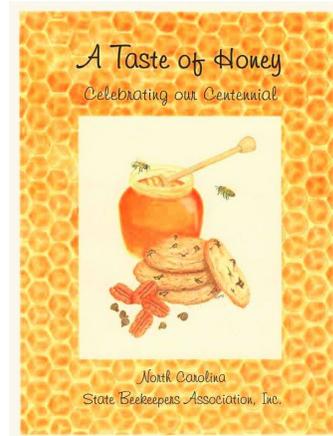
OCBA Mentors Needed for 2018 First Year Clusters

Remember when you first started beekeeping? Remember how intimidating it was to "go it alone?" OCBA is asking experienced beekeepers from all over the county to commit to share your experience and skill for a bit of one Saturday or Sunday a month from April to September. As a Cluster guide you will meet with a group of new beekeepers in a different apiary each month.

We also looking for junior mentors. Junior mentors have fewer than 3 years experience, but will help with hands-on beekeeping skills and assist with answering questions. Look for more information coming soon from Lisa Vogel, OCBA's Director of Mentorship.

Come to the Meetings - OCBA has Great Door Prizes

Door prizes at this month's meeting were a copy of the NCSBA Centennial Cookbook, a plush, stuffed Honey bee, and a wooden handled frame grip generously donated by Bailey Bee Supply.



Share your Talent

OCBA wants to tap the talent of its diverse membership. With over 200 members we are bound to have members who can use their non-beekeeping skills to help OCBA achieve new feats. If you take pictures of your bees, share them with the rest of OCBA through the website and now through the newsletter, as well. If you have other artistic talents, join our tee-shirt design committee. Contact John Rintoul (beecd@icloud.com) to help.

Nancy Ruppert's Resource List for further reading and information on rearing hygienic queens.

- Connor, L.J. (2015) *Queen-rearing essentials*, 2nd ed. Kalamazoo, MI Wicwas Press.
- Doolittle, G.M. (1899, with 2008 Reprint) *Scientific queen-rearing*. Kalamazoo, MI Wicwas Press.
- Koeniger, G. et al. (2014) *Mating biology of honey bees*. Kalamazoo, MI Wicwas Press.
- Spivak, M. & Reuter, G. (2006, revised ed.) *Successful queen-rearing – short course*. St. Paul, MN: University of Minnesota.
- Spivak, M. & Reuter, G. (December 2008.) *New direction for the Minnesota Hygienic line of bees*. Retrieved from: <https://www.beelab.umn.edu/sites/beelab.umn.edu/files/new-direction.pdf> (Also published in the Dec. 2008 issue of *American Bee Journal*, pp. 1085-1086.)
- Zawislak, J. & Burns, D. (No date given.) *Raising quality queen bees*. Retrieved from: <https://www.uaex.edu/publications/PDF/MP518.pdf>