

OCBA Meeting Minutes, February 14, 2019

Cynthia Speed

Our pre-meeting dinner was held in the Fireplace Room at Radius Pizzeria in Hillsborough with 20 in attendance.

President Ryan Chamberlain opened the meeting following the brief social period from 7:00 to 7:15 when members enjoyed refreshments and talked about their bees. Members who needed to rush off before the meeting ended had an opportunity to talk with each other and refreshments were available throughout the meeting. Refreshments were provided by Celeste Mayer, Kenneth Lee, and Elizabeth Pratson.

Ryan welcomed everyone to the February special romantic meeting and introduced Philip Moore, our speaker for the evening. We recognized Philip from our last meeting when he was awarded the Journeyman Beekeeper Certificate. He has kept bees since 2010 and currently serves as a research scientist and field team leader at Eurofins Scientific. Philip presented a talk, "Bee Wary! Internet Based Beekeeping Resources". It was an excellent presentation with voluminous references for our study.

Philip warned us to be skeptical of many resources offered on the internet. Countless sites have ulterior motives or have a product they are pushing to sell. Many are special interest groups promoting their own self interests. His first recommendation was Google Scholar. Entering your topic of interest will pull up researched academic publications at no charge with the most popular, most cited articles filtered to the top. He mentioned only a couple of sites to approach with caution if at all. The Fat Bee Man, for example, on applying oxalic neglects to mention using protective gear. He also uses oxalic when brood is present, when honey supers are in place, and makes no mention of monitoring for mites ignoring "best practice" guidelines. Philip reminded us that reading and following the label is crucial and will keep us safe and compliant. Apithor Hive Beetle Trap, a product example he gave, reports to be fully safe but is not. A CD case sized box with tiny entrances and corrugated insides does trap and kill a large number of beetles but moisture that condenses in the top of the hive leaks onto the product causing escaping chemicals kill bees.

Philip said that not all informal YouTube videos are bad and made recommendations.

- North West New Jersey Beekeepers: presentations, apiary activities, DIY component
- Brother Adam: "The Monk and the Honey bee" (5 part series)
- Michael Palmer: The Sustainable Apiary
- Richard Noel: Beekeeping blogger, i.e. "cell builder explained"
- Scientific Beekeeping: Randy Oliver, publishes in American Bee Journal and on own site. Randy Oliver is a generalist not a scientist.
- <http://beekeepingtodaypodcast.com/> free podcasts from Bee Culture magazine

- Pollinator.org: Pollinator Partnership promotes the health of pollinators critical to food and ecosystems, through conservation, education, and research; responsible for designation of "Pollinator Week" by US Senate; Eco regional planting guides select plants for pollinators tailored to your specific area with a free guide by entering your zip code
- Honey.com: National Honey Board, advocates for sustainable honey production, recipes
- Digital.library.cornell.edu/collections/bees: Digital library at Cornell University has one of the largest and most complete apiary libraries in the world. You can check out on line, for free, thousands of books and pamphlets which include the first 40 volumes of the American Bee Journal.
- Beeinformed.org: Bee Informed Partnership, a national management and loss survey comes from them every April; diagnostic kits available
- <https://entomology.ces.ncsu.edu/apiculture/bees/>: David Tarpy's online beekeeper's education course for a fee.
- <http://www.uoguelph.ca/honeybee/>: free, high quality videos on beekeeping
- <http://u.osu.edu/beelab/>: Ohio State free webinar series
- <https://www.ncbeekeepers.org/>: NCSBA website
- <https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/>: A tool will walk you through the decisions you need to make to determine how best to manage varroa mites in your hives.

Lisa Vogel, Director of Mentoring gave a brief review of OCBA's Apprenticeship program reminding us that it is equivalent to bestowing a \$1,000 scholarship to recipients. In 2019 the program had 11 applicants. Last year Megan Talikoff, mentored by Mark Powers, and Catherine Trusky, mentored by Elizabeth Pratson, were chosen. Lisa presented Certificates of Achievement to both and praised their enthusiasm and diligence.

Ryan reminded us of the upcoming joint NC/SC state beekeepers meeting to be held in Monroe, NC March 1 & 2. See the NCSBA website at www.ncbeekeepers.org to register.

Brad Kosiba, keeper of the club extractor, reported that the OCBA extractor that extracts 6 medium frames or 3 deep frames is ready for rental while the smaller 2 frame extractor is under repair and should be available momentarily. He said if you have unlimited funds and lots of storage and can buy your own expensive extractor to use once or twice a year you won't need our services, but an alternative would be to think about renting OCBA's extractor for \$5/24 hr period. Everything you need comes with it except the jars. Rental is a benefit of your membership, but you do have to be a member in good standing no later than March 31st of the current year. You will need to email Cynthia Speed, OCBA secretary, for processing and she'll notify Brad who will get in touch with you. Meanwhile, see the website for full details under Policies and Guidelines.

In Randall Austin's absence (OCBA education coordinator), John Rintoul, chief gate keeper for the Bee School this year reported that the school was full with 75 eager students. Randall who is also the NCSBA to OCBA liaison passed on new information, hot off the press. There are 2 open volunteer positions in the NCSBA. The recording secretary position is open and requires attendance at 3 executive meetings: one in the Fall and one at each of the Spring and Summer conferences, so travel is mandatory. Lynn Wilson, past secretary is available for questions at secretary@ncbeekeepers.org. The GAP (Golden Achievement Program) Chair is also open. There are no job descriptions for either post but do contact Paul Neubold president@ncbeekeepers.org if you are interested. A second position has been authorized to assist OCBA's Jessica Mjelde who is webmaster for the NCSBA website. A sound working knowledge of Word Press and HTML basics is a must. No inexperienced persons need apply.

Larry Arnold gave a short report on this year's MBP Study group. The 15 students are meeting on the 1st Monday of each month. The study curriculum follows the Study Guide for Journeyman Beekeeper as well as the Advanced Level Curriculum on the NCSBA website. Randall Austin serves as group moderator.

Nerissa Rivera, OCBA treasurer and leader of the OCBA Queen Rearing Pilot Program (QRPP) gave an update. An email went out to the OCBA Google groups in search of a suitable plot of land to use as a queen rearing yard. That plan was scrapped and the new plan is to maintain one cell builder colony each at Walter Starks' and Ryan Chamberlain's apiaries. Grafts will be made at the cell builders. Resultant queen cells will be transported to committee member apiaries by nuc then to final mating nucs. As queens emerge and mate they'll be proofed to assure that they are well-mated and laying well. If the effort is successful, the QRPP may be calling for members to serve as hosts to queen cells.

Nerissa also reported that in addition to conducting two queen rearing clinics for individual beekeepers in 2019, a chapter level program will be included. Chapters participating in the Born & Bred Chapter Queen Yard Project must initially invest their own funds and can receive reimbursement from the B&B Program for half of their investment not to exceed \$500.

Ryan raffled off a heavy duty hive tool donated by Bailey bee Supply, a large glass bee ornament, and a book of bee poetry.

Rob Jewett who prepared the State fair display last year encouraged members to start taking pictures now of all things bee related from bees to pollinator flowers, wax products, hives, etc. in preparation for this year's booth. Ryan issued a challenge to members to contribute.

Tim Struttman, coordinator for the Orange County Bee Collaborative (OCBC), described the new group as an opportunity to continue learning. It is modeled after the 1st year

cluster and will follow the NCSBA Journeyman guidelines. View the eligibility requirements and sign up before Feb 28th on the OCBA Website.

Jayne Stuart, one of OCBA's members, invited everyone out to the Science Fair to be held in the Durham Hotel Lobby on Feb 23rd from 5:00 – 8:00. Tim Struttman will bring an observation hive that he built and a Eusocial Behavior poster created for the event will be donated to the club.

There were 51 members in attendance.