

OCBA Up to the Minutes News

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DINNER AT RADIUS PIZZA

Join the discussion and meet beekeeping legends



Dr. David Tarpy and his NCSU BEEMore summer interns joined OCBA members for the pre-meeting dinner at Radius Pizzeria in Hillsborough in July. In all, 23 members and guests attended. Everyone is welcome to attend this group dinner which has become more and more popular as a place to talk with fellow beekeepers. The group meets at Radius at 5:00 prior to each monthly membership meeting.

STATE FAIR DISPLAY UPDATE

Get involved – NOW!

Ryan Chamberlain opened the meeting asking **Dawn Rogers**, this year's state fair display coordinator, to bring everyone up to speed on progress, needed entries, and opportunities to volunteer. Dawn and Beatrice, the beekeeper attired manikin who holds court at Bailey Bee Supply, talked about the progress being made towards preparations for the fair. She gave a quick review of rules for entries and encouraged everyone to register their entries with the club rather than entering as individuals in order to collect points towards our display. Bailey Bee Supply donated a case of honey jars which Dawn gave out at the close of the meeting to those who want to enter the honey competition.

THE NINJA WARS

Master Beekeeper **Randall Austin** was the main educational program speaker for the evening. He livened up an otherwise depressing topic, "Ninja Wars: Death by a Thousand Cuts (How Viruses Are Secretly Killing Your Bees)" and gave a humorous and yet informative presentation. He warned us that visible threats such as bears and small hive beetles get attention, while many threats are invisible and not apparent to the beekeeper until damage is done. He discussed how viruses cannot reproduce without assistance from host cells. He explained how viruses replicate and spread throughout our colonies. Transmission of viruses is often dependent on a transmission vector such as every beekeeper's perennial enemy, the varroa

mite. Randall's closing message: Beekeepers can foil viral ninja attacks by maintaining healthy hives, reducing varroa mite pressure, and in some cases requeening.

NC STATE BEEKEEPERS SUMMER MEETING

Once again, the NCSBA Summer Meeting is being held in Hickory, NC. The Hickory Metro Convention Center is an ideal venue for gatherings as large as the NCSBA Summer Meeting. There are large meeting rooms, ample room for vendors to display the latest beekeeping gear, and for beekeepers from around the state to make new friends while renewing old friendships.

NCSBA's statewide meetings always bring together the best and the brightest researchers in the beekeeping universe to help beekeepers better understand the inner workings of their colonies and to become more productive beekeepers. These meetings also afford NCSBA members an opportunity to pick the minds of fellow beekeepers – many of whom are seasoned honey, queen and nuc producers from around the state.

Plan now to attend the summer meeting – August 8-10. While advance registration is closed, anyone can register at the door.

If you attend, and if you are the owner of a 2018 OCBA tee shirt (or an older vintage OCBA shirt) plan to proudly wear your shirt on Friday, August 9th. Not only will you express solidarity with your fellow OCBA members, but **IF** we learn that we have been successful in our efforts to earn the Golden Achievement Program (GAP) award for our 2018 GAP year you'll be set to share in the statewide recognition of OCBA's achievement as a noteworthy beekeeping club.



VOICES OF EXPERIENCE

Can't hurt, might help . . .

Over the past few months you have read about beekeeping tips and tricks offered by the members of an international beekeeping listserv. Have you tried any of the offered tips and tricks? If so, did they work? Do you have other tips and tricks that you have learned or discovered on your own as you go about your beekeeping? If so, share them. Send your submissions to John Rintoul at beecd@icloud.com. We'll share them here. Remember – Beekeeping is a lifelong learning experience and we learn from each other.

BEEMORE 2019

NCSU trains the next generation of bee researchers

Ryan introduced Dr. David Tarpy, professor of entomology and extension apiculturist at NCSU. Dr. Tarpy introduced seven undergraduate summer research interns who are participating in the BEEMore 2019 apiculture research initiative at NC State.

NCSU's summer Research Experience for Undergraduates program offers hands-on research experience to undergraduates throughout the state. As representatives of the next generation of beekeepers they are introduced to all aspects of research and are supported by assigned mentors.



Dr. Tarpy introduces the REU Summer Scholars

OCBA members were treated to brief presentations from each summer scholar describing their individual research project within the entomology program at NCSU. Notably, in deference to their beekeeping audience, each student acknowledged and apologized for the fact that their research involved euthanizing bees.

SECURING THE FUTURE OF BEEKEEPING



"Future Beekeepers of America" at Blackwood Farm Park

In addition to providing a forum for young NCSU researchers to present their bee research, OCBA's Outreach Program recently fielded a team of young volunteers including OCBA's 2019 apprentices, **Finley Stinchcombe** and **Harrison Hufner**, accompanied by last year's apprentice, **Megan Talikoff**, to introduce a group of 7 to 10 year olds to the fascination of beekeeping. Committed OCBA members volunteer throughout

the year to encourage children and youth of all ages to better understand the importance of bees and beekeeping.

Nancy Oglesby joined OCBA's apprentice team in this effort.

Day campers at top bar hives



IMPORTANT REMINDER

Due to a conflict with the timing of the NCSBA Summer Meeting, OCBA will **not** hold a monthly membership meeting in August. Our next monthly meeting will be September 12th when OCBA will host its annual "Ask the Experts." At that meeting members can present their questions to a panel of noteworthy and experienced OCBA beekeepers. The Ask the Experts panel has been a yearly favorite in the OCBA continuing education line-up since its introduction in 2017. Plan now to attend. This meeting generally fills the house!

BLACKWOOD FARM PARK HONEY HOUSE

On July 9th **John Rintoul** met with representatives of Orange County, the structural architectural team and the landscape design team selected by the County to design the Blackwood Farm Park administrative office. The County requested design and specification assistance from OCBA regarding the addition of a demonstration honey house as an educational component at the Park. The honey house would be housed in the administrative office structure, but would be physically separate as its own operational unit.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND SPEAKERS

September 12, OCBA Membership Meeting – Ask the Experts panel. Bring your questions. No question is too small, no question is too great, no question will go unanswered. OCBA's experienced beekeeping wizards will be ready to respond to every question.

Other Events of Note

August 8-10, 2019 – North Carolina State Beekeepers Association Summer Meeting, Hickory, NC. Be there if/when OCBA accepts its well-earned GAP Award.

September 8-12, 2019 – [Apimondia International Apicultural Congress](#), Montreal, Canada. Information about the program and workshops is now available online. Keynote speakers include: Rufus Isaacs; Gene Robinson; Peter Rosenkranz; and Tom Seeley. Plan now to attend.

Spring 2020 – North Carolina State Beekeepers' Association Spring Meeting, New Bern, NC. For beekeepers who really plan ahead.