

ORANGE CO

Beekeepers



October Meeting

Dick Rogers is our speaker, presenting "The Status of Honey Bees: Health, Risks, Research and Recommendations." Dick has a long list of credentials and has been keeping bees since the 70's. He has a degree in entomology (doctoral in progress) and works in research for Bayer CropScience. His presentation of slides covered the factors which affect bee health such as food, shelter, safety, environmental factors, management factors and in-hive factors. He



covered diseases that affect bees and the research that is being done. His conclusions? There are no healthy bees. Bees need help from beekeepers. There are multiple causes of honey bee problems, but varroa mites are significant. Integrated Pest Management strategies can help. He recommended monitoring, management, and mite control.

Although this news is sobering, we are in an excellent place to address it with many resources at our command. OCBA as a club works hard to help educate

our members about the diseases and pests that affect honey bees. Our state inspectors are always happy to come and look at a colony to assess it's health. Samples can be taken to the NC Bee Lab for testing. The NCSBA meetings as well as meetings like EAS can provide information on recent studies on diseases and pests and treatments. Bees have had difficult times in the past with introductions of new pests and have shown a great ability to adapt and overcome these problems. We can hope with our informed help, the bees will overcome the troubles they are facing.

Highlights

New Website!

Our new VP Todd Walker has revamped and updated our website. Stop in and have a look. Please suggest changes, additions, edits. Thank you Todd for all of your good work! [Visit the New Site](#)

New Officers!

OCBA elected a new group of officers at our November meeting. Thank you to all who have agreed to help lead OCBA in to the future.

Pres. John Harrell

VP. Todd Walker

Sec. Lizbeth Collins

Treas. Dick Merritt

3 Year Dir. Charles Fleckenstein

2 Year Dir. Watty Bowes

1 Year Dir. Inge Kautzmann

Ex-officio Dir. Lewis Cauble

Another Award Winning State Fair Display

OCBA Awards at 2010 Fair:

1st Place Display Booth
Best of Show
2nd Place Gift Basket
3rd Place Wax Candles
3rd Place Hand Cream

OCBA Member Awards:

Aggie Decosta. 1st Place Caramels
Geneva Green. 1st Place Wax Carving
1st Place 12 Honey Plants
Lewis Cauble. 1st Place Observation Hive
2nd Place 50 lbs Honey



Thank you!

Orange County Beekeeper's Association is an amazing home for beekeepers, a resource for the county and a teaching center for new beekeepers. Every member of the club contributes to making it a better place. Each person has brought wonderful things to the club. I think our officers have done a great job this year. Dick Merritt has got all of our finances in order. Lizbeth Collins has kept good records of our membership and excellent minutes. Lewis Cauble has led us with a shining example of shared time and energy. Gayle Young has lined up wonderful speakers who have educated and entertained us.

The State Fair booth committee did a wonderful job creating a beautiful and educational booth that won both 1st place and Best in Show. The committee included Geneva Green, Lizbeth Collins, Sandra Kirven, Jane Saiers and Rey Aponte.

Others who have contributed above and beyond the call of duty include: Randall Austin, John Harrell, John Wallace, Eva and Jim Hoke, Jeff Bollinger, David Langham, Todd Walker, Inge Kautzmann, Betsy Kemptor, Watty Bowes, the Laudeman family, Eric and Taylor Solie, Angie Frizzell, Tom Carson, Charles Fleckenstein, Jack Tapp, Lanette and John Fee. Please forgive me for missing others who have given generously of their time, talents, and money!

Special thanks go to our inspectors: Don and Will, the staff at NC State including Jen Keller, David Tarpy and Juliana Rangel, and Glenn Hackney at the NCDA&CS Bee Lab.

Now is the time to prepare to help OCBA have another great year by volunteering to help with the club by being on a committee, an officer, or helping with planning or organizing an event.

OCBA Closes Out 2010 With Charles Fleckenstein in November and Good Food in December

OCBA finished out 2010 with its last official program in November with Charles Fleckenstein. Charles is a long time member of OCBA, a commercial beekeeper, and an NCSBA Master Beekeeper. Charles gave us his favorite methods for keeping bees without using chemicals.

Our December meeting featured our annual potluck holiday celebration including good food, good fellowship, and a wonderful gift exchange.

OCBA Exec Committee Meets to Discuss Future

The new OCBA Exec Committee met at Casa Ibara in Hillsborough on December 14th from 6:30 to 8 PM to discuss priorities for 2011. Stay tuned for the minutes of that meeting. The Exec Committee is composed of all of the current officers.



The OCBA December meeting featured a fantastic potluck meal as well as a wonderful gift exchange.

OCBA Installs Pollinator Garden at Historic Dickson House in Hillsborough.

Members of OCBA's gardening crew met at the Alexander Dickson House in Hillsborough on Saturday, Dec 11 at 9 AM to install a wonderful pollinator garden. We cut the sod off of the top, tilled the wonderful red clay, added a healthy dose of compost and tilled that in. We cut a nice edge around the bed and planted some of the bees favorites including varieties of salvia, anise, mint, sedum, aster, and others. After planting, we put a nice layer of double shredded hardwood mulch on top. We look forward to it coming alive as the weather warms in the spring.



The garden crew included Lori, Gayle, John, Peggy, Rose, Chris, Lucy, Geneva, and Lewis.

See Y'all In January

