

OCBA Meeting Minutes, May 11, 2017

Cynthia Speed, Secretary

Our pre-meeting dinner was held in a private room at Radius Pizzeria with 10 attending.

President John Rintoul opened the meeting. He mentioned that helpers are still needed to tidy up the club pollinator garden at the Dickson House. Geneva Green said that she will be at the pollinator garden where the Hillsborough Garden Tour begins on May 20th and 21st. OCBA will also staff a table along with the Orange County Master Gardeners at the Gold Park Pollinator Garden during the Hillsborough Garden Tour.

Several people have already rented the club extractor. Walter Starks will be hosting this year's Honey Extraction Workshop on June 10 at 10:00 at Cedar Ridge High School. Thanks to Keith Yow the cabinet maker instructor and member for making the high school shop available. This will be a good opportunity for members to see OCBA's honey extractor in action and learn how to operate it. Walter will have all of the necessary equipment. There's no need to bring knives, cappings scratchers or your honey. The extractor is currently in a storage unit in Carrboro. Be sure to read the extractor policy on the web site so that you will know the responsibilities. The rental fee is \$5.00/day with a \$40.00 deposit. Only members who renewed their memberships before April 1 are eligible to rent the extractor.

Randall Austin will be our speaker at the June meeting and will talk about extracting, bottling, labeling, and marketing honey.

Also, especially for folks who still aren't comfortable with assessing and treating mites, Randall will conduct a hands-on demonstration at his bee yard in June or July. He will go over monitoring methods and how to apply the most popular Varroa treatments appropriate for the situation, timing, weather, etc. Contact him if you are interested in participating at OrangeBeeClass@gmail.com

The members only raffle items were a two part stainless steel honey strainer donated by Bailey Bee Supply, a fine mesh plastic honey strainer, a queen excluder, and some OCBA patches.

Our program was a panel forum with experienced OCBA beekeepers: Randall Austin, Geneva Green, Walter Starks, and David Eckert. What a great idea. Lots and lots of questions were asked from what to do if your veil keeps falling off when you bend over to how to tend your hives to when to requeen and what to do about all of that swarming.

The meeting was adjourned and the group enjoyed refreshments brought by Chris Apple, Jeanne Arnts, and Elizabeth Pratson. Sixty-four people were in attendance.