

OCBA Meeting Minutes, March 2015

Jan Rogers

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by OCBA co-presidents Cynthia Speed and Chris Apple.

Refreshments were available and there was a brief discussion of the past month's OCBA member's hive observations.

David Eckert mentioned the Newbee Mentor Program and emphasized the importance of listing your apiary location on the map - or updating an existing entry with 2015 current information. It is such a great resource and thank you to all who took the time to do so this past month. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Lewis Cauble made reference to the NC Grower Survey - just 9 short questions to answer. It was mentioned at the Spring State Meeting. He said that NC is the forerunner in this survey with SC not showing much effort at this point. He can send you the document upon request.

Cynthia & Chris read a heartfelt Thank You note from Lisbeth for the honey bee cuff bracelet the club gave to her for her many years of dedication to the OCBA in the secretary capacity.

The Field Day for the Bee School is coming up on March 28th. There are 70 students enrolled so extra support from experienced Beekeepers is welcome to encourage new beekeepers to get some hands on experience. Email Randall Austin for the start time and directions if you are able to join in as a much needed, seasoned beekeeper.

Dick Merritt informed us that membership renewals are now due. It's that time of year so please renew so we can keep the books straight and the badges up to date.

Cynthia told us that the State Summer meeting will be held July 9-12 at the Junaluska Conference Center (<https://www.lakejunaluska.com>) near Asheville. She strongly suggests that we sign up soon for hotels. If you haven't been to a state meeting yet, this will be a good one as the location is beautiful. Lewis Cauble shared with us that Dr. Jim Tew Beekeeping Specialist, Alabama Cooperative (www.tbhsbywam.com/author), will be speaking as will Wyatt A. Mangum (Ph.D.) who is an internationally-known, top-bar hive beekeeper, a professor at the University of Mary Washington in Virginia and has written a monthly column for American Bee Journal for years. And as a bonus, Tom Steeger, US EPA Office of Pesticide Program and David Tarpy secured Peter Rosengrantz for the 2017 meeting. He wrote Lewis's favorite mite report.

Don Hopkins addressed the recent news that Oxalic Acid has been approved by EPA as a treatment for varroa mites.

<https://www.regulations.gov/contentStreamer?objectId=0900006481a386df&disposition=attachment&contentType=pdf>

He stressed that now that it is registered as a pesticide we need to follow the label

closely. The label is the law. A paper is going to be put out on details. Wait for the label to be published as for timing and mixture. You cannot use it with brood in the hive so there is a very, narrow window for use. Please be careful.

At 7:17 Adolphus Leonard, NC Apiary Inspector, was introduced to discuss Small Scale Queen Rearing. His session was both informative and entertaining.

He emphasized that you should:

- Make sure queen stock comes from good brood laying patterns
- Graft larvae of the right age
- Chose well fed larvae
- Provide plenty of nurse bees, pollen & honey
- Ensure that drones come from good stock
- And most importantly, Have fun!

He suggested we read up on Sue Cobey's Cloake Board method of queen rearing.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Jan Rogers
OCBA Club Secretary