

OCBA Meeting Minutes, January 11, 2018

Cynthia Speed, Secretary

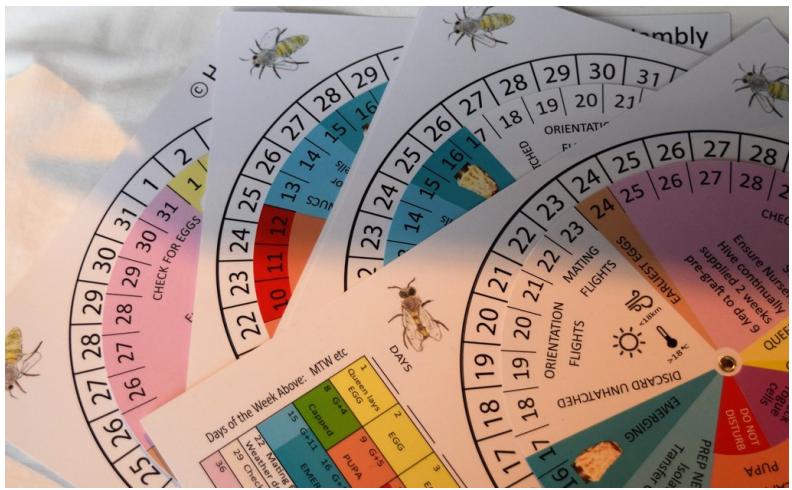
President Mark Powers opened the meeting by letting everyone know about the brief social period from 7:00 to 7:15 when members can enjoy refreshments and talk about their bees. Members who need to rush off before the meeting ends will still have an opportunity to talk with each other and refreshments will be available throughout the meeting.

Mark introduced Sarah Stern, one of our 2017 apprentices mentored by Jim Evans who presented a talk about her experience with her bees. She gave an excellent presentation that included slides. She experienced requeening when her "bees off'ed their queen"; set up a water source for them to avert a crisis when they were discovered drinking from a neighborhood pool; and said that she was honored to have an opportunity to help Jim harvest honey. She mentioned that she volunteered at the OCBA pollinator garden and the state fair booth and thanked OCBA for providing her the resources to become a beekeeper.

David Eckert presented Certificates of Completion to Sarah and to Ian Rasmussen. Ian was mentored by Celeste Mayer and presented a wonderful talk at our November meeting. David then recognized Lisa Vogel as OCBA's new Director of New Beekeeper Mentorship and the Apprentice Program. Lisa introduced OCBA's newest apprentices, Catherine Trusky and Megan Talikoff. Mentors are needed for these young people. Please contact Lisa if you would like to provide this valuable service. Lisa's email is Lvhv2003@gmail.com. Please visit the Apprenticeship Program on the OCBA web site to see how OCBA promotes and supports beekeeping for young people through an application process and requirements.

Nancy Ruppert, State Apiary Inspector for the Sandhills Region of North Carolina, was our guest speaker. She talked about "The Value of Having/Raising Hygienic Queens in Your Apiary" and gave us a resource list of related books/web sites. See below. The big take away was that hygienic queens are necessary for the future success in beekeeping. She demonstrated with excellent slides of: one type of hygienic behavior, the house cleaning instinct of diseased comb/brood; use of gold standard liquid nitrogen to test for hygienic traits; recognition that you have to commit to working within the bee's reproductive time table to achieve success; importance of mating hygienic queens with hygienic drones (drones with hygienic mothers).

For beekeepers considering queen rearing Nancy stressed the importance of timing. She indicated that there were several tools available to help beekeepers calculate critical dates in the queen rearing cycle. One of these is the Queen Development Dial. It is a useful tool for hive management techniques in addition to queen rearing. One side has timeframe for queen rearing – graft day, prep cell cups, development schedule, etc. The other side has a reference guide for the development of the other castes of the hive.



Nancy also provided the following Resource List for further reading and information on rearing hygienic queens.

- Connor, L.J. (2015) *Queen-rearing essentials*, 2nd ed. Kalamazoo, MI Wicwas Press.
- Doolittle, G.M. (1899, with 2008 Reprint) *Scientific queen-rearing*. Kalamazoo, MI Wicwas Press.
- Koeniger, G. et al. (2014) *Mating biology of honey bees*. Kalamazoo, MI Wicwas Press.
- Spivak, M. & Reuter, G. (2006, revised ed.) *Successful queen-rearing – short course*. St. Paul, MN: University of Minnesota.
- Spivak, M. & Reuter, G. (December 2008.) *New direction for the Minnesota Hygienic line of bees*. Retrieved from: <https://www.beelab.umn.edu/sites/beelab.umn.edu/files/new-direction.pdf> (Also published in the Dec. 2008 issue of *American Bee Journal*, pp. 1085-1086.)
- Zawislak, J. & Burns, D. (No date given.) *Raising quality queen bees*. Retrieved from: <https://www.uaex.edu/publications/PDF/MP518.pdf>

Nerissa Rivera, OCBA's Treasurer, explained that memberships and renewals to the North Carolina State Beekeepers Association are now handled directly by NCSBA and not by OCBA. The updated [application form](#) for 2018 is on the state web site. All OCBA members are encouraged to join NCSBA.

Additional info:

1. You can receive a hard-copy of the membership letter/card if you check the hard copy option on the application form otherwise you will receive a card by email.
2. Provide your NCSBA membership number, a current email address and update any other information on the form. There's a fast and easy way to recover your membership number if you don't have it, under the Members tab at the web site.

3. After a membership number is assigned to a person, it does not change, even if there is a lapse in active membership.
4. Laurie Shaw resigned after 10 years of service and the new interim Membership Coordinator is OCBA's own Todd Walker. Contact info is on the state site and at the bottom of the updated membership form.

Congratulations Ryan!!

Ryan Chamberlain, OCBA's 2018 Vice President, completed the NCSBA requirements for Journeyman Beekeeper in October. Randall Austin, OCBA's Master Beekeeper Coordinator, presented Ryan with his official Journeyman Certificate and offered his congratulations on this achievement. Ryan's name has been added to the "Who We Are" [list of Journeyman Beekeepers](#) on OCBA's website.

Door Prizes

Door prizes at this month's meeting were a copy of the NCSBA Centennial Cookbook, a plush, stuffed Honey bee, and 1 frame grip generously donated by Bailey Bee Supply. David Bailey announced that he would be giving away one package of bees at each of the three package shipping dates. Members can register by dropping their name into the collection box at Bailey Bee Supply. No purchase required and multiple entries are permitted.

Refreshments

Mark Powers thanked Mary Leonhardi and Lisa Vogel who provided refreshments for OCBA's Monthly Meeting. He then circulated a sign up sheet for refreshment providers throughout 2018.

The Weather was Cold, but OCBA Attendance was Hot

There were 77 members and visitors in attendance at January's OCBA meeting. This packed the room. A great way to start off the New Year for the club and of our members!

New members should be aware that all members are invited to attend OCBA's pre-meeting dinner which is held in a private room at Radius Pizzeria. In January 12 members attended. This dinner offers members an opportunity to "talk bees" and to get to know each other in a relaxed environment. Often our guest speakers will join the gathering and members get a chance to pick the brains of an expert. Each member order and pays for their meal individually.