

# OCBA Up to the Minutes News

Volume 1, No. 8

TheOCBA.org

August 2018

## OCBA GROUP DINNER

*Come and join the discussion*

Once again the turnout for OCBA's pre-meeting dinner at Radius was strong. 15 members gathered before the August meeting.

All members are invited to attend this group dinner prior to each monthly meeting. It is a great opportunity to get to know each other and to share all things bee related. The group meets at 5:00.

## BEE STING ALLERGY AND HEAT EXHAUSTION

**Dr. Mark Powers**, MD and OCBA President, was our speaker for the evening. He presented, "Bee Sting Allergy, What You Need to Know." He also discussed heat exhaustion and its danger for summer beekeeping.

He shared some interesting facts such as, there are 40 deaths each year in the US attributed to different Hymenoptera species. This sounds like a lot, but not when you consider that lightning kills 33 people each year; firearms kill 34,252; and opioids 42,249.

90% of total bee venom is delivered within 20 seconds after the sting, hence the need to remove the stinger as soon as possible. He shared a graphic on the chemical components of bee, wasp, hornet, and ant venom. It gave a broad overview of the complex mix of components present in each one.

When most people are stung, the site develops redness, swelling and itching, but the immune system of those who are allergic to stings over-reacts to the venom. After their first sting, their body produces antibodies called immunoglobulin E (IgE). If stung again, the venom interacts with this specific IgE antibody triggering the release of substances that cause an allergic reaction.

Systemic allergic reactions occur away from the sting site and usually start within minutes. Hives, swelling, breathing issues, dizziness and loss of consciousness can occur. This response constitutes a medical emergency, and is commonly referred to as anaphylaxis. Mark suggested that beekeepers carry a cell phone in the event of a systemic allergic reaction. If the reaction is hives only, take an antihistamine, for a more severe reaction inject epinephrine and call 911.

Toxic responses are not always a reaction to IgE. They can also occur after multiple stings (i.e. beekeepers working multiple hives in a day). This is not an allergic response even though it may cause headache, hives, nausea and diarrhea. Numerous stings, for example an Africanized Honey Bee attack, can deliver enough venom toxin to cause kidney, liver, cerebral dysfunction and red blood cell lysis (i.e. rupture of the cell membrane).

Mark said that all beekeepers should be familiar with allergy symptoms and have a plan for prompt treatment for themselves and others.

Mark also clarified the difference between heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Symptoms of heat exhaustion include: cool, clammy skin with goosebumps, sweating, body temperature of 100-104°F, dizzy, lightheaded, muscle cramps, headache, nausea. Symptoms of heat stroke include: flushed, hot dry skin, body temperature of 105°F and above, confusion, fainting, coma, rapid breathing, rapid pulse, low or high blood pressure. Individuals experiencing heat exhaustion or heat stroke should seek medical care immediately.

Mark demonstrated how to use an epi-pen and passed around a needle-less one for practice. Mark enjoyed having an extended Q&A with OCBA's diverse membership of experienced beekeepers and experienced medical professionals.

## OCBA'S NEWEST JOURNEYMAN BEEKEEPER



*Master Beekeeper Coordinator, Randall Austin, welcomes Brad Kosiba as OCBA's newest Journeyman Beekeeper*

OCBA's newest Journeyman Beekeeper, **Brad Kosiba**, started his beekeeping as a 2013 graduate of OCBA's Bee School. Many members have gotten to know Brad when they contact him to



rent OCBA's honey extractor. Brad volunteers to manage extractor rental and to provide guidance and assistance to beekeepers as they undertake honey extraction for the first time. Brad also serves as the co-leader of the 2018 Carrboro Cluster for graduates of OCBA's Bee School. Certified Beekeepers who would like to take the Journeyman exam and/or Practical may do so in October in Alamance County. Details of time and place are on the [NCSBA web site](#).

## BEEKEEPING — THE HARD WAY (WITH APOLOGIES TO THE US POSTAL SERVICE)

By Cynthia Speed



*"Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor broken wrist will stay this beekeeper from swift completion of her appointed rounds."*

**Cynthia Woodson**, rocking her broken wrist and **David Giuseppe**, who maintain OCBA's Langstroth hives, and **Cynthia Speed** and **Mary Leonhardi**, who maintain OCBA's top bar hives, recently met at Blackwood Farm Park to

treat for mites. Previous sugar shake results of 7, 15, 15, and 30 indicated time for treatment. While there the new kid on the block made her appearance. **David Bailey** of Bailey Bee Supply fulfilled his promise of donating a nuc to the club for every 75 bee packages purchased. OCBA earned two and **John Rintoul** installed the newest addition while we were there. Blackwood now hosts 5 bee hives.



## HONEY EXTRACTION UPDATE

By Brad Kosiba, OCBA Extractor Keeper

Greetings from the OCBA's fabulous Carrboro Warehouse (a small rental storage unit just south of town). Our club owns quite an array of honey extraction gear, all available to members for the amazing price of just \$5/day for any or all of it. For

uncapping honey frames we have an uncapping tank, hot and cold knives and a cappings scratcher. For extraction, we have two manual extractors: a stainless steel 6-frame radial extractor accommodating 6 medium frames (or 3 deep frames in a tangential format); or, a two-frame tangential plastic extractor.

There is also a 5 gallon bucket with honey gate and several sieves. So far, there has been an equal demand for both extractors. The larger extractor works well for dozens of frames, the smaller one for a dozen or two. We also have a refractometer for determining moisture in honey samples which the Extractor Keeper is happy to use to measure moisture in samples at club meetings or at the warehouse on request.

Extractors are expensive to buy and maintain and they take up a lot of storage space. Before investing in your own, consider using your club's equipment, especially if you are extracting only a few hives. Weekends in June and July are most popular, but they are rarely booked more than a week or two in advance and most weekdays it all just sits in the warehouse unused. Since March, ten different members have rented the equipment a total of 12 times. (Unfortunately the small extractor is out of service for the moment for repairs. It should return to action soon this fall.)

NOTICE!!! Don't be Foolish!!! Bee sure your OCBA membership registration is up to date each year. Only paid up OCBA Members of Record *prior to April Fools Day* are eligible to rent the equipment each calendar year. For reservations, please contact our OCBA Secretary, Cynthia Speed at [katrina501@aol.com](mailto:katrina501@aol.com).

## DISCOVER THE GOODNESS OF NC HONEY

During the business portion of the August membership meeting **Randall Austin**, NCSBA Piedmont Regional Director presented a "Discover the Goodness" poster to OCBA's Outreach Director, **Chris Apple**.



The poster will be displayed at outreach events. Randall explained that the poster represented the NCSBA's Certified Honey producer program. Its goal is to promote local honey

produced by NCSBA beekeepers and to connect local beekeepers with consumers who are looking to purchase local honey. Beekeepers who participate agree to label and classify their honey in accordance with the programs guidelines. The "Discover the Goodness" label features the RealNCHoney.com URL where consumers can access the online registry to verify that the seller is a Certified Honey producer. Further details on the [NCSBA Certified Honey Producer](#) program are available on the NCSBA website.

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

OCBA's very own **Jessica Mjelde** has been hired as the web master and designer for the NC State Beekeepers Association (NCSBA). Jessica has been tasked with rebuilding NCSBA's website from the ground up. While the updated website has not yet 'gone live' Jessica shared many of the revisions with

members at the August meeting. She asked members to stop at the table and comment on the new design which she displayed on her laptop. She solicited member feedback and suggestions. She will bring it to our next meeting as well.

Jessica is a graduate of OCBA's 2017 Bee School. She became a Certified Beekeeper this year and plans to pursue Journeyman certification as time and experience permit.

## STATE FAIR ENTRIES

*Deadline approaching*



The deadline for honey entries in the North Carolina State Fair is fast approaching. Plan now to assure that your honey and beekeeping products are entered in the bees and honey competition. The registration deadline for entries is Saturday, September 15.

Entry categories include: extracted honey (light, amber, or dark); cut comb honey; chunk honey in jars; creamed honey (unflavored or flavored); beeswax in bulk; pure beeswax products; gift package of bee products; mead; photography, and more.

If you think you might want to enter one of the categories, go ahead and submit your online entry now. You are not obligated to enter so you can always change your mind later. But once the September 15<sup>th</sup> deadline is passed there is no chance to enter until next year.

For more information go to the [Bees & Honey Competition Guidelines on the NC State Fair website](#).

## COMING SOON TO A BEE CLUB NEAR YOU

*NEW OCBA T-SHIRTS IN THE PLANNING STAGES*

At the August Meeting, **Mark Powers** introduced photos of the proposed 2018 edition of the OCBA t-shirt. Shirts are being offered in multiple colors. Short-sleeved and long-sleeved options are available, as well as a v-necked women's version.



Order forms were available at the meeting and orders may be submitted via email. Details of the color choices, styles and sizing are detailed in a message sent to the OCBA Discussion Group. That message can be accessed [here](#) and orders may be submitted prior to the September membership meeting.

Pricing of the long-sleeved version and the v-neck version will depend on the total number ordered. Members will be informed of final pricing of those two items after orders are received.

Those ordering shirts should plan to make payment prior to or shortly after the September meeting.

## OCBA COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

*Photos by Kim Talikoff and Dawn Rogers*

National Honey Bee Day was honored and celebrated on Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup> at the Eno River Farmers Market in Hillsborough and at the Chapel Hill Farmers Market in Chapel Hill. OCBA had information tables at both markets to share information about honey bees and beekeeping with the non-beekeeping public.



*Elizabeth, Ryan, Megan and Walter at the Chapel Hill Farmers Market  
OCBA's National Honey Bee Day Bee Team*

In Chapel Hill **Elizabeth Pratson, Ryan Chamberlain, Cathy Starks, Megan Talikoff and Walter Starks** represented OCBA and shared their love of bees and beekeeping with market patrons. Ryan and Walter each sold a significant amount of honey.



*Elizabeth, Ryan, Mega, Cathy and Walter*

In Hillsborough, **Meredith Friedrich and Dawn Rogers** attracted a lot of attention with Dawn's new observation hive. Children and adults alike were fascinated as were a small contingent of free ranging honey bees. Meredith and Dawn also provided Burt's Bees lip balm, stickers and coloring sheets for the kids. Several people talked about wanting to get started in beekeeping and were invited to come to a meeting to check it out.

The Eno River Market has several regular honey vendors so honey sales by OCBA volunteers are not permitted. But Dawn and Meredith's information table generated special interest in honey sales at the market on National Honey Bee Day.



Dawn shares her passion for honey bees at the Eno River Farmers Market

### JAMES WITHROW TO PRESENT IN SEPTEMBER

James Withrow, a doctoral candidate in David Tarpy's lab at NCSU will be OCBA's featured speaker in September. His research into queen selection during emergency queen rearing was recently [published in PLOS One](#), an open access, online, peer-reviewed journal. OCBA is fortunate to have access to cutting edge researchers willing to share their findings with local beekeepers.

Please consider a donation to Dr. Tarpy's lab to demonstrate your support for the program and the high quality graduate students who are attracted to NC's apicultural research program. Checks can be made payable to: "Apiculture Science Fund of the North Carolina Agricultural Foundation" and mailed to: The North Carolina Agricultural Foundation, NC State Box 7645, Raleigh NC 27695-7645

### WHAT MY BEES DID ON SUMMER VACATION

By Ryan Chamberlain

Orange County beekeepers know that once the Tulip Poplar nectar flow stops the summer dearth is near, if not already upon us. Using NCSBA's handy "[Floral Sources/What's Blooming](#)," **Nerissa Rivera** and **Ryan Chamberlain** decided that their bees would be better suited spending part of summer in the mountains where Tulip Poplars would still be in bloom and Sourwood trees would be just beginning to produce nectar.

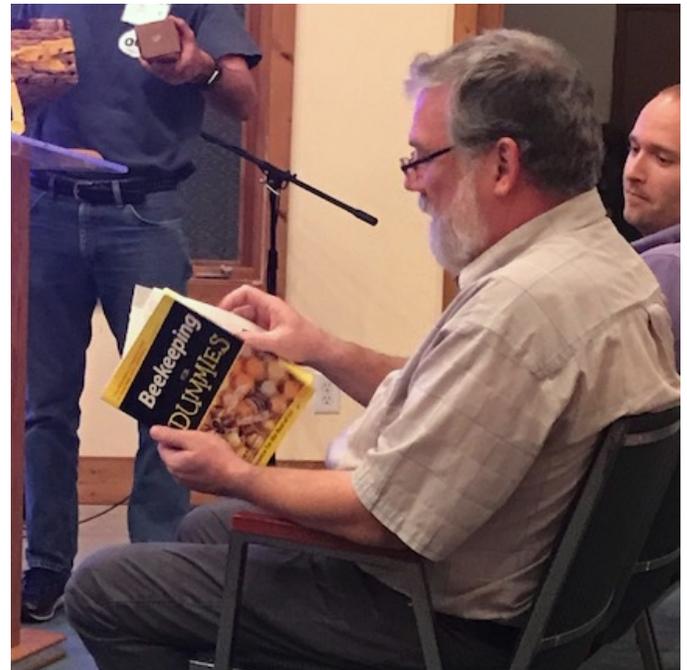
A fond friend of Nerissa offered a spot of land near Lake Lure for our bees to spend their summer vacation. With a tremendous offer of help from Nerissa's son and a friend, the group worked through the day to erect a temporary bear fence. Once adequate protection was in place, the bees successfully settled in to their vacation homes in the mountains.

Despite the rainy weather that has dogged most Piedmont beekeepers this honey season, a monthly check early in July revealed a significant amount of beautiful, lightly colored and delicious honey for the beekeepers. In early August the bees

were successfully moved back to their homes in the Piedmont, but not without considerable effort. One of the most enduring lessons the beekeepers learned was that vehicle access to an apiary site is often taken for granted. Hand-moving hives downhill is a breeze, but the return trip *uphill* can be back-breaking. Fortunately, the colonies now have plenty of extra weight to get them through the rest of the summer dearth even after the beekeepers' harvest.

### OCBA DOOR PRIZES FOR AUGUST

**Randall Austin** was one of the lucky door prize winners at the August meeting. Randall, a Master Beekeeper and one of OCBA's more experienced members, won his own personal copy of *Beekeeping for Dummies*.



Randall evaluates the potential 'smoker fuel quotient' of the latest addition to his beekeeping library.

To be eligible for OCBA's door prize giveaways you must be a member. OCBA has great door prizes in store for future meetings. **Join OCBA now.**

### FUTURE BEEKEEPERS OF AMERICA

It will soon be time for OCBA to select its 2019 beekeeping apprentices. **Lisa Vogel**, Director of OCBA's Mentorship and Apprenticeship program, asks for your help in identifying contacts for organizations such as 4-H, Future Farmers of America, Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troops, school groups, etc. where OCBA can publicize the application process to assure that the apprentice program continues to attract the highest quality Future Beekeepers of America. The apprentice selection process has been very competitive and has enabled OCBA to support strongly motivated young beekeepers.

If you have contact information for a group that works with or provides services to young people, who may be interested in beekeeping, please email the information to Lisa Vogel at [lvhv2003@gmail.com](mailto:lvhv2003@gmail.com).

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND SPEAKERS

**September 13 Membership Meeting** – James Withrow, a PhD candidate in Dr. Tarpy's lab, will discuss his current research which is focused on queen behavior and setting up colonies with multiple queens.

**October 11 Membership Meeting** – Suzy Spencer of 5 County Beekeepers Association will teach us the nuances of honey tasting.

**November 8 Membership Meeting – Guy Fricks** of Fricks Farm and Apiaries will talk about artificial insemination of queens.

**December 13 Holiday Gathering** – Come and share your best finger food with friends and beekeeping colleagues at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual *Hors d'oeuvres for Honey Lovers*. OCBA will provide the beverages.

## Upcoming Outreach Events:

**August 29 Chapel Hill Public Library – Jill Hadden** will read bee-themed books to a pre-school group at the Chapel Hill Library. Rumor has it **Ryan Chamberlain** will augment Jill's presentation by bringing an observation hive of bees to further engage the group.

**September 15 Happy Honey Bees at the Hillsborough Public Library** – Three OCBA beekeepers, **Lou Rascoe**, **Jenn Phelan** and **Elizabeth Strong** will team up to present "Happy Honey Bees" at the Hillsborough library. This 2-hour program will include a presentation about bees and the making of a little bee craft. Lou will also bring an observation hive of bees to this event.

**September 29 Blackwood Farm Park LocalFest 2018!** – [Orange County LocalFest](#) is a diverse, family-friendly festival that celebrates and promotes local food, local music, the local economy, and the county's heritage and culture.

Keep your eye on OCBA Discussion Forum listserv for more information about OCBA's participation in this event. There will be sign up opportunities posted sometime after September 19th. We will need folks to help at an information booth and possibly at OCBA's demonstration hives at the park. Pre-volunteer via email to **Chris Apple** at [chrisapple1231@gmail.com](mailto:chrisapple1231@gmail.com).

## Other Events of Note

**November 30 – December 4 [Apimondia Symposium](#)**, 'The Role of Bees in Food Production.' Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. If you attend, please fill out an [Individual GAP Form \(Box D6\)](#) Attended a national or international beekeeping meeting and pass the completed form to Cynthia Speed or John Rintoul.

**September 8-12, 2019, [Apimondia International Apicultural Congress](#)**, Montreal, Canada.