

OCBA Up to the Minutes News

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DINNER PLANS FOR MARCH?

Join OCBA, Join the Discussion

OCBA's February pre-meeting dinner at Radius Pizzeria in Hillsborough was again well-attended by 20 members and guests. All interested beekeepers are invited to attend this group dinner prior to each monthly meeting. It is a great opportunity to get to know other beekeepers, ask questions and share all things bee related. The group meets at 5:00 prior to each monthly membership meeting. The full membership meeting was attended by 51 members.

BEE WARY!

Web Based Beekeeping Advice Not Always Accurate

February's speaker **Philip Moore**, new OCBA member and Journeyman Beekeeper, presented, "Bee Wary! Internet Based Beekeeping Resources." He cautioned members to approach internet beekeeping sources with appropriate skepticism. He noted that beekeeping sites often put their own self-interest ahead of the beekeeper's education needs. Those interests may include selling a product or simply generating advertising clicks. Beyond an obvious financial interest a site may simply be promoting a particular point of view. While 'point of view' sites are not necessarily a problem, Philip urged members to be wary of sites that do not support their point of view with scientifically based research. By way of example, Philip noted a website that promoted an oxalic acid treatment protocol that is inconsistent with both oxalic packaging labels (i.e. the law) and research based best practice guidelines regarding the effect of oxalic vapor on bees, brood and queens.

Rather than focus on the negative, Philip preferred to highlight good web surfing practices. His first recommendation was Google Scholar which makes academic publications available at no charge while filtering the most popular and most often cited articles to the top of your search.

Philip noted that not all informal YouTube and online videos are bad and recommended a few of his personal favorites.

- North West New Jersey Beekeepers: presentations, apiary activities, DIY component
- Michael Palmer: The Sustainable Apiary
- Richard Noel: Beekeeping blogger



- Scientific Beekeeping: Randy Oliver, publishes in American Bee Journal and on his own site. Randy Oliver is a generalist not a scientist.
- The Honey Bee Research Centre at the University of Guelph - free, high quality videos on beekeeping
- The Bee Lab at Ohio State University offers free webinar series

Philip also encourages all beekeepers to take advantage of the many great features of NCSU's Apiculture Research Program.

Wow! COMMUNITY BEEKEEPING OUTREACH

2018 Strong, 2019 Off to an Early Start

Last year was a banner year for OCBA's community outreach. Beekeeping volunteers spread throughout Orange County and even beyond its borders to share their love and knowledge of beekeeping at schools, community festivals, gardening events, churches and anywhere that people expressed an interest in learning more about honey bees.

Our members staffed at least thirty-one (31) outreach events as documented throughout the year in this Newsletter. There were undoubtedly more events that went unreported. Many of these events were staffed by multiple members so it is impossible to tally the countless hours donated by OCBA members to familiarize the non-beekeeping public with our fascinating hobby.

Chris Apple, Outreach Director, kicked off 2019 in the same vein with a presentation to the East Chapel Hill High School Bee Club on January 30th about native bees. She is looking forward to another productive year of bee education with the help and support of members.

Jayne Stuart and **Tim Struttman** will participate in the *Seeing Science Fair* to be held in the Durham Hotel lobby on Feb 23rd from 5:00 – 8:00. Their exhibit will feature a poster about the eusocial behavior of honey bees supplemented with live bees in an observation hive.

PLAN NOW FOR YOUR HONEY HARVEST

Brad Kosiba reminded OCBA members that "membership has its privileges." One of those privileges allows members to rent OCBA's extraction equipment for \$5 per day. But, he cautioned, you must join or renew your membership before April 1st. Brad catalogued the club's equipment which includes: a 6-frame stainless steel extractor, a 2-frame plastic extractor for small jobs, a cappings tank, de-capping tools, and a honey bucket. Brad will also test your honey for you with the club's refractometer to assure that the moisture content of your honey is less than 18.6%. [Join now or renew your membership today!](#)

WOODENWARE WORKSHOP

Bee School Class at Equipment Workshop

On Saturday, February 9th, OCBA held its annual Equipment Field Day to familiarize Bee School students with the construction of basic beekeeping woodenware. Again this year, **Randall Austin** and **David Eckert** demonstrated hive box construction, frame assembly and relative advantages and disadvantages of plastic and beeswax foundation.



David Eckert demonstrates the value of a frame assembly jig

The equipment field day is held in the wood shop at Cedar Ridge High School. **Keith Yow**, OCBA beekeeper and woodworking teacher at Cedar Ridge, offered frame assembly jigs made by his students at \$10 each. "We sold \$90 worth of the jigs on Saturday and have 3 more to be completed and picked up this week." Keith is grateful for the financial support shown by the new beekeepers for the Cedar Ridge shop program. Members who are interested in purchasing a frame assembly jig can contact Keith via email at keith.yow@orange.k12.nc.us.



2019 Bee School Class at Equipment Field Day

OCBA DOOR PRIZES FOR FEBRUARY

This month's door prizes included a heavy duty hive tool donated by Bailey Bee Supply, a large glass bee ornament, and a book of bee poetry.

To be eligible for OCBA's door prize giveaways you must be a member. OCBA has great door prizes in store for future meetings. And to be eligible to rent OCBA's honey extractor you must join or renew your membership no later than March 31st. [Join OCBA now.](#)

2018 APPRENTICES HONORED

Lisa Vogel, Director of OCBA's Mentoring and Apprenticeship programs awarded **Catherine Trusky** and **Megan Talikoff**



Certificates of Apprenticeship to acknowledge successful completion of their 2018 apprenticeships. In addition to mastering first year beekeeping skills both Megan and Catherine volunteered throughout 2018 at community outreach festivals and events where they honed their communication skills sharing their knowledge of honey bees and beekeeping with the public.

Over the past several years the Apprentice Program has been an overwhelming success. This year's apprentices are **Finley Stinchcomb** and **Harrison Hufner**.

OCBA QUEEN REARING PILOT PROJECT

At the February meeting, **Nerissa Rivera** reported that NCSBA will conduct two queen rearing clinics for individual beekeepers in 2019. In addition, NCSBA announced a matching grant program for chapters participating in the Born & Bred Chapter Queen Yard Project. Chapters that invest their own funds can seek reimbursement from the Born and Bred Program for half of their out-of-pocket investment not to exceed \$500.

Nerissa also brought the membership up to date on the recent activities of OCBA's Queen Rearing Pilot Program (QRPP). The group had initially hoped to locate a mating yard somewhere in the county and sought the assistance of the membership to identify a location. As the group's thinking progressed they decided to simply install mating queen cells in individual nucs that will then be relocated to the bee yards of participants.

In the event more viable queen cells are produced than QRPP participants can place in their bee yards the group will put out a call to all OCBA members who are looking for queens on a first come-first served basis. She also encouraged members to be ready to respond to such a call on a moment's notice. Ripe queen cells will need a home in a hurry.

WHAT'S BLOOMING NOW?

*in collaboration with Geneva Green
Consulting Bee-plant Specialist*

Your bees are bringing in yellow pollen. Where is it coming from? And bright orange pollen! What's that?

In February there are many weed options for our bees. Two weeds that are virtually guaranteed to be in your yard are Speedwell with its quarter inch blue flowers with white centers is in bloom throughout North Carolina and the ever popular Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) – the source of much of that bright orange pollen.



Speedwell (*Veronica persica*)

On the ornamental scene – and the source of much of the yellow pollen right now) – are Flowering Quince (*Chaenomeles* sp) and Winter Jasmine (*Jasminum nudiflorum*). These winter favorites are blooming now and will continue through the end of February and into March.



Flowering Quince
(*Chaenomeles* sp)

Kathy Keatley Garvey



(c) Kathy Keatley Garvey

Winter Jasmine (*Jasminum nudiflorum*)

SUPPORT YOUR STATE BEEKEEPING ASSN.



North Carolina State Beekeepers Association (NCSBA), the nation's oldest statewide beekeeping organization, has two open volunteer positions.

As the new NCSBA Secretary you would attend, participate and take minutes at the

Executive Committee meetings. These meetings are held at the spring and summer conferences and at a floating location elsewhere in the state in the fall. This is a great opportunity to better understand and contribute to the continued success of the nation's first and foremost state beekeeping association.

NCSBA is also seeking a volunteer to serve as Chair of the Golden Achievement Program (GAP). The GAP Chair heads up the GAP Committee which is responsible for promoting the GAP program and evaluating chapter submissions. More information about the program can be found on the NCSBA website [here](http://www.ncbeek.org).

These are volunteer positions that require your attendance at face-to-face meetings. Travel to these meetings is not reimbursed by NCSBA, but the Association does provide lunch and/or dinner during working Executive Committee meetings.

There is currently no job description for either position, but interested parties may contact NCSBA President, Paul Newbold at president@ncbeek.org for more information. Questions of a general nature may be directed to [Chris Apple](#) or [Randall Austin](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS AND SPEAKERS

March 14 OCBA Membership Meeting

David Fruchtenicht will help us understand how swarms operate and will discuss various approaches to preventing them. He also has some clues about collecting swarms in swarm traps.

David has been keeping bees for 60 years and claims to have perfected most of his mistakes. He keeps about 50 hives and has sold honey and beeswax candles at the Durham Farmers Market for many years.

Other Events of Note

March 1-2, 2019 – North Carolina State Beekeepers' Association Spring Meeting, Monroe, NC (southeast of Charlotte) at the Union County Extension Complex. This will be a joint meeting with the South Carolina Beekeepers' Association. Registration is open **now** on the [NCSBA webpage](http://www.ncbeek.org).

April 26, 2019 – Hillsborough Earth Evening celebration of Earth Day, sponsored jointly by the Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation and the Town of Hillsborough. The event is from 6 to 8pm.

Volunteers are needed from 5:30 to 8:30 to accommodate setup and take down. This is a family-oriented event. OCBA is encouraged to have some sort of hands-on or child-friendly activity. If you are interested in helping, please contact [Chris Apple](#).

June 22, 2019 – Pollinator Palooza The North Carolina Museum of Art (NCMA) in Raleigh is hosting *Pollinator Palooza* on Saturday, June 22nd from 9 to 11am in Museum Park. NCMA hosts Bee Downtown bee hives on campus. OCBA beekeepers and honey vendors have been asked to participate. Again, if you are interested in volunteering for the event, please contact [Chris Apple](#).

July 15-19, 2019 – [Eastern Apicultural Society's Annual Meeting](#) in Greenville, SC. Featured speakers include: Dewey Caron; Dennis vanEnglesdorp; Kirsten Traynor; and Jennifer Berry. The workshop schedule for the conference will be posted soon.



August 8-10, 2019 – North Carolina State Beekeepers Association Summer Meeting, Hickory, NC. Note that the date is a month later than usual to avoid a conflict with the Eastern Apicultural Society's meeting in Greenville, SC.

September 8-12, 2019 – [Apimondia International Apicultural Congress](#), Montreal, Canada. Information about the program and workshops is now available online. [Keynote speakers](#) include: Rufus Isaacs; Gene Robinson; Peter Rosenkranz; and Tom Seeley. Plan now to attend.

Spring 2020 – North Carolina State Beekeepers' Association Spring Meeting, New Bern, NC. For beekeepers who really plan ahead.