

## OCBA Meeting Minutes, July 9, 2020

Cynthia Speed, Secretary

Celeste Mayer, president and Carrie Donley, vice president set up OCBA's virtual meeting for July using zoom video conferencing. At least 41 participants tuned in.

Celeste opened the meeting by welcoming everyone then turned the meeting over to Carrie. The agenda followed the same order as last month with the speaker presenting first, followed by the business meeting. Carrie introduced the evening's speaker, Dr. Juliana Rangel who spoke on "Effects of exposure to miticides during development on the reproductive quality of queens and drones".

Description of her presented research:

Most honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) colonies in the United States have been exposed to the beekeeper-applied miticides amitraz, coumaphos, and tau-fluvalinate. Colonies are also often exposed to agrochemicals, which bees encounter on foraging trips. These and other lipophilic pesticides bind to the beeswax matrix of comb, exposing developing bees. We explored whether pesticide contamination of beeswax used for queen and drone rearing affects the reproductive health of adult reproductives. We did so by measuring queen physiology markers including mandibular gland chemical composition, egg-laying rate, worker retinue response, sperm viability, and mating frequency. Our results support the idea that pesticide exposure of wax during bee development is an important and concerning factor impairing honey bee health.

It was an excellent talk and her research was remarkably interesting especially to those of us who are constantly plagued with negative queen events in our hives. Celeste recorded the meeting and will post it to the OCBA Google Group.

Celeste reported that the new website is expected to be functional at the beginning of August. Watch for an email to the Google Group offering a sneak peak if interested. A two-question survey is required.

Carrie mentioned that the web redesign includes a new logo. A vendor has been found who can digitally print items such as a t-shirt or cap one at a time to be ordered from the website at any time by individuals as they wish.

Randall Austin, Education Coordinator, said that Keith Yow, Cedar Ridge High School Cabinet and Furniture making teacher has retired. We are thankful to him for hosting OCBA's Extractor Workshops in the past. We will now need a new space. Geneva Green, bee plants instructor, has retired from the Bee School teaching circuit and luckily for us, Jeanne Arnts will step into the vacant spot. Jeanne is a 5<sup>th</sup> year beekeeper and a Master Gardener with lots of experience giving presentations. We are delighted to have her.

Randall attended the NCSBA Board of Directors meeting the previous night and reported that Fall testing is not likely to happen as the Burlington facility where it was to take place is locked down due to Covid-19. Awards that would normally have been presented this Summer will be presented in the Spring. The NCSBA is sending out to everyone a ballot for Officers and Regional Directors who are up for election, along with motions for amending the Constitution and Bylaws. Voting will close on August 24, 2020. Elected officers will take office on September 1, 2020. He also learned at the meeting that the Mountain State Fair was cancelled and thinks that the State Fair will also be cancelled.

Celeste said that the Q and A's are well attended and will continue. A Waggle Dance Social Hour is in the planning stage.

Carrie has some offers out for a speaker for August.