

## OCBA Meeting Minutes, September 20, 2020

Cynthia Speed, Secretary

Celeste Mayer, president and Carrie Donley, vice president set up OCBA's virtual meeting for September using zoom video conferencing. At least 39 participants tuned in and the meeting was recorded for future viewing.

Celeste opened the meeting at 7:04 pm and welcomed everyone to the broadcast. The agenda followed the same order as last month with the speaker presenting first, followed by the business meeting. Carrie introduced our speaker for the evening, Dr. Elina L. Nino from the University of California at Davis. Her topic was "UC Davis Research and Extension: What We Are Up To These Days". She opened with news about how they are managing beekeeping during the fire season. Local beekeepers have lost hundreds of hives. Only piles of ashes remain where bee hives once stood. Three beekeepers that she knows lost at least 3000 hives. Smoke, heat, drought, and blocked sunshine has caused the pollinator garden on campus to suffer. Due to their higher temperatures, they get no brood breaks, so they are constantly battling varroa. Oxalic acid is not yet legal for California beekeepers so that has led them to testing of softer plant bio miticide options. At temperatures of 110° and temperatures of 120° in open fields, they are always looking for compounds usable at high temperatures. Her talk was excellent and revealed that there is a ton of exciting research going on in beekeeping. A full recording of the meeting will be emailed to the OCBA Discussion Forum.

Celeste opened the business portion of the meeting.

Randall Austin, Director of Education, reported that we are close to posting a sign-up page on the new website for bee school which will be held via zoom. Great content and expert instructors will be the same. We will not be renting space or purchasing books so the cost will be reduced. Students will purchase their own books and the best place to get them will be at Bailey Bee Supply in Hillsborough. The single individual rate is \$75.00. Couples, families, and friends who want to use one connection will pay a connection rate of \$125. The bee school will last 10 weeks, beginning January 19<sup>th</sup> and ending March 23<sup>rd</sup> on Tuesdays, 7:00 – 10:00 pm. There will be no in-person workshops as part of the school.

Randall also said that testing for the Master Beekeeper Program certified written exam is being available. You must be a current member of the NC State Beekeepers Association as well as Orange County to be eligible for testing. Several outdoor venues have been selected with appropriate safety precautions employed. Let Celeste know when you would like to take it.

Lisa Vogel, Mentorship Director, reported that Apprenticeship applications will be available on the website from October 1 – 31. Applicant must be between the ages of 10 and 16 and an Orange County resident. The program supplies at no cost, honey bees, bee equipment, tools, protective clothing, bee school, and OCBA membership. A decision will be made in November by an interview committee. We have had excellent candidates in the past. If you know of any interested youth, let them know about this wonderful program.

Dawn Rogers, Outreach Director, stated that she had received a request to present at Carrboro Elementary School. She is excited that if it goes well, we will do the same at other schools. If you know a teacher who would like something similar, request forms are on the website with improved content and easy to use.

Celeste reminded us that we now have OCBA SWAG on the membership page. Carrie modeled her new hat with new OCBA logo and Ryan showed off his new t-shirt. Within every purchase is a small donation to our club operation.

Carrie reminded us that next Tuesday September 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm, we will have another great OCBA Q & A session on preparing your hives for winter starring our own Randall Austin and our area apiary inspector, Don Hopkins.

Carrie said that our October speaker was originally scheduled for March but was cancelled. Dr. Olav Rueppell will be zooming with us from Canada.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm.