

Orange County Beekeepers Association Community Apiaries and Partnerships

(Adopted December 2020)

The purpose of this policy is to outline the goals and guidelines for Orange County Beekeepers Association (OCBA) Community Apiaries and Partnerships to assist in the evaluation of existing Community Apiaries and Partnership as well as assist in decisions about resources and capacity for future Community Apiaries and Partnerships.

Definitions

OCBA Community Apiary (CA) – An apiary owned and maintained by OCBA located in a public area with a primary purpose of community education.

OCBA Community Apiary Partnership (CAP) – An apiary owned and maintained by a non-profit organization, school, or other Orange County entity with a primary purpose of community education for which OCBA commits at a minimum to one or more experienced OCBA member volunteers to support with regular consultation both in-person and by phone or email.

OCBA Community Apiary

Considerations - When evaluating the prospect of establishing a new Community Apiary the Board of Directors shall take the following considerations into account:

- The benefit of the proposed Community Apiary to OCBA's broad educational mission.
- The sustainability of the proposed Community Apiary in terms of OCBA financial resources and beekeeper volunteer(s).
- The commitment of the hosting organization to provide a long-term secure location and access.

Goals

- Community education - to familiarize the non-beekeeping public with the science/art of beekeeping and the role of pollinators generally in our environment.
- Serve as a site to support OCBA programs as appropriate.

OCBA Responsibility

- A Memorandum of Understanding will be established prior to the placement of an OCBA Community Apiary.
- Hives will be cared for by OCBA volunteers using generally recognized best practice.
- Expenses will be reimbursed by OCBA.
- At the request of and in consultation with the hosting organization, OCBA will provide formal education sessions during the hosting organization's regularly scheduled public events, e.g., festivals, open house.
- When apiaries are managed by more than one OCBA volunteer, information about the status and management activities for each hive (swarming, requeening, mite count, treatment pan, etc.) will be shared with all volunteers for the site.

- Treatment for varroa mites will be coordinated and applied to the entire apiary following generally recognized best practice.
- If a volunteer is unable to inspect or care for hives in a community apiary for a period that will exceed generally recognized best practice the volunteer will contact the OCBA President who will arrange for an interim beekeeper.

Surplus Honey and Bees

- The majority of the harvested honey will be dispensed as agreed by the OCBA Board of Directors. Option include donation to the hosting organization to support its mission, or to support a non-profit organization of the hosting organization's choice, or sold to recoup OCBA expenses, or sold with profits donated to the NC Apiculture Program.
- The remaining portion of the surplus honey will be shared with the organization staff who have supported the beekeeping, organization members who have been actively engaged in caring for the bees, and the OCBA volunteers for the particular community apiary.
- Proceeds from sale of nucs or queens will be deposited in the OCBA treasury to recoup OCBA expenses.

OCBA Community Apiary Partnership

Considerations - When evaluating the prospect of entering into a Community Apiary Partnership the Board of Directors shall take the following considerations into account:

- The benefit of the proposed partnership to OCBA's broad educational mission.
- The sustainability of the proposed apiary in terms of the partnership organization's financial resources and beekeeper volunteer(s).
- The availability of experienced OCBA volunteers who are able to make a long-term commitment to assist the beekeeper(s) designated by the partnership organization.

Goals

- Support the hosting organization with educational goals and to familiarize the non-beekeeping public with the science/art of beekeeping and the role of pollinators generally in our environment.

OCBA Responsibility

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be established prior to the commitment for an OCBA Community Apiary Partnership.
- The MOU will be unique for each partnership and will include OCBA's specific commitments to support the Partnering Organization achieve their apiary goals.

Partnering Organization Responsibility

- Hives will be cared for by Partnering Organization volunteers using best practice guidelines and at least one of these volunteers will have completed the OCBA Introduction to Beekeeping course.
- At least one Partnering Organization volunteer will maintain OCBA membership.
- Management for varroa mites will follow best practice guidelines.
- Cost of bees, associated supplies and hardware will be the responsibility of the Partnering Organization.

- Use of harvested honey and surplus bees will be determined by the Partnering Organization.

Sample Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

The purpose of this letter is to provide [Organization Name] with OCBA's understanding of that collaboration based on our discussions with various participants.

1) The hives at [Organization Name] are owned and managed by [Organization Name or OCBA] as an educational resource to familiarize the non-beekeeping public with the science/art of beekeeping and the role of pollinators generally in our environment.

2) [Organization Name or OCBA] will perform regular inspections of the hives to assure the health of the colonies. When possible we will coordinate our inspections with appropriate [Organization Name] staff and or students.

3) OCBA will provide advanced notice to the [Organization Name] of any planned hive demonstrations for non- [Organization Name] groups, including school groups, scouting groups, or other community groups. When possible OCBA will schedule these demonstrations during hours to minimize possible disruptions on the [Organization Name] site.

4) (For Community Apiaries) While the OCBA hives at [Organization Name] are managed for demonstration purposes rather than to maximize honey production we do anticipate that the hives will produce some quantity of honey. OCBA will donate the majority of honey to [Organization Name]. It is our hope that proceeds from the sale or auction of [Organization Name] honey will be used to support the mission of [Organization Name] and help the [Organization Name] achieve their apiary goals

5) (For Community Apiaries) OCBA beekeepers are available to [Organization Name] staff and/or students to provide information and training about beekeeping. OCBA can also facilitate the participation of other beekeeping professionals such as inspectors from the NC Apiary Inspection Service.

6) (For Community Apiary Partnerships) An OCBA volunteer will be available for consistent consultation and support with the aim to help the [Organization Name] achieve their apiary goals for (amount of time) unless this MOU is revised or renewed.

List of current OCBA Community Apiaries and year established

Blackwood Farms – 2016

Carrboro High School Campus – 2016

List of current OCBA Community Partnerships and year established

Cedar Ridge High School - 2020