

Orange County Beekeepers Association Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2021

7:00 - 9:00 pm via Zoom

Carrie Donley, OCBA president, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. The meeting was attended by 36 people.

Bees and Pesticides

Tim Struttman, OCBA vice president, introduced our speakers: Sydney Ross, Pesticide Operations Specialist at the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and Jason Williams, Pesticide Inspector and Wake County beekeeper. They explained how they handle calls/complaints about bee kills and how they conduct field inspections. Sydney encouraged people to register their hives at <https://beecheck.org>. She noted that if you pay \$10 to register your hives with the state, you will be notified of aerial spraying near your hives [*Note: in Orange County, aerial crop spraying is rarely, if ever, conducted.*]

Sydney discussed some of the pesticides that are highly toxic to bees, like bifenthrin and pyrethrins, and she noted that *Bacillus thuringiensis* is relatively non-toxic to bees. Sydney presented several bee-kill case studies to illustrate the kinds of issues her department deals with. She also presented several myths, such as pesticide applicators can't spray in the daytime (they can), and facts (applicators cannot spray without permission, and they can't spray blooming flowers if the pesticide label prohibits it).

Jason said beekeepers who experience a bee kill should contact their state apiary inspector. He also said time is of the essence, so call your inspector as soon as you notice a bee kill.

Outreach

Dawn Rogers said that requests for OCBA presentations have increased recently. She has conducted several Zoom meetings with schools and home-schooled students. In addition, she said the OCBA booth at the Hillsborough Garden Tour in May was a huge success. Not only did we get to talk about bees, we sold over \$1,000 worth of pollinator plants. Jeanne Arnts sold an additional \$300 worth of plants after the sale. A portion of the proceeds will go to the NCSU Apiculture Program. Plants were provided by many people, including a large donation from Mike Scully at Cedar Ridge High School. Other donors included Maxine Mills, Jeanne Arnts, Larry Arnold, Mary Leonhardi, Rachel Royce, and Vicki and Kent Robertson.

Dawn said Mary Ann Rhyne and Wayne Vandenberg will be giving a talk at a 4-H summer camp in Carrboro.

Carrie Donley encouraged members to sign up for outreach activities. She said if you have gone through Bee School, you will know more than the general public and will have plenty of

information to share. Carrie noted that participating in outreach events is a great way to get to know other OCBA members.

Randall noted that if someone asks you about OCBA presentations, tell them to go to the [OCBA website](#), select “School and Community Education” from the “Education” dropdown menu on the home page, and fill out the form requesting a presentation.

NCSBA Regional Director’s Report

Chris Apple reported that North Carolina will have a State Fair this year, and she is in charge of the Honey Booth, which is a major fund raiser for the NC State Beekeepers Association (NCSBA). NCSBA chapters can sign up to staff the booth, which involves keeping inventory on display and selling honey and honey straws.

Chris said that NCSBA will hold its fall meeting in person this year in Hickory, NC. The meeting will run for two days, November 19 & 20 (the weekend before Thanksgiving).

Chris said the written and the practical exams for the journeyman and master’s levels will be held at the Alamance County Center in Burlington, NC, on July 24. Pre-registration is mandatory, and space is limited. Email mbp@ncbeekkeepers.org to start the registration process and to receive additional details.

State Fair

Celeste Mayer said OCBA will have a booth in the State Fair. Members who have volunteered to work with Celeste on the booth include Dawn Rogers, Chris Apple, Mary Anne Rhyne, Seokyun Hong, and Keith Glidewell. Dawn encouraged people to enter honey and other products in the State Fair competitions. She said the 2021 contest list will be posted July 1, but it probably won’t be much different from previous years’ honey competitions rulebook. The 2021 State Fair Honey Competition rulebook isn’t online yet, but you can get a general idea of the requirements from the [NCSBA version](#). Dawn noted that she and others can help with transporting entries to the fair.

OCBA Discussion Group

Celeste Mayer said the OCBA journal discussion group continues to meet, and they welcome new members. The group meets monthly, and members take turns presenting articles and leading the discussion. To join, visit the OCBA website, select “Education” from the top navigation and “Journal Discussion Group” from the dropdown menu.

Celeste shared some online videos taken inside a hive that were part of her recent presentation to the discussion group. The videos show bees feeding larvae and unloading pollen. They can be viewed here:

- [S5 Video](#). Honey bee brood care: Feeding of young larva.
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0247323.s005>
- [S12 Video](#). Honey bee nutrition: Pollen storage.
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0247323.s012>

Funding for NC State Bee Lab

Carrie reported that Charles Heatherly, NCSBA Apiculture Science Initiative chairman, feels confident that funding for the state bee lab will be in the budget this year. If not, he will call on beekeepers across the state to contact their elected officials.

Announcements

- Carrie said the OCBA board would discuss when to move to in-person meetings at their next meeting in late June. She thought we would most likely be offering a hybrid version.
- OCBA will hold an extraction workshop at Cedar Ridge High School in Mike Scully's workshop on Saturday, June 19, from 9 - 11 am.

Door Prize Winners

- Carol Carter - Honey tasting wheel
- John Vargas - Lavender plant
- Dawn Rogers - Agritourism warning sign

Next month's meeting will be held on Thursday, July 10, at 7 pm. Our speaker, Julia Mahood, is a Georgia Master Beekeeper, a past president of the Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association, and the 2018 Georgia Beekeeper of the Year. She will discuss a citizen science project that shows people how to find drone congregation areas and post them on a public map (www.mapmydca.com).