

Orange County Beekeepers Association

Minutes

October 14, 2021

7:00 pm

Carrie Donley, OCBA president, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. The meeting was attended by 28 people on Zoom and by 9 people at the new Orange County Extension Office in Hillsborough.

Hive Sounds

Tim Struttman, OCBA vice president, introduced our speaker, Dr. Alison McAfee. Dr. McAfee holds a Ph.D. in genome sciences and technology from the University of British Columbia (UBC). She is a postdoctoral fellow at NC State University and UBC. She is also a columnist for *American Bee Journal*.

Dr. McAfee discussed queen failure based on her two years of studying failed and healthy queens at beekeeping operations in British Columbia. She shared several findings: failed queens have fewer sperm, lower sperm viability, higher viral titers, and smaller ovaries; high levels of a conserved immune effector (lysozyme) is linked to low sperm viability; and heat shock proteins could be an antiviral defense in queens (however, she does not recommend hive heating devices marketed for varroa control). She also found that temperature stress kills honey bee sperm. This can happen inside hives and during shipment. Dr. McAfee said the safe temperature zone for queens is 15-38 degrees Centigrade (59-101 F). Interesting factoids: each honey bee queen stores about 4 million sperm from 16 drones, and honey bee queens have a lifetime fecundity of about 1.5 million fertilized eggs.

2022 OCBA Officers

Carrie shared the proposed slate of officers for 2022. Changes from 2021 are:

- Carrie Donley, Immediate Past President
- Tim Struttman, President
- Nancy Oglesby, Vice President
- Ericka Wittchen, Secretary
- Jim Greco, Treasurer

The 2022 slate of officers will be voted on at the November meeting.

State Fair

Celeste Meyer reported that OCBA's booth at the State Fair won second place. Booths are evaluated on educational value, showmanship and overall quality. Celeste thanked the committee that created OCBA's booth: Seokyun Hong, Keith Glidewell, Dawn Rogers, and Mary Anne Rhyne. She also thanked members who helped with special features in the booth, including: Larry Arnold (ferris wheel); Loren Pease (mural); and Ian, Leif and Silas Rasmussen

(roller coaster). And finally, she thanked the set-up crew: Larry Arnold, Carrie Donley, Seokyun Hong (and parents), Keith Glidewell, Dawn Rogers, Mary Anne Rhyne, and Wayne Vanderburg.

Besides winning second place, our booth won the County Sweepstakes Ribbon, which is awarded to the county booth with the highest number of points for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place ribbon entries displayed on the booth. OCBA members winning ribbons at the fair included:

- Painting - Seokyun Hung - 1st place
- Hand Dipped Candles - Celeste Meyer - 1st place
- Decorative Item - Cynthia Speed - 3rd place
- Quilt - Cynthia Speed - 3rd
- Flowers - Lisa Vogel & Jeanne Arnts -5th
- Creamed Honey - Lisa Vogel - 1st
- Dark Amber Honey - Lisa Vogel - 2nd
- Junior -Dark Amber Honey - Anton Rogal - 2nd
- Cut Comb Honey - Ryan Chamberlain - 4th
- B&W Photo - Janet Staats - 3rd
- Color Photo - Janet Staats - 4th
- Jewelry - Barbara Mac Fayden - 3rd
- Fruit Mead - Elliott Richter - 4th
- Sweet Mead - Virginia Holmes - 2nd
- Bulk Wax - David Eckert - 1st
- Lip Balm - Dawn Rogers - 3rd
- Molded Candle - Dawn Rogers - 1st
- Wax Mold Pure Beeswax - Dawn Rogers - 5th
- Wax Mold Altered -Dawn Rogers -3rd
- Gift Basket - Dawn Rogers - 1st
- Frame of Honey - Dicky Lyon -3rd
- Handmade Hive - Maria Levy - 1st
- Chunk Honey - Robert King - 3rd

December Meeting

Tim Struttman said he is putting together a committee to help plan our December holiday party. He needs two more volunteers. Contact him at tim.struttmann09@gmail.com if you can help.

Apprentice Program

Vicki Robertson said they have two applicants for the 2022 OCBA Apprenticeship Program. They are hoping to have more. Also, Kent and Vicki are looking for people to help with the interview process. Contact them at kentvicki222@gmail.com if you can help.

Bee School

Randall Austin said enrollment is going little more slowly this year, with eight people signed up so far. Our Bee School has not yet been added to the NCSBA website. Once it has been, we will likely see more people enroll.

State Meeting

Randall reminded everyone that the NCSBA Fall Meeting is the weekend before Thanksgiving, November 19-20.

Door Prizes

OCBA Tote Bag: Larry Arnold

OCBA Hat: Celeste Meyer

Honey Dipping Sticks, Embroidered Tissue Holder: Lisa Vogel

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, November 11 . Rahman Tashakkori, Appalachian State University, will be our speaker.