

# **Orange County Beekeepers Association**

## **Meeting Minutes**

August 8, 2024

### **Hive Chat**

Key concerns for your apiary this month:

- The flow has ended, bees may be stressed and cranky. Check food stores and feed if light. Weak hives may be prone to robbing – install robbing screens as needed.
- Varroa levels will be ramping up, do your mite checks and treat if above threshold.

### **Presentation: “VarroaSan” a new mite treatment by Vita Bee Health**

**David Westerfelt** is the new consultant for Vita Bee Health North America. He is the retired Chief Apiarist for the State of Florida. Today he discussed various mite treatment options and introduced us to a new oxalic acid-based treatment/delivery system that will be approved in the US later this month.

VarroaSan is an oxalic acid-based treatment, delivered to the colony via a sustained-release fiberboard strip placed within the brood nest.

### **Club Business**

#### **Education (Randall)**

- OCBA members who wish to take the NCSBA Master Beekeeper Program Certified Practical exam should contact Randall Austin for more information. Any certified beekeeper can administer the exam.
- Randall and Leif have been developing a plan for some advanced beekeeping classes. More to come on this in the future.

#### **Membership**

- Currently OCBA has 263 members, with 69 new members joining this year (2024).

#### **Mentorship (Jose)**

- Apprenticeship Program
  - o Jose reported that the OCBA Board approved an increase in the number of apprentices for 2025. Up to 4 scholarships (up from 2) will be available if there are suitable applicants.
  - o The 2025 Apprenticeship Program applications (posted on the OCBA website) are open now through October 31
- Mentors for 2025
  - o Loyd Fricks will be a mentor supporting our 2025 Apprentices.
  - o If you are interested in becoming a mentor for 2025 contact Jose for more information.

## **Outreach (Jeanne)**

### **Hillsborough Last Fridays**

- July volunteers: Thanks to Scott Crabtree, Lauren Carreto, and Daniel Curry-Corcoran for staffing the booths this month.
- August volunteers: Lisa Vogel, with help from Jeanne Arnts, will be staffing a table selling honey from the OCBA's apiary at Blackwood Farm Park; Lauren Carreto, and Daniel Curry-Corcoran will also be staffing the tables this month.
- Sue Montpetit continues to be an outstanding coordinator for the Hillsborough Last Friday events, including with assisting set-up and take-down of tables, and storing supplies at the conclusion of these events.

### **Outreach Budget**

- Met to discuss a draft budget for allocation of funds for additional OCBA outreach event supplies
- Leif is incorporating feedback into the final budget to be submitted to the OCBA Board for consideration

### **Collaboration with the Mentorship Committee**

- Jose continues to promote the Apprenticeship Program, hoping to expand the number of applicants for 2025, including those who speak Spanish as their primary language. The plan is to reach out to high school and junior high school science teachers for leads.
- Thank you to Nancy Oglesby for designing the Apprenticeship Program flyers, and Jose for providing the Spanish translation. These flyers (along with the flyers promoting the 2025 Bee School) were distributed to all 3 OCBA tables at the July Last Friday event.

## **Treasurers Report (Jim)**

- Jim shared a summary slide of the year-to-date monthly budget report.

## **Next Month's Speaker**

- At the September meeting, Anya McGuirk will share with us the benefits of hive monitoring (weight, temperature) to provide real-time data that can help you manage your hives.

*Erika Wittchen*  
*OCBA Secretary*