

# Orange County Beekeepers Association

## Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2024

Janet Statts, OCBA President, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone for the February meeting. The meeting was attended by 59 members (15 via Zoom, and 44 in-person at the Orange County Extension Office in Hillsborough).

### Hive Chat

“Hive Chat” continues as a new addition to our monthly meeting agenda. This month’s topic was:

“Beware of starvation, swarms and preparing for the nectar flow”-with OCBA member and Education Director, Randall Austin.

- In addition to the timely in-person discussion, over the years Randall has written several articles that touch on this topic:
  - o [Hurray for Red Maples](#),
  - o [Seasonal Management](#), and
  - o [Little Bee Where Have You Been](#)

### Presentations

#### 1. 2023 Youth Apprentice presentation – Olivia

Olivia kicked off the first presentation of the year by our 2023 youth apprentices.

#### 2. “VHS Queens” – Cory Stevens

Cory Stevens is a Past President of the Missouri State Beekeepers Association. He was certified as a Master Beekeeper by the Eastern Apicultural Society in 2013 and earned a MS in entomology from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln. Cory and his wife Jaime own Stevens Bee Company where they have selected a VSH line of bees they call “Missouri Mite Hunters”. <https://www.stevensbeeco.com/>

### Club Business (Elisa Bailey)

#### Volunteer Spotlight

- In this month’s volunteer spotlight we thanked our OCBA Bee School leaders: Randall Austin and Carrie Donley, and all volunteer lecturers

#### Call for Volunteers

Volunteers are needed for the following:

- Blackwood Farm Park cluster mentor volunteer (if interested, contact Jose Olmedo)
- Leader for the Temporary Hive Care and Rehoming program (contact Celeste Mayer)
- A sign-up sheet for Tobacco Road Honey Classic planning committee was also circulated

### **Upcoming Events**

- NCSBA Spring Meeting will be held March 7-9 in New Bern. To register online go to [www.NCbeekeepers.org](http://www.NCbeekeepers.org)

### **Journal Club**

- If interested – contact Brad Kosiba for more information

### **Mead Competition**

- The meeting closed with voting on the mead tasting:
  - o 1st Place: Janet Staats with a sweet sparkling mead
  - o 2nd Place: Robert King with a traditional mead with cherry undertones.
  - o Notable: Mary Anne Rhyne and Wayne Vanderburg brought their homemade honey "liqueur" in a mason jar!

### **Next Month's Speaker**

At the March OCBA meeting, we will hear from our 2<sup>nd</sup> youth apprentice on their 2023 season as a first-year beekeeper.

We will also host Nancy Rupert, retired NC Apiary Inspector (11.5 years) and former Licensed Nurse Practitioner who will present on how beekeeping can have a positive impact on mental health.

*Erika Wittchen*  
*OCBA Secretary*