

Orange County Beekeepers Association

Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2023

Janet Staats, OCBA Vice President, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the June meeting. The meeting was attended by 51 members (13 via Zoom, and 38 in-person at the Orange County Extension Office in Hillsborough).

2022 OCBA Apprentice Presentation -- Jasper Nunn

Our second apprentice in 2022 was Jasper Nunn. Jasper gave the attendees a PowerPoint presentation on his year as an apprentice, what he learned, and he shared some really great photos from his apiary.

Presentation: “Meet the Locals”

For the June meeting, we introduced a new format called “Meet the Locals”. Four OCBA members gave short presentations on a variety of topics.

“Agritourism” – Robert King

“Propolis Envelope” – Kent Robertson

“Cutouts and Building Equipment” – Richard Dunnagan

“Creamed Honey” – Lisa Vogel

Club Business:

Thanks to those who brought the yummy dinner!

- Robert King – main dish and dessert
- Nancy Oglesby – main dish (filling in for Debbie Dupree, who is hospitalized this evening for a copperhead bite)
- Susan Montpetit – potato salad
- Ginia Roll – dessert

Nancy passed around the signup sheet for August’s meeting.

No club meeting in July: We will not have a meeting in July as it would conflict with the state meeting in Flat Rock, NC. We want to encourage people to go to the state meeting.

Union Grove Farm tour recap: Nancy reported the tour of Union Grove Farm at Maple View was a lot of fun – about 38 people got to hear Martin Crompton (vineyard manager) and Greg Bohlen (owner) talk about their plans to convert the old dairy farm to a regenerative vineyard. They’re also building a beer garden on site.

Honey Bee Jamboree recap: The Honey Bee Jamboree was a huge success! The food and band were fantastic, and a great time was had by all at Janet’s beautiful farm. The raffle drawing took place, and the winner of the 6-frame extractor (donated by Bailey Bee Supply) was Mary Anne Rhyne! The club took in about \$2175 from the raffle (before PayPal fees) and our current estimate is that we made about

\$600 on the Jamboree. As you know, our club has committed to donating at least \$2500 to the drive for the NCSU endowed professorship in apiculture each year for 5 years, so we are in good shape for meeting that goal this year. The competitions at the Jamboree were a lot of fun:

- The winner of the Black Jar Honey competition was Ryan Chamberlain.
- The best-looking dessert was a cake in the shape of a skep with bees, made by Dawn Rogers.
- The best honey flavored dessert was baklava, made by Robert King.
- The best tasting dessert overall was a 3-layered “Bee Sting Cake”, made by Celeste Mayer.

Great Southeast Pollinator Census: Nancy reminded attendees of an upcoming citizen science project that may be of interest. More information can be found at <https://www.gsepc.org/>.

Honey Extraction Workshop: This Sunday is our honey extraction workshop, which will be hosted by Robert King at his honey house in Mebane. Janet Statts and Jose Olmedo will also be there to show people how it’s done. The workshop is full. Nancy will send an email to those who signed up to confirm the address.

Outreach: Dawn Rogers announced the following upcoming Outreach Events:

- Sunshine Lavender Farm June Bloom (June 3rd and June 10th, 8 am – 4 pm)
- Duke Homestead Family Farm Animal Day (Saturday June 24th, 10 am – 2pm)

Tobacco Road Honey Classic: Saturday, September 30th in downtown Durham

This honey competition is in collaboration with the Durham County Beekeepers Association. We will have two certified Welsh honey judges coming in from Georgia for the event. There will be a wide range of competition classes to enter, ranging from honey, to wax, to crafts, photography, etc. There is no entry fee, and you will get feedback on how to prepare, show, and market your honey or craft items. Bailey Bee Supply is our sponsor and they have offered a generous prize list. Nancy will be sending out an email to find out how many people might want to enter, and to ask for volunteers to help with the set up/clean up.

Door Prizes

- Feeders left over from the Jamboree
- Insulated hive lid donated by Bee Smart
- Mite check kit donated by former member Brian Hassink

Next Month’s Speaker

The speaker in August will be Doug Vincent, current president of the NCSBA, who will talk about overwintering hives.

Erika Wittchen
OCBA Secretary