

Orange County Beekeepers Association

Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2024

Presentation: Agritourism

Erica Calderon is an agritourism marketing specialist with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. In her presentation, she defined what agritourism encompasses and talked about how this industry could serve beekeepers and foster awareness in the community of the role of honeybees and beekeeping in North Carolina. She also shared the website where more information on NC Agritourism can be found: <https://gottobenc.com/find-local/agritourism/>

Club Business

Master Beekeeper Program

- Ira Poston, Regional Director (Piedmont region) of the NCSBA spoke briefly about the NCSBA Master Beekeeping Program
- David Bailey was presented with a certificate for his achieving the Journeyman Beekeeper level.

Volunteers Needed

- Sign-up sheets were passed around for volunteer opportunities on the Standing and Special Committees:
 - o Education: needs volunteers for an extraction day event and for AV assistance
 - o Membership: needs volunteers to help plan the holiday party
 - o Journal Club: needs a leader to facilitate a quarterly journal club meeting

Nominating Committee Report

- Lisa Vogel gave an update on the nominations for the 2025 open OCBA Board positions.
- Current nominations are:
 - o Axel Elling for President
 - o Mary Anne Rhyne for Vice President
 - o Jim Barrick for Outreach Director
- Voting will take place at the November meeting.

Education (Randall)

- Bee School 2025
 - o Reminder that registration for Bee School is open - tell your friends!
 - o Our Bee School is both in-person AND online, so you don't have to be from the area to attend.
 - o It will be the same price as last year (\$75 for individual or \$125 per household)

- It will start a little earlier this year (January 6) because packages are arriving earlier than ever before.
- Certified Practical Exams
 - Anyone who has passed the MBP Certified level written exam and has kept bees for a full season is eligible to take the practical exam. Contact Randall to schedule or if you have any questions.

Membership

- Reminder to renew your OCBA membership for 2025. Or, you can purchase a lifetime membership and never have to worry about renewing every year again.

Mentorship

- Jose provided an update via email as he was traveling for work:
 - There are currently 3 applicants for the 2025 Apprenticeship Program, and we are accepting applications through the end of October so there's still time. Also a reminder that the applicant MUST live in and be planning to keep their bees in Orange County.

Treasurers Report (Jim)

- Jim shared a summary slide of the year-to-date monthly budget report.
- Noted that the OCBA board is currently working on the 2025 budget. That budget will be going up from this year because we are going to support additional apprenticeships next year as well as some potential new programs.

Announcements

- Blackwood Farm Park Apiary honey is still available for sale.
- Raffle tickets are also still available for purchase. The prize is an almost-new honey extractor. The drawing will be made at the holiday party in December.
- The next demonstration at the Blackwood Farm Park Apiary will be held this Saturday, October 12 (10:30-12:15). Larry Arnold will show us how to prepare the hives for winter.
- The NSCBA is looking for volunteers to cover the Honey Booth at the State Fair. Contact presvp@theocba.org for more information.

Next Month's Speaker

- At the November meeting, our invited speaker will be Kim Guillemette, the new apiarist for David Tarpy's research program at NC State.

Erika Wittchen
OCBA Secretary