

Orange County Beekeepers Association

Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2023

Nancy Oglesby, OCBA President, welcomed everyone to the November meeting.

Presentation:

The Veterinarian's Role in Beekeeping – Dr. Rebekah Gunn-Christie

Janet Staats, OCBA Vice-president, introduced our invited speaker for this month's meeting: **Dr. Rebekah Gunn-Christie**. Dr. Gunn-Christie is a veterinary clinical pathologist who works for Antech Diagnostics, Inc. and is also a consultant for the Veterinary Information Network, VIN. She has given lectures at various veterinary conferences throughout the United States and has authored chapters in several veterinary textbooks as well as having been a contributing author to several veterinary journals. Throughout her professional career she has also been involved in teaching veterinary students and residents at NCSU, the University of Florida, and Western Veterinary College.

Dr. Gunn-Christie has been a beekeeper since 2017 and is a member of the Chatham County Beekeeping Association where she previously spent 3 years on the board serving as a director and the president.

Club Business:

1. Volunteer(s) needed to help with audio-visual/technology set-up

- Carrie: OCBA is looking for someone to coordinate AV set-up, including Zoom, for the monthly meetings as well as for Bee School. (Volunteers can sit in and listen to the lectures!)

2. Annual December Holiday Party

- Nancy: The annual holiday party will be held next month on December 14th, 2023. There will be food, a 50-50 raffle (with 50% of the proceeds going to support the NCSU apiculture lab), and a photo contest. There will also be a silent auction. We are accepting beekeeping-type items to be included in the silent auction, but there will also be items donated by local businesses.

3. Blackwood Farm Apiary Demonstrations

- Lisa Vogel: The latest demonstration was on how to use a luggage scale to estimate hive weights (presented by Brad Kosiba). The next demonstration will be how to perform an oxalic acid vaporization or OA dribble for the control of mites during winter broodless periods. Date to be announced via email.

4. Outreach

- Victoria: Outreach will present to 1st and 3rd grade students at Durham Academy the last week in November

5. Vote: Nominations for open OCBA officers positions for 2024

- The following nominees were voted on and **approved**:
 - Vice President: Elisa Bailey
 - Membership Directors: Ginia and Leif Roll
 - Mentorship Director: José Olmedo
 - Outreach Directors: Jeanne Arnts (along with Victoria Hill—current outreach director)

Door Prizes

Door prizes were handed out to lucky winners in attendance (queen marking kit, hive beetle trap, frame rewiring kit)

Next Month's Meeting

In lieu of a monthly meeting with an invited speaker, OCBA will host their annual Holiday Party on December 14th, 2023. Speakers will resume in 2024.

Erika Wittchen
OCBA Secretary