

Orange County Beekeepers Association

Meeting Minutes

August 10, 2023

Nancy Oglesby, OCBA President, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the August meeting. The meeting was attended by 58 members (18 via Zoom, and 40 in-person at the Orange County Extension Office in Hillsborough).

Janet Staats, OCBA Vice President, introduced our speaker, **Dr. Doug Vinson**. Doug is a retired dentist and second-generation beekeeper, learning the craft from his father in the southern mountains of NC, specifically Franklin in Macon County. Today he manages about 50 colonies in Catawba and Avery counties. His management practices revolve around colony loss replacement and increase from his own survivor stock. Doug has served the NCSBA in many capacities and is currently serving as President.

The title of Dr. Vinson's presentation was **"Improved overwintering success: Reduced nest cavity size"**.

Club Business:

Thanks to those who brought the food for tonight's meeting!

- Jim Rogers – main dish
- Leif and Ginia Roll – BBQ, sauce, buns, slaw
- Dawn Rogers – potato salad
- John Gasdaska and Stacy Tammi – mac-n-cheese, brownies
- Keith Glidewell – BBQ chicken
- A few other items, including a delicious and beautiful honey cake were contributed.

Free stuff: OCBA members donated some beekeeping items that were up for grabs for anyone interested.

- 8-frame wooden ware and other pieces that were recently donated
- Honey servers
- Bucket holder, etc

Beekeeping Books: Member Bob Gotwals recently donated some books that are available for a recommended donation to the club.

- The Varroa Mite, Bayer (pamphlet)
- \$2 First Lessons in Beekeeping, Keith DeLaplane (2007; 2 copies)
- \$4 Beekeeping for Dummies 3rd Ed., Howland Blackiston
- \$5 The Beekeeper's Problem Solver, James E Tew
- \$7 The Beekeeper's Handbook 4th Ed., D Sammataro, Avitabile
- \$9 Honeybee Democracy, Thomas D Seeley

Open Hive Inspection at Blackwood Farms Park: 9 people attended the hands-on demonstration last Saturday afternoon. The group practiced lighting smokers, marking drones, finding queens, and performed general hive inspections. At the next inspection in September, attendees will observe how to do an alcohol wash, light smokers again (using some different fuels), and begin to evaluate if the Blackwood apiary hives need to be combined before winter.

Tour of Honey Girl Meadery: Saturday, Aug 19 at 1pm. Price is \$15 per person and includes a tour of the production facility and a tasting flight, plus 10% off any purchases. Contact Victoria Hill to sign up.

Tobacco Road Honey Classic: Mary Anne Rhyne reminded everyone about the upcoming honey competition (a collaboration between the OCBA and the Durham County Beekeepers Association. This event will be held Saturday, September 30th in downtown Durham.

Next Month's Speaker

The speaker in September will be Dr. David Tarpy, who will give us updates from the NC State Apiculture Program.

Erika Wittchen
OCBA Secretary