

Orange County Beekeepers Association

Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2025

Mary Ann Rhyne (OCBA Vice-president) opened the April OCBA monthly meeting by welcoming attendees. The OCBA meeting was attended by approximately 46 members in-person at the Orange County Extension Office in Hillsborough.

Presentation: Honey, Sex, and Poison – Swarming Secrets Unveiled

Erin Evans is a Master Beekeeper and Past President of the Maine State Beekeepers Association and the Eastern Apicultural Society. She is the recipient of three Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education grant awards demonstrating increased colony survival through utilization of local northern raised queens. She manages about 70 colonies as a sideline business

Club Business

Treasurer's Report (Jim Grecco)

- Jim presented slides showing account balances (checking account, money market account, and CD balances were reviewed and income/expenses noted) and a summary slide of the year-to-date monthly budget report.

Outreach Report (Jim Barrick)

- Bee Jamboree
 - o OCBA will be organizing this event again this year.
 - o Sunday June 8, 2025, from 3-6 pm at Blackwood Farm Park.
 - o Don Hopkins will be our guest of honor.
 - o Fun activities will include a black jar honey competition, bee-friendly scavenger hunt, tour of the OCBA Apiary, potluck dinner, honey dessert competition, and more!
- Upcoming opportunities include:
 - o Central Elementary K-5 event celebrating Earth Day (April 25, 8-12 PM)
 - o Information table at the Chapel Hill Public Library (May 3, 10-12 PM), to coincide with an author event (Kamel Bell: children's book on beekeeping).
 - o Orange County Public Library, to promote Summer Reading kickoff and Community Resource Fair (June 7 10-12 PM)
 - o Lavender Farms Event (June 14 and June 15), this is an annual event where OCBA has had an information table for the past several years.
 - o Hillsborough Last Fridays (starting last Friday of March through October), opportunities include selling honey and other products from the hive.

Swarm Patrol (Chris Richmond)

- Chris reported there have only been 4 calls reporting swarms so far this season, but 2 of those were today! He suspects swarm season will be getting busier now.
- He also noted that he will be looking into a different group messaging app to communicate swarm reports.

Upcoming Events

- Blackwood Farm Park Hive Demonstration (Brad Kosiba)
 - o At 1 PM, this Sunday April 13, the demonstration will be on splitting one of the hives to create a nuc.

Next Month's Speaker (Mary Ann Rhyne)

At the next OCBA monthly meeting (May 8) our presentation will be by Burton Beasley, NCSBA Master Craftsman, on the topic of mead making.

Erika Wittchen
OCBA Secretary