

# ORANGE CO

*Beekeepers*



## September Meeting

We spent our meeting sharing our recent beekeeping experiences as well as news and information from our president. We heard about some unusual cases of hives lacking in brood and honey store. We discussed the appearance of larvae from Hive Beetles in hives as well as Wax Moths and Bee Louse. Aggie with the help of Harry and Melanie had just harvested honey along with Toni and Fred Fesel, and Todd and Inge. We discussed the impact of drought conditions on fall nectar production. We also talked about the need to assess mite loads currently in our hives and treat when necessary.

We spoke about preparing hives to overwinter and the need of 40-60 pounds of honey stores. It is difficult to feed when the bees are in cluster so it is important to feed weak hives in the fall. Charles Fleckenstein suggested lifting hives an inch or two off the ground from the back to assess the comparative weight of a hive. A hive easily lifted will probably need some feeding. Don Hopkins was in attendance and answered some of our questions as well being available for inspection of bee yards.

Lewis then brought up the question of whether OCBA would sponsor a Bee School. We had a great deal of discussion and formed a committee to continue the discussion. We also discussed filling the openings in the 2011. We will need a new President, and new vice-President and 2 Directors to assist in programming.



## Highlights

### October Meeting

Our next meeting is on October 7th . Our meeting time from now on will be 7 instead of 7:30. We will continue meeting in the Food Lab at Ag Extension in Hillsborough. Our Speaker will be Dick Rogers from Bayer CropScience

### State Fair Planning

The date for assembling our state fair booth is Saturday October 9th at 1pm at Bee Works Shop. 8411 NC 86 North in Cedar Grove.

### State Fair

Consider volunteering to help out at the State Fair. Contact Don Hopkins at (919) 218 3310 to schedule your 4 hour block to share with the public the wonder of honey bees.

### Nominations

We are looking toward our officers for next year. We will need a new president, a new vice-president and three new directors to assist the vice-president with programming. If you are interested in taking on a greater roll at OCBA, please let us know.

## Wax Workshop

On Saturday September 11th, 32 people assembled in Lewis' shop for our wax workshop. Our goals were to prepare some candles and some moisturizers and lip balm for the State Fair Booth, to get to play with beeswax and learn about how to make things with it, and to spend time together. Although we were a little overwhelmed by the numbers at first, everyone pulled together and we managed to get the wax melted. Jim Hoke brought David Langham's candle making supplies. Chris Richmond brought some bamboo and coconuts to use for candle molds. Mel Green oversaw the double boilers. Aggie brought her lip balm kit and shared lip balm tubes as well as flavors. Harry and Marilyn have been helping Aggie with the bees and also came to help with our workshop. Todd and Inge oversaw the first production of lip balms where we tried to create a stain out of hibiscus flowers, more research necessary there. We made three batches of lip balms. Dolly Daniels, Sandy and Toni and Fred Fesel made one batch of hand creme using sweet almond oil, beeswax and Vit. E. oil. We ran out of almond oil and Dan Daniels came to our rescue and hunted down some more. While awaiting our wax to reach the correct temperature

after melting, 170 degrees, we shared muffins brought by Sherri and Michelle Metzger and other muffins brought Jim Hoke? I overheard lots of conversations running from recent honey harvests, to local produce from farmer's markets to restaurants to careers besides beekeeping.

There was a wonderful feeling of friendship and community. When our wax was the right temperature and the wicks anchored in place and wax release sprayed in the molds, we began pouring. As the wax cooled, we continued topping off to counteract the shrinking. Along with candles we filled molds for wax sculptures and we used water filled balloons to make wax bowls.

We had a great time and stayed until around 2pm with John Harrel, Betsy, Clara and Jimmy Kemptor sharing a late lunch in town. Thanks to everyone who helped make this possible and please forgive any mistakes in names.



# Wax Pictures



# Bee School Debate

Our last meeting involved a lot of discussion around bee school. Some of the questions that arose concerned:

The need for mentorship for new beekeepers.

Whether or not to have a bee school every year or alternate like they do in Chatham.

Whether a Fall class emphasizing classroom work is better than in January.

Whether it is better to serve a larger number with introductory material or address a smaller number of potentially more serious students.

Whether raising costs would weed out students who were not serious, or having a range of costs depending on level of interests and amount of out of classroom time would be feasible.

One to two teachers or lots of speakers from beekeeping community.

Monetary compensation for teachers.

The possibility of offering only hands on workshops in alternate years that would be open to other county association's members offering more advanced classes.

Some other issues:

How much of this is already addressed in our monthly meetings.

What location for the numbers involved?

What location for workshops?

What apiary for practice?

Advertisement/ Registration/ Classroom Setup/ Surveys.

Include materials in cost: book, bees, woodenware?

I think we can count the 2010 Bee School as a great success with 135 entrants, most participants passing their certified test, and many new beekeepers. We can follow this up with more bee schools in the future looking to the most efficient manner to educate future generations of beekeepers. To this end, we have assembled a committee to discuss these issues and to present proposals for future bee schools. Watty Bowes is heading this committee and will be looking for input and help from all of you.

# Golden Achievement Chapter Awards

## GAP

is a program sponsored by the NCSBA to encourage County Organizations to improve and analyze methods to improve their service to the community. Through entering and being judged, a club can find weaknesses in their services and also be honored for their strengths. Last year OCBA entered and gained enough points to be recognized as a Golden Achievement Chapter. This coming year we may have enough point to vie for Chapter of the Year.

Application including notebook documenting last year's work must be turned in at the State Meeting in the spring. The judging takes place at the summer meeting. The categories include Member Service: Meetings and Communication, Member Service: Benefits, Development and Education, Community Service and Outreach, Relations with State Association, Master Beekeeping Program and Other Activities.

Meetings and Communication involves keeping track of membership, providing calendars and monthly reminders of meetings, name-



tags, refreshments, follow up for missing members, chapter roster, newsletters and documentation of annual

growth. Benefits, development and Education focuses on ways that the club helps educate its members through mentorship, bee school, field days, resource library, and equipment for member's use i.e. an extractor.

Community Service involves giving presentations to schools and other organization, participating at State and National beekeeping events, engaging the local media about honey bees, and fundraising for bee-related charities.

Relations with State Association is just that: how much do we participate in State Meetings, individual membership in State Association, writing for the

Buzz. Master Beekeeper Program tracks how many club members are advancing through the program each year and the clubs willingness to support this by administering tests for advancement. Other activities looks for participation in honey and hive product competitions at State and Regional Fairs and at NCSBA Events. It also includes member's authoring technical or published papers in a Bee Journal or legislative work on behalf of honey bees.

This is a great opportunity for us to improve our club and celebrate all the hard work we have done. To learn more about the requirements for the Golden Achievement Program go to the NCSBA website.