

OCBA Meeting Minutes, March 9, 2017

Cynthia Speed

Our pre-meeting dinner was held in a private room at Radius Pizzeria with 15 attending.

President John Rintoul opened the meeting with an update of community hives. Chris Helmstetter, one of OCBA's experienced beekeepers has a 3rd grader at McDougle Elementary School in Carrboro. He will manage the two hives there.

Two hives are reserved for Frank Porter Graham Elementary School in Chapel Hill which will probably be set up next season.

Sixteen hives for OCBA's apprentices next year have been set aside in storage. Hives for this year's apprentices have already been distributed.

This past weekend, fourteen members from OCBA attended the joint NC/SC Beekeeper conference in Rock Hill, SC.

Chris Apple, OCBA's Director of Outreach introduced our new apprentices: Ian, 12 years of age who will be working with Celeste Mayer and Sara 16 years who will be working with Jim Evans. Chris Apple (chrisapple1231@gmail.com) shared information about numerous outreach opportunities for club members and encouraged everyone to become involved. Look for the Outreach opportunities on the Listserv:

- Bee School Field Day – March 25th 1:00 – 3:00
- "Hillsborough Last Friday Celebration", OCBA and the Hillsborough Tree Board – April 28th
- Farm to Table at Blackwood Farm, OCBA table set up with 15 minute talks to 4th graders – May 4th
- Hillsborough Garden Tour – May 20th and 21st
- "Makery" at Kidzu, University Mall, Chapel Hill – 10:30 – 12:30
- Day Camp presentation – June 21st

Chris reminded the members of this excellent opportunity for Journeymen and Master beekeeper candidates to fulfill some of their requirements.

Anyone interested in taking their Certified Beekeeper practical exam can contact John Rintoul (beecd@icloud.com). Beekeepers who have taken the written test and who have been keeping bees since last year are eligible.

Nerissa Rivera has receipts for those who want them from the sale of hive boxes that netted the club approximately \$900.00

Mary Leonhardi has NCSBA membership cards but was unable to attend due to illness. They will be available at the next meeting.

A members' only raffle drawing was held and 8 baseball caps with OCBA's patch were awarded to excited participants.

Dr. Kaira Wagoner, a post-doctoral fellow with Dr. Olav Rueppell's lab at UNC-Greensboro gave an excellent talk on The Hygienic Behavior of Honeybees. Her research on the negative effects of using steel foundation wire was interesting. Also, her recent discovery of a chemical associated with hygienic behavior, which is the ability of nurse bees to detect, open, and clean cells containing varroa-infected pupae was fascinating.

Sixty-three people were in attendance. The meeting was adjourned and the group enjoyed refreshments.