

OCBA Meeting Minutes, April 13, 2017

Cynthia Speed

Our usual pre-meeting dinner was not held this month due to renovations underway at Radius Pizzeria.

President John Rintoul opened the meeting by encouraging the group to attend the NCSBA Summer Conference in Winston-Salem in July which will celebrate its 100th year. One of the highlights of the conference will be the sale of a honey cook book made up of recipes compiled from beekeepers. John circulated a signup sheet for those who wanted to secure a copy through the club. A Bee Bowl is another activity planned for the conference. Each county will put together a team of 3 members to be quizzed on the honeybee industry, biology, and management. We are lucky to have secured the expertise of Lewis Cauble, Jeff Lee, and Randall Austin. Out of the many clubs in North Carolina, only 8 teams will be chosen to compete. Randall reminded us of the concern we will have of where to store our trophy.

All of the hives that were donated to the club have been sold, donated to other community groups or reserved for apprentices. All that remained were 11 ratchet straps which will be sold for \$8.00 each. Several were sold at the meeting and two were raffled off. One coupon for a free Honey cookbook was also raffled off.

OCBA's presence at the Hillsborough Farmer's Market (HFM) will be tabled for this year. We applied to participate as an enterprise vendor to sell honey and educate the public about beekeeping but were never notified that our application was approved. John's multiple follow up contacts with HFM were met with no response.

Outreach Coordinator Chris Apple reported. The UNC Chapel Hill Carolina Bee Club is well underway. Chris and Geneva Green taught an overview class and will give them a 5 session mini bee course. The students received packages at the end of March and have them hived at the Carolina Campus Community Garden. Watch the list serv for the following Outreach volunteer opportunities and more:

- April 23rd at Immaculate Conception Church in Durham
- May 3rd at Gravelly Hill Middle School in Efland – Idea Fest
- May 20th 10 – 4 and May 21st 12 – 4; two hour increments at a booth for Hillsborough Garden tour
- Contact Randall Austin (s.randall.austin@gmail.com) about the Bee Jubilee in Granville County

Chris has been working very hard to meet the needs of the community and getting children educated on the importance of pollinators. We, as members of OCBA, are her committee. Please volunteer an hour or so of your time. Contact Chris at

chrisapple1231@gmail.com for further details on upcoming events. All volunteer activities can be counted as public service credits toward Journeyman and Master Beekeeper levels of the NCSBA Master Beekeeper Program.

Lucy Wilson is in charge of OCBA's lovely pollinator garden located at the Hillsborough Visitor's Center (Alexander Dickson House) in Hillsborough. Please contact her at lucy.wilson@gmail.com and offer to spend an hour at gardening. She has a position for each month. Contact her to see when you can help. No experience needed. She will let you know what needs to be done.

OCBA is currently scheduling practical exams for the Certified Level of the Master Beekeeper Program. If you successfully completed the written test and have been keeping bees since the spring of 2016, contact John Rintoul or Randall Austin to arrange to take the practical exam. This is a piece of cake to anyone who has kept bees for a year **and** you can get a copy of the form ahead of time!!

Our speaker was Dr. Esmail Amiri. He is a post-doctoral fellow in Dr. Olav Rugeppel's lab at UNC-Greensboro. He was a very good speaker giving an excellent talk on how the fate of the queen and the drones she mates with, ultimately determine the outcome of your colony. His research focused on the transmission of viruses from workers and drones to queens.

Refreshments were provided by Kirsten Bothwell, Mary Lawrence and Beth Daniel.