

OCBA Meeting Minutes, May 9, 2019

Cynthia Speed

Our pre-meeting dinner was held in the Fireplace Room at Radius Pizzeria in Hillsborough with 16 in attendance.

President Ryan Chamberlain opened the meeting following the brief social period from 7:00 to 7:15 when members enjoyed refreshments and talked about their bees. Members who needed to rush off before the meeting ended had an opportunity to talk with each other and refreshments were available throughout the meeting. Refreshments were provided by Tommy Tuck, Chris Apple, and Larry Arnold.

Ryan extended a warm welcome to our visitors and introduced some of them.

Karen Lauterbach reported on the previous weekend's participation in the Hillsborough Garden Tour. She said volunteers had a great time talking to the public about honey bees and alternatives to pesticides. They also sold pollinator plants from OCBA's pollinator garden. Chris Apple, MaryAnn McCollough, Ryan Chamberlain, Wayne Vanderburg, Tommy Tuck, Lucy Wilson, Larry Arnold and Louise Rascoe came to help out. At the meeting, Karen passed around a clipboard for volunteers to help manage the garden for 1 hour per month slots. She also brought leftover plants to sell at the meeting along with plants from her garden, Lisa Vogel's garden, and Jeanne Arnts' garden. The total raised from the impromptu plant sale brought in \$253.00 for the club!

Chris Apple announced a new benefit to club members: a plan for purchasing beekeeping books at steep discounts that include shipping. It requires that we purchase 6 copies of one title in order to receive the discount. We will offer one or two books at a time and all transactions will take place at regular monthly OCBA meetings. Payment will need to be made when ordering. Full information on each book can be found on the Wicwas Press website. <http://wicwas.com/> The intent is to offer this program as long as there is interest and participation and it remains simple to administer.

Chris, our Outreach Coordinator said that many requests for outreach have been received and filled and continue to come in. She asked for volunteers for the Bee Jubilee in Granville county on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. We would like to repeat what we did last year which was to offer "make and take" lip balm which was a lot of fun and raised funds for the club. Chris also asked for volunteers for Kidzu for which we have a preplanned program. Elizabeth Strong volunteered and we would like to have an additional volunteer.

Dawn Rogers, our state fair display coordinator gave an update and circulated a clip board for volunteer sign ups. The fair runs from Oct 17 to 27 with set up on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> and judging day on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Celeste Mayer will be providing input from her study of Sam Ham's book, "Interpretation, Making a Difference on Purpose" a guide that will help with preparing a meaningful, eye catching, and educational display. Gretchen Morrissey a designer will be involved and Dawn has asked Adolphus Leonard for a larger booth. Dawn encouraged anyone with creative talent, carpentry, or electrical skills to help out. Wax products, pictures, honey, mead, etc. will be needed.

In keeping with OCBA's history of excellence in speakers, this month's speaker was no exception. Our very own Chris Apple, Master Beekeeper, spoke to us about temporal polyethism in honey bees. Those attendees who thought they would be hearing a PhD level speech were delightfully mistaken. Chris talked about the roles of the worker bees from the time they are soft and fuzzy and cannot sting until they become older mature bees ending their lives as foragers. She talked in detail about their task assignments according to their age with broad ranges. A lot of interesting facts were shared like the role of the heater bees who can raise their body temperature as much as 10 degrees higher than normal bees. These bees climb head first into empty cells and distribute heat into surrounding cells. This brings into question whether those empty cells are the work of hygienic bees, the laying pattern of an aged or poorly mated queen or heater bees. Most of her research was found in Jürgen Tautz' book, "*The Buzz About Bees.*"

Brad Kosiba reminded the members that OCBA has two extractors that can be rented for \$5 per day. This benefit is available to all members in good standing prior to March 31<sup>st</sup> of the current year. We have a 2 frame tangential plastic extractor and a larger 6 frame stainless steel extractor plus an assortment of extraction equipment. See *theOCBA.org* under OCBA Policies and Guideline for further details. The club also owns a refractometer which Brad brought to the meeting and will bring to subsequent meetings to check the moisture content of honey samples that you may bring to be tested.

Carrie Donley, a member of the Orange County Bee Collaborative reported that Larry Arnold compiled and sent a list of topics for the groups to review at their meetings which stimulated discussions that went very well. One discussion was where to purchase plants that don't use pesticides.

Lisa Vogel and Cynthia Speed reported on the club hives at the Blackwood farm park site. The hives appear healthy this year so far. Lisa said that Cynthia Woodsong checked on the captured swarm in one of the langstroths and found a yellow marked queen! Cynthia S. said that the top bar hives that were split into nucs earlier this spring due to imminent swarming, appeared to be queenless with wall to wall drones and little else. The colonies in the nucs were installed into the hives bringing the totals from two hives, to four hives and now back to two hives.

Raffle items given away were packs of mosquito dunks donated by Karen Lauterbach, but obtained for free from Orange County Environmental Health Division; tea cookies with honey bee mug; two different styles of entrance feeders; and two OCBA patches.

The apiary inspector for the mountain region, Lewis Cauble, will tell us about effective varroa treatments at our next meeting.

There were 66 members and guests in attendance.