

OCBA Meeting Minutes, January 12, 2012

Lizabeth B. Collins

1. Geneva Green and Todd Walker welcomed the group and called the meeting to order.
2. Todd called for the roll call. January's roll (89) reflects the membership of the bee school as enrollment in bee school includes OCBA membership.
3. Geneva reported that a survey for the membership about volunteering and interests/activities for OCBA is now on the website, and that OBCA listserv will be sent a link to the survey in an email. If you would like to participate, please sign up.
4. Next Geneva announced that she is working on a list of plants for honey bees in the Carolinas and has a packet for folks who are interested in helping her. It includes a CD with directions, a printable form for reporting plants in bloom, and a directory of plants to help the volunteers recognize what plants they are seeing. See Geneva after the meeting.
5. Geneva also reported on the bee school which began in January. There are 75 students, including two 4-H'ers interested in completing the course to qualify for the OCBA/4-H partnership in beekeeping. Parking at the UUC where the school is being held is very limited. Thanks to all who are carpooling. OCBA is considering a change to offer a bee school in January 2013. The Introduction to Beekeeping course will probably be offered again in November this year. However, programs and workshops offered by OCBA throughout this year would be helpful to anyone new to beekeeping or wannabees, even if they haven't attended a bee school.
6. Dick Merritt reminded everyone that membership to OCBA and NCBA is on an annual basis and begins in January. County dues are \$5; state dues are \$15. Pay Dick or pay on-line with PayPal. You do not have to join the state organization to participate in OCBA, but he hopes that you will want to, and mentioned some of the support the state organization. He provided applications for membership to those present.
7. The NCSBA Spring Conference will be in Morganton, March 9-10. Summer conference will be in Lumberton, July 12-14.
8. Lewis Cauble reported that he'd checked out Google Maps on-line as a way to match up newbees to mentors by location. He's labeled a map for OCBA on which people can add the locations of their hives/homes in order for new beekeepers to see where there are other beekeepers in their vicinity.
9. Todd encouraged all to participate and report on activities that give OCBA credit toward the Golden Achievement Award. There was a three-way tie last year, and OCBA came up short. Please check on-line and complete the form detailing the ways you have been active in beekeeping in the last year. This information will be

compiled and submitted by Lewis for the spring meeting (March). Todd introduced Wattie Bowes as the pointman for education and requests for presentations this year. Remember that all presentations earn credit toward the master beekeeping program.

Inge Kautzmann introduced the speaker Annie Baggett of Sunshine Lavender Farm. Annie gave us a virtual tour of the farm throughout a year of growing and celebrations. She recommended specific varieties to plant in North Carolina, and described the growing conditions for lavender. She also answered questions from the group at the end of her presentation.

Dave Eckert invited the group to participate in the Ag. Summit, February 13 in the Big Barn, Hillsborough. Ten dollars includes the meal prepared from locally grown produce by Bob Compton.

Geneva announced that the speaker for the February meeting will be Adolphus Leonard, state bee inspector, who will discuss "Spring Build Up," a timely topic.

Old Business: The movie "Queen of the Sun" will be shown at the United Church of Chapel Hill, date and time to be announced via email when determined.

Members enjoyed fellowship following the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

'Lizabeth Collins