

OCBA Meeting Minutes, March 8, 2012

Lizabeth B. Collins

1. Todd Walker welcomed the group, reminded everyone to sign the clipboards for recording attendance, and to grab their new nametags. He announced that the club has purchased a new projector for use in meetings and which can be checked out for presentations.
2. Lewis Cauble encouraged people to attend the NCSBA Spring Conference in Morganton which begins Friday. He mentioned several speakers and topics of interest. Summer meeting will be in July in Lumberton.
3. Watty Bowes, who heads up volunteers, announced that volunteers are needed at the following events (which will also be posted on the OCBA website): Chapel Hill Garden Club Tour, April 14-15. Eva Hoke's garden will be on the tour, and she will have the bee gazebo and observation hive. Piedmont Wildlife Festival, May 5, 12-5 pm, in Durham. Observation hive will be set up. Magic Wings at the Museum of Life and Science, also on May 5, 10-5 pm. Bee gazebo will be there. Earth Day at Hillsborough's Eno River Farmers Market, April 20.
4. Todd pointed out that the bee school will finish up on Tuesday with certified tests offered. Contact Todd if you wish to take this test so that one will be included for you. Question was asked: When will the next bee school be held? Geneva Green and Todd happily answered that bee school basics are in place and could be run next year IF other volunteers were willing to step up and take on the planning and running of the school. Todd estimated that a decision about the bee school would be made by October of this year.
5. Todd announced that there was a glitch in the by-laws of the club regarding fees (Article 5, Section 1), and that he would re-write it to reflect the original intent, and then bring it back to the members for approval.

Todd introduced the speaker, Dick Rogers, who is the principal scientist of environmental toxicology and risk management for Bayer. He announced that Bayer Bee Care Center opens in Germany and in Clayton, NC, this year. Bayer, he said, is experimenting with the removal of pesticides in wax foundation. If this technology is developed, then beekeepers can sell "clean" wax. The research apiary in Clayton has eight colonies and one full time beekeeper. Bayer is interested in developing management strategies that reduce varroa mites, and his company would like to hear from beekeepers who are using those strategies. (bayercropscience.us/our-commitment/bee-health)

Dick also reviewed factors for apiary suitability. These are access, air drainage, sun exposure, water quality and availability, wind exposure, forage and honey yield. He displayed a graph showing a bee's primary forage range at about 1.2 miles (3,000 acres), her secondary forage range at 2.4 miles (12,000 acres) and a third zone for

forage of 3.6 (28,000 acres). Finally Dick asked for volunteers to help manage the hives of donated bees at Duke Homestead in Durham.

Following the presentation, members enjoyed fellowship and refreshments. Lewis announced that he'd brought the windows for making solar wax melters in his truck, and anyone interested could check them out.

Respectfully submitted,

'Lizabeth Collins