

## OCBA Meeting Minutes, February 9, 2017

Cynthia Speed

Our pre-meeting dinner was held in a private room at Radius Pizzeria with 17 attending.

President John Rintoul opened the meeting with a request to those attending to renew their membership and to wear their name tags which were available at the entrance.

John reported that the Executive Committee met in January and detailed some of the discussion. The needs of the different Directors were discussed. Chris Apple Director of Outreach welcomes assistance when requests are received from the community. Watch the listserv. Cluster guides are needed for 36 of our Bee School students. Respond to the plea on the listserv by David Eckert, Director of Apprenticeships and Mentoring. Chris spoke of her very positive experience as a mentor and encouraged others to join. Even if you've kept bees for only a year, you know a lot more than a new beekeeper. You will have an opportunity to see a lot more hives than your own and will undoubtedly learn something new. The Executive Committee also discussed membership retention and approved a position for a membership chairperson.

OCBA has been invited to staff a booth at the Hillsborough Farmer's Market to sell honey. Since John has received some positive responses and the application is \$5.00 to be sent by Feb 15, we will give it a shot.

Without Walter Starks' knowledge, the Committee also discussed how to recognize him for the many contributions he has made to the club. He accepted the office of President last year, helped with the Carrboro demo hives, and willingly does anything the club asks for or needs. He isn't shy about responding to pleas for help on the listserv, and has risen to the occasion countless times. Since we cannot start a precedence of gifting every officer or club member who goes beyond the call of duty in favor of the club, it was decided to erect a "Wall of Thanks" on a web page as a legacy to Walter.

David Bailey announced that his earliest shipment of packages, March 24/25 has been sold out. He had reserved 100 packages for himself but will now keep only 25 leaving 75 packages available for sale on the March 24/25 pickup date. Contact Bailey Bee Supply at the store or on the website if interested.

A members' only raffle drawing was held and a donated hive was broken down and given away piece by piece.

Lewis Cauble, NC Bee Inspector for 21 counties in the mountains spoke on Spring Management. The three biggest issues that "get people into trouble" are: 1) Varroa mites, 2) Queen events, and 3) Feeding. He strongly recommended reading "[Why did my honey bees die?](#)" by Meghan Milbrath found on the Bee Informed website. The Honey Bee Health Coalition publication is updated every quarter and is also recommended reading.

83 people were in attendance. The meeting was adjourned.